

TORONTO IRESS







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SENECA'S TRAGEDIES

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WITH AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY FRANK JUSTUS MILLER, Ph.D., LL.D.

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IN TWO VOLUMES

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AGAMEMNON THYESTES
HERCULES OETAEUS -PHOENISSAE
OCTAVIA



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vol. II.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

- AGAMEMNON, king of Argos, and leader of all the Greeks in their war against Troy.
- GHOST OF THYESTES, returned to earth to urge on his son to the venyeance which he was born to accomplish.
- AEGISTHUS, son of Thyestes by an incestuous union with his daughter; paramour of Clytemnestra.
- CLYTEMNESTRA, wife of Agamemnon, who has been plotting with Aegisthus against her husband, in his absence at Troy.

Chorus of Argive women.

Eurybates, messenger of Agamemnon.

Cassandra, daughter of Priam, captive of Agamemnon.

Electra, daughter of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra.

STROPHIUS, king of Phocis.

Orestes, son of Agamemnon (persona muta).

Pylades, son of Strophius (persona muta).

Band of captive Trojan women.

THE SCENE is laid partly within and partly without the palace of Agamemnon at Argos or Mycenae, on the day of the return of the king from his long absence at Troy, beginning in the period of darkness just preceding the dawn.

ARGUMENT

The blood-fend between Atreus and Thyestes was not ended with the terrible vengeance which Atreus wreaked upon his brother. It was yet in fate that Thyestes should live to beget upon his own daughter a son, Aegisthus, who should slay Atreus and bring ruin and death upon the great Atrides, Agamemnon.

The Trojan war is done. And now the near approach of the victorious king, bringing his captives and treasure home to Argos, has been announced. But little does he dream to what a home he is returning. For Clytenmestra, enraged at Agamemnon because he had sucrificed her daughter Iphigenia at Aulis to appease the winds, and full of jealousy because he brings Cassandra as her rival home, estranged also by the long-continued absence of her lord, but most estranged by her own guilty union with Aegisthus, is now plotting to slay her husband on his return, gaining thus at once revenge and sufety from his wrath.

THYESTIS VMBRA

Opaca linquens Ditis inferni loca adsum profundo Tartari emissus specu, incertus utras oderim sedes magis—fugio Thyestes inferos, superos fugo. en horret animus et pavor membra excutit: video paternos, immo fraternos lares. hoc est vetustum Pelopiae limen domus; hinc auspicari regium capiti decus mos est Pelasgis, hoc sedent alti toro quibus superba sceptra gestantur manu, locus hic habendae curiae—hic epulis locus.

Libet reverti. nonne vel tristes lacus incolere satius, nonne custodem Stygis trigemina nigris colla iactantem iubis? nbi ille celeri corpus evinctus rotae in se refertur, ubi per adversum irritus redeunte totiens luditur saxo labor, ubi tondet ales avida fecundum iecur, et inter undas fervida exustus siti aquas fugaces ore decepto appetit poenas daturus caclitum dapibus graves. sed ille nostrae pars quota est culpae senex? reputemus omnes quos ob infandas manus

10

GHOST OF THYESTES

Leaving the murky regions of infernal Dis, I come, sent forth from Tartarus' deep pit, doubting which world I hate the more—Thyestes flees the lower, the upper he puts to flight. Lo, my spirit shudders, my limbs quake with fear; I see my father's, nay more, my brother's house. This is the ancient seat of Pelops' line; here 'tis the custom of the Pelasgians to crown their kings; on this throne sit high lords whose proud hands wield the sceptre; here is their council-chamber—here they feast.¹

12 Fain would I turn me back. Is it not better to haunt even the gloomy pools, better to gaze upon the guardian of the Styx, tossing his three-fold neck with sable mane? where one,2 his body bound on the swift-flying wheel, is whirled back upon himself; where vain uphill toil 3 is mocked as the stone rolls ever backward; where a greedy bird tears at the liver 4 constantly renewed; and the old man,5 thirst-parched midst waters, catches at fleeing waves with cheated lips, doomed to pay dearly for the banquet 6 of the gods. But how small a part of my offence is his? Let us take count of all whom for their

¹ He is reminded of his own horrid banquet in this very place.

² Ixion.
³ Of Sisyphus.
⁴ Of Tityus.
⁵ Tantalus.
⁶ See Index s.v. "Pelops."

30

quaesitor urna Cnosius versat reos: vincam Thyestes sceleribus eunetos meis, a fratre vincar, liberis plenus tribus in me sepultis; viscera exedi mea.

Nee hactenus Fortuna maculavit patrem, sed maius aliud ausa commisso seelus natae nefandos petere concubitus iubet, non pavidus hausi dicta, sed eepi nefas, ergo ut per omnes liberos irem parens, coacta fatis nata fert uterum gravem, me patre dignum. versa natura est retro; avo parentem, pro nefas! patri virum, natis nepotes miscui—nocti diem.

Sed sera tandem respicit fessos malis post fata demum sortis incertae fides; rex ille regum, ductor Agamemnon ducum, cuius secutae mille vevillum rates 40 Iliaca velis maria texerunt suis. post decima Phoebi Instra devicto Ilio adest—daturus coningi ingulum suae. iam iam natabit sanguine alterno domus: enses secures tela, divisum gravi ictu bipennis regium video eaput; iam scelera prope sunt, iam dolus, caedes, cruor parantur epulae. causa natalis tui, Aegisthe, venit. quid pudor vultus gravat? quid dextra dubio trepida consilio labat? 50 quid ipse temet consulis, torques, rogas, an deceat hoe te? respice ad matrem; decet. $\epsilon_{\text{constant}}$

Minos. ² i.e. Thyestes.

³ i.e. Thyestes acted by direction of an oracle, which declared that by this means he might gain vengeance on Atrens' line.

⁴ It will not be his branch of the family that shall suffer this time.

impious deeds the Cretan judge 1 with whirling urn condemns; all of them by my crimes shall I, Thyestes, conquer. But by my brother shall I be conquered, full of my three sons buried in me; my own flesh have I consumed.

²³ Nor thus far only has Fortune defiled the sire,² but, daring greater crime than that committed, she bade him seek his daughter's incestuous embrace. Fearlessly and to the dregs did I drain her bidding, but 'twas an impious thing I did. And therefore, that a father's power might extend o'er all his children, my daughter, forced by fate,³ bore child to me, worthy to eall me father. Nature has been confounded; father with grandsire, yea, monstrous! husband with father, grandsons with sons, have I confused—and

day with night.

37 But at length, though late and coming after death, the promise of dim prophecy is fulfilled to me, worn with my woes; that king of kings, that leader of leaders, Agamemnon, following whose banner a thousand ships once covered the Trojan waters with their sails, now that, after ten courses of Phoebus. Ilium is o'erthrown, now is he near at hand—to give his throat into his wife's power. Now, now shall this house swim in blood other than mine; 4 swords, axes, spears, a king's head cleft with the axe's heavy stroke, I see; now erimes are near, now treachery. slaughter, gore—feasts are being spread. The author of thy birth has come, Aegisthus.5 Why dost hang thy head in shame? Why doth thy trembling hand, doubtful of purpose, fall? Why dost take counsel with thyself, why turn the question o'er and o'er whether this deed become thee? Think on thy mother; it becomes thee well.

⁵ These and the remaining lines of the paragraph anddressed to Aegisthus, seemingly as if he were present.

Sed eur repente noetis aestivae viees hiberna longa spatia producunt mora, aut quid eadentes detinet stellas polo? Phoebum moramur? redde iam mundo diem.

CHORVS

O regnorum magnis fallax Fortuna bonis, in praecipiti dubioque locas nimis excelsos. numquam placidam seeptra quietem certumve sui tenuere diem; alia ex aliis cura fatigat vexatque animos nova tempestas. non sic Libycis syrtibus acquor furit alternos volvere fluetus, non Euxini turget ab imis commota vadis unda nivali vicina polo, ubi caeruleis immunis aquis lucida versat plaustra Boötes, ut praecipites regum casus Fortuna rotat. metui cupiunt metuique timent, non nox illis alma recessus praebet tutos. non curarum sommus domitor pectora solvit.

Quas non arces scelus alternum dedit in praeceps? impia quas non arma fatigant? iura pudorque et coniugii sacrata fides fugiunt aulas. sequitur tristis sanguinolenta Bellona manu quaeque superbos urit Erinys. 60

70

53 But why suddenly is the summer night prolonged to winter's span? or what holds the setting stars still in the sky? Are we delaying Phoebus? [Preparing to go.] Give back the day now to the universe. [Ghost vanishes.]

CHORUS

O Fortune, who dost bestow the throne's high boon with mocking hand, in dangerous and doubtful state thou settest the too exalted. Never have sceptres obtained calm peace or certain tenure; care on eare weighs them down, and ever do fresh storms vex their souls. Not so on Libyan quicksands does the sea rage and roll up wave on wave; not so, stirred from their lowest depths, surge Euxine's waters, hard by the icy pole, where, undipped in the azure waves, Boötes follows his shining wain, as does Fortune roll on the headlong fates of kings. To be feared they long, and to be feared they dread; kindly night gives them no safe retreat, and sleep, which eonquers care, soothes not their breasts.

77 What palace has not crime answering erime 2 hurled headlong? What palace do impious arms not vex? Law, shame, the sacred bonds of marriage, all flee from courts. Hard in pursuit comes grim Bellona of the bloody hand, and she who frets the

i.e. the Northern constellations never set beneath the sea.

i.e. waged by one member of a royal house against another.

nimias semper comitata domos, quas in planum quaelibet hora tulit ex alto.

Licet arma vacent cessentque doli, sidunt ipso pondere magna ceditque oneri Fortuna suo. vela secundis inflata notis ventos nimium timuere suos, nubibus ipsis inserta caput turris pluvio vapulat Austro, densasque nemus spargens umbras annosa videt robora frangi; feriunt celsos fulmina colles, corpora morbis maiora patent et cum in pastus armenta vagos vilia currant, placet in vulnus maxima cervix.

Quidquid in altum Fortuna tulit, ruitura levat. modicis rebus longius aevum est; felix mediae quisquis turbae sorte quietus aura stringit litora tuta timidusque mari credere cumbam remo terras propiore legit.

CLYTAEMNESTRA

Quid, segnis anime, tuta consilia expetis? quid fluctuoris? clausa iam melior via est. licuit pudicos coniugis quondam toros et sceptra easta vidua tutari fide; periere mores ins decus pietas fides—et qui redire cum perit nescit pudor. da frena et omnem prona nequitiam incita; per scelera semper sceleribus tutum est iter.

90

100

proud, Erinys, forever dogging homes too high, which any hour brings low from high estate.

so Though arms be idle and treachery give o'er, great kingdoms sink of their own weight, and Fortune gives way 'neath the burden of herself. Sails swollen with favouring breezes fear blasts too strongly theirs; the tower which rears its head to the very clouds is beaten by rainy Auster; the grove, spreading dense shade around, sees ancient oak-trees riven; 'tis the high hills that the lightnings strike; large bodies are more to disease exposed, and while common herds stray o'er vagrant pastures, the head highest upreared is marked for death.

¹⁰¹ Whatever Fortune has raised on high, she lifts but to bring low. Modest estate has longer life; then happy he whoe'er, content with the common lot, with safe breeze hugs the shore, and, fearing to trust his skiff to the wider sea, with unambitious oar keeps close to land.

CLYTEMNESTRA

Why, sluggish soul, dost safe counsel seek? Why waver? Already the better way is closed. Once thou mightest have guarded thy chaste bed and thy widowed sceptre with pure, wifely faith; gone are good fashions, right doing, honour, piety, faith,—and modesty, which, once 'tis gone, knows no return. Fling loose the reins and, forward bent, rouse onward all iniquity; through crime ever is the safe way for

tecum ipsa munc evolve femineos dolos, quod ulla coniunx perfida atque impos sui amore caeco, quod novercales manus ausae, quod ardens impia virgo face, Phasiaca fugiens regna Thessalica trabe; ferrum, venena; vel Mycenaeas domos coniuncta socio profuge furtiva rate. quid timida loqueris furta et exilium et fugas? soror ista fecit; te decet maius nefas.

120

NVTRIX

Regina Danaum et inclitum Ledae genus, quid tacita versas quidve consilii impotens tumido feroces impetus animo geris ? licet ipsa sileas, totus in vultu est dolor. proin quidquid est, da tempus ac spatium tibi : quod ratio non quit saepe sanavit mora.

130

CLYTAEMNESTRA

Maiora cruciant quam ut moras possim pati; flammae medullas et cor exurunt meum, mixtus dolori subdidit stimulos timor, invidia pulsat pectus; hine animum iugo premit cupido turpis et vinci vetat. et inter istas mentis obsessae faces, fessus quidem et devinctus et pessumdatus, pudor rebellat. fluctibus variis agor, ut cum hine profundum ventus, hine aestus rapit, incerta dubitat unda cui cedat malo.

140 proinde omisi regimen e manibus meis— quocumque me ira, quo dolor, quo spes feret,

¹ Medea.

² Helen.

crime. Devise now in thine own heart a woman's wiles,—what any faithless wife, beside herself with blind passion, what step-mother's hands have dared, or what she dared, that maid ¹ ablaze with impious love, who fled her Phasian realm in that Thessalian bark; dare sword, dare poison; or else flee from Mycenae with the partner of thy guilt, in stealthy bark. But why timidly talk of stealth, of exile, and of flight? Such things thy sister ² did; thee some greater crime becomes.

NURSE

Queen of the Greeks, Leda's illustrious ehild, what ponderest thou in silence, what mad deed, ungoverned in thy purpose, art planning with restless soul? Though thou say no word, thy face discovers all thy anguish. Wherefore, whate'er it be, give thyself time and room; what reason cannot, delay has ofttimes eured.

CLYTEMNESTRA

Passions rack me too strong to endure delay; flames are burning my very marrow and my heart; here fear blent with anguish plies the spur, and my breast throbs with jealousy; there base love forces its yoke upon my mind and forbids me to give way. And midst such fires that beset my soul, shame, weary indeed and conquered and utterly undone, still struggles on. By shifting floods am I driven, as when here wind, there tide harries the deep, and the waters halt uncertain to which foe they will yield. Wherefore I have let go the rudder from my hands—where wrath, where smart, where

i.e. of Agamemnon's vengeance.
 Of Cassandra.
 i.e. against lust.

hue ire pergam; fluetibus dedimus ratem. ubi animus errat, optimum est casum sequi.

NYTRIX

Caeca est temeritas quae petit casum ducem.

CLYTAEMNESTRA

Cui ultima est fortuna, quid dubiam timet?

NVTRIX

Tuta est latetque culpa, si pateris, tua.

CLVTAEMNESTRA

Perlucet omne regiae vitium domus.

NVTRIX

Piget prioris et novum crimen struis?

CLYTAEMNESTRA

Res est profecto stulta nequitiae modus.

150

NYTRIX

Quod metuit auget qui seelus scelere obruit.

CLYTAEMNESTRA

Et ferrum et ignis saepe medicinae loco est.

NVTRIX

Extrema primo nemo temptavit loco.

CLVTAEMNESTRA

Rapienda rebus in malis praeceps via est.

hope shall carry me, there will I go; to the waves have I given my bark. Where reason fails, 'tis best to follow chance.

NURSE

Blind is he and rash who follows chance.

CLYTEMNESTRA

When fortune is at its worst, why fear its hazard?

NURSE

Safe is thy sin and hidden, if thou allow it so.

CLYTEMNESTRA

Open to view is a royal house's every sin.

NURSE

Dost repent the old crime, yet plan the new?

CLYTEMNESTRA

Surely 'tis folly to stop midway in sin.

NURSE

Whose piles crime on crime, makes greater what he dreads.¹

CLYTEMNESTRA

Both knife and cautery oft take the place of drugs.

NURSE

Desperate remedies no one tries at first.

CLYTEMNESTRA

In midst of ills, we must snatch at headlong ways.

1 i.e. the penalty.

NVTRIX

At te reflectat coniugi nomen sacrum.

CLVTAEMNESTRA

Decem per annos vidua respieiam virum?

NVTRIX

Meminisse debes sobolis ex illo tuae.

CLYTAEMNESTRA

Equidem et iugales filiae memini faces et generum Achillem; praestitit matri fidem!

NVTRIX

Redemit illa elassis immotae moras et maria pigro fixa languore impulit.

160

CLVTAEMNESTRA

Pudet doletque—Tyndaris, caeli genus, lustrale classi Doricae peperi caput! revolvit animus virginis thalamos meae quos ille dignos Pelopia fecit domo, cum stetit ad aras ore sacrifico pater quam nuptiales! horruit Calchas suae responsa vocis et recedentes focos. o seclera semper seeleribus vincens domus! eruore ventos emimus, bellum nece! sed vela pariter mille fecerunt rates? non est soluta prospero classis deo: ciceit Aulis impias portu rates. sie auspicatus bella non melius gerit. amore captae captus, immotus prece

NUBSE

But let the hallowed name of wedlock turn thee back.

CLYTEMNESTRA

For ten years widowed, shall I still think on husband?

NURSE

Thine offspring of him thou shouldst remember.

CLYTEMNESTRA

I do remember my daughter's wedding fires, my son-in-law, Achilles; true faith he² showed a mother!

NURSE

She freed our becalmed fleet from delay, and roused the sluggish sea from its deep repose.

CLYTEMNESTRA

Oh, shame! oh, anguish! I, child of Tyndarus, of heavenly lineage, have borne a sacrifice for the Grecian fleet! Once more in memory I see my daughter's wedding rites, which he made worthy of Pelops' house, when, with prayer on lip, the father stood before the altars, how fit for nuptials! Calchas shuddered at his own oracles and at the recoiling altar-fires. O house that ever o'ertops crime with crime! With blood we purchased winds, and war with murder! But, say you, by this means a thousand ships spread sail together? 'Twas by no favouring god the fleet was freed; no! Aulis from port drave forth the impious ships. Thus beginning, not more happily did he wage the war. With love of a captive

¹ Iphigenia. ² i.e. Agamemnon.

Zminthea tenuit spolia Phoebei senis, ardore sacrae virginis iam tum furens. non illum Achilles flexit indomitus minis. non ille solus fata qui mundi videt. (in nos fidelis augur, in captas levis), 180 non populus aeger et relucentes rogi. inter ruentis Graeciae stragem ultimam sine hoste victus marcet ac Veneri vacat reparatque amores; neve desertus foret a paelice umquam barbara caelebs torus, ablatam Achilli diligit Lyrnesida, nec rapere puduit e sinu avulsam virien Paridis hostem! nunc novum vulnus gerens amore Phrygiae vatis incensus furit. et post tropaea Troica ac versum Ilium 190 captae maritus remeat et Priami gener!

Accingere, anime; bella non levia apparas. scelus occupandum est. pigra, quem expectas diem? Pelopia Phrygiae sceptra dum teneant nurus? an te morantur virgines viduae domi patrique Orestes similis? horum te mala ventura moveant, turbo quis rerum imminet. quid, misera, cessas? en adest natis tuis furens noverca. per tuum, si aliter nequit, latus exigatur ensis et perimat duos. 200 misee cruorem, perde pereundo virum; mors misera non est commori cum quo velis.

Chryses, father of Chryseïs.

² Cassandra, his second infatuation. ³ Calchas.

⁴ i.e. Agamemon believed him when he demanded the death of Iphigenia, but not when he required the return of Briseis.

smitten, anmoved by prayer, he held as spoil the child of Smynthean Apollo's aged priest,1 then as now mad with passion for a sacred maid.2 Neither Achilles, unmoved by threats, could bend him, nor he 3 who alone sees the secrets of the universe, (for me and mine sure seer, for slave-girls of no weight), nor the plague-smit people, nor the blazing pyres. Midst the death-struggle of falling Greece, conquered. but by no foe, he languishes, has leisure for love. seeks new amours; and, lest his widowed couch ever be free from some barbaric mistress, he lusted for the Lyrnesian maid, 5 Achilles' spoil, nor blushed to bear her away, torn from her lord's embrace-he, the enemy of Paris! Now, wounded afresh, he rages with passion for the inspired Phrygian maid; 6 and after Troy's conquest, after Ilium's overthrow, he comes back home, a captive's husband and Priam's son-in-law!

thon preparing. Crime must be forestalled. Sluggish, what day dost thou await? Till Phrygian wives shall wield our Pelops' sceptre? Do the virgin daughters of thy house and Orestes, image of his father, hold thee back? Nay, 'tis the ills that that threaten them that should arge thee on; o'er them a storm of woes hangs lowering. Why, wretched woman, dost thou hesitate? For thy children a mad step-dame is at hand. Through thine own side, if not otherwise it can be done, let the sword be driven, and so slay two. Mingle thy blood with his, in thy death destroy thy husband; death hath no pang when

shared with whom thou wouldest.

⁶ Briseïs, ⁶ Cassandra.

 $^{^{7}}$ i.e. I must take revenge on Agamemnon before he does the like to me.

NUTRIX

Regina, frena temet et siste impetus et quanta temptes cogita; victor venit Asiae ferocis, ultor Europae, trahit captiva Pergama et din victos Phrygas, hunc fraude nunc conaris et furto aggredi, quem non Achilles ense violavit fero. quamvis procacem torvus armasset manum, non melior Aiax morte decreta furens, non sola Danais Hector et bello mora, non tela Paridis certa, non Memnon niger, non Xanthus armis corpora immixtis gerens fluctusque Simois eaede purpureos agens, non nivea proles Cycnus aequorei dei, non bellicoso Thressa cum Rheso phalanx, non picta pharetras et securigera manu peltata Amazon? hunc domi reducem paras mactare et aras caede maculare impia ? victrix inultum Graecia hoc facinus feret? equos et arma classibusque horrens fretum propone et alto sanguine exundans solum et tota captae fata Dardaniae domus regesta Danais, comprime adfectus truces mentemque tibimet ipsa pacifica tuam.

210

220

AEGISTHVS

Quod tempus animo semper ac mente horrui adest profecto, rebus extremum meis.

¹ i.e. Ajax son of Telamon in contradistinction to Ajax the son of Oileus, called Ajax "the Less."

NURSE

O Queen, restrain thyself, check thine impetuous wrath and think what thou art daring; the conqueror of wild Asia is at hand, Europe's avenger, dragging in triumph captive Pergama and the Phrygians, long since subdued. Against him now with guile and stealth dost thou essay to fight, whom Achilles with his savage sword hurt not, though in grim wrath he armed his insolent hand, nor the better Ajax 1 raging and bent on death, nor Hector, sole bulwark against the warring Greeks, nor the sure-aimed shafts of Paris, nor swarthy Memnon, nor Xanthus, rolling down corpses and arms commingled, nor Simoïs, its waves running red with blood, nor Cyenus, snowy 2 offspring of the Ocean-god, nor warlike Rhesus and his Thracian horde, nor the Amazon, with her painted quiver, battle-axe in hand, and crescent shield? Him, home-returning, dost thou prepare to slay and to defile thine altars with slaughter impious? Will victorious Greece leave such a deed unavenged? Horses and arms, the sea studded with ships, set these before thine eyes, the ground flowing with streams of blood, and the whole fate of the captured house of Dardanus turned 'gainst the Greeks.3 Control thy fierce passions, and do thou thyself set thine own soul at peace. [Exit.]

[Enter Aegisthus.]

AEGISTHUS [in soliloquy]

The hour which always in my heart and soul 1 dreaded is here indeed, the hour of fate for me.

² He was changed into a snow-white swan.

³ i.ε. Agamemnon's death will be as terribly avenged as was the injury to Helen.

quid terga vertis, anime? quid primo impetu deponis arma? crede perniciem tibi et dira saevos fata moliri deos. oppone cunctis vile suppliciis caput, ferrumque et ignes pectore adverso excipe, Aegisthe; non est poena sie nato mori.

230

Tu nos pericli socia, tu, Leda sata, comitare tantum; sanguinem reddet tibi ignavus iste ductor ac fortis pater, sed quid trementes circuit pallor genas iacensque vultu languido optutus stupet?

CLYTAEMNESTRA

Amor ingalis vincit ac flectit retro: referamur¹ illuc, unde non decuit prius abire; vel² nunc casta repetatur fides, nam sera numquam est ad bonos mores via: quem paenitet peccasse paene est innocens.

240

AEGISTHVS

Quo raperis amens? credis aut speras tibi Agamemnonis fidele coniugium? ut nihil subesset animo quod graves faceret metus, tamen superba et impotens flatu nimis Fortuna magno spiritus tumidos daret. gravis ille sociis stante adhuc Troia fuit; quid rere ad animum suapte natura trucem Troiam addidisse? rex Mycenarum fuit, veniet tyrannus; prospera animos efferunt. effusa circa paelicum quanto venit

¹ referemus E: Leo referemur: Gronovius, followed by Richter, referamur: remeemus A.

² So Peiper, following Gronovius: Leo with MSS. sed. ³ So the MSS.: Leo, following Buccheler, efferant

Why, soul, dost fear to face it? Why at the first onslaught dost lay down thy arms? Be sure that for thee destruction and dread doom the pitiless gods prepare. Then set thy vile life to face all punishments, and with confronting breast welcome both sword and flame, Aegisthus; for one so born, 'tis no penalty to die.

[To CLYTEMNESTRA]

²³⁴ Thou partner of my peril, thou, Leda's daughter, be but my comrade still; then blood for blood shall he repay to thee, this cowardly warrior and valiant sire. But why does pallor o'erspread thy trembling cheeks, and why in thy listless face is thine eye so dull and drooping?

CLYTEMNESTRA

Love for my husband conquers and turns me back. Return we thither whence 'twere well never to have come away. E'en now let us reseek purity and truth, for never too late is trod the path to honesty; whoso repents his sin is well-nigh innocent.

AEGISTIIUS

Whither art borne, mad one? Dost believe or hope that Agamemnon is still true to his marriage vows? Though there were nought in thine own heart to rouse grave fears, still would his arrogant, immoderate, o'er-inflated fortune swell his pride. Harsh to his allies was he while Troy still stood; what thinkest thou Troy¹ has added to a spirit by its own nature fieree? Mycenae's king he was; he will come back her tyrant;—prosperity urges pride beyond itself. With what magnificence the surging throng of harlots

turba apparatu! sola sed turba eminet tenetque regem famula veridici dei. feresne thalami victa consortem tui? at illa nolet. ultimum est nuptae malum palam mariti possidens paelex domum. nee regna socium ferre nec taedae sciunt.

CLYTAEMNESTRA

Aegisthe, quid me rursus in pracceps agis iramque flammis iam residentem incitas? permisit aliquid victor in captam sibi; nec coniugem hoc respicere nec dominam decet. lex alia solio est, alia privato in toro. quid quod severas ferre me leges viro non patitur animus turpis admissi memor? det ille veniam facile cui venia est opus.

AEGISTIIVS

Ita est? paeisci mutuam veniam licet? ignota tibi sunt iura regnorum aut nova? nobis muligni iudices, aequi sibi id esse regni maximum pignus putant, si quidquid aliis non licet solis licet.

CLYTAEMNESTRA

Ignovit Helenae; iuncta Menelao redit quae Europam et Asiam paribus afflixit malis.

AEGISTHYS

Sed nulla Atriden Venere furtiva abstulit nec cepit animum coniugi obstrictum suac. 260

comes! But one stands out among the throng and holds the king in thrall, the handmaid ¹ of the faterevealing god.² Wilt thou give up and endure a sharer in thy marriage bed? But *she* will not. A wife's utmost of woe is a mistress openly queening it in her husband's house. Nor throne nor bed can brook a partnership.

CLYTENNESTRA

Aegisthus, why dost thou again drive me headlong, and fan to flame my wrath already cooling? Suppose the victor has allowed himself some liberty toward a captive maid; 'tis meet neither for wife nor mistress to take note of this. There is one law for thrones, one for the private bed. What? Does my own heart, itself conscious of base guilt, suffer me to pass harsh judgment on my husband? Let her forgive freely who forgiveness needs.

AEGISTHUS

Sayst thou so? Canst bargain for mutual forgiveness? Are the rights of kings unknown to thee or strange? To us barsh judges, partial to themselves, they deem this the greatest pledge of kingship, if whate'er to others is unlawful is lawful to them alone.

CLYTEMNESTRA

He pardoned Helen; joined to her Menelaüs she returns, who Europe and Asia to like ruin dashed.

AEGISTRUS

Aye, but no woman with stealthy love has stolen Atrides and captured his heart close-barred against ¹ Cassandra. ² Apollo.

iam crimen ille quaerit et causas parat, nil esse crede turpe commissum tibi; quid honesta prodest vita, flagitio vacans? ubi dominus odit fit nocens, non quaeritur. Spartamne repetes spreta et Eurotan tuum patriasque sedes profuga? non dant exitum repudia regum. spe metus falsa levas.

280

CLYTAEMNESTRA

Delicta novit nemo nisi fidus mea.

AEGISTHYS

Non intrat umquam regium limen fides.

CLYTAEMNESTRA

Opibus merebor, ut fidem pretio obligem.

AEGISTHYS

Pretio parata vincitur pretio fides.

CLYTAEMNESTRA

Surgit residuus pristinae mentis pudor, quid obstrepis? quid voce blandiloqua mala consilia dictas? scilicet nubet tibi, regum relicto rege, generosa exuli?

290

AEGISTHVS

Et eur Atrida videor inferior tibi, natus Thyestae?

his wife.¹ Already thy lord seeks charge against thee, intends cause of strife. Suppose no baseness has been done by thee; what boots an honest life and sinless? Whom a master hates is condemned of guilt unheard. Spurned away, wilt thou go back to Sparta and thy Eurotas, wilt flee to thy father's house? The rejected of kings have no escape. With false hope dost thou relieve thy fears.

CLYTEMNESTRA

None knows my guilt save one faithful friend.

AEGISTHUS

Faith never crosses the threshold of a king.

CLYTEMNESTRA

With wealth will I purchase, with bribes will I bind faith.

AEGISTHUS

Faith gained by bribes is overcome by bribes.

CLVTEMNESTRA

The remnant of my old time chastity revives; why dost thou cry against it? Why with cozening words dost give me evil counsel? Deserting the king of kings, shall I wed with thee, a high-born woman with an outcast?

AEGISTHUS

And wherefore less than Atreus' son do I seem to thee, who am Thyestes' son?

i.e. in Menelaus' case his heart was not already hardened against his wife by another mistress, as is the case with Agamemnon.

CLYTAEMNESTRA

Si parum est, adde et nepos.

AEGISTHYS

Auctore Phoebo gignor; haud generis pudet.

CLYTAEMNESTRA

Phoebum nefandae stirpis auctorem vocas, quem nocte subita frena revocantem sua caelo expulistis? quid deos probro addimus? subripere doctus frande geniales toros, quem Venere tantum seimus inlicita virum, facesse propere ac dedecus nostrae domus asporta ab oculis; hace vacat regi ac viro.

300

AEGISTHVS

Exilia mihi sunt haud nova, assuevi malis. si tu imperas, regina, non tantum domo Argisve cedo: nil moror iussu tuo aperire ferro pectus aerumnis grave.

CLYTAEMNESTRA

Siquidem hoc cruenta Tyndaris fieri sinam. quae iuneta peccat debet et culpae fidem. secede mecum potius, ut rerum statum dubium ac minacem iuneta consilia explicent.)

CHORYS

Canite, o pubes inclita, Phoebum! tibi festa caput turba coronat, tibi virgineas, laurum quatiens, 310

CLYTEMNESTRA

If that is not enough, say grandson, too.

AEGISTHUS

Phoebus was the source of my begetting; my birth shames me not.

CLYTEMNESTRA

Dost thou name Phoebus as source of an incestuous birth, whom, calling back his steeds in sudden night, you drove from heaven? Why besmirch the gods? Thou, trained by guile to steal the marriage bed, whom we know only as man of unlawful love, depart at once, take from my sight the infamy of our house; this home is waiting for its king and lord.

AEGISTHUS

Exile is not new to me; I am used to woe. If thou commandest, O queen, not alone from home and Argos do I flee: I am ready at thy bidding to plunge sword into my heart, o'erweighed with grief.

CLYTEMNESTRA [aside]

Yet, should I, cruel daughter of Tyndareus, let this be done.

[To aegisthus.]

Who jointly sins owes also faith to crime. Come thou with me, that the dark and threatening state of our affairs joint plans may set in order. \[[Excunt.]

CHORUS

Sing ye, O maids renowned, of Phoebus! To thee, Phoebus, the festal throng wreaths the head, to thee, waving laurel-bough, the Argive maid in wonted

¹ i.e. your house. At the horrid feast of Thyestes the sun veiled his face in darkness that he might not see.

de more comas innuba fudit	
stirps Inachia ;	315
quaeque Erasini gelidos fontes,	31 8
quaeque Eurotan,	
quaeque virenti tacitum ripa	320
bibis Ismenon;	
tn quoque nostros, Thebais hospes,	316
comitare choros,1	317
quam fatorum praescia Manto,	322
sata Tiresia,	
Latonigenas monuit sacris	
celebrare deos.	
Arcus, victor, pace relata,	
Phoebe, relaxa	
umeroque graves levibus telis	
роне pharetras	
resonetque manu pulsa citata	330
vocale chelys.	
nil acre velim magnumque modis	
intonet altis,	
sed quale soles leviore lyra	
flectere carmen	
simplex, lusus cum docta tuos	
Musa recenset.	
licet et chorda graviore sones,	
quale cancbas	
cum Titanas fulmine victos	340
videre dei,	
vel cum montes montibus altis	
super impositi	
struxerė gradus trucibus monstris,	
stetit imposita	
Pelion Ossa, pinifer ambos	
pressit Olympus.	
1 Lines 316, 317 were transposed by Bothe.	

fashion spreads forth her virgin locks; and thou who drinkest of Erasinus' cool waters, who of Eurotas, and who of Ismenus drinkest, silently flowing along its green banks; thou, too, though stranger in Thebes, come join in our chorus, whom Manto, reader of fate, Tiresias' daughter, warned with due rites to worship the gods, offspring of Latona.

326 Thy bow, now peace has come back, all-conquering Phoebus, loose, and thy quiver, full of swift arrows, lay down from thy shoulder and let resound, smit by thy flying fingers, the tuneful lyre. No stern, high strains in lofty measures would I have it sound, but such simple song as 'tis thy wont to modulate on lighter shell, when the learned Muse surveys thy sports. 'Tis thy right, too, on heavier strings to sound such strain as thou sangest when gods saw Titans by thunder overcome, even when mountains, on lofty mountains set, furnished pathway for grim monsters, when Pelion stood on Ossa set beneath, and cloud-capped Olympus weighed on both.

Ades, o magni, soror et coniunx, consors sceptri,	
regia Iuno! tua te colimus	350
turba Mycenae.	000
tu sollicitum supplexque tui	
numinis Argos	
sola tueris, tu bella manu	
pacemque regis.	
tu nunc laurus Agamemnonias	
accipe victrix.	
tibi multifora tibia buxo	
solemne canit,	
tibi fila movent doeta puellae	360
carmine molli,	
tibi votivam matres Graiae	
lampada iactant,	
ad tua coniunx candida tauri	
delubra cadet,	
nescia aratri, nullo collum	
signata iugo.	
Tuque, o magni nata Tonantis,	
incluta Pallas,	
quae Dardanias cuspide turres	370
saepe petisti,	
te permixto matrona minor	
maiorque choro	
colit et reserat veniente dea	
templa sacerdos. tibi nexilibus turba coronis	
redimita venit,	
tibi grandaevi lassique senes	
compote voto	
reddunt grates libantque manu	380
vina trementi.	000
Et te Triviam nota memores	
voce precamur:	

sharest the sceptre's might, Juno the royal! We, thy chosen band, in Mycenae adore thee. Thou art the sole protector of Argos that calls on thee with anxious prayers; thou in thy hand holdest war and peace. Accept now the laurels of Agamemnon, victorious goddess. To thee the box-wood flute of many openings soundeth its solemn strains; to thee skilled maidens touch the strings in soothing melody; to thee Grecian mothers wave the votive torch; at thy shrines shall fall the bull's white mate, which knows not the plough, whose neck the yoke ne'er scarred.

²⁶⁸ And thou, child of the great Thunderer, glorious Pallas, who oft with thy spear didst attack the Dardanian towers, to thee in mingled chorus mothers, younger and older, kneel, and at thy coming the priest throws wide the doors of the temple. To thee the throng, crowned with woven wreaths, advances; to thee aged and spent old men, their petitions heard, give thanks and with trembling hand pour wine in libation.

³⁸² Thee, too, O Trivia, with mindful hearts and prayer familiar we adore. Thou biddest thy natal

33

¹ i.e. Diana.

tu maternam sistere Delon,
Lucina. iubes,
huc atque illuc prius errantem
Cyelada ventis:
nunc iam stabilis fixa terras
radice tenet,
respuit auras religatque rates
assueta sequi.
tu Tantalidos funera matris
vietrix numeras;
stat nunc Sipyli vertice summo
flebile saxum,
et adhue lacrimas marmora fundunt
antiqua novas.

colit impense femina virque numen geminum. Tuque ante omnes, pater ac rector 400

fulmine pollens, cuius nutu sinul extremi

tremuere poli, generis nostri, Iuppiter, auctor, cape dona libens abavusque tuam non degenerem respice prolem.

Scd ecce, vasto concitus miles gradu manifesta properat signa lactitiae ferens (namque hasta summo lauream ferro gerit) 410 fidusque regi semper Eurybates adest.

EVRYBATES

Delubra et aras caelitum et patrios lares 392ª¹ post longa fessus spatia, vix credens mihi,

¹ Leo in line notation has followed Geonovius except in the chorus just ended, which Geonovius, with E, prints in dimeters, 34

Delos to stand firm, Lucina, 1 erstwhile a Cyclad, drifting hither and you at the will of the winds; now 'tis a stable land with root firm fixed, repels the winds and gives anchorage for ships, though wont to follow them. Victorious, thou countest o'er the corpses that their mother, 2 child of Tantalus, bemoaned; now on Sipylus' high top she stands, a weeping statue, and to this day fresh tears the ancient marble drips. Zealously both maid and man adore the twin divinities. 3

⁴⁰⁰ And thou before all others, father and ruler, god of the thunder, by whose mere nod the farthest poles do tremble, O Jove, thou author of our race, kindly accept our gifts, and with a father's care take thought for thine own true progeny.

⁴⁰⁸ But lo, a soldier, hurrying with huge steps, hastes hither with signs of joyful tidings clearly visible, (for his spear bears a laurel wreath on its iron tip,) and Eurybates, the ever faithful servant of the king, is here.

[Enter eurybates with laurel-wreathed spear.]

EURYBATES

Ye shrines and altars of the heavenly gods, ye household deities of my fathers, after long wanderings wearied, and scarce trusting mine own eyes, I humbly

¹ Diana. ² Niobe. ³ i.e. Phoebus and Phoebe (Diana).

while A alternates directers with monometers. Leo follows A, and adopts the notation 392^{n_1} - 410^n , "in order not to break with Gronovius throughout the remainder of the play."

supplex adoro. vota superis solvite; telluris altum remeat Argolicae decus tandem ad penates victor Agamemnon suos.

CLYTAEMNESTRA

Felix ad aures nuntius venit meas!
ubinam petitus per decem coniunx mihi
annos moratur? pelagus an terras premit?

EVRYBATES

Incolumis, auctus gloria, laude inclitus reducem expetito litori impressit pedem.

 400^{3}

CLYTAEMNESTRA

Sacris colamus prosperum tandem dien. et si propitios attamen lentos deos. tu pande vivat coniugis frater mei et pande teneat quas soror sedes mea.

EVRYBATES

Meliora votis posco et obtestor deos; nam certa fari sors maris dubii vetat. ut sparsa tumidum classis excepit mare, ratis videre socia non potuit ratem. quin ipse Atrides aequore immenso vagus graviora pelago danna quam bello tulit remeatque vieto similis, exiguas trahens lacerasque victor elasse de tanta rates.

4104

give reverence. [To the people.] Pay now your vows to the high gods; the pride and glory of the Argive land returns to his own house at last, Agamemnon, victorious!

[Enter CLYTEMNESTRA in time to hear the herald's concluding words.]

CLYTEMNESTRA

Blessed news this that falls upon mine ears! But where delays my husband whom I have sought through ten long years? Rests he on sea, or land?

EUR YBATES

Unharmed, increased in glory, illustrious with praise, he hath set homeward foot upon the longed-for shore.

CLYTEMNESTRA

With sacred rites let us hail the day, fortunate at last, and the gods, even if propitious, yet slow in granting our request. But tell me, thou, does my husband's brother live, and where is my sister, 1 tell.

EURYBATES

Better than our hopes I pray and beseech the gods; for the sea's dubious lot forbids to speak certainty. When our scattered fleet met swollen seas, one ship could scarce descry her sister ship. Nay, e'en Atrides' self, on the boundless ocean wandering, endured losses heavier by sea than war, and like a vanquished man, though victor, he returns, bringing but few and shattered vessels from his mighty fleet.

CLYTAEMNESTRA

Effare easus quis rates hausit meas aut quae maris fortuna dispulerit duces.

EVRYBATES

Acerba fatu poscis, infaustum iubes miscere laeto nuntium. refugit loqui mens aegra tantis atque inhorrescit malis.

CLYTAEMNESTRA

Exprome; clades scire qui refugit suas gravat timorem; dubia plus torquent mala.

420

EYRYBATES

Vt Pergamum omne Dorica cecidit face, divisa praeda est, maria properantes petunt. iamque ense fessum miles exonerat latus, neglecta summas seuta per puppes iacent; ad militares remus aptatur manus omnisque nimium longa properanti mora est signum recursus regia ut fulsit rate et clara lactum remigem monuit tuba, aurata primas prora designat vias aperitque cursus, mille quos puppes secent.

430

Hine aura primo lenis impellit rates adlapsa velis; unda vix actu levi tranquilla Zephyri mollis afflatu tremit, splendetque classe pelagus et pariter latet, invat videre unda Troiae litora, invat relicti sola Sigei loca, properat inventus onnis adductos simul

CLYTEMNESTRA

Tell what calamity has swallowed up my ships, or what mishap by sea has dispersed the chiefs.

FURVRATES

A tale bitter in the telling thou demandest; thou biddest me mix the unlucky message with the glad. My sick mind shrinks from speech and shudders at the thought of such disasters.

CLYTEMNESTRA

Tell on; who shrinks from knowledge of his calamities but aggravates his fear; troubles half seen do torture all the more.

EURYBATES

When all Pergamum fell 'neath the Dorie fire, the spoil was divided and in eager haste all sought the sea. And now the warrior eases his side of the sword's weary load, and unheeded lie the shields along the high sterns; the oar is fitted to the warrior's hands, and to their eager haste all tarrying seems over long. Then, when the signal for return gleamed on the royal ship, and the loud trumpet-blast warned the glad rowers, the king's gilded prow, leading, marked out the way, and opened up the course for a thousand ships to follow.

431 A gentle breeze at first steals into our sails and drives our vessels onward; the tranquil waves, scarce stirring, ripple beneath soft Zephyr's breathing, and the sea reflects the splendour of the fleet, hiding the while beneath it. 'Tis sweet to gaze on the bare shores of Troy, sweet to behold deserted Sigeum's wastes. The young men all haste to bend the oars.

lentare remos, adiuvat ventos manu et valida nisu bracchia alterno movet. sulcata vibrant aequora et latera increpant 440 dirimuntque canae caerulum spumae mare. ut aura plenos fortior tendit sinus. posuere tonsas, credita est vento ratis fususque transtris miles aut terras procul, quantum recedunt vela, fugientes notat, ant bella narrat: Hectoris fortis minas currusque et empto redditum corpus rogo, sparsum eruore regis Herceum Iovem. tune qui iacente reciprocus ludit salo tumidumque pando transilit dorso mare 4.50 Tyrrhenus omni piscis exultat freto agitatque gyros et comes lateri adnatat, anteire naves laetus et rursus segui ; nune prima tangens rostra lascivit chorus, millesimam nunc ambit et lustrat ratem. Iam litus omne tegitur et campi latent

ann htus omne tegitur et campi latent et dubia parent montis Idaei iuga; et iam, quod unum pervicax acies videt, lliaeus atra fumns apparet nota. iam lassa Titan colla relevabat iugo, in astra iam lux prona, iam praeceps dies. exigna nubes sordido erescens globo nitidum cadentis inquinat Phoebi iubar; suspecta varius oecidens fecit freta.

Nox prima caclum sparserat stellis, iacent deserta vento vela. tum murmur grave, majora minitans, collibus summis cadit

i.e. of Achilles, by which Hector's body was dragged.

460

³ The dolphin is so called here in remembrance of the

² Priam was slain at the altar of Hercean Jove (Zevs Epacios, protector of the courtyard) in the courtyard of his palace.

AGAMENINON

with strokes together, aid winds with hands and move their sturdy arms with rhythmic swing. The furrowed waters quiver, the vessel's sides hiss through the waves and dash the blue sea into hoary spray. When a fresher breeze strains the swelling sails, the warriors lay by their oars, trust ship to wind and, stretched along the benches, either watch the farfleeing land as the sails retreat, or rehearse their wars—brave Hector's threats, the chariot 1 and his ransomed body given to the pyre, Hercean Jove sprinkled with royal blood.² Then, too, the Tyrrhene fish 3 plays to and fro in the smooth water, leaps over the heaving seas with arching back, and sports around, now dashing about in circles, now swimming by our side, now gaily leading and again following after: anon the band in sheer wantonness touch the leading prow, now round and round the thousandth ship they swim.

456 Meanwhile all the shore is hid and the plains

sink from view, and dimly the ridges of Ida's mount appear; and now, what alone the keenest eve can see, the smoke of llium shows but a dusky spot. Already from the yoke Titan was freeing his horses' weary necks; now to the stars his rays sink low, now day goes headlong down. A tiny cloud, growing to a murky mass, stains the bright radiance of the setting sun, and the many coloured sun-set has made us

doubt the sea.4

465 Young night had spangled the sky with stars; the sails, deserted by the wind, hung low. Then from the mountain heights there falls a murmur deep, worse threatening, and the wide-sweeping

Tyrrhene pirates who under the wrath of Bacchus were changed to dolphins. See *Ocdipus*, 449 ff.

4 This is one of numerous weather-signs.

tractique longo litus ac petrae gemunt; agitata ventis unda venturis tumet cum subito luna conditur, stellae latent. 470 in astra pontus tollitur, caelum perit. nec una nox est: densa tenebras obruit ealigo et omni luce subducta fretum caelumque miscet. undique incumbunt simul rapiuntque pelagus infimo eversum solo 1 adversus Euro Zephyrus et Boreae Notus. sua quisque mittit tela et infesti fretum emoliuntur, turbo convolvit mare. Strymonius altas Aquilo contorquet nives Libveusune harenas Auster ac Syrtes agit : 480 nec manet in Austro: flat gravis nimbis Notus, imbre auget undas, Eurus orientem movet Nabataea quatiens regna et Eoos sinus. quid rabidus ora Corus Oceano exerens? mundum revellit sedibus totum suis, ipsosque rupto crederes caelo deos decidere et atrum rebus induei chaos. vento resistit aestus et ventus retro aestum revolvit; non capit sese mare undasque miscent imber et fluctus suas. 490 nec hoe levamen denique aerumnis datur, videre saltem et nosse quo pereant malo. premunt tenebrae lumina et dirae Stygis inferna nox est, excident ignes tamen et nube dirum fulmen elisa micat, miserisque lucis tanta dulcedo est malae; hoc lumen optant.

Ipsa se classis premit et prora prorae nocuit et lateri latus.

¹ So A: Leo infimum † everso polo with E, conjecturing infimum venti polo, and deleting l. 470.

shore and rocky headlands send forth a moaning sound; the waves, lashed by the rising wind, roll high—when suddenly the moon is hid, the stars sink out of sight, skyward the sea is lifted, the heavens are gone. 'Tis doubly night; dense fog o'erwhelms the dark and, all light withdrawn, confuses sea and sky. From all sides at once the winds fall on and ravage the sea, from its lowest depths upturned, West wind with East wind striving, South with North. Each wields his own weapons, with deadly assault stirring up the deep, while a whirlwind churns the waves. Strymonian Aquilo sends the deep snow whirling, and Libyan Auster stirs up the sands of Syrtes; nor stands the strife with Auster: Notus. heavy with clouds, blows up, swells waves with rain, while Eurus attacks the dawn, shaking Nabataean realms, and eastern gulfs. What wrought fierce Corns, thrusting forth his head from ocean? The whole sky he tears from its foundations, and you might think the very gods falling from the shattered heavens, and black chaos enveloping the world. Flood strives with wind and wind backward rolls the flood. The sea contains not itself, and rain and waves mingle their waters. Then even this comfort fails their dreadful plight, to see at least and know the disaster by which they perish. Darkness weighs on their eyes, and 'tis the infernal night of awful Styx. Yet fires burst forth, and from the riven clouds gleams the dire lightning flash, and to the poor sailors great is the sweetness of that fearful gleam; even for such light they pray.

497 The fleet itself helps on its own destruction, prow crashing on prow and side on side. One ship the

 $^{^{\}rm 1}$ The Syrtes were shallow sand-bars off the northern coast of Africa.

illam dehiscens pontus in praeceps rapit hauritque et alto redditam revomit mari: 500 haec onere sidit, illa convulsum latus submittit undis, fluctus hanc decimus tegit. haec lacera et omni decore populato levis fluitat nee illi vela nee tousae manent nec rectus altas malus antemnas ferens. sed trunca toto puppis Ieario natat. nil ratio et usus audet; ars cessit malis. tenet horror artus, omnis officio stupet navita relicto, remus effugit manus. in vota miseros ultimus cogit timor 510 eademque superos Troes et Danai rogant, quid fata possunt! invidet Pyrrhus patri, Aiaci Vlixes, Hectori Atrides minor, Agamemno Priamo; quisquis ad Troiam iacet felix vocatur, cadere qui meruit manu,¹ quem fama servat, victa quem tellus tegit. "nil nobile ausos pontus atque undae ferunt? ignava fortes fata consument viros? perdenda mors est? quisquis es nondum malis satiate tantis caelitum, tandem tuum 590 numen serena : cladibus nostris daret odia si durant tua vel Troia lacrimas. placetque mitti Doricum exitio genus, quid hos simul perire nobiscum invat, quibus perimus? sistite infestum mare: vehit ista Danaos classis et Troas vehit." nee plura possunt; occupat vocem mare.

1 So A: Leo gradu.

¹ Every tenth wave was supposed to be the greatest and most destructive.

² i.e. in safety. The contrast here is between timorous

yawning deep sucks into the abyss, engulfs and spews forth again, restored to the sea above; one sinks of its own weight, another turns its wrecked side to the waves, and one the tenth wave o'erwhelms. Here, battered and stripped of all its ornament, one floats, with neither sails nor ears nor straight mast bearing the high sailyards, a broken hulk, drifting wide on the learian sea. Reason, experience, are of no avail; skill vields to dire calamity. Horror holds their limbs; the sailors all stand stupefied, their tasks abandoned; oars drop from hands. To prayer abject fear drives the wretches, and Trojans and Greeks beg the same things of the gods. What can near doom accomplish? Pyrrhus envies his father, Ulysses Ajax, the younger Atrides Hector, Agamemnon Priam; whoever at Troy lies slain is hailed as blessed, who by deeds of arms earned death, whom glory guards, whom the land he conquered buries. "Do sea and wave bear 2 those who have dared naught noble, and shall a coward's doom o'erwhelm brave men? Must death be squandered? Whoe'er of heaven's gods thou art, not yet with our sore troubles sated, let thy divinity be at last appeared; o'er our calamities e'en Troy would weep. But if thy hate is stubborn, and 'tis thy pleasure to send the Greek race to doom, why wouldst have those 3 perish along with us, for whose sake we perish? Allay the raging sea: this fleet bears Greeks but it bears Trojans too." They can no more; the sea usurps their words.

folk who have safely sailed the sea and these brave men who must perish in it and throw away their lives for no return.

³ i.e. the Trojans, on whose account, it is here assumed, the destructive storm has been sent upon the Greeks.

Ecce alia clades! fulmine irati Iovis armata Pallas quidquid haut 1 hasta minax, haut 1 aegide haut 2 furore Gorgoneo potest, 530 at 3 igne patrio temptat, et caelo novae spirant procellae, solus invictus malis luctatur Aiax. vela cogentem hunc sua tento rudente flamma perstrinxit cadens. libratur aliud fulmen; hoc toto impetu certum reducta Pallas excussit manu. imitata patrem. transit Aiacem et ratem ratisque partem secum et Aiacem tulit. nil ille motus, ardua ut cautes, salo ambustus extat, dirimit insanum marc 540 fluctusque rumpit pectore et navem manu complexus ignes traxit et caeco mari confucet Aiax, omne resplendet fretum. tandem occupata rupe furibundum intonat: " superasse cuncta,4 pelagus atque ignes iuvat, vicisse caelum Palladem fulmen mare. non me fugavit belliei terror dei. et Hectorem una solus et Martem tuli;5 Phoebea nec me tela pepulerunt gradu. cum Phrygibus istos vicimus—tene horream? 550 aliena inerti tela mittis dextera. quid, si ipse mittat —" 6 plura cum auderet furens,

4 So Richter: nunc E: nunc se A: iuvit, Leo conj.

6 All editors read quid si ipse mittat? a meaningless phrase. I have changed the punctuation as indicated above, leaving the

sentence unfinished.

¹ So M. Mueller emending w, followed by Richter: Leo aut.

et ω, emended by M. Mueller: Leo et.
 aut ω, emended by M. Mueller: Leo aut.

⁵ This line is properly deleted by Leo, as applicable to the greater Ajax and not to the present speaker. Farnabius, however, allows the line to stand, as befitting the boastful, wild words of Ajax Oileus.

528 But lo! disaster on disaster! Pallas, armed with the bolt of angry Jove, threatening essays whate'er she may, not with spear, not with accis, not with Gorgon's 1 rage, but with her father's lightning, and throughout the sky new tempests blow. Ajax2 alone, undaunted by disaster, keeps up the struggle. Him, shortening sail with straining halvard, the hurtling lightning grazed. Another bolt is levelled; this, with all her might, Pallas launched true, with hand back drawn, in imitation of her father. Through Ajax it passed, and through his ship, and part of the ship with it, and Aiax it bore away. Then he, nothing moved, like some high crag, rises flamescorched from the briny deep, cleaves the raging sea, with his breast bursts through the floods and, holding to his wrecked vessel with his hand, drags flames along, shines brightly midst the darkness of the sea and illumines all the waves. At last, gaining a rock, in mad rage he thunders: "Tis sweet to have conquered all things, flood and flame, to have vanquished sky, Pallas, thunderbolt and sea. I fled not in terror of the god of war; both Hector at once and Mars did I with my sole arm withstand; nor did Phoebus' shafts force me to give way. Such warriors, together with their Phrygians, I conquered:—and shall I shrink from thee? Another's weapon with weakling hand thou hurlest. What, if he himself should hurl -?" When in his madness he would

Vergil, Aen. 1. 41 ff.

The shield (acgis) of Minerva was set with the terrifying Gorgon's head given to her by Perseus.

2 i.e. Ajax "the Less," son of Oileus. This scene recalls

³ Ajax apparently would have finished by saying—"his bolt, even then I would not fear."

tridente rupem subruit pulsam pater Neptunus imis exerens uudis caput solvitque montem; quem cadens secum tulit terraque et igne victus et pelago jacet.

Nos alia maior naufragos pestis vocat. est humilis unda, scrupeis mendax vadis, ubi saxa rapidis clausa verticibus tegit fallax Caphereus; aestuat scopulis fretum 560 fervetoue semper fluctus alterna vice. arx imminet praerupta quae spectat mare utrimque geminum. Pelopis hinc oras tui et Isthmon, arto qui recurvatus solo Ionia iungi maria Phrixeis vetat, hine seelere Lemnon nobilem et Calchedona tardamque ratibus Aulida. hane arcem occupat Palamedis ille genitor et clarum manu lumen nefanda vertice e summo efferens in saxa ducit perfida elassem face. 570 haerent acutis rupibus fixae rates; has inopis undae brevia comminuunt vada. pars vehitur huius prima, pars scopulo sedet; hane alia retro spatia relegentem ferit et fracta frangit. iam timent terram rates et maria malunt. cecidit in lucem furor; postquan litatum est Ilio, Phoebus redit et damna noetis tristis ostendit dies.

CLYTAEMNESTRA

Vtrumne doleam laeter an reducem virum? remeasse laetor vulnus et regni grave

580

 $^{^{-1}}$ i.e. of the women who killed all their men, except that Hypsipyle saved her father, Thoas.

be daring more, father Neptune, pushing with his trident, o'crwhelmed the rock, thrusting forth his head from his waves' depths, and broke off the erag. This in his fall Ajax bears down with him, and now he lies, by earth and fire and billows overcome.

557 But us shipwrecked mariners, another, worse ruin challenges. There is a shallow water, a deceitful shoal full of rough boulders, where treacherous Caphereus hides his rocky base beneath whirling eddies; the sea boils upon the rocks, and ever the flood seethes with its ebb and flow. A precipitous headland o'erhangs, which on either hand looks out upon both stretches of the sea. Hence thou mayst deserv thine own Pelopian shores, and Isthmus which, backward enrying with its narrow soil, forbids the Ionian sea to join with Phrixus' waves; hence also Lemnos, infamous for crime, and Calchedon, and Aulis which long delayed the fleet. Seizing this summit, the father of Palamedes with accursed hand raised from the high ton a beacon-light and with treacherous torch lured the fleet upon the reefs. There hang the ships caught on jagged rocks; some are broken to pieces in the shallow water; the prow of one vessel is carried away, while a part sticks fast upon the rock; one ship crashes with another as it draws back, both wrecked and wrecking. Now ships fear land and choose the seas. Towards dawn the storm's rage is spent; now that atonement has been made for Hium, Phoebus returns and sad day reveals the havoe of the night.

CLYTEMNESTRA

Shall I lament or rejoice me at my lord's return? I do rejoice to see him home again, but o'er our

40

lugere cogor. redde iam Grais, pater altisona quatiens regna, placatos deos. nunc omne laeta fronde veletur caput. sacrifica dulces tibia effundat modos et nivea magnas victima ante aras cadat.

Sed ecce, turba tristis incomptae comas Hiades adsunt, quas super celso gradu effrena Phoebas entheas laurus quatit.

CHORYS

590

600

Heu quam dulce malum mortalibus additum vitae dirus amor, cum pateat malis effugium et miseros libera mors vocet portus aeterna placidus quiete. nullus hunc terror nec impotentis procella Fortunae movet aut iniqui flamma Tonantis. pax alta nullos 1 civium coetus timet aut minaces victoris iras, non maria asperis insana coris, non acies feras pulvereamve nubem motam barbaricis equitum catervis; non urbe eum tota populos cadentes, hostica muros populante flamma, indomitumve bellum. perrumpet omne servitium contemptor levium dcorum, qui vultus Acherontis atri, qui Styga tristem non tristis videt audetque vitae ponere finem.

¹ This archivered duplication of half-lines Richter avoids, while at the same time obtaining a presumably more logical

realm's heavy loss am I forced to grieve. At last O father, that dost shake the high-resounding heavens, restore to the Greeks their gods appeased. Now let every head be crowned with festal wreaths, let the sacrificial flute give forth sweet strains, and the white victim at the great altars fall.

⁵⁸⁶ But see, a mournful throng with locks unbound, the Trojan women are here, while high above them all, with proud step advancing, Phoebus' mad priestess waves the inspiring laurel branch.

[Enter band of Trojan women led by Cassandra.]

CHORUS OF TROJAN WOMEN

Alas, how alluring a bane is appointed unto mortals, even dire love of life, though refuge from their woes opes wide, and death with generous hand invites the wretched, a peaceful port of everlasting rest. Nor fear nor storm of raging Fortune disturbs that ealm, nor bolt of the harsh Thunderer. Peace so deep fears no citizens' conspiracy, no victor's threatening wrath, no wild seas ruffled by stormy winds, no ficree battle lines or dark cloud raised by barbaric squadrons' hoofs, no nations falling with their city's utter overthrow, while the hostile flames lay waste the walls, no ficrce, ungovernable war. All bonds will be break through, who dares scorn the fickle gods, who on the face of dark Acheron, on fearful Styx can look, unfearful, and is bold enough to put an end to life. A match for kings, a match

arrangement, by reading ll. 605-609 after l. 505. He then prints l. 596 with a lacuna: Alta pax . . . nullos.

par ille regi, par superis erit.

610

o quam miserum est nescire mori!

Vidimus patriam ruentem nocte funesta, cum Dardana tecta Doriei raperetis ignes. non illa bello victa, non armis, ut quondam, Herculea ceeidit pharetra; quam non Pelei Thetidisque natus carusque Pelidae nimium feroci vicit. acceptis cum fulsit armis fuditque Troas falsus Achilles, aut cum ipse Pelides animos feroces sustulit luctu celeremque saltu Troades summis timuere muris, perdidit in malis extremum decus fortiter vinei;

620

Vidimus simulata dona molis immensae Danaumque fatale munus duximus nostra ereduli dextra tremuitque saepe limine in primo sonipes, eaveruis conditos reges bellumque gestans; et licuit dolos versare ut ipsi fraude sua caderent Pelasgi. saepe commotae sonuere parmae tacitumque murmur percussit aures, ut fremuit male subdolo

630

Secura metus Troica pubes sacros gaudet tangere funes. hine acquaevi gregis Astyanax,

640

parens Pyrrhus Vlixi.

restitit quinis bis annis unius noctis peritura furto.

Patroclus.

² i.e. at the death of Patroelus.

for the high gods will he be. Oh, how wretched 'tis to know not how to die!

c12 We saw our country fall on that night of death, when you, ye Dorie fires, ravished Dardania's homes. She, not in war conquered, not by arms, not, as aforetime, by Hercules' arrows, fell; her, not Peleus' and Thetis' son o'ereame, nor he,¹ well-beloved by overbrave Pelides, when in borrowed arms he shone and drove Troy's sons in flight, a false Achilles; nor, when Pelides' self through grief ² gave o'er his fierce resentment,² and the Trojan women, from the ramparts watching, feared his swift attack, did she lose amid her woes the crowning glory of suffering conquest bravely; for ten long years she stood, fated to perish by one night's treachery.⁴

627 We saw that feigned gift, measureless in bulk, and with our own hands trustfully dragged along the Greeks' deadly offering; and oft on the threshold of the gate the noisy footed monster stumbled, bearing within its hold hidden chiefs and war. We might have turned their guile against themselves, and caused the Pelasgians by their own trick to fall. Oft sounded their jostled shields, and a low muttering smote our ears, when Pyrrhus grumbled, scarce

yielding to crafty Ulysses' will.

638 All unafraid, the Trojan youth joy to touch the fatal ropes. Companies of their own age here

³ i.e. against Agamemnon.

4 i.e. by the trick of the wooden horse.

 $^{^{5}}$ With this whole passage compare Vergil's description, and especially $A\,en,\, m,\, 239,\,$

hine Haemonio desponsa rogo dueunt turmas, hace femineas. ille viriles. festae matres votiva ferunt munera divis: festi patres adeunt aras. unus tota est vultus in urbe: et, quod numquam post Hectorcos vidimus ignes, laeta est Hecuba. quid nune primum, dolor infelix, quidve extremum deflere paras? moenia, divum fabricata manu, diruta nostra? an templa deos super usta suos? non vacat istis lacrimare malis te, magne parens, flent Iliades. vidi, vidi senis in iugulo telum Pyrrhi vix exiguo sanguine tingui.

650

CASSANDRA

Cohibete lacrimas omne quas tempus petet, Troades, et ipsae vestra lamentabili lugete gemitu funera; aerumnac meae socium recusant. eladibus questus meis removete. nostris ipsa sufficiam malis.

660

CHORVS

Lacrimas lacrimis miseere iuvat; magis exurunt quos secretae lacerant curae, iuvat in medium deflere suos; nec tu, quamvis dura virago patiensque mali, poteris tantas flere ruinas. non quae verno mobile earmen ramo cantat tristis aedon

670

Astyanax leads, there she, to the Thessalian pyre betrothed, she leading maids, he youths. Gaily do mothers bring votive offerings to the gods; gaily do fathers approach the shrines; each wears but one look the city o'er; and, what never we saw since Hector's funeral, Hecuba was glad. And now, unhappy grief, what first, what last, wilt thou lament? Walls by divine hands fashioned, by our own destroyed? Temples upon their own gods consumed? Time lacks to weep such ills—thee, O great father, the Trojan women weep. I saw, I saw in the old man's throat the sword of Pyrrhus scarce wet in his scanty blood.

CASSANDRA

Restrain your tears which all time will seek, ye Trojan women, and do you yourselves grieve for your own dead with groans and lamentations; my losses refuse all sharing. Cease then your grief for my disasters. I myself shall suffice for the woes of mine own house.

CHORUS

'Tis sweet to mingle tears with tears; griefs bring more smart where they wound in solitude, but 'tis sweet in company to bewail one's friends; nor shalt thou, though strong, heroic, and inured to woe, avail to lament calamities so great. Not the sad nightingale,² which from the vernal bough pours

¹ Polyxena. ² Into which Philomela was changed.

Ityn in varios modulata sonos, non quae tectis Bistonis ales residens summis impia diri furta mariti garrula narrat, lugere tuam poterit digne conquesta domum. licet ipse velit clarus niveos inter olores Histrum cyenus Tanainque colens extrema loqui, licet alcyones Ceyca suum fluctu leviter plangente sonent, cum tranquillo male confisae credunt iterum pelago audaces fetusque suos nido pavidae titubante fovent; non si molles comitata viros tristis laceret bracchia tecum onae turritae turba parenti pectora, rauco concita buxo, ferit ut Phrygium lugeat Attin, non est lacrimis, Cassandra, modus, quia quae patimur vicere modum.

680

690

Sed cur sacratas deripis eapiti infulas? miseris colendos maxime superos putem.

CASSANDRA

Vicere nostra iam metus omnes mala. equidem nec ulla caelites placo prece nec, si velint saevire, quo noceant habent. Fortuna vires ipsa consumpsit suas. quae patria restat, quis pater, quae iam soror?

¹ The swallow (hirundo) into which Procne was changed.

² Cycnus (see Index) is here conceived of as swan rather than man.

forth her liquid song, piping of Itys in ever changing strains; not the bird which, perching on Bistonian battlements, tells o'er and o'er the hidden sins of her eruel lord, will e'er be able, with all her passionate lament, worthily to mourn thy house. Should bright Cyenus' 2 self, haunting midst snowy swans Ister and Tanaïs, utter his dving song; should halevons mourn their Ceyx midst the light wave's lapping, when, though distrustful, boldly they trust once more to the tranquil ocean, and anxiously on unsteady nest cherish their young; should the sad throng which follows the unmanned men 3 bruise their arms along with thee, the throng which, by the shrill flute maddened, smite their breasts to the tower-crowned mother,4 that for Phrygian Attis they may lament, -not so, Cassandra, is there measure for our tears, for what we suffer has outmeasured measure.

693 But why dost tear off the holy fillets from thy head? Methinks the gods should be most reverenced by unhappy souls.

CASSANDRA

Now have our woes o'ermastered every fear. Neither do I appease the heavenly gods by any prayer, nor, should they wish to rage, have they wherewith to harm me. Fortune herself has exhausted all her powers. What fatherland remains? What fither: What sister now? Altars 5 and

<sup>Pries's of Cybele.
Cybele.
Both her brother Polites and her father Priam had been</sup> slain at the altar of Hercean Jove, See Aen. 11, 526 ff.

pibere tumuli sanguinem atque arae meum, quid illa felix turba fraterni gregis? exhausta nempe! regia miseri senes vacua relicti; totque per thalamos vident praeter Lacaenam ceteras viduas nurus, tot illa regum mater et regimen Phrygum, fecunda in ignes Hecuba fatorum novas experta leges induit vultus feros: circa ruinas rabida latravit suas, Troiae superstes, Hectori, Priamo, sibi!

CHORYS

Silet repente Phochas et pallor genas creberque totum possidet corpus tremor; stetere vittae, mollis horrescit coma, anhela corda murmure incluso fremunt, incerta nutant lumina et versi retro torquentur oculi, rursus immoti rigent. nunc levat in anras altior solito caput graditurque celsa, nunc reluctantes parat rescrare fauces, verba nunc clauso male custodit ore maenas impatiens dei.

CASSANDRA

Quid me furoris incitam stimulis novi quid mentis inopem, sacra Paruasi iuga, rapitis? recede, Phoebe, iam non sum tua, extingue flammas pectori infixas meo. cui nune vagor vaesana? cui bacchor furens? iam Troia cecidit—falsa quid vates ago? 700

720

710

tombs¹ have drunk up my blood. What of that happy throng of brothers? Gone, all! in the empty palace only sad old men are left; and throughout those many chambers they see all women, save her of Sparta, widowed. That mother of so many kings, queen of the Phrygians, Hecuba, fruitful for funeral-fires, proving new laws of fate, has put on bestial form:² around her ruined walls madly she barked, surviving Troy, son, husband—and herself!

CHORUS

The bride of Phoebus suddenly is still, pallor o'erspreads her cheeks, and constant tremors master all her frame. Her fillets stand erect, her soft locks rise in horror, her labouring heart sounds loud with pent murmuring, her glance wanders uncertain, her eyes seem backward turned into herself, anon they stare unmoving. Now she lifts her head into the air higher than her wont, and walks with stately tread; now makes to unlock her struggling lips, now vainly tries to close them on her words, a mad priestess fighting against the god.

CASSANDRA

Why, O Parnassus' sacred heights, do ye prick me with fury's goads anew, why do you sweep me on, bereft of sense? Away! O Phoebus, I am no longer thine; quench thou the flames set deep within my breast. For whose sake wander I now in madness? for whose sake in frenzy rave? Now Troy has fallen—what have I, false prophetess, to do?

¹ Polyxena had been slain on Achilles' tomb.

² i.e. she was changed into a dog.

Vbi sum? fingit lux alma et obscurat genas nox alta et aether abditus tenebris latet. sed ecce gemino sole praefulget dies geminumque duplices Argos attollit domus. Idaea cerno nemora: fatalis sedet 730 inter potentes arbiter pastor deas. timete reges, moneo, furtivum genus; agrestis iste alumnus evertet domum.1 quid ista vaecors tela feminea manu destricta praefert? quem petit dextra virum Lacaena cultu, ferrum Amazonium gerens?quae versat oculos alia nunc facies meos? victor ferarum colla sublimis iacet ignobili sub dente Marmaricus leo. morsus cruentos passus audacis leae.— 740 quid me vocatis sospitem solam e meis, umbrae meorum? te sequor testis, pater, Troiae sepultae; frater, auxilium Phrygum terrorque Danaum, non ego antiquum decus video aut calentes ratibus exustis manus. sed lacera membra et saucios vinclo gravi illos lacertos; te segnor, nimium cito congresse Achilli Troile: incertos geris, Deiphobe, vultus, coniugis munus novae. iuvat per ipsos ingredi Štygios lacus, 7.50invat videre Tartari saevum canem avidique regna Ditis! hace hodie ratis Phlegethontis atri regias animas vehet, victamque victricemque. vos, umbrae, precor, iurata superis unda, te pariter precor;

¹ Wilamowitz conjectures that several lines have fallen out after 1, 755, concerning the fates of Troy and the crimes of the Atridae. Lines 730-733 seem to Leo to be spurious.

¹ These words have no logical connection with her previous utterance, and are a dark allusion to Aegisthus.

726 Where am 1? Fled is the kindly light, deep darkness blinds my eyes, and the sky, buried in gloom, is hidden away. But see! with double sun the day gleams forth, and double Argos lifts up twin palaees! Ida's groves I see; there sits the shepherd, fateful judge midst mighty goddesses.— Fear him, ye kings, I warn you, fear the child of stolen love; that rustic foundling shall overturn your house. What means that mad woman with drawn sword in hand? What here seeks she with her right hand, a Spartan in her garb,2 but carrying an Amazonian axe: -What sight is that other which now employs mine eyes? The king of beasts with his proud neck, by a base fang lies low, an Afric lion, suffering the bloody bites of his bold lioness.— Why do ye summon me, saved only of my house, my kindred shades? Thee, father, do I follow, eyewitness of Troy's burial; thee, brother, help of the Phrygians, terror of the Greeks, I see not in thine old-time splendour, or with thine hands hot from the burning of the ships, but mangled of limb, with those arms wounded by the deep-sunk thongs; thee, Troilus, I follow, too early with Achilles met: unrecognisable the face thou wearest. Deiphobus,³ the gift of thy new wife.⁴ 'Tis sweet to fare along the very Stygian pools; sweet to behold Tartarus' savage dog and the realms of greedy Dis! To-day this skiff of murky Phlegethon shall bear royal souls,⁵ vanquished and vanquisher. Ye shades, I pray; thon stream on which the gods make oath, thee no less I pray; for a little withdraw the

² She has a clairvoyant prevision of the act of Clytemnestra.

³ See Vergil, Aen. vi. 494 ff.

⁴ i. ℓ. Helen.

⁵ Her own and Agamemnon's.

reserate paulum terga nigrantis poli, levis ut Mycenas turba prospiciat Phrygum, spectate, miseri; fata se vertunt retro.

> Instant sorores squalidae, sanguinea iactant verbera, 760fert laeva semustas faces turgentque pallentes genae et vestis atri funeris exesa cingit ilia, strepuntque nocturni metus et ossa vasti corporis corrupta longinquo situ palude limosa iacent.¹ et ecce, defessus senex ad ora ludentes aquas 770 non captat oblitus sitim, maestus futuro funere; exultat et ponit gradus pater decoros Dardanus.

