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vocabulary

ἄγαμαι wonder, admire; resent,
 begrudge
ἄγαν very much
ἄγέλη herd ~demagogue
ἄγονος unborn ~genus
αἶσιος auspicious ~etiology
ἀλίζω gather, assemble
ἀλκή prowess, defense, victory
 ~Alexander
ἀνακουφίζω lift up
ἀνήκεστος not to be cured, soothed,
 appeased
ἀνορθόω rebuild, restore
ἀοιδός (f) singer
ἄρτιος suitable
ἀσφάλεια safeguard
βαρέω be heavy with ~baritone
βιόω live; (mp) make a living
 ~biology
βλώσκω come, go
βούλευμα -τος (n, 3) resolution,
 purpose
βυθός depth
βωμός altar; stand, pedestal
γαμβρός son-in-law, brother-in-law
 ~bigamy
γέμω be full of
γεραιός old ~geriatric
γῆρας -ος (n, 3) old age
γηράσκω grow old ~geriatric
γνωτή female relative
γνωτός kinsman; obvious ~gnostic
γοάω weep, mourn
γόος crying, wailing
δαίμων -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate,
 doom ~demon
δακρύω weep
δασμός portion, tax, tribute
δάφνη laurel
δικαίω demand/make justice
διπλός double, overlapping

δράω do, accomplish
δύσφορος oppressive
ἔδρα (ᾱ) seat, seated group
 ~polyhedron
εἰκάζω liken; conjecture
εἰκός likely
εἴπερ if indeed
εἰσοράω look at, see; treat with
 respect ~panorama
ἐκδιδάσκω teach, explain
ἐκλύω rescue from ~loose
ἐμπειρος experienced
ἐμφανής visible
ἐξεγείρω awaken
ἐρήμιος empty
ἔρω be able to move ~serpent
εὕδω sleep, lie down, rest
εὐλαβέομαι be careful, beware
εὐτυχέω be lucky, prosper, succeed
ἐφέςτιος hearthside
ἦθεος ἦθοῦ unmarried youth
θρασύς brave, strong
θυμίαμα -τος (ῥαα, n, 3) incense
ἰκετεύω approach to beg
ἰμείρω (ι) want, want to
ἰσώω (ι) liken to
καθαριμός cleansing, purification
καθήκω come down, (a day) to fall,
 arrive; be proper
κάλυξ -κος (f) some kind of
 ornament
κάρ -ός (n) useless bit; form of *κατά*
κατοικτεῖρω have mercy,
 compassion
κατοικτίρω have mercy, compassion
κενός empty, vain
κενόω make empty
κλάδος branch, shoot
κλεινός famous
κρατύνω strengthen
λαμπρός brilliant ~lamp
λοιμός plague

λυπέω (ῶ) annoy, distress
 μαντεία oracular power
 μηδαμός no one
 μηνύω disclose, betray, accuse
 μιάσμα -τος (n, 3) taint, defilement
 μολίσκω come, go
 ναός (ᾱ) temple, shrine ~nostalgia
 νοσέω be sick, be mad, suffer
 οἰκτρός pitiable
 ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye
 ὁμός same ~homoerotic
 ὁμοῦ together
 ὁμόω unite ~homoerotic
 ὀρθόω stand up
 οὐδέπω not, not yet
 παιάν -ήνοος (m, 3) paean
 πάλαι long ago ~paleo
 πάλη wrestling ~Pallas
 πάλλω shake, brandish ~Pallas
 πένθος -εος (n, 3) grief, misfortune
 ~Nepenthe
 πέρας -τος (n, 3) cord; bound, crux,
 outcome ~prove
 περάω cross over, drive across; sell
 as a slave ~pierce
 πέτομαι to fly ~petal
 πλησιάζω bring/be near; have sex
 πλουτίζω enrich
 πρέπω be conspicuous, preeminent
 ~refurbish
 προθυμία (ῶ) zeal, alacrity ~fume
 πρόσειμι approach, draw near; add
 ~ion
 προσίημι be allowed near
 προοσστείχω proceed to

πύργος ramparts, tower; line of
 troops
 σημαίνω give orders to; show; mark
 ~semaphore
 σθένω be strong, able
 σκήπτω prop up; (mp) feign
 ~scepter
 σκληρός hard
 σκοπάω watch, observe
 σκοπέω behold, consider
 σκοπός (f) lookout, overseer, spy,
 target ~telescope
 σποδός (f) embers; ashes
 στείχω go, march ~stair
 στένω groan ~stentorian
 στέργω love; be content
 συμμετρέω measure by comparison
 συμφορά collecting; accident,
 misfortune
 σωτήρ -ος (m) savior
 τάχος -ους (n, 3) speed ~tachometer
 τηνικαῦτα at that time, in that case
 τόκος childbirth ~oxytocin
 τροφεύς -ος (m) foster father; rearer
 τροφή food, upkeep ~atrophy
 τύχη fortune, act of a god
 φήμη speech, rumor ~fame
 φθίω cause to perish, wane; (of
 time) pass
 φοίνις red
 φροντίς -τος (f) thought, care
 φύλον race, tribe, class ~phylum
 φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics
 χειμάζω overwinter
 χροῖζω need ~chresard

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ. ὦ τέκνα, Κάδμου τοῦ πάλαι νέα τροφή,

τίνας ποθ' ἔδρας¹ τάσδε μοι θαάζετε

ἰκτηρίοις κλάδοισιν ἐξεστεμμένοι;

πόλις δ' ὁμοῦ μὲν θυμαμάτων² γέμει,

ὁμοῦ δὲ παιάνων τε καὶ στεναγμάτων·

5

ἀγὼ δικαίων μὴ παρ' ἀγγέλων, τέκνα,

ἄλλων ἀκούειν αὐτὸς ὦδ' ἐλήλυθα,

ὁ πᾶσι κλεινὸς³ Οἰδίπους καλούμενος.

ἀλλ' ὦ γεραιέ, φράζ', ἐπεὶ πρέπων ἔφυς

πρὸ τῶνδε φωνεῖν, τίνι τρόπῳ καθέστατε,

10

δείσαντες ἢ στέρξαντες;⁴ ὡς θέλοντος ἄν

ἐμοῦ προσαρκεῖν πᾶν· δυσάλητος γὰρ ἄν

εἶην τοιάνδε μὴ οὐ κατοικτίρων ἔδραν.

ΙΕΡΕΥΣ. ἀλλ' ὦ κρατύνων⁵ Οἰδίπους χώρας ἐμῆς,

ὁρᾶς μὲν ἡμᾶς ἡλίκοι προσήμεθα

15

βωμοῖσι τοῖς σοῖς· οἱ μὲν οὐδέπω⁶ μακρὰν

πτέσθαι σθένοντες,⁷ οἱ δὲ σὺν γήρᾳ βαρεῖς,

ἱερῆς, ἐγὼ μὲν Ζηνός, οἶδε τ' ἡθέων

λεκτοί· τὸ δ' ἄλλο φῦλον ἐξεστεμμένον

ἀγοραῖσι θακεῖ πρὸς τε Παλλάδος διπλοῖς

20

ναοῖς, ἐπ' Ἴσμηνοῦ τε μαντεία σποδῶ.

πόλις γάρ, ὥσπερ καὐτὸς εἰσορᾶς, ἄγαν

ἤδη σαλεύει κἀνακουφίσαι κᾶρα

βυθῶν ἔτ' οὐχ οἷα τε φοινίου⁸ σάλου,

φθίνουσα μὲν κάλυξιν ἐγκάρποις χθονός,

25

φθίνουσα δ' ἀγέλαις βουνόμοις τόκοισί τε

¹ seat, seated group ² incense ³ famous ⁴ love; be content ⁵ strengthen

⁶ not, not yet ⁷ be strong, able ⁸ red

ἀγόνους⁹ γυναικῶν· ἐν δ' ὁ πυρφόρος θεὸς
 σκήψας¹⁰ ἐλαύνει, λοιμὸς¹¹ ἔχθιστος, πόλιν,
 ὑφ' οὗ κενοῦται¹² δῶμα Καδμείον, μέλας δ'
 Ἄιδης στεναγμοῖς καὶ γόοις πλουτίζεται.¹³ 30
 θεοῖσι μὲν νυν οὐκ ἰσούμενόν σ' ἐγὼ
 οὐδ' οἶδε παῖδες ἐζόμεσθ' ἐφέστιοι,
 ἀνδρῶν δὲ πρῶτον ἔν τε συμφοραῖς βίου
 κρίνοντες ἔν τε δαμόνων συναλλαγαῖς·
 ὅς γ' ἐξέλυσας ἄστυ Καδμείον μολῶν 35
 σκληρὰς αἰοιδοῦ δασμόν¹⁴ ὃν παρείχομεν,
 καὶ ταῦθ' ὑφ' ἡμῶν οὐδὲν ἐξειδὼς πλέον
 οὐδ' ἐκδιδαχθείς, ἀλλὰ προσθήκη θεοῦ
 λέγει νομίζει θ' ἡμῖν ὀρθῶσαι¹⁵ βίον·
 νῦν τ', ὦ κράτιστον πᾶσιν Οἰδίπου κάρα, 40
 ἱκετεύομέν σε πάντες οἶδε πρόστροποι
 ἀλκὴν τιν' εὐρεῖν ἡμῖν, εἴτε του θεῶν
 φήμην ἀκούσας εἴτ' ἀπ' ἀνδρὸς οἰσθᾶ του·
 ὡς τοῖσιν ἐμπείροισι καὶ τὰς ξυμφορὰς
 ζώσας ὁρῶ μάλιστα τῶν βουλευμάτων. 45
 ἴθ', ὦ βροτῶν ἄριστ', ἀνόρθωσον πόλιν,
 ἴθ', εὐλαβήθηθ'· ὡς σὲ νῦν μὲν ἦδε γῇ
 σωτήρα κλήζει τῆς πάρος προθυμίας·
 ἀρχῆς δὲ τῆς σῆς μηδαμῶς¹⁶ μεμνώμεθα
 στάντες τ' ἐς ὀρθὸν καὶ πεσόντες ὕστερον. 50
 ἀλλ' ἀσφαλείᾳ τήνδ' ἀνόρθωσον πόλιν·

⁹ unborn ¹⁰ prop up; (mp) feign ¹¹ plague ¹² make empty ¹³ enrich
¹⁴ portion, tax, tribute ¹⁵ stand up ¹⁶ no one

ὄρνιθι γὰρ καὶ τὴν τότε αἰσίῳ¹⁷ τύχην
 παρέσχεσ ἡμῖν, καὶ τανῦν ἴσος γενοῦ.
 ὡς εἶπερ ἄρξεις τῇσδε γῆς, ὥσπερ κρατεῖς,
 ξὺν ἀνδράσιν κάλλιον ἢ κενῆς κρατεῖν·
 ὡς οὐδέν ἐστιν οὔτε πύργος οὔτε ναῦς
 ἔρημος ἀνδρῶν μὴ ξυνοικούντων ἔσω.

55

ΟΙ. ὦ παῖδες οἰκτροί,¹⁸ γνωτὰ κοῦκ ἄγνωτά μοι
 προσήλθεθ' ἰμείροντες· εὖ γὰρ οἶδ' ὅτι
 νοσεῖτε πάντες, καὶ νοσοῦντες, ὡς ἐγὼ
 οὐκ ἔστιν ὑμῶν ὅστις ἐξ ἴσου νοσεῖ.
 τὸ μὲν γὰρ ὑμῶν ἄλγος εἰς ἓν ἔρχεται
 μόνον καθ' αὐτὸν κοῦδέν' ἄλλον, ἢ δ' ἐμὴ
 ψυχὴ πόλιν τε καὶ με καὶ σ' ὁμοῦ στένει.
 ὥστ' οὐχ ὕπνω γ' εὐδοντά μ' ἐξεγείρετε,
 ἀλλ' ἴστε πολλὰ μὲν με δακρύσαντα δή,
 πολλὰς δ' ὁδοὺς ἐλθόντα φροντίδος πλάνοις·
 ἦν δ' εὖ σκοπῶν ἠῦρισκον ἴασιν μόνην,
 ταύτην ἔπραξα· παῖδα γὰρ Μενουκίως
 Κρέοντ', ἐμαντοῦ γαμβρόν, ἐς τὰ Πυθικὰ
 ἔπεμψα Φοίβου δώμαθ', ὡς πύθοιθ' ὅ τι
 δρῶν ἢ τί φωνῶν τήνδε ῥυσαίμην πόλιν.
 καί μ' ἡμαρ ἤδη ξυμμετρούμενον χρόνον
 λυπεῖ τί πράσσει· τοῦ γὰρ εἰκότος πέρα
 ἄπεστι πλείω τοῦ καθήκοντος χρόνου.
 ὅταν δ' ἴκηται, τηνικαῦτ'¹⁹ ἐγὼ κακὸς
 μὴ δρῶν ἂν εἶην πάνθ' ὅσ' ἂν δηλοῖ θεός.

60

65

70

75

¹⁷ auspicious ¹⁸ pitiable ¹⁹ at that time, in that case

ΙΕ. ἀλλ' εἰς καλὸν σύ τ' εἶπας οἶδε τ' ἀρτίως

Κρέοντα προσστείχοντα σημαίνουσί μοι.

ΟΙ. ὦναξ Ἄπολλον, εἰ γὰρ ἐν τύχῃ γέ τω

80

σωτήρι βαίῃ λαμπρὸς ὥσπερ ὄμματι

ΙΕ. ἀλλ' εἰκάσαι μὲν, ἡδύς· οὐ γὰρ ἂν κára

πολυστεφῆς ὧδ' εἶρπε²⁰ παγκάρπου δάφνης.²¹

ΟΙ. τάχ' εἰσόμεσθα· ξύμμετρος γὰρ ὡς κλύειν.

ἄναξ, ἐμὸν κήδευμα, παῖ Μεινικέως,

85

τίν' ἡμῖν ἦκεις τοῦ θεοῦ φήμην φέρων;

ΚΡΕΩΝ. ἐσθλὴν· λέγω γὰρ καὶ τὰ δύσφορ', εἰ τύχοι

κατ' ὀρθὸν ἐξελθόντα, πάντ' ἂν εὐτυχεῖν.²²

ΟΙ. ἔστιν δὲ ποῖον τοῦπος; οὔτε γὰρ θρασὺς

οὔτ' οὖν προδείσας εἰμὶ τῷ γε νῦν λόγῳ.

90

ΚΡ. εἰ τῶνδε χρήζεις πλησιαζόντων²³ κλύειν,

ἔτοιμος εἰπεῖν, εἴτε καὶ στείχειν ἔσω.

ΟΙ. ἐς πάντας αὔδα· τῶνδε γὰρ πλέον φέρω

τὸ πένθος ἢ καὶ τῆς ἐμῆς ψυχῆς πέρι.

ΚΡ. λέγοιμ' ἂν οἷ ἤκουσα τοῦ θεοῦ πάρα.

95

ἄνωγεν ἡμᾶς Φοῖβος ἐμφανῶς ἄναξ

μίασμα χώρας, ὡς τεθραμμένον χθονὶ

ἐν τῇδ', ἐλαύνειν μηδ' ἀνέκκεστον τρέφειν.

ΟΙ. ποίῳ καθαρμῷ; τίς ὁ τρόπος τῆς ξυμφορᾶς;

ΚΡ. ἀνδρῆλα τοῦντας ἢ φόνῳ φόνον πάλιν

100

λύοντας, ὡς τόδ' αἶμα χειμάζον²⁴ πόλιν.

ΟΙ. ποίου γὰρ ἀνδρὸς τήνδε μηνύει²⁵ τύχην;

ΚΡ. ἦν ἡμῖν, ὦναξ, Λαίῳς ποθ' ἡγεμῶν

²⁰ be able to move
near; have sex

²¹ laurel
²⁴ overwinter

²² be lucky, prosper, succeed
²⁵ disclose, betray, accuse

²³ bring/be

OEDIPUS. My children, latest born to Cadmus old,
Why sit ye here as suppliants, in your hands
Branches of olive filleted with wool?
What means this reek of incense everywhere,
And everywhere laments and litanies?
Children, it were not meet that I should learn
From others, and am hither come, myself,
I Oedipus, your world-renowned king.
Ho! aged sire, whose venerable locks
Proclaim thee spokesman of this company,
Explain your mood and purport. Is it dread
Of ill that moves you or a boon ye crave?
My zeal in your behalf ye cannot doubt;
Ruthless indeed were I and obdurate
If such petitioners as you I spurned.
PRIEST. Yea, Oedipus, my sovereign lord and king,
Thou seest how both extremes of age besiege
Thy palace altars— fledglings hardly winged,
and greybeards bowed with years; priests, as am I
of Zeus, and these the flower of our youth.
Meanwhile, the common folk, with wreathed boughs
Crowd our two market-places, or before
Both shrines of Pallas congregate, or where
Ismenus gives his oracles by fire.
For, as thou seest thyself, our ship of State,
Sore buffeted, can no more lift her head,
Foundered beneath a weltering surge of blood.
A blight is on our harvest in the ear,
A blight upon the grazing flocks and herds,
A blight on wives in travail; and withal
Armed with his blazing torch the God of Plague
Hath swooped upon our city emptying
The house of Cadmus, and the murky realm
Of Pluto is full fed with groans and tears.
Therefore, O King, here at thy hearth we sit,
I and these children; not as deeming thee
A new divinity, but the first of men;
First in the common accidents of life,
And first in visitations of the Gods.
Art thou not he who coming to the town
of Cadmus freed us from the tax we paid
To the fell songstress? Nor hadst thou received

Prompting from us or been by others schooled;
No, by a god inspired (so all men deem,
And testify) didst thou renew our life.
And now, O Oedipus, our peerless king,
All we thy votaries beseech thee, find
Some succor, whether by a voice from heaven
Whispered, or haply known by human wit.
Tried counselors, methinks, are aptest found
To furnish for the future pregnant rede.
Upraise, O chief of men, upraise our State!
Look to thy laurels! for thy zeal of yore
Our country' s savior thou art justly hailed:
O never may we thus record thy reign:—
“He raised us up only to cast us down.”
Uplift us, build our city on a rock.
Thy happy star ascendant brought us luck,
O let it not decline! If thou wouldst rule
This land, as now thou reignest, better sure
To rule a peopled than a desert realm.
Nor battlements nor galleys aught avail,
If men to man and guards to guard them tail.
OEDIPUS. Ah! my poor children, known, ah, known too well,
The quest that brings you hither and your need.
Ye sicken all, well wot I, yet my pain,
How great soever yours, outtops it all.
Your sorrow touches each man severally,
Him and none other, but I grieve at once
Both for the general and myself and you.
Therefore ye rouse no sluggard from day-dreams.
Many, my children, are the tears I' ve wept,
And threaded many a maze of weary thought.
Thus pondering one clue of hope I caught,
And tracked it up; I have sent Menoeceus' son,
Creon, my consort' s brother, to inquire
Of Pythian Phoebus at his Delphic shrine,
How I might save the State by act or word.
And now I reckon up the tale of days
Since he set forth, and marvel how he fares.'
Tis strange, this endless tarrying, passing strange.
But when he comes, then I were base indeed,
If I perform not all the god declares.
PRIEST. Thy words are well timed; even as thou speakest

That shouting tells me Creon is at hand.

OEDIPUS. O King Apollo! may his joyous looks

Be presage of the joyous news he brings!

PRIEST. As I surmise, 'tis welcome; else his head

Had scarce been crowned with berry-laden bays.

OEDIPUS. We soon shall know; he' s now in earshot range.

Enter CREON]

My royal cousin, say, Menoeceus' child,

What message hast thou brought us from the god?

CREON. Good news, for e' en intolerable ills,

Finding right issue, tend to naught but good.

OEDIPUS. How runs the oracle? thus far thy words

Give me no ground for confidence or fear.

CREON. If thou wouldst hear my message publicly,

I' ll tell thee straight, or with thee pass within.

OEDIPUS. Speak before all; the burden that I bear

Is more for these my subjects than myself.

CREON. Let me report then all the god declared.

King Phoebus bids us straitly extirpate

A fell pollution that infests the land,

And no more harbor an inveterate sore.

OEDIPUS. What expiation means he? What' s amiss?

CREON. Banishment, or the shedding blood for blood.

This stain of blood makes shipwreck of our state.

OEDIPUS. Whom can he mean, the miscreant thus denounced?

CREON. Before thou didst assume the helm

vocabulary

ἀγλαός splendid, shining
 ἀγρέω come!
 ἄζομαι dread, revere, respect
 ~hagiography
 ἀθροίζω press close together; (mid)
 muster
 αἴγλη radiance
 ἀλέξω ward off; aid
 ἀλκή prowess, defense, victory
 ~Alexander
 ἄλλοθεν from elsewhere ~alien
 ἀμαιμάκετος huge
 ἀμελέω disregard; (impers.) of
 course
 ἀνέχω raise; mid: endure, submit
 ἀντιάζω meet, fight, join
 ἀνύω accomplish, pass over,
 complete
 ἀπευθύνω make straight, direct
 ἀποσκεδάννυμι (ῥ) dismiss; scatter
 ἀπότιμος (ῖ) without honor
 ἄργυρος silver, money ~Argentina
 ἄρος ἄρεος (n, 3) bane, harm;
 prayer
 ἄρωγή help
 ἄρωγός helper
 ἀστός townsman; citizen
 ἄτα bewilderment, folly
 αὐξάνω strengthen
 βάθρον step, base, bench
 βέλος -εος (n, 3) missile ~ballistic
 γῆρυς voice
 δαίμα -τος (n, 3) fear
 δεῦρο here, come here!
 δράω do, accomplish
 δυστέκμαρτος hard to interpret
 εἰσείδω look at, behold ~wit
 εἰσοράω look at, see; treat with
 respect ~panorama
 ἐχγονος offspring, descendant
 ~genus

ἐκδημέω be abroad
 ἐκμανθάνω know by heart
 ἐκτείνω stretch out ~tend
 ἐκφεύγω flee from, escape ~fugitive
 ἐμποδών getting in the way
 ἐνειμι be in ~ion
 ἐνθένδε hence
 ἐξαγγέλλω bring news out ~angel
 ἐξανύω bring to pass; slay
 ἐξευρίσκω find; discover ~eureka
 ἐπάξιος worthy of
 ἐπιστέλλω send to, order
 ἐπιστενάχω groan at ~stentorian
 ἐπώνυμος named for a reason
 ~name
 ἔργω bound, fend off; do
 ~ergonomics
 ἔσπερος evening, evening star ~west
 εὐτυχής fortunate
 ἡδυεπής sweet-speaking ~hedonism
 θάλαμος bedchamber ~thalamus
 θάσσω sit
 θεωρός envoy; spectator
 ἱκτήρ -ος (m) suppliant, refugee
 ἰός arrow
 ἱχνεύω track, hunt
 ἵχνος -εος (n, 3) track, trace
 ἰωή a rush, a sweep
 καθοράω look down ~panorama
 κάματος exhaustion, toil, product
 κατεῖδον look upon
 κάτοιδα understand
 κέλομαι command, urge
 κεραυνός lightning strike,
 thunderbolt
 κικλήσκω summon, name ~gallo
 κλάδος branch, shoot
 κλύδων -ος (m, 3) wave, surge
 ~cataclysm
 κρείσσων more powerful; better
 λάμπω shine ~lamp
 ληιστής -οῦς (m, 3) bandit

ληιστός lootable ~lucre
 ληστής -οῦ (m, 1) bandit
 λυγρός pitiful; woe-bringing
 ~lugubrious
 λύκιον buckthorn
 μαινάς -δος (f, 3) madwoman,
 maenad ~maenad
 μαλερός raging, devouring
 μαντεία oracular power
 μεθίημι let go, cease; (mid) speed off
 ~jet
 νέμω to allot, to pasture ~nemesis
 νηλής merciless ~alms
 νοσέω be sick, be mad, suffer
 νόσος (f) plague, pestilence
 ~noisome
 ὄρνις -θος (ī, f) bird ~ornithology
 παλαιός old ~paleo
 πάλλω shake, brandish ~Pallas
 πάτρα (αᾶ) fatherland ~paternal
 πέδον ground ~pedal
 πελάζω bring/come to, near, into
 contact with
 περιβαίνω stand over ~basis
 περιτέλλομαι to cycle, come around
 πῆμα -τος (n, 3) woe, bane ~penury
 πολίος gray ~polio
 πολύχρυσος (υῦ) rich in gold
 πόποι oh!
 πότε when?
 πότερος which, whichever of two
 ποῦ where?
 προσάγω bring to a place
 ~demagogue
 πρόσσιδα (+χάριν) be grateful
 besides

προσοράω look at
 προστάσσω post at, attach to,
 command
 προφαίνω show; pass: appear
 ~photon
 ῥώμη strength, might
 σαφής clear, understandable
 σκοπᾶω watch, observe
 σκοπέω behold, consider
 στονόεις causing moans ~stentorian
 σύμβολον token, seal
 σύμβολος token; omen
 συμπίπτω fall together, happen
 συντυγχάνω fall in with; happen
 σωτήρ -ος (m) savior
 τᾶν form of address
 τάχος -ους (n, 3) speed ~tachometer
 τιμωρέω (ī) (+dat) take vengeance,
 punish; aid one who has been
 attacked
 τόκος childbirth ~oxytocin
 τόλμη courage
 τρισσός threefold
 τυραννίς -δος (f) tyranny
 ὑπηρετέω serve
 φάσκω declare, promise, think
 ~fame
 φάτις -τος (f) report, rumor ~fame
 φθίω cause to perish, wane; (of
 time) pass
 φλέγω blaze, burn up ~flame
 φλόξ -γός (f) flame ~flame
 φοβερός frightful, afraid
 φοῖβος pure, radiant
 φροντίς -τος (f) thought, care
 ὠφελέω help, be useful

γῆς τῆσδε, πρὶν σέ τήνδ' ἀπευθύνειν πόλιν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ. ἔξοιδ' ἀκούων· οὐ γὰρ εἰσεῖδόν γέ πω.

105

ΚΡΕΩΝ. τούτου θανόντος νῦν ἐπιστέλλει σαφῶς

τοὺς αὐτοέντας χειρὶ τιμωρεῖν τινας.

ΟΙ. οἳ δ' εἰσὶ ποῦ γῆς; ποῦ τόδ' εὐρεθήσεται

ἵχνος¹ παλαιᾶς δυστέκμαρτον αἰτίας;

ΚΡ. ἐν τῇδ' ἔφασκε γῇ· τὸ δὲ ζητούμενον

110

άλωτόν, ἐκφεύγειν δὲ τὰμελούμενον.

ΟΙ. πότερα δ' ἐν οἴκοις ἢ ν ἀγροῖς ὁ Λαῖος

ἢ γῆς ἐπ' ἄλλης τῷδε συμπίπτει φόνω;

ΚΡ. θεωρός,² ὥς ἔφασκεν, ἐκδημῶν, πάλιν

πρὸς οἶκον οὐκέθ' ἵκεθ', ὥς ἀπεστάλη.

115

ΟΙ. οὐδ' ἄγγελός τις οὐδὲ συμπράκτωρ ὁδοῦ

κατεῖδ', ὅτου τις ἐκμαθὼν ἐχρήσατ' ἄν;

ΚΡ. θνήσκουσι γάρ, πλήν εἷς τις, ὃς φόβῳ, φυγῶν

ὦν εἶδε πλήν ἐν οὐδὲν εἶχ' εἰδὼς φράσαι.

ΟΙ. τὸ ποῖον; ἐν γὰρ πόλλ' ἂν ἐξεύροι μαθεῖν,

120

ἀρχὴν βραχεῖαν εἰ λάβοιμεν ἐλπίδος.

ΚΡ. ληστὰς ἔφασκε συντυχόντας οὐ μιᾷ

ρώμῃ κτανεῖν νιν, ἀλλὰ σὺν πλήθει χερῶν.

ΟΙ. πῶς οὖν ὁ ληστής, εἴ τι μὴ ξὺν ἀργύρῳ

ἐπράσσειτ' ἐνθὲνδ', ἐς τόδ' ἂν τόλμης ἔβη;

125

ΚΡ. δοκοῦντα ταῦτ' ἦν· Λαῖου δ' ὀλωλότες

οὐδεὶς ἀρωγὸς³ ἐν κακοῖς ἐγένετο.

ΟΙ. κακὸν δὲ ποῖον ἐμποδῶν, τυραννίδος

οὕτω πεσούσης, εἶργε τοῦτ' ἐξειδέναι;

¹ track, trace ² envoy; spectator ³ helper

ΚΡ. ἡ ποικιλῶδὸς Σφίγξ τὸ πρὸς ποσὶν σκοπεῖν
μεθέντας ἡμᾶς τὰφανῇ προσήγετο. 130

ΟΙ. ἀλλ' ἐξ ὑπαρχῆς αὐθις αὐτ' ἐγὼ φανῶ·
ἐπαξίως γὰρ Φοῖβος, ἀξίως δὲ σὺ
πρὸ τοῦ θανόντος τήνδ' ἔθεσθ' ἐπιστροφήν·
ὥστ' ἐνδίκως ὄψεσθε καὶ μὲ σύμμαχον 135
γῇ τῇδε τιμωροῦντα τῷ θεῷ θ' ἄμα.
ὑπὲρ γὰρ οὐχὶ τῶν ἀπωτέρω φίλων,
ἀλλ' αὐτὸς αὐτοῦ τοῦτ' ἀποσκεδῶ μύσος.
ὅστις γὰρ ἦν ἐκείνον ὁ κτανών, τάχ' ἂν
καῶν ἂν τοιαύτῃ χειρὶ τιμωροῦνθ' ἔλοι. 140
κείνῳ προσαρκῶν οὖν ἐμαυτὸν ὠφελῶ.
ἀλλ' ὡς τάχιστα, παῖδες, ὑμεῖς μὲν βάθρων⁴
ἵστασθε, τούσδ' ἄραντες ἰκτῆρας κλάδους,
ἄλλος δὲ Κάδμου λαὸν ᾧδ' ἀθροίζετω,
ὡς πᾶν ἐμοῦ δράσοντος· ἡ γὰρ εὐτυχεῖς 145
σὺν τῷ θεῷ φανούμεθ' ἢ πεπτωκότες.

ΙΕΡΕΥΣ. ὦ παῖδες, ἰστώμεσθα· τῶνδε γὰρ χάριν
καὶ δεῦρ' ἔβημεν ὧν ὄδ' ἐξαγγέλλεται.
Φοῖβος δ' ὁ πέμψας τάσδε μαντείας ἄμα
σωτήρ δ' ἵκοιτο καὶ νόσου πανστήριος.[] 150

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ὦ Διὸς ἀδυεπὲς⁵ φάτι, τίς ποτε τᾶς πολυχρύσου
Πυθῶνος ἀγλαὰς ἔβας
Θήβας; ἐκτέταμαι φοβερὰν φρένα, δείματι πάλλων,
ἰήε Δάλιε Παιάν,
ἀμφὶ σοὶ ἀζόμενος⁶ τί μοι ἢ νέον 155

⁴ step, base, bench ⁵ sweet-speaking ⁶ dread, revere, respect

ἣ περιτελλομέναις ὥραις πάλιν ἐξανύσεις χρέος.
εἰπέ μοι, ὦ χρυσέας τέκνον Ἑλπίδος, ἄμβροτε Φάμα.

Χ0. πρῶτα σὲ κεκλόμενος, θύγατερ Διός, ἄμβροτ' Ἀθάνα 160
γαιάοχόν τ' ἀδελφεὰν

Ἄρτεμιν, ἧ κυκλόεντ' ἀγορᾶς θρόνον ἐνκλέα θάσσει,⁷
καὶ Φοῖβον ἐκαβόλον, ἰὼ
τρισοῖ ἀλεξίμοροι προφάνητέ μοι,
εἴ ποτε καὶ προτέρας ἄτας ὕπερ ὀρνυμένας πόλει 165
ἡνύσατ' ἐκτοπιάν φλόγα πήματος, ἔλθετε καὶ νῦν.

Χ0. ὦ πόποι, ἀνάριθμα γὰρ φέρω 170
πήματα· νοσεῖ δέ μοι πρόπας στόλος, οὐδ' ἐνι φροντίδος ἔγχος

ᾧ τις ἀλέγεται. οὔτε γὰρ ἔκγονα
κλυτᾶς χθονὸς αὔξεται οὔτε τόκοισιν
ἱηίων καμάτων ἀνέχουσι γυναῖκες·
ἄλλον δ' ἂν ἄλλῳ προσίδεις ἄπερ εὔπτερον ὄρνιν 175

κρεῖσσον ἀμαιμακέτου⁸ πυρὸς ὄρμενον
ἀκτὰν πρὸς ἐσπέρου⁹ θεοῦ.

Χ0. ὦν πόλις ἀνάριθμος ὄλλυται· 180
νηλέα δὲ γένεθλα πρὸς πέδῳ¹⁰ θαναταφόρα κείται ἀνούκτως·

ἐν δ' ἄλοχοι πολιαί τ' ἔπι ματέρες
ἀχὰν παραβώμιον ἄλλοθεν ἄλλαν
λυγρῶν πόνων ἱκετῆρες ἐπιστενάχουσιν.

παῖαν δὲ λάμπει στονόεσσά τε γῆρυς¹¹ ὄμαυλος 185
ὦν ὕπερ, ὦ χρυσέα θύγατερ Διός,
εὐῶπα πέμψον ἀλκάν.

Χ0. Ἄρεά τε τὸν μαλερόν,¹² ὃς νῦν ἄχαλκος ἀσπίδων 190

⁷ sit ⁸ huge ⁹ evening, evening star ¹⁰ ground ¹¹ voice ¹² raging, devouring

φλέγει με περιβόατον, ἀντιάζω

παλίσσυντον δράμημα νωτίσαι πάτρας¹³

ἔπουρον, εἴτ' ἐς μέγαν θάλαμον Ἀμφιτρίτας

εἴτ' ἐς τὸν ἀπόξενον ὄρμων

195

Θρήκιον κλύδωνα.¹⁴

τελεῖν γὰρ εἴ τι νύξ ἀφῆ,

τοῦτ' ἐπ' ἡμαρ ἔρχεται· τόν, ὦ τᾶν¹⁵ πυρφόρων

ἀστραπᾶν κράτη νέμων,

ὦ Ζεῦ πάτερ, ὑπὸ σῶ φθίσον κεραυνῶ,

ΧΘ. Λύκει' ἄναξ, τά τε σὰ χρυσοστροφῶν ἀπ' ἀγκυλᾶν

βέλεα θέλοιμ' ἂν ἀδάματ' ἐνδατεῖσθαι

ἀρωγὰ προσταχθέντα τάς τε πυρφόρους

205

Ἀρτέμιδος αἴγλας,¹⁶ ξὺν αἷς Λύκι' ὄρεα διάσσει·

τὸν χρυσομίτραν τε κικλήσκω,

τᾶσδ' ἐπώνυμον γᾶς,

210

οἰνώπα Βάκχον εὖιον,

Μαιναδῶν¹⁷ ὁμόστολον, πελασθῆναι φλέγοντ'¹⁸

ἀγλαῶπι

πεύκα πὶ τὸν ἀπότιμον ἐν θεοῖς θεόν.

215

ΟΙ. αἰτεῖς· ἃ δ' αἰτεῖς, τᾶμ' ἐὰν θέλῃς ἔπη

κλύων δέχεσθαι τῇ νόσῳ θ' ὑπηρετεῖν,

ἀλκὴν λάβοις ἂν κἀνακούφισιν κακῶν·

ἀγὼ ξένος μὲν τοῦ λόγου τοῦδ' ἔξερῶ,

ξένος δὲ τοῦ πραχθέντος· οὐ γὰρ ἂν μακρὰν

220

ἵχνηνον αὐτός, μὴ οὐκ ἔχων τι σύμβολον,

νῦν δ' ὕστερος γὰρ ἀστὸς εἰς ἀστοὺς τελῶ,

¹³ fatherland ¹⁴ wave, surge ¹⁵ form of address

¹⁷ madwoman, maenad ¹⁸ blaze, burn up

¹⁶ radiance

of State,

The sovereign of this land was Laius.

OEDIPUS. I heard as much, but never saw the man.

CREON. He fell; and now the god's command is plain:

Punish his takers-off, whome'er they be.

OEDIPUS. Where are they? Where in the wide world to find
The far, faint traces of a bygone crime?

CREON. In this land, said the god; "who seeks shall find;
Who sits with folded hands or sleeps is blind."

OEDIPUS. Was he within his palace, or afield,
Or traveling, when Laius met his fate?

CREON. Abroad; he started, so he told us, bound
For Delphi, but he never thence returned.

OEDIPUS. Came there no news, no fellow-traveler
To give some clue that might be followed up?

CREON. But one escape, who flying for dear life,
Could tell of all he saw but one thing sure.

OEDIPUS. And what was that? One clue might lead us far,
With but a spark of hope to guide our quest.

CREON. Robbers, he told us, not one bandit but
A troop of knaves, attacked and murdered him.

OEDIPUS. Did any bandit dare so bold a stroke,
Unless indeed he were suborned from Thebes?

CREON. So 'twas surmised, but none was found to avenge
His murder mid the trouble that ensued.

OEDIPUS. What trouble can have hindered a full quest,
When royalty had fallen thus miserably?

CREON. The riddling Sphinx compelled us to let slide
The dim past and attend to instant needs.

OEDIPUS. Well, I will start afresh and once again
Make dark things clear. Right worthy the concern
Of Phoebus, worthy thine too, for the dead;

I also, as is meet, will lend my aid

To avenge this wrong to Thebes and to the god.

Not for some far-off kinsman, but myself,

Shall I expel this poison in the blood;

For whoso slew that king might have a mind

To strike me too with his assassin hand.

Therefore in righting him I serve myself.

Up, children, haste ye, quit these altar stairs,

Take hence your suppliant wands, go summon hither

The Theban commons. With the god's good help

Success is sure; 'tis ruin if we fail.

Exeunt OEDIPUS and CREON]

PRIEST. Come, children, let us hence; these gracious words

Forestall the very purpose of our suit.

And may the god who sent this oracle

Save us withal and rid us of this pest.

Exeunt PRIEST and SUPPLIANTS]

CHORUS. (Str. 1)

Sweet-voiced daughter of Zeus from thy gold-paved Pythian shrine

Wafted to Thebes divine,

What dost thou bring me? My soul is racked and shivers with fear.(

Healer of Delos, hear!)

Hast thou some pain unknown before,

Or with the circling years renewest a penance of yore?

Offspring of golden Hope, thou voice immortal, O tell me.(

Ant. 1)

First on Athene I call; O Zeus-born goddess, defend!

Goddess and sister, befriend,

Artemis, Lady of Thebes, high-throned in the midst of our mart!

Lord of the death-winged dart!

Your threefold aid I crave

From death and ruin our city to save.

If in the days of old when we nigh had perished, ye drave

From our land the fiery plague, be near us now and defend us!(

Str. 2)

Ah me, what countless woes are mine!

All our host is in decline;

Weaponless my spirit lies.

Earth her gracious fruits denies;

Women wail in barren throes;

Life on life downstricken goes,

Swifter than the wind bird' s flight,

Swifter than the Fire-God' s might,

To the westering shores of Night.(

Ant. 2)

Wasted thus by death on death

All our city perisheth.

Corpses spread infection round;

None to tend or mourn is found.

Wailing on the altar stair

Wives and grandams rend the air—

Long-drawn moans and piercing cries

Blent with prayers and litanies.

Golden child of Zeus, O hear

Let thine angel face appear! (

Str. 3)

And grant that Ares whose hot breath I feel,

Though without targe or steel

He stalks, whose voice is as the battle shout,

May turn in sudden rout,

To the unharbored Thracian waters sped,

Or Amphitrite' s bed.

For what night leaves undone,

Smit by the morrow' s sun

Perisheth. Father Zeus, whose hand

Doth wield the lightning brand,

Slay him beneath thy levin bold, we pray,

Slay him, O slay! (

Ant. 3)

O that thine arrows too, Lycean King,

From that taut bow' s gold string,

Might fly abroad, the champions of our rights;

Yea, and the flashing lights

Of Artemis, wherewith the huntress sweeps

Across the Lycian steeps.

Thee too I call with golden-snooded hair,

Whose name our land doth bear,

Bacchus to whom thy Maenads Evoe shout;

Come with thy bright torch, rout,

Blithe god whom we adore,

The god whom gods abhor.

Enter OEDIPUS.]

OEDIPUS. Ye pray; 'tis well, but would ye hear my words

And heed them and apply the remedy,

Ye might perchance find comfort and relief.

Mind you, I speak as one who comes a stranger

To this report, no less than to the crime;

For how unaided could I track it far

Without a clue? Which lacking (for too late

Was I enrolled a citizen of Thebes)

vocabulary

ἄθεος godless; by the gods
 ἄθυμος (ῥ) having low morale
 ~fume
 ἀκάθαρτος not pure
 ἄκαρπος fruitless, barren
 ἄμός (ᾱ) my, our
 ἀναγκάζω force, compel
 ἄνειμι go up, inland, to, back ~ion
 ἀνίημι urge, impel; release ~jet
 ἀπόζω smell of
 ἀποστερέω despoil, defraud
 ἀποστρέφω turn back, turn off
 course ~atrophy
 ἀπωθέω repel, reject
 ἀράζω snarl
 ἀράω wear something out
 ἀργέω not work; (pass) be fruitless,
 left undone
 ἀργός glistening, swift
 ἀρέσκω please, satisfy; make
 amends
 ἄρη bane, harm; prayer
 ἄροτος plowed field ~arable
 ἄρρητος unspoken, unspeakable
 ~rhetoric
 ἄρτιος suitable
 ἀσφαλής safe, easy, steady, careful
 αὐτόχειρ with one's own hand
 βίος life ~biology
 δαίμων -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate,
 doom ~demon
 δείκνυμι (ῥ) show, point out
 δεῖμα -τος (n, 3) fear
 δεῦρο here, come here!
 διόλλυμι (ῥ) be ruined
 διπλός double, overlapping
 δράω do, accomplish
 δυστυχέω be unlucky
 εἰκός likely
 εἰσδέχομαι admit, take in
 εἴτε if, whenever; either/or

ἐκμανθάνω know by heart
 ἐκπέμπω send forth ~pomp
 ἐκτρίβω (ι) rub out
 ἐκφαίνω bring to light ~photon
 ἐκφύω spring from ~physics
 ἐμφύω plant; cling ~physics
 ἐξελέγχω convict, refute, test
 ἐξευρίσκω find; discover ~eureka
 ἐπεύχομαι exult (over); pray ~vow
 ἐπισκήπτω lay something on
 ἐπίσταμαι know how, understand
 ~station
 ἔραμαι love, aor. fall in love; long
 for, covet ~erotic
 ἐφίστημι set; (mp) come/be near,
 direct, stop ~station
 θρόνος seat, chair, throne ~throne
 θῦμα -τος (n, 3) victim, sacrifice
 κάρα (αᾱ) head (n) ~cranium
 κατεύχομαι pray, vow, curse
 κάτοιδα understand
 κεράννυμι (ῥ) mix ~crater
 κέρδος -ους (n, 3) advantage,
 cunning
 κλύω hear, listen to ~Euclid
 κοινός communal, ordinary
 κοινώω make common; cooperate
 κράς -τός (f, 3) head
 κράτος strength, power; victory
 ~democracy
 κρέας -ως (n) meat ~creatine
 κυρέω come upon, come up against;
 obtain
 κυρόω (ῥ) confirm, sanction
 κωφός blunt, insensible
 λέκτρον bed ~lie
 μαντεῖον prophetic warning
 ~mantis
 μαντικός prophetic
 μάντις -ος (m) seer ~mantis
 μέτειμι be among, go, follow ~ion
 μίασμα -τος (n, 3) taint, defilement

νέμω to allot, to pasture ~nemesis
νόσημα -τος (n, 3) disease
νόσος (f) plague, pestilence
 ~noisome
νωμάω give out; wield
ξύνειμι be with; have sex
ξυνίημι send together; hear, notice, understand
ὁδοιπόρος traveler ~odometer
οἰωνός vulture, large bird, bird of prey; omen ~avis
ὅμως anyway, nevertheless
οὐράνιος heavenly
πάλαι long ago ~paleo
παλαιός old ~paleo
πάλη wrestling ~Pallas
πάλλω shake, brandish ~Pallas
παρόω maim
πέλω be, turn out to be (mid=act) ~pole
ποῖος what kind
πομπός escort, guide ~pomp
πόνος toil, suffering ~osteopenia
πότε when?
πότμος fate ~petal
πρόσκειμαι be placed by; be devoted to
προστάτης -ου (m, 1) leader, protector

προσφιλής beloved
προσφωνέω speak to
σαφής clear, understandable
σεαυτοῦ yourself
σημαίνω give orders to; show; mark ~semaphore
σιωπάω be silent
σκοπάω watch, observe
σκοπέω behold, consider
σκοπός (f) lookout, overseer, spy, target ~telescope
σύνειμι be with; have sex ~ion
σύνοιδα know about someone; think proper
σωτήρ -ος (m) savior
τάρβος -εος (n, 3) fear
τοιόσδε such
τύχη fortune, act of a god
φάτις -τος (f) report, rumor ~fame
φθείρω destroy, ruin
φθονέω envy
φοῖβος pure, radiant
φόνος killing ~offend
φυγάς -δος (m, 3) exile, refugee ~fugitive
χέρνιψ -βος (f) hand-washing water
ὠθέω push
ὠφελέω help, be useful

ὑμῖν προφωνῶ πᾶσι Καδμείοις τάδε·
 ὅστις ποθ' ὑμῶν Λαίον τὸν Λαβδάκου
 κάτοιδεν ἀνδρὸς ἐκ τίνος διώλετο, 225
 τοῦτον κελεύω πάντα σημαίνειν ἐμοί·
 κεί μὲν φοβεῖται, τοῦπικλήμ' ὑπεξελεῖν
 αὐτὸν καθ' αὐτοῦ· πείσεται γὰρ ἄλλο μὲν
 ἀστεργές οὐδέν. γῆς δ' ἄπεισιν ἀσφαλής.
 εἰ δ' αὖ τις ἄλλον οἶδεν ἐξ ἄλλης χθονὸς 230
 τὸν αὐτόχειρα, μὴ σιωπάτω· τὸ γὰρ
 κέρδος τελῶ γὰρ χὴ χάρις προσκείσεται.
 εἰ δ' αὖ σιωπήσεσθε, καί τις ἢ φίλου
 δείσας ἀπώσσει τοῦπος ἢ χαυτοῦ τόδε,
 ἅκ τῶνδε δράσω, ταῦτα χρὴ κλύειν ἐμοῦ. 235
 τὸν ἄνδρ' ἀπανδῶ τοῦτον, ὅστις ἐστί, γῆς
 τῆσδ', ἣς ἐγὼ κράτη τε καὶ θρόνους νέμω,
 μήτ' εἰσδέχεσθαι μήτε προσφωνεῖν τινα,
 μήτ' ἐν θεῶν εὐχαῖσι μήτε θύμασιν¹
 κοινὸν ποιεῖσθαι, μήτε χέρνιβας² νέμειν· 240
 ὠθεῖν δ' ἀπ' οἴκων πάντας, ὡς μιάσματος
 τοῦδ' ἡμῖν ὄντος, ὡς τὸ Πυθικὸν θεοῦ
 μαντεῖον ἐξέφηγεν ἀρτίως ἐμοί.
 ἐγὼ μὲν οὖν τοιόσδε τῷ τε δαίμονι
 τῷ τ' ἀνδρὶ τῷ θανόντι σύμμαχος πέλω· 245
 κατεύχομαι δὲ τὸν δεδρακότ', εἴτε τις
 εἷς ὃν λέληθεν εἴτε πλειόνων μέτα,
 κακὸν κακῶς νιν ἄμωρον ἐκτρῦψαι βίον·

¹ victim, sacrifice ² hand-washing water

ἐπεύχομαι δ', οἴκοισιν εἰ ξυνέστιος
 ἐν τοῖς ἐμοῖς γένοιτ' ἐμοῦ συνειδότος,
 παθεῖν ἅπερ τοῖσδ' ἀρτίως ἡρασάμην.
 ὑμῖν δὲ ταῦτα πάντ' ἐπισκῆπτω τελεῖν,
 ὑπέρ τ' ἐμαυτοῦ τοῦ θεοῦ τε τῆσδέ τε
 γῆς ᾧδ' ἀκάρπως³ καθέως ἐφθαρμένης.

250

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ. οὐδ' εἰ γὰρ ἦν τὸ πρᾶγμα μὴ θεήλατον,

255

ἀκάθαρτον ὑμᾶς εἰκὸς ἦν οὕτως ἔαν,
 ἀνδρός γ' ἀρίστου βασιλέως τ' ὀλωλότος,
 ἀλλ' ἐξερευνᾶν· νῦν δ' ἐπεὶ κυρῶ γ' ἐγὼ
 ἔχων μὲν ἀρχὰς ᾧς ἐκείνος εἶχε πρίν,
 ἔχων δὲ λέκτρα⁴ καὶ γυναιῖχ' ὁμόσπορον,
 κοινῶν τε παίδων κοῖν' ἄν, εἰ κείνῳ γένος
 μὴ δυστύχησεν, ἦν ἂν ἐκπεφυκότα·
 νῦν δ' ἐς τὸ κείνου κρᾶτ' ἐνήλαθ' ἡ τύχη·
 ἀνθ' ὧν ἐγὼ τὰδ', ὥσπερ εἰ τοῦμοῦ πατρός,
 ὑπερμαχοῦμαι καπὶ πᾶν ἀφίζομαι,
 ζητῶν τὸν αὐτόχειρα τοῦ φόνου λαβεῖν,
 τῷ Λαβδακείῳ παιδὶ Πολυδώρου τε καὶ
 τοῦ πρόσθε Κάδμου τοῦ πάλαι τ' Ἀγήνορος.
 καὶ ταῦτα τοῖς μὴ δρώσιν εὖχομαι θεοὺς
 μήτ' ἄροτον⁵ αὐτοῖς γῆς ἀνιέναι τινὰ
 μήτ' οὖν γυναικῶν παῖδας, ἀλλὰ τῷ πότμῳ
 τῷ νῦν φθереῖσθαι κατὰ τοῦδ' ἐχθίονι·
 ὑμῖν δὲ τοῖς ἄλλοισι Καδμείοις, ὅσοις
 τὰδ' ἔστ' ἀρέσκονθ', ἥ τε σύμμαχος Δίκη

260

265

270

³ fruitless, barren ⁴ bed ⁵ plowed field

χοί' πάντες εὖ ξυνείεν εἰσαεὶ θεοί.

275

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ὥσπερ μ' ἀραῖον ἔλαβες, ὦδ', ἄναξ, ἐρῶ.

οὐτ' ἔκτανον γὰρ οὔτε τὸν κτανόντ' ἔχω

δείξαι. τὸ δὲ ζήτημα τοῦ πέμψαντος ἦν

Φοίβου τόδ' εἰπεῖν, ὅστις εἵργασταί ποτε.

ΟΙ. δίκαι' ἔλεξας· ἀλλ' ἀναγκάσαι θεοὺς

280

ἂν μὴ θέλωσιν οὐδ' ἂν εἷς δύναιτ' ἀνὴρ.

ΧΟ. τὰ δεύτερ' ἐκ τῶνδ' ἂν λέγοιμι ἄμοι⁶ δοκεῖ.

ΟΙ. εἰ καὶ τρίτ' ἐστί, μὴ παρῆς τὸ μὴ οὐ φράσαι.

ΧΟ. ἄνακτ' ἄνακτι ταῦθ' ὁρῶντ' ἐπίσταμαι

μάλιστα Φοίβῳ Τειρεσίαν, παρ' οὗ τις ἂν

285

σκοπῶν τάδ', ὦναξ, ἐκμάθοι σαφέστατα.

ΟΙ. ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐν ἀργοῖς οὐδὲ τοῦτ' ἐπραξάμην.

ἔπεμψα γὰρ Κρέοντος εἰπόντος διπλοῦς

πομπούς·⁷ πάλαι δὲ μὴ παρῶν θαναμάζεται.

ΧΟ. καὶ μὴν τά γ' ἄλλα κωφά⁸ καὶ παλαιῖ ἔπη.

290

ΟΙ. τὰ ποῖα ταῦτα; πάντα γὰρ σκοπῶ λόγον.

ΧΟ. θανείν ἐλέχθη πρὸς τινων ὁδοιπόρων.⁹

ΟΙ. ἤκουσα καγώ. τὸν δ' ἰδόντ' οὐδεὶς ὁρᾷ.

ΧΟ. ἀλλ' εἴ τι μὲν δὴ δείματός γ' ἔχει μέρος,

τὰς σὰς ἀκούων οὐ μενεῖ τοιάσδ' ἀράς,

295

ΟΙ. ᾧ μὴ στι δρῶντι τάρβος,¹⁰ οὐδ' ἔπος φοβεῖ.

ΧΟ. ἀλλ' οὐξελέγξων αὐτὸν ἔστιν· οἶδε γὰρ

τὸν θεῖον ἤδη μάντιν ὦδ' ἄγουσιν, ᾧ

τάληθες ἐμπέφυκεν ἀνθρώπων μόνῳ.

ΟΙ. ὦ πάντα νωμῶν Τειρεσία, διδακτά τε

300

⁶ my, our ⁷ escort, guide ⁸ blunt, insensible ⁹ traveler ¹⁰ fear

ἄρρητά τ', οὐράνιά τε καὶ χθονοστιβῆ,
 πόλιν μέν, εἰ καὶ μὴ βλέπεις, φρονεῖς δ' ὅμως
 οἷα νόσῳ σύνεστιν· ἥς σέ προστάτην
 σωτήρρά τ', ὦναξ, μούνον ἐξευρίσκομεν.

Φοῖβος γάρ, εἴ τι μὴ κλύεις τῶν ἀγγέλων, 305
 πέμβασιν ἡμῖν ἀντέπεμψεν, ἔκλυσι
 μόνην ἂν ἐλθεῖν τοῦδε τοῦ νοσήματος,¹¹
 εἰ τοὺς κτανόντας Λαῖον μαθόντες εὖ
 κτείναιμεν ἢ γῆς φυγάδας¹² ἐκπεμψαίμεθα.

σύ νυν φθονήσας μήτ' ἀπ' οἰωνῶν φάτιν 310
 μήτ' εἴ τιν' ἄλλην μαντικῆς ἔχεις ὁδόν,
 ῥῦσαι σεαυτὸν καὶ πόλιν, ῥῦσαι δ' ἐμέ,
 ῥῦσαι δὲ πᾶν μίasma τοῦ τεθνηκότος.
 ἐν σοὶ γὰρ ἐσμέν· ἄνδρα δ' ὠφελεῖν ἀφ' ὧν
 ἔχοι τε καὶ δύναιτο, κάλλιστος πόνων. 315

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ. φεῦ φεῦ, φρονεῖν ὡς δεινὸν ἔνθα μὴ τέλη
 λυγρὰ φρονοῦντι· ταῦτα γὰρ καλῶς ἐγὼ
 εἰδὼς διώλεσ'· οὐ γὰρ ἂν δεῦρ' ἰκόμην.

ΟΙ. τί δ' ἔστιν; ὡς ἄθυμος¹³ εἰσελήλυθας.

ΤΕ. ἄφες μ' ἐς οἶκους· ῥᾶστα γὰρ τὸ σόν τε σὺ 320
 καγὼ διοίσω τοῦμόν, ἣν ἐμοὶ πίθη.

ΟΙ. οὐτ' ἔννομ' εἶπας οὔτε προσφιλεῖ πόλει
 τῇδ', ἣ σ' ἔθριψε, τήνδ' ἀποστερῶν φάτιν.

ΤΕ. ὁρῶ γὰρ οὐδὲ σοὶ τὸ σὸν φώνημ' ἰὸν 325
 πρὸς καιρόν· ὡς οὖν μῆδ' ἐγὼ ταῦτὸν πάθω—

ΟΙ. μὴ πρὸς θεῶν φρονῶν γ' ἀποστραφῆς, ἐπεὶ

¹¹ disease ¹² exile, refugee ¹³ having low morale

This proclamation I address to all:—
Thebans, if any knows the man by whom
Laius, son of Labdacus, was slain,
I summon him to make clean shrift to me.
And if he shrinks, let him reflect that thus
Confessing he shall 'scape the capital charge;
For the worst penalty that shall befall him
Is banishment— unscathed he shall depart.
But if an alien from a foreign land
Be known to any as the murderer,
Let him who knows speak out, and he shall have
Due recompense from me and thanks to boot.
But if ye still keep silence, if through fear
For self or friends ye disregard my hest,
Hear what I then resolve; I lay my ban
On the assassin whosoe' er he be.
Let no man in this land, whereof I hold
The sovereign rule, harbor or speak to him;
Give him no part in prayer or sacrifice
Or lustral rites, but hound him from your homes.
For this is our defilement, so the god
Hath lately shown to me by oracles.
Thus as their champion I maintain the cause
Both of the god and of the murdered King.
And on the murderer this curse I lay(
On him and all the partners in his guilt):—
Wretch, may he pine in utter wretchedness!
And for myself, if with my privity
He gain admittance to my hearth, I pray
The curse I laid on others fall on me.
See that ye give effect to all my hest,
For my sake and the god' s and for our land,
A desert blasted by the wrath of heaven.
For, let alone the god' s express command,
It were a scandal ye should leave unpurged
The murder of a great man and your king,
Nor track it home. And now that I am lord,
Successor to his throne, his bed, his wife,(
And had he not been frustrate in the hope
Of issue, common children of one womb
Had forced a closer bond twixt him and me,
But Fate swooped down upon him), therefore I

His blood-avenger will maintain his cause
 As though he were my sire, and leave no stone
 Unturned to track the assassin or avenge
 The son of Labdacus, of Polydore,
 Of Cadmus, and Agenor first of the race.
 And for the disobedient thus I pray:
 May the gods send them neither timely fruits
 Of earth, nor teeming increase of the womb,
 But may they waste and pine, as now they waste,
 Aye and worse stricken; but to all of you,
 My loyal subjects who approve my acts,
 May Justice, our ally, and all the gods
 Be gracious and attend you evermore.

CHORUS. The oath thou profferest, sire, I take and swear.
 I slew him not myself, nor can I name
 The slayer. For the quest, 'twere well, methinks
 That Phoebus, who proposed the riddle, himself
 Should give the answer— who the murderer was.

OEDIPUS. Well argued; but no living man can hope
 To force the gods to speak against their will.

CHORUS. May I then say what seems next best to me?

OEDIPUS. Aye, if there be a third best, tell it too.

CHORUS. My liege, if any man sees eye to eye
 With our lord Phoebus, 'tis our prophet, lord
 Teiresias; he of all men best might guide
 A searcher of this matter to the light.

OEDIPUS. Here too my zeal has nothing lagged, for twice
 At Creon's instance have I sent to fetch him,
 And long I marvel why he is not here.

CHORUS. I mind me too of rumors long ago—
 Mere gossip.

OEDIPUS. Tell them, I would fain know all.

CHORUS. 'Twas said he fell by travelers.

OEDIPUS. So I heard,

But none has seen the man who saw him fall.

CHORUS. Well, if he knows what fear is, he will quail
 And flee before the terror of thy curse.

OEDIPUS. Words scare not him who blenches not at deeds.

CHORUS. But here is one to arraign him. Lo, at length
 They bring the god-inspired seer in whom
 Above all other men is truth inborn.

Enter TEIRESIAS, led by a boy.]

OEDIPUS. Teiresias, seer who comprehendest all,
Lore of the wise and hidden mysteries,
High things of heaven and low things of the earth,
Thou knowest, though thy blinded eyes see naught,
What plague infects our city; and we turn
To thee, O seer, our one defense and shield.
The purport of the answer that the God
Returned to us who sought his oracle,
The messengers have doubtless told thee— how
One course alone could rid us of the pest,
To find the murderers of Laius,
And slay them or expel them from the land.
Therefore begrudging neither augury
Nor other divination that is thine,
O save thyself, thy country, and thy king,
Save all from this defilement of blood shed.
On thee we rest. This is man's highest end,
To others' service all his powers to lend.
TEIRESIAS. Alas, alas, what misery to be wise
When wisdom profits nothing! This old lore
I had forgotten; else I were not here.
OEDIPUS. What ails thee? Why this melancholy mood?
TEIRESIAS. Let me go home; prevent me not; 'twere best
That thou shouldst bear thy burden and I mine.

vocabulary

ἀγῆλατέω drive out one accursed or polluted

ἄγριος wild, savage ~agriculture

ἀέθλιος prize ~athlete

ἀέκων unwilling

ἄθλιος wretched ~athlete

αἶνιγμα -τος (n, 3) dark saying

αἰσχρός shameful

ἄκων javelin; unwilling ~acme

ἀναιδής shameless, ruthless

ἀνεκτός bearable

ἀνόσιος unholy

ἀντιλέγω contradict, oppose

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

ἀποστρέφω turn back, turn off course ~atrophy

ἄρη bane, harm; prayer

ἄστος townsman; citizen

ἀτελεύτητος unaccomplished ~apostle

ἀτιμάζω (ι) insult, dishonor

αὐδάω speak, declare, shout ~Theravada

ἄφορρος returning

βιόω live; (mp) make a living ~biology

βλάπτω break, make fail

βλώσκω come, go

βοά din, a shout

βοεΐη shield; leather, bovine

βοεύς βοῦος (m) leather rope ~bovine

γῆθέω rejoice, exult ~joy

γνωτός kinsman; obvious ~gnostic

γοῦν at least then

δέρκομαι see, watch

δῆτα emphatic δῆ

διείπον talk over, tell fully

δίς twice

δόλιος tricky, guileful

δωρητός appeasable

ἐγγέω pour into

εἰκάζω liken; conjecture

εἴπερ if indeed

εἰσπλέω sail into

ἐκτρίβω (ι) rub out

ἐκφαίνω bring to light ~photon

ἐλέγχω shame; try, examine

ἐμμένω stay put, be faithful, fixed

ἐνέχω hold inside

ἐννοέω consider

ἐξεύρημα invention, discovery

ἐξισόω equalize

ἐπαισθάνομαι feel, perceive

ἔρπω be able to move ~serpent

εὐπλοία a good voyage ~float

ἱμείρω (ι) want, want to

καθοράω look down ~panorama

καίνω kill

καίτοι and yet; and in fact; although

κέρδος -ους (n, 3) advantage, cunning

κήρυγμα -τος (n, 3) proclamation

κλύω hear, listen to ~Euclid

κυρέω come upon, come up against; obtain

λάθρα secretly

μαντεία oracular power

μαντεῖον prophetic warning ~mantis

μαντεῖος prophetic

μάντις -ος (m) seer ~mantis

μάτην in vain, randomly

μέλος -ους (n, 3) limb; melody

μέμφομαι blame; reject

μέτειμι be among, go, follow ~ion

μολίσκω come, go

νέρθε beneath, below

ξυνίημι send together; hear, notice, understand

οἰκεύς -ος (m) house servant

~economics

οἰκέω inhabit ~economics
οἰωνός vulture, large bird, bird of prey; omen ~avis
ὄλεθρος ruin, destruction, death
ὀμιλέω (ι) associate with ~homily
ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye
ὁμός same ~homoerotic
ὁμοῦ together
ὁμόω unite ~homoerotic
ὄνειδίζω upbraid, reproach
ὀργαίνω anger, provoke, annoy
ὀργή urge, impulse; anger
ὀργίζω anger, provoke, annoy
οὐκοῦν not so?; and so
οὖς οὔατος (n) ear
παρίημι dangle; pass over, allow ~jet
πέλας near, close
πέρας -τος (n, 3) cord; bound, crux, outcome ~prove
περάω cross over, drive across; sell as a slave ~pierce
πέτρος rock ~petrified
πήμα -τος (n, 3) woe, bane ~penury
πιστός faithful; trustworthy
ποιός what kind
πότε when?
ποῦ where?
προδίδωμι betray
προεῖπον foretell, proclaim, order before
προλέγω prophecy, proclaim; preselect ~legion
προπηλακίζω bespatter, reproach
προσδοκάω expect
προσκυνέω kow tow to; kiss
προστάτης -ου (m, 1) leader,

protector
προτρέπω prompt, urge, compel; (mp) go, flee to ~trophy
προφαίνω show; pass: appear ~photon
ῥαψῳδός bard
σαφής clear, understandable
σθένος -εος (n, 3) strength ~neurasthenia
σιγά silence
σιγάω (ι) be silent
σκοπάω watch, observe
σκοπέω behold, consider
σκότος darkness, shadow ~shadow
σύμφωνος harmonious
συνίημι send together; hear, notice, understand ~jet
συντίθημι hearken, mark ~thesis
τέχνη craft, art, plan, contrivance ~technology
τοιόσδε such
τυραννίς -δος (f) tyranny
τυφλός blind
ὑμέναιος bridal song ~hymen
ὑπερφέρω carry over; surpass
ὑπέρχομαι go under
φάος φῶς (n, 3) light; salvation; (pl) eyes ~photon
φέως bush used to make brooms
φθόνος malice, envy
φονεύς -ως (m) killer ~offend
φύσις -εως (f) nature (of a thing) ~physics
φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics
χρήζω need ~chresard
ψέγω blame, censure

πάντες σε προσκυνούμεν οἷδ' ἰκτῆριοι.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ. πάντες γὰρ οὐ φρονεῖτ'· ἐγὼ δ' οὐ μή ποτε

τάμ', ὡς ἂν εἶπω μὴ τὰ σ', ἐκφῆνω κακά.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ. τί φῆς; ξυνειδῶς οὐ φράσεις, ἀλλ' ἐννοεῖς

330

ἡμᾶς προδοῦναι καὶ καταφθεῖραι πόλιν;

ΤΕ. ἐγὼ οὐτ' ἐμαυτὸν οὔτε σ' ἀλγυνῶ. τί ταῦτ'

ἄλλως ἐλέγχεις; οὐ γὰρ ἂν πύθοιό μου.

ΟΙ. οὐκ, ὦ κακῶν κάκιστε, καὶ γὰρ ἂν πέτρου

φύσιν σύ γ' ὀργάνειας, ἐξερεῖς ποτε,

335

ἀλλ' ὠδ' ἄτεγκτος ἀτελεύτητος¹ φανεῖ;

ΤΕ. ὀργὴν ἐμέμψω τὴν ἐμήν, τὴν σὴν δ' ὁμοῦ

ναίουσαν οὐ κατείδες, ἀλλ' ἐμὲ ψέγεις.²

ΟΙ. τίς γὰρ τοιαῦτ' ἂν οὐκ ἂν ὀργίζοιτ' ἔπη

κλύων, ἃ νῦν σὺ τήνδ' ἀτιμάζεις πόλιν;

340

ΤΕ. ἥξει γὰρ αὐτά, κἂν ἐγὼ σιγῇ στέγω.

ΟΙ. οὐκοῦν ἅ γ' ἥξει καὶ σὲ χρὴ λέγειν ἐμοί.

ΤΕ. οὐκ ἂν πέρα φράσαιμι. πρὸς τάδ', εἰ θέλεις,

θυμοῦ δι' ὀργῆς ἦτις ἀγριωτάτη.

ΟΙ. καὶ μὴν παρήσω γ' οὐδέν, ὡς ὀργῆς ἔχω,

345

ἅπερ ξυνήμ'· ἴσθι γὰρ δοκῶν ἐμοὶ

καὶ ξυμφυτεῦσαι τοῦργον εἰργάσθαι θ', ὅσον

μὴ χερσὶ καίνων·³ εἰ δ' ἐτύγχανες βλέπων,

καὶ τοῦργον ἂν σοῦ τοῦτ', ἔφην εἶναι μόνου.

ΤΕ. ἀλθες; ἐνέπω σὲ τῷ κηρύγματι⁴

350

ὥπερ προεῖπας ἐμμένειν, καφ' ἡμέρας

τῆς νῦν προσαυδᾶν μήτε τούσδε μήτ' ἐμέ,

¹ unaccomplished ² blame, censure ³ kill ⁴ proclamation

ὥς ὄντι γῆς τῆσδ' ἀνοσίφ' μιάστορι.

ΟΙ. οὕτως ἀναιδῶς ἐξεκίνησας τόδε

τὸ ῥῆμα; καὶ ποῦ τοῦτο φεύξεσθαι δοκεῖς;

355

ΤΕ. πέφενγα· τάληθες γὰρ ἰσχύον τρέφω.

ΟΙ. πρὸς τοῦ διδαχθεῖς; οὐ γὰρ ἔκ γε τῆς τέχνης.

ΤΕ. πρὸς σοῦ· σὺ γάρ μ' ἄκοντα προυτρέψω λέγειν.

ΟΙ. ποῖον λόγον; λέγ' αὐθις, ὥς μάλλον μάθω.

ΤΕ. οὐχὶ ξυνήκας πρόσθεν; ἢ κπειρᾷ λέγων;

360

ΟΙ. οὐχ ὥστε γ' εἰπεῖν γνωστόν· ἀλλ' αὐθις φράσον.

ΤΕ. φονέα σε φημὶ τάνδρὸς οὗ ζητεῖς κυρεῖν.

ΟΙ. ἀλλ' οὐ τι χαίρων δῖς γε πημονὰς ἐρεῖς.

ΤΕ. εἴπω τι δῆτα καλλ', ἵν' ὀργίῳ πλέον;

ΟΙ. ὅσον γε χηρίζεις· ὥς μάτην εἰρήσεται.

365

ΤΕ. λεληθέναι σε φημὶ σὺν τοῖς φιλτάτοις

αἴσχισθ' ὀμιλοῦντ', οὐδ' ὅραν ἵν' εἰ κακοῦ.

ΟΙ. ἦ καὶ γεγηθὼς ταῦτ' ἀεὶ λέξεις δοκεῖς;

ΤΕ. εἴπερ τί γ' ἐστὶ τῆς ἀληθείας σθένος.

ΟΙ. ἀλλ' ἔστι, πλὴν σοί· σοὶ δὲ τοῦτ' οὐκ ἔστ' ἐπεὶ

370

τυφλὸς τά τ' ὦτα τὸν τε νοῦν τά τ' ὄμματ' εἶ.

ΤΕ. σὺ δ' ἄθλιός γε ταῦτ' ὀνειδίζων, ἂ σοὶ

οὐδεὶς ὃς οὐχὶ τῶνδ' ὀνειδιεῖ τάχα.

ΟΙ. μᾶς τρέφει πρὸς νυκτός, ὥστε μήτ' ἐμὲ

μήτ' ἄλλον, ὅστις φῶς ὀρᾷ, βλάψαι ποτ' ἂν.

375

ΤΕ. οὐ γάρ σε μοῖρα πρὸς γ' ἐμοῦ πεσεῖν, ἐπεὶ

ἱκανὸς Ἀπόλλων, ᾧ τάδ' ἐκπράξαι μέλει.

ΟΙ. Κρέοντος ἢ σοῦ ταῦτα τᾶξευρήματα;

ΤΕ. Κρέων δέ σοι πῆμ' οὐδέν, ἀλλ' αὐτὸς σὺ σοί.

- ΟΙ. ὦ πλοῦτε καὶ τυραννὶ καὶ τέχνῃ τέχνης 380
 ὑπερφέρουσα τῷ πολυζήλω βίῳ,
 ὅσος παρ' ὑμῖν ὁ φθόνος φυλάσσεται,
 εἰ τῇσδ' ἄρχῃς οὔνεχ', ἦν ἐμοὶ πόλις
 δωρητόν,⁵ οὐκ αἰτητόν, εἰσεχείρισεν,
 ταύτης Κρέων ὁ πιστός, οὐξ ἀρχῇς φίλος, 385
 λάθρα μ' ὑπελθὼν ἐκβαλεῖν ἰμείρεται,
 ὑφεῖς μάγον τοιόνδε μηχανορράφον,
 δόλιον⁶ ἀγύρτην, ὅστις ἐν τοῖς κέρδεσιν
 μόνον δέδορκε, τὴν τέχνην δ' ἔφυ τυφλός.
 ἐπεὶ, φέρ' εἰπέ, ποῦ σὺ μάντις εἰ σαφής; 390
 πῶς οὐκ, ὅθ' ἡ ραψωδὸς⁷ ἐνθάδ' ἦν κύων,
 ἡὔδας τι τοῖσδ' ἀστοῖσιν ἐκλυτήριον;
 καίτοι τό γ' αἶνιγμ'⁸ οὐχὶ τοῦπιόντος ἦν
 ἀνδρὸς διειπεῖν, ἀλλὰμαντείας ἔδει·
 ἦν οὔτ' ἀπ' οἰωνῶν σὺ προυφάνης ἔχων 395
 οὔτ' ἐκ θεῶν του γνωτόν.⁹ ἀλλ' ἐγὼ μολῶν,
 ὁ μηδὲν εἰδὼς Οἰδίπους, ἔπανσά νιν,
 γνώμη κυρήσας οὐδ' ἀπ', οἰωνῶν μαθὼν·
 ὦν δὴ σὺ πειρᾶς ἐκβαλεῖν, δοκῶν θρόνοις
 παραστατήσιν τοῖς Κρεοντείοις πέλας. 400
 κλαίων δοκεῖς μοι καὶ σὺ χῶ συνθεῖς τάδε
 ἀγλατήσιν.¹⁰ εἰ δὲ μὴ δόκεις γέρων
 εἶναι, παθὼν ἔγνωσ' ἂν οἶά περ φρονεῖς.
- ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἡμῖν μὲν εἰκάζουσι καὶ τὰ τοῦδ' ἔπη
 ὀργῇ λελέχθαι καὶ τὰ σ', Οἰδίπους, δοκεῖ, 405

⁵ appeasable ⁶ tricky, guileful ⁷ bard ⁸ dark saying ⁹ kinsman;
 obvious ¹⁰ drive out one accursed or polluted

δεῖ δ' οὐ τοιούτων, ἀλλ' ὅπως τὰ τοῦ θεοῦ
μαντεῖ' ἄριστα λύσομεν, τόδε σκοπεῖν.

ΤΕ. εἰ καὶ τυραννεῖς, ἐξισωτέον τὸ γοῦν

ἴσ' ἀντιλέξαι· τοῦδε γὰρ καὶ γὰρ κρατῶ.

οὐ γάρ τι σοὶ ζῶ δοῦλος, ἀλλὰ Λοξία·

410

ὥστ' οὐ Κρέοντος προστάτου γεγράψομαι.

λέγω δ', ἐπειδὴ καὶ τυφλὸν μ' ὠνείδισας·

σὺ καὶ δέδορκας κου' βλέπεις ἔν' εἰ κακοῦ,

οὐδ' ἔνθα ναίεις, οὐδ' ὅτων οἰκεῖς μέτα.

ἄρ' οἶσθ' ἀφ' ὧν εἶ; καὶ λέληθας ἐχθρὸς ὦν

415

τοῖς σοῖσιν αὐτοῦ νέρθε¹¹ καπὶ γῆς ἄνω,

καὶ σ' ἀμφιπλήξῃ μητρός τε καὶ τοῦ σοῦ πατρὸς

ἐλῶ ποτ' ἐκ γῆς τῆσδε δεινόπους ἀρά,

βλέποντα νῦν μὲν ὄρθ', ἔπειτα δὲ σκότον.

βοῆς δὲ τῆς σῆς ποῖος οὐκ ἔσται λιμήν,

420

ποῖος Κιθαιρῶν οὐχὶ σύμφωνος τάχα,

ὅταν καταίσθῃ τὸν ὑμέναιον,¹² ὃν δόμοις

ἄνορμον εἰσέπλευσας, εὐπλοίας¹³ τυχών;

ἄλλων δὲ πλήθος οὐκ ἐπαισθάνει κακῶν,

ἃ σ' ἐξισώσει σοὶ τε καὶ τοῖς σοῖς τέκνοις.

425

πρὸς ταῦτα καὶ Κρέοντα καὶ τοῦμὸν στόμα

προπηλάκιζε· σοῦ γὰρ οὐκ ἔστιν βροτῶν

κάκιον ὅστις ἐκτριβήσεταιί ποτε.

ΟΙ. ἦ ταῦτα δῆτ' ἀνεκτὰ πρὸς τούτου κλύειν;

οὐκ εἰς ὄλεθρον; οὐχὶ θάσσον; οὐ πάλιν

430

ἄψορρος¹⁴ οἴκων τῶνδ' ἀποστραφεῖς ἄπει;

¹¹ beneath, below ¹² bridal song ¹³ a good voyage ¹⁴ returning

OEDIPUS. For shame! no true-born Theban patriot

Would thus withhold the word of prophecy.

TEIRESIAS. Thy words, O king, are wide of the mark, and I

For fear lest I too trip like thee...

OEDIPUS. Oh speak,

Withhold not, I adjure thee, if thou know' st,

Thy knowledge. We are all thy suppliants.

TEIRESIAS. Aye, for ye all are witless, but my voice

Will ne' er reveal my miseries— or thine.

OEDIPUS. What then, thou knowest, and yet wilt not speak!

Wouldst thou betray us and destroy the State?

TEIRESIAS. I will not vex myself nor thee. Why ask

Thus idly what from me thou shalt not learn?

OEDIPUS. Monster! thy silence would incense a flint.

Will nothing loose thy tongue? Can nothing melt thee,

Or shake thy dogged taciturnity?

TEIRESIAS. Thou blam' st my mood and seest not thine own

Wherewith thou art mated; no, thou taxest me.

OEDIPUS. And who could stay his choler when he heard

How insolently thou dost flout the State?

TEIRESIAS. Well, it will come what will, though I be mute.

OEDIPUS. Since come it must, thy duty is to tell me.

TEIRESIAS. I have no more to say; storm as thou wilt,

And give the rein to all thy pent-up rage.

OEDIPUS. Yea, I am wroth, and will not stint my words,

But speak my whole mind. Thou methinks thou art he,

Who planned the crime, aye, and performed it too,

All save the assassination; and if thou

Hadst not been blind, I had been sworn to boot

That thou alone didst do the bloody deed.

TEIRESIAS. Is it so? Then I charge thee to abide

By thine own proclamation; from this day

Speak not to these or me. Thou art the man,

Thou the accursed polluter of this land.

OEDIPUS. Vile slanderer, thou blurtest forth these taunts,

And think' st forsooth as seer to go scot free.

TEIRESIAS. Yea, I am free, strong in the strength of truth.

OEDIPUS. Who was thy teacher? not methinks thy art.

TEIRESIAS. Thou, goading me against my will to speak.

OEDIPUS. What speech? repeat it and resolve my doubt.

TEIRESIAS. Didst miss my sense wouldst thou goad me on?

OEDIPUS. I but half caught thy meaning; say it again.

TEIRESIAS. I say thou art the murderer of the man
Whose murderer thou pursuest.

OEDIPUS. Thou shalt rue it
Twice to repeat so gross a calumny.

TEIRESIAS. Must I say more to aggravate thy rage?

OEDIPUS. Say all thou wilt; it will be but waste of breath.

TEIRESIAS. I say thou livest with thy nearest kin
In infamy, unwitting in thy shame.

OEDIPUS. Think' st thou for aye unscathed to wag thy tongue?

TEIRESIAS. Yea, if the might of truth can aught prevail.

OEDIPUS. With other men, but not with thee, for thou
In ear, wit, eye, in everything art blind.

TEIRESIAS. Poor fool to utter gibes at me which all
Here present will cast back on thee ere long.

OEDIPUS. Offspring of endless Night, thou hast no power
O' er me or any man who sees the sun.

TEIRESIAS. No, for thy weird is not to fall by me.
I leave to Apollo what concerns the god.

OEDIPUS. Is this a plot of Creon, or thine own?

TEIRESIAS. Not Creon, thou thyself art thine own bane.

OEDIPUS. O wealth and empery and skill by skill
Outwitted in the battlefield of life,

What spite and envy follow in your train!

See, for this crown the State conferred on me.

A gift, a thing I sought not, for this crown

The trusty Creon, my familiar friend,

Hath lain in wait to oust me and suborned

This mountebank, this juggling charlatan,

This tricky beggar-priest, for gain alone

Keen-eyed, but in his proper art stone-blind.

Say, sirrah, hast thou ever proved thyself

A prophet? When the riddling Sphinx was here

Why hadst thou no deliverance for this folk?

And yet the riddle was not to be solved

By guess-work but required the prophet' s art;

Wherein thou wast found lacking; neither birds

Nor sign from heaven helped thee, but I came,

The simple Oedipus; I stopped her mouth

By mother wit, untaught of auguries.

This is the man whom thou wouldst undermine,

In hope to reign with Creon in my stead.

Methinks that thou and thine abettor soon

Will rue your plot to drive the scapegoat out.

Thank thy grey hairs that thou hast still to learn

What chastisement such arrogance deserves.

CHORUS. To us it seems that both the seer and thou,

O Oedipus, have spoken angry words.

This is no time to wrangle but consult

How best we may fulfill the oracle.

TEIRESIAS. King as thou art, free speech at least is mine

To make reply; in this I am thy peer.

I own no lord but Loxias; him I serve

And ne'er can stand enrolled as Creon's man.

Thus then I answer: since thou hast not spared

To twit me with my blindness— thou hast eyes,

Yet see'st not in what misery thou art fallen,

Nor where thou dwellest nor with whom for mate.

Dost know thy lineage? Nay, thou know'st it not,

And all unwitting art a double foe

To thine own kin, the living and the dead;

Aye and the dogging curse of mother and sire

One day shall drive thee, like a two-edged sword,

Beyond our borders, and the eyes that now

See clear shall henceforward endless night.

Ah whither shall thy bitter cry not reach,

What crag in all Cithaeron but shall then

Reverberate thy wail, when thou hast found

With what a hymeneal thou wast borne

Home, but to no fair haven, on the gale!

Aye, and a flood of ills thou guessest not

Shall set thyself and children in one line.

Flout then both Creon and my words, for none

Of mortals shall be stricken worse than thou.

OEDIPUS. Must I endure this fellow's insolence?

A murrain on thee! Get thee hence! Begone

Avaunt! and never cross my threshold more.

TEIRESIAS. I ne'er had come hadst thou not bidden me.

vocabulary

ἄγαμαι wonder, admire; resent,
 begrudge
 ἄγαν very much
 ἄγριος wild, savage ~agriculture
 ἄδηλος invisible, unknown
 ἀλέξω ward off; aid
 ἀλίσκομαι be captured ~helix
 ἄνευ away from; not having; not
 needing ~Sp. sin
 ἀντακούω hear in turn
 ἄντρον cave
 ἀπειλέω vow, threaten, boast
 ἀπειλή boast, threat
 ἀπλός single; simple ~haploid
 ἀπλώ spread, unfold
 ἀπορέω be confused, distressed
 ἀπόρρυνμι (ῶ) set forth ~hormone
 ἀποφάσκω speak out
 ἄρδω give water
 ἄρρητος unspoken, unspeakable
 ~rhetoric
 ἄρτιος suitable
 ἀσαφής faint, obscure
 αὐδάω speak, declare, shout
 ~Theravada
 ἀφοράω look away, at ~panorama
 βαρύς heavy ~baritone
 βασανίζω interrogate, test, torture
 βάσανος (f) trial, torture
 βιάζω use force on, violate
 βιώω live; (mp) make a living
 ~biology
 βλάβη harm
 γνωρίζω make known, discover
 γονεύς -ος (m) parent
 δειλία cowardice
 δειλιάω be afraid
 δελφίς -νος (m) dolphin
 δέρομαι see, watch
 δεῦρο here, come here!
 διόλλυμι (ῶ) be ruined

δόλος trick, bait
 δράω do, accomplish
 δυσμενής hostile, enemy
 ἐγγενής native, kindred; innate
 εἰστίθηναι put in
 εἴτα then, therefore, next
 ἐκσώζω save from
 ἐκφύω spring from ~physics
 ἐμποδών getting in the way
 ἐμφανής visible
 ἔμφρων sane, conscious, rational
 ἐναργής visible, clear ~Argentina
 ἐπίκουρος ally; mercenary ~cereal
 ἔσθω eat ~eat
 ζημία loss, penalty ~zeal
 ἡδομαι be pleased, enjoy
 ~hedonism
 θηράω hunt, chase
 ἰχνεύω track, hunt
 κακία low quality; immorality
 κήρ doom, death, fate
 κτήμα -τος (n, 3) possession
 λάμπω shine ~lamp
 ληιστής -οῦς (m, 3) bandit
 ληστής -οῦ (m, 1) bandit
 λογίζομαι reckon, consider
 μαντεῖον prophetic warning
 ~mantis
 μαντικός prophetic
 μάντις -ος (m) seer ~mantis
 μέλεος vain, idle, useless
 μέλος -ους (n, 3) limb; melody
 μέμφομαι blame; reject
 μέτοικος immigrant
 μωρία folly
 νεῖκος -εος (n, 3) quarrel, battle
 νιφόεις snowy
 νωμάω give out; wield
 ξύνειμι be with; have sex
 ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye
 ὀνειδίζω upbraid, reproach
 ὀνειδος -εος (n, 3) blame; insult

ὀπίζομαι revere, heed ~panorama
 ὅπου where
 ὀρθόω stand up
 οὐκουν certainly not
 οὐνεκα because
 οὐτάω pierce, wound
 ὀφλισκάνω lose; incur debt
 ὀχλέω move, disturb ~wagon
 πάλαι long ago ~paleo
 πάλη wrestling ~Pallas
 πάλλω shake, brandish ~Pallas
 παραιμείβω pass by ~amoeba
 πάροιθε in the presence of
 περάω cross over, drive across; sell
 as a slave ~pierce
 πετάννυμι (ῥ) spread, spread out
 πέτομαι to fly ~petal
 πόθος longing, regret ~bid
 πόσις -ος (m) (m) husband, master;
 (f) a drink ~potent
 προδείκνυμι (ῥ) show by example;
 foreshadow
 πτωχός poor, beggarly ~pudendum
 σεύω drive; mid: get going, be eager
 ~asylum
 σθεναρός mighty ~neurasthenia
 σκῆπτρον scepter, staff ~scepter
 σοφία skill; wisdom ~sophistry
 σοφός skilled, clever, wise
 στέγη roof, ceiling, chamber
 στέλλω prepare, send, furl ~apostle
 στεροπή lightning flash

συγγενεύς inborn, kin to
 συγγενής inborn, kin to
 συγγίγνομαι associate with, meet,
 have sex ~genus
 σύμφημι assent, concede
 συμφορά collecting; accident,
 misfortune
 συνετός smart; intelligible
 σχολή rest, leisure
 ταρασσω mess things up ~trachea
 τάχος -ους (n, 3) speed ~tachometer
 τόλμη courage
 τοσόσδε this much
 τυραννίς -δος (f) tyranny
 τύραννος tyrant
 τυφλός blind
 τύχη fortune, act of a god
 ὑλάω bark (a dog)
 ὑπέχω promise; hold out one's
 hand; submit to
 φάτις -τος (f) report, rumor ~fame
 φοιτάω go back and forth
 φονεύς -ως (m) killer ~offend
 φύσις -εως (f) nature (of a thing)
 ~physics
 φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics
 χηρεύω lack, be without ~go
 χωρίς separately; except, other than
 ~heir
 ψευδής lying, false ~pseudo-
 ψεύδω be false, deceive; (mid) to lie
 ~pseudo-

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ. οὐδ' ἰκόμην ἔγωγ' ἄν, εἰ σὺ μὴ κάλεις.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ. οὐ γάρ τί σ' ἤδη μῶρα φωνήσονται, ἐπεὶ

σχολῇ¹ σ' ἂν οἴκους τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἐστειλάμην.

ΤΕ. ἡμεῖς τοιοῖδ' ἔφυμεν, ὥς μὲν σοὶ δοκεῖ,

435

μῶροι, γονεῦσι δ', οἳ σ' ἔφυσαν, ἔμφρονες.

ΟΙ. ποίοισι; μείνον, τίς δέ μ' ἐκφύει βροτῶν;

ΤΕ. ἥδ' ἡμέρα φύσει σε καὶ διαφθερεῖ.

ΟΙ. ὥς πάντ' ἄγαν αἰνικτὰ κάσαφῇ λέγεις.

ΤΕ. οὐκ οὐν σὺ ταῦτ' ἄριστος εὐρίσκειν ἔφυσ;

440

ΟΙ. τοιαῦτ' ὀνειδίζ', οἷς ἔμ' εὐρήσεις μέγαν.

ΤΕ. αὕτη γε μέντοι σ' ἡ τύχη διώλεσεν.

ΟΙ. ἀλλ' εἰ πόλιν τήνδ' ἐξέσωσ', οὐ μοι μέλει.

ΤΕ. ἄπειμι τοῖνυν· καὶ σύ, παῖ, κόμιζέ με.

ΟΙ. κομιζέτω δῆθ'· ὥς παρὼν σύ γ' ἐμποδῶν

445

ὀχλείς, συθείς τ' ἂν οὐκ ἂν ἀλγύνους πλέον.

ΤΕ. εἰπὼν ἄπειμ' ὦν οὐνεκ', ἦλθον, οὐ τὸ σὸν

δείσας πρόσωπον· οὐ γὰρ ἔσθ' ὅπου μ' ὀλεῖς.

λέγω δέ σοι· τὸν ἄνδρα τοῦτον, ὃν πάλαι

ζητεῖς ἀπειλῶν ἀνακηρύσσω φόνον

450

τὸν Λαΐειον, οὗτός ἐστιν ἐνθάδε,

ξένος λόγῳ μέτοικος, εἶτα δ' ἐγγενὴς

φανήσεται Θηβαῖος, οὐδ' ἡσθήσεται

τῇ ξυμφορᾷ· τυφλὸς γὰρ ἐκ δεδορκότος

καὶ πτωχὸς ἀντὶ πλουσίου ξένην ἔπι

455

σκήπτρῳ προδεικνὺς γαῖαν ἐμπορεύσεται.

φανήσεται δὲ παισὶ τοῖς αὐτοῦ ξυνὼν

ἀδελφὸς αὐτὸς καὶ πατήρ, καὶ ἥς ἔφυ

¹ rest, leisure

γυναικὸς υἱὸς καὶ πόσις, καὶ τοῦ πατρὸς
 ὁμόσπορός τε καὶ φονεύς. καὶ ταῦτ' ἰὼν 460
 εἴσω λογίζου· καὶ λάβῃς ἐψευσμένον,
 φάσκειν ἔμ' ἤδη μαντικῇ μηδὲν φρονεῖν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. τίς ὄντιν' ἅ θεσπιάπεια Δελφίς² εἶπε πέτρα
 ἄρρητ' ἀρρήτων τελέσαντα φοινίαισι χερσίν; 465
 ὦρα νιν ἀελλάδων
 ἵππων σθεναρώτερον³ φυγᾶ πόδα νωμᾶν.
 ἔνοπλος γὰρ ἐπ' αὐτὸν ἐπενθρώσκει
 πυρὶ καὶ στεροπαῖς ὁ Διὸς γενέτας, 470
 δειναὶ δ' αἶμ' ἔπονται
 κῆρες ἀναπλάκητοι

ΧΟ. ἔλαμψε γὰρ τοῦ νιφόεντος⁴ ἀρτίως φανεῖσα
 φάμα Παρνασοῦ τὸν ἄδηλον ἄνδρα πάντ' ἰχνεύειν.
 φοιτᾷ γὰρ ὑπ' ἀγρίαν 475
 ὕλαν⁵ ἀνά τ' ἄντρα καὶ
 πέτρας ἰσόταυρος
 μέλεος μελέω⁶ ποδὶ χηρεύων,⁷
 τὰ μεσόμφαλα γᾶς ἀπονοσφίζων 480
 μαντεῖα· τὰ δ' αἰὲ
 ζῶντα περιποτᾶται.

ΧΟ. δεινὰ μὲν οὔν, δεινὰ ταράσσει σοφὸς οἰωνοθέτας
 οὔτε δοκοῦντ' οὔτ' ἀποφάσκονθ'· ὅ τι λέξω δ' ἀπορῶ. 485
 πέτομαι δ' ἐλπίσιν οὔτ', ἐνθάδ' ὁρῶν οὔτ' ὀπίσω.
 τί γὰρ ἢ Λαβδακίδαις
 ἢ τῷ Πολύβου νέικος ἔκειτ', οὔτε πάροιθέν ποτ' ἔγωγ' 490

² dolphin ³ mighty ⁴ snowy ⁵ bark (a dog) ⁶ vain, idle, useless
⁷ lack, be without

ἔμαθον, πρὸς ὅτου δὴ βασανίζων⁸ βασάνω⁹

ἐπὶ τὰν ἐπίδαμον φάτιν εἴμ' Οἰδιπόδα Λαβδακίδαις

ἐπίκουρος ἀδήλων θανάτων.

495

ΧΟ. ἀλλ' ὁ μὲν οὖν Ζεὺς ὃ τ' Ἀπόλλων ξυνετοὶ καὶ τὰ βροτῶν

εἰδότες· ἀνδρῶν δ' ὅτι μάντις πλέον ἢ γὰρ φέρεται,

500

κρίσις οὐκ ἔστιν ἀλαθής· σοφία δ' ἂν σοφίαν

παραμείβειεν ἀνὴρ.

ἀλλ' οὐποτ' ἔγωγ' ἄν, πρὶν ἴδοιμ' ὀρθὸν ἔπος, μεμφομένων ἂν

καταφαίην.

505

φανερὰ γὰρ ἐπ' αὐτῷ, πτερόεσσ' ἦλθε κόρα

ποτέ, καὶ σοφὸς ὥφθη βασάνω θ' ἀδύπολις τῷ ἀπ' ἐμᾶς

510

φρενὸς οὐποτ' ὀφλήσει κακίαν.

ΚΡΕΩΝ. ἄνδρες πολῖται, δεῖν' ἔπη πεπυσμένους

κατηγορεῖν μου τὸν τύραννον Οἰδίπουν,

πάρεμι' ἀτλητῶν. εἰ γὰρ ἐν ταῖς ξυμφοραῖς

515

ταῖς νῦν νομίζει πρὸς γ' ἐμοῦ πεπονθέναί

λόγοισιν εἴτ' ἔργοισιν εἰς βλάβην φέρον,

οὔτοι βίου μοι τοῦ μακραίωνος πόθος,

φέροντι τήνδε βάξιν. οὐ γὰρ εἰς ἀπλοῦν

ἢ ζημία μοι τοῦ λόγου τούτου φέρει,

520

ἀλλ' ἐς μέγιστον, εἰ κακὸς μὲν ἐν πόλει,

κακὸς δὲ πρὸς σοῦ καὶ φίλων κεκλήσομαι.

ΧΟ. ἀλλ' ἦλθε μὲν δὴ τοῦτο τοῦναιδος τάχ' ἂν

ὀργῇ βιασθὲν μᾶλλον ἢ γνώμῃ φρενῶν.

ΚΡ. τοῦπος δ' ἐφάνθη, ταῖς ἐμαῖς γνώμαις ὅτι

525

πεισθεῖς ὁ μάντις τοὺς λόγους ψευδεῖς¹⁰ λέγοι;

⁸ interrogate, test, torture

⁹ trial, torture

¹⁰ lying, false

ΧΟ. ἡδᾶτο μὲν τάδ', οἶδα δ' οὐ γνώμη τίνι.

ΚΡ. ἐξ ὀμμάτων δ' ὀρθῶν τε κάξ ὀρθῆς φρενὸς
κατηγορεῖτο τοῦπίκλημα τοῦτό μου;

ΧΟ. οὐκ οἶδ'· ἂ γὰρ δρώσ', οἱ κρατοῦντες οὐχ ὀρώ.
αὐτὸς δ' ὄδ' ἤδη δωμάτων ἕξω περᾶ. 530

ΟΙ. οὗτος σύ, πῶς δεῦρ' ἦλθες; ἦ τοσόνδ' ἔχεις
τόλμης πρόσωπον ὥστε τὰς ἐμὰς στέγας
ἵκου, φονεὺς ὦν τοῦδε τάνδρὸς ἐμφανῶς
ληστής τ' ἐναργής τῆς ἐμῆς τυραννίδος;
φέρ' εἰπὲ πρὸς θεῶν, δειλίαν ἢ μωρίαν¹¹
ἰδὼν τιν' ἔν μοι ταῦτ' ἐβουλεύσω ποεῖν;
ἦ τοῦργον ὥς οὐ γνωριοῖμί σου τόδε
δόλω προσέρπον ἢ οὐκ ἀλεξοίμην μαθών;
ἄρ' οὐχὶ μῶρόν ἐστι τοῦγχείρημά σου,
ἄνευ τε πλήθους καὶ φίλων τυραννίδα
θηρᾶν, ὃ πλήθει χρήμασιν θ' ἀλίσκεται; 540

ΚΡ. οἶσθ' ὥς πόησον; ἀντὶ τῶν εἰρημένων
ἴσ' ἀντάκουσον, κᾶτα κρῖν' αὐτὸς μαθών.

ΟΙ. λέγειν σὺ δεινός, μανθάνειν δ' ἐγὼ κακὸς
σοῦ· δυσμενῇ γὰρ καὶ βαρύν σ' ἡῦρηκ' ἐμοί. 545

ΚΡ. τοῦτ' αὐτὸ νῦν μου πρῶτ' ἄκουσον ὥς ἐρώ.

ΟΙ. τοῦτ' αὐτὸ μή μοι φράζ', ὅπως οὐκ εἰ κακός.

ΚΡ. εἴ τοι νομίζεις κτήμα τὴν ἀνθαδίαν
εἶναί τι τοῦ νοῦ χωρίς, οὐκ ὀρθῶς φρονεῖς. 550

ΟΙ. εἴ τοι νομίζεις ἄνδρα συγγενῇ κακῶς
δρῶν οὐχ ὑφέξειν τὴν δίκην, οὐκ εὖ φρονεῖς.

ΚΡ. ξύμφημί σοι ταῦτ' ἔνδικ' εἰρησθαι· τὸ δὲ

¹¹ folly

OEDIPUS. I know not thou wouldst utter folly, else
Long hadst thou waited to be summoned here.

TEIRESIAS. Such am I— as it seems to thee a fool,
But to the parents who begat thee, wise.

OEDIPUS. What sayest thou—“parents”? Who begat me, speak?

TEIRESIAS. This day shall be thy birth-day, and thy grave.

OEDIPUS. Thou lov’ st to speak in riddles and dark words.

TEIRESIAS. In reading riddles who so skilled as thou?

OEDIPUS. Twit me with that wherein my greatness lies.

TEIRESIAS. And yet this very greatness proved thy bane.

OEDIPUS. No matter if I saved the commonwealth.

TEIRESIAS. ’Tis time I left thee. Come, boy, take me home.

OEDIPUS. Aye, take him quickly, for his presence irks
And lets me; gone, thou canst not plague me more.

TEIRESIAS. I go, but first will tell thee why I came.

Thy frown I dread not, for thou canst not harm me.

Hear then: this man whom thou hast sought to arrest
With threats and warrants this long while, the wretch
Who murdered Laius— that man is here.

He passes for an alien in the land

But soon shall prove a Theban, native born.

And yet his fortune brings him little joy;

For blind of seeing, clad in beggar’ s weeds,

For purple robes, and leaning on his staff,

To a strange land he soon shall grope his way.

And of the children, inmates of his home,

He shall be proved the brother and the sire,

Of her who bare him son and husband both,

Co-partner, and assassin of his sire.

Go in and ponder this, and if thou find

That I have missed the mark, henceforth declare

I have no wit nor skill in prophecy.

Exeunt TEIRESIAS and OEDIPUS]

CHORUS. (Str. 1)

Who is he by voice immortal named from Pythia’ s rocky cell,

Doer of foul deeds of bloodshed, horrors that no tongue can tell?

A foot for flight he needs

Fleeter than storm-swift steeds,

For on his heels doth follow,

Armed with the lightnings of his Sire, Apollo.

Like sleuth-hounds too

The Fates pursue.(

Ant. 1)

Yea, but now flashed forth the summons from Parnassus' snowy peak,
 "Near and far the undiscovered doer of this murder seek!"

Now like a sullen bull he roves
 Through forest brakes and upland groves,
 And vainly seeks to fly
 The doom that ever nigh
 Flits o' er his head,
 Still by the avenging Phoebus sped,
 The voice divine,
 From Earth' s mid shrine.(

Str. 2)

Sore perplexed am I by the words of the master seer.
 Are they true, are they false? I know not and bridle my tongue for
 fear,
 Fluttered with vague surmise; nor present nor future is clear.
 Quarrel of ancient date or in days still near know I none
 Twixt the Labdacidan house and our ruler, Polybus' son.
 Proof is there none: how then can I challenge our King' s good name,
 How in a blood-feud join for an untracked deed of shame?()

Ant. 2)

All wise are Zeus and Apollo, and nothing is hid from their ken;
 They are gods; and in wits a man may surpass his fellow men;
 But that a mortal seer knows more than I know— where
 Hath this been proven? Or how without sign assured, can I blame
 Him who saved our State when the winged songstress came,
 Tested and tried in the light of us all, like gold assayed?
 How can I now assent when a crime is on Oedipus laid?
 CREON. Friends, countrymen, I learn King Oedipus
 Hath laid against me a most grievous charge,
 And come to you protesting. If he deems
 That I have harmed or injured him in aught
 By word or deed in this our present trouble,
 I care not to prolong the span of life,
 Thus ill-reputed; for the calumny
 Hits not a single blot, but blasts my name,
 If by the general voice I am denounced
 False to the State and false by you my friends.

CHORUS. This taunt, it well may be, was blurted out
 In petulance, not spoken advisedly.

CREON. Did any dare pretend that it was I
 Prompted the seer to utter a forged charge?

CHORUS. Such things were said; with what intent I know not.

CREON. Were not his wits and vision all astray
When upon me he fixed this monstrous charge?

CHORUS. I know not; to my sovereign's acts I am blind.
But lo, he comes to answer for himself.

Enter OEDIPUS.]

OEDIPUS. Sirrah, what mak'st thou here? Dost thou presume
To approach my doors, thou brazen-faced rogue,
My murderer and the filcher of my crown?
Come, answer this, didst thou detect in me
Some touch of cowardice or witlessness,
That made thee undertake this enterprise?
I seemed forsooth too simple to perceive
The serpent stealing on me in the dark,
Or else too weak to scotch it when I saw.
This thou art witless seeking to possess
Without a following or friends the crown,
A prize that followers and wealth must win.

CREON. Attend me. Thou hast spoken, 'tis my turn
To make reply. Then having heard me, judge.

OEDIPUS. Thou art glib of tongue, but I am slow to learn
Of thee; I know too well thy venomous hate.

CREON. First I would argue out this very point.

OEDIPUS. O argue not that thou art not a rogue.

CREON. If thou dost count a virtue stubbornness,
Unschool'd by reason, thou art much astray.

OEDIPUS. If thou dost hold a kinsman may be wronged,
And no pains follow, thou art much to seek.

CREON. Therein thou judgest rightly, but this wrong

vocabulary

ἄβουλος ill-advised
 ἀγγέλλω carry a message, announce
 ~angel
 ἀδελφή sister
 ἄδηλος invisible, unknown
 ἀέκων unwilling
 ἄθεος godless; by the gods
 αἰδέομαι respect, be ashamed
 αἰτιάομαι blame ~etiology
 αἰτίζω ask for, beg ~etiology
 ἄκων javelin; unwilling ~acme
 ἄλγος -εος (n, 3) woe, grief
 ~analgesic
 ἀλίσκομαι be captured ~helix
 ἄλυπος (ῥ) painless
 ἄνευ away from; not having; not
 needing ~Sp. sin
 ἀπατάω to lie, trick ~apatosaurus
 ἀπωθέω repel, reject
 ἀρνέομαι deny, refuse, repudiate
 ἄρνησις denial
 ἀσπάζομαι greet, salute
 ἀσφαλής safe, easy, steady, careful
 ἄτιμος (ι) without honor
 αὐδάω speak, declare, shout
 ~Theravada
 ἀφανής unseen, occult, obscure
 βίος life; sustenance, chattels
 ~biology
 βούλευμα -τος (n, 3) resolution,
 purpose
 γαμέω marry, take as a lover
 ~bigamy
 γλῶσσα tongue, language ~glossary
 γοῦν at least then
 δείκνυμι (ῥ) show, point out
 δῆτα emphatic δῆ
 δικάιω demand/make justice
 διπλός double, overlapping
 δράω do, accomplish
 ἐκβάλλω throw out, fell, let fall

~ballistic
 ἐκκαλέω call forth ~gallo
 ἐκμανθάνω know by heart
 ἔλεγχος (n) shame, disgrace; (m)
 refutation
 ἐλέγχω shame; try, examine
 ἐναγής cursed, polluted
 ἐνειμι be in ~ion
 ἐννοέω consider
 ἐνταῦθα there, here
 ἐπαίρω lift, raise ~heresy
 ἐπαισχύνομαι be ashamed of
 ἐπαιτιάομαι accuse
 ἐπαράομαι curse
 ἐπιβουλεύω plot, plan, harm
 ~volunteer
 ἐπίσταμαι know how, understand
 ~station
 ἐραστής -οῦ (m, 1) lover, fan
 ἔρω go (neg. connotation) ~serve
 εὕδω sleep, lie down, rest
 εὐλαβέομαι be careful, beware
 ἐφίστημι set; (mp) come/be near,
 direct, stop ~station
 ἡδύς sweet, pleasant ~hedonism
 ἥκιστος least; above all
 ἡσυχάζω be quiet, rest
 ἱμείρω (ι) want, want to
 ἰσώω (ι) liken to
 καίριος deadly
 καταιδέομαι feel shame, reverence
 κέρδος -ους (n, 3) advantage,
 cunning
 κινέω (ι) set in motion, move,
 remove ~kinetic
 κοινός communal, ordinary
 κράτος strength, power; victory
 ~democracy
 κυρέω come upon, come up against;
 obtain
 κυρόω (ῥ) confirm, sanction
 λάθρα secretly

λίσσομαι beg, beseech ~litany
 μάντις -ος (m) seer ~mantis
 μάτην in vain, randomly
 μέτειμι be among, go, follow ~ion
 μετρέω measure, traverse ~metric
 μήποτε absolutely never
 νεῖκος -εος (n, 3) quarrel, battle
 νέμω to allot, to pasture ~nemesis
 νήπιος foolish, childish, naive, credulous
 νοσέω be sick, be mad, suffer
 ξυνίημι send together; hear, notice, understand
 ὄλεθρος ruin, destruction, death
 ὄμαιμος related by blood
 ὅμως anyway, nevertheless
 ὀνίνημι help, please, be available
 ὅποῖος whatever kind
 ὄρκος what is sworn by, witness, oath ~orc
 οὐδαμοῦ nowhere
 οὐχουν certainly not
 οὐπω no longer
 οὐτάω pierce, wound
 πάθημα -τος (n, 3) suffering, condition
 παλαιός old ~paleo
 πέλας near, close
 ποῖος what kind
 πόσις -ος (m) (m) husband, master; (f) a drink ~potent
 πόσος how many, much, far?
 προδείκνυμι (ō) show by example; foreshadow
 πρόμος foremost fighter, champion
 προσμένω await, cleave to
 πύματος last, hindmost

ῥέζω do, make, perform sacrifices
 ~ergonomics
 ῥέω flow ~rheostat
 σαυτοῦ yourself
 σαφής clear, understandable
 σιγάω (ī) be silent
 σκέπτομαι look, look at, watch
 ~skeptical
 σοφός skilled, clever, wise
 στάσις -εως (f) placing; faction
 στέγη roof, ceiling, chamber
 στείχω go, march ~stair
 σύμφημι assent, concede
 συνέρχομαι come together
 σωφρονέω be sane, moderate
 ταλαίπωρος suffering, miserable
 τέχνη craft, art, plan, contrivance
 ~technology
 τιμάω (ī) honor, exalt
 τοσόσδε this much
 τυραννίς -δος (f) tyranny
 τύραννος tyrant
 ὑποείχω yield, withdraw
 φθονέω envy
 φονεύς -ως (m) killer ~offend
 φρόνησις -εως (f) intention; wisdom
 φυγή flight, means of escape
 ~fugitive
 φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics
 χρῆζω need ~chresard
 χρηστός useful; brave, worthy
 χωρέω withdraw, give way to (+dat)
 ~heir
 χωρίς separately; except, other than
 ~heir
 ψῆφος (f) pebble, vote, decree, sentence

πάθῃμ¹ ὅποιον φῆς παθεῖν, δίδασκέ με.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ. ἔπειθες ἢ οὐκ ἔπειθες, ὥς χρεΐη μ' ἐπὶ 555

τὸν σεμνόμαντιν ἄνδρα πέμψασθαί τινα;

ΚΡΕΩΝ. καὶ νῦν ἔθ' αὐτός εἰμι τῷ βουλευμάτι.

ΟΙ. πόσον τιw' ἤδη δῆθ' ὁ Λαΐος χρόνον

ΚΡ. δέδρακε ποῖον ἔργον; οὐ γὰρ ἐννοῶ.

ΟΙ. ἄφαντος ἔρρει θανάσιμῳ χειρώματι; 560

ΚΡ. μακροὶ παλαιοὶ τ' ἂν μετρηθεῖεν² χρόνοι.

ΟΙ. τότε οὖν ὁ μάντις οὗτος ἦν ἐν τῇ τέχνῃ;

ΚΡ. σοφός γ' ὁμοίως καὶ ἴσον τιμώμενος.

ΟΙ. ἐμνήσατ' οὖν ἐμοῦ τι τῷ τότε ἐν χρόνῳ;

ΚΡ. οὐκ οὐν ἐμοῦ γ' ἐστῶτος οὐδαμοῦ πέλας. 565

ΟΙ. ἀλλ' οὐκ ἔρευναν τοῦ κτανόντος ἔσχετε;

ΚΡ. παρέσχομεν, πῶς δ' οὐχί; κοῦκ ἠκούσαμεν.

ΟΙ. πῶς οὖν τόθ' οὗτος ὁ σοφὸς οὐκ ἠϋδα τάδε;

ΚΡ. οὐκ οἶδ'. ἐφ' οἷς γὰρ μὴ φρονῶ σιγᾶν φιλῶ.

ΟΙ. τοσόνδε γ' οἶσθα καὶ λέγοις ἂν εὖ φρονῶν. 570

ΚΡ. ποῖον τόδ'; εἰ γὰρ οἶδά γ', οὐκ ἀρνήσομαι.

ΟΙ. ὁθύνεκ', εἰ μὴ σοὶ ξυνῆλθε, τάσδ' ἐμὰς

οὐκ ἂν ποτ' εἶπε Λαΐου διαφθοράς.

ΚΡ. εἰ μὲν λέγει τάδ', αὐτὸς οἶσθ'. ἐγὼ δὲ σοῦ

μαθεῖν δικαίῳ ταῦθ' ἄπερ καμῶν σὺν νῦν. 575

ΟΙ. ἐκμάνθαν'. οὐ γὰρ δὴ φονεὺς ἀλώσομαι.

ΚΡ. τί δῆτ'; ἀδελφὴν τὴν ἐμὴν γήμας ἔχεις;

ΟΙ. ἀρνησις³ οὐκ ἔνεστιν ὧν ἀνιστορεῖς.

ΚΡ. ἄρχεις δ' ἐκείνῃ ταῦτ' ἄ γῆς ἴσον νέμων;

¹ suffering, condition ² measure, traverse ³ denial

ΟΙ. ἂν ἢ θέλουσα πάντ' ἐμοῦ κομίζεται. 580

ΚΡ. οὐκ οὐν ἰσοῦμαι σφῶν ἐγὼ δυοῖν τρίτος;

ΟΙ. ἐνταῦθα γὰρ δὴ καὶ κακὸς φαίνει φίλος.

ΚΡ. οὐκ, εἰ διδοίης γ' ὥς ἐγὼ σαιταῖ λόγον.

σκέψαι δὲ τοῦτο πρῶτον, εἴ τιν' ἂν δοκεῖς

ἄρχειν ἐλέσθαι ξὺν φόβοισι μάλλον ἢ 585

ἄτρεστον εὖδοντ', εἰ τὰ γ' αὐθ' ἔξει κράτη.

ἐγὼ μὲν οὖν οὐτ' αὐτὸς ἰμείρων ἔφυν

τύραννος εἶναι μάλλον ἢ τύραννα δρᾶν,

οὐτ' ἄλλος ὅστις σωφρονεῖν ἐπίσταται.

νῦν μὲν γὰρ ἐκ σοῦ πάντ' ἄνευ φόβου φέρω, 590

εἰ δ' αὐτὸς ἦρχον, πολλὰ κἂν ἄκων ἔδρων.

πῶς δὴτ' ἐμοὶ τυραννὶς ἡδίων ἔχειν

ἀρχῆς ἀλύπου⁴ καὶ δυναστείας ἔφν;

οὐπω τοσοῦτον ἡπατημένος κυρῶ

ὥστ' ἄλλα χρήζεν ἢ τὰ σὺν κέρδει καλά. 595

νῦν πᾶσι χαίρω, νῦν με πᾶς ἀσπάζεται,

νῦν οἱ σέθεν χρήζοντες ἐκκαλοῦσί με·

τὸ γὰρ τυχεῖν αὐτοῖσι πᾶν ἐνταῦθ' ἔνι.

πῶς δὴτ' ἐγὼ κεῖν' ἂν λάβοιμ' ἀφείς τάδε;

οὐκ ἂν γένοιτο νοῦς κακὸς καλῶς φρονῶν. 600

ἀλλ' οὐτ' ἐραστὴς τῆσδε τῆς γνώμης ἔφυν

οὐτ' ἂν μετ' ἄλλου δρώντος ἂν τλαίην ποτέ.

καὶ τῶνδ' ἔλεγχον τοῦτο μὲν Πυθῶδ' ἰὼν

πεύθου τὰ χρησθέντ' εἰ σαφῶς ἡγγεῖλά σοι·

τοῦτ' ἄλλ', εἴαν με τῷ τερασκόπῳ λάβῃς 605

κοινῇ τι βουλευέσαντα, μή μ' ἀπλῇ κτάνης

⁴ painless

ψήφω, διπλῇ δέ, τῇ τ' ἐμῇ καὶ σῇ, λαβών·
 γνώμη δ' ἀδήλω μή με χωρὶς αἰτιῶ.
 οὐ γὰρ δίκαιον οὔτε τοὺς κακοὺς μάτην
 χρηστοὺς νομίζειν οὔτε τοὺς χρηστοὺς κακοὺς.
 φίλον γὰρ ἐσθλὸν ἐκβαλεῖν ἴσον λέγω
 καὶ τὸν παρ' αὐτῷ βίοντον, ὃν πλείστον, φιλεῖ.
 ἀλλ' ἐν χρόνῳ γνώσει τάδ' ἀσφαλῶς, ἐπεὶ
 χρόνος δίκαιον ἄνδρα δείκνυσιν μόνος·
 κακὸν δὲ κἂν ἐν ἡμέρᾳ γνούςῃς μιᾷ.

610

615

ΧΟΡΟΣ. καλῶς ἔλεξεν εὐλαβουμένῳ πεσεῖν,
 ἄναξ· φρονεῖν γὰρ οἱ ταχεῖς οὐκ ἀσφαλεῖς.

ΟΙ. ὅταν ταχύς τις οὐπιβουλεύων λάθῃρα
 χωρῇ, ταχὺν δεῖ καμὲ βουλεύειν πάλιν·
 εἰ δ' ἡσυχάζων προσμενῶ, τὰ τοῦδε μὲν
 πεπραγμέν' ἔσται, τὰμὰ δ' ἡμαρτημένα.

620

ΚΡ. τί δῆτα χρήζεις; ἦ με γῆς ἔξω βαλεῖν;

ΟΙ. ἦκιστα· θνήσκειν, οὐ φυγεῖν σε βούλομαι.
 ὥς ἂν προδείξῃς οἷόν ἐστι τὸ φθονεῖν.

ΚΡ. ὥς οὐχ ὑπείξων οὐδὲ πιστεύσω λήγεις; ΟΙ.

625

ΚΡ. οὐ γὰρ φρονούντά σ' εὖ βλέπω. ΟΙ. τὸ γοῦν ἐμόν.

ΚΡ. ἀλλ' ἐξ ἴσου δεῖ καμόν. ΟΙ. ἀλλ' ἔφυς κακός.

ΚΡ. εἰ δὲ ξυνίης μηδέν; ΟΙ. ἀρκτέον γ' ὅμως.

ΚΡ. οὔτοι κακῶς γ' ἄρχοντος. ΟΙ. ὦ πόλις πόλις.

ΚΡ. κάμοι πόλεως μέτεστιν, οὐχί σοι μόνῳ.

630

ΧΘ. παύσασθ', ἄνακτες· καιρίαν δ' ὑμῖν ὁρῶ
 τήνδ' ἐκ δόμων στείχουσιν Ἰοκάστην, μεθ' ἧς
 τὸ νῦν παρεστὸς νεῖκος εὖ θέσθαι χρεών.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ. τί τὴν ἄβουλον,⁵ ὦ ταλαίπωροι,⁶ στάσιν

γλώσσης ἐπήρασθ' οὐδ' ἐπαισχύνεσθε γῆς 635

οὕτω νοσοῦσης ἴδια κινοῦντες κακά;

οὐκ εἰ σύ τ' οἴκους σύ τε, Κρέων, κατὰ στέγας,

καὶ μὴ τὸ μηδὲν ἄλγος εἰς μέγ' οἴσετε;

ΚΡ. ὅμαιμε,⁷ δεινά μ' Οἰδίπους ὁ σὸς πόσις

δρᾶσαι δικαιοῖ δυοῖν ἀποκρίνας κακοῖν 640

ἢ γῆς ἀπῶσαι πατρίδος ἢ κτεῖναι λαβών.

ΟΙ. ξύμφημι· δρῶντα γάρ νυν, ὦ γύναι, κακῶς

εἴληφα τοῦμὸν σῶμα σὺν τέχνῃ κακῇ.

ΚΡ. μὴ νυν ὀναίμην, ἀλλ' ἀραῖος, εἴ σέ τι

δέδρακ', ὀλοίμην, ὦν ἐπαιτιᾷ με δρᾶν. 645

ΙΟ. ὦ πρὸς θεῶν πίστευσον, Οἰδίπους, τάδε,

μάλιστα μὲν τόνδ' ὄρκον αἰδεσθεῖς θεῶν,

ἔπειτα κάμὲ τούσδε θ' οἱ πάρεισί σοι.

ΧΟ. πιθοῦ θελήσας φρονήσας τ', ἄναξ, λίσσομαι.

ΟΙ. τί σοι θέλεις δῆτ' εἰκάθω; 650

ΧΟ. τὸν οὔτε πρὶν νήπιον νῦν τ' ἐν ὄρκῳ μέγαν καταΐδεσαι.

ΟΙ. οἶσθ' οὖν ἂ χρεῖζεις; ΧΟ. οἶδα. ΟΙ. φράζε δὴ τί φής.

ΧΟ. τὸν ἐναγῇ φίλον μήποτ' ἐν αἰτίᾳ 655

σὺν ἀφανεῖ λόγῳ σ' ἄτιμον βαλεῖν.

ΟΙ. εὖ νυν ἐπίστω, ταῦθ' ὅταν ζητῇς, ἐμοὶ

ζητῶν ὄλεθρον ἢ φυγὴν ἐκ τῆσδε γῆς.

ΧΟ. οὐ τὸν πάντων θεῶν θεὸν πρόμον 660

Ἄλιον· ἐπεὶ ἄθεος ἄφιλος ὃ τι πύματον

ὀλοίμαν, φρόνησιν⁸ εἰ τάνδ' ἔχω.

⁵ ill-advised ⁶ suffering, miserable ⁷ related by blood ⁸ intention;
wisdom

That thou allegest— tell me what it is.

OEDIPUS. Didst thou or didst thou not advise that I
Should call the priest?

CREON. Yes, and I stand to it.

OEDIPUS. Tell me how long is it since Laius...

CREON. Since Laius...? I follow not thy drift.

OEDIPUS. By violent hands was spirited away.

CREON. In the dim past, a many years ago.

OEDIPUS. Did the same prophet then pursue his craft?

CREON. Yes, skilled as now and in no less repute.

OEDIPUS. Did he at that time ever glance at me?

CREON. Not to my knowledge, not when I was by.

OEDIPUS. But was no search and inquisition made?

CREON. Surely full quest was made, but nothing learnt.

OEDIPUS. Why failed the seer to tell his story then?

CREON. I know not, and not knowing hold my tongue.

OEDIPUS. This much thou knowest and canst surely tell.

CREON. What' s mean' st thou? All I know I will declare.

OEDIPUS. But for thy prompting never had the seer
Ascribed to me the death of Laius.

CREON. If so he thou knowest best; but I

Would put thee to the question in my turn.

OEDIPUS. Question and prove me murderer if thou canst.

CREON. Then let me ask thee, didst thou wed my sister?

OEDIPUS. A fact so plain I cannot well deny.

CREON. And as thy consort queen she shares the throne?

OEDIPUS. I grant her freely all her heart desires.

CREON. And with you twain I share the triple rule?

OEDIPUS. Yea, and it is that proves thee a false friend.

CREON. Not so, if thou wouldst reason with thyself,

As I with myself. First, I bid thee think,

Would any mortal choose a troubled reign

Of terrors rather than secure repose,

If the same power were given him? As for me,

I have no natural craving for the name

Of king, preferring to do kingly deeds,

And so thinks every sober-minded man.

Now all my needs are satisfied through thee,

And I have naught to fear; but were I king,

My acts would oft run counter to my will.

How could a title then have charms for me

Above the sweets of boundless influence?

I am not so infatuate as to grasp
 The shadow when I hold the substance fast.
 Now all men cry me Godspeed! wish me well,
 And every suitor seeks to gain my ear,
 If he would hope to win a grace from thee.
 Why should I leave the better, choose the worse?
 That were sheer madness, and I am not mad.
 No such ambition ever tempted me,
 Nor would I have a share in such intrigue.
 And if thou doubt me, first to Delphi go,
 There ascertain if my report was true
 Of the god's answer; next investigate
 If with the seer I plotted or conspired,
 And if it prove so, sentence me to death,
 Not by thy voice alone, but mine and thine.
 But O condemn me not, without appeal,
 On bare suspicion. 'Tis not right to adjudge
 Bad men at random good, or good men bad.
 I would as lief a man should cast away
 The thing he counts most precious, his own life,
 As spurn a true friend. Thou wilt learn in time
 The truth, for time alone reveals the just;
 A villain is detected in a day.
 CHORUS. To one who walketh warily his words
 Commend themselves; swift counsels are not sure.
 OEDIPUS. When with swift strides the stealthy plotter stalks
 I must be quick too with my counterplot.
 To wait his onset passively, for him
 Is sure success, for me assured defeat.
 CREON. What then's thy will? To banish me the land?
 OEDIPUS. I would not have thee banished, no, but dead,
 That men may mark the wages envy reaps.
 CREON. I see thou wilt not yield, nor credit me.
 OEDIPUS. None but a fool would credit such as thou.
 CREON. Thou art not wise.
 OEDIPUS. Wise for myself at least.
 CREON. Why not for me too?
 OEDIPUS. Why for such a knave?
 CREON. Suppose thou lackest sense.
 OEDIPUS. Yet kings must rule.
 CREON. Not if they rule ill.
 OEDIPUS. Oh my Thebans, hear him!

CREON. Thy Thebans? am not I a Theban too?

CHORUS. Cease, princes; lo there comes, and none too soon,

Jocasta from the palace. Who so fit

As peacemaker to reconcile your feud?

Enter JOCASTA.]

JOCASTA. Misguided princes, why have ye upraised

This wordy wrangle? Are ye not ashamed,

While the whole land lies stricken, thus to voice

Your private injuries? Go in, my lord;

Go home, my brother, and forbear to make

A public scandal of a petty grief.

CREON. My royal sister, Oedipus, thy lord,

Hath bid me choose (O dread alternative!)

An outlaw's exile or a felon's death.

OEDIPUS. Yes, lady; I have caught him practicing

Against my royal person his vile arts.

CREON. May I ne'er speed but die accursed, if I

In any way am guilty of this charge.

JOCASTA. Believe him, I adjure thee, Oedipus,

First for his solemn oath's sake, then for mine,

And for thine elders' sake who wait on thee.

CHORUS. (Str. 1)

Hearken, King, reflect, we pray thee, but not stubborn but relent.

OEDIPUS. Say to what should I consent?

CHORUS. Respect a man whose probity and troth

Are known to all and now confirmed by oath.

OEDIPUS. Dost know what grace thou cravest?

CHORUS. Yea, I know.

OEDIPUS. Declare it then and make thy meaning plain.

CHORUS. Brand not a friend whom babbling tongues assail;

Let not suspicion 'gainst his oath prevail.

OEDIPUS. Bethink you that in seeking this ye seek

In very sooth my death or banishment?

CHORUS. No, by the leader of the host divine!(

Str. 2)

Witness, thou Sun, such thought was never mine,

vocabulary

ἄβατος untrodden; impassable
 ἄγαμαι wonder, admire; resent,
 begrudge
 ἄγαν very much
 ἄγνως -τος (m) unknown,
 unrecognizable
 ἄθυμέω (ῥ) be disheartened
 ἀκμή point, edge, top, culmination
 ~acute
 ἄλῃς in plenty; enough ~helix
 ἀλύω be beside oneself ~Fr. aller
 ἀμαξιτός road
 ἄμφω both ~amphora
 ἀνύω accomplish, pass over,
 complete
 ἅπαξ once
 ἀπήνη wagon
 ἀπόρнуμι (ῥ) set forth ~hormone
 ἄπορος impassable, difficult
 ἀπωθέω repel, reject
 ἄρῃ bane, harm; prayer
 ἄρθρον joint
 ἄρτι at the same time
 ἄρτιος suitable
 ἄτιμος (ι) without honor
 αὐδάω speak, declare, shout
 ~Theravada
 βαρύς heavy ~baritone
 βλαστάνω bud, sprout
 βλαστᾶω bud, sprout
 βλώσχω come, go
 δάπτω devour
 δεῖξις proof, display
 δῆλος visible, conspicuous
 διαφαίνω seem, show through
 ~photon
 διαφανής transparent
 διέχω pass through; be apart
 διορίζω delimit; determine
 δράω do, accomplish
 δύσμορος ill-fated

δύσφορος oppressive
 ἐγκαλέω demand payment; accuse
 εἶκω yield; seem likely, (pf+dat)
 seem like, (pf) be fit/worthy of/to
 ~victor
 εἰσείδω look at, behold ~wit
 εἰσοράω look at, see; treat with
 respect ~panorama
 εἰσπέμπω send in
 ἐκκαλέω call forth ~gallo
 ἐκσώζω save from
 ἐκτός outside
 ἐλευθερόω set free
 ἐνθύμιος (ῥ) taken to heart ~fume
 ἐνταῦθα there, here
 ἐντρέπω heed ~trophy
 ἐξεῖπον speak out, disclose
 ἔραμαι love, aor. fall in love; long
 for, covet ~erotic
 ἐρευνᾶω hunt for
 ἔρομαι ask a question, ask about, go
 searching through
 ἔρω be able to move ~serpent
 ἐφίημι (ιι) send at, let fly; mp: rush
 at, spring upon ~jet
 ἧβα youth ~Hebe
 θιγγάνω touch
 κακοῦργος causing evil
 ~ergonomics
 κάρ -ός (n) useless bit; form of κατά
 κατασφάζω slaughter
 κῆρ heart ~cardiac
 κηρύσσω be a henchman, summon
 people
 κράτος strength, power; victory
 ~democracy
 λάσχω cry, crack, ring
 λήγω cease, (+gen+ppl) cause to
 cease ~lax
 ληιστής -οῦς (m, 3) bandit
 ληιστός lootable ~lucre
 ληιστής -οῦ (m, 1) bandit

λοχίτης -ου (ι, m, 1) comrade
 μαντικός prophetic
 μάντις -ος (m) seer ~mantis
 μῆνις -ος (f) rage
 μήπω not yet, lest yet
 μολίσκω come, go
 μορφή beauty
 νείκος -εος (n, 3) quarrel, battle
 νομάς -δος (m, 3) roaming, grazing
 νομή pasture; distribution
 οἰκεύς -ος (m) house servant
 ~economics
 οἶμοι woe is me
 ὀκνέω shrink from, hesitate; worry
 οὔκουν certainly not
 οὐνεκα because
 οὐρίζω divide; ordain, define
 πάθος -ους (n, 3) an experience,
 passion, condition
 πάλαι long ago ~paleo
 πάλη wrestling ~Pallas
 πάλλω shake, brandish ~Pallas
 παντελής complete, absolute
 παρίημι dangle; pass over, allow
 ~jet
 περάω cross over, drive across; sell
 as a slave ~pierce
 πέρνημι export, sell as a slave
 ~porno
 ποίη grass
 ποίμνιον flock
 ποῖος what kind
 πόνος toil, suffering ~osteopenia
 πότε when?
 πότερος which, whichever of two
 ποῦ where?
 προβάλλω throw before; propose;

(mp) pretend, abandon, nominate
 ~ballistic
 προπονέω prepare; suffer before
 προσάπτω attach to ~haptic
 ῥίπτω hurl
 σαφής clear, understandable
 σεαυτοῦ yourself
 σέβομαι feel shame, awe
 στερέω steal, take
 στυγέω dread, shrink from ~Styx
 στυγνός hated, gloomy ~Styx
 σύμπας (ᾱ) all together
 σύντομος truncated, concise
 τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent
 τέχνη craft, art, plan, contrivance
 ~technology
 τοιόσδε such
 τοσόσδε this much
 τριπλός threefold ~three
 τρύχω (ι) exhaust, wear down
 τύχη fortune, act of a god
 ὑπηρετέω serve
 ὑπηρέτης -ου (m, 1) servant, officer
 ὑποστρέφω turn around, go back
 ~atrophy
 φάτις -τος (f) report, rumor ~fame
 φήμη speech, rumor ~fame
 φονεύς -ως (m) killer ~offend
 φονεύω kill
 φρόνιμος sensible, prudent
 φύσις -εως (f) nature (of a thing)
 ~physics
 φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics
 χρησμός oracular response
 χωρέω withdraw, give way to (+dat)
 ~heir
 χώρος place ~heir

ἀλλά μοι δυσμόρῳ γὰ φθινὰς 665
 τρύχει ψυχάν, τάδ' εἰ κακοῖς κακὰ
 προσάψει τοῖς πάλαι τὰ πρὸς σφῶν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ. ὁ δ' οὖν ἵτω, κεί' ἤ με παντελῶς θανεῖν
 ἢ γῆς ἄτιμον τῆσδ' ἀπωσθῆναι βίᾳ. 670
 τὸ γὰρ σόν, οὐ τὸ τοῦδ', ἐποικτίρω στόμα
 ἐλεινόν· οὗτος δ' ἔνθ' ἂν ἦ στυγήσεται.

ΚΡΕΩΝ. στυγνὸς¹ μὲν εἶκων δῆλος εἶ, βαρὺς δ', ὅταν
 θυμοῦ περάσῃς· αἱ δὲ τοιαῦται φύσεις
 αὐταῖς δικαίως εἰσὶν ἄλγισται φέρειν. 675

ΟΙ. οὐκουν μ' ἐάσεις κακτὸς εἶ; ΚΡ. πορεύσομαι,
 σοῦ μὲν τυχὼν ἀγνώτος, ἐν δὲ τοῖσδ' ἵσος.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. γύναι, τί μέλλεις κομίζειν δόμων τόνδ' ἔσω;
 ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ. μαθοῦσά γ' ἥτις ἡ τύχη. 680

ΧΟ. δόκησις ἀγνῶς λόγων ἦλθε, δάπτει² δὲ καὶ τὸ μὴ ν δικον.

ΙΟ. ἀμφοῖν ἀπ' αὐτοῖν; ΧΟ. ναίχι. ΙΟ. καὶ τίς ἦν λόγος;

ΧΟ. ἄλις ἔμοιγ', ἄλις, γὰρ προπονουμένης,
 φαίνεται ἔνθ' ἔληξεν αὐτοῦ μένειν. 685

ΟΙ. ὁρᾷς ἔν' ἤκεις, ἀγαθὸς ὢν γνώμην ἀνήρ,
 τοῦμὸν παριεῖς καὶ καταμβλύνων κέαρ;

ΧΟ. ὦναξ, εἶπον μὲν οὐχ ἄπαξ μόνον,
 ἴσθι δὲ παραφρόνιμον, ἄπορον ἐπὶ φρόνιμα 690
 πεφάνθαι μ' ἄν, εἰ σ' ἐνοσφιζόμεν,
 ὅς τ' ἐμὰν γὰρ φίλαν ἐν πόνοις
 ἀλύουσιν³ κατ' ὀρθὸν οὖριςας,
 τανῶν τ' εὐπομπος, ἂν γένειο.

¹ hated, gloomy ² devour ³ be beside oneself

ΙΟ. πρὸς θεῶν διδάξον κάμ', ἄναξ, ὅτου ποτὲ
μῆνιν⁴ τοσὴνδε πράγματος στήσας ἔχεις.

ΟΙ. ἐρῶ· σέ γὰρ τῶνδ' ἐς πλέον, γύναι, σέβω·
Κρέοντος, οἷά μοι βεβουλευκῶς ἔχει.

ΙΟ. λέγ', εἰ σαφῶς τὸ νείκος ἐγκαλῶν ἐρείς.

ΟΙ. φονέα με φησὶ Λαῖου καθεστάναι.

ΙΟ. αὐτὸς ξυνειδὼς ἢ μαθὼν ἄλλου πάρα;

ΟΙ. μάντιν μὲν οὖν κακοῦργον⁵ εἰσπέμφας, ἐπεὶ
τό γ' εἰς ἑαυτὸν πᾶν ἐλευθεροῖ στόμα.

ΙΟ. σύ νυν ἀφείς σεαυτὸν ὧν λέγεις πέρι
ἐμοῦ πάκουσον, καὶ μάθ' οὐνεκ' ἐστί σοι
βρότειον οὐδὲν μαντικῆς ἔχον τέχνης.

φανῶ δέ σοι σημεῖα τῶνδε σύντομα.

χρησμός γὰρ ἦλθε Λαῖῳ ποτ', οὐκ ἐρῶ
Φοίβου γ' ἅπ' αὐτοῦ, τῶν δ' ὑπηρετῶν ἅπο,
ὡς αὐτὸν ἔξοι μοῖρα πρὸς παιδὸς θανεῖν,
ὅστις γένοιτ' ἐμοῦ τε κἀκείνου πάρα.

καὶ τὸν μὲν, ὥσπερ γ' ἡ φάτις, ξένοι ποτὲ

λησταὶ φονεύουσ' ἐν τριπλαῖς ἀμαξιτοῖς·

παιδὸς δὲ βλάστας οὐ διέσχον ἡμέραι

τρῆις, καὶ νιν ἄρθρα κείνος ἐνζεύξας ποδοῖν

ἔρριψεν ἄλλων χερσὶν ἄβατον⁶ εἰς ὄρος.

κάνταυθ' Ἀπόλλων οὐτ' ἐκείνον ἤνυσεν

φονέα γενέσθαι πατρὸς οὔτε Λαῖον

τὸ δεινὸν οὐφοβεῖτο πρὸς παιδὸς θανεῖν.

τοιαῦτα φῆμαι μαντικαὶ διώρισαν,

⁴ rage ⁵ causing evil ⁶ untrodden; impassable

ὦν ἐντρέπου σὺ μηδέν· ὦν γὰρ ἂν θεὸς
χρεῖαν ἐρευνᾷ,⁷ ῥαδίως αὐτὸς φανεί.

725

ΟΙ. οἶόν μ' ἀκούσαντ' ἀρτίως ἔχει, γύναι,
ψυχῆς πλάνημα κάνακίησις φρενῶν.

ΙΟ. ποίας μερίμνης τοῦτ' ὑποστροφεῖς λέγεις;

ΟΙ. ἔδοξ' ἀκοῦσαι σοῦ τόδ', ὡς ὁ Λαῖος

κατασφαγείη πρὸς τριπλαῖς ἀμαξιτοῖς.

730

ΙΟ. ἡυδατο γὰρ ταῦτ' οὐδέ πω λήξαντ' ἔχει.

ΟΙ. καὶ ποῦ σθ' ὁ χάρος οὔτος οὔ τόδ' ἦν πάθος;

ΙΟ. Φωκὶς μὲν ἡ γῆ κλήζεται, σχιστὴ δ' ὁδὸς
ἐς ταὐτὸ Δελφῶν ἀπὸ Δαυλίας ἄγει.

ΟΙ. καὶ τίς χρόνος τοῖσδ' ἐστὶν οὔξεληλυθώς;

735

ΙΟ. σχεδόν τι πρόσθεν ἢ σὺ τῇσδ' ἔχων χθονὸς
ἀρχὴν ἐφαίνου, τοῦτ' ἐκηρύχθη πόλει.

ΟΙ. ὦ Ζεῦ, τί μου δρᾶσαι βεβούλευσαι πέρι;

ΙΟ. τί δ' ἐστί σοι τοῦτ', Οἰδίπους, ἐνθύμιον;

ΟΙ. μήπω⁸ μ' ἐρώτα· τὸν δὲ Λαῖον φύσιν

740

τὴν ἦλθε φράζε, τίνα δ' ἀκμὴν ἥβης ἔχων.

ΙΟ. μέγας, χνοάζων ἄρτι λευκανθὲς κάρα,

μορφῆς⁹ δὲ τῆς σῆς οὐκ ἀπεστάται πολύ.

ΟΙ. οἴμοι τάλας· ἔοικ' ἐμαντὸν εἰς ἀρὰς

δεινὰς προβάλλων ἀρτίως οὐκ εἰδέναι.

745

ΙΟ. πῶς φῆς; ὀκνῶ τοι πρὸς σ' ἀποσκοποῦσ', ἄναξ.

ΟΙ. δεινῶς ἀθυμῶ μὴ βλέπων ὁ μάντις ἦ·

δείξεις δὲ μάλλον, ἦν ἐν ἐξείπῃς ἔτι.

ΙΟ. καὶ μὴν ὀκνῶ μέν, ἂ δ' ἂν ἔρη μαθοῦς' ἐρῶ.

⁷ hunt for ⁸ not yet, lest yet ⁹ beauty

- ΟΙ. πότερον ἐχώρει βαιὸς ἢ πολλοὺς ἔχων 750
 ἄνδρας λοχίτας,¹⁰ οἷ' ἀνὴρ ἀρχηγέτης;
- ΙΟ. πέντ' ἦσαν οἱ ξύμπαντες, ἐν δ' αὐτοῖσιν ἦν .
 κῆρυξ· ἀπήνη δ' ἦγε Λαΐον μία.
- ΟΙ. αἰαῖ, τάδ' ἤδη διαφανῇ. τίς ἦν ποτε 755
 ὁ τούσδε λέξας τοὺς λόγους ὑμῖν, γύναι;
- ΙΟ. οἰκεύς¹¹ τις, ὅσπερ ἔκετ' ἐκσωθεὶς μόνος.
- ΟΙ. ἦ κὰν δόμοισι τυγχάνει τανῦν παρών;
- ΙΟ. οὐ δῆτ'· ἀφ' οὗ γὰρ κείμεν ἦλθε καὶ κράτη 760
 σέ τ' εἶδ' ἔχοντα Λαΐον τ' ὀλωλότα,
 ἐξικέτευσε τῆς ἐμῆς χειρὸς θιγῶν
 ἀγρούς σφεπέμψαι καπὶ ποιμνίων νομάς,
 ὥς πλείστον εἴη τοῦδ' ἄποπτος ἄστεως.
 καῖπεμψ' ἐγὼ νιν· ἄξιος γὰρ οἷ' ἀνὴρ
 δοῦλος φέρειν ἦν τῇσδε καὶ μείζω χάριν.
- ΟΙ. πῶς ἂν μόλοι δῆθ' ἡμῖν ἐν τάχει πάλιν; 765
- ΙΟ. πάρεστιν· ἀλλὰ πρὸς τί τοῦτ' ἐφίεσαι;
- ΟΙ. δέδοικ' ἐμαυτόν, ὦ γύναι, μὴ πόλλ' ἄγαν
 εἰρημέν' ἦ μοι δι' αὖ νιν εἰσιδεῖν θέλω.
- ΙΟ. ἀλλ' ἔξεταί μιν· ἀξία δέ που μαθεῖν 770
 καγὰν τά γ' ἐν σοὶ δυσφόρως ἔχοντ', ἄναξ.
- ΟΙ. κου' μὴ στερηθῇς¹² γ', ἐς τοσοῦτον ἐλπιδῶν
 ἐμοῦ βεβῶτος. τῷ γὰρ ἂν καὶ μείζονι
 λέξαμι' ἂν ἦ σοί, διὰ τύχης τοιαῶδ' ἰών;
 ἐμοὶ πατήρ μὲν Πόλυβος ἦν Κορίνθιος,
 μήτηρ δὲ Μερόπη Δωρίς. ἡγόμην δ' ἀνὴρ

¹⁰ comrade ¹¹ house servant ¹² steal, take

Unblest, unfriended may I perish,
 If ever I such wish did cherish!
 But O my heart is desolate
 Musing on our stricken State,
 Doubly fall' n should discord grow
 Twixt you twain, to crown our woe.

OEDIPUS. Well, let him go, no matter what it cost me,
 Or certain death or shameful banishment,
 For your sake I relent, not his; and him,
 Where' er he be, my heart shall still abhor.

CREON. Thou art as sullen in thy yielding mood
 As in thine anger thou wast truculent.

Such tempers justly plague themselves the most.

OEDIPUS. Leave me in peace and get thee gone.

CREON. I go,

By thee misjudged, but justified by these.

Exeunt CREON]

CHORUS. (Ant. 1)

Lady, lead indoors thy consort; wherefore longer here delay?

JOCASTA. Tell me first how rose the fray.

CHORUS. Rumors bred unjust suspicious and injustice rankles sore.

JOCASTA. Were both at fault?

CHORUS. Both.

JOCASTA. What was the tale?

CHORUS. Ask me no more. The land is sore distressed;'

Twere better sleeping ills to leave at rest.

OEDIPUS. Strange counsel, friend! I know thou mean' st me well,

And yet would' st mitigate and blunt my zeal.

CHORUS. (Ant. 2)

King, I say it once again,

Witless were I proved, insane,

If I lightly put away

Thee my country' s prop and stay,

Pilot who, in danger sought,

To a quiet haven brought

Our distracted State; and now

Who can guide us right but thou?

JOCASTA. Let me too, I adjure thee, know, O king,

What cause has stirred this unrelenting wrath.

OEDIPUS. I will, for thou art more to me than these.

Lady, the cause is Creon and his plots.

JOCASTA. But what provoked the quarrel? make this clear.

OEDIPUS. He points me out as Laius' murderer.

JOCASTA. Of his own knowledge or upon report?

OEDIPUS. He is too cunning to commit himself,

And makes a mouthpiece of a knavish seer.

JOCASTA. Then thou mayest ease thy conscience on that score.

Listen and I' ll convince thee that no man

Hath scot or lot in the prophetic art.

Here is the proof in brief. An oracle

Once came to Laius (I will not say'

Twas from the Delphic god himself, but from

His ministers) declaring he was doomed

To perish by the hand of his own son,

A child that should be born to him by me.

Now Laius— so at least report affirmed—

Was murdered on a day by highwaymen,

No natives, at a spot where three roads meet.

As for the child, it was but three days old,

When Laius, its ankles pierced and pinned

Together, gave it to be cast away

By others on the trackless mountain side.

So then Apollo brought it not to pass

The child should be his father' s murderer,

Or the dread terror find accomplishment,

And Laius be slain by his own son.

Such was the prophet' s horoscope. O king,

Regard it not. Whate' er the god deems fit

To search, himself unaided will reveal.

OEDIPUS. What memories, what wild tumult of the soul

Came o' er me, lady, as I heard thee speak!

JOCASTA. What mean' st thou? What has shocked and startled thee?

OEDIPUS. Methought I heard thee say that Laius

Was murdered at the meeting of three roads.

JOCASTA. So ran the story that is current still.

OEDIPUS. Where did this happen? Dost thou know the place?

JOCASTA. Phocis the land is called; the spot is where

Branch roads from Delphi and from Daulis meet.

OEDIPUS. And how long is it since these things befell?

JOCASTA. 'Twas but a brief while were thou wast proclaimed

Our country' s ruler that the news was brought.

OEDIPUS. O Zeus, what hast thou willed to do with me!

JOCASTA. What is it, Oedipus, that moves thee so?

OEDIPUS. Ask me not yet; tell me the build and height

Of Laius? Was he still in manhood' s prime?

JOCASTA. Tall was he, and his hair was lightly strewn
With silver; and not unlike thee in form.

OEDIPUS. O woe is me! Mehtinks unwittingly
I laid but now a dread curse on myself.

JOCASTA. What say' st thou? When I look upon thee, my king,
I tremble.

OEDIPUS. 'Tis a dread presentiment
That in the end the seer will prove not blind.
One further question to resolve my doubt.

JOCASTA. I quail; but ask, and I will answer all.

OEDIPUS. Had he but few attendants or a train
Of armed retainers with him, like a prince?

JOCASTA. They were but five in all, and one of them
A herald; Laius in a mule-car rode.

OEDIPUS. Alas! 'tis clear as noonday now. But say,
Lady, who carried this report to Thebes?

JOCASTA. A serf, the sole survivor who returned.

OEDIPUS. Haply he is at hand or in the house?

JOCASTA. No, for as soon as he returned and found
Thee reigning in the stead of Laius slain,

He clasped my hand and supplicated me
To send him to the alps and pastures, where
He might be farthest from the sight of Thebes.

And so I sent him. 'Twas an honest slave
And well deserved some better recompense.

OEDIPUS. Fetch him at once. I fain would see the man.

JOCASTA. He shall be brought; but wherefore summon him?

OEDIPUS. Lady, I fear my tongue has overrun
Discretion; therefore I would question him.

JOCASTA. Well, he shall come, but may not I too claim
To share the burden of thy heart, my king?

OEDIPUS. And thou shalt not be frustrate of thy wish.
Now my imaginings have gone so far.

Who has a higher claim that thou to hear
My tale of dire adventures? Listen then.

My sire was Polybus of Corinth, and
My mother Merope, a Dorian;

vocabulary

ἀέθλιον ἀθλίου prize
 ἀέθλιος prize ~athlete
 ἄθλιος wretched ~athlete
 ἄθλον ἀέθλου prize ~athlete
 αἰθήρ ether, air, sky ~ether
 ἄκρος at the edge, extreme ~acute
 ἀπήνη wagon
 ἀπότομος cut off; severe
 ἄρή bane, harm; prayer
 ἀριθμός number
 ἀστή inhabitant
 ἀστός townsman; citizen
 ἄστρον star
 ἄστν -εως (n, 3) town
 ἄτιμος (t) without honor
 ἄτλητος unbearable ~talent
 αὐδάω speak, declare, shout
 ~Theravada
 βαρύνω (v) oppress ~baritone
 βοτήρ -ος (m) herdsman
 γάμος wedding, sex ~bigamy
 γηράσκω grow old ~geriatric
 δαίμων -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate,
 doom ~demon
 δείπνον meal, food
 δείπνος meal, food
 δηλώ show, disclose
 δῆτα emphatic δῆ
 διέπω manage, conduct
 διπλός double, overlapping
 δύστηνος unhappy, miserable
 δύσφορος oppressive
 εἰσαναβαίνω go to ~basis
 ἐκκυλίνδω roll from ~cylinder
 ἐκμανθάνω know by heart
 ἐκπέμπω send forth ~pomp
 ἐκτρέπω turn aside
 ἐκτρέφω raise, rear
 ἐκφεύγω flee from, escape ~fugitive
 ἐκφύω spring from ~physics
 ἐλέγχω shame; try, examine

ἐμβαίνω step on, board ~basis
 ἐνταῦθα there, here
 ἔξειμι go forth; is possible ~ion
 ἐπίσταμαι know how, understand
 ~station
 ἐργάτης -ου (ā, m, 1) worker
 ἐφίστημι set; (mp) come/be near,
 direct, stop ~station
 ζεύγνυμι (v) yoke, join ~zygote
 ἴσκω imitate, liken to, guess ~victor
 ἴσχω restrain, hold back ~ischemia
 καθικνέομαι affect with feeling
 καίτοι and yet; and in fact; although
 κάρ -ός (n) useless bit; form of κατά
 κατακτείνω kill, slay
 κέλευθος (f) way, path
 κέντρον goading rod?
 κῆρυξ -χος (m) henchman,
 functionary
 κνίζω scratch, gash; tickle
 λαγχάνω be allotted; (esp. λελα-
 forms) allot; receive
 λάθρα secretly
 λάσκω cry, crack, ring
 λήγω cease, (+gen+ppl) cause to
 cease ~lax
 ληιστής -οῦς (m, 3) bandit
 ληιστός lootable ~lucre
 ληιστής -οῦ (m, 1) bandit
 μαντεία oracular power
 ματάω be ineffective, idle
 μέθη strong drink, drunkenness
 μεθίημι let go, cease; (mid) speed off
 ~jet
 μήποτε absolutely never
 μόλις with difficulty, barely
 ξύνειμι be with; have sex
 ξυνίημι send together; hear, notice,
 understand
 ὀδοιπορέω walk over
 ὀκνηρός timid; hesitating
 ὀνειδος -εος (n, 3) blame; insult

ὀργή urge, impulse; anger
 ὀρθόω stand up
 ὀρούω rush, spring
 οὐράνιος heavenly
 οὐτάω pierce, wound
 οὔτις nobody, nothing
 ὄχος pl: carrying thing, chariot,
 holding place ~wagon
 πάθος -ους (n, 3) an experience,
 passion, condition
 παίω hit
 πάλαισμα bout, struggle
 πάροιθε in the presence of
 πέλας near, close
 περισσός prodigious, superfluous
 πλαστός formed, plastic
 ποῖος what kind
 πότε when?
 προθυμία (ῶ) zeal, alacrity ~fume
 πρόκειμαι be set before; propose
 προσήκω belong to, it befits
 προσμένω await, cleave to
 προστίθμι add; impose; (mp)
 agree; side with ~thesis
 προσφωνέω speak to
 ῥέπω incline or sink downwards
 σαφής clear, understandable
 σέβας -ως (n) wonder, shame, awe
 σκήπτρον scepter, staff ~scepter
 σπουδή zeal; (dat) with difficulty,
 hastily ~repudiate
 στείχω go, march ~stair
 στέλλω prepare, send, furl ~apostle
 συγγενής inborn, kin to
 σύμπας (ᾱ) all together

συμφέρω bring together; be
 expedient; agree; (mp) happen
 ~bear
 συμφορά collecting; accident,
 misfortune
 σύντομος truncated, concise
 τέρω gratify, satiate, comfort
 ~terpsichorean
 τηρέω watch over
 τίνω (ι) pay, atone for; (mp) punish
 τίω value, honor; mp: exact
 recompense for
 τοιόσδε such
 τριπλός threefold ~three
 τύπτω beat, smite ~stupid
 τύραννος tyrant
 τύχη fortune, act of a god
 ὕβρις -εως (f) pride, insolence,
 outrage
 ὕπιος lying on one's back; flipped;
 flat
 φάσκω declare, promise, think
 ~fame
 φονεύς -ως (m) killer ~offend
 φόνος killing ~offend
 φύσις -εως (f) nature (of a thing)
 ~physics
 φυτεύω plant, grow, cause, prepare
 ~physics
 φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics
 χρήσιμος useful
 χρησμός oracular response
 χώρος place ~heir
 ὠθέω push
 ὠμός raw

ἀστών μέγιστος τῶν ἐκεῖ, πρίν μοι τύχη
 τοιάδ' ἐπέστη, θαυμάσαι μὲν ἀξία,
 σπουδῆς γε μέντοι τῆς ἐμῆς οὐκ ἀξία.
 ἀνὴρ γὰρ ἐν δείπνοις μ' ὑπερπλησθεὶς μέθη¹
 καλεῖ παρ' οἴνῳ, πλαστός² ὥς εἶην πατρί.
 καγὼ βαρυνθεὶς³ τὴν μὲν οὔσαν ἡμέραν
 μόλις κατέσχον, θάτέρρα δ' ἰὼν πέλας
 μητρὸς πατρός τ' ἤλεγχον· οἱ δὲ δυσφόρως
 τοῦναιδος ἦγον τῷ μεθέντι τὸν λόγον.
 καγὼ τὰ μὲν κείνουν ἐτερπόμεν, ὅμως δ'
 ἔκνιζέ μ' αἰὲ τοῦθ'· ὑφείρπε γὰρ πολύ.
 λάθρα δὲ μητρὸς καὶ πατρὸς πορεύομαι
 Πυθώδε, καί μ' ὁ Φοῖβος ὦν μὲν ἰκόμην
 ἄτιμον ἐξέπεμψεν, ἄλλα δ' ἄθλια
 καὶ δεινὰ καὶ δύστηνα προύφηνεν λέγων,
 ὥς μητρὶ μὲν χρειή με μιχθῆναι, γένος δ'
 ἄτλητον⁴ ἀνθρώποισι δηλώσοιμ' ὅραν,
 φονεὺς δ' ἐσοίμην τοῦ φυτεύσαντος πατρός.
 καγὼ πακούσας ταῦτα τὴν Κορινθίαν,
 ἄστροις⁵ τὸ λοιπὸν ἐκμετρούμενος, χθόνα
 ἔφευγον, ἔνθα μήποτ' ὀφιοίμην κακῶν
 χρησμῶν ὀνείδη τῶν ἐμῶν τελούμενα.
 στείχων δ' ἰκνῶμαι τούσδε τοὺς χώρους, ἐν οἷς
 σὺ τὸν τύραννον τοῦτον ὄλλυσθαι λέγεις.

780

785

790

795

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ. καί σοι, γύναι, τάληθές ἐξερω. τριπλῆς

800

ὅτ' ἢ κελεύθου τῇσδ' ὁδοιπορῶν πέλας,

¹ strong drink, drunkenness ² formed, plastic ³ oppress ⁴ unbearable
⁵ star

ἐνταῦθά μοι κῆρύξ τε καπὶ πωλικῆς
 ἀνὴρ ἀπήνης ἐμβεβώς, οἶον σὺ φῆς,
 ξυνηντίαζον· καὶ ὁδοῦ μ' ὃ θ' ἡγεμῶν
 αὐτός θ' ὁ πρέσβυς πρὸς βίαν ἡλαυνέτην. 805
 καὶ γὰρ τὸν ἐκτρέποντα, τὸν τροχηλάτην,
 παίω δι' ὀργῆς· καί μ' ὁ πρέσβυς ὡς ὀρᾶ,
 ὄχου παραστείχοντα τηρήσας, μέσον
 κάρα διπλοῖς κέντροισι⁶ μου καθίκετο.
 οὐ μὴν ἴσῃν γ' ἔτισεν, ἀλλὰ συντόμως 810
 σκήπτρῳ τυπεῖς ἐκ τῆσδε χειρὸς ὕπτιος
 μέσης ἀπήνης εὐθὺς ἐκκυλίνδεται·
 κτείνω δὲ τοὺς ξύμπαντας. εἰ δὲ τῷ ξένῳ
 τούτῳ προσήκει Λαῖου τι συγγενές,
 τίς τοῦδ' ἄνδρός ἐστιν ἀθλιώτερος; 815
 τίς ἐχθροδαίμων μᾶλλον ἢ γένοιτ' ἀνὴρ;
 ὃν μὴ ξένων ἔξεστι μῆδ' ἀστῶν τινα
 δόμοις δέχεσθαι μῆδ' προσφωνεῖν τινα,
 ὠθεῖν δ' ἀπ' οἴκων. καὶ τὰδ' οὐτις ἄλλος ἦν
 ἢ γὰρ π' ἐμαυτῷ τάσδ' ἀρὰς ὁ προστιθείς. 820
 λέχῃ δὲ τοῦ θανόντος ἐκ χεροῖν ἐμαῖν
 χραίνω, δι' ὧν περ ὤλετ'· ἄρ' ἔφυν κακός;
 ἄρ' οὐχὶ πᾶς ἀναγνος; εἴ με χρὴ φυγείν,
 καί μοι φυγόντι μῆστι τοὺς ἐμούς ἰδεῖν
 μῆδ' ἐμβατεύειν πατρίδος, ἢ γάμοις με δεῖ 825
 μητρὸς ζυγῆναι καὶ πατέρα κατακτανεῖν
 Πόλυβον, ὃς ἐξέφυσε καζέθρειπέ με.
 ἄρ' οὐκ ἀπ' ὧμοῦ ταῦτα δαίμονός τις ἂν

⁶ goading rod?

κρίνων ἐπ' ἀνδρὶ τῷδ' ἂν ὀρθοίῃ⁷ λόγον;
 μὴ δῆτα, μὴ δῆτ' ὦ θεῶν ἀγνὸν σέβας,⁸ 830
 ἴδοιμι ταύτην ἡμέραν, ἀλλ' ἐκ βροτῶν
 βαίην ἄφαντος πρόσθεν ἢ τοιάνδ' ἰδεῖν
 κηλὶδ' ἐμαυτῷ συμφορᾶς ἀφιγμένην.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἡμῖν μέν, ὦναξ, ταῦτ' ὀκνήρ·⁹ ἕως δ' ἂν οὖν
 πρὸς τοῦ παρόντος ἐκμάθῃς, ἔχ' ἐλπίδα. 835

ΟΙ. καὶ μὴν τοσοῦτόν γ' ἐστί μοι τῆς ἐλπίδος,
 τὸν ἄνδρα τὸν βοτῆρα προσμεῖναι μόνον.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ. πεφασμένου δὲ τίς ποθ' ἢ προθυμία;

ΟΙ. ἐγὼ διδάξω σ' ἣν γὰρ εὐρεθῇ λέγων
 σοὶ ταῦτ', ἔγωγ' ἂν ἐκπεφευγοίην πάθος. 840

ΙΟ. ποῖον δέ μου περισσὸν ἤκουσας λόγον;

ΟΙ. ληστὰς ἔφασκες αὐτὸν ἄνδρας ἐννέπειν
 ὥς νιν κατακτείνειαν. εἰ μὲν οὖν ἔτι
 λέξει τὸν αὐτὸν ἀριθμόν, οὐκ ἐγὼ κτανον·
 οὐ γὰρ γένοιτ' ἂν εἰς γε τοῖς πολλοῖς ἴσος· 845
 εἰ δ' ἄνδρ' ἐν' οἰόζωνον αὐδήσει, σαφῶς
 τοῦτ' ἐστὶν ἥδη τοῦργον εἰς ἐμὲ ῥέπον.¹⁰

ΙΟ. ἀλλ' ὥς φανέν γε τοῦπος ᾧδ' ἐπίστασο,
 κοῦκ ἔστιν αὐτῷ τοῦτό γ' ἐκβαλεῖν πάλιν·
 πόλις γὰρ ἤκουσ', οὐκ ἐγὼ μόνη, τάδε. 850
 εἰ δ' οὖν τι κἀκτρέποιτο τοῦ πρόσθεν λόγου,
 οὗτοι ποτ', ὦναξ, σόν γε Λαῖου φόνον
 φανεῖ δικαίως ὀρθόν, ὅν γε Λοξίας
 δείπε χρῆναι παιδὸς ἐξ ἐμοῦ θανεῖν.

⁷ stand up ⁸ wonder, shame, awe ⁹ timid; hesitating ¹⁰ incline or sink downwards

καίτοι νιν οὐ κείνός γ' ὁ δύστηνός ποτε
κατέκταν', ἀλλ' αὐτὸς πάροιθεν ὤλετο.
ὥστ' οὐχὶ μαντείας γ' ἂν οὔτε τῇδ' ἐγὼ
βλέψαιμι ἂν εἴνεκ' οὔτε τῇδ' ἂν ὕστερον.

ΟΙ. καλῶς νομίζεις· ἀλλ' ὅμως τὸν ἐργάτην
πέμβον τινὰ στελοῦντα μηδὲ τοῦτ' ἀφῆς. 860

ΙΟ. πέμβω ταχύνασ'· ἀλλ' ἴωμεν ἐς δόμους·
οὐδὲν γάρ ἂν πράξαιμι ἂν ὦν οὐ σοὶ φίλον.

ΧΘ. εἴ μοι ξυνεή φέροντι
μοῖρα τὰν εὖσεπτον ἀγνεῖαν λόγων
ἔργων τε πάντων, ὧν νόμοι πρόκεινται 865
ὕψιποδες, οὐρανίαν
δι' αἰθέρα τεκνωθέντες, ὧν Ὀλυμπος
πατὴρ μόνος, οὐδέ νιν
θνατὰ φύσις ἀνέρων
ἔτικτεν οὐδὲ μὴ ποτε λάθα κατακοιμάσῃ· 870
μέγας ἐν τούτοις θεὸς οὐδὲ γηράσκει.

ΧΘ. ὕβρις φυτεύει τύραννον·
ὕβρις, εἰ πολλῶν ὑπερπλησθῇ μάταν,
ἂ μὴ πίκαιρα μηδὲ συμφέροντα, 875
ἀκρότατον εἰσαναβᾶσ'
αἶπος ἀπότομον ὥρουσεν εἰς ἀνάγκαν,
ἔνθ' οὐ ποδὶ χρησίμῳ
χρήται. τὸ καλῶς δ' ἔχον 880
πόλει πάλαισμα¹¹ μήποτε λῦσαι θεὸν αἰτοῦμαι.
θεὸν οὐ λήξω ποτὲ προστάταν ἴσχων.

ΧΘ. εἰ δέ τις ὑπέροπτα χερσὶν ἢ λόγῳ πορεύεται,

¹¹ bout, struggle

And I was held the foremost citizen,
Till a strange thing befell me, strange indeed,
Yet scarce deserving all the heat it stirred.
A roisterer at some banquet, flown with wine,
Shouted "Thou art not true son of thy sire."
It irked me, but I stomached for the nonce
The insult; on the morrow I sought out
My mother and my sire and questioned them.
They were indignant at the random slur
Cast on my parentage and did their best
To comfort me, but still the venom'd barb
Rankled, for still the scandal spread and grew.
So privily without their leave I went
To Delphi, and Apollo sent me back
Baulked of the knowledge that I came to seek.
But other grievous things he prophesied,
Woes, lamentations, mourning, portents dire;
To wit I should defile my mother's bed
And raise up seed too loathsome to behold,
And slay the father from whose loins I sprang.
Then, lady,— thou shalt hear the very truth—
As I drew near the triple-branching roads,
A herald met me and a man who sat
In a car drawn by colts— as in thy tale—
The man in front and the old man himself
Threatened to thrust me rudely from the path,
Then jostled by the charioteer in wrath
I struck him, and the old man, seeing this,
Watched till I passed and from his car brought down
Full on my head the double-pointed goad.
Yet was I quits with him and more; one stroke
Of my good staff sufficed to fling him clean
Out of the chariot seat and laid him prone.
And so I slew them every one. But if
Betwixt this stranger there was aught in common
With Laius, who more miserable than I,
What mortal could you find more god-abhorred?
Wretch whom no sojourner, no citizen
May harbor or address, whom all are bound
To harry from their homes. And this same curse
Was laid on me, and laid by none but me.
Yea with these hands all gory I pollute

The bed of him I slew. Say, am I vile?
 Am I not utterly unclean, a wretch
 Doomed to be banished, and in banishment
 Forgo the sight of all my dearest ones,
 And never tread again my native earth;
 Or else to wed my mother and slay my sire,
 Polybus, who begat me and upreared?
 If one should say, this is the handiwork
 Of some inhuman power, who could blame
 His judgment? But, ye pure and awful gods,
 Forbid, forbid that I should see that day!
 May I be blotted out from living men
 Ere such a plague spot set on me its brand!
 CHORUS. We too, O king, are troubled; but till thou
 Hast questioned the survivor, still hope on.
 OEDIPUS. My hope is faint, but still enough survives
 To bid me bide the coming of this herd.
 JOCASTA. Suppose him here, what wouldst thou learn of him?
 OEDIPUS. I' ll tell thee, lady; if his tale agrees
 With thine, I shall have 'scaped calamity.
 JOCASTA. And what of special import did I say?
 OEDIPUS. In thy report of what the herdsman said
 Laius was slain by robbers; now if he
 Still speaks of robbers, not a robber, I
 Slew him not; "one" with "many" cannot square.
 But if he says one lonely wayfarer,
 The last link wanting to my guilt is forged.
 JOCASTA. Well, rest assured, his tale ran thus at first,
 Nor can he now retract what then he said;
 Not I alone but all our townfolk heard it.
 E' en should he vary somewhat in his story,
 He cannot make the death of Laius
 In any wise jump with the oracle.
 For Loxias said expressly he was doomed
 To die by my child' s hand, but he, poor babe,
 He shed no blood, but perished first himself.
 So much for divination. Henceforth I
 Will look for signs neither to right nor left.
 OEDIPUS. Thou reasonest well. Still I would have thee send
 And fetch the bondsman hither. See to it.
 JOCASTA. That will I straightway. Come, let us within.
 I would do nothing that my lord mislikes.

Exeunt OEDIPUS and JOCASTA]

CHORUS. (Str. 1)

My lot be still to lead
The life of innocence and fly
Irreverence in word or deed,
To follow still those laws ordained on high
Whose birthplace is the bright ethereal sky
No mortal birth they own,
Olympus their progenitor alone:
Ne' er shall they slumber in oblivion cold,
The god in them is strong and grows not old.(
Ant. 1)
Of insolence is bred
The tyrant; insolence full blown,
With empty riches surfeited,
Scales the precipitous height and grasps the throne.
Then topples o' er and lies in ruin prone;
No foothold on that dizzy steep.
But O may Heaven the true patriot keep
Who burns with emulous zeal to serve the State.
God is my help and hope, on him I wait.(
Str. 2)
But the proud sinner, or in word or deed,
That will not Justice heed,

vocabulary

ἄγαμαι wonder, admire; resent,
 begrudge
ἄγαν very much
ἀγγέλλω carry a message, announce
 ~angel
ἄγγιστος nearest
ἀνάσσω rule, be lord
ἄνω (ἄ) accomplish, pass, waste;
 upwards, out to sea
ἀπαγγέλλω announce, order,
 promise ~angel
ἀρμόζω fit together; be well fitted to
 ~harmony
ἀσχάλλω be distressed
αὐδάω speak, declare, shout
 ~Theravada
αὐτως just so, merely; in vain ~after
βέλος -εος (n, 3) missile ~ballistic
βίος life ~biology
βλώσκω come, go
γεραιός old ~geriatric
δαίμων -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate,
 doom ~demon
δάμαρ wife ~domicile
δεσπότης -ου (m, 1) master, despot
δεῦρο here, come here!
διπλός double, overlapping
δόλος trick, bait
ἐγκρατής firm, powerful
ἔδος ἔδεος (n, 3) seat, sitting
 ~polyhedron
εἰκῇ haphazardly; in vain
εἴπερ if indeed
ἐκπέμπω send forth ~pomp
ἐκπλήσσω panic, be knocked out
 ~ppectrum
ἐμφανής visible
ἐνδίδωμι hand over, lend, show,
 allow
ἐνδον in the house of; within
ἐνδω in the house of; within

ἐνθάδε here, hither
ἐξαιρέω pick, steal; dedicate;
 destroy ~heresy
ἐπιχώριος native
ἐργω bound, fend off; do
 ~ergonomics
ἐρδω do, perform ~ergonomics
ἐρπω be able to move ~serpent
ἐρρω go (neg. connotation) ~serve
ἐστία hearth ~Hestia
ἐστιάω give a feast
εὐνάζω lay down; (mp) have sex
ἡδομαι be pleased, enjoy
 ~hedonism
θεμιτός legal, righteous
θέσπισμα oracular pronouncement
θέσφατος divinely ordained
θιγγάνω touch
ἰκέτις female suppliant
καθίζω set, sit, alight, set up ~sit
καινός new, fresh, strange
κάρ -ός (n) useless bit; form of *κατά*
καταφθίω cause to perish, wane; (of
 time) pass
κάτειμι go down, disembark ~ion
κάτοιδα understand
κερδαίνω profit, take advantage
κέρδος -ους (n, 3) advantage,
 cunning
κεῦθος -εος (n, 3) lower region
 ~cuticle
κεύθω cover, hide ~cuticle
κλάζω scream, clang ~klaxon
κλύω hear, listen to ~Euclid
κράτιστος best
κρατύνω strengthen
κυβερνήτης -ου (m, 1) steersman,
 governor ~govern
κῦρος -εος (n, 3) authority; validity
λέχος -εος (n, 3) couch, bed, bier
 ~lie
λύσις -ος (f) a release ~loose

μάντευμα -τος (n, 3) oracle
ματάζω be ineffective, idle
μέτεμι be among, go, follow ~ion
μοῖρα portion, fate; (κατά+) rightly
 ~Moirā
μολίσκω come, go
ναός (ᾱ) temple, shrine ~nostalgia
νόσος (f) plague, pestilence
 ~noisome
ξυνίημι send together; hear, notice,
 understand
ὀκνέω shrink from, hesitate; worry
ὀλβία bliss
ὄλβιος happy, wealthy
ὀμφαλός navel, nub ~umbilicus
ὄνειρος dream
ὅποῖος whatever kind
ὅπου where
ὄρνις -θος (ī, f) bird ~ornithology
οὐδαμοῦ nowhere
οὐχουν certainly not
πάλαι long ago ~paleo
παλαιός old ~paleo
παλαίφατος put forth long ago
 ~photon
πάλη wrestling ~Pallas
πάλλω shake, brandish ~Pallas
παντελής complete, absolute
παράγω deflect; bring forward
παραινέω recommend, exhort, warn
πόθος longing, regret ~bid
ποίη grass
ποιός what kind
πόρω aor. give, pf. be fated
πόσις -ος (m) (m) husband, master;
 (f) a drink ~potent
πότερος which, whichever of two
προλέγω prophecy, proclaim;
 preselect ~legion

πρόνοια foresight, providence
προσδοκάω expect
πρόσπολος servant, attendant
ῥέζω do, make, perform sacrifices
 ~ergonomics
ῥέω flow ~rheostat
ῥητός stated, agreed on ~rhetoric
ῥοπή balancing, crisis
σαφής clear, understandable
σέβομαι feel shame, awe
σεμνός revered, holy
σημαίνω give orders to; show; mark
 ~semaphore
σκοπάω watch, observe
σκοπέω behold, consider
στέγη roof, ceiling, chamber
συλλαμβάνω seize, capture;
 understand ~epilepsy
συμμετρέω measure by comparison
τάφος (m) funeral, grave; (n)
 astonishment
τάχα quickly, soon; perhaps
 ~tachometer
τάχος -ους (n, 3) speed ~tachometer
τέθηπα be confused
τεκμαίρομαι conclude, declare from
 evidence
τίμιος honored, precious
τλήμων steadfast, enduring ~talent
τοιόσδε such
τρέμω tremble in fear ~tremble
τύραννος tyrant
τύχη fortune, act of a god
ὕψοῦ high, aloft
ὕψόω lift, exalt
φθίω cause to perish, wane; (of
 time) pass
χορεύω dance
χρῆζω need ~chresard

δίκας ἀφόβητος οὐδὲ δαιμόνων ἔδη σέβων, 885
 κακά νιν ἔλοιτο μοῖρα,
 δυσπότημον χάριν χλιδᾶς,
 εἰ μὴ τὸ κέρδος κερδανεῖ δικαίως
 καὶ τῶν ἀσέπτων ἔρξεται 890
 ἢ τῶν ἀθίκτων θίξεται ματάζων.¹
 τίς ἔτι ποτ' ἐν τοῖσδ' ἀνὴρ θεῶν βέλη
 εὔξεται ψυχᾶς ἀμύνειν;
 εἰ γὰρ αἱ τοιαῖδε πράξεις τίμαι, 895
 τί δεῖ με χορεύειν;

ΧΟΡΟΣ. οὐκέτι τὸν ἄθικτον εἶμι γᾶς ἐπ' ὀμφαλὸν² σέβων,
 οὐδ' ἐς τὸν Ἀβαῖσι ναὸν οὐδὲ τὰν Ὀλυμπίαν, 900
 εἰ μὴ τάδε χειρόδεικτα
 πᾶσιν ἀρμόσει βροτοῖς.
 ἀλλ', ὦ κρατύνων,³ εἴπερ ὄρθ' ἀκούεις,
 Ζεῦ, πάντ' ἀνάσσω, μὴ λάθοι 905
 σὲ τάν τε σὰν ἀθάνατον αἰὲν ἀρχάν.
 φθίνοντα γὰρ Λαῖου παλαίφατα⁴
 θέσφατ' ἐξαιρούσιν ἤδη,
 κοῦδαμοῦ τιμαῖς Ἀπόλλων ἐμφανής·
 ἔρρει δὲ τὰ θεῖα. 910

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ. χώρας ἄνακτες, δόξα μοι παρεστάθῃ
 ναοὺς ἰκέσθαι δαιμόνων, τάδ' ἐν χερσὶν
 στέφη λαβούσῃ κάπιθυμιάματα.
 ὑψοῦ γὰρ αἶρει θυμὸν Οἰδίπους ἄγαν
 λύπαισι παντοίαισιν· οὐδ' ὅποι' ἀνὴρ 915

¹ be ineffective, idle ² navel, nub ³ strengthen ⁴ put forth long ago

ἔννουσ τὰ καινὰ τοῖς πάλαι τεκμαίρεται,

ἀλλ' ἐστὶ τοῦ λέγοντος, εἰ φόβους λέγοι.

ὅτ' οὖν παραινοῦς οὐδὲν ἐς πλεόν ποιῶ,

πρὸς σ', ὦ Λύκει' Ἀπολλον, ἄγχιστος⁵ γὰρ εἶ,

ικέτις⁶ ἀφίγμαι τοῖσδε σὺν κατεύγμασιν,

920

ὅπως λύσω⁷ τιν' ἡμῖν εὐαγὴ πόρης·

ὡς νῦν ὀκνοῦμεν πάντες ἐκπεπληγμένοι

κεῖνον βλέποντες ὡς κυβερνήτην νεώς.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ. ἄρ' ἂν παρ' ὑμῶν, ὦ ξένοι, μάθοιμι ὅπου

τὰ τοῦ τυράννου δώματ' ἐστὶν Οἰδίπου;

925

μάλιστα δ' αὐτὸν εἴπατ', εἰ κάτισθ' ὅπου.

ΧΟ. στέγαι μὲν αἶδε, καὐτὸς ἔνδον, ὦ ξένε·

γυνὴ δὲ μήτηρ ἦδε τῶν κείνου τέκνων.

ΑΓ. ἀλλ' ὀλβία⁸ τε καὶ ξὺν ὀλβίοις αἰεὶ

γένοιτ', ἐκείνου γ' οὔσα παντελὴς δάμαρ.⁹

930

ΙΟ. αὐτῶς δὲ καὶ σύ γ', ὦ ξέν'· ἄξιος γὰρ εἶ

τῆς εὐεπείας εἶνεκ'· ἀλλὰ φράζ' ὅτου

χρήζων ἀφίξαι χῶ τι σημήναι θέλων.

ΑΓ. ἀγαθὰ δόμοις τε καὶ πόσει τῷ σῶ, γύναι.

ΙΟ. τὰ ποῖα ταῦτα; παρὰ τίνος δ' ἀφιγμένος;

935

ΑΓ. ἐκ τῆς Κορίνθου· τὸ δ' ἔπος οὔξερῶ τάχα,

ἥδοιο μὲν, πῶς δ' οὐκ ἄν, ἀσχάλλοις¹⁰ δ' ἴσως.

ΙΟ. τί δ' ἔστι; ποῖαν δύνάμιν ὧδ' ἔχει διπλῆν;

ΑΓ. τύραννον αὐτὸν οὐπιχώριοι χθονὸς

τῆς Ἰσθμίας στήσουσιν, ὡς ἡδᾶτ' ἐκεῖ.

940

ΙΟ. τί δ'; οὐχ ὁ πρέσβυς Πόλυβος ἐγκρατὴς ἔτι;

⁵ nearest ⁶ female suppliant ⁷ a release ⁸ bliss ⁹ wife ¹⁰ be distressed

ΑΓ. οὐ δῆτ', ἐπεὶ νῦν θάνατος ἐν τάφοις ἔχει.

ΙΟ. πῶς εἶπας; ἢ τέθνηκε Πόλυβος, ὦ γέρον;

ΑΓ. εἰ μὴ λέγω τάληθές, ἀξιῶ θανεῖν.

ΙΟ. ὦ πρόσπολ', οὐχὶ δεσπότη τὰδ' ὡς τάχος

945

μολοῦσα λέξεις; ὦ θεῶν μαντεύματα,

ἵν' ἐστέ· τοῦτον Οἰδίπους πάλαι τρέμων

τὸν ἄνδρ' ἔφευγε μὴ κτάνοι, καὶ νῦν ὄδε

πρὸς τῆς τύχης ὀλωλεν οὐδὲ τοῦδ' ὕπο.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ. ὦ φίλτατον γυναικὸς Ἰοκάστης κάρα,

950

τί μ' ἐξεπέμψω δεῦρο τῶνδε δωμάτων;

ΙΟ. ἄκουε τάνδρὸς τοῦδε, καὶ σκόπει κλύων

τὰ σέμν'¹¹ ἵν' ἤκει τοῦ θεοῦ μαντεύματα.

ΟΙ. οὗτος δὲ τίς ποτ' ἐστὶ καὶ τί μοι λέγει;

ΙΟ. ἐκ τῆς Κορίνθου, πατέρα τὸν σὸν ἀγγελῶν

955

ὡς οὐκέτ' ὄντα Πόλυβον, ἀλλ' ὀλωλότα.

ΟΙ. τί φῆς, ξέν'; αὐτός μοι σὺ σημάντωρ γενοῦ.

ΑΓ. εἰ τοῦτο πρῶτον δεῖ μ' ἀπαγγεῖλαι σαφῶς,

εὖ ἴσθ' ἐκείνον θανάσιμον βεβηκότα.

ΟΙ. πότερα δόλοισιν ἢ νόσου ξυναλλαγῇ;

960

ΑΓ. σμικρὰ παλαιὰ σώματ' ἐννάξει¹² ροπή.¹³

ΟΙ. νόσοις ὁ τλήμων, ὡς ἔοικεν, ἔφθιτο.

ΑΓ. καὶ τῷ μακρῷ γε συμμετρούμενος χρόνῳ.

ΟΙ. φεῦ φεῦ, τί δῆτ' ἄν, ὦ γύναι, σκοποῖτό τι

τὴν Πυθόμαντιν ἐστίαν ἢ τοὺς ἄνω

965

κλάζοντας ὄρνεις, ὧν ὑφηγητῶν ἐγὼ

κτενεῖν ἔμελλον πατέρα τὸν ἐμόν; ὁ δὲ θανὼν

¹¹ revered, holy ¹² lay down; (mp) have sex ¹³ balancing, crisis

κεύθει κάτω δὴ γῆς. ἐγὼ δ' ὅδ' ἐνθάδε
 ἄψανστος ἔγχους· εἴ τι μὴ τῶμῳ πόθῳ
 κατέφθιθ'· οὕτω δ' ἂν θανὼν εἴη ξέμου.
 970
 τὰ δ' οὖν παρόντα συλλαβὼν θεσπίσματα¹⁴
 κείται παρ' Ἄιδῃ Πόλυβος ἄξι' οὐδενός.

ΙΟ. οὔκουν ἐγὼ σοι ταῦτα προύλεγον πάλαι;

ΟΙ. ἡὔδας· ἐγὼ δὲ τῷ φόβῳ παρηγόμην.

ΙΟ. μὴ νῦν ἔτ' αὐτῶν μηδὲν ἐς θυμὸν βάλης.
 975

ΟΙ. καὶ πῶς τὸ μητρὸς οὐκ ὀκνεῖν λέχος με δεῖ;

ΙΟ. τί δ' ἂν φοβοῖτ' ἄνθρωπος ᾧ τὰ τῆς τύχης
 κρατεῖ, πρόνοια δ' ἐστὶν οὐδενὸς σαφής;
 εἰκῇ¹⁵ κράτιστον ζῆν, ὅπως δύναιτό τις.
 σὺ δ' εἰς τὰ μητρὸς μὴ φοβοῦ νυμφεύματα·
 980
 πολλοὶ γὰρ ἤδη καὶ ὀνείρασιν βροτῶν
 μητρὶ ξυνηνάσθησαν. ἀλλὰ ταῦθ' ὅτῳ
 παρ' οὐδέν ἐστι, ῥᾶστα τὸν βίον φέρει.

ΟΙ. καλῶς ἅπαντα ταῦτ' ἂν ἐξείρητό σοι,
 εἰ μὴ κύρει ζῶσ' ἢ τεκοῦσα· νῦν δ' ἐπεὶ
 985
 ζῇ, πᾶσ' ἀνάγκη, κει' καλῶς λέγεις, ὀκνεῖν.

ΙΟ. καὶ μὴν μέγας γ' ὀφθαλμὸς οἱ πατρὸς τάφοι.

ΟΙ. μέγας, ξυνήμ'· ἀλλὰ τῆς ζώσης φόβος.

ΑΓ. ποίας δὲ καὶ γυναικὸς ἐκφοβεῖσθ' ὕπερ;

ΟΙ. Μερόπης, γεραιέ, Πόλυβος ἥς ᾧκει μέτα.
 990

ΑΓ. τί δ' ἔστ' ἐκείνης ὑμῖν ἐς φόβον φέρον;

ΟΙ. θεήλατον μάντευμα δεινόν, ᾧ ξένε.

ΑΓ. ἦ ῥητόν; ἢ οὐχὶ θεμιτὸν¹⁶ ἄλλον εἰδέναι;

¹⁴ oracular pronouncement ¹⁵ haphazardly; in vain ¹⁶ legal, righteous

Nor reverence the shrine
 Of images divine,
 Perdition seize his vain imaginings,
 If, urged by greed profane,
 He grasps at ill-got gain,
 And lays an impious hand on holiest things.
 Who when such deeds are done
 Can hope heaven's bolts to shun?
 If sin like this to honor can aspire,
 Why dance I still and lead the sacred choir?(
 Ant. 2)
 No more I'll seek earth's central oracle,
 Or Abae's hallowed cell,
 Nor to Olympia bring
 My votive offering.
 If before all God's truth be not bade plain.
 O Zeus, reveal thy might,
 King, if thou'rt named aright
 Omnipotent, all-seeing, as of old;
 For Laius is forgot;
 His weird, men heed it not;
 Apollo is forsook and faith grows cold.

Enter JOCASTA.]

JOCASTA. My lords, ye look amazed to see your queen
 With wreaths and gifts of incense in her hands.
 I had a mind to visit the high shrines,
 For Oedipus is overwrought, alarmed
 With terrors manifold. He will not use
 His past experience, like a man of sense,
 To judge the present need, but lends an ear
 To any croaker if he augurs ill.
 Since then my counsels naught avail, I turn
 To thee, our present help in time of trouble,
 Apollo, Lord Lycean, and to thee
 My prayers and supplications here I bring.
 Lighten us, lord, and cleanse us from this curse!
 For now we all are cowed like mariners
 Who see their helmsman dumbstruck in the storm.

Enter Corinthian MESSENGER.]

MESSENGER. My masters, tell me where the palace is
 Of Oedipus; or better, where's the king.

CHORUS. Here is the palace and he bides within;

This is his queen the mother of his children.

MESSENGER. All happiness attend her and the house,
Blessed is her husband and her marriage-bed.

JOCASTA. My greetings to thee, stranger; thy fair words
Deserve a like response. But tell me why

Thou comest— what thy need or what thy news.

MESSENGER. Good for thy consort and the royal house.

JOCASTA. What may it be? Whose messenger art thou?

MESSENGER. The Isthmian commons have resolved to make
Thy husband king— so 'twas reported there.

JOCASTA. What! is not aged Polybus still king?

MESSENGER. No, verily; he' s dead and in his grave.

JOCASTA. What! is he dead, the sire of Oedipus?

MESSENGER. If I speak falsely, may I die myself.

JOCASTA. Quick, maiden, bear these tidings to my lord.
Ye god-sent oracles, where stand ye now!

This is the man whom Oedipus long shunned,

In dread to prove his murderer; and now

He dies in nature' s course, not by his hand.

Enter OEDIPUS.]

OEDIPUS. My wife, my queen, Jocasta, why hast thou
Summoned me from my palace?

JOCASTA. Hear this man,
And as thou hearest judge what has become
Of all those awe-inspiring oracles.

OEDIPUS. Who is this man, and what his news for me?

JOCASTA. He comes from Corinth and his message this:
Thy father Polybus hath passed away.

OEDIPUS. What? let me have it, stranger, from thy mouth.

MESSENGER. If I must first make plain beyond a doubt
My message, know that Polybus is dead.

OEDIPUS. By treachery, or by sickness visited?

MESSENGER. One touch will send an old man to his rest.

OEDIPUS. So of some malady he died, poor man.

MESSENGER. Yes, having measured the full span of years.

OEDIPUS. Out on it, lady! why should one regard
The Pythian hearth or birds that scream i' the air?

Did they not point at me as doomed to slay

My father? but he' s dead and in his grave

And here am I who ne' er unsheathed a sword;

Unless the longing for his absent son

Killed him and so I slew him in a sense.

But, as they stand, the oracles are dead—

Dust, ashes, nothing, dead as Polybus.

JOCASTA. Say, did not I foretell this long ago?

OEDIPUS. Thou didst: but I was misled by my fear.

JOCASTA. Then let I no more weigh upon thy soul.

OEDIPUS. Must I not fear my mother' s marriage bed.

JOCASTA. Why should a mortal man, the sport of chance,

With no assured foreknowledge, be afraid?

Best live a careless life from hand to mouth.

This wedlock with thy mother fear not thou.

How oft it chances that in dreams a man

Has wed his mother! He who least regards

Such brainsick phantasies lives most at ease.

OEDIPUS. I should have shared in full thy confidence,

Were not my mother living; since she lives

Though half convinced I still must live in dread.

JOCASTA. And yet thy sire' s death lights out darkness much.

OEDIPUS. Much, but my fear is touching her who lives.

MESSENGER. Who may this woman be whom thus you fear?

OEDIPUS. Merope, stranger, wife of Polybus.

MESSENGER. And what of her can cause you any fear?

OEDIPUS. A heaven-sent oracle of dread import.

MESSENGER. A mystery, or may a stranger hear it?

vocabulary

ἀγκάλη the bent arm ~ankylosaurus
 ἄγρα hunting, prey
 ἀγρέω come!
 ἄγριος wild, savage ~agriculture
 ἀγρός field, wild ~agriculture
 αἶσσω dart, glance
 αἰσχύνω (ῶ) spoil, disgrace, disfigure, mar
 ἀκμή point, edge, top, culmination
 ~acute
 ἄλγος -εος (n, 3) woe, grief
 ~analgesic
 ἄλις in plenty; enough ~helix
 ἀναιρέω take up ~heresy
 ἀναρρήγνυμι (ῶ) tear open, tear down
 ἀνάσσω rule, be lord
 ἄπειρος untested; infinite
 ἀπείρων boundless
 ἀρεστός satisfactory, pleasing
 ἄρθρον joint
 ἄρτιος suitable
 ἀρχαῖος ancient, from the beginning
 ~oligarch
 ἀτιμάζω (ι) insult, dishonor
 αὐξάνω strengthen
 αὐριον tomorrow
 βίος life ~biology
 βιόω live; (mp) make a living
 ~biology
 βλώσκω come, go
 βοτήρ -ος (m) herdsman
 γεραιός old ~geriatric
 δεῦρο here, come here!
 δῆλος visible, conspicuous
 δηλόω show, disclose
 δήπου perhaps; is it not so?
 δῆτα emphatic δῆ
 διορίζω delimit; determine
 δύστηνος unhappy, miserable
 ἐγγέω pour into

εἴθε if only
 εἴπερ if indeed
 εἰσείδω look at, behold ~wit
 εἰσοράω look at, see; treat with respect ~panorama
 εἴτε if, whenever; either/or
 ἐκδίδωμι hand over ~donate
 ἐκλύω rescue from ~loose
 ἐκμανθάνω know by heart
 ἐκφαίνω bring to light ~photon
 ἐκφύω spring from ~physics
 ἐμπολάω trade for
 ἐνέχω hold inside
 ἐνθάδε here, hither
 ἐνταῦθα there, here
 ἐντρέπω heed ~trophy
 ἐπιχώριος native
 ἔρπω be able to move ~serpent
 εὖνοος kindly; favorable
 εὐτυχής fortunate
 ἡδέως pleasantly ~hedonism
 ἡδύς sweet, pleasant ~hedonism
 ἥκιστος least; above all
 θαρσέω be of good heart
 θάρσος boldness, over-boldness
 ἵδρις skilled
 ἰού cry of sorrow, joy, or surprise
 ἴσχω restrain, hold back ~ischemia
 κάτοιδα understand
 κῆδος -εος (n, 3) sorrow ~heinous
 κήδω distress, hurt; mp: care about (+gen) ~heinous
 λίσσομαι beg, beseech ~litany
 λύπη distress
 λωίων more desirable
 μάντις -ος (m) seer ~mantis
 μαρτυρέω testify, bear witness
 ματεύω be at a loss or at fault
 μάτην in vain, randomly
 μῆποτε absolutely never
 μῖασμα -τος (n, 3) taint, defilement
 μολίσκω come, go

νέμω to allot, to pasture ~nemesis
 νοσέω be sick, be mad, suffer
 ὁδοιπορέω walk over
 οἶμοι woe is me
 ὀκνέω shrink from, hesitate; worry
 ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye
 ὁμός same ~homoerotic
 ὁμοῦ together
 ὁμόω unite ~homoerotic
 ὅμως anyway, nevertheless
 ὀνειδός -εος (n, 3) blame; insult
 ὀνομάζω to address, name ~name
 ὅποῖος whatever kind
 οὐνεκα because
 πάλαι long ago ~paleo
 πάλη wrestling ~Pallas
 πάλλω shake, brandish ~Pallas
 πανσέληνος of the full moon
 πατρώος of the father(s), ancestral
 πελάζω bring/come to, near, into
 contact with
 πέλας near, close
 πλάνη wandering
 πλάνης -τος (m, 3) wanderer
 πλούσιος wealth ~plutocrat
 ποιμήν -ένος (m, 3) shepherd
 ~pastor
 ποίμνιον flock
 πότε when?

ῥήγνυμι (ῥ) to break
 σαυτοῦ yourself
 σαφής clear, understandable
 σημαίνω give orders to; show; mark
 ~semaphore
 σημεῖον sign
 σιωπή silence
 στέργω love; be content
 συγγενεύς inborn, kin to
 συγγενής inborn, kin to
 σωτήρ -ος (m) savior
 τᾶν form of address
 ταρβέω be afraid
 τάρβος -εος (n, 3) fear
 τοίνυν well, then
 τοιόσδε such
 τρέμω tremble in fear ~tremble
 τριδουλος triple slave
 τροφός (f) wet nurse ~atrophy
 τύραννος tyrant
 τύχη fortune, act of a god
 φονεύς -ως (m) killer ~offend
 φῦσα bellows
 φυσάω (ῥ) blow, puff, blow out
 φυτεύω plant, grow, cause, prepare
 ~physics
 φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics
 χορεύω dance
 χροῖζω need ~chresard

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ. μάλιστά γ'· εἶπε γάρ με Λοξίας ποτὲ

χρῆναι μνηστῆραι μητρὶ τῆμαντοῦ τό τε 995

πατρῶν αἶμα χερσὶ ταῖς ἐμαῖς ἐλεῖν.

ὦν οὐνεχ' ἡ Κόρινθος ἐξ ἐμοῦ πάλαι

μακρὰν ἀπωκεῖτ'· εὐτυχῶς¹ μέν, ἀλλ' ὅμως

τὰ τῶν τεκόντων ὅμμαθ' ἠδιστον βλέπειν.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ. ἡ γὰρ τάδ' ὀκνῶν κεῖθεν ἦσθ' ἀπόπολις; 1000

ΟΙ. πατρός τε χρήζων μὴ φοινεὺς εἶναι, γέρον.

ΑΓ. τί δῆτ' ἐγὼ οὐχὶ τοῦδε τοῦ φόβου σ', ἄναξ,

ἐπείπερ εὐνους ἦλθον, ἐξελυσάμην;

ΟΙ. καὶ μὴν χάριν γ' ἂν ἀξίαν λάβοις ἐμοῦ.

ΑΓ. καὶ μὴν μάλιστα τοῦτ' ἀφικόμεν, ὅπως 1005

σοῦ πρὸς δόμους ἐλθόντος εὖ πράξαιμί τι.

ΟΙ. ἀλλ' οὐποτ' εἰμι τοῖς φυτεύσασιν γ' ὅμοῦ.

ΑΓ. ὦ παῖ, καλῶς εἰ δῆλος οὐκ εἰδῶς τί δρᾷς.

ΟΙ. πῶς, ὦ γεραίε; πρὸς θεῶν διδασκέ με.

ΑΓ. εἰ τῶνδε φεύγεις οὐνεκ' εἰς οἴκους μολεῖν. 1010

ΟΙ. ταρβῶν γε μὴ μοι Φοῖβος ἐξέλθῃ σαφής.

ΑΓ. ἡ μὲν μίαισμα² τῶν φυτευσάντων λάβης;

ΟΙ. τοῦτ' αὐτό, πρέσβυ, τοῦτό μ' εἰσαεὶ φοβεῖ.

ΑΓ. ἄρ' οἶσθα δῆτα πρὸς δίκης οὐδὲν τρέμων;

ΟΙ. πῶς δ' οὐχί, παῖς γ' εἰ τῶνδε γεννητῶν ἔφην; 1015

ΑΓ. ὁθούνεκ' ἦν σοι Πόλυβος οὐδὲν ἐν γένει.

ΟΙ. πῶς εἶπας; οὐ γὰρ Πόλυβος ἐξέφυσέ με;

ΑΓ. οὐ μᾶλλον οὐδὲν τοῦδε τάνδρός, ἀλλ' ἴσον.

ΟΙ. καὶ πῶς ὁ φύσας ἐξ ἴσου τῷ μηδενί;

¹ fortunate ² taint, defilement

- ΑΓ. ἀλλ' οὐ σ' ἐγείνατ' οὐτ' ἐκεῖνος οὐτ' ἐγώ. 1020
- ΟΙ. ἀλλ' ἀντὶ τοῦ δὴ παῖδά μ' ὠνομάζετο;
- ΑΓ. δῶρόν ποτ', ἴσθι, τῶν ἐμῶν χειρῶν λαβών.
- ΟΙ. κᾶθ' ὥδ' ἀπ' ἄλλης χειρὸς ἔστερξεν³ μέγα;
- ΑΓ. ἡ γὰρ πρὶν αὐτὸν ἐξέπεισ' ἀπαιδία.
- ΟΙ. σὺ δ' ἐμπολήσας ἡ τυχών μ' αὐτῷ δίδως; 1025
- ΑΓ. εὐρὼν ναπαίαις ἐν Κιθαιρώνος πτυχαῖς.
- ΟΙ. ὠδοιπόρεις δὲ πρὸς τί τούσδε τοὺς τόπους;
- ΑΓ. ἐνταῦθ' ὀρείοις ποιμνίοις ἐπεστάτουν.
- ΟΙ. ποιμὴν γὰρ ἦσθα καπὶ θητείᾳ πλάνης;
- ΑΓ. σοῦ τ', ὦ τέκνον, σωτήρ γε τῷ τότ' ἐν χρόνῳ. 1030
- ΟΙ. τί δ' ἄλγος ἴσχοντ' ἀγκάλαις⁴ με λαμβάνεις;
- ΑΓ. ποδῶν ἂν ἄρθρα μαρτυρήσειεν τὰ σά·
- ΟΙ. οἴμοι, τί τοῦτ' ἀρχαῖον ἐννέπεις κακόν;
- ΑΓ. λύω σ' ἔχοντα διατόρους ποδοῖν ἀκμάς.
- ΟΙ. δεινόν γ' ὄνειδος σπαργάνων ἀνελόμην. 1035
- ΑΓ. ὥστ' ὠνομάσθης ἐκ τύχης ταύτης ὃς εἰ.
- ΟΙ. ὦ πρὸς θεῶν, πρὸς μητρὸς ἡ πατρός; φράσον.
- ΑΓ. οὐκ οἶδ'. ὁ δοὺς δὲ ταῦτ' ἐμοῦ λῶον⁵ φρονεῖ.
- ΟΙ. ἡ γὰρ παρ' ἄλλου μ' ἔλαβες οὐδ' αὐτὸς τυχών;
- ΑΓ. οὐκ, ἀλλὰ ποιμὴν ἄλλος ἐκδίδωσί μοι. 1040
- ΟΙ. τίς οὗτος; ἡ κάτοισθα δηλώσαι λόγῳ;
- ΑΓ. τῶν Λαΐου δήπου τις ὠνομάζετο.
- ΟΙ. ἡ τοῦ τυράννου τῆσδε γῆς πάλαι ποτέ;
- ΑΓ. μάλιστα· τούτου τάνδρὸς οὗτος ἦν βοτήρ.
- ΟΙ. ἡ κᾶστ' ἔτι ζῶν οὗτος, ὥστ' ἰδεῖν ἐμέ; 1045

³ love; be content ⁴ the bent arm ⁵ more desirable

ΑΓ. ὑμεῖς γ' ἄριστ' εἰδεῖτ' ἂν οὐπιχώριοι.

ΟΙ. ἔστιν τις ὑμῶν τῶν παρεστώτων πέλας,

ὅστις κάτοιιδε τὸν βοτῆρ' ὃν ἐννέπει,

εἴτ' οὖν ἐπ' ἀγρῶν εἴτε κἀνθάδ' εἰσιδῶν;

σημῆναθ', ὥς ὁ καιρὸς ἠϋρήσθαι τάδε.

1050

ΧΟΡΟΣ. οἶμαι μὲν οὐδέν' ἄλλον ἢ τὸν ἐξ ἀγρῶν,

ὃν κἀμάτενες⁶ πρόσθεν εἰσιδεῖν· ἀτὰρ

ἥδ' ἂν τάδ' οὐχ ἥκιστ' ἂν Ἰοκάστη λέγοι.

ΟΙ. γύναι, νοεῖς ἐκείνον, ὄντων ἀρτίως

μολεῖν ἐφιέμεσθα; τόνδ' οὗτος λέγει;

1055

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ. τί δ' ὄντων εἶπε; μῆδ' ἐντραπῆς· τὰ δὲ

ρήθέντα βούλου μῆδ' ἐμνησθαι μάτην.

ΟΙ. οὐκ ἂν γένοιτο τοῦθ' ὅπως ἐγὼ λαβὼν

σημεῖα τοιαῦτ' οὐ φανῶ τοῦμὸν γένος.

ΙΟ. μὴ πρὸς θεῶν, εἴπερ τι τοῦ σαυτοῦ βίου

1060

κῆδει, ματεύσης τοῦθ'· ἄλλις νοσοῦσ' ἐγώ.

ΟΙ. θάρσει· σὺ μὲν γὰρ οὐδ' ἐὰν τρίτης ἐγὼ

μητρὸς φανῶ τριδουλος,⁷ ἐκφανεῖ κακῇ.

ΙΟ. ὅμως πιθοῦ μοι, λίσσομαι· μὴ δρᾷ τάδε.

ΟΙ. οὐκ ἂν πιθοίμην μὴ οὐ τάδ' ἐκμαθεῖν σαφῶς.

1065

ΙΟ. καὶ μὴν φρονουσά γ' εἶ τὰ λῶστά σοι λέγω.

ΟΙ. τὰ λῶστα τοῖνυν ταῦτά μ' ἀλγύνει πάλαι.

ΙΟ. ὦ δύσποτμ', εἴθε μήποτε γνοίης ὃς εἰ.

ΟΙ. ἄξει τις ἐλθὼν δεῦρο τὸν βοτῆρά μοι;

ταύτην δ' ἐᾶτε πλουσίῳ χαίρειν γένει.

1070

ΙΟ. ἰὸν ἰού, δύστηνε· τοῦτο γάρ σ' ἔχω

⁶ be at a loss or at fault ⁷ triple slave

μόνον προσειπεῖν, ἄλλο δ' οὐποθ' ὕστερον.

ΧΘ. τί ποτε βέβηκεν, Οιδίπους, ὑπ' ἀγρίας
ἄξασα λύπης ἢ γυνή; δέδοιχ' ὅπως
μὴ κ τῆς σιωπῆς τῇσδ' ἀναρρήξει κακά. 1075

ΟΙ. ὅποια χρήζει ῥηγνύτω· τοῦμὸν δ' ἐγώ,
κεῖ σμικρόν ἐστι, σπέρμ' ἰδεῖν βουλήσομαι.
αὕτη δ' ἴσως, φρονεῖ γὰρ ὡς γυνὴ μέγα,
τὴν δυσγένειαν τὴν ἐμὴν αἰσχύνεται.
ἐγὼ δ' ἐμαυτὸν παῖδα τῆς Τύχης νέμων 1080
τῆς εἰδιδούσης οὐκ ἀτιμασθήσομαι.
τῆς γὰρ πέφυκα μητρός· οἱ δὲ συγγενεῖς
μῆνές με μικρὸν καὶ μέγαν διώρισαν.
τοιόσδε δ' ἐκφύς οὐκ ἂν ἐξέλθοιμ' ἔτι
ποτ' ἄλλος, ὥστε μὴ κμαθεῖν τοῦμὸν γένος. 1085

ΧΘ. εἴπερ ἐγὼ μάντις εἰμὶ καὶ κατὰ γνώμαν ἴδρις,⁸
οὐ τὸν Ὀλυμπον ἀπείρων, ὦ Κιθαιρών,
οὐκ ἔσει τὰν αὔριον 1090
πανσέληνον,⁹ μὴ οὐ σέ γε καὶ πατριώταν Οιδίπουν
καὶ τροφὸν¹⁰ καὶ ματέρ' αὔξειν,
καὶ χορεύεσθαι πρὸς ἡμῶν, ὡς ἐπὶ ἡρα φέροντα τοῖς ἐμοῖς τυράννοις.

1095

ἡΐε Φοῖβε, σοὶ δὲ ταῦτ' ἀρέστ' εἴη.

ΧΘ. τίς σε, τέκνον, τίς σ' ἔτικτε τᾶν μακραίωνων ἄρα
Πανὸς ὀρεσσιβάτα πατρὸς πελασθεῖς;
ἢ σέ γ' ἐνάναιερά τις 1100
Λοξίου; τῷ γὰρ πλάκες ἀγρόνομοι πᾶσαι φίλαι·
εἴθ' ὁ Κυλλάνας ἀνάσσων,

⁸ skilled ⁹ of the full moon ¹⁰ wet nurse

OEDIPUS. Aye, 'tis no secret. Loxias once foretold
That I should mate with mine own mother, and shed
With my own hands the blood of my own sire.
Hence Corinth was for many a year to me
A home distant; and I trove abroad,
But missed the sweetest sight, my parents' face.
MESSENGER. Was this the fear that exiled thee from home?
OEDIPUS. Yea, and the dread of slaying my own sire.
MESSENGER. Why, since I came to give thee pleasure, King,
Have I not rid thee of this second fear?
OEDIPUS. Well, thou shalt have due guerdon for thy pains.
MESSENGER. Well, I confess what chiefly made me come
Was hope to profit by thy coming home.
OEDIPUS. Nay, I will ne'er go near my parents more.
MESSENGER. My son, 'tis plain, thou know'st not what thou doest.
OEDIPUS. How so, old man? For heaven's sake tell me all.
MESSENGER. If this is why thou darest to return.
OEDIPUS. Yea, lest the god's word be fulfilled in me.
MESSENGER. Lest through thy parents thou shouldst be accursed?
OEDIPUS. This and none other is my constant dread.
MESSENGER. Dost thou not know thy fears are baseless all?
OEDIPUS. How baseless, if I am their very son?
MESSENGER. Since Polybus was naught to thee in blood.
OEDIPUS. What say'st thou? was not Polybus my sire?
MESSENGER. As much thy sire as I am, and no more.
OEDIPUS. My sire no more to me than one who is naught?
MESSENGER. Since I begat thee not, no more did he.
OEDIPUS. What reason had he then to call me son?
MESSENGER. Know that he took thee from my hands, a gift.
OEDIPUS. Yet, if no child of his, he loved me well.
MESSENGER. A childless man till then, he warmed to thee.
OEDIPUS. A foundling or a purchased slave, this child?
MESSENGER. I found thee in Cithaeron's wooded glens.
OEDIPUS. What led thee to explore those upland glades?
MESSENGER. My business was to tend the mountain flocks.
OEDIPUS. A vagrant shepherd journeying for hire?
MESSENGER. True, but thy savior in that hour, my son.
OEDIPUS. My savior? from what harm? what ailed me then?
MESSENGER. Those ankle joints are evidence enow.
OEDIPUS. Ah, why remind me of that ancient sore?
MESSENGER. I loosed the pin that riveted thy feet.
OEDIPUS. Yes, from my cradle that dread brand I bore.

MESSENGER. Whence thou deriv' st the name that still is thine.

OEDIPUS. Who did it? I adjure thee, tell me who
Say, was it father, mother?

MESSENGER. I know not.

The man from whom I had thee may know more.

OEDIPUS. What, did another find me, not thyself?

MESSENGER. Not I; another shepherd gave thee me.

OEDIPUS. Who was he? Would' st thou know again the man?

MESSENGER. He passed indeed for one of Laius' house.

OEDIPUS. The king who ruled the country long ago?

MESSENGER. The same: he was a herdsman of the king.

OEDIPUS. And is he living still for me to see him?

MESSENGER. His fellow-countrymen should best know that.

OEDIPUS. Doth any bystander among you know

The herd he speaks of, or by seeing him

Afield or in the city? answer straight!

The hour hath come to clear this business up.

CHORUS. Methinks he means none other than the hind

Whom thou anon wert fain to see; but that

Our queen Jocasta best of all could tell.

OEDIPUS. Madam, dost know the man we sent to fetch?

Is the same of whom the stranger speaks?

JOCASTA. Who is the man? What matter? Let it be.'

Twere waste of thought to weigh such idle words.

OEDIPUS. No, with such guiding clues I cannot fail

To bring to light the secret of my birth.

JOCASTA. Oh, as thou carest for thy life, give o' er

This quest. Enough the anguish I endure.

OEDIPUS. Be of good cheer; though I be proved the son

Of a bondwoman, aye, through three descents

Triply a slave, thy honor is unsmirched.

JOCASTA. Yet humor me, I pray thee; do not this.

OEDIPUS. I cannot; I must probe this matter home.

JOCASTA. 'Tis for thy sake I advise thee for the best.

OEDIPUS. I grow impatient of this best advice.

JOCASTA. Ah mayst thou ne' er discover who thou art!

OEDIPUS. Go, fetch me here the herd, and leave yon woman

To glory in her pride of ancestry.

JOCASTA. O woe is thee, poor wretch! With that last word

I leave thee, henceforth silent evermore.

Exit JOCASTA]

CHORUS. Why, Oedipus, why stung with passionate grief

Hath the queen thus departed? Much I fear
From this dead calm will burst a storm of woes.
OEDIPUS. Let the storm burst, my fixed resolve still holds,
To learn my lineage, be it ne'er so low.
It may be she with all a woman's pride
Thinks scorn of my base parentage. But I
Who rank myself as Fortune's favorite child,
The giver of good gifts, shall not be shamed.
She is my mother and the changing moons
My brethren, and with them I wax and wane.
Thus sprung why should I fear to trace my birth?
Nothing can make me other than I am.

CHORUS. (Str.)

If my soul prophetic err not, if my wisdom aught avail,
Thee, Cithaeron, I shall hail,
As the nurse and foster-mother of our Oedipus shall greet
Ere tomorrow's full moon rises, and exalt thee as is meet.
Dance and song shall hymn thy praises, lover of our royal race.
Phoebus, may my words find grace!(

Ant.)

Child, who bare thee, nymph or goddess? sure thy sure was more than
man,
Haply the hill-roamer Pan.
Of did Loxias beget thee, for he haunts the upland wold;
Or Cyllene's lord, or Bacchus, dweller on the hilltops cold?

vocabulary

ᾶ ah!

ἄγαμος unmarried ~bigamy

ἄγνως -τος (m) unknown, unrecognizable

ἄγριος wild, savage ~agriculture

ἀέθλιος prize ~athlete

ἀέκων unwilling

ἄθλιος wretched ~athlete

ἄκίζω disrespect, mutilate

ἄκρον crest, extremity ~acute

ἄκρος at the edge, extreme ~acute

ἄκων javelin; unwilling ~acme

ἀναλίσκω (αἶ) consume, spend on

ἀναλόω (αἶ) consume, spend on

ἀναμνησῶ (+2 acc) remind someone ~mnemonic

ἀνάσσω rule, be lord

ἀποκλίνω (i) bend aside ~incline

ἀποστρέφω turn back, turn off course ~atrophy

ἀποφέρω carry off, carry back ~bear

ἀρχέω satisfy; ward off, defend; suffice

ἄτα bewilderment, folly

βίος life ~biology

βιόω live; (mp) make a living ~biology

βοτήρ -ος (m) herdsman

γάμος wedding, sex ~bigamy

γαμψώνυξ with hooked talons

γῆρας -ος (n, 3) old age

γηράσκω grow old ~geriatric

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

δεσπότης -ου (m, 1) master, despot

δεῦρο here, come here!

δῆτα emphatic δῆ

δικάζω judge

διπλός double, overlapping

δράω do, accomplish

δύστηνος unhappy, miserable

ἐγγενής native, kindred; innate

εἴπερ if indeed

εἰσοράω look at, see; treat with respect ~panorama

εἴτε if, whenever; either/or

ἐνθεν thence, whence

ἐντίθηναι load; mp: take to heart ~thesis

ἐπαυλῖς -τος (f) farmhouse

ἐπιστήμη skill, knowledge

ἐρομαι ask a question, ask about, go searching through

εὐδαιμονία prosperity

εὐδαίμων blessed with a good genius

εὕρημα invention; windfall

ἐφευρίσκω come upon ~eureka

ἦμος when (ἦμος) ..., then (τῆμος)

θαλαμηπόλος (f) chamber slave ~thalamus

θαῦμα -τος (n, 3) a wonder, feeling of surprise ~theater

θέσφατος divinely ordained

ιός arrow

ιού cry of sorrow, joy, or surprise

ιστορέω inquire; relate

ιωή a rush, a sweep

καίπερ even if

κάρ -ός (n) useless bit; form of κατά

κάτοιδα understand

κατοικτίζω have mercy; (mp) lament

κλαίω weep

κλεινός famous

κολάζω punish

μακαρίζω congratulate ~macarism

μεριμνάω care for

μνήμη reminder, memorial

νομεύς -ος (m) shepherd, herder ~nemesis

οικήτης -ου (m, 1) household; house

slave

οἰκέω inhabit ~economics

οἶκοι at home ~economics

οἶμοι woe is me

ὄκνος shrinking, hesitation

ὄλβος happiness, wealth

ὄλεθρος ruin, destruction, death

ὀμιλέω (i) associate with ~homily

ὀφείλω owe, should, if only

πάλαι long ago ~paleo

πάλη wrestling ~Pallas

πάλλω shake, brandish ~Pallas

παράδειγμα -τος (n, 3) model, precedent

παραδέικνυμι (ō) receive, admit

παρθένος (f) girl, virgin ~Parthenon

πάρως before, in the past

πατρώιος of the father(s), ancestral ~paternal

πατρώος of the father(s), ancestral

πιστός faithful; trustworthy

πλησιάζω bring/be near; have sex

πόθεν from where?

ποίη grass

ποίμνη flock ~pastor

ποίμνιον flock

ποῖος what kind

πονέω work; be busy ~osteopenia

πόνος toil, suffering ~osteopenia

πότε when?

προέχω be ahead, jut forward; mid: have before one

προσχηγίζω require or desire besides

προσχηγίζω require or desire besides

πρόσχωρος neighboring

πύργος ramparts, tower; line of troops

σάφα with full understanding

σαφής clear, understandable

σίγα silently, whispering

σιγά silence

σιωπάω be silent

σταθμάομαι judge, conclude

στέγη roof, ceiling, chamber

συμπαίζω play with

συναγορεύω support

συναλλάσσω bring together, reconcile

συνέπομαι go along with ~sequel

τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent

τᾶν form of address

τάχα quickly, soon; perhaps

~tachometer

τάχος -ους (n, 3) speed ~tachometer

τελευταῖος last, final

τλήμων steadfast, enduring ~talent

τοῖνυν well, then

τοξεύω shoot an arrow at ~toxic

τοσόσδε this much

τριβή business; practical thing

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

φέως bush used to make brooms

φθίω cause to perish, wane; (of time) pass

φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics

χειμών -ος (m, 3) winter, storm

χρεία need, use

χρησιμῶδός chanting oracles

χώρος place ~heir

ὠνητός bought

εἴθ' ὁ Βακχεῖος θεὸς ναίων ἐπ' ἄκρων ὀρέων σ' εὖρημα¹ δέξατ' ἔκ του
Νυμφᾶν Ἑλικωνίδων, αἷς πλείστα συμπαῖζει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ. εἰ χρή τι καμὲ μὴ συναλλάξαντά πω, 1110
πρέσβεις, σταθμᾶσθαι,² τὸν βοτῆρ' ὁρᾶν δοκῶ,
ὄνπερ πάλαι ζητοῦμεν· ἔν τε γὰρ μακρῶ
γῆρα ξυνάδει τῷδε τάνδρῃ σύμμετρος,
ἄλλως τε τοὺς ἄγοντας ὥσπερ οἰκέτας
ἔγνωκ' ἔμαντοῦ· τῇ δ' ἐπιστήμῃ σύ μου 1115
προύχοις τάχ' ἂν που, τὸν βοτῆρ' ἰδὼν πάρος.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἔγνωκα γάρ, σάφ' ἴσθι· Λαῖου γὰρ ἦν
εἶπερ τις ἄλλος πιστὸς ὡς νομεὺς ἀνὴρ.

ΟΙ. σὲ πρῶτ' ἐρωτῶ, τὸν Κορίνθιον ξένον, ἧ τόνδε φράξεις;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ. τοῦτον, ὅνπερ εἰσορᾷς. 1120

ΟΙ. οὗτος σύ, πρέσβν, δευρό μοι φώνει βλέπων
ὅσ' ἂν σ' ἐρωτῶ. Λαῖου ποτ' ἦσθα σύ;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ. ἡ δοῦλος οὐκ ὠνητός,³ ἀλλ' οἴκοι τραφεῖς.

ΟΙ. ἔργον μερμινῶν ποῖον ἢ βίον τινά;

ΘΕ. ποίμναις⁴ τὰ πλείστα τοῦ βίου συνειπόμεν. 1125

ΟΙ. χώροις μάλιστα πρὸς τίσι ξύναυλος ὦν;

ΘΕ. ἦν μὲν Κιθαιρών, ἦν δὲ πρόσχωρος τόπος.

ΟΙ. τὸν ἄνδρα τόνδ' οὖν οἶσθα τῇδέ που μαθών;

ΘΕ. τί χρῆμα δρῶντα; ποῖον ἄνδρα καὶ λέγεις;

ΟΙ. τόνδ' ὃς πάρεστιν· ἡ ξυναλλάξας τί πω; 1130

ΘΕ. οὐχ ὥστε γ' εἰπεῖν ἐν τάχει μνήμης ἄπο.

ΑΓ. κοῦδέν γε θαῦμα, δέσποτ'· ἀλλ' ἐγὼ σαφῶς
ἀγνώτ' ἀναμνήσω νιν. εὖ γὰρ οἶδ' ὅτι

¹ invention; windfall ² judge, conclude ³ bought ⁴ flock

- κάτοιδεν, ἦμος τῷ Κιθαιρώνας τόπῳ,
 ὁ μὲν διπλοῖσι ποιμνίοις, ἐγὼ δ' ἐνί,
 ἐπλησίαζον⁵ τῷδε τάνδρῃ τρεῖς ὅλους
 ἕξ ἦρος εἰς ἀρκτοῦρον ἐκμήνους χρόνους·
 χειμῶνα δ' ἤδη τὰμά τ' εἰς ἔπαυλ' ἐγὼ
 ἤλαννον οὗτός τ' εἰς τὰ Λαΐου σταθμά.
 λέγω τι τούτων ἢ οὐ λέγω πεπραγμένον;
 ΘΕ. λέγεις ἀληθῆ, καίπερ ἐκ μακροῦ χρόνου.
 ΑΓ. φέρ' εἰπὲ νῦν, τότε οἶσθα παιδὰ μοί τινα
 δούς, ὡς ἔμαυτῷ θρέμματα θρῆψαίμην ἐγώ;
 ΘΕ. τί δ' ἔστι; πρὸς τί τοῦτο τοῦπος ἱστορεῖς;
 ΑΓ. ὅδ' ἐστίν, ὦ τᾶν, κείνος ὃς τότε ἦν νέος.
 ΘΕ. οὐκ εἰς ὄλεθρον; οὐ σιωπήσας ἔσει;
 ΟΙ. ἦ, ⁶ μὴ κόλαζε, πρέσβυ, τόνδ', ἐπεὶ τὰ σὰ
 δεῖται κολαστοῦ μᾶλλον ἢ τὰ τοῦδ' ἔπη.
 ΘΕ. τί δ', ὦ φέριστε δεσποτῶν, ἀμαρτάνω;
 ΟΙ. οὐκ ἐννέπων τὸν παῖδ' ὃν οὗτος ἱστορεῖ.
 ΘΕ. λέγει γὰρ εἰδὼς οὐδέν, ἀλλ' ἄλλως πονεῖ.
 ΟΙ. σὺ πρὸς χάριν μὲν οὐκ ἐρεῖς, κλαίων δ' ἐρεῖς.
 ΘΕ. μὴ δῆτα, πρὸς θεῶν, τὸν γέροντά μ' αἰκίσῃ.⁷
 ΟΙ. οὐχ ὡς τάχος τις τοῦδ' ἀποστρέψει χέρας;
 ΘΕ. δύστηνος, ἀντὶ τοῦ; τί προσχρῆζων μαθεῖν;
 ΟΙ. τὸν παῖδ' ἔδωκας τῷδ' ὃν οὗτος ἱστορεῖ;
 ΘΕ. ἔδωκ'· ὀλέσθαι δ' ὤφελον τῇδ' ἡμέρᾳ.
 ΟΙ. ἀλλ' εἰς τόδ' ἤξεις μὴ λέγων γε τοῦνδικον.
 ΘΕ. πολλῶ γε μᾶλλον, ἢν φράσω, διόλλυμαι.

⁵ bring/be near; have sex ⁶ ah! ⁷ disrespect, mutilate

- ΟΙ. ἀνὴρ ὄδ', ὡς ἔοικεν, ἐς τριβὰς ἐλᾷ. 1160
- ΘΕ. οὐ δῆτ' ἔγωγ', ἀλλ' εἶπον, ὡς δοίην, πάλαι.
- ΟΙ. πόθεν λαβών; οἰκείον ἢ ξ' ἄλλου τινός;
- ΘΕ. ἐμὸν μὲν οὐκ ἔγωγ', ἐδεξάμην δέ του.
- ΟΙ. τίνος πολιτῶν τῶνδε κακὰ ποίας στέγης;
- ΘΕ. μὴ πρὸς θεῶν, μή, δέσποθ', ἱστόρει πλέον. 1165
- ΟΙ. ὄλωλας, εἴ σε ταῦτ' ἐρήσομαι πάλιν.
- ΘΕ. τῶν Δαΐου τοίνυν τις ἦν γεννημάτων.
- ΟΙ. ἡ δοῦλος ἢ κείνου τις ἐγγενὴς γεγώς;
- ΘΕ. οἴμοι, πρὸς αὐτῷ γ' εἰμὶ τῷ δεινῷ λέγειν.
- ΟΙ. κ' ἄγωγ' ἀκούειν· ἀλλ' ὅμως ἀκουστέον. 1170
- ΘΕ. κείνου γέ τοι δὴ παῖς ἐκλήζεθ'· ἡ δ' ἔσω
κάλλιστ' ἂν εἴποι σὴ γυνὴ τάδ' ὡς ἔχει.
- ΟΙ. ἡ γὰρ δίδωσιν ἥδε σοι; ΘΕ. μάλιστ', ἄναξ.
- ΟΙ. ὡς πρὸς τί χρεῖας; ΘΕ. ὡς ἀναλώσαιμί νιν.
- ΟΙ. τεκοῦσα τλήμων; ΘΕ. θεσφάτων γ' ὄκνω⁸ κακῶν. 1175
- ΟΙ. ποίων; ΘΕ. κτενεῖν νιν τοὺς τεκόντας ἦν λόγος.
- ΟΙ. πῶς δῆτ' ἀφήκας τῷ γέροντι τῷδε σύ;
- ΘΕ. κατοικτίσας, ὦ δέσποθ', ὡς ἄλλην χθόνα
δοκῶν ἀποίσειν, αὐτὸς ἔνθεν ἦν· ὁ δὲ
κάκ' εἰς μέγιστ' ἔσωσεν. εἰ γὰρ οὗτος εἶ
ὅν φησιν οὗτος, ἴσθι δύσποτμος γεγώς. 1180
- ΟΙ. ἰὸν ἰού· τὰ πάντ' ἂν ἐξήκοι σαφῆ.
ὦ φῶς, τελευταῖόν σε προσβλέψαιμι νῦν,
ὅστις πέφασμαι φύς τ' ἀφ' ὧν οὐ χρῆν, ξὺν οἷς τ'
οὐ χρῆν ὀμιλῶν, οὓς τέ μ' οὐκ ἔδει κτανών. 1185

⁸ shrinking, hesitation

ΧΟ. ἰὼ γενεαὶ βροτῶν,

ὡς ὑμᾶς ἴσα καὶ τὸ μηδὲν ζώσας ἐναριθμῶ.

τίς γάρ, τίς ἀνὴρ πλέον

τᾶς εὐδαιμονίας φέρει

1190

ἢ τοσοῦτον ὅσον δοκεῖν

καὶ δόξαντ' ἀποκλῖναι;

τὸν σὸν τοι παράδειγμ' ἔχων,

τὸν σὸν δαίμονα, τὸν σὸν, ὦ τλαῖμον Οἰδιπόδα, βροτῶν

οὐδὲν μακαρίζω.⁹ ΧΟ. ὅστις καθ' ὑπερβολὰν

1195

τοξεύσας ἐκράτησε τοῦ πάντ' εὐδαιμόνος¹⁰ ὄλβου,

ὦ Ζεῦ, κατὰ μὲν φθίσας

τὰν γαμφώνυχα¹¹ παρθένον

χρησμοδόν,¹² θανάτων δ' ἐμᾶ

1200

χώρᾳ πύργος ἀνέστα· ἐξ οὗ καὶ βασιλεὺς καλεῖ

ἐμὸς καὶ τὰ μέγιστ' ἐτιμάθης, ταῖς μεγάλαισιν ἐν

Θήβαισιν ἀνάσσων.

ΧΟ. τανῦν δ' ἀκούειν τίς ἀθλιώτερος;

τίς ἄταις ἀγρίαις, τίς ἐν πόνοις

1205

ξύνουκος ἀλλαγᾶ βίου;

ἰὼ κλεινὸν Οἰδίπου κάρα,

ἢ στέγας λιμὴν αὐτὸς ἤρκεσεν

παιδὶ καὶ πατρὶ θαλαμηπόλῳ¹³ πεσεῖν;

πῶς ποτε πῶς ποθ' αἱ πατρῶαί σ' ἄλοκες φέρειν, τάλας,

1210

σίγ' ἐδυνάθησαν ἐς τοσόνδε;

ΧΟ. ἐφηγῇρε σ' ἄκονθ' ὁ πάνθ' ὁρῶν χρόνος,

δικάζει τ' ἄγαμον γάμον πάλαι

⁹ congratulate ¹⁰ blessed with a good genius ¹¹ with hooked talons
¹² chanting oracles ¹³ chamber slave

Did some Heliconian Oread give him thee, a new-born joy?

Nymphs with whom he love to toy?

OEDIPUS. Elders, if I, who never yet before

Have met the man, may make a guess, methinks

I see the herdsman who we long have sought;

His time-worn aspect matches with the years

Of yonder aged messenger; besides

I seem to recognize the men who bring him

As servants of my own. But you, perchance,

Having in past days known or seen the herd,

May better by sure knowledge my surmise.

CHORUS. I recognize him; one of Laius' house;

A simple hind, but true as any man.

Enter HERDSMAN.]

OEDIPUS. Corinthian, stranger, I address thee first,

Is this the man thou meanest!

MESSENGER. This is he.

OEDIPUS. And now old man, look up and answer all

I ask thee. Wast thou once of Laius' house?

HERDSMAN. I was, a thrall, not purchased but home-bred.

OEDIPUS. What was thy business? how wast thou employed?

HERDSMAN. The best part of my life I tended sheep.

OEDIPUS. What were the pastures thou didst most frequent?

HERDSMAN. Cithaeron and the neighboring alps.

OEDIPUS. Then there

Thou must have known yon man, at least by fame?

HERDSMAN. Yon man? in what way? what man dost thou mean?

OEDIPUS. The man here, having met him in past times...

HERDSMAN. Off-hand I cannot call him well to mind.

MESSENGER. No wonder, master. But I will revive

His blunted memories. Sure he can recall

What time together both we drove our flocks,

He two, I one, on the Cithaeron range,

For three long summers; I his mate from spring

Till rose Arcturus; then in winter time

I led mine home, he his to Laius' folds.

Did these things happen as I say, or no?

HERDSMAN. 'Tis long ago, but all thou say' st is true.

MESSENGER. Well, thou mast then remember giving me

A child to rear as my own foster-son?

HERDSMAN. Why dost thou ask this question? What of that?

MESSENGER. Friend, he that stands before thee was that child.

HERDSMAN. A plague upon thee! Hold thy wanton tongue!

OEDIPUS. Softly, old man, rebuke him not; thy words
Are more deserving chastisement than his.

HERDSMAN. O best of masters, what is my offense?

OEDIPUS. Not answering what he asks about the child.

HERDSMAN. He speaks at random, babbles like a fool.

OEDIPUS. If thou lack' st grace to speak, I' ll loose thy tongue.

HERDSMAN. For mercy' s sake abuse not an old man.

OEDIPUS. Arrest the villain, seize and pinion him!

HERDSMAN. Alack, alack!

What have I done? what wouldst thou further learn?

OEDIPUS. Didst give this man the child of whom he asks?

HERDSMAN. I did; and would that I had died that day!

OEDIPUS. And die thou shalt unless thou tell the truth.

HERDSMAN. But, if I tell it, I am doubly lost.

OEDIPUS. The knave methinks will still prevaricate.

HERDSMAN. Nay, I confessed I gave it long ago.

OEDIPUS. Whence came it? was it thine, or given to thee?

HERDSMAN. I had it from another, 'twas not mine.

OEDIPUS. From whom of these our townsmen, and what house?

HERDSMAN. Forbear for God' s sake, master, ask no more.

OEDIPUS. If I must question thee again, thou' rt lost.

HERDSMAN. Well then— it was a child of Laius' house.

OEDIPUS. Slave-born or one of Laius' own race?

HERDSMAN. Ah me!

I stand upon the perilous edge of speech.

OEDIPUS. And I of hearing, but I still must hear.

HERDSMAN. Know then the child was by repute his own,
But she within, thy consort best could tell.

OEDIPUS. What! she, she gave it thee?

HERDSMAN. 'Tis so, my king.

OEDIPUS. With what intent?

HERDSMAN. To make away with it.

OEDIPUS. What, she its mother.

HERDSMAN. Fearing a dread weird.

OEDIPUS. What weird?

HERDSMAN. 'Twas told that he should slay his sire.

OEDIPUS. What didst thou give it then to this old man?

HERDSMAN. Through pity, master, for the babe. I thought
He' d take it to the country whence he came;

But he preserved it for the worst of woes.

For if thou art in sooth what this man saith,

God pity thee! thou wast to misery born.

OEDIPUS. Ah me! ah me! all brought to pass, all true!

O light, may I behold thee nevermore!

I stand a wretch, in birth, in wedlock cursed,

A parricide, incestuously, triply cursed!

Exit OEDIPUS]

CHORUS. (Str. 1)

Races of mortal man

Whose life is but a span,

I count ye but the shadow of a shade!

For he who most doth know

Of bliss, hath but the show;

A moment, and the visions pale and fade.

Thy fall, O Oedipus, thy piteous fall

Warns me none born of women blest to call.(

Ant. 1)

For he of marksmen best,

O Zeus, outshot the rest,

And won the prize supreme of wealth and power.

By him the vulture maid

Was quelled, her witchery laid;

He rose our savior and the land' s strong tower.

We hailed thee king and from that day adored

Of mighty Thebes the universal lord.(

Str. 2)

O heavy hand of fate!

Who now more desolate,

Whose tale more sad than thine, whose lot more dire?

O Oedipus, discrowned head,

Thy cradle was thy marriage bed;

One harborage sufficed for son and sire.

How could the soil thy father eared so long

Endure to bear in silence such a wrong?(

Ant. 2)

All-seeing Time hath caught

Guilt, and to justice brought

The son and sire commingled in one bed.

vocabulary

ἀέθλιος prize ~athlete
 ἀέκων unwilling
 ἄθλιος wretched ~athlete
 ἄθρέω observe, gaze
 αἶσα -εως share, fate; properly, duly
 ~etiology
 αἰσχύνῃ (ῶ) shame, dishonor
 ἀκμή point, edge, top, culmination
 ~acute
 ἄκων javelin; unwilling ~acme
 ἀμφιδέξιος ambidextrous, two-sided
 ἀναπνέω catch one's breath ~apnea
 ἀνίημι urge, impel; release ~jet
 ἅπαξ once
 ἀποσπάω tear/drag away
 ἀποτρέπω divert from ~trophy
 ἀράζω snarl
 ἀράσσω smash
 ἀράω wear something out
 ἄρθρον joint
 ἄρουρα land ~arable
 ἄτα bewilderment, folly
 αὐδά voice, report ~Theravada
 αὐθαίρετος self-selected,
 self-incurred
 αὖ ignite; shout
 βλέφαρον eyelid
 βρυχάομαι (ῶ) roar
 γλήνη eyeball; doll
 γοάω weep, mourn
 δαίμων -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate,
 doom ~demon
 δεῖξις proof, display
 διπλός double, overlapping
 δράω do, accomplish
 δύστηνος unhappy, miserable
 ἐγγενής native, kindred; innate
 ἐγγύθεν near
 εἴθε if only
 εἶμα -τος (n, 3) garment ~vest
 εἵπερ if indeed

εἰσδίδωμι flow in, hand in
 εἰσδύω take part in
 εἰσείδω look at, behold ~wit
 εἰσοράω look at, see; treat with
 respect ~panorama
 ἐκών willingly, on purpose; giving
 in too easily
 ἐμπίπτω fall into; attack ~petal
 ἐμπλέκω braid, tangle
 ἔνειμι be in ~ion
 ἐνθένδε hence
 ἐντρέπω heed ~trophy
 ἐξαιτέω demand ~etiology
 ἐξάλλομαι break away from ~sally
 ἐπαεῖδω sing with, to; charm
 ἐπαίρω lift, raise ~heresy
 ἐπιπέλομαι (time) come around
 ἔραμαι love, aor. fall in love; long
 for, covet ~erotic
 θαῦμα -τος (n, 3) a wonder, feeling
 of surprise ~theater
 θέαμα -τος (ᾱ, n, 3) sight, spectacle
 ἰός arrow
 ἰς ἰνός (i, f) force, muscle
 ἰωή a rush, a sweep
 καθαριμός cleansing, purification
 κάρ -ός (n) useless bit; form of κατά
 κέντρον goading rod?
 κεῦθος -εος (n, 3) lower region
 ~cuticle
 κεύθω cover, hide ~cuticle
 κιχάνω (ᾱ) catch up with, encounter,
 reach; catch, grip, hit, afflict ~go
 κλίνω (i) lean, recline ~incline
 κοῖλος hollow ~hollow
 κόμη hair ~comet
 κύκλος circle, wheel ~cycle
 λεύσσω see, look
 λυπέω (ῶ) annoy, distress
 μανία madness, passion
 μῆποτε absolutely never
 μητρῶος maternal

μνήμη reminder, memorial
 νέφος -εος (n, 3) cloud ~nebula
 νίζω wash
 νίφω (ι) it snows
 νόσημα -τος (n, 3) disease
 νυμφικός bridal
 οἶμοι woe is me
 ὄλβος happiness, wealth
 ὄμβρος storm
 ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye
 ὁμός same ~homoerotic
 ὁμοῦ together
 ὁμόω unite ~homoerotic
 ὅποῖος whatever kind
 ὄψις ὄψεως (f) sight, view
 ~thanatopsis
 πάθημα -τος (n, 3) suffering,
 condition
 πάθος -ους (n, 3) an experience,
 passion, condition
 παίζω play ~pediatrician
 παίω hit
 πάλαι long ago ~paleo
 πάλη wrestling ~Pallas
 πάλλω shake, brandish ~Pallas
 πάροιθε in the presence of
 πενθέω grieve ~Nepenthe
 πένθος -εος (n, 3) grief, misfortune
 ~Nepenthe
 περιπολέω wander, go around
 περονάω pierce, transfix; mp: fasten
 ~pierce

περόνη nail, pin, clasp; cleat; fibula
 ~pierce
 πηδάω jump, spring ~pedal
 ποῖ whither? how long?
 πόρω aor. give, pf. be fated
 προσβαίνω proceed; step on ~basis
 πυθμῆν -ένος (m, 3) base, bottom
 ῥήγνυμι (ῥ) to break
 ῥητός stated, agreed on ~rhetoric
 ῥίπτω hurl
 ῥώμη strength, might
 σταγών -τος (f, 3) drop
 στέγη roof, ceiling, chamber
 στυγέω dread, shrink from ~Styx
 συμμιγής mingled
 σχολή rest, leisure
 τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent
 τέγγω moisten; soften
 τέλλω direct ~teleology
 τλήμων steadfast, enduring ~talent
 τοσόσδε this much
 φέως bush used to make brooms
 φθογγή voice, cry ~diphthong
 φοίνιος red
 φοιτάω go back and forth
 φοράδην carried
 φορέω frequentative of φέρω, to
 carry ~bear
 φρίκη (ι) shivering
 χάλαζα hail
 χαλάω let fall; become slack
 χροῖζω need ~chresard

τεκνοῦντα καὶ τεκνούμενον. 1215

ἰώ, Λαΐειον ὦ τέκνον,

εἴθε σ' εἴθε σε μήποτ' εἰδόμαν.

δύρομαι γὰρ ὥσπερ ἰάλεμον χέων

ἐκ στομάτων. τὸ δ' ὀρθὸν εἰπεῖν, ἀνέπνευσά τ' ἐκ

σέθεν καὶ κατεκοίμασα τοῦμὸν ὄμμα. 1220

ΕΞΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ. ὦ γῆς μέγιστα τῆσδ' ἀεὶ τιμώμενοι,

οἶ', ἔργ' ἀκούσεσθ', οἷα δ' εἰσόψεσθ', ὅσον δ'

ἀρεῖσθε πένθος, εἴπερ ἐγγενῶς ἔτι 1225

τῶν Λαβδακείων ἐντρέπεσθε δωμάτων.

οἶμαι γὰρ οὐτ' ἂν Ἰστρον οὔτε Φᾶσιν ἂν

νύφαι καθαρυῶ τήνδε τὴν στέγην, ὅσα

κεύθει, τὰ δ' αὐτίκ' εἰς τὸ φῶς φανεῖ κακὰ

ἐκόντα κοῦκ ἄκοντα. τῶν δὲ πημονῶν 1230

μάλιστα λυποῦσ' αἱ φανῶσ' ἀνθαίρετοι.¹

ΧΟΡΟΣ. λείπει μὲν οὐδ' ἂ πρόσθεν εἶδομεν τὸ μὴ οὐ

βαρύστον' εἶναι· πρὸς δ' ἐκείνοισιν τί φής;

ΕΞ. ὁ μὲν τάχιστος τῶν λόγων εἰπεῖν τε καὶ

μαθεῖν, τέθνηκε θεῖον Ἰοκάστης κάρα. 1235

ΧΟ. ὦ δυστάλαινα, πρὸς τίνος ποτ' αἰτίας;

ΕΞ. αὐτὴ πρὸς αὐτῆς. τῶν δὲ πραχθέντων τὰ μὲν

ἄλγιστ' ἄπεστιν· ἡ γὰρ ὄψις οὐ πάρα.

ὅμως δ', ὅσον γε κὰν ἐμοὶ μνήμης ἔνι,

πέυσει τὰ κείνης ἀθλίας παθήματα.² 1240

ὅπως γὰρ ὀργῇ χρωμένη παρήλθ' ἔσω

θυρῶνος, ἔετ' εὐθὺ πρὸς τὰ νυμφικὰ³

¹ self-selected, self-incurred ² suffering, condition ³ bridal

λέχη, κόμην σπῶσ' ἀμφιδεξίοις ἀκμαῖς.
 πύλας δ', ὅπως εἰσῆλθ', ἐπιρράξας' ἔσω
 καλεῖ τὸν ἤδη Λαῖον πάλαι νεκρόν, 1245
 μνήμην παλαιῶν σπερμάτων ἔχουσ', ὑφ' ὧν
 θάνοι μὲν αὐτός, τὴν δὲ τίκτουσαν λίποι
 τοῖς οἷσιν αὐτοῦ δύστεκνον παιδουργίαν.
 γοᾶτο δ' εὐνάς, ἔνθα δύστηνος διπλοῦς
 ἐξ ἀνδρὸς ἄνδρα καὶ τέκν' ἐκ τέκνων τέκοι. 1250
 χῶπως μὲν ἐκ τῶνδ' οὐκέτ' οἶδ' ἀπόλλυται·
 βοῶν γὰρ εἰσέπαισεν Οἰδίπους, ὑφ' οὗ
 οὐκ ἦν τὸ κείνης ἐκθεάσασθαι κακόν,
 ἀλλ' εἰς ἐκείνον περιπολοῦντ' ἐλεύσομεν.
 φοιτᾷ γὰρ ἡμᾶς ἔγχος ἔξαιτῶν πορεῖν, 1255
 γυναικά τ' οὐ γυναικα, μητρῶαν δ' ὅπου
 κίχοι διπλὴν ἄρουραν οὗ τε καὶ τέκνων.
 λυσσῶντι δ' αὐτῷ δαιμόνων δείκνυσί τις·
 οὐδεὶς γὰρ ἀνδρῶν, οἱ παρῆμεν ἐγγύθεν.
 δεινὸν δ' αὔσας ὡς ὑφήγητοῦ τινος 1260
 πύλαις διπλαῖς ἐνήλατ', ἐκ δὲ πυθμένων⁴
 ἔκλινε κοῖλα κλῆθρα κάμπιπτει στέγη.
 οὗ δὴ κρεμαστὴν τὴν γυναικ' ἐσεῖδομεν,
 πλεκταῖσιν αἰώραισιν ἐμπεπλεγμένην.
 ὁ δ' ὡς ὀρᾷ νιν, δεινὰ βρυχηθεῖς⁵ τάλας 1265
 χαλᾷ κρεμαστὴν ἀρτάνην. ἐπεὶ δὲ γῇ
 ἔκειτο τλήμων, δεινὰ δ' ἦν τάνθένδ' ὀρᾷν.
 ἀποσπάσας γὰρ εἰμάτων χρυσηλάτους

⁴ base, bottom ⁵ roar

περόνας ἀπ' αὐτῆς, αἷσιν ἐξεστέλλετο,
 ἄρας ἔπαισεν ἄρθρα τῶν αὐτοῦ κύκλων, 1270

αὐδῶν τοιαῦθ', ὀθούνεκ' οὐκ ὄψοιντό νιν
 οὔθ' οἷ' ἔπασχεν οὔθ' ὅποι' ἔδρα κακά,
 ἀλλ' ἐν σκότῳ τὸ λοιπὸν οὓς μὲν οὐκ ἔδει
 ὀψοίαθ', οὓς δ' ἔχρηζεν οὐ γνωσοίατο.

τοιαῦτ' ἐφυμνῶν πολλάκις τε κοῦχ' ἄπαξ 1275

ἦρασ' ἐπαίρων βλέφαρα. φοίνιαι⁶ δ' ὁμοῦ
 γλῆναι⁷ γένει' ἔτελλον,⁸ οὐδ' ἀνίεσαν
 φόνου μυδώσας σταγόνας,⁹ ἀλλ' ὁμοῦ μέλας
 ὄμβρος χαλάζης¹⁰ αἵματοῦς ἐτέγγετο.¹¹ τὰδ' ἐκ δυοῖν ἔρρωγεν, οὐ
 μόνου κάτα,

ἀλλ' ἀνδρὶ καὶ γυναικὶ συμμιγῇ κακά. 1280

ὁ πρὶν παλαιὸς δ' ὄλβος ἦν πάροιθε μὲν
 ὄλβος δικαίως· νῦν δὲ τῇδε θῆμέρα
 στεναγμός, ἄτη, θάνατος, αἰσχύνη,¹² κακῶν
 ὅσ' ἐστὶ πάντων ὀνόματ', οὐδέν ἐστ' ἀπόν.

ΧΘ. νῦν δ' ἔσθ' ὁ τλήμων ἐν τίνι σχολῇ¹³ κακοῦ; 1285

ΕΞ. βοᾷ διοίγειν κληῖθρα καὶ δηλοῦν τινα

τοῖς πᾶσι Καδμείοισι τὸν πατροκτόνον,
 τὸν μητέρ'— αὐδῶν ἀνόσι' οὐδὲ ρήτά μοι,
 ὥς ἐκ χθονὸς ῥύψων ἑαυτὸν οὐδ' ἔτι 1290
 μενῶν δόμοις ἀραῖος, ὥς ἠράσατο.

ρώμης γε μέντοι καὶ προσηγητοῦ τινος
 δεῖται· τὸ γὰρ νόσημα¹⁴ μεῖζον ἢ φέρειν.
 δείξει δὲ καὶ σοί· κληῖθρα γὰρ πυλῶν τάδε

⁶ red ⁷ eyeball; doll ⁸ direct ⁹ drop ¹⁰ hail ¹¹ moisten; soften
¹² shame, dishonor ¹³ rest, leisure ¹⁴ disease

διοίγεται· θέαμα¹⁵ δ' εἰσόψει τάχα 1295

τοιούτον οἶον καὶ στυγούντ' ἐποικτίσαι.

ΧΟ. ὦ δεινὸν ἰδεῖν πάθος ἀνθρώποις,

ὦ δεινότατον πάντων ὅσ' ἐγὼ

προσέκυρσ' ἤδη. τίς σ', ὦ τλήμων,

προσέβη μανία; τίς ὁ πηδήσας¹⁶ 1300

μείζονα δαίμων τῶν μακίστων

πρὸς σῇ δυσδαίμονι μοίρα; φεῦ φεῦ, δύσταν·

ἀλλ' οὐδ' ἐσιδεῖν δύναμαί σε, θέλων

πόλλ' ἀνερέσθαι, πολλὰ πυθέσθαι, 1305

πολλὰ δ' ἀθρήσαι.¹⁷

τοίαν φρίκην¹⁸ παρέχεις μοι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ. αἰαῖ αἰαῖ, δύστανος ἐγώ,

ποι¹⁹ γὰρ φέρομαι τλάμων; πᾶ μοι

φθογγὰ²⁰ διαπωτᾶται φοράδην;²¹ 1310

ὦ δαῖμον, ἦν' ἐξήλλον.

ΧΟ. ἐς δεινὸν οὐδ' ἀκουστὸν οὐδ' ἐπόψιμον.

ΟΙ. ὦ σκότου

νέφος ἐμὸν ἀπότροπον, ἐπιπλόμενον ἄφατον,

ἀδάματόν τε καὶ δυσούριστον ὄν. οἴμοι, 1315

οἴμοι μάλ' αἰθις· οἶον εἰσέδν μ' ἄμα

κέντρων τε τῶνδ' οἷστρον καὶ μνήμη κακῶν.

ΧΟ. καὶ θαυμά γ' οὐδὲν ἐν τοσοῖσδε πήμασιν

διπλᾶ σε πενθεῖν²² καὶ διπλᾶ φορεῖν κακά. 1320

ΟΙ. ὦ φίλος,

¹⁵ sight, spectacle ¹⁶ jump, spring ¹⁷ observe, gaze ¹⁸ shivering
¹⁹ whither? how long? ²⁰ voice, cry ²¹ carried ²² grieve

O child of Laius' ill-starred race
Would I had ne'er beheld thy face;
I raise for thee a dirge as o'er the dead.
Yet, sooth to say, through thee I drew new breath,
And now through thee I feel a second death.

Enter SECOND MESSENGER.]

SECOND MESSENGER. Most grave and reverend senators of Thebes,
What Deeds ye soon must hear, what sights behold
How will ye mourn, if, true-born patriots,
Ye reverence still the race of Labdacus!
Not Ister nor all Phasis' flood, I ween,
Could wash away the blood-stains from this house,
The ills it shrouds or soon will bring to light,
Ills wrought of malice, not unwittingly.
The worst to bear are self-inflicted wounds.

CHORUS. Grievous enough for all our tears and groans
Our past calamities; what canst thou add?

SECOND MESSENGER. My tale is quickly told and quickly heard.
Our sovereign lady queen Jocasta's dead.

CHORUS. Alas, poor queen! how came she by her death?

SECOND MESSENGER. By her own hand. And all the horror of it,
Not having seen, yet cannot comprehend.

Nathless, as far as my poor memory serves,
I will relate the unhappy lady's woe.
When in her frenzy she had passed inside
The vestibule, she hurried straight to win
The bridal-chamber, clutching at her hair
With both her hands, and, once within the room,
She shut the doors behind her with a crash.
"Laius," she cried, and called her husband dead
Long, long ago; her thought was of that child
By him begot, the son by whom the sire
Was murdered and the mother left to breed
With her own seed, a monstrous progeny.
Then she bewailed the marriage bed whereon
Poor wretch, she had conceived a double brood,
Husband by husband, children by her child.
What happened after that I cannot tell,
Nor how the end befell, for with a shriek
Burst on us Oedipus; all eyes were fixed
On Oedipus, as up and down he strode,
Nor could we mark her agony to the end.

For stalking to and fro "A sword!" he cried,
 "Where is the wife, no wife, the teeming womb
 That bore a double harvest, me and mine?"
 And in his frenzy some supernal power(
 No mortal, surely, none of us who watched him)
 Guided his footsteps; with a terrible shriek,
 As though one beckoned him, he crashed against
 The folding doors, and from their staples forced
 The wrenched bolts and hurled himself within.
 Then we beheld the woman hanging there,
 A running noose entwined about her neck.
 But when he saw her, with a maddened roar
 He loosed the cord; and when her wretched corpse
 Lay stretched on earth, what followed— O 'twas dread!
 He tore the golden brooches that upheld
 Her queenly robes, upraised them high and smote
 Full on his eye-balls, uttering words like these:
 "No more shall ye behold such sights of woe,
 Deeds I have suffered and myself have wrought;
 Henceforward quenched in darkness shall ye see
 Those ye should ne'er have seen; now blind to those
 Whom, when I saw, I vainly yearned to know."
 Such was the burden of his moan, whereto,
 Not once but oft, he struck with his hand uplift
 His eyes, and at each stroke the ensanguined orbs
 Bedewed his beard, not oozing drop by drop,
 But one black gory downpour, thick as hail.
 Such evils, issuing from the double source,
 Have whelmed them both, confounding man and wife.
 Till now the storied fortune of this house
 Was fortunate indeed; but from this day
 Woe, lamentation, ruin, death, disgrace,
 All ills that can be named, all, all are theirs.
 CHORUS. But hath he still no respite from his pain?
 SECOND MESSENGER. He cries, "Unbar the doors and let all Thebes
 Behold the slayer of his sire, his mother' s—"
 That shameful word my lips may not repeat.
 He vows to fly self-banished from the land,
 Nor stay to bring upon his house the curse
 Himself had uttered; but he has no strength
 Nor one to guide him, and his torture' s more
 Than man can suffer, as yourselves will see.

For lo, the palace portals are unbarred,
And soon ye shall behold a sight so sad
That he who must abhorred would pity it.

Enter OEDIPUS blinded.]

CHORUS. Woeful sight! more woeful none
These sad eyes have looked upon.
Whence this madness? None can tell
Who did cast on thee his spell,
prowling all thy life around,
Leaping with a demon bound.
Hapless wretch! how can I brook
On thy misery to look?
Though to gaze on thee I yearn,
Much to question, much to learn,
Horror-struck away I turn.

OEDIPUS. Ah me! ah woe is me!

Ah whither am I borne!

How like a ghost forlorn

My voice flits from me on the air!

On, on the demon goads. The end, ah where?

CHORUS. An end too dread to tell, too dark to see.

OEDIPUS. (Str. 1)

Dark, dark! The horror of darkness, like a shroud,
Wraps me and bears me on through mist and cloud.

Ah me, ah me! What spasms athwart me shoot,

What pangs of agonizing memory?

CHORUS. No marvel if in such a plight thou feel' st
The double weight of past and present woes.

OEDIPUS. (Ant. 1)

vocabulary

ἄγαλμα -τος (n, 3) ornament, glory, statue
ἄγος ἄγους (n, 3) religious uncleanness
ἄγριος wild, savage ~agriculture
ἄεθλιον ἀθλίου prize
ἄεθλιος prize ~athlete
ἄθεος godless; by the gods
ἄθλιος wretched ~athlete
αἰδέομαι respect, be ashamed
αἰσχρός shameful
ἀναγιγνώσκω recognize, read, understand, persuade
ἀνασώζω rescue, recover
ἀνέζω put on, put back ~sit
ἄνειμι go up, inland, to, back ~ion
ἀνίημι urge, impel; release ~jet
ἀνόσιος unholy
ἀπάγω lead away, back ~demagogue
ἀποδείκνυμι (ὁ) show, point out; appoint; (mid) declare
ἀποκλείω shut out; (+acc) close
ἀποσπάω tear/drag away
ἀποστερέω despoil, defraud
ἀσεβής profane
αὐδά voice, report ~Theravada
αὐδάω speak, declare, shout ~Theravada
αὐτόχειρ with one's own hand
βλαστάνω bud, sprout
βλώσκω come, go
βόσκω feed, tend ~bovine
γάμος wedding, sex ~bigamy
γλυκύς sweet, pleasant ~glycerine
γοῦν at least then
δαίμων -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate, doom ~demon
δείλαιος wretched
δέμας -ως (n) body; (+gen.) like
δεῦρο here, come here!

δῆτα emphatic δή
δράω do, accomplish
δρυμός (ὁ) thickets, a bunch ~druid
ἐγγενής native, kindred; innate
ἐγγίγνομαι live in, grow in ~genus
εἰσοράω look at, see; treat with respect ~panorama
εἶτα then, therefore, next
ἐκγίγνομαι be born; be by birth ~genus
ἐκδιδάσκω teach, explain
ἐκτείνω stretch out ~tend
ἐκτρέφω raise, rear
ἐνθεν thence, whence
ἐντίθημι load; mp: take to heart ~thesis
ἐπαιίδω sing with, to; charm
ἐπαιέρω raise, place on ~aorta
ἐπαίρω lift, raise ~heresy
ἐπαιτέω ask as well ~etiology
ἐπέρομαι ask as well; ask then
ἐπιδείκνυμι (ὁ) display, exhibit
ἔρπω be able to move ~serpent
εὐσεβής pious
ἐφευρίσκω come upon ~eureka
ἥκιστος least; above all
θαλάσσιος marine, maritime
θιγγάνω touch
ιός arrow
ιωή a rush, a sweep
καίπερ even if
κάλλος -εος (n, 3) beauty ~kaleidoscope
καταισχύνω (ὁ) act disgracefully
κατάρατος (ααᾶ) accursed
κέλευθος (f) way, path
κρείσσω more powerful; better
κρύπτω hide, cover ~cryptic
λαγχάνω be allotted; (esp. λελα- forms) allot; receive
λιπαρέω (ι) persist
μαραίνω extinguish ~amaranth

μηκέτι no more
 μηνύω disclose, betray, accuse
 μήποτε absolutely never
 μολίσκω come, go
 νάπη valley
 νάπος -εος (n, 3) gully
 νύμφα nymph; bride
 νυμφίος bridegroom
 οἴμοι woe is me
 ὀλέθριος ruinous, deadly
 ὄμβρος storm
 ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye
 ὀνειδίζω upbraid, reproach
 ὅποῖος whatever kind
 ὅπόσος as many as, how many, how great
 ὀρθόω stand up
 οὔκουν certainly not
 οὖς οὔατος (n) ear
 οὔτις nobody, nothing
 ὄψις ὄψεως (f) sight, view
 ~thanatopsis
 πάθος -ους (n, 3) an experience, passion, condition
 παίζω play ~pediatrician
 παίω hit
 παλαιός old ~paleo
 πάρος before, in the past
 πάτριος of the father(s), ancestral
 πεδάω impede, chain ~impede
 πέδη shackles ~pedal
 πηγὴ headwaters, fountain
 πηγός stout, mighty
 πότε when?
 προσδέχομαι await, expect; suppose

πρόσσιδα (+χάριν) be grateful besides
 προσοράω look at
 πύργος ramparts, tower; line of troops
 ῥίπτω hurl
 σκοτεινός dark
 στενωπός narrow, strait
 συμβουλευώ give advice; (mid) consult ~volunteer
 συμφορά collecting; accident, misfortune
 τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent
 τλάω take upon oneself ~talent
 τοιόσδε such
 τοσόσδε this much
 τριπλός threefold ~three
 τυφλός blind
 ὑπομένω stay behind, await ~remain
 ὕπουλος festering
 φάος φῶς (n, 3) light; salvation; (pl) eyes ~photon
 φέως bush used to make brooms
 φλόξ -γός (f) flame ~flame
 φόα pustule
 φονεύς -ως (m) killer ~offend
 φονεύω kill
 φροντίς -τος (f) thought, care
 φύλαξ -κος (m) guard; sentry ~phylactery
 φυτεύω plant, grow, cause, prepare ~physics
 φύω produce, beget; clasp ~physics
 ὠθέω push

σὺ μὲν ἐμὸς ἐπίπολος ἔτι μόνιμος· ἔτι γὰρ
 ὑπομένεις με τὸν τυφλὸν κηδεύων. φεῦ φεῦ.
 οὐ γάρ με λήθεις, ἀλλὰ γινώσκω σαφῶς,
 καίπερ σκοτεινός,¹ τήν γε σὴν αὐδὴν ὅμως.

1325

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ὦ δεινὰ δράσας, πῶς ἔτλης τοιαῦτα σὰς
 ὄψεις μαρᾶναι;² τίς σ' ἐπήρε δαιμόνων;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ. Ἀπόλλων τάδ' ἦν, Ἀπόλλων, φίλοι,
 ὁ κακὰ κακὰ τελῶν ἐμὰ τάδ' ἐμὰ πάθεα.

1330

ἔπαισε δ' αὐτόχειρ³ νιν οὔτις, ἀλλ' ἐγὼ τλάμων.
 τί γὰρ ἔδει μ' ὀρᾶν,
 ὅτῳ γ' ὀρώντι μηδὲν ἦν ἰδεῖν γλυκύ;

1335

ΧΟ. ἦν τᾷδ' ὅπωςπερ καὶ σύ φής.

ΟΙ. τί δῆτ' ἐμοὶ βλεπτὸν ἢ
 στερκτὸν ἢ προσήγορον
 ἔτ' ἔστ' ἀκούειν ἡδονᾶ φίλοι;
 ἀπάγετ' ἐκτόπιον ὃ τι τάχιστα με,
 ἀπάγετ', ὦ φίλοι, τὸν μέγ' ὀλέθριον⁴
 τὸν καταρατότατον, ἔτι δὲ καὶ θεοῖς
 ἐχθρότατον βροτῶν.

1345

ΧΟ. δειλαίε⁵ τοῦ νοῦ τῆς τε συμφορᾶς ἴσον,
 ὡς σ' ἠθέλησα μηδέ γ' ἂν γινῶναί ποτε.

ΟΙ. ὅλοιθ' ὅστις ἦν, ὅς ἀγρίας πέδας
 μονάδ' ἐπιποδίας ἔλυσ' μ' ἀπό τε φόνου
 ἔρυστο κἀνέσωσεν, οὐδὲν εἰς χάριν πράσσω.
 τότε γὰρ ἂν θανόν
 οὐκ ἦ φίλοισιν οὐδ' ἐμοὶ τοσονδ' ἄχος.

1355

¹ dark ² extinguish ³ with one's own hand ⁴ ruinous, deadly
⁵ wretched

ΧΘ. θέλοντι κάμοι τοῦτ' ἂν ᾦν.

ΟΙ. οὐκουν πατρός γ' ἂν φονεὺς

ἦλθον οὐδὲ νυμφίος

βροτοῖς ἐκλήθην ὦν ἔφυν ἄπο.

νῦν δ' ἄθεος μέν ἐμ', ἀνοσίων δὲ παῖς, 1360

ὁμολεχῆς δ' ἀφ' ὧν αὐτὸς ἔφυν τάλας.

εἰ δέ τι πρεσβύτερον ἔτι κακοῦ κακόν, 1365

τοῦτ' ἔλαχ' Οἰδίπους.

ΧΘ. οὐκ οἶδ' ὅπως σε φῶ βεβουλεῦσθαι καλῶς·

κρείσσων γὰρ ἦσθα μηκέτ' ὦν ἢ ζῶν τυφλός.

ΟΙ. ὥς μὲν τάδ' οὐχ ᾧδ' ἔστ' ἄριστ' εἰργασμένα,

μή μ' ἐκδίδασκε, μηδὲ συμβούλευ' ἔτι. 1370

ἐγὼ γὰρ οὐκ οἶδ' ὅμμασιν ποίοις βλέπων

πατέρα ποτ' ἂν προσεῖδον εἰς Ἄιδου μολῶν

οὐδ' αὖ τάλαιναν μητέρ', οἷν ἐμοὶ δυοῖν

ἔργ' ἐστὶ κρείσσον' ἀγχόνης εἰργασμένα.

ἀλλ' ἢ τέκνων δῆτ' οἷσις ἦν ἐφίμερος, 1375

βλαστοῦς' ὅπως ἔβλαστε,⁶ προσλεύσσειν ἐμοί;

οὐ δῆτα τοῖς γ' ἐμοῖσιν ὀφθαλμοῖς ποτε·

οὐδ' ἄστν γ' οὐδὲ πύργος οὐδὲ δαιμόνων

ἀγάλαμθ'⁷ ἱερά, τῶν ὁ παντλήμων ἐγὼ

κάλλιστ' ἀνῆρ εἷς ἔν γε ταῖς Θήβαις τραφεῖς 1380

ἀπεστέρησ' ἐμαντόν, αὐτὸς ἐννέπων

ὠθεῖν ἅπαντας τὸν ἀσεβῆ, τὸν ἐκ θεῶν

φανέντ' ἀναγνον καὶ γένους τοῦ Λαΐου.

τοιάνδ' ἐγὼ κηλῖδα μηνύσας⁸ ἐμὴν

⁶ bud, sprout ⁷ ornament, glory, statue ⁸ disclose, betray, accuse

ὀρθοῖς ἔμελλον ὄμμασιν τούτους ὀρᾶν; 1385
 ἥκιστα γ'· ἀλλ' εἰ τῆς ἀκουούσης ἔτ' ἦν
 πηγῆς δι' ὧτων φραγμός, οὐκ ἂν ἐσχόμην
 τὸ μὴ ἀποκλῆσαι τοῦμόν ἄθλιον δέμας,
 ἦν' ἢ τυφλός τε καὶ κλύων μηδέν· τὸ γὰρ
 τὴν φροντίδ'⁹ ἕξω τῶν κακῶν οἰκεῖν γλυκύ. 1390
 ἰὼ Κιθαιρών, τί μ' ἐδέχου; τί μ' οὐ λαβὼν
 ἔκτεινας εὐθύς, ὥς ἔδειξα μήποτε
 ἐμαυτὸν ἀνθρώποισιν ἔνθεν ἢ γεγώς;
 ὦ Πόλυβε καὶ Κόρωνθε καὶ τὰ πάτρια
 λόγῳ παλαιὰ δώμαθ', οἶον ἄρά με 1395
 κάλλος κακῶν ὑπουλον ἐξεθρέψατε·
 νῦν γὰρ κακός τ' ὢν κακ κακῶν εὐρίσκομαι.
 ὦ τρεῖς κέλευθοι καὶ κεκρυμμένη νάπη
 δρυμός¹⁰ τε καὶ στενωπός¹¹ ἐν τριπλαῖς ὁδοῖς,
 αἱ τοῦμόν αἶμα τῶν ἐμῶν χειρῶν ἄπο 1400
 ἐπίετε πατρός, ἄρά μου μέμνησθ' ἔτι
 οἷ' ἔργα δράσας ὑμῖν εἶτα δεῦρ' ἰὼν
 ὅποῖ' ἔπρασσον αὐθις; ᾧ γάμοι γάμοι,
 ἐφύσαθ' ἡμᾶς, καὶ φυτεύσαντες πάλιν
 ἀνεῖτε ταυτοῦ σπέρμα, καπεδείξατε 1405
 πατέρας, ἀδελφούς, παῖδας, αἶμ' ἐμφύλιον,
 νύμφας, γυναῖκας μητέρας τε, χῶπόσα
 αἴσχιστ' ἐν ἀνθρώποισιν ἔργα γίνεται.
 ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ αὐδᾶν ἔσθ' ἂ μηδὲ δρᾶν καλόν,
 ὅπως τάχιστα πρὸς θεῶν ἕξω μέ που 1410

⁹ thought, care ¹⁰ thickets, a bunch ¹¹ narrow, strait

καλύψατ' ἢ φονεύσατ' ἢ θαλάσσιον¹²

ἐκρίψατ', ἔνθα μήποτ' εἰσόψεσθ' ἔτι.

ἴτ', ἀξιώσατ' ἀνδρὸς ἀθλίου θιγεῖν.

πίθεσθε, μὴ δείσητε· τὰμὰ γὰρ κακὰ

οὐδεὶς οἶός τε πλὴν ἐμοῦ φέρειν βροτῶν.

1415

ΧΟ. ἀλλ' ὦν ἐπαιτεῖς εἰς δέον πάρεσθ' ὅδε

Κρέων τὸ πράσσειν καὶ τὸ βουλευεῖν, ἐπεὶ

χώρας λέλειπται μῦνος ἀντὶ σοῦ φύλαξ.

ΟΙ. οἴμοι, τί δῆτα λέξομεν πρὸς τόνδ' ἔπος;

τίς μοι φανέεται πίστις ἔνδικος; τὰ γὰρ

πάρος πρὸς αὐτὸν πάντ' ἐφεύρημαι κακός.

1420

ΚΡΕΩΝ. οὐχ ὡς γελαστής, Οἰδίπους, ἐλήλυθα,

οὐδ' ὡς ὀνειδιῶν τι τῶν πάρος κακῶν.

ἀλλ' εἰ τὰ θνητῶν μὴ καταισχύνεσθ' ἔτι

γένεθλα, τὴν γοῦν πάντα βόσκουσιν φλόγα

αἰδεῖσθ' ἄνακτος Ἥλιου, τοιόνδ' ἄγος¹³

ἀκάλυπτον οὕτω δεικνύναι, τὸ μήτε γῇ

μήτ' ὄμβρος ἱερὸς μήτε φῶς προσδέξεται.

ἀλλ' ὡς τάχιστ' ἐς οἶκον ἐσκομίζετε·

τοῖς ἐν γένει γὰρ τὰγγενῇ μάλισθ' ὀράν

μόνοις τ' ἀκούειν εὐσεβῶς¹⁴ ἔχει κακά.

1425

1430

ΟΙ. πρὸς θεῶν, ἐπέπερ ἐλπίδος μ' ἀπέσπασας,

ἄριστος ἐλθὼν πρὸς κάκιστον ἄνδρ' ἐμέ,

πιθοῦ τί μοι· πρὸς σοῦ γὰρ οὐδ' ἐμοῦ φράσω.

ΚΡ. καὶ τοῦ με χρειᾶς ὧδε λιπαρεῖς τυχεῖν;

1435

ΟΙ. ῥύψόν με γῆς ἐκ τῆσδ' ὅσον τάχισθ', ὅπου

¹² marine, maritime ¹³ religious uncleanness ¹⁴ pious

Ah friend, still loyal, constant still and kind,
Thou carest for the blind.

I know thee near, and though bereft of eyes,
Thy voice I recognize.

CHORUS. O doer of dread deeds, how couldst thou mar
Thy vision thus? What demon goaded thee?

OEDIPUS. (Str. 2)

Apollo, friend, Apollo, he it was
That brought these ills to pass;
But the right hand that dealt the blow
Was mine, none other. How,
How, could I longer see when sight
Brought no delight?

CHORUS. Alas! 'tis as thou sayest.

OEDIPUS. Say, friends, can any look or voice
Or touch of love henceforth my heart rejoice?

Haste, friends, no fond delay,

Take the twice cursed away

Far from all ken,

The man abhorred of gods, accursed of men.

CHORUS. O thy despair well suits thy desperate case.

Would I had never looked upon thy face!

OEDIPUS. (Ant. 2)

My curse on him whoe'er unrived

The wail's fell fetters and my life revived!

He meant me well, yet had he left me there,

He had saved my friends and me a world of care.

CHORUS. I too had wished it so.

OEDIPUS. Then had I never come to shed

My father's blood nor climbed my mother's bed;

The monstrous offspring of a womb defiled,

Co-mate of him who gendered me, and child.

Was ever man before afflicted thus,

Like Oedipus.

CHORUS. I cannot say that thou hast counseled well,

For thou wert better dead than living blind.

OEDIPUS. What's done was well done. Thou canst never shake

My firm belief. A truce to argument.

For, had I sight, I know not with what eyes

I could have met my father in the shades,

Or my poor mother, since against the twain

I sinned, a sin no gallows could atone.

Aye, but, ye say, the sight of children joys
A parent' s eyes. What, born as mine were born?
No, such a sight could never bring me joy;
Nor this fair city with its battlements,
Its temples and the statues of its gods,
Sights from which I, now wretchedst of all,
Once ranked the foremost Theban in all Thebes,
By my own sentence am cut off, condemned
By my own proclamation 'gainst the wretch,
The miscreant by heaven itself declared
Unclean— and of the race of Laius.
Thus branded as a felon by myself,
How had I dared to look you in the face?
Nay, had I known a way to choke the springs
Of hearing, I had never shrunk to make
A dungeon of this miserable frame,
Cut off from sight and hearing; for 'tis bliss
to bide in regions sorrow cannot reach.
Why didst thou harbor me, Cithaeron, why
Didst thou not take and slay me? Then I never
Had shown to men the secret of my birth.
O Polybus, O Corinth, O my home,
Home of my ancestors (so wast thou called)
How fair a nursling then I seemed, how foul
The canker that lay festering in the bud!
Now is the blight revealed of root and fruit.
Ye triple high-roads, and thou hidden glen,
Coppice, and pass where meet the three-branched ways,
Ye drank my blood, the life-blood these hands spilt,
My father' s; do ye call to mind perchance
Those deeds of mine ye witnessed and the work
I wrought thereafter when I came to Thebes?
O fatal wedlock, thou didst give me birth,
And, having borne me, sowed again my seed,
Mingling the blood of fathers, brothers, children,
Brides, wives and mothers, an incestuous brood,
All horrors that are wrought beneath the sun,
Horrors so foul to name them were unmeet.
O, I adjure you, hide me anywhere
Far from this land, or slay me straight, or cast me
Down to the depths of ocean out of sight.
Come hither, deign to touch an abject wretch;

Draw near and fear not; I myself must bear
The load of guilt that none but I can share.

Enter CREON.]

CREON. Lo, here is Creon, the one man to grant
Thy prayer by action or advice, for he
Is left the State' s sole guardian in thy stead.

OEDIPUS. Ah me! what words to accost him can I find?

What cause has he to trust me? In the past
I have bee proved his rancorous enemy.

CREON. Not in derision, Oedipus, I come
Nor to upbraid thee with thy past misdeeds.(
To BYSTANDERS)

But shame upon you! if ye feel no sense
Of human decencies, at least revere
The Sun whose light beholds and nurtures all.

Leave not thus nakedly for all to gaze at
A horror neither earth nor rain from heaven
Nor light will suffer. Lead him straight within,

For it is seemly that a kinsman' s woes
Be heard by kin and seen by kin alone.

OEDIPUS. O listen, since thy presence comes to me
A shock of glad surprise— so noble thou,
And I so vile— O grant me one small boon.

I ask it not on my behalf, but thine.

CREON. And what the favor thou wouldst crave of me?

OEDIPUS. Forth from thy borders thrust me with all speed;

vocabulary

ἄγαμος unmarried ~bigamy

ἀδελφή sister

ἀέθλιον ἀθλίου prize

ἀέθλιος prize ~athlete

ἄθλιος wretched ~athlete

αἰνιγμα -τος (n, 3) dark saying

ἀκμή point, edge, top, culmination
~acuteἀλάομαι wander, rove, roam ~Fr.
aller

ἀλγεινός painful

ἄλις in plenty; enough ~helix

ἀμείνων comparative of ἀγαθός,
nobleἄνδρος without men; not manlike
~androgynousἄνευ away from; not having; not
needing ~Sp. sinἀπάγω lead away, back
~demagogue

ἄποικος abroad, colonizing

ἀποκλαίω cry out loud

ἄρόω plow ~arable

ἄρσην male

ἀσεβής profane

ἀστή inhabitant

ἀστός townsman; citizen

βιόω live; (mp) make a living
~biology

βορέας -οῦ (m, 1) north, north wind

γαμέω marry, take as a lover
~bigamy

γάμος wedding, sex ~bigamy

γενναῖος noble, sincere ~genesis

γονή progeny ~genus

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

δακρύω weep

δεῦρο here, come here!

δηλαδή clearly

δῆλημα -τος (n, 3) harmful thing

~delenda

δηλώω show, disclose

δόσις -εως (f) gift, loan ~donate

δράω do, accomplish

εἴτα then, therefore, next

ἐκγονος offspring, descendant
~genus

ἐκμανθάνω know by heart

ἐκφύω spring from ~physics

ἐνθεν thence, whence

ἐνοικέω dwell in

ἐνοικος inhabitant

ἐντεῦθεν thence

ἐντίθημι load; mp: take to heart
~thesisἐξακέομαι cure, appease, make up
for

ἐξισόω equalize

ἐορτή holiday, feast

ἐπισκήπτω lay something on

ἐπισκοπέω look upon, inspect

ἐρήμιος empty

ἐρημώω raze, bereave; desert, isolate

εὐτυχέω be lucky, prosper, succeed

ζήλος competitiveness, emulation
~zeal

ἡδύς sweet, pleasant ~hedonism

ἡνίκα when

θείνω strike, wound ~offend

θεωρία spectator, contemplation

θιγγάνω touch

ἱστορέω inquire; relate

καίτοι and yet; and in fact; although

κλεινός famous

κλύδων -ος (m, 3) wave, surge
~cataclysm

κλύω hear, listen to ~Euclid

κράτιστος best

κτάομαι acquire, possess

κυρέω come upon, come up against;
obtain

λαμπρός brilliant ~lamp

λεύσσω see, look
 μάτην in vain, randomly
 μέλω concern, interest, be one's
 responsibility
 μετέχω partake of
 μηδαμός no one
 μήποτε absolutely never
 νόσος (f) plague, pestilence
 ~noisome
 ὅθεν whence
 οἰκέω inhabit ~economics
 οἰκτρός pitiable
 ὁμιλία (tu) intercourse, company
 ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye
 ὁμός same ~homoerotic
 ὁμοῦ together
 ὁμόω unite ~homoerotic
 ὀνειδίζω upbraid, reproach
 ὀνειδος -εος (n, 3) blame; insult
 ὀρθόω stand up
 πάλαι long ago ~paleo
 πάλη wrestling ~Pallas
 πάλλω shake, brandish ~Pallas
 παραινέω recommend, exhort, warn
 παρθένος (f) girl, virgin ~Parthenon
 πάτρα (αᾶ) fatherland ~paternal
 πατρώος of the father(s), ancestral
 περάτη -ιάτης the passage of night
 ~pierce
 περάω cross over, drive across; sell
 as a slave ~pierce
 πέρθω sack, ravage, plunder
 περίοιδα have great, greater skill
 περιοράω look around; watch;
 permit
 πέρνημι export, sell as a slave
 ~porno
 πικρός sharp, bitter ~picric

ποίη grass
 ποῖος what kind
 πορσύνω (ὄ) prepare (the marital
 bed)
 πότε when?
 ποῦ where?
 προξενέω protect, handle for
 προσθέω run to
 προστίθμι add; impose; (mp)
 agree; side with ~thesis
 πρώτιστος the very first
 πτωχός poor, beggarly ~pudendum
 σθένω be strong, able
 σπάνις -εως (f) scarcity, rarity
 σπείρω sow ~diaspora
 στέγη roof, ceiling, chamber
 στείχω go, march ~stair
 συμφορά collecting; accident,
 misfortune
 τάφος (m) funeral, grave; (n)
 astonishment
 τελευταῖος last, final
 τέρμα -τος (n, 3) mark, turn-around
 point
 τέρψις -τος (f) pleasure
 τηλίκος of such an age
 τοιγάρ therefore
 τράπεζα a table ~trapezoid
 φάτις -τος (f) report, rumor ~fame
 φθείρω destroy, ruin
 φρουρέω keep watch
 φυτεύω plant, grow, cause, prepare
 ~physics
 χέρσος (f) dry land
 χρῆζω need ~chresard
 χωρίς separately; except, other than
 ~heir
 ψάύω be closely touching

θνητῶν φανοῦμαι μηδενὸς προσήγορος.

ΚΡΕΩΝ. ἔδρασ' ἂν εἶ τοῦτ' ἴσθ' ἄν, εἰ μὴ τοῦ θεοῦ

πρώτιστ' ἔχρηζον ἐκμαθεῖν τί πρακτέαν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ. ἀλλ' ἦ γ' ἐκείνου πᾶσ' ἐδηλώθη φάτις,¹ 1440

τὸν πατροφόντην, τὸν ἀσεβῆ μ' ἀπολλύναι.

ΚΡ. οὕτως ἐλέχθη ταῦθ'· ὅμως δ' ἔν' ἔσταμεν

χρείας, ἄμεινον ἐκμαθεῖν τι δραστέον.

ΟΙ. οὕτως ἄρ' ἀνδρὸς ἀθλίου πεύσεσθ' ὕπερ;

ΚΡ. καὶ γὰρ σὺ νῦν τᾶν τῷ θεῷ πίστιν φέροις. 1445

ΟΙ. καὶ σοί γ' ἐπισκίπτω τε καὶ προστέβομαι,

τῆς μὲν κατ' οἴκους αὐτὸς ὃν θέλεις τάφον

θοῦ· καὶ γὰρ ὀρθῶς τῶν γε σῶν τελεῖς ὕπερ·

ἐμοῦ δὲ μήποτ' ἀξιωθήτω τόδε

πατρῶον ἄστν ζῶντος οἰκητοῦ τυχεῖν, 1450

ἀλλ' ἔα με ναίειν ὄρεσιν, ἔνθα κλήζεται

οὐμὸς Κιθαιρῶν οὗτος, ὃν μήτηρ τέ μοι

πατήρ τ' ἐθέσθην ζῶντε κύριον τάφον,

ἔν' ἐξ ἐκείνων, οἳ μ' ἀπολλύτην, θάνω.

καίτοι τοσοῦτόν γ' οἶδα, μήτε μ' ἂν νόσον 1455

μήτ' ἄλλο πέρσαι μηδέν· οὐ γὰρ ἂν ποτε

θνήσκων ἐσώθην, μὴ πί τῳ δεινῷ κακῷ.

ἀλλ' ἦ μὲν ἡμῶν μοῖρ', ὅποιπερ εἶδ', ἴτω·

παῖδων δὲ τῶν μὲν ἀρσένων μή μοι, Κρέων,

προσθῇ μέρμιναν· ἄνδρες εἰσίν, ὥστε μὴ 1460

σπάνιν² ποτὲ σχεῖν, ἐνθ' ἂν ᾧσι, τοῦ βίου·

ταῖν δ' ἀθλίων οἰκτραῖν³ τε παρθένοιον ἐμαῖν,

¹ report, rumor ² scarcity, rarity ³ pitiable

αἶν οὔποθ' ἤμῃ χωρὶς ἐστάθη βορᾶς

τράπεζ' ἄνευ τοῦδ' ἀνδρός, ἀλλ' ὅσων ἐγὼ

ψαύοιμι, πάντων τῶνδ' αἰὲ μετειχέτην·

1465

αἶν μοι μέλεσθαι· καὶ μάλιστα μὲν χεροῖν

ψαῦσαί μ' ἔασον ἀποκλαύσασθαι κακά.

ἴθ' ὦναξ,

ἴθ' ὦ γονῇ⁴ γενναῖε· χερσὶ τὰν θιγῶν

δοκοῖμ' ἔχειν σφᾶς, ὥσπερ ἡνίκ' ἔβλεπον.

1470

τί φημί;

οὐ δὴ κλύω που πρὸς θεῶν τοῖν μοι φίλοι

δακρυρροοῦντοιν, καί μ' ἐποικτίρας Κρέων

ἔπεμψε μοι τὰ φίλτατ' ἐκγόνοι ἐμοῖν;

λέγω τι;

1475

ΚΡ. λέγεις· ἐγὼ γὰρ εἰμ' ὁ πορσύνας⁵ τάδε,

γνοὺς τὴν παροῦσαν τέριψιν,⁶ ἥ σ' εἶχεν πάλαι.

ΟΙ. ἀλλ' εὐτυχοίης,⁷ καὶ σε τῇσδε τῆς ὁδοῦ

δαίμων ἄμεινον ἢ μὲ φρουρήσας⁸ τύχοι.

ὦ τέκνα, ποῦ ποτ' ἐστέ; δεῦρ' ἴτ', ἔλθετε

1480

ὡς τὰς ἀδελφὰς τάσδε τὰς ἐμὰς χέρας,

αἶ τοῦ φυτουργοῦ πατρὸς ὑμῖν ὧδ' ὀρᾶν

τὰ πρόσθε λαμπρὰ προυξένησαν ὄμματα·

ὅς ὑμῖν, ὦ τέκν', οὔθ' ὀρῶν οὔθ' ἱστορῶν

πατὴρ ἐφάνθη ἐνθεν αὐτὸς ἡρόθην.⁹

1485

καὶ σφῶ δακρύω· προσβλέπειν γὰρ οὐ σθένω.¹⁰

νοοῦμενος τὰ λοιπὰ τοῦ πικροῦ βίου,

οἷον βιώναι σφῶ πρὸς ἀνθρώπων χρεῶν.

⁴ progeny ⁵ prepare (the marital bed) ⁶ pleasure
succeed ⁸ keep watch ⁹ plow ¹⁰ be strong, able

⁷ be lucky, prosper,

ποίας γὰρ ἀστῶν ἦξετ' εἰς ὀμιλίας,¹¹
 ποίας δ' ἑορτάς, ἔνθεν οὐ κεκλανμέναι 1490
 πρὸς οἶκον ἵξεσθ' ἀντὶ τῆς θεωρίας;¹²
 ἀλλ' ἡνίκ' ἂν δὴ πρὸς γάμων ἦκητ' ἀκμάς,
 τίς οὗτος ἔσται, τίς παραρρήψει, τέκνα,
 τοιαῦτ' ὀνειδίη λαμβάνων, ἃ ταῖς ἐμαῖς
 γοναῖσιν ἔσται σφῶν θ' ὁμοῦ δηλήματα;¹³ 1495
 τί γὰρ κακῶν ἄπεστι, τὸν πατέρα πατὴρ
 ὑμῶν ἔπεφνε· τὴν τεκοῦσαν ἤροσεν,
 ὅθεν περ αὐτὸς ἐσπάρη, κακ τῶν ἴσων
 ἐκτήσαθ' ὑμᾶς, ὧν περ αὐτὸς ἐξέφνυ.
 τοιαῦτ' ὀνειδιέισθε· κἄτα τίς γαμεῖ; 1500
 οὐκ ἔστιν οὐδεὶς, ὦ τέκν', ἀλλὰ δηλαδὴ¹⁴
 χέρσους φθαρῆναι καγάμους ὑμᾶς χρεῶν.
 ὦ παῖ Μεινικέως, ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ μόνος πατὴρ
 ταύταιν λέλειψαι, νῶ γάρ, ὦ φυτεύσαμεν,
 ὀλώλαμεν δὴ ὄντε, μὴ σφε περιμύδης 1505
 πτωχὰς ἀνάνδρους ἐκγενεῖς ἀλωμένας,
 μηδ' ἐξιώσης τάσδε τοῖς ἐμοῖς κακοῖς.
 ἀλλ' οἴκτισόν σφας, ὧδε τηλικάσδ' ὀρώων
 πάντων ἐρήμους, πλὴν ὅσον τὸ σὸν μέρος.
 ξύννευσον, ὦ γενναῖε, σῇ ψαύσας χερί. 1510
 σφῶν δ', ὦ τέκν', εἰ μὲν εἰχέτην ἤδη φρένας,
 πόλλ' ἂν παρήνουν· νῦν δὲ τοῦτ' εὐχεσθέ μοι,
 οὗ καιρὸς ἐὰ ζῆν, τοῦ βίου δὲ λώονος
 ὑμᾶς κυρῆσαι¹⁵ τοῦ φυτεύσαντος πατρός.

¹¹ intercourse, company ¹² spectator, contemplation

¹⁴ clearly ¹⁵ come upon, come up against; obtain

¹³ harmful thing

ΚΡ. ἄλλις ἔν' ἐξήκεις δακρύων· ἀλλ' ἴθι στέγης ἔσω. 1515

ΟΙ. πειστέον, κεί' μηδὲν ἡδύ. ΚΡ. πάντα γὰρ καιρῷ καλά.

ΟΙ. οἶσθ' ἐφ' οἷς οὖν εἶμι; ΚΡ. λέξεις, καὶ τότ' εἴσομαι κλύων.

ΟΙ. γῆς μ' ὅπως πέμψεις ἄποικον. ΚΡ. τοῦ θεοῦ μ' αἰτεῖς δόσιν.

ΟΙ. ἀλλὰ θεοῖς γ' ἔχθιστος ἦκω. ΚΡ. τοιγαροῦν τεύξει τάχα.

ΟΙ. φῆς τὰδ' οὖν; ΚΡ. ἂ μὴ φρονῶ γὰρ οὐ φιλῶ λέγειν μάτην. 1520

ΟΙ. ἄπαγέ νύν μ' ἐντεῦθεν ἦδη. ΚΡ. στείχε¹⁶ νυν, τέκνων δ' ἀφοῦ.

ΟΙ. μηδαμῶς¹⁷ ταύτας γ' ἔλη μου. ΚΡ. πάντα μὴ βούλου κρατεῖν·

καὶ γὰρ ἀκράτησας οὐ σοι τῷ βίῳ ξυνέσπετο.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ὦ πάτρας¹⁸ Θήβης ἔνοικοι, λεύσσετ', Οἰδίπους ὄδε,

ὅς τὰ κλείν' αἰνίγματ'¹⁹ ἥδει καὶ κράτιστος ἦν ἀνὴρ, 1525

οὐ τίς οὐ ζήλω πολιτῶν ἦν τύχαις ἐπιβλέπων,

εἰς ὅσον κλύδωνα²⁰ δεινῆς συμφορᾶς ἐλήλυθεν.

ὥστε θνητὸν ὄντα κείνην τὴν τελευταίαν ἰδεῖν

ἡμέραν ἐπισκοποῦντα μηδέν' ὀλβίζειν, πρὶν ἂν

τέρμα²¹ τοῦ βίου περάσῃ μηδὲν ἀλγεινὸν²² παθών.

¹⁶ go, march ¹⁷ no one ¹⁸ fatherland ¹⁹ dark saying ²⁰ wave, surge
²¹ mark, turn-around point ²² painful

Set me within some vasty desert where

No mortal voice shall greet me any more.

CREON. This had I done already, but I deemed

It first behooved me to consult the god.

OEDIPUS. His will was set forth fully— to destroy

The parricide, the scoundrel; and I am he.

CREON. Yea, so he spake, but in our present plight'

Twere better to consult the god anew.

OEDIPUS. Dare ye inquire concerning such a wretch?

CREON. Yea, for thyself wouldst credit now his word.

OEDIPUS. Aye, and on thee in all humility

I lay this charge: let her who lies within

Receive such burial as thou shalt ordain;

Such rites 'tis thine, as brother, to perform.

But for myself, O never let my Thebes,

The city of my sires, be doomed to bear

The burden of my presence while I live.

No, let me be a dweller on the hills,

On yonder mount Cithaeron, famed as mine,

My tomb predestined for me by my sire

And mother, while they lived, that I may die

Slain as they sought to slay me, when alive.

This much I know full surely, nor disease

Shall end my days, nor any common chance;

For I had ne'er been snatched from death, unless

I was predestined to some awful doom.

So be it. I reckon not how Fate deals with me

But my unhappy children— for my sons

Be not concerned, O Creon, they are men,

And for themselves, where'er they be, can fend.

But for my daughters twain, poor innocent maids,

Who ever sat beside me at the board

Sharing my viands, drinking of my cup,

For them, I pray thee, care, and, if thou wilt,

O might I feel their touch and make my moan.

Hear me, O prince, my noble-hearted prince!

Could I but blindly touch them with my hands

I'd think they still were mine, as when I saw.

ANTIGONE and ISMENE are led in.]

What say I? can it be my pretty ones

Whose sobs I hear? Has Creon pitied me

And sent me my two darlings? Can this be?

CREON. 'Tis true; 'twas I procured thee this delight,
 Knowing the joy they were to thee of old.
 OEDIPUS. God speed thee! and as meed for bringing them
 May Providence deal with thee kindlier
 Than it has dealt with me! O children mine,
 Where are ye? Let me clasp you with these hands,
 A brother' s hands, a father' s; hands that made
 Lack-luster sockets of his once bright eyes;
 Hands of a man who blindly, recklessly,
 Became your sire by her from whom he sprang.
 Though I cannot behold you, I must weep
 In thinking of the evil days to come,
 The slights and wrongs that men will put upon you.
 Where' er ye go to feast or festival,
 No merrymaking will it prove for you,
 But oft abashed in tears ye will return.
 And when ye come to marriageable years,
 Where' s the bold wooers who will jeopardize
 To take unto himself such disrepute
 As to my children' s children still must cling,
 For what of infamy is lacking here?
 "Their father slew his father, sowed the seed
 Where he himself was gendered, and begat
 These maidens at the source wherefrom he sprang."
 Such are the gibes that men will cast at you.
 Who then will wed you? None, I ween, but ye
 Must pine, poor maids, in single barrenness.
 O Prince, Menoeceus' son, to thee, I turn,
 With the it rests to father them, for we
 Their natural parents, both of us, are lost.
 O leave them not to wander poor, unwed,
 Thy kin, nor let them share my low estate.
 O pity them so young, and but for thee
 All destitute. Thy hand upon it, Prince.
 To you, my children I had much to say,
 Were ye but ripe to hear. Let this suffice:
 Pray ye may find some home and live content,
 And may your lot prove happier than your sire' s.
 CREON. Thou hast had enough of weeping; pass within.
 OEDIPUS. I must obey,
 Though 'tis grievous.
 CREON. Weep not, everything must have its day.

OEDIPUS. Well I go, but on conditions.

CREON. What thy terms for going, say.

OEDIPUS. Send me from the land an exile.

CREON. Ask this of the gods, not me.

OEDIPUS. But I am the gods' abhorrence.

CREON. Then they soon will grant thy plea.

OEDIPUS. Lead me hence, then, I am willing.

CREON. Come, but let thy children go.

OEDIPUS. Rob me not of these my children!

CREON. Crave not mastery in all,

For the mastery that raised thee was thy bane and wrought thy fall.

CHORUS. Look ye, countrymen and Thebans, this is Oedipus the great,

He who knew the Sphinx' s riddle and was mightiest in our state.

Who of all our townsmen gazed not on his fame with envious eyes?

Now, in what a sea of troubles sunk and overwhelmed he lies!

Therefore wait to see life' s ending ere thou count one mortal blest;

Wait till free from pain and sorrow he has gained his final rest.