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vocabulary

ἀγγέλλω carry a message, announce
~angel

ἀέθλιος prize ~athlete

ἄθλιος wretched ~athlete

αἰθήρ ether, air, sky ~ether

αἰχμαλωτής captive

ἄκληρος not owning land ~clergy

ἄκτῃ beach; cereal grain

ἄλλομαι to jump ~sally

ἄλμυρός salty

ἄλσος -εος (n, 3) grove, sacred place

ἀνάκτορον palace; temple

ἄνασσα queen, protector

ἀνέρχομαι go up; return

ἄσπετος unutterable, vast

βάθος -ους (n, 3) depth, height

βάθρον step, base, bench

βίαιος by force

βολή a hit with a missile; a glance
~ballistic

βρέμω roar, clash, rage

~brontosaurus

βωμός altar; stand, pedestal

δέρη neck, throat, mane

δέρω skin, flay ~tear

δεσπότης -ου (m, 1) master, despot

δίνη (i) whirlpool, eddy

διόλλυμι (ū) be ruined

δορός leather bag ~dermatology

δυσδαίμων unlucky, unhappy

ἐγκύμων (ū) pregnant

εἰσοράω look at, see; treat with
respect ~panorama

ἐκεῖσε thither

ἐκπορθέω pillage

Ἑλλην Greek

ἔνδικος (persons, things) just

ἐξαιρέω pick, steal; dedicate;
destroy ~heresy

ἔξιμι go forth; is possible ~ion

ἐξίημι send forth, allow forth ~jet

ἐπαείρω raise, place on ~aorta

ἐπαρарίσκω fit to, on ~harmony

ἐπιστρατεύω march against

ἐρημία wilderness, solitude

ἐρήμιος empty

ἐρκεῖος having an altar in the
sanctuary ~oath

ἔρω be able to move ~serpent

εὖνοια good will, gift

εὐσεβέω be pious

εὐσεβής pious

εὐτυχέω be lucky, prosper, succeed

εὐφραίνω gladden ~frenzy

ἔχθρη hate

ἡδομαι be pleased, enjoy

~hedonism

ἡνίκα when

ἥπιος kind (adj)

ἵχνος -εος (n, 3) track, trace

κάλως ship's thick rope

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

κανών -όνος (m, 3) rod, handle

~canonical

καπνόομαι go up in smoke

καραδοκέω (α) wait for the
outcome of

καταρρέω flow down ~rheostat

κεραύνιος of a thunderbolt

κλεινός famous

κληρώω cast lots, assign

κοινώω make common; cooperate

κρηπίς (i) boot; foundation

κρυπτός hidden, secret ~cryptic

κωκυτός (ū) lamentation

κωκύω cry out, lament for

λαγχάνω be allotted; (esp. λελα-
forms) allot; receive

λάθρα secretly

λάινος of stone

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

μεθίημι let go, cease; (mid) speed off ~jet	by name
μεταβάλλω alter, transform	πρύμνηθεν from the stern
μίν him, her, it	πύργος ramparts, tower; line of troops
μνήμα -τος (n, 3) reminder, memorial ~mnemonic	πύργωμα walls, walled city with towers
μνήμη reminder, memorial	σέβομαι feel shame, awe
μυχός recess, nook	σθένος -εος (n, 3) strength ~neurasthenia
ναυστολέω to ship, sail	σκότιος shadow-born ~shadow
νοσέω be sick, be mad, suffer	σκύλευμα (ῥ) arms taken as spoils
νόστος homecoming ~nostalgia	στέγη roof, ceiling, chamber
ξεστός polished, wrought	στράτευμα -τος (n, 3) army ~strategy
οἶκτος compassion	στρατός common people/soldiers ~strategy
ὀλέθριος ruinous, deadly	στρατόω be on a campaign ~strategy
ὄμβρος storm	συγγενεύς inborn, kin to
ὀμιλία (τι) intercourse, company	συγγενής inborn, kin to
ὄρος boundary marker ~horizon	συνεθέλω consent
οὔρον boundary stone; unit of distance; limit	συνεξαίρεω help in removing
οὔρος fair wind; guardian; hill	ταράσσω mess things up ~trachea
παραλείπω leave, leave out	τάφος (m) funeral, grave; (n) astonishment
πεδόθεν constantly, ever ~pedal	τέθηπα be confused
πέλαγος -ους (n, 3) the open sea ~pelagic	τίμιος honored, precious
πέρθω sack, ravage, plunder	τοιγάρ therefore
πέριξ all around	τριχυμία (ῥ) group of 3 waves
πηδάω jump, spring ~pedal	τύμβος grave mound ~tomb
πικρός sharp, bitter ~picric	ὕβριζω insult, treat outrageously
πίμπρημι inflate, spurt; burn up ~pyre	φίλτρον love charm
πορθέω sack, ravage, plunder	φροῦδος fled, vanished
πορθμός canal, straits ~pierce	χάλαζα hail
πόρος way, bridge ~fare	χοιράς hogbacked
πότερος which, whichever of two	χορός dance; chorus ~terpsichorean
πρόμιος foremost fighter, champion	
προσεννέπω accost; command; call	

ΠΟΣΕΙΔΩΝ. Ἦκω λιπὼν Αἴγαιον ἀλμυρὸν βάθος¹

πόντου Ποσειδῶν, ἔνθα Νηρηίδων χοροὶ

κάλλιστον ἵχνος ἐξελίσσουσιν ποδός.

ἐξ οὗ γὰρ ἀμφὶ τήνδε Τρωικὴν χθόνα

Φοῖβός τε καὶ γὰρ λαῖνους πύργους πέριξ²

5

ὀρθοῖσιν ἔθεμεν κανόσιν,³ οὔ ποτ' ἐκ φρενῶν

εὔνοι' ἀπέστη τῶν ἐμῶν Φρυγῶν πόλει·

ἦ νῦν καπνοῦται καὶ πρὸς Ἀργείου δορὸς

ὄλωλε πορθηθεῖς· ὁ γὰρ Παρνάσιος

Φωκεὺς Ἐπειός, μηχαναῖσι Παλλάδος

10

ἐγκύμον' ἵππον τευχέων ξυναρμόσας,

πύργων ἔπεμψεν ἐντὸς ὀλέθριον⁴ βρέτας·

ὅθεν πρὸς ἀνδρῶν ὑστέρων κεκλήσεται

Δούρειος Ἴππος, κρυπτὸν⁵ ἀμπισχὼν δόρυ.

ἔρημα δ' ἄλση⁶ καὶ θεῶν ἀνάκτορα

15

φόνῳ καταρρεῖ· πρὸς δὲ κρηπίδων βάθροις

πέπτωκε Πρίαμος Ζηνὸς ἐρκείου θανῶν.

πολὺς δὲ χρυσὸς Φρύγιά τε σκυλεύματα⁷

πρὸς ναῦς Ἀχαιῶν πέμπεται· μένουσι δὲ

πρύμνηθεν⁸ οὖρον, ὥς δεκασπόρῳ χρόνῳ

20

ἀλόχους τε καὶ τέκν' εἰσίδωσιν ἄσμενοι,

οἱ τήνδ' ἐπεστράτευσαν Ἕλληνες πόλιν.

ἐγὼ δέ— νικῶμαι γὰρ Ἀργείας θεοῦ

Ἦρας Ἀθάνας θ', αἷ συνεξείλον Φρύγας

—λείπω τὸ κλεινὸν Ἴλιον βομούς τ' ἐμούς·

25

¹ depth, height ² all around ³ rod, handle ⁴ ruinous, deadly ⁵ hidden, secret ⁶ grove, sacred place ⁷ arms taken as spoils ⁸ from the stern

ἐρημία γὰρ πόλιν ὅταν λάβῃ κακή,
 νοσεῖ τὰ τῶν θεῶν οὐδὲ τιμᾶσθαι θέλει.
 πολλοῖς δὲ κωκυτοῖσιν αἰχμαλωτῖδων
 βοᾷ Σκάμανδρος δεσπότης κληρουμένων.
 καὶ τὰς μὲν Ἀρκάς, τὰς δὲ Θεσσαλὸς λεῶς 30
 εἵληχ' Ἀθηναίων τε Θησεῖδαι πρόμοι.
 ὅσαι δ' ἄκκληροι⁹ Τρωάδων, ὑπὸ στέγαις
 ταῖσδ' εἰσί, τοῖς πρώτοισιν ἐξηρημέναι
 στρατοῦ, σὺν αὐταῖς δ' ἡ Λάκαινα Τυνδαρίς
 Ἑλένη, νομισθεῖσ' αἰχμάλωτος ἐνδίκως. 35
 τήν δ' ἀθλίαν τήνδ' εἴ τις εἰσορᾷν θέλει,
 πάρεστιν, Ἑκάβην κειμένην πυλῶν πάρος,
 δάκρυα χέουσαν πολλὰ καὶ πολλῶν ὕπερ·
 ἦ παῖς μὲν ἀμφὶ μνήμ' Ἀχιλλείου τάφου
 λάθρα¹⁰ τέθνηκε τλημόνως Πολυξένη· 40
 φρουδὸς δὲ Πρίαμος καὶ τέκν'· ἦν δὲ παρθένος
 μεθῆκ' Ἀπόλλων δρομάδα Κασάνδραν ἄναξ,
 τὸ τοῦ θεοῦ τε παραλιπὼν τό τ' εὖσεβες¹¹
 γαμῆ βιαίως σκότιον Ἀγαμέμνων λέχος.
 ἀλλ', ὦ ποτ' εὐτυχοῦσα, χαῖρέ μοι, πόλις 45
 ξεστόν τε πύργωμ'.¹² εἴ σε μὴ διώλεσεν
 Παλλὰς Διὸς παῖς, ἦσθ' ἂν ἐν βάθροισι ἔτι.

ΑΘΗΝΑ. ἔξεστι τὸν γένει μὲν ἄγχιστον πατρὸς

μέγαν τε δαίμον' ἐν θεοῖς τε τίμιον,
 λύσασαν ἔχθραν τὴν πάρος, προσενέπειν; 50

ΠΟ. ἔξεστιν· αἱ γὰρ συγγενεῖς ὁμιλῖαι,¹³

⁹ not owning land ¹⁰ secretly ¹¹ pious ¹² walls, walled city with towers

¹³ intercourse, company

ἄνασσ' Ἀθάνᾳ, φίλτρον οὐ συμκρὸν φρενῶν.

ΑΘ. ἐπῆνεσ' ὀργὰς ἡπίους· φέρω δὲ σοὶ

κοινούς ἐμαυτῇ τ' ἐς μέσον λόγους, ἄναξ.

ΠΟ. μῶν ἐκ θεῶν του καινὸν ἀγγελεῖς ἔπος,

55

ἢ Ζηνὸς ἢ καὶ δαιμόνων τινὸς πάρα;

ΑΘ. οὐκ, ἀλλὰ Τροίας οὔνεκ', ἔνθα βαίνομεν,

πρὸς σὴν ἀφίγμαι δύναμιν, ὥς κοινήν λάβω.

ΠΟ. ἦ ποῦ νιν, ἔχθραν τὴν πρὶν ἐκβαλοῦσα, νῦν

ἐς οἶκτον ἦλθες πυρὶ κατηθαλωμένης;

60

ΑΘ. ἐκείσε πρῶτ' ἀνελθε· κοινώσῃ¹⁴ λόγους

καὶ συνθελήσεις ἂν ἐγὼ πράξαι θέλω;

ΠΟ. μάλιστ'· ἀτὰρ δὴ καὶ τὸ σὸν θέλω μαθεῖν·

πότερον Ἀχαιῶν ἦλθες οὔνεκ' ἢ Φρυγῶν;

ΑΘ. τοὺς μὲν πρὶν ἐχθροὺς Τρώας εὐφρᾶναι θέλω,

65

στρατῶ δ' Ἀχαιῶν νόστον ἐμβαλεῖν πικρόν.

ΠΟ. τί δ' ὥδε πηδᾶς¹⁵ ἄλλοτ' εἰς ἄλλους τρόπους

μισεῖς τε λῖαν καὶ φιλεῖς ὃν ἂν τύχῃς;

ΑΘ. οὐκ οἶσθ' ὑβρισθεῖσάν με καὶ ναοὺς ἐμούς;

ΠΟ. οἶδ', ἡνίκ' Αἴας εἶλκε Κασάνδραν βίᾳ.

70

ΑΘ. κοῦδέν γ' Ἀχαιῶν ἔπαθεν οὐδ' ἦκουσ' ὕπο.

ΠΟ. καὶ μὴν ἔπερσάν γ' Ἴλιον τῷ σῶ σθένει.

ΑΘ. τοιγάρ σφε σὺν σοὶ βούλομαι δρᾶσαι κακῶς.

ΠΟ. ἔτοιμ' ἂ βούλῃ τὰπ' ἐμοῦ. δράσεις δὲ τί;

ΑΘ. δύσνοστον αὐτοῖς νόστον ἐμβαλεῖν θέλω.

75

ΠΟ. ἐν γῇ μενόντων ἢ καθ' ἀλμυρὰν ἅλα;

ΑΘ. ὅταν πρὸς οἴκους ναυστολῶσ'¹⁶ ἀπ' Ἰλίου.

¹⁴ make common; cooperate ¹⁵ jump, spring ¹⁶ to ship, sail

καὶ Ζεὺς μὲν ὄμβρον καὶ χάλαζαν¹⁷ ἄσπετον
πέμψει, δνοφώδη τ' αἰθέρος φύσγηματα·
ἐμοὶ δὲ δώσειν φησὶ πῦρ κεραύνιον,
βάλλειν Ἀχαιοὺς ναῦς τε πιμπράναι πυρί.
οὐ δ' αὖ, τὸ σόν, παράσχεις Αἴγαιον πόρον
τρικυμίαις¹⁸ βρέμοντα καὶ δύναις ἁλός,
πλήσων δὲ νεκρῶν κοῖλον Εὐβοίας μυχόν,
ὥς ἂν τὸ λοιπὸν τᾶμ' ἀνάκτορ' εὐσεβείν¹⁹
εἰδῶς Ἀχαιοί, θεοὺς τε τοὺς ἄλλους σέβειν.

80

85

ΠΟ. ἔσται τάδ'· ἡ χάρις γὰρ οὐ μακρῶν λόγων
δεῖται· ταραῶν πέλαγος Αἰγαίας ἁλός.
ἀκταὶ δὲ Μυκόνου Δῆλιοί τε χοιράδες²⁰
Σκῦρός τε Λῆμνός θ' αἱ Καφήρειοί τ' ἄγκραι
πολλῶν θανόντων σώμαθ' ἔξουσιν νεκρῶν.
ἀλλ' ἔρπ' Ὀλυμπον καὶ κεραυνίους²¹ βολὰς²²
λαβοῦσα πατρὸς ἐκ χερῶν καταδόκει,
ὅταν στράτευμ' Ἀργεῖον ἐξιῇ κάλως.²³
μῶρος δὲ θνητῶν ὅστις ἐκπορθεῖ πόλεις,
ναοὺς τε τύμβους θ', ἱερὰ τῶν κεκμηκότων,
ἐρημιά δοὺς αὐτὸς ὤλεθ' ὕστερον.

90

95

ΕΚΑΒΗ. ἄνα, δύσδαιμον, πεδόθεν²⁴ κεφαλὴ·
ἐπάειρε δέρην· οὐκέτι Τροία
τάδε καὶ βασιλῆς ἐσμεν Τροίας.
μεταβαλλομένον δαίμονος ἀνέχου.
πλεῖ κατὰ πορθμόν,²⁵ πλεῖ κατὰ δαίμονα,

100

¹⁷ hail ¹⁸ group of 3 waves ¹⁹ be pious ²⁰ hogbacked ²¹ of a
thunderbolt ²² a hit with a missile; a glance ²³ ship's thick rope
²⁴ constantly, ever ²⁵ canal, straits

POSEIDON. Up from Aegean caverns, pool by pool
 Of blue salt sea, where feet most beautiful
 Of Nereid maidens weave beneath the foam
 Their long sea-dances, I, their lord, am come,
 Poseidon of the Sea. 'Twas I whose power,
 With great Apollo, builded tower by tower
 These walls of Troy; and still my care doth stand
 True to the ancient People of my hand;
 Which now as smoke is perished, in the shock
 Of Argive spears. Down from Parnassus' rock
 The Greek Epeios came, of Phocian seed,
 And wrought by Pallas' mysteries a Steed
 Marvellous, big with arms; and through my wall
 It passed, a death-fraught image magical.
 The groves are empty and the sanctuaries
 Run red with blood. Unburied Priam lies
 By his own hearth, on God's high altar-stair,
 And Phrygian gold goes forth and raiment rare
 To the Argive ships; and weary soldiers roam
 Waiting the wind that blows at last for home,
 For wives and children, left long years away,
 Beyond the seed's tenth fullness and decay,
 To work this land's undoing.
 And for me,
 Since Argive Hera conquereth, and she
 Who wrought with Hera to the Phrygians' woe,
 Pallas, behold, I bow mine head and go
 Forth from great Ilion and mine altars old.
 When a still city lieth in the hold
 Of Desolation, all God's spirit there
 Is sick and turns from worship. — Hearken where
 The ancient River waileth with a voice
 Of many women, portioned by the choice
 Of war amid new lords, as the lots leap
 For Thessaly, or Argos, or the steep
 Of Theseus' Rock. And others yet there are,
 High women, chosen from the waste of war
 For the great kings, behind these portals hid;
 And with them that Laconian Tyndarid,
 Helen, like them a prisoner and a prize.
 And this unhappy one — would any eyes
 Gaze now on Hecuba? Here at the Gates

She lies 'mid many tears for many fates
 Of wrong. One child beside Achilles' grave
 In secret slain, Polyxena the brave,
 Lies bleeding. Priam and his sons are gone;
 And, lo, Cassandra, she the Chosen One,
 Whom Lord Apollo spared to walk her way
 A swift and virgin spirit, on this day
 Lust hath her, and she goeth garlanded
 A bride of wrath to Agamemnon's bed.

He turns to go; and another divine Presence becomes visible in the dusk. It is the goddess

PALLAS ATHENA. O happy long ago, farewell, farewell,
 Ye shining towers and mine old citadel;
 Broken by Pallas, Child of God, or still
 Thy roots had held thee true.

PALLAS. Is it the will
 Of God's high Brother, to whose hand is given
 Great power of old, and worship of all Heaven,
 To suffer speech from one whose enmities
 This day are cast aside?

POSEIDON. His will it is:
 Kindred and long companionship withal,
 Most high Athena, are things magical.

PALLAS. Blest be thy gentle mood! — Methinks I see
 A road of comfort here, for thee and me.

POSEIDON. Thou hast some counsel of the Gods, or word
 Spoken of Zeus? Or is it tidings heard
 From some far Spirit?

PALLAS. For this Ilion's sake,
 Whereon we tread, I seek thee, and would make
 My hand as thine.

POSEIDON. Hath that old hate and deep
 Failed, where she lieth in her ashen sleep?
 Thou pitiest her?

PALLAS. Speak first; wilt thou be one
 In heart with me and hand till all be done?

POSEIDON. Yea; but lay bare thy heart. For this land's sake
 Thou comest, not for Hellas?

PALLAS. I would make
 Mine ancient enemies laugh for joy, and bring
 On these Greek ships a bitter homecoming.

POSEIDON. Swift is thy spirit's path, and strange withal,

And hot thy love and hate, where'er they fall.

PALLAS. A deadly wrong they did me, yea within
Mine holy place: thou knowest?

POSEIDON. I know the sin
Of Ajax, when he cast Cassandra down...

PALLAS. And no man rose and smote him; not a frown
Nor word from all the Greeks!

POSEIDON. And 'twas thine hand
That gave them Troy!

PALLAS. Therefore with thee I stand
To smite them.

POSEIDON. All thou cravest, even now
Is ready in mine heart. What seekest thou?

PALLAS. An homecoming that striveth ever more
And cometh to no home.

POSEIDON. Here on the shore
Wouldst hold them or amid mine own salt foam?

PALLAS. When the last ship hath bared her sail for home!

Zeus shall send rain, long rain and flaw of driven
Hail, and a whirling darkness blown from heaven;
To me his levin-light he promiseth

O'er ships and men, for scourging and hot death:
Do thou make wild the roads of the sea, and steep
With war of waves and yawning of the deep,
Till dead men choke Euboea's curling bay.

So Greece shall dread even in an after day
My house, nor scorn the Watchers of strange lands!

POSEIDON. I give thy boon unbartered. These mine hands

Shall stir the waste Aegean; reefs that cross

The Delian pathways, jag-torn Myconos,

Scyros and Lemnos, yea, and storm-driven

Caphereus with the bones of drowned men

Shall glut him.— Go thy ways, and bid the Sire

Yield to thine hand the arrows of his fire.

Then wait thine hour, when the last ship shall wind

Her cable coil for home!

Exit PALLAS.

How are ye blind,

Ye treaders down of cities, ye that cast

Temples to desolation, and lay waste

Tombs, the untrodden sanctuaries where lie

The ancient dead; yourselves so soon to die!

Exit POSEIDON. The day slowly dawns: HECUBA wakes.

HECUBA. Up from the earth, O weary head!

This is not Troy, about, above—

Not Troy, nor we the lords thereof.

Thou breaking neck, be strengthened!

Endure and chafe not. The winds rave

And falter. Down the world's wide road,

vocabulary

ἄγαλμα -τος (n, 3) ornament, glory, statue

αἰάζω wail, bewail

αἰαῖ alas

αἶσσω dart, glance

αἰσχύνη (ἰ) shame, dishonor

αἶω perceive, feel, hear; breathe out

ἄκανθα thorn; backbone

~pyracantha

ἀλγέω suffer ~analgesic

ἀλγύνω (ἰ) cause pain, grief

ἄλλομαι to jump ~sally

ἀμενηνός weak, fleeting

ἀντάω meet face to face

ἄρθρον joint

ἀροτήρ -ος (m) plowman ~arable

ἄτα bewilderment, folly

ἄτάω (mp) suffer, be in distress

αὐλέω play (blow, toot)

αὐλή courtyard

αὐλῖς -τος (f) roost, bivouac

αὐλός flute, tube, hollow

αὐλών canyon, strait, canal

βασίλεια noblewoman

βασίλειος kingly

βίσιος life; sustenance, chattels

~biology

γραῦς old woman ~geriatric

δακρύω weep

δείλαιος wretched

διαδίδωμι distribute, send out

διάκειμαι be in a condition

διερείδω prop up

δινεύω (ι) turn, whirl, roam

δίνη (ι) whirlpool, eddy

δουλεία slavery

δούλειος of a slave

δουλεύω serve, be a slave

δούλη slave-woman

δύστηνος unhappy, miserable

εἰκάζω liken; conjecture

εἰλίσσω turn, rally

ἐκβακχεύω excite to Bacchic frenzy; enrage

ἐκπλήσσω panic, be knocked out
~plectrum

ἐκπορθέω pillage

Ἑλλην Greek

ἐξαρτάω hang on, make dependent

ἐξάρχω take the lead in ~oligarch

ἐπακούω hear, listen to ~acoustic

ἔρρω go (neg. connotation) ~serve

εὐδαίμων blessed with a good
genius

εὐορμος safe-anchoring

ἔφεδρος sitting at

θάκος seat, session of assembly

θάσσω sit

θεράπνη handmaid; dwelling

θρηνέω sing a dirge ~threnody

θροέω say, cry out loud; terrify;
(mp) be moved by joy

ιός arrow

ἱστός mast, loom ~stand

ἰωή a rush, a sweep

κελαδέω shout, cheer

κεράννυμι (ἰ) mix ~crater

κερκίς -τος (f) weaver's shuttle

κλαγγή clang, shriek ~klaxon

κλεινός famous

κλήρος lot; farm, inheritance; clergy
~clergy

κληρώω cast lots, assign

κόλπος bosom, lap-fold; gulf

κράς -τός (f, 3) head

κρείσσω more powerful; better

κρόταφος temple (forehead)

κώπη handle; oar ~capture

λέκτρον bed ~lie

λεύσσω see, look

λύμη (ἰ) mistreatment, maiming,
disgrace

λώβη unjust, outrageous treatment

μαινάς -δος (f, 3) madwoman,
 maenad ~maenad
 μέλαθρον roofbeam
 μέλεος vain, idle, useless
 μετανίσσομαι (the sun) pass
 ~nostalgia
 μολπή dance, song
 μορφή beauty
 μοῦσα muse
 μόχθος toil
 ναυσθλόω carry by sea
 ναύτης -ου (m, 1) sailor ~navy
 νέατος lowest, outermost
 νόστος homecoming ~nostalgia
 νῶτον back of the body; rear of an
 army; top of a box
 νῶτος back of the body; rear of an
 army; top of a box
 ὄγχος barb of an arrow
 οἶκτος compassion
 οἰκτρὸς pitiable
 οἶμοι woe is me
 παιάν -ήνοος (m, 3) paean
 παιδεία child-rearing, education
 πάτριος of the father(s), ancestral
 πελάζω bring/come to, near, into
 contact with
 πλεκτός braided, woven ~plait
 πλευρά rib, side ~pleurisy
 πλευρόν rib, side ~pleurisy
 πληγή a hit ~plectrum
 πόθος longing, regret ~bid
 ποῖ whither? how long?

πρόγονος elder, ancestor ~genus
 πρόθυρον front door ~door
 πρόσκειμαι be placed by; be
 devoted to
 πρόσσιδα (+χάριν) be grateful
 besides
 πρόσπολος servant, attendant
 πρύμνα stern
 πρῶρα bow, prow ~prolog
 σεμνός revered, holy
 σιγάω (ι) be silent
 σκήπτρον scepter, staff ~scepter
 στέλλω prepare, send, furl ~apostle
 στενάχω moan; mp: bemoan
 ~stentorian
 στέρνον breast, chest, seat of feelings
 ~sternum
 στερρός solid, firm ~stereo
 στυγνός hated, gloomy ~Styx
 σύριγξ -γος (f) pan pipes
 συστέλλω contract
 σφάζω cut the throat
 τείνω stretch, tend ~tense
 τέκος -εος (n, 3) child ~oxytocin
 τλάμων steadfast, enduring
 τοῖχος wall of a house
 τρομερός trembling
 τύφω (υ) to smoke
 ὑδρεύω draw water ~hydrogen
 φεῦ exclamation of grief, anger,
 surprise, admiration
 φρίκη (ι) shivering
 ὥσεῖ as if

μηδὲ προσίστω πρῶραν βίотου
 πρὸς κῦμα πλέουσα τύχαισιν. αἰαῖ αἰαῖ.
 τί γὰρ οὐ πάρα μοι μελέα στενάχειν,
 ἦ πατρὶς ἔρρει καὶ τέκνα καὶ πόσις;
 ὦ πολλὺς ὄγκος συστελλόμενος
 προγόνων, ὥς οὐδὲν ἄρ' ἦσθα.
 τί με χρὴ σιγᾶν; τί δὲ μὴ σιγᾶν;
 τί δὲ θρηνῆσαι;
 δύστηνος ἐγὼ τῆς βαρυδαίμονος
 ἄρθρων¹ κλίσεως, ὥς διάκειμαι,
 νῶτ' ἐν στερροῖς² λέκτροισι ταθεῖσ'.
 οἴμοι κεφαλῆς, οἴμοι κροτάφων³
 πλευρῶν θ', ὥς μοι πόθος εἰλίξαι⁴
 καὶ διαδοῦναι νῶτον ἄκανθάν⁵ τ'
 εἰς ἀμφοτέρους τοίχους, μελέων
 ἐπὶ τοὺς αἰεὶ δακρύων ἐλέγους.
 μοῦσα δὲ χαῦτη τοῖς δυστήνοισι
 ἄτας κελαδεῖν⁶ ἀχορεύτους.

110

115

120

ΕΚΑΒΗ. πρῶραι ναῶν, ὠκείαις

Ἴλιον ἱερὰν αἰ κώπαις⁷
 δι' ἄλλα πορφυροειδέα καὶ
 λιμένας Ἑλλάδος εὐόρμους⁸
 αὐλῶν παιᾶνι στυγνῶ
 συρίγγων τ' εὐφθόγγων φωνᾶ
 βαίνουσαι πλεκτὰν Αἰγύπτου
 παιδείαν ἐξηρτήσασθ',

125

¹ joint ² solid, firm ³ temple (forehead) ⁴ turn, rally ⁵ thorn; backbone
⁶ shout, cheer ⁷ handle; oar ⁸ safe-anchoring

αἰαί, Τροίας ἐν κόλποις 130

τὰν Μενελάου μετανισόμεναι

στυγνὰν⁹ ἄλοχον, Κάστορι λώβαν¹⁰

τῷ τ' Εὐρώτῃ δυσκλείαν, ἃ σφάζει μὲν

τὸν πεντήκοντ' ἀροτῆρα¹¹ τέκνων 135

Πριάμον, ἐμέ τε μελέαν Ἑκάβαν

ἐς τάνδ' ἐξώκειλ' ἄταν.

ῶμοι, θάκουσ¹² οἴους θάσσω,

σκηναῖς ἐφέδρους Ἀγαμεμνονίαις.

δούλα δ' ἄγομαι γραῦς ἐξ οἴκων πενθήρη 140

κράτ' ἐκπορθηθείς οἰκτρῶς.

ἀλλ' ὦ τῶν χαλκεγχεῶν Τρώων

ἄλοχοι μέλεια, καὶ κοῦραι κοῦραι δύσνυμφοι,

τύφεται¹³ Ἴλιον, αἰάζωμεν.¹⁴ 145

μάτηρ δ' ὥσεί τις πτανοῖς

ὄρνισιν, ὅπως ἐξάρξω γὰρ

κλαγγάν,¹⁵ μολπάν,¹⁶ οὐ τὰν αὐτὰν οἶαν ποτὲ δὴ

σκήπτρῳ Πριάμου διεριδομένα 150

ποδὸς ἀρχεχόρου πληγαῖς Φρυγίους

εὐκόμποις ἐξήρχον θεούς.[]

ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝΑ. Ἑκάβη, τί θροεῖς;¹⁷ τί δὲ θωῦσσεις;

ποῖ¹⁸ λόγος ἦκει; διὰ γὰρ μελάθρων

ἄιον οἴκτους οὖς οἰκτίζῃ. 155

διὰ δὲ στέρνων φόβος ἄισσεν

Τρωάσιν, αἰ τῶνδ' οἴκων εἴσω

⁹ hated, gloomy ¹⁰ unjust, outrageous treatment ¹¹ plowman ¹² seat, session of assembly ¹³ to smoke ¹⁴ wail, bewail ¹⁵ clang, shriek ¹⁶ dance, song ¹⁷ say, cry out loud; terrify; (mp) be moved by joy ¹⁸ whither? how long?

δουλείαν αιάζουσιν.

ΕΚ. ὦ τέκν', Ἀργείων πρὸς ναῦς ἦδη

ΗΜ. κινεῖται κωπήρης χεῖρ;

160

οἶ ἐγώ, τί θέλουσ', ἦ πού μ' ἦδη

νανυσθλώσουσιν πατρίας ἐκ γᾶς;

ΕΚ. οὐκ οἶδ', εἰκάζω δ' ἄταν. ΗΜ. ἰὼ ἰώ.

μέλεια μόχθων¹⁹ ἐπακουσόμεναι

Τρωάδες, ἔξω κομίζεσθ' οἴκων·

στέλλουσ' Ἀργεῖοι νόστον. ΕΚ. αἶ, αἶ. μή νύν μοι τὰν

ἐμβακχεύουσαν Κασάνδραν,

αἰσχύναν²⁰ Ἀργεῖοισιν,

πέμψητ' ἔξω,

170

μαινάδ', ἐπ' ἄλγει δ' ἀλγυνθῶ.²¹ ἰώ.

Τροία Τροία δύσταν', ἔρρεις, δύστανοι δ' οἱ σ' ἐκλείποντες

καὶ ζῶντες καὶ δμαθέντες.

175

ΗΜΙΧΟΡΙΟΝΒ. οἴμοι. τρομερά²² σκηναὶς ἔλιπον

τάσδ' Ἀγαμέμνονος ἐπακουσομένα,

βασίλεια, σέθεν· μή με κτείνειν

δόξ' Ἀργείων κεῖται μελέαν;

ἦ κατὰ πρύμνας ἦδη ναῦται

180

στέλλονται κινεῖν κώπας;

ΕΚ. ὦ τέκνον, ὀρθρεύου σὰν ψυχάν.

ΗΜ. ἐκπληχθεῖς ἦλθον φρίκα.²³

ἦδη τις ἔβα Δαναῶν κήρυξ;

τῷ πρόσκειμαι δούλα τλάμων;

185

ΕΚ. ἐγγύς που κείσαι κλήρου.

¹⁹ toil ²⁰ shame, dishonor

²¹ cause pain, grief

²² trembling

²³ shivering

ΗΜ. ἰὼ ἰώ. τίς μ' Ἀργείων ἢ Φθιωτᾶν

ἢ νησαίαν μ' ἄξει χώραν

δύστανον πόρσω Τροίας;

ΕΚ. φεῦ φεῦ. τῷ δ' ἅ τλάμων

190

ποῦ πᾶ γαίης δουλεύσω γραῦς,

ὥς κηφήν, ἅ δειλαία,²⁴ νεκροῦ μορφά,

νεκύων ἀμενηνὸν²⁵ ἄγαλμα,

αἰαὶ τὰν παρὰ προθύροις φυλακὰν κατέχουσ'

ἢ παίδων θρέπτειρ', ἅ Τροίας

195

ἀρχαγοὺς εἶχον τιμάς;

ΧΟΡΟΣ. αἰαὶ αἰαὶ, ποίοις δ' οἴκτοις

τὰν σὰν λύμαν²⁶ ἐξαιάζεις;

οὐκ Ἰδαίοις ἱστοῖς κερκίδα²⁷

διωέουσ'²⁸ ἐξαλλάξω.

200

νέατον²⁹ τεκέων σώματα λεύσσω,

νέατον μόχθους ἔξω κρείσσους,

ἢ λέκτροις πλαθεῖς Ἑλλάνων

ἐρροι νῦξ αὐτὰ καὶ δαίμων. '

ἢ Πειρήνας ὕδρευσομένα

205

πρόσπολος οἴκτρα σεμνῶν ὑδάτων.

τὰν κλεινὰν εἴθ' ἔλθοιμεν

Θησέως εὐδαίμονα χώραν.

μὴ γὰρ δὴ δίναν γ' Εὐρώτα,

210

τὰν ἐχθίσταν θεράπναν³⁰ Ἑλένας,

ἐνθ' ἀντάσω Μενέλα δούλα,

²⁴ wretched ²⁵ weak, fleeting ²⁶ mistreatment, maiming, disgrace

²⁷ weaver's shuttle ²⁸ turn, whirl, roam ²⁹ lowest, outermost

³⁰ handmaid; dwelling

Float, float where streams the breath of God;
 Nor turn thy prow to breast the wave.
 Ah woe!... For what woe lacketh here?
 My children lost, my land, my lord.
 O thou great wealth of glory, stored
 Of old in Ilion, year by year
 We watched... and wert thou nothingness?
 What is there that I fear to say?
 And yet, what help?... Ah, well a day,
 This ache of lying, comfortless
 And haunted! Ah, my side, my brow
 And temples! All with changeful pain
 My body rocketh, and would fain
 Move to the tune of tears that flow:
 For tears are music too, and keep
 A song unheard in hearts that weep.
 She rises and gazes towards the Greek ships far off on the shore.
 O ships, O crowding faces
 Of ships, O hurrying beat
 Of oars as of crawling feet,
 How found ye our holy places?
 Threading the narrows through,
 Out from the gulfs of the Greek,
 Out to the clear dark blue,
 With hate ye came and with joy,
 And the noise of your music flew,
 Clarion and pipe did shriek,
 As the coiled cords ye threw,
 Held in the heart of Troy!
 What sought ye then that ye came?
 A woman, a thing abhorred:
 A King's wife that her lord
 Hateth: and Castor's shame
 Is hot for her sake, and the reeds
 Of old Eurotas stir
 With the noise of the name of her.
 She slew mine ancient King,
 The Sower of fifty Seeds,
 And cast forth mine and me,
 As shipwrecked men, that cling
 To a reef in an empty sea.
 Who am I that I sit

Here at a Greek king's door,
 Yea, in the dust of it?
 A slave that men drive before,
 A woman that hath no home,
 Weeping alone for her dead;
 A low and bruised head,
 And the glory struck therefrom.

She starts up from her solitary brooding, and calls to the other Trojan Women in the huts.

O Mothers of the Brazen Spear,
 And maidens, maidens, brides of shame,
 Troy is a smoke, a dying flame;
 Together we will weep for her:
 I call ye as a wide-wing'd bird
 Calleth the children of her fold,
 To cry, ah, not the cry men heard
 In Ilion, not the songs of old,
 That echoed when my hand was true
 On Priam's sceptre, and my feet
 Touched on the stone one signal beat,
 And out the Dardan music rolled;
 And Troy's great Gods gave ear thereto.

The door of one of the huts on the right opens, and the Women steal out severally, startled
 and afraid.

FIRST WOMAN. How say'st thou? Whither moves thy cry,
 Thy bitter cry? Behind our door
 We heard thy heavy heart outpour
 Its sorrow: and there shivered by
 Fear and a quick sob shaken

From prisoned hearts that shall be free no more!

HECUBA. Child, 'tis the ships that stir upon the shore...

SECOND WOMAN. The ships, the ships awaken!

THIRD WOMAN. Dear God, what would they? Overseas
 Bear me afar to strange cities?

HECUBA. Nay, child, I know not. Dreams are these,
 Fears of the hope-forsaken.

FIRST WOMAN. Awake, O daughters of affliction, wake
 And learn your lots! Even now the Argives break
 Their camp for sailing!

HECUBA. Ah, not Cassandra! Wake not her
 Whom God hath maddened, lest the foe

Mock at her dreaming. Leave me clear
From that one edge of woe.

O Troy, my Troy, thou diest here
Most lonely; and most lonely we
The living wander forth from thee,
And the dead leave thee wailing!

One of the huts on the left is now open, and the rest of the CHORUS come out severally. Their

number eventually amounts to fifteen.

FOURTH WOMAN. Out of the tent of the Greek king
I steal, my Queen, with trembling breath:
What means thy call? Not death; not death!
They would not slay so low a thing!

FIFTH WOMAN. O, 'tis the ship-folk crying
To deck the galleys: and we part, we part!

HECUBA. Nay, daughter: take the morning to thine heart.

FIFTH WOMAN. My heart with dread is dying!

SIXTH WOMAN. An herald from the Greek hath come!

FIFTH WOMAN. How have they cast me, and to whom
A bondmaid?

HECUBA. Peace, child: wait thy doom.
Our lots are near the trying.

FOURTH WOMAN. Argos, belike, or Phthia shall it be,
Or some lone island of the tossing sea,
Far, far from Troy?

HECUBA. And I the aged, where go I,
A winter-frozen bee, a slave

Death-shapen, as the stones that lie
Hewn on a dead man's grave:

The children of mine enemy
To foster, or keep watch before
The threshold of a master's door,
I that was Queen in Troy!

A WOMAN TO ANOTHER. And thou, what tears can tell thy doom?

THE OTHER. The shuttle still shall flit and change
Beneath my fingers, but the loom,
Sister, be strange.

ANOTHER (wildly).

Look, my dead child! My child, my love,
The last look...

ANOTHER. Oh, there cometh worse.

A Greek's bed in the dark...

ANOTHER. God curse

That night and all the powers thereof!

ANOTHER. Or pitchers to and fro to bear

To some Pirene on the hill,

Where the proud water craveth still

Its broken-hearted minister.

ANOTHER. God guide me yet to Theseus' land,

The gentle land, the famed afar...

ANOTHER. But not the hungry foam — Ah, never! —

Of fierce Eurotas, Helen's river,

vocabulary

ἀγγέλλω carry a message, announce
 ~angel
 ἀγχιστεύω be near, next, next of kin
 αἰαῖ alas
 αἴγλη radiance
 αἶθω set on fire ~ether
 αἰχμαλωτὶς captive
 ἄλεκτρος unwedded
 ἀναφλέγω rekindle, inflame
 ἀνθέω sprout
 ἀνοίγνυμι (ῥ) open
 ἀντίπαλος rival; balanced
 ἀπαλλαξείω wish to get rid of
 ἀπαλλάσσω free from, remove; be
 freed, depart
 ἀράσσω smash
 αὐγή light
 ἄφιλος friendless; unfriendly
 βασιλικός royal
 βρίθω (ι) be loaded down, press
 down on
 γαμέτης -ου (m, 1) spouse
 γάμος wedding, sex ~bigamy
 γεραιός old ~geriatric
 γέρας -ως (n, 3) reward, honor
 γοάω weep, mourn
 γόος crying, wailing
 δάκος -εος (n, 3) biter; bite, sting
 δάμαρ wife ~domicile
 δεῦρο here, come here!
 δεύω moisten; lack
 δίπτυχος twice-folded
 δμῶς slave ~tame
 δόλιος tricky, guileful
 δουλεύω serve, be a slave
 δούλη slave-woman
 δράω do, accomplish
 δρόμος running, racing ground
 ~hippodrome
 δυστυχής unlucky
 εἴτα then, therefore, next

ἐκεῖσε thither
 ἐκκομίζω remove; bury a corpse
 ἐλεύθερος not enslaved
 ἔλκος -εος (n, 3) wound ~ulcer
 ἔλκω drag, pull, hoist; rape
 Ἑλλήν Greek
 ἐνδίδωμι hand over, lend, show,
 allow
 ἐνδον in the house of; within
 ἐνδω in the house of; within
 ἐνέπω tell, tell of
 ἐξανύω bring to pass; slay
 ἔρω -τος (m) love, desire ~erotic
 εὐδαιμονίζω consider happy
 εὐθηλής flourishing
 εὐτυχής fortunate
 ζάθεος holy
 ζεύγνυμι (ῥ) yoke, join ~zygote
 θέσιμος fixed, settled, lawful
 θοάζω move quickly; sit
 ἰός arrow
 ἱστορέω inquire; relate
 ἵχνος -εος (n, 3) track, trace
 ἰωή a rush, a sweep
 καινός new, fresh, strange
 καλλιστεύω be the best
 κάρτα very much ~κράτος
 καταστένω lament
 κληίω secure, bar
 κλήρος lot; farm, inheritance; clergy
 ~clergy
 κληρώω cast lots, assign
 κράς -τός (f, 3) head
 κρέας -ως (n) meat ~creatine
 κρηπίς (ι) boot; foundation
 λαγχάνω be allotted; (esp. λελα-
 forms) allot; receive
 λαμπάς -δος (f, 3) torch
 λάσκω cry, crack, ring
 λέκτρον bed ~lie
 λεύσσω see, look
 μαινάς -δος (f, 3) madwoman,

maenad ~maenad
 μακάριος blessed
 μίν him, her, it
 μυσαρός unclean, defiled
 μυχός recess, nook
 νεοχμώ innovate
 νύμφα nymph; bride
 ξανθός yellow
 ὀλβίζω make/deem happy
 ὄλβος happiness, wealth
 ὁμός same ~homoerotic
 ὁμοῦ together
 ὁμώ unite ~homoerotic
 πάλαι long ago ~paleo
 πάλη wrestling ~Pallas
 πάλλω shake, brandish ~Pallas
 πάλος lot; ballot
 παράνομος lawless, unlawful
 παρειά cheeks
 παρθένος (f) girl, virgin ~Parthenon
 πάροιθε in the presence of
 πεύκη pine
 πίμπρημι inflate, spurt; burn up
 ~pyre
 πότμος fate ~petal
 πότνια lady ~potent
 ποῦ where?
 προσπίπτω attack; befall; kow-tow
 πρόσπολος servant, attendant
 πρόσφορος serviceable, fitting
 ῥίπτω hurl

σέβομαι feel shame, awe
 σέλας -ως (n, 3) bright light
 σεμνός revered, holy
 σκότιος shadow-born ~shadow
 στείχω go, march ~stair
 στέφανος ring
 στέφος -εος (n, 3) wreath, crown
 στρατηλάτης -ου (m, 1) commander
 στρατιά army ~strategy
 στρατός common people/soldiers
 ~strategy
 στρατώ be on a campaign
 ~strategy
 στρέφω turn, veer ~atrophy
 τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent
 ταμία (ᾱα) housekeeper ~tonsure
 ταμίας -ως (m, 3) manager,
 quartermaster
 τάφος (m) funeral, grave; (n)
 astonishment
 τέκος -εος (n, 3) child ~oxytocin
 τοξεύω shoot an arrow at ~toxic
 τύμβος grave mound ~tomb
 ὑγραίνω wet, moisten
 ὑμέναιος bridal song ~hymen
 φάος φῶς (n, 3) light; salvation; (pl)
 eyes ~photon
 φέως bush used to make brooms
 φλέγω blaze, burn up ~flame
 χαίτη lock of hair, mane

τῷ τᾶς Τροίας πορθητῇ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. τὰν Πηνειοῦ σεμνὰν χώραν,

κρηπῖδ' Οὐλύμπου καλλίσταν, 215

ὄλβῳ βρίθειν φάμαν ἤκουσ'

εὐθαλεῖ τ' εὐκαρπείᾳ·

τάδε δεύτερά μοι μετὰ τὰν ἱερὰν

Θησέως ζαθέαν ἔλθειν χώραν.

καὶ τὰν Αἰτναίαν Ἥφαιστου 220

Φοινίκας ἀντήρη χώραν,

Σικελῶν ὀρέων ματέρ', ἀκούω

καρύσσεσθαι στεφάνοις ἀρετᾶς.

τάν τ' ἀγχιστεύουσιν¹ γᾶν

Ἰονίῳ ναύται πόντῳ, 225

ἂν ὑγραίνει² καλλιστεύων³

ὁ ξανθὰν χαίταν⁴ πυρσαίνων

Κρᾶθις ζαθέαις πηγαῖσι τρέφων

εὐανδρόν τ' ὀλβίζων⁵ γᾶν.

ΧΘ. καὶ μὴν Δαναῶν ὄδ' ἀπὸ στρατιᾶς 230

κῆρυξ, νεοχμῶν μύθων ταμίας,

στείχει ταχύπουν ἵχνος ἐξανύων.

τί φέρει; τί λέγει; δοῦλαι γὰρ δὴ

Δωρίδος ἐσμέν χθονὸς ἥδη.

ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ. Ἐκάβη, πυκνὰς γὰρ οἶσθά μ' ἐς Τροίαν ὁδοὺς 235

ἐλθόντα κήρυκ' ἐξ Ἀχαικοῦ στρατοῦ,

ἐγνωσμένος δὲ καὶ πάροιθέ σοι, γύναι,

Ταλθύβιος ἦκω καινὸν ἀγγελῶν λόγον.

¹ be near, next, next of kin ² wet, moisten ³ be the best ⁴ lock of hair, mane ⁵ make/deem happy

ΕΚΑΒΗ. αἰαί, τόδε τόδε, φίλαι Τρωάδες, ὁ φόβος ἦν πάλαι.

ΤΑ. ἤδη κεκλήρωσθ', εἰ τόδ' ἦν ὑμῖν φόβος. 240

ΕΚ. αἰαί, τίν' ἦ Θεσσαλίας πόλιν ἦ
Φθιάδος εἶπας ἦ Καδμείας χθονός;

ΤΑ. κατ' ἄνδρ' ἐκάστη κοῦχ ὁμοῦ λελόγγατε.

ΕΚ. τίν' ἄρα τίς ἔλαχε; τίνα πότμος εὐτυχῆς
Ἰλιάδων μένει; 245

ΤΑ. οἶδ'· ἀλλ' ἕκαστα πυνθάνου, μὴ πάνθ' ὁμοῦ.

ΕΚ. τοῦμόν τίς ἄρ'
ἔλαχε τέκος, ἔνεπε, τλάμονα Κασάνδραν;

ΤΑ. ἐξαίρετόν νιν ἔλαβεν Ἀγαμέμνων ἄναξ.

ΕΚ. ἦ τᾷ Λακεδαιμονίᾳ νύμφα
δούλαν; ἰώ μοί μοι. 250

ΤΑ. οὔκ, ἀλλὰ λέκτρων σκότια νυμφευτήρια.

ΕΚ. ἦ τὰν τοῦ Φοίβου παρθένον, ᾧ γέρας ὁ
χρυσοκόμας ἔδωκ' ἄλεκτρον⁶ ζῶαν;

ΤΑ. ἔρως ἐτόξευσ' αὐτὸν ἐνθέου κόρης. 255

ΕΚ. ῥίπτε, τέκνον, ζαθέους κλῆ'
δας καὶ ἀπὸ χροὸς ἐνδυ'
τῶν στεφένων ἱεροὺς στολμούς.

ΤΑ. οὐ γὰρ μέγ' αὐτῇ βασιλικῶν λέκτρων τυχεῖν;

ΕΚ. τί δ' ὁ νεοχμὸν ἀπ' ἐμέθεν ἐλάβετε τέκος, ποῦ μοι; 260

ΤΑ. Πολυξένην ἔλεξας, ἣ τίν' ἱστορεῖς;

ΕΚ. ταύταν· τῷ πάλος⁷ ἔζευξεν;

ΤΑ. τύμβῳ τέτακται προσπολεῖν Ἀχιλλέως.

ΕΚ. ὦμοι ἐγὼ· τάφῳ πρόσπολον ἑτεκόμαν. 265

⁶ unwedded ⁷ lot; ballot

ἀτὰρ τίς ὅδ' ἦ νόμος ἦ τί

θέσμον,⁸ ὦ φίλος, Ἑλλάνων;

ΤΑ. εὐδαιμόνιζε παῖδα σὴν· ἔχει καλῶς.

ΕΚ. τί τόδ' ἔλακες;⁹ ἄρά μοι ἀέλιον λεύσσει;

ΤΑ. ἔχει πότμος νιν, ὥστ' ἀπηλλάχθαι πόνων. 270

ΕΚ. τί δ' ἂ τοῦ χαλκεομήστορος Ἑκτορος δάμαρ,

Ἄνδρομάχα τάλαινα, τίν' ἔχει τύχαν;

ΤΑ. καὶ τήνδ' Ἀχιλλέως ἔλαβε παῖς ἐξαίρετον.

ΕΚ. ἐγὼ δὲ τῷ

πρόσπολος ἂ τριτοβάμονος χερὶ 275

δευομένα βάκτρον γεραιῷ κάρᾳ;

ΤΑ. Ἰθάκης Ὀδυσσεὺς ἔλαχ' ἄναξ δούλην σ' ἔχειν.

ΕΚ. ἔ ἔ. ἄρασσε¹⁰ κρᾶτα κούριμον,

ἔλκ' ὀνύχεσσι δίπτυχον¹¹ παρειάν. 280

ἰώ μοί μοι.

μυσαρῷ¹² δολίῳ λέλογχα φωτὶ δουλεύειν,

πολεμίῳ δίκας, παρανόμῳ δάκει,¹³

ὅς πάντα τὰ κεῖθεν ἐνθάδε στρέφει, τὰ δ' 285

ἀντίπαλ' αὖθις ἐκείσε διπτύχῳ γλώσσῃ

φίλα τὰ πρότερ' ἄφιλα τιθέμενος πάντων.

γοᾶσθ', ὦ Τρωάδες, με.

βέβακα δύσποτμος. οἴχομαι ἂ

τάλαινα, δυστυχεστάτῃ 290

προσέπεσον κλήρῳ.

ΧΘ. τὸ μὲν σὸν οἶσθα, πότνια, τὰς δ' ἐμὰς τύχας

τίς ἄρ' Ἀχαιῶν ἦ τίς Ἑλλήνων ἔχει;

⁸ fixed, settled, lawful ⁹ cry, crack, ring ¹⁰ smash ¹¹ twice-folded

¹² unclean, defiled ¹³ biter; bite, sting

ΤΑ. ἴτ', ἐκκομίζειν δεῦρο Κασάνδραν χρεῶν

ὅσον τάχιστα, δμῶες, ὥς στρατηλάτῃ 295

ἐς χεῖρα δούς νιν, εἶτα τὰς εἰληγμένας

καὶ τοῖσιν ἄλλοις αἰχμαλωτίδων ἄγω.

ἔα· τί πεύκης ἔνδον αἴθεται σέλας;

πιμπρᾶσιν— ἢ τί δρώσι— Τρωάδες μυχοῦς,

ὥς ἐξάγεσθαι τῇσδε μέλλουσαι χθονὸς 300

πρὸς Ἄργος, αὐτῶν τ' ἐκπυροῦσι σώματα

θανεῖν θέλουσαι; κάρτα¹⁴ τοι τοῦλεύθερον

ἐν τοῖς τοιούτοις δυσλόφως φέρει κακά.

ἄνοιγ' ἄνοιγε, μὴ τὸ ταῖσδε πρόσφορον

ἐχθρὸν δ' Ἀχαιοῖς εἰς ἔμ' αἰτίαν βάλῃ. 305

ΕΚ. οὐκ ἔστιν, οὐ πιμπρᾶσιν, ἀλλὰ παῖς ἐμὴ

μαινὰς θοάζει δεῦρο Κασάνδρα δρόμῳ.

ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ. Ἄνεχε· πάρεχε. φῶς φέρ', ὦ· σέβω· φλέγω¹⁵— ἰδού, ἰδού

—λαμπάσι¹⁶ τόδ' ἱερόν. ὦ Ὑμέναι' ἄναξ·

μακάριος ὁ γαμέτας·¹⁷

μακαρία δ' ἐγὼ βασιλικοῖς λέκτροις

κατ' Ἄργος ἅ γαμουμένα.

Ὑμῆν, ὦ Ὑμέναι' ἄναξ.

ἐπεὶ σύ, μᾶτερ, ἐπὶ δάκρυσιν καὶ 315

γόοισιν τὸν θανόντα πατέρα πατρίδα τε

φίλαν καταστένουσ' ἔχεις,

ἐγὼ δ' ἐπὶ γάμοις ἐμοῖς

ἀναφλέγω πυρὸς φῶς ἐς αὐγάν, ἐς αἴγλαν, 320

διδοῦσ', ὦ Ὑμέναιε, σοί,

¹⁴ very much ¹⁵ blaze, burn up ¹⁶ torch ¹⁷ spouse

To bow to Menelaus' hand,
 That wasted Troy with war!
 A WOMAN. They told us of a land high-born,
 Where glimmers round Olympus' roots
 A lordly river, red with corn
 And burdened fruits.

ANOTHER. Aye, that were next in my desire
 To Athens, where good spirits dwell...

ANOTHER. Or Aetna's breast, the deeps of fire
 That front the Tyrian's Citadel:

First mother, she, of Sicily
 And mighty mountains: fame hath told
 Their crowns of goodness manifold...

ANOTHER. And, close beyond the narrowing sea,
 A sister land, where float enchanted
 Ionian summits, wave on wave,
 And Crathis of the burning tresses
 Makes red the happy vale, and blesses
 With gold of fountains spirit-haunted
 Homes of true men and brave!

LEADER. But lo, who cometh: and his lips
 Grave with the weight of dooms unknown:
 A Herald from the Grecian ships.
 Swift comes he, hot-foot to be done
 And finished. Ah, what bringeth he
 Of news or judgment? Slaves are we,
 Spoils that the Greek hath won!

TALTHYBIUS, followed by some Soldiers, enters from the left.

TALTHYBIUS. Thou know'st me, Hecuba. Often have I crossed
 Thy plain with tidings from the Hellene host.'

Tis I, Talthybius... Nay, of ancient use
 Thou know'st me. And I come to bear thee news.

HECUBA. Ah me, 'tis here, 'tis here,
 Women of Troy, our long embosomed fear!

TALTHYBIUS. The lots are cast, if that it was ye feared.

HECUBA. What lord, what land... Ah me,
 Phthia or Thebes, or sea-worn Thessaly?

TALTHYBIUS. Each hath her own. Ye go not in one herd.

HECUBA. Say then what lot hath any? What of joy
 Falls, or can fall on any child of Troy?

TALTHYBIUS. I know: but make thy questions severally.

HECUBA. My stricken one must be

Still first. Say how Cassandra's portion lies.
 TALTHYBIUS. Chosen from all for Agamemnon's prize!
 HECUBA. How, for his Spartan bride
 A tirewoman? For Helen's sister's pride?
 TALTHYBIUS. Nay, nay: a bride herself, for the King's bed.
 HECUBA. The sainted of Apollo? And her own
 Prize that God promised
 Out of the golden clouds, her virgin crown?...
 TALTHYBIUS. He loved her for that same strange holiness.
 HECUBA. Daughter, away, away,
 Cast all away,
 The haunted Keys, the lonely stole's array
 That kept thy body like a sacred place!
 TALTHYBIUS. Is't not rare fortune that the King hath smiled
 On such a maid?
 HECUBA. What of that other child
 Ye reft from me but now?
 TALTHYBIUS (speaking with some constraint).
 Polyxena? Or what child meanest thou?
 HECUBA. The same. What man now hath her, or what doom?
 TALTHYBIUS. She rests apart, to watch Achilles' tomb.
 HECUBA. To watch a tomb? My daughter? What is this?...
 Speak, Friend? What fashion of the laws of Greece?
 TALTHYBIUS. Count thy maid happy! She hath naught of ill
 To fear...
 HECUBA. What meanest thou? She liveth still?
 TALTHYBIUS. I mean, she hath one toil that holds her free
 From all toil else.
 HECUBA. What of Andromache,
 Wife of mine iron-hearted Hector, where
 Journeyeth she?
 TALTHYBIUS. Pyrrhus, Achilles' son, hath taken her.
 HECUBA. And I, whose slave am I,
 The shaken head, the arm that creepeth by,
 Staff-crutched, like to fall?
 TALTHYBIUS. Odysseus, Ithaca's king, hath thee for thrall.
 HECUBA. Beat, beat the crownless head:
 Rend the cheek till the tears run red!
 A lying man and a pitiless
 Shall be lord of me, a heart full-flown
 With scorn of righteousness:
 O heart of a beast where law is none,

Where all things change so that lust be fed,
 The oath and the deed, the right and the wrong,
 Even the hate of the forked tongue:
 Even the hate turns and is cold,
 False as the love that was false of old!
 O Women of Troy, weep for me!
 Yea, I am gone: I am gone my ways.
 Mine is the crown of misery,
 The bitterest day of all our days.

LEADER. Thy fate thou knowest, Queen: but I know not
 What lord of South or North has won my lot.

TALTHYBIUS. Go, seek Cassandra, men! Make your best speed,
 That I may leave her with the King, and lead
 These others to their divers lords... Ha, there!
 What means that sudden light? Is it the flare
 Of torches?

Light is seen shining through the crevices of the second hut on the right. He moves towards it.

Would they fire their prison rooms,
 Or how, these dames of Troy? — 'Fore God, the dooms
 Are known, and now they burn themselves and die
 Rather than sail with us! How savagely
 In days like these a free neck chafes beneath
 Its burden!... Open! Open quick! Such death
 Were bliss to them, it may be: but 'twill bring
 Much wrath, and leave me shamed before the King!
 HECUBA. There is no fire, no peril: 'tis my child,
 Cassandra, by the breath of God made wild.

The door opens from within and CASSANDRA enters, white-robed and wreathed like a Priestess,

a great torch in her hand. She is singing softly to herself and does not see the Herald or the scene before her.

CASSANDRA. Lift, lift it high:

Give it to mine hand!

Lo, I bear a flame

Unto God! I praise his name.

I light with a burning brand

This sanctuary.

Blessed is he that shall wed,

And blessed, blessed am I

In Argos: a bride to lie

With a king in a king's bed.
Hail, O Hymen red,
O Torch that makest one!
Weepest thou, Mother mine own?
Surely thy cheek is pale
With tears, tears that wail
For a land and a father dead.
But I go garlanded:
I am the Bride of Desire:
Therefore my torch is borne—
Lo, the lifting of morn,
Lo, the leaping of fire!—
For thee, O Hymen bright,
For thee, O Moon of the Deep,

vocabulary

αἰθέριος in the air; heavenly
 αἰσχρός shameful
 αἰχμή spear point ~acute
 ἄκτῃ beach; cereal grain
 ἄμισθί without monetary
 compensation
 ἀνάκτορον palace; temple
 ἀοιδή song
 ἀοιδός (f) singer
 ἄπαις childless
 ἀποστερέω despoil, defraud
 ἄρτιος suitable
 βασίλεια noblewoman
 βασιλείος kingly
 βασιλικός royal
 βῆμα -τος (n, 3) step, pace
 βίαιος by force
 βλώσκω come, go
 γαμήλιος nuptial
 γάμος wedding, sex ~bigamy
 γελάω laugh, smile, laugh at
 δαδουχέω carry a torch
 δάμαρ wife ~domicile
 δάφνη laurel
 δεῖξις proof, display
 δοξάζω think, imagine; extol
 δορός leather bag ~dermatology
 δυσκλεής infamous ~Euclid
 δυσχερής annoying, difficult
 δώρέω give ~donate
 εἰσφέρω carry into/along; propose
 ~bear
 ἐκβακχεύω excite to Bacchic frenzy;
 enrage
 ἐκεῖσε thither
 ἐκτρέφω raise, rear
 ἐκών willingly, on purpose; giving
 in too easily
 ἐλίσσω turn, rally ~helix
 ἔξιμι go forth; is possible ~ion
 ἐξεργάζομαι accomplish; undo;

destroy someone
 ἔπαινος (noun) praise
 ἐπάξιος worthy of
 ἐρμηνεύω translate
 ἔρω be able to move ~serpent
 ἔρω -τος (m) love, desire ~erotic
 εὐνάω lay to bed, have sex with
 εὐνή bed; (pl) anchor stones
 ἡδονή pleasure
 ἡνίκα when
 θηράω hunt, chase
 θοάζω move quickly; sit
 ἰαχή shout
 κάρα (αἶ) head (n) ~cranium
 κεράννυμι (ῶ) mix ~crater
 κῆδος -εος (n, 3) sorrow ~heinous
 κλεινός famous
 κλέος κλοῦς (n, 3) fame ~Euclid
 κοῦφος light, nimble
 κράς -τός (f, 3) head
 κρέας -ως (n) meat ~creatine
 κρείσσων more powerful; better
 κτάομαι acquire, possess
 λάτρις hired servant
 λέκτρον bed ~lie
 λέχος -εος (n, 3) couch, bed, bier
 ~lie
 ληίζομαι plunder ~lucre
 λυγρός pitiful; woe-bringing
 ~lugubrious
 λυπρός worthless, wretched
 μαινάς -δος (f, 3) madwoman,
 maenad ~maenad
 μακάριος blessed
 μέλαθρον roofbeam
 μέλος -ους (n, 3) limb; melody
 μέλπω celebrate in song
 μολίσκω come, go
 μουσα muse
 μυρίος (ῶ) 10,000 ~myriad
 νικηφόρος (ῖ) bringing victory;
 victorious

νύμφα nymph; bride	σοφός skilled, clever, wise
ξένη foreign woman; foreign country	στέφανος ring
οἴκοθεν from home, from one's own resources ~economics	στράτευμα -τος (n, 3) army ~strategy
οἴκοι at home ~economics	στρατηλάτης -ου (m, 1) commander
οἰκτείρω pity	στρατός common people/soldiers ~strategy
οἶμοι woe is me	συστέλλω contract
ὄνειδος -εος (n, 3) blame; insult	σώφρων sensible, prudent ~frenzy
ὄριον boundary	τάφος (m) funeral, grave; (n) astonishment
οὐνεκα because	τέθηπα be confused
πάλλω shake, brandish ~Pallas	τοιόσδε such
παρθένος (f) girl, virgin ~Parthenon	τόκος childbirth ~oxytocin
πάτρα (αᾶ) fatherland ~paternal	τοσόσδε this much
πατρώιος of the father(s), ancestral ~paternal	τράχηλος neck ~trachea
πατρῷος of the father(s), ancestral	τύραννος tyrant
πέλεκυς ax (for war or woodcutting)	ὑμέναιος bridal song ~hymen
πένης -τος (m) poor	ὑμνέω recite, commemorate
πέπλος woman's dress, a folded cylinder of cloth	ὑπηρέτης -ου (m, 1) servant, officer
περιβολή a covering; an interior	ὑφίστημι promise, undertake ~station
περιστέλλω lay out	φάος φῶς (n, 3) light; salvation; (pl) eyes ~photon
πεύκη pine	φέως bush used to make brooms
ποινή blood-price ~penalty	φήμη speech, rumor ~fame
πόρω aor. give, pf. be fated	φλόξ -γός (f) flame ~flame
πόσις -ος (m) (m) husband, master; (f) a drink ~potent	χορεύω dance
πότε when?	χορός dance; chorus ~terpsichorean
ποῦ where?	χρήζω need ~chresard
πρόσω forward, in the future; far	χρηστός useful; brave, worthy
πυκάζω cover	ώθέω push
σεμνός revered, holy	
σιγάω (ι) be silent	

διδοῦσ', ὦ Ἑκάτα, φάος,
 παρθένων ἐπὶ λέκτροις ᾧ νόμος ἔχει.
 πάλλε πόδα. 325
 αἰθέριον ἄναγε χορόν· εὐάν, εὐοῖ·
 ὥς ἐπὶ πατρὸς ἐμοῦ μακαριωτάταις
 τύχαις· ὁ χορὸς ὅσιος. ἄγε σύ, Φοῖβε, νῦν· κατὰ σὸν ἐν δάφναις¹
 ἀνάκτορον θνηπολῶ, 330
 Ὑμήν, ὦ Ὑμέναι', Ὑμήν.
 χόρευε,² μᾶτερ, ἀναγέλασον·
 ἔλισσε τᾷδ' ἐκέισε μετ' ἐμέθεν ποδῶν
 φέρουσα φιλτάταν βάσιw.
 βοάσαθ' Ὑμέναιον, ὦ, 335
 μακαρίαις αἰοιδαῖς ἰαχαῖς³ τε νύμφαν.
 ἴτ', ὦ καλλίπεπλοι Φρυγῶν
 κόραι, μέλπετ' ἐμῶν γάμων
 τὸν πεπρωμένον εὐνᾷ πόσιν ἐμέθεν. 340

ΧΟΡΟΣ. βασιλεια, βακχεύουσαν οὐ λήψῃ κόρην,
 μὴ κοῦφον⁴ αἶρη βῆμ'⁵ ἐς Ἀργείων στρατόν;
 ΕΚΑΒΗ. Ἥφαιστε, δαδουχεῖς⁶ μὲν ἐν γάμοις βροτῶν,
 ἀτὰρ λυγρὰν γε τήνδ' ἀναιθύσσεις φλόγα
 ἔξω τε μεγάλων ἐλπίδων. οἶμοι, τέκνον, 345
 ὥς οὐχ ὑπ' αἰχμῆς σ' οὐδ' ὑπ' Ἀργείου δορός
 γάμους γαμείσθαι τούσδ' ἐδόξαζόν ποτε.
 παράδος ἐμοὶ φῶς· οὐ γὰρ ὀρθὰ πυρφορεῖς
 μαινὰς θοάζουσ', οὐδέ σ' αἱ τύχαι, τέκνον,
 ἐσωφρονήκασ', ἀλλ' ἔτ' ἐν ταῦτῳ μένεις. 350

¹ laurel ² dance ³ shout ⁴ light, nimble ⁵ step, pace ⁶ carry a torch

ἔσφέρετε πεύκας, δάκρυά τ' ἀνταλλάξατε
τοῖς τῆσδε μέλεσι, Τρωάδες, γαμηλίοις.⁷

ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ. μῆτερ, πύκαζε κρᾶτ' ἐμὸν νικηφόρον,

καὶ χαῖρε τοῖς ἐμοῖσι βασιλικοῖς γάμοις·
καὶ πέμπε, κἄν μὴ τὰμά σοι πρόθυμά γ' ἦ,
ᾧθι βιαίως· εἰ γὰρ ἔστι Λοξίας,

355

Ἐλένης γαμῖ με δυσχερέστερον γάμον
ὁ τῶν Ἀχαιῶν κλεινὸς Ἀγαμέμνων ἄναξ.
κτενῶ γὰρ αὐτόν, κἀντιπορθήσω δόμους
ποιναὺς ἀδελφῶν καὶ πατρὸς λαβοῦσ' ἐμοῦ
ἀλλ' ἄττ' ἐάσω· πέλεκυν⁸ οὐχ ὑμνήσομεν,
ὃς ἐς τράχηλον τὸν ἐμὸν εἷσι χιτέρων·

360

μητροκτόνους τ' ἀγῶνας, οὓς οὔμοι γάμοι
θήσουσιν, οἴκων τ' Ἀτρέως ἀνάστασιν.

πόλιν δὲ δείξω τήνδε μακαριωτέραν
ἢ τοὺς Ἀχαιοὺς, ἔνθεος μέν, ἀλλ' ὅμως
τοσόνδε γ' ἔξω στήσομαι βακχευμάτων·
οἳ διὰ μίαν γυναιῖκα καὶ μίαν Κύπριν,
θηρῶντες Ἐλένην, μυρίους ἀπώλεσαν.

365

ὁ δὲ στρατηγὸς ὁ σοφὸς ἐχθίστων ὕπερ
τὰ φίλτατ' ὤλεσ', ἡδονὰς τὰς οἰκοθεν
τέκνων ἀδελφῶ δούς γυναικὸς οὔνεκα,
καὶ ταῦθ' ἐκούσης κου' βία λελησμένης.⁹

370

ἐπεὶ δ' ἐπ' ἀκτὰς ἦλυθον Σκαμανδρίους,
ἔθνησκον, οὐ γῆς ὄρι' ἀποστερούμενοι
οὐδ' ὑψίπυργον πατρίδ'· οὓς δ' Ἄρης ἔλοι,

375

⁷ nuptial ⁸ ax (for war or woodcutting) ⁹ plunder

οὐ παῖδας εἶδον, οὐ δάμαρτος ἐν χεροῖν
 πέπλοις συνεστάλησαν, ἐν ξένη δὲ γῇ
 κεῖνται. τὰ δ' οἶκοι τοῖσδ' ὅμοι' ἐγίγνετο·
 χῆραί τ' ἔθνησκον, οἳ δ' ἄπαιδες ἐν δόμοις
 ἄλλοις τέκν' ἐκθρέψαντες· οὐδὲ πρὸς τάφοις
 ἔσθ' ὅστις αὐτῶν αἷμα γῇ δωρήσεται.¹⁰
 ἦ τοῦδ' ἐπαίνου τὸ στράτευμ' ἐπάξιον.
 —σιγᾶν ἄμεινον τ' ἀσχρά, μηδὲ μοῦσά μοι
 γένοιτ' ἀοιδὸς ἥτις ὑμνήσει κακά.
 Τρῶες δὲ πρῶτον μὲν, τὸ κάλλιστον κλέος,
 ὑπὲρ πάτρας ἔθνησκον· οὗς δ' ἔλοι δόρυ,
 νεκροί γ' ἐς οἴκους φερόμενοι φίλων ὑπο
 ἐν γῇ πατρῴᾳ περιβολὰς εἶχον χθονός,
 χερσὶν περισταλέντες ὧν ἐχρῆν ὑπο·
 ὅσοι δὲ μὴ θάνοιεν ἐν μάχῃ Φρυγῶν,
 αἰὲ κατ' ἡμαρ σὺν δάμαρτι καὶ τέκνοις
 ᾤκουν, Ἀχαιοῖς ὧν ἀπῆσαν ἡδοναί.
 τὰ δ' Ἔκτορός σοι λύπρ' ἄκουσον ὡς ἔχει·
 δόξας ἀνὴρ ἄριστος οἴχεται θανῶν,
 καὶ τοῦτ' Ἀχαιῶν ἕξις ἐξεργάζεται·
 εἰ δ' ἦσαν οἴκοι, χρηστὸς ὧν ἐλάνθανεν.
 Πάρις δ' ἔγημε τὴν Διός· γήμας δὲ μή,
 σιγώμενον τὸ κῆδος εἶχεν ἐν δόμοις.
 φεύγειν μὲν οὖν χρὴ πόλεμον ὅστις εὖ φρονεῖ·
 εἰ δ' ἐς τόδ' ἔλθοι, στέφανος οὐκ αἰσχροὺς πόλει
 καλῶς ὀλέσθαι, μὴ καλῶς δὲ δυσκλεές.
 ὧν οὐνεκ' οὐ χρή, μῆτερ, οἰκτίρειν¹¹ σε γῆν,

¹⁰ give ¹¹ pity

οὐ τὰμὰ λέκτρα· τοὺς γὰρ ἐχθίστους ἐμοὶ
καὶ σοὶ γάμοισι τοῖς ἐμοῖς διαφθερῶ.

405

ΧΟ. ὡς ἡδέως κακοῖσιν οἰκείοις γελᾷς,
μέλπεις θ' ἂ μέλπουσ' οὐ σαφῇ δείξεις ἴσως.

ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ. εἰ μὴ σ' Ἀπόλλων ἐξεβάκχευεν φρένας,

οὐ τὰν ἀμισθί¹² τοὺς ἐμοὺς στρατηλάτας
τοιαῖσδε φήμαις¹³ ἐξέπεμπες ἂν χθονός.

410

ἀτὰρ τὰ σεμνὰ καὶ δοκήμασιν σοφὰ
οὐδὲν τι κρείσσω τῶν τὸ μηδὲν ἦν ἄρα.
ὁ γὰρ μέγιστος τῶν Πανελλήνων ἄναξ,
Ἄτρεως φίλος παῖς, τῇσδ' ἔρωτ' ἐξαίρετον
μαινάδος ὑπέστη· καὶ πένης μέν εἰμ' ἐγώ,
ἀτὰρ λέχος γε τῇσδ' ἂν οὐκ ἐκτησάμην.

415

καὶ σοὶ μέν— οὐ γὰρ ἀρτίας¹⁴ ἔχεις φρένας
—Ἀργεῖ ὀνειδίη καὶ Φρυγῶν ἐπαινέσεις
ἀνέμοις φέρεσθαι παραδίδωμ'. ἔπον δέ μοι
πρὸς ναῦς, καλὸν νύμφευμα τῷ στρατηλάτῃ.
σὺ δ', ἡνίκ' ἂν σε Λαρτίου χρήζῃ τόκος
ἄγειν, ἔπεσθαι· σῶφρονος δ' ἔση λάτρης
γυναικός, ὥς φασ' οἱ μολόντες Ἴλιον.

420

ΚΑ. ἦ δεινὸς ὁ λάτρης. τί ποτ' ἔχουσι τοῦνομα
κήρυκες, ἐν ἀπέχθημα πάγκοινον βροτοῖς,
οἱ περὶ τυράννους καὶ πόλεις ὑπηρέται;
σὺ τὴν ἐμὴν φῆς μητέρ' εἰς Ὀδυσσέως
ἥξειν μέλαθρα; ποῦ δ' Ἀπόλλωνος λόγοι,
οἱ φασιν αὐτὴν εἰς ἐμ' ἡρμηνευμένοι¹⁵

425

¹² without monetary compensation
¹⁵ translate

¹³ speech, rumor

¹⁴ suitable

So Law hath charged, for the light

Of a maid's last sleep.

Awake, O my feet, awake:

Our father's hope is won!

Dance as the dancing skies

Over him, where he lies

Happy beneath the sun!...

Lo, the Ring that I make...

She makes a circle round her with a torch, and visions appear to her.

Apollo!... Ah, is it thou?

O shrine in the laurels cold,

I bear thee still, as of old,

Mine incense! Be near to me now.

She waves the torch as though bearing incense.

O Hymen, Hymen fleet:

Quick torch that makest one!...

How? Am I still alone?

Laugh as I laugh, and twine

In the dance, O Mother mine:

Dear feet, be near my feet!

Come, greet ye Hymen, greet

Hymen with songs of pride:

Sing to him loud and long,

Cry, cry, when the song

Failleth, for joy of the bride!

O Damsels girt in the gold

Of Ilion, cry, cry ye,

For him that is doomed of old

To be lord of me!

LEADER. O hold the damsel, lest her tranced feet

Lift her afar, Queen, toward the Hellene fleet!

HECUBA. O Fire, Fire, where men make marriages

Surely thou hast thy lot; but what are these

Thou bringest flashing? Torches savage-wild

And far from mine old dreams. — Alas, my child,

How little dreamed I then of wars or red

Spears of the Greek to lay thy bridal bed!

Give me thy brand; it hath no holy blaze

Thus in thy frenzy flung. Nor all thy days

Nor all thy griefs have changed them yet, nor learned

Wisdom. — Ye women, bear the pine half burned

To the chamber back; and let your drowned eyes

Answer the music of these bridal cries!
 She takes the torch and gives it to one of the women.
 CASSANDRA. O Mother, fill mine hair with happy flowers,
 And speed me forth. Yea, if my spirit cowers,
 Drive me with wrath! So liveth Loxias,
 A bloodier bride than ever Helen was
 Go I to Agamemnon, Lord most high
 Of Hellas!... I shall kill him, mother; I
 Shall kill him, and lay waste his house with fire
 As he laid ours. My brethren and my sire
 Shall win again...(
 Checking herself) But part I must let be,
 And speak not. Not the axe that craveth me,
 And more than me; not the dark wanderings
 Of mother-murder that my bridal brings,
 And all the House of Atreus down, down, down...
 Nay, I will show thee. Even now this town
 Is happier than the Greeks. I know the power
 Of God is on me: but this little hour,
 Wilt thou but listen, I will hold him back!
 One love, one woman's beauty, o'er the track
 Of hunted Helen, made their myriads fall.
 And this their King so wise, who ruleth all,
 What wrought he? Cast out Love that Hate might feed:
 Gave to his brother his own child, his seed
 Of gladness, that a woman fled, and fain
 To fly for ever, should be turned again!
 So the days waned, and armies on the shore
 Of Simois stood and strove and died. Wherefore?
 No man had moved their landmarks; none had shook
 Their walled towns. — And they whom Ares took,
 Had never seen their children: no wife came
 With gentle arms to shroud the limbs of them
 For burial, in a strange and angry earth
 Laid dead. And there at home, the same long dearth:
 Women that lonely died, and aged men
 Waiting for sons that ne'er should turn again,
 Nor know their graves, nor pour drink-offerings,
 To still the unslaked dust. These be the things
 The conquering Greek hath won!
 But we — what pride,
 What praise of men were sweeter? — fighting died

To save our people. And when war was red
 Around us, friends upbore the gentle dead
 Home, and dear women's heads about them wound
 White shrouds, and here they sleep in the old ground
 Beloved. And the rest long days fought on,
 Dwelling with wives and children, not alone
 And joyless, like these Greeks.
 And Hector's woe,
 What is it? He is gone, and all men know
 His glory, and how true a heart he bore.
 It is the gift the Greek hath brought! Of yore
 Men saw him not, nor knew him. Yea, and even
 Paris hath loved withal a child of heaven:
 Else had his love but been as others are.
 Would ye be wise, ye Cities, fly from war!
 Yet if war come, there is a crown in death
 For her that striveth well and perisheth
 Unstained: to die in evil were the stain!
 Therefore, O Mother, pity not thy slain,
 Nor Troy, nor me, the bride. Thy direst foe
 And mine by this my wooing is brought low.
 TALTHYBIUS (at last breaking through the spell that has held him).
 I swear, had not Apollo made thee mad,
 Not lightly hadst thou flung this shower of bad
 Bodings, to speed my General o'er the seas!
 Fore God, the wisdoms and the greatnesses
 Of seeming, are they hollow all, as things
 Of naught? This son of Atreus, of all kings
 Most mighty, hath so bowed him to the love
 Of this mad maid, and chooseth her above
 All women! By the Gods, rude though I be,
 I would not touch her hand!
 Look thou; I see
 Thy lips are blind, and whatso words they speak,
 Praises of Troy or shamings of the Greek,
 I cast to the four winds! Walk at my side
 In peace!... And heaven content him of his bride!
 He moves as though to go, but turns to HECUBA, and speaks more gently.
 And thou shalt follow to Odysseus' host
 When the word comes. 'Tis a wise queen thou
 go'st
 To serve, and gentle: so the Ithacans say.

CASSANDRA (seeing for the first time the Herald and all the scene).
How fierce a slave!... O Heralds, Heralds!
Yea,
Voices of Death; and mists are over them
Of dead men's anguish, like a diadem,
These weak abhorred things that serve the hate
Of kings and peoples!...
To Odysseus' gate
My mother goeth, say'st thou? Is God's word
As naught, to me in silence ministered,
That in this place she dies?... (To herself) No
more; no more!

vocabulary

ἄβρός graceful, delicate, pretty
 ἀγάλλω exalt; mp: exult in
 ἄγαλμα -τος (n, 3) ornament, glory, statue
 ἄγνευμα -τος (n, 3) chastity
 ἀδόκιμος expired; unconvincing; disreputable
 ἄζυξ unpaired, unmarried
 ἄθλιος wretched ~athlete
 ἄλλομαι to jump ~sally
 ἄλμυρός salty
 ἀμβροτόπωλος with immortal steeds
 ἀμφίβολος encompassing; surrounded; ambiguous
 ἀνακαλέω call, summon, recall
 ἄναυδος unable to speak
 ~Theravada
 ἀντιλαμβάνω grasp; get instead, in turn
 ἀξίωμα -τος (n, 3) honor; decree
 ἀπήνη wagon
 ἀριστεύω be the best ~aristocrat
 ἄτα bewilderment, folly
 ἀτάω (mp) suffer, be in distress
 αὔρα breeze ~air
 βασιλικός royal
 βλώσκω come, go
 βρέμω roar, clash, rage
 ~brontosaurus
 γηράσκω grow old ~geriatric
 γῆρυς voice
 γραῖα old woman ~geriatric
 γραῦς old woman ~geriatric
 δακρύω weep
 δέμας -ως (n) body; (+gen.) like
 δέμνιον bedstead ~domicile
 δέρομαι see, watch
 δέσποινα lady
 δήποτε at some time
 δῆτα emphatic δή

δίαυλος double course
 δόλιος tricky, guileful
 δούλη slave-woman
 δύστηνος unhappy, miserable
 δυστυχής unlucky
 εἰσαφικνέομαι arrive at
 ἐκπλέω sail away ~float
 ἐκφεύγω flee from, escape ~fugitive
 ἐμβαίνω step on, board ~basis
 ἔνερθε beneath, below
 ἐξαίνυμαι take, deprive of (+2 acc)
 ἐξακοντίζω hurl forth
 ἐρκεῖος having an altar in the sanctuary ~oath
 ἔρω be able to move ~serpent
 ἔρως -τος (m) love, desire ~erotic
 εὐδαίμων blessed with a good genius
 εὐτυχέω be lucky, prosper, succeed
 θάλλω bloom, flourish, abound
 ~thallium
 θριγκός coping, frieze
 θρίξ hair ~tresses
 ἰάχω scream
 ἰστίον sail ~stand
 καινέω freshen, innovate, make strange
 καινόω freshen, innovate, make strange
 καραδοκέω (ᾱ) wait for the outcome of
 καταξαίνω comb, tear, wear away
 κατασφάζω slaughter
 κικλήσκω summon, name ~gallo
 κλείς κληῖδος (f) bar, key ~clavicle
 κλώθω spin (yarn)
 κοίτη rest, resting place, sleepiness
 κομπάζω boast
 κρήδεμνον veil; symbolic or functional top ~cranium
 λάτρις hired servant
 λίμνη lake, marsh, basin, sea

~limnic

λοίσθιος left behind; beam, gaff

λόχος ambush, band, childbirth ~lie

λωτός clover? lotus?

μαντεία oracular power

μαντεῖον prophetic warning

~mantis

μαντεῖος prophetic

μεθίημι let go, cease; (mid) speed off

~jet

μῖν him, her, it

μολίσκω come, go

μυρίος (ῖ) 10,000 ~myriad

ναυάγιον (ᾱ) wreckage

νεᾶνις -δος (f) young woman ~neon

νικηφόρος (ι) bringing victory;

victorious

νυμφίος bridegroom

ξεστός polished, wrought

ξύανον wooden idol

οἰκίζω colonize, settle

οἷκτος compassion

ὄλβιος happy, wealthy

ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye

ὄνειδίζω upbraid, reproach

ὀρθόω stand up

οὐράνιος heavenly

οὐτάω pierce, wound

πάτρα (αᾱ) fatherland ~paternal

πέδον ground ~pedal

πέλας near, close

πέπλος woman's dress, a folded

cylinder of cloth

πέτρινος rocky

πεύκη pine

πικρός sharp, bitter ~picric

πίτνω poetic for πίπτω

ποιῖ whither? how long?

πότε when?

πτῶμα -τος (n, 3) fall; fallen thing

πυρά pyre ~pyre

ρυσός (ῖ) shrivelled, wrinkled

σεμνός revered, holy

σπαραγμός tearing; spasm

σπορά seed, sowing

στείχω go, march ~stair

στενός narrow

στέφος -εος (n, 3) wreath, crown

στιβάς -δος (f, 3) mattress

συμφορά collecting; accident,

misfortune

συντέμνω cut short, terminate

σχῆμα -τος (n, 3) form, figure

τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent

τάφος (m) funeral, grave; (n)

astonishment

τέθηπα be confused

τροχηρός (ῖ) ragged, worn out

τύμβος grave mound ~tomb

τύραννος tyrant

ὕμνος song ~hymn

φάραγξ -γος (f) ravine, gully

φύλαξ -κος (m) guard; sentry

~phylactery

χαμαιπετής fallen to the ground

χειμάρροος flooding

χειμάρρους winter-flooded

ὥσεῖ as if

ὠφελέω help, be useful

αὐτοῦ θανεῖσθαι; τᾶλλα δ' οὐκ ὄνειδιῶ. 430
 δύστηνος, οὐκ οἶδ' οἷά νιν μένει παθεῖν·
 ὡς χρυσὸς αὐτῷ τὰμὰ καὶ Φρυγῶν κακὰ
 δόξει ποτ' εἶναι. δέκα γὰρ ἐκπλήσας ἔτη
 πρὸς τοῖσιν ἐνθάδ', ἕξεται μόνος πάτρην
 οὗ δὴ στενὸν¹ δίαυλον ᾧκισται πέτρας 435
 δεινὴ Χάρυβδις, ὠμοβρώς τ' ὀρειβάτης
 Κύκλωψ, Λιγυστὶς θ' ἡ συνῶν μορφώτρια
 Κίρκη, θαλάσσης θ' ἄλμυρᾶς ναάγια,
 λωτοῦ τ' ἔρωτες, Ἥλιου θ' ἀγναὶ βόες,
 αἱ σάρκα φωνήεσσαν ἥσουσιν ποτε, 440
 πικρὰν Ὀδυσσεὶ γῆρυν.² ὡς δὲ συντέμω,
 ζῶν εἶς ἐς Ἄιδου κάκφυγὼν λίμνης ὕδωρ
 κάκ' ἐν δόμοισι μυρὶ εὐρήσει μολών.

ΚΑΣΑΝΔΡΑ. ἀλλὰ γὰρ τί τοὺς Ὀδυσσεύς ἐξακοντίζω πόνους;

στείχ' ὅπως τάχιστ' ἐς Ἄιδου νυμφίῳ γημώμεθα. 445
 ἦ κακὸς κακῶς ταφήσῃ νυκτός, οὐκ ἐν ἡμέρᾳ,
 ὦ δοκῶν σεμνόν τι πράσσειν, Δαναϊδῶν ἀρχηγέτα.
 καμέ τοι νεκρὸν φάραγγες³ γυμνάδ' ἐκβεβλημένην
 ὕδατι χειμάρρῳ ρέουσαι, νυμφίου πέλας τάφου,
 θηρσὶ δώσουσιν δάσασθαι, τὴν Ἀπόλλωνος λάτρην. 450
 ὦ στέφη τοῦ φιλτάτου μοι θεῶν, ἀγάλματ' εὔια,
 χαίρετ' ἐκέλοιφ' ἐορτάς, αἷς πάροιθ' ἠγαλλόμην.⁴
 ἵτ' ἀπ' ἐμοῦ χρωτὸς σπαραγμοῖς,⁵ ὡς ἔτ' οὖς ἀγνὴ χροά
 δῶ θοαῖς αὔραις⁶ φέρεσθαί σοι τάδ', ὦ μαντεῖ ἄναξ.
 ποῦ σκάφος τὸ τοῦ στρατηγοῦ; ποῖ ποτ' ἐμβαίνειν με χρή; 455

¹ narrow ² voice ³ ravine, gully ⁴ exalt; mp: exult in ⁵ tearing; spasm
⁶ breeze

οὐκέτ' ἂν φθάνοις ἂν αὔραν ἰστίοις καραδοκῶν,
 ὡς μίαν τριῶν Ἑρινὺν τῇσδέ μ' ἐξάξων χθονός.
 χαῖρέ μοι, μήτερ· δακρύσης μηδέν· ὦ φίλη πατρίς,
 οἳ τε γῆς ἔνερθ⁷ ἀδελφοὶ χῶ τεκῶν ἡμᾶς πατήρ,
 οὐ μακρὰν δέξεσθέ μ'· ἤξω δ' ἐς νεκροὺς νικηφόρος
 καὶ δόμους πέρσας Ἀτρειδῶν, ὧν ἀπωλόμεσθ' ὕπο.

460

ΧΟΡΟΣ. Ἑκάβης γεραιᾶς φύλακες, οὐ δεδόγκατε
 δέσποιναν⁸ ὡς ἄναιδος ἐκτάδην πίτνει;⁹
 οὐκ ἀντιλήψεσθ'· ἦ μεθήσεται, ὦ κακαί,
 γραῖαν¹⁰ πεσοῦσαν; αἶρετ' εἰς ὀρθὸν δέμας.

465

ΕΚΑΒΗ. ἐᾷτέ μ'— οὗτοι φίλα τὰ μὴ φίλ', ὦ κόραι
 —κεῖσθαι πεσοῦσαν· πτωμάτων¹¹ γὰρ ἄξια
 πάσχω τε καὶ πέπονθα κάτι πείσομαι.
 ὦ θεοὶ κακοὺς μὲν ἀνακαλῶ τοὺς συμμάχους,
 ὅμως δ' ἔχει τι σχῆμα κικλήσκειν θεούς,
 ὅταν τις ἡμῶν δυστυχῇ λάβῃ τύχην.
 πρῶτον μὲν οὖν μοι τὰγάθ' ἐξᾶσαι φίλον·
 τοῖς γὰρ κακοῖσι πλείον' οἶκτον ἐμβάλῳ.
 ἦμεν τύραννοι καὶς τύρανν' ἐγημάμην,
 κἀνταῦθ' ἀριστεύοντ'¹² ἐγενάμην τέκνα,
 οὐκ ἀριθμὸν ἄλλως, ἀλλ' ὑπερτάτους Φρυγῶν·
 οὗς Τρωὰς οὐδ' Ἑλληνὶς οὐδὲ βάρβαρος
 γυνὴ τεκοῦσα κομπάσειεν¹³ ἄν ποτε.
 κακείνᾳ τ' εἶδον δορὶ πεσόνθ' Ἑλληνικῷ
 τρίχας τ' ἐτμήθην τάσδε πρὸς τύμβοις νεκρῶν,
 καὶ τὸν φυτουργὸν Πρίαμον οὐκ ἄλλων πάρα

470

475

480

⁷ beneath, below ⁸ lady ⁹ poetic for πίπτω ¹⁰ old woman ¹¹ fall;
 fallen thing ¹² be the best ¹³ boast

κλύουσ' ἔκλανσα, τοῖσδε δ' εἶδον ὄμμασιν
 αὐτὴ κατασφαγέντ' ἐφ' ἑρκείῳ πυρᾷ,
 πόλιν θ' ἀλοῦσαν. ἅς δ' ἔθρεψα παρθένους
 ἐς ἀξίωμα¹⁴ νυμφίων ἐξαίρετον, 485
 ἄλλοισι θρέψας ἐκ χερῶν ἀφηρέθην.
 κοῦτ' ἐξ ἐκείνων ἐλπὶς ὡς ὀφθήσομαι,
 αὐτὴ τ' ἐκείνας οὐκέτ' ὄψομαι ποτε.
 τὸ λοίσθιον δέ, θριγκὸς¹⁵ ἀθλίων κακῶν,
 δούλη γυνὴ γραῦς Ἑλλάδ' εἰσαφίξομαι. 490
 ἂ δ' ἐστὶ γῆρα τῷδ' ἀσυμφορώτατα,
 τούτοις με προσθήσουσιν, ἣ θυρῶν λάτριν
 κλῆδας φυλάσσειν, τὴν τεκοῦσαν Ἑκτορα,
 ἣ σιτοποιεῖν, κὰν πέδῳ κοίτας¹⁶ ἔχειν
 ῥυσοῖσι¹⁷ νώτοις, βασιλικῶν ἐκ δεμνίων, 495
 τρυχηρὰ¹⁸ περὶ τρυχηρὸν εἰμένην χροά
 πέπλων λακίσματ', ἀδόκιμ'¹⁹ ὀλβίοις ἔχειν.
 οἷ γὰρ τάλαινα, διὰ γάμον μιᾶς ἔνα
 γυναικὸς οἶων ἔτυχον ὧν τε τεύξομαι.
 ὦ τέκνον, ὦ σύμβακχε Κασάνδρα θεοῖς, 500
 οἷσιν ἔλυσας συμφοραῖς ἄγνευμα²⁰ σόν.
 σὺ τ', ὦ τάλαινα, ποῦ ποτ' εἶ, Πολυξένη;
 ὥς οὔτε μ' ἄρσην οὔτε θήλεια σπορὰ²¹
 πολλῶν γενομένων τὴν τάλαιναν ὠφελεῖ.
 τί δῆτά μ' ὀρθοῦτ'; ἐλπίδων ποίων ὕπο; 505
 ἄγετε τὸν ἄβρὸν δήποτ'²² ἐν Τροίᾳ πόδα,

¹⁴ honor; decree ¹⁵ coping, frieze ¹⁶ rest, resting place, sleepiness
¹⁷ shrivelled, wrinkled ¹⁸ ragged, worn out ¹⁹ expired; unconvincing;
 disreputable ²⁰ chastity ²¹ seed, sowing ²² at some time

νῦν δ' ὄντα δοῦλον, στιβάδα²³ πρὸς χαμαιπετῇ²⁴
 πέτρινά²⁵ τε κρήδεμν',²⁶ ὡς πεσοῦσ' ἀποφθαρῶ
 δακρύοις καταξανθεῖσα. τῶν δ' εὐδαιμόνων
 μηδένα νομίζετ' εὐτυχεῖν, πρὶν ἂν θάνῃ.

510

ΧΟ. ἀμφί μοι Ἴλιον, ὦ Μοῦσα, καινῶν ὕμνων²⁷

ἄεισον ἐν δακρύοις ᾧδαν ἐπικήδειον·

νῦν γὰρ μέλος ἐς Τροίαν ἰαχήσω,

515

τετραβάμονος ὡς ὑπ' ἀπήνας

Ἀργείων ὀλόμαν τάλαινα δοριάλωτος,

ὅτ' ἔλιπον ἵππον οὐράνια

βρέμοντα χρυσεοφάλαρον ἔνο'

520

πλον ἐν πύλαις Ἀχαιοί·

ἀνὰ δ' ἐβόασεν λεῶς

Τρωάδος ἀπὸ πέτρας σταθείς·

Ἴτ', ὦ πεπαυμένοι πόνων,

τόδ' ἱερὸν ἀνάγετε ξόανον

525

Ἰλιάδι Διογενεῖ κόρα.

τίς οὐκ ἔβα νεανίδων,²⁸

τίς οὐ γεραιὸς ἐκ δόμων;

κεχαρμένοι δ' αἰοδαῖς

δόλιον ἔσχον ἄταν.

530

ΧΟ. πᾶσα δὲ γένηνα Φρυγῶν πρὸς πύλας ὠρμάθη,

πεύκα ἐν οὐρεῖα ξεστὸν λόχον Ἀργείων

καὶ Δαρδανίας ἄταν θέα δώσων,

535

χάριν ἄζυγος ἀμβροτοπώλου·

κλωστοῦ δ' ἀμφιβόλοις λίνιοιο ναὸς ὥσεί

²³ mattress ²⁴ fallen to the ground ²⁵ rocky ²⁶ veil; symbolic or functional top ²⁷ song ²⁸ young woman

Why should I speak the shame of them, before
 They come?... Little he knows, that hard-beset
 Spirit, what deeps of woe await him yet;
 Till all these tears of ours and harrowings
 Of Troy, by his, shall be as golden things.
 Ten years behind ten years athwart his way
 Waiting: and home, lost and unfriended...

Nay:

Why should Odysseus' labours vex my breath?
 On; hasten; guide me to the house of Death,
 To lie beside my bridegroom!...

Thou Greek King,

Who deem'st thy fortune now so high a thing,
 Thou dust of the earth, a lowlier bed I see,
 In darkness, not in light, awaiting thee:
 And with thee, with thee... there, where yawneath
 plain

A rift of the hills, raging with winter rain,
 Dead... and out-cast... and naked... It is I
 Beside my bridegroom: and the wild beasts cry,
 And ravin on God's chosen!

She clasps her hands to her brow and feels the wreaths.
 O, ye wreaths!

Ye garlands of my God, whose love yet breathes
 About me, shapes of joyance mystical,
 Begone! I have forgot the festival,
 Forgot the joy. Begone! I tear ye, so,
 From off me!... Out on the swift winds they go.
 With flesh still clean I give them back to thee,
 Still white, O God, O light that ledest me!

Turning upon the Herald.

Where lies the galley? Whither shall I tread?
 See that your watch be set, your sail be spread
 The wind comes quick! Three Powers—mark me,
 thou! —

There be in Hell, and one walks with thee now!
 Mother, farewell, and weep not! O my sweet
 City, my earth-clad brethren, and thou great
 Sire that begat us, but a space, ye Dead,
 And I am with you, yea, with crowned head
 I come, and shining from the fires that feed
 On these that slay us now, and all their seed!

She goes out, followed by Talthybius and the Soldiers Hecuba, after waiting for an instant

motionless, falls to the ground.

LEADER OF CHORUS. The Queen, ye Watchers! See, she falls, she falls,
Rigid without a word! O sorry thralls,
Too late! And will ye leave her downstricken,
A woman, and so old? Raise her again!

Some women go to HECUBA, but she refuses their aid and speaks without rising.

HECUBA. Let lie... the love we seek not is no love...

This ruined body! Is the fall thereof

Too deep for all that now is over me

Of anguish, and hath been, and yet shall be?

Ye Gods... Alas! Why call on things so weak

For aid? Yet there is something that doth seek,

Crying, for God, when one of us hath woe.

O, I will think of things gone long ago

And weave them to a song, like one more tear

In the heart of misery... All kings we were;

And I must wed a king. And sons I brought

My lord King, many sons... nay, that were naught;

But high strong princes, of all Troy the best.

Hellas nor Troäs nor the garnered East

Held such a mother! And all these things beneath

The Argive spear I saw cast down in death,

And shore these tresses at the dead men's feet.

Yea, and the gardener of my garden great,

It was not any noise of him nor tale

I wept for; these eyes saw him, when the pale

Was broke, and there at the altar Priam fell

Murdered, and round him all his citadel

Sacked. And my daughters, virgins of the fold,

Meet to be brides of mighty kings, behold,'

Tw'as for the Greek I bred them! All are gone;

And no hope left, that I shall look upon

Their faces any more, nor they on mine.

And now my feet tread on the utmost line:

An old, old slave-woman, I pass below

Mine enemies' gates; and whatso task they know

For this age basest, shall be mine; the door,

Bowing, to shut and open... I that bore

Hector!... and meal to grind, and this racked head

Bend to the stones after a royal bed;
Tom rags about me, aye, and under them
Tom flesh; 'twill make a woman sick for shame!
Woe's me; and all that one man's arms might hold
One woman, what long seas have o'er me rolled
And roll for ever!... O my child, whose white
Soul laughed amid the laughter of God's light,
Cassandra, what hands and how strange a day
Have loosed thy zone! And thou, Polyxena,
Where art thou? And my sons? Not any seed
Of man nor woman now shall help my need.
Why raise me any more? What hope have I
To hold me? Take this slave that once trod high
In Ilion; cast her on her bed of clay
Rock-pillowed, to lie down, and pass away
Wasted with tears. And whatso man they call
Happy, believe not ere the last day fall!
CHORUS. O Muse, be near me now, and make
A strange song for Ilion's sake,
Till a tone of tears be about mine ears
And out of my lips a music break
For Troy, Troy, and the end of the years:
When the wheels of the Greek above me pressed,
And the mighty horse-hoofs beat my breast;
And all around were the Argive spears
A towering Steed of golden rein —
O gold without, dark steel within! —
Ramped in our gates; and all the plain
Lay silent where the Greeks had been.
And a cry broke from all the folk
Gathered above on Ilion's rock:
"Up, up, O fear is over now!
To Pallas, who hath saved us living,
To Pallas bear this victory-vow!"
Then rose the old man from his room,
The merry damsel left her loom,
And each bound death about his brow
With minstrelsy and high thanksgiving!
O, swift were all in Troy that day,
And girt them to the portal-way,
Marvelling at that mountain Thing
Smooth-carven, where the Argives lay,

And wrath, and Ilion's vanquishing:
Meet gift for her that spareth not,
Heaven's yokeless Rider. Up they brought
Through the steep gates her offering:
Like some dark ship that climbs the shore
On straining cables, up, where stood

vocabulary

ἀδάκρυτος (ὅ) without tears
ἄεριος (ἄ) in early morning
αἰαῖ alas
αἵγλη radiance
αἱματόεις bloody ~hematology
αἴνιγμα -τος (n, 3) dark saying
ἄκος ἄκεος (n, 3) cure, remedy
ἀλάομαι wander, rove, roam ~Fr.
aller
ἀλγέω suffer ~analgesic
ἄλκαρ -τος (n) defense ~Alexander
ἄμιλλα conflict
ἄμός (ἄ) my, our
ἀνύω accomplish, pass over,
 complete
ἀπήνη wagon
ἀποκόπτω cut off
ἀποσπάω tear/drag away
ἀριθμός number
βλώσκω come, go
βοά din, a shout
βρέφος -ους (n, 3) fetus, baby
γόνος offspring ~genus
γύψ γυπός (m) vulture
δακρύω weep
δάμαρ wife ~domicile
δάπεδον floor, prepared ground
δέμνιον bedstead ~domicile
δεσπότης -ου (m, 1) master, despot
διόλλυμι (ὅ) be ruined
διολλύω be ruined
δούλιος of a slave
δυστυχής unlucky
ἔδρα (ἄ) seat, seated group
 ~polyhedron
ἔδρανον seat, seated group
 ~polyhedron
εἰρεσία rowing ~row
ἐκβαίνω come forth, disembark
 ~basis
ἐκφεύγω flee from, escape ~fugitive

ἔνειμι be in ~ion
ἐνίημι put in; motivate ~jet
ἐρημία wilderness, solitude
ἔρω be able to move ~serpent
εὐγένειος well-bearded
εὐγενής well born
εὐδοξία good repute
εὐτυχέω be lucky, prosper, succeed
εὐτυχής fortunate
εὐφρων cheerful, mirthful ~frenzy
ζυγόν yoke, a joined pair ~zygote
θρήνος dirge ~threnody
ιάλεμος (ἄ) lament, dirge; sad, dull,
 stupid
καπνόομαι go up in smoke
καταθνήσκω die, be dead
 ~euthanasia
καταλείβω drip
κελαινός black, dark, swarthy,
 murky
κνέφας -ος (n, 3) dark, dusk
κουρότροφος raising children
 ~atrophy
κρείσσων more powerful; better
κρότος rattling, clapping
κτυπέω crash
λάινος of stone
λεία booty
λεῖος smooth
λεύσσω see, look
λέχος -εος (n, 3) couch, bed, bier
 ~lie
λόχος ambush, band, childbirth ~lie
λύμα -τος (n, 3) ablution
λύπη distress
λυπρός worthless, wretched
λωτός clover? lotus?
μάστις -εως (f) whip
μαστός nipple, breast
μέλαθρον roofbeam
μέλεος vain, idle, useless
μέλπω celebrate in song

μεταβολή change, exchange
 μέτρον measure ~metric
 μίν him, her, it
 μολίσκω come, go
 μουσα muse
 νεᾶνις -δος (f) young woman ~neon
 νοσέω be sick, be mad, suffer
 νῶτον back of the body; rear of an
 army; top of a box
 ξενικός strange, foreign
 οἰκτρός pitiable
 οἶμοι woe is me
 ὄλβος happiness, wealth
 ὀρέστερος of the mountains
 ~hormone
 ὀχεύς -ος (m) holder, fastener, bar
 ὄχος pl: carrying thing, chariot,
 holding place ~wagon
 παιάν -ήνοος (m, 3) paean
 πάλη wrestling ~Pallas
 πάλλω shake, brandish ~Pallas
 πάρεδρος assessor
 πατριά family, tribe
 πάτριος of the father(s), ancestral
 πένθος -εος (n, 3) grief, misfortune
 ~Nepenthe
 πέπλος woman's dress, a folded
 cylinder of cloth
 πόθος longing, regret ~bid
 ποῖ whither? how long?
 πορθμεύω ferry over
 πότμος fate ~petal
 πρεσβυγενής first-born
 ~Presbyterian

προσδοκάω expect
 πτοέω scare
 πυργόω wall, fortify
 σέλας -ως (n, 3) bright light
 σκάφος (τό) hull, ship; (ό) digging
 σκύλλω trouble, treat badly
 σκύλον spoils from a dead enemy
 στενάζω sigh, groan
 στέφανος ring
 στέφω crown, put around
 στυγερός dreaded, feeling dread
 ~Styx
 συμφορά collecting; accident,
 misfortune
 σφαγή slaughter
 σφάζω cut the throat
 σχέτιλος tough, sound, stubborn,
 cruel ~ischemia
 τάλαις wretched, miserable ~talent
 τάφος (m) funeral, grave; (n)
 astonishment
 τείνω stretch, tend ~tense
 τέκος -εος (n, 3) child ~oxytocin
 τέρψις -τος (f) pleasure
 τλάμων steadfast, enduring
 τοξεύω shoot an arrow at ~toxic
 τοσόσδε this much
 φεῦ exclamation of grief, anger,
 surprise, admiration
 φέως bush used to make brooms
 φίλιος friendly
 φοίνις red
 φόνιος bloody
 χορός dance; chorus ~terpsichorean

σκάφος κελαινόν,¹ εἰς ἔδρανα
 λάινα δάπεδά² τε φόνια πατρί' 540
 δι Παλλάδος θέσαν θεᾶς.
 ἐπὶ δὲ πόνῳ καὶ χαρᾷ
 νύχιον ἐπεὶ κνέφας³ παρήν,
 Λίβυς τε λωτὸς⁴ ἐκτύπει
 Φρύγιά τε μέλεα, παρθένοι δ' 545
 ἀέριον⁵ ἀνὰ κρότον⁶ ποδῶν
 βοᾶν ἔμελπον εὐφρον',⁷ ἐν
 δόμοις δὲ παμφαῆς σέλας
 πυρὸς μέλαιναν αἶγλαν
 ἄκος⁸ ἔδωκεν ὕπνῳ. 550

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἐγὼ δὲ τὰν ὀρεστέραν
 τότ' ἀμφὶ μέλαθρα παρθένον
 Διὸς κόραν ἐμελπόμαν
 χοροῖσι· φοινία δ' ἀνὰ 555
 πτόλιν βοὰ κατεῖχε Περ'
 γάμων ἔδρας· βρέφη δὲ φίλι'⁹
 α περὶ πέπλους ἔβαλλε μα'
 τρὶ χεῖρας ἐπτοημένας.¹⁰
 λόχου δ' ἐξέβαν' Ἄρης, 560
 κόρας ἔργα Παλλάδος.
 σφαγαὶ¹¹ δ' ἀμφιβώμιοι
 Φρυγῶν, ἐν τε δεμνίοις
 καράτομος ἐρμημία

¹ black, dark, swarthy, murky ² floor, prepared ground ³ dark, dusk
⁴ clover? lotus? ⁵ in early morning ⁶ rattling, clapping ⁷ cheerful, mirthful
⁸ cure, remedy ⁹ friendly ¹⁰ scare ¹¹ slaughter

νεανίδων στέφανον ἔφερεν

565

Ἑλλάδι κουροτρόφον,¹²

Φρυγῶν πατρίδι πένθη.

ΧΟ. Ἑκάβη, λεύσσεις τήνδ' Ἀνδρομάχην

ξενικοῖς¹³ ἐπ' ὄχοις πορθμευομένην;¹⁴

παρὰ δ' εἰρεσίᾳ¹⁵ μαστῶν ἔπεται

570

φίλος Ἀστυάναξ, Ἴκτορος ἱνις.

ποῖ ποτ' ἀπήνης νώτοισι φέρη,

δύστανε γύναι, πάρεδρος χαλκίοις

Ἴκτορος ὅπλοις σκύλοις τε Φρυγῶν δοριθηράτοις,

οἴσω Ἀχιλλέως παῖς Φθιώτας

575

στέψει ναοὺς ἀπὸ Τροίας;

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ. Ἀχαιοὶ δεσπότηι μ' ἄγουσιν.

ΕΚΑΒΗ. οἴμοι. ΑΝ. τί παιᾶν' ἐμὸν στενάζεις;

ΕΚ. αἰαῖ — ΑΝ. τῶνδ' ἀλγέων — ΕΚ. ὦ Ζεῦ — ΑΝ. καὶ συμφορᾶς.

ΕΚ. τέκεα, ΑΝ. πρὶν ποτ' ἦμεν.

580

ΕΚ. βέβακ' ὄλβος, βέβακε Τροία

ΑΝ. τλάμων. ΕΚ. ἐμῶν τ' εὐγένεια παίδων.

ΑΝ. φεῦ φεῦ. ΕΚ. φεῦ δῆτ' ἐμῶν ΑΝ. κακῶν. ΕΚ. οἰκτρὰ τύχα

ΑΝ. πόλεος, ΕΚ. ἃ καπνοῦται. ΑΝ. μόλοις, ὦ πόσις, μοι

585

— ΕΚ. βοᾶς τὸν παρ' Ἴδου

παῖδ' ἐμόν, ὦ μελέα. ΑΝ. σᾶς δάμαρτος ἄλκαρ.¹⁶

ΕΚ. σύ τ', ὦ λῦμ' Ἀχαιῶν,

590

τέκνων δέσποθ' ἁμῶν,¹⁷

πρεσβυγενὲς¹⁸ Πρίαμε,

κοίμισαί μ' ἐς Ἴδου.

¹² raising children ¹³ strange, foreign

¹⁴ ferry over

¹⁵ rowing

¹⁶ defense ¹⁷ my, our ¹⁸ first-born

ΑΝ. οἷδε πόθοι μεγάλοι ΕΚ. σχετλία, τάδε πάσχομεν ἄλγη. 595

ΑΝ. οἰχομένας πόλεως ΕΚ. ἐπὶ δ' ἄλγεσιν ἄλγεα κείται.

ΑΝ. δυσφροσύναισι θεῶν, ὅτε σὸς γόνος ἔκφυγεν Ἴδαν,
ὃς λεχέων στυγερῶν χάριν ὤλεσε πέργαμα Τροίας· αἱματόεντα δὲ
θεῶ παρὰ Παλλάδι σώματα νεκρῶν
γυβὶ¹⁹ φέρειν τέταται· ζυγὰ δ' ἤνυσε δούλια²⁰ Τροία. 600

ΕΚ. ὦ πατρίς, ὦ μελέα ΑΝ. καταλειπομέναν σε δακρύω,

ΕΚ. νῦν τέλος οἰκτρὸν ὄρᾳς. ΑΝ. καὶ ἐμὸν δόμον ἔνθ' ἐλοχεύθην.

ΕΚ. ὦ τέκν', ἐρημόπολις μάτηρ ἀπολείπεται ὑμῶν,
οἶος ἰάλεμος, οἷά τε πένθη
δάκρυνά τ' ἐκ δακρύνων καταλείβεται 605
ἀμετέροισι δόμοις· ὁ θανὼν δ' ἐπὶ
λάθεται ἀλγέων ἀδάκρυτος.²¹

ΧΟ. ὡς ἡδὺν δάκρυα τοῖς κακῶς πεπραγόσι
θρήνων²² τ' ὀδυρμοὶ μοῦσά θ' ἢ λύπας ἔχει.

ΑΝ. ὦ μήτερ ἀνδρός, ὅς ποτ' Ἀργείων δορὶ 610
πλείστους διώλεσ', Ἐκτορος, τὰδ' εἰσορᾷς;

ΕΚ. ὁρῶ τὰ τῶν θεῶν, ὡς τὰ μὲν πυργοῦς' ἄνω
τὸ μηδὲν ὄντα, τὰ δὲ δοκοῦντ' ἀπώλεσαν.

ΑΝ. ἀγόμεθα λεία σὺν τέκνω· τὸ δ' εὐγενὲς
ἐς δοῦλον ἵκει, μεταβολὰς τοσάσδ' ἔχον. 615

ΕΚ. τὸ τῆς ἀνάγκης δεινόν· ἄρτι καπ' ἐμοῦ
βέβηκ' ἀποσπασθεῖσα Κασάνδρα βία.

ΑΝ. φεῦ φεῦ· ἄλλος τις Αἴας, ὡς ἔοικε, δεύτερος
παιδὸς πέφηνε σῆς. νοσεῖς δὲ χᾶτερα.

ΕΚ. ὦν γ' οὔτε μέτρον οὔτ' ἀριθμὸς ἐστί μοι· 620

¹⁹ vulture ²⁰ of a slave ²¹ without tears ²² dirge

κακῷ κακὸν γὰρ εἰς ἄμιλλαν ἔρχεται.

ΑΝ. τέθνηκέ σοι παῖς πρὸς τάφῳ Πολυξένη

σφαγεῖσ' Ἀχιλλέως, δῶρον ἀψύχῳ νεκρῷ.

ΕΚ. οἷ γὼ τάλαινα. τοῦτ' ἐκεῖν' ὁ μοι πάλαι

Ταλθύβιος αἴνιγμ'²³ οὐ σαφῶς εἶπεν σαφές.

625

ΑΝ. εἰδὼν νιν αὐτή, κάποβᾶσα τῶνδ' ὄχων

ἔκρυψα πέπλοις κάπεκοψάμην νεκρόν.

ΕΚ. αἰαῖ, τέκνον, σῶν ἀνοσίων προσφαγμάτων·

αἰαῖ μάλ' αἰθῆς, ὡς κακῶς διόλλυσαι.

ΑΝ. ὄλωλεν ὡς ὄλωλεν· ἀλλ' ὅμως ἐμοῦ

630

ζώσης γ' ὄλωλεν εὐτυχεστέρῳ πότμῳ.

ΕΚ. οὐ ταῦτόν, ὦ παῖ, τῷ βλέπειν τὸ κατθανεῖν·

τὸ μὲν γὰρ οὐδέν, τῷ δ' ἔνεισιν ἐλπίδες.

ΑΝ. ὦ μήτερ, ὦ τεκοῦσα, κάλλιστον λόγον

ἄκουσον, ὥς σοι τέρψιν²⁴ ἐμβαλῶ φρενί.

635

τὸ μὴ γενέσθαι τῷ θανεῖν ἴσον λέγω,

τοῦ ζῆν δὲ λυπρῶς κρείσσον ἐστι κατθανεῖν.

ἀλγεῖ²⁵ γὰρ οὐδὲν τῶν κακῶν ἡσθημένος·

ὁ δ' εὐτυχήσας ἐς τὸ δυστυχὲς πεσὼν

ψυχὴν ἀλᾶται τῆς πάροιθ' εὐπραξίας.

640

κείνη δ', ὁμοίως ὥσπερ οὐκ ἰδοῦσα φῶς,

τέθνηκε κοῦδὲν οἶδε τῶν αὐτῆς κακῶν.

ἐγὼ δὲ τοξεύσασα τῆς εὐδοξίας²⁶

²³ dark saying ²⁴ pleasure ²⁵ suffer ²⁶ good reputation

Her marble throne, her hallowed floor,
 Who lusted for her people's blood.
 A very weariness of joy
 Fell with the evening over Troy:
 And lutes of Afric mingled there
 With Phrygian songs: and many a maiden,
 With white feet glancing light as air,
 Made happy music through the gloom:
 And fires on many an inward room
 All night broad-flashing, flung their glare
 On laughing eyes and slumber-laden.
 A MAIDEN. I was among the dancers there
 To Artemis, and glorying sang
 Her of the Hills, the Maid most fair,
 Daughter of Zeus: and, lo, there rang
 A shout out of the dark, and fell
 Deathlike from street to street, and made
 A silence in the citadel:
 And a child cried, as if afraid,
 And hid him in his mother's veil.
 Then stalked the Slayer from his den,
 The hand of Pallas served her well!
 O blood, blood of Troy was deep
 About the streets and altars then:
 And in the wedded rooms of sleep,
 Lo, the desolate dark alone,
 And headless things, men stumbled on.
 And forth, lo, the women go,
 The crown of War, the crown of Woe,
 To bear the children of the foe
 And weep, weep, for Ilion!

As the song ceases a chariot is seen approaching from the town, laden with spoils. On it sits

a mourning Woman with a child in her arms.
 LEADER. Lo, yonder on the heaped crest
 Of a Greek wain, Andromache,
 As one that o'er an unknown sea
 Tosseth; and on her wave-borne breast
 Her loved one clingeth, Hector's child,
 Astyanax... O most forlorn
 Of women, whither go'st thou, borne'
 Mid Hector's bronzen arms, and piled

Spoils of the dead, and pageantry
Of them that hunted Ilion down?
Aye, richly thy new lord shall crown
The mountain shrines of Thessaly!
ANDROMACHE. Forth to the Greek I go,
Driven as a beast is driven.

HEC. Woe, woe!

AND. Nay, mine is woe:
Woe to none other given,
And the song and the crown therefor!

HEC. O Zeus!

AND. He hates thee sore!

HEC. Children!

AND. No more, no more
To aid thee: their strife is striven!

HECUBA. Troy, Troy is gone!

AND. Yea, and her treasure parted.

HEC. Gone, gone, mine own
Children, the noble-hearted!

AND. Sing sorrow...

HEC. For me, for me!

AND. Sing for the Great City,
That falleth, falleth to be
A shadow, a fire departed.

ANDROMACHE. Come to me, O my lover!

HEC. The dark shroudeth him over,
My flesh, woman, not thine, not thine!

AND. Make of thine arms my cover!

HECUBA. O thou whose wound was deepest,
Thou that my children keepest,
Priam, Priam, O age-worn King,
Gather me where thou sleepest.

ANDROMACHE (her hands upon her heart).

ANDROMACHE. O here is the deep of desire,

HEC. (How? And is this not woe?)

AND. For a city burned with fire;

HEC. (It beateth, blow on blow.)

AND. God's wrath for Paris, thy son, that he died not long ago:
Who sold for his evil love
Troy and the towers thereof:
Therefore the dead men lie
Naked, beneath the eye

Of Pallas, and vultures croak

And flap for joy:

So Love hath laid his yoke

On the neck of Troy!

HECUBA. O mine own land, my home,

AND. (I weep for thee, left forlorn.)

HEC. See'st thou what end is come?

AND. (And the house where my babes were born.)

HEC. A desolate Mother we leave, O children, a City of scorn:

Even as the sound of a song

Left by the way, but long

Remembered, a tune of tears

Falling where no man hears,

In the old house, as rain,

For things loved of yore:

But the dead hath lost his pain

And weeps no more.

LEADER. How sweet are tears to them in bitter stress,

And sorrow, and all the songs of heaviness.

ANDROMACHE. Mother of him of old, whose mighty spear
Smote Greeks like chaff, see'st thou what things are
here?

HECUBA. I see God's hand, that buildeth a great crown

For littleness, and hath cast the mighty down.

ANDROMACHE. I and my babe are driven among the droves

Of plundered cattle. O, when fortune moves

So swift, the high heart like a slave beats low.

HECUBA. 'Tis fearful to be helpless. Men but now

Have taken Cassandra, and I strove in vain.

ANDROMACHE. Ah, woe is me; hath Ajax come again?

But other evil yet is at thy gate.

HECUBA. Nay, Daughter, beyond number, beyond weight

My evils are! Doom raceth against doom.

ANDROMACHE. Polyxena across Achilles' tomb

Lies slain, a gift flung to the dreamless dead.

HECUBA. My sorrow!... 'Tis but what Talthybius said:

So plain a riddle, and I read it not.

ANDROMACHE. I saw her lie, and stayed this chariot;

And raiment wrapt on her dead limbs, and beat

My breast for her.

HECUBA (to herself).

O the foul sin of it!

The wickedness! My child. My child! Again

I cry to thee. How cruelly art thou slain!

ANDROMACHE. She hath died her death, and howso dark it be,

Her death is sweeter than my misery.

HECUBA. Death cannot be what Life is, Child; the cup

Of Death is empty, and Life hath always hope.

ANDROMACHE. O Mother, having ears, hear thou this word

Fear-conquering, till thy heart as mine be stirred

With joy. To die is only not to be;

And better to be dead than grievously

Living. They have no pain, they ponder not

Their own wrong. But the living that is brought

From joy to heaviness, his soul doth roam,

As in a desert, lost, from its old home.

Thy daughter lieth now as one unborn,

Dead, and naught knowing of the lust and scorn

That slew her. And I... long since I drew my

bow

vocabulary

ἀγγέλλω carry a message, announce
 ~angel
ἄγγελμα -τος (n, 3) message, news
ἀέθλιος prize ~athlete
ἄθαπτος not honored with funeral
 rites ~epitaph
ἄθλιος wretched ~athlete
αἰαῖ alas
ἀκήρατος unharmed, pure
ἀλγέω suffer ~analgesic
ἀλκή prowess, defense, victory
 ~Alexander
ἀναπτύσσω unfold
ἀνδρεία courage
ἀνδρεῖος of a man, manly
ἀντέχω hold up as protection
 against ~ischemia
ἄντλος hold of a ship ~Antlia
ἀποβάλλω throw away, lose
ἀποπτύω (ō) spit out
ἄρη bane, harm; prayer
ἀρκέω satisfy; ward off, defend;
 suffice
αὐθέντης -ου (m, 1) murderer; doer
ἄφθογγος speechless
ἄχρηστος useless, unprofitable
βούλευμα -τος (n, 3) resolution,
 purpose
δάμαρ wife ~domicile
δέρκομαι see, watch
δεσπότης -ου (m, 1) master, despot
διαζεύγνυμι (ō) take apart
δουλεύω serve, be a slave
δυσμενής hostile, enemy
δύστηνος unhappy, miserable
δυστυχής unlucky
εἰσβαίνω enter, board ~basis
ἐκβαίνω come forth, disembark
 ~basis
ἐκμιχθέω struggle through, solve
 with work

ἐκτρέφω raise, rear
ἐκών willingly, on purpose; giving
 in too easily
ἐνδίδωμι hand over, lend, show,
 allow
ἐξαρκέω be enough; be satisfied
ἐξεῖμι go forth; is possible ~ion
ἐπίφθονος jealous
ἐργω bound, fend off; do
 ~ergonomics
εὐγένειος well-bearded
εὐγενής well born
εὐφραίνω gladden ~frenzy
εὐφρόνη euphemism for night
ἐφέλκω drag; (mid) influence
ζεύγνυμι (ō) yoke, join ~zygote
ζυγόν yoke, a joined pair ~zygote
ζυγός yoke, a joined pair ~zygote
ἥσυχος quiet
θῆλυς female; (rare) abundant
 ~female
θηριώδης savage, wild
θρηνέω sing a dirge ~threnody
ἰσχύω be strong; win
καινέω freshen, innovate, make
 strange
καινόω freshen, innovate, make
 strange
καίτοι and yet; and in fact; although
κάρ -ός (n) useless bit; form of *κατά*
καταστένω lament
κατοικίζω colonize
κεδνός considerate, caring
κλέπτω steal
κληδών -ηδόνης (f, 3) news, omen
 ~gallo
κλύδων -ος (m, 3) wave, surge
 ~cataclysm
κομφός clever, urbane, pleasant
κυρέω come upon, come up against;
 obtain
κυρόω (ō) confirm, sanction

λαγχάνω be allotted; (esp. λελα-
 forms) allot; receive
 λαῖφος -εος (n, 3) rags, sailcloth
 λάτρις hired servant
 λείψανον remnant
 λέκτρον bed ~lie
 λέχος -εος (n, 3) couch, bed, bier
 ~lie
 μάρναμαι fight
 μέλαθρον roofbeam
 μέτριος medium, moderate
 μίν him, her, it
 ναυσθλόω carry by sea
 ναύτης -ου (m, 1) sailor ~navy
 ξύνειμι be with; have sex
 ξύνεσις confluence
 οἰκοθεν from home, from one's own
 resources ~economics
 οἶκτος compassion
 οἶμοι woe is me
 ὄλεθρος ruin, destruction, death
 ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye
 οὐδαμῇ nowhere
 παραεῖδω sing beside, to
 παρθένειος virginal, of a girl
 παρίζω sit beside ~sit
 παρίημι dangle; pass over, allow
 ~jet
 παρόω maim
 πείρω pierce, run through ~pierce
 περισσός prodigious, superfluous
 πῆμα -τος (n, 3) woe, bane ~penury
 πόθος longing, regret ~bid
 πότε when?
 προθυμία (ῶ) zeal, alacrity ~fume
 πρόσσειμι approach, draw near; add
 ~ion
 προσήκω belong to, it beseems

πύργος ramparts, tower; line of
 troops
 πῶλος (f) foal ~foal
 ῥίπτέω hurl
 ῥίπτω hurl
 σθένω be strong, able
 σιγά silence
 σιγάω (ῖ) be silent
 σκάφος (τό) hull, ship; (ό) digging
 σκοπάω watch, observe
 σκοπέω behold, consider
 σοφός skilled, clever, wise
 στέγη roof, ceiling, chamber
 στείχω go, march ~stair
 στράτευμα -τος (n, 3) army
 ~strategy
 στρατός common people/soldiers
 ~strategy
 στυγέω dread, shrink from ~Styx
 συμφορά collecting; accident,
 misfortune
 σύνειμι be with; have sex ~ion
 σφάγιον victim, sacrifice
 σωτηρία saving, preservation
 σώφρων sensible, prudent ~frenzy
 ταράσσω mess things up ~trachea
 ταφείος funeral robe
 τύχη fortune, act of a god
 ὑπερβάλλω cause to go beyond;
 delay ~ballistic
 προίμιον prelude, introduction
 φύσις -εως (f) nature (of a thing)
 ~physics
 χαλάω let fall; become slack
 χρηστός useful; brave, worthy
 φόγος blemish, blame
 ὠφελέω help, be useful

λαχοῦσα πλεῖον τῆς τύχης ἡμάρτανον.
 ἃ γὰρ γυναιξὶ σώφρον' ἔσθ' ἠύρημένα, 645
 ταῦτ' ἐξεμόχθουν Ἑκτορος κατὰ στέγας.
 πρῶτον μὲν, ἔνθα— κἂν προσῇ κἂν μὴ προσῇ
 ψόγος γυναιξίν— αὐτὸ τοῦτ' ἐφέλκεται
 κακῶς ἀκούειν, ἥτις οὐκ ἔνδον μένει,
 τούτου παρῆσα πόθον ἔμμνον ἐν δόμοις· 650
 ἔσω τε μελάθρων κομψά¹ θηλειῶν ἔπη
 οὐκ εἰσεφρούμην, τὸν δὲ νοῦν διδάσκαλον
 οἴκοθεν ἔχουσα χρηστὸν ἐξήρκουν ἐμοί.
 γλώσσης τε σιγῇ² ὄμμα θ' ἥσυχον πόσει
 παρείχον· ἤδη δ' ἀμὲ χρῆν νικᾶν πόσιν, 655
 κείνῳ τε νίκην ὧν ἐχρῆν παρίεναι.
 καὶ τῶνδε κληδῶν³ ἐς στράτευμ' Ἀχαϊκὸν
 ἐλθοῦσ' ἀπώλεσέν μ'· ἐπεὶ γὰρ ἡρέθην,
 Ἀχιλλέως με παῖς ἐβουλήθη λαβεῖν
 δάμαρτα· δουλεύσω δ' ἐν αὐθεντῶν δόμοις. 660
 κεῖ' μὲν παρώσασ' Ἑκτορος φίλον κᾶρα
 πρὸς τὸν παρόντα πόσιν ἀναπτύξω φρένα,
 κακὴ φανούμαι τῷ θανόντι· τόνδε δ' αἶ
 στυγοῦσ' ἐμαυτῆς δεσπόταις μισήσομαι.
 καίτοι λέγουσιν ὡς μὲ εὐφρόνη⁴ χαλᾶ 665
 τὸ δυσμενὲς γυναικὸς εἰς ἀνδρὸς λέχος·
 ἀπέπτυσ' αὐτήν, ἥτις ἄνδρα τὸν πάρος
 καινοῖσι λέκτροις ἀποβαλοῦσ' ἄλλον φιλεῖ.
 ἀλλ' οὐδὲ πῶλος ἥτις ἂν διαζυγῇ

¹ clever, urbane, pleasant
 night

² silence

³ news, omen

⁴ euphemism for

τῆς συντραφείσης, ῥαδίως ἔλξει ζυγόν. 670

καίτοι τὸ θηριῶδες⁵ ἄφθογγόν τ' ἔφυ

ξυνέσει τ' ἄχρηστον⁶ τῇ φύσει τε λείπεται.

σέ δ', ὦ φίλ' Ἴκτορ, εἶχον ἄνδρ' ἀρκοῦντά μοι

ξυνέσει γένει πλούτῳ τε κἀνδρεία μέγαν·

ἀκήρατον⁷ δέ μ' ἐκ πατρὸς λαβὼν δόμων 675

πρῶτος τὸ παρθένειον ἐξεύξω λέχος.

καὶ νῦν ὅλῳλας μὲν σύ, ναυσθλοῦμαι δ' ἐγὼ

πρὸς Ἑλλάδ' αἰχμάλωτος ἐς δοῦλον ζυγόν.

ἄρ' οὐκ ἐλάσσω τῶν ἐμῶν ἔχειν κακῶν

Πολυξένης ὀλεθρος, ἣν καταστένεις; 680

ἐμοὶ γὰρ οὐδ' ὁ πᾶσι λείπεται βροτοῖς

ξύνεστιν ἐλπίς, οὐδὲ κλέπτομαι φρένας

πράξειν τι κεδνόν· ἦδὺν δ' ἐστὶ καὶ δοκεῖν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. ἐς ταῦτόν ἥκεις συμφορᾶς· θρηνοῦσα δὲ

τὸ σὸν διδάσκεις μ' ἔνθα πημάτων κυρῶ. 685

ΕΚΑΒΗ. αὐτὴ μὲν οὕτω ναὸς εἰσέβην σκάφος,

γραφῇ δ' ἰδοῦσα καὶ κλύουσ' ἐπίσταμαι.

ναύταις γὰρ ἦν μὲν μέτριος ἢ χειμῶν φέρειν,

προθυμίαν ἔχουσι σωθῆναι πόνων,

ὁ μὲν παρ' οἶαχ', ὁ δ' ἐπὶ λαίφεσιν⁸ βεβώς, 690

ὁ δ' ἄντλον εἵργων ναός· ἦν δ' ὑπερβάλλη

πολὺς ταραχθεὶς πόντος, ἐνδόντες τύχη

παρεῖσαν αὐτοὺς κυμάτων δρομήμασιν.

οὕτω δὲ καγὼ πόλλ' ἔχουσα πήματα

ἄφθογγός εἰμι καὶ παρεῖσ' ἐὼ στόμα· 695

⁵ savage, wild ⁶ useless, unprofitable ⁷ unharmed, pure ⁸ rags, sailcloth

νικᾷ γὰρ οὐκ θεῶν με δύστηνος κλύδων.
 ἀλλ', ὦ φίλη παῖ, τὰς μὲν Ἑκτορος τύχας
 ἔασον· οὐ μὴ δάκρυά νιν σώσῃ τὰ σά·
 τίμα δὲ τὸν παρόντα δεσπότην σέθεν,
 φίλον διδοῦσα δέλεαρ ἀνδρὶ σὼν τρόπων.
 καὶ δρᾶς τάδ', ἐς τὸ κοινὸν εὐφρανεῖς φίλους
 καὶ παῖδα τόνδε παιδὸς ἐκθρέψεως ἄν
 Τροία μέγιστον ὠφέλημ', ἥν' — εἴ ποτε
 — ἐκ σοῦ γενόμενοι παῖδες Ἴλιον πάλιν
 κατοικήσειαν, καὶ πόλις γένοιτ' ἔτι.
 ἀλλ' ἐκ λόγου γὰρ ἄλλος ἐκβαίνει λόγος,
 τίν' αὖ δέδορκα τόνδ' Ἀχαιῶν λάρνιν
 στείχοντα καινῶν ἄγγελον βουλευμάτων;⁹

700

705

ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ. Φρυγῶν ἀρίστου πρὶν ποθ' Ἑκτορος δάμαρ,

μή με στυγῆσῃς· οὐχ ἐκὼν γὰρ ἀγγελῶ.

710

Δαναῶν δὲ κοινὰ Πελοπιδῶν τ' ἀγγέλματα¹⁰

ΑΝΔΡΟΜΑΧΗ. τί δ' ἔστιν; ὥς μοι φροιμίων ἄρχῃ κακῶν.

ΤΑ. ἔδοξε τόνδε παῖδα πῶς εἶπω λόγον;

ΑΝ. μῶν οὐ τὸν αὐτὸν δεσπότην ἡμῖν ἔχειν;

ΤΑ. οὐδεὶς Ἀχαιῶν τοῦδε δεσπόσει ποτέ.

715

ΑΝ. ἀλλ' ἐνθάδ' αὐτοῦ λείβανον¹¹ Φρυγῶν λιπεῖν;

ΤΑ. οὐκ οἶδ' ὅπως σοι ῥαδίως εἶπω κακά.

ΑΝ. ἐπῆνέσ' αἰδῶ, πλὴν ἂν λέγῃς καλά.

ΤΑ. κτενοῦσι σὸν παῖδ', ὥς πύθῃ κακὸν μέγα.

ΑΝ. οἴμοι, γάμων τόδ' ὥς κλύω μείζον κακόν.

720

ΤΑ. νικᾷ δ' Ὀδυσσεὺς ἐν Πανέλληνιν λέγων

⁹ resolution, purpose ¹⁰ message, news ¹¹ remnant

ΑΝ. αἰαὶ μάλ'· οὐ γὰρ μέτρια πάσχομεν κακά.

ΤΑ. λέξας ἀρίστου παῖδα μὴ τρέφειν πατρὸς

ΑΝ. τοιαῦτα νικήσειε τῶν αὐτοῦ πέρι.

ΤΑ. ῥῦσαι δὲ πύργων δεῖν σφε Τρωικῶν ἄπο.

725

ἀλλ' ὥς γενέσθω, καὶ σοφωτέρα φανῇ·
μήτ' ἀντέχου τοῦδ', εὐγενῶς δ' ἄλγει κακοῖς,
μήτε σθένουσα¹² μηδὲν ἰσχύειν δόκει.

ἔχεις γὰρ ἀλκὴν οὐδαμῇ.¹³ σκοπεῖν δὲ χρή·

πόλις τ' ὄλωλε καὶ πόσις, κρατῇ δὲ σύ,

730

ἡμεῖς δὲ πρὸς γυναιῖκα μάρνασθαι μίαν

οἰοί τε. τούτων οὔνεκ' οὐ μάχης ἐρᾶν

οὐδ' αἰσχρὸν οὐδὲν οὐδ' ἐπίφθονόν σε δρᾶν,

οὐδ' αὖ σ' Ἀχαιοῖς βούλομαι ρίπτειν ἀράς.

εἰ γάρ τι λέξεις ὧν χολώσεται στρατός,

735

οὔτ' ἂν ταφείη παῖς ὄδ' οὔτ' οἴκτου τύχοι.

σιγῶσα δ' εὖ τε τὰς τύχας κεκτημένη

τὸν τοῦδε νεκρὸν οὐκ ἄθαπτον ἂν λίποις

αὐτή τ' Ἀχαιῶν πρηνεμενεστέρων τύχοις.

ΑΝ. ὦ φίλτατ', ὦ περισσὰ τιμηθεὶς τέκνον,

740

θανῇ πρὸς ἐχθρῶν μητέρ' ἀθλίαν λιπών,

ἢ τοῦ πατρὸς δέ σ' εὐγένει' ἀποκτενεῖ,

ἢ τοῖσιν ἄλλοις γίγνεται σωτηρία,

τὸ δ' ἐσθλὸν οὐκ ἐς καιρὸν ἦλθε σοὶ πατρός.

ὦ λέκτρα τὰμὰ δυστυχή τε καὶ γάμοι,

745

οἷς ἦλθον ἐς μέλαθρον Ἑκτορός ποτε,

οὐ σφάγιον υἱὸν Δαναΐδαις τέξουσ' ἐμόν,

¹² be strong, able ¹³ nowhere

Straight at the heart of good fame; and I know
My shaft hit; and for that am I the more
Fallen from peace. All that men praise us for,
I loved for Hector's sake, and sought to win.
I knew that alway, be there hurt therein
Or utter innocence, to roam abroad
Hath ill report for women; so I trod
Down the desire thereof, and walked my way
In mine own garden. And light words and gay
Parley of women never passed my door.
The thoughts of mine own heart... I craved no more...
Spoke with me, and I was happy. Constantly
I brought fair silence and a tranquil eye
For Hector's greeting, and watched well the way
Of living, where to guide and where obey.
And, lo! some rumour of this peace, being gone
Forth to the Greek, hath cursed me. Achilles' son,
So soon as I was taken, for his thrall
Chose me. I shall do service in the hall
Of them that slew... How? Shall I thrust aside
Hector's beloved face, and open wide
My heart to this new lord? Oh, I should stand
A traitor to the dead! And if my hand
And flesh shrink from him... lo, wrath and despite
O'er all the house, and I a slave!
One night,
One night... aye, men have said it... maketh tame
A woman in a man's arms... O shame, shame!
What woman's lips can so forswear her dead,
And give strange kisses in another's bed?
Why, not a dumb beast, not a colt will run
In the yoke untroubled, when her mate is gone —
A thing not in God's image, dull, unmoved
Of reason. O my Hector! best beloved,
That, being mine, wast all in all to me,
My prince, my wise one, O my majesty
Of valiance! No man's touch had ever come
Near me, when thou from out my father's home
Didst lead me and make me thine... And thou art
dead,
And I war-flung to slavery and the bread
Of shame in Hellas, over bitter seas!

What knoweth she of evils like to these,
 That dead Polyxena, thou weapest for?
 There liveth not in my life any more
 The hope that others have. Nor will I tell
 The lie to mine own heart, that aught is well
 Or shall be well... Yet, O, to dream were sweet!
 LEADER. Thy feet have trod the pathway of my feet,
 And thy clear sorrow teacheth me mine own.
 HECUBA. Lo, yonder ships: I ne'er set foot on one,
 But tales and pictures tell, when over them
 Breaketh a storm not all too strong to stem,
 Each man strives hard, the tiller gripped, the mast
 Manned, the hull baled, to face it: till at last
 Too strong breaks the o'erwhelming sea: lo, then
 They cease, and yield them up as broken men
 To fate and the wild waters. Even so
 I in my many sorrows bear me low,
 Nor curse, nor strive that other things may be.
 The great wave rolled from God hath conquered me.
 But, O, let Hector and the fates that fell
 On Hector, sleep. Weep for him ne'er so well,
 Thy weeping shall not wake him. Honour thou
 The new lord that is set above thee now,
 And make of thine own gentle piety
 A prize to lure his heart. So shalt thou be
 A strength to them that love us, and — God knows,
 It may be — rear this babe among his foes,
 My Hector's child, to manhood and great aid
 For Ilion. So her stones may yet be laid
 One on another, if God will, and wrought
 Again to a city! Ah, how thought to thought
 Still beckons!... But what minion of the Greek
 Is this that cometh, with new words to speak?

Enter TALTHYBIUS with a band of Soldiers. He comes forward slowly and with evident disquiet.

TALTHYBIUS. Spouse of the noblest heart that beat in Troy,
 Andromache, hate me not! 'Tis not in joy
 I tell thee. But the people and the Kings
 Have with one voice...

ANDROMACHE. What is it? Evil things
 Are on thy lips!

TALTHYBIUS. Tis ordered, this child... Oh,

How can I tell her of it?

ANDROMACHE. Doth he not go

With me, to the same master?

TALTHYBIUS. There is none

In Greece, shall e'er be master of thy son.

ANDROMACHE. How? Will they leave him here to build again
The wreck?...

TALTHYBIUS. I know not how to tell thee plain!

ANDROMACHE. Thou hast a gentle heart... if it be ill,
And not good, news thou hidest!

TALTHYBIUS. 'Tis their will

Thy son shall die... The whole vile thing is said
Now!

ANDROMACHE. Oh, I could have borne mine enemy's bed!

TALTHYBIUS. And speaking in the council of the host
Odysseus hath prevailed —

ANDROMACHE. O lost! lost! lost!...

Forgive me! It is not easy...

TALTHYBIUS... That the son

Of one so perilous be not fostered on
To manhood —

ANDROMACHE. God; may his own counsel fall
On his own sons!

TALTHYBIUS... But from this crested wall
Of Troy be dashed, and die... Nay, let the thing
Be done. Thou shalt be wiser so. Nor cling
So fiercely to him. Suffer as a brave
Woman in bitter pain; nor think to have
Strength which thou hast not. Look about thee here!
Canst thou see help, or refuge anywhere?

Thy land is fallen and thy lord, and thou
A prisoner and alone, one woman; how
Canst battle against us? For thine own good
I would not have thee strive, nor make ill blood
And shame about thee... Ah, nor move thy lips
In silence there, to cast upon the ships
Thy curse! One word of evil to the host,
This babe shall have no burial, but be tossed
Naked... Ah, peace! And bear as best thou may,
War's fortune. So thou shalt not go thy way
Leaving this child unburied; nor the Greek
Be stern against thee, if thy heart be meek!

ANDROMACHE (to the child).

Go, die, my best-beloved, my cherished one,
In fierce men's hands, leaving me here alone.
Thy father was too valiant; that is why
They slay thee! Other children, like to die,
Might have been spared for that. But on thy head
His good is turned to evil.
O thou bed
And bridal; O the joining of the hand,
That led me long ago to Hector's land
To bear, O not a lamb for Grecian swords
To slaughter, but a Prince o'er all the hordes
Enthroned of wide-flung Asia... Weepest thou?
Nay, why, my little one? Thou canst not know.
And Father will not come; he will not come;
Not once, the great spear flashing, and the tomb
Riven to set thee free! Not one of all
His brethren, nor the might of Ilion's wall.
How shall it be? One horrible spring...

vocabulary

ἄβρός graceful, delicate, pretty
 ἀέθλιον ἀθλίου prize
 ἀέθλιος prize ~athlete
 ἄθλιος wretched ~athlete
 αἰχμή spear point ~acute
 ἄκρις -ός (f) hilltop ~acute
 ἄλιος of the sea; fruitless
 ἀναίδεια shamelessness
 ἀνάπτω bind; blame; kindle
 ~haptic
 ἀναρπάζω carry off ~harpoon
 ἄνθος flower
 ἄνοικτος pitiless
 ἀντέχω hold up as protection
 against ~ischemia
 ἀπορρήγνυμι (ῥ) break off, apart
 ἀρήγω succor; prevent ~right
 ἀρμόζω fit together; be well fitted to
 ~harmony
 ἀρπάζω carry off, seize ~harpoon
 ἀστήρ -έρος (m) star
 ἀτύζω be terrified, panic
 αὐχέω boast
 γεραιός old ~geriatric
 γλαυκός bright, gleaming
 ~glaucoma
 γόνος offspring ~genus
 γυμνάσιον exercise; school
 δαίνυμι (ῥ) give a feast, feast on
 ~demon
 δαίω light; divide ~demon
 δακρύω weep
 δάμαρ wife ~domicile
 δέμας -ως (n) body; (+gen.) like
 δῖς twice
 δράσσομαι clutch at, grasp
 δρόμος running, racing ground
 ~hippodrome
 δύσμορος ill-fated
 ἔδρα (ᾱ) seat, seated group
 ~polyhedron

εἴτα then, therefore, next
 ἐκπέρθω sack, plunder
 ἐκτρέφω raise, rear
 ἐκφύω spring from ~physics
 ἐλαία olive, olive tree ~olive
 ἐλίσσω turn, rally ~helix
 Ἑλλήν Greek
 ἐνδέω tie to, entangle; lack
 ἐξαιρέω pick, steal; dedicate;
 destroy ~heresy
 ἐξευρίσκω find; discover ~eureka
 ἐπικλίνω (ιῖ) put in position to close
 ἔρνος -εος (n, 3) sapling
 ἔρω -τος (m) love, desire ~erotic
 ἡιὼν beach
 θάλαμος bedchamber ~thalamus
 ἰσχύς -ος (f) strength; body of troops
 κανὼν -όνος (m, 3) rod, handle
 ~canonical
 καταξαίνω comb, tear, wear away
 κενός empty, vain
 κῆδος -εος (n, 3) sorrow ~heinous
 κῆρ doom, death, fate
 κλάδος branch, shoot
 κλεινός famous
 κόπος beating; toil, fatigue
 κραίνω accomplish; (rare) rule
 κράς -τός (f, 3) head
 κύλιξ -κος (f) cup
 λατρεία being a paid worker;
 church worship
 λέχος -εος (n, 3) couch, bed, bier
 ~lie
 λουτρόν bathing water
 μαστός nipple, breast
 ματάω be ineffective, idle
 μάτην in vain, randomly
 μεθίημι let go, cease; (mid) speed off
 ~jet
 μέλαθρον roofbeam
 μέτειμι be among, go, follow ~ion
 μογερός toiling, wretched

μοχθέω be afflicted
 μυρίος (ῥ) 10,000 ~myriad
 νεοσσός nestling
 νῶτον back of the body; rear of an army; top of a box
 νῶτος back of the body; rear of an army; top of a box
 οἴμοι woe is me
 οἰωνός vulture, large bird, bird of prey; omen ~avis
 ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye
 ὄνειδος -εος (n, 3) blame; insult
 οὐράνιος heavenly
 ὄχθος bank, hill
 ὄχος pl: carrying thing, chariot, holding place ~wagon
 πάροιθε in the presence of
 πάτριος of the father(s), ancestral
 πατρώιος of the father(s), ancestral ~paternal
 πατρῷος of the father(s), ancestral
 πέπλος woman's dress, a folded cylinder of cloth
 πήδημα leap
 πίτυλος sweep of oars; downpour; onslaught
 πλάτα flat or broad object; oar blade; (pl) shoulder blades
 πλήρωμα -τος (n, 3) fullness
 πορθέω sack, ravage, plunder
 προσπίπτω attack; befall; kow-tow
 προσπίτνω poetic for προσπίπτω
 πτέρυξ -γος (f) wing ~archeopteryx
 πυργόω wall, fortify
 πῶλος (f) foal ~foal
 ῥιπτέω hurl
 ῥίπτω hurl

σέλας -ως (n, 3) bright light
 στέρνον breast, chest, seat of feelings ~sternum
 στεφάνη circlet, helmet, brow of a hill
 στέφανος ring
 στράτευμα -τος (n, 3) army ~strategy
 στυγνός hated, gloomy ~Styx
 συγγένεια kinship
 συγγίγνομαι associate with, meet, have sex ~genus
 συλάω (ῥ) take off, despoil ~asylum
 σωτηρία saving, preservation
 τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent
 τέθριππος four-horse
 τεκνοποιός begetting, bearing children
 τέκος -εος (n, 3) child ~oxytocin
 τοξοφόρος (f) archer ~toxic
 τράχηλος neck ~trachea
 τύραννος tyrant
 ὑμέναιος bridal song ~hymen
 ὑψόθεν from on high
 φέγγος -εος (n, 3) light, luster
 φθόνος malice, envy
 φίλιος friendly
 φίλτρον love charm
 φοίνιξ -κος (m) red or purple dye or color; bay (horse); palm tree
 φοίνιος red
 φροῦδος fled, vanished
 χειρώ dominate, subdue
 ψῆφος (f) pebble, vote, decree, sentence
 ὠλένη elbow, lower arm
 ὡσεὶ as if

ἀλλ' ὡς τύραννον Ἀσιάδος πολυσπόρου.
 ὦ παῖ, δακρύεις· αἰσθάνη κακῶν σέθεν;
 τί μου δέδραξαι¹ χερσὶ κἀντέχῃ πέπλων, 750
 νεοσσὸς ὥσεί πτέρυγας ἐσπίτνων ἐμάς;
 οὐκ εἶσιν Ἑκτωρ κλεινὸν ἀρπάσας δόρυ
 γῆς ἐξανελθὼν σοὶ φέρων σωτηρίαν,
 οὐ συγγένεια πατρός, οὐκ ἰσχυρὸς Φρυγῶν·
 λυγρὸν δὲ πήδημ'² ἐς τράχηλον ὑψόθεν³ 755
 πεσὼν ἀνοίκτως, πνεῦμ' ἀπορρήξεις σέθεν.
 ὦ νέον ὑπαγκάλισμα μητρὶ φίλτατον,
 ὦ χρωτὸς ἡδὺ πνεῦμα· διὰ κενῆς ἄρα
 ἐν σπαργάνοις σε μαστὸς⁴ ἐξέθρειψ' ὅδε,
 μάτην δ' ἐμόχθουν καὶ κατεξάνθην πόνοις. 760
 νῦν— οὐποτ' αὖθις— μητέρ' ἀσπάζου σέθεν,
 πρόσπιτνε τὴν τεκοῦσαν, ἀμφὶ δ' ὠλένας
 ἔλισσ' ἐμοῖς νώτοισι καὶ στόμ' ἄρμωσον.
 ὦ βάρβαρ' ἐξευρόντες Ἕλληνες κακά,
 τί τόνδε παῖδα κτείνειτ' οὐδὲν αἴτιον; 765
 ὦ Τυνδάρειον ἔρνος,⁵ οὐποτ' εἰ Διός,
 πολλῶν δὲ πατέρων φημί σ' ἐκπεφυκέναι,
 Ἀλάστορος μὲν πρῶτον, εἶτα δὲ Φθόνου,
 Φόνου τε Θανάτου θ' ὅσα τε γῇ τρέφει κακά.
 οὐ γάρ ποτ' αὐχῶ⁶ Ζῆνά γ' ἐκφῦσαι σ' ἐγώ, 770
 πολλοῖσι κῆρα βαρβάροις Ἑλλησί τε.
 ὅλοιο· καλλίστων γὰρ ὁμμάτων ἄπο
 αἰσχροῦς τὰ κλεινὰ πεδί' ἀπώλεσας Φρυγῶν.

¹ clutch at, grasp ² leap ³ from on high ⁴ nipple, breast ⁵ sapling
⁶ boast

ἀλλ' ἄγετε φέρετε ρίπτειτ', εἰ ρίπτειν δοκεῖ·
 δαίνυσθε τοῦδε σάρκας. ἔκ τε γὰρ θεῶν
 διολλύμεσθα, παιδί τ' οὐ δυναίμεθ' ἄν
 θάνατον ἀρῆξαι. κρύπτειτ' ἄθλιον δέμας
 καὶ ρίπτειτ' ἐς ναῦς· ἐπὶ καλὸν γὰρ ἔρχομαι
 ὑμέναιον,⁷ ἀπολέσασα τοῦμαντιῆς τέκνον.

775

ΧΟΡΟΣ. τάλαινα Τροία, μυρίους ἀπώλεσας
 μιᾶς γυναικὸς καὶ λέχους στυγνοῦ χάριν.

780

ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ. ἄγε παῖ, φίλιον πρόσπτυγμα μεθεῖς
 μητρὸς μογεράς,⁸ βαῖνε πατρῶων
 πύργων ἐπ' ἄκρας στεφάνας,⁹ ὅθι σοι
 πνεῦμα μεθεῖναι ψῆφος ἐκράνθη.
 λαμβάνειτ' αὐτόν. τὰ δὲ τοιάδε χρὴ
 κηρυκεῖν, ὅστις ἄνοικτος
 καὶ ἀναιδεΐα τῆς ἡμετέρας
 γνώμης μᾶλλον φίλος ἐστίν.

785

ΕΚΑΒΗ. ὦ τέκνον, ὦ παῖ παιδὸς μογεροῦ,
 συλώμεθα σὴν ψυχὴν ἀδίκως
 μήτηρ κἀγώ. τί πάθω; τί σ' ἐγώ,
 δύσμορε, δράσω; τάδε σοι δίδομεν
 πλήγματα κρατὸς στέρνων τε κόπους·
 τῶνδε γὰρ ἄρχομεν. οἳ γὰρ πόλεως,
 οἴμοι δὲ σέθεν· τί γὰρ οὐκ ἔχομεν;
 τίνος ἐνδέομεν μὴ οὐ πανσυδία
 χωρεῖν ὀλέθρου διὰ παντός;

790

795

ΧΘ. μελισσοτρόφου Σαλαμῖνος ὦ βασιλεῦ Τελαμών,

⁷ bridal song ⁸ toiling, wretched ⁹ circlet, helmet, brow of a hill

- νάσου περικύμονος οἰκήσας ἔδραν 800
 τὰς ἐπικεκλιμένας ὄχθοις¹⁰ ἱεροῖς, ἦν' ἐλαίας
 πρῶτον ἔδειξε κλάδον γλαυκᾶς¹¹ Ἀθάνα,
 οὐράνιον στέφανον λιπαραῖσί τε κόσμον Ἀθήναις,
 ἔβας ἔβας τῷ τοξοφόρῳ¹² συναρὶ
 στεύων ἄμ' Ἀλκμήνας γόνῳ 805
 Ἴλιον Ἴλιον ἐκπέρσων πόλιν
 ἀμετέραν τὸ πάροιθεν ὅτ' ἔβας ἀφ' Ἑλλάδος·
 Χ0. ὅθ' Ἑλλάδος ἄγαγε πρῶτον ἄνθος ἀτυζόμενος¹³
 πώλων, Συμόεντι δ' ἐπ' εὐρείῃα πλάταν 810
 ἔσχασε ποντοπόρον καὶ ναύδετ' ἀνήψατο πρυμνᾶν
 καὶ χερὸς εὐστοχίαν ἐξεῖλε ναῶν,
 Λαομέδοντι φόνον· κανόνων¹⁴ δὲ τυκίσματα Φοίβου
 πυρὸς φοίνικι¹⁵ πνοᾷ καθελὼν 815
 Τροίας ἐπόρθησε χθόνα.
 δις δὲ δυοῖν πιτύλοιν τείχη περὶ
 Δαρδανίας φοινία κατέλυσεν αἰχμά.
 Χ0. μάταν ἄρ', ὦ χρυσέαις ἐν οἰνοχόαις ἀβρὰ βαίνων, 820
 Λαομεδόντι παῖ,
 Ζηνὸς ἔχεις κυλίκων¹⁶ πλήρωμα, καλλίσταν λατρείαν¹⁷
 ἂ δέ σε γευμαμένα πυρὶ δαίεται· 825
 ἡἰόνες δ' ἄλιαι
 ἱακχον οἶωνὸς οἶ
 ον τεκέων ὑπερ βοᾷ, 830
 ᾗ μὲν εὐνάτορας, ᾗ δὲ παῖδας,

¹⁰ bank, hill ¹¹ bright, gleaming ¹² archer ¹³ be terrified, panic ¹⁴ rod, handle ¹⁵ red or purple dye or color; bay (horse); palm tree ¹⁶ cup
¹⁷ being a paid worker; church worship

ἧ δὲ ματέρας γεραίας.

τὰ δὲ σὰ δροσόεντα λουτρὰ¹⁸

γυμνασίων τε δρόμοι

βεβᾶσι, σὺν δὲ πρόσωπα νεα'

835

ρὰ χάρισι παρὰ Διὸς θρόνοις

καλλιγάλανα τρέφεις· Πριάμοιο δὲ γαῖαν

Ἑλλὰς ὤλεσ' αἰχμὰ.

ΧΟ. Ἔρωσ Ἔρωσ, ὃς τὰ Δαρδάνεια μέλαθρά ποτ' ἦλθες

840

οὐρανίδασι μέλων,

ὥς τότε μὲν μέγας Τροίαν ἐπύργωσας, θεοῖσι

κῆδος ἀναψάμενος. τὸ μὲν οὖν Διὸς

845

οὐκέτ' ὄνειδος ἐρῶ·

τὸ τᾶς δὲ λευκοπτέρου

φίλιον Ἀμέρας βροτοῖς

φέγγος¹⁹ ὀλοὸν εἶδε γαῖαν,

850

εἶδε περγάμων ὄλεθρον,

τεκνοποιὸν²⁰ ἔχουσα τᾶσδε

γᾶς πόσιν ἐν θαλάμοις,

ὃν ἀστέρων τέθριππος²¹ ἔλα'

855

βε χρύσεος ὄχος ἀναρπάσας,

ἐλπῖδα γᾶ πατρίᾳ μέγαν· τὰ θεῶν δὲ

φίλτρα φροῦδα Τροίᾳ.

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ. ὦ καλλιφεγγές ἡλίου σέλας τόδε,

860

ἐν ᾧ δάμαρτα τὴν ἐμὴν χειρώσομαι

Ἑλένην· ὁ γὰρ δὴ πολλὰ μοχθήσας²² ἐγὼ

Μενελάός εἰμι καὶ στράτευμ' Ἀχαιϊκόν.

¹⁸ bathing water

¹⁹ light, luster

²⁰ begetting, bearing children

²¹ four-horse

²² be afflicted

deep,

deep

Down. And thy neck... Ah God, so cometh
sleep!...

And none to pity thee!... Thou little thing
That curlest in my arms, what sweet scents cling
All round thy neck! Beloved; can it be
All nothing, that this bosom cradled thee
And fostered; all the weary nights, wherethrough
I watched upon thy sickness, till I grew
Wasted with watching? Kiss me. This one time;
Not ever again. Put up thine arms, and climb
About my neck: now, kiss me, lips to lips...
O, ye have found an anguish that outstrips
All tortures of the East, ye gentle Greeks!
Why will ye slay this innocent, that seeks
No wrong?... O Helen, Helen, thou ill tree
That Tyndareus planted, who shall deem of thee
As child of Zeus? O, thou hast drawn thy breath
From many fathers, Madness, Hate, red Death,
And every rotting poison of the sky!
Zeus knows thee not, thou vampire, draining dry.
Greece and the world! God hate thee and destroy,
That with those beautiful eyes hast blasted Troy,
And made the far-famed plains a waste withal.
Quick! take him: drag him: cast him from the wall,
If cast ye will! Tear him, ye beasts, be swift!
God hath undone me, and I cannot lift
One hand, one hand, to save my child from death...
O, hide my head for shame: fling me beneath
Your galleys' benches!...

She swoons: then half-rising.

Quick: I must begone

To the bridal... I have lost my child, my own!

The Soldiers close round her.

LEADER. O Troy ill-starred; for one strange woman, one
Abhorred kiss, how are thine hosts undone!

TALTHYBIUS (bending over ANDROMACHE and gradually
taking the Child from her).

Come, Child: let be that clasp of love

Outwearied! Walk thy ways with me,

Up to the crested tower, above

Thy father's wall... Where they decree
 Thy soul shall perish. — Hold him: hold! —
 Would God some other man might ply
 These charges, one of duller mould,
 And nearer to the iron than I!
 HECUBA. O Child, they rob us of our own,
 Child of my Mighty One outworn:
 Ours, ours thou art! — Can aught be done
 Of deeds, can aught of pain be borne,
 To aid thee? — Lo, this beaten head,
 This bleeding bosom! These I spread
 As gifts to thee. I can thus much.
 Woe, woe for Troy, and woe for thee!
 What fall yet lacketh, ere we touch
 The last dead deep of misery?

The Child, who has started back from TALTHYBIUS, is taken up by one of the Soldiers and borne

back towards the city, while ANDROMACHE is set again on the Chariot and driven off towards the

ships. TALTHYBIUS goes with the Child.

CHORUS. In Salamis, filled with the foaming
 Of billows and murmur of bees,
 Old Telamon stayed from his roaming,
 Long ago, on a throne of the seas;
 Looking out on the hills olive-laden,
 Enchanted, where first from the earth
 The grey-gleaming fruit of the Maiden
 Athena had birth;
 A soft grey crown for a city
 Beloved a City of Light:
 Yet he rested not there, nor had pity,
 But went forth in his might,
 Where Heracles wandered, the lonely
 Bow-bearer, and lent him his hands
 For the wrecking of one land only,
 Of Ilion, Ilion only,
 Most hated of lands!

Of the bravest of Hellas he made him
 A ship-folk, in wrath for the Steeds,
 And sailed the wide waters, and stayed him
 At last amid Simoïs' reeds;
 And the oars beat slow in the river,

And the long ropes held in the strand,
And he felt for his bow and his quiver,
The wrath of his hand.
And the old king died; and the towers
That Phoebus had builded did fall,
And his wrath, as a flame that devours,
Ran red over all;
And the fields and the woodlands lay blasted,
Long ago. Yea, twice hath the Sire
Uplifted his hand and downcast it
On the wall of the Dardan, downcast it
As a sword and as fire.
In vain, all in vain,
O thou 'mid the wine-jars golden
That movest in delicate joy,
Ganymedes, child of Troy,
The lips of the Highest drain
The cup in thine hand upholden:
And thy mother, thy mother that bore thee,
Is wasted with fire and torn;
And the voice of her shores is heard,
Wild, as the voice of a bird,
For lovers and children before thee
Crying, and mothers outworn.
And the pools of thy bathing are perished,
And the wind-strewn ways of thy feet:
Yet thy face as aforetime is cherished
Of Zeus, and the breath of it sweet;
Yea, the beauty of Calm is upon it
In houses at rest and afar.
But thy land, He hath wrecked and o'erthrown it
In the wailing of war.
O Love, ancient Love,
Of old to the Dardan given;
Love of the Lords of the Sky;
How didst thou lift us high
In Ilion, yea, and above
All cities, as wed with heaven!
For Zeus — O leave it unspoken:
But alas for the love of the Morn;
Morn of the milk-white wing,
The gentle, the earth-loving,

That shineth on battlements broken
In Troy, and a people forlorn!
And, lo, in her bowers Tithonus,
Our brother, yet sleeps as of old:
O, she too hath loved us and known us,
And the Steeds of her star, flashing gold,
Stooped hither and bore him above us;
Then blessed we the Gods in our joy.
But all that made them to love us
Hath perished from Troy.

As the song ceases, the King MENELAUS enters, richly armed and followed
by a bodyguard of

Soldiers. He is a prey to violent and conflicting emotions.

MENELAUS. How bright the face of heaven, and how sweet

vocabulary

ἀέκων unwilling
 αἰνέω praise, assent, acquiesce in
 αἰτίαμα (ἄα) accusation
 αἰχμαλωτικός of or for a prisoner
 ἀκριβής (ἰ) exact
 ἄκων javelin; unwilling ~acme
 ἄλοχος (f) wife ~lie
 ἄμαθής ignorant
 ἀνατίθηναι consecrate, lay on,
 impute; (mp) reproach
 ἀπαίρω lift off ~aorta
 ἀρπάζω carry off, seize ~harpoon
 ἀφορμάω depart, depart from
 ~hormone
 βάρβαρος non-Greek
 βασίλεια noblewoman
 βασιλείος kingly
 βλώσκω come, go
 βρέφος -ους (n, 3) fetus, baby
 γαμέω marry, take as a lover
 ~bigamy
 γάμος wedding, sex ~bigamy
 δαίμων -ονος (m, 3) a god, fate,
 doom ~demon
 δαλός (ἄ) fire-brand
 δάμαρ wife ~domicile
 δόσις -εως (f) gift, loan ~donate
 δουλεύω serve, be a slave
 ἐγχέω pour into
 ἔδρα (ἄ) seat, seated group
 ~polyhedron
 εἶα exclamation to urge someone on
 εἶδος -ους (n, 3) appearance, form
 ~-oid
 εἴτε if, whenever; either/or
 ἐκμοχθέω struggle through, solve
 with work
 ἐκπαγλέομαι be amazed
 ἐκπέμπω send forth ~pomp
 Ἑλλήν Greek
 ἐνδεής inadequate

ἔνδικος (persons, things) just
 ἐνέχω hold inside
 ἔνθεν thence, whence
 ἐνθένδε hence
 ἐντίθηναι load; mp: take to heart
 ~thesis
 ἐξαιρέω pick, steal; dedicate;
 destroy ~heresy
 ἐξανίστημι raise, bring/send out
 ἔξεμι go forth; is possible ~ion
 ἔπαλξις -ος (f) a breastwork of
 planks?
 ἐπίλοιπος remaining
 ἐπισπάω drag along
 ἔρομαι ask a question, ask about, go
 searching through
 ἔρω be able to move ~serpent
 εὐμορφία beauty
 εὐπρεπής comely, decent; specious
 εὐτυχέω be lucky, prosper, succeed
 εὐχή prayer; vow ~vow
 ἐφευρίσκω come upon ~eureka
 ζεύγος -ους (n, 3) team of animals;
 any pair ~zygote
 ἡδύς sweet, pleasant ~hedonism
 ἡνίκα when
 θνητός mortal ~euthanasia
 καινίζω freshen, innovate, make
 strange
 καινός new, fresh, strange
 κάλλος -εος (n, 3) beauty
 ~kaleidoscope
 κατηγορέω accuse; indicate
 κάτοιδα understand
 κέλευθος (f) way, path
 κλέπτω steal
 κολάζω punish
 κόμη hair ~comet
 κράτος strength, power; victory
 ~democracy
 κρείσσων more powerful; better
 λάθρα secretly

ληίζομαι plunder ~lucre
 μάρτυς witness
 μέτεμι be among, go, follow ~ion
 μηδαμοῦ nowhere
 μαιφόνος blood-stained ~miasma
 μίν him, her, it
 μισέω (ι) hate, wish to prevent
 ~misogyny
 μολίσκω come, go
 μόρος portion, lot in life
 μυχός recess, nook
 οἴκοθεν from home, from one's own
 resources ~economics
 ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye
 ὅμως anyway, nevertheless
 ὀνειδίζω upbraid, reproach
 ὀνίνημι help, please, be available
 ὀπάων -ονος (ᾱ, m, 3) comrade
 ὄρος boundary marker ~horizon
 οὐνεκα because
 οὐπω no longer
 οὐριος with a fair wind
 ὄχημα vehicle
 πάτρα (αᾶ) fatherland ~paternal
 πέρνημι export, sell as a slave
 ~porno
 πικρός sharp, bitter ~picric
 πίμπρημι inflate, spurt; burn up
 ~pyre
 πιπράσκω export, sell as a slave
 ~porno
 πλάτα flat or broad object; oar
 blade; (pl) shoulder blades
 πόθος longing, regret ~bid
 ποινή blood-price ~penalty

πόσις -ος (m) (m) husband, master;
 (f) a drink ~potent
 πότε when?
 προδίδωμι betray
 προσεύχομαι pray, vow
 πρόσπολος servant, attendant
 προσφωνέω speak to
 πυλωρός gatekeeper
 πύργος ramparts, tower; line of
 troops
 σκέπτομαι look, look at, watch
 ~skeptical
 σκοπός (f) lookout, overseer, spy,
 target ~telescope
 σπεύδω 'push on,' get going, hurry
 ~repudiate
 στέφανος ring
 στρατηγέω be a general
 στρατός common people/soldiers
 ~strategy
 συγγνώμη sympathy, leniency
 συντίθημι hearken, mark ~thesis
 σχεδόν near, approximately at
 ~ischemia
 σχολή rest, leisure
 τάλαις wretched, miserable ~talent
 τοσόσδε this much
 τρισσός threefold
 τυραννίς -δος (f) tyranny
 ὑπέχω promise; hold out one's
 hand; submit to
 φροίμιον prelude, introduction
 χρῆζω need ~chresard
 χωρέω withdraw, give way to (+dat)
 ~heir

ἦλθον δὲ Τροίαν οὐχ ὅσον δοκοῦσί με
 γυναικὸς οὔνεκ', ἀλλ' ἐπ' ἄνδρ' ὃς ἐξ ἐμῶν 865
 δόμων δάμαρτα ξεναπάτης ἐλήσατο.
 κείνος μὲν οὖν δέδωκε σὺν θεοῖς δίκην
 αὐτός τε καὶ γῇ δορὶ πεσοῦσ' Ἑλληνικῶ.
 ἦκω δὲ τὴν τάλαιναι— οὐ γὰρ ἠδέως
 ὄνομα δάμαρτος ἢ ποτ' ἦν ἐμὴ λέγω 870
 —ἄξων· δόμοις γὰρ τοῖσδ' ἐν αἰχμαλωτικοῖς¹
 κατηρίθμῃται Τρωάδων ἄλλων μέτα.
 οἵπερ γὰρ αὐτὴν ἐξεμόχθησαν δορί,
 κτανεῖν ἐμοί νιν ἔδοσαν, εἴτε μὴ κτανῶν
 θέλομι' ἄγεσθαι πάλιν ἐς Ἀργεῖαν χθόνα. 875
 ἐμοὶ δ' ἔδοξε τὸν μὲν ἐν Τροίᾳ μόνον
 Ἑλένης ἑᾶσαι, ναυπόρῳ δ' ἄγειν πλάτῃ
 Ἑλληνίδ' ἐς γῆν κᾶτ' ἐκεῖ δοῦναι κτανεῖν,
 ποιναὶς ὅσοις τεθνᾶσ' ἐν Ἰλίῳ φίλοι.
 ἀλλ' εἶα² χωρεῖτ' ἐς δόμους, ὁπάονες,³ 880
 κομίζετ' αὐτὴν τῆς μαιφονωτάτης⁴
 κόμης ἐπισπᾶσαντες· οὔριοι⁵ δ' ὅταν
 πνοαὶ μόλωσι, πέμφομέν νιν Ἑλλάδα.
 ΕΚΑΒΗ. ὦ γῆς ὄχημα⁶ καπὶ γῆς ἔχων ἔδραν,
 ὅστις ποτ' εἰ σύ, δυστόπαστος εἰδέναι, 885
 Ζεὺς, εἴτ' ἀνάγκη φύσεος εἴτε νοῦς βροτῶν,
 προσηυξάμην σε· πάντα γὰρ δι' ἀψόφου
 βαίνων κελεύθου κατὰ δίκην τὰ θνήτ' ἄγεις.

¹ of or for a prisoner ² exclamation to urge someone on ³ comrade
⁴ blood-stained ⁵ with a fair wind ⁶ vehicle

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ. τί δ' ἔστω; εὐχὰς⁷ ὥς ἐκαίνισας⁸ θεῶν.

ΕΚ. αἰνῶ σε, Μενέλα', εἰ κτενεῖς δάμαρτα σήν.

890

ὀρᾶν δὲ τήνδε φεύγε, μή σ' ἔλῃ πόθῳ.
αἶρεῖ γὰρ ἀνδρῶν ὄμματ', ἐξαιρεῖ πόλεις,
πίμπρησιν οἴκους· ὧδ' ἔχει κηλήματα.
ἐγὼ νιν οἶδα, καὶ σύ, χοί πεπονθότες.

ΕΛΕΝΗ. Μενέλαε, φροῖμιον μὲν ἄξιον φόβου

895

τόδ' ἐστίν· ἐν γὰρ χερσὶ προσπόλων σέθεν
βία πρὸ τῶνδε δωμάτων ἐκπέμπομαι.
ἀτὰρ σχεδὸν μὲν οἶδά σοι μισουμένη,
ὅμως δ' ἐρέσθαι βούλομαι· γινῶμαι τίνες
Ἑλλησι καὶ σοὶ τῆς ἐμῆς ψυχῆς πέρι;

900

ΜΕ. οὐκ εἰς ἀκριβὲς ἦλθες, ἀλλ' ἅπας στρατὸς

κτανεῖν ἐμοί σ' ἔδωκεν, ὄνπερ ἠδίκεις.

ΕΛ. ἔξεστιν οὖν πρὸς ταῦτ' ἀμεύφασθαι λόγῳ,

ὥς οὐ δικαίως, ἣν θάνω, θανούμεθα;

ΜΕ. οὐκ ἐς λόγους ἐλήλυθ', ἀλλὰ σε κτενῶν.

905

ΕΚ. ἄκουσον αὐτῆς, μὴ θάνῃ τοῦδ' ἐνδεής,

Μενέλαε, καὶ δὸς τοὺς ἐναντίους λόγους
ἡμῖν κατ' αὐτῆς· τῶν γὰρ ἐν Τροίᾳ κακῶν
οὐδὲν κάτοισθα. συντεθεὶς δ' ὁ πᾶς λόγος
κτενεῖ νιν οὕτως ὥστε μηδαμοῦ⁹ φυγεῖν.

910

ΜΕ. σχολῆς¹⁰ τὸ δῶρον· εἰ δὲ βούλεται λέγειν,

ἔξεστι. τῶν σῶν δ' οὐνεχ'—ὥς μάθη—λόγων
δώσω τόδ' αὐτῇ· τῇσδε δ' οὐ δώσω χάριν.

ΕΛ. ἴσως με, κἂν εὖ κἂν κακῶς δόξω λέγειν,

⁷ prayer; vow ⁸ freshen, innovate, make strange ⁹ nowhere ¹⁰ rest, leisure

οὐκ ἀνταμείβῃ πολεμίαν ἡγούμενος. 915
 ἐγὼ δ', ἃ σ' οἶμαι διὰ λόγων ἰόντ' ἐμοῦ
 κατηγορήσειν, ἀντιθεῖς ἀμείβομαι
 τοῖς σοῖσι τὰμὰ καὶ τὰ σ' αἰτιάματα.¹¹
 πρῶτον μὲν ἀρχὰς ἔτεκεν ἦδε τῶν κακῶν,
 Πάριον τεκοῦσα· δεύτερον δ' ἀπώλεσε 920
 Τροίαν τε καὶ ὁ πρέσβυς οὐ κτανὼν βρέφος,
 δαλοῦ πικρὸν μίμημ', Ἀλέξανδρον ποτε.
 ἐνθένδε τὰπίλοιπ' ἄκουσον ὥς ἔχει.
 ἔκρινε τρισσὸν ζεύγος¹² ὅδε τριῶν θεῶν·
 καὶ Παλλάδος μὲν ἦν Ἀλεξάνδρω δόσις 925
 Φρυγί στρατηγούνθ' Ἑλλάδ' ἐξανιστάναι,
 Ἥρα δ' ὑπέσχετ' Ἀσιάδ' Εὐρώπης θ' ὄρους
 τυραννίδ' ἔξειν, εἴ σφε κρίνειεν Πάρις·
 Κύπρις δὲ τοῦμὸν εἶδος ἐκπαγλουμένη
 δώσειν ὑπέσχετ', εἰ θεὰς ὑπερδράμοι 930
 κάλλει. τὸν ἐνθεν δ' ὥς ἔχει σκέψαι λόγον·
 νικᾷ Κύπρις θεὰς, καὶ τοσόνδ' οὔμοι γάμοι
 ὤνησαν Ἑλλάδ'· οὐ κρατεῖσθ' ἐκ βαρβάρων,
 οὔτ' ἐς δόρυ σταθέντες, οὐ τυραννίδι.
 ἃ δ' εὐτύχησεν Ἑλλάς, ὠλόμην ἐγὼ 935
 εὐμορφία¹³ πραθείσα, κῶνειδίζομαι
 ἐξ ὧν ἐχρῆν με στέφανον ἐπὶ κάρᾳ λαβεῖν.
 οὔπω με φήσεις αὐτὰ τὰν ποσὶν λέγειν,
 ὅπως ἀφώρμησ' ἐκ δόμων τῶν σῶν λάθρα.¹⁴
 ἦλθ' οὐχὶ μικρὰν θεὸν ἔχων αὐτοῦ μέτα 940

¹¹ accusation ¹² team of animals; any pair ¹³ beauty ¹⁴ secretly

ὁ τῆσδ' ἀλάστωρ, εἴτ' Ἀλέξανδρον θέλεις
 ὀνόματι προσφωνεῖν νιν εἴτε καὶ Πάριν·
 ὦν, ὦ κάκιστε, σοῖσιν ἐν δόμοις λιπῶν
 Σπάρτης ἀπῆρας νηὶ Κρησίαν χθόνα.

εἶέν. οὐ σέ, ἀλλ' ἐμαντήν τοῦπὶ τῷδ' ἐρήσομαι·

945

τί δὴ φρονούσά γ' ἐκ δόμων ἄμ' ἐσπόμεν
 ξένω, προδοῦσα πατρίδα καὶ δόμους ἐμούς;

τὴν θεὸν κόλαζε καὶ Διὸς κρείσσων γενοῦ,

ὅς τῶν μὲν ἄλλων δαιμόνων ἔχει κράτος,

κείνης δὲ δοῦλός ἐστι· συγγνώμη δ' ἐμοί.

950

ἔνθεν δ' ἔχouis ἂν εἰς ἔμ' εὐπρεπή¹⁵ λόγον·

ἐπεὶ θανὼν γῆς ἦλθ' Ἀλέξανδρος μυχούς,

χρῆν μ', ἥνικ' οὐκ ἦν θεοπόνητά μου λέχη,

λιποῦσαν οἴκους ναῦς ἐπ' Ἀργείων μολεῖν.

ἔσπευδον αὐτὸ τοῦτο· μάρτυρες δέ μοι

955

πύργων πυλωροὶ¹⁶ καπὸ τειχέων σκοποί,

οἱ πολλάκις μ' ἐφηῦρον ἐξ ἐπάλξεων

πλεκταῖσιν ἐς γῆν σῶμα κλέπτουσιν τόδε.

βία δ' ὁ καινός μ' οὔτος ἀρπάσας πόσις

Δηίφοβος ἄλοχον εἶχεν ἀκόντων Φρυγῶν.

960

πῶς οὖν ἔτ' ἂν θνήσκομι' ἂν ἐνδίκως, πόσι,

πρὸς σοῦ δικαίως, ἦν ὁ μὲν βία γαμεῖ,

τὰ δ' οἴκοθεν κείν' ἀντὶ νικητηρίων

πικρῶς ἐδούλευσ'; εἰ δὲ τῶν θεῶν κρατεῖν

βούλη, τὸ χρήζειν ἀμαθές¹⁷ ἐστὶ σου τόδε.

965

ΧΟΡΟΣ. βασιλεί', ἄμυνον σοῖς τέκνοισι καὶ πάτρα

¹⁵ comely, decent; specious ¹⁶ gatekeeper ¹⁷ ignorant

The air this day, that layeth at my feet
 The woman that I... Nay: 'twas not for her
 I came. 'Twas for the man, the cozenor
 And thief, that ate with me and stole away
 My bride. But Paris lieth, this long day,
 By God's grace, under the horse-hoofs of the Greek,
 And round him all his land. And now I seek...
 Curse her! I scarce can speak the name she bears,
 That was my wife. Here with the prisoners
 They keep her, in these huts, among the hordes
 Of numbered slaves. — The host whose labouring swords
 Won her, have given her up to me, to fill
 My pleasure; perchance kill her, or not kill,
 But lead her home. — Methinks I have foregone
 The slaying of Helen here in Ilion...
 Over the long seas I will bear her back,
 And there, there, cast her out to whatso wrack
 Of angry death they may devise, who know
 Their dearest dead for her in Ilion. — Ho!
 Ye soldiers! Up into the chambers where
 She croucheth! Grip the long blood-reeking hair,
 And drag her to mine eyes ...

Controlling himself.

And when there come

Fair breezes, my long ships shall bear her home.

The Soldiers go to force open the door of the second hut on the left.

HECUBA. Thou deep Base of the World, and thou high Throne

Above the World, whoever thou art, unknown

And hard of surmise, Chain of Things that be,

Or Reason of our Reason; God, to thee

I lift my praise, seeing the silent road

That bringeth justice ere the end be trod

To all that breathes and dies.

MENELAUS (turning).

Ha! who is there

That prayeth heaven, and in so strange a prayer?

HECUBA. I bless thee, Menelaus, I bless thee,

If thou wilt slay her! Only fear to see

Her visage, lest she snare thee and thou fall!

She snareth strong men's eyes; she snareth tall

Cities; and fire from out her eateth up

Houses. Such magic hath she, as a cup

Of death!... Do I not know her? Yea, and thou,
And these that lie around, do they not know?

The Soldiers return from the hut and stand aside to let HELEN pass between them. She comes

through them, gentle and unafraid; there is no disorder in her raiment.

HELEN. King Menelaus, thy first deed might make

A woman fear. Into my chamber brake

Thine armed men, and lead me wrathfully.

Methinks, almost, I know thou hatest me.

Yet I would ask thee, what decree is gone

Forth for my life or death?

MENELAUS (struggling with his emotion).

There was not one

That scrupled for thee. All, all with one will

Gave thee to me, whom thou hast wronged, to kill!

HELEN. And is it granted that I speak, or no,

In answer to them ere I die, to show

I die most wronged and innocent?

MENELAUS. I seek

To kill thee, woman; not to hear thee speak!

HECUBA. O hear her! She must never die unheard,

King Menelaus! And give me the word

To speak in answer! All the wrong she wrought

Away from thee, in Troy, thou knowest not.

The whole tale set together is a death

Too sure; she shall not 'scape thee!

MENELAUS. 'Tis but breath

And time. For thy sake, Hecuba, if she need

To speak, I grant the prayer. I have no heed

Nor mercy — let her know it well — for her!

HELEN. It may be that, how false or true soe'er

Thou deem me, I shall win no word from thee.

So sore thou holdest me thine enemy.

Yet I will take what words I think thy heart

Holdeth of anger: and in even part

Set my wrong and thy wrong, and all that fell.

Pointing to HECUBA.

She cometh first, who bare the seed and well

Of springing sorrow, when to life she brought

Paris: and that old King, who quenched not

Quick in the spark, ere yet he woke to slay,

The fire-brand's image. — But enough: a day

Came, and this Paris judged beneath the trees
 Three Crowns of Life, three diverse Goddesses.
 The gift of Pallas was of War, to lead
 His East in conquering battles, and make bleed
 The hearths of Hellas. Hera held a Throne —
 If majesties he craved — to reign alone
 From Phrygia to the last realm of the West.
 And Cypris, if he deemed her loveliest,
 Beyond all heaven, made dreams about my face
 And for her grace gave me. And, lo! her grace
 Was judged the fairest, and she stood above
 Those twain. — Thus was I loved, and thus my
 love
 Hath holpen Hellas. No fierce Eastern crown
 Is o'er your lands, no spear hath cast them down.
 O, it was well for Hellas! But for me
 Most ill; caught up and sold across the sea
 For this my beauty; yea, dishonoured
 For that which else had been about my head
 A crown of honour... Ah, I see thy thought;
 The first plain deed, 'tis that I answer not,
 How in the dark out of thy house I fled...
 There came the Seed of Fire, this woman's seed;
 Came — O, a Goddess great walked with him then —
 This Alexander, Breaker down of-Men,
 This Paris, Strength is with-him; whom thou,
 whom —
 O false and light of heart — thou in thy room
 Didst leave, and spreadest sail for Cretan seas,
 Far, far from me!... And yet, how strange it is!
 I ask not thee; I ask my own sad thought,
 What was there in my heart, that I forgot
 My home and land and all I loved, to fly
 With a strange man? Surely it was not I,
 But Cypris, there! Lay thou thy rod on her,
 And be more high than Zeus and bitterer,
 Who o'er all other spirits hath his throne,
 But knows her chain must bind him. My wrong done
 Hath its own pardon...
 One word yet thou hast,
 Methinks, of righteous seeming. When at last
 The earth for Paris oped and all was o'er,

And her strange magic bound my feet no more,
Why kept I still his house, why fled not I
To the Argive ships?... Ah, how I strove to fly!
The old Gate-Warden could have told thee all,
My husband, and the watchers from the wall;
It was not once they took me, with the rope
Tied, and this body swung in the air, to grope
Its way toward thee, from that dim battlement.
Ah, husband still, how shall thy hand be bent
To slay me? Nay, if Right be come at last,
What shalt thou bring but comfort for pains past,
And harbour for a woman storm-driven:
A woman borne away by violent men:
And this one birthright of my beauty, this
That might have been my glory, lo, it is
A stamp that God hath burned, of slavery!
Alas! and if thou cravest still to be
As one set above gods, inviolate,'
Tis but a fruitless longing holds thee yet.
LEADER. O Queen, think of thy children and thy land,

vocabulary

ἀγγέλλω carry a message, announce
 ~angel
ἀγωνία contest; agony
αἰθέριος in the air; heavenly
αἰθήρ ether, air, sky ~ether
αἰνέω praise, assent, acquiesce in
ἀκούσιος (α) unwilling, involuntary
ἄλιος of the sea; fruitless
ἄμαθής ignorant
ἄμαθία ignorance
ἀναιδεια shamelessness
ἀναστρέφω act; overturn; mid: find oneself in ~atrophy
ἀνολολύζω cry out
ἀπαλλαξείω wish to get rid of
ἀπαλλάσσω free from, remove; be freed, depart
ἄρτάω hang something on
ἀσκέω work on
ἄστρον star
ἄφροσύνη folly ~frenzy
βοά din, a shout
βρόχος rope, noose
γάμος wedding, sex ~bigamy
γέλως laughter
γενναῖος noble, sincere ~genesis
γεραιός old ~geriatric
δάμαρ wife ~domicile
δαπάνη cost, funds, extravagance
δέμας -ως (n) body; (+gen.) like
δοριπετής killed by spear, death by spear
δουλεύω serve, be a slave
δράω do, accomplish
εἰσβαίνω enter, board ~basis
εἰσοράω look at, see; treat with respect ~panorama
ἐκβαίνω come forth, disembark ~basis
ἐκκομίζω remove; bury a corpse
ἐκούσιος voluntary

ἐκπρεπής preeminent
Ἑλλήν Greek
ἔνδικος (persons, things) just
ἐνείμι be in ~ion
ἐνίημι put in; motivate ~jet
ἐξαιτέω demand ~etiology
ἐραστής -οῦ (m, 1) lover, fan
ἐρείπιον ruin, wreckage
ἐρείπιος wrecked, ruined
ἔρως -τος (m) love, desire ~erotic
εὐγενής well born
εὐτυχέω be lucky, prosper, succeed
ἐφάλλομαι jump at or on ~sally
ζάθεος holy
ἥσυχος quiet
θεράπνη handmaid; dwelling
θήγω sharpen
θῆλος female; (rare) abundant ~female
θηράω hunt, chase
θυόεις fragrant
ἵχνος -εος (n, 3) track, trace
καθήμι (τι) speed down upon; take down ~jet
καίτοι and yet; and in fact; although
κακοῦργος causing evil ~ergonomics
καλλονή beauty
κάλλος -εος (n, 3) beauty ~kaleidoscope
κάρ -ός (n) useless bit; form of **κατά**
καταισχύνω (ὅ) act disgracefully
κατακλύζω flood ~cataclysm
κεράννυμι (ὅ) mix ~crater
κλέπτω steal
κόμπος noise, racket
κοσμέω marshal, array ~cosmos
κράς -τός (f, 3) head
κρέας -ως (n) meat ~creatine
κρείσσω more powerful; better
λαμπρός brilliant ~lamp
λέκτρον bed ~lie

λευστήρ stone-thrower
 λίσσομαι beg, beseech ~litany
 λυπέω (ἴ) annoy, distress
 μέλαθρον roofbeam
 μίν him, her, it
 μορφή beauty
 ναός (ἄ) temple, shrine ~nostalgia
 νάπη valley
 νάπος -εος (n, 3) gully
 ναυστολέω to ship, sail
 νεανίας -ου (ἄα, m) young person
 νόσος (f) plague, pestilence
 ~noisome
 νουθετέω remind, warn
 ξένη foreign woman; foreign country
 ὄλεθρος ruin, destruction, death
 ὀρθόω stand up
 οὐνεκα because
 παρθένειος virginal, of a girl
 παρθένος (f) girl, virgin ~Parthenon
 πειθός persuasive
 πέλας near, close
 πέπλος woman's dress, a folded
 cylinder of cloth
 πικρός sharp, bitter ~picric
 πλεκτός braided, woven ~plait
 ποθέω miss, long for, notice an
 absence; lose ~bid
 ποίη grass
 πόσις -ος (m) (m) husband, master;
 (f) a drink ~potent

ποτάμιος of a river
 πότερος which, whichever of two
 ποῦ where?
 πρόγονος elder, ancestor ~genus
 προδίδωμι betray
 πρόσπολος servant, attendant
 πρύμνα stern
 πύργος ramparts, tower; line of
 troops
 ῥέω flow ~rheostat
 σβέννυμι (ἴ) extinguish, go out
 σκάφος (τό) hull, ship; (ό) digging
 σμύρνα myrrh
 σοφός skilled, clever, wise
 στεφανώ crown
 συγγιγνώσκω acknowledge; pardon
 συμπίπτω fall together, happen
 σωφρονέω be sane, moderate
 σώφρων sensible, prudent ~frenzy
 ταπεινός low
 τέρμων boundary
 τρέμω tremble in fear ~tremble
 τρυφή softness, luxury
 τύχη fortune, act of a god
 ὑβρίζω insult, treat outrageously
 φάσγανον sword
 φλόξ -γός (f) flame ~flame
 φρίκη (ι) shivering
 φροντίζω consider, ponder
 χιών χιόνος (f, 3) snow
 φόγος blemish, blame

πειθῶ διαφθείρουσα τῆσδ', ἐπεὶ λέγει
καλῶς κακοῦργος¹ οὔσα· δεινὸν οὖν τόδε.

ΕΚΑΒΗ. ταῖς θεαῖσι πρῶτα σύμμαχος γενήσομαι

καὶ τήνδε δείξω μὴ λέγουσαν ἔνδικα. 970

ἐγὼ γὰρ Ἦραν παρθένον τε Παλλάδα
οὐκ ἐς τοσοῦτον ἀμαθίας² ἐλθεῖν δοκῶ,
ὥσθ' ἡ μὲν Ἄργος βαρβάροις ἀπημπόλα,
Παλλὰς δ' Ἀθήνας Φρυξὶ δουλεύειν ποτέ,

εἰ παιδιαῖσι καὶ χλιδῇ μορφῆς πέρι 975

ἦλθον πρὸς Ἴδην. τοῦ γὰρ οὐνεκ' ἂν θεὰ

Ἦρα τοσοῦτον ἔσχ' ἔρωτα καλλονῆς;³

πότερον ἀμείνον' ὥς λάβη Διὸς πόσιν;

ἦ γάμον Ἀθηνᾶ θεῶν τίνος θηρωμένη

—ἦ παρθενείαν πατρὸς ἐξητήσατο, 980

φεύγουσα λέκτρα; μὴ ἀμαθεῖς ποίει θεὰς

τὸ σὸν κακὸν κοσμοῦσα, μὴ οὐ πείσης σοφούς.

Κύπριν δ' ἔλεξας— ταῦτα γὰρ γέλως πολὺς

—ἐλθεῖν ἐμῷ ξὺν παιδὶ Μενέλεω δόμους.

οὐκ ἂν μένουσ' ἂν ἥσυχός σ' ἐν οὐρανῷ 985

αὐταῖς Ἀμύκλαις ἦγαγεν πρὸς Ἴλιον;

ἦν οὐμὸς υἱὸς κάλλος ἐκπρεπέστατος,

ὁ σὸς δ' ἰδὼν νιν νοῦς ἐποιήθη Κύπρις·

τὰ μῶρα γὰρ πάντ' ἐστὶν Ἀφροδίτῃ βροτοῖς,

καὶ τοῦνομ' ὀρθῶς ἀφροσύνης⁴ ἄρχει θεᾶς. 990

ὦν εἰσιδοῦσα βαρβάροις ἐσθήμασι

χρυσῷ τε λαμπρὸν ἐξεμαργώτης φρένας.

¹ causing evil ² ignorance ³ beauty ⁴ folly

ἐν μὲν γὰρ Ἄργει μίκρ' ἔχουσ' ἀνεστρέφου,
 Σπάρτης δ' ἀπαλλαχθεῖσα τὴν Φρυγῶν πόλιν
 χρυσῷ ρέουσιν ἡλπισας κατακλύσειν 995
 δαπάναισιν· οὐδ' ἦν ἱκανά σοι τὰ Μενέλεω
 μέλαθρα ταῖς σαῖς ἐγκαθυβρίζειν τρυφαῖς.
 εἶέν· βία γὰρ παῖδα φῆς σ' ἄγειν ἐμόν·
 τίς Σπαρτιατῶν ἦσθετ'; ἡ ποῖαν βοὴν
 ἀνωλόλυξας— Κάστορος νεανίου⁵ 1000
 τοῦ συζύγου τ' ἔτ' ὄντος, οὐ κατ' ἄστρα⁶ πω;
 ἐπεὶ δὲ Τροίαν ἦλθες Ἀργεῖοί τέ σου
 κατ' ἵχνος, ἦν δὲ δοριπετῆς⁷ ἀγωνία,
 εἰ μὲν τὰ τοῦδε κρείσσον' ἀγγέλλοιτό σοι,
 Μενέλαον ἦνεις, παῖς ὅπως λυποῖτ' ἐμὸς 1005
 ἔχων ἔρωτος ἀνταγωνιστὴν μέγαν·
 εἰ δ' εὐτυχοῖεν Τρώες, οὐδὲν ἦν ὄδε.
 ἐς τὴν τύχην δ' ὀρώσα τοῦτ' ἥσκεις, ὅπως
 ἔποι' ἄμ' αὐτῇ, τῇ ἀρετῇ δ' οὐκ ἤθελες.
 κᾶπειτα πλεκταῖς σῶμα σὸν κλέπτειν λέγεις 1010
 πύργων καθιεῖς, ὡς μένουσ' ἀκουσίως;⁸
 ποῦ δῆτ' ἐλήφθης ἡ βρόχους ἀρτωμένη⁹
 ἡ φάσγανον θήγουσ',¹⁰ ἃ γενναία γυνὴ
 δράσειεν ἂν ποθοῦσα τὸν πάρος πόσιν;
 καίτοι σ' ἐνουθέτουν¹¹ γε πολλὰ πολλάκις· 1015
 ὦ θύγατερ, ἔξελθ'· οἱ δ' ἐμοὶ παῖδες γάμους
 ἄλλους γαμοῦσι, σὲ δ' ἐπὶ ναῦς Ἀχαιϊκὰς

⁵ young person ⁶ star ⁷ killed by spear, death by spear ⁸ unwilling, involuntary ⁹ hang something on ¹⁰ sharpen ¹¹ remind, warn

πέμψω συνεκκλέψασα· καὶ παῦσον μάχης
 Ἕλληνας ἡμᾶς τε. ἀλλὰ σοὶ τόδ' ἦν πικρόν.
 ἐν τοῖς Ἀλεξάνδρου γὰρ ὕβριζες δόμοις 1020
 καὶ προσκυνεῖσθαι βαρβάρων ὕπ' ἤθελες·
 μεγάλα γὰρ ἦν σοι.— καὶ πὶ τοῖσδε σὸν δέμας
 ἐξῆλθες ἀσκήσασα κᾶβλειψας πόσει
 τὸν αὐτὸν αἰθέρ', ὦ κατὰπτυστον κára·
 ἦν χρῆν ταπεινῇν¹² ἐν πέπλων ἐρειπίοις, 1025
 φρίκη¹³ τρέμουνσαν,¹⁴ κρᾶτ' ἀπεσκυθισμένην
 ἐλθεῖν, τὸ σῶφρον τῆς ἀναιδείας πλέον
 ἔχουσαν ἐπὶ τοῖς πρόσθεν ἡμαρτημένοις.
 Μενέλα', ἵν' εἰδῆς οἱ τελευτήσω λόγον,
 στεφάνωσον Ἑλλάδ' ἀξίως τήνδε κτανὼν 1030
 σαυτοῦ, νόμον δὲ τόνδε ταῖς ἄλλαισι θὲς
 γυναιξί, θνήσκεν ἥτις ἂν προδῶ πόσιν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ. Μενέλαε, προγόνων τ' ἀξίως δόμων τε σῶν
 τεῖσαι δάμαρτα κάφελου, πρὸς Ἑλλάδος,
 ψόγον τὸ θῆλύ τ', εὐγενῆς ἐχθροῖς φανείς. 1035

ΜΕΝΕΛΑΟΣ. ἐμοὶ σὺ συμπέπτωκας ἐς ταῦτόν λόγου,
 ἐκουσίως τήνδ' ἐκ δόμων ἐλθεῖν ἐμῶν
 ξένας ἐς εὐνάς· χῆ Κύπρις κόμπου χάριν
 λόγοις ἐνέιται.— βαῖνε λευστήρων¹⁵ πέλας
 πόνους τ' Ἀχαιῶν ἀπόδος ἐν μικρῷ μακροῦς 1040
 θανούσ', ἵν' εἰδῆς μὴ καταισχύνειν ἐμέ.

ΕΛΕΝΗ. μή, πρὸς σε γονάτων, τὴν νόσον τὴν τῶν θεῶν
 προσθεῖς ἐμοὶ κτάνης με, συγγίγνωσκε δέ.

¹² low ¹³ shivering ¹⁴ tremble in fear ¹⁵ stone-thrower

ΕΚ. μηδ' οὖς ἀπέκτειν' ἥδε συμμάχους προδῶς·

ἐγὼ πρὸ κείνων καὶ τέκνων σε λίσσομαι. 1045

ΜΕ. παῦσαι, γεραία· τῇσδε δ' οὐκ ἐφρόντισα.

λέγω δὲ προσπόλοισι πρὸς πρύμνας νεῶν
τὴνδ' ἐκκομίζειν, ἔνθα ναυστολήσεται.

ΕΚ. μή νυν νεὼς σοὶ ταυτὸν ἐσβήττω σκάφος.

ΜΕ. τί δ' ἔστι; μείζον βρῖθος ἢ πάροιθ' ἔχει; 1050

ΕΚ. οὐκ ἔστ' ἐραστής ὅστις οὐκ αἰεὶ φιλεῖ.

ΜΕ. ὅπως ἂν ἐκβῇ τῶν ἐρωμένων ὁ νοῦς.

ἔσται δ' ἂ βούλῃ· ναῦν γὰρ οὐκ ἐσβήσεται
ἐς ἥνπερ ἡμεῖς· καὶ γὰρ οὐ κακῶς λέγεις·
ἐλθοῦσα δ' Ἄργος ὥσπερ ἀξία κακῶς 1055
κακὴ θανεῖται καὶ γυναιξὶ σωφρονεῖν
πάσαισι θήσει. ῥάδιον μὲν οὐ τόδε·
ὅμως δ' ὁ τῇσδ' ὄλεθρος ἐς φόβον βαλεῖ
τὸ μῶρον αὐτῶν, κἂν ἔτ' ὦσ' ἐχθίονες.

ΧΟ. οὕτω δὴ τὸν ἐν Ἰλίῳ 1060

ναὸν καὶ θυόεντα¹⁶ βω·

μὸν προῦδωκας Ἀχαιοῖς,

ὦ Ζεῦ, καὶ πελάνων φλόγα

σμήρνης¹⁷ αἰθερίας τε κα'

πνὸν καὶ Πέργαμον ἱερὰν 1065

Ἰδαῖά τ' Ἰδαῖα κισσοφόρα νάπη

χιόνι¹⁸ κατάρυτα ποταμίᾳ¹⁹

τέρμονα²⁰ πρωτόβολόν θ' ἀλίῳ,

τὰν καταλαμπομένην ζαθέαν θεράπναν.²¹

¹⁶ fragrant ¹⁷ myrrh ¹⁸ snow ¹⁹ of a river ²⁰ boundary ²¹ handmaid;
dwelling

And break her spell! The sweet soft speech, the
hand
And heart so fell: it maketh me afraid.
HECUBA. Meseems her goddesses first cry mine aid
Against these lying lips!... Not Hera, nay,
Nor virgin Pallas deem I such low clay,
To barter their own folk, Argos and brave
Athens, to be trod down, the Phrygian's slave,
All for vain glory and a shepherd's prize
On Ida! Wherefore should great Hera's eyes
So hunger to be fair? She doth not use
To seek for other loves, being wed with Zeus.
And maiden Pallas... did some strange god's face
Beguile her, that she craved for loveliness,
Who chose from God one virgin gift above
All gifts, and fleeth from the lips of love?
Ah, deck not out thine own heart's evil springs
By making spirits of heaven as brutish things
And cruel. The wise may hear thee, and guess all!
And Cypris must take ship-fantastical!
Sail with my son and enter at the gate
To seek thee! Had she willed it, she had sate
At peace in heaven, and wafted thee, and all
Amyclae with thee, under Ilion's wall.
My son was passing beautiful, beyond
His peers; and thine own heart, that saw and conned
His face, became a spirit enchanting thee.
For all wild things that in mortality
Have being, are Aphrodite; and the name
She bears in heaven is born and writ of them.
Thou sawest him in gold and orient vest
Shining, and lo, a fire about thy breast
Leapt! Thou hadst fed upon such little things,
Pacing thy ways in Argos. But now wings
Were come! Once free from Sparta, and there rolled
The Ilian glory, like broad streams of gold,
To steep thine arms and splash the towers! How
small,
How cold that day was Menelaus' hall!
Enough of that. It was by force my son
Took thee, thou sayst, and striving... Yet not one
In Sparta knew! No cry, no sudden prayer

Rang from thy rooms that night... Castor was there
 To hear thee, and his brother: both true men,
 Not yet among the stars! And after, when
 Thou camest here to Troy, and in thy track
 Argos and all its anguish and the rack
 Of war — Ah God! — perchance men told thee ‘Now
 The Greek prevails in battle’: then wouldst thou
 Praise Menelaus, that my son might smart,
 Striving with that old image in a heart
 Uncertain still. Then Troy had victories:
 And this Greek was as naught! Alway thine eyes
 Watched Fortune’s eyes, to follow hot where she
 Led first. Thou wouldst not follow Honesty.
 Thy secret ropes, thy body swung to fall
 Far, like a desperate prisoner, from the wall!
 Who found thee so? When wast thou taken? Nay,
 Hadst thou no surer rope, no sudden way
 Of the sword, that any woman honest-souled
 Had sought long since, loving her lord of old?
 Often and often did I charge thee; ‘Go,
 My daughter; go thy ways. My sons will know
 New loves. I will give aid, and steal thee past
 The Argive watch. O give us peace at last,
 Us and our foes!’ But out thy spirit cried
 As at a bitter word. Thou hadst thy pride
 In Alexander’s house, and O, ‘twas sweet
 To hold proud Easterns bowing at thy feet.
 They were great things to thee!... And comest thou
 now
 Forth, and hast decked thy bosom and thy brow,
 And breathest with thy lord the same blue air,
 Thou evil heart? Low, low, with ravaged hair,
 Rent raiment, and flesh shuddering, and within —
 O shame at last, not glory for thy sin;
 So face him if thou canst!... Lo, I have done.
 Be true, O King; let Hellas bear her crown
 Of Justice. Slay this woman, and upraise
 The law for evermore: she that betrays
 Her husband’s bed, let her be judged and die.
 LEADER. Be strong, O King; give judgment worthily
 For thee and thy great house. Shake off thy long
 Reproach; not weak, but iron against the wrong!

MENELAUS. Thy thought doth walk with mine in one intent.
 'Tis sure; her heart was willing, when she went
 Forth to a stranger's bed. And all her fair
 Tale of enchantment, 'tis a thing of air!...

Turning furiously upon HELEN.

Out, woman! There be those that seek thee yet
 With stones! Go, meet them. So shall thy long debt
 Be paid at last. And ere this night is o'er
 Thy dead face shall dishonour me no more!

HELEN (kneeling before him and embracing him).

Behold, mine arms are wreathed about thy knees;

Lay not upon my head the phantasies

Of Heaven. Remember all, and slay me not!

HECUBA. Remember them she murdered, them that fought
 Beside thee, and their children! Hear that prayer!

MENELAUS. Peace, aged woman, peace! 'Tis not for her;
 She is as naught to me.

(To the Soldiers)... March on before,

Ye ministers, and tend her to the shore ...

And have some chambered galley set for her,
 Where she may sail the seas.

HECUBA. If thou be there,

I charge thee, let not her set foot therein!

MENELAUS. How? Shall the ship go heavier for her sin?

HECUBA. A lover once, will alway love again.

MENELAUS. If that he loved be evil, he will fain
 Hate it!... Howbeit, thy pleasure shall be done.

Some other ship shall bear her, not mine own...

Thou counsellest very well... And when we come

To Argos, then... O then some pitiless doom

Well-earned, black as her heart! One that shall bind
 Once for all time the law on womankind

Of faithfulness!... 'Twill be no easy thing,

God knoweth. But the thought thereof shall fling

A chill on the dreams of women, though they be
 Wilder of wing and loathed more than she!

Exit, following HELEN, who is escorted by the Soldiers.

CHORUS. Some Women.

And hast thou turned from the Altar of frankincense,

And given to the Greek thy temple of Ilion?

The flame of the cakes of corn, is it gone from hence,

The myrrh on the air and the wreathed towers gone?

And Ida, dark Ida, where the wild ivy grows,
The glens that run as rivers from the summer-broken snows,
And the Rock, is it forgotten, where the first sunbeam glows,
The lit house most holy of the Dawn?
EURIPIDES. Others.

vocabulary

ἄγωγός leading, attraction, eliciting
 ἄθαπτος not honored with funeral
 rites ~epitaph
 ἄθλιος wretched ~athlete
 αἰθήρ ether, air, sky ~ether
 αἶθω set on fire ~ether
 αἰνέω praise, assent, acquiesce in
 αἶσσω dart, glance
 αἶσχος -εος (n, 3) insult; disgrace
 ἄκατος (f) boat
 ἄκτῃ beach; cereal grain
 ἀλαίνω wander about
 ἄλλομαι to jump ~sally
 ἀναρρήγνυμι (ῥ) tear open, tear
 down
 ἀναστένω groan
 ἄνυδρος waterless
 ἀπαλλαξείω wish to get rid of
 ἀπαλλάσσω free from, remove; be
 freed, depart
 ἀπονίζω wash off
 βόστρυχος curl, lock
 βρέφος -ους (n, 3) fetus, baby
 γόνος offspring ~genus
 δακρύω weep
 δεσπότης -ου (m, 1) master, despot
 διαπείρω pierce
 διαπεράω go across, through
 διεξέρχομαι go through
 διεργάζομαι cultivate; kill, end
 δορός leather bag ~dermatology
 δύστηνος unhappy, miserable
 δυστυχής unlucky
 ἔδρα (ᾱ) seat, seated group
 ~polyhedron
 ἔδρανον seat, seated group
 ~polyhedron
 εἰκῶν -όνος (f, 3) image, likeness
 εἰνάλιος inhabiting the sea
 ~halogen
 ἐχγελάω laugh out loud

ἔνθεν thence, whence
 ἐντίθηναι load; mp: take to heart
 ~thesis
 ἐξορμάω veer off course ~hormone
 ἐπίλοιπος remaining
 ἐστία hearth ~Hestia
 ἐστιάω give a feast
 εὐτυχέω be lucky, prosper, succeed
 εὐφημος not speaking inauspiciously
 ζάθεος holy
 ἥβα youth ~Hebe
 ἡνίκα when
 θάλαμος bedchamber ~thalamus
 θέαμα -τος (ᾱ, n, 3) sight, spectacle
 θυσία sacrifice
 ἰός arrow
 ἱππόβοτος grazed ~hippo
 ἰσόθεος (ι) godlike
 ἰωή a rush, a sweep
 καθοράω look down ~panorama
 καινέω freshen, innovate, make
 strange
 καινόω freshen, innovate, make
 strange
 κέδρος (f) cedar ~cedar
 κείρω shave, sever, raze; devour, use
 up
 κέλαδος loud noise
 κηπεύω to garden
 κορυφή peak, crown
 κοσμέω marshal, array ~cosmos
 κράς -τός (f, 3) head
 κυάνεος dark ~cyan
 λάινος of stone
 λάφυρα -ου (ῥ, n, 2) spoils
 λεύσσω see, look
 λούω wash, bathe
 λύπη distress
 λυπρός worthless, wretched
 μακάριος blessed
 μέλεος vain, idle, useless
 μεταβάλλω alter, transform

μίν him, her, it
 μονή staying, delaying
 μόχθος toil
 ναυστολέω to ship, sail
 νυμφεύω marry, give in marriage
 ξόανον wooden idol
 ὄγκος barb of an arrow
 ὄμμα -τος (n, 3) eye
 ὀρθόω stand up
 ὀρμή pressure, assault, order
 ~hormone
 ὀρυκτός dug out
 οὐράνιος heavenly
 πάθος -ους (n, 3) an experience,
 passion, condition
 παννυχίς night party, vigil
 πάτρα (αᾶ) fatherland ~paternal
 πατρώιος of the father(s), ancestral
 ~paternal
 πατρῷος of the father(s), ancestral
 πέδον ground ~pedal
 πελάζω bring/come to, near, into
 contact with
 πέπλος woman's dress, a folded
 cylinder of cloth
 περίβολος enclosing
 περιστέλλω lay out
 πικρός sharp, bitter ~picric
 πίτυλος sweep of oars; downpour;
 onslaught
 πλάτα flat or broad object; oar
 blade; (pl) shoulder blades
 πλευρά rib, side ~pleurisy
 πλευρόν rib, side ~pleurisy

πολύδακρυς tear-bringing
 πόντιος of the sea
 προσεννέπω accost; command; call
 by name
 πτερόν feather, wing ~pterodactyl
 πύργωμα walls, walled city with
 towers
 ῥήγνυμι (ῥ) to break
 ῥοά pl: waters of a river ~rheostat
 σκάφος (τό) hull, ship; (ό) digging
 στένω groan ~stentorian
 στέφανος ring
 συμφορά collecting; accident,
 misfortune
 συνέρχομαι come together
 σύντομος truncated, concise
 συντυχία event, accident
 τάφος (m) funeral, grave; (n)
 astonishment
 τάχος -ους (n, 3) speed ~tachometer
 τόκος childbirth ~oxytocin
 τοσόσδε this much
 τραῦμα -τος (n, 3) injury
 τύμβος grave mound ~tomb
 τύπος mold, form ~type
 τύπτω beat, smite ~stupid
 τυραννίς -δος (f) tyranny
 φθείρω destroy, ruin
 φίλημα -τος (n, 3) kiss
 φροῦδος fled, vanished
 χαλκόνωτος bronze-backed
 χαλκόπυλος with bronze gates
 χορός dance; chorus ~terpsichorean
 ὠλένη elbow, lower arm

ΧΟΡΟΣ. φροῦδαί σοι θυσαίαι χορῶν τ'

εὐφημοί¹ κέλαδοι² κατ' ὄρ'

φναν τε παννυχίδες³ θεῶν,

χρυσέων τε ξοάνων τύποι

Φρυγῶν τε ζάθιοι σελαί⁴

1075

ναι συνδώδεκα πλήθει.

μέλει μέλει μοι τάδ' εἰ φρονεῖς, ἄναξ,

οὐράνιον ἔδρανον ἐπιβεβώς

αἰθέρα τε πτόλεως ὀλομένης,

ἂν πυρὸς αἰθομένα κατέλυσεν ὄρμά.

1080

ΧΘ. ὦ φίλος ὦ πόσι μοι,

σὺ μὲν φθίμενος ἀλαίνεις⁴

ἄθαπτος ἄνδρος, ἐμὲ δὲ πόντιον⁵ σκάφος

1085

αἴσσον πτεροῖσι πορεύσει

ἱππόβοτον⁶ Ἄργος, ἵνα τείχεα

λάινα Κυκλώπ' οὐράνια νέμονται.

τέκνων δὲ πληῆθος ἐν πύλαις

δάκρυσι κατάορα στένει· βοᾷ βοᾷ·

1090

Μᾶτερ, ὦμοι, μόναν δὴ μ' Ἀχαιοὶ κομῶ

ζουσι σέθεν ἀπ' ὀμμάτων

κυανέαν ἐπὶ ναῦν

εἰναλίσσι⁷ πλάταις

1095

ἧ Σαλαμῖν' ἱερὰν

ἧ δίπορον κορυφὰν

Ἰσθμιον, ἔνθα πύλας

Πέλοπος ἔχουσιν ἔδραι.

¹ not speaking inauspiciously ² loud noise ³ night party, vigil ⁴ wander about ⁵ of the sea ⁶ grazed ⁷ inhabiting the sea

ΧΟ. εἴθ' ἀκάτου⁸ Μενέλα 1100

μέσον πέλαγος ἰούσας,
δίπαλτον ἱερὸν ἀνὰ μέσον πλατᾶν πέσοι
Αἰγαίου κεραυνοφαῆς πῦρ,

Ἰλιόθεν ὅτε με πολύδακρυν 1105

Ἑλλάδι λάτρευμα γᾶθεν ἐξορίζει,
χρύσεια δ' ἔνοπτρα, παρθένων

χάριτας, ἔχουσα τυγχάνει Διὸς κόρα·
μηδὲ γαῖάν ποτ' ἔλθοι Λάκαιναν πατρῷ' 1110

ὅν τε θάλαμον ἐστίας,

μηδὲ πόλιν Πιτάνας

χαλκόφυλόν⁹ τε θεάν,

δύσγαμον αἰσχος¹⁰ ἐλὼν

Ἑλλάδι τᾷ μεγάλα 1115

καὶ Σιμοεντιάσιν

μέλεα πάθεα ῥόησιν.

ΧΟ. ἰὼ ἰώ, καὶν' ἐκ καινῶν μεταβάλλουσαι

χθονὶ συντυχίαι. λεύσσετε Τρώων

τόνδ' Ἀστυάνακτ' ἄλοχοι μέλεια 1120

νεκρόν, ὃν πύργων δίσκημα πικρὸν

Δαναοὶ κτείναντες ἔχουσιν.

ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ. Ἑκάβη, νεὼς μὲν πίτυλος εἷς λελειμμένος

λάφυρα¹¹ τὰπίλοιπ' Ἀχιλλείου τόκου

μέλλει πρὸς ἀκτὰς ναυστολεῖν Φθιώτιδας· 1125

αὐτὸς δ' ἀνήκται Νεοπτόλεμος, καινὰς τινας

Πηλέως ἀκούσας συμφοράς, ὥς νιν χθονὸς

⁸ boat ⁹ with bronze gates ¹⁰ insult; disgrace ¹¹ spoils

Ἄκαστος ἐκβέβληκεν, ὁ Πελίου γόνος.
 οὐ θᾶσσον οὔνεκ', ἣ χάριν μονῆς¹² ἔχων,
 φροῦδος, μετ' αὐτοῦ δ' Ἀνδρομάχη, πολλῶν ἐμοὶ 1130
 δακρύων ἀγωγός,¹³ ἥνίκ' ἐξώρμα χθονός,
 πάτρην τ' ἀναστένουσα καὶ τὸν Ἑκτορος
 τύμβον προσεινέπουσα. καί σφ' ἡτήσατο
 θάψαι νεκρὸν τόνδ', ὃς πεσὼν ἐκ τειχέων
 ψυχὴν ἀφήκεν Ἑκτορος τοῦ σοῦ γόνος· 1135
 φόβον τ' Ἀχαιῶν, χαλκόνωτον ἀσπίδα
 τήνδ', ἣν πατήρ τοῦδ' ἀμφὶ πλευρ' ἐβάλλετο,
 μή νυν πορεύσαι Πηλέως ἐφ' ἐστίαν,
 μῆδ' ἐς τὸν αὐτὸν θάλαμον, οὐ νυμφεύσεται¹⁴
 μήτηρ νεκροῦ τοῦδ' Ἀνδρομάχη, λύπας ὀρᾶν, 1140
 ἀλλ' ἀντὶ κέδρου περιβόλων τε λαῖνων
 ἐν τῇδε θάψαι παῖδα· σὰς δ' ἐς ὠλένας
 δοῦναι, πέπλοισιν ὥς περιστείλῃς νεκρὸν
 στεφάνοις θ', ὅση σοι δύναιμι, ὥς ἔχει τὰ σά·
 ἐπεὶ βέβηκε, καὶ τὸ δεσπότης τάχος 1145
 ἀφείλετ' αὐτὴν παῖδα μὴ δοῦναι τάφῳ.
 ἡμεῖς μὲν οὖν, ὅταν σὺ κοσμήσῃς νέκυν,
 γῆν τῷδ' ἐπαμπισχόντες ἀροῦμεν δόρυ·
 σὺ δ' ὥς τάχιστα πρᾶσσε τὰπεσταλμένα.
 ἐνὸς μὲν οὖν μόχθου σ' ἀπαλλάξας ἔχω· 1150
 Σκαμανδρίους γὰρ τάσδε διαπερῶν ῥοὰς¹⁵
 ἔλουσα νεκρὸν ἀπένειψα τραύματα.¹⁶
 ἀλλ' εἰμ' ὀρυκτὸν¹⁷ τῷδ' ἀναρρήξων τάφον,

¹² staying, delaying ¹³ leading, attraction, eliciting ¹⁴ marry, give in marriage ¹⁵ pl: waters of a river ¹⁶ injury ¹⁷ dug out

ὥς σύντομ' ἡμῖν τὰ π' ἐμοῦ τε κἀπὸ σοῦ
 ἐς ἐν ξυνελθόντ' οἴκαδ' ὀρμήσῃ πλάτην.

1155

ΕΚΑΒΗ. θέσθ' ἀμφίτορνον ἀσπίδ' Ἴκτορος πέδω,

λυπρὸν θέαμα¹⁸ κου' φίλον λεύσσειν ἐμοί.

ὦ μείζον' ὄγκον δορὸς ἔχοντες ἢ φρενῶν,

τί τόνδ', Ἀχαιοί, παῖδα δείσαντες φόνον

καινὸν διειργάσασθε; μὴ Τροίαν ποτὲ

1160

πεσοῦσαν ὀρθώσειεν; οὐδὲν ἦτ' ἄρα,

ὅθ' Ἴκτορος μὲν εὐτυχοῦντος ἐς δόρυ

διωλλύμεσθα μυρίας τ' ἄλλης χερός,

πόλεως δ' ἀλούσης καὶ Φρυγῶν ἐφθαρμένων

βρέφος τοσόνδ' ἔδεισατ'· οὐκ αἰνῶ φόβον,

1165

ὅστις φοβεῖται μὴ διεξελθῶν λόγῳ.

ὦ φίλταθ', ὥς σοι θάνατος ἦλθε δυστυχίης.

εἰ μὲν γὰρ ἔθανες πρὸ πόλεως, ἥβης τυχῶν

γάμων τε καὶ τῆς ἰσοθέου τυραννίδος,

μακάριος ἦσθ' ἂν, εἴ τι τῶνδε μακάριον·

1170

νῦν δ' αὖτ' ἰδὼν μὲν γνούς τε σῇ ψυχῇ, τέκνον,

οὐκ οἶσθ', ἐχρήσω δ' οὐδὲν ἐν δόμοις ἔχων.

δύστηνε, κρατὸς ὥς σ' ἔκειρεν ἀθλίως¹⁹

τείχη πατρῶα, Λοξίου πυργώματα,²⁰

ὄν πόλλ' ἐκήπευσ²¹ ἢ τεκοῦσα βόστροχον²²

1175

φιλήμασιν τ' ἔδωκεν, ἔνθεν ἐκγελᾷ

ὀστέων ραγέντων φόνος, ἔν' αἰσχροῖα μὴ λέγω.

ὦ χεῖρες, ὥς εἰκὸς μὲν ἡδείας πατρὸς

¹⁸ sight, spectacle ¹⁹ wretched ²⁰ walls, walled city with towers ²¹ to garden ²² curl, lock

The sacrifice is gone and the sound of joy,
The dancing under the stars and the night-long prayer:
The Golden Images and the Moons of Troy,
The twelve Moons and the mighty names they bear:
My heart, my heart crieth, O Lord Zeus on high,
Were they all to thee as nothing, thou throned in the sky,
Throned in the fire-cloud, where a City, near to die,
Passeth in the wind and the flare?

A Woman.

Dear one, O husband mine,
Thou in the dim dominions
Driftest with waterless lips,
Unburied; and me the ships
Shall bear o'er the bitter brine,
Storm-birds upon angry pinions,
Where the towers of the Giants shine
O'er Argos cloudily,
And the riders ride by the sea.
Others.

And children still in the Gate
Crowd and cry,
A multitude desolate,
Voices that float and wait
As the tears run dry: 'Mother, alone on the shore
They drive me, far from thee:
Lo, the dip of the oar,
The black hull on the sea!
Is it the Isle Immortal,
Salamis, waits for me?
Is it the Rock that broods
Over the sundered floods
Of Corinth, the ancient portal
Of Pelops' sovrantry?'

A Woman.

Out in the waste of foam,
Where rideth dark Menelaus,
Come to us there, O white
And jagged, with wild sea-light
And crashing of oar-blades, come,
O thunder of God, and slay us:
While our tears are wet for home,

While out in the storm go we,
 Slaves of our enemy!
 Others.
 And, God, may Helen be there,
 With mirror of gold,
 Decking her face so fair,
 Girl-like; and hear, and stare,
 And turn death-cold:
 Never, ah, never more
 The hearth of her home to see,
 Nor sand of the Spartan shore,
 Nor tombs where her fathers be,
 Nor Athena's bronzen Dwelling,
 Nor the towers of Pitane
 For her face was a dark desire
 Upon Greece, and shame like fire,
 And her dead are welling, welling,
 From red Simoïs to the sea!

TALTHYBIUS, followed by one or two Soldiers and bearing the child
 ASTYANAX dead, is seen
 approaching.

LEADER. Ah, change on change! Yet each one racks
 This land with evil manifold;
 Unhappy wives of Troy, behold,
 They bear the dead Astyanax,
 Our prince, whom bitter Greeks this hour
 Have hurled to death from Ilion's tower.
 TALTHYBIUS. One galley, Hecuba, there lingereth yet,
 Lapping the wave, to gather the last freight
 Of Pyrrhus' spoils for Thessaly. The chief
 Himself long since hath parted, much in grief
 For Peleus' sake, his grandsire, whom, men say,
 Acastus, Pelias' son, in war array
 Hath driven to exile. Loath enough before
 Was he to linger, and now goes the more
 In haste, bearing Andromache, his prize.'
 Tis she hath charmed these tears into mine eyes,
 Weeping her fatherland, as o'er the wave
 She gazed, and speaking words to Hector's grave.
 Howbeit, she prayed us that due rites be done
 For burial of this babe, thine Hector's son,
 That now from Ilion's tower is fallen and dead.

And, lo! this great bronze-fronted shield, the dread
 Of many a Greek, that Hector held in fray,
 O never in God's name — so did she pray —
 Be this borne forth to hang in Peleus' hall
 Or that dark bridal chamber, that the wall
 May hurt her eyes; but here, in Troy o'erthrown,
 Instead of cedar wood and vaulted stone,
 Be this her child's last house... And in thine hands
 She bade me lay him, to be swathed in bands
 Of death and garments, such as rest to thee
 In these thy fallen fortunes; seeing that she
 Hath gone her ways, and, for her master's haste,
 May no more fold the babe unto his rest.
 Howbeit, so soon as he is garlanded
 And robed, we will heap earth above his head
 And lift our sails... See all be swiftly done,
 As thou art bidden. I have saved thee one
 Labour. For as I passed Scamander's stream
 Hard by, I let the waters run on him,
 And cleansed his wounds. — See, I will go forth now
 And break the hard earth for his grave: so thou
 And I will haste together, to set free
 Our oars at last to beat the homeward sea!

He goes out with his Soldiers, leaving the body of the Child in HECUBA'S arms.

HECUBA. Set the great orb of Hector's shield to lie
 Here on the ground. 'Tis bitter that mine eye
 Should see it... O ye Argives, was your spear
 Keen, and your hearts so low and cold, to fear
 This babe? 'Twas a strange murder for brave
 men!
 For fear this babe some day might raise again
 His fallen land! Had ye so little pride?
 While Hector fought, and thousands at his side,
 Ye smote us, and we perished; and now, now,
 When all are dead and Ilion lieth low,
 Ye dread this innocent! I deem it not
 Wisdom, that rage of fear that hath no thought...
 Ah, what a death hath found thee, little one!
 Hadst thou but fallen fighting, hadst thou known
 Strong youth and love and all the majesty
 Of godlike kings, then had we spoken of thee

As of one blessed... could in any wise
These days know blessedness. But now thine eyes
Have seen, thy lips have tasted, but thy soul
No knowledge had nor usage of the whole
Rich life that lapt thee round... Poor little child!
Was it our ancient wall, the circuit piled
By loving Gods, so savagely hath rent
Thy curls, these little flowers innocent
That were thy mother's garden, where she laid
Her kisses; here, just where the bone-edge frayed
Grins white above— Ah heaven, I will not see!
Ye tender arms, the same dear mould have ye

vocabulary

ἄγαλμα -τος (n, 3) ornament, glory, statue

ἄθλιον ἄθλιου prize

ἄθλιος prize ~athlete

ἄθλιος wretched ~athlete

αἰαῖ alas

ἄλαστος unforgettable, infamous
~Lethe

ἀλίζω gather, assemble

ἄλλοσε elsewhere ~alien

ἀνακαλέω call, summon, recall

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

ᾠδή song

ἄρασσω smash

ἀργέω not work; (pass) be fruitless,
left undone

ἄρθρον joint

ἀρχηγός original; chief, originator

ἄσπασμα embrace; beloved

αὐδά voice, report ~Theravada

ἀφανής unseen, occult, obscure

βέβαιος steadfast; sure

βιόω live; (mp) make a living
~biology

βόστρυχος curl, lock

βραχίων -ονος (m, 3) upper arm,
shoulder

γεραιός old ~geriatric

γραῦς old woman ~geriatric

δαλός (ἄ) fire-brand

δῆτα emphatic δῆ

διερέσσω row through, across ~row

διόλλυμι (ὕ) be ruined

δούλη slave-woman

δυστυχής unlucky

εἰσπίπτω fall into, rush in

ἐκτείνω stretch out ~tend

ἔλκος -εος (n, 3) wound ~ulcer

ἐμπύμπρημι burn up ~pyre

ἐνέμι be in ~ion

ἐνέπω tell, tell of

ἐνίημι put in; motivate ~jet

ἐνώω unite

ἐξαπόλλυμι (ὕ) disappear from

ἐξάπτω fasten to ~haptic

ἔξειμι go forth; is possible ~ion

ἐπίγραμμα -τος (n, 3) inscription,
title, maker's signature

ἐπισπεύδω urge on

εὐτυχής fortunate

ἡδομαι be pleased, enjoy
~hedonism

ἡλιξ -κος (m) of the same age

θεοστυγής hated by the gods

θηράω hunt, chase

θιγγάνω touch

θροέω say, cry out loud; terrify;
(mp) be moved by joy

ιάομαι (ι) cure ~pediatrician

ιατρός (ἄ) physician

ιδρώς sweat ~exude

ιός arrow

ἴτυς rim

ἰωή a rush, a sweep

καλλίνικος (ι) gloriously
triumphant

κάλλος -εος (n, 3) beauty
~kaleidoscope

κείρω shave, sever, raze; devour, use
up

κενός empty, vain

κλεινός famous

κλήρος lot; farm, inheritance; clergy
~clergy

κόμπος noise, racket

κορυφή peak, crown

κράς -τός (f, 3) head

κῶμος party, celebration

λαγχάνω be allotted; (esp. λελα-
forms) allot; receive

λεύσσω see, look

λοισθίος left behind; beam, gaff

λοχαγέω (ᾱ) lead a company
 λοχαγός (ᾱ) captain
 μάτην in vain, randomly
 μέλεος vain, idle, useless
 μέτωπον forehead, front
 μόλις with difficulty, barely
 μορφή beauty
 μουῦσα muse
 μουσοποιός making poetry, music
 μυρίος (υ) 10,000 ~myriad
 νέρτερος lower, of Hades
 οἶμοι woe is me
 ὀλβίζω make/deem happy
 ὁμηλιξ -χος (m) of the same age
 ὄρθιος shrill; steep, straight
 πάτρα (αᾱ) fatherland ~paternal
 πατρώιος of the father(s), ancestral
 ~paternal
 πατρώος of the father(s), ancestral
 πέπλος woman's dress, a folded
 cylinder of cloth
 περιβάλλω act: excel; mid: put on
 clothing ~ballistic
 περίδρομος encircling, encircleable
 ~hippodrome
 πηδάω jump, spring ~pedal
 πικρός sharp, bitter ~picric
 πύμπρημι inflate, spurt; burn up
 ~pyre
 πίτυλος sweep of oars; downpour;
 onslaught
 πλόκαμος lock of hair
 πότε when?
 πρόκειμαι be set before; propose
 προσδοκάω expect
 πρόσσειμι approach, draw near; add
 ~ion

προσίημι be allowed near
 πρόχειρος handy; ready to do
 something
 σάλπιγξ -γος (f) trumpet
 σκύλευμα (υ) arms taken as spoils
 στάζω dribble, infuse
 στέλλω prepare, send, furl ~apostle
 στενάζω sigh, groan
 στεφανώω crown
 στέφος -εος (n, 3) wreath, crown
 στρατόω be on a campaign
 ~strategy
 στρέφω turn, veer ~atrophy
 ταλαίπωρος suffering, miserable
 τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent
 τάφος (m) funeral, grave; (n)
 astonishment
 τέθηπα be confused
 τέρμα -τος (n, 3) mark, turn-around
 point
 τλήμων steadfast, enduring ~talent
 τρόπαιον victory monument
 τροπαῖον victory monument
 τροφή food, upkeep ~atrophy
 τύμβος grave mound ~tomb
 τύπος mold, form ~type
 ὑμνέω recite, commemorate
 ὑπέρτατος highest, on top
 ὑφάπτω set on fire from underneath
 φλόγεος sparkling?
 φλόξ -γός (f) flame ~flame
 φροντίζω consider, ponder
 φροῦδος fled, vanished
 φύλαξ -χος (m) guard; sentry
 ~phylactery
 χαλκόνωτος bronze-backed

κέκτησθ', ἐν ἄρθροις¹ δ' ἔκλυτοι πρόκεισθέ μοι.
 ὦ πολλὰ κόμπους ἐκβαλὼν φίλον στόμα, 1180
 ὀλωλας, ἐψεύσω μ', ὅτ' ἐσπίπτων πέπλους,
 ὦ μῆτερ, ἠΐδ' αἶψα, ἥ πολὺν σοι βοστρύχων
 πλόκαμον² κερῶμαι, πρὸς τάφον θ' ὀμηλίκων
 κώμους ἀπάξω, φίλα διδοὺς προσφθέγματα.
 σὺ δ' οὐκ ἔμ', ἀλλ' ἐγὼ σέ τὸν νεώτερον, 1185
 γρῶς ἀπολις ἄτεκνος, ἄθλιον θάπτω νεκρόν.
 οἴμοι, τὰ πόλλ' ἀσπασμαθ³ αἶ τ' ἐμαὶ τροφαὶ
 ὕπνοι τ' ἐκείνοι φροῦδά μοι. τί καί ποτε
 γράψειεν ἄν σε μουσοποιὸς⁴ ἐν τάφῳ;
 Τὸν παῖδα τόνδ' ἔκτειναν Ἀργεῖοί ποτε 1190
 δείσαντες;— αἰσχρὸν τοῦπίγραμμά γ' Ἑλλάδι.
 ἀλλ' οὖν πατρώων οὐ λαχὼν ἕξεις ὅμως
 ἐν ἧ ταφήσῃ χαλκόνωτον ἱτέαν.
 ὦ καλλίπηχυν Ἕκτορος βραχίονα⁵
 σῶζουσ', ἄριστον φύλακ' ἀπώλεσας σέθεν. 1195
 ὡς ἦδ' ἐν πόρπακι σῶ κείται τύπος⁶
 ἱτύος⁷ τ' ἐν εὐτόρνοισι περιδρόμοις ἰδρώς,
 ὃν ἐκ μετώπου πολλάκις πόνους ἔχων
 ἔσταζεν⁸ Ἕκτωρ προστιθεὶς γενειάδι.
 φέρετε, κομίζετ' ἀθλίῳ κόσμον νεκρῷ 1200
 ἐκ τῶν παρόντων· οὐ γὰρ ἐς κάλλος τύχας
 δαίμων δίδωσιν· ὧν δ' ἔχω, λήψῃ τάδε.
 θνητῶν δὲ μῶρος ὅστις εὖ πράσσειν δοκῶν

¹ joint ² lock of hair ³ embrace; beloved ⁴ making poetry, music
⁵ upper arm, shoulder ⁶ mold, form ⁷ rim ⁸ dribble, infuse

βέβαια χαίρει· τοῖς τρόποις γὰρ αἱ τύχαι,
 ἔμπληκτος ὡς ἄνθρωπος, ἄλλοτ' ἄλλοσε⁹
 πηδῶσι,¹⁰ κούδεις αὐτὸς εὐτυχεῖ ποτε.

1205

ΧΟΡΟΣ. καὶ μὴν πρόχειρον αἶδε σοι σκυλευμάτων¹¹

Φρυγίων φέρουσι κόσμον ἐξάπτειν νεκρῶ.

ΕΚΑΒΗ. ὦ τέκνον, οὐχ ἵπποισι νικήσαντά σε

οὐδ' ἥλικας τόξοισιν, οὓς Φρύγες νόμους

1210

τιμῶσιν, οὐκ ἐς πλησμονὰς θηρωμένη,

μήτηρ πατρός σοι προστίθης ἀγάλματα

τῶν σῶν ποτ' ὄντων· νῦν δέ σ' ἡ θεοστύγης¹²

ἀφείλεθ' Ἑλένη, πρὸς δὲ καὶ ψυχὴν σέθεν

ἔκτεινε καὶ πάντ' οἶκον ἐξαπώλεσεν.

1215

ΧΟ. ἔξ, φρενῶν

ἔθιγες¹³ ἔθιγες· ὦ μέγας ἐμοί ποτ' ἂν ἀνάκτωρ πόλεως.

ΕΚ. ἂ δ' ἐν γάμοισι χρῆν σε προσθέσθαι χροῖ

Ἀσιατίδων γήμαντα τὴν ὑπερτάτην,

Φρύγια πέπλων ἀγάλματ' ἐξάπτω χροός.

1220

σύ τ', ὦ ποτ' οὔσα καλλίνικε,¹⁴ μυρίων

μήτερ τροπαίων, Ἴκτορος φίλον σάκος,

στεφανοῦ· θανῇ γὰρ οὐ θανοῦσα σὺν νεκρῶ·

ἐπεὶ σὲ πολλῶ μάλλον ἢ τὰ τοῦ σοφοῦ

κακοῦ τ' Ὀδυσσέως ἄξιον τιμᾶν ὄπλα.

1225

ΧΟ. αἰαῖ αἰαῖ· πικρὸν ὄδυρμα

γαῖά σ' ὦ τέκνον δέξεται.

στέναζε, μᾶτερ, ΕΚ. αἰαῖ.

ΧΟ. νεκρῶν ἱακχον. ΕΚ. οὔμοι μοι.

1230

⁹ elsewhere ¹⁰ jump, spring ¹¹ arms taken as spoils ¹² hated by the gods ¹³ touch ¹⁴ gloriously triumphant

ΧΟ. οἴμοι δῆτα σῶν ἀλάστων¹⁵ κακῶν.

ΕΚ. τελαμῶσιν ἔλκη τὰ μὲν ἐγώ σ' ἰάσομαι,
τλήμων¹⁶ ἱατρός, ὄνομ' ἔχουσα, τάργα δ' οὐ·
τὰ δ' ἐν νεκροῖσι φροντιεῖ πατὴρ σέθεν.

ΧΟ. ἄρασσ' ¹⁷ ἄρασσε κρᾶτα 1235
πιτύλους διδοῦσα χειρός, ἰώ μοί μοι.

ΕΚ. ὦ φίλταται γυναῖκες

ΧΟ. Ἐκάβη, σὰς ἔνεπε· τίνα θροεῖς¹⁸ αὐδάν;

ΕΚ. οὐκ ἦν ἄρ' ἐν θεοῖσι πλὴν οὕμοι πόνοι 1240

Τροία τε πόλεων ἔκκριτον μισουμένη,
μάτην δ' ἐβουθυτοῦμεν. εἰ δὲ μὴ θεὸς
ἔστρεψε τᾶνω περιβαλὼν κάτω χθονός,
ἀφανεῖς ἂν ὄντες οὐκ ἂν ὑμνήθημεν ἂν
μούσαις ἀοιδὰς δόντες ὑστέρων βροτῶν.
χωρεῖτε, θάπτειτ' ἀθλίῳ τύμβῳ νεκρόν·
ἔχει γὰρ οἶα δεῖ γε νερτέρων¹⁹ στέφη.
δοκῶ δὲ τοῖς θανούσι διαφέρειν βραχύ,
εἰ πλουσίων τις τεύξεται κτερισμάτων·
κενὸν δὲ γαύρωμ' ἐστὶ τῶν ζώντων τόδε.

1245

1250

ΧΟ. ἰὼ ἰώ· μελέα μήτηρ, ἥ τὰς μεγάλας

ἐλπῖδας ἐν σοὶ κατέκναψε βίου.
μέγα δ' ὀλβισθεῖς²⁰ ὥς ἐκ πατέρων
ἀγαθῶν ἐγένου,
δεινῷ θανάτῳ διόλωλας.

1255

ἔα ἔα· τίνας Ἰλιάσιν ταῖσδ' ἐν κορυφαῖς

¹⁵ unforgettable, infamous ¹⁶ steadfast, enduring ¹⁷ smash ¹⁸ say, cry out loud; terrify; (mp) be moved by joy ¹⁹ lower, of Hades ²⁰ make/deem happy

λεύσσω φλογέας²¹ δαλοῖσι²² χέρας

διερέσσοντας; μέλλει Τροία

καινόν τι κακὸν προσέσεσθαι.

ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ. αὐδῶ λοχαγοῖς, οἳ τέταχθ' ἐμπιμπράναι

1260

Πριάμου τόδ' ἄστυ, μηκέτ' ἀργοῦσαν²³ φλόγα

ἐν χειρὶ σφάζειν, ἀλλὰ πῦρ ἐνιέναι,

ὥς ἂν κατασκάψαντες Ἰλίου πόλιν

στελλώμεθ' οἴκαδ' ἄσμενοι Τροίας ἄπο.

ὕμεῖς δ', ἵν' αὐτὸς λόγος ἔχη μορφὰς δύο,

1265

χωρεῖτε, Τρώων παῖδες, ὀρθίαν ὅταν

σάλπιγγος²⁴ ἤχῳ δῶσιν ἀρχηγοῖ²⁵ στρατοῦ,

πρὸς ναῦς Ἀχαιῶν, ὥς ἀποστέλλησθε γῆς.

σύ τ', ὦ γεραιὰ δυστυχεστάτη γύναι,

ἔπου. μεθήκουσιν σ' Ὀδυσσεὺς πάρα

1270

οἷδ', ὦ σε δούλην κλῆρος ἐκπέμπει πάτρας.

ΕΚ. οἷ γὼ τάλαινα· τοῦτο δὴ τὸ λοίσθιον

καὶ τέρμα²⁶ πάντων τῶν ἐμῶν ἤδη κακῶν·

ἔξειμι πατρίδος, πόλις ὑφάπτεται πυρί.

ἀλλ', ὦ γεραιὲ πούς, ἐπίσπευσον μόλις,

1275

ὥς ἀσπάσωμαι τὴν ταλαίπωρον²⁷ πόλιν.

ὦ μεγάλα δὴ ποτ' ἀμπνέουσ' ἐν βαρβάροις

Τροία, τὸ κλεινὸν ὄνομα' ἀφαιρήσῃ τάχα.

πιμπρᾶσί σ', ἡμᾶς δ' ἐξάγουσ' ἤδη χθονὸς

δούλας· ἰὼ θεοί. καὶ τί τοὺς θεοὺς καλῶ;

1280

καὶ πρὶν γὰρ οὐκ ἤκουσαν ἀνακαλούμενοι.

²¹ sparkling? ²² fire-brand ²³ not work; (pass) be fruitless, left undone

²⁴ trumpet ²⁵ original; chief, originator ²⁶ mark, turn-around point

²⁷ suffering, miserable

As his; how from the shoulder loose ye drop
 And weak! And dear proud lips, so full of hope
 And closed for ever! What false words ye said
 At daybreak, when he crept into my bed,
 Called me kind names, and promised: 'Grandmother,
 When thou art dead, I will cut close my hair
 And lead out all the captains to ride by
 Thy tomb.' Why didst thou cheat me so? 'Tis I,
 Old, homeless, childless, that for thee must shed
 Cold tears, so young, so miserably dead.
 Dear God, the pattering welcomes of thy feet,
 The nursing in my lap; and O, the sweet
 Falling asleep together! All is gone.
 How should a poet carve the funeral stone
 To tell thy story true? 'There lieth here
 A babe whom the Greeks feared, and in their fear
 Slew him.' Aye, Greece will bless the tale it
 tells!

Child, they have left thee beggared of all else
 In Hector's house; but one thing shalt thou keep,
 This war-shield bronzen-barred, wherein to sleep.
 Alas, thou guardian true of Hector's fair
 Left arm, how art thou masterless! And there
 I see his handgrip printed on thy hold;
 And deep stains of the precious sweat, that rolled
 In battle from the brows and beard of him,
 Drop after drop, are writ about thy rim.
 Go, bring them—such poor garments hazardous
 As these days leave. God hath not granted us
 Wherewith to make much pride. But all I can,
 I give thee, Child of Troy.—O vain is man,
 Who glorieth in his joy and hath no fears:
 While to and fro the chances of the years
 Dance like an idiot in the wind! And none
 By any strength hath his own fortune won.

During these lines several Women are seen approaching with garlands and raiment in their hands.

LEADER. Lo these, who bear thee raiment harvested
 From Ilion's slain, to fold upon the dead.

During the following scene HECUBA gradually takes the garments and wraps them about the Child.

HECUBA. O not in pride for speeding of the car

Beyond thy peers, not for the shaft of war
 True aimed, as Phrygians use; not any prize
 Of joy for thee, nor splendour in men's eyes,
 Thy father's mother lays these offerings
 About thee, from the many fragrant things
 That were all thine of old. But now no more.
 One woman, loathed of God, hath broke the door
 And robbed thy treasure-house, and thy warm breath
 Made cold, and trod thy people down to death!

CHORUS. Some Women.

Deep in the heart of me
 I feel thine hand,
 Mother: and is it he
 Dead here, our prince to be,
 And lord of the land?

HECUBA. Glory of Phrygian raiment, which my thought
 Kept for thy bridal day with some far-sought
 Queen of the East, folds thee for evermore.

And thou, grey Mother, Mother-Shield that bore

THE TROJAN WOMEN. A thousand days of glory, thy last crown
 Is here... Dear Hector's shield! Thou shalt lie
 down

Undying with the dead, and lordlier there
 Than all the gold Odysseus' breast can bear,
 The evil and the strong!

CHORUS. Some Women.

Child of the Shield-bearer,
 Alas, Hector's child!

Great Earth, the All-mother,
 Taketh thee unto her
 With wailing wild!

Others.

Mother of misery,
 Give Death his song!(

HEC. Woe!) Aye and bitterly(

HEC. Woe!) We too weep for thee,
 And the infinite wrong!

During these lines HECUBA, kneeling by the body, has been performing a
 funeral rite, symbolically

staunching the dead Child's wounds.

HECUBA. I make thee whole;

I bind thy wounds, O little vanished soul.

This wound and this I heal with linen white:

O emptiness of aid!... Yet let the rite

Be spoken. This and... Nay, not I, but he,

Thy father far away shall comfort thee!

She bows her head to the ground and remains motionless and unseeing.

CHORUS. Beat, beat thine head:

Beat with the wailing chime

Of hands lifted in time:

Beat and bleed for the dead.

Woe is me for the dead!

HECUBA. O Women! Ye, mine own...

She rises bewildered, as though she had seen a vision.

LEADER. Hecuba, speak!

Oh, ere thy bosom break...

HECUBA. Lo, I have seen the open hand of God;

And in it nothing, nothing, save the rod

Of mine affliction, and the eternal hate,

Beyond all lands, chosen and lifted great

For Troy! Vain, vain were prayer and incense-swell

And bulls' blood on the altars!... All is well.

Had He not turned us in His hand, and thrust

Our high things low and shook our hills as dust,

We had not been this splendour, and our wrong

An everlasting music for the song

Of earth and heaven!

Go, women: lay our dead

In his low sepulchre. He hath his meed

Of robing. And, methinks, but little care

Toucheth the tomb, if they that moulder there

Have rich encerement. 'Tis we, 'tis we,

That dream, we living and our vanity!

The Women bear out the dead Child upon the shield, singing, when presently flames of fire and

dim forms are seen among the ruins of the City.

CHORUS. Some Women.

Woe for the mother that bare thee, child,

Thread so frail of a hope so high,

That Time hath broken: and all men smiled

About thy cradle, and, passing by,

Spoke of thy father's majesty.

Low, low, thou liest!

Others.

Ha! Who be these on the crested rock?
Fiery hands in the dusk, and a shock
Of torches flung! What lingereth still,
O wounded City, of unknown ill,
Ere yet thou diest?
TALTHYBIUS (coming out through the ruined Wall).
Ye Captains that have charge to wreck this keep
Of Priam's City, let your torches sleep
No more! Up, fling the fire into her heart!
Then have we done with Ilion, and may part
In joy to Hellas from this evil land.
And ye—so hath one word two faces—stand,
Daughters of Troy, till on your ruined wall
The echo of my master's trumpet call
In signal breaks: then, forward to the sea,
Where the long ships lie waiting.
And for thee,
O ancient woman most unfortunate,
Follow: Odysseus' men be here, and wait
To guide thee... 'Tis to him thou go'st for thrall.
HECUBA. Ah, me! and is it come, the end of all,
The very crest and summit of my days?
I go forth from my land, and all its ways
Are filled with fire! Bear me, O aged feet,
A little nearer: I must gaze, and greet
My poor town ere she fall.
Farewell, farewell!
O thou whose breath was mighty on the swell
Of orient winds, my Troy! Even thy name
Shall soon be taken from thee. Lo, the flame
Hath thee, and we, thy children, pass away
To slavery... God! O God of mercy!... Nay:
Why call I on the Gods? They know, they know,
My prayers, and would not hear them long ago.

vocabulary

ἄεθλιος prize ~athlete
ἄθλιος wretched ~athlete
αἰθήρ ether, air, sky ~ether
ἄιστος vanished, sent to destruction
 ~wit
ἄκοίτης -ου (m, 1) husband, sex partner
ἄκρα at the edge, extreme ~acute
ἄκρη at the edge, extreme
ἄκρις -ός (f) hilltop ~acute
ἄκρον crest, extremity ~acute
ἄλγος -εος (n, 3) woe, grief
 ~analgesic
ἀνάξιος unworthy, undeserved
ἄνώνυμος nameless ~name
ἄτα bewilderment, folly
ἄταφος unburied
ἀτάω (mp) suffer, be in distress
αὐδά voice, report ~Theravada
ἀφανής unseen, occult, obscure
ἄφιλος friendless; unfriendly
βίος life ~biology
βιόω live; (mp) make a living
 ~biology
γάμος wedding, sex ~bigamy
γεραιός old ~geriatric
γέρας -ως (n, 3) reward, honor
γονή progeny ~genus
γόνυ γουνός (n, 3) knee ~polygon
δαίος hostile, destructive
δέρκομαι see, watch
διάδοχος being successor
δισσός double
δορός leather bag ~dermatology
δούλειος of a slave
δύστηνος unhappy, miserable
ἐκλύω rescue from ~loose
ἐπικλύω overwhelm, swamp
ἐπικλύω hear, listen to ~Euclid
ιάλεμος (ᾱ) lament, dirge; sad, dull, stupid

ιός arrow
ἵχνος -εος (n, 3) track, trace
ιωή a rush, a sweep
καπνός smoke
καταθνήσκω die, be dead
 ~euthanasia
κατακαλύπτω cover up
καταφθίω cause to perish, wane; (of time) pass
κλύω hear, listen to ~Euclid
κόνις -ος (f) dust
κτυπέω crash
κτύπος noise
λάμπω shine ~lamp
λόγχη spear point; lot
μαλερός raging, devouring
μέλαθρον roofbeam
μέλεος vain, idle, useless
μέλος -ους (n, 3) limb; melody
νέρθε beneath, below
ὅμως anyway, nevertheless
ὄσσε eyes (dual)
ὄσσομαι see with the mind's eye, forebode
οὐαί ow! woe!
πάτρα (αᾱ) fatherland ~paternal
πέδον ground ~pedal
πλάτα flat or broad object; oar blade; (pl) shoulder blades
προφέρω bring forth ~bear
πτέρυξ -γος (f) wing ~archeopteryx
πυρά pyre ~pyre
πυρόω burn something
σαυτοῦ yourself
τάλας wretched, miserable ~talent
τάχα quickly, soon; perhaps
 ~tachometer
τάχος -ους (n, 3) speed ~tachometer
τρέχω run, spin
τρομερός trembling
φείδομαι spare, not use/harm
 ~aphid

φλόξ -γός (f) flame ~flame
φόνιος bloody

φροῦδος fled, vanished

φέρ' ἐς πυρὰν δράμωμεν· ὡς κάλλιστά μοι
σὺν τῇδε πατρίδι κατθανεῖν πυρουμένη.¹

ΤΑΛΘΥΒΙΟΣ. ἐνθουσιᾶς, δύστηνε, τοῖς σαυτῆς κακοῖς.

ἀλλ' ἄγετε, μὴ φεῖδεσθ'· Ὀδυσσέως δὲ χρὴ
ἐς χεῖρα δοῦναι τήνδε καὶ πέμπειν γέρας. 1285

ΕΚΑΒΗ. ὀττοτοτοτοτοῖ.

Κρόνιε, πρύτανι Φρύγιε, γενέτα
πάτερ, ἀνάξια τᾶς Δαρδάνου
γονᾶς² τάδ' οἶα πάσχομεν δέδορκας;
1290

ΧΟΡΟΣ. δέδορκεν, ἅ δὲ μεγαλόπολις

ἄπολις ὄλωλεν οὐδ' ἔτ' ἔστι Τροία.

ΕΚ. ὀττοτοτοτοτοῖ. λέλαμπεν Ἰλιος, Περ'

γάμων τε πυρὶ καταίθεται τέραμνα
καὶ πόλις ἄκρα τε τειχέων.

ΧΟ. πτέρυγι δὲ καπνὸς ὥς τις οὐ'

ρανία πεσοῦσα δορὶ καταφθίνει γᾶ.
μαλερὰ³ μέλαθρα πυρὶ κατάδρομα
δαῖτα τε λόγχῃ.⁴ 1300

ΕΚ. ἰὼ γᾶ τρόφιμε τῶν ἐμῶν τέκνων.

ΧΟ. ἔ. ΕΚ. ὦ τέκνα, κλύετε, μάθετε ματρὸς αὐδάν.

ΧΟ. ἰαλέμῳ τοὺς θανόντας ἀπύεις.

ΕΚ. γεραῖά γ' ἐς πέδον τιθεῖσα μέλεα καὶ
χερσὶ γαίαν κτυποῦσα⁵ δισσαῖς.⁶ 1305

ΧΟ. διάδοχά σοι γόνυ τίθημι γαῖα

τοὺς ἐμὸς καλοῦσα νέρθεν⁷

ἀθλίους ἀκοίτας.

¹ burn something ² progeny ³ raging, devouring ⁴ spear point; lot
⁵ crash ⁶ double ⁷ beneath, below

ΕΚ. ἀγόμεθα φερόμεθ' ΧΟ. ἄλγος ἄλγος βοᾷς. 1310

ΕΚ. δούλειον⁸ ὑπὸ μέλαθρον. ΧΟ. ἐκ πάτρας γ' ἐμᾶς.

ΕΚ. ἰώ. Πρίαμε Πρίαμε, σὺ μὲν ὀλόμενος

ἄταφος⁹ ἄφιλος

ἄτας ἐμᾶς ἄιστος¹⁰ εἶ.

ΧΟ. μέλας γὰρ ὅσσε κατεκάλυψε 1315

θάνατος ὅσιος ἀνοσίαις σφαγαῖσιν.

ΕΚ. ἰὼ θεῶν μέλαθρα καὶ πόλιν φίλα, ΧΟ. εἴ εἰ.

ΕΚ. τὰν φόνιον ἔχετε φλόγα δορός τε λόγχαν.

ΧΟ. τάχ' ἐς φίλαν γᾶν πεσεῖσθ' ἀνώνυμοι.

ΕΚ. κόνιν δ' ἴσα καπνῷ πτέρυγι πρὸς αἰθέρα 1320

ἄστον οἴκων ἐμῶν με θήσει.

ΧΟ. ὄνομα δὲ γᾶς ἀφανὲς εἴσιν· ἄλλα δ'

ἄλλο φρουδον, οὐδ' ἔτ' ἔστιν

ἀ τάλαινα Τροία.

ΕΚ. ἐμάθετ', ἐκλύετε; ΧΟ. Περιγὰμων γε κτύπον. 1325

ΕΚ. ἔνοσις ἄπασαν ἔνοσις ΧΟ. ἐπικλύσει πόλιν.

ΕΚ. ἰώ·

τρομερὰ¹¹ μέλεα, φέρετ' ἐμὸν ἵχνος·

ἴτ' ἐπὶ, τάλαινα,

δούλειον ἀμέραν βίου. 1330

ΧΟ. ἰὼ τάλαινα πόλιν· ὅμως δὲ

πρόφερε πόδα σὸν ἐπὶ πλάτας Ἀχαιῶν.

⁸ of a slave ⁹ unburied ¹⁰ vanished, sent to destruction ¹¹ trembling

Quick, to the flames! O, in thine agony,
 My Troy, mine own, take me to die with thee!
 She springs toward the flames, but is seized and held by the Soldiers.
 TALTHYBIUS. Back! Thou art drunken with thy miseries,
 Poor woman! — Hold her fast, men, till it please
 Odysseus that she come. She was his lot
 Chosen from all and portioned. Lose her not!
 He goes to watch over the burning of the City. The dusk deepens.
 CHORUS. Divers Women.
 Woe, woe, woe!
 Thou of the Ages, O wherefore fleëst thou,
 Lord of the Phrygian, Father that made us?'
 Tis we, thy children; shall no man aid us?'
 Tis we, thy children! Seëst thou, seëst thou?
 Others.
 He seëth, only his heart is pitiless;
 And the land dies: yea, she,
 She of the Mighty Cities perisheth citiless!
 Troy shall no more be!
 Others.
 Woe, woe, woe!
 Ilion shineth afar!
 Fire in the deeps thereof,
 Fire in the heights above,
 And crested walls of War!
 Others.
 As smoke on the wing of heaven
 Climbeth and scattereth,
 Torn of the spear and driven,
 The land crieth for death:
 O stormy battlements that red fire hath riven,
 And the sword's angry breath!
 A new thought comes to HECUBA; she kneels and beats the earth with her hands.
 HECUBA. O Earth, Earth of my children; hearken! and O
 mine own,
 Ye have hearts and forget not, ye in the darkness
 lying!
 LEADER. Now hast thou found thy prayer, crying to them that
 are gone.
 HECUBA. Surely my knees are weary, but I kneel above your
 head;

Hearken, O ye so silent! My hands beat your bed!

LEADER. I, I am near thee;

I kneel to thy dead to hear thee,

Kneel to mine own in the darkness; O husband, hear
my crying!

HECUBA. Even as the beasts they drive, even as the loads they
bear,

LEADER. (Pain; O pain!)

HECUBA. We go to the house of bondage. Hear, ye dead, O
hear!

LEADER. (Go, and come not again!)

HECUBA. Priam, mine own Priam,

Lying so lowly,

Thou in thy nothingness,

Shelterless, comfortless,

See'st thou the thing I am?

Know'st thou my bitter stress?

LEADER. Nay, thou art naught to him!

Out of the strife there came,

Out of the noise and shame,

Making his eyelids dim,

Death, the Most Holy!

The fire and smoke rise constantly higher.

HECUBA. O high houses of Gods, beloved streets of my birth,

Ye have found the way of the sword, the fiery and
blood-red river!

LEADER. Fall, and men shall forget you! Ye shall lie in the
gentle earth.

HECUBA. The dust as smoke riseth; it spreadeth wide its wing;

It maketh me as a shadow, and my City a vanished
thing!

LEADER. Out on the smoke she goeth,

And her name no man knoweth;

And the cloud is northward, southward; Troy is gone
for ever!

A great crash is heard, and the Wall is lost in smoke and darkness.

HECUBA. Ha! Marked ye? Heard ye? The crash of the
towers that fall!

LEADER. All is gone!

HECUBA. Wrath in the earth and quaking and a flood that
sweepeth all,

LEADER. And passeth on!

The Greek trumpet sounds.

HECUBA. Farewell! — O spirit grey,

Whatso is coming,

Fail not from under me.

Weak limbs, why tremble ye?

Forth where the new long day

Dawneth to slavery!

CHORUS. Farewell from parting lips,

Farewell! — Come, I and thou,

Whatso may wait us now,

Forth to the long Greek ships

And the sea's foaming.

The trumpet sounds again, and the Women go out in the darkness.