CHORYS

Iam pervagatus ipse se fregit furor, caditque flexo qualis ante aras genu cervice taurus vulnus incertum gerens. relevemus artus. en deos tandem suos vietrice lauru cinctus Agamemnon adit, et festa coniunx obvios illi tulit gressus reditque iuncta concordi gradu.

780

AGAMEMNON

Tandem revertor sospes ad patrios lares; o cara salve terra. tibi tot barbarae

Leo remarks upon the unintelligibility of ll. 766-768.

covering of that dark world, that on Mycenae the shadowy throng of Phrygians may look forth. Behold, poor souls; the fates turn backward on themselves.

They press on, the squalid sisters, their bloody lashes brandishing; their left hands half-burned torches bear; bloated are their pallid cheeks, and dusky robes of death their hollow loins eneirele; the fearsome eries of night resound, and a huge body's bones, rotting with long decay, lie in a slimy marsh.\(^1\) And see! that spent old man,\(^2\) forgetting thirst, no longer catches at the mocking waters, grieving at death\(^3\) to come; but father Dardanus exults and walks along with stately tread.

CHORUS

Now has her rambling frenzy spent itself, and falls, as before the altar with sinking knees falls the bull, receiving an ill-aimed stroke upon his neek. Let us lift up her body. But lo! at last to his own gods, wreathed with victorious bay, Agamemnon comes; his wife with joy has gone forth to meet him, and now returns, joining her steps in harmony with his.

[Enter agamemnon. He has been met and greeted by his wife, who enters with him and goes on alone into the palace.]

AGAMEMNON

At length am I returned in safety to my father's house. O dear land, hail! To thee many barbarie

¹ If Sencca wrote lines 766-768, he may have had some definite reference in his mind unknown to us, or he may have meant merely to add further gruesome detail to the picture.

² Tantalus.

³ i.e. of Agamemnon, great-grandson of Tantalus.

dedere gentes spolia, tibi felix diu potentis Asiae Troia summisit manus.— quid ista vates corpus effusa ae tremens dubia labat cervice ? famuli, attollite, refovete gelido latice. iam recipit diem marcente visu. suscita sensus tuos! optatus ille portus aerumnis adest. festus dies est.

790

CASSANDRA

Festus et Troiae fuit.

AGAMEMNON

Veneremur aras.

CASSANDRA

Cecidit ante aras pater.

AGAMEMNON

Iovem precemur pariter.

CASSANDRA

Herceum Iovem?

AGAMEMNON

Credis videre te Ilium?

CA83ANDRA

Et Priamum simul.

AGAMEMNON

Hic Troia non est.

CASSANDRA

Vbi Helena est Trojam puto.

¹ Cassandra. ² See Vergil, Aen. n. 249.

^{*} It was at the altar of Hercean Jove that Priam was slain Acr. 11, 512 ff.).

nations have given spoil, to thee proud Asia's Troy, long blest of heaven, has yielded.—Why does the priestess 1 there faint and fall tottering with drooping head? Slaves, lift her up, revive her with cool water. Now with languid gaze she again beholds the light. [To cassandra.] Awake to life! that longed for haven from our woes is here; this is a festal day.

CASSANDRA

'Twas festal,2 too, at Troy.

AGAMEMNON

Let us kneel before the altar

CASSANDRA

Before the altar my father fell.

AGAMEMNON

To Jove let us pray together.

CASSANDRA

Hereean Jove?3

AGAMEMNON

Dost think thou lookst on Ilimn?

CASSANDRA

And Priam, too.

AGAMEMNON

Here is not Troy.

CASSANDRA

Where a Helen 4 is, I think is Trov.

⁴ i.e. an evil, adulterous woman such as Helen. Helen was not in Greece at this time. The reference is obviously to Clytemnestra.

AGAMEMNON

Ne metue dominam famula.

CASSANDRA

Libertas adest.

AGAMEMNON

Secura vive.

CASSANDRA

Mihi mori est securitas.

AGAMEMNON

Nullum est periclum tibimet.

CASSANDRA

At magnum tibi

AGAMEMNON

Victor timere quid potest?

CASSANDIIA

Quod non timet.

AGAMEMNON

Hanc fida famuli turba, dum excutiat deum, retinete ne quid impotens peccet furor. at te, pater, qui saeva torques fulmina pellisque nubes, sidera et terras regis. ad quem triumphi spolia victores ferunt, et te sororem cuncta pollentis viri, Argolica Iuno, pecore votivo libens Arabumque donis supplice et fibra colam.

¹ Cassandra is supposed to be still under the influence of Apollo,

AGAMEMNON

Fear thou no mistress, though a slave.

CASSANDRA

Freedom is near at hand.

AGAMEMNON

Live on, secure.

CASSANDRA

For me, death is security.

AGAMEMNON

For thee there is naught to fear.

CASSANDRA

But much for thee.

AGAMEMNON

What can a victor fear?

CASSANDRA

What he doth not fear.

AGAMEMNON

Ye faithful slaves, restrain her till she throw off the god, lest in her wild frenzy she do some harm. But thee, O father, who the dire thunder hurlest, and driv'st the clouds, who the stars and lands dost rule, to whom in triumph victors bring their spoils; and thee, sister of thine almighty lord. Argolian Juno, gladly with votive flocks, with gifts ² from Araby, and with suppliant offerings of entrails will I adore.

[Exit into the palace.]

² Incense.

CHORYS

Argos nobilibus nobile civibus, Argos iratae carum novercae, semper ingentes alumnos 810 educas, numerum deorum imparem acquasti. tuus ille bis seno meruit labore adlegi eaelo magnus Alcides, eui lege mundi Importer rupta geminavit horas roscidae noetis iussitque Phoebum tardius celeres agitare currus et tuas lente remeare bigas. pallida Phoebe; rettulit pedem nomen alternis stella quae mutat 820 seque mirata est Hesperum dici; Aurora movit ad solitas vices caput et relabens imposuit seni collum marito. sensit ortus, sensit occasus Herculem nasci; violentus ille nocte non una poterat creari. tibi concitatus substitit mundus, o puer subiture caclum. Te sensit Nemeacus arto pressus lacerto fulmineus leo 830 cervaque Parrhasis,

¹ i.e. to Juno, constantly angered by the children of Jove's mistresses.

sensit Arcadii populator agri,

² Farnabius thus explains this curious statement: the deffication of Hercules (to which Juno at last consented) added to the number, not of the great gods, who were

CHORUS OF ARGIVE WOMEN

O Argos, ennobled by thy noble citizens, Argos, dear to the step-dame though enraged,1 ever mighty sons thou fosterest and hast made even 2 the odd number of the gods. That hero of thine by his twelve labours earned the right to be chosen for the skies, great Hercules, for whom,3 the world's law broken, Jove doubled the hours of dewy night, bade Phoebus more slowly drive his hastening ear, and thy team to turn back with laggard feet, O pale Phoebe. Backward the star turned his steps, the star who changes from name to name,4 and marvelled still to be ealled Hesperus, evening star. Aurora stirred at the accustomed hour of dawn, but, sinking back, laid her head and neck upon the breast of her aged husband.5 The rising, yea, and the setting of the sun felt the birth of Hercules; a hero so mighty could not be begotten in a single night. For thee the whirling universe stood still, O boy, destined to mount the skies.

⁸²⁹ The lightning-swift lion of Nemea felt thy power, crushed by thy straining arms, and the Parrhasian hind, the ravager ⁶ of Aready's fields, felt

twelve in number, but of the gods of the second rank (diis communibus), three in number—Mars, Bellona, and Victoria—thus making even the number which had been odd.

³ i.e. for his begetting. See Herc. Fur. ll. 24 and 1158.

⁴ i.e. it is now called Lucifer and now Hesperus, according as it is morning or evening star.

⁵ Tithonus.

⁶ The Erymanthian boar.

gemuitque taurus Dictaea linguens horridus arva. morte fecundum domuit draconem vetuitque collo percunte nasci, geminosque fratres pectore ex uno tria monstra natos stipite incusso fregit insultans, duxitque ad ortus Hesperium pecus, 840 Geryonae spolium triformis. egit Threicium gregem, quem non Strymonii gramine fluminis Hebrive ripis pavit tyrannus; hospitum dirus stabulis cruorem praebuit saevis tinxitque crudos ultimus rictus sanguis aurigae. vidit Hippolyte ferox pectore e medio rapi spolium, et sagittis nube percussa Stymphalis alto 850 decidit caelo; arborque pomis fertilis aureis extimuit manus insueta carpi fugitque in auras leviore ramo. andivit sonitum crepitante lanna frigidus custos nescius somni, lingueret cum iam nemus omne fulvo plenus Alcides vacuum metallo. tractus ad caelum canis inferorum triplici catena tacuit nec ullo 860latravit ore. lucis ignotae metuens colorem.

¹ It was the nature of the hydra that as each head was cut off two appeared in its place.

² gentinos here = trigeminos, referring to the triple-man monster, Geryon.

thee, too, and loud bellowed the savage bull, leaving the fields of Crete. The hydra, fertile in death, he overcame and forbade new births from each neck destroyed; 1 the mated 2 brethren, springing three monsters from a single body, he crushed, leaping on them with his crashing club, and brought to the east the western herd, spoil of the three-formed Gervon. He drove the Thracian herd 3 which the tyrant fed, not on the grass of the Strymon or on the banks of the Hebrus; cruel, he offered his savage horses the gore of strangers-and the blood of their driver 4 was the last to stain red their jaws. Warlike Hippolyte saw the spoil⁵ snatched from about her breast; and by his shafts down from the riven cloud from high heaven fell the Stymphalian bird. The tree, laden with golden fruit, shrank from his hands. unused to such plucking, and the bough, relieved of its burden, sprang into the air. The cold, sleepless guardian 6 heard the sound of the clinking metal, only when heavy laden Alcides was leaving the grove all stripped of its tawny gold. Dragged to the upper world by triple fetters, the infernal dog was silent, nor with any mouth did he bay, shrinking from the hues of unexperienced light. Under thy leader-

³ The man-eating horses of Diomedes, tyrant of Thrace.

⁴ i.e. Hercules gave Diomedes to his own horses to devour. ⁵ The famous golden girdle.

⁶ The dragon, set to guard the golden apples.

te duce succidit mendax Dardanidae domus et sensit arcus iterum timendos; te duce concidit totidem diebus Troia quot annis.

CASSANDRA

Res agitur intus magna, par annis decem. cheu quid hoc est? anime, consurge et cape pretium furoris—vicimus victi Phryges! bene est, resurgit Troia; traxisti iacens, parens, Mycenas, terga dat victor tuus! tam clara numquam providae mentis furor ostendit oculis; video et intersum et fruor; imago visus dubia non fallit meos; spectemus.

Epulae regia instructae domo, quales fuerunt ultimae Phrygibus dapes, celebrantur; ostro lectus Iliaco mitet merumque in auro veteris Assaraci trahunt, en ipse pieta veste sublimis iacet, Priami superbas corpore exuvias gerens. detrahere cultus uxor hostiles iubet, inducre potius coniugis fidae manu textos amietus—horreo atque animo tremo! regemne perimet exul et adulter virum? venere fata. sanguinem extremae dapes domini videbunt et cruor Baccho incidet. mortifera vinetum perfide tradit neci induta vestis; exitum manibus negant

870

¹ In the time of Laomedon.

² The arrows of Hercules in the hands of Philoctetes assisted in the final fall of Troy under Priam.

³ She either stands where she can see the interior of the

ship fell the lying house 1 of Dardanus and suffered the arrows, once again 2 to be feared; under thy leadership in as many days Troy fell as it took years thereafter.

CASSANDRA [alone upon the stage] 3

A great deed is done within, a match for ten years of war. Ah! What is this? Rise up, my soul, and take the reward of thy madness—we are conquerors, we conquered Phrygians! 'Tis well! Troy has risen again! In thy fall, O father, thou hast dragged down Mycenae; thy conqueror gives way! Never before did my mind's prophetic frenzy give sight to mine eyes so clear; I see, I am in the midst of it, I revel in it; 'tis no doubtful image cheats my sight;

let me gaze my fill.

stored with guests, like that last banquet of the Phrygians; the couches gleam with Trojan purple, and their wine they quaff from the golden cups of old Assaracus. Lo, he himself in broidered vestments lies on lofty couch, wearing on his body the proud spoils of Priam. His wife bids him doff the raiment of his foe and don instead a mantle her own fond hands have woven—I shudder and my soul trembles at the sight! Shall an exile slay a king? an adulterer the husband? The fatal hour has come. The banquet's close shall see the master's blood, and gore shall fall into the wine. The deadly mantle he has put on delivers him bound treacherously to his doom; the loose, impenetrable folds

palace, and describes what is going on within, or else she sees it by clairvoyant power.

⁴ Agamemnon, ⁵ Aegisthus,

caputque laxi et invii claudunt sinus. haurit trementi semivir dextra latus, nee penitus egit; vulnere in medio stupet. at ille, ut altis hispidus silvis aper cum casse vinetus temptat egressus tamen artatque motu vincla et in cassum furit,cupit fluentes undique et caecos sinus disicere et hostem quaerit implicitus suum. armat bipenni Tyndaris dextram furens, qualisque ad aras eolla taurorum popa designat oculis antequam ferro petat, sic huc et illue impiam librat manum. habet! peractum est! pendet exigua male caput amputatum parte et hinc trunco eruor exundat, illic ora eum fremitu iacent. nondum recedunt; ille iam exanimem petit laeeratque corpus, illa fodientem adiuvat. uterque tanto scelere respondet suisest hic Thyeste natus, hace Helenae soror. stat ecee Titan dubius emerito die, suane currat an Thyestea via.

890

900

ELECTRA

Fuge, o paternae mortis auxilium unicum, fuge et scelestas hostium vita manus. eversa domus est funditus, regna occidimt.

910

Hospes quis iste concitos currus agit? germane, vultus veste furabor tuos.

 $^{^1}$ i.e. Clytemnestra, daughter of Tyndareus. 2 i.e. the wound. The formula is taken from the gladiatorial contests.

refuse outlet to his hands and enshroud his head. With trembling right hand the half-man stabs at his side, but hath not driven deep; in mid stroke he stands as one amazed. But he, as in the deep woods a bristling boar, though with the net entangled, still tries for freedom, and by his struggling draws close his bonds and rages all in vain,—he strives to throw off the blinding folds all around him floating, and. though closely enmeshed, seeks for his foe. Now Tyndaris in mad rage snatches a two-edged axe and, as at the altar the priest marks with his eye the oxen's necks before he strikes, so, now here, now there, her impious hand she aims. He has it!2 the deed is done! The searce severed head hangs by a slender part; here blood streams o'er his lieadless trunk, there lie his moaning lips. And not yet do they give o'er; he attacks the already lifeless man. and keeps hacking at the corpse; she helps him in the stabbing. Each one in this dire erime answers to his own kin-he is Thyestes' son, she, Helen's sister. See, Titan, the day's work done, stands hesitant whether his own or Thyestes' 3 course to run.

[Remains beside the altar.

[Enter electric, leading her young brother, orestes.]

ELECTRA

Fly, O sole avenger of our father's death, fly and escape our enemies' miscreant hands. O'erthrown is our house to its foundations, our kingdom fallen.

⁹¹³ But who is yonder stranger, driving his chariot at speed? Come brother, I will hide thee 'neath my

 $^{^{\}circ}$ i.e. backward as on the occasion of Thyestes' banquet on his own sons.

quid, anime demens, refugis? externos times? domus timenda est. pone iam trepidos metus, Oresta; amici fida praesidia intuor.

STROPHIVS

Phocide relicta Strophius Elea inclutus palma revertor. causa veniendi fuit gratari amico, cuius impulsum manu cecidit decenni Marte concussum Ilium. quaenam ista lacrimis lugubrem vultum rigat pavetque maesta? regium agnosco genus. Electra! fletus causa quae laeta in domo est?

920

ELECTRA

Pater peremptus scelere materno iacet, comes paternae quaeritur natus neci, Aegisthus arces Venere quaesitas tenet.

STROPHIVS

O nulla longi temporis felicitas '

ELECTRA

Per te parentis memoriam obtestor mei, per sceptra terris nota, per dubios deos; recipe hune Oresten ac pium furtum occule.

robe. Why, foolish heart, dost thou shrink away? Strangers dost fear? 'Tis our home that must be feared. Put away now thy trembling dread, Orestes; the trusty protection of a friend I see.

[Enter strophius in a chariot, accompanied by his son pylades.]

STROPHIUS

I, Strophius, had Phoeis left, and now am home returning, made glorious by the Elean palm. The cause of my coming hither was to congratulate my friend, o'erthrown by whose hand and crushed by ten years of war has Ilium fallen. [He notices electra's distress.] But who is that yonder, watering her sad face with tears, fear-struck and sorrowful? One of the royal house I recognize. Electra! What cause of weeping can be in this glad house?

ELECTRA

My father lies murdered by my mother's crime; they seek the son to share in his father's death; Acgisthus holds the throne by guilty love secured.

STROPHIUS

Alas! no happiness is of lengthened stay.

ELECTRA

By the memory of my father I beseech thee, by his sceptre known to all the world, by the fickle gods: 1 take this boy, Orestes, and hide the holy theft.

Who may bring quick downfall to thee also.

STROPHIVE

Etsi timendum caesus Agamemnon docet, accrediar et te. Oresta, furabor libens, fidem secunda poscunt, adversa exigunt. cape hoe de orum ludicri certaminis, insigne frontis: laeva victricem tenens frondem virenti protegat ramo caput, et ista donum palma Pisaei Iovis velamen eadem praestet atque omen tibi, tuque o paternis assidens frenis comes, condisce. Pylade, patris exemplo fidem, vos Graecia nunc teste veloces equi infida cursu fogite praecipiti loca.

Q-4+1

ELECTRA

Expessit, about, currus effreno impetu effigit aciem. Tuta ium opperiar meos hostes et ultro vulneri oppenam caput.

A lest cruenta coningis victrix sui et signa caedis veste maculata gerit manus recenti sanguine etiammune malent vultusque prae se scelera truculenti ferrat. concedem ad aras, patere me vittus tuis, Cassandra, inngi paria metuentem tibi.

91)

CLYTARYNESTRA

Hostis parentis, implum atque audax caput, quo more coetus qublicos virgo petis?

I I to the contract of father that I given

¹ of live. 1 Of paint. 4 In the Olympic games.

STROPHIUS

Although murdered Agamemnon warns me to beware, I will brave the danger and gladly, Orestes, will I steal thee off. Good fortune asks for faith, adversity demands it. [Takes orestes into the chariot.] Take thou this crown, I won in the games, as an ornament for thy head, and, holding this victor's bough in thy left hand, shield thy face with its great branch, and may that palm, the gift of Pisaean Jove, afford thee at once a covering and an omen. And do thou, Pylades, who standest as comrade to guide thy father's ear, learn faith from the example of thy sire. And now, do you, my horses, whose speed all Greece has seen. flee from this treacherous place in headlong flight.

[Execut at great speed.]

ELECTRA [looking after them]

He has departed, gone, his car at a reckless pace has vanished from my sight. Now free from care shall I await my foes, and willingly oppose myself to

death. [She sees CLYTEMNESTRA approaching.]

²¹⁷ Here is the bloody conqueror of her lord, with the signs of murder on her blood-stained robe. Her hands are still recking with blood fresh-spilled, and her savage features bear tokens of her crime. I'll take me to the altar. Let me be joined, Cassandra, with thy fillets, since I fear like doom with thee.

[Enter CLYTENNESTRA.]

CLYTEMNESTRA

Foe of thy mother, unfilial and froward girl, by what custom dost thou, a maid, seek public gatherings?

4 i.e. let me join her who with the sacred fillets on her head has taken refuge at the altar.

FLECTRA

Adulterorum virgo deserui domum.

CLYTAEMNESTRA

Quis esse credat virginem?

ELECTRA

Natam tuam?

CLYTAEMNESTRA

Modestius cum matre!

ELECTRA

Pietatem doces?

CLYTAEMNESTRA

Animos viriles corde tumefacto geris sed agere domita feminam disces malo.

ELECTRA

Nisi forte fallor, feminas ferrum decet.

960

CLYTAEMNESTRA

Et esse demens te parem nobis putas?

ELECTRA

Vobis? quis iste est alter Agamemnon tuus? ut vidua loquere; vir earet vita tuus.

CLVTAEMNESTRA

Indomita posthae virginis verba impiae regina frangam; citius interea mihi edissere ubi sit natus, ubi frater tuus.

ELECTRA

Because I am a maid have I left the adulterers' home.

CLYTEMNESTRA

Who would believe thee maid?

FLECTRA

A child of thine? 1

CLYTEMNESTRA

More gently with thy mother!

ELECTRA

Dost thou teach piety?

CLYTEMNESTRA

Thou hast a mannish soul, a heart puffed up; but, tamed by suffering, shalt thou learn to play a woman's part.

ELECTRA

If perchance, I mistake not, a sword befits a woman.

CLYTEMNESTRA

And thinkest thou, mad one, thou art a match for us?

FLECTRA

For you? What other Agamemnon is that of thine? Speak thou as widow; lifeless is thy lord.

CLYTEMNESTRA

The unbridled tongue of an unfilial girl hereafter as queen I'll eheck; meanwhile be quick and tell where is my son, where is thy brother.

1 i.e. surely no one, since I am thy child.

ELECTRA

Extra Mycenas.

CLYTAEMNESTRA
Redde nune natum mihi.

ELECTRA

Et tu parentem redde.

CLYTAEMNESTRA

Quo latitat loco?

ELECTRA

Tuto quietus, regna non metuens nova; iustae parenti satis.

CLYTAEMNESTRA At iratae parum.

morieris hodie.

ELECTRA

Dummodo hac moriar manu. recedo ab aris. sive te iugulo iuvat mersisse ferrum, praebeo iugulum tibi; seu more pecudum colla resecari placet, intenta cervix vulnus expectat tuum. seelus paratum est; caede respersam viri atque obsoletam sanguine hoe dextram ablue.

CLYTAEMNESTRA

Consors pericli pariter ae regni mei, Aegisthe, gradere. nata genetrieem impie probris lacessit, occulit fratrem abditum.

980

ELECTRA

Far from Mycenae.

CLYTEMNESTRA

Restore me now my son.

FLECTRA

And do thou restore my father.

CLYTEMNESTRA

Where does he hide?

ELECTRA

In peace and safety, where he fears no new-made king; for a righteous mother 'tis enough.

CLYTEMNESTRA

But too little for an angry one. Thou shalt die this day.

ELECTRA

So but it be by this hand of thine. I leave the altar. If 'tis thy pleasure in my throat to plunge the sword, I offer my throat to thee; or if, as men smite sheep, thou wouldst cut off my neek, my bent neek waits thy stroke. The crime is ready; thy right hand, smeared and rank with a husband's slaughter, purge with this blood of mine.

[Enter Aegisthus.]

CLYTEMNESTRA

Thou partner equally in my perils and my throne, Aegisthus, come. My child undutifully insults her mother, and keeps her brother hidden.

AEGISTHVS

Furibunda virgo, vocis infandae sonum et aure verba indigna materna opprime.

ELECTRA

Etiam monebit sceleris infandi artifex, per scelera natus, nomen ambiguum suis, idem sororis natus et patris nepos?

CLYTAEMNESTRA

Aegisthe, cessas impium ferro caput demetere? fratrem reddat aut animam statim.

AEGISTHVS

Abstrusa caeco carcere et saxo exigat aevum, et per omnes torta poenarum modos referre quem nunc occulit forsan volet. inops egens inclusa, paedore obruta, vidua ante thalamos, exul, invisa omnibus aethere negato sero subcumbet malis.

990

ELECTRA

Concede mortem.

AEGISTIIVS

Si recusares, darem. rudis est tyrannus morte qui poenam exigit.

ELECTRA

Mortem aliquid ultra est?

AEGISTHUS

Mad girl, hold thy impious tongue, and speak not words unworthy thy mother's ears.

ELECTRA

Shall he e'en give instructions, the worker of an impious crime, one criminally begot, whom even his own parents cannot name, son of his sister, grandson of his sire?

CLYTEMNESTRA

Aegisthus, why dost hesitate to strike off her wicked head with the sword? Let her at once give up her brother or her life.

AEGISTHUS

Mured in a dark, rocky dungeon shall she spend her life and, by all kinds of tortures racked, perchance she will consent to give back him she now conceals. Resourceless, starving, in prison pent, buried in filth, widowed ere wedded, in exile, scorned by all, denied the light of day, then will she, though too late, yield to her doom.

ELECTRA

Oh, grant me death.

AEGISTHUS

Shouldst plead against, I'd grant. An unskilled tyrant he who punishes by death.

ELECTRA

Is aught worse than death?

AEGISTHVS

Vita, si cupias mor**i**.

abripite, famuli, monstrum et avectam procul ultra Mycenas ultimo in regni angulo vincite saeptam nocte tenebrosi specus, ut inquietam virginem carcer domet.

1000

CLYTAEMNESTRA

At ista poenas capite persolvet suo captiva coniunx, regii paelex tori. trahite, ut sequatur coniugem ereptum mihi.

CASSANDRA

Ne trahite, vestros ipsa praecedam gradus. perferre prima nuntium Phrygibus meis propero—repletum ratibus eversis mare, captas Mycenas, mille ductorem ducum, ut paria fata Troicis lueret malis, perisse dono feminae—stupro, dolo. nihil moramur, rapite, quin grates ago. iam, iam iuvat vixisse post Troiam, iuvat.

1010

CLYTAEMNESTRA

Furiosa, morere.

CASSANDRA

Veniet et vobis furer.

AEGISTHUS

Yes, life, if thou longest to die. Away, ye slaves, with this unnatural girl; far from Mycenae bear her, and in the remotest corner of the realm chain her immured in the black darkness of a cell, that prison walls may curb the unmanageable maid. [ELECTRA is dragged away.]

CLYTEMNESTRA [indicating CASSANDRA]

But she shall pay her penalty with death, that captive bride, that mistress of the royal bed. Drag her away, that she may follow the husband whom she stole from me.

CASSANDRA

Nay, drag me not, I will precede your going. I hasten to be first to bear news unto my Phrygians—of the sea covered with the wrecks of ships, of Mycenae taken, of the leader of a thousand leaders (that so he might meet doom equal to Troy's woes) slain by a woman's gift—by adultery, by guile. Take me away; I hold not back, but rather give you thanks. Now, now 'tis sweet to have outlived Troy, 'tis sweet.

CLYTEMNESTRA

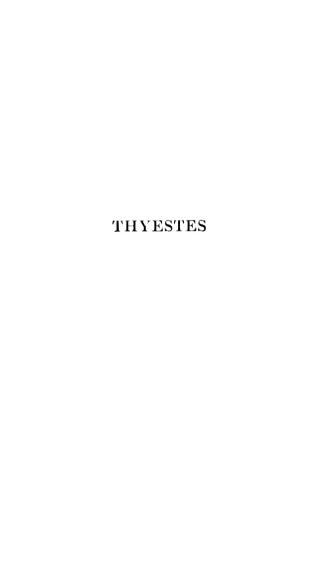
Mad creature, thou shalt die.

CASSANDRA

On you, as well, a madness is to come.1

¹ Referring to the madness of Orestes, who is later to slay both Aegisthus and Clytemnestra.





DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Thyestes, brother of Atreus, in exile from his fatherland.

The Ghost of Tantalus, doomed for his sins to come back to earth and inspire his house to greater sin.

THE FURY, who drives the ghost on to do his allotted part.

Atreus, king of Argos, grandson of Tantalus, who has quarrelled with his brother and driven him into exile.

AN ATTENDANT OF ATREUS.

Three Sons of Thyestes, Tantalus, Plisthenes, and another, only one of whom, Tantalus, talks part in the dialogue.

A Messenger.

Chorus, Citizens of Mycenae.

THE SCENE is laid partly without the city of Argos, and partly within the royal palace.

ARGUMENT

Pelops, the son of Tantalus, had banished his sons for the murder of their half-brother, Chrysippus, with a curse upon them, that they and their posterity might perish by each others' hands. Upon the death of Pelops, Atreus returned and took possession of his father's throne. Thyestes, also, claimed the throne, and sought to gain it by the foulest means. For he seduced his brother's wife, Aërope, and stole by her assistance the magical, gold-fleeced ram from Atreus' flocks, upon the possession of which the right to rule was said to rest. For this act he was banished by the king.

But Atreus has long been meditating a more complete revenge upon his brother; and now in pretended friendship has recalled him from banishment, offering him a place beside himself upon the throne, that thus he may have Thyestes entirely in his power.

THYESTES

TANTALI VMBRA

Quis inferorum sede ab infausta extrahit avido fugaces ore captantem cibos, quis male deorum Tantalo vivas 1 domos ostendit iterum? peius inventum est siti arente in undis aliquid et peius fame hiante semper? Sisyphi numquid lapis gestandus umeris lubricus nostris venit aut membra celeri differens cursu rota. aut poena Titvi qui specu vasto patens visceribus atras pascit effossis aves et noete reparans quidquid amisit die plenum recenti pabulum monstro iacet? in quod malum transcribor? o quisquis nova supplicia functis durus umbrarum arbiter disponis, addi si quid ad poenas potest quod ipse custos carceris diri horreat, quod maestus Acheron paveat, ad cuius metum nos quoque tremamus, quaere. iam nostra subit e stirpe turba quae suum vincat genus ac me innocentem faciat et inausa audeat. regione quidquid impia cessat loci complebo; numquam stante Pelopea domo Minos vacabit.

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¹ So A: Leo visas, with E: invisas N. Heinsius.

THYESTES

THE GHOST OF TANTALUS

Who from the accursed regions of the dead haleth me forth, snatching at food which ever fleeth from my hungry lips? What god for his undoing showeth again to Tantalus the abodes of the living? Hath something worse been found than parching thirst midst water, worse than ever-gaping hunger? Cometh ... the slippery stone of Sisyphus to be borne upon my shoulders? or the wheel stretching apart my limbs in its swift round? or Tityus' pangs, who, stretched in a huge cavern, with torn out vitals feeds the dusky birds and, by night renewing whate'er he lost by day, lies an undiminished banquet for new monsters? To what new suffering am I shifted? O whoe'er thou art, harsh judge of shades, who dost allot fresh punishments to the dead, if aught can be added to my sufferings whereat e'en the guardian of our dread prison-house would quake, whereat sad Acheron would be seized with dread, with fear whereof I, too, should tremble, seek thou it cut. Now from my seed a multitude is coming up which its own race shall out-do, which shall make me seem innocent, and dare things yet undared. Whatever space is still empty in the unholy realm, I2 shall fill up; never, while Pelops' house is standing, will Minos be at rest.

¹ Of Ixion. ² *i.e.* with my descendants. ³ A judge in Hades.

FVR1A

Perge, detestabilis umbra, et penates impios furiis age. certetur omni scelere et alterna vice stringatur ensis; ne sit irarum modus pudorve, mentes caecus instiget furor, rabies parentum duret et longum nefas eat in nepotes; nec vacet cuiquam vetus odisse crimen-semper oriatur novum, nec unum in uno, dumque punitur scelus, superbis fratribus regna excidant creseat. repetantque profugos; dubia violentae domus fortuna reges inter incertos labet: miser ex potente fiat, ex misero potens fluctuque regnum casus assiduo ferat. ob scelera pulsi, cum dabit patriam deus in scelera redeant, sintque tam invisi omnibus, quam sibi; nihil sit ira quod vetitum putet: fratrem expaveseat frater et natum parens natusque patrem, liberi pereant male, peius tamen nascantur; immineat viro infesta coniunx, bella trans pontum vehant, effusus omnes irriget terras cruor, supraque magnos gentium exultet duces Libido victrix. impia stuprum in domo levissimum sit: fratris et fas et fides iusque omne pereat. non sit a vestris malis immune caelum—cur micant stellae nolo flammaeque servant debitum mundo decus?

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¹ Let the brothers, Atreus and Thyestes, reign, fall, be exiled and recalled, each in turn. In the present ease Atreus 94

THYESTES

THE FURY

Onward, damned shade, and goad thy sinful house to madness. Let there be rivalry in guilt of every kind; let the sword be drawn on this side and on that: let their passions know no bounds, no shame: let blind fury prick on their souls; heartless be parents' rage, and to children's children let the long trail of sin lead down; let time be given to none to hate old sins-ever let new arise, many in one, and let crime, c'en midst its punishment, increase. From haughty brothers' hands let kingdoms fall, and in turn let them call back the fugitives; 1 let the wavering fortune of a home of violence midst changing kings totter to its fall; from power to wretchedness, from wretchedness to power-may this befall, and may chance with her ever-restless waves bear the kingdom on. For erimes' sake exiled, when God shall bring them home, to crime may they return, and may they be as hateful to all men as to themselves; let there be naught which passion deems unallowed; let brother brother fear, father fear son, and son father; let children vilely perish and be yet more vilely born: let a murderous wife lift hand against her husband, let wars pass over sea, let streaming blood drench every land, and over the mighty chiefs of earth let Lust exult, triumphant. In this sin-stained house let shameful defilement be a trivial thing; let fraternal sanctity and faith and every right be trampled under foot. By our sins let not heaven be untainted-why do the stars glitter in the sky? Why do their fires preserve the glory due the world? Let the face of night be changed, let

is on the throne, and Thyestes, who has been exiled, is recalled.

nox alia fiat, excidat caelo dies. misce penates, odia caedes funera arcesse et imple Tantalo totam domum.¹

Ornetur altum columen et lauro fores laetae virescant, dignus adventu tuo splendescat ignis—Thracium fiat nefas maiore numero. dextra cur patrui vacat? nondum Thyestes liberos deflet suos— et quando tollet? ignibus iam subditis spument aena, membra per partes cant discerpta, patrios polluat sanguis focos, epulae instruantur—non novi sceleris tibi conviva venies. liberum dedimus diem tuamque ad istas solvimus mensas famem; ieiunia exple, mixtus in Bacchum cruor spectante te potetur; inveni dapes quas ipse fugeres—siste, quo praeceps ruis?

60

TANTALI VMBRA

Ad stagna et amnes et recedentes aquas labrisque ab ipsis arboris plenae fugas. abire in atrum-carceris liceat mei cubile, liceat, si parum videor miser, mutare ripas; alveo medius tuo, Phlegethon, relinquar igneo cinctus freto.

70

Quicumque pochas lege fatorum datas pati iuberis, quisquis exeso iaces pavidus sub antro iamque venturi times montis ruinam, quisquis avidorum feros rictus leonum et dira Furiarum agmina

 1 imple scelere Tantaleam domum A.

¹ Proche and her wronged sister, Philomela, served up Itys as a banquet to his father, Tereus, king of Thrace. ² i.e. with the murder of three sons instead of one.

day fall from heaven. Embroil thy household gods, summon up hatred, slaughter, death, and fill the + whole house with Tantalus.

54 Adorn the lofty pillar and with laurel let the festal doors be green; let torches worthy of thine approach shine forth—then let the Thracian crime 1 be done with greater number.² Why is the uncle's ³ hand inactive? Not yet does Thyestes bewail his sons-and when will he lift his hand? Now set o'er the flames let cauldrons foam; let the rent members one by one pass in; let the ancestral hearth be stained with blood, let the feast be spread—to no novel feast of crime 4 wilt come as banqueter. To-day have we made thee free, have loosed thy hunger to the banquet yonder; go, feed full thy fasting, and let blood, with wine commingled, be drunk before thine eyes. I have found feast which thou thyself wouldst fleebut stay! Whither dost headlong rush?

GHOST OF TANTALUS

Back to my pools and streams and fleeing waters, back to the laden tree which shuns my very lips. Let me return to the black couch of my prison-house; let it be mine, if I seem too little wretched, to change my stream; in thy bcd's midst, O Phlegethon, let me be left, hemmed round with waves of fire.

74 Whoe'er thou art, by the fates' law bidden to suffer allotted punishment; whoe'er liest quaking beneath the hollowed rock, and fearest the downfall of the mountainous mass even now coming on thee;5 whoe'er shudderest at the fierce gaping of greedy lions, and, entangled in their toils, dost shudder at

³ i.e. Atreus. ⁴ See Index s.r. Pelops, ⁵ A common conception of punishment in Hades. Vergil, Aen. vt. 601.

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implicitus horres, quisquis immissas faces semiustus abigis, Tantali vocem excipe properantis ad vos: credite experto mihi, amate poenas. quando continget mihi effugere superos?

FVIIIA

Ante perturba domum inferque tecum proelia et ferri malum regibus amorem, concute insano ferum pectus tumultu.

TANTALI VMBRA

Me pati poenas decet, non esse poenam. mittor ut dirus vapor tellure rupta vel gravem populis luem sparsura pestis, ducam in horrendum nefas avus nepotes. magne divorum parens nosterque, quamvis pudeat, ingenti licet taxata poena lingua crucietur loquax, nec hoc tacebo; moneo, ne sacra 1 manus violate cacde neve furiali malo aspergite aras. stabo et arcebo scelus—

Quid ora terres verbere et tortos ferox minaris augues? quid famem infixam intimis agitas medullis? flagrat incensum siti cor et perustis flamma visceribus micat sequor.²

FURIA

Hunc, hunc furorem divide in totam domum! sie, sie ferantur et suum infensi invicem sitiant cruorem. sentit introitus tuos

1 So .1: Leo sacras. 2 Leo deletes this word.

the dread ranks of furies; whoe'er, half burned, shunnest their threatening torches, hear ye the words of Tantalus now hasting to you: believe me who know, and love your punishments. Oh, when shall it fall to me to escape the upper world?

THE FURY

First throw thy house into confusion dire, bring strife with thee, bring last for the sword, an evil thing for rulers, and rouse to mad passion the savage breast.

GHOST OF TANTALUS

'Tis meet for me to suffer punishments, not be a punishment. I am sent as some deadly exhalation from the riven earth, or as a pestilence, spreading grievous plague among the people, that I a grandsire may lead my grandsons into fearful crime. O mighty sire of gods, my father, too, however to thy shame I say it, though to cruel punishment my tattling tongue be doomed, I will not hold my peace; I warn ye, defile not your hands with accursed slaughter, nor stain your altars with a madman's crime. Here will I stand and prevent the evil deed. [To the fury.] Why with thy scourge dost fright mine eyes, and fiercely threaten with thy writhing snakes? Why deep in my inmost marrow dost rouse hunger pains? My heart is parched with burning thirst, and in my scorehed vitals the fire is darting—I follow thee.

THE FURY

This, this very rage of thine distribute throughout thy house! So, e'en as thou, may they be driven on, raging to quench their thirst each in the other's blood. Thy house feels thy near approach, and has

domus et nefando tota contactu horruit. actum est abunde! gradere ad infernos specus amnemque notum; iam tuum maestae pedem terrae gravantur, cernis ut fontes liquor introrsus actus linguat, ut ripae vacent ventusque raras igneus nubes ferat? pallescit omnis arbor ae nudus stetit 110 fugiente pomo ramus, et qua fluctibus illine propinguis Isthmos atque illine fremit vieina graeili dividens terra vada, longe remotos litus exaudit sonos. iam Lerna retro cessit et Phoronides latuere venae nec suas profert sacer Alpheos undas et Cithaeronis iuga stant parte nulla cana deposita nive timentque veterem nobiles Argi sitim. en ipse Titan dubitat an iubeat sequi 120 cogatque habenis ire periturum diem.

CHORYS

Argos de superis si quis Achaicum Pisaeasque domos curribus inclitas, Isthmi si quis amat regna Corinthii et portus geminos et mare dissidens, si quis Taygeti eonspicuas nives, quas cum Sarmaticus tempore frigido in summis Borcas composuit iugis, aestas veliferis solvit Etesiis, quem tangit gelido flumine Incidus Alpheos, stadio notus Olympico, advertat placidum numen et arceat, alternae scelerum ne redeant vices nee succedat avo deterior nepos

shrunk in utter horror from thine accursed touch. Enough! more than enough! Go thou to the infernal eaves and well-known stream; now is the grieving earth weary of thy presence. Seest thou how the water, driven far within, deserts the springs, how river banks are empty, how the fiery wind drives away the scattered clouds? Every tree grows pale, and from the bare branches the fruit has fled; and where this side and that the Isthmus is wont to roar with neighbouring waves, dividing near seas with narrow neck of land, the shore but faintly hears the far off sound. Now Lerna has shrunk back, the Phoronean stream 1 has disappeared, the sacred Alpheus no longer bears his waters on, Cithaeron's heights have lost their snows and nowhere stand hoary now, and the lordly Argos fears its ancient drought.2 Lo! Titan himself stands doubtful whether to bid day follow on, and, plying the reins, compel it to come forth to its undoing.

CHORUS

If any god loves Achaian Argos and Pisa's homes renowned for chariots; if any loves Corinthian Isthmus' realm, its twin harbours, its dissevered sea; if any, the far-seen snows of Mount Taÿgetus, snows which, when in winter-time the Sarmatian blasts have laid them on the heights, the summer with its sail-filling Etesian breezes melts away; if any is moved by the cool, clear stream of Alpheus, famed for its Olympic course—let him his kindly godhead hither turn, let him forbid the recurrent waves of erime to come again, forbid that on his grandsire follow a worse grandson, and greater crime

i.e. the river Inachus.

i.e. in the time of Phaëthon.

et major placeat culpa minoribus. tandem lassa feros exuat impetus sicci progenies impia Tantali. peccatum satis est: fas valuit nihil aut commune nefas. proditus oecidit deceptor domini Myrtilus, et fide vectus qua tulerat nobile reddidit mutato pelagus nomine; notior nulla est Ioniis fabula navibus. exceptus gladio parvulus impio dum currit patrium natus ad osculum, immatura focis victima concidit divisusque tua est, Tantale, dextera, mensas ut strueres hospitibus deis. hos aeterna fames persequitur cibos, hos aeterna sitis; nec dapibus feris decerni potuit poena decentior. Stat lassus vacuo gutture Tantalus; impendet capiti plurima noxio Phineis avibus praeda fugacior; hine illine gravidis frondibus incubat

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150

Stat lassus vacuo gutture Tantalus; impendet capiti plurima noxio
Phineis avibus praeda fugacior; hine illine gravidis frondibus incubat et curvata suis fetibus ac tremens alludit patulis arbor hiatibus. haec, quamvis avidus nee patiens morae, deceptus totiens tangere neglegit obliquatque oculos oraque comprimit inclusisque famem dentibus alligat. sed tunc divitias omne nemus suas demittit propius pomaque desuper insultant foliis mitia languidis accenduntque famem, quae iubet irritas

¹ A retention of the rhetorical element in this line results in an obscurity impossible to avoid in English. The meaning is: Let not the descendants (minoribus) do worse sin than their ancestor.

please lesser men. Wearied at last, may the impious race of thirsty Tantalus give o'er its lust for savagery. Enough sin has been wrought; nothing has right availed, or general wrong. Himself betrayed, fell Myrtilus, betrayer of his lord, and, dragged down by the faith which he had shown, he made a sea famous by its change of name; to Ionian ships no tale is better known. While the little son are not his father's kiss, welcomed by sinful sword, he fell, an untimely victim at the hearth, and by thy right hand was carved, O Tantalus, that thou mightest spread a banquet for the gods, thy guests. Such food eternal hunger, such eternal thirst pursues; nor for such bestial viands could have been meted penalty more fit.

above his guilty head hangs food in plenty, than Phineus' birds more elusive; on either side, with laden boughs, a tree leans over him and, bending and trembling 'neath its weight of fruit, makes sport with his wide-straining jaws. The prize, though he is eager and impatient of delay, deceived so oft, he tries no more to touch, turns away his eyes, shuts tight his lips, and behind elenched teeth he bars his hunger. But then the whole grove lets its riches down nearer still, and the mellow fruits above his head mock him with drooping boughs and whet again the hunger, which bids him ply his hands in

² The Myrtoan sea, that portion of the Aegean south of Euboca. The name is here fancifully derived from Myrtilus. For the whole incident see Index.

³ Pelops. ⁴ The Harpies.

exercere manus. has ubi protulit et falli libuit, totus in arduum autumnus rapitur silvaque mobilis. instat deinde sitis non levior fame; qua cum percaluit sanguis et igneis exarsit facibus, stat miser obvios fluctus ore petens, quos profugus latex avertit sterili deficiens vado conantemque sequi deserit; hic bibit altum de rapido gurgite pulverem.

170

ATREVS

Ignave, iners, enervis et (quod maximum probrum tyranno rebus in summis reor) inulte, post tot scelera, post fratris dolos fasque omne ruptum questibus vanis agis iratus Atrens? fremere jam totus tuis debebat armis orbis et geminum mare ntrimque classes agere, iam flammis agros lucere et urbes decuit ae strictum undique micare ferrum. tota sub nostro sonet Argolica tellus equite; non silvae tegant hostem nee altis montium structae ingis arces: relictis bellicum totus canat populus Mycenis, quisquis invisum caput tegit ac tuctur, clade funesta occidat. haec ipsa pollens incliti Pelopis domus ruat vel in me, dummodo in fratrem ruat. age, anime, fac quod nulla posteritas probet, sed nulla taceat. aliquod audendum est nefas atrox, cruentum, tale quod frater meus snum esse mallet. scelera non ulcisceris. nisi vincis. et quid esse tam saevum potest

180

⁴ Not because he failed, but because he almost succeeded 10.4

vain. When he has stretched these forth and gladly 1 has been baffled, the whole ripe harvest of the bending woods is snatched far out of reach. Then comes a raging thirst, harder to bear than hunger; when by this his blood has grown hot and glowed as with fiery torches, the poor wretch stands catching at waves that seem to approach his lips; but these the elusive water turns aside, failing in meagre shallows, and leaves him utterly, striving to pursue; then deep from the whirling stream he drinks—but dust.

ATREUS [in soliloquy]

O undaring, unskilled, unnerved, and (what in high matters I deem a king's worst reproach) yet mayenged, after so many erimes, after a brother's treacheries, and all right broken down, in idle complaints dost busy thyself—a mere wrathful Atreus? By now should the whole world be resounding with thy arms, on either side thy fleets be harrying both seas; by now should fields and cities be aglow with flames and the drawn sword be gleaming everywhere. Let the whole land of Argolis resound with our horses' tread; let no forests shelter my enemy, nor citadels, built on high mountain tops; let the whole nation leave Mycenae and sound the trump of war; and whose hides and protects that hateful head, let him die a grievous death. This mighty palace itself, illustrious Pelops' house, may it e'en fall on me, if only on my brother, too, it fall. Up! my sonl, do (what no coming age shall approve, but none forget. I must dare some crime, atrocious, bloody, such as

I must dare some crime, atrocious, bloody, such as my brother would more wish were his. Crimes thou dost not avenge, save as thou dost surpass them. And what crime can be so dire as to overtop his sin?

quod superet illum? numquid abiectus iacet? numquid secundis patitur in rebus modum, fessis quietem? novi ego ingenium viri indocile; flecti non potest—frangi potest. proinde antequam se firmat aut vires parat, petatur ultro, ne quiescentem petat. aut perdet aut peribit; in medio est scelus positum occupanti.

200

SATELLES

Fama te populi nihil

adversa terret?

ATREVS

Maximum hoc regni bonum est, quod facta domini cogitur populus sui tam ferre quam laudare.

SATELLES

Quos cogit metus laudare, eosdem reddit inimicos metus. at qui favoris gloriam veri petit, animo magis quam voce laudari volet.

210

ATREVS

Laus vera et humili saepe contingit viro, non nisi potenti falsa. quod nolunt velint.

SATELLES

Rex velit honesta: nemo non eadem volet.

ATREVS

Vbicumque tantum honesta dominanti licent, precario regnatur.

Does he lie downcast? Does he in prosperity endure control, rest in defeat? I know the untamable spirit of the man; bent it cannot be—but it can be broken. Therefore, ere he strengthen himself or marshal his powers, we must begin the attack, lest, while we wait, the attack be made on us. Slay or be slain will he; between us lies the crime for him who first shall do it.

ATTENDANT

Does public disapproval deter thee not?

ATREUS

The greatest advantage this of royal power, that their master's deeds the people are compelled as well to bear_as praise:

ATTENDANT

Whom fear compels to praise, them, too, fear makes into foes; but he who seeks the glory of true favour, will wish heart rather than voice to sing his praise.

ATREUS

True praise even to the lowly often comes; false, only to the strong. What men choose not, let them choose.

ATTENDANT

Let a king choose the right; then none will not choose the same.

ATREUS

Where only right to a monarch is allowed, sovereignty is held on sufferance.

SATELLES

Vbi non est pudor nee cura iuris sanctitas pictas fides, instabile regnum est.

ATREVS

Sanctitas pietas fides privata bona sunt; qua iuvat reges eant.

SATELLES

Nefas nocere vel malo fratri puta.

ATREVS

220

230

Fas est in illo quidquid in fratre est nefas. quid enim reliquit crimine intactum aut ubi sceleri pepercit? coningem stupro abstulit regnumque furto; specimen antiquum imperi fraude est adeptus, fraude turbavit domum. est Pelopis altis nobile in stabulis pecus, arcanus aries, ductor opulenti gregis. huius per omne eorpus effuso coma dependet auro, enius e tergo 1 novi aurata reges sceptra Tantalici gerunt; possessor huius regnat, hunc tantae domus fortuna sequitur. Tuta seposita sacer in parte carpit prata, quae claudit lapis fatale saxeo pascuum muro tegens. hune facinus ingens ausus assumpta in scelus consorte nostri perfidus thalami avehit. hine omne cladis mutuae fluxit malum: per regna trepidus exul erravi mea,

¹ Leo conjectures tracto: Wilamowitz, texto.

¹ A ram with golden fleece, whose possession, according to an oracle, guaranteed possession of the throne. See Index s.v. Thyestes.

ATTENDANT

Where is no shame, no care for right, no honour, virtue, faith, sovereignty is insecure.

ATREUS

Honour, virtue, faith are the goods of common men; let kings go where they please.

ATTENDANT

O count it wrong to harm even a wicked brother.

ATREUS

Whate'er is wrong to do unto a brother is right to do to him. For what has he left untouched by erime, or where has he failed to sin? My wife has he debauched, my kingdom stolen; the ancient token 1 of our dynasty by fraud he gained, by fraud o'erturned our house. There is within Pelops' lofty folds a lordly flock, and a wondrous ram, the rich flock's leader. O'er all his body a fleece of spun gold hangs, and from his back 2 the new-crowned kings of the house of Tantalus have their sceptres wreathed with gold. His owner rules; him does the fortune of the whole house follow. Hallowed and apart he grazes in safe meadows fenced with stone, that guards the fated pasture with its rocky wall. Him did the perfidious one,3 daring a monstrous crime, steal away, with the partner of my bed helping the sinful deed. From this source has flowed the whole evil stream of mutual destruction; throughout my kingdom have I wandered, a trembling exile; no

5 Thyestes.

² i.e. from the golden fleece upon it.

pars nulla generis tuta ab insidiis vacat, corrupta coniunx, imperi quassa est fides, domus aegra, dubius sanguis est—certi nihil 240 nisi frater hostis. quid stupes? tandem incipe animosque sume; Tantalum et Pelopem—aspice; ad haec manus exempla poscuntur meae.

Profare, dirum qua caput mactem via.

SATELLES

Ferro peremptus spiritum inimicum expuat.

ATREVS

De fine poenae loqueris; ego poenam volo. perimat tyrannus lenis; in regno meo mors impetratur.

SATELLES

Nulla te pietas movet?

ATREVS

Excede, Pietas, si modo in nostra domo unquam fuisti. dira Furiarum cohors discorsque Erinys veniat et geminas faces Megaera quatiens; non satis magno meum ardet furore pectus; impleri iuvat maiore monstro.

250

SATELLES

Quid novi rabidus struis?

ATREVS

Nil quod doloris capiat assueti modus : nullum relinquam facinus et nullum est satis.

i.ε. by which the two brothers were to reign alternately.

part of my family is safe and free from snares; my wife seduced, our pledge of empire broken, my house impaired, my offspring dubious—no one thing certain save my brother's enmity. Why standest inactive? At last begin, put on thy courage; Tantalus and Pelops—look on them; to work like theirs my hands are summoned.

²⁴⁴ Tell thou, by what means I may bring ruin on his wicked head.

ATTENDANT

Slain by the sword, let him spew forth his hateful soul.

ATREUS

Thou speakest of punishment's completion; I punishment itself desire. Let the mild tyrant slay; in my dominion death is a boon to pray for.

ATTENDANT

Does piety move thee not?

ATREUS

Be gone, O Piety, if ever in our house thou hadst a place. Let the dread band of Furies come, the fiend Discord, and Megaera, brandishing her torches twain; not great enough the frenzy with which my bosom burns; with some greater horror would I be filled.

ATTENDANT

What strange design does thy mad soul intend?

ATREUS

Naught that the measure of accustomed rage can hold; no crime will I leave undone, and no crime is enough.

SATELLES

Ferrum?

ATREVS

Parum est.

SATELLES

Quid ignis?

ATREVS

Etiamnune parum est.

960

SATELLES

Quonam ergo telo tantus utetur dolor?

ATREVS

Ipso Thyeste.

SATELLES

Maius hoc ira est malum.

ATREVS

Fateor. tumultus pectora attonitus quatit penitusque volvit; rapior et quo nescio, sed rapior. imo mugit e fundo solum, tonat dies serenus ac totis domus ut fracta tectis crepuit et moti lares vertere vultum—fiat hoc, fiat nefas quod, di, timetis.

SATELLES

Facere quid tandem paras?

ATREVS

Nescio quid anim<u>o maius et solito amplius</u> supraque fines moris humani tumet instatque pigris manibus—haud quid sit seio, 112

ATTENDANT

The sword?

ATPEUS

'Tis not enough.

ATTENDANT

Fire, then?

ATREUS

Still not enough.

ATTENDANT

What weapon, pray, will thy great anguish use?

ATREUS

Thyestes' self.

ATTENDANT

This plague is worse than passion.

ATREUS

I do confess it. A frantic tumult shakes and heaves deep my heart. I am hurried I know not whither, but I am hurried on. The ground rumbles from its lowest depths, the clear sky thunders, the whole house crashes as though 'twere rent asunder, and the trembling Lares turn away their faces—let it be done, let a deed of guilt be done whereat, O gods, ye are affrighted.

ATTENDANT

What, pray, wouldst do?

ATREUS

Some greater thing, larger than the common and beyond the bounds of human use is swelling in my soul, and it urges on my sluggish hands—I know not

ı

sed grande quiddam est. ita sit. hoc, anime, оссира. 270

dignum est Thyeste facinus et dignum Atreo; uterque faciat. vidit infandas domus Odrysia mensas—fateor, immane est scelus, sed occupatum; maius hoc aliquid dolor inveniat. animum Daulis inspira parens sororque; causa est similis; assiste et manum impelle nostram. Iliberos avidus pater gaudensque laceret et suos artus edat. bene est, abunde est. hic placet poenae modus.

Tantisper 1 ubinam est? tam diu cur innocens 280 versatur Atreus? tota iam ante oculos meos imago caedis errat, ingesta orbitas in ora patris—anime, quid rursus times et ante rem subsidis? andendum est, age! quod est in isto scelere praecipuum nefas,

hoc ipse faciet.

SATELLES

Sed quibus captus dolis nostros dabit perductus in laqueos pedem? inimica credit cuncta.

ATREVS

Non poterat capi, nisi capere vellet. regna nunc sperat mea; hae spe minanti fulmen occurret Jovi, hae spe subibit gurgitis tumidi minas dubiumque Libveae Syrtis intrabit fretum. hac spe, quod esse maximum retur malum, fratrem videbit.

290

¹ All editors punctuate modus | tantisper. ubinam est? 114

what it is, but 'tis some mighty thing. So let it be. Haste, thou, my soul, and do it. 'Tis a deed worthy of Thyestes, and of Atreus worthy; let each perform it. The Odrysian I house once saw a feast unspeakable—'tis a monstrous crime, I grant, but it has been done before; let my smart find something worse than this. Inspire my soul, O Daulian mother, aye and sister, too; my ease is like to yours; help me and urge on my hand. (Let the father with joyous greed rend his sons, and his own flesh devour. Tis well, more than enough. This way of punishment is pleasing.)

Why does Atreus so long live harmless? Already before mine eyes flits the whole picture of the slaughter; his lost children heaped up before their father's face—O soul, why dost shrink back in fear and halt before the deed? Come! thou must dare it! What is the erowning

outrage in this crime he himself shall do.

ATTENDANT

But with what wiles eaught will he be led to set foot within our snares? He counts us all enemies.

ATREUS

He could not be eaught were he not bent on catching. Even now he hopes to gain my kiugdom; in this hope he will face Jove as he brandishes his thunder-bolt, in this hope will brave the whirlpool's rage and enter the treacherous waters of the Libyan sands; in this hope (what he deems the greatest curse of all), he will see his brother.

1 i.e. Thracian. See Index. 2 Procne. 2 Philomela.

SATELLES

Quis fidem pacis dabit?

ATREVS

Credula est spes improba.

natis tamen mandata quae patruo ferant
dabimus: relictis exul hospitiis vagus
regno ut miscrias mutet atque Argos regat
ex parte dominus. si nimis durus preces
spernet Thyestes, liberos eius rudes"
malisque fessos gravibus et faciles capi
prece commovebunt. hinc vetus regni furor,
illine egestas tristis ac durus labor
quamvis rigentem tot malis subigent virum.

300

SATELLES

Iam tempus illi fecit aerumnas leves.

ATREVS

Erras; malorum sensus accrescit die. leve est miserias ferre, perferre est grave.

SATELLES

Alios ministros consili tristis lege.

ATREVS

Peiora invenes facile praecepta audiunt.

SATELLES

In patre facient quidquid in patruo doces; saepe in magistrum seelera redierunt sua.

i.e. other than Atreus' own sons.

ATTENDANT

Who will give him confidence in peace? Whose word will he so greatly trust?

ATREUS

Base hope is credulous. Still to my sons will I give a message to carry to their uncle: let the exiled wanderer quit strangers' homes, for a throne exchange his wretched state and rule at Argos, a partner of my sway. If too stubbornly Thyestes spurns my prayer, his sons, guileless and spent with hard misfortunes and easy to be entreated, will be moved. On this side, his old mad thirst for power, on that, grim want and unfeeling toil by their many woes will force the man, however stiff, to yield.

ATTENDANT

By now time has made his troubles light.

ATREUS

Not so; a sense of wrongs increases day by day. Tis easy to bear misfortune; to keep on bearing it a heavy task.

ATTENDANT

Choose other 1 agents of thy grim design.

ATREUS

To the worse schooling youth lends ready ear.

ATTENDANT

Toward their father they will act as toward their uncle thou instructest them; often upon the teacher have his bad teachings turned.

ATREVS

Vt nemo doceat fraudis et sceleris vias, regnum docebit. ne mali fiant times? nascuntur. istud quod vocas saevum asperum agique dure credis et nimium impie, fortasse et illic agitur.

SATELLES

Hanc fraudem scient

nati parari?

ATREVS

Tacita tam rudibus fides non est in annis; detegent forsan dolos; tacere multis discitur vitae malis.

SATELLES

Ipsosque per quos fallere alium cogitas falles?

ATREXS

Vt ipsi crimine et culpa vacent. quid enim necesse est liberos sceleri meos inserere? per nos odia se nostra explicent.—male agis, recedis, anime: si parcis tuis, parces et illis. consili Agamemnon mei sciens minister fiat et patri sciens Menelaus assit. prolis incertae fides ex hoc petatur scelere: si bella abnuint et gercre nolunt odia, si patruum vocant, pater est. eatur.—multa sed trepidus solet detegere vultus, magna nolentem quoque consilia produnt: nesciant quantae rei fiant ministri. nostra tu coepta occules.

330

¹ By Thyestes against Atreus.

ATREUS

Though none should teach them the ways of treachery and crime, the throne will teach them. Lest they become evil, fearest thou? They were born evil. What thou callest savage, cruel, thinkest is done ruthlessly, with no regard for heaven's law, perchance even there 1 is being done.

ATTENDANT

Shall thy sons know that this snare is being laid?

ATREUS

Silent discretion is not found in years so inexperienced; perchance they will disclose the plot; the art of silence is taught by life's many ills.

ATTENDANT

Even those by whom thou plannest to deceive another, wilt thou deceive?

ATREUS

That they themselves may be free even from blame of crime. What need to entangle my sons in guilt? By my own self let my hatred be wrought out.—Thou doest ill, thou shrinkest back, my soul. Let Agamemnon be the witting agent of my plan, and Menelaus wittingly assist his father. By this deed let their uncertain birth be put to proof: if they refuse the combat, if they will not wage the war of hate, if they plead he is their uncle, he is their sire. Let them set forth.—But a troubled countenance oft discloses much; great plans betray their bearer even against his will; let them not know of how great a matter they are the ministers. And do thou conceal my plans.

SATELLES

Haud sum monendus; ista nostro in pectore fides timorque, sed magis claudet fides.

CHORVS

340

350

360

Tandem regia nobilis, antiqui genus Inachi, fratrum composuit minas.¹

Quis vos exagitat furor, alternis dare sanguinem et sceptrum scelere aggredi? nescitis, cupidi arcium. regnum quo iaceat loco. regem non faciunt opes. non vestis Tyriae color, non frontis nota regiae, non auro nitidae fores 2; rex est qui posuit metus et diri mala pectoris, quem non ambitio inpotens et numquam stabilis favor vulgi praecipitis movet, non quidquid fodit Occidens aut unda Tagus aurea claro develuit alveo, non quidquid Libveis terit fervens area messibus, quem non concutiet cadens obliqui via fulminis, non Eurus rapiens mare ant saevo rabidus freto ventosi tumor Hadriae. quem non lancea militis,

1 Richter deletes 330 338. 2 trabes A.

ATTENDANT

No need to admonish me; both fear and loyalty shall shut them in my heart, but rather loyalty.

CHORUS

At last our noble house, the race of ancient lnachus, hath allayed the strife of brothers.

300 What madness pricks you on to shed by turns each others' blood, and by crime to gain the throne? Ye know not, for high place greedy, wherein true kingship lies. A king neither riches make, nor robes of Tyrian hue, nor crown upon the royal brow, nor doors with gold bright-gleaming; a king is he who has laid fear aside and the base longings of an evil heart: whom ambition unrestrained and the fickle tayour of the reckless mob move not, neither all the mined treasures of the West nor the golden sands which Tagus sweeps along in his shining bed, nor all the grain trod out on burning Libya's threshingfloors; whom no hurtling path of the slanting thunderbolt will shake, nor Eurus, harrying the sea, nor wind-swept Adriatic's swell, raging with cruel wave; whom no warrior's lance nor bare steel ever

non strictus domuit chalybs, qui tuto positus loco infra se videt omnia occurritque suo libens fato nec queritur mori.

370

380

390

Reges conveniant licet qui sparsos agitant Dahas, qui rubri vada litoris et gemmis mare lucidis late sanguineum tenent, aut qui Caspia fortibus recludunt iuga Sarmatis. certet Danuvii vadum audet qui pedes ingredi et (quocumque loco iacent) Seres vellere nobilesmens regnum bona possidet. nil ullis opus est equis, nil armis et inertibus telis quae procul ingerit Parthus, cum simulat fugas, admotis nihil est opus urbes sternere machinis, longe saxa rotantibus. rex est qui metuit nihil, rex est qui cupiet nihil.1 hoc regnum sibi quisque dat.

Stet quicumque volet potens aulae culmine lubrico; me dulcis saturet quies; obscuro positus loco leni perfruar otio, nullis nota Quiritibus aetas per tacitum fluat.

¹ Leo deletes lines 388, 389.

mastered; who, in safety 'stablished, sees all things beneath his feet, goes gladly to meet his fate nor grieves to die.

369 Though kings should gather themselves together, both they who vex the scattered Sevthians and they who dwell upon the Red Sea's marge, who hold wide sway o'er the blood-red main with its gleaming pearls, they who leave unguarded the Caspian heights to the bold Sarmatians; though he strive against him, who dares on foot to tread the Danube's waves 2 and (wheresoe'er they dwell,) the Serians 3 for fleeces famous—'tis the upright mind that holds true sovereignty. He has no need of horses, none of arms and the coward weapons which the Parthian hurls from far when he feigns flight, no need of engines hurling rocks, stationed to batter cities to the ground. A king is he who has no fear: a king is he who shall naught desire. Such kingdom on himself each man bestows.

³⁹¹ Let him stand who will, in pride of power, on empire's slippery height; let me be filled with sweet repose; in humble station fixed, let me enjoy untroubled ease, and, to my fellow citizens ⁴ unknown, let my life's stream flow in silence. So when my

2 i.e. the frozen surface.

¹ Because they do not fear these enemies.

² The poet here conceives of the Serians as near by Scythia.

⁴ Quirites must be taken in a general sense. Specifically, it would be impossible, since it applies only to Roman citizens, who at this time had not come into existence.

sic cum transierint mei nullo eum strepitu dies, plebeius moriar senex. illi mors gravis incubat qui, notus nimis omnibus. ignotus moritur sibi.

400

THYESTES

Optata patriae tecta et Argolieas opes miserisque summum ae maximum exulibus bonum, tractum soli natalis et patrios deos (si sunt tamen di) cerno, Cyclopum sacras turres, labore maius humano decus. celebrata iuveni stadia, per quae nobilis palmam paterno non semel curru tuli occurret Argos, populus occurret frequenssed nempe et Atreus. repete silvestres fugas saltusque densos potius et mixtam feris similemque vitam; clarus hic regni nitor; fulgore non est quod oculos falso auferat: cum quod datur spectabis, et dantem aspice. modo inter illa, quae putant cuncti aspera, fortis fui lactusque; nune contra in metus revolvor; animus haeret ac retro cupit corpus referre, moveo nolentem gradum.

410

420

TANTALVS

Pigro (quid hoc est?) genitor incessu stupet vultumque versat seque in incerto tenet.

days have passed noiselessly away, lowly may I die and full of years. On him does death lie heavily, who, but too well known to all, dies to himself nuknown.

[Enter thyestes, returning from banishment, accompanied by his three sons.]

THYESTES

At last I see the welcome dwellings of my fatherland, the wealth of Argolis, and, the greatest and best of sights to wretched exiles, a stretch of native soil and my ancestral gods (if after all gods there are), the sacred towers reared by the Cyclopes, in beauty far excelling human effort, the race-course thronged with youth, where more than once, lifted to fame, have I in my father's chariot won the palm. Argos will come to meet me, the thronging populace will come-but surely Atreus too! Rather seek again thy retreats in the forest depths, the impenetrable glades, and life shared with beasts and like to theirs: this gleaming splendour of the throne is naught that should blind my eves with its false tinsel show; when thou lookest on the gift, scan well the giver, too. Of late midst such fortune as all count hard, I was brave and joyous; but now I am returned to fears; my courage falters and, eager to go back, I move unwilling feet along.

TANTALUS [aside]

My father (what can it mean?) with faltering pace goes as if dazed, keeps turning his face away, and holds uncertain course.

THYESTES

Quid, anime, pendes quidve consilium diu tam facile torques? rebus incertissimis, fratri atque regno, credis ac metuis mala iam victa, iam mansueta et acrumnas fugis bene collocatas? esse iam miscrum iuvat. reflecte gressum, dum licet, teque cripe.

TANTALYS

Quae causa cogit, genitor, a patria gradum referre visa? cur bonis tantis sinum subducis? ira frater abiecta redit partemque regni reddit et lacerae domus eomponit artus teque restituit tibi.

430

THYESTES

Causam timoris ipse quam ignoro exigis. nihil timendum video, sed timeo tamen. placet ire, pigris membra sed genibus labant alioque quam quo nitor abductus feror. sic concitatam remige et velo ratem aestus resistens remigi et velo refert.

TANTALVS

Evince quidquid obstat et mentem impedit reducemque quanta praemia expectent vide. pater, potes regnare.

440

THYESTES

Cum possim mori.

1 i.e. made the best of by learning how to bear them.

² Blessings are being poured into his bosom and he will not receive them.

THYESTES [in soliloquy]

Why O soul, dost hesitate, or why dost so long turn o'er and o'er a plan so simple? Dost thou trust to things most unsure, to a brother and to kingship? Dost fear hardships already mastered, already easier to bear, and dost flee from distresses well employed? Tis sweet now to be wretched. Turn back, while still thou mayest, and save thyself.

TANTALUS

What cause compels thee, father, to turn thee back from sight of thy native land? Why from so great blessings dost withhold thy bosom? Thy brother returns to thee with wrath given o'er, gives thee back half the realm, unites the members of thy sundered house, and to thyself restores thee.

THYESTES

My cause of fear, which I myself know not, thou demandest of me. Naught to be feared I see, but still I fear. Fain would I go, but my limbs totter with faltering knees, and other-whither than I strive to go am I borne away in thrall. Just so a ship, urged on by oar and sail, the tide, resisting both oar and sail, bears back.

TANTALUS

O'ercome thou whate'er opposes and thwarts thy will, and see how great rewards await thee on thy return. Father, thou canst be king.

THYESTES

Yea, since I can die.3

³ The power to die is more precious than the power of kings; since, therefore, he am die, Thyestes has indeed regal power.

TANTALVS

Summa est potestas---

THYESTES

Nulla, si enpias nihil.

TANTALVS

Natis relinques.

THYESTES

Non capit regnum duos.

TANTALVS

Miser esse mayult esse qui felix potest?

THYESTES

Mihi crede, falsis magna nominibus placent, frustra timentur dura. dum excelsus steti, numquam pavere destiti atque ipsum mei ferrum timere lateris. o quantum bonum est obstare nulli, capere securas dapes humi incentem! scelera non intrant casas, tutusque mensa capitur angusta cibus; venenum in auro bibitur. expertus loquor: malam bonac pracferre fortunam licet. non vertice alti montis impositam domum ct eminentem civitas humilis tremit nec falget altis splendidum tectis ebur somnosque non defendit excubitor meos; non classibus piscamur et retro mare iacta fugamus mole nec ventrem improbum alimus tributo gentium, nullus mihi

450

TANTALUS

The height of power is-

THVESTES

Naught, if nothing thou desirest.

TANTALUS

To thy sons wilt thou bequeath it.

THYESTES

The throne admits not two.

TANTALUS

Would be wish wretchedness who can be blest?

THYESTES

False, believe me, are the titles that give greatness charm; idle our fears of hardship. While I stood high in power, never did I cease to dread, yea, to fear the very sword upon my thigh. Oh, how good it is to stand in no man's road, care-free to eat one's bread, on the ground reclining! Crime enters not lowly homes, and in safety is food taken at a slender board; poison is drunk from cups of gold. I speak that I do know: evil fortune is to be preferred to good. The lowly citizen fears no house of mine set high and threatening on a mountain top; my towering roofs flash not with gleaming ivery, no guard watches o'er my slumbers; with no fleet of boats I fish, with no piled break-water do I drive back the sea; I gorge not my vile belly at the world's expense; for me no fields are harvested beyond the Getac and

¹ Having tried both, he comes to this conclusion.

ultra Getas metatur et Parthos ager; non ture colimur nec meae excluso Iove ornantur arae; nulla culminibus meis imposita nutat silva nec fumant manu succensa multa stagna nec somno dies Bacchoque nox iungenda pervigili datur: sed non timemur, tuta sine telo est domus rebusque parvis magna praestatur quies. immane regnum est posse sine regno pati.

470

TANTALVS

Nec abnuendum, si dat imperium deus, nec appetendum est; frater ut regnes rogat.

THYESTES

Rogat? timendum est. errat hic aliquis dolus.

TANTALVS

Redire pietas unde submota est solet reparatque vires iustus amissas amor,

THYESTES

Amat Thyesten frater? aetherias prius perfundet Aretos pontus et Siculi rapax consistet aestus unda et Ionio seges matura pelago surget et lucem dabit nox atra terris, ante cum flammis aquae, cum morte vita, cum mari ventus fidem foedusque iungent.

480

TANTALVS

Quam tamen fraudem times?

THYESTES

Omnem; timori quem meo statuam modum? tantum potest quantum odit.

the Parthians; no incense burns for me, nor are my shrines adorned in neglect of Jove: no planted grove waves on my battlements, nor does many a pool heated by art steam for me; my days are not given to sleep nor are my nights linked with wakeful revelry: but I am not feared, safe without weapons is my house and to my small estate great peace is granted. "Tis a boundless kingdom,—the power without kingdoms to be content."

TANTALUS

Neither is empire to be refused if a god bestows it, nor needst thou seek it; thy brother invites thee to be king.

THYESTES

Invites? Then must I fear. Some trick strays hereabouts,

TANTALUS

Brotherly regard ofttimes returns unto the heart whence it was driven, and true love regains the vigour it has lost.

THVESTES

His brother love Thyestes? Sooner shall ocean bathe the heavenly Bears, and the devouring waves of the Sicilian tides stand still; sooner shall ripening grain spring from the Ionian sea, and dark night illume the world; sooner shall fire with water, life with death commingle, and winds join faith and treaty with the sea.

TANTALUS

And yet what treachery dost thou fear?

THVESTES

All treachery; to my fear what limit shall I set? His power is boundless as his hate.

TANTALYS

In te quid potest?

THVESTES

Pro me nihil iam metuo; vos facitis mihi Atrea timendum.

TANTALVS Decipi cautus times?

THYESTES

Serum est eavendi tempus in mediis malis; e.tur. unum genitor hoe testor tamen; ego vos sequor, non duco.

TANTALVS

Respiciet deus bene cogitata. perge non dubio gradu.

490

ATREAS

Plagis tenetur clausa dispositis fera; et ipsum et uma generis invisi indolem innetam parenti cerno. iam tuto in loco versantur odia. venit in nostras mamus tandem Thyestes, venit, et totus quidem, vix tempero animo, vix dolor frenos capit, sie, cum feras vestigat et longo sagax loro tenetur Vmber ac presso vias serutatur ore, dum procul lento suem odore sentit, paret et tacito locum

TANTALES

What power has he against thee?

THVESTES

For myself I have now no fear; 'tis you, my sons, so who make Atreus cause of dread to me.

TAXTALUS

Dost fear to be entrapped if on thy guard?

THVESTES

'Tis too late to guard when in the midst of dangers; but let us on. Yet this one thing your father doth declare: I follow you, not lead.

TANTALUS

God will protect us if we heed well our ways. With assured step haste thou on.

[Enter athees. Seeing theretes and his sons, he gloats over the fact that his brother is at last in his power.]

ATREUS [aside]

The prey is fast caught in the toils I spread; both the sire himself and, together with the sire, the offspring of his hated race I see. Now on safe footing does my hatred fare. At last has Thyestes come into my power; he has come, and the whole 1 of him! Scarce can I control my spirit, scarce does my rage admit restraint. So when the keen Umbrian hound tracks out the prey and, held on a long leash, with lowered muzzle smills out the trail, while with faint seent he perceives the boar afar, obediently and

¹ *i.e.* sons and all.

rostro pererrat; praeda eum propior fuit, cervice tota pugnat et gemitu vocat dominum morantem seque retinenti eripit. cum sperat ira sanguinem, nescit tegi; tamen tegatur. aspice, ut multo gravis squalore vultus obruat maestos eoma. quam foeda iaceat barba. praestetur fides—fratrem iuvat videre. complexus mihi redde expetitos. quidquid irarum fuit transierit; ex hoe sanguis ac pietas die colautur, animis odia damnata excidant.

510

THYESTES

Diluere possem cuneta, uisi talis fores, sed fateor, Atreu, fateor, admisi omnia quae credidisti. pessimam causam meam hodierna pictas fecit. est prorsus nocens quicumque visus tam bono fratri est nocens, lacrimis agendum est; supplicem primus vides; hae te precantur pedibus intactac manus; ponatur omnis ira et ex animo tumor crasus abeat. obsides fidei accipe hos innocentes, frater.

520

ATREVS

A genibus manum aufer meosque potius amplexus pete, vos quoque, senum praesidia, tot iuvenes, meo pendete collo.—squalidam vestem exue oculisque nostris parce et ornatus cape pares meis lactusque fraterni imperi 134

with silent tongue he scours the field; but when the game is nearer, with his whole strength of neck he struggles, loudly protests against his master's loitering, and breaks away from his restraint. When rage scents blood, it cannot be concealed; yet let it be concealed. See how his thick hair, all unkempt, covers his woeful face, how foul his beard hange down. [In bitter irony.] Now let me keep my promise. To therefore, it is sweet to see my brother once again. Give me the embrace that I have longed for. Let all our angry feelings pass away; from this day let ties of blood and love be charished and let accursed hatred vanish from our hearts.

THYESTES

I might excuse all my deeds wert thou not such as this. But I confess, Atreus, I confess that I have done all that thou believedst of me. Most foul has thy love to-day made my ease appear. Sinful indeed is he who has been proved sinful toward so good a brother. My tears must plead for me: thou art the first to see me suppliant. These hands, which have never touched man's feet, beseech thee: put away all thy wrath and let swollen anger pass from thy heart and be forgot. As pledge of my faith, O brother, take these guiltless boys.

ATREUS

From my knees remove thy hand and come rather into my embrace. And you, too, boys, all of you, comforters of age, come cling about my neck. Thy foul garments put off, spare my eyes, and put on royal trappings equal to my own, and with glad

¹ Which he had made through his sons. See t. 296.

capesse partem. maior hace laus est mea, fratri paternum reddere incolumi decus; habere regnum casus est, virtus dare.

THYESTES

Di paria, frater, pretia pro tantis tibi meritis rependant. regiam capitis notam squalor recusat noster et sceptrum manus infausta refugit. liceat in media mihi latere turba.

530

ATREVS

Recipit hoc regnum duos.

THYESTES

Meum esse credo quidquid est, frater, tuum.

ATREVS

Quis influentis dona fortunae abmit?

THYESTES

Expertus est quicumque quam facile effluant.

ATREVS

Fratrem potiri gloria ingenti vetas?

THYESTES

Tua iam peracta gloria est, restat mea; respuere certum est regna consilium mihi.

540

ATREAS

Meam relinquam, nisi tuam partem accipis.

heart share a brother's kingdom. Mine is the greater glory, to restore to a brother all unharmed ancestral dignity; [wielding of power is the work of chance, bestowing of it, virtue's.

THVESTES

May the gods, my brother, fitly repay thee for so great deserts. The kingly crown my wretched state refuses, and the sceptre my ill-omened hand rejects. Let it be mine to hide amidst the throng.

ATREUS

Our throne has room for two.

THVESTES

I count, my brother, all of thine as mine.1

ATREUS

Who puts aside inflowing fortune's gifts?

THYESTES

Whose has found how easily they cbb.

ATREUS

Dost forbid thy brother to gain great glory?

THYESTES

Thy glory is won already; mine is still to win: to refuse the throne is my fixed intent.

ATREUS

My glory must I abandon, unless thou accept thy share.

¹ But I will not take possession of it.

THYESTES

Accipio; regni nomen impositi feram, sed iura et arma servient mecum tibi.

ATREVS

Imposita capiti vincla venerando gere; ego destinatas victimas superis dabo.

CHORVS

Credat hoc quisquam? forus ille et acer nec potens mentis truculentus Atreus fratris aspectu stupefactus haesit.
nulla vis maior pietate vera est;
iurgia externis inimica durant,
quos amor verus tenuit tenebit.
ira cum magnis agitata causis
gratiam rupit cecinitque bellum,
cum leves frenis sonuere turmae,
fulsit hinc illine agitatus ensis
quem movet crebro furibundus ietu
sanguinem Mavors enpiens recentem—
opprimet ferrum manibusque iunctis
ducet ad Pacem Pietas negantes.

Otium tanto subitum e tumultu quis deus fecit? modo per Mycenas arma civilis crepuere belli; pallidae natos tenuere matres, uxor armato timuit marito, cum manum invitus sequeretur ensis, sordidus pacis vitio quietae; ille labentes renovare muros, hic situ quassas stabilire turres, ferreis portas cohibere claustris ille certabat, pavidusque pinnis anxiae noctis vigil incubabat—

570

THYESTES

<u>I</u>do accept; the name of king set on me will I wear; but unto thee shall laws and arms along with myself be subject.

ATREUS [placing the crown upon his brother's head]

This crown, set on thy reverend head, wear thon; but I the destined victims to the gods will pay. [Exii.

chonus

Such things are past belief. Atreus, there, the fierce and savage, reckless of soul and cruel, at sight of his brother stood as one amazed. There is no power stronger than true love; angry strife 'twixt strangers doth endure, but whom true love has bound 'twill bind for ever. When wrath, by great eauses roused, has burst friendship's bonds and sounded alarms of war; when fleet squadrons with ringing bridles come; when the brandished sword gleams now here, now there, which the mad god of war, thirsting for fresh-flowing blood, wields with a rain of blows,—then will Love stay the steel, and lead men, even against their will, to the clasped hands of Peace.

This sudden lull out of so great uproar what god has wrought? But now throughout Mycenae the arms of civil strife resonnded; pale mothers held fast their sons, the wife feared for her lord full armed, when to his hand came the reluctant sword, foul with the rust of peace; one strove to repair tottering walls, one to strengthen towers, crumbling with long neglect; another strove to shut gates tight with iron bars, while on the battlements the trembling guard kept watch o'er the troubled night—for worse

peior est bello timor ipse belli. iam minae saevi ceeidere ferri. iam silet murmur grave classicorum, iam tacet stridor litui strepentis; alta pax urbi revocata lactae est. sie. ubi ex alto tunnere fluctus Bruttium Coro feriente pontum, Scylla pulsatis resonat cavernis ac mare in nortu timuere nautae quod rapax haustum revomit Charybdis. et ferus Cyclops metuit parentem rupe ferventis residens in Actuae, ne superfusis violetur undis ignis aeternis resonans caminis, et putat mergi sua posse pauper regna Laertes Ithaca trementesi suae ventis cecidere vires, mitius stagno pelagus recumbit; alta, quae navis timuit secare, hine et hine fusis speciosa velis strata ludenti patuere cumbae, et vacat mersos numerare pisces hie abi ingenti modo sub procella Cyclades pontum timuere motae.

Nulla sors longa est; dolor ac voluptas invicem cedunt; brevior voluptas. ima permutat levis hora summis, ille qui donat diadema fronti, quem genu nixac tremuere gentes, cuius ad nutum posuere bella Medus et Phochi propioris Indus et Dahae Parthis equitem minati, anxius sceptrum tenet et moventes cuncta divinat metuitque easus mobiles rerum dubiumque tempus.

580

590

than war is the very fear of war. Now the sword's dire threats have fallen; now still is the deep trumpet-blare; now silent the shrill clarion's blast; deep peace to a glad city is restored. So, when the floods heave up from ocean's depths and Corus 1 lashes the Bruttian waters; when Scylla roars in her disturbed cavern, and mariners in harbour tremble at the sea which greedy Charybdis drains and vomits forth again; when the wild Cyclops. sitting on burning Actua's crag, dreads his sire's 2 rage, lest the o'erwhelming waves put out the fires that roar in immemorial furnaces; and when beggared Lacrtes thinks, while Ithaca reels beneath the shock, that his kingdom may be submerged—then. if their strength has failed the winds, the sea sinks back more peaceful than a pool; and the deep waters which the ship feared to cleave, now far and wide, studded with bellying sails, a beauteous sight, to pleasure-boats spread out their waves; and you may now count the fish swimming far below, where but lately beneath the mighty hurricane the tossed Cyclads trembled at the sea.

596 No lot endureth long; pain and pleasure, each in turn, give place; more quickly, pleasure. Lowest with highest the fickle hour exchanges. He who wears grown on brow, before whom trembling nations bend the knee, at whose nod the Medes lay down their arms, and the Indians of the nearer sun,3 and the Dahae who hurl their horse upon the Parthians. -he with anxious hand holds the sceptre, and both foresees and fears fickle chance and shifting time that

change all things.

 The North-west wind.
 Neptune.
 The sun was supposed to be nearer to the oriental nations.

Vos quibus rector maris atque terrae ius dedit magnum necis atque vitae. ponite inflatos tumidosque vultus; quidquid a vobis minor expavescit. 610 maior hoe vobis dominus minatur; omne sub regno graviore regnum est. quem dies vidit veniens superbum, hunc dies vidit fugiens iacentem. nemo confidat nimium secundis. nemo desperet meliora lapsis: miscet haec illis prohibetque Clotho stare fortunam, rotat omne fatum. nemo tam divos habuit faventes. crastinum ut posset sibi polliceri: 620 res deus nostras celeri citatas turbine versat.

NUNTIUS

Quis me per auras turbo praecipitem vehet atraque nube involvet, ut tantum nefas eripiat oculis? o domus Pelopi quoque et Tantalo pudenda!

CHORVS

Quid portas novi?

NVNTIVS

Quaenam ista regio est? Argos et Sparte, pios sortita fratres, et maris gemini premens fauces Corinthos, an feris Hister fugam praebens Alanis, an sub acterna nive 630 Hyrcana tellus an vagi passim Scythae? quis hic nefandi est conscius monstri locus?

¹ i.e. Castor and Pollux. See Phoenissae, 128.

607 O you, to whom the ruler of sea and land has given unbounded right o'er life and death, abate your inflated, swelling pride; all that a lesser subject fears from you, 'gainst you a greater lord shall threaten; all power is subject to a weightier power. Whom the rising sun lath seen high in pride, him the setting sun lath seen laid low. Let none be over-confident when fortune smiles; let none despair of better things when fortune fails. /Clotho blends weal and woe, lets no lot stand, keeps every fate a-turning. No one has found the gods so kind that he may promise to-morrow to himself. God keeps all mortal things in swift whirl turning.

[Enter Messenger breathlessly unnouncing the horror which has just been enacted behind the scenes.]

MESSENGER

What whirlwind will headlong bear me through the air and in murky cloud enfold me, that it may snatch this awful horror from my sight? O house, to Pelops even and to Tantalus a thing of shame!

CHORUS

What news bringst thou?

MESSENGER

What place is this? Is it Argos? Is it Sparta, to which fate gave loving brothers? Corinth, resting on the narrow boundary of two seas? Or the Ister, giving chance of flight to the barbarous Alani? Or the Hyreanian land 'neath its everlasting snows? Or the wide-wandering Scythians? What place is this that knows such hideous crime?

CHORVS

Effare et istud pande, quodeumque est, malum.

NUNTIUS

Si steterit animus, si metu corpus rigens remittet artus. haeret in vultu trucis imago facti! ferte me insanae procul, illo, procellae, ferte quo fertur dies hine raptus.

CHORYS

Animos gravius incertos tenes. quid sit quod horres ede et anetorem indica. non quaero quis sit, sed nter. effare ocius.

640

NVNTIVS

In arce summa Pelopiae pars est domus conversa ad austros, enius extremum latus aequale monti crescit atque urbem premit et contumacem regibus populum suis habet sub ictu; fulget hic turbae capax immane tectum, cuius auratas trabes variis columnae nobiles maculis ferunt. post ista vulgo nota, quae populi colunt, in multa dives spatia discedit domus: arcana in imo regio secessu iacet, alta vetustum valle compescens nemus, penetrale regni, nulla qua lactos solet praebere ramos arbor ant ferro coli, sed taxus et cupressus et nigra iliee obscura untat silva, quam supra eminens despectat alte quercus et vincit nemus.

CHORUS

Speak out and tell this evil, whate'er it is.

MUSSENGER

When my spirit is composed, when numbing fear lets go its hold upon my limbs. Oh, but I see it still, the picture of that ghastly deed! Bear me far hence, wild winds, oh, thither bear me whither! the vanished day is borne.

chorus

More grievously dost thou hold our minds in doubt. Tell thou what is this thing which makes thee shudder, and point out the doer of it. I ask not who it is, but which.² Speak out and quickly.

MESSENGER

On the summit of the citadel a part of Pelops' palace faces south; its farthest side rises to mountainous height, and o'erlooks the city, having beneath its menace the people, insolent to their kings. Here gleams the great hall that could contain a multitude, whose gilded architraves columns glorious with varied hues upbear. Behind this general hall, which nations throng, the gorgeous palace stretches out o'er many a space; and, deep withdrawn, there lies a secret spot containing in a deep vale an ancient grove, the kingdom's innermost retreat. Here no tree ever affords cheerful shade or is pruned by any knife; but the yew-tree and the cypress and woods of gloomy ilex-trees wave obscure, above which, towering high, an oak looks down and overtops the grove. From

i.e. to the other side of the world.

² It must be one of the two brothers.

hine auspicari regna Tantalidae solent, hine petere lapsis rebus ac dubiis opem. affixa inhaerent dona; vocales tubae fractique currus, spolia Myrtoi maris, victaeque falsis axibus pendent rotae et omne gentis facinus; hoc Phrygius loco fixus tiaras Pelopis, hic praeda hostium et de triumpho pieta barbarico chlamys.

660

Fons stat sub umbra tristis et nigra piger haeret palude; talis est dirae Stygis deformis unda quae facit caelo fidem. hine nocte caeca gemere ferales deos fama est, catenis lucus excussis sonat nlulantque manes. quidquid audire est metus illie videtur: errat antiquis vetus emissa bustis turba et insultant loco maiora notis monstra; quin tota solet micare silva flamma, et excelsae trabes ardent sine igne. saepe latratu nemus trino remugit, saepe simulaeris domus attonita magnis. nee dies sedat metum; nox propria luco est et superstitio inferum in luce media regnat. hine orantibus responsa dantur certa, cum ingenti sono laxantur advto fata et inmugit specus vocem deo solvente.

670

Quo postquam furens intravit Atreus liberos fratris trahens, ornantur arae—quis queat digne eloqui? post terga invenum nobiles religat manus

this spot the sons of Tantalus are wont to enter on their reign, here to seek aid midst calamity and doubt. Here hang their votive gifts; resounding trumpets and broken chariots, spoils of the Myrtoan Sea, and wheels o'ercome by treacherous axle-trees hang there, and memorials of the race's every crime; in this place is Pelops' Phrygian turban hung, here spoil of the enemy, and the embroidered robe, token

of triumph o'er barbarie foes.

665 A dismal spring starts forth beneath the shadow, and sluggish in a black pool creeps along; such arc the ugly waters of dread Styx, on which the gods take oath. Tis said that from this place in the dark night the gods of death make moan; with clanking chains the grove resounds, and the ghosts how mournfully. Whatever is dreadful but to hear of, there is seen; throngs of the long-since dead come forth from their ancient tombs and walk abroad. and creatures more monstrous than men have known spring from the place; nay more, through all the wood flames go flickering, and the lofty beams glow without help of fire. Oft-times the grove re-echoes with three-throated bayings; oft-times the house is affrighted with huge, ghostly shapes. Nor is terror allayed by day; the grove is a night unto itself, and the horror of the underworld reigns even at midday. From this spot sure responses are given to those who seek oracles; with thundering noise the fates are uttered from the shrine, and the cavern roars when the god sends forth his voice.

682 When to this place maddened Atreus came, dragging his brother's sons, the altars were decked—but who could worthily describe the deed? Behind their backs he fetters the youths' princely

¹ See Index s.r. "Myrtilus."

et maesta vitta capita purpurca ligat; non tura desunt, non sacer Bacchi liquor tangensque salsa victimam culter mola. servatur omnis ordo, ne tantum nefas non rite fiat.

CHORVS

Quis manum ferro admovet?

690

NVNTIVS

Ipse est sacerdos, ipse funesta prece letale carmen ore violento canit, stat ipse ad aras, ipse devotos neci contrectat et componit et ferro admovet ¹; attendit ipse—nulla pars sacri perit. lucus tremescit, tota succusso solo nutavit aula, dubia quo pondus daret ac fluctuanti similis; e laevo aethere atrum cucurrit limitem sidus trahens. libata in ignes vina mutato fluunt eruenta Bacelio, regium capiti decus bis terque lapsum est, flevit in templis ebur.

700

Movere cunctos monstra, sed solus sibi immotus Atreus constat atque ultro deos terret minantes. iamque dimissa mora adsistit aris, torvum et obliquum intuens. iciuma silvis qualis in Gangeticis inter iuvencos tigris erravit duos, utriusque praedae cupida quo primum ferat imeerta morsus (flectit hue rictus suos, illo reflectit et famem dubiam tenet), sic durus Atreus capita devota impiae speculatur irae—quem prius maetet sibi

710

¹ The full form of this technical phrase is seen in line 690.

hands and their sad brows he binds with purple fillets. Nothing is lacking, neither incense, nor sacrificial wine, the knife, the salted meal to sprinkle on the victims. The accustomed ritual is all observed, lest so great a crime be not duly wrought.

CHORUS

Who lays his hand unto the knife?

MESSENGER

Himself is priest; himself with baleful prayer chants the death-song with boisterous utterance; himself stands by the altar; himself handles those doomed to death, sets them in order and lays hand upon the knife; himself attends to all—no part of the sacred rite is left undone. The grove begins to tremble; the whole palace sways with the quaking earth, uncertain whither to fling its ponderous mass, and seems to waver. From the left quarter of the sky rushes a star, dragging a murky trail. The wine, poured upon the fire, changes from wine and flows as blood; from the king's head falls the crown twice and again, and the ivory statues in the temples weep.

763 These portent moved all, but Atreus alone, true to his purpose, stands, and e'en appals the threatening gods. And now, delay at end, he stands before the altar with lowering, sidelong glance. As in the jungle by the Ganges river a hungry tigress wavers between two bulls, eager for each prey, but doubtful where first to set her fangs (to the one she turns her jaws, then to the other turns, and keeps her hunger waiting), so does cruel Atreus eye the victims doomed by his impious wrath. He hesitates

dubitat, secunda deinde quem caede immolet. nec interest, sed dubitat et saevum scelus invat ordinare.

CHORYS

Quem tamen ferro occupat?

NUNTIUS

Primus locus (ne desse pietatem putes) avo dicatur: Tantalus prima hostia est.

CHORYS

Quo iuvenis animo, quo tulit vultu necem?

NVNTIVS

Stetit sui securus et non est preces perire frustra passus; ast illi ferus in vulnere ensem abscondit et penitus premens ingulo manum commisit: educto stetit ferro cadaver, cumque dubitasset diu, hac parte an illa caderet, in patruum cadit, tunc ille ad aras Plisthenem saevus trahit adicitque fratri; colla percussa amputat; cervice caesa truncus in pronum ruit, querulum cucurrit murmure incerto caput.

CHORYS

Quid deinde gemina caede perfunctus facit? puerone pareit an scelus sceleri ingerit?

736

within himself whom first to slay, whom next to sacrifice by the second stroke. It matters not, but still he hesitates, and gloats over the ordering of hisavage crime.

CHORUS

Whom, for all that, does he first attack with the steel?

MESSENGER

The place of honour (lest you doen him lacking in reverence) to his grandsire i is allotted—Tantalus is the first victim.

CHORUS

With what spirit, with what countenance bore the lad his death?

MESSENGER

Careless of self he stood, nor did he plead, knowing such prayer were vain; but in his wound the savage buried the sword and, deep thrusting, joined hand with throat. The sword withdrawn, the corpse still stood erect, and when it had wavered long whether here or there to fall, it fell upon the uncle. Then Plisthenes to the altar did that butcher drag and set him near his brother. His head with a blow he severed; down fell the body when the neck was smitten, and the head rolled away, grieving with murmur inarticulate.

CHORUS

What did he then after the double murder? Did he spare one boy, or did he heap crime on crime?

 $^{-1}$ i.e. the boy, Tantalus, is named after his grandfather. This "place of honour" is a ghastly jest.

NUNTIVS

Silva iubatus qualis Armenia leo in caede multa victor armento incubat (cruore rictus madidus et pulsa fame non ponit iras; hinc et hinc tauros premens vitulis minatur dente iam lasso piger)—non aliter Atreus saevit atque ira tumet, ferrumque gemina caede perfusum tenens, oblitus in quem fureret, infesta manu exegit ultra corpus; ac pueri statim pectore receptus ensis in tergo exstitit. cadit ille et aras sanguine extinguens suo per utrunque vulnus moritur.

740

CHORVS

O saevum scelus!

NVNTIVS

Exhorruistis? hactenus si stat nefas, pius est.

CHORVS

An ultra maius aut atrocius natura recipit?

NUNTIUS

Sceleris hunc finem putas?

gradus est.

CHORVS

Quid ultra potuit? obiecit feris lanianda forsan corpora atque igne arcuit?

NANTIVS

Vtinam arcuisset! ne tegat functos humus nec solvat ignis! avibus epulandos licet

MESSENGER

E'en as a maned lion in the Armenian woods with much slaughter falls victorious on the herd (his jaws reck with gore, and still, though hunger is appeased, he rages on; now here, now there charging the bulls, he threatens the ealves, sluggishly now and with weary fangs)—not otherwise Atreus raves and swells with wrath and, still grasping his sword drenched with double slaughter, scarce knowing 'gainst whom he rages, with deadly hand he drives clean through the body: and the sword, entering the boy's breast, straightway stood out upon his back. He falls and, staining the altar with his blood, dies by a double wound.

CHORUS

Oh, savage crime!

MESSENGER

Are you so horror-stricken? If only the crime stops there, 'tis piety.

CHORUS

Does nature admit crime still greater or more dread?

MESSENGER

Crime's limit deemst thou this? 'Tis the first step of crime.

CHORUS

What further could be do? Did be perchance throw the bodies to the beasts to tear, and refuse them fire?

MESSENGER

Would that he had refused! I pray not that earth cover or fire consume the dead! He may give them to the birds to feast upon, may drag them out as a

ferisque triste pabulum saevis trahat votum est sub hoc quod esse supplicium soletpater insepultos spectet! o nullo scelus credibile in aevo quodque posteritas negeterepta vivis exta pectoribus tremunt spirantque venae corque adhuc pavidum salit. at ille fibras tractat ac fata inspicit et adhue calentes viscerum venas notat.

Postquam hostiae placuere, seeurus vacat iam fratris epulis. ipse divisum secat in membra corpus, amputat trunco tenus umeros patentes et lacertoram moras, denudat artus durus atque ossa amputat; tantum ora servat et datas fidei manus. haec veribus haerent viscera et lentis data stillant caminis, illa flammatus latex candente aeno iactat. impositas dapes transiluit ignis inque trepidantes focos bis ter regestus et pati iussus moram invitus ardet. stridet in veribus iecur; nee facile dicam corpora an flammae magis gemuere. piceos ignis in fumos abit; et ipse fumus, tristis ac nebula gravis, non rectus exit seque in excelsum levatipsos penates nube deformi obsidet.

O Phoebe patiens, fugeris retro licet medioque ruptum merseris caelo diem, sero oecidisti. lancinat natos pater artusque mandit ore funesto suos; nitet fluente madidus unguento comam gravisque vino; saepe praeclusae cibum tenuere fauces. in malis unum hoc tuis 154

760

770

ghastly meal for ravenous beasts—oh, after what befell, one might pray for what is oft held punishment—unburied may the father gaze upon his sons! O erime incredible to any age, which coming generations will deny—torn from the still living breasts the vitals quiver: the lungs still breathe and the fluttering heart still beats. (But he handles the organs and enquires the fates, and notes the markings of the still warm entrails.

759 When with the victims he has satisfied himself. he is now free to prepare his brother's banquet. With his own hands he cuts the body into parts, severs the broad shoulders at the trunk, and the retarding arms, heartlessly strips off the flesh and severs the bones; the heads only he saves, and the hands that had been given to him in pledge of faith. Some of the flesh is fixed on spits and, set before slow fires, hangs dripping; other parts boiling water tosses in heated kettles. The fire overleaps the feast that is set before it and, twice and again thrown back upon the shuddering hearth and forced to tarry there, burns grudgingly. The liver sputters on the spits; nor could I well say whether the bodies or the flames made more complaint. The fire dies down in pitchy smoke; and the smoke itself, a gloomy and heavy smudge, does not rise straight up and lift itself in air—upon the household gods themselves in disfiguring cloud it settles.

776 O all-enduring Phoebus, though thou didst shrink afar, and in mid-sky didst bury the darkened day, still thou didst set too late. The father rends his sons and with baleful jaws chews his own flesh; with hair dripping with liquid nard he sits resplendent, heavy with wine; oft-times the food sticks in his choking gullet. In the midst of these thy woes,

bonum est. Thyesta, quod mala ignoras tua. sed et hoc peribit. verterit currus licet sibi ipse Titan obvium ducens iter tenebrisque facinus obruat tetrum novis nox missa ab ortu tempore alieno gravis, tamen videndum est. tota patefient mala.

CHORVS

790

800

810

Quo terrarum superumque parens, cuius ad ortus noctis opacae decus omne fugit, quo vertis iter medioque diem perdis Olympo? cur. Phoebe, tuos rapis aspectus? nondum serae nuntius horae nocturna vocat lumina Vesper; nondum Hesperiae flexura rotae jubet emeritos solvere currus; nondum in noctem vergente die tertia misit bucina signum: stupet ad subitae tempora cenae nondam fessis bubus arator. quid te aetherio pepulit cursu? quae causa tuos limite eerto deiecit equos : numquid aperto carecre Ditis victi temptant bella Gigantes? numquid Tityos pectore fesso renovat veteres sancius iras? num rejecto latus explienit monte Typhocus? numquid struitur via Phlegraeos alta per hostes et Thessalieum Thressa premitur Pelion Ossa?

i.e. the day's. i.e. in mid-heaven, at noon.

Thyestes, this only good remains, that thou knowest not thy woes. But even this will perish. Though Titan himself should turn his chariot back, taking the opposite course; though heavy night, rising at dawn and at another's 1 time, with strange shadows should bury this ghastly deed, still it must out. There is no sin but it shall be revealed.

[Unnatural darkness has settled over the world.]

CHORUS

Whither, O father of the lands and skies, before whose rising thick night with all her glories flees, whither dost turn thy course and why dosi blot out the day in mid-Olympus? ² Why, O Phoebus, dost snatch away thy face? Not yet does Vesper, twilight's messenger, summon the fires of night; not vet does thy wheel, turning its western goal, bid free thy steeds from their completed task; not yet as day fades into night has the third trump sounded; 3 the ploughman with oxen yet imwearied stands amazed at his supper-hour's quick coming. What has driven thee from thy heavenly course? What cause from their fixed track has turned aside thy horses? the prison-house of Dis thrown wide and are the conquered Giants again essaying war? Doth sorewounded Tityos renew in his weary breast his ancient wrath? Has Typhoens thrown off the mountainous mass and set his body free? Is a highway being built by the Phlegraean 1 foe, and does Thessalian Pelion press on Thracian Ossa?

i.e. the Giants, so called from Phlegra, a valley in Thrace,

where started their battle against the gods.

³ The Greek day was divided into three parts of four hours each. The third trump sounding would indicate the beginning of day's last third.

Solitae mundi periere vices; nihil oecasus, nihil ortus erit. stupet Eoos, assueta deo tradere frenos genetrix primae roscida lucis, perversa sui limina regni; nescit fessos tinguere currus nee fumantes sudore iubas mergere ponto. ipse insueto novus hospitio Sol Auroram videt occiduus. tenebrasque inbet surgere nondum nocte parata. non succedunt astra nee ullo micat igne polus, non Luna graves digerit umbras. Sed quidquid id est, utinam nox sit! trepidant, trepidant pectora magno

percussa metu: ne fatali cuncta ruina quassata labent iterumque deos hominesque premat deforme chaos, iterum terras et mare cingens et vaga picti sidera mundi natura tegat. non aeternae facis exortu dux astrorum saccula ducens dabit aestatis brumaeque notas, non Phoebeis obvia flammis demet nocti Luna timores vincetque sui fratris habenas, curvo brevius limite currens. ibit in unum congesta sinum turba deorum. hic qui sacris pervius astris secat obliquo tramite zonas

flectens longos signifer annos, lapsa videbit sidera labens; 840

830

813 Heaven's accustomed alternations are no more: no setting, no rising shall there be again. The dewy mother 1 of the early dawn, wont to hand o'er to the god his morning reins, looks in amaze upon the disordered threshold of her kingdom; she is not skilled 2 to bathe his weary chariot, nor to plunge his steeds, recking with sweat, beneath the sea. Startled himself at such unwonted welcoming, the sinking sun beholds Aurora, and bids the shadows arise. though night is not yet ready. No stars come out: the heavens gleam not with any fires: no moon dispels the darkness' heavy pall.

827 But whatever this may be, would that night were here! Trembling, trembling are our hearts, sore smit with fear, lest all things fall shattered in fatal ruin and once more gods and men be o'crwhelmed by formless chaos; lest the lands, the encircling sea. and the stars that wander in the spangled sky, nature blot ont once more. No more by the rising of his quenchless torch shall the leader of the stars, guiding the procession of the years, mark off the summer and the winter times; no more shall Lana, reflecting Phoebus' rays, dispel night's terrors, and outstrip her brother's reins, as in scantier space 3 she speeds on her circling path. Into one abyss shall fall the heaped-up throng of gods. The Zodiac, which, making passage through the sacred stars, crosses the zones obliquely, guide and sign-bearer for the slowmoving years, falling itself, shall see the fallen

¹ Aurora.

² As is Tethys of the western sea. ³ i.e. her monthly orbit.

bie qui nondum vere benigno reddit Zephyro vela tepenti, Aries praeceps ibit in undas, 850 per quas pavidam vexerat Hellen; hie qui nitido Taurus cornu praefert Hyadas, secum Geminos trahet et curvi bracchia Cancri; Leo flammiferis aestibus ardens iterum e caclo eadet Herculens. cadet in terras Virgo relictas iustaeque cadent pondera Librae secumque trahent Scorpion acrem; et qui nervo tenet Haemonio 860 pinnata senex spicula Chiron, rupto perdet spicula nervo; pigram referens hiemem gelidus eadet Aegoceros frangetque tuam, quisquis es, urnam; tecum excedent ultima caeli sidera Pisces. Plostraque numquam perfusa mari merget condens omnia gurges; et qui medias dividit Vrsas, fluminis instar lubricus Anguis, 870 magnoque minor inucta Draconi frigida duro Cynosura gelu, custosque sui tardus planstri iam non stabilis ruct Arctophylax,

¹ This lion and other monsters were said to have fallen from the moon.

² Astraea. See Index.

³ Chiron is Sagittarius in the constellations of the Zodiac.

⁴ Capricorms.

⁵ A reference to the Zodiacal sign, Aquarius, the "Waterman," concerning whose identity ancient authorities have not agreed.

constellations; the Ram, who, ere kindly spring has come, gives back the sails to the warm West-wind, headlong shall plunge into the waves o'er which he had borne the trembling Helle; the Bull, who before him on bright horns bears the Hyades, shall drag the Twins down with him and the Crab's wideeurving claws; Alcides' Lion, with burning heat inflamed, once more 1 shall fall down from the sky; the Virgin ² shall fall to the earth she once abandoned, and the Scales of justice with their weights shall fall and with them shall drag the fierce Scorpion down; old Chiron,3 who sets the feathered shafts upon Haemonian chord, shall lose his shafts from the snapped bowstring; the frigid Goat 4 who brings back sluggish winter, shall fall and break thy urn, whoe'er thou 5 art; with thee shall fall the Fish, last of the stars of heaven, and the Wain,6 which was ne'er bathed by the sea, shall be plunged beneath the all-engulfing waves; the slippery Serpent which, gliding like a river, separates the Bears, shall fall, and icy Cynosura, the Lesser Bear, together with the Dragon vast, congcaled with cold; and that slowmoving driver of his wain, Arctophylax, no longer fixed in place, shall fall,

6 Otherwise known as the "Bear." The constellation is unfortunately named here, since there was no mythological reason why the Wain should not be bathed in the Ocean, as was the case with the Bear.

⁷ Seneca badly mixes his mythology here. Aretophylax. the "bear-keeper," is appropriate only if the Bear is mentioned in his connection; he should be Bootes if the com-

panion constellation is thought of as the Wain.

Nos e tanto visi populo digni premeret quos everso cardine mundus? in nos actas ultima venit? o nos dura sorte creatos, seu perdidimus solem miseri, sive expulimus! abeant questus, discede, timor! vitae est avidus quisquis non vult mundo secum pereunte mori.

880

ATREVS

Aequalis astris gradior et cunetos super altum superbo vertice attingens polum. nunc decora regni teneo, nunc solium patris. dimitto superos; summa votorum attigi. bene est, abunde est, iam sat est etiam mihi. sed eur satis sit? pergam et impleto patre 1 890 funere suorum.2 ne quid obstaret pudor, dies recessit. perge dum caelum vacat. utinam quidem tenere fugientes deos possem et coactos trahere, ut ultricem dapem omnes viderent! quod sat est, videat pater. etiam die nolente discutiam tibi tenebras, miseriae sub quibus latitant tuae. nimis din conviva securo jaces hilarique vultu, iam satis mensis datum est satisque Baccho; somio tanta ad mala opus est Thyeste.

900

Turba famularis, fores templi relaxa, festa patefiat domus.

¹ So L. Müller, followed by Richter: MSS. implebo patrem. 2 Leo deletes lines 890b, 891a.

¹ Probably referring to the golden ram. See Il. 223 ff.

² i.e. I need make no more prayers to them.

875 Have we of all mankind been deemed deserving that heaven, its poles uptorn, should overwhelm us? In our time has the last day come? Alas for us, by bitter fate begotten, to misery doomed, whether we have lost the sun or banished it! Away with lamentations, begone, O fear! Greedy indeed for life is he who would not die when the world is perishing in his company.

[Enter ATREUS, exulting.]

ATREUS

Peer of the stars I move, and, towering over all, touch with proud head the lofty heavens. Now the glory 1 of the realm I hold, now my father's throne. I release the gods,² for the utmost of my prayers have I attained. 'Tis well, 'tis more than well, now 'tis enough even for me. But why enough? Nav. I will go forward, e'en though the father is full-fed with his dead sons.3 That shame might not hold me back, day has departed. On! while heaven is tenantless. O that I might stay the fleeing deities,4 might force and draw them hither that they all might see the avenging feast! But 'tis enough if but the father see. Even though daylight refuse me aid, I'll dispel the darkness from thee, beneath which thy wees are lurking. Too long thou liest at feast with care-free and cheerful countenance; now enough time has been given to tables, enough to wine; for such monstrous ills there needs Thyestes sober. [To the slaves.] Ye menial throng, open the temple doors, let the banquet-hall be disclosed. 'Tis

³ The horror of the draught of blood and wine is still to follow.

⁴ i.e. the stars which have fled in horror from the sky.

libet videre, capita natorum intuens quos det colores, verba quae primus dolor effundat aut ut spiritu expulso stupens corpus rigescat. fructus hie operis mei est. miserum videre nolo, sed dum fit miser.

Aperta multa tecta confucent face.
resupinus ipse purpurae atque auro incubat,
vino gravatum fulciens laeva caput.
eructat. o me caelitum excelsissimum,
regum atque regem! vota transcendi mea.
satur est, capaci ducit argento merum—
ne parce potu; restat etiamnunc cruor
tot hostiarum; veteris hunc Bacchi color
abscondet. hoc, hoc mensa cludatur scypho.
mixtum suorum sanguinem genitor bibat;
meum bibisset. ecce, iam cantus ciet
festasque voces nec satis menti imperat.

THVESTES

Pectora longis hebetata malis, iam sollicitas ponite curas. fugiat maeror fugiatque pavor, fugiat trepidi comes exilii tristis egestas rebusque gravis pudor afflictis; magis unde cadas quam quo refert. magnum, ex alto culmine lapsum stabilem in plano figere gressum; magnum, ingenti

910

sweet to note, when he sees his children's heads, what hue his cheeks display, what words his first grief pours forth, how his body, breathless with the shock, grows stiff. This is the fruit of all my toil. To see him wretched I care not, but to see the wretchedness come upon him.

[The doors are thrown open, showing thevestes at the banquet-table.]

908 The open hall with many a torch is gleaming. There he himself reclines at full length on gold and purple, propping his wine-heavy head on his left hand. He belches with content. Oh, most exalted of the gods am I, and king of kings! I have o'ertopped my hopes. His meal is done; from the great silver cup he quaffs the wine—spare not thy drinking; there still remains the blood of all the victims, and this the colour of old wine will well disguise. With this, this goblet let the meal be done. His sons' mingled blood let the father drink; he would have drunk my own. Lo, now he raises his joyons voice in song, nor well controls his spirit.

[THYESTES sits alone at the banquet-table, half overcome nith nine; he tries to sing and be gay, but, in spite of this, some vague premonition of cril weighs upon his spirits.]

THYESTES

O heart, dulled with long miseries, now put aside anxious cares. Away with grief, away with terror, away with bitter want, the companion of hunted exiles, and shame that weighs heavy on misfortune; more matters it whence thou fallest, than to what. "Tis a great thing, when fall'n from a lofty pinnacle, to set foot firmly on the plain; great, midst the

strage malorum pressum fracti pondera regni non inflexa 930 cervice pati nec degenerem victumque malis reetum impositas ferre ruinas. sed iam saevi nubila fati pelle ae miseri temporis omnes dimitte notas; redeant vultus ad laeta boni, veterem ex animo mitte Thyesten. Proprium hoe miseros sequitur vitium, numquam rebus credere laetis; redeat felix fortuna licet. 940 tamen afflictos gaudere piget. quid me revocas festumque vetas celebrare diem, quid flere iubes,

quid me revocas festumque vetas celebrare diem, quid flere iubes, nulla surgens dolor ex causa? quid me prohibes flore decenti vincire comam? prohibet, prohibet vernae capiti fluxere rosae, pingui madidus crinis amomo inter subitos stetit horrores, imber vultu nolente cadit, venit in medias voces gemitus. maeror lacrimas amat assuetas, flendi miseris dira cupido est. libet infaustos mittere questus, libet et Tyrio saturas ostro rumpere vestes, ululare libet. mittit luctus signa futuri

950

960

mens, ante sui praesaga mali; instat nautis fera tempestas, cum sine vento tranquilla tument. quos tibi luctus quosve tumultus fingis, demens? eredula praesta pectora fratri. iam, quidquid id est,

ruins of huge and crushing woes, with unbending neck to endure a wrecked kingdom's weight, and with soul heroic, by woes unconquered, erect to bear the burden of misfortune. But now, banish the clouds of bitter fate, and remove all marks of those unhappy days; greet present happiness with joyful countenance, and dismiss the old Thyestes from thy thoughts.

938 But this peculiar failing dogs the wretched, never to believe that happiness is here; though lucky fortune come again, still they who have suffered find it hard to smile. Why dost restrain me and oppose my celebration of this joyful day? Why dost bid me weep, O grief, that rises from no cause? Why dost forbid with beauteous flowers to wreathe my hair? It forbids, it does forbid! The spring roses have fallen from my head; my hair, dripping with precious nard, has started up in sudden horror, a rain of tears falls down my unwilling cheeks, and in the midst of speech comes groaning. Grief loves her accustomed tears, and to the wretched comes an ominous desire for weeping. Even so, I long to utter ill-omened lamentation, I long to rend these garments, rich dyed with Tyrian purple, I long to shriek aloud. My mind gives warnings of distress at hand, presaging its own woe; oft does a fierce storm draw nigh to mariners, when without wind the tranquil waters heave. What distresses, what upheavals dost thou imagine for thyself, thou fool? Let thy heart trust thy brother. Already, whate'er it be, either

vel sine causa vel sero times.
nolo infelix, sed vagus intra
terror oberrat, subitos fundunt
oculi fletus, nec causa subest.
dolor an metus est? an habet lacrimas
magna voluptas?

ATREVS

Festum diem, germane, consensu pari celebremus; hic est, sceptra qui firmet mea solidamque pacis alliget certae fidem.

970

THYESTES

Satias dapis me nec minus Bacchi tenet. augere cumulus hic voluptatem potest, si cum meis gaudere felici datur.

ATREVS

Hic esse natos crede in amplexu patris; hic sunt eruntque; nulla pars prolis tuae tibi subtrahetur. ora quae exoptas dabo totumque turba iam sua implebo patrem. satiaberis, ne metue. nune mixti meis iucunda mensae sacra iuvenilis colunt; sed accientur. poculum infuso cape gentile Baccho.

980

THYESTES

Capio fraternae dapis donum; paternis vina libentur deis, tune hauriantur.—sed quid hoe; nolunt manus parere, crescit pondus et dextram gravat; admotus ipsis Baechus a labris fugit

causelessly or too late thou fearest. I would fain not be unhappy, but within me vague terror wanders, sudden tears pour from mine eyes, and all for naught. Is it from grief or fear? Or doth great joy hold tears?

ATREUS

[advancing to his brother with show of effusive affection]

With mutual accord, brother, let us keep this festal day; this is the day which shall make strong my sceptre and bind firm the bonds of peace assured.

THYESTES [pushing the remains of the feast from him]

I have had my fill of food, and no less of wine. My pleasure by this crowning joy can be increased, if with my sons I may share my happiness.

ATREUS

Be sure that here, in their father's bosom, are thy sons;—here now, and here shall be; no one of thy children shall be taken from thee. The faces which thou desirest will I give, and wholly with his family will I fill the sire. Thou shalt be satisfied, have no fear of that. Just now, in company with my own, at the children's table, they are sharing the joyful feast; but I will summon them. Take thou this cup, an heirloom, filled with wine.

THVESTES

I accept this bounty of my brother's feast; let wine be poured to our ancestral gods, and then be quaffed. —But what is this? My hands refuse their service, and the cup grows heavy and weighs down my hand; the lifted wine recoils from my very lips; around my

circaque rictus ore decepto fluit et ipsa trepido mensa subsiluit solo. vix lucet ignis; ipse quin aether gravis inter diem noctemque desertus stupet. quid hoc? magis magisque concussi labant convexa caeli; spissior densis coit caligo tenebris noxque se in noctem addidit; fugit omne sidus. quidquid est, fratri precor natisque parcat, omnis in vile hoc caput abeat procella. redde iam natos mihi!

990

ATREVS

Reddam, et tibi illos nullus eripiet dies.

THYESTES

Quis hic tumultus viscera exagitat mea? quid tremuit intus? sentio impatiens onus meumque gemitu non meo pectus gemit. adeste, nati, genitor infelix vocat, adeste. visis fugiet hic vobis dolor—unde oblocuntur?

1000

ATREVS

Expedi amplexus, pater; venere.—natos ecquid agnoscis tuos?

THVESTES

Agnosco fratrem. sustines tantum nefas gestare, Tellus? non ad infernam Styga tenebrasque mergis rupta et ingenti via

¹ Time itself, as indicated by the heavens, is in suspense. 170

gaping jaws, cheating my mouth, it flows, and the very table leaps up from the trembling floor. The lights burn dim; nay, the very heavens, grown heavy, stand in amaze 'twixt day and night,' deserted.² What next? Now more, still more the vault of the shattered sky is tottering; a thicker gloom with dense shades is gathering, and night has hidden away in a blacker night; every star is in full flight. Whate'er it is, I beg it may spare my brother and my sons, and may the storm break with all its force on this vile head. Give back now my sons to me!

ATREUS

I will give them back, and no day shall tear them from thee. [Exit.

THVESTES

What is this tumult that disturbs my vitals? What trembles in me? I feel a load that will not suffer me, and my breast groans with a groaning that is not mine. O come, my sons, your unhappy father calls you, come; this pain will pass away at the sight of you—whence come their reproachful voices?

[Re-enter atreus with a covered platter in his hands.]

ATREUS

Now, father, spread out thine arms; they are here. [He uncovers the plutter, revealing the severed heads of the things of the sons.] Dost recognize thy sons?

THVESTES

I recognize my brother. Canst thou endure, O Earth, to bear a crime so monstrous? Why dost not burst asunder and plunge thee down to the infernal

² i.e. by sun, moon, and stars.

ad chaos inane regna cum rege abripis? non tota ab imo tecta convellens solo vertis Mycenas? stare circa Tantalum uterque iam debuimus. hine compagibus et hine revulsis, si quid infra Tartara est avosque nostros, hue tuam inmani sinu demitte vallem nosque defossos tege Acheronte toto. noxiae supra caput animae vagentur nostrum et ardenti freto Phlegethon harenas igneus totas agens exilia supra nostra violentus fluat—immota tellus pondus ignavum iacet, fugere superi.

1020

1010

ATREVS

Iam accipe hos potius libens din expetitos. nulla per fratrem est mora; fruere, osculare, divide amplexus tribus.

THVESTES

Hoc foedus? hace est gratia, hace fratris fides? sic odia ponis? non peto, incolumes pater natos ut habeam; scelere quod salvo dari odioque possit, frater hoc fratrem rogo: sepelire liceat. redde quod cernas statim uri; nihil te genitor habiturus rogo, sed perditurus.

ATREVS

Quidquid c natis tuis 1030 superest habes, quodeumque non superest habes.

Stygian shades and, by a huge opening to void chaos, snatch this kingdom with its king away? Why dost not raze this whole palace to the very ground, and overturn Mycenae? We should both of us long since have been with Tantalus. Rend asunder thy prisonbars on every side, and if there is any place 'neath Tartarus and our grandsires,' thither with huge abyss let down thy chasm and hide us buried beneath all Acheron. Let guilty souls wander above our head, and let fiery Phlegethon, with glowing flood downpouring all his sands, flow tempestuous above our place of exile—but the earth lies all unmoved, an insensate mass; the gods have fled away.

ATREUS

Now, rather, take these with joy, whom thou hast so long desired. Thy brother delays thee not; enjoy them, kiss them, divide thy embraces 'mougst the three.

THVESTES

Is this thy bond? Is this thy grace, this thy fraternal pledge? Thus puttest thou hate away? I do not ask that I, a father, may have my sons unharmed; what can be granted with crime and hate intact, this I, a brother, of a brother ask: that I may bury them. Give me back what thou mayst see burned at once. The father asks naught of thee with hopes of having, but of losing it.

ATREUS

Whatever of thy sons is left, thou hast; whatever is not left, thou hast.

¹ He means Tantalus alone, using the plural for the singular by enallage.

THYESTES

Vtrumne saevis pabulum alitibus iacent, an beluis servantur, an pascunt feras?

ATREVS

Epulatus ipse es impia natos dape.

THYESTES

Hoe est deos quod puduit, hoc egit diem aversum in ortus. quas miser voces dabo questusque quos ? quae verba sufficient mihi? abscisa cerno capita et avulsas manus et rupta fractis cruribus vestigiahoc est quod avidus capere non potuit pater. 1040 volvuntur intus viseera et clusum nefas sine exitu luctatur et quaerit fugam. da, frater, ensem (sanguinis multum mei habet ille); ferro liberis detur via. negatur ensis? pectora inliso sonent contusa planctu-sustine, infelix, manum, parcamus umbris. tale quis vidit nefas? quis inhospitalis Caucasi rupem asperam Heniochus habitans quisve Cecropiis metus terris Procrustes? genitor en natos premo 1050 premorque natis-sceleris est aliquis modus?

ATREVS

Sceleri modus debetur ubi facias scelus, non ubi reponas. hoc quoque exiguum est mihi. ex vulnere ipso sanguinem calidum in tua defundere ora debui, ut viventium biberes cruorem—verba sunt irae data

THYESTES

Do they lie a prey for the wild birds? Are they reserved for mousters? Are they food for beasts?

ATREUS

Thyself hast feasted on thy sons, an impious meal.

THVESTES

'Twas this that shamed the gods; this drove the day back against its dawning. What cries in my misery shall I utter, what complaints? What words will suffice for me? I see the severed heads, the torn-off hands, the feet wrenched from the broken legs—this much the father, for all his greed, could not devour. Their flesh is turning round within me, and my imprisoned crime struggles vainly to come forth and seeks way of escape. Give me thy sword, O brother, the sword recking with my blood; by the steel let deliverance be given to my sons. Dost refuse the sword? Then let my breast resound, bruised by crushing blows—hold thy hand, unhappy man, let us spare the shades. Who ever beheld such crime? What Heniochian, dwelling on wild Caucasus' rough rocks, or what Procrustes, terror of the Cecropian land? Lo, I, the father, overwhelm my sons, and by my sons am overwhelmed—of crime is there no limit?

ATREUS

Crime should have limit, when the crime is wrought, not when repaid. E'en this is not enough for me. Straight from the very wound I should have poured the hot blood down thy throat, that thou mightst drink gore of thy living sons—my wrath was cheated

1060

1070

1080

dum propero. ferro vulnera impresso dedi, cecidi ad aras, caede votiva focos placavi et artus, corpora exanima amputans, in parva carpsi frusta et haec ferventibus demersi aenis, illa lentis ignibus stillare iussi. membra nervosque abscidi viventibus, gracilique traiectas veru mugire fibras vidi et aggessi manu mea ipse flammas. omnia haec melius pater fecisse potuit, cecidit in cassum dolor: scidit ore natos impio, sed nesciens, sed nescients!

THYESTES

Clausa litoribus vagis audite maria, vos quoque audite hoc scelus, quocumque, di, fugistis; audite inferi, audite terrae, Noxque Tartarea gravis et atra nube, vocibus nostris vaca (tibi sum relictus, sola tu miserum vides, tu quoque sine astris), vota non faciam improba, pro me nihil precabor—et quid iam potest pro me esse? vobis vota prospicient mea. tu, summe caeli rector, aetheriae potens dominator aulae, nubibus totum horridis convolve mundum, bella ventorum undique committe et omni parte violentum iutona, manuque 1 non qua tecta et immeritas domos telo petis minore, sed qua montium tergemina moles cecidit et qui montibus stabant pares Gigantes,—hace arma expedi

¹ So A: Leo, with E, manumque.

by my haste. With the deep-driven sword I smote them; I slew them at the altars; with their offered blood I appeased the sacred fires; hewing their lifeless bodies, into small scraps I tore them, and some into boiling cauldrons did I plunge, and some before slow fires I set to drip. Their limbs and sinews I rent asunder while still they lived, and their livers, transfixed on slender spits and sputtering I saw, and with my own hand I fed the flames. All these things better the father might have done; my grief has fallen fruitless; with impious teeth he tore his sons, but unwittingly, but them unwitting.

THYESTES

Hear, O ve seas, by shifting shores imprisoned, and ve, too, hear this crime, whithersoever you have fled. ye gods; hear, lords of the underworld; hear, lands, and Night, heavy with black, Tartarean fogs, give car unto my eries; (to thee am I abandoned, thou only lookest on my woe, thou also forsaken of the stars:) no wicked pleas will I make, naught for myself implore—and what now can I ask in my own behalf? For you? shall my prayers be offered. O thou, exalted ruler of the sky, who sittest in majesty upon the throne of heaven, enwrap the whole universe in awful clouds, set the winds warring on every hand, and from every quarter of the sky let the loud thunders roll: not with what hand thou seekest houses and undeserving homes, using thy lesser bolts. but with that hand by which the threefold mass of mountains fell, and the Giants, who stood level with

² i.e. the gods of heaven, who have fled from the sight of crime, and whom he now addresses.

177

Atreus would have had both father and sons conscious of what they did and suffered.

ignesque torque. vindica amissum diem, iaculare flammas, lumen ereptum polo fulminibus exple. causa, ne dubites diu, utriusque mala sit; si minus, mala sit mea: me pete, trisulco flammeam telo facem per pectus hoc transmitte. si natos pater humare et igni tradere extremo volo, ego sum cremandus. si nihil superos movet nullumque telis impios numen petit, aeterna nox permaneat et tenebris tegat inmensa longis scelera. nil, Titan, queror, si perseveras.

1090

ATREVS

Nunc meas laudo manus, nunc parta vera est palma. perdideram scelus, nisi sic doleres. liberos nasci mihi nunc credo, castis nunc fidem reddi toris.

THYESTES

Quid liberi meruere?

ATREVS

Quod fuerant tui.

1100

THYESTES

Natos parenti-

ATREVS

Fateor et, quod me iuvat,

certos.

the mountains—these arms let loose and hurl thy fires. Make compensation for the banished day, brandish thy flames, and the light that was snatched from heaven with thy lightning's flash supply. Let the cause, lest long thou hesitate, of each one of us be evil; if not, let mine be evil; aim thou at me, through this heart send thy three-forked flaming bolt. If I their father would give his sons to burial and commit them to the fineral flames, I must myself be burned. But if naught moves the gods, and no divinity hurls darts against the impious, may night stay on for ever, and cover with endless darkness boundless crimes. No protest do I make, O sun, if thou continue steadfast.

ATREUS

Now do I praise my handiwork, now is the true palm won. I had wasted my crime, didst thou not suffer thus. Now do I believe my children are my own, now may I trust once more that my marriage-bed is pure.

THVESTES

What was my children's sin?

ATREUS

That they were thine.

THYESTES

Sons to the father— 2

ATREUS

Yea, and what gives me joy, surely thy sons.

1 i.e. in hiding thy face, as at present.

2 — thou didst give to be devoured.

THVESTES

Piorum praesides testor deos.

ATREVS

Quin coniugales?

THYESTES
Scelere quis pensat scelus?

ATREVS

Scio quid queraris: scelere praerepto doles, nec quod nefandas hauseris angit dapes; quod non pararis. fuerat hic animus tibi instruere similes inscio fratri cibos et adiuvante liberos matre aggredi similique leto sternere. hoc unum obstitit—tuos putasti.

THYESTES

Vindices aderunt dei; his puniendum vota te tradunt mea. 1110

ATREVS

Te puniendum liberis trado tuis.

THYESTES

I eall on the gods who guard the innocent.

ATREUS

Why not the marriage-gods?

THVESTES

Who punishes crime with crime?

ATREUS

I know what thou complainst of: thou grievest that I have forestalled thee in the crime, and art distressed, not because thou hast consumed the ghastly feast, but because thou didst not offer it to me. This had been thy purpose, to prepare for thine unwitting brother a like feast, and with their mother's aid to assail his sons and lay them low in like destruction. This one thing stayed thee—thou didst think them thine.

THYESTES

The gods will be present to avenge; to them for punishment my prayers deliver thee.

ATREUS

To thy sons for punishment do I deliver thee.





DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Hercules, son of Jupiter and Alemena.

Hyllus, son of Hercules and Deïanira.

Alemena, daughter of Electryon, king of Mycenae.

Deïanira, daughter of Oeneus, king of Aetolia, and wife of Hercules.

Iole, daughter of Eurytus, king of Oechalia.

Nurse of Deïanira.

Philoctetes, a prince of Thessaly, son of Poeas, and the faithful friend of Hercules.

Lichas, the messenger (persona muta) of Deïanira to Hercules. Chorus of Actolian women, jaithful to Deïanira.

Chorus of Oechalian maidens, suffering captivity in company with Tote.

THE SCENE is laid, first in Euboea, and later at the home of Hercules in Trachin.

ARGUMENT

The long, heroic life of Hercules has neared its end. His twelve great tasks, assigned him by Enrysthens through Juno's hatred, have been done. His latest victory was over Eurytus, king of Oechalia. Him he slew and overthrew his house, because the monarch would not give him Iole to wife.

And now the hero, having overcome the world, and Pluto's realm beneath the earth, aspires to heaven. He sacrifices to Cenaean Jove, and prays at last to be received into his proper home.

HERCVLES OETAEVS

HERCYLES

Sator deorum, euius excussum manu utraeque Phoebi sentiunt fulmen domus. secure regna; protuli pacem tibi, quaeumque Nereus porrigi terras vetat. non est tonandum; perfidi reges iacent, saevi tyranni. fregimus quidquid fuit tibi fulminandum, sed mihi caelum, parens, adhuc negatur? parni certe Iove ubique dignus teque testata est meum patrem noverca. quid tamen nectis moras? numquid timemur ? numquid impositum sibi non poterit Atlas ferre cum caelo Herculem? quid astra, genitor, quid negas? mors me tibi certe remisit, omne concessit malum quod terra genuit, pontus aer inferi. nullus per urbes errat Arcadias Ieo, Stympĥalis icta est, Maenali nulla est fera; sparsit peremptus aureum serpens nemus et hydra vires posuit et notos Hebro cruore pingues hospitum fregi greges

20

10

¹ East and West, or both hemispheres.

² The Arcadian stag. Its capture was the third labour of Hercules.

HERCULES OFTAEUS

[In Euboea, near Oechalia, after the overthrow of Eurytus, king of that city.]

HERCHLES

O sire of gods, hurled by whose hand both homes 1 of Phoebus feel the thunderbolt, reign thou untroubled; peace have I 'stablished for thee wherever Nereus forbids the land to extend its bounds. Thou needst not thunder now; false kings lie low, and cruel tyrants. I have erushed all who merited thy But to me, father, is heaven still denied? Of a surety have I everywhere proved worthy Jove; and that thou art sire of mine my stepdame testifies. Yet why dost still contrive delays? Am I cause of fear? Will Atlas not avail to bear up Hercules placed upon him together with the sky? Why, O father, why dost thou deny the stars to me? Verily hath death given me back to thee; and every evil thing which earth, sea, air, the lower world, produced, hath yielded to my might. No lion prowls amidst Areadia's towns; the Stymphalian bird is smitten; the beast of Machalus is no more; the dragon,3 slain, hath sprinkled the golden orehard with his blood; the hydra's strength is gone; the herds,5 well known to Hebrus, fat with strangers' blood, have

4 See Index. 5 i.e. of Diomedes.

³ Which guarded the apples of the Hesperides. See Index s.v. "Hesperides."

hostisque traxi spolia Thermodontiae. vidi silentum fata nec tantum redi, sed trepidus atrum Cerberum vidit dies et ille solem. nullus Antaeus Libys animam resumit, eccidit ante aras suas Busiris, una est Geryon sparsus manu taurusque populis horridus centum pavor. quodeumque tellus genuit infesta occidit meaque fusum est dextera; iratis deis non licuit esse.

Si negat mundus feras 30 animum noverca,1 redde nunc nato patrem vel astra forti. nec peto ut monstres iter; permitte tantum, genitor; inveniam viam. vel si times ne terra concipiat feras, properet malum quodeumque, dum terra Herculem habet videtque; nam quis invadet mala aut quis per urbes rursus Argolicas erit Iunonis odio dignus? in tutum meas laudes redegi, nulla me tellus silet. me sensit ursae frigidum Scythicae genus 40 Indusque Phoebo subditus, cancro Libys. te, clare Titan, testor : occurri tibi quacumque fulges, nec meos lux prosequi potuit triumphos, solis excessi vices intraque nostras substitit metas dics. natura cessit, terra defecit gradum: lassata prior est. nox et extremum chaos

 $^{-1}$ So Richter, with $A:L\epsilon o$ †animum novercam, conjecturing tandem novercae.

i.e. the golden girdle of Hippolyte, queen of the Amazons, ² The gods, in wrath, were supposed to have sent monsters on the earth, and by slaying these Hercules has frustrated that wrath.

HERCULES OFTAEUS

I destroyed, and have brought away Thermodou's spoils ¹ of war. The lot of the silent throng have I beheld; and not alone have I returned, but shuddering day hath seen black Cerberus, and he the sun. No longer doth the Libyan Antaeus renew his strength; before his own altars hath Busiris fallen; by my sole hand hath Geryon been o'erthrown, and the bull, dread terror of a hundred tribes. Whatever hostile earth hath 'gendered is fallen, by my right hand laid low; the anger of the gods hath been set at

naught.2

30 If the earth is done with monsters, if my stepdame is done with wrath, give back now the father to his son, yea, the stars unto the hero. I ask thee not to show the way to me; but grant thy permission, father, and the way I'll find. Or, if thou fearest that earth shall yet give birth to monsters, let the ill make haste, whate'er it be, while yet the earth doth hold and look on Hercules; for who else will attack evil things, or who, throughout the Argive eities, will be worthy Juno's hate? I have my honours safe bestowed: there is no land but sings my praise. The race that shivers 'neath the Scythian Bear 3 hath known me; the sun-scorched Indian and the tropic African. O glowing Sun, bear witness: I have encountered thee where'er thou shinest, nor could thy beams keep pace with my triumphant course; I have gone beyond the changes of the sun, and day hath halted far within my bounds. Nature hath violded to me, and earth hath failed my feet; she hath been weary first.4 Night and utter chaos have

<sup>i.e. the Scythians, dwelling far north beneath the Bear.
It is as if the whole earth, trying to keep pace with Hercules, and to give him new land to travel over, has become weary of the attempt.</sup>

in me incucurrit; inde ad hunc orbem redi, nemo unde retro est. tulimus Oceani minas, nec ulla valuit quatere tempestas ratem 50 quamcumque pressi. pars quota est Perseus mei? iam vacuus aether non potest odio tuae sufficere nuptae quasque devincam feras tellus timet concipere nec monstra invenit. ferae negantur; Hercules monstri loco iam coepit esse. quanta enim fregi mala, quot scelera nudus! quidquid immane obstitit, solae manus stravere; nec iuvenis feras timui nec infans. quidquid est iussum leve est, nec ulla nobis segnis illuxit dies. 60 o quanta fudi monstra quae nullus milii rex imperavit! institit virtus mihi lunone peior.

Sed quid inpavidum genus fecisse prodest? non habent pacem dei; purgata tellus omnis in caelo videt quodcumque timuit; transtulit Iuno feras. ambit peremptus cancer ardentem plagam Libyaeque sidus fertur et messes alit; annum fugacem tradit Astraeae leo, at ille, iactans fervidam collo iubam, austrum madentem siccat et nimbos rapit. invasit omnis ecce iam caelum fera meque antecessit; victor e terris meos specto labores, astra portentis prius

70

² On the very day of his birth he killed two huge snakes which Juno sent against him.

³ i.e. Eurystheus.

¹ i.e. he is the only unconquered creature left on earth—a marvel, past the bounds of nature.

HERCULES OFTAEUS

assailed me, and thence to this world have I come again whence none e'er returns. I have borne Ocean's threats, and no storm of his has availed to wreck the ship which I bave weighted down. How trivial Perseus' deeds compared with mine! Now can the empty air no more suffice the hatred of thy wife, and earth fears to produce beasts for me to conquer, nor can she find monsters more. Beasts are at end; 'tis Hercules now begins to hold the place of monster. 1 For how great evils have I crushed, how many crimes, and all unarmed! Whatever monstrons thing opposed me, with but my hands 1 laid it low; nor was there ever savage thing which as youth or babe 2 I feared. All my commanded toils seem light, and no inactive day has ever dawned for me. Oh, how great monsters have I overthrown. which no king 3 bade me meet! My courage, more relentless than Juno's self, has urged me on.

63 But what avails it to have freed the race of men from fear? Now have the gods no peace; the freed earth sees in the sky all creatures which she feared; for there hath Juno set them. The erab I slew goes round the torrid zone, is known as Libya's constellation, and matures her grain; the lion to Astraea gives the flying year; but he, his burning mane upon his neck back tossing, dries up the dripping south-wind and devours the clouds. Behold, now has every beast invaded heaven, forestalling me; though victor, I gaze upon my labours from the earth; for to monsters first and to wild beasts has

i.e. she has changed them to constellations in the sky.

⁵ The zodiaeal constellation of the Crab, in which the sun attains his summer solstice.

⁶ i.e. the sun passes from Leo into Virgo. For Astrea see Index, s.v.

ferisque luno tribuit, ut caelum mihi faceret timendum. sparserit mundum licet caelumque terris peius ac peius Styge irata faciat, dabitur Alcidae locus. si post feras, post bella, post Stygium canem hand dum astra merui, Siculus Hesperium latus tangat Pelorus, una iam tellus erit; illine fugabo maria. si iungi iubes, committat undas Isthmos, et iuncto salo nova ferantur Atticae puppes via. mutetur orbis : vallibus currat novis Hister novasque Tanais accipiat vias. da, da tuendos, Impoiter, saltem deos: illa licebit fulmen a parte auferas. ego quam tuebor, sive glacialem polum, seu me tueri fervidam partem iubes, hac esse superos parte securos puta. Cirrhaea Paean templa et aetheriam domum serpente caeso meruit—o quotiens iacet Python in hydra! Bacchus et Perseus deis iam se intulere; sed quota est mundi plaga oriens subactus aut quota est Gorgon fera! quis astra natus laudibus meruit suis ex te et noverea? quem tuli mundum peto.

Sed tu, comes laboris Hereulei, Licha, perfer triumphos, Euryti victos lares stratumque regnum. vos pecus rapite ocius

100

90

80

¹ i.e. Italian.

The Isthmus of Corinth.

HERCULES OFTAFUS

Juno given stars, that to me she might make the sky a place of dread. Yet, though in her rage she scatter them o'er the sky, though she make heaven worse than earth, yea, worse than Styx, to Alcides shall room be given. If after beasts, after wars, after the Stygian dog, I have not yet earned the stars, let Sicilian Pelorus touch the Hesperian 1 shore, and they both shall become one land; thence will 1 put seas to flight. If thou bidst seas be joined, let 1sthmus 2 give passage to the waves and on their united waters let Attie ships along a new way be borne. Let earth be changed; along new valleys let Ister run and Tanaïs receive new channels. Give, give me, O Jupiter, at least the gods to guard; there mayst thou put aside thy thunderbolts where I shall be on guard. Whether thou bidst me guard the icy pole, whether the torrid zone, there count the gods secure. Cirrha's shrine 3 and a place in heaven did Pean 4 earn by one serpent's 5 slaughter—oh, how many Pythons in the hydra lie o'erthrown! Already have Bacchus and Perseus reached the gods; but how small a tract of earth was the conquered east,6 or how meagre a spoil was Gorgon! 7 what son of thine and of my stepdame has by his praises merited the stars? I seek the skies which I myself have borne.8

[He turns to lacitas]

99 But do thou, Lichas, comrade of the toils of Hercules, proclaim his triumphs—the conquered house of Eurytus, his kingdom overthrown. To the other attendants.] Do you with speed drive the

193

i.e. Delphi.
 Apollo.
 The Python.
 i.e. India, the scene of Bacchus' conquests.

⁷ Slain by Persens.

B i.e. when he relieved Atlas of his burden,

qua templa tollens acta Cenaei Iovis austro timendum spectat Euboicum mare.

CHORVS

Par ille est superis cui pariter dies et fortuna fuit : mortis habet vices lente cum trahitur vita gementibus. quisquis sub pedibus fata rapacia et puppem posuit fluminis ultimi, non captiva dabit bracchia vinculis nec pompae veniet nobile ferculum; numquam est ille miser cui facile est mori. illum si medio decipiat ratis ponto, cum Borean expulit Africus aut Eurus Zephyrum, cum mare dividunt, non puppis lacerae fragmina conligit, ut litus medio speret in aequore; vitam qui poterit reddere protinus, solus non poterit naufragium pati.

110

120

Nos turpis macies et lacrimae tenent et crinis patrio pulvere sordidus; nos non flamma rapax, non fragor obruit. felices sequeris, mors, miscros fugis. stamus, nec patriae 1 messibus 2 heu locus at3 silvis dabitur, lapsaque sordidae fient templa casae; iam gelidus Dolops hac ducet pecudes qua tepet obrutus stratae qui superest Oechaliae cinis.

So Richter, with A: patriis E.
 messibus N. Heinsius: mocnibus A: Leo marks the line corrupt, and conjectures stamus nee patria est: messibus h. l. 3 Leo et, with w, corrected by Scaliger.

HERCULES OFFAEUS

herds to where the shore, lifting on high the shrine of Cenaean Jove, looks out upon the Euboic sea, fearsome with southern gales.

[Exit HERCULES on his way to the Cenacan Promontory, intending there to sacrifice to Jove.]

CHORUS OF CAPTIVE OECHALIAN MAIDENS IN COMPANY WITH TOLE

Mate of the gods is he whose life and fortune have gone side by side; but when 'tis slowly dragged out midst lamentations, life has the lot of death. Whoe'er has set beneath his feet the greedy fates, and the last river's barque, he will not give his captive arms to bonds nor fare in the victor's train a noble spoil; ne'er is he wretched for whom to die is easy. Should his boat be wrecked far out upon the deep, where South with North-wind strives, and East with West, rending the sea asunder, he does not gather up the wreckage of his broken ship, that in midocean he may hope for land; he who can straightway render up his life, he only from a wreck can suffer naught.

119 But us, foul wasting claims, and tears, and hair defiled by the dust of fatherland; us nor greedy flame nor crashing wall has overwhelmed. The happy dost thou pursue, O Death, the wretched thou fleest. Here we stand, yet alas! the spot shall no more be given to our country's crops, but to forests wild, and squalid hovels shall our fallen shrines become. Here soon shall the chill Dolopian lead his flocks where the buried ashes, sole remnant of Oechalia's ruins, still are warm. Here in our very

¹ So called because his temple stood at Cenaeum, a lofty promontory on the north-west point of the island of Eubora.

² i.e. he who does not fear death.

ipso Thessalieus pastor in oppido	
indocta referens carmina fistula	
cantu nostra canet tempora flebili;	130
et dum pauca deus saecula contrahet,	
quaeretur patriae quis fuerit locus.	
felix incolui non steriles focos	
nec ieiuna soli iugera Thessali;	
ad Trachina vocor, saxa rigentia	
et dumeta iugis horrida torridis,	
vix gratum pecori montivago nemus.	
at si quas melior sors famulas vocat,	
illas aut volucer transferet Inachus	
aut Dircaea colent moenia, qua fluit	140
Ismenos tenui flumine languidus;	
hic mater tumidi nupserat Herculis.	142
Falsa est de geminis fabula noctibus,¹	147
aether cum tenuit sidera longius	
commisitque vices Lucifer Hespero	
et Solem vetuit Delia tardior.	150
quae cautes Seythiae, quis genuit lapis?	143
num Titana ferum te Rhodope tulit,	
te praeruptus Athos, te fera Caspia, ²	
quae virgata tibi praebuit ubera?	146
nullis vulneribus pervia membra sunt ;	151
ferrum sentit hebes, lentior est chalybs;	
in nudo gladius corpore frangitur	
et saxum resilit, fataque neglegit	
et mortem indomito corpore provocat.	
non illum poterant figere cuspides,	
non arcus Scythica tensus harundine,	
non quae tela gerit Sarmata frigidus	
aut qui soliferae suppositus plagae	_
vicino Nabatae vulnera dirigit	160

The transposition of ll. 147-150 after l. 142 is Leo's.
 So Avantius, with a: caseta A: Leo Caspias, with E.

HERCULES OFTAEUS

city a Thessalian shepherd, on rude pipe going o'er his songs, shall sing of our story with doleful notes: and ere God shall bring a few more generations to an end, men will be asking where our country lay. Once I was blest; not barren the hearth nor hungry the acres of Thessalian soil whereon I dwelt: but now to Trachin am I called, to a rough and stony land, to brambles bristling on her parched hills, to woods which e'en the wandering goats disdain. But if some captives by a milder fate are called, then either swift Inachus will bear them o'er,1 or within Dircaean 2 walls shall they abide, where flows slow Ismenus with scanty stream, where the mother 3 of

haughty Hercules once was wed.4

147 False is the story 5 of the double night, when the stars lingered in the sky o'erlong, when Lucifer changed place with Hesperus, and Delia,6 too slow. kept back the sun. What Scythian crag, what rocky cliff begot thee? As some ficree Titan, did Rhodope bring thee forth, or Athos rough? Did some wild Caspian beast, some striped tigress give thee suck? By no wounds may his limbs be assailed; iron he feels blunt, steel is too dull; upon his naked body swords are broken, and stones rebound; and so lie scorns the fates, and with body all invincible defies mortality. Sharp spear-points could not pierce him, nor Seythian arrows shot from bended bow, nor darts which cold Sarmatians wield, or the Parthians who, in the land of the rising sun, with surer aim than ever Cretan's was, direct their shafts against the

¹ i.e. either to Argos or Mycenae.

6 The moon.

² Theban, so called from the neighbouring fountain of Dirce.
³ Alemena.
⁴ i.e. to Amphitryon.
⁵ See Index s.r. "Hercules," first part. The chorus means to say that Hercules is not the son of Jove and Alemena.

Parthus Cnosiaeis certior ietibus.
muros Oechaliae corpore propulit,
nil obstare valet; vincere quod parat
iam victum est. quota pars vulnere concidit!
pro fato patuit vultus iniquior
et vidisse sat est Herculeas minas.
quis vastus Briareus, quis tumidus Gyas,
supra Thessalicum eum stetit aggerem
caeloque inseruit vipereas manus,
hoc vultu riguit? commoda cladibus
nagnis magna patent: nil superest mali—
iratum miserae vidimus Herculem.

IOLE

At ego infelix non templa suis conlapsa deis sparsosve focos, natis mixtos arsisse patres hominique deos, templa sepulchris, nullum querimur commune malum; alio nostras fortuna vocat lacrimas, alias flere ruinas me fata iubent. quae prima querar? quae summa gemam? pariter cuncta deflere iuvat—¹ nce plura dedit pectora Tellus, ut digna sonent verbera fatis.

180

Me vel Sipylum flebile saxum fingite, superi, vel in Eridani ponite ripis, ubi maesta sonat Phaetontiadum silva sororum;

¹ After invat D. Heinsius recognized a lacuna, which Gronorus thought should be filled as follows: cur non oculos plures nobis.

HERCULES OFTAEUS

neighbouring Arabians. With his bare hands did he o'erthrow Oechalia's walls, and naught can make stand against him; for whate'er he plans to overcome is overcome already. How few the foes who by his wounds have fallen! His angry countenance was death in open view, and but to have seen the threats of Hercules is enough. What huge Briarcus, what Gyas, puffed with pride, when upon Thessalia's mountain-heap 2 they stood and clutched at heaven with snaky hands, had countenance inflexible as his? But mighty ills have mighty recompense. No more is left to suffer—we have seen, oh, woe! the angry Hercules.

IOLE

But I, unhappy one, bewail not temples fallen on their gods, or hearth-fires scattered, or fathers burned in mingled heaps with sons, and gods with men, temples with tombs,—nay, no common misfortune do I mourn; elsewhither doth fortune call my tears, for other ruins the fates bid me weep. What lament shall I make first? What last shall I bewail? Equally all things is it meet to mourn. Oh me, that Mother Earth hath not given me more eyes for tears, more breasts, that blows worthy of my losses might resound.

¹⁸⁵ Me to a weeping rock ⁴ on Sipylus, ye heavenly gods, transform, or set me on the banks of Po, where the woods give back the grief of Phaethon's sad

¹ i.e. was enough to kill his opponent.

3 Translating the suggested insertion of Gronovius.

4 She is thinking of the fate of Niobe.

² The giants piled up Ossa, Pelion, and Olympus in their effort to reach the skies.

190

200

210

me vel Siculis addite saxis, ubi fata gemam Thessala Siren, vel in Edonas tollite silvas qualis natum Daulias ales solet Ismaria flere sub umbra; formam lacrimis aptate meis resonetque malis aspera Trachin. Cyprias lacrimas Myrrha tuetur, raptum coniunx Ceyca gemit, sibi Tantalis est facta superstes; fugit vultus Philomela suos natumque sonat flebilis Atthis: eur mea nondum capiunt volucres bracchia plumas? felix, felix, cum silva domus nostra feretur natrioque sedens ales in agro referam querulo murmure casus volucremque Iolen fama loquetur

Vidi, vidi miseranda mei fata parentis, cum letifero stipite pulsus tota iacuit sparsus in aula. a si tumulum fata dedissent, quotiens, genitor, quaerendus eras! potuine tuam spectare necem, nondum teneras vestite genas necdum forti sanguine, Toxeu? quid vestra queror fata, parentes, quos in tutum mors aequa tulit? mea me lacrimas fortuna rogat. iam iam dominae captiva colus fusosque legam. pro saeve decor

i.e. make me one of the number of the Sirens who haunt those rocks.

² i.e. Thracian. Procne. See Index s.v.

HERCULES OFTABLIS

sisters; or add 1 me to the rocks of Sieily, where as a Siren I may weep Thessalia's fate; or bear me to Edonia's 2 woods where I may mourn as, beneath Ismarian shade, the Daulian bird ³ ever mourns her Give me a form to fit my tears, and let rough Trachin reëcho with my woes. Myrrha, the Cyprian maid, yet guards her tears; 4 the wife 5 of Ceyx mourns his taking off; and Niobe lives on, surviving e'en herself; her human form has Philomel escaped, and still the Attic maid bewails her son.6 Why not yet do my arms become swift wings? Happy, ah, happy shall I be when the woods shall be called my home, and, in my native meadows resting, with plaintive strains I shall recall my fate, and fame shall tell of winged Iole.

²⁰⁷ I saw, I saw my father's wretched fate, when, beaten down by the death-dealing club, he lay in scattered fragments throughout the hall. Ah me, if fate had given him burial, how often, father, must thou have been sought! How could I have looked upon thy death, O Toxeus,7 with thy boyish cheeks as yet unbearded, and thy veins not yet filled with manly vigour? But why do I lament your fates, my parents, whom kindly death has to a place of safety borne? 'Tis my own fortune that requires my tears. Soon, soon in captive state shall I whirl the distaff and the spindle of my mistress. O eruel beauty.

⁴ The exuding gum of the myrrh tree into which the maid was changed.

Alcyone, still alive in feathered form.
 Hys was not the son of Philomela, but of her sister, crone.
 Her brother. Procne.

formaque mortem paritura mihi, tibi euncta domus eoncidit uni, dum me genitor negat Alcidae atque Herculeus socer esse timet, sed iam dominae teeta petantur.

CHORUS

Quid regna tui clara parentis casusque tuos respicis amens? fugiat vultus fortuna prior. felix quisquis novit famulum regemque pati vultusque suos variare potest. rapuit vires pondusque malis casus animo qui tulit aequo.

230

220

NVTRIX

O quam cruentus feminas stimulat furor, eum patuit una paelici et nuptae domus! Scylla et Charybdis Sicula contorquens freta minus timendae, nulla non melior fera est. namque ut reluxit paelicis captae decus et fulsit Iole qualis innubis dies purisve clarum noctibus sidus micat, stetit furenti similis ac torvum intuens Herculea coniunx; feta ut Armenia iacens sub rupe tigris hoste conspecto exilit aut iussa thyrsum quatere conceptum ferens Maenas Lyaeum, dubia quo gressus ferat haesit parumper; tum per Herculcos lares attonita fertur, tota vix satis est domus. incurrit, errat, sistit, in voltus dolor processit omnis, pectori paene intimo

240

¹ Lyaeus.

HERCULES OFTAEUS

and form doomed to bring death to me, for thee alone is all my house undone, for that my sire refused me to Alcides and feared to have Hercules for sonin-law. But now must I betake me to a mistress' home,

CHORUS

Why dost thou, foolish one, ever look back upon thy sire's illustrious kingdom and thine own misfortunes? Banish from thy face thy former fortune. Happy is he whoever knows how to bear the estate of slave or king and can match his countenance with either lot. For he who bears his ills with even soul has robbed misfortune of its strength and heaviness.

[The scene changes to the space before the palace of Hercules and Denaniva at Trachin. Enter NURSE OF DETANIRA.]

NURSE

O how bloody is the rage that goads women on, when to mistress and to wife one house has opened! Scylla and Charybdis, whirling Sicilia's waves, are not more fearful, nor is any wild beast worse. For when her captive rival's beauty was revealed, and Iole shone like the unclouded day or a bright star in the clear night glittering, even as one distraught the wife of Hercules stood there with lowering gaze (as a tigress, lying big with young 'neath some Armenian rock, at sight of an enemy leaps forth; or as a maenad, bidden to toss the thyrsus, what time she bears the god1 within her breast, in doubt where she shall take her way, stands still a while); then through the house of Hereules she madly dashed and scarce did all the house give space enough. Forward she rushes, wanders aimle sly, stands still. All her passion has come forth into her face; in her heart's

nihil est relictum; fletus insequitur minas. nec unus habitus durat aut uno furit contenta voltu; nunc inardescunt genae, pallor ruborem pellit et formas dolor errat per omnes; queritur, implorat, gemit.

250

Sonuere postes—ecce praecipiti gradu secreta mentis ore confuso exerit

DEÏANIRA

Quamcumque partem sedis aetheriae premis, coniunx Tonantis, mitte in Alciden feram quae mihi satis sit. si qua fecundum caput palude tota vastior serpens movet, ignara vinci, si quid excessit feras immane dirum horribile, quo viso Hercules avertat oculos, hoc specu immenso exeat. vel si ferae negantur, hanc animam precor converte in aliquod—quodlibet possum malum hac mente fieri. commeda effigiem mihi parem dolori; non capit pectus minas. quid excutis telluris extremae sinus orbemque versas? quid rogas Ditem mala? omnes in isto pectore invenies feras quas timeat; odiis accipe hoc telum tuis, ego sim noverca. perdere Alciden potes; perfer manus quocumque. quid cessas, dea? utere furente-quod inbes fieri nefas?

270

260

¹ i.e. the Hydra.

depths almost naught is left; tears follow hard on threats. Nor does one posture last, nor can one countenance contain her rage; now do her cheeks flame with wrath, now pallor drives the flush away, and from form to form her smarting anguish wanders; she wails, she begs, she groans.

²⁵⁴ The doors have sounded—behold, at headlong pace she comes, with confused words revealing all

the secrets of her soul,

[Enter Deïanira from within the palace.]

DEÏANIRA

Wife of the Thunderer, whatever portion of thy heavenly home thou treadest, send 'gainst Alcides a wild beast which shall suffice for me. If any serpent, vaster than all the marsh, rears up its head, to conquest all unknown; if anything is worse than other beasts, monstrous, dire, horrible, from sight of which Hercules would turn away his eyes, let this from its huge den come forth. Or, if beasts be denied, change, I pray thee, this heart of mine into some—any evil thing there is can I with this present mind become. Give me a form to match my smarting grief; my breast cannot contain its rage. Why dost thou search out the folds of farthest earth, and overturn the world? Why dost ask ills of Dis? In such a breast thou'lt find all beasts to cause him dread; take thou this weapon for thy hate-let me be step-dame.2 Thou canst destroy Alcides; use but these hands for any end thou wilt. Why dost thou hesitate, O goddess? Use me, the mad one-what

² She thinks of the possible children of Hercules by Iole and her chance for vengeance on them.

reperi. quid haeres? ipsa iam cesses licet, haec ira satis est.

NVTRIX

Pectoris sani parum, alumna, questus comprime et flammas doma; frena dolorem. coniugem ostende Herculis.

DEÏANIRA

Iole meis captiva germanos dabit natis Iovisque fiet ex famula nurus? non flamma cursus pariter et torrens feret 280 et ursa pontum sieca eaeruleum bibet non ibo inulta. gesseris caelum licet totusque pacem debeat mundus tibi, est aliquid hydra peius: iratae dolor nuptae. quis ignis tantus in caelum furit ardentis Aetnae? quidquid est vietum tibi hic vincet animus. capta praeripiet toros? adhue timebam monstra, iam nullum est malum; eessere pestes, in locum venit ferae invisa paelex. summe pro rector deum 290 et elare Titan, Hereulis tantum fui coniunx timentis; vota quae superis tuli cessere captac, paeliei felix fui, illi meas audistis, o superi, preces, incolumis illi remeat.—o nulla dolor contente poena, quaere supplicia horrida, ineogitata, infanda, Iunonem doce quid odia valeant; nescit irasei satis. pro me gerebas bella, propter me vagas Achelous undas sanguine infecit suo, 300

1 See Index s.v. "Bears."

crime dost bid me do? Decide. Why dost thou falter? Though now thou dost thyself shrink back, this rage of mine suffices.

NURSE

Dear child, thy mad heart's plaints restrain, quench passion's fire and curb thy grief. Show thyself wife of Hercules.

DEÏANIRA

Shall captive Iole give brothers to my sons? Shall a slave become daughter-in-law of Jove? Together will flame and torrent never run, and the thirsty Bear 1 from the blue sea ne'er will drink—nor will I go unavenged. Though thou didst bear the heavens up, though the whole world owes its peace to thee, a worse pest than Hydra waits thee—the wrath of an angered wife. What fire as hot as this rages to heaven from burning Actna? Whate'er has been conquered by thy might, this passion of mine shall conquer.— And shall a slave seize on my marriage bed? Till now did I fear monsters, but now is no evil more; the pests have vanished and in the place of beasts has come the hated harlot. O most high ruler of the gods, O lustrous Sun, I have been wife to Hercules but in his perils; the prayers which to the heavenly ones I raised have been granted to a slave; for a harlot have I been fortunate; for her have ve heard my prayers, O gods, for her is he safe returned.—O grief that can be satisfied with no revenge, seek thee some dreadful punishment, unthought, unspeakable; teach Juno's self what hate can do; she knows not to rage enough. For me didst thou do battle; on my account did Achelous dve his wandering waves with his own blood, when now he became a

cum lenta serpens fieret, in taurum trucem nunc flecteret serpente deposita minas, et mille in hoste vineeres uno feras. iam displicemus, capta praelata est mihi non praeferetur; qui dies thalami ultimus nostri est futurus, hie erit vitae tuae.

Quid hoe? recedit animus et ponit minas.
iam cessat ira; quid miser langues dolor?
perdis furorem, coniugis taeitae fidem
mihi reddis iterum.—quid vetas flammas ali?
quid frangis ignes? hune mihi serva impetum,
pares eamus 1—non erit votis opus;
aderit noverea quae manus nostras regat

NVTRIX

Quod paras demens seelus?
perimes maritum cuius extremus dies
primusque laudes novit et caelo tenus
erecta terras fama suppositas habet?
Graiorum in istos terra consurget lares
domusque soceri prima et Actolum genus
sternetur omne; saxa iam dudum ac faces
in te ferentur, vindicem tellus suum
defendet omnis. una quot poenas dabis!
effugere terras crede et humanum genus
te posse—fulmen genitor Alcidae gerit.
iam iam minaces ire per caelum faces
specta et tonantem fulmine excusso diem.
mortem quoque ipsam, quam putas tutam, time;

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 $^{^{-1}}$ So Leo and Richter, following an emendation of Madrig: patres crimus E: pares cramus A.

stubborn serpent, now to a fierce bull changed his threats, the serpent form discarded, and thou in that one foe didst conquer a thousand beasts. But now I please thee not; a captive is preferred to me—but she shall not be preferred; for that day which shall

end our marriage joys shall end thy life.

307 But what is this? My passion dies away and abates its threats. Now anger ceases; why dost thou languish, O wretched grief? Thou givest o'er thy madness, makest me again the faithful, uncomplaining wife.—Why dost forbid the feeding of the flames? Why checkest the fire? Keep but this passion in me; hand in hand let us go on-there will be no need of prayers; a step-dame 1 will be near to direct my hands and unbesought.

NUDSE

What erime, distraught one, dost thou purpose? Wilt slav thy husband whose praises the evening and the morning 2 know full well, whose fame, towering to the sky, holds all the world beneath? The land of Greece will rise to defend that home, and this thy father's 3 house and the whole Aetolian race will be the first to be o'erthrown; soon rocks and firebrands will be hurled against thee, since every land will rally to its defender. How many penalties wilt thou, one woman, pay! Suppose thou canst escape the world and the race of men—the father of Alcides wields the thunder-bolt. Now, even now behold his threat'ning fires flashing athwart the sky, and the heavens thundering with the lightning shock. Even death itself, which thou deemest a place of safety,

² i.e. East and West.

³ Deïanira's father, the father in law (socer) of Hereules.

dominatur illic patruus Aleidae tui. quocumque perges, misera, cognatos deos illic videbis.

DEÏANIRA

Maximum fieri seelus et ipsa fateor, sed dolor fieri inbet.

330

NVTRIX

Moriere.

DEÏANIRA

Moriar Herculis nempe incluti conjuny nec ullus nocte discussa dies viduam notabit nec meos paelex toros captiva capiet. ante ab occasu dies nascetur, Indos ante glacialis polus Seythasve tepida Phoebus inficiet rota, quam me relictam Thessalae aspiciant nurus. meo iugales sanguine extinguam faces. aut percat aut me perimat; elisis feris et coniugem addat, inter Herculeos licet me quoque labores numeret; Alcidae toros moritura certe corpore amplectar meo. ire, ire ad umbras Herculis nuptam libet, sed non inultam, si quid ex nostro Hercule concepit lole, manibus evellam meis ante et per ipsas paelicem invadam faces. me nuptiali victimam feriat die infestus, Iolen dum supra exanimem ruam felix jacet quicumque quos odit premit.

340

350

NUTRIX

Quid ipsa flammas pascis et vastum foves ultro dolorem? misera, quid cassum times?

¹ Pluto, the brother of Jove.

² i.e. Iole's.

fear; for there the unele 1 of thine Alcides reigns. Turn where thou wilt, poor woman, there wilt thou see his kindred gods.

DEÏANTRA

That I am doing a fearful erime, e'en I myself confess; but passion bids me do it.

NURSE

Thou'lt die.

DEÏANIRA

Yea, truly, will I die, but the wife of glorious Hercules; neither shall any dawn, banishing night, brand me as widow; nor shall captive creature make capture of my bed. Sooner shall day be born in the western sky, sooner shall Indians grow pale 'neath the iev pole, or Scythians tan 'neath Phoebus' burning ear, than shall the dames of Thessaly see me abandoned. With my own blood will I quench her 2 marriage torches. Either let him die or do me to death. To slaughtered beasts let him add wife as well, and let him count me, too, 'mongst the toils of Hercules; to Alcides' couch, ave with my dying body. will I cling. Ah, sweet, 'tis sweet to go to the shades as bride of Hereules,—but not without my vengeance. If Iole from my Hercules has conceived a child, with mine own hands will I tear it forth untimely, and by her very wedding torches' glare will I face the harlot. Let him in wrath slay me as vietim on his nuptial day, so I but fall on the corpse of lole. Happy he lies who erushes those he hates.

NURSE

Why dost thyself feed thy flames and wantonly foster an unmeasured grief? Poor soul, why dost thou cherish a needless fear? He did love lole;

dilexit lolen; nempe cum staret parens regisque natam peteret. in famulae locum regina cecidit; perdidit vires amor multumque ab illa traxit infelix status. illicita amantur, excidit quidquid licet.

DEÏAN1RA

Fortuna amorem peior inflammat magis; amat vel ipsum quod caret patrio lare, quod nudus auro crinis et gemma iacet, ipsas misericors forsan aerumnas amat; hoc usitatum est Herculi, captas amat.

360

NVTRIX

Dilecta Priami nempe Dardanii soror concessa famula est; adice quot nuptas prius, quot virgines dilexit. erravit vagus. Arcadia nempe virgo, Palladios choros dum nectit, Auge, vim stupri passa excidit, nullamque amoris Hercules retinet notam. referam quid alias? nempe Thespiades vacant brevique in illas arsit Alcides face. 370 hospes Timoli Lydiam fovit nurum et amore captus ad leves sedit colus, ndum feroci stamen intorquens manu. nempe illa cervix spolia deposuit ferae crinemque mitra pressit et famulus stetit, hirtam Sabaca marcidus myrrha comam. ubique caluit, sed levi caluit face.

¹ Hesione.

but 'twas while yet her father reigned secure, and 'twas a king's daughter that he sought. The princess has now fallen to the place of slave; love has lost its power, and much from her charm her unhappy lot has stolen. What is forbidden we love; if granted it falls from our desire.

DEÏANIRA

Nay, but fallen fortunes fan hotter the flames of love; for this very cause he loves her, that she hath lost her father's house, that her hair lies stripped of gold and gems; out of pity, perchance, he loves her very woes; 'tis the wont of Hercules to love captive maids.

NURSE

Tis true he loved the captive sister 1 of Dardanian Priam, but he gave her to another; 2 add all the dames, all the maids he loved before. A wanderer on earth, a wanderer in love was he. Why, the Arcadian maiden, Auge, while leading Pallas' sacred dance, suffered his lust's violence, but fell from his regard, and Hercules retains no trace of his love for her. Why mention others? The Thespiades are forgotten; for them with but a passing flame Alcides burned. When a guest on Timolus, he caressed the Lydian woman³ and, daft with love, sat beside her swift distaff, twisting the moistened thread with doughty fingers. His shoulders, indeed, had laid aside the famous lion's-skin, a turban confined his hair, and there he stood like any slave, his shaggy locks dripping with Sabaean myrrh. Everywhere has he burned with love, but burned with feeble flame.

⁸ Omphale, queen of Lydia.

² i.e. to Telamon, who assisted him in the capture of Troy.

DEÏANIRA

Haerere amantes post vagos ignes solent.

NUTRIX

Famulamne et hostis praeferet natam tibi?

DEÏANIRA

Vt laeta 1 silvas forma vernantes habet, 380 eum nemora nuda primus investit tepor, at cum solutos expulit Boreas Notos et saeva totas bruma discussit comas, deforme solis aspicis truncis nemus; sic nostra longum forma percurrens iter deperdit aliquid semper et fulget minus, nec illa vetus 2 est. quidquid in nobis fuit olim petitum cecidit, aut pariter labat.3 aetas citato senior eripuit gradu,4 390 389 materque multum rapuit ex illo mihi, vides ut altum famula non perdat decus? 391 cessere cultus penitus et paedor sedet; tamen per ipsas fulget aerumnas decor nihilque ab illa casus et fatum grave nisi regna traxit. hic meum pectus timor, altrix, lacessit, hie rapit somnos pavor. praeclara totis gentibus coniunx cram thalamosque nostros invido voto nurus optabat omnis; quaeve mens quiequam deos orabat ullos, nuribus Argolicis fui 400 mensura voti. quem Iovi socerum parem, altrix, habebo? quis sub hoc mundo mihi

¹ alta MSS., corrected by Madrig.

² No Richter: nec illa Venus E: haec illa Venus Kiessling, followed by Leo.

DEÏANIRA

Oft after wandering fires lovers have clung to one.

NURSE

A slave and daughter of his foe shall he prefer to thee \dot{f}

DEÏANIRA

As a gladsome beauty covers the budding groves when the first warmth of spring clothes the bare forest trees, but, when the North-wind has put the mild South to flight, and savage winter has shaken off all the leaves, thou seest but a shapeless grove of trunks alone; so does my beauty, pursning a lengthening way, lose something ever, and less brightly gleams, nor is it as of yore. Whate'er in me was sought in former days has vanished or is failing along with me. Old age with hastening steps hath taken much, and much of it hath motherhood stolen from But seest thou how this slave bath not lost her glorious charm? Gone are her adornings and squalor clings close upon her; and yet through her very distresses beauty shines and naught have misfortune and this hard stroke of fate stolen from her save her realm. O nurse, this fear of her racks my heart: this dread doth destroy my slumbers. I was a wife celebrated in every land, and for marriage such as mine all women prayed with envious prayer; or whatever soul asked aught of any gods, for the prayers of Grecian dames I was the measure. What father-inlaw like to Jove, O Nurse, shall I e'er have? Who beneath these heavens will be given me as husband?

^{*} So Richter: et , . . . labat E: et partu labat A: Leo conjectures labor, * Leo deletes this line,

dabitur maritus? ipse qui Alcidae imperat facibus suis me iungat Eurystheus licet, minus est. toris caruisse regnantis leve est: alte illa cecidit quae viro caret Hercule.

NVTRIX

Conciliat animos coniugum partus fere.

DEÏANIRA

Hic 1 ipse forsan dividet partus toros.

NVTRIX

Famula illa trahitur interim donum tibi.

DEÏANIRA

Hic quem per urbes ire praeclarum vides 410 et fulva tergo spolia gestantem ferae, qui regna miseris donat et celsis rapit, vasta gravatus horridam elava manum, cuius triumphos ultimi Seres canunt et quisquis alius orbe concepto 2 iacet, levis est nec illum gloriae stimulat decor; errat per orbem, non ut acquetur Iovi nec ut per urbes magnus Argolicas eat: quod amet requirit, virginum thalamos petit. si qua est negata, rapitur; in populos furit, 420 nuptas ruinis quaerit et vitium impotens virtus vocatur. eecidit Oechalia inclita unusque Titan vidit atque unus dies stantem et cadentem; cansa bellandi est amor.

¹ So Richter after emendation of N. Heinsius; sie MSS, and Leo.

² Leo †concepto, with **ZA**: consepto **5**: Grotius conjectures consumpto: Gronorius conpecto.

Though Eurystheus' self, who rules Aleides, should wed me with his own torches, 'tis not enough. 'Tis a trivial thing to have lost a royal couch; but from a far height has she fallen who loses Hercules.

NURSE

Children ofttimes win back the love of husbands.

DEÏANIRA

These children themselves perchance will dissolve the bond. 1

NURSE

Meanwhile that slave is brought as gift to thee.

DEÏANIRA

He whom thou seest going, big with fame, from town to town, wearing the spoil of a tawny lion on his back; who gives kingdoms to the lowly and takes them from the proud, his dread hand laden with a massive club; whose triumphs the far off Seres sing, and whoe'er besides dwells in the whole known world,—he is a trifler, nor does the charm of glory urge him on. He goes wandering o'er the earth, not in the hope that he may rival Jove, nor that he may fare illustrious through Grecian cities. Some one to love he seeks; his quest is maidens' chambers. If any is refused him, she is ravished; against nations doth he rage, midst ruins seeks his brides, and unrestrained excess is called heroic. Oechalia, the illustrious, fell; one sun, one day beheld her stand and fall; and passion was the

¹ i.c. if one woman's child holds her husband to her, another's child (Iole's) will turn him from the old to his new love.

totiens timebit Hereuli natam parens quotiens negabit, hostis est quotiens socer fieri recusat; si gener non fit, ferit.
post hace quid istas innocens servo manus, donec furentem simulet ac saeva manu intendat arcus meque natumque opprimat?

430 sic coniuges expellit Alcides suas, hace sunt repudia. nec potest fieri nocens; terris videri sceleribus causam suis fecit novercam. quid stupes, segnis furor? scelus occupandum est; perage dum fervet manus.

NVTHIX

Perimes maritum?

DEÏANIRA

Paelicis certe meae

NUTRIX

At love creatum.

DEÏANIRA

Nempe et Alemena satum.

NATRIX

Ferrone?

DEÏANIRA

Ferro.

NUTRIX

Si nequis?

DEÏANIRA

Perimani dolo.

mother of that strife. As oft as a father shall deny his child to Hercules, as oft as a foeman refuses to be his father-in-law, so oft shall he have cause to fear; if he is not accepted as a son-in-law, he smites. After all this, why do I harmlessly keep back these hands until he feign another fit of madness, with deadly hand bend his bow, and slay me and my son? Thus does Aleides put away his wives; such is his manner of divorce. Yet naught can make him guilty! He has made the world believe his step-dame answerable for his crimes. Why art inactive then, thou sluggish rage? His erime must be forestalled; act while thy hand is hot!

NURSE

Wilt slay thy hushand?

DEÏANIRA

Truly, my rival's husband.

NURSE

But the son of Jove?

DEÏANIRA

Yes, but the son of Alemena, too.

NURSE

With the sword?

DEÏANIRA

The sword.

NURSE

If thou canst not?

DEÏANIRA

I'll slay with gnile.

The reference is to the death of Megara and her sons at the hands of mad Hercules.
² Hyllus,

219

NUTRIX

Quis iste furor est?

DEÏANIRA

Quem meus coniunx docet.

NUTRIX

Quem nec noverca potuit, hunc perimes virum? 440

DEÏANIRA

Caelestis ira quos premit, miseros facit;

NUTRIX

Parce, miseranda, et time.

DEÏANIRA

Contempsit omnes ille qui mortem prius; libet ire in cases.

NVTRIX

Maior admisso tuus, alumna, dolor est; culpa par odium exigat. cur saeva modicis statuis? ut laesa es dole.

DEÏANIRA

Leve esse credis paelicem nuptae malum? quidquid dolorem pascit, hoc nimium puta.

NVTRIX

Amorne clari fugit Alcidae tibi?

i.e. whatever else.

NURSE

What madness that?

DEÏANTRA

That which my husband teaches me.

NURSE

Whom e'en his step-dame could not slay—wilt thou slay him?

DEÏANIRA

Celestial wrath but makes wretched those on whom it falls; man's wrath makes them naught.

NURSE

Spare him, O wretched one, and fear.

DEÏANIRA

He has scorned all men, who first has scorn of death; 'tis sweet to go against the sword.

NURSE

Thy smart is too great for the offence, my child, let his fault claim but equal hate. Why dost so fiercely judge a light offence? According as thou hast been injured, grieve.

DEÏANTRA

Thinkst thou a mistress is light evil for a wife? Whatever 1 fosters anguish, count this 2 beyond all bounds.

NURSE

Has thy love for glorious Alcides fled away?

² i.e. the situation described in the preceding line.

DEÏANIRA

Non fugit, altrix, remanet et penitus sedet fixus medullis, crede ; sed magnus dolor iratus amor est.

NATRIX

Artibus magicis fere eoniugia nuptae precibus admixtis ligant. vernare iussi frigore in medio nemus missumque fulmen stare; concussi fretum cessante vento, turbidum explicui mare et sicca tellus fontibus patuit novis; habuere motum saxa, discussi fores 1 umbrasque Ditis,² et mea iussi prece manes locuntur, tacuit infernus canis; 460 nox media solem vidit et noctem dies 3; 469 mare terra caelum et Tartarus servit mihi 461 nihilque leges ad meos cantus tenet. flectemus illum, earmina invenient iter.

DEÏANIRA

Quas Pontus herbas generat aut quas Thessala sub rupe Pindus alit ⁴ ubi inveniam malum cui cedat ille? carmine in terras mago descendat astris Luna desertis licet et bruma messes videat et cantu fugax stet deprehensum fulmen et versa vice 470 medius coactis ferveat stellis dies:

² So Richter: Leo umbrae stetistis, with ω.

222

¹ fores ω: regarded as corrupt by Leo, who conjectures inferos: arbores Birt.

DEÏANIRA

Not fled, dear Nurse; it still remains, believe me, deep-seated and fixed in my heart's core; but outraged love is poignant misery.

NURSE

By magic arts and prayers commingled do wives oft hold fast their husbands. I have bidden the trees grow green in the midst of winter's frost. and the hurtling lightning stand; I have stirred up the deep, though the winds were still, and have ealmed the heaving sea; the parched earth has opened with fresh fountains; rocks have found motion; the gates have I rent asunder and the shades of Dis, and at my prayer's demand the spirits talk, the infernal dog is still; midnight has seen the sun, and day, the night; the sea, land, heaven and Tartarus yield to my will, and naught holds to law against my ineantations. Bend him we will; my charms will find the way.

DEÏANIRA

What herbs does Pontus grow, or what does Pindus nourish 'neath the rocks of Thessaly, wherein I may find a bane to conquer him? Though Luna should leave the stars and come down to earth, obedient to magic; though winter should see ripe grain; though the swift bolt should stand still, arrested by the charm; though times be changed, and midday burn amid the crowding stars: 'twill not bend him.

¹ Where Medea, the famous witch, gathered magic herbs.

³ Lines 461, 462 transposed by Bothe.
4 Leo, †almit, with E: corrected by Peiper, followed by Richter.

NVTRIX

Vieit et superos Amor.

DEÏANIRA

Vineetur uni forsan et spolium dabit Amorque summus fiet Alcidae labor. sed te per omne eaelitum numen preeor, per hune timorem: quidquid arcani apparo penitus reeondas et fide tacita premas.

NVTRIX

Quid istud est quod esse secretum petis?

DEÏANIRA

Non tela sunt, non arma, non ignis minax.

NVTRIX

Praestare fateor posse me tacitam fidem, si scelere careat; interim scelus est fides.

480

DEÏANIRA

Circumspiec agcdum, ne quis arcana occupet, partemque in omnem vultus inquirens eat.

NUTRIX

En locus ab omni tutus arbitrio vacat.

DEÏANIRA

Est in remoto regiae sedis loco arcana tacitus nostra defendens specus. non ille primos accipit soles locus,

NURSE

But love has conquered e'en heavenly gods.

DETANIRA

By one ¹ alone, perchance, will be be conquered and yield his spoils, and Love become Alcides' crowning toil.—But thee by all the deities of heaven I pray, by this my fear: whatever secret thing I am preparing, hide it deep, and in faithful silence hold it fast.

NURSE

What is it that thou seekst to keep in secret?

DEÏANIRA

It is not spears, not arms, not threatening fire.

NURSE

That I can keep faithful silence I confess, if it be free from crime; but silence itself sometimes is criminal.

DETANIRA

Come, look about, lest someone grasp my secret, and in all directions turn thy questful glance.

NURSE

Behold the place is safe and free from all observers.

DEÏANIRA

In a remote corner of the royal dwelling is a recess that silently guards my secret. Neither the first rays of the sun can reach that spot, nor yet his

¹ Hercules.

225

uon ille seros, cum ferens Titan diem 1 lassum rubenti mergit Oceano iugum 2 illic amoris pignus Herculei latet. 490 altrix, fatebor: auctor est Nessus mali quem gravida Nobbele Thessalo genuit duci. qua celsus astris inserit Pindus caput ultraque nubes Othrys eductus riget. namque ut subactus Herculis clava horridi Achelous omnes facilis in species dari tandem peractis omnibus patnit feris unoque turpe subdidit cornu caput, me conjugem dum victor Alcides habet, repetebat Argos. Forte per campos vagus 500 Enenos altum gurgitem in pontum ferens iam paene summis turbidus silvis erat. transire Nessus vertieem solitus vadis pretium poposcit. meque iam dorso ferens

frangebat ipsas fluminis tumidi minas.

iam totus undis Nessus exierat ferox

medioque adhue errabat Aleides vado,
vasto rapacem verticem seindens gradu,
at ille ut esse vidit Aleiden procul:
"tu praeda nobis" inquit "et coniunx eris;
prohibetur undis," meque complexus ferens
gressum citabat.

510

qua inngit hominem spina deficiens equo,

Non tenent undae Herculem: "infide vector" inquit "immixti licet Ganges et Hister vallibus iunctis cant,

¹ Leo thinks there is a lacuna after line 488 and fills it thus, exergit undis, cumque germanam vocans.

² So Richter: diem Leo with E.

³ No. 4: †trepidus Leo, with E, conjecturing aetherius: rigidus O. Rossbach.

last, when Titan, bringing the day to rest, plunges his weary voke in the ruddy sea. There lurks the surety of Alcides' love. Nurse, I'll confess to thee: the giver of the baleful thing was Nessus, whom Nephele, heavy with child, to the Thessalian chieftain bore, where lofty Pindus to the stars lifts up his head and Othrys stands stiff, towering above the clouds. For when Achelöus, forced by the club of dread Hercules to shift with ready case from form to form, his beast-shapes all exhausted, at last stood forth and bowed his head, marred and with single horn, victorious Hercules, with me, his bride, set out for Argos.

soo It chanced that Evenus, wandering through the plains, rolling his deep eddies to the sea, was now in flood almost to the tree-tops' level. Nessus, accustomed to ford the whirling stream, offered to take me over for a price; and, bearing me on his back, where the backbone, leaving the equine enters the human form, soon was stemming even the threatening waves of the swollen flood. Now had wild Nessus entirely left the waters and Alcides was still wandering in mid-stream, cleaving the down-sweeping flood with his mighty strides; but when the centaur saw Alcides still afar, "Thou shalt be spoil of mine," he cried, "and wife; he is kept from thee by the waves"; and, clasping me in his arms as he bore me on, was galloping away.

513 But the waves did not hold Hercules; "O faithless ferryman," he cried, "though Ganges and Hister commingled in united beds should flow. I

¹ Ixion.

² Hercules had wrenched away one horn from Achelöus while the latter was fighting in bull-form.

vincemus ambos, consequar telo fugam." praecessit areus verba : tum longum ferens harundo vulnus tenuit haerentem fugam mortemque fixit. ille, iam quaerens diem, tabum fluentem 1 volneris dextra excipit 590 traditque nobis ungulae insertum suae, quam forte saeva sciderat avolsam manu tune verba moriens addit: "hoc" inquit "magae dixere amorem posse defigi malo; hoc docta Mycale Thessalas docuit nurus, unam inter omnes Luna quam sequitur magas astris relictis. inlitas vestes dabis hae" inquit "ipsa tabe, si paelex tuos invisa thalamos tulerit et coniunx levis aliam parenti dederit altisono nurum. 530 hoe nulla lux conspiciat, hoc tenebrae tegant tantum remotae; sie potens vires suas sanguis tenebit." verba deprendit quies mortemque lassis intulit membris sopor.

Tu, quam meis admittit arcanis fides, perge ut nitentem virus in vestem datum mentem per artus adeat et tacitum means ² intret medullas

NVTRIX

Ocius iussa exsequar, alumna, precibus tu deum invictum advoca, oni certa tenera tela dimittit manu.

540

¹ So E: Leo fluente: tabem fluentis A.

 $^{^2}$ So Richter : tactus sinus A : tacitus mas E Leo tactu sinus.

shall o'ercome them both and with my shaft o'ertake thy flight." His bow was swifter than his words. Then the reedy shaft, wounding from afar, stayed his hampered flight and implanted death. The Centaur, now groping for light, in his right hand caught the poison I flowing from the wound, and this he gave me, pouring it into his hoof, which with mad hand he had chanced to wrench away. Then with his dving words he spoke: "By this charm magicians have said love can be firmly fixed; so were Thessalian wives by the wise Mycale instructed, whom only, midst all wonder-working crones, Luna will forsake the stars and follow. A garment, smeared with this very gore, shalt thou give to him, if ever a hated mistress should usurp thy chamber, and thy fickle husband should give another daughter to his high-thundering sire. This let no light behold; let darkness only, thick and hidden, cover it; so shall the potent blood retain its powers." Silence seized on his words and to his weary limbs came the sleep of death.

535 Now do thou, whom loyalty makes sharer of my secret, haste thee that the poison, upon a glittering robe besideared, go through his heart and limbs and, stealing silently, enter his very

marrow.

NURSE

With speed will I do thy bidding, dearest child; and do thou pray to the god 2 invincible, who with tender hand doth send unerring shafts. [Exit Nurse.

¹ Communicated to the blood by the Hydra-poisoned arrow of Hercules.

² Cupid.

DETANIRA

Te deprecor, quem mundus et superi timent et aequor et qui fulmen Actnacum quatit, timende matri te aliger saevae puer: intende certa spiculum velox manu, non ex sagittis levibus. e numero precor graviore prome quod tuae nondum manus misere in aliquem; non levi telo est opus, ut amare possit Hercules. rigidas manus intende et areum cornibus iunetis para. nunc, nunc sagittam prome qua quondam hor-

ridum 550 Iovem petisti, fulmine abiecto deus cum fronte subita tumuit et rabidum mare taurus puellae vector Assyriae seidit; immitte amorem, vincat exempla omniaamare discat conjugem. si quas decor loles inussit pectori Herculeo faces, extingue totas, perbibat formam mei, tu fulminantem saepe domuisti Iovem, tu furva nigri sceptra gestantem poli, turbae ducem maioris et dominum Stygis; 560 tuque o noverca gravior irata deus, cape hunc triumphum solus et vince Herculem.

NVTRIX

Prolata vis est quaeque Palladia colu lassavit omnem texta famularum manum. nunc congeratur virus et vestis bibat

¹ The bolts of Jove were forged in Vulcan's smithy under ² Enropa. Aetna.

DETANTRA

Thee do I pray, by earth and heaven-dwellers held in fear, by sea, by him who wields Actuaean 1 thunderbolts, and by thy ruthless mother to be feared, O winged boy; with unerring hand aim a swift shaft, and not of thy lighter arrows. Choose thee, I pray. one of thy heavier shafts, which thy hands have ne'er vet shot at any; for no light weapon must thou use that Hercules may feel the power of love. Stretch thy hands stiffly forth, and bend thy bow until the tips shall meet. Now, now that shaft let loose with which once thou aimedst at Jove the terrible, what time the god threw down his thunderbolt and as a bull, with horns quick-sprouting on his brow, clove through the boisterous sea, bearing the Assyrian maid.² Fill him with love; let him outstrip all precedents,—let him learn to love his wife. Iole's beauty hath kindled fires in the breast of Hereules, extinguish them every one, and of my beauty let him deeply drink. Oft hast thou conquered Jove, the thunderer, oft him who wields the dark seeptre of the dusky world, king of the greater throng, and lord of Styx; and now, O god more dreadful than a step-dame's wrath, win thou this triumph all alone, and conquer Hercules.

[Re-enter nurse, with robe and charm.]

NURSE

The charm has been brought out and a robe from Pallas' distaff, at whose weaving thy maidens all have wrought with weary hands. Now let the poison be prepared and let the robe of Hercules

3 The arts of spinning and weaving were of Pallas' invention.

Herculea pestem; precibus augebo malum.

In tempore ipso navus occurrit Lichas; celanda vis est dira, ne pateant doli.

DEÏANIRA

O quod superbae non habent umquam domus, fidele semper regibus nomen Licha, 570 cape hos amietus, nostra quos nevit manus, dum vagus in orbe fertur et victus mero tenet feroci Lydiam gremio nurum, dum poscit Iolen. sed iecur fors horridum flectam mercudo; merita vicerunt malos. non ante coniunx induat vestes iube quam ture flammas pascat et placet deos, cana rigentem populo cinctus comam.

Ipsa in penates regios gressus feram precibusque Amoris horridi matrem colam, vos, quas paternis extuli comites focis, Calydoniae, lugete deflendam vicem.

CHORYS

580

Flemus casus, Oenei, tuos comitum primos turba per annos,

soak up its magic power; and by my incantations will I increase the charm.

[While they are occupying themselves with the robe, LICHAS is seen approaching.]

⁵⁶⁷ But in the nick of time the zealous Lichas comes; the dire potency of the robe must be concealed lest our wiles be punished.

[Enter Lichas.]

DEÏANIRA

O Lichas, name ever loyal to thy lords, though loyalty proud houses ne'er possess, take thou this garment which my hands have woven while he was wandering o'er the earth, or, spent with wine, was holding in his doughty arms the Lydian queen, or seeking Iole. And yet, perchance, I may turn his rough heart to me again by my deserving; for deserts oft conquer those who work us ill. Before my husband puts this garment on, bid him burn incense and appease the gods, his stiff locks wreathed the while with hoary poplar.

[LICHAS takes the robe and departs upon his mission.]

⁵⁷⁹ I will myself pass within the royal palace and with prayers worship the mother of relentless Love.

[To her Aetolian attendants.]

Do ye, whom I have brought as comrades from my father's house, ye Calydonian maids, bewail the fortune that demands your tears.

[Exit.

CHORUS OF AETOLIAN WOMEN

O child of Oeneus, truly do we weep for thy misfortunes, the band of thy companions through thy childhood years, we weep thy couch dishonoured,

flemus dubios, veneranda, toros. nos Acheloi tecum solitae pulsare vadum, cum iam tumidas vere peracto poneret undas gracilisque gradu serperet acquo, nce praecipitem volveret annem 590 flavus rupto fonte Lycormas; nos Palladias ire per aras et virgincos celebrare choros. nos Cadmeis orgia ferre teeum solitae condita cistis, cum iam pulso sidere brumae tertia soles evocat aestas et spiciferae concessa deae Attica mystas cludit Elcusin. nunc quoque casum quemcumque times, 600 fidas comites accipe fatis; nam rara fides ubi iam melior fortupa ruit.

Tu quicumque es qui sceptra tenes, licet omne tua vulgus in aula centum pariter limina pulset; cum tot populis stipatus eas, in tot populis vix una fides. tenet auratum limen Erinys, et cum magnae patuere fores, intrant fraudes cautique doli ferrunque latens; cumque in populos prodire paras, comes invidia est.

² The sacred objects used in the orginstic worship of

¹ Identified by Strabo with the Evenus, a neighbouring river of Actolia.

Bacchus.

3 Called in the text Cadmacan from Cadmus, founder of Thebes.

lady whom we revere. Often with thee have we splashed in Acheloüs' shallows, when now, the springtime passed, he allayed his swollen waters and, a slender stream, crept on with quiet course, and Lycornas i no longer rolled his headlong waters on, dark-hued with bursting fountains. Together were we wont to fare to Pallas' shrines and join in virgin dances, to bear the mysteries in Theban baskets hidden, when now the wintry star had fled, and each third summer acalled forth the sun, and when the grain-giving goddess's sacred seat, Attic Eleusis, shut in her mystic worshippers. Now too, whatever lot thou fearest, take us as trusted comrades of thy fates; for rare is loyalty when now better fortune fails.

604 O thou,6 whoe'er thou art who the sceptre holdest, though all the people throng within thy hall, pressing together through its thousand doors; though when thou walkst abroad whole nations hem thee round; in all those nations scarce one man is true. Erinys keeps the gilded gate, and when the great doors have opened wide, there come in treacheries and cunning wiles and the lurking dagger; and when amongst the people thou wouldst walk, envy walks by thy side. As often as dawn

⁴ The festival of Bacchus was celebrated every third year in honour of his conquest of India.

6 Addressed to kings in general.

⁵ Ceres. The reference is to the Eleusinian mysteries. All these festivals these women had been wont to attend together in childhood.

620

630

640

noctem quotiens summovet Eos, regem totiens credite nasci. panci reges, non regna colunt; plures fulgor concitat aulae, eupit hie regi proximus ipsi clarus latas ire per urbes; urit miserum gloria pectus. cupit hic gazis implere famem; nec tamen omnis plaga gemmiferi sufficit Histri nec tota sitim Lydia vineit nec quae Zephyro subdita tellus stupet aurato flumine clarum radiare Tagum; nee si totus serviat Hebrus ruraque dives iungat Hydaspes intraque suos currere fines spectet toto flumine Gangen. avidis, avidis natura parum est.

Colit hic reges regumque lares, non ut presso vomere semper numquam cesset curvus arator vel mille secent arva coloni; solas optat quas ponat opes. colit hic reges, calect ut omnes perdaique aliquos nullumque levet; tantum ut noceat, cupit esse potens.

Quota pars moritur tempore fati! quos felices Cynthia vidit, vidit miseros enata dies. rarum est felix idemque senex, caespes Tyrio mollior ostro solet inpavidos ducere sonnos;

i.e. so many dangers to the king's life lurk in the night that if he survives these it is as if he were born anew in the morning.

HERCULES OFTABLIS

drives out the night, so often believe a king is born.\footnote{1} Few worship kings and not their thrones: for 'tis the glitter of the royal hall that stirs the most. One man is eager to fare illustrious through broad towns next to the king himself; for greed of glory burns his wretched breast. Another longs with treasure to appease his hunger; and yet not all gem-bearing Hister's tract would satisfy, nor would the whole of Lydia sate his thirst, nor the land \footnote{2} which, lying 'neath the west-wind, marvels to see bright Tagus gleam with golden water; nor if all Hebrus were his own, and rich Hydaspes should be added to his fields, and he should gaze on Ganges flowing with all its stream within his boundaries. For greed, for greed all nature is too little.

632 One man courts kings and homes of kings, not that his ploughman, forever stooping o'er the deep-driven share, may never cease his toil, or that the peasantry may till his thousand fields; but wealth alone, which he may hoard away, he seeks. Another man courts kings that he may trample all, may ruin many and establish none; he covets power only to harm therewith.

640 How few live out their allotted span! Whom Cynthia 3 saw in happiness, the new-born day sees wretched. 'Tis rare to find old age and happiness in one. The couch of turf, softer than Tyrian purple, oft soothes to fearless slumber; but gilded

² Spain.

² i.e. the moon of the previous night.

aurea rumpunt teeta quietem vigilesque trahit purpura noetes o si pateant pectora ditum! quantos intus sublimis agit 650 fortuna metus! Bruttia Coro pulsante fretum lenior unda est. pectora pauper secura gerit ; tenet e patula pocula fago. sed non trepida tenet illa manu; carpit faciles vilesque cibos, sed non strictos respicit enses. aurea miseet poeula sanguis. Coniunx modico nunta marito non disposito clara monili gestat pelagi dona rubentis. 660 nce gemmiferas detrahit aures lapis Eoa lectus in unda, nec Sidonio mollis aeno repetita bibit lana rubores, nee Maconia distinguit acu quae Phoebeis subditus euris legit Eois Ser arboribus. quaelibet herbae tinxere colus quas indoctae nevere manus; sed non dubios fovet illa toros. 670 sequitur dira lampade Erinys quarum populi coluere diem; nec sibi felix pauper habetur nisi felices cecidisse videt.

Quisquis medium defugit iter stabili numquam tramite currit. dum petit unum praebere diem

¹ The north-west wind.

² The reference is to the story of the sword of Damocles. See Index.

ceilings break our rest, and purple coverlets drag out wakeful nights. Oh, if the hearts of rich men were laid bare! What fears does lofty fortune stir within! The waves of Bruttium, when Corus! lashes up the sea, are calmer far. The poor man's heart is free from eare; he holds cups carved from the wide-spreading beech, but holds them with hand untrembling; he cats but cheap and common food, yet sees no drawn sword? hanging o'er his head! Tis in golden cups that blood is mixed with wine.3

658 The wife who is wed to one of modest means is not bedecked with necklaces of pearl, the red sea's gift, nor do stones gathered on Orient shores weigh down her gem-laden ears; for her no soft wool twice dipped in Sidonian cauldrons drinks searlet dyes; not hers with Maeonian ⁴ needle to embroider stuffs which Serians under sunlit skies gather ⁵ from eastern trees. 'Tis but common herbs that dye the webs which her unskilled hands have woven; but she cherishes a marriage-couch all undisturbed. With cruel torch doth Fury pursue the bride whose wedding-day great throngs have celebrated; nor does the poor man count himself full blest, unless he sees the blessed fallen from their height.

 675 Whoever has left the middle course fares never in path secure. While for one day the youth 6 sought

[&]quot; The author may have the story of Atreus and Thyestes in mind.

⁴ The Lydian (Maeonian) women were famous for their skill in embroidery.

⁵ The reference is to silk-culture, for which the Seres (the Chinese) were well known among the ancients.

⁶ Phaethon.

680

690

700

patrioque puer constitit axe nec per solitum decurrit iter, sed Phoebeis ignota petens sidera flammis errante rota, secum pariter perdidit orbem. medium eaeli dum sulcat iter, temuit placitas Daedalus oras nullique dedit nomina ponto; sed dum volucres vincere veras Icarus audet patriasque puer despicit alas Phoeboque volat proxumus ipsi, dedit ignoto nomina ponto. male pensantur magna ruinis.

Felix alius magnusque sonet; me nulla vocet turba potentem. stringat tenuis litora puppis nec magna meas aura phaselos inbeat medium scindere pontum; transit tutos Fortuna sinus medioque rates quacrit in alto, quarum feriunt sipara nubes.

Sed quid pavido territa vultu, qualis Baccho saucia maenas, fertur dubio regina gradu? quae te rursus fortuna rotat? miseranda, refer: licet ipsa neges, vultus loquitur quodeumque tegis.

DEÏANIRA

Vagus per artus errat excussos tremor, erectus horret crinis, impulsis adhuc

1 So Gronovius: †medio Leo, with E: rapido A: trepido Rapheling: fert in medium... gradum Richter. 240

HERCHLES OFTABLIS

to furnish light and took his stand within his father's car, and while he passed not o'er the accustomed track, but sought the stars unknown to Phoebus' rays with wandering wheel, himself he ruined and the world, as well. Daedalus, cleaving his path midway the heavens, reached peaceful shores and to no sea gave his name; but while young learns dared rival true birds in flight, looked down upon his father's wings and soared aloft close to the sun itself, to an unknown sea 1 he gave his name. To our undoing, high fortunes are by ruin balanced.

692 Let another be noised abroad as blest and great: but let no throng hail me as powerful. Let my frail eraft keep close to shore, and let no strong wind compel my bark to plough the mighty deep; misfortune passes by quiet ports, and seeks for ships sailing the open sea, whose topsails smite the clouds-[DEÏANIRA appears hurrying distractedly from the palace.]

700 But why in terror and with face of fear, like some rage-smit Bacchante, comes the queen with step uncertain?

[Enter Deïanira]

What new reverse of fortune whirls thee about? Poor lady, tell us. Though thou thyself sayst naught. thy face speaks out whate'er thou hidest.

DEÏANIRA

Vague shivers steal through my trembling limbs, my hair starts up in horror; fear sticks in my soul

The Icarian sea.

stat terror animis et cor attonitum salit pavidumque trepidis palpitat venis iecur. ut fractus austro pontus etiamnum tumet, quamvis quiescat languidis ventis dies, ita mens adhuc vexatur excusso metu. semel profecto premere felices deus cum coepit, urget. hos habent magna exitus.

710

NVTRIX

Quis tam impotens, miseranda, te casus rotat?

DEÏANIRA

Vt missa palla est tabe Nessea inlita thalamisque maerens intuli gressum meis, nescio quid animus timuit ¹ et fraudem struit? libet experiri. solibus dirus ferum flammisque Nessus sanguinem ostendi arcuit; 720 hie ipse fraudes esse praemonuit dolus.

Et forte, nulla nube respersus iubar, laxabat ardens fervidum Titan diem.—
vix ora solvi patitur etiam nune timor.—
medios in ignes solis ciceram facem²
quo tineta fuerat palla vestisque inlita.
abiectus horret sanguis et Phoebi coma³
tepefactus ardet—vix queo monstrum eloqui.⁴
nives ut Eurus solvit aut tepidus Notus.
quas vere primo lucidus perdit Mimas,

730

² †ciceram freem Leo, with E. conjecturing medios in ignes yellus cicci madens: solis et claram facem A.

¹ Leo conjectures a lacuna here and suggests an moriens viro i poenas parat Centaurus: Richter reads timuit, an fraudem struit?

till now so passion-tossed; my heart leaps wildly and my quaking liver throbs with pulsing veins. As when the storm-tossed sea still heaves, though the skies are clear and the winds have died away, so is my soul still troubled, though my fear has been allayed. Surely when God has once begun to oppress the fortunate, he bears down hard. To such an end do mighty fortunes come.

NURSE

What headstrong fate, poor soul, whirls thee about?

DEÏANIRA

When I had sent away the robe anointed with Nessus' blood, and, sad at heart, betook me to my chamber, my soul feared I know not what—did the dying centaur 'gainst my husband plan revenge, and plot some treachery? I was pleased to make the test. Dread Nessus forbade me to expose the wild blood to the sun's rays and to fire; and this artifice itself forewarned me of treachery.

722 It chanced the burning sun, its radiance by no cloud dimmed, was setting free the day's fervid heat.—Even now my fear scarce suffers me to speak.—Right into the hot sunlight I had thrown the bloodsoaked fleece I with which the robe had been moistened and the garment smeared. The bloody fleece I flung writhed horribly and, warmed with the sun's rays, burst aflame—I have scarce words to tell of the awful thing. As the East or the warm South-wind melts the snows which glistening Mimas

¹ Translating Leo's conjecture.

³ So ∈; Leo †comam.

So A: Leo tastris vix quoque est. m. elocor.

utque evolutos frangit Ionio salo opposita fluctus Leucas et lassus tumor in litore ipso spumat, aut eaelestibus aspersa tepidis tura laxantur focis, sie languet omne vellus et perdit comas. dumque ista miror, causa mirandi perit; quin ipsa tellus spumeos motus agit et quidquid illa tabe contactum est labat.1

Natum paventem cerno et ardenti pede gressus ferentem. prome quid portes novi.2 740

HVIJAS

1. profuge, quaere si quid ulterius patet terris freto sideribus Oceano inferis, ultra labores, mater, Aleidae fuge!

DETAXIRA

Neseio quod animus grande praesagit malum.

HYLLYS

Regnat, triumphat 3: templa Iunonis pete. hace tibi patent; delubra praeclusa omnia.

DEÏANIRA

Effare quis me casus insontem premat.

1 Following line 738 in A stands the unintelligible line tumensque tacita sequitur et quassat caput.

² Leo deletes lines 740, 741, assuming a considerable lacuna between 738 and 742.

loses in early spring; as 'gainst Leucadia's crags, breasting the Ionian sea, the up-flung waves are broken and with spent fury foam upon the shore, or as incense sprinkled on hely shrines is melted in the hot altar-fires; so all the wool withered and lost its fleece. And while I stood wondering at it, the object of my wonder disappears; nay, even the very ground begins to foam, and whatever that poison touched begins to shrink.

[uyllus is seen approaching]

⁷⁴⁰ But I see my son approaching with face of fear and hurrying feet.

[То пущев]

Speak out—what tidings dost thou bear?

HYLLUS [hurrying upon the scene]

Go! flee! seek out whatever place lies far away on land, on sea, 'mongst stars, in Ocean, underworld—far beyond the labours of Alcides, mother, flee!

DEÏANIRA

Some great disaster doth my mind presage.

HYLLUS

She ¹ reigns, she triumphs; Juno's temple seek. This sanctuary waits thee; closed is all refuge else.

DEÏANTRA

Tell what disaster my guiltless self o'erwhelms.

1 i.e. Juno.

³ Leo's conjecture for regna triumphi of MSS.

DVLLVS

Decus illud orbis atque praesidium unicum, quem fata terris in locum dederant Iovis, o mater, abiit. membra et Herculeos toros urit lues nescio qua; qui domuit feras, ille ille victor vincitur maeret dolet. quid quaeris ultra?

DEÏANIRA

Miserias properant suas audire miseri. fare, quo posita in statu iam nostra domus est? o lares, miseri lares! nune vidua, nune expulsa, nune ferar obruta.

HVLLVS

Non sola maeres Herculem, toto iacet mundo gemendus. fata nec, mater, tua privata credas: iam genus totum obstrepit. hunc eece luctu quem gemis cuncti gemunt, commune terris omnibus pateris malum. luctum occupasti: prima, non sola Herculem, miseranda, maeres.

DEÏANIRA

Quam prope a leto tamen ede, ede quaeso iaceat Aleides meus.

HYLLVS

Mors refugit illum victa quae in regno suo semel est nee audent fata tam vastum nefas admittere, ipsas forsitan trepida colus Clotho manu proiecit et fata Herculis **7**50

DVLLUS

That glory and sole guardian of the world, whom the fates had given to the lands in the place of Jove, O mother, is no more. The limbs and thews of Hercules a mysterious plague is wasting; and he who conquered monsters, he, he, the victor, is vanquished, is in grief, in agony. What more dost ask?

DEÏANIRA

The wretched are in haste to hear their wretchedness. Tell me: in what condition now stands our house? O home, O wretched home! Now truly am I widowed, exiled, overwhelmed.

HYLLUS

Not thou alone dost lament Hereules; low he lies for the whole world to mourn. And think not, mother, thine is a private loss; now the whole race is clamorous with wor. Lo, all men utter thy self-same groans of grief; common to all lands is the ill thou sufferest. Thou hast forestalled their grief; first, but not all alone, poor soul, dost thou mourn Hereules.

DEÏANIRA

Yet tell me, tell, I beg, how near to death does my Alcides lie.

HYLLUS

Death, who once in his own realm was overcome, lees from him; nor do the fates dare countenance so great a crime. Perchance Clotho has thrown aside her very distaff from her trembling hand, and

 $^{-1}$ A probable reference to the struggle of Hercules with Death for the recovery of Alcestis.

timet peragere. pro dicm, infandum diem! hoene ille summo magnus Alcides crit?

770

DEÏANIRA

Ad fata et umbras adque peiorem polum praecedere illum dieis? an possum prior mortem occupare? fare, si nondum occidit.

HVILIXS

Enhoica tellus vertice immenso tumens pulsatur omni latere. Phrixeum mare scindit Caphereus, servit hoe Austro latus; at qua nivosi patitur Aquilonis minas, Euripus undas flectit instabilis vagas septemane cursus volvit et totidem refert, dum lassa Titan mergat Oceano inga. hic rupe celsa, multa quam nubes ferit, annosa fulgent templa Cenaci Iovis.

780

Ut stellt ad aras omne votivum pecus totumque tauris gemuit auratis neinus. spolium leonis sordidum tabo exuit posuitque clavae pondus et pharetra graves laxavit umeros, veste tum fulgens tua, cana revinctus populo horrentem comam, succendit aras; "accipe has" inquit "focis non false messes genitor et largo sacer splendescat ignis ture, quod Phoebum colens dives Sabacis colligit truncis Arabs. pacata tellus" inquit " et caclum et freta,

790

¹ i.c. the Aegaean. See Index s.c. "Phrixus."

² Seneca's description in this passage of the topography of Euboca is not correct. The Cenaean Promontory is at the far north-western point of the island, while the Strait of 248

is afraid to complete the fates of Hercules. O day, O awful day! And shall this for the great Alcides be the last?

DEÏANIRA

To the shades of death and to that darker world dost say he has gone already? Can I not go before and anticipate his death? Speak, if he is not yet fallen.

HYLLUS

Euboea's shore, swelling with mighty headland, on every side is beaten by the waves. Caphereus cleaves the Phrixean 1 Sea, on this side the southwind blows; but on the side which feels the blasts of snowy Aquilo, restless Euripus turns his wandering waves, whose currents seven times flow and seven times ebb again, till Titan plunges his weary horses in the sea. Here on a lofty cliff, by many a storm-cloud beaten, an ancient temple of Cenaean Jove stands gleaming.²

784 When all the votive herd stood at the altars, and the whole grove was filled with the bellowing of the gilded bulls, he 3 put off his lion's skin, all stained with gore, laid down his heavy club and freed his shoulders of the quiver's weight. Then radiant in thy robe, his rough hair wreathed with hoary poplar, he lit the altar-fires. "Accept these gifts," he said, "upon thy shrine, O father, not falsely claimed, and let thy sacred fire blaze brightly with copious incense which the rich Arab gathers from Sabaean trees, in worship of the Sun. Peace has been given to earth, to sky, to sea; all monsters Euripus is very nearly off the middle point. Caphereus,

Euripus is very nearly off the iniddle point. Caphereus, moreover, is exposed not to the south but almost directly to the east wind.

i.e. Hercules.

800

810

820

feris subactis omnibus victor redi. depone fulmen."

Gemitus in medias preces stupente et ipso cecidit; hinc caelum horrido clamore complet. qualis impressa fugax taurus bipenni volnus et telum ferens delubra vasto trepida mugitu replet, aut quale mundo fulmen emissum tonat, sie ille gemitu sidera et pontum ferit, et vasta Chaleis sonuit et voces Cyclas excepit omnis; hinc petrae Capherides, hinc omne voces reddit Herculeas nemus. flentem videmus. volgus antiquam putat rabiem redisse; tum fugam famuli petunt.

At ille voltus ignea torquens face
unum inter omnes sequitur et quaerit Lichan.
complexus aras ille tremibunda manu
mortem metu consumpsit et parvum sui
poenae reliquit. dumque¹ tremibundum manu
tenuit cadaver: "hac manu, hae" inquit "ferar,
o fata, vietus? Hereulem vieit Lichas?
cece alia clades: Hereules perimit Lichan.
facta inquinentur; fiat hic summus labor."
in astra missus fertur et nubes vago
spargit cruore. talis in caclum exilit
harundo Getica visa dimitti manu
aut quam Cydon excussit: inferius tamen
et tela fugient. truncus in pontum cadit,
in saxa vertex; unus ambobus iacet.

¹ Leo conjectures semianimum parens.

have I subdued and in triumph come again. Lay down thy thunderbolt."

736 As he thus prayed a groan fell from his lips, even he standing aghast; then with dreadful cries he filled the air. As when a bull, fleeing the deep-driven axe, bearing both wound and weapon, fills with his huge bellowings the affrighted shrine, or as the launched thunder crashes in the sky; so did he with his roarings smite the stars and sea; towering Chalcis recehoed and all the Cyclades heard his cries; then all Caphercus' crags and the whole forest resounded with the cries of Hercules. We saw him weep. The commons thought his ancient madness had returned; then his attendants fled.

808 But he, his face writhing with pain of the burning heat, pursued and sought out Lichas alone among them all. The boy, embracing the altar with trembling hands, through sheer terror tasted the pangs of death, and left small part of his life for punishment. Then Hercules, by his hand seizing the quivering corpse, exclaimed: "By such a hand, by such a hand as this, ve fates, shall I be said to have been undone? Has Lichas conquered Hercules? Behold another slaughter; Hercules in turn slays Lichas. Be my deeds dishonoured; be this my erowning task." To the stars the boy went hurtling and sprinkled the clouds with his scattered blood. So does a Getan arrow, from the hand let fly, go speeding skyward, or the shaft a Cydonian has shot: but far below 1 even these weapons will wing their flight. His body falls into the sea, his head upon the rocks; one youth lies slain in both,2

2 i.e. both head and body.

i.e. below the height reached by Lichas.

"Resistite" inquit "non furor mentem abstulit, furore gravius istud atque ira malum est: in me iuvat saevire." vix pestem indicat et saevit; artus ipse dilacerat suos et membra vasta carpit avellens manu. exuere amietus quaerit; hoe solum Herculem non posse vidi. trahere conatus tamen et membra traxit; corporis palla horridi 830 pars est et ipsa; pestis immiscet cuti.1 nec causa dirae cladis in medio patet, sed causa tamen est; vixque sufficiens malo nune ore terram languidus prono premit. nune poscit undas— unda non vincit malum; fluctisona quaerit litora et pontum occupat; famularis illum retinet errantem manus o sortem acerbam! fuimus Alcidae pares!

Nunc puppis illum litore Euboico refert Austerque lenis pondus Herculeum rapit; destituit animus membra, nox oculos premit.

840

DEÏANIRA

Quid, anime, cessas? quid stupes? factum est seelus. natum reposeit Iuppiter, luno aemulum; reddendus orbi est. quod potes redde exhibe; eat per artus ensis exactus meos. sie, sie agendum est. tam levis poenas manus tantas reposeit? perde fulminibus, socer,

¹ Following Richter's reconstruction: pars (parum E) est et ipsam (ipsa A) MSS., for which Leo conjectures ipsam pestis immiscet cutem (scil. pallar).

¹ And not against others as heretofore.

823 "But hold!" said Hercules; "'tis not madness has robbed me of my wits; this bane is worse than madness and than rage; I am fain to rave against myself." 1 Scarce has he named the plague when lo, he raves, he tears his own flesh apart, with his own hand wounding and rending his huge limbs. He seeks to throw aside the robe; in this alone have I seen Aleides fail. Yet striving to tear the robe. he tears his limbs as well. The robe is part and parcel of his rugged body: the pest blends it with the skin. The cause of his dire suffering is hid, but still there is a cause; and, scarce able to endure his pain, now he lies spent, face down upon the ground. now calls for water-water cheeks not his pain; he seeks the wave-resounding shore and plunges in the sea, but a slave's hand restrains him wandering aimless there-oh, bitter lot! we were Aleides cquals !2

**s39 And now a vessel is bringing him from Euboea's shore, and a gentle south wind wafts his huge bulk along; his spirit has left his body; night scals his

eves.

DEÏANIRA

Why, soul, dost hesitate? Why art amazed? The crime is done. Jupiter demands back his son of thee, Juno, her rival; yea, to the world must be be restored.³ What still thou canst, give back, make restitution; let the sword, deep driven, through my body pass. So, so must it be done. But does so frail hand as this exact punishment so great? With thy thunderbolts, O sire, destroy thy guilty daughter.

² i.e. in the hero's present weakness, common men were able to control him.

³ She has robbed the world of Hercules, and now must make such restitution as she may.

nurum scelestam. nec levi telo manus armetur; illud fulmen exiliat polo, quo, nisi fuisset genitus Alcides tibi, 850 hydram cremasses. pestem ut insolitam feri et ut noverca potius irata malum. emitte telum quale in errantem prius Phaethonta missum est: perdidi in solo Hercule et ipsa populos.

Quid rogas telum deos? iam parce socero; coniugem Alcidae necem optare pudeat; haec erit voto manus, a me petatur; occupa ferrum ocius. cur deinde ferrum? quidquid ad mortem trahit telum est abunde—rupe ab aetheria ferar. haec, haee renatum prima quae poscit diem, Oeta eligatur, corpus hine mitti placet. abrupta cautes scindat et partem mei ferat omne saxum, pendeant lacerae manus totumque rubeat asperi montis latus. levis una mors est-levis? at extendi potest. eligere nescis, anime, cui telo incubes; utinam esset, utinam fixus in thalamis meis Herculeus ensis! huic decet ferro inmori. una perire dextera nobis sat est? coite, gentes, saxa et immensas faces iaculetur orbis, nulla nunc cesset manus, corripite tela, vindicem vestrum abstuli. impune saevi sceptra iam reges gerent, impune iam nascetur indomitum malum; repetentur arae cernere assuetae hostiam similem colenti. sceleribus feci viam;

860

And with no common weapon let thy hand be armed: let that bolt leap from heaven with which, had Aleides not sprung from thee, thou wouldst have scorched the Hydra. Destroy me as some strange pest, as a scourge far worse than step-dame's wrath. Launch such a bolt as once thou didst hurl at straying Phaëthon; for I, e'en I myself, in Hereules alonc have rained nations.

855 But why dost ask weapons of the gods? At last spare thy father.1 The wife of Hereules should be ashamed to pray for death; this hand shall grant my prayer; from myself let death be sought. Then quickly seize the sword.—Why then the sword? Whatever brings to death is weapon all-sufficient from a sky-piercing cliff I'll east me down. Let this. this erag of Octa, which is the first to greet the newborn day, be chosen; from this 'tis well to fling me. May its broken erags rend asunder, and every rock take its share of me; may my mangled hands hang there, and may the whole rough mountain-side run red. One death is all too light—light? but still it can be prolonged. Thou canst not choose, O soul, on what weapon thou shalt fall. Oh, would that the sword of Hercules were hanging in my chamber! Upon that steel 'twere well for me to die. But is it enough that by one right hand I perish? Come all ve nations; let the world east rocks and huge firebrands on me; let no hand shrink its task; seize weapons, for your avenger have I done to death. Now with impunity shall cruel kings wield sceptres; yea, with impunity now fierce monsters shall be born; again shall altars be found wont to behold victim like to worshipper.² A highway to erime have I

i.e. do not impose thy punishment on Jove.
 i.e. where human sacrifices are offered up.

ego vos tyrannis regibus monstris feris saevisque rapto vindice opposui deis.
cessas, Tonantis socia? non spargis facem 880 imitata fratrem et mittis ereptam Iovi meque ipsa perdis? laus tibu erepta incluta est, ingens triumphus; aemuli, luno, tui mortem occupavi.

HYLLYS

Quid domum impulsam trahis? erroris est hic omne quodcumque est nefas, haut est nocens quicumque non sponte est nocens.

DEÏANIRA

Quicumque fato ignoscit et parcit sibi, errare meruit. morte dannari placet.

HY1.LVS

Nocens videri qui mori quaerit cupit.

DEÏANIRA

Mors innocentes sola deceptos facit.

890

HYLLUS

Titana fugiens-

DEÏANIRA

lpse me Titan fugit.

HVILLS

Vitam relinques?

¹ $i.\epsilon$, the "nation" addressed in line 871.

prepared; I have exposed you¹ to tyrants, kings, monsters, wild beasts and cruel gods, by slaying your avenger. Dost shirk thy task, wife² of the thunderer? Why dost thou not, in imitation of thy brother,² scatter fire, snatch from Jove's hand his bolt, hurl it, and thyself destroy me? Illustrious praise and mighty triumph have been snatched from thee; I have forestalled thee, Juno, in thy rival's death.

HYLLUS

Why dost drag down a house already shaken? From error springs wholly whatever crime is here. He does no sin who sins without intent.

DEÏANIRA

Who casts the blame on fate and spares himself, has deserved to err. My sentence is for death.

HVLLUS

Fain would he seem guilty who seeks to die.

DEÏANIRA

'Tis death alone can make the beguiled 3 innocent.

HYLLES

Fleeing the sun—

DEÏANTRA

The sun himself flees me.

HVLLUS

Wilt abandon life?

² Juno was both sister and wife of Jove.

3 i.e. those who have been ensuared into sin.

DETANIRA

Miseram, ut Alciden sequar.

HYLLYS

Superest et auras ille caelestes trahit.

DEÏANIRA

Vinci Hercules cum potuit, hine coepit mori.

HVLLVS

Natum relinques fataque abrumpes tua?

DEÏANIRA

Quamcumque natus sepelit haec vixit diu.

HYLLVS

Virum sequeris.

DEÏANIRA

Praegredi castae solent.

HYLLVS

Si te ipsa damnas, scelere te misera arguis.

DEÏANIRA

Nemo nocens sibi ipse poenas abrogat.

HYLLYS

Multis remissa est vita quorum error nocens, 900 non dextra fuerat. fata quis damnat sua?

DEÏANIHA

Ay! a wretched life—that Aleides I may follow.

HVLLUS

But he still lives and breathes the air of heaven.

DEÏANIRA

When Hereules could be conquered, then he began to die.

HYLLUS

Wilt leave thy son? Wilt break thy thread of life?

DEÏANIRA

She whom her son has buried has lived long.

HYLLUS

Follow thy husband.¹

DEÏANTRA

Faithful wives go before.

HYLLUS

If thou thyself dost doom thee, thou convictest thyself, unhappy one, of sin.

DEÏANIRA

No guilty one himself annuls his punishment.

DVLLUS

Life has been granted many whose guilt lay in wrong judgment, not in act. Who blames his own destiny?

i.e. do not die until he is dead.

DEÏANIRA

Quicumque fata iniqua sortitus fuit.

HYLLYS

Hie ipse Megaram nempe confixam suis stravit sagittis atque natorum indolem Lernaca figens tela furibunda manu; ter parricida factus ignovit tamen sibi, non furori. fonte Cinyphio scelus sub axe Libyco tersit et dextram abluit. quo, misera, pergis? cur tuas damnas manus?

DEÏANIRA

Damnat meas devictus Aleides manus. placet scelus punire.

910

HYLLVS

Si novi Herculem, aderit eruenti forsitan victor mali dolorque fractus cedet Alcidae tuo.

DEÏANIRA

Exedit artus virus ut fama est hydrae; immensa pestis coniugis membra abstulit.

UVLLVS

Serpentis illi virus encetae autumas haut posse vinci qui malum vivum tulit? elisit hydram, dente eum infixo stetit¹ media palude victor, effuso obrutus artus veneno. sanguis hune Nessi opprimet, qui vicit ipsas horridi Nessi manus?

920

1 So Peiper, with A: †cum fixo tenens Leo, with E, and conjectures dum infecto tunet: Richter conjectures iam infixo tunens

DEÏANIRA

Whoever has fallen on unkind fates,

IIV LLUS

But Hercules himself slew Megara, pierced by his arrows, and his own sons as well, shooting Lernaean shafts with furious hand; still, though thrice murderer, he forgave himself, but not his madness. At the source of Cinyps 'neath Libyan skies he washed away his guilt and cleansed his hands. Whither, poor soul, dost haste thee? Why dost condemn thy hands?

DEÏANIRA

'Tis Alcides' overthrow that doth condemn my hands. 'Tis well to punish crime.

UVLLUS

If I know Hercules, he will soon be here, perchance victorious o'er the cruel plague; and pain, subdued, will yield to thy Aleides.

DEÏANIRA

The hydra's poison, as report declares, hath consumed his frame; the deadly plague hath wasted his giant limbs.

UVILLES

Thinkst thou the poison of a scrpent, slain, cannot be overcome by him who met and overcame the monster, living? He crushed the hydra, and deep in the marsh, with the fangs fixed in his flesh, he stood victorious, while his limbs were bathed in venom. Shall Nessus' blood destroy the man who overcame e'en the hands of savage Nessus?

DEÏANIRA

Frustra tenetur ille qui statuit mori; proinde lucem fugere decretum est mihi. vixit satis quicumque eum Aleide occidit.

NVTRIX

Per has aniles ecce te supplex comas atque ubera ista paene materna obsecro: depone tumidas pectoris laesi minas mortisque dirae expelle decretum horridum.

DEÏANIRA

Quicumque misero forte dissuadet mori, crudelis ille est; interim poena est mori, sed saepe donum; pluribus veniae fuit.

930

NUTRIX

Defende saltem dexteram, infelix, tuam fraudisque facinus esse, non nuptae, sciat.

DEÏANIRA

Defendar illic; inferi absolvent ream, a me ipsa damnor; purget has Pluton manus. stabo ante ripas immemor, Lethe, tuas et umbra tristis coniugem excipiam memm.

Scd tu, nigrantis regna qui torques poli, para laborem (scelera quae quisquam ansus est, hic vincet error : Iuno non ausa Herculem est 940 cripere terris) horridam poenam para. Sisyphia cervix cesset et nostros lapis

DETANDA

Vainly is he restrained who is beut on death; my will is fixed straightway to flee the light. Whoever has died with Hercules has lived enough.

NHESE

Lo, by these aged locks and by these breasts which were almost as a mother's to thee, I humbly pray; put by the wild threatenings of thy wounded heart, and banish thy dread resolve of cruel death.

DEÏANIRA

Whoever, perchance, dissuades the wretched from death, he is the cruel one; sometimes death is a punishment, but often 'tis a boon, and to many a way of pardon has it proved.

NURSE

At least absolve thy hand, unhappy one, that he may know that the deed was a treacherons forman's, not his wife's.

DEÏANIRA

There ¹ shall I be absolved; the lower gods will acquit the criminal, though I condemn myself. Let Pluto cleanse these hands. Upon thy banks, O Lethe, shall I stand, the past forgotten, and my grieving shade will welcome its lord again.

⁹³⁸ But do thou, who torturest the realms of the dark under-world, prepare a toil—for this fault of mine outweighs all sins that man has ever dared; Juno was never bold enough to rob the world of Hercules —some dreadful toil prepare. Let Sisyphus' neck

¹ In the lower world.

impellat umeros; me vagus fugiat latex meamque fallax unda deludat sitim. merui manus praebere turbinibus tuis, quaccumque regem Thessalum torques rota; effodiat avidus hine et hine vultur fibras. vacat 1 una Danais, has ego explebo viceslaxate manes. recipe me comitem tibi, Phasiaca coniunx; peior hacc, peior tuo 950 ntroque dextra est scelere, seu mater nocens sen dira soror es; adde me comitem tuis, Threicia coniunx, seeleribus; natam tuam, Althaea mater, recipe, nunc veram tui agnosce prolem-quid tamen tantum manus vestrae abstulerunt? claudite Elysium mihi quaecumque fidae coniuges nemoris sacri lucos tenetis; si qua respersit manus viri eruore nec memor castae facis stricto eruenta Belias ferro stetit, 960 in me suas agnoscat et laudet manus. in hane abire conjugum turbam libet sed et illa fugiet turba tam diras manus.

Inviete coniunx, innocens animus mili, scelesta manus est. pro nimis mens credula! pro Nesse fallax atque semiferi doli! auferre cupiens paelici cripui mili. recede, Titan, tuque quae blanda tenes in luce miseros vita; caritura Hercule lux vilis ista est. exigam poenas tibi reddamque vitam—fata an extendo mea mortemque, coniunx, ad tuas servo manus?

¹ So Richter: Leo vacet, with ω , corrected by Rapheling.

¹ The punishment of Tantalus.

² Ixion. Hypermnestra.

⁴ Medea. Procne.

be eased and let his rock press hard upon my shoulders; let the inconstant water fly my lips, my thirst let the elusive waves deceive.1 Unto the whirlings have I deserved to give my hands, whatsoe'er wheel thou art which rackest Thessalia's king; 2 from every side let the greedy vulture tear my entrails out. There still lacks one 3 from the Danaides; I will fill up their number-ye ghosts make room for me. Take me as thy companion, O Phasian wife; 4 my deed is worse, far worse than both thy crimes, whether as mother or as cruel sister thou hast sinued; let me be comrade also to thy crimes, thou Thracian wife; 5 Althea, mother,6 welcome thy daughter, now recognize in me thine own true child-vet what crime so great have your hands ever done? Shut Elysium against me, O all ye faithful wives who have your dwelling in its sacred grove; but if any has bespattered her hands with her husband's blood and her chaste marriage torch forgot, has stood with drawn sword like Belus' bloody child, in me let her recognize and praise her own handiwork. To such a company of wives 'tis well to pass-but e'en that company will shun hands so accursed.

964 O'my unconquered husband, my soul is innocent, though my hands have sinned. O mind too credulous! O Nessus, false and of half-bestial guile! Striving to snatch him from a concubine, I have snatched him from myself. Away! thou sun, and life, who by thy cozening arts dost keep the unhappy in the light of day; worthless that light without my Hereules. I will exact penalty for thee, will give up my life—or shall I put off my fate, O husband, and save myself for death at thine own

⁶ For Althaea's crime see Index.

⁷ i.e. will see that he is avenged.

virtusne superest aliqua et armatae manus intendere arcum tela missurum valent? an arma cessant teque languenti manu non audit arcus? si potes letum dare, animose coniunx, dexteram expecto tuam. mors differatur; frange ut insontem Lichan, alias in urbes sparge et ignotum tibi inmitte in orbem. perde ut Arcadiae nefas et quidquid aliud eessit ¹; ab illis tamen, coniunx, redisti.

980

HYLLVS

Paree iam, mater, precor, ignosee fatis; error a culpa vacat.

DEÏANIRA

Si vera pietas, Hylle, quaerenda est tibi, iam perime matrem—trepida quid tremuit manus? quid ora flectis? hoc erit pietas scelus. ignave dubitas? Herculem eripuit tibi haec, haec peremit dextra eui debes patri avum Tonantem. maius eripui decus, quam in luce tribui. si tibi ignotum est nefas, 990 a matre disce. seu tibi iugulo placet mersisse ferrum sive maternum libet invadere uterum, mater intrepidum tibi praebebit animum. non erit tantum scelus a te peraetum; dextera sternar tua, sed mente nostra. natus Alcidae, times? ita nulla perages iussa nee franges mala ²

1 teessit Leo, with E: restitit A.

² Line 998, omitted by E, deleted by Leo: erres per orbem, si qua nascetur fera.

hands? Hast still some strength, and can thy armed hands still bend the bow and send the arrow darting? Or do thy weapons fail thee, and does thy bow no more heed thy enfeebled hand? If thou canst deal destruction, O undaunted husband, I await thy stroke. Let death be stayed awhile¹; crush me as thou didst the unoffending Lichas; to other cities scatter me, yea, hurl me to a world to thee unknown. Destroy me as thou didst the Arcadian monster,² and whatever else succumbed to thee; yet from them, my husband, thou didst return,

HYLLUS

Give o'er now, mother, I beseech thee, pardon thy fate; an error is not counted as a crime.

DEÏANIRA

If, Hyllus, thou wouldst be truly filial, come, slay thy mother—why does thy hand quake and tremble? Why turnst thy face away? This crime will be filial piety. Tamely dost hesitate? This hand robbed thee of Hercules, yea, this right hand destroyed him to whom as father thou owest descent from Jove. Of greater glory have I robbed thee than I gave thee at thy birth. If thou art unskilled in monstrous crime, learn from thy mother. Whether in my throat it pleases thee to plunge the sword, or 'tis thy will to assail thy mother's womb, thy mother herself will give thee unshrinking courage. Not by thee will this dreadful crime be done; by thy hand, truly, shall I fall, but by my will. Son of Aleides, art afraid? Wilt thou not do as bidden, wilt not crush monsters, and so be like

¹ i.e. until she may die at her husband's hands.

² The Erymanthian boar, Hercules' fourth labour.

referens parentem? dexteram intrepidam para. 999 patet ecce plenum pectus aerumnis: feri; 1000 scelus remitto, dexterae parcent tuae
Eumenides ipsac—verberum crepuit sonus.

Quaenam ista torquens angue vipereo ¹ comaun temporibus atras ² squalidis pinnas quatit? quid me flagranti dira persequeris face, Megaera? pocnas poscis Alcidae? dabo. iamne inferorum, dira, sedere arbitri? sedent. reclusas ³ carceris video fores. quis iste saxum immane detritis gerit iam senior umeris? ecce iam victus lapis 1010 quaerit relabi? membra quis quatitur rota? hic ecce pallens dira Tisiphone stetit, causam reposcit. parce verberibus precor, Megaera, parce, sustine Stygias faces; scelus est amoris.

Sed quid hoc? tellus labat et aula tectis crepuit excussis—minax unde iste coetus? totus in voltus meos decurrit orbis, hine et hine populi fremunt totusque poseit vindicem mundus snum. iam parcite, urbes. quo fugam praeceps agam? 1020 mors sola portus dabitur aerumnis meis. testor nitentis flammeam Phoebi rotain superosque testor: Herculem in terris adhue moritura linquo.

 $^{^{-1}}$ †angue viperco Leo; angui E; igue N, Heinsius; angue vibrato Peiper.

thy sire? Thy dauntless hand make ready. Behold my breast, so full of eares, lies open: smite; I forgive the deed, the Eumenides themselves will acquit thy hand—but I hear their scourges hissing.

ivo3 Oh, who is that in whose locks viperous scrpents coil, who brandishes deadly shafts at her foul temples? Why dost pursue me, awful Megacra, with blazing torch? Penalty for Aleides' murder dost demand? I'll pay. Already, dread one, have the arbiters of hell passed judgment on me? They have. I see the prison doors opened wide. Who is that ancient¹ who bears a huge stone on his toil-worn back? But see! already does the mastered stone seek to roll back again? Whose² limbs on the wheel are racked? Look! here has Tisiphone taken her stand, ghastly and dread; she demands revenge. Oh, spare thy scourge, I pray thee, Megacra, spare! Keep back the Stygian torches; mine was the crime of love.

1015 But what is this? The earth quakes, the palace resounds with the noise of crashing roofs—whence comes that threatening throng? The whole world comes rushing 'gainst me, on every side the nations rage and the whole universe demands of me its saviour. Oh, spare me now, ye cities. Whither shall I rush in headlong flight? Death alone will be granted as a haven for my cares. By gleaning Phoebus' flaming car I swear, I swear by the heavenly gods: though to my death I go, I leave Alcides still upon the earth.

[She rushes wildly from the scene.]

¹ Sisyphus. ² Ixion.

² So A: Leo †hastas, with E: Madrig aptas.

HYLLVS

Fugit attonita, ei mihi. peracta iam pars matris est—statuit mori; nunc nostra superest, mortis auferre impetum. o misera pietas! si mori matrem vetas, patri es scelestus; si mori pateris, tamen in matre peccas. urget hine illine scelus. inhibenda tamen est, verum ut eripiam seelus.

1030

CHORVS

Verum est quod cecinit sacer Thressae sub Rhodopes iugis aptans Pieriam chelyn Orpheus Calliopae genus, acternum fieri nihil. illins stetit ad modos torrentis rapidi fragor, oblitusque sequi fugam amisit liquor impetum; et dum fluminibus mora est, defeeisse putant Getae Hebrum Bistones ultimi. advexit voluerem nemus et silva residens venit; ant si qua aera pervolat, auditis vaga cantibus ales deficiens cadit. abrumpit scopulos Athos Centauros obiter ferens et iuxta Rhodopen stetit lavata nive cantibus: et quereum fugiens suam ad vatem properat Dryas. ad cantus veniunt tuos

1040

HYLLUS

Ah me! in frenzy has she fled. Already has my mother played her part—she has resolved on death; now does my part remain, to thwart her deadly purpose. O wretched plight of love! if thou forbidst thy mother's death, thou wrongst thy father; if thou sufferest her to die, still 'gainst thy mother dost thou sin. Crime drives from either hand; still must I check her, that from true 1 crime she may be saved.

[Exit after his mother.]

CHORUS

True sang the bard beneath the heights of Thracian Rhodope, fitting the word to his Pierian lyre, e'en Orphens, Calliope's blest son, that naught for endless life is made. At his sweet strains the rushing torrents' roar was stilled, and, forgetful of their eager flight, the waters ceased their flow; and, while the river stayed to hear, the far Bistonians thought their Hebrus had failed the Getan. The woods came with their birds to him, vea, perched among the trees they came; or if, in the high air soaring, some wandering bird caught sound of the charming song, his drooping wings sank earthward. Athos broke off his crags, bringing the Centaurs as he came, and next to Rhodope he stood, his snows melted by the music; the Dryad, leaving her oaken haunts, sped to the singer's side. To hear thy song, with their very lairs the

¹ i.e. the true crime of her own death as contrasted with the fancied crime of her act against Hercules.

ipsis cum latebris ferae,	
iuxtaque inpavidum pecus	
sedit Marmaricus leo	
nec dammae trepidant lupos	
et serpens latebras fugit,	
tunc oblita veneni.	1060
Quin per Tacnarias forcs	
manes cum tacitos adit	
maerentem feriens chelyn,	
cantu Tartara flebili	
et tristes Erebi deos	
vicit nec timuit Stygis	
iuratos superis lacus.	
haesit non stabilis rota	
victo languida turbine ;	
increvit Tityi iecur,	1070
dum cantu volucres tenet;	1071
et vinci lapis improbus	1081
et vatem potuit sequi.¹	1082
tune primum Phrygius senex	1075
undis stantibus immemor	
excussit rabidam sitim	
nec pomis adhibet manns.	1078
audis tu ² quoque, navita;	1072
inferni ratis aequoris	1073
nullo remigio venit.	1074
sic cum vinceret inferos	1079
Orpheus carmine funditus,	1080
consumptos iterum deae	1083
supplent Eurydices colus.	1084
sed dum respicit immemor	

¹ The arrangement of lines 1070-1084 as they stand in Leo following the MSS, is more or less illogical, besides presenting syntactic difficulties. The rearrangement of Richter has been adopted here.

wild beasts came, and close to the fearless herds the Marmaric lion crouched; does felt no fear of wolves, and the serpent fled her gloomy den, her venom at last forgot.

1061 Nav, when through the gates Taenarian to the silent ghosts he came, smiting his mournful lyre. with his sad song he conquered Tartarus and the sullen gods of Erebus; nor was he daunted by the pools of Styx, by which the high gods swear. The never staying wheel 1 stood still, listless, with conquered whirling; the liver of Tityus grew. undevoured, while spell-bound the singer held the The impish stone 2 allowed defeat and attended on the bard. Then first the aged Phrygian, though the waves stood still, banished his raging thirst, forgetful quite, nor to the apples stretched his hand. Thou also, ferryman,4 didst hear, and thy boat that plies the infernal sea came oarless on, So when by his song Orpheus had utterly o'ercome the infernal gods, then did the goddesses 5 renew again Eurydice's exhausted thread. But while Orpheus thoughtlessly looked back, all unbelieving

On which Ixion was bound.

Which Sisyphus was rolling.
Tantalus. Charon.

⁵ i.e. the fatal sisters, the Parcae.

² So Birt's emendation of the impossible MSS, reading audito quoque: Richter's auditum quoque is also impossible.

1090

1100

1110

nec credens sibi redditam Orpheus Enrydicen sequi, cantus praemia perdidit; quae nata est iterum perit.

Tune, solamina cantibus quaerens, flebilibus modis

particular, information in the particular information in the parti

quod natum est, quod erit, mori.³
Vati credere Thracio

devictus inbet Hercules. iam, iam legibus obrutis mundo cum veniet dies, australis polus obruet quidquid per Libyam iacet ct sparsus Garamas tenet; arctous polus obruet quidquid subjacet axibus et siccus Boreas ferit. amisso trepidus polo Titan exentiet diem. caeli regia concidens ortus atque obitus trahet atque omnes pariter deos perdet mors aliqua et chaos, et mors fata novissima in se constituct sibi.

quis mundum capiet locus?

¹ Let is of the opinion that the beginning and the end of Orpheus' song have fallen out, and that lines 1097-1099 are to 274.

his Eurydice restored to him and following, he lost his singing's recompense; and she had come to the verge of life only to die once more.

1090 Then, solace in song still seeking, in mournful measures Orpheus thus to the Getans sang: that the gods are under law, e'en he who rules the seasons, who has arranged the four changes of the flying year; that for no one the Parcae spin again the threads of the greedy distaff, and that all which has been and shall be born shall die.¹

Thracian bard. Soon, soon, when to the universe shall come the day that law shall be o'erwhelmed, the southern skies shall fall upon Libya's plains and all that the scattered Garamantians possess; the northern heavens shall overwhelm all that lies beneath the pole and that Boreas smites with withering blasts. Then from the lost sky the affrighted sun shall fall and banish day. The palace of heaven shall sink, dragging down East and West, and death in some form and chaos shall o'erwhelm all gods in one destruction; and death shall at last bring doom upon itself. What place will then receive the world? Will the gates of Tartarus

2 Richter proposes quod natum est, poterit mori.

¹ Reading according to the arrangement of Richter. Sec critical note 2.

be joined with the following lines. Richter reads 1093-1099 as Orpheus' song.

1120

1130

11401

discedet via Tartari,
fractis ut pateat polis?
an quod dividit aethera
a terris spatium sat est
et mundi nimium malis?
quis tantum capiet (nefas)
fatum, quis superos locus?
pontum Tartara sidera
regna unus capiet tria.
Sed quis non modicus fragor

Sed quis non modicus fragor aures attonitas movet : est est Herculeus sonus.

HERCYLES

Converte, Titan clare, anhelantes equos, emitte noctem; pereat hie mundo dies quo morior, atra nube inhorrescat polus; obsta novereae. nune, pater, caecum chaos reddi decebat, hinc et hinc compagibus ruptis uterque debuit frangi polus. quid pareis astris? Hereulem amittis, pater. nune partem in omnem, Iuppiter, specta poli, ne quis Gyas Thessalica inculetur iuga et fiat Othrys pondus Encelado leve. laxabit atri carceris iam iam fores Pluton superbus, vincula excutiet patri caelumque reddet. ille qui pro fulmine tuisque facibus natus in terris eram, ad Styga revertor; surget Enceladus ferox mittetque quo nune premitur in superos onus; regnum omne, genitor, aetheris dubium tibi

¹ Let the world be shrouded in darkness, that June may not see the death of Hercules.

spread wide, that room for the shattered heavens may be found? Or is the space 'twixt heaven and earth great enough (perchance too great) for the cvils of the world? What place will be great enough to hold (oh, horrible!) a death so vast, what place, the gods? Sea, Tartarus and heaven—three kingdoms shall one place contain.

1128 But what outrageous elamour this that assails our startled ears? It is, it is the sound of Hercules.

[Enter HERCULES in the extremity of suffering.]

HERCULES

Turn back, O shining Sun, thy panting steeds, and let loose the night; let this day wherein I die perish for the world, and let heaven shudder in the pitchy dark. So thwart 1 my stepdame. Now, father, were it fitting to restore blind chaos; now this side and that should heaven's frame be burst and both poles rent asunder. Why dost thou spare the stars? Thon art losing Hercules, O father. Now, Jupiter, look well to every part of heaven, lest any Gyas hurl Thessalian erags and Othrvs become a slight missile for Enceladus. Now, now will haughty Pluto open his dark prison gates, strike off his father's and give him back to heaven. Since I thy son, who on earth have been in place of thy bolt and lightning flash, am turning me back to Styx, Enceladus, the fierce, will rise, and the mass 'neath which he now is crushed will be hurl against the gods: yea, father, thy whole realm of air will my death put to hazard. Then ere thou art utterly

² The reference is to the former battle of the Giants against Jupiter. See Index s.v. "Giants."

³ Saturn.

mors nostra faciet. antequam spolium tui 1 caelum omne fiat, conde me tota, pater, mundi ruina, frange quem perdis polum.

1150

CHORYS

Non vana times, nate Tonantis. nunc Thessalicam Pelion Ossam premet et Pindo congestus Athos nemus aetheriis inseret astris; vincet scopulos inde Typhoeus et Tyrrhenam feret Inarimen; feret Aetnaeos inde caminos seindetque latus montis aperti nondum Enceladus fulmine vietus. iam te caeli regna secuntur.2

1160

HERCVLES

Ego qui relicta morte, contempta Styge per media Lethes stagna cum spolio redi quo paene lapsis excidit Titan equis, ego quem deorum regna senserunt tria, morior; nec ullus per meum stridet latus transmissus ensis, ĥaut meae telum necis 3 est totus Othrys, non truci rictu gigans 1168Pindo cadaver obruit toto meum: sine hoste vincor, quodque me torquet magis 1170 (o misera virtus!) summus Alcidae dies nullum malum prosternit; inpendo, ei milii, in nulla vitam facta.

Pro mundi arbiter superique quondam dexterae testes meae, pro cuneta tellus, Herculem vestrum placet

² signa sequentur A.

³ Leo deletes line 1167, saxum est nec instar montis abrupti latus.

despoiled of heaven, bury me, father, 'neath the whole ruined world; shatter the skies which thou art doomed to lose.

CHORUS

Not vain thy fears, son of the Thunderer. Soon now shall Pelion weigh down Thessalian Ossa, and Athos, on Pindus heaped, shall thrust his forests midst the heavenly stars; then shall Typhoeus overcome the erags ¹ and upheave Tuscan Inarime; the Aetnean furnaces then shall Enceladus upheave, not yet by thy holt o'ercome, and rend the gaping mountain's side. E'en now the kingdoms of the sky are following thee.²

HERCULES

Lo I, who have escaped from death, who scorned the Styx, who through the midst of Lethe's pool have returned with spoil,3 at sight whereof Titan was almost flung from his falling ear, I, whose presence three realms of gods have felt, an perishing. No deep-thrust sword grates through my side, nor is all Othrys the instrument of my death; no giant with fierce and gaping jaws has buried my body beneath the whole of Pindus; no, without enemy am I overcome and, thought which racks me more, (shame to my manhood!) the last day of Alcides has seen no monster slain. Ah, woe is me! I am squandering my life for no return.

1175 O thou ruler of the world, ye gods, once witnesses of my deeds, O earth entire, is it resolved

¹ Beneath which he is buried.

2 i.e. Jupiter is falling and his kingdom with him.

3 Cerberus.

morte hac perire? dirus o nobis pudor, o turpe fatum—femina Herculeae necis auctor feretur! morior Alcides quibus? invicta și me cadere feminea manu voluere fata perque tam turpes colus 1180 mea mors cucurrit, cadere potuissem, ei mihi, Innonis odio. feminae caderem manu, sed caelum habentis. si nimis, superi, fuit, Seythico sub axe genita domuisset meas vires Amazon. feminae cuius manu Innonis hostis vincor? hine gravior tibi, noverca, pudor est. quid diem hune lactum vocas? quid tale tellus genuit iratae tibi? mortalis odia femina excessit tua. adhue ferebas esse te Alcidae imparem; 1190 victa es duobus—pudeat irarum deos! utinam meo crnore satiasset suos Nemeaca rictus pestis aut centum anguibus vallatus hydram tabe pavissem mea! utinam fuissem praeda Centauris datus aut inter umbras vinctus aeterno miser saxo sederem! spolia nune traxi ultima Fato stupente, nunc ab inferna Styge łucem recepi, Ditis evici moras ubique mors me fugit, ut leto inclitae 1200 sortis carerem. pro ferae, victae ferae! non me triformis sole conspecto canis ad Styga revexit, non sub Hesperio polo Hibera vicit turba pastoris feri,

1 So N. Heinsius: †morte ferire Leo, with E, conjecturing inertem obire: mortem perire A: perire inertem L. Müller.

¹ He is thinking of the many monsters, beasts, tyrants, whom he has slain, he who must now die by a woman's hand.
² i.e. than for me.

your Hercules should perish by such death as this? Oh, cruel shame to me, oh, end most foul—a woman will be called author of Alcides' death! And for whom 1 is Alcides dving? If the fates unchanging have willed that by a woman's hand I fall, if through distaff so base the thread of my death has run, ah me! that I might have fallen by Juno's hate! 'Twould be by woman's hand, but of one who holds the heavens. If, O ye gods, that were too much to ask, the Amazon, born 'neath Scythian skies, might have o'ercome my strength. But by what woman's hand is Juno's foe o'ercome? This is for thee, my stepdame, heavier 2 shame. Why callest thou this day joyful? What monster such as this has earth produced to sate thy wrath 3? A mortal woman has outdone thy hate. Till now thou deemdst thyself by Alcides alone outmatched; by two hast thou been surpassed—of such wrath let heaven be ashamed! Oh, that the Nemean lion with my blood had sated his gaping jaws, or that, hedged by a hundred snakes, I had fed the hydra with my gore! O that I had been given to the Centaurs as a prey, or that midst the shades I, bound to an everlasting rock, in wretchedness were sitting! But now have $\widetilde{1}$ dragged here my latest spoil 4 while Death looked on amazed; now from infernal Styx have I regained the light, the bars of Dis I've conquered—on every hand death shunned me, that I might lack at last a glorious end. O beasts, O conquered beasts! Neither did the three-formed dog, when he saw the sun, drag me back to Styx, nor 'neath western skies did the Spanish rout of the wild shepherd 5 conquer

³ He counts Defanira as worse than all monsters Juno has sent against him. She has outdone even Juno's hate. Hence Juno is put to shame.

⁴ Cerberus.

⁵ Geryon.

non gemina serpens—perdidi mortem, ei mihi, totiens honestam! titulus extremus quis est?

CHORVS

Viden ut laudis conscia virtus non Lethaeos horreat amnes? pudet auctoris, non morte dolet; cupit extremum finire diem vasta tumidi mole gigantis et montiferum Titana pati rabidaeque necem debere ferae. sed tua causa est, miserande, manus, quod nulla fera est nullusque gigas; nam quis dignus necis Herculeae superest auctor nisi dextra tui?

1910

HERCYLES

Heu qualis intus scorpios, quis fervida plaga revulsus cancer infixus meas urit medullas? sanguinis quondam capax 1220 tumidi igne cor 1 pulmonis arentes fibras distendit, ardet felle siccato iccur totumque lentus sanguinem avexit vapor. primam cutem consumpsit, hine aditum nefas in membra fecit, abstulit pestis latus, exedit artus penitus et costas malum, hausit medullas. ossibus vacuis sedet: nec ossa durant ipsa, sed compagibus discussa ruptis mole conlapsa fluunt. defecit ingens corpus et pesti satis 1230 Herculea non sunt membra—pro quantum est malum quod esse vastum fatcor, o dirum nefas!

¹ So Richter: Leo, tunidi †iccur, with ω, conjecturing tunnet igne cor: tunidi cor en N. Heinsias.

me, nor the twain serpents 1—ah, woe is me! how often have I missed a glorious death! My final claim to glory—what is it?

CHORUS

Seest thou how virtue, conscious of its fame, shrinks not from Lethe's stream? He grieves not at death but blushes for its cause; he longs 'neath some towering giant's vasty bulk to end the last day of life, to suffer some mountain-heaving Titan's weight, to owe his death to some wild, raging beast. But no, poor soul, because of thine own hand, there is no beast, no giant; for what worthy author of the death of Hercules is left save thy right hand?

HERCULES

Alas, what scorpion,² what crab,² torn from the torrid zone, burns deep fixed in my marrow? My heart, once filled with pulsing streams of blood, hotly distends the parched fibres of my lungs; my liver glows, its bile dried quite away, and a slow fire has exhausted all my blood. First did the dread plague feed upon my skin, next to my limbs it passed, devoured my sides, then deep in my joints and ribs the pest ate its way, and drank my very marrow. In my hollow bones it lurks; nor do my bones themselves retain their hardness, but, shattered with broken structure, fall in a crumbling mass. My huge frame has shrivelled, and even the limbs of Hercules sate not the pest. - Oh, how mighty the ill which I admit is great! Oh, cruel curse! Behold,

Which Juno sent against him in his infancy.

² Pestilent creatures from among the constellations of the zodiac (fervidu plaga).

en eernite, urbes, eernite ex illo Hercule quid iam supersit. Herculem agnoscis, pater? hisne ego lacertis colla Nemeaei mali elisa pressi? tensus hae arcus manu astris ab ipsis detulit Stymphalidas? his ego citatam gressibus vici feram radiante clarum fronte gestantem caput? his fracta Calpe manibus emisit fretum? 1940 his tot ferae, tot scelera, tot reges iacent? his mundus umeris sedit? haee moles mea est, haecne illa cervix? hasne ego opposui manus caelo ruenti? quis mea custos manu trahetur ultra Stygius? ubi vires prius memet sepultae? quid patrem appello Iovem? quid per Tonantem vindico caelum miser? iam, iam meus eredetur Amphitryon pater.

Quaecumque pestis viscere in nostro lates, procede—quid me vulnere occulto petis? 1250 quis te sub axe frigido pontus Scythes, quae pigra Tethys genuit aut Maurum premeus Hibera Calpe litus? o dirum malum! utrumne serpens squalidum crista caput vibrans an aliquod et mihi ignotum malum, numquid cruore es genita Lernacae ferae an te reliquit Stygius in terris canis? omne es malum nullumque—quis voltus tibi est? concede saltem seire quo peream malo. quaecumque pestis sive quaecumque es fera, 1260

ve cities, behold what now remains of that great Hercules. Dost recognize thy Hercules, my father? Was it with these arms I crushed and overwhelmed the Nemean plague? Was it with this hand I stretched the bow that brought down the Stymphalian birds from the very stars? With these feet did I o'ertake the swift-fleeing beast 1 with golden antlers gleaming on his head? By these hands shattered, did Calpe 2 let out the sea? So many beasts, so many monstrous things, so many kings, have these hands of mine brought low? Upon these shoulders did the heavens rest? Is this my massive frame, is this my neck? These hands did I oppose to the falling sky? What Stygian watch-dog will hereafter be dragged forth by my hand? Where are my powers, buried before my burial? Why on Jove as father do I call? Why, wretched man, by right of the Thunderer do I claim heaven? Now, now will Amphitryon be deemed my sire.

1249 O pest, whate'er thon art that lurkest in my vitals, come forth—why dost attack me with a hidden smart? What Scythian Sea beneath the icy pole, what sluggish Tethys, what Spanish Calpe, crowding the Moorish coast, begot thee? O cursed bane! Art thou some serpent, brandishing his foul, full-crested head, or some cyil thing even to me unknown? Art thou begotten of the Lernaean monster's 3 gore, or did the Stygian dog leave thee here on earth? Every ill thou art and yet no ill—what form hast thou? Grant me at least to know by what ill I am perishing. Whatever pest or what-

¹ The Arcadian stag.

² When Hercules rent the cliffs of Calpe and Abyla (the pillars of Hercules) asunder and gave outlet to the Mediterranean Sea.

³ The hydra.

palam timere! quis tibi in medias locum fecit medullas? ecce direpta cute viscera manus detexit; nlterior tamen inventa latebra est—o malum simile Herculi!

Unde iste fletus? unde in has lacrimae genas? invictus olim voltus et numquam malis lacrimas suis praebere consuetus (pudet) iam flere didicit. quis dies fletum Herculis, quae terra vidit? siccus aerumnas tuli. tibi illa virtus, quae tot elisit mala, tibi cessit uni; prima et aute omnes mihi fletum abstulisti; durior saxo horrido et chalybe voltus et vaga Symplegade rictus meos infregit et lacrimam¹ expulit.² flentem gementem, summe pro rector poli, me terra vidit, quodque me torquet magis, noverca vidit. urit ecce iterum fibras, incaluit ardor—unde nunc fulmen mihi?

CHORYS

Quid non possit superare dolor? quondam Getico durior Haemo nec Parrhasio lenior axe saevo cessit membra dolori fessumque movens per colla caput latus alterno pondere flectit, fletum virtus saepe resorbet. sic arctoas laxare nives quamvis tepido sidere Titan non tamen audet vincitque faces solis adusti glaciale iubar.

¹ lacrimas E. ² extulit A.

1280

1270

ever beast thou be, oppose me openly! Who gave thee place within my immost marrow? See, my hand has ripped away the skin and the flesh uncovered; yet deeper still must its lurking place be found—O woe, invincible as Hercules!

1265 But whence this lamentation? Whence tears upon these cheeks? My face, before unmoved, and never wont to express its woes in tears, at last (oh, shame!) has learned to weep. What day, what country has seen the tears of Herenles? Dry-eyed have I borne my cares. To thee ¹ that strength, which has crushed so many monsters, to thee alone has yielded; thou first of all hast forced tears from mine eyes; my face, harder than rough rock, harder than steel and the wandering Symplegades, has relaxed my visage and driven forth my tears. Me. weeping and groaning, O most high ruler of the heaven, the earth has seen and, thought which racks me more, my step-dame has scen. But lo. again the scorching heat flames up and burns my vitals. Oh, where is the lightning flash to bring me death?

CHORUS

What may not suffering overcome? But now, harder than Thracian Haemus' erags, than Parrhasian skies more calm, to dire agony has he yielded him; his head drops wearily upon his neek, from side to side he turns his mighty bulk and oft does his fortitude drain back his tears. So, with however fervent beam he shine, Titan avails not to melt the arctic snows, whose icy splendour defies the torches of the burning sun.

Addressed to the hidden pest.

HERCYLES

1290

1300

Converte voltus ad meas clades, pater. numquam ad tuas confugit Alcides manus, non cum per artus hydra fecundum meos eaput explicaret; inter infernos lacus possessus atra nocte cum Fato steti nee invocavi: tot feras vici horridas, reges, tyrannos, nec tamen voltus meos in astra torsi—semper hace nobis manus votum spopondit; nulla propter me sacro micuere caelo fulmina—hic aliquid dies optare inssit. primus audierit preces idemque summus. unicum fulmen peto: giganta crede. non minus caelum mihi asserere potui; dum patrem verum puto, caelo peperci. sive crudelis, pater, sive es miscricors, commoda nato manum properante morte et occupa hanc laudem tibi.

Vel si piget manusque detrectat nefas, emitte Siculo vertice ardentes, pater,
Titanas in me, qui manu Pindon ferant aut te, Ossa, qui me monte proiecto opprimant.

1310 abrumpat Erebi claustra, me stricto petat Bellona ferro; mitte Gradivum trucem, armetur in me dirus. est frater quidem, sed ex noverca. tu quoque, Alcidae soror tantum ex parente, cuspidem in fratrem tuum iaculare, Pallas. supplices tendo manus ad te, noverca: sparge tu saltem, precor,

¹ So A: Madeig aut te, Ossa, quae me... opprimat: Leo †aut Ossa qui... opprimat with E, conjecturing Ossamque ut in me... opprimar.

HERCULES

O father, turn thou thine eyes on my calamity. Never till now has Alcides fled to thee for aid, not even when around my limbs the hydra entwined its fertile heads. Midst the infernal pools, by the black pall of night enfolded, I stood with Death nor did I call upon thee. So many dreadful beasts have I o'ercome, yea kings and tyrants; yet have I ne'er lifted my face unto the stars. This hand of mine has ever been surety for my prayers; no bolts for my sake have flashed from the sacred sky-but this day has bidden me ask somewhat of thee. 'Tis the first to hear my prayers,' twill be the last. Just one thunderbolt I ask; count me a giant. I could have laid hands on heaven no less than they; but while I thought thee my sire in very truth, I spared the skies. Oh, whether thou be harsh, my sire, or merciful, lay hands on thy son with speedy death and claim thee this great renown.2

1307 Or, if thy hand shrinks reluctant from the impious task, 'gainst me release from Aetna's mount the burning Titans, who in their hands may heave Pindus up, or, Ossa, thee, and by the hurled mountain overwhelm me quite. Let Bellona burst the bars of Erebus and with drawn sword rush upon me; or send fierce Mars; let the dread god 'gainst me be armed. He is my brother, true, but of my stepdame born. Thou too, Alcides' sister, but by our sire alone, hurl thy spear, O Pallas, against thy brother hurl. And to thee, my step-dame, do I stretch suppliant hands; do thou at least, I pray, let

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¹ Think of me as one of the old giants storming heaven, and hurl a bolt at me.

² i.e. of killing Hercules ere Juno can do so.

telum (perire feminae possum manu) iam fracta, iam satiata, quid pascis minas? quid quaeris ultra? supplicem Alciden vides, 1320 et nulla tellus, nulla me vidit fera te deprecantem. nunc mihi irata quidem ¹ opus est noverca—nunc tuus cessat dolor? nunc odia ponis? parcis ubi votum est mori. o terra et urbes, non facem quisquam Herculi. non arma tradet? tela subtrahitis mihi? ita nulla saevas terra concipiat feras post me sepultum nee meas umquam manus imploret orbis; si qua nascentur mala, naseatur ultor.2 undique infelix caput 1330 mactate saxis, vincite aerumnas meas. ingrate cessas orbis? excidimus tibi? adhuc malis ferisque suppositus fores, ni me tulisses. vindicem vestrum malis eripite, populi; tempus hoe vobis datur pensare merita-mors erit pretium omnium.

ALCMENA

Quas misera terras mater Alcidae petam?
ubi natus, ubinam? certa si visus notat,
reclinis ecce corde anhelante aestuat;
gemit; peraetum est. membra complecti ultima, 1340
o nate, liceat, spiritus fugiens meo
legatur ore; bracchia, amplexus cape—
ubi membra sunt? ubi illa quae mundum tulit
stelligera cervix? quis tibi exiguam tui
partem reliquit?

¹ So A: †pater Leo with E, conjecturing ac fera.

² So Richter: nascatur alius A: nascetur odium E: Leo conjectures nascatur opifer.

fly thy bolt (I brook to perish by a woman's hand); oh, at last yielding, at last glutted, why still feed thy vengeance? What seekest thou further? Thou seest Aleides suppliant; whereas no land, no monster has ever seen me begging thee for quarter. Now have I need of a wrathful, raging step-dame—now has thy passion cooled? Now dost lay by thy hate? Thou sparest me when my prayer is all for death. O earth and cities of the earth, have ye none to bring torches 'gainst your Hercules, none to bring arms? Do ye withhold weapons from me? So may no land produce savage monsters more when I am dead, and let the world ne'er ask for aid of mine; if any evils rise, let avenger rise as well. From every side crush out my luckless life with stones, o'erwhelm my woes. O ungrateful world, dost falter? Hast quite forgotten me? E'en now wouldst thou be prey to ills and savage beasts hadst thou not borne me. Then, O ye peoples, rescue your champion from his woes. This chance is given you to requite my services—death will be reward for all.

[Enter ALCMENA.]

ALCMENA

What lands shall Alcides' wretched mother seek? Where is my son, oh, where? If mine eyes see aright, yonder he lies, panting and fever-tossed; he groans, his life is at an end. In a last embrace let me enfold thee, O my son, and gather thy parting spirit in my mouth; take my embracing arms to thine—but where are thy limbs? Where is that starbearing neck which propped the heavens up? Who is it has left to thee but a shadow of thyself?

i.e. according as ye grant my prayer.

BEHCYLES

Hereulem speetas quidem, mater, sed umbram et vile nescio quid mei. agnosce, mater—ora quid fleetis retro voltumque mergis? Hereulem dici tuum partum erubeseis?

ALCMENA

Quis feram mundus novam, quae terra genuit? quodve tam dirum nefas de te triumphat? victor Herculeus quis est?

1350

HERCYLES

Naptae iacentem eernis Alciden dolis.

ALCMENA

Quis tantus est qui vincat Aleiden dolus?

HERCVLES

Quicumque, mater, feminae iratae sat est.

ALCMENA

Et unde in artus pestis aut ossa incidit?

HERCYLES

Aditum venenis palla femineis dedit.

ALCMENA

Vbinam ista palla est? membra nudata intuor.

DERCYLES

Consumpta mecum est.

ALCMENA

Tantane inventa est lues?

HERCHLES

Hercules thou seest indeed, my mother, but 'tis the shadow and the vile somewhat of myself. Behold me, mother—why dost thou turn thine eyes away and hide thy face? Art ashamed to have Hercules called thy son?

ALCMENA

What world, what land has given birth to a fresh monster? What so dread horror is triumphing over thee? Who is a victor over Hercules?

HERCULES

By his wife's wiles thou seest Aleides low.

ALCMENA

What wile is great enough to worst Alcides?

HERCULES

Whatever, mother, suffices a woman's wrath.

ALCMENA

And how gained the pest entrance to thy joints and bones?

HERCULES

A robe, poisoned by woman's hands, gave entrance to it.

ALCMENA

Where is that robe? I see but naked limbs.

HERCULES

'Twas consumed with me.

ALCMENA

Was so destructive pestilence ever found?

HEREVLES

Errare mediis crede visceribus meis. 1260 o mater, hydram et mille cum Lerna feras. quae tanta nubes flamma Sicanias secat, quae Lemnos ardens, quae plaga igniferi poli vetans flagranti currere in zona diem? in ipsa me iaetate, pro comites, freta mediosque in amnes-quis sat est Hister mihi? non ipse terris maior Oceanus mcos franget vapores, omnis in nostris malis deficiet umor, omnis arescet latex. quid, rector Erebi, me remittebas Iovi? decuit tenere; redde me tenebris tuis, 1370 talem subactis Herculem ostende inferis. nil inde ducam, quid times iterum Herculem? invade, mors, non trepida; iam possum mori,

ALCMENA

Compesce lacrimas saltem et aerumnas doma malisque tantis Herculem indomitum refer mortemque differ; quos soles vince inferos.

HERCYLES

Si me catenis horridus vinctum suis praeberet avidae Caucasus volucri dapem, Scythia gemente flebilis gemitus mihi non extitisset; si vagae Symplegades utraque premerent rupe, redeuntis minax ¹

1380

1 So Richter: redeuntes †minas Leo with E, suggesting silens.

i.e. the hydra.

² He compares these flames with the fires of Aetna.

HERCULES

Believe me, mother, through my inmost parts the hydra is wandering and with the Lernaean one 1 a thousand savage beasts. What flames 2 as hot as these pierce the Sicilian clouds, what Lemmian fires. or heaven's burning tract, within whose scorching zone 3 the sun's path may not lie? O comrades, throw me into the sea itself, into the river's midstalas! what Hister is enough for me? Though greater than all lands, the Ocean itself will not cool my burning pains; to ease my woe all water will dry up, all moisture fail. Why, ruler of Erebus, didst send me back to Jove? "Twere more seemly to have held me fast. To thy glooms restore me, and show such Hercules as this to the ghosts 4 I conquered. Naught will I take away; why dost fear Hercules a second time? Assail me, Death, and fear not; now do I brook to die.

ALCMENA

Restrain thy tears, at least, master thy pains; even to such woes show Hercules invincible: put death away; conquer the lords of hell as is thy wont.

HERCULES

If rugged Caucasus should offer me, bound by its chains, as a feast to greedy birds,⁵ while Seythia mourned around, no doleful cry would issue from my lips; should the wandering Symplegades crush me 'twixt both their cliffs, their returning rushes would

All the creatures he conquered on earth are now ghosts

in the lower world.

³ i.e. the space between the ecliptic and the celestial equator.

⁵ He is thinking of the sufferings of Prometheus.

ferrem ruinas; Pindus incumbat mihi atque Haemus et qui Thracios fluctus Athos frangit Iovisque fulmen excipiens Mimas; non ipse si in me, mater, hic mundus ruat superque nostros flagret incensus toros Phoebeus axis, degener mentem Herculis clamor domaret. mille decurrant ferae pariterque lacerent, hinc feris clangoribus aetheria me Stymphalis, hinc taurus minax cervice tota pulset et quidquid fuit solum quoque ingens; surgat hinc illine nemus artusque nostros durus immittat Sinis; sparsus silebo—non ferae excutient mihi, non arma gemitus, nil quod impelli potest.

ALCMENA

Non virus artus, nate, femineum coquit, sed dura series operis et longus tibi pavit cruentos forsitan morbos labor.

HERCYLES

Vbi morbus, ubinam est? estne adhue aliquid mali in orbe mecum? veniat; hue aliquis mihi 1400 intendat arcus—nuda sufficiet manus. procedat agedum hue.

ALCMENA

Ei mihi, sensum quoque excussit ille nimius impulsans dolor.

I bear, defiant; were Pindus lying on me, and Haemus, and Athos which resists the Thracian waves, and Mimas which welcomes the holts of Jupiter; mother, if even this sky should fall upon my head, and over my shoulders the fiery car of Phoebus should go flaming, no coward cry would subdue Alcides' soul. Though a thousand beasts at once should rush against me and rend me sore: though here from the skies Stymphalus' bird, swooping with clangour wild, and there with full strength the threatening bull should push upon me, and whatever huge monster has sprung from earth; though Sinis' groves should arise this side and that, and the rough giant shoot my limbs 1 afar; rent limb from limb, still will I hold my peace—no beasts, no arms, naught that can be met and vanquished shall extort one groan from me.

ALCMENA

Son, 'tis no woman's poison melts thy frame; but thy hard round of labours, thine unceasing toil, perchance has fed some deadly disease in thee.

HERCULES

Disease? Where is it? Where is it, pray? Is there still aught of evil in the world with me alive? Let it come on; let some one reach hither my bow to me—nay, my bare hands will be enough. Let it come on, I say. [He sinks into a deep, swoon-like slumber.]

ALCMENA

Alas! the too great shock of agony hath reft e'en his sense away. [To attendants.] Remove his weapons,

removete quaeso tela et infestas precor rapite hine sagittas: igne suffuso genae scelus minantur. quas petam latebras anus? dolor iste furor est: Herculem solus domat. cur deinde latebras aut fugam vaecors petam? obire forti meruit Alemene manu: vel scelere pereat, antequam letum mihi ignavus aliquis mandet 1 ac turpis manus de me triumphet.

1410

Ecce lassatus malis sopore fessas alligat venas dolor gravique anhelum pectus impulsu quatit. iavete, superi. si mihi natum inclutum miserae negastis, vindicem saltem precor servate terris. abeat excussus dolor corpusque vires reparet Herculeum suas.

HYLLVS

Pro lux acerba, pro capax scelerum dies! nurus Tonantis occidit, natus iacet. nepos supersum; scelere materno hic perit, fraude illa capta est. quis per annorum vices totoque in aevo poterit aerumnas senex referre tantas? unus eripuit dies parentem utrumque; cetera ut sileam mala parcamque fatis, Herculem amitto patrem.

1420

ALCMENA

Compesce voces, inclutum Aleidae genus miseracque fato similis Alemenae nepos: longus dolorem forsitan vincet sopor.

1 So A: mandat . . . triumphat Leo with E.

take these deadly shafts out of his reach, I pray you; his burning cheeks portend some violence. Where shall an old woman hide herself? That is the smart of madness; it alone masters Hercules. But why should I, foolish that I am, seek flight or hiding? By a brave hand Alemena deserves to die; so let me perish even impiously, before some craven decree my death, or a base hand triumph over me.

1412 But see, all spent with woe, his pain holds his worn heart fast bound in slumber, and his panting chest heaves with laboured breathing. Help him, ye gods! If to my misery ye have denied my glorious son, at least spare to the world, I pray, its champion. May his smart be driven quite away, and the body of

Hereules renew its strength.

[Enter HYLLUS.]

HYLLUS

O bitter light, O crime-filled day! Dead is the Thunderer's daughter, his son lies dying, and I, his grandson, still survive. By my mother's crime is he perishing, but she was by guile ensnared. What aged man, throughout his round of years, in his whole life, will be able to recount woes so great? Both parents has one day taken off; to say naught of other ills and to spare the fates, Hercules, my father, am I losing.

ALCMENA

Restrain thy words, child of illustrious sire, wretched Alemena's grandson, like her in fate; perchance long slumber will o'ercome his pains. But

¹ Deïanira, who has just killed herself off stage.

2 i.e. not to speak too hardly of them by recounting all their cruelty.

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sed ecce, lassam deserit mentem quies redditque morbo corpus et luctum mihi.

1430

DERCYLES

Quid hoc? rigenti cernitur Trachin iugo aut inter astra positus evasi genus mortale tandem? quis mihi caclum parat? te te, pater, iam video, placatam quoque specto novercam. quis sonus nostras ferit caelestis aures? Iuno me generum vocat! video nitentem regiam clari aetheris Phoebique tritam flammea zonam rota. cubile video Noctis; hine tenebrae vocant.1

1440

Quid hoc? quis arcem cludit et ab ipsis, pater, deducit astris? ora Phoebeus modo afflabat axis, iam prope a caelo fui—
Trachina video. quis mihi terras dedit?
Oete modo infra steterat ac totus fuit suppositus orbis. quam bene excideras, dolor! cogis fateri—parce et hanc vocem occupa.

Hoe, Hylle, dona matris hoe munus parant.
utinam liceret stipite ingesto impiam
effringere animam quale Amazonium malum
ierea nivalis Caucasi domui latus.
o cara Megara, tune cum furerem mihi
coniunx fuisti? stipitem atque arcus date,

 $^{^{-1}}$ So Richter with MSS, order: Leo reads this line after 1444.

see, repose is deserting his weary heart, and gives back his frame to suffering, me to grief.

HERCULES [awakening in delirium]

Why, what is this? Do I see Trachin midst her rugged hills, or have 1, set 'mongst the stars, at last left behind the race of men? Who opens heaven for me? Thee, thee, my father, now do I behold, and my step-dame also, at last appeared, I see. What heavenly sound strikes on mine ears? Juno calls me son! I see bright heaven's gleaning palace, and the track worn by Phoebus' burning wheels. I see Night's couch; her shadows call me hence.

[Begins to come out of his delirium.]

1411 But what is this? Who shuts heaven's gates to me, O father, and draws me down even from the stars? But now the car of Phoebus breathed hot upon my face, now was I near to heaven—but I see Trachin. Who has given me earth again? A moment since, and Octa stood below me, and the whole world lay beneath my feet. How well, O pain, hadst thou fallen from me! Thou compellest me to confess—but stay, forestall that word.

[To hyllus.]

1448 O Hyllus, this, this is thy mother's boon, her gift to me. Would that with lifted club I might crush out her wicked life just as I smote down the Amazonian pest 2 upon the slopes of snowy Caucasus. O well-loved Megara, wast thou wife 3 to me when madness came upon me? Give me my club and

¹ He thus checks himself on the brink of an unmanly confession of his weakness.

² i.e. the Amazons themselves.
³ It should have been Dejanira.

dextra inquinetur, laudibus maculam imprimam, summus legatur femina Herculeus labor.

HYLLVS

Compesce diras, genitor, irarum minas; habet, peraetum est, quas petis poenas dedit; sua perempta dextera mater iacet.

HERCYLES

Cecidit dolose ¹; manibus irati Herculis occidere meruit; perdidit comitem Lichas. saevire in ipsum corpus exanime impetus atque ira cogit. cur minis nostris caret ipsum cadaver? pabulum accipiant ferae.

1460

HYLLVS

Plus misera laeso doluit; hinc aliquid quoque detrahere velles. oecidit dextra sua, tuo dolore; plura quam poscis tulit. sed non cruentae sceleribus nuptae iaces nec fraude matris; Nessus hos struxit dolos ietus sagittis qui tuis vitam expuit. eruore tineta est palla semiferi, pater, Nessusque nunc has exigit poenas sibi.

1470

DERCYLES

Habet, peractum est, fata se nostra explicant; lux ista summa est. quercus hane sortem mihi

 $^{-1}$ So Richter: relicte dolor es Leo; caeci dolores A: recte dolor es E: iacet? ei dolori est Peiper. 302

bow, let my right hand be defiled, let me put stain upon my glory, and let a woman be chosen as the last toil of Hercules.

HYLLUS

Check the dire threatenings of thy wrath, my father; she has it, 'tis over, the penalty which thou desirest she has paid; slain by her own hand, my mother lies in death.

HERCULES

Treacherously has she fallen; by the hands of enraged Hereules should she have died; Liehas has lost a comrade. I am moved to rage e'en 'gainst her lifeless body, and wrath impels me. Why is even her corpse safe from my assaults? Let the wild beasts make banquet on it.

HYLLUS

The unhappy woman has suffered more than him she injured; somewhat still of this thou wouldst wish to lighten. By her own hand has she fallen, through grief for thee; more suffering than thou demandest has she borne. But 'tis not by crimes of a murderous wife, nor by my mother's guile, thou liest low; Nessus contrived this snare, who, by thine arrow smit, spewed out his life. Father, 'twas in that half-beast's gore the robe was dipped, and Nessus by these thy sufferings doth requite his own.

HERCULES

'Tis well,2' 'tis over, my fate unfolds itself'; this is my last day on earth. This oracle the prophetic

¹ The formula of the gladiatorial contest when one of the contestants has received his death stroke.

² See note on l. 1457.

fatidica quondam dederat et Parnassio Cirrhaea quatiens templa mugitu speeus: "dextra perempti victor, Alcide, viri olim jacebis: hic tibi emenso freta terrasque et umbras finis extremus datur." nil querimur ultra; decuit hune finem dari, ne quis superstes Herculis victor foret. 1480 nune mors legatur clara memoranda incluta, me digna prorsus. nobilem hunc faciam diem. caedatur omnis silva et Oetaeum nemus conripite, ut ingens Herculem accipiat rogus, sed ante mortem. tu, genus Poeantium, hoe triste nobis, iuvenis, officium appara; Herculea totum flamma succendat diem.

Ad te preces nunc, Hvlle, supremas fero. est clara captas inter, in voltu genus regnumque referens, Euryto virgo edita lole. tuis hanc facibus et thalamis para. victor cruentus abstuli patriam lares nihilque miserae praeter Alciden dedi; et ipse rapitur. penset acrumnas suas, Iovis nepotem foveat et natum Herculis; tibi illa pariat quidquid ex nobis habet.

Tuque ipsa planetus pone funereos, precor, o clara genetrix; vivit Alcides tibi. virtute nostra paelicem feci tuam

1490

¹ The oracle of the talking oaks, sacred to Jupiter, was at Dodona, in Epirus; the oracle of Apollo at Delphi was in Phocis, on Mount Parnassus. The poet either means that 304

oak ¹ once gave me, and the Parnassian grot, ¹ shaking the shrines of Cirrha with rumbling tones, declared: "By the hand of one whom, conquering, thou hast slain, Alcides, one day shalt thou lie low; this end, when thou hast traversed seas and lands and shades, awaits thee at the last." We complain no more; such end was meet, that no living thing might conquer Herenles. Now let me choose a death glorious, renowned, illustrious, full worthy of myself. This day will I make famous. Go, cut down all the woods, heap Octa's grove together, that a mighty pyre may receive Herenles, and that before he dies. Thou, son ² of Pocas, dear youth, perform this sad office for me; set the whole sky aglow with the flames of Herenles.

1488 And now to thee, Hyllus, I bring my latest prayer. Among the captives is a beauteous maid, in feature revealing her race and royal state, Iole, daughter of king Eurytus. Lead her to thy chamber with wedding torch. Victorious, bloodstained, I robbed her of her fatherland and home, and to the wretched girl gave naught except Aleides; and now e'en he is reft from her. Let her find recompense for her sorrows, and cherish Jove's grandson and the son of Hercules; to thee be born whatever seed she has conceived by me.

[To ALCMENA.]

¹⁴⁹⁷ Do thou thyself cease thy death-wails for me, I pray, illustrious mother; thy Aleides lives; by my heroic deeds have I made my step-dame seem but

two oracles foretold the same fate, or simply mingles the two references by way of emphasis on the oracular utterance itself.

² Philoctetes.

credi novercam. sive nascente Hercule
nox illa certa est sive mortalis meus
pater est—licet sit falsa progenies mei,¹
merui parentem; contuli eaclo decus
materque me concepit in laudes Iovis.
quin ipse, quamquam Iuppiter, credi meus
pater esse gandet. parce iam lacrimis, parens;
superba matres inter Argolicas eris.
quid tale Iuno genuit aetherium gerens
sceptrum et Tonanti nupta? mortali tamen
taelum tenens invidit, Alciden suum
dici esse voluit.

Perage nunc, Titan, vices solus relictus; ille qui vester comes ubique fueram, Tartara et manes peto. hanc tamen ad imos perferam laudem inclutam, quod nulla pestis fudit Alciden palam omnemque pestem vicit Alcides palam.

CHORYS

O decus mundi, radiate Titan,
cuius ad primos Hecate vapores
lassa nocturnae levat ora bigae,
dic sub Aurora positis Sabacis,
dic sub occasu positis Hiberis,
quique sub plaustro patiuntur ursae
quique ferventi quatiuntur axe,
dic sub aeternos properare manes

1 Leo deletes !. 1503: materna culpa cesset et crimen Iovis.

¹ By bearing such a son to Jove, Alemena is proved to be real wife, and Juno the mistress.

the concubine.¹ Whether the tale² of the night of Hercules' begetting be the truth, or whether my sire be mortal³—though I be falsely called the son of Jove, I have deserved to be his son; glory on heaven have I conferred, and to Jove's glory did my mother bring me forth. Nay, he himself, though he be Jupiter, is glad to be believed my sire. Dry now thy tears, my mother; proud 'mongst the Grecian mothers shalt thou be. What son like thine has Juno borne, though she wield the sceptre of the skies, and be the Thunderer's bride? Still, though queen of heaven, she envied a mortal woman, and wished that Aleides might be called her own.

1512 Now, O Sm, must thou speed thy course alone, for I, who have been thy companion everywhere, am bound for Tartarus and the land of shades. Yet to the depths shall I bear this glorious fame, that no pest openly has laid Aleides low, and that all pests openly has Aleides slain.

and that an pests openly has Alcides siam.

[He goes out toward the pyre which has been prepared for him.]

CHORUS

O glory of the world, O ray-girt Sun, at whose first warmth Hecate loosens the bits from the weary steeds of her nocturnal car, tell the Sabaeans who lie beneath the dawn, tell the Iberians who lie beneath thy setting, tell those who suffer 'neath the Wagon of the Bear,4 and those who pant beneath thy burning ear: Hercules is hasting to the endless

³ i.e. Amphitryon.

² See Index s.v. "Hercules," at beginning.

This northern constellation is either the Wain (wagon) or the Bear. The poet confuses the two conceptions.

1530

1540

Herculem et regnum canis inquicti, unde non umquam remeabit ille.1 sume quos nubes radios sequantur, pallidus maestas speculare terras et caput turpes nebulae pererrent. quando, pro Titan, ubi, quo sub axe Herculem in terris alium sequeris? quas manus orbis miser invocabit, si qua sub Lerna numerosa pestis sparget in centum rabiem dracones, Arcadum si quis populis vetustis fecerit silvas aper inquietas. Thraciae si quis Rhodones alumnus durior terris Helices nivosae sparget humano stabulum cruore? quis dabit pacem populo timenti, si quid irati superi per orbem iusscrint nasci? iacet omnibus par, quem parem tellus genuit Tonanti. planetus immensas resonet per urbes ct comas nullo cohibente nodo feminae exertos feriant lacertos, solaque obductis foribus deorum templa securae pateant novercae.

templa sceurae pateaut novercae.

Vadis ad Lethen Stygiumque litus, 1550
unde te nullae referent carinae;
vadis ad manes miserandus, unde
Morte devicta tuleras triumphnun,
umbra nudatis veniens lacertis
languido vultu tenuique collo;
teque non solum feret illa puppis 2

¹ So Richter: unde non umquam remeavit ullus A: Leo tunde non namquam remeavit inde with E, Leo conjecturing denuo numquam remeabit inde.

2 Peiper notes a lacuna after l. 1556, which Leo thus sup-

plies: quae tulit solum metuitque mergi.

shades, to the realm of sleepless Cerberus, whence he will never more return. Let thy bright rays be overcast with clouds; gaze on the grieving world with pallid face and let disfiguring mists roam o'er thy head. When, O Titan, where, beneath what sky wilt thou follow another Hercules on the earth? To whose aid will the wretched world appeal if within Lerna's swamp some many-headed pest in a hundred snakes shall spread its poisonous rage; if for the ancient tribes of Aready some boar shall disturb the quiet of the woods; if some son1 of Thracian Rhodope, harder than the ground of snowelad Helice, shall spatter his stalls with the blood of men? Who to the trembling nations will give peace. if the angry gods shall raise up new monsters o'er the world? Level with all men he lies,2 whom earth produced level with the Thunderer. Through countless cities let cries of brief resound; let women with streaming hair smite their bare arms; let the temples of all gods be closed save his stepdame's only, for she only is free from care.

1550 Thou farest to Lethe and the Stygian shore whence no keel will ever bring thee back; thou farest, lamented one, unto the ghosts whence, overcoming Death, thou didst once return in triumph, now but a shade, with fleshless arms, wan face and drooping neck; nor will that skiff, which once bore thee alone and feared 'twould be plunged beneath

Like Diomedes, the bloody tyrant of Thrace.
 i.e. brought to the common level by death.

non tamen viles eris inter umbras, Aeacon ¹ inter geminosque Cretas facta discernens, feriens tyrannos, parcite, o dites, inhibete dextras, laudis est purum tenuisse ferrum, cumque regnabas, minus in procellis in tuas urbes licuisse fatis.

1560

1570

Sed locum virtus habet inter astra. sedis aretoae spatium tenebis an graves Titan ubi promit aestus? an sub occasu tepido nitebis, unde commisso resonare ponto audies Calpen? loca quae sereni deprimes caeli? quis erit recepto tutus Alcide locus inter astra? horrido tantum proeul a leone det pater sedes ealidoque canero, ne tuo vultu tremefaeta leges astra conturbent trepidetque Titan. vere dum flores venient tepenti et comam silvis hiemes recident, vel comam silvis revocabit aestas pomaque autumno fugiente cedent, nulla te terris rapiet vetustas; tu eomes Phoebo, comes ibis astris. ante nascetur seges in profundo vel fretum dulci resonabit unda, ante descendet glacialis ursae sidus et ponto vetito fruetur,

1580

quam tuas laudes populi quiescant.

Te, pater rerum, miseri precamur:
nulla nascatur fera, nulla pestis,
non duces saevos miseranda tellus
horreat, nulla dominetur aula

1590

¹ So Gronovius: Aeacos Leo with E: Aeacumque A.

the waves, bear thee alone. And yet thou shalt not dwell midst common shades; midst Acaeus and the two Cretans shalt thou be, sitting in judgment on men's deeds, scourging tyrannic kings. Spare, O ye mighty, restrain your hands. 'Tis thy praise to have kept the sword unstained and that, what time thou didst bear sway, fate midst its storms had less

power against thy cities.

1564 But now has thy manhood place amongst the Wilt occupy the spaces of the north, or where Titan sends forth his oppressive rays? Or in the warm western sky wilt shine, where thou wilt hear Calpe resound with the charging sea? What region of the cloudless heavens wilt thou weigh down? What place, when Alcides comes, will be safe amidst the stars? Only may Jove give thee thy seat far from the dread Lion and the burning Crab. lest at sight of thee the affrighted stars make turmoil of their laws and Titan tremble. While flowers shall bloom as the spring days grow warm; while winter shall strip the foliage from the trees, and summer to the trees recall their foliage; while fruits shall fall as autumn takes his flight, no lapse of time shall snatch thee from the world; comrade of Phoebus, comrade of the stars, shalt thou pass on. Sooner shall wheat sprout from the surface of the deep; sooner the roaring waves of the sea be sweet; sooner shall the iev Bear come down and enjoy the forbidden waters, than shall the nations be silent of thy praise.

1587 To thee, father of all, in wretchedness we pray: let no dread beast be born, no pest; from the fear of savage kings keep this poor world free; let no one lord it in palace hall who deems it the sole

¹ Translating Leo's suggested line.

Minos and Rhadamanthus.

qui putet solum deeus esse regni semper impensum tenuisse ferrum. si quid in terris iterum timetur, vindicem terrae petimus relictae.

Heu quid hoc? mundus sonat. ecce maeret, maeret Alciden pater; an deorum elamor, an vox est timidae novercae? Hercule an viso fugit astra Iuno? passus an pondus titubavit Atlas? an magis diri tremuere manes Herculem et visum canis inferorum fugit abruptis trepidus catenis? fallimur; laeto venit ecce voltu quem tulit Pocans umerisque tela

gestat et notas populis pharetras, Herculis heres.

Effare casus, invenis, Herculeos precor voltuque quonam tulerit Alcides necem.

PHILOCTETES 1

Quo nemo vitam.

chonvs

Laetus adeone ultimos

1600

invasit ignes?

PHILOCTETES

Esse iam flammas nihil 1610 ostendit ille. quid sub hoc mundo Hercules immune vinci liquit? en domita omuia.

CHORVS

Inter vapores quis fuit forti locus?

1 The dialogue throughout this scene is given by Leo and Richter to Nuntius and Chorus, following E; to Nutrix and Philoetetes A; since the messenger is obviously Philoetetes (see 312

glory of his realm to have held the sword e'er threatening. If some dread thing should come again to earth, oh, give to forsaken earth a champion.

1595 But what is this? The universe resounds. Behold, he mourns, the father monrns Alcides; or is it the outery of the gods or the voice of his frighted step-dame? At the sight of Hercules does Juno flee the stars? Under the mighty weight has Atlas staggered? Or is it that the awful ghosts have trembled and at sight of Hercules the hell-hound in affright has broken his chains and fled? No, we are wrong; behold with joyful face comes Poeas' son and on his shoulders he bears the shafts and the quiver known to all, the heir of Hercules.

[Enter PHILOCTETES.]

1607 Speak out, good youth, and tell the end of Hercules, I pray, and with what countenance Alcides bore his death.

PHILOCTETES

With such as none e'er bore his life.

CHORUS

So joyous did he mount his funeral pyre?

PHILOCTETES

He showed that now flames were as naught to him. What 'neath the heavens has Hercules left by defeat unscathed? Lo, all things have been subdued.

CHORUS

Midst the hot flames what room was there for valour?

^{1. 1604)} and there is no pertinency in the introduction of the nurse, we have given the dialogue to Philocetes and the Chorus.

PHILOCTETES

Quod unum in orbe vicerat nondum malum, et flamma victa est; hace quoque accessit feris: inter labores ignis Herculcos abit.

CHORVS

Edissere agedum, flamma quo victa est modo?

PHILOCTETES

Vt omnis Oeten maesta corripuit manus, huic fagus umbras perdit et toto iacet succissa trunco, flectit hic pinum ferox 1690 astris minantem et nube de media vocat; ruitura cautem movit et silvam tulit seeum minorem. Chaonis qualis loquax stat vasta late quercus et Phoebum vetat ultraque totos porrigit ramos manus; gemit illa multo volnere impresso minax frangitque cuneos, resilit incussus chalvbs volnusque ferrum patitur et rigidum est parum. commota tandem cum cadens latam sui duxit ruinam, protinus radios locus 630 admisit omnes; sedibus pulsae suis volucres pererrant nemore succiso diem quaeruntque lassis garrulae pinnis domus. iamque omnis arbor sonuit et sacrae quoque sensere quercus horridam ferro manum nullique priscum profuit luco nemus. aggeritur omnis silva et alternae trabes in astra tollunt Herculi augustum rogum:

¹ See Index s.r. "Chaonian Oaks."

² Oak-trees were especially sacred to Jove,

PUILOCTETES

The one enemy on earth which he had not o'ercome, e'en fire, is vanquished; this also has been added to the beasts; fire has taken its place midst the toils of Hercules.

CHORUS

But tell us, in what wise were the flames o'ercome?

PHILOCTETES

When the whole sorrowing band fell upon Oeta's woods, by the hands of one the beech-tree lost its shade and lay full length, hewn to the ground; one fiercely felled a pine-tree, towering to the stars, and from the clouds' midst he summoned it; in act to fall, it shook the rocky slope and with itself brought down the lesser woods. A huge oak stood, wide spreading, such as Chaonia's oak 1 of prophecy, excluding the light of day and stretching its branches far beyond all the grove. Threat'ning it groaned, by many a blow beset, and broke the wedges; back bounded the smiting steel; its edge was dulled, too soft for such a task. When the tree, at last dislodged, falling, brings widespread ruin down, straightway the place lets in the sun's full rays; the birds, driven from their perches, flit aimless through the day midst the felled grove, and, loudly complaining, with wearied wings seek for their nests. And now every tree resounded, and even the sacred oaks 2 felt the dread steel-armed hand, and its ancient woods availed no holy grove.3 The whole forest was piled into a heap; and the logs, starward in layers rising, made all too small a pyre for Hercules—the pine-

 $^{^3}$ A deep, primeval forest, for ages left untouched, had acquired a special sanctity.

raptura flammas pinus et robur tenax et brevior ilex silva; sed complet rogum populea silva, frontis Herculeae decus.

1640

1650

At ille, ut ingens nemore sub Nasamonio aegro reclinis pectore immugit leo, fertur—quis illum credat ad flammas rapi? voltus petentis astra, non ignes erat, nt pressit Oeten ac suis oculis rogum lustravit omnem. fregit impositus trabes. arcus poposcit. "accipe haee" inquit, "sate Poeante, dona et munus Alcidae cape. has hydra sensit, his iacent Stymphalides et quidquid aliud eminus vici malum. virtute felix, iuvenis, has numquam irritas mittes in hostem; sive de media voles auferre volucres nube, descendent aves et certa praedae tela de caelo fluent. nec fallet umquam dexteram hic arcus tuam. librare tela didicit et certam dare fugam sagittis, ipsa non fallunt iter emissa nervo tela. tu tantum precor accommoda ignes et facem extremam mihi. hie nodus" inquit "nulla quem cepit manus, meeum per ignes flagret; hoe telum Herculem tantum sequetur. hoe quoque acciperes " ait "si ferre posses. adiuvet domini rogum." tum rigida secum spolia Nemeaci mali arsura poscit; latuit in spolio rogus.

1660

Ingemuit omnis turba nec lacrimas dolor euiquam remisit. mater in luctum furcus diduxit avidum pectus atque utero tenus

So Gronovius with π : †victrice felix Leo with E: victure felix. has enim numquam irritas A: his utere felix Peiper: arguing from sive (1653) Leo thinks the other alternative must have begun in l, 1653 with some such words as sive eris in acie.

tree, quick to burn, the tough-fibred oak, the ilex of shorter trunk; but poplar wood, whose foliage

adorus Alcides' brow, filled out the pyre.

1642 But he, like some large, suffering lion, which, in Libyan forest lying, roars out his pain, hurried along, who would suppose him hasting to the flames? His gaze was of one who seeks the stars, not fires of earth, when he set foot on Oeta and with his eyes surveyed the pyre complete. The great beams broke beneath him. Then for his shafts and bow he called, and said: "Take these. thou son of Poeas, take them as Alcides' gift and pledge of love. These did the Hydra feel; by these the Stymphalian birds lie low, and all other pests which at distance I overcame. O youth with valour blest, never in vain shalt thou send these 'gainst a foe; or if birds from the very clouds thou wouldst fetch away, birds will fall down, and out of the sky will thy shafts, sure of their prey, come floating; and ne'er will this bow disappoint thy hand. Well has it learned to poise the feathered shafts and unerringly send them flying; while the shafts themselves, loosed from the string. fail never to find their mark. Only do thou, I pray, apply the fire and set the last torch for me. Let this club," he said, " which no hand but mine has wielded, burn in the flames with me; this weapon alone shall follow Hercules. This also shouldst thou have," said he, "if thou couldst wield it. Let it add fuel to its master's pyre." Then did he eall for the Nemean monster's shaggy skin to burn with him; neath the skin the pyre was hidden.

1667 The whole throng set up a lamentation, and sorrow filled the eyes of all with tears. His mother, passionate in grief, her eager bosom stript, and she

exerta vastos ubera in planctus ferit. superosque et ipsum vocibus pulsans Iovem implevit omnem voce feminea locum. " deforme letum, mater, Herculeum facis; compesce lacrimas" inquit, "introrsus dolor femineus abeat. Inno cur lactum diem te flente ducat? paelicis gaudet suae spectare lacrimas. comprime infirmum iecur. mater; nefas est ubera atque uterum tibi laniare, qui me genuit." et dirum fremens, qualis per urbes duxit Argolicas canem, cum victor Erebi Dite contempto redit tremente fato, talis incubuit rogo. quis sie triumphans laetus in curru stetit victor? quis illo gentibus voltu dedit leges tyrannus? quanta pax habitum tulit! haesere lacrimae, cecidit impulsus dolor nobis quoque ipsis, nemo periturum ingemit. iam flere pudor est; ipsa quam sexus iubet maerere, siccis haesit Alcmene genis stetitque nato paene iam similis parens.

1680

1670

1690

CHORVS

Nullasne in astra misit ad superos preces arsurus aut in vota respexit Iovem?

PHILOCTETES

Iacuit sui seenrus et caelum intuens quaesivit oculis, parte an ex aliqua pater despiceret illum. tum manus tendens ait: "quacumque parte prospicis natum pater (iste est pater, cui nocte commissa dies

smote her breasts, naked e'en to the waist, in endless lamentation; and with her cries assailing the gods and Jove himself, she filled all the region round with womanish bewailings, "Mother," he said. "thou dost disgrace the death of Hercules; restrain thy tears and confine thy womanish grief within thy heart. Why for thy weeping should Juno count this day joyful? For she rejoices to see her rival's tears. Curb thy faint heart, my mother; 'tis a sin to tear the breasts and the womb that bore Aleides." Then with dread mutterings, as when through Argive towns he dragged the dog, what time, triumphant over hell, in scorn of Dis and trembling death he returned to earth, so did he lay him down upon the What victor ever stood in his chariot so joyfully triumphant? What tyrant king with such a countenance ever gave laws to nations? How calmly he bore his fate! Even our tears were stayed, grief's shock subsided, none grieves that he must perish. Now were we 'shamed to weep; Alemena, herself, whose sex impels to mourning, stood with dry cheeks, a mother now well-nigh equal to her son.

CHORUS

Sent he no supplications heavenward to the gods e'er the fire was lit? Looked he not to Jove to hear his prayers?

PHILOCTETES

Careless of self he lay and, gazing at heaven, quested with his eyes whether from any quarter his sire looked down at him. Then, with hands outstretched, he spoke: "O father, from what quarter soe'er thou lookest on thy son, (he truly is my father, for whose sake night joined with day and one

quievit unus), si meas laudes canit utrumque Phoebi litus et Sevthiae genus et omnis ardens ora quam torret dies, 1700 si pace tellus plena, si nullae gemunt urbes nec aras impias quisquam inquinat, si scelera desunt, spiritum admitte hunc precor in astra. non me mortis infernae locus nee maesta nigri regna conterrent Iovis: sed ire ad illos umbra, quos vici, deos, pater, erubesco. nube discussa diem pande, ut deorum voltus ardentem Herculem spectet; licet tu sidera et mundum neges, ultro, pater, cogere-si voces dolor 1710 abstulerit ullas, pande tum Stygios lacus et redde fatis; approba natum prius. ut dignus astris videar, hic faciet dies. leve est quod actum est; Herculem hic, genitor, dies inveniet aut damnabit." Haec postquam edidit, 1715 flammas poposcit. "hoc age. Alcidae comes 1717 non segnis" inquit corripe Oetaeam facem; 1716

flammas poposeit. "hoc age. Alcidae comes non segnis" inquit 'corripe Oetaeam facem; noverca cernat quo feram flammas modo.¹ 1716 quid dextra tremuit? num manus pavida impium scelus refugit ? redde iam pharetras mihi, ignave iners inermis—en nostros manus quae tendat areus! quid sedet pallor genis? animo faces invade quo Alciden vides voltu iacere. respice arsurum, miser.

Vocat ecce iam me genitor et pandit polos. venio, pater." voltusque non idem fuit. tremente pinum dextera ardentem impuli; ²

² So A: Leo impulit with E.

¹ Leo deletes this line with E: Richter, following Gronovius places it after l. 1718.

day ceased to be,) if both the bounds of Phoebus sing my praise, the tribes of Scythia and every burning strand which daylight parches; if peace fills all the earth; if no cities groan and no man stains with sin his altar-fires; if crimes have ceased, admit this soul, I pray thee, to the stars. I have no fear of the infernal realm of death, nor do the sad realms of dusky Jove 1 affright me; but to go, naught but a shade, to those gods I overcame, O sire, I am ashamed. Dispel the clouds, spread wide the day, that the eyes of gods may gaze on burning Hercules. Though thou deny me stars and a place in heaven, O sire, thou shalt even be compelled—ah! if pain will exense any words 2 of mine, then open the Stygian pools and give me to death again; but prove me first thy son. This day will make me seem worthy of the stars. Worthless is all that has been done; this day, my father, will bring Herenles to light or doom him."

"Up now. Alcides' willing friend," said he, "catch up the Octacan torch; let my step-dame see how I can bear the flames. Why did thy right hand tremble? Did thy hand shrink timid from such unholy deed? Then give me my quiver back, thou undaring, unskilled, unwarlike—that the hand to bend my bow! Why do thy checks grow pale? Come, seize on the torch with courage, with face thou seest on prone Alcides. Poor soul, have some

regard for him who soon will burn.

¹⁷²⁵ But lo! now doth my father call me and he opens heaven. I come, O sire." Then was his face no more the same. With trembling hand I applied

321

¹ Pluto.

² i.e. the latest defiant word, "compelled."

1730

refugit ignis et reluctantur faces et membra vitant, sed recedentem Hercules insequitur ignem. Caucasum aut Pindum aut

Athon
ardere credas; nullus erumpit sonus,
tantum ingemescit ignis. o durum iecur!
Typhon in illo positus immanis rogo
gemuisset ipse quique convulsam solo
imposuit umeris Ossan Enceladus ferox.

At ille medias inter exurgens faces, semiustus ac laniatus, intrepidum tuens: "nunc es parens Herculea; sic stare ad rogum te, mater," inquit, "sic decet fleri Herculem." inter vapores positus et flammac minas 1740 immotus, inconcussus, in neutrum latus eorrepta torquens membra adhortatur, monet, gerit aliquid ardens. omnibas fortem addidit animum ministris; urere ardentem putes. stupet omne volgus, vix habent flammae fidem, tam placida frons est, tanta maiestas viro. nce properat uri; cumque iam forti datum leto satis pensavit, igniferas trabes hine inde traxit, minima quas flamma occupat, totasque in ignes vertit et quis plurimus 1750 exundat ignis repetit intrepidus ferox. tune ora flammis implet. ast illi graves luxere barbae; eumque iam voltum minax appeteret ignis, lamberent flammae caput, non pressit oculos.—sed quid hoe? maestam intuor 322

the blazing pine; the flames shrunk back, the torch resisted and would not touch his limbs; but Hereules followed up the shrinking flames. Thou wouldst suppose that Caucasus or Pindus or Athos was ablaze; no sound burst forth, save that the fire seemed groaning. O stubborn heart! Had huge Typhon been lying on that pyre, he would have groaned aloud, and fierce Enceladus who upon his shoulders bore Ossa, uptorn from earth.

1736 But Hercules, midst roaring flames upstarting, all charred and mangled, gazed dauntless round and eried: "Now art thou parent true of Hercules; thus 'tis meet that thou shouldst stand, my mother, beside the pyre, and thus 'tis meet that Hercules be mourned." Midst scoreling heat and threat'ning flames, unmoved, unshaken, to neither side turning his tortured limbs, he encourages, advises, is active still, though all aflame. To all his ministrants stoutness of soul he gives; you would deem him all on fire to burn. The whole crowd stands in speechless wonder and the flames have searce belief,1 so calm his brow, the hero so majestic. Nor does he speed his burning; but when now he deemed that courage enough had been shown in death, from every side he dragged the burning logs which the fire least fed upon, and into that blazing mass he strode and sought where the flames leaped highest, all unafraid, defiant. Awhile he feasted his eyes upon the fires. But now his heavy beard burned bright; and even when threat'ning fire assailed his face and the hot tongues licked about his head, he did not close his eyes.—But what is this? I see the sad mother

¹ The people hardly believed that the fire was real.

sinu gerentem reliquias magm Herculis ¹ crinemque iactans squalidum Alemene gemit.

ALCMENA

Timete, superi, fata! tam parvus cinis Herenleus, hue hue ille decrevit gigans! o quanta, Titan, ad nihil moles abit! 1760 anilis, heu me, recipit Alciden sinus, hie tumulus illi est. ecce vix totam Hercules compleyit urnam; quam leve est pondus mihi, cui totus aether pondus incubuit leve. ad Tartara olim regnaque, o nate, ultima rediturus ibas-quando ab inferna Styge remeabis iterum? non ut et spolium trahas rursusque Theseus debeat lucem tibi sed quando solus? mundus impositus tuas 1770 compescet umbras teque Tartareus canis inhibere poterit? quando Taenarias fores pulsabis, ant quas mater ad fauces agar qua mors aditur? vadis ad manes iter habiturus unum. quid diem questu tero? anid misera duras vita? quid lucem tenes? quem parere rursus Herculem possum Iovi? quis me parentem natus Alcmenen suam tantus vocabit? o nimis felix nimis, Thebane coniunx, Tartari intrasti loca florente nato teque venientem inferi 1780 timuere forsan, quod pater tantum Herculis,

¹ Leo deletes II. 1755, 1756, Richter 1755-1757: the last part of the speech of Philocettes is supposed to have fullen out. 324

bearing in her bosom the remains of great Alcides, and Alemena, tossing her squalid locks, bewails her son.

[Enter alcmena, carrying in her bosom a funeral urn.]

ALCMENA

Fear ve the fates, O powers above! (Holding up the urn.) See the scant dust of Hercules-to this, to this has that mighty body shrunk! O Sun, how great a mass has passed away to nothingness! Ah me, this aged breast can hold Alcides, this is a tomb for him. See, Hercules has scarce filled all the urn; how light for me his weight upon whose shoulders the whole heavens as a light weight rested. Once to the farthest realms of Tartarus, O son, didst thou go but to return-Oh, when from infernal Styx wilt thon come again? Not in such wise as to bring e'en spoil with thee, nor that Thesens again may owe thee the light of day.—but when, though all alone? Will the whole world, heaped on thee, hold thy shade, or the hell-hound avail to keep thee back? When wilt thou batter down the Taenarian 1 gates, or to what yawning jaws shall thy mother betake herself, where is the approach to death? Thou takest thy journey to the dead, and 'twill be thy only one. Why do I waste time in wailing? Why dost endure, O wretched life? Why clingest to the light? What Hercules can I again bring forth to Jove? What son so great will call me mother, will call me his Alemena? Oh, too, too happy thou, my Theban husband,2 for thou to the realms of Tartarus didst descend, thy son still living; at thy approach the infernal ones, perchance, were filled with fear, merely because thou wast the sire of Hercules, even

¹ See Index s.v. "Taenarus." ² Amphitryon.

vel falsus, aderas—quas petam terras anus, invisa saevis regibus, si quis tamen rex est relictus saevus? ei miserae mihi! quicumque caesos ingemit natus patres, a me petet supplicia, me cuncti obruent. si quis minor Busiris aut si quis minor Antaeus orbem fervidae terret plagae, ego praeda ducar; si quis Ismarius greges Thracis cruenti vindicat, carpent greges mea membra diri. forsitan poenas petet irata Iuno; totus hue verget¹ dolor; secura victo tandem ab Alcide vacat, paelex supersum—a quanta supplicia expetet ne parcre possim! fecit hie natus mihi uterum timendum.

Quae petam Alemene loca?
quis me locus, quae regio, quae mundi plaga
defendet aut quas mater in latebras agar
ubique per te nota? sie patriam petam
laresque miseros? Argos Eurystheus tenet. 1800
marita Thebas regna et Ismenon petam
thalamosque nostros, in quibus quondam Iovem
dilecta vidi? pro nimis felix, nimis,
si fulminantem et ipsa sensissem Iovem!
utinam meis viseeribus Aleides foret
exectus infans! nune datum est tempus, datum est
videre natum laude certantem Iovi,
ut et hoe daretur, seire quid fatum mihi
eripere posset.

1790

¹ So Richter with N. Heinsius: Leo reads †uretur with ω , and conjectures exarget.

though falsely called.—What lands shall an aged woman seek, hated by savage kings, if spite of all any savage king is left alive? Oh, woe is me! All sons¹ who lament their murdered sires will seek revenge from me; they all will overwhelm me. If any young Busiris or if any young Antaeus terrifies the region of the burning zone,² I shall be led off as booty; if any Ismarian ³ seeks revenge for the herds of the bloody king ⁴ of Thrace, upon my limbs will his horrid herds be fed. Juno, perchance, in anger will seek revenge; against me will the whole force of her wrath incline; though her soul is no more disturbed by Alcides, o'ercome at last, I, the concubine, am left—ah! what punishments will she infliet, lest I be again a mother! This son has made my womb a thing of fear.

what region, what quarter of the world will take my part, or to what hiding-place shall thy mother betake herself, known everywhere through thee? Shall I seek my fatherland and my wretched home? Eurysthens is king at Argos. Shall I seek Thebes, my husband's kingdom, the Ismenus and my bridal chamber, where once, greatly beloved by him, I looked on Jove? Oh, happy, far too happy had I been, if I myself, too, happy, far too happy had I been, if I myself, too, had known Jove's thunderbolt! Oh, would that from my womb the infant Aleides had been ripped! But now was the chance given me, yea 'twas given to see my son vying in praise with Jove, that this, too, might be given me—to know of how much fate had power to rob me.

¹ i.e. whose fathers Hercules has slain.

² Both these enemies of Hercules had lived in Africa.

i.e. Thracian. 4 Diomedes.
She is thinking of the experience of Semele.

Quis memor vivet tui,
o nate, populus? omne iam ingratum est genus. 1810
petam Cleonas? Areadum populos petam
meritisque terras nobiles quaeram tuis?
hie dira serpens cecidit, hie ales fera,
hie rex eruentus, hie tua fractus manu
qui te sepulto possidet caclum leo.
si grata terra est, populus Alemenen tuam
defendat omnis. Thracias gentes petam
Hebrique populos? hace quoque est meritis tuis
defensa tellus; stabula cum regno iacent.
hie pax cruento rege prostrato data est;
ubi enim negata est?

Quod tibi infelix anus quaeram sepulchrum? de tuis totus rogis contendat orbis. reliquias magni Herculis quis populus aut quae templa, quae gentes rogant? quis, quis petit, quis poscit Alemenes onus? quae tibi sepulchra, nate, quis tumulus sat est? hie totus orbis; fama erit titulus tibi. quid, anime, trepidas? Herculis eineres tenes; complectere ossa; reliquiae auxilium dabunt, erunt satis praesidia, terrebunt tuae 1830 reges vel umbrae.

HYLLVS

Debitos nato quidem compesce fletus, mater Alcidae incluti. non est gemendus nee gravi urgendus prece,

¹ Lerua.

² The Stymphalian bird.

1809 What people will live mindful of thee, O son? Now is the whole race ungrateful. Shall I seek Cleonae? seek the Areadian tribes and hunt out the lands made famous by thy righteous toils? Here ¹ fell the serpent dire, here the bird-monster, ² here ³ fell a bloody king, and here 4 by thy hand subdued. the lion fell, who, while thou liest buried here, holds a place in heaven. If earth is grateful, let every people shield thine Alemena. Shall I go to the Thracian peoples, and to Hebrus' tribes? for this land, too, was defended by thy toils; low do the stables 5 with the kingdom lie. Here peace was granted when the bloody king was overthrown; for where has it not been granted?

1821 What tomb for thee shall a luckless old woman seek? Let the whole world contend for thy remains. The ashes of mighty Hercules, what people or what temples, what races desire to have? Who then, who seeks, who demands Alemena's burden 6? What sepulchre, O son, what tomb is great enough for thee? Thy tomb is the whole wide world, and fame shall be thine epitaph. Why, soul of mine, art fearful? Thou holdst the dust of Hercules; embrace his bones: his mere dust will bring thee aid, will be defence enough; even thy ghost will cause kings to tremble.

HYLLUS [who seems to have been present during the preceding scene

Though truly they are due thy son, restrain thy tears, mother of Aleides the illustrious. He is neither to be mourned nor pursued with grievous

Egypt, Thrace, or Libya, according as Busiris, Diomedes, or Antaeus is in her mind.
 Nemea.
 i.e. of Diomedes.
 i.e. the urn containing the ashes of Hercules.

virtute quisquis abstulit fatis iter; aeterna virtus Hereulem fleri vetat. fortes vetant maerere, degeneres iubent.¹

ALCMENA

Sedabo questus vindice amisso parens?

HYLLYS

Terra atque pelagus quaque purpurcus dies utrumque elara spectat Occanum rota 2

ALCMENA

1840

1850

Quot misera in uno condidi natos parens! regno carebam, regna sed poteram dare. una inter omnes terra quas matres gerit votis perperci, nil ego a superis peti incolume nato; quid dare Herculcus mihi non poterat ardor? quis deus quicquam mihi negare poterat? vota in hae fuerant manu; quidquid negaret Iuppiter, daret Hercules. quid tale genetrix ulla mortalis tulit? derignit aliqua mater ut toto stetit succisa fetu bisque septenos gregem deplanxit una; gregibus acquari meus quot ille poterat? matribus miseris adhue exemplar ingens derat—Alemene dabo. cessate, matres, pertinax si quas dolor adhuc inbet lugere, quas luctus gravis in saxa vertit; cedite his cunetae malis. agedum senile pectus, o miserae manus, pulsate-et una funeri tanto sat es,

1 Leo deletes this line.

² Evidently there is a lacuna following this line. Leo suggests: (non sola macres) vindice amisso dolent.

prayers, whoe'er by his valour hath halted the march of fate; his deathless valour forbids to weep for Hercules. Brave men forbid to mourn, cowards command.

ALCMENA

When her deliverer is lost, shall a mother abate her grief?

HYLLUS

Both land and sea and where the shining sun from his bright ear looks down upon both oceans, (not thou alone dost grieve) all mourn for their lost deliverer.¹

ALCMENA

How many sons has his wretched mother buried in him alone! Kingdom I lacked, yet kingdoms could I give. I only, midst all the mothers whom the earth contains, refrained from prayer; naught from the gods I asked, while my son remained; for what could the love of Hercules not grant to me? What god could deny me aught? In my own hands were the answers to my prayers; whatever Jove denied, Hercules could bestow. What son like this has a mortal mother borne? Once a mother? stiffened into stone when, stripped of her whole brood, she stood and, one alone, lamented her twice seven children; but to how many broods like hers could my son be compared? Till now for mother's grief a measure vast enough was lacking-Alcmena will furnish it. Then cease, ye mothers, whom persistent woe still bids to mourn, whom crushing sorrow has transformed to stone; yield ye, yea, all of you, to these my woes. Then come, beat on this aged breast, O wretched hands,—and canst thou alone

¹ Translating Leo's conjecture. ² Niobe.

grandaeva anus defecta, quam totus brevi iam quaeret ¹ orbis ? expedi in planetus tamen 1860 defessa quamquam bracchia; invidiam ut deis lugendo facias, advoca in planetus genus.

> Ite Alemenae magnique Iovis plangite natum, cui concepto lux una perit noctesque duas contulit Eos: ipsa quiddam plus luce perit. totae pariter plangite gentes, quarum saevos ille tyrannos iussit Stygias penetrare domos 1870 populisque madens ponere ferrum. fletum meritis reddite tantis, totus, totus personet orbis. fleat Alciden caerula Crete, magno tellus cara Tonanti ; centum populi bracchia pulscut; nunc Curetes, nunc Corybantes arma Idaea quassate manu; armis illum lugere decet: nune, nune funus plangite verum; 1880 facet Alcides non minor ipso, Creta, Tonante. flete Herculeos, Areades, obitus, nondum Phoche nascente genus; inga Parthenii Nemeaeque 2 soncut feriatque graves Maenala planetus. magné Alcidae poscit gemitum

² †Nemeaeque Leo with ω Tegeaeque de Wilamowitz:

Pheneique Richter.

¹ Leo †iam quaeret with E, and conjectures iam totus brevi | concurret orbis: sequetur N. Heinsius: conveniet Koetschau: iam peraget Richter.

suffice for loss so vast, an aged spent old woman? Soon will the whole world unite to mourn with thee.¹ Yet raise thy arms, however weary, in lamentation; that by thy grief thou mayst stir envy in the gods, summon the whole race of men unto thy mourning.

[Here follows algment's formal song of mourning accompanied by the usual Oriental gestures of lamentation.]

1863 Come ve, bewail Alemena's son and mighty Jove's, for whose conception one day was lost and lingering dawn joined two nights in one; something greater than the day itself is lost. Together lament, ve nations all, whose cruel tyrants he bade descend to the abodes of Stvx and lay down the sword, recking with blood of peoples. To such deserts pay tribute of your tears; let all, yea all the world echo to your laments. Alcides let sea-girt Crete bewail, land to the great Thunderer dear; let its hundred peoples beat upon their arms. Now Cretans, now priests of Cybele, with your hands clash Ida's cymbals; 'tis meet that with arms ye mourn him. Now, now make him just funeral; low lies Alcides, equal, O Crete, to the Thunderer himself. Weep for Alcides' passing, O Arcadians, who were a people ere yet the moon was born; let Parthenius' heights and Nemea's hills resound and Machalus smite heavy blows of grief. The bristly boar, within your fields laid low, demands lament for great Alcides, and the

¹ Translating Leo's conjecture. See critical note 1.

stratus vestris saetiger agris alesque sequi iussa sagittas totum pinna velante diem. flete Argolicae, flete, Cleonae; hic terrentem moenia quondam vestra leonem fregit nostri dextera nati; date Bistoniae verbera matres gelidusque sonet planetibus Hebrus; flete Alciden, quod non stabulis nascitur infans nec vestra greges viscera carpunt. fleat Antaeo libera tellus et rapta fero plaga Geryonae; mecum miserae plangite gentes, audiat ictus utraque Tethys.

Vos quoque, mundi turba citati, flete Herculeos, numina, casus; vestrum Aleides cervice meus mundum, superi, caelumque tulit, cum stelligeri vector Olympi pondere liber spiravit Atlans. ubi nunc vestrae, luppiter, arces? ubi promissi regia mundi? nempe Aleides mortalis obit, nempe sepultus. quotiens telis facibusque tuis ille pepercit, quotiens ignis spargendus erat! in me saltem iaculare facem Semelenque puta.

Iamne Elysias, o nate, domus, iam litus habes ad quod populos natura vocat? an post raptum Styx atra canem pracelusit iter teque in primo limine Ditis fata morantur?

1890

1900

1910

1920

huge bird whose wings hid all the sky, challenged ¹ to meet his shafts. Weep, Argive Cleonae, weep; here long ago the lion who kept your walls in fear my son's right hand destroyed. Ye Bistonian dames, beat your breasts, and let cold Hebrus resound to your beatings; weep for Alcides, for no more are your children born for the stalls, ² nor your offspring as food for the herds. Weep thou, O land from Antaeus delivered, ye regions from fierce Geryon saved; yea, with me, ye unhappy nations, lament; let both seas ³ re-echo your beatings.

1903 You too, ye thronging deities of the whirling heavens, bewail Hercules' fate; for my Alcides bore your heavens upon his shoulders, your sky, ye gods above, when Atlas, starry Olympus' prop, was eased of his load awhile. Where now are thy heights, O Jove? Where is the promised palaee in the sky? Aleides, mortal, is dead! mortal, is buried! How oft did he save thee thy lightnings, how seldom thy fire needed hurling! Against me at least brandish thy lightning, and deem me Semele.

1916 And now, O son, holdst thou the Elysian seats, holdst now the shore whither nature calls all peoples? Or after the dog was stolen has the dark Styx barred thy way, and on the very threshold of Dis do the fates delay thee? What confusion now, my

¹ Hercules roused the bird from its Stymphalian lair by the noise of a great rattle.

² i.e. of Diomedes.

<sup>i.e. the eastern and western limits of the sea.
Jove had promised Hercules a place in heaven.</sup>

⁵ i.e. Hercules had taken upon himself the punishment of sinful men.

quis nunc umbras, nate, tumultus manesque tenet? fugit abducta navita cumba et Centauris Thessala motis ferit attonitos ungula manes anguesque suos hydra sub undas territa mersit teque labores, o nate, timent? fallor, fallor vaesana furens! nec te manes umbraeque timent, non Argolico rapta leoni fulva pellis contecta iuba laevos operit dira lacertos vallantque ferae tempora dentes; donum pharetrae cessere tuae telaque mittet iam dextra minor. vadis inermis, nate, per umbras, ad quas semper mansurus eris.

1930

VOX RERCYL.

Quid me tenentem regna siderei poli caeloque tandem redditum planetu iubes sentire fatum? parce; iam virtus mihi in astra et insos fecit ad superos iter. 1940

ALCMENA

Vinde, unde sonus trepidas aures ferit? unde meas inhibet lacrimas fragor? agnosco victum esse chaos.

A Styge, nate, redis iterum mihi fractaque non semel est mors horrida? vicisti rursus mortis loca puppis et infernae vada tristia?

1950

son, seizes the shadowy spirits? Does the boatman draw away his skiff in flight? Do Thessalian Centaurs with flying hoofs smite the affrighted ghosts? Does the hydra in terror plunge his snaky heads beneath the waves and do thy toils all fear thee, O my son? Fooled, fooled am I, distracted, mad! Nor ghosts nor shadows are afraid of thee; the fear-some pelt, stripped from the Argolic lion, with its tawny mane shields thy left arm no more, and its savage teeth hedge not thy temples; thy quiver thou hast given away and now a lesser hand will aim thy shafts. Unarmed, my son, thou farest through the shades, and with them forever shalt thou abide.

THE VOICE OF HERCULES [from above.]

Why, since I hold the realms of starry heaven and at last have attained the skies, dost by lamentation bid me taste of death? Give o'er; for now has my valour borne me to the stars and to the gods themselves.)

ALCHBNA [bewildered.]

Whence, oh, whence falls that sound upon my startled ears? Whence do the thunderous tones bid check my weeping? Now know I that chaos has been o'ercome.

1947 From the Styx, O son, art come again to me? Broken a second time is the power of grisly death? Hast escaped once more death's stronghold and the infernal skiff's dark pools? Is Acheron's wan stream

pervius est Acheron iam languidus et remeare licet soli tibi nec te fata tenent post funera? an tibi praeclusit Pluton iter et pavidus regni metuit sibi? certe ego te vidi flagrantibus impositum silvis, cum plurimus in caelum fureret flammae metus. arsisti—cur te, cur ultima non tenuere tuas umbras loca? quid timuere tui manes precor? umbra quoque es Diti nimis horrida?

1960

HERCYLES

Non me gementis stagna Cocyti tenent nec puppis umbras furva transvexit meas: iam parce, mater, questibus; manes semel umbrasque vidi. quidquid in nobis tui mortale fuerat, ignis evictus tulit; paterna caelo, pars data est flammis tua. proinde planctus pone, quos nato paret genetrix inerti. luctus in turpes eat; virtus in astra tendit, in mortem timor. praesens ab astris, mater, Alcides cano: poenas cruentus iam tibi Eurystheus dabit; curru superbum vecta transcendes caput. me iam decct subire caelestem plagam; inferna vici rursus Alcides loca.

1970

338

retraceable and mayst thon alone recross it? And after thy death do the fates hold thee no more? Has Pluto barred thy way, and trembling feared for his own sovereignty? Surely upon the blazing logs I saw thee laid, when the vast, fearful flames raged to the sky. Thou wast consumed—why, why did the bottomless abyss not gain thy shade? What part of thee did the ghosts fear, I pray? Is e'en thy shade too terrible for Dis?

HERCULES [his form now taking shape in the air above.]

The pools of groaning Cocytus hold me not, nor has the dark skiff borne o'er my shade; then eease thy laments, my mother: once and for all have I seen the shadowy ghosts. Whate'er in me was mortal and of thee, the vanquished flame has borne away my father's part to heaven, thy part to the flames has been eonsigned. Cease then thy lamentations which to a worthless son might well be given. Let tears for the inglorious flow; valour fares starward, fear, to the realm of death. In living presence, mother, from the stars Aleides speaks; soon shall bloody Eurystheus make thee full recompense; o'er his proud head shalt thou in triumph ride. But now 'tis meet that I pass to the realm above; Aleides once again has conquered hell.

[He vanishes from sight.]

¹Both text and meaning are doubtful here. The sense seems to be that though the mortal part of Hercules has been consumed by the flames, they have in reality been vanquished by his spirit.

ALCMENA

Mane parumper—cessit ex oculis, abit, in astra fertur. fallor an voltus putat vidisse natum? misera mens incredula est—es numen et te mundus aeternum tenet; credo triumphis.

1980

Regna Thebarum petam novumque templis additum numen canam.

CHORVS

Numquam Stygias fertur ad umbras inclita virtus. vivunt fortes nec Lethaeos saeva per amnes vos fata trahent, sed eum summas exiget horas consumpta dies, iter ad superos gloria pandet.

1990

Sed tu, domitor magne ferarum orbisque simul pacator, ades; nunc quoque nostras respice terras, et si qua novo belua voltu quatiet populos terrore gravi, tu fulminibus frange trisuleis—fortius ipso genitore tuo fulmina mitte.

ALCMENA

Stay but a little!—he has vanished from my sight, is gone, to the stars faring. Am I deceived or do my eyes but deem they saw my son? My soul for very grief cannot believe it.—But no! thou art divine, and deathless the heavens possess thee. In thy triumphant entrance I believe.

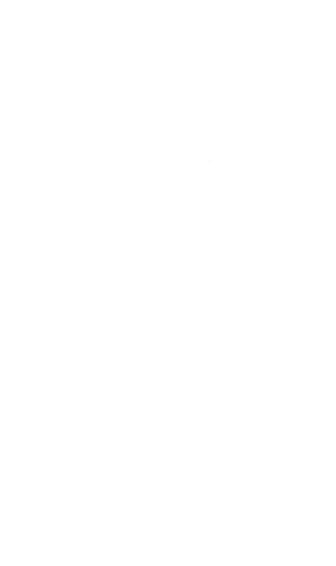
1981 Now will I take me to the realm of Thebes and there proclaim the new god added to their temples.

Exit.

CHORUS

Never to Stygian shades is glorious valour borne. The brave live on, nor shall the cruel fates bear you o'er Lethe's waters; but when the last day shall bring the final hour, glory will open wide the path to heaven.

1989 But do thou, O mighty conqueror of beasts, peace-bringer to the world, be with us yet; still as of old regard this earth of ours; and if some strange-visaged monster cause us with dire fear to tremble, do thou o'ercome him with the forked thunder-bolts—yea, more mightily than thy father's self the thunders hurl.





DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Oedipus, late king of Thebes.

Antigone, daughter of Oedipus, constant to him in his misfortunes.

Jocasta, wife and mother of Occlipus.

 $\frac{\text{Polynices}}{\text{Eteocles}}$ sons of Oedipus and rivals for the throne.

Messenger.

THE SCENE is laid, first in the wild country to which Oedipus, accompanied by Antigone, has betaken himself; then in Thebes; and lastly in the plain before Thebes.

THE TIME is three years after the downfall of Oedipus.

ARGUMENT

Twe stroke of fate, that has been threatening Occlipus since long before his birth, has fallen at last, and he has done the thing he feared to do. And now, self-blinded and self-exiled from his land, he has for three years vandered in rough and trackless places, attended by Antigone, his daughter, who, alone of all his friends, has condoned his fated sins and remained attached to him.

Meanwhile his sons, though they agreed to reign alternate years, are soon to meet in deadly strife; for Eteocles, although his year of royal power is at an end, refuses to give up the throne; and now Polynices, who has in exile wed the daughter of Adrastus, king of Argos, is marching against the gates of Thebes, with seven great armies

to enforce his rights.

[By a different version from the "Occlipus," Jocasta did not slay herself at once as in that tale, but still is living on in grief and shame, and strives to reconcile her

sons.

PHOENISSAE

OFBIPTS

Caect parentis regimen et fessi unicum lateris levamen, nata, quam tanti est mihi genuisse vel sic, desere infaustum patrem. in recta quid deflectis errantem gradum? permitte labi; melius inveniam viam, quam quaero, solus, quae me ab hae vita extrahat et hoe nefandi capitis aspectu levet caelum atque terras. quantulum hac egi manu? non video noxae conscium nostrae diem, hine iam solve inhaerentem manum 10 sed videor. et patere caecum qua volet ferri pedem. ibo, ibo qua praerupta protendit iuga meus Cithaeron, qua peragrato celer per saxa monte iacuit Actaeon suis nova praeda canibus, qua per obscurum nemus silvamque opacae vallis instinctas deo egit sorores mater et gaudens malo vibrante fixum praetulit thyrso caput; vel qua eucurrit, corpus inlisum trahens. Zethi iuvencus, qua per horrentes rubos 20

¹ In the corresponding Greek play a chorus of Phoenician maidens on their way to Delphi chanced to be at Thebes. This circumstance gives the play its name,

PHOENISSAE, OR THEBAÏS A FRAGMENT

OEDIPUS

[To antigone, who has followed him into exile.]

Thou guide of thy blind father's steps, his weary side's sole stay, daughter, whose getting, even so, was worth the cost to me, quit thou thy heaven-cursed sire. Why into right paths wouldst turn aside my wandering feet? Let me stumble on: better alone shall I find the way I seek, the way which from this life shall deliver me and free heaven and earth from sight of this impious head. How little did I accomplish with this hand! I do not see the light, witness of my erime, but I am seen. Therefore. now unclasp thy clinging hand and let my sightless feet wander where they will. I'll go, I'll go where my own Cithaeron lifts his rugged crags; where, speeding over the mountain's rocky ways, Actaeon lay at last, strange quarry for his own hounds; where, through the dim grove and woods of the dusky glade, a mother 2 led her sisters, by the god impelled. and, rejoicing in the crime, bore in advance the fixed on a quivering thyrsus; or where Zethus' bull rushed along, dragging a mangled corpse, while through the thorny brambles the mad

² Agave, who with her sisters, in a frenzy inspired by Baechus, slew her son, Pentheus,

³ i.e. of Pentheus.

tauri ferocis sanguis ostendit fugas; vel qua alta maria vertice immenso premit Inoa rupes, qua scelus fugiens novum novumque faciens mater insiluit freto mersura natum seque. felices quibus fortuna melior tam bonas matres dedit.

Est alius istis noster in silvis locus. qui me reposeit, hune petam cursu incito; non haesitabit gressus, huc omni duce spoliatus ibo. quid moror sedes meas? mortem, Cithaeron, redde et hospitium mihi illud meum restitue, ut expirem senex ubi debui infans. recipe supplicium vetus. semper eruente saeve crudelis ferox, cum occidis et cum pareis, olim iam tuum est hoe cadaver: perage mandatum patris, iam et matris. animus gestit antiqua exequi supplieia. quid me, nata, pestifero tenes amore vinctum? quid tenes? genitor vocat. sequor, sequor, iam parce—sanguineum gerens insigne regni Lains rapti furit; en ecce, inanes manibus infestis petit foditque vultus. nata, genitorem vides? ego video. tandem spiritum inimicum expue, desertor anime, fortis in partem tui. omitte poenae languidas longae moras, mortemque totam admitte. quid segnis traho quod vivo? nullum facere iam possum scelus. possum miser, praedico—discede a patre, discede, virgo. timeo post matrem omnia.

30

40

50

creature's flight was traceable in blood; or where lno's cliff juts out into the deep sea with towering peak, where, fleeing strange crime and yet strange crime committing, a mother leaped into the strait to sink both son and self.¹ Oh, happy they whose better fortune has given such kindly mothers!

²⁷ There is another place within these woods, my own place, which calls for me; I would fain hasten to it; my steps will falter not; thither will I go bereft of every guide. Why keep my own place waiting? Death, O Cithaeron, give me back; restore me that resting-place of mine, that I may die in age where I should have died in infancy. Claim now that penalty of old. O ever bloody, savage, cruel, fierce, both when thou slayest and when thou sparest, this carcass of mine long since belonged to thee; fulfil my father's behest-ave, and now my mother's too. My soul yearns to suffer the penalty of long ago. Why, daughter, dost hold me bound by thy baleful love? Why dost thou hold me? My father calls. I come, I come; at last let me go?—Lains rages yonder, wearing the blood-stained badge of his ravished kingdom; see! behold! there he assails and seeks to tear at my sightless countenance with his threatening hands. Daughter, dost see my father? I surely see him. [He soliloquizes.] At length spew out thy hateful breath, O traitor soul, brave 'gainst but a portion of thyself. Away with the slow delays of thy longdue punishment; receive death wholly. Why do I sluggishly drag on this life? Now can I do no crime. I can, wretch that I am, this I forebode-away from thy father, away, while still a maid. After my mother I fear all happenings.

See Index s.v. "Ino."

² i.e. (to his daughter) "spare me thy further opposition."

ANTIGONA

Vis nulla, genitor, a tuo nostram manum corpore resolvet, nemo me comitem tibi eripiet umquam. Labdaei elaram domum, opulenta ferro regna germani petant; pars summa magno patris e regno mea est, pater ipse. non hune auferet frater mihi Thebana rapto seeptra qui regno tenet, non hune eatervas alter Argolicas agens; non si revulso Iuppiter mundo tonet mediumque nostros fulmen in nexus eadat, manum hane remittam. prohibeas, genitor, licet; regam abnuentem, dirigam inviti gradum. in plana tendis? vado; praerupta appetis? non obsto, sed praecedo; quo vis utere duce me: duobus omnis eligitur via. perire sine me non potes, mecum potes. hie alta rupes arduo surgit iugo spectatque longe spatia subiecti maris, vis hane petamus? nudus hie pendet silex, hie seissa tellus faueibus ruptis hiat; vis hanc petamus? hic rapax torrens eadit partesque lapsi montis exesas rotat; in hunc ruamus? dum prior, quo vis eo. non deprecor, non hortor. Z extingui eupis votumque, genitor, maximum mors est tibi? si moreris, antecedo; si vivis, sequor. sed flecte mentem, pectus antiquum advoca victasque magno robore aerunnas doma; resiste: tantis in malis vinci mori est. 350

70

ANTIGONE

No force, my father, shall loose my hold of thee; no one shall ever tear me from thy side. The sovereignty of Labdacus' noble house and all its riches-let my brothers fight over these; the best part of my father's mighty kingdom is my own, my father's self. Him no brother shall take from me, not he 1 who holds the Theban sceptre by stolen right, not he² who is leading the Argive hosts; no, though Jove should rend the universe with his thunders, and his bolt fall 'twixt our embrace, I will not let go my hands. Thou mayst forbid me, father; I'll guide thee against thy will, I'll direct thine unwilling feet. Wouldst go to the level plain? I go. Wouldst seek the eraggy mountains? I oppose not, but I go before. Whither thou wilt, use me as guide; by two will all paths be chosen. Without me thou canst not perish; with me thou canst. Here rises a cliff, lofty, precipitous, and looks out upon the long reaches of the underlying sea; wouldst have us seek it? Here is a bare rock overhanging, here the riven earth yawns with gaping jaws; shall we go here? Here a raging torrent falls and rolls along worn fragments of the fallen mountains; shall we plunge to this? Where'er thou wilt, I go, so it be first. I neither oppose nor urge. Art eager to be destroyed, and is death, father, thy highest wish? If thou diest, I go before thee; if thou livest, I follow. But change thy purpose; summon up thine old-time courage: conquer thy sorrows and with all thy might be master of them, resist them; amidst such woes, to be conquered is to die.

¹ Eteocles.

² Polynices.

OFDIPVS

Vnde in nefanda specimen egregium domo? 80 unde ista generi virgo dissimilis suo? Fortuna, eredis? aliquis est ex me pius? non esset umquam, fata bene novi mea, nisi ut noceret. ipsa se in leges novas natura vertit; regeret in fontem citas revolutus undas amnis, et noetem afferet Phoebea lampas, Hesperus faciet diem; ut ad miserias aliquid accedat meas, pii quoque erimus. uniea Oedipodae est salus, non esse salvum. liceat ulcisci patrem 90 adhue inultum; dextra quid eessas iners exigere poenas? quidquid exactum est adhuc, matri dedisti. mitte genitoris manum, animosa virgo; funns extendis meum longasque vivi ducis exequias patris. aliquando terra corpus invisum tege; neceas honesta mente, pictatem vocas patrem insepultum trahere. qui cogit mori nolentem in aequo est quique properantem impedit; occidere est vitare cupientem mori,1 100 nec tamen in aequo est; alterum gravius reor. malo imperari quam cripi mortem mihi. desiste coepto, virgo; ins vitae ae necis meae penes me est. regna deserni libens, regnum mei retinco. si fida es comes, ensem parenti trade, sed notum nece ensem paterna. tradis? an nati tenent cum regno et illum? facinore ubicumque est opus, ibi sit-relinguo; natus hune habeat meus,

1 Leo deletes this line.

OFDIPUS

Whence this rare type in a house so impious? Whence this maid so unlike her race? Is it fortune, thinkst thon? Has any dutiful child sprung from me? Never would it be so, for well I know my fate, save for harmful ends. Nature herself has reversed her laws; now will the river turn and bear its swift waters backward to their source, Phoebus' torch will bring in the night, and Hesperus herald the day; and, that something be added to my woes, I, too, shall become holy. For Oedipus the only salvation is not to be saved. Let me avenge my father, till now unavenged; why, sluggish hand, dost thou hesitate to exact penalty? All thou hast as yet exacted, to my mother hast thou given. Let go thy father's hand, courageous girl; thou dost but protract my burying, and prolong the funeral rites of a living sire. Bury in the earth at last this hateful body; thou wrongst me, though with kind intent, and thou deemst it piety to drag along an unburied father. 'Tis all one—to force him who shrinks from death, and stay him who seeks to die; 'tis the same as killing to forbid death to him who wants it; and yet 'tis not all one; the second course I count the worse. Rather would I have death enforced than snatched from me. Desist, girl, from thine attempt; the right to live or die is in my own hands. sovereignty over my realm have I yielded gladly; the sovereignty over myself I keep. If thou art true comrade, hand thy sire a sword, but be it the sword made famous by his father's slaughter. Dost give it? or hold my sons that, too, together with my kingdom? Wherever is need of crime, there let it be -I relinquish it; let my son have it-nay, both my

sed uterque. flammas potius et vastum aggerem 110 compone; in altos ipse me immittam rogos, haerebo ad ignes, funebri abscondar strue; pectusque solvam durum et in cinerem dabo hoc quidquid in me vivit. ubi saevum est mare? duc ubi sit altis prorutum saxis iugum, ubi torva rapidus ducat Ismenos vada.1 116si dux es, illue ire morituro placet, 118 ubi sedit alta rupe semifero dolos Sphinx ore nectens. dirige huc gressus pedum, 120 hic siste patrem. dira ne sedes vacet, monstrum repone maius. hoc saxum insidens obscura nostrae verba fortunae loquar, quae nemo solvat. quisquis Assyrio loca possessa regi scindis et Cadmi nemus serpente notum, sacra quo Dirce latet, supplex adoras, quisquis Eurotan bibis Spartamque fratre nobilem gemino colis, quique Elin et Parnason et Bocotios colonus agros uberis tondes soli, 130 adverte mentem—saeva Thebarum lues luctifica caecis verba committens modis quid simile posuit? quid tam inextricabile? avi gener patrisque rivalis sui, frater suorum liberum et fratrum parens; uno avia partu liberos peperit viro, sibi et nepotes. monstra quis tanta explicat? ego ipsc, victae spolia qui Sphingis tuli, haerebo fati tardus interpres mei.

¹ Leo deletes line 117: duc ubi ferae sunt, ubi fretum, ubi praeceps locus.

² A speech of Antigone may have dropped out at this point, or Oedipus may hark back to the earlier speech of Antigone

sons. Flames, if thou prefer, and a huge mound prepare; myself, will I fling me on the lofty pyre, embrace the flames, and hide in the funeral pile. There will I set free this stubborn soul and give up to ashes this—all that is left of me alive. Where is the raging sea? Lead me where some beetling erag juts out with its high, rocky cliff, or where swift Ismenus rolls his wild waters. If thou art my guide, thither would I go to die where on a high cliff the Sphinx onee sat and wove crafty speech with her half-bestial lips. Guide my feet thither, there set thy father. Let not that dreadful seat be empty, but place thereon a greater monster. On that rock will I sit and propound the dark riddle of my fate which none may answer. All ye who till the fields once ruled by the Assyrian king, who suppliant worship in the grove of Cadmus for the serpent famed, where sacred Direc lies; all ye who drink of the Eurotas, who dwell in Sparta for its twin brethren ² famous; ye farmers who reap Elis and Parnassus and Boeotia's fertile fields, give ear. That dire pest of Thebes, who wrapped death-dealing words in puzzling measures, what riddle like this did she ever propound? What maze so bewildering? He was his grandfather's son-in-law and his father's rival, brother of his children and father of his brothers; at one birth the grandmother bore children to her husband and grandchildren to herself. Who can unfold a coil so monstrous? Even I, who gained spoils from the conquered Sphinx, shall prove but slow in unriddling mine own doom.

¹ Cadmus ² Castor and Pollux.

after a dramatic pause. Leo holds that the hiatus is, as Swoboda thinks, left by the poet himself.

Quid perdis ultra verba? quid pectus ferum mollire temptas precibus? hoc animo sedet effundere hanc cum morte luctantem din animam et tenebras petere; nam sceleri haec meo parum alta nox est; Tartaro condi iuvat, et si quid ultra Tartarum est; tandem libet and olim oportet. morte prohiberi hand queo. ferrum negabis? noxias lapsu vias cludes et artis colta laqueis inseri prohibebis? herbas quae ferunt letum auferes? quid ista tandem cura proficiet tua? 150 ubique mors est. optume hoc cavit deus: eripere vitam nemo non homini potest, at nemo mortem; mille ad hanc aditus patent. nil quaero. dextra noster et nuda solet bene animus uti-dextra, nunc toto impetu, toto dolore, viribus totis veni. non destino unum vulneri nostro locumtotus nocens sum; qua voles mortem exige. effringe pectus corque tot scelerum capax evelle, totos viscerum nuda sinus. 160 fractum incitatis ictibus guttur sonet laceraeque fixis unguibus venae fluant. aut dirige iras quo soles; hace vulnera rescissa multo sanguine ae tabe inriga, hae extrahe animam duram, inexpugnabilem. et tu, parens, ubicumque poenarum arbiter adstas mearum—non ego hoc tantum scelus ulla expiari credidi pocna satis umquam, nee ista morte contentus fui, nee me redemi parte; membratim tibi 170

140 Why dost thou waste further words? Why dost try to soften my hard heart with prayers? My will is fixed to pour forth this life which has long been struggling with death, and to seek the nether darkness; for this deep night is not deep enough for my erime; in Tartarus would I be buried, or if there be aught deeper than Tartarus; 'tis pleasing to do at last what long ago I should have done. I cannot be kept from death. Wilt withhold the sword? Wilt bar paths where I might fall to death? Wilt keep my neek from the choking noose? Wilt remove death-bringing herbs? What, pray, will that care of thine accomplish? Death is everywhere. This hath God with wisdom excellent provided: of life anyone can rob a man, but of death no one; to this a thousand doors lie open. I ask for naught. This right hand, though bare, my soul hath practice to use well-O hand of mine, come now with all thy force, with all thy smarting rage, with all thy might. Not one spot only do I mark out for the wound-I am all sin; inflict death where thou wilt. Break through my breast and tear out my heart, which has room for so many crimes; lay bare my vitals, every nook; rain resounding blows upon my neck until it break, and let my veins flow, torn by my gouging fingers. Or aim thy mad attack at the accustomed place; 1 these wounds reopen; bathe them in streams of blood and gore; through this passage drag out my stubborn life, impregnable. And do thou, my father, where'er thou standst as arbiter of my sufferings-I have never deemed that this grievous crime of mine was sufficiently atoned by any suffering, nor have I been content with such death as this, nor have I bought my pardon with a portion of myself; limb by limb

perire volui—debitum tandem exige.
nunc solvo poenas, tunc tibi inferias dedi.
ades atque inertem dexteram introrsus preme
magisque merge; timida tunc parvo caput
libavit haustu vixque cupientes sequi
eduxit oculos. hacret etiam nunc mihi
ille animus, haeret, cum recusantem manum
pressere vultus. audies verum, Oedipus:
minus eruisti lumina audacter tua,
quam praestitisti. nunc manum cerebro indue; 180
hac parte mortem perage qua coepi mori.

ANTIGONA

Pauca, o parens magnanime, miserandae precor ut verba natae mente placata audias. non te ut reducam veteris ad speciem domus habitumque regni flore pollentem inclito peto aut ut iras, temporum haut ipsa mora fractas, remisso pectore ac placido feras: at hoc decebat roboris tanti virum. non esse sub dolore nec victum malis dare terga; non est, ut putas, virtus, pater timere vitam, sed malis ingentibus obstare nec se vertere ac retro dare. qui fata proculcavit ac vitae bona projecit atque abscidit et casus suos oneravit ipse, cui deo nullo est opus, quare ille mortem cupiat aut quare petat? utrumque timidi est; nemo contempsit mori qui concupivit. cuius haut ultra mala exire possunt, in loco tuto est situs. 358

have I desired to die for thee—at length exact the debt. Now am I paying my penalty; before, I did but offer sacrifices to thy ghost. Come to my aid, help me to plunge my nerveless hand deep down and deeper; timidly, aforetime, and with but a meagre outpouring did it sprinkle my head, when it scarce drew forth the eyes that yearned to follow. Even now this soul of mine halts, yes halts, when my face has bent downward to my shrinking hands. Thou shalt hear the truth, Ocdipus: less boldly didst thou pluck out thine eyes than thou didst undertake to do. Thrust now thy hand e'en to the brain; through that door whereby I began to die fulfil my death.

ANTIGONE

Father, great-souled, I beseech thee that with calm mind thou listen to some few words of thy wretched daughter. I seek not to lead thee back again to the splendours of thine ancient home, and to thy royal estate, flourishing in power and fame; nor do I ask that thou bear with calm and peaceful soul that tempest of passion which has not been allayed even by lapse of time; and yet 'twere fitting that one so stalwart should not yield to pain nor turn in flight, by disaster overcome. It is not manhood, father, as thou deemst it, to shrink from life, but to make stand against mighty ills and neither turn nor yield. He who has trodden destiny under foot, who has torn off and thrown away life's blessings, and himself piled up the burden of his woes, who has no need of God, wherefore should be desire death, or wherefore seek it? Each is a coward's act; no one despises death who yet yearns for it. He whose misfortunes can no further go, is safely lodged.

Quis iam deorum, velle fac, quicquam potest 200 malis tuis adicere? iam nec tu potes nisi hoc, ut esse te putes dignum nece. non es nec ulla pectus hoc culpa attigit. et hoc magis te, genitor, insontem voca, and innocens es dis quoque invitis. quid est quod te efferarit, quod novos suffixerit stimulos dolori? quid te in infernas agit sedes, quid ex his pellit? ut careas die? cares. ut altis nobilem muris domum patriamque fugias? patria tibi vivo perit. 210 natos fugis matremque? ab aspectu omnium fortuna te summovit, et quidquid potest auferre cuiquam mors, tibi hoc vita abstulit. regni tumultus? turba fortunae prior abscessit a te iussa—quem, genitor, fugis?

OEDIPVS

Me fugio, fugio conscium scelerum omnium pectus, manumque hanc fugio et hoc caelum et deos; et dira fugio scelera quae feci innocens.1 ego hoc solum, frugifera quo surgit Ceres, premo? has ego auras ore pestifero traho? 220 ego laticis haustu satior aut ullo fruor almae parentis munere? ego castam manum nefandus incestificus exsecrabilis attrecto? ego ullos aure concipio sonos, per quos parentis nomen aut nati audiam? utinam quidem rescindere has quirem vias

1 Leo deletes this line.

add aught to thy misfortunes? Now not even canst thou add aught save this, to deem thyself worthy of death. Thou art not worthy, nor has any taint of guilt touched thy heart. And for this all the more, father, call thyself guiltless; for thou art guiltless, though even the gods willed otherwise. What is it which has so maddened thee, which has goaded thy grief afresh? What drives thee to the infernal regions? What forces thee out of these? That thou mayst avoid the light of day? Thou dost avoid it. That thou mayst flee thy noble palace with its high walls, and thy native land? Thy native land, though thou still livest, is dead to thee. Dost flee from thy sons and mother? From the sight of all men fate has removed thee, and whatever death can take away from any man, this has life taken from thee. Wouldst avoid the tunuit around a throne? They who once in prosperity thronged around thee, at thy command have left thee. Whom dost thou flee, my father?

OEDIPUS

Myself I flee; I flee my heart conscious of all crimes; I flee this hand, this sky, the gods; I flee the dread crimes which I committed, though in innocence. Do I tread this earth from which wholesome grain springs up? This air do I inhale with pestilential lips? Does water quench my thirst, or do I enjoy any gift of kindly mother earth? Do I, impious, incestuous, accursed, touch thy pure hand? Do my ears take in sound by which I may still hear the name of parent or of son? I would indeed that I might destroy these paths and might

manibusque adactis omne qua voces meant aditusque verbis tramite angusto patet eruere possem; nata, iam sensum tui, quae pars meorum es criminum, infelix pater fugissem.

230

Inhaeret ac recrudescit nefas subinde, et aures ingerunt quidquid mihi donastis, oculi. cur caput tenebris grave non mitto ad umbras Ditis acternas? quid hie manes meos detineo? quid terram gravo mixtusque superis erro? quid restat mali? regnum parentes liberi, virtus quoque et ingeni sollertis eximium decus periere, cuncta sors mihi infesta abstulit. lacrimae supererant—has quoque eripui mihi.

240

Absiste! nullas animus admittit preces novamque poenam sceleribus quaerit parem. et esse par quae poterit? infanti quoque decreta mors est. fata quis tam tristia sortitus umquam? videram nondum diem uterique nondum solveram clausi moras, et iam timebar. protinus quosdam editos nox occupavit et novae luci abstulit; mors me antecessit; aliquis intra viscera materna letum praecoquis fati tulit; sed numquid et peccavit? abstrusum, abditum dubiumque an essem sceleris infandi reum deus egit; illo teste damnavit parens calidoque teneros transuit ferro pedes et in alta nemora pabulum misit feris

with my hands driven deep pluck out every part where voices enter and where a narrow passage gives access to the words of men; then, daughter, thy wretched father would have escaped all consciousness of thee, who art part and parcel of my crimes.

²³¹ My guilt sticks fast within me, threatens each moment to break out afresh, and my ears pour in upon me all that you, my eyes, have bestowed. Why do I not plunge this life, weighted with gloom, down to the everlasting shades of Dis? Why here do I detain my ghost? Why do I burden the earth and wander amongst the living? What evil is left for me? My kingdom, parents, children, my manhood, too, and the illustrious fame of my cunning wit—all these have perished, all have been stripped from me by hostile chance. Tears were still left me-of these. too, have I robbed myself.

241 Stand off! My soul will not listen to any prayers and seeks some new punishment to match its crimes. And what match can there be? Even in my infancy I was doomed to death. Who ever drew lot so sad? I had not yet seen the light, was still imprisoned in the womb, and already I was held in fear. Some there are whom straightway at birth night hath seized upon and snatched from their first dawn; but on me death came ere birth. Some, while still within the mother's womb, have suffered untimely death; but have they sinned also? Hidden away, confined, my very being in doubt, the god made me guilty of a charge unspeakable. On that charge my sire condemned me, spitted my slender ankles on hot iron, and sent me to the deep forest as prev

¹ Oedipus paradoxically deems that his eyes in their blindness bestow on him the boon of avoiding sight; but his ears still bring Antigone to his consciousness.

avibusque saevis quas Cithaeron noxius cruore saepe regio tinctas alit. sed quem deus damnavit, abiecit pater. mors quoque refugit. praestiti Delphis fidem; genitorem adortus impia stravi nece. 260 hoc alia pietas redimet: occidi patrem, sed matrem—amavi. proloqui hymenaeum pudet tacdasque nostras. has quoque invitum pati te coge poenas; facinus ignotum efferum inusitatum effare quod populi horreant, quod esse factum nulla non aetas neget. quod parricidam pudeat: in patrios toros tuli paterno sanguine aspersas manus scelerisque pretium maius accepi scelus.

Leve est paternum facinus; in thalamos meos 270 deducta mater, ne parum sceleris forct. fecunda—nullum crimen hoc maius potest natura ferre. si quod etiamnum est tamen, qui facere possunt dedimus. abieci necis pretium paternae sceptrum et hoc iterum manus armavit alias; optime regni mei fatum ipse novi; nemo sine sacro feret illud cruore. magna praesagit mala paternus animus. iacta iam sunt semina cladis futurae; spernitur pacti fides. hie occupato cedere imperio negat, ius ille et icti foederis testes deos invocat et Argos exul atque urbes movet Graias in arma. non levis fessis venit ruina Thebis; tela flammae vulnera

for wild beasts and savage birds which baleful Cithaeron, oft stained with royal blood, doth breed. Yet him whom God condemned, whom his sire east away, hath death also shunned. I kept faith with Delphi; I assailed my father and with death-stroke slew him. For this another act of piety will atone; I killed my father, true, but my mother-I loved. Oh, 'tis shame to speak of wedlock and my marriage torches. But this punishment also force thyself to bear though against thy will; proclaim thy crime, unheard of, bestial, unexampled. at which nations would shudder, which would believe ever befell, which would put even a parrieide to shame: into my father's bed I bore hands smeared with my father's blood, and there, as the reward

of my crime, I did worse crime.

270 A trivial sin is my father's murder; my mother, brought to my marriage chamber, that my guilt might be complete, conceived-no greater erime than this can nature brook. And yet, if there is even now worse crime, we have given the world those who ean commit it. I have flung away the sceptre, price of my father's murder, and this, again, has armed other hands. I myself best know my kingdom's destiny; no one unstained by sacred blood shall bear sway there. Dire misfortunes my father-soul presages. Already are sown the seeds of calamity to come; the plighted pact 1 is scorned. The one will not retire from the throne he has usurped; the other proclaims his right, calls on the gods to witness the broken bond, and, wandering in exile, is rousing Argos and the cities of Greece to arms. 'Tis no light destruction that is coming on weary Thebes; weapons, flames, wounds

¹ i.e. between Eteocles and Polynices.

instant et istis si quod est maius malum, ut esse genitos nemo non ex me sciat.

ANTIGONA

290

300

310

Si nulla, genitor, causa vivendi tibi est, haee una abunde est, ut pater natos regas graviter furentes. tu impii belli minas avertere unus tuque vaecordes potes inhibere iuvenes, civibus paeem dare, patriae quietem, foederi laeso fidem. vitam tibi ipse si negas, multis negas.

OEDIPVS

Illis parentis ullus aut aequi est amor, avidis cruoris imperi armorum doli, diris, scelestis, breviter ut dicam-meis? certant in omne facinus et pensi nihil ducunt, ubi ipsos ira praecipites agit, nefasque nullum per nefas nati putant. non patris illos tangit afflicti pudor, non patria; regno pectus attonitum furit. scio quo ferantur, quanta moliri parent, ideoque leti quaero maturam viam morique propero, dum in domo nemo est mea nocentior me. nata, quid genibus meis fles advoluta? quid prece indomitum domas? unum hoc habet fortuna quo possim capi, invictus aliis; sola tu affectus potes mollire duros, sola pietatem in domo docere nostra. nil grave ant miserum est mihi quod te sciam voluisse; tu tantum impera; 366

press round her and a greater ill than these, if greater there be,—that all may know I have begotten sons.

ANTIGONE

If, my father, thou hast no other cause for living, this one is more than enough, that as father thou mayst restrain thy sons from their fatal frenzy. Thou alone canst avert the threats of impious war, canst check these mad youths, give peace to our citizens, rest to our land, faith to the broken pact. If life to thyself thou dost deny, to many dost thou deny it.

OEDIPUS

Have they any love for father or for right, they who lust for blood, power, arms, treachery, they the cruel, the accursed,—in brief, my sous? They vie one with the other in every crime, and have no scruple where passion drives them headlong; impiously born, they count nothing impious. No feeling for their stricken father, none for their fatherland, moves them; their hearts are mad with lust of empire. I know well whither they tend, what monstrous deeds they are planning, and for this cause I seek an early path to destruction, rush on my death, while still there is none in my house more guilty than myself. Daughter, why dost thon fall weeping at my knees? Why seekst with prayer to conquer my unconquerable resolve? This is the one means by which fortune can take me captive, invincible in all else; thou only canst soften my hard heart, thou only canst teach picty in our house. Nothing is heavy or grievous to me which I know thou hast desired. Do thou but command; I,

hic Oedipus Aegaea transnabit freta iubente te, flammasque quas Siculo vomit de monte tellus igneos volvens globos, excipiet ore seque serpenti offeret, quae saeva furto nemoris Herculeo furit; iubente te praebebit alitibus iecur iubente te vel vivet.

Oedipus, at thy bidding will swim the Aegean sea, will drink the flames which earth from the Sicilian mountains belches forth, pouring down balls of fire, will beard the dragon still savagely raging in the grove at the theft of Hercules; at thy bidding will offer my liver to the birds—at thy bidding e'en will live

The first episode seems to be complete here, except for the commenting chorus which would naturally follow.

OEDIPUS has temporarily yielded to his daughter's will.

NUNTIUS 1

320

Exemplum in ingens regia stirpe editum

Thebae paventes arma fraterna invocant

rogantque tectis arceas patriis faces.

non sunt minae, iam propius accessit malum;
nam regna repetens frater et pactas vices
in bella cunctos Gracciae populos agit.

septena muros castra Thebanos premunt. succurre, prohibe pariter et bellum et scelus.

OEDIPVS

Ego ille sum qui scelera committi vetem
et abstineri sanguine a caro manus
doceam? magister iuris et amoris pii 330
ego sum? meorum facinorum exempla appetunt,
me nunc secuntur; laudo et agnosco libens,
exhortor, aliquid ut patre hoc dignum gerant.
agite, o propago cara, generosam indolem

 $^{^{-1}}$ Leo, with $E\psi$, assigns this speech to Antigone: Richter, with A, gives it to Nuntius.

The following passage fittingly opens the second episode.

Although some editors would assign it to antigone, it seems more properly to belong to a messenger who has just arrived, for the double reason that it gives fresher information from Thebes than antigone would naturally possess; and that oedipus, after the speech to his daughter with which the previous episode ended, would hardly address to her as rough a reply as he uses in his next speech.

MESSENGER

Thee, sprung from regal ancestry to be our great exemplar, Thebes calls to her aid, trembling at fratricidal strife, and prays that thou fend off from thy country's homes the brands of war. These are no mere threats; already is destruction at our gates; for the brother ¹ demands his turn to rule according to the bond, and is marshalling to war all the peoples of Greece. Seven bands are encamped against the walls of Thebes. Haste to our aid; prevent in one act both war and crime.

OEDIPUS

Am I one to forbid crime and teach hands to refrain from the blood of loved ones? Am I a teacher of righteousness and love of kin? 'Tis from my crimes they seek their pattern, 'tis my example they follow now. I praise them and gladly acknowledge them as sons; I urge them on to do something worthy of such a father. Go on, dear offspring, prove your noble breeding by your deeds; surpass

probate factis, gloriam ae laudes meas superate et aliquid facite propter quod patrem adhue iuvet vixisse. facietis, scio: sie estis orti. seelere defungi haut levi, haut usitato tanta nobilitas potest. ferte arma, facibus petite penetrales deos frugemque flamma metite natalis soli, miscete cuneta, rapite in exitium omnia, disicite passim moenia, in planum date, templis deos obruite, maeulatos lares conflate, ab imo tota considat domus; urbs concremetur—primus a thalamis meis incipiat ignis.

340

ANTIGONA

Mitte violentum impetum doloris ac te publica exorent mala, auctorque placidae liberis pacis veni.

OEDIPVS

Vides modestae deditum menti senem placidaeque amantem pacis ad partes vocas? tumet animus ira, fervet immensus dolor, maiusque quam quod casus et iuvenum furor conatur aliquid cupio. non satis est adhue civile bellum; frater in fratrem ruat; nec hoc sat est; quod debet, ut fiat nefas de more nostro, quod meos deceat toros, date arma matri. nemo me ex his eruat silvis: latebo rupis exesae cavo aut sepe densa corpus abstrusum tegam. hine aucupabor verba rumoris vagi et saeva fratrum bella, quod possum, audiam.

350

360

my fame and praises and do some deed whereat your father may rejoice that he has lived till now. You will do it, I know: of such mind were you born; no trivial, no common crime can such high birth perform. Forward your arms! With torches have at your household gods; reap with fire the ripened grain of your native land; confound all things, hurry all to destruction: on all sides throw down the walls, raze them to the ground; bury the gods beneath their own temples: the defiled deities of your hearths melt in the fire, and let our whole house from its foundations fall; let the city be consumed—and be my marriage chamber the first to feel the flames.

ANTIGONE

Give o'er this raging storm of grief; let the public calamities prevail with thee; go to thy sons as the adviser of calm peace.

OEDIPUS

Seest thou an old man given to gentle thoughts? dost summon me as lover of ealm peace to take her part? My heart swells with rage, my smarting grief burns measurcless, and I long for some crime more dreadful than what the casual madness of young men attempts. Not enough for me is war that as yet is between citizens; let brother rush on brother. Nor is that enough; that, as is due, a horror may be wrought after my fashion, one that may befit my marriage-couch, arm ye your mother. Let no one drag me from these woods! I'll lurk in the cliffs' wave-worn caves or hide away in the thick underbrush. Here will I catch at vague rumour's words and the dire strife of brothers, as I can, will hear.

IOCASTA

Felix Agaue! facinus horrendum manu, qua fecerat, gestavit et spolium tulit cruenta nati maenas in partes dati; fecit scelus, sed misera non ultro suo sceleri occucurrit. hoc leve est quod sum nocens; feci nocentes. hoc quoque etiamnunc leve est; peperi nocentes. derat aerumnis meis, ut et hostem amarem. bruma ter posuit nives 370 et tertia iam falce decubuit Ceres, ut exul errat natus et patria caret profugusque regum auxilia Graiorum rogat. gener est Adrasti, cuius imperio mare quod scindit Isthmos regitur; hic gentes suas septemque secum regna ad auxilium trahit genero. quid optem quidve decernam haut scio. regnum reposcit; causa repetentis bona est, mala sic petentis. vota quae faciam parens? utrimque natum video; nil possum pie 380 pictate salva facere. quodenmque alteri optabo nato fiet alterius malo. sed utrumque quamvis diligam affectu pari. quo causa melior sorsque deterior trahit inclinat animus semper infirmo favens. miseros magis fortuna conciliat suis.

¹ i.e. Polynices, who has now become a public foe of Thebes.

³⁷⁴

It is possible that the following fragments belong to another play. The presence of ANTIGONE in Thebes, notwithstanding her resolve to remain with her father, would strengthen this view.

JOCASTA

Fortunate Agave! she carried her ghastly crime in the hand that wrought it, and as a bloody maenad bore spoil of her dismembered son. She wrought a crime, but not wantonly did the wretched woman go to meet her crime. 'Tis but a trivial thing that I am guilty: I have made others guilty. This, too, bad as it is, is trivial; I have borne guilty sons. 'Twas as yet lacking to my woes that I should love even my enemy. Thrice have the snows of winter fallen, three harvests now have yielded to the sickle, while my son in exile wanders, expatriate, and as an outcast begs aid from the Greek kings. And now he is sonin-law of Adrastus, whose sway is over the waters which Isthmus cleaves, and who brings with him his own tribes and seven kingdoms to the aid of his son-in-law. What I should pray for, or which side espouse, I know not. He demands back the kingdom: to reseek it is an honest plea, but ill to seek it thus. What should be a mother's prayer? On either side I see a son; I can do nothing piously that is not impious. Whatever blessing I shall ask for one, to the other will prove a curse. But, though I love both equally, whither the better cause and the worse fortune draw, my heart inclines, which always takes the weaker side. Misfortune knits the wretched closer to their kin.

[Enter Messenger in haste.]

SATELLES

Regina, dum tu flebiles questus cies terisque tempus, saeva nudatis adest acies in armis; aera iam bellum cient aquilaque pugnam signifer mota vocat; septena reges bella dispositi parant, animo pari Cadmea progenies subit, cursu citato miles hine atque hine ruit. viden? atra nubes pulvere abscondit diem fumoque similes campus in caelum erigit nebulas, equestri fracta quas tellus pede summittit et, si vera metuentes vident, infesta fulgent signa, subrectis adest frons prima telis, aurca clarum nota nomen ducum vexilla praescriptum ferunt. i, redde amorem fratribus, pacem omnibus, et impia arma matris oppositu impedi.

390

400

ANTIGONA

Perge, o parens, perge et cita celerem gradum, compesce tela, fratribus ferrum excute, nudum inter enses pectus infestos tene! aut solve bellum, mater, aut prima excipe.

IOCASTA

Ibo, ibo et armis obvium opponam caput, stabo inter arma; petere qui fratrem volet, petat ante matrem. tela, qui fuerit pius, rogante ponat matre; qui non est pius incipiat a me. fervidos iuvenes anus tenebo, nullum teste me fiet nefas; 376

410

T1.

MESSENGER

O queen, whilst thou art uttering tearful complaints and wasting time, the fierce battle-line with bared swords is at hand; the trumpets' blare sounds to war, the standard-bearer with eagle advanced signals for contest; the kings, each in his place, are setting their sevenfold battle in array, while with equal courage Cadmus' race advances; at the doublequick the soldiers on either side rush on. Dost see them? A dark cloud of dust hides the day; the plain lifts licavenward dense, smoke-like billows which the earth, beaten by horses' hoofs, sends up; and, if terror-stricken eyes see aught aright, hostile standards are gleaming there; the front rank, with lifted spears, is close at hand, and the battle-flags have the leaders' names clearly limited in golden characters. Go, restore love to brothers, peace to us all, and let a mother be the barrier to stay unholy arıns.

ANTIGONE

Hasten, mother, hasten on flying feet! hold back their weapons, strike the steel from my brothers' hands, set thy bared breast between their hostile swords! Either stop the war, mother, or be the first to feel it.

JOCASTA

I go, I go, and my own life will I set against their arms; I'll stand between their arms; and he who shall wish to attack his brother must attack his mother first. Let the more filial lay down his arms at a mother's prayer; let the unfilial begin with me. These fiery youths, old though I be, will I restrain; there shall be no impious crime committed in my sight; or, if

aut si aliquod et me teste committi potest, non fiet unum.

ANTIGONA

Signa collatis micant vicina signis, clamor hostilis fremit; scelus in propinquo est; occupa, mater, preces. et ecce motos fletibus credas meis, sic agmen armis segne compositis venit.

SATELLES

Procedit acies tarda, sed properant duces.

IOCASTA

Quis me procellae turbine insano vehens volucer per auras ventus aetherias aget? quae Sphinx vel atra nube subtexens diem Stymphalis avidis praepetem pennis feret? aut quae per altas aeris rapiet vias Harpyia saevi regis observans famem et inter acies proiciet raptam duas?

SATELLES

Vadit furenti similis aut etiam furit. sagitta qualis Parthica velox manu excussa fertur, qualis insano ratis premente vento rapitur, aut qualis cadit delapsa caelo stella, cum stringens polum rectam citatis ignibus rumpit viam, attonita eursu fugit et binas statim diduxit acies. victa materna prece haesere bella, iamque in alternam neccm 378

490

e'en in my sight one crime can be committed, it shall not be only one.

ANTIGONE

The opposing standards gleam face to face, the hostile battle-cry is sounding, the crime is near at hand; forestall it, mother, with thy prayers! And see, you might deem them moved by tears of mine, so sluggishly moves the line with weapons held at rest.

MESSENGER

The line advances slowly, but the leaders haste.

JOCASTA

What swift wind with the storm-blast's mad whirl will earry me through the air of heaven? What Sphinx, what Stymphalian bird, with its dark cloud veiling day, will speed me headlong on eager wings? Or what Harpy, hovering over the barbarian king's famished board, will hurry me along the highways of the air, hurry and fling me 'twixt the two battle-lines?

[Exit]

Messenger [looking after her]

She goes like a mad thing, or is mad indeed. Swift as a dart hurled by some Parthian's hand, or as a vessel driven on by wild, raging winds, or as a star, dislodged from the firmament, when, sweeping o'er the heavens, with swift fire it eleaves its unswerving way, so has the frenzied queen sped on and at once has parted the two battle-lines. Stayed by a mother's prayer the battle hangs; and now the bands, cager to

illine et hine miscere cupientes manus librata dextra tela suspensa tenent. paci favetur, omnium ferrum iacet eessatve tectum; vibrat in fratrum manu. laniata canas mater ostendit comas, rogat abnuentes, inrigat fletu genas. negare matri, qui diu dubitat, potest.

IOCASTA

In me arma et ignes vertite, in me omnis ruat unam iuventus quaeque ab Inachio venit animosa muro quaeque Thebana ferox descendit arce; civis atque hostis simul hunc petite ventrem, qui dedit fratres viro. haec membra passim spargite ac divellite. ego utrumque peperi-ponitis ferrum ocius? an dico et ex quo? dexteras matri date, date dum piae sunt. error invitos adhuc fecit nocentes, omne Fortunae fuit peccantis in nos crimen; hoe primum nefas inter scientes geritur. in vestra manu est, utrum velitis: sancta si pietas placet, donate matri pacem 1; si placuit scelus, maius paratum est—media se opponit parens. proinde bellum tollite aut belli moram.

440

¹ So Leo and Richter, with ω: matri pacta L. Müller: date arma matri saeva Tachau: domate Martem pace M. Müller.
380

join from both sides in mutual slaughter, hold their swords poised in lifted hands. They incline to peace, the swords of all are lowered, or idly sheathed; but they still quiver in the brothers' hands. The mother shows them her hoary hair, tearing it, beseeching them as they stubbornly refuse, and floods her cheeks with weeping. Who wavers long may say his mother "No!"

[The scene shifts to the field before Thebes, between the battle-lines.]

JOCASTA

[Kneeling between her two hostile sons.]

Against me turn your arms and torches; against me only let every warrior charge, both those who come with high courage from the city of Inachus,1 and those who from the Theban citadel descend thirsting for the fray. Townsman and enemy, together attack this womb which bore my husband Rend these limbs asunder and scatter them everywhere. I bore you both—lay you not down your arms with speed? Or shall I tell from what father, too? Your right hands-to your mother give them, give while they are still filial. Ignorance till now against our will hath made us 2 guilty; the whole crime was Fortune's, who sinned against us; this is the first crime wrought between those who know. It is yours to choose which thing you will: if holy affection please you, grant to your mother peace; if crime has pleased, a greater is to hand your mother sets herself between you. Therefore rid ve of strife or of this stay of strife.3

¹ Argos. ² *i e.* Oedipus and Jocasta especially.

s i.e. or kill me who stand between you to stay your tighting.

Sollicita cui nunc mater alterna prece verba admovebo? misera quem amplectar prius? 460 in utramque partem ducor affectu pari. hic afuit; sed pacta si fratrum valent, nunc alter aberit. ergo iam numquam duos nisi sic videbo?

Iunge complexus prior,
qui tot labores totque perpessus mala
longo parentem fessus exilio vides.
accede propius, clude vagina impium
ensem et trementem iamque cupientem excuti
hastam solo defige; maternum tuo
coire pectus pectori clipeus vetat;
hunc quoque repone. vinculo frontem exue
tegumenque capitis triste belligeri leva
et ora matri redde. quo vultus refers
acieque pavida fratris observas manum?
affusa totum corpus amplexu tegam,
tuo cruori per meum fiet via.
quid dubius haeres? an times matris fidem?

POLYNICES

Timeo; nihil iam iura naturae valent. post ista fratrum exempla ne matri quidem fides habenda est.

10CASTA

Redde iam capulo manum, astringe galeam, laeva se clipeo inserat; dum frater exarmatur, armatus mane.

¹ i.e. in enmity.

459 To which of you now shall your anxious mother with alternate prayers address her words? Whom shall I in my wretchedness first embrace? To both sides am I drawn with equal love. This son has been absent from me; but if the brothers keep their pact, now will the other be away. And shall I never see you both, save thus? 1

[Turning to POLYNICES]

464 Come thou first to thy mother's arms, thou who hast endured so many toils, so many misfortunes, and, worn with long exile, seest thy mother at last. Come nearer, sheathe thine impious sword, and thy spear, which is even now quivering and eager to be thrown, thrust it in the ground. Thy shield keeps thee from coming close to thy mother, breast to breast; put that by, too. Unbind thy brow, take the grim helmet from thy warlike head, and let thy mother see thy face. Why dost thou look away, and with fearful glance watch thy brother's hand? I will cover thy whole body with my protecting embrace and allow way to thy blood only through my own. Why dost thou still halt in doubt? Dost fear thy mother's pledge?

POLYNICES

I am in fear; no longer do nature's laws avail. Since this example of a brother's faithlessness, even a mother's pledge may not be trusted.

JOCASTA

Put now hand to hilt again, bind on thy helmet, let thy left hand clasp its shield; and while thy brother unarms, remain thou armed.

[She turns to eteocles.]

Tu pone ferrum, causa qui ferri es prior. si pacis odium est, furere si bello placet, inducias te mater exiguas rogat, ferat ut reverso post fugam nato oscula vel prima vel suprema. dum pacem peto, audite inermes. ille te, tu illum times? ego utrumque, sed pro utroque. quid strictum abnuis recondere ensem? qualibet gaude mora; 490 id gerere bellum cupitis, in quo est optimum vinci. vereris fratris infesti dolos? quotiens necesse est fallere aut falli a suis. patiare potius ipse quam facias scelus. sed ne verere: mater insidias et hine et rursus illine abiget. exoro? an patri invideo vestro? veni ut arcerem nefas an ut viderem propius? hie ferrum abdidit, reclinis hasta est, arma defixa incubant. 500

Ad te preces nune, nate, maternas feram, sed ante lacrimas. teneo longo tempore petita votis ora. te profugum solo patrio penates regis externi tegunt, te maria tot diversa, tot easus vagum egere. non te duxit in thalamos parens comitata primos, nec sua festas manu ornavit aedes, nec sacra lactas faces vitta revinxit; dona non auro graves gazas socer, non arva, non urbes dedit; dotale bellum est. hostium es factus gener, patria remotus hospes alieni laris,

483 Do thou put by the sword, who art the sword's If thou hatest peace, if 'tis thy pleasure to rage in war, thy mother begs brief truce of thee. that to her son returned from exile she may give a kiss—the first, perchance the last. While I beg for peace, hearken ye, unarmed. Doth he fear thee; thou, him? I fear you both, but for the sake of both. Why dost refuse to sheathe thy drawn sword? Be glad of any delay; ye both seek to wage a war wherein 'twere best to be o'ercome. Dost thou fear thy hostile brother's wiles? When one must either cheat or be cheated by one's own, do thou thyself suffer rather than commit the crime. But do not fear; thy mother will shield thee from snares on either hand. Do I prevail? or must I envy 1 your father? Have I come to prevent erime? or to see it done before my eyes? [ETEOCLES yields to her.] He has sheathed his sword, his spear droops, his arms are laid aside.

[She turns back to polynices.]

500 Now to thee, son, thy mother will bring her prayers, but her tears first. After a weary time I hold the face I prayed to see. Thee, an outcast from thy native soil, the gods of a foreign king protect; thee many seas far distant, many fates have driven wandering. Thy mother, at thy side, did not lead thee to thy first bridal chamber, nor with her own hand deck the festal hall, nor with sacred fillets wreathe the glad torches. As wedding gifts no rich golden treasure, no fields, no cities did thy father-in-law bestow: war is thy bridal gift. Thou hast become thine enemy's son, far from thy land, guest of an

 $^{^{1}\,}$ i.e. his blindness, which would shield her from unhallowed sights.

externa consecutus, expulsus tuis, sine crimine exul. ne quid e fatis tibi desset paternis, hoc quoque ex illis habes, errasse thalamis.

Nate post multos mihi remisse soles, nate suspensae metus et spes parentis, cuius aspectum deos semper rogavi, cum tuus reditus mihi tantum esset erepturus, adventu tuo quantum daturus: "quando pro te desinam" 520 dixi "timere?" dixit inridens deus: "ipsum timebis." nempe nisi bellum foret, ego te carerem; nempe si tu non fores, bello carerem. a, triste conspectus datur pretium tui durumque, sed matri placet. hine modo recedant arma, dum nullum nefas Mars saevus audet; hoc quoque est magnum nefas, tam prope fuisse. stupeo et exanguis tremo, cum stare fratres hinc et hinc video duos membra quassantur metu; 530 sceleris sub ictu. quam paene mater maius aspexi nefas, quam quod miser videre non potuit pater. licet timore facinoris tanti vacem videamque iam nil tale, sum infelix tamen quod paene vidi.

Per decem mensum graves uteri labores perque pietatem inclitae precor sororis et per irati sibi genas parentis, scelere quas nullo nocens, erroris a se dira supplicia exigens, hausit—nefandas moenibus patriis faces averte, signa bellici retro agminis flecte. ut recedas, magna pars sceleris tamen vestri peracta est; vidit hostili grege

alien house, seeking another's, driven from thine own, exiled for no fault. That thou mightst lack nothing of thy father's fates, this also thou hast of them, that

thou hast erred in marriage.

515 O son, returned to me after so many years, son, fear and hope of thy anxious mother, for sight of whom I have ever prayed the gods, though thy return was destined to take as much from me as by thy coming it could give: "When shall I cease to fear for thee?" I cried; and the god, mocking me, answered: "'Tis himself thou shalt fear." Surely if there were no war, I should be without thee; surely if thou wert not here, I should be free from war. Oh, bitter price and hard, to pay for a sight of thee; but thy mother pays it willingly. Only let thy hostile hosts fall back while as yet savage Mars dares no impious crime. Even this is an outrageous crime, that they have come so near. I am appalled; pale am I and I tremble to see two brothers stand, one here, one there, 'neath guilt's o'erhanging stroke. My limbs quake with fear: how near did I, thy mother, come to seeing greater infamy than that which thy wretched father could not bear to see. Though I am free from fear of so great a crime, and now see no such thing, still I am unhappy because I almost saw it.

by the womb that bore thee for ten weary months, by the devotion of thy noble sister, by thy self-hating father's eyes which he, though innocent, yet, seeking to inflict on himself dire punishment for his mistake, tore from their sockets—save thy country's walls from the accursed torch; turn back again the standards of this warring host. Though thou shouldst retire, still is the great part of your sin already done; thy country has seen its plains o'errun

campos repleri patria, fulgentes procul armis catervas vidit, equitatu levi Cadmea frangi prata et excelsos rotis volitare process, igne flagrantes trabes fumare, cineri quae petunt nostras domos, fratresque (facinus quod novum et Thebis fuit) in se ruentes. totus hoc exercitus. hoc populus omnis; utraque hoc vidit soror genetrixque vidi: nam pater debet sibi quod ista non spectavit. occurrat tibi nunc Oedipus, quo iudice erroris quoque poenae petuntur. ne, precor, ferro erue patriam ac penates neve, quas regere expetis, everte Thebas. quis tenet mentem furor? petendo patriam perdis? ut fiat tua, vis esse nullam? quin tuae causae nocet ipsum hoc quod armis uris infestis solum segetesque adultas sternis et totos fugam edis per agros. nemo sic vastat sua; quae corripi igne, quae meti gladio iubes aliena credis. rex sit ex vobis uter, manente regno quaerite. haec telis petis flammisque tecta? poteris has Amphionis nulla quas struxit manus quassare moles? stridente tardum machina ducens onus. sed convocatus vocis et citharae sono per se ipse summas venit in turres lapis haec saxa franges? victor hine spolia auferes vinctosque duces patris aequales tui, matresque ab ipso conjugum raptas sinu saevus catena miles imposita trahet? adulta virgo, mixta captivo gregi, Thebana nuribus munus Argolicis eat?

550

560

by hostile hordes, has seen armed squadrons gleaming from afar, the Cadmean meadows trampled by flying hoofs, princes in their chariots careering high, the smoke and flames of blazing torches which seek to burn our homes, and brothers (a crime new even to Thebes) rushing upon each other. This crime the whole army saw, this, all the people, this, both thy sisters saw and I, thy mother, saw—for thy father owes it to his own act that he beheld not such deeds. Let Oedipus stand before thee now, in whose judgment even for error is penalty demanded. Do not, I beg of thee, with the sword destroy thy country and thy household gods, nor overthrow Thebes, which thou seekst to rule. What madness holds thee? By seeking thy land wouldst wreck it? to make it thine, wouldst have it no land at all? Nay, thou harmst thine own cause in this very act of harrying the land with hostile arms, trampling the full-grown crops, and spreading terror through the whole country-side. No one works such havoe on his own; what thou bidst be plundered with fire and reaped with sword, thou deemst another's. Question whether of you be king, but let the kingdom stand. These homes dost thou seek with sword and fire? Wilt have the heart to batter these walls which Amphion built, whose stones no hand set in place, moving the slow weight with creaking crane, but, marshalled by sound of singing and of lyre, each stone of its own accord came to the turrets' top-wilt batter down these stones? Wilt thou bear spoils hence as victor, and shall conquered chieftains, thy father's friends, and matrons torn from their husbands' very arms, be led off in chains by thy rough soldiery? Thebes' grown maidens, mingled with the captive herd, go as gifts to the dames of Argos? Or shall

an et ipsa, palmas vincta post tergum datas, mater triumphi praeda fraterni vehar?
potesne cives leto et exitio datos videre passim? moenibus earis potes 580 hostem admovere, sanguine et flamma potes implere Thebas? tam ferus durum geris saevumque in iras pectus? et nondum imperas—quid sceptra facient? pone vaesanos, precor, animi tumores teque pietati refer.

POLYNICES

Vt profugus errem? semper ut patria arcear opemque gentis hospes externae scquar? quid paterer aliud, si fefellissem fidem? si peierassem? fraudis alienae dabo poenas, at ille praemium scelerum feret? iubes abire; matris imperio obsequor. da quo revertar. regia frater mea habitet superbus, parva me abscondat easa, hanc date repulso, liceat exiguo lare pensare regnum. coniugi donum datus arbitria thalami dura felicis feram humilisque socerum lixa dominantem sequar? in servitutem cadere de regno grave est.

10CASTA

Si regna quaeris nec potest sceptro manus vacare saevo, multa quae possunt peti in orbe toto quaelibet tellus dabit. hinc nota Baccho Tmolus attollit iuga qua lata terris spatia frugiferis iacent, 390

600

I myself, with hands bound behind my back, thy mother, be borne as prize in thy triumph o'er a brother? Canst thou bear to see thy countrymen given to death and destruction on every hand? Against these dear walls eanst thou lead the enemy, canst fill Thebes with blood and fire? Art thou so wild, is thy heart so hard, so full of savage rage? And thou art not yet a king—what will the sceptre do? Oh, I beseech thee, allay the mad ferment of thy soul, and come back to duty's ways.

POLYNICES

That I may wander outeast? That I may be for ever shut out from my country and as a stranger look to the bounty of an alien race? What worse should I suffer if I had broken faith, if I had forsworn myself? Am I to pay the penalty of another's sin, while he enjoys the profit of his crimes? Thou bidst me go; I bend to my mother's will. Show me whither I shall get me back. Let my haughty brother dwell in my palace, let a little hut hide me away; this grant to the banished brother, let it be mine to match a kingdom with a paltry hearth. A wife's mere chattel, shall I bear the harsh sway of a rich bride and, like a humble camp-follower, attend upon her domineering father? To fall from a king's estate to slavery is hard.

JOCASTA

If thou seekst a king's estate, and the harsh sceptre thy hand cannot forego, any land in the whole world will offer many kingdoms to be won. Here Tmolus lifts his ridges, the Wine-god's haunts, where stretch broad plains of grain-producing lands,

et qua trahens opulenta Pactolus vada inundat auro rura; nee laetis minus Maeandros arvis flectit errantes aquas, rapidusque campos fertiles Hermus secat. hine grata Cereri Gargara et dives solum quod Xanthus ambit nivibus Idaeis tumens; hine qua relinquit nomen Ionii mare 1 faucesque Abydo Sestos opposita premit; aut qua latus 2 iam propior orienti dedit tutamque crebris portibus Lyciam videt. haec regna ferro quaere, in hos populos ferat socer arma fortis, has tuo sceptro paret tradatque gentes. hoc adhuc regnum puta tenere patrem. melius exilium est tibi quam reditus iste. crimine alieno exulas. tuo redibis. melius istis viribus nova regna nullo scelere maculata appetes. quin ipse frater arma comitatus tua tibi militabit. Vade et id bellum gere

610

620

Vade et id bellum gere in quo pater materque pugnanti tibi favere possint. regna cum scelere omnibus sunt exiliis graviora. nunc belli mala propone, dubias Martis incerti vices: licet omne tecum Graeciae robur trahas, licet arma longe miles ac late explicet, fortuna belli semper ancipiti in loco est, quodcumque Mars decernit. exaequat duos, licet impares sint, gladius; et spes et metus Fors caeca versat. praemium incertum petis, certum scelus. favisse fac votis deos

¹ So Richter: Leo, with ω, maris: Bücheler conjectures Ionium Thetis: Wilamowitz qua reliquit nomen Inois mari.

² So Leo, with ω: Richter quae: N. Heinsius aut qua Thetis se.

and where Pactolus, rolling his rich waves, o'erflows the fields with gold; nor does Meander through meadows less joyful bend his wandering waters, and swift Hermus cleaves the fertile plains. Here is Gargara, beloved of Ceres, and the soil which rich Xanthus compasses, swollen by Ida's snows; here the land where the Ionian sea gives up its name, and Sestos, over against Abydos, hugs the narrow strait 1; or where, now nearer to the east, it curves and sees Lycia secure with its many harbours. These kingdoms seek thou with the sword; against these peoples let thy brave father in-law bear arms; these tribes let him acquire and deliver to thy sway. As for this kingdom, deem that thy father still holds it fast. Better is exile for thee than such return as this. Through another's sin thou livest in exile, through thine own wilt thou return. With yonder forces, 'twere better to seek new realms, stained by no erime. Nay, thy brother's self, accompanying thine arms, will fight for thee.

622 Go thou, then, and wage such warfare that, as thou fightest, thy father and thy mother may pray for thy success. Kingdoms won by crime are heavier than any exile. Now picture to thyself war's mishaps, the wavering chances of uncertain Mars: though thou bring with thee the whole strength of Greece, though thy armed soldiery spread far and wide, the fortune of war hangs ever in doubtful scale, according as Mars determines. The sword makes two warriors equal though they be ill-matched; both hope and fear are in blind Fortune's hand. The prize thou seekst is uncertain; certain, the crime. Grant that all the gods have been

omnes tuis; cessere et aversi fugam
petiere cives, clade funesta iacens
obtexit agros miles—exultes licet
victorque fratris spolia deiecti geras,
frangenda palma est. quale tu hoc bellum putas,
in quo execrandum victor admittit nefas,
si gaudet? hune quem vincere infelix cupis,
eum viceris, lugebis. infaustas age
dimitte pugnas, libera patriam metu,
luctu parentes.

POLYNICES

Sceleris et fraudis suae poenas nefandus frater ut nullas ferat?

10CASTA

Ne metue. poenas et quidem solvet graves: regnabit. est hace poena. si dubitas, avo patrique crede; Cadmus hoe dicet tibi Cadmique proles. sceptra Thebano fuit impune nulli gerere, nec quisquam fide rupta tenebit illa. iam numeres licet fratrem inter istos.

650

ETEOCLES

Numeret, est tanti mihi cum regibus iacere. te turbae exulum ascribo.

10CASTA

Regna, dummodo invisus tuis.

favourable to thy prayers; grant that the citizens have given way, that they have turned and fled, that soldiers, lying in bloody heaps, cover the fields—though thou shouldst triumph and as victor bear off the spoils of thy conquered brother, broken must be the victor's palm. What manner of war deemst thou that, wherein the conqueror takes on him the curse of guilt if he rejoices? Him whom, unhappy man, thou art so eager to o'ercome, when thou hast o'ercome thou wilt lament. Oh, then, forego this unhallowed strife, free thy country from fear, from agony thy parents.

POLYNICES

That my cursed brother may receive no penalty for his crime and treachery?

JOCASTA

Have no fear. Penalty, yes, heavy penalty shall he pay: he shall reign. That is the penalty. If thou dost doubt it, believe thy grandsire and thy sire; Cadmus will tell thee this, and the race of Cadmus. No Theban hath e'er borne sceptre without penalty, nor will any hold it who has broken faith. Now mayst thou count thy brother amongst these.

ETEOCLES

So let him count me; 'tis worth the price, methinks, to lie with kings.

[To POLYNICES.]

652 Thee I enrol amongst the exiled throng.

JOCASTA

Reign, then, but hated by thy people.

ETEOCLES

Regnare non vult esse qui invisus timet; simul ista mundi conditor posuit deus, odium atque regnum. regis hoc magni reor, odia ipsa premere. multa dominantem vetat amor suorum; plus in iratos licet. qui vult amari, languida regnat manu.

LOCASTA

Invisa numquam imperia retinentur diu.

660

ETEOCLES

Praecepta melius imperi reges dabunt; exilia tu dispone. pro regno velim—

10CASTA

Patriam penates coniugem flammis dare?

ETEOCLES

Imperia pretio quolibet eonstant bene.

* * * *

ETEOCLES

To reign he hath no will who feareth to be hated; the god who made the world set those two things together, hatred and sovereignty. This is the part of a great sovereign, I think, to tread e'en hatred under foot. A people's love forbids a ruler many things; against their rage he has more rights. Who would be loved reigns with a nerveless hand.

JOCASTA

But hated sovereignty is never long retained.

ETEOCLES

The rules for sovereignty kings will better give; do thou make rules for exiles. For sovereignty I would fain—

JOCASTA

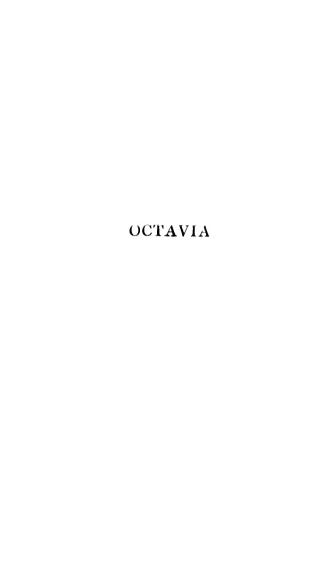
Give country, home, wife to the flames?

ETEOCLES

Sovereignty is well bought at any price.

* * *







A FABULA PRAETEXTA

THE ONLY EXTANT ROMAN HISTORICAL DRAMA

INTRODUCTION

The Roman historical drama had a place among the earliest products of Roman literature, and seems to have enjoyed a degree of popularity through all succeding periods. That Roman literary genius did not find a much fuller expression through this channel was not due to a lack of national pride and patriotism, nor yet to a dearth of interesting and inspiring subjects in Roman history. The true reason is probably to be found in the fact that by the time national conditions were ripe for the development of any form of literature, the Greeks had already worked, and well worked, nearly all available fields, and had produced a mass of literature which dazzled the Roman mind when at last circumstances brought these two nations into closer contact.

The natural and immediate result was an attempt on the part of the Romans to imitate these great models. And hence we have in drama, both in tragedy and in comedy, a wholesale imitation of the Greek dramas, oftentimes nothing more than a translation of these, with only here and there an attempt to produce something of a strictly native character, entirely independent of the Greek influence.

This imitative impulse was augmented by the fact

that the Romans were following the line of least resistance, since it is always easier to imitate than to create. Furthermore, they had as yet developed no national pride of literature to hold them to their own lines of national development; they had no forms of their own so well established that the mere force of literary momentum would carry them steadily on toward a fuller development, in spite of the disturbing effects of the influx of other and better models. They had, indeed, developed a native Saturnian verse which, had it been allowed a free field, might have reached a high pitch of literary excellence. But it speedily gave way at the approach of the more elegant imported forms.

The overwhelming influence of Greek tragedy upon the Roman dramatists can be seen at a glance as we review the dramatic product of the Roman tragedians. We have titles and fragments of nine tragedies by Livius Andronicus, seven by Naevius, twenty-two by Ennius, thirteen by Pacuvius, forty-six by Accius, and many fragments from each of these, unassignable to definite plays, which indicate numerous other plays of the same character. To these should be added additional fragments from nearly a score more of Roman writers during the next two hundred years after Accius. All the above-mentioned plays are on Greek subjects; and most of those whose fragments are sufficiently extensive to allow us to form an opinion of their character are either translations or close imitations of the Greeks, or are so influenced by these as to be decidedly Greek rather than Roman in character.

And what of the genuine Roman dramatic product? Speaking for the *fabula practesta*, or Roman historical drama, alone, the entire output, so far as our records go, is contained in the following list of authors and

titles.

From Naevius (265-204 n.c.) we have the Clastidium, written in celebration of the victory of Marcellus (at Clastidium in 222 g.c.) over Vidumarus, king of the Transpadane Gauls, whom Marcellus slew and stripped of his armour, thus gaining the rare spolia opima. The play was probably written for the especial occasion either of the triumph of Marcellus or of the celebration of his funeral.

We have also from Naevius a play variously entitled Lupus or Romulus or Alimonium Remi et Romuli, evidently one of those dramatic reproductions of scenes in the life of a god, enacted as a part of the ceremonies of his worship. This play is comparable to dramatic representations among the Greeks in the

worship of Dionysus.

The Ambracia and the Sabinae of Ennius (239-169 B.c.) are ordinarily classed as fabulae praetextae, although Lucian Müller classes the fragments of the Ambracia among the Saturae of Ennius; while Vahlen puts the Ambracia under the heading Comoediarum et ceterorum carminum reliquiae, and classifies the fragments of the Sabinae under ex incertis saturarum libris. The Ambracia is evidently called after the city of that name in Epirus, celebrated for the long and remarkable siege which it sustained against the Romans under M. Fulvius Nobilior. That general finally captured the city in 189 B.c. If the piece is to be considered as a play, it was, like the Clastidium, written in honour of the Roman general, and acted on the occasion either of his triumph or of his funeral.

We have four short fragments from the *Paulus* of Paeuvius (220-130 n.c.), written in celebration of the exploits of L. Aemilius Paulus who conquered Perseus, king of Macedonia, in the battle of Pydna, 168 n.c.

The fragments of the plays already mentioned

are too brief to afford any adequate idea of their character or content. But in the Brutus of Aceius (b. 170. B.c.), which centres around the expulsion of the Tarquins and the establishment of the Republic, we have a larger glimpse into the play through two most interesting fragments consisting of twelve iambie trimeters and ten trochaic tetrameters, respectively. In the first, King Tarquin relates to his seer an ill-ominous dream which he has had: the second is the seer's interpretation of this dream, pointing to Tarquin's dethronement by Brutus. Other short fragments give glimpses of the outrage of Lucretia by Sextus at Collatia, and the scene in the forum where Brutus takes his oath of office as first consul. This play, unlike most of its predecessors, was not written at the time of the events which it portrays, but may still be classed with them, so far as its object is concerned, since it is generally thought to have been written in honour of D. Junius Brutus, who was consul in 138 B.C., and with whom the poet enjoyed an intimate friendship.

Another praetexta of Aceius is preserved, the Decius, of which eleven short fragments remain. This play celebrates the victory of Quintus Fabius Maximus and P. Decius Mus over the Samnites and Gauls at Sentinum in 295 B.c. The climax of the play would be the self-immolation of Deeius after the example

of his father in the Latin war of 340 B.C.

In addition to these plays of the Roman dramatists of the Republic, we have knowledge of a few which date from later times. There was a historical drama entitled Iter, by L. Cornelius Balbus, who dramatized the incidents of a journey which he made to Pompey's camp at Dyrrachium at the opening of civil war in 49 B.C. Balbus was under commission from Caesar

to treat with the consul, L. Cornelius Lentulus, and other optimates who had fled from Rome, concerning their return to the city. The journey was a complete fiasco, so far as results were concerned; but the vanity of Balbus was so flattered by this (to him) important mission that he must needs dramatize his experiences and present the play under his own direction in his native city of Gades.

We have mention also of an Aeneas by Pomponius Secundus, and of two praetextae by Curiatius Maternus, entitled Domitius and Cato.

These eleven historical plays are, as we have seen, for the most part, plays of occasion, and would be at best of but temporary interest, born of the special circumstances which inspired them. They are in no way comparable with such historical dramas on Roman subjects as Shakespeare's Julius Caesar or Coriolanus, whose interest is for all times.

We have still a twelfth play of this class, which enjoys the unique distinction of being the only Roman historical drama which has come down to us in its complete form—the Octavia. Its authorship is unknown, although tradition gives it a place among the tragedies of Seneca, the philosopher. The general opinion of modern critics, however, is against this tradition, chiefly because one passage in the play, in the form of a prophecy, too circumstantially describes the death of Nero, which occurred three years after the death of Seneca. It is generally agreed that the play must have been written soon after the death of Nero, and by some one, possibly Maternus, who had been an eye-witness of the events, and who had been inspired by his sympathics for the unfortunate Octavia to write this story of her sufferings.

Summary of the Imperial Family History which forms a Background to the Octavia and to which References are made throughout the Play

Tiberius Claudius Drusus Nero Caesar Germanicus, more commonly known as Claudius, fourth emperor of Rome, had taken for his third wife the daughter of M. Valerius Messala, Messalina, who bore to him two children, Britannicus and Octavia. Always notorious for her profligacy and licentiousness, Messalina crowned her career by publicly marrying C. Silius at Rome during the temporary sojourn of her imperial husband at Ostia. Claudius long wavered as to her punishment, but at last, through the influence of his favourite, Nareissus, he signed her death warrant, and she was executed by a tribune of the guards in 48 a.p.

In the following year, through the intrigue of the freedman Pallas, Claudius married his brother's daughter, Agrippina, who brought with her into the emperor's household Lucius Domitius, her son by her first husband, Cn. Domitius Ahenobarbus.

Immediately Agrippina began to plot for the succession of her son to the throne of the Caesars. In 50 a.p. she prevailed upon Claudius to adopt, to the prejudice of Britannicus, her own son, who was thereafter known as Nero. She had already caused Seneca, who had been exiled at the instance of Messalina, to be recalled that he might serve as 406

Nero's tutor. In 53 A.D. she further advanced her plans by compassing the marriage of her son to Octavia, the emperor's daughter. Octavia had already been betrothed by Claudius to L. Silanus, who now. to escape the vengeance of Agrippina, committed suicide.

Her plans being now fully laid for the final act, Agrippina secretly poisoned Claudius on October 12th, 54 A.D., and on the following day Nero succeeded to the throne, being then seventeen years of age. In the following year, by the joint plotting of mother and son, the young Britannieus, also, was poisoned.

Because of the youth and inexperience of her son, Agrippina enjoyed four years of practically imperial power; but at last, in 59 A.D., Nero, tired of his mother's ascendancy, caused her to be assassinated. after an unsuccessful attempt upon her life by means of a treacherous vessel, in which death-trap he had sent her to sea.

Nero had long since become enamoured of Poppaea, a beautiful profligate, who had left her husband. Rufinus Crispinus, to live with Otho, and who now became mistress of the emperor. Aspiring to be his wife, she had plotted to bring about the death of Agrippina and later the divorce of Octavia. Through these machinations of his mistress and Nero's own more than ready acquiescence, Octavia was falsely accused of adultery and in 62 s.p. she was banished to Pandataria, where she was shortly afterwards put to death.

Poppaea herself died in 65 a.D. as the result, it was said, of a kick by her brutal husband when she was far advanced in pregnancy. In the same year, at the command of the emperor, Seneca committed

suicide; and three years thereafter, in 68 A.D., Nero himself, deposed by the practorian guards, who had espoused the cause of Galba, and condemned to death by the Senate, fled from Rome and, after vain efforts to escape, received his death-stroke by his own request at the hands of a faithful attendant who had fled with him.

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

OCTAVIA, step-sister and wife of Nero.

Nurse of Octavia.

POPPAEA, mistress and afterward wife of Nero.

Nurse of Poppaea.

GHOST OF AGRIPPINA, mother of Nero, slain by him.

NERO, Emperor of Rome.

SENECA, former tutor of Nero, and later one of his chief counsellors.

PREFECT OF ROMAN SOLDIERS.

MESSENGER.

CHORUS OF ROMANS, sympathetic with Octavia.

Chores, attached to the interests of the court.

THE SCENE is laid throughout in different apartments of the palace of Nero, and is concerned with the events of the year 62 A.D.

OCTAVIA

IAM vaga eaelo sidera fulgens Aurora fugat, surgit Titan radiante coma mundoque diem reddit elarum. age, tot tantis onerata malis, repete assuetos iam tibi questus atque aequoreas vinee Aleyonas, vince et volucres Pandionias; gravior namque his fortuna tua est. semper, genetrix, deflenda mihi, prima meorum causa malorum, tristes questus natae exaudi, si quis remanet sensus in umbris. utinam ante manu grandaeva sua mea rupisset stamina Clotho, tua quam maerens vulnera vidi oraque foedo sparsa ernore! o lux semper funesta mihi, tempore ab illo lux es tenebris invisa magis! tulimus saevae iussa novereae, hostilem animum vultusque truces. illa illa meis tristis Erinys thalamis Stygios praetulit ignes teque extinxit, miserande pater, modo eui totus paruit orbis ultra Oceanum

10

OCTAVIA

Now doth flushing dawn drive the wandering stars from heaven: with radiant beams the sun arises and gives the world once more the light of day. then, with all thy woes weighed down, resume thy now accustomed plaints and out-wail the sea-bred Haleyons,1 out-wail the birds2 of old Pandion's house; for more grievous is thy lot than theirs. O mother, constant source of tears to me, first cause of my misfortunes, hearken to thy daughter's sad complaints, if any consciousness remains among the shades. Oh, that the ancient Clotho with her own hand had elipped my threads before sadly I saw thy wounds, thy face with foul gore besmeared! O light, ever calamitous to me, from that time, O light, thou art more hateful than the dark! We have endured a cruel step-dame's 3 orders, her hostile spirit and her aspect fierce. 'Twas she, 'twas she, the baleful fury, who bore the Stygian torches to my bridal chamber, and quenched thy light, O wretched father, whom but yesterday the whole world obeyed, even beyond Ocean's bounds, before whom the

See Index s.v. "Ceyx."
 See Index s.v. "Philomela."

^{*} Agrippina.

cuique Britanni terga dedere, ducibus nostris ante ignoti iurisque sui. coniugis, heu me, pater, insidiis oppresse iaces servitque domus cum prole tua capta tyranno.

30

NVTRIX

Fulgore primo captus et fragili bono 1 fallacis anlae quisquis attonitus stupet, subito 2 latentis ecce Fortunae impetu modo praepotentem cernat eversam domum stirpemque Claudi, cuius imperio fuit subjectus orbis, paruit liber diu Oceanus et recepit invitus rates. en qui Britannis primus imposuit iugum, ignota tantis classibus texit freta interque gentes barbaras tutus fuit et saeva maria, conjugis scelere occidit; mox illa nati: cuius extinctus iacet frater venenis. maeret infelix soror eademque coniunx nec graves luctus valet ira coacta tegere crudelis viri; quem sancta refugit semper, atque odio pari ardens maritus impia flagrat face. animum dolentis nostra solatur fides pietasque frustra; vincit immitis dolor consilia nostra nec regi mentis potest generosus ardor, sed malis vires capit. hen quam nefandum prospicit noster timor scelus, quod utinam numen avertat deum.

40

¹ So Richter: Leo conjectures facie nova.

² So Richter: Leo sub uno, with ПФ, but conjectures subito involuntis.

Britons ¹ fled, erstwhile to our leaders all unknown and unsubdued. Alas, my father, by thy wife's plots thou liest crushed, and thy house together with thy child ² bends to a tyrant's ³ will.

[Exit to her chamber. Enter NURSE.]

NURSE

Whoso, o'erpowered by the novel splendour and the frail blessings of deceitful royalty, stands awestruck and amazed, lo, 'neath the sudden blow of lurking Fate, let him behold, o'erthrown, the house and stock of Claudius, but now all powerful, under whose rule the whole world was brought, whom the Ocean, long to sway unknown, obeyed and, all unwillingly, received his ships. Lo, he who first on the Britons set a voke, who covered unknown floods with his mighty fleets, who was safe midst tribes barbaric, midst raging seas, by his wife's a crime is fallen; she soon by her son's hand fell; and by his poison lies my brother 5 slain. The unhappy sister. vea, the unhappy wife grieves on, nor can she hide her bitter sufferings, forced to the angry will of her cruel husband. From him ever the pure girl recoils, and her husband, though by equal hate inspired, with incestnous passion burns. Our fond love strives in vain to console her grieving heart; her ernel smart o'ercomes our counsels, nor can the noble passion of her soul be governed, but from her woes she draws new strength. Alas! how my fears forbode some desperate deed, which may the gods forbid.

¹ Claudius had made an expedition to Britain in 43 A.D.

² i.e, herself. ³ Nero.

⁴ Agrippina. ⁵ Britannicus.

⁶ i.e. step-sister, Octavia; she was also Nero's sister by adoption.

OCTAVIA

O mea nullis aequanda malis fortuna, licet repetam luctus, Electra tuos. tibi maerenti caesum licuit flere parentem, scelus ulcisci vindice fratre, tua quem pietas hosti rapuit texitque fides; me crudeli sorte parentes raptos prohibet lugere timor fratrisque necem deflere vetat, in quo fuerat spes una mihi totque malorum breve solamen. nunc in luctus servata meos magni resto nominis umbra.

60

70

NVTRIX

Vox en nostras perculit aures tristis alumnae; cesset thalamis inferre gradus tarda senectus?

OCTAVIA

Excipe nostras lacrimas, nutrix, testis nostri fida doloris.

NYTRIX

Quis te tantis solvet curis, miseranda, dies?

OCTAVIA

Qui me Stygias mittet ad umbras.

NVTRIX

Omina quaeso sint ista procul.

OCTAVIA [heard speaking from her chamber]

O fate of mine, to be matched by no misfortunes, though I recall thy woes, Electra. Thou couldst weep out thy grief for thy father's murder, couldst take vengeance on the crime with thy brother as avenger, whom thy love snatched from the foe and thy faithful care protected; but me fear forbids to mourn my parents reft from me by cruel fate, forbids to bewail my brother's taking off, in whom was my sole hope, the fleeting solace of my many woes. And now, saved but to my suffering, I remain, the shadow of a noble name.

NURSE

Hark! the voice of my sad foster-child strikes on mine ears. Does thy slow age take thee to her chamber with lagging steps?

[She advances toward the chamber, but is met by Octaviu, coming forth.]

OCTAVIA

Receive my tears, dear nurse, thou trusty witness of my suffering.

NURSE

What day will free thee from thy mighty eares, poor child?

OCTAVIA

The day that sends me to the Stygian shades.

NURSE

Far from us be the omen of that word, I pray.

OCTAVIA

Non vota meos tua nunc casus, sed fata regunt.

NVTRIX

Dabit afflictae meliora deus tempora mitis; tu modo blando vince obsequio placata virum.

OCTAVIA

Vincam sacvos ante leones tigresque truces, fera quam saevi corda tyranni. odit genitos sanguine claro, spernit superos hominesque simul, nec fortunam capit ipse suam quam dedit illi per scelus ingens infanda parens. licet ingratum dirae pudeat munere matris hoc imperium cepisse, licet tantum munus morte rependat, feret hunc titulum post fata tamen femina longo semper in aevo.

90

NYTRIX

Animi retine verba furentis, temere emissam comprime vocem.

OCTAVIA

Toleranda quamvis patiar, haud umquam queant 100 nisi morte tristi nostra finiri mala. genetrice caesa, per scelus rapto patre, orbata fratre, miseriis luctu obruta, maerore pressa, coniugi invisa ae meae

OCTAVIA

No longer is it thy prayers that shape my life but the fates.

NURSE

God in his mercy will bring to thine affliction better days. Do thou but be soothed, and win thy husband with gentle courtesy.

OCTAVIA

Sooner shall I win savage lions and fierce tigers, than that savage tyrant's brutal heart. He hates all born of noble blood, scorns gods and men alike; nor can he of himself wield his high fortune which by a monstrous crime his impious mother bestowed on him. Yes! though the ungrateful wretch count it shame to take this empire as his cursed mother's gift, though he requite her mighty gift with death, still will the woman even after death win the fame thereof for ever through unending age.

NURSE

Check thou the utterance of thy raging heart; repress the words thou hast poured forth too rashly.

OCTAVIA

Though I should endure what must be borne, ne'er could my woes be ended, save by gloomy death. With my mother slain, my father by crime snatched from me, robbed of my brother, by wretchedness and grief o'erwhelmed, by sorrow crushed, by my husband

subjecta famulae luce non grata fruor, trepidante semper corde non mortis metu sed sceleris—absit crimen a fatis meis, mori iuvabit; poena nam gravior nece est videre tumidos et truces miserae mihi · vultus tyranni iungere atque hosti oscula, 110 timere nutus cuius obsequium meus haud ferre posset fata post fratris dolor scelere interempti, cuius imperium tenet et sorte gaudet auctor infandae necis. quam saepe tristis umbra germani meis offertur oculis, membra cum solvit quies et fessa fletu lumina oppressit sopor. modo facibus atris armat infirmas manus oculosque et ora fratris infestus petit, modo trepidus idem refugit in thalamos meos; 190 persequitur hostis atque inhaerenti mihi violentus ensem per latus nostrum rapit. tune tremor et ingens excutit somnos pavor renovatque luctus et metus miserae mihi. adice his superbam paelicem, nostrae domus spoliis nitentem, cuius in munus suam Stygiae parentem natus imposuit rati, quam dira post naufragia superato mari ferro interemit saevior pelagi fretis. quae spes salutis post nefas tantum mihi? 130 inimica victrix imminet thalamis meis odioque nostri flagrat et pretium stupri iustae maritum coniugis poseit caput. emergere umbris et fer auxilium tuae natae invocanti, genitor, aut Stygios sinus tellure rupta pande, quo praceeps ferar.

i. i. Acte. See line 197, note.

² Nero, in divorcing Octavia, alleged adultery as the cause.

hated, and set beneath my slave, the sweet light brings no joy to me; for my heart is ever trembling, not with the fear of death, but of crime 2—be crime but lacking to my misfortunes, death will be delight. For 'tis a punishment far worse than death to look in the tyrant's face, all swollen with rage 'gainst wretched me, to kiss my foe, to fear his very nod, obedience to whom my smarting grief could not endure after my brother's death, most sinfully destroyed, whose throne he usurps, and rejoices in being the worker of a death unspeakable. How oft does my brother's sad shade appear before my eyes when rest has relaxed my body, and sleep weighed down my eyes, weary with weeping. Now with smoking torches he arms his feeble hands, and with deadly purpose aims at his brother's eyes and face; and now in trembling fright takes refuge in my chamber; his enemy pursues and, e'en while the lad clings in my embrace, savagely he thrusts his sword through both our bodies. Then trembling and mighty terror banish my slumbers, and bring back to my wretched heart its grief and fear. Add to all this the proud concubine, bedecked with our house's spoil, as gift for whom the son set his own mother on the Stygian bark; and, when she had o'ercome dread shipwreck and the sea, himself more pitiless than ocean's waves, slew her with the sword. What hope of safety, after crime so great, have I? My victorious foe threatens my chamber, blazes with hate of me. and, as the reward of her adultery, demands of my husband his lawful consort's head. Arise thou, my father, from the shades and bring help to thy daughter who ealls on thee; or else, rending the earth, lay bare the Stygian abyss, that I may plunge thither headlong.

NVTRIX

Frustra parentis invocas manes tui, miseranda, frustra, nulla cui prolis suae manet inter umbras cura; qui nato suo praeferre potuit sanguine alieno satum 140 genitamque fratris coniugem pactus sibi toris nefandis flebili iunxit face. hine orta series facinorum—caedes, doli, regni cupido, sanguinis clari sitis; mactata soceri concidit thalamis gener victima, tuis ne fieret hymenaeis potens. pro facinus ingens! feminae est munus datus Silanus et cruore foedavit suo patrios penates, criminis ficti reus. intravit hostis, ei mihi, captam domum, 150 dolis novercae principis factus gener idemque natus, iuvenis infandi ingeni, seelerum capacis, dira cui genetrix facem accendit et te innxit invitam metu. tantoque victrix facta successu ferox ausa imminere est orbis imperio sacri. quis tot referre facinorum formas potest et spes nefandas feminae et blandos dolos regnum petentis per gradus scelerum omnium? 160 tune sancta Pietas extulit trepidos gradus vacuamque Erinvs saeva funcsto pede intravit aulam, polluit Stygia face sacros penates, iura naturae furens fasque omne rupit. miscuit coniunx viro . venena saeva, cecidit atque eadem sui mox scelere nati; tu quoque extinctus iaces, deflende nobis semper infelix puer, modo sidus orbis, columen augustae domus, Britannice, heu me, nunc levis tantum cinis

NURSE

In vain dost thou call upon thy father's ghost, poor girl, in vain, for no care for his child abides amidst the shades with him who to his own son could prefer one born of other blood, and, taking his brother's child to wife, wed her with couch incestuous and gloomy toreh. Thence sprung a train of crimes -murders, deceits, the lust for empire, thirst for illustrious blood; as victim offered to the father's marriage bed the son-in-law was slain, lest, wedded to thee he might become too strong. Oh, monstrous crime! To a woman was Silanus given as a boon and with his blood defiled the ancestral gods, charged with a crime that was not his. Then entered the foe, ah me! into the conquered palace, by a stepmother's wiles made an emperor's son-in-law and son withal, a youth of bent unnatural, fertile in crime. whose passion thy cruel mother fanned, and forced thee by fear to wed him, 'gainst thy will. Triumphant and emboldened by such success, she dared aspire to the awful empire of the world. Who can rehearse the various forms of erime, the wicked hopes, the eozening wiles of her who by all erimes would mount to empire round by round? Then holy Piety with trembling step withdrew, and raging Fury with baleful feet entered the empty palace, defiled with Stygian torch the holy household-gods, and in mad rage rent nature's laws and all things sacred. The wife for her husband mingled deadly poison, and soon by her son's crime the same wife fell. too dost lie dead, unhappy youth, ever to be mourned by us, but late the world's star, the prop of a noble house, Britannicus, and now, ah me! only light ashes

et tristis umbra; saeva cui laerimas dedit ctiam noverca, cum rogis artus tuos dedit ¹ cremandos membraque et vultus deo similes volanti funebris flamma abstulit.² 170

OCTAVIA

Extinguat et me, ne manu nostra cadat!

NVTRIX

Natura vires non dedit tantas tibi.

OCTAVIA

Dolor ira maeror miseriae luctus dabunt.

NVTRIX

Vince obsequendo potius immitem virum.

OCTAVIA

Vt fratrem ademptum seelere restituat mihi?

NVTRIX

Incolumis ut sis ipsa, labentem ut domum genitoris olim subole restituas tua.

180

OCTAVIA

Expectat aliam principis subolem domus; me dira miseri fata germani trahunt.

NYTHIX

Confirmet animum civium tantus favor.

1 So the MSS .: Leo, with Buecheler, dedi.

² Some editors suggest a lucuna of thirty or more lines following 173.

and a mournful shade, o'er whom e'en thy stepmother wept, when on the pyre she gave thy body to be burned, and when thy limbs and features, that were like a winged god's, were by the mournful flame consumed.

OCTAVIA

Let him ¹ destroy me also, lest by my hand he fall.

NURSE

Nature has not bestowed on thee such strength.

OCTAVIA

Anguish, anger, sorrow, wretchedness, grief will bestow it.

NURSE

By compliance, rather, win thine unfeeling lord.

OCTAVIA

That he may give back to me my brother, wickedly destroyed?

NURSE

That then mayst be thyself unharmed, that one day then mayst restore thy father's tottering house with sons of thine.

OCTAVIA

The royal house expects another son; 2 me my poor brother's cruel fates drag down.

NURSE

Let thy soul be strengthened by the citizens' great love.

¹ Nero.

² i.e. Nero's by Poppaea.

OCTAVIA

Solatur iste nostra, non relevat mala.

NVTRIX

Vis magna populi est.

OCTAVIA

Principis maior tamen.

NVTRIX

Respiciet ipse coniugem.

OCTAVIA

Paeley vetat.

NUTRIX

Invisa cunetis nempe.

OCTAVIA

Sed cara est viro.

NYTRIX

Nondum uxor est.

OCTAVIA

Iam fiet, et genetrix simul.

NVTRIX

Iuvenilis ardor impetu primo furit, languescit idem facile nee durat diu in Venere turpi, ceu levis flammae vapor; amor perennis coniugis castae manet. violare prima quae toros ausa est tuos animumque domini famula possedit diu, iam metuit eadem—

190

OCTAVIA

That comforts my woes but does not lighten them.

NUBSE

The people's power is mighty.

OCTAVIA

But the emperor's mightier.

NURSE

Of himself will he respect his wife.

OCTAVIA

His concubine forbids.

NURSE

Surely she is scorned by all.

OCTAVIA

But to her husband, dear.

NURSE

She is not yet a wife.

OCTAVIA

But soon will be, and a mother, too.

NURSE

Youthful passion burns fierce at the first rush but readily grows dull, nor long endures in foul adultery, like heat of flickering flame; but a chaste wife's love remains perpetual. She who first dared profane thy bed, and, though a slave, has long held in thrall her master's heart, already herself fears—

octavia Nempe praelatam sibi.

NVTRIX

subiecta et humilis, atque monimenta extruit quibus timorem fassa testatur suum. et hanc levis fallaxque destituet deus volucer Cupido; sit licet forma eminens, opibus superba, gaudium capiet breve.

200

Passa est similes ipsa dolores regina deum, cum se formas vertit in omnes dominus caeli divumque pater, et modo pennas sumpsit oloris modo Sidonii cornua tauri. aureus idem fluxit in imbri; fulgent caelo sidera Ledae, patrio residet Bacchus Olympo, deus Alcides possidet Heben nec Iunonis iam timet iras, cuius gener est qui fuit hostis. vicit sapiens tamen obsequium conjugis altae pressusque dolor; sola Tonantem tenet aetherio secura toro maxima Iuno. nec mortali captus forma deserit altam Iuppiter aulam. tu quoque, terris altera Iuno, soror Augusti coniunxque, graves vince dolores.

220

210

¹ It is the opinion of Gruterus that the common interpretation of this whole passage is wrong in its assumption that the poet has Poppaea in mind; he would have it that the freed-woman, Acte, is the concubine referred to here.

OCTAVIA

Aye! a more favoured mistress.

NURSE

—subdued and humble, and gives signs by which she confesses her own great fear.¹ Even her shall winged Cupid, false and fickle god, betray; though she be passing fair, boastful in power, hers shall be but a transitory joy.

201 The queen of the gods herself like sorrows suffered, when the lord of heaven and father of the gods into all forms changed, and now wings of a swan 2 put on, now the horns of a bull 3 of Sidon, and again in a golden shower 4 poured down; the stars of Leda glitter in the sky, Bacchus 5 on his father's Olympus dwells, Alcides 5 as a god possesses Hebe and now no more fears Juno's wrath; he is her son-in-law who was her enemy. Yet wise compliance and controlled wrath won victory for the queenly wife; without rival, without care does Juno hold the Thunderer on her heavenly couch, and no more does Jupiter, by mortal beauty smitten, desert the court of heaven. Thou too, on earth a second Juno, Augustus' 6 wife and sister, thy grievous woes o'ercome.

4 Thus he appeared to Danaë.

⁵ Son of Jove and a mortal woman. See Index.

² In which form he came to Leda.

³ Thus he appeared to Europa.

⁶ A surname not only of the first, but of all the Roman emperors. Here, Nero.

OCTAVIA

Iungentur ante saeva sideribus freta et ignis undae, Tartaro tristi polus, lux alma tenebris, roscidae nocti dies, quam cum scelesti coniugis mente impia mens nostra, semper fratris extincti memor. utinam nefandi principis dirum caput obrucre flammis caelitum rector paret, qui saepe terras fulmine infesto quatit mentesque nostras ignibus terret sacris 230 novisque monstris; vidimus caelo iubar ardens cometam pandere infestam facem, qua plaustra tardus noctis aeterna vice regit Bootes, frigore Arctoo rigens. en ipse diro spiritu saevi ducis polluitur aether, gentibus clades novas minantur astra, quas regit dux impius. non tam ferum Typhona neglecto Iove irata Tellus edidit quondam parens; hic gravior illo pestis, hic hostis deum 240 hominumque templis expulit superos suis civesque patria, spiritum fratri abstulit, hausit eruorem matris-et lucem videt fruiturque vita noxiam atque animam trahit! pro summe genitor, tela cur frustra iacis invicta totiens temere regali manu? in tam nocentem dextra eur cessat tua? utinam suorum facinorum poenas luat Nero insitivus, Domitio genitus patre, orbis tyrannus, quem premit turpi iugo 250 morumque vitiis nomen Augustum inquinat!

¹ A comet actually did appear at this time (Tacitus, Annales, xiv. 22). The appearance of a comet was portentous, and was supposed to prelude the death of a king.

OCTAVIA

Sooner shall savage seas unite with stars, water with fire, heaven with sad Tartarus, the kindly light with darkness, day with the dewy night, than with my accursed husband's impious soul this soul of mine. that ever broods upon my brother's death. And oh. that the lord of the heaven-dwellers, who often shakes the lands with deadly bolt and terrifies our souls with awful fires and portents strange, would make ready to whelm with flames this impious prince. We have seen a glowing radiance in the sky, a comet 1 spreading its baleful trail, where slow Bootes. numb with Arctic chill, with endless, nightlong wheeling, guides his wain. Lo, by the pestilential breath of this destructive leader the very air is tainted; the stars threaten unheard disasters for the nations which this godless leader rules. Not such a pest was Typhon, whom wrathful mother Earth produced in scorn of Jove; this scourge, worse than he, this enemy of gods and men, has driven the heavenly ones from their shrines, and citizens from their country, from his brother has he reft the breath of life. and drained his mother's blood—and he still sees the light of day, still lives and draws his baneful breath! O high exalted father, why vainly, why so oft at random dost thou hurl thy darts invincible with thine imperial hand? 'Gainst one so criminal why is thy right hand stayed? Would that he might pay penalty for his crimes, this spurious 2 Nero, son of Domitius, tyrant of a world he burdens with his shameful yoke, and with foul wavs pollutes the name Augustus!

Referring to the fact that Nero was not the true son and rightful heir of Claudius.

NVTRIX

Indignus ille, fateor, est thalamis tuis; sed cede fatis atque fortunae tuae, alumna, quaeso neve violenti move iram mariti. forsitan vindex deus existet aliquis, laetus et veniet dies.

OCTAVIA

Gravi deorum nostra iam pridem domus nrgetur ira, prima quam pressit Venus furore miserae dura genetricis meae, quae nupta demens nupsit incesta face, oblita nostri, coniugis, legum immemor. illi soluta crine, suecineta anguibus ultrix Erinys venit ad Stygios toros raptasque thalamis sanguine extinxit faces; incendit ira principis pectus truci caedem in nefandam; cecidit infelix parens, heu, nostra ferro meque perpetuo obruit extincta luctu; coniugem traxit suum natumque ad umbras, prodidit lapsam domum.

260

NVTRIX

Renovare luctus parce cum fletu pios, manes parentis neve sollicita tuae, graves furoris quae sui poenas dedit. 270

CHORVS

Quae fama modo venit ad aures? utinam falso credita perdat frustra totiens iactata fidem,

1 i.e. C. Silius.

NURSE

Unworthy he, I do confess it, to mate with thee; but yield thee to the fates and to thy lot, my child, I beg, nor rouse thy violent husband's wrath. Perchance some god will arise as thine avenger, and a day of happiness will come again.

OCTAVIA

Long since has the heavy wrath of the gods pursued our house, which harsh Venus first o'er-whelmed in my poor mother's madness; for she, already wed, in mad folly wed another 1 with unholy torch, of me, of her husband forgetful, and regardless of the laws. Against her to that hellish couch, with streaming hair and girt about with snakes, came the avenging Fury and quenched those stolen wedding fires in blood; with rage she inflamed the cruel emperor's heart to impious murder; my ill-starred mother fell, alas, and, by the sword destroyed, o'erwhelmed me in endless suffering; her husband and her son did she drag down to death 2 and shamefully betrayed our fallen house.

NURSE

Forbear with weeping to renew thy filial griefs, and vex not thy mother's spirit, who for her madness has grievously atoned. [Exeunt.

CHORUS

What rumour has but now come to our ears? May it prove false and gain no credence though vainly told o'er and o'er; and may no new wife the

² Because, after Messalina's death, Claudius married Agrippina who was responsible for the death of Claudius and Britannicus.

nec nova coniunx nostri thalamos principis intret teneatque suos nupta penates Claudia proles; edat partu pignora pacis qua tranquillus gaudeat orbis 280 servetque decus Roma aeternum. fratris thalamos sortita tenet maxima Iuno : soror Augusti sociata toris cur a patria pellitur aula? sancta quid illi prodest pietas divusque pater, quid virginitas castusque pudor? nos quoque nostri sumus immemores post fata ducis, cuius stirpem prodimus aegro 1 suadente metu. 290 vera priorum virtus quondam Romana fuit verumque genus Martis in illis sanguisque viris. illi reges hac expulerunt urbe superbos ultique tuos sunt bene manes. virgo, dextra caesa parentis, ne servitium paterere grave et improba ferret 300 praemia vietrix dira libido. te quoque bellum triste secutum est,2 maetata tua miseranda manu, nata Lucreti, stuprum saevi passa tyranni. dedit infandi sceleris poenas cum Tarquinio Tullia coniunx, quae per caesi membra parentis egit saevos impia currus laceroque seni violenta rogos nata negavit.

emperor's chamber enter, and may his bride, the child of Claudius, keep her rightful home, and bring forth sons, pledges of peace, wherein the untroubled world may rejoice and Rome preserve her everlasting glory. Her brother's bridal chamber mightiest Juno won and holds; why is Augustus's sister, made partner of his couch, driven from her father's house? Of what avail to her is pure devotion, a father deified, virginity, unblemished chastity? We too, after his death have quite forgot our leader, and betray his child at the bidding of sick fear. Right Roman virtue of old our fathers had; in such men was the true race and blood of Mars. They from this city arrogant kings expelled, and well did they avenge thy ghost, O virgin, 1 slain by thy father's hand lest thou shouldst suffer slavery's heavy load, and lest eruel lust, victorious, should gain its shameless prize. Thee 2 also a sad war followed, daughter of Lucretius, slain, poor girl, by thine own hand, by a brutal tyrant outraged. With Tarquin Tullia, his wife, paid penalty for crime unspeakable, who, over the body of her murdered father heartlessly drove her cruel car, and, mad daughter, refused the mangled old man a funeral-pyre.

Virginia. See Index.

² Lucretia. See Index.

¹ So Richter: Leo †aevo: A sevo: ψ evo: Peiper cheu.

² Leo deletes lines 297-301.

Haec quoque nati videre nefas saeeula magnum, eum Tyrrhenum rate ferali princeps captam fraude parentem misit in aequor. properant placidos linquere portus iussi nautae, resonant remis pulsata freta. fertur in altum provecta ratis, quae resoluto robore labens pressa dehiseit sorbetque mare. tollitur ingens clamor ad astra eum femineo mixtus planetu. mors ante oculos dira vagatur; quaerit leti sibi quisque fugam; alii lacerae puppis tabulis haerent nudi fluetusque secant, repetunt alii litora nantes; multos mergunt fata profundo. seindit vestes Augusta suas laceratque comas rigat et maestis fletibus ora.

Postquam spes est nulla salutis, ardens ira, iam vieta malis: "haee" exclamat "mihi pro tanto munere reddis praemia, nate? hac sum, fateor, digna carina, quae te genui, quae tibi lucem atque imperium nomenque dedi Caesaris ameus. exere vultus Acheronte tuos pocnisque meis pascere, coniumx; ego causa tuae, miserande, necis natoque tuo funeris auctor en, ut merui, ferar ad manes inhumata tuos, obruta saevis aequoris undis."

310

320

320

330

346

310 This age as well has seen a son's dire crime, when in a deadly bark the prince 1 sent his mother out on the Tyrrhene sca, by a trick ensuared. At his bidding the sailors make haste to leave the peaceful port and, smit by the oars, the sea resounds. The vessel is borne far out upon the deep; and there, with loosened timbers, sinking, overwhelmed, it yawns wide and drinks in the sea. A mighty outery rises to the stars, mingled with shrieks of women. Death stalks dire before the eyes of all; each for himself seeks refuge from destruction; some cling naked to planks of the broken ship and face the floods, while others, swimming, seek to gain the shore; fate plunges many into the depths below. Augusta² rends her garments and tears her hair and waters her checks with grieving tears.

and now o'ercome with woe, she eries; "Such reward as this for my great boon, O son, dost thou return me? Worthy am I of this ship, I do confess, who brought thee forth, who gave thee light and empire and the name of Caesar, fool that I was. Thrust forth thy face from Acheron, and glut thee with my punishment, O husband; I caused thy death, poor soul, was the author of thy son's destruction, and lo, as I have merited, to thy ghost am I now borne unburied, whelmed in the cruel waters of the sea."

¹ Nero.

² i.e. Agrippina.

350

360

370

Feriunt fluetus ora loquentis, ruit in pelagus rursumque salo pressa resurgit, pellit palmis cogente metu freta, set cedit fessa labori. mansit tacitis in pectoribus spreta tristi iam morte fides. multi dominae ferre auxilium pelago fractis viribus audent, braechia quamvis lenta trahentem voee hortantur manibusque levant. quid tibi saevi fugisse maris profuit undas? ferro es nati moritura tui, cuius facinus vix posteritas, tarde semper saecula eredent. furit ereptam pelagoque dolet vivere matrem impins, ingens geminatque nefas; ruit in miserae fata parentis patiturque moram sceleris nullam. missus peragit iussa satelles; reserat dominae pectora ferro. caedis moriens illa ministrum rogat infelix, utero dirum condat ut ensem: "hie est, hie est fodiendus" ait "ferro, monstrum qui tale tulit." post hane vocem mixtam gemitu cum supremo animam tandem per fera tristem vulnera reddit.

SENECA

Quid me, potens Fortuna, fallaci mihi blandita vultu, sorte contentum mea 436

346 E'en while she speaks the waves wash o'er her lips, and down into the deep she plunges; anon she rises from the bring weight and with her hands, fear driving her, lashes the sea; but soon, outwearied. gives o'er the struggle. There still lived in secret hearts 1 fidelity which scorned the grim fear of death. Many to their mistress dare bring aid, when her strength is exhausted by the sea, and, as she drags her arms, though sluggishly, along, with their voices cheer her and lift her with their hands. But what availed it to have escaped the waters of the cruel sea? By the sword of thine own son thou art to die, to whose crime searce will posterity, slowly will all future ages, give belief. He rages and grieves that his mother, snatched from the sea, still lives, the impious monster, and heaps huge guilt on guilt; bent on his wretched mother's death, he brooks no stay of crime. Sent to the task, his ereature works his will, and with the sword lays open his mistress' breast. The unhappy woman. dving, begs her murderer to sheathe his fell sword within her womb: "'Tis this, 'tis this that must with the sword be pierced, which gave such monster birth!" After such utterance, with a dying groan commingled, at length through the cruel wound she vielded her sad ghost.

SENECA [alone]

Why, potent Fortune, with false, flattering looks, hast high exalted me when contented with my lot,

i.e. of some of her servants.

alte extulisti, gravius ut ruerem edita receptus arce totque prospieerem metus? 380 melius latebam procul ab invidiae malis remotus inter Corsici rupes maris, ubi liber animus et sui iuris mihi semper vacabat studia recolenti mea. o quam iuvabat, quo nihil maius parens Natura genuit, operis immensi artifex, caelum intueri, solis et eurrus saeros mundique motus, solis alternas vices orbemque Phoebes, astra quem cingunt vaga, lateque fulgens aetheris magni decus; 390 qui si senescit, tantus in caecum chaos easurus iterum, tune adest mundo dies 2 supremus ille, qui premat3 genus impium caeli ruina, rursus ut stirpem novam generet renaseens melior, ut quondam tulit iuvenis, tenente regna Saturno poli. tunc illa virgo, numinis magni dea, Iustitia, caelo missa cum sancta Fide terris regebat mitis humanum genus. non bella norant, non tubae fremitus truces, 400 non arma gentes, cingcre assuerant suas muris nee urbes: pervium cunctis iter, communis usus omnium rerum fuit; et insa Tellus laeta fecundos sinus pandebat ultro, tam piis felix parens et tuta alumnis.

Alia sed suboles, minus experta mitis, tertium sollers genus novas ad artes extitit, sanctum tamen; mox inquietum, quod sequi eursu feras

¹ Leo deletes solis . . . motus.

² So Richter with MNS.: Leo casurus iterum est—nunc ades mundo, dies.

³ So Richter with MSS.: Leo premas.

that, raised to a lofty pinnacle, in heavier rnin I might fall, and might look out upon so many fears? Better was I hid, far out of the reach of envy's sting. midst the crags of Corsica, facing on the sea, where my spirit, free and its own lord, had ever time to contemplate my favourite themes. Oh, 'twas joya joy surpassing anything to which mother Nature, contriver of this fabric infinite, hath given birth, to gaze upon the heavens, the sun's sacred chariot, the motions of the universe and the sun's recurring rounds, and the orb of Phoebe, which the wandering stars encircle, and the far effulgent glory of the mighty sky. If this sky is growing old, doomed wholly once more to fall into blind nothingness, then for the universe is that last day at hand which shall crush sinful man beneath heaven's ruin, that so once more a reborn and better world may bring forth a new race such as she bore in youth, when Saturn 1 held the kingdoms of the sky. Then did that virgin, Justice,2 goddess of mighty sway, from heaven sent down with holy Faith to earth, rule with mild sway the race of men. No wars the nations knew, no trumpet's threatening blasts, no arms, nor were they used to surround their cities with a wall: open to all was the way, in common was the use of every thing; and the glad Earth herself willingly laid bare her fruitful breast, a mother happy and safe amid such duteous nurslings.

406 But another race arose which proved less gentle; another yet, cunning in unknown arts, but holy still; then came a restless race, which dared

¹ In the Golden Age.

² i.e. Astraea.

auderet acres, fluctibus teetos gravi 410 extrahere pisces rete vel calamo levi, decipere volucres 1 tenere laqueo, premere subiectos jugo tauros feroces, vomere immunem prius suleare terram, laesa quae fruges suas interius alte condidit sacro sinu. sed in parentis viscera intravit suae deterior aetas: eruit ferrum grave aurumque, saevas mox et armavit manus; partita fines regna constituit, novas 420 extruxit urbes, teeta defendit sua, aliena telis aut petit praedae imminens. neglecta terras fugit et mores feros hominum et cruenta caede pollutas manus Astraea virgo, siderum magnum decus. cupido belli crevit atque auri fames totum per orbem, maximum exortum est malum luxuria, pestis blanda, cui vires dedit roburque longum tempus atque error gravis. collecta vitia per tot aetates diu 430 in nos redundant; saeculo premimur gravi, quo scelera regnant, saevit impietas furens, turpi libido Venere dominatur potens, luxuria victrix orbis immensas opes iam pridem avaris manibus, ut perdat, rapit,

Sed cece, gressu fertur attonito Nero trucique vultu. quid ferat mente horreo.

NERO

Perage imperata; mitte, qui Planti mihi Sullaeque caesi referat abscisum caput.

1 Leo conjectures a lacuna, and suggests < turbidos forticanes>.

pursue the wild beasts in the chase, draw fish from their coverts 'neath the sea with weighted net or slender rod, eatch birds, on a strong leash hold unruly dogs,1 force headstrong bullocks to endure the voke, furrow the earth which had never felt the plough, and which, now thus outraged, had hidden her fruits deeper in her sacred bosom. But into its mother's bowels did that degenerate age intrude; it dug out heavy iron and gold, and soon did it arm savage hands for war. Marking out boundaries, it established kingdoms, built cities, hitherto unknown, guarded its own dwellings or, bent on booty, with weapons attacked another's. Away from earth that scorned her, from the wild ways of men and hands defiled with bloody slaughter, fled the maid, Astraea, chief glory of the firmament. Lust for war increased and hunger for gold throughout the world; luxnry arose, deadliest of ills, a luring pest, which acquired strength and force by long use and grievous error. These sins, through many ages gathering, are o'erflowing upon us; a heavy age weighs us down, wherein crime is regnant, impiety runs mad, all-potent lust lords it with shameless love, and triumphant luxury has long with greedy hands been clutching the world's unbounded stores—that she may squander them.

[NERO is seen approaching.]

⁴³⁶ But see, with startled step and savage mien Nero approaches. At thought of what he brings I tremble.

[Enter NERO, followed by a Prefect.]

Neno [to Prefect]

Go do my bidding; send one to slay me Plautus and Sulla and bring back their severed heads.

¹ Translating Leo's conjecture.

PRAFFECTVS

Iussa haud morabor: eastra confestim petam.

SENECA

Nihil in propinguos temere constitui decet. 440

NERO

lustum esse facile est cui vacat pectus metu.

SENECA

Magnum timoris remedium elementia est.

NERO

Extinguere hostem maxima est virtus ducis.

SENECA

Servare eives maior est patriae patri.

NERO

Praecipere mitem convenit pueris senem.

SENECA

Regenda magis est fervida adolescentia.

NERO

Actate in hac sat esse consilii reor.

SENECA

Vt facta superi comprobent semper tua.

NERO

Stulte verebor, ipse cum faciam, deos.

PREFECT

Thy bidding will I do: to the camp forthwith I'll take me.

SENECA

'Tis not becoming to proceed rashly 'gainst one's friends.

NERO

'Tis easy to be just when the heart is free from fear.

SENECA

A sovereign cure for fear is clemency.

NERO

To destroy foes is a leader's greatest virtue.

SENECA

For the father of his country to save citizens, is greater still.

NERO

A mild old man should give schooling to boys.

SENECA

More needful 'tis that fiery youth be ruled.

NERO

I deem that at this age we are wise enough.

SENECA

May thy deeds be ever pleasing to the gods.

NERO

Foolish I'd be to fear the gods, when I myself make them. 1

¹ Referring to his own act in deifying the late Claudius.

SENECA

Hoe plus verere quod lieet tantum tibi.

450

NERO

Fortuna nostra cuncta permittit mihi.

SENECA

Crede obsequenti pareius; levis est dea.

NERO

Inertis est nescire quid liceat sibi.

SENECA

Id facere laus est quod deeet, non quod licet.

NERO

Calcat iacentem vulgus.

SENECA

Invisum opprimit.

NERO

Ferrum tuetur principem.

SENECA

Melius fides.

NERO

Decet timeri Caesarem.

SENECA

At plus diligi.1

NERO

Metuant necesse est --

¹ Leo deletes decet . . . diligi.

SENECA

Fear thou the more, that so great power is thine.

NERO

My fortune doth allow all things to me.

SENECA

Indulgent fortune trust more cautiously; she is a fickle goddess.

NERO

'Tis a dullard's part not to know what he may do.

SENECA

'Tis praiseworthy to do, not what one may, but what one ought.

NERO

Him who lies down the crowd trample on.

SENECA

Him whom they hate, they crush.

NERO

The sword protects the prince.

SENECA

Still better, loyalty.

NERO

A Caesar should be feared.

SENECA

But more be loved.

NERO

But men must fear-

SENECA

Quidquid exprimitur grave est.

NERO

Iussisque nostris pareant.

SENECA

Iusta impera—

NERO

Statuam ipse.

SENECA

Quae consensus efficiat rata.

460

NERO

Respectus ¹ ensis faciet.

SENECA

Hoc absit nefas.

NERO

An patiar ultra sanguinem nostrum peti, inultus et contemptus ut subito opprimar? exilia non fregere summotos procul Plautum atque Sullam, pertinax quorum furor armat ministros sceleris in caedem meam, absentium cum maneat etiam ingens favor in urbe nostra, qui fovet spes exulum. tollantur hostes ense suspecti mihi, invisa coniunx pereat et earum sibi fratrem sequatur. quidquid excelsum est cadat.

470

SENECA

Pulcrum eminere est inter illustres viros, consulere patriae, parcere afflictis, fera

1 So Buecheler and Richter: Leo, with the MSS., Despectus Wilamowitz despectum ut ensis feriat?

SENECA

What is compelled is burdensome.

NERO

Let them obey our orders.

SENECA

Give righteous orders-

NERO

I shall myself decide.

SENECA

which the general thought may ratify.

NERO

Reverence for the sword will ratify them.

SENECA

May heaven forbid!

NERO

Shall I then go on suffering them to seek my blood, that, unavenged and scorned, I may suddenly be crushed? Exile has not broken Plautus and Sulla, though far removed, whose persistent rage arms the agents of their guilt to work my death, since still, though absent, great is the favour they enjoy in this our city, which nurtures the exiles' hopes. Let the sword remove formen whom I suspect; let my hateful wife perish and follow the brother whom she loves. Whatever is high exalted, let it fall.

SENECA

'Tis glorious to tower aloft amongst great men, to have eare for father-land, to spare the downtrodden,

caede abstinere tempus atque irae dare, orbi quietem, saeculo pacem suo. haec summa virtus, petitur hac caelum via. sic ille patriae primus Augustus parens complexus astra est colitur et templis deus. illum tamen Fortuna iactavit diu terra marique per graves belli vices, hostes parentis donee oppressit sui; tibi numen incruenta summisit suum et dedit habenas imperi facili manu nutuque terras maria subiecit tuo. invidia tristis victa consensu pio cessit; senatus, equitis accensus favor; plebisque votis atque iudicio patrum tu pacis auctor, generis humani arbiter electus orbem iam sacra specie regis patriae parens; quod nomen ut serves petit suosque cives Roma commendat tibi.

480

490

NERO

Munus deorum est, ipsa quod servit mihi Roma et senatus quodque ab invitis preces humilesque voces exprimit nostri metus. servare cives principi et patriae graves. claro tumentes genere—quae dementia est, cum liceat una voce suspectos sibi mori iubere? Brutus in caedem ducis, a quo salutem tulerat, armavit manus; invictus acie, gentium domitor, Iovi aequatus altos ipse per honorum gradus Caesar nefando civium scelere occidit. quantum cruoris Roma tum vidit sui, lacerata totiens! ille qui meruit pia virtute caelum, divus Augustus, viros

500

to abstain from eruel bloodshed, to be slow to wrath. give quiet to the world, peace to one's time. This is virtue's crown, by this way is heaven sought. So did that first Augustus, his country's father, gain the stars, and is worshipped in the temples as a god. Yet him did Fortune toss for long on land and sea in battle's deadly chances, until his father's foes he overwhelmed. But to thee bath she vielded her divinity, unstained of blood; hath with easy hand given thee the reins of government, and to thy nod subjected lands and seas. Sour hate, o'ercome, hath vielded in loval harmony; the senate's favour and the knights' is warm toward thee; and by the people's prayers and the judgment of the Fathers, thou art the source of peace, the arbiter of human destinies, chosen to rule the world with godlike mien, the country's father. This name Rome prays thee to preserve, and to thy care commends her eitizens.

NERO

'Tis the gift of heaven that Rome herself and the senate are subject unto me, and that from unwilling lips prayers and servile words are extorted by fear of me. To preserve citizens, to ruler and fatherland alike oppressive, puffed up with pride of race—what folly is't, when with a word one may give to death those he suspects? Brutus for the murder of his chief, to whom he owed his safety, armed his hands; and Caesar, invincible in battle shock, tamer of nations, walking, a very Jove, along the upward path of honours, died by the unspeakable crime of citizens. What streams of her own blood did Rome then behold, so often rent with strife! He who carned heaven by piety, the deified Augustus, how

449

quot interemit nobiles, invenes senes sparsos per orbem, cum suos mortis metu fugerent penates et trium ferrum ducum. tabula notante deditos tristi neci! exposita rostris capita caesorum patres 510 videre maesti, flere nec licuit suos, non gemere dira tabe polluto foro, stillante sanie per putres vultus gravi. nee finis hie ernoris aut caedis stetit: pavere volucres et feras saevas din tristes Philippi, hausit et Siculum mare classes virosque 1 saepe cedentes; suis eoneussus orbis viribus. magnus ducum superatus acie, puppibus Nilum petit fugae paratis, ipse periturus brevi; 520 hansit ernorem incesta Romani ducis Aegyptus iterum; nune leves umbras tegit. illie sepultum est impie gestum diu civile bellum. condidit tandem suos iam fessus enses victor hebetatos feris vulneribus, et continuit imperium metus, armis fideque militis tutus fuit, pietate nati factus eximia deus, post fata consecratus et templis datus. nos quoque manchunt astra, si saevo prior 530 ense occuparo quidquid infestum est mihi dignaque nostram subole fundaro domum.

sarpe cedentes suos concussus orbis viribus magnus ducum superatus, etc.

¹ The text here is hopelessly corrupt and has been variously emended. Schroeder's emendation is at least intelligible. Leo reads

many nobles did he put to death, young men and old, scattered throughout the world, when they fled their own homes through fear of death and the sword of the three banded chiefs 1-all by the accusing list 2 delivered to grim destruction! The grieving fathers saw the heads of the slain set out upon the rostra. but dared not weep their dead nor groan, while the forum recked with foul corruption, and sluggish gore dripped down the rotting faces. Nor was this the end of slaughter and of blood; long did grim Philippi feed birds and beasts of prey, and the Sicilian sea engulfed fleets and men often retreating; the world 3 was shaken by its own contending forces. The great 4 commander, by the leaders' array o'creome, with his ships prepared for flight, hied him to the Nile, himself doomed soon to perish; incestuous Egypt a second time drank a Roman leader's blood, and now covers his flitting shade. There civil strife is buried, waged impiously and long. At last the victor i now weary, sheathed his sword, blunted with savage blows, and maintained his sway by fear. Safe under the protection of his loval guards he lived, and when he died, by the surpassing piety of his son 8 was made a god, hallowed and enshrined. Me, too, shall the stars await, if with relentless sword I first destroy whate'er is hostile to me, and on a worthy offspring found my house.

3 i.e. the world of the Roman Empire.

¹ The Second Triumvirate, Lepidus, Antonius, and Octavius.

² The proscription lists.

⁴ Evidently referring to Marcus Antonius, as the context shows.

Because of the marriage of Cleopatra with her brother,

⁶ The implied first was Cn. Pompeius.

Octavius.

Tiberius, the adopted son of Augustus.

SENECA

Implebit aulam stirpe caelesti tuam generata divo Claudiae gentis decus, sortita fratris more Iunonis toros.

NERO

Incesta genetrix detrahit generi fidem, animusque numquam coniugis iunctus mihi.

SENECA

Teneris in annis haud satis clarus ferest, pudore victus cum tegit flammas, amor.

NERO

Hoc equidem et ipse credidi frustra diu, manifesta quamvis pectore insociabili vultuque signa proderent odium mei; tandem quod ardens statuit uleisci dolor. dignamque thalamis coniugem inveni meis genere atque forma, victa eni cedat Venus Iovisque coniunx et ferox armis dea.

CENTRA A

Probitas fidesque coniugis, mores pudor placeant marito; sola perpetuo manent subiceta nulli mentis atque animi bona; florem decoris singuli carpunt dies.

NERO

Omnes in unam contulit laudes deus talemque nasci fata voluerunt mihi.

1 clara est fides 1. cmended by Leo, and with reason, for the fides of line 536 is not in question, but the amor implicit in line 537.

452

540

550

SENECA

With stock celestial will she 1 fill thy halls, she, the daughter of a god, 2 the Claudian race's glory, who has, like Juno, gained her brother's bed.

NERO

A harlot mother 3 brings her birth in doubt;—and the soul of my wife was never linked with mine.

SENECA

In tender years rarely is love revealed, when, by modesty o'ercome, it hides its fires.

NERO

This truly I, too, myself have vainly trusted long, although clear signs from her unloving heart and face betrayed her hate of me; which to avenge at last my hot grief has resolved. And now I have found a wife worthy of my bed in birth and beauty, to whom Venus, outshone, would yield, and the wife of Jove and the goddess bold in battle.

SENECA

But honour, wifely faith, virtue and modesty, should please a husband; for 'tis these only, the treasures of mind and heart, that, subject to none, abide perpetual; but beauty's flower each passing day despoils.

NERO

All charms upon one woman has God bestowed, and such was she born,—so have the fates decreed, for me.

Octavia.

² Claudius, by courtesy and custom called divus after death.

³ Messalina.

⁴ Minerva.

SENECA

Recedet a te (temere ne credas) amor.

NERO

Quem summovere fulminis dominus nequit, caeli tyrannum, saeva qui penetrat freta Ditisque regna, detrahit superos polo?

SENECA

Volncrem esse Amorem fingit immitem deum mortalis error, armat et telis manus arcuque sacras, instruit saeva face genitumque credit Venere, Vulcano satum, vis magna mentis blandus atque animi calor Amor est; inventa gignitur, luxu otio nutritur inter lacta Fortunae bona; quem si fovere atque alere desistas, cadit brevique vires perdit extinctus suas.

NERO

Hanc esse vitae maximam causam reor, per quam voluptas oritur; interitu caret, cum procrectur semper humanum genus Amore grato, qui truces mulcet feras, hie mihi ingales pracferat tacdas dens inngatque nostris igne Poppacam toris.

SEXECA

Vix sustinere possit hos thalamos dolor videre populi, saneta nec pietas sinat.

NIRO

Prohibebor umus facere quod cunctis licet?

560

570

SENECA

Love will depart from thee, be not too credulous.

NERG

What? He whom the lightning's lord cannot put off? Heaven's tyrant, who enters the savage seas and the realm of Dis, and draws gods from the sky?

SENECA

'Tis our human ignorance fashions Love a winged god, implacable, and arms with shafts and bow his sacred hands, equips him with blazing torch, and counts him the son of Venus, Vulcan's seed. This "Love" is a mighty force of mind, a fond heat of the soul; 'tis born of youth, 'tis nursed by luxury and ease midst the glad gifts of Fortune; and if thou cease to feed and foster it, it falls away and quickly is its power dead and lost.

NERO

This do I deem the chiefest source of life, whence pleasure hath its birth; 'tis a deathless thing, since the human race is evermore renewed by pleasing Love, who softens e'en savage beasts. May this god bear before me the wedding torch, and with his fire join Poppaea to my bed.

SENECA

The people's grief could scarce endure to see such marriage, nor would holy reverence allow it.

NERO

Shall I alone be forbidden what all may do?

SENECA

Maiora populus semper a summo exigit.

NERO

Libet experiri, viribus fractus meis an cedat animis temere conceptus favor.

SENECA

Obsequere potius civibus placidus tuis.

NERO

Male imperatur, cum regit vulgus duces.

SENECA

Nihil impetrare cum valet, iuste dolet.

580

NERO

Exprimere ius est, ferre quod nequeunt preces?

SENECA

Negare durum est.

NERO

Principem eogi nefas.

SENECA

Remittat ipse.

NERO

Fama sed victum feret.

SENECA

Levis atque vana.

NERO

Sit licet, multos notat,

SENECA

Greatest from highest ever the state exacts.

NERO

Fain would I make trial whether, broken by my might, this rashly cherished regard would not vanish from their hearts.

SENECA

Bend, rather, peacefully to thy people's will.

NERO

Ill fares the state when commons govern kings.

SENECA

He justly chafes who naught avails by prayer

NERO

Is it right to extort what prayer cannot obtain

SENECA

To refuse is harsh.

NERO

To force a prince is outrage.

SENECA

He should himself give way.

NERO

But rumour will report him conquered.

SENECA

A trivial and empty thing is rumour.

NEBO

E'en so, it disgraces many.

SENECA

Excelsa metuit.

NERO

Non minus earpit tamen.

SENECA

Facile opprimetur. merita te divi patris aetasque frangat coniugis, probitas pudor.

NERO

Desiste tandem, iam gravis nimium mihi, instare; liceat facere quod Seneca improbat. iam pridem et ipse vota Poppacae moror, cum portet utero pignus et partem mei, quin destinamus proximum thalamis diem?

590

AGRIPPINA

Tellure rupta Tartaro gressum extuli, Stygiam cruenta praeferens dextra facem thalamis scelestis. nubat his flanmis meo Poppaea nato inneta, quas vindex manus dolorque matris vertet ad tristes rogos. manet inter umbras impiae caedis mihi semper memoria, manibus nostris gravis adhue inultis. reddita est meritis meis funcsta merces puppis et pretium imperi nox illa qua naufragia deflevi mea; comitum necem natique crudelis nefas deflere votum fuerat hand tempus datum est

600

¹ So Busheler. Leo reads et ipse populi vota iam pridem moror. populi is impossible in view of the next line.

SENECA

It fears the high exalted.

NEHO

But none the less maligns.

SENECA

'Twill easily be crushed. Let the merits of thy sainted father 1 break thy will,2 and thy wife's youth, her faith, her chastity.

NEHO

Have done at last; already too wearisome has thy insistence grown; permit me to do what Seneca disapproves. Long since am I myself Poppaea's prayers delaying, since in her womb she bears a pledge and part of me. Why not appoint to-morrow for the wedding day?

[Execut.

[Enter Ghost of Agrippina bearing a flaming torch.]

AGRIPPINA

Through the rent earth from Tartarus have I come forth, bringing in bloody hand a Stygian torch to these curst marriage rites. With these flames let Poppaea wed my son, which a mother's avenging hand and grief shall turn to grim funeral pyres. Ever amidst the shades the memory of my impious murder abides with me, burdeniag my ghost still unavenged. The payment I received for all my services was that death-fraught ship, and the reward of empire, that night wherein I mourned my wreck. My comrades' murder and my son's heartless crime I would have wept—no time was given for

¹ i.e. his adoptive father, Claudius.

² In the matter of Poppaga.

lacrimis, sed ingens seelere geminavit nefas.
perempta ferro, foeda vulneribus sacros
intra penates spiritum effudi gravem
erepta pelago, sanguine extinxi meo
nec odia nati. saevit in nomen ferus
matris tyrannus, obrui meritum cupit,
simulacra, titulos destruit mortis ¹ metu
totum per orbem quem dedit poenam in meam
puero regendum noster infelix amor.

610

Extinctus umbras agitat infestus meas flammisque vultus noxios coniunx petit, instat, minatur, imputat fatum mihi tumulumque nati, poscit auctorem necis. iam parce; dabitur, tempus haud longum peto. ultrix Erinys impio dignum parat letum tyranno, verbera et turpem fugam 620 poenasque quis et Tantali vincat sitim, dirum laborem Sisyphi, Tityi alitem Ixionisque membra rapientem rotam. licet extruat marmoribus atque auro tegat superbus aulam, limen armatae ducis servent cohortes, mittat immensas opes exhaustus orbis, supplices dextram petant Parthi eruentam, regna divitias ferant; veniet dies tempusque quo reddat suis animam nocentem sceleribus, iugulum hostibus 630 desertus ac destructus et cunctis egens.

Heu, quo labor, quo vota ceciderunt mea?

¹ So A. Leo, following Buecheler, matris.

¹ Britannicus. ² Nero.

³ It is the following passage which forms the chief argu-

tears, but with crime he doubled that awful crime. Though saved from the sea, yet by the sword undone, loathsome with wounds, midst the holy images I gave up my troubled ghost. Still my blood quenched not the hatred of my son. Rages the mad tyrant against his mother's name, longs to blot out her merits; my statues, my inscriptions he destroys by threat or death throughout the world—the world which, to my own punishment, my ill-starred love gave to a boy's government.

[She seems to see her husband's ghost,]

614 Wrathfully doth my dead husband harass my ghost, and with torches attacks my guilty face; pursues me, threatens, charges to me his death and his son's 1 burial mound, demands the author 2 of the murderous deed. Have done; he shall be given; 'tis no long time I seek. The avenging Fury plans for the impious tyrant a worthy doom 3; blows and base flight and sufferings whereby he may surpass e'en Tantalus' thirst, the dread toil of Sisyphus, the bird of Tityus and the wheel which whirls Ixion's limbs around. Though in his pride he build him marble palaces and roof them in with gold, though armed guards stand at their chieftain's door, though the beggared world send him its boundless riches, though Parthians in suppliance seck his bloody hand, though kingdoms bring wealth to him; the day and the hour will come when for his crimes he shall pay his guilty sonl, shall give his throat to his enemies, abandoned and undone and stripped of all.

632 Alas! to what end my labour and my prayers?

ment of those who deny the Sencean authorship of this play, on the ground that it gives in the form of prophecy a circumstantial account of the death of Nero, in 68 A.D., whereas Sencea died in 65.

quo te furor provexit attonitum tuus et fata, nate, cedat ut tantis malis genetricis ira quae tuo scelere oecidit? utinam antequam te parvulum in lucem edidi aluique, saevae nostra lacerassent ferae viscera; sine ullo scelere, sine sensu innocens meus oecidisses; iunctus atque haerens mihi semper quietam cerneres sedem inferum, proavos patremque, nominis magni viros, quos nunc pudor luctusque perpetnus manet ex te, nefande, meque quae talem tuli. quid tegere cesso Tartaro vultus meos, noverca coniunx mater infelix meis?

640

OCTAVIA

Parcite lacrimis urbis festo lactoque die, ne tantus amor nostrique favor principis acres suscitet iras vobisque ego sim causa malorum. non hoe primum pectora vulnus mea senserunt; graviora tuli; dabit hic nostris finem curis vel morte dies. non ego saevi cernere cogar coniugis ora, non invisos intrare mihi thalamos famulae: soror Augusti, non uxor ero. absint tantum tristes poenae letique metus. scelerum diri, miseranda, viri potes hoc demens sperare memor? hos ad thalamos servata din

650

Hath thy frenzy carried thee so far in madness, and thy destiny, my son, that the wrath of a mother murdered by thy hand gives way before such woes? Would that, ere I brought thee, a tiny babe, to light, and suckled thee, savage beasts of prey had rent my vitals; then without crime, without sense and innocent, thou wouldst have died—my own; close clinging to my side, thou wouldst forever see the quiet seats of the underworld, thy grandsires and thy sire, heroes of glorious name, whom now shame and grief perpetual await because of thee, thou monster, and of me who bore such son. But why delay to hide my face in Tartarus, as step-dame, mother, wife, a curse unto my own?

[The Ghost vanishes. Enter octavia.]

OCTAVIA [to the Chorus]

Restrain your tears on this glad, festal day of Rome, lest your great love and care for me arouse the emperor's sharp wrath, and I be cause of suffering to you. This wound 1 is not the first my heart has felt; far heavier have I borne; but this day shall end my cares e'en by my death. No more shall I be forced to look on my brutal husband's face, nor to enter a slave's chamber which I hate; Augustus' sister shall I be, not wife. Only may I be spared dire punishments and fearful death.—And canst thou, poor, foolish girl, remembering thy cruel husband's crimes, yet hope for this? Long kept back for this marriage-festival, thou shalt fall

victima tandem funesta cades. sed quid patrios saepe penates respicis udis confusa genis? propera tectis efferre gradus, linque eruentam prineipis aulam.

CHORYS

En illuxit suspecta diu, fama totiens jactata dies. cessit thalamis Claudia diri pulsa Neronis, quo iam victrix Poppaea tenet, eessat pietas dum nostra gravi compressa metu segnisque dolor. ubi Romani vis est populi, fregit claros quae saepe duces, dedit invictae leges patriae, fasees dignis civibus olim, iussit bellum pacemque, feras gentes domuit, captos reges carcere clausit? gravis en oculis undique nostris iam Poppaeae fulget imago, iuncta Neroni! affligat humo violenta manus similes nimium vultus dominae ipsamque toris detrahat altis, petat infestis mox et flammis telisque feris principis aulam.

NVTRIX POPPAEAE

Quo trepida gressum coniugis thalamis tui effers, alumna, quidve secretum petis

690

670

¹ i.e. Octavia.

at last, an ill-starred victim. But why so often to thy father's house dost look back with streaming eyes? Haste thee to leave this roof; abandon the blood-stained palace of the emperor. [Exit.

CHORUS

Lo, now has dawned the day long dim foreseen. so oft by rumour bruited. Departed is Claudia 1 from cruel Nero's chamber, which e'en now Poppaca holds in triumph, while lags our love by grievous fear repressed, and grief is numb. Where is the Roman people's manhood now, which oft in olden times bath crushed illustrious chiefs, given laws to an unconquered land,2 the fasces to worthy citizens. made war and peace at will, conquered wild races and imprisoned captive kings? Lo, grievous to our sight, on every hand now gleams Poppaca's image. with Nero's joined! Let violent hands throw them to the ground, too like their mistress' features; let them drag her down from her lofty couch, and then with devouring flames and savage spears attack the palace of the emperor. [Exit chorus,

[Enter POPPAEA'S NURSE and POPPAEA herself, who appears, distraught, coming out of her chamber.]

NURSE

Whither, dear child, dost pass all trembling from the chamber of thy lord, or what hidden place seekst ² i.e. withstood all outside enemies and righteously ruled

within the father-land.

turbata vultu? cur genae fletu madent? certe petitus precibus et votis dies nostris refulsit: Caesari iuncta es tuo taeda iugali, quem tuus cepit decor, contempta i Senecae tradidit vinctum tibi genetrix Amoris, maximum numen, Venus. o qualis altos quanta pressisti toros residens in aula! vidit attonitus tuam formam senatus, tura cum superis dares sacrasque grato spargeres aras mero, velata summum flammeo tenui caput; et inse lateri iunctus atque haerens tuo sublimis inter civium laeta omina incessit habitu atque ore laetitiam gerens princeps superbo. talis emersam freto spumante Peleus coniugem accepit Thetin, quorum toros celebrasse caelestes ferunt, pelagique numen omne consensu pari. quae subita vultus causa mutavit tuos? quid pallor iste, quid ferant lacrimae doce.

700

710

POPPAEA

Confusa tristi proximae noctis metu visuque, nutrix, mente turbata feror, defecta sensu. laeta nam postquam dies sideribus atris cessit et nocti polus, inter Neronis iuneta complexus mei somno resolvor; nec diu placida frui quiete licuit. visa nam thalamos meos celebrare turba est maesta; resolutis comis matres Latinae flebiles planetus dabant; inter tubarum saepe terribilem sonum sparsam cruore coniugis genetrix mei vultu minaci saeva quatiebat facem.

 $^{^{-1}}$ et culpa Senecae A, $variously\ emended$ $by\ Leo\ as\ above.$ 466

thou with troubled face? Why are thy cheeks wet with weeping? Surely the day sought by our prayers and yows has dawned; to thy Caesar art thou joined by the marriage torch, him whom thy beauty snared, whom Venus hath delivered in bonds to thee, Venus, of Seneca flouted, mother of Love, most mighty deity. Oh, how beautiful and stately wast thou on the high couch reclining in the hall! The senate looked on thy beauty in amaze, when incense to the gods thou offeredst and with pleasing wine didst sprinkle the sacred shrines, thy head covered with filmy marriage-veil, flame-coloured. And close beside thee, majestic midst the favouring plaudits of the citizens, walked the prince himself, showing, in look and bearing, his joy and pride. So did Peleus take Thetis for his bride, risen up from Ocean's foam, to whose marriage, they say, the heaven-dwellers thronged, and with equal joy each sea divinity. What cause so suddenly has changed thy face? Tell me what mean thy pallor and thy tears.

POPPAEA

My sad heart, dear nurse, is confused and troubled by a fearful vision of yester-night, and my senses reel. For, after joyful day had to the dark stars yielded, and the sky to night, held close in my Nero's arms I lay relaxed in slumber. But not long was it granted to enjoy sweet rest; for my marriage chamber seemed thronged with many mourners; with streaming hair did Roman matrons come, making tearful lamentations; midst oft repeated and fearful trumpet blasts, my husband's mother, with threatening mich and savage, brandished a blood-spattered torch.

Agrippina.

730

740

750

quam dum sequor coaeta praesenti metu, diducta subito patuit ingenti mihi tellus hiatu; lata quo praeceps toros cerno iugales pariter et miror meos. in quis residi fessa. venientem intuor comitante turba coningem quondam meum natumque; properat petere complexus meos Crispinus, intermissa libare oscula : irrupit intra tecta cum trepidus mea ensemque ingulo condidit saevum Nero. tandem quietem magnus excussit timor; quatit ossa et artus horridus nostros tremor pulsatque pectus; continet vocem timor, quam nune fides pietasque produxit tna. hen quid minantur inferum manes mihi aut quem eruorem coningis vidi mei?

NVTRIX

Quaecumque mentis agitat intentus ¹ vigor ea per quietem sacer et areanus refert veloxque sensus. coniugem thalamos toros vidisse te miraris amplexu novi haerens mariti? sed movent laeto die pulsata palmis peetora et fusae comae? Octaviae discidia planxerunt sacros inter penates fratris et patrium larem, fax illa, quam seenta es, Augustae manu praclata clarum nomen invidia tibi partum ominatur. inferum sedes toros stabiles futuros spondet aeternae domus, ingulo quod ensem condidit princeps tuus, bella haud movebit, pace sed ferrum teget.

¹ So Gronovius: Leo, with A, infestus.

¹ Crispinus.

While I was following her, driven by urgent fear, suddenly the earth vawned beneath me in a mighty chasm. Downward through this I plunged and there, as on earth, beheld my wedding-couch, wondering to behold it, whereon I sank in utter weariness. saw approaching, with a throng around him, my former husband 1 and my son.2 Crispinus 3 hastened to take me in his arms, to kiss me as long ago; when hurriedly into my chamber Nero burst and buried his savage sword in the other's throat. At length a mighty fear roused me from slumber; my bones and limbs shook with a violent trembling; my heart beat wildly: fear checked my utterance, which now thy love and loyalty have restored to me. Alas! What do the spirits of the dead threaten me, or what means the blood of my husband that I saw?

NURSE

Whate'er the mind's waking vigour eagerly pursues, a mysterious, secret sense, swift working, brings back in sleep. Dost marvel that thou didst behold husband and marriage-bed, held fast in thy new lord's arms? But do hands beating breasts and streaming hair on a day of joy trouble thee? "Twas Octavia's divorce they mourned midst her brother's sacred gods and her father's house. That torch which thou didst follow, berne in Angusta's hand, forctells the name that thou shall gain illumed by envy. Thy abode in the lower world 5 promises the stablished marriage-bed of a home unending. Whereas thine emperor buried his sword in that other's throat, wars shall he not wage, but in peace shall

² Rufrius Crispinus. For his fate, see Index.

³ i.e. her husband.

⁴ i.e. Agrippina's.

⁵ Since in that world all things are changeless

recollige animum, recipe lactitiam, precor, timore pulso redde te thalamis tuis.

POPPAEA

Delubra et aras petere constitui sacras, caesis litare victimis numen deum, ut expientur noctis et somni minae terrorque in hostes redeat attonitus meos. tu vota pro me suscipe et precibus piis superos adora, maneat ut praesens status.

760

CHORVS

Si vera loquax fama Tonantis furta et gratos narrat amores (quem modo Ledae pressisse sinum tectum plumis pennisque ferunt, modo per fluctus raptam Europen taurum tergo portasse truccui). quae regit et nunc deseret astra. petet amplexus. Poppaea, tuos, gnos et Ledae praeferre potest et tibi, quondam cui miranti fulvo. Danae, fluxit in auro. formam Sparte iactet alumnae licet et Phrygius praemia pastor vincet vultus hace Tyndaridos qui moverunt horrida bella Phrygiaeque solo regna dedere.

770

Sed quis gressu ruit attonito aut quid portat pectore anhelo?

NVNTIVS

Quieumque tectis excubat miles ducis, defendat aulam cui furor populi imminet.

sheathe his sword. Take heart again, recall thy joy, I pray; banish thy fear and return thee to thy chamber.

POPPAEA

Rather am I resolved to seek the shrines and sacred altars, and with slain victims sacrifice to the holy gods, that the threats of night and sleep may be averted, and that my erazed terror may turn against my foes. Do thou make vows for me and with pious prayers implore the gods of heaven that my present lot may be abiding.

[Exemul.]

CHORUS [of Roman women in sympathy with POPPAEA]

If truly speaks babbling rumour of the Thunderer's sweet stolen loves, (who now, they say, in feathery plumage hid, held Leda in his embrace, now over the waves, in fierce bull-form, the stolen Europa bore,) e'en now will he desert the stars o'er which he rules and seek thy arms, Poppaea, which even to Leda's he might prefer, and to thine, O Danaë, before whose wondering eyes in olden time he poured down in yellow gold. Let Sparta vaunt the beauty of her daughter, and let the Phrygian shepherd vaunt his prize; she will outshine the face of Tyndaris, which set dread war on foot and levelled Phrygia's kingdom with the ground.

778 But who comes running with excited steps?

What tidings bears he in his heaving breast?

[Enter Messenger.]

MESSENGER

Whatever guard holds watch o'er our leader's house, let it defend the palace which the people's

¹ Helen. ² Paris. ³ Poppaea. ⁴ Helen.

trepidi cohortes ecce praefecti trahunt praesidia ad urbis, vieta nec cedit metu concepta rabies temere, sed vires capit.

CHORUS

Quis iste mentes agitat attonitus furor?

NVNTIVS

Octavine favore percussa agmina et efferata per nefas ingens ruunt.

CHORYS

Quid ausa facere quove consilio doce.

NVNTIVS

Reddere penates Claudiae divi parant torosque fratris, debitam partem imperi.

CHORYS

Quos iam tenet Poppaea concordi fide?

NUNTITE

Hie urit animos pertinax nimium favor et in farorem temere praccipites agit. quaccumque claro marmore effigies stetit aut aere fulgens, ora Poppaeae gerens, afflicta vulgi manibus et saevo iaeet eversa ferro; membra per partes trahunt deducta laqueis, obruunt turpi diu calcata caeno. verba conveniunt feris immixta factis quae timor reticet meus, sepire flammis principis sedem parant,

800

fury threatens. See, in trembling haste the captains are bringing cohorts to defend the town; nor does the mob's madness, rashly roused, give place, o'ercome with fear, but gathers strength.

CHORUS

What is that wild frenzy which stirs their hearts?

MESSENGER

Smitten with love for Octavia and beside themselves with rage, the throngs rush on, in mood for any erime.

CHORUS

What do they dare to do, or what is their plan, tell thou.

MESSENGER

They plan to give back to Claudia her dead father's house, her brother's bed and her due share of empire.

CHORUS

Which even now Poppaca shares with her lord in mutual loyalty?

MESSENGER

'Tis this too stubborn love 2 that inflames their minds and into rash madness drives them headlong. Whatever statue was set up of noble marble or of gleaming bronze, which bore the features of Poppaca, lies low, cast down by base-born hands and by relentless bars o'erturned; the limbs, pulled down by ropes, they drag piecemeal, trample them o'er and o'er and cover them with foul mud. Commingled curses match their savage acts, which I am afraid to tell of. They make ready to hem the emperor's

¹ Octavia. ² i.e. for Octavia.

populi nisi irae coniugem reddat novam, reddat penates Claudiae victus suos. ut noscat ipse civium motus, mea voce haud morabor iussa praefecti exequi.

CHORVS

810

Quid fera frustra bella movetis? invicta gerit tela Cupido; flammis vestros obruet ignes quibus extinxit fulmina saepe captumque Iovem caelo traxit. laeso tristes dabitis poenas sanguine vestro. non est patiens fervidus irae facilisque regi; ille ferocem iussit Achillem pulsare lyram, fregit Danaos, fregit Atridem, regna evertit Priami, claras diruit urbes; et nunc animus quid ferat horret vis immitis violenta dei.

NERO

O lenta nimium militis nostri manus
et ira patiens post nefas tantum mea,
quod non cruor civiiis accensas faces
extinguit in nos, caede nec populi madet
funerea Roma quae viros tales tulit.
at illa, cui me civium subicit furor,
suspecta coniunx et soror semper mili,
tandem dolori spiritum reddat meo
iramque nostram sanguine extinguat suo.
admissa sed iam morte puniri parum est.
graviora meruit impium plebis scelus;

¹ The inverted order of the following lines is that of Richter.

house with flames should be not yield to the people's wrath his new-made bride, not yield to Claudia the home that is her own. That he himself may know of the citizens' uprising, with my own lips will I hasten to perform the prefect's bidding.

[Exit.

CHORUS

Why do you stir up dire strife in vain? Invincible the shafts that Cupid bears; with his own flames will be o'erwhelm your fires, with which he oft has quenched thunderbolts and dragged Jove as his captive from the sky. To the offended god ¹ dire penalties shall you pay e'en with your blood. Not slow to wrath is the glowing boy, nor easy to be ruled; 'twas he who bade the fierce Achilles smite the lyre, broke down the Greeks, broke down Atrides, the kingdoms of Priam overthrew, and famed cities utterly destroyed; and now my mind shudders at the thought of what the unchecked power of the relentless god will do.

[Enter Nero.]

NERO

Oh, too slow are my soldiers' hands, and too patient my wrath after such sacrilege as this, seeing that the blood of citizens has not quenched the fires they kindled 'gainst me, and that with the slaughter of her people mourning Rome recks not, who bore such men as these. But she for whose sake the citizens rage at me, my sister-wife whom with distrust I ever look upon, shall give her life at last to sate my grief, and quench my anger with her blood. But now death is too light a punishment for her deeds. Heavier doom has the people's unhallowed

mox teeta flammis concidant urbis meis, ignes ruinae noxium populum premant turpisque egestas, saeva cum luctu fames. exsultat ingens saeculi nostri bonis corrupta turba nec capit elementiam ingrata nostram ferre nec pacem potest, sed inquieta rapitur hine audacia, hine temeritate fertur in praeceps sua. malis domanda est et gravi semper iugo premenda, ne quid simile temptare audeat contraque sanctos coniugis vultus meae attollere oculos; fracta per poenas metu parere discet principis nutu sui.

Sed adesse cerno rara quem pietas virum fidesque castris nota praeposuit meis.

PRAEFECTVS

Populi furorem caede paucorum, diu qui restiterunt temere, compressum affero.

NERO

Et hoc sat est? sie miles audisti ducem? compescis? haec vindieta debetur mihi?

PRAEFECTVS

Cecidere motus impii ferro duces.

NERO

Quid illa turba, petere quae flammis meos ausa est penates, principi legem dare, 476 831

840

. . .

guilt deserved. Quickly let Rome's roofs fall beneath my flames; let fires, let ruins crush the guilty populace, and wretched want, and grief and hunger dire. The huge mob grows riotous, distempered by the blessings of my age, nor hath it understanding of my mercy in its thanklessness nor can it suffer peace; but here 'tis swept along by restless insolence and there by its own recklessness is headlong borne. By suffering must it be held in check, be ever pressed beneath the heavy yoke, that it may never dare the like again, and against my wife's sacred countenance lift its eyes; crushed by the fear of punishment, it shall be taught to obey its emperor's nod.

844 But here I see the man whose rare loyalty and proven faith have made him captain of my royal guards.

[Enter PREFECT.]

PREFECT

The people's rage by slaughter of some few, who recklessly long resisted, is put down: such is my report.

NERO

And is this enough? Is't thus a soldier has obeyed his chief? "Put down," sayst thou? Is this the vengeance due to me?

PREFECT

The guilty ring-leaders of the mob have fallen by the sword.

NERO

But the mob itself, that dared to attack my household with their torches, dictate to the emperor, from

abstrahere nostris coningem tantam toris, violare quantum licuit incesta manu et voce dira? debita poena vacat?

PRAFFECTVS

Poenam dolor constituet in cives tuos?

NERO

Constituet, actas nulla quam famae eximat.

PRAEFECTVS

Quam 1 temperet non ira, non noster timor?

NERO

Iram expiabit prima quae meruit meam.

PRAEFECTVS

Quam poseat ede, nostra ne parcat manus.

860

NERO

Caedem sororis poscit et dirum caput.

PRAEFECTVS

Horrore vinctum trepidus astrinxit rigor

NERO

Parere dubitas?

PRAFFECTVS

Cur meam damnas fidem?

NERO

Quod parcis hosti.

Reading with Schroeder. Leo tua... nos. 178

my very bed to drag my noble wife, to offer her violence, so far as lay in their power, with hands unclean and voices insolent? Are they still without due punishment?

PHEFECT

Shall angry grief determine penalty against thy citizens?

NERO

It shall determine, the tale of which no age shall banish from men's lips.

PREFECT

Which neither wrath nor fear of us can hold in check?

NERO

She first shall appease who has first deserved my wrath.

PREFECT

Whom it demands tell thou, that my hand may spare not.

NERO

The slaughter of my sister it demands, and her hateful head.

PREFECT

Fearful, benumbing horror holds me fast.

NERO

Does thy obedience falter?

PREFECT

Why dost condemn my faith?

NEHO

Because thou spar'st my foe.

PRAEFECTVS
Femina hoc nomen capit?

NERO

Si seelera cepit.

PRAFFECTUS

Estne qui sontem arguat?

NERO

Populi furor.

PRAFFECTVS

Quis regere dementes valet?

NERO

Qui concitare potuit.

PRAEFECTVS

Hand quemquam reor.

NERO

Mulier, dedit natura cui pronum malo animum, ad nocendum peetus instruxit dolis.

PRAEFECTVS

Sed vim negavit.

NERO

Vt ne inexpugnabilis

esset, sed acgras frangeret vires timor vel poena : quae iam sera damnatam premet 870

dia nocentem.

Tolle consilium ac preces et imperata perage : devectam rate

PREFECT

Call'st thon a woman foe?

NEHO

If erime she has committed.

PREFECT

Who charges her with guilt?

NERO

The people's rage.

PREFECT

But who can check their madness?

NERO

She who could rouse it.

PREFECT

Not any one, I think.

NERO

Woman, to whom nature has given a mind to mischief prone, and equipped her heart with wiles to work us ill.

PREFECT

But strength it has denied her.

XERO

That so she might not be impregnable, but that fear or punishment might break her feeble strength, a punishment which now, though late, shall crush the criminal, who has too long been guilty.

⁸⁷³ But have done with advice and prayers, and do my bidding: let her be borne by ship to some far

4.81

procul in remotum litus interimi iube, tandem ut residat pectoris nostri timor.

CHORYS

O funestus multis populi dirusque favor, qui cum flatu vela secundo ratis implevit vexitque procul, languidus idem descrit alto saevoque mari. flevit Graechos miseranda parens, perdidit ingens quos plebis amor nimiusque favor genere illustres, pietate fide lingua claros. pectore fortes, legibus : cres. te quoque, Livi, simili leto Fortuna dedit, quem neque fasces texere suae nec tecta donius. plura referre prohibet praesens exempla dolor. modo cui patriam reddere cives aulam et fratris voluere toros, nunc ad poenam letumque trahi flentem miseram cernere possunt. bene paupertas humili tecto contenta latet: quatiunt altas saepe procellae aut evertit Fortuna domos.

OCTAVIA

Quo me trahitis quodve tyrannus aut exilium regina iubet, si mihi vitam fracta remittit tot iam nostris et vieta malis? sin caede mea cumulare parat luctus nostros, invidet etiam

900

880

distant shore and there be slain, that at last the terror at my heart may be at rest. [Execunt.

CHORUS

Oh, dire and deadly to many has the people's favour proved, that has filled their vessels' sails with prosperous breeze and borne them out afar, then, languishing, has failed them on the deep and dangerous sea. The wretched mother 1 of the Gracchi wept her sons, whom, though nobly born, for loyal faith and eloquence renowned, though brave in heart, keen in defence of law, the great love and excessive favour of the citizens destroyed. Thee also, Livius,2 to fate like theirs did fortune give, whom neither his lietors' rods nor his own house protected. But present grief forbids us to rehearse more instances. Her, to whom but now the citizens decreed the restoration of her father's house, her brother's bed, now may they see dragged out in tears and misery to punishment and death. Oh, blessed poverty, content to hide beneath a lowly roof, while lofty homes the storm-blasts oft-times shatter, or fortune overthrows.

[Enter OCTANIA in the custody of the palace gnards, who are dragging her roughly away.]

OCTAVIA

Oh, whither do ye drag me? What exile does the tyrant or his queen ordain, if, softened and o'ercome by all my miseries, she grants me life? But if by death she is ready to crown my sufferings, why, cruel, does

¹ Cornelia. ² Livius Drusus. See Index.

cur in patria mihi saeva mori? sed iam spes est nulla salutis fratris cerno miseranda ratem. hac en cuius vecta carina quondam genetrix, nunc et thalamis expulsa soror miseranda vehar. 910 nullum Pietas nunc numen habet nec sunt superi; regnat mundo tristis Erinvs. quis mea digne deflere potest mala? quae lacrimis nostris questus reddat aedon? cuius pennas ntinam miserae mihi fata darent! fugerem luctus sublata meos penna volucri procul et coetus hominum tristes caedemque feram 920 sola in vacuo nemore et tenui ramo pendens querulo possem gutture maestum fundere murmur.

CHORYS

Regitur fatis mortale genus, nec sibi quisquam spondere potest firmum et stabilem vitae cursum ¹ per quem casus volvit varios semper nobis metuenda dies. animum firment exempla tuum, iam multa domus quae vestra tulit. quid sacvior est Fortuna tibi?

930

Tu mihi primum tot natorum memoranda parens, nata Agrippae, nurus Augusti,

^{*} Reading with Richter's proposed emendation. Leo with the MSS, reads firmum et stabile * * per quae. The lacuna has been variously filled and the passage variously emended.

she e'en grudge me death at home? But now is no hope of safety-ah, woe is me, I see my brother's ship. And lo, on that vessel on which his mother once was borne, now, driven from his chamber, his wretched sister, too, shall sail away. Now Piety no longer has divinity, nor are there any gods; grim Fury reigns throughout the universe. Who worthily can lament my evil plight? What nightingale can match my tears with her complaints? Whose wings would that the fates might grant to wretched me! Then on swift pinions borne, would I leave my grievous troubles far behind, the dismal haunts of men, and eruel slaughter. There, all alone, within some solitary wood, perched on a slender bough, might I pour forth from plaintive throat my song of woe.

CHORUS

Our mortal race is ruled by fate, nor may any promise to himself that the path of life will be sure and steadfast, along which each coming day with its continual fears brings ever-shifting chances. Comfort now thy heart with the many sufferings which thine own house has borne. In what has fortune been more harsh to thee?

⁹³² And thee first must I name, the mother of so many sons, Agrippa's child,¹ Augustus' ² daughter-

¹ Agrippina, (1) daughter of M. Vipsanius Agrippa and of Julia, d. of Augustus; in cried Germanicus, son of Tiberius Augustus, and bore to him uine sons.

² i.e. Tiberius.

Caesaris uxor, cuius nomen clarum toto fulsit in orbe, utero totiens enixa gravi pignora pacis, mox exilium verbera, saevas passa catenas, funera, luctus, tandem letum 940 cruciata diu. felix thalamis Livia Drusi natisque ferum ruit in facinus poenamque suam. Iulia matris fata secuta est: post longa tamen tempora ferro caesa est, quamvis erimine nullo. quid non potuit quondam genetrix tua quae rexit principis aulam cara marito partuque potens? eadem famulo subjecta suo 950 cecidit diri militis ense. quid cui licuit regnum in caelum sperare, parens tanta Neronis? non funesta violata manu remigis ante, mox et ferro lacerata diu saevi iacuit vietima nati?

OCTAVIA

Me quoque tristes mittit ad umbras ferus et manes ecce tyrannus.
quid iam frustra miseranda moror?
rapite ad letum quis ius in nos
Fortuna dedit. testor superos—
quid agis, demens? parce precari

960

1 i.e. Germanicus.

² She was banished by Tiberius, who was jealous of the people's favour toward her, to the island of Pandataria, where she died three years afterward.

in-law, a Caesar's 1 wife, whose name shone bright throughout the world, whose teeming womb brought forth so many hostages of peace; vet thou wast doomed to suffer exile, blows and galling chains, loss of thy friends, and bitter grief, and at last a death of lingering agony.2 And Livia,3 blest in her Drusus' chamber, in her sons, fell into brutal erime-and punishment. Julia met her mother's fate; though after long delay, yet she was slain by the sword, though no man called her guilty. What power once was thy mother's,4 who ruled the palace of the emperor,⁵ dear to her husband, and in her son ⁶ secure? Yet she was made subject to her slave,7 and fell beneath a brutal soldier's sword. And what of her who might have hoped for the very throne of heaven, the emperor's great mother? Was she not first by a murderous boatman's hand abused, then, mangled by the sword, lay she not long the victim of her cruel son?

OCTAVIA

Me also to the gloomy shades and ghosts, the cruel tyrant, see, is sending. Why do I now make vain and pitiable delay? Hurry me on to death, ye to whose power fortune hath given me. Witness, ye heavenly gods—what wouldst thou, fool? Pray not

See Index.
 Claudius.
 Messalina.
 Eritannicus.

⁷ The freedman, Narcissus.

quibus invisa es numina divum. Tartara testor
Erebique deas scelerum ultrices et te, genitor ¹ dignum tali morte et poena. non invisa est mors ista mihi.
armate ratem, date vela fretis ventisque petat puppis rector Pandatariae litora terrae.

970

CHORVS

Lenes aurae zephyrique leves, teetam quondam nube aetheria qui vexistis raptam saevae virginis aris Iphigeniam, hane quoque tristi procul a poena portate, precor, templa ad Triviae, urbe est nostra mitior Aulis et Taurorum barbara tellus; hospitis illie eaede litatur numen superum; civis gaudet Roma cruore.

¹ Leo suggests perde tyrannum between genitor and dignum.

to deities who scorn thee. Witness, O Tartarus, ye goddesses of Erebus who punish erime, and thou, O father: destroy the tyrant, worthy such death and punishment. [To her guards.] I dread not the death you threaten. Put your ship in readiness, set sail upon the deep, and let your pilot speed before the winds to Pandataria's shore.

[Exit octavia with her guards.]

CHORUS

Ye gentle breezes and ye zephyrs mild, that once caught Iphigenia wrapped in an airy cloud, and bore her from the altar of the cruel maid,² this maiden, too, far from her dire punishment bear ye, I pray, to the shrine of Trivia. More merciful than Rome is Aulis and the Taurians' barbarous land: there by the blood of strangers are the gods appeased; but Rome's delight is in her children's blood.

¹ Translating Leo's suggestion. ² Diana.



COMPARATIVE ANALYSES

OF THE TRAGEDIES IN THIS VOLUME AND THE CORRESPONDING GREEK DRAMAS

The *Phoenissae*, if, indeed, these fragments are to be considered as belonging to one play, has no direct correspondent in Greek drama; although, in the general situations and in some details, it is similar to parts of three plays: The Seven against Thebes of Aeschylus, the Oedipus at Colonus of Sophoeles, and the Phoenician Damsels of Euripides. The Thyestes is without a parallel in extant Greek drama; and the Octavia, of course, stands alone.

COMPARATIVE ANALYSES

THE GREEK DRAMAS

THE AGAMEMNON OF AESCHYLUS

Prologue.—A watchman, stationed upon the palace roof at Argos, laments the tedium of his long and solitary task; and prays for the time to come when, through the darkness of the night, he shall see the distant flashing of the beacon fire, and by this sign know that Troy has fallen and that Agamemnon is returning home. And suddenly he sees the gleam for which he has been waiting so long. He springs up with shouts of joy and hastens to tell the queen. At the same time he makes dark reference to that which has been going on within the palace, and which must now be hushed up.

Parode, or chorus entry.—A chorus of twelve Argive elders sings of the Trojan war, describing the omens with which the Greeks started on their mission of vengeance. They dwell especially upon the hard fate which forced Agamemnon to sacrifice his daughter. And in this they unconsciously voice one of the motives which led to the king's own death.

First episode.—Clytemnestra appears with a stately procession of torch-bearers, having set the whole city in gala attire, with sacrificial incense burning on all the altars. The chorus asks the meaning of this. Has she had news from Troy? The queen replies that this very night she has had news, and describes at length how the signal

SENECA'S TRAGEDIES

THE AGAMEMNON OF SENECA

Prologue.—The ghost of Thye-tes coming from the lower regions recites the motif of the play: how he had been most foully dealt with by Agamemnon's father, Atreus, and how he had been promised revenge by the oracle of Apollo through his son Aegisthus, begotten of an incestuous union with his daughter. The ghost announces that the time for his revenge is come with the return of Agamemnon from the Trojan war, and arges Aegisthus to perform his fated part.

Parod, or chorus entry.—The chorus of Argive women complains of the uncertain condition of exalted fortune, and recommends the golden mean in preference to this.

First episode.—Clytemnestra, conscious of guilt, and fearing that her returning husband will severely punish her on account of her adulterous life with Aegisthus, resolves to add crime to crime and murder Agamemnon as soon as he comes back to his home. She is further impelled to this action by his conduct in the matter of her daughter,

fires had gleamed, and thus the news had leaped from height to height, all the long way from Troy to Argos,

"And this sure proof and token now I tell thee, Seeing that my lord hath sent it me from Troy."

She expresses the hope that the victors in their joy will do nothing to offend the gods and so prevent their safe return:

"May good prevail beyond all doubtful chance! For I have got the blessing of great joy."

With these words she covers up the real desires of her own false heart, while at the same time voicing the principle on which doom was to overtake the Greeks.

The chorus receives Clytemnestra's news with joy and prepares to sing praises to the gods, as the queen with her train leaves the stage.

First choral interlude.—The chorus sings in praise of Zeus, who has signally disproved the sceptic's claim that

"The gods deign not to care for mortal men By whom the grace of things inviolable Is trampled under foot."

The shameful guilt of Paris is described, the woe of the wronged Menelaüs, and the response of all Greece to his cry for vengeance. But, after all, the chorus is in doubt as to whether the good news can be true—when a herald enters with fresh news.

Second episode.—The herald describes to the chorus the complete downfall of Troy, which came as a punishment for the sin of Paris and of the nation which upheld him in it. At the same time the sufferings of the Greeks during the progress of the war are not forgotten. Clytennestra, entering, prompted by her own guilty conscience, bids the herald tell Agamemnon to hasten home, and take to him her own protestation of absolute faithfulness to him:

"who has not broken One seal of his in all this length of time."

The herald, in response to further questions of the chorus, describes the great storm which wrecked the Greek fleet upon their homeward voyage.

lphigenia, and by his own unfaithfulness to her during his long absence. Throughout this scene the nurse vainly tries to dismade her.

Clytennestra is either influenced to recede from her purpose by the nurse, or else pretends to be resolved to draw back in order to test Aegisthus, who now enters. In the end, the two conspirators withdraw to plan their intended crime.

First choral interlude,—The choras sings in praise of Apollo for the victory over Troy.—To this are added the praises of Juno, Minerva, and Jove.—In the end the chorus hails the approach of the herald Eurybates.

Second episode.—Eurybates announces to Clytenmestra the return and approach of Agamemnon, and describes the terrible storm which overtook the Greeks upon their homeward voyage. At the command of the queen victims are prepared for sacrifice to the gods, and a banquet for the victorious Agamemnon. At last the captive Trojan women, headed by Cassandra, are seen approaching.

Second choral interlude.—The chorus sings of Helen as the bane of the Trojans:

"Dire cause of strife with bloodshed in her train."

And now

"The penalty of foul dishonour done To friendship's board and Zeus"

has been paid by Troy, which is likened to a man who fosters a lion's cub, which is harmless while still young, but when full grown "it shows the nature of its sires," and brings destruction to the house that sheltered it.

Third episode.—Agamemnon is seen approaching in his chariot, followed by his train of soldiers and captives. The chorus welcomes him, but with a veiled hint that all is not well in Argos. Agamemnon fittingly thanks the gods for his success and for his safe return, and promises in due time to investigate affairs at home.

Clytemnestra, now entering, in a long speech of fulsome welcome, describes the grief which she has endured for her lord's long absence in the midst of perils, and protests her own absolute faithfulness to him. She explains the absence of Orestes by saying that she has entrusted him to Strophius, king of Phocis, to be cared for in the midst of the troublous times. She concludes with the ambiguous prayer:

"Ah, Zeus, work out for me All that I pray for; let it be thy care To look to that thou purposest to work."

Agamemnon, after briefly referring to Cassandra and bespeaking kindly treatment for her, goes into the palace, accompanied by Clytennestra.

Third choral interlude.—The chorus, though it sees with its own eyes that all is well with Agamemnon, that he is returned in safety to his own home, is filled with sad forebodings of some hovering evil which it cannot dispel.

Exode.—Clytemnestra returns and bids Cassandra, who still remains standing in her chariot, to join the other slaves in ministering at the altar. But Cassandra stands motionless, paying no heed to the words of the queen, who leaves the seene saying:

"I will not bear the shame of uttering more."

Second choral interlude.—A chorus of captive Trojan women sings the fate and fall of Troy; while Cassandra, seized with fits of prophetic fury, prophesics the doom that hangs over Agamemnon.

Third episode. - Agamemnon comes upon the scene, and, meeting Cassandra, is warned by her of the fate that hangs over him; but she is not believed.

Third choral interlude.—Apropos of the fall of Troy, the chorus of Argive women sing the praises of Hercules, whose arrows had been required by fate for the destruction of Troy.

E.code.—Cassandra, either standing where she can see within the palace, or else by clairvoyant power, reports the murder of Agamemnon, which is being done within.

Electra urges Orestes to flee before his mother and Aegisthus shall murder him also. Very opportunely, Strophius comes in his chariot, just returning as victor from

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Cassandra now descends from her chariot and bursts into wild and woeful lamentations. By her peculiar clairvoyant power she foresees and declares to the chorus the death of Agamemnon at the hands of Clytemnestra and Aegisthus, as well as the manner of it; she also foretells the vengeance which Orestes is destined to work upon the murderers. Her own fate is as clearly seen and announced, as she passes

through the door into the palace.

Soon the chorus hears the death-cry of Agamemnon, that he is "struck down with deadly stroke." They are faint-heartedly and with a multiplicity of counsel discussing what it is best to do, when Clytemnestra, with bloodstained garments and followed by a guard of soldiers, comes out from the palace. The corpses of Agamemnon and Cassandra are seen through the door within the palace. The queen confesses to, describes, and exults in the murder of her husband. The chorus makes elaborate lamentation for Agamemnon, and prophesies that vengeance will light on Clytemnestra. But she scorns their threatening prophecies. In the end Aegisthus enters, avowing that he has plotted this murder and has at last avenged his father, Thyestes, upon the father of Agamemnon, Atrens, who had so foully wronged Thyestes. The chorus curses him and reminds him that Orestes still lives and will surely avenge his father.

THE MAIDENS OF TRACHIN OF SOPHOCLES

Prologue.—In the courtyard of her palace in Trachin, Deianira recounts to her attendants and the chorus of Trachinian maidens how her husband had won her from the river god, Acheloüs, and how, during all these years, she has lived in fear and longing for her husband, who has been kept constantly wandering over the earth by those who hold him in their power; and even now he has been for many months absent, she knows not where.

An old servant proposes that she send her son, Hyllus, abroad to seek out his father. This the youth, who enters at this juncture, readily promises to do, especially on

the Olympic games. Electra entrusts her brother to his care, and betakes her own self to the altar for protection.

Electra, after defying and denouncing her mother and Aegisthus, is dragged away to prison and torture, and Cassandra is led out to her death.

THE HERCULES OF SENECA

Prologue.—Hercules, about to sacrifice to Cenacan Jove after having conquered Eurytus, king of Occhalia, recounts at length his mighty toils on earth, and prays that now at last he may be given his proper place in heaven. He dispatches his herald, Lichas, home to Trachin, to tell the news of his triumph, and to conduct the train of captives thither.

hearing from his mother that the oracle declares this is the year in which his father shall end his life,

"Or, having this his task accomplished, Shall, through the coming years of all his life, Rejoice and prosper."

Parode, or chorus entry.—The chorus prays to Helios, the bright sun-god, for tidings of Hercules, for Deianira longs for him. and "ever nurses unforgetting dread as to her husband's paths." Hercules is tossed upon the stormy sea of life, now up, now down, but ever kept from death by some god's hands. Deianira should, therefore, be comforted:

"For who hath known in Zeus forgetfulness Of those he children calls?"

First episodc.—Deianira confides to the chorus her special cause for grief: she feels a strong presentiment that Hercules is dead; for, when he last left home, he left a tablet, as it were a will, disposing of his chattels and his lands,

"and fixed a time,
That when for one whole year and three months more
He from his land was absent, then 'twas his
Or in that self-same hour to die, or else,
Escaping that one crisis, theneeforth live with life unvexed."

At this moment, however, a messenger enters and announces the near approach of Hercules, accompanied by his spoils of victory.

First choral interlude.—The chorns voices its exultant joy over this glad and unexpected news.

Parode, or chorus entry.—The place of the chorus entry, which should be filled by the chorus proper, composed of Actolian maidens, is taken by the band of captive Occhalian maidens. They bewail their lot and long for death; they dwell upon the utter desolation of their fatherland, and upon the hard-heartedness of Hercules, who has laid it waste.

Iole, their princess, joins in their lamentations, recalls the horrors of her native city's overthrow, and looks

forward with dread to her captivity.

First episode.—During the interval just preceding this episode the captives have been led to Trachin; Deianira has seen the beauty of Iole, and learned of Hercules' infatuation for her. She has by this news been thrown into a mad rage of jealousy, and takes counsel with her nurse as to how she may wreak vengeance upon her faithless husband, while the

nurse vainly advises moderation.

The nurse at last suggests recourse to magic, professing herself to be proficient in these arts. This suggests to Deianira the use of that blood of Nessus which the dying centaur had commended to her as an infallible love-charm. She takes occasion to relate at length the Nessus incident. She at once acts upon her decision to use the charm; and speedily, with the nurse's aid, a gorgeous robe is anointed with the blood, and this is sent by Lichas' hand to Hercules.

First choral interlude.—The chorus of Aetolian women, who have followed Deianira from her girlhood's home to this refuge in Trachin, now tender to her their sympathy in her present sufferings. They recall all their past intercourse

with her, and assure her of their undying fidelity.

This suggests the rarity of such fidelity, especially in the courts of kings, and they discourse at large upon the sordidness and selfishness of courtiers in general. The moral of their discourse is that men should not aspire to great wealth and power, but should choose a middle course in life, which alone can bring happiness.

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Second episode.—Lichas, the personal herald of Hercules, now enters, followed by Iole and a company of captive women. He explains to Deianira how Hercules had been driven on by petty persecutions to slay Iphitus, the son of Eurytus, treacherously; how he had for this been doomed by Zeus to serve Omphale, queen of Lydia, for a year; and how in revenge he has now slain Eurytus, and even now is sending home these Occhalian captives as spoil; Hercules himself is delaying yet a little while in Euboea, until he has sacrificed to Cenacan Jove.

Defanira looks in pity upon the captives, praying that their lot may never some to her or hers; and is especially drawn in sympathy to one beautiful girl, who, however, will

answer no word as to her name and state.

As all are passing into the palace, the messenger detains Deianira and tells her the real truth which Lichas has withheld: that this seemingly unknown girl is Iole, daughter of Eurytus; that it was not in revenge, but for love of Iole, that Hercules destroyed her father's house, and that he is now sending her to his own home, not as his slave, but as his mistress, and rival of his wife.

Lichas, returning from the palace, on being challenged by the messenger and urged by Deianira to speak the whole

truth, tells all concerning Hercules' love for Iole.

Defanira receives this revelation with seeming equanimity and acquiescence.

Second chord interlude.—The chorus briefly reverts to the battle of Acheloüs and Hercules for the hand of Deianira.

Third episode.—Deianira tells to the chorus the story of how Nessus, the centaur, had once insulted her, and for this had been slain by Hercules with one of his poisoned

Second episode.—Deianira comes hurrying distractedly out of the palace, and relates her discovery as to the horrible and deadly power of the charm which she has sent to her

husband.

While she is still speaking, Hyllus rushes in and cries out to his mother to flee from the wrath of Hercules, whose dreadful sufferings, after putting on the robe which his wife had sent to him, the youth describes at length. He narrates also the death of Lichas. The suffering hero is even now on his way by sea from Euboca, in a death-like swoon, and will soon arrive at Trachin.

Deianira, smitten with quick repentance, begs Jupiter to destroy her with his wrathful thunderbolts. She resolves on instant self-destruction, though Hyllus and the nurse vainly try to dissuade her, and to belittle her responsibility for the disaster; and in the end she rushes from the scene,

Hyllus following.

Second choral interlude .- The chorus, contemplating the changing fates of their prince's house, is reminded of the saving of Orpheus, "that naught for endless life is made." This leads to an extended description of Orpheus' sweet music and its power over all things, both animate and inanimate, and suggests the story of his unsuccessful attempt to regain Eurydice.

Returning to the original theme, the chorus speculates upon the time when all things shall fall into death, and

chaos resume her primeval sway.

It is startled out of these thoughts by loud groans. which prove to be the outcries of Hercules, borne home to Trachin.

Third episode. - Hercules in his ravings warns Jove to look well to his heavens, since now their defender is perishing. The giants will be sure to rise again and make

arrows; how, also, the centaur in dying had given her a portion of his blood, saying this would be a charm able to restore to her her husband's wandering love. She now resolves to use this charm. She anoints a gorgeous robe with the blood which she has preserved through all these years, and bids Lichas carry this to her lord as a special gift from her. He is to wear it as he offers his sacrifices to Cenacan Jove. Lichas departs upon this mission.

another attempt upon the skies. He bitterly laments that he, who has overcome so many monsters, must die at last, slain by a woman's hand, and that woman not Juno, nor even au Amazon:

"Ah, woe is me, How often have I 'scaped a glorious death! What honour comes from such an end as this?"

His burning pains coming on again, he cries out in agony, and describes the abject misery and weakness that have come upon him. Are these the shoulders, the hands, the feet, that were once so strong to bear, so terrible to strike, so swift to go? He strives to apprehend and tear away the pest that is devouring him, but it is too deep-hidden in his frame. He curses the day that has seen him weep, and beseeches Jove to smite him dead with a thunderbolt.

Alemena enters, and while she herself is full of grief, she strives to soothe and confort her suffering son. He falls into a delirium, and thinks that he is in the heavens, looking down upon Trachin. But soon he awakes, and, realizing his pains once more, calls for the author of his

misery, that he may slay her with his own hands.

Hyllus, who has just entered from the palace, now informs his father that Deianira is already dead, and by her own hand; that it was not her fault, moreover, but by the guile of Nessus, that Hercules is being done to death. The hero recognizes in this the fulfilment of an oracle once delivered to him:

"By the hand of one whom thou hast slain, some day, Victorious Hercules, shalt thou lie low."

And he comforts himself with the reflection that such an end as this is meet, for

"Thus shall no conqueror of Hercules Survive to tell the tale."

He now bids Philoctetes prepare a mighty pyre on neighbouring Mount Octa, and there take and burn his body while still alive. Hyllus he bids to take the captive princess, Iole, to wife. He calls upon his mother, Alemena, to comfort her grief by pride in her great son's deeds on earth, and the noble fame which he has gained thereby.

Third choral interlude.—The chorus prays for the early and safe return of Hercules from where he lingers:

"Thence may be come, yea, come with strong desire,
Tempered by snasive spell
Of that rich unguent, as the monster spake."

Fourth episode.—Deianira discovers by experiment, now that it is too late, the destructive and terrible power of the charm which she has sent, and is filled with dire forebodings as to the result.

Her lamentations are interrupted by Hyllus, who comes hurrying in; he charges his mother with the murder of his father, and curses her. He then describes the terrible sufferings that have come upon the hero through the magic robe, and how Hercules, in the madness of pain, has slain Lichas, as the immediate cause of his sufferings. He has brought his father with him from Euboca to Trachin. Deianira withdraws into the palace, without a word, in an agony of grief.

Fourth cheral interlude.—The chorus recalls the old oracle that after twelve years the son of Zeus should gain rest from toil, and sees in his impending death the fulfilment of this oracle. They picture the grief of Deianira over her act, and foresee the great changes that are coming upon their prince's house.

Fifth episode.—The nurse rushes in from the palace, and tells how Deianira has slain herself with the sword, bewailing the while the sufferings which she has unwittingly brought on Hercules; and how Hyllus repents him of his harshness towards his mother, realizing that she was not to blame.

Fifth choral interlade.—The chorus pours out its grief for the double tragedy. And now it sees Hyllus and attendants bearing in the dying Hercules.

Exode.—Hercules, awaking from troubled sleep, laments the calamity that has befallen him; he chides the lands which he has helped, that now they do not hasten to his aid; and prays Hyllus to kill him with the sword, and so put him out of his misery.

Third choral interlude.—The chorus bids all nature mourn the death of Hercules. Verily the earth is bereft of her defender, and there is no one left to whom she may turn if again harassed by monsters. They speculate upon the place of the departed Hercules. Shall he sit in judgment among the pious kings of Crete in Hades, or shall he be given a place in heaven? At least on earth he shall live in deathless gratitude and fame.

Exode.—Philoetetes enters and, in response to the questions of the nurse, describes the final scene on Octa's top. There a mighty pyre had been built, on which Hercules joyfully took his place. There he reclined, gazing at the heavens, and praying his father, Jupiter, to take him thither, in

He denounces Deianira because she has brought suffering and destruction upon him which no foe, man or beast, has ever been able to bring. He curses his own weakness, and laments that he must weep and groan like a woman.

He marvels that his mighty frame, which for years has withstood so many monsters, his encounters with which he describes, can now be so weak and wasted. Reverting to his wife, he bids her to be brought to him that he may visit punishment upon her.

Hyllus informs his father that Dejanira has died by her own hand, for grief at what she has unwittingly brought upon her dear lord. It was, indeed, through Nessus' guile

that the deed was done.

Hercules, on hearing this, recognizes the fulfilment of the oracle:

"Long since it was revealed of my sire
That I should die by hand of none that live,
But one who, dead, had dwelt in Hades dark."

He exacts an oath of obedience from Hyllus, and then bids him take him to Mount Octa, and there place him upon a pyre for burning. Hyllus reluctantly consents in all but the actual firing of the pyre. The next request is concerning Iole, that Hyllus should take her as his wife. This mandate he indignantly refuses to obey, but finally yields assent. And in the end Hercules is borne away to his burning, while the chorus mournfully chants its concluding comment:

"What cometh no man may know;
What is, is piteons for us,
Base and shameful for them
And for him who endureth this woe,
Above all that live hard to bear."

compensation for his service on the earth. His prayer seemed to be answered, and he cried aloud:

"'But lo, my father calls me from the sky,
And opens wide the gates. O sire, I come!'
And as he spake his face was glorified."

He presented his famous bow and arrows to Philoetetes, bidding him for this prize apply the torch and light the pyre, which his friend most reluctantly did. The hero courted the flames, and eagerly pressed into the very heart of the burning mass.

In the midst of this narrative Alemena enters, bearing in her bosom an urn containing the ashes of Hercules. The burden of her lament is that so small a compass and so pitiful an estate have come to the mighty body of her son, which one small urn can hold. But when she thinks upon his deeds, her thoughts fly to the opposite pole:

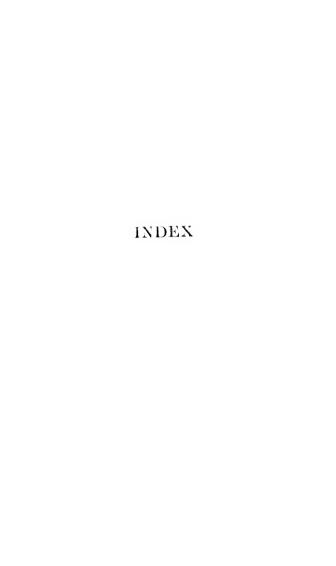
"What sepulchre, O son, what tomb for thee Is great enough? Naught save the world itself."

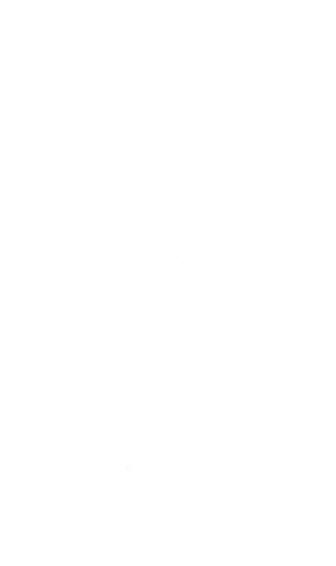
Then she takes up in quickened measures her funeral song of mourning, in the midst of which the deified Herenles, taking shape in the air above, speaks to his mother, bidding her no longer mourn, for he has at last gained his place in heaven.

The chorus strikes a fitting final note, that the truly brave are not destined to the world below:

"But when life's days are all consumed, And comes the final hour, for them A pathway to the gods is spread By glory."







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[References are to the lines of the Latin text. If the passage is longer than one line, only the first line is cited. Line citations to passages of especial importance to the subject under discussion are starred. The names of the characters appearing in these tragedies are printed in large capitals, with the name of the tragedy in which the character occurs following in parentheses.1

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AMALTHEA, goat of Olenus, fed the infant Jove, was set as constellation in the sky; not yet known as such in the golden age, Med. 313.

See OLENUS.

Ayazons, warlike women on Thermodon, Med. 215; even they have loved, Hip. 575; conquered by Bacchus, Oed. 479; Clytemnestra compared to them, Ayam, 736; allies of Troy, Tro. 12; their queen, Penthesilea, slain by Achilles, ibid. 213; Hercules laments that he had not been slain by the Amazon, Hippolyte, H. Oct. 1183. See AN PENTHESILEA, HIPPOLYTE See ANTIOPE,

AMPHION, son of Antiope by Jupiter, king of Thebes, husband of Niobes; renowned for his music; built Thebes' walls by the magic of his lyre, Phoen. 566; H. Fur 262; his hounds are heard baying at the time of the plague at Thebes, Ocd. 179; his shade arises from Hades, ibid. 612

AMPHITRYON (Heroules Furens), Theban prince, husband of Her-cules' mother, Alemena, H. Fur. 309; proves that Jupiter is father of Hercules, ibid. 440; welcomes Hereules returning from Hades, ibid. 618

ANCAEUS, Areadian hero, Argonaut. slain by Calydonian boar, Med.

643

ANDROMACHE (Troades), wife of Hector, mother of Astyanax; attempts to hide and save her son from Ulysses, Tro. *430; given by lot to Pyrrhus, ibid. 576. See ASTYANAX

Antaeus, Libyan giant, son of Neptune and Terra, famous wrestler, who gained new strength by being thrown to mother earth; strangled by Hercules, who held him aloft, H. Fur. 482, 1171: H. Oct, 21, 1899; Alemena fears that a son of his may come to vex the earth, H. Oct. 1788, See HERCULES

ANTIGONE (Phoenissae), daughter of Oedipus and Jocasta : refuses to desert Oedipus, Phoen. 51; Oedipus wonders that one so pure should have sprung from so vile a house, ibid, 80; argues her father's innocence, ibid. 203 Antiope, Amazon wife of Theseus.

slain by him, Hip. 226, 927. 1167; mother of Hippolytus by Theseus, ibid, 398; personal appearance, ibid. *398; her beauty inherited by Hippolytus, ibid. 659

Antonius (Marc Antony), Roman general, defeated by Octavianus at Actium; fled with Cleopatra

to Egypt, Oct. 518

APOLLO, son of Jupiter and Latona, born in Delos, H. Fur. 453; twin brother of Diana, Med. 87; the laurel his sacred tree, Agam. 588; god of the prophetic tripod, Med. 86; inspirer of priestess at his oracle, Oed. 269; god of the bow, is himself pierced by Cupid's arrows, *Hip.* 192; killed Python, *H. Fur.* 455; doomed to serve a mortal for killing the Cyclopes, kept the flocks of Admetus, ibid. 451; Hrp. 296; hymn in praise of, Agam. 310: worshipped as the sun under the name of Phoebus Apollo. Phoebus.

AQUARIUS, zodiacal constellation, the Water-bearer, Thy. 865

ARABES, inhabitants of Arabia. tamed for their spices, Oed. 417; sun-worshippers, H. Oet. 793; use poisoned darts, Med. 711

ARCTOPHYLAX, Bear-keeper, a northern constellation, called also Boötes, according as the two adjacent constellations are called the Bears (Arctos, Ursac), or the Wazons (Plaustra). By a fusion of the two conceptions, is called Arctophylax and custos plaustri in the same connection, 874. See BOOTES

ARCADIANS, most ancient race of men, H. Oct. 1883; Hip. 786 ARCADIAN BEARS, constellations of

ARCADIAN BEARS, constellations of the Great and Little Bears, which do not set, *H. Fur.* 129. See Arcros, Bears, and Callisto

ARCADIAN BOAR, eaptured by Hercules and brought to Eurystheus, Agam. 832; H. Fur. 229; H. Oct. 1536. See HERCULES

ARCADIAN STAG, captured by Hercules, H. Fur. 222. See HERCULES ARCTES, the double constellation of the Great and Little Hears

of the Great and Little Bears, Ocd. 507; called also Arcadian stars, ibid. 478. See Bears and Callisto

ARGO, ship in which the heroes under Jason sailed to Colchis in quest of the golden fleece, Mcd. 361; sailed from Iolchos in Thessaly, Tro. 819 n.; adventure of the Argonauts, ibid. *301; this voyage was implous, ibid. 335; Tiphys the builder and pilot of Argo, ibid. 3, 318; he was instructed by Minerva, ibid. 3, 365; the Argo's keel made from the talking oak of Jodona, ibid. 349; sailing of the new ship described, ibid. *318; how it escaped the Symplegades, ibid. *341; roll of the Argonauts, ibid. *227; nearly all came to a violent death, ibid. *607

Argos, capital of Argolis, sacred to Juno, home of heroes, Again, 808; paid homage to Bacchus, after he had won Juno's favour,

Oed. 486

ARLADNE, daughter of Minos, king of Crete; loved Theseus, whom she helped escape from the Edwrinth, Hip. 692; fled with Thesens, but was deserted by him on Naxos, ibid. 665; was there found and beloved by Bacchus, Oct. 448, who married her and set her bridal crown as a constellation in the sky, ibid. 497; H. Fur. 18; Hip. 663; pardoned by her father for her love of Thesens, ibid. 245.

ARIES, golden-fleeced ram which bore Phrixus and Helle, and was afterwards set in the sky as a zodiacal constellation. Thy, 850 ASTRAEA, goddess of Justice, whe lived among men in the golden age, but finally left earth because of man's sins, Oct. 424, Thu, 85; is the zodiacal constellation. Virgo, H. Oct. 69; called, incorrectly and perhaps figuratively, mother of Sommus, H. Fur. 1068.

See JUSTICE

ASTYANAX (Troades), son of Hector and Andromache, pictured as leading his playmates in a dance around the wooden horse. Agam. 634; compared with his father, Tro. 464; his death demanded by the Greeks, ibid. 369; reasons for his death from the Greek standpoint, ibid. 526; his doom announced to Andromache, ibid. 620, who tells of her disappointed hopes of him, ibid. *770; his death described by messenger, ibid. *1068

ATLANTIADES, see PLEIADES

ATLAS, mountain in north-west Libya, conceived as a giant upon whose head the heavens rest H. Oet. 12, 1599; eased of his burden by Hercules, ibid. 1905

ATREUS (Thyestes), son of Pelops, father of Agamemnon and Menalaus, brother of Thyestes, between whom and himself existed a deadly fend. Plans how he will avenge himself upon his brother, Thy. 176; describes his brother's sins against himself, ibid. 220; his revenge takes shape, ibid. 260: place and scene of his murder of the sons of Thyestes, ibid. *650; gloats over his brother's agony, ibid. 1057

ATTIS, Phrygian shepherd, mourned by priests of Cybele, Agam. 686 AUGE, Arcadian maiden, loved by

Hercules, mother by him of

Telephus, H. Oct. 367

AUGEAN STABLES, stables of Augeas, king of Ellis, containing three thousand head of cattle and uncleansed for thirty years; cleaned by Hercules in a single day, H. Fur. 247

AUGUSTUS, first emperor of Rome; his rule cited by Seneca to Nero as a model of strong but mereiful sway, Oct. *477; his bloody path by Nero, ibid, \$505; defiled at death, ibid 528

AULIS, scaport of Bosetti, rendezvous of the Greek fleet. Here it was stayed by adverse whick, until lphigada was sacrificed. Agam. 567; Tro. 161; hostility of Aulis to all ships because her king, Tiphys, had not death on the Argonautic expedition, Mod. 622. See Principal

В

BACCHUS, son of Jupiter and Semele, daughter of Cadmus, Sayed from the womb of his mother, Oct. 502; McJ. 84; H. For, 457; to e-cape the wrath of Juno, he was nid by in Arabian (or Indian) Nysa, where, disguised as a girl, let was nourished by the nymphs, Ocd. *418; in childhood captured by Tyrian pirates, who, frightenel by marvellous manife-totions of divine power on board their ship, leaped overboard and were changed into dolphins, ibid. * 119; visited India, accompanied by Theban heroes, thid, *113; H. Fur. 903; visitel Lydia and suiled on the Pactolus, Oct. 167; conquered the Amazons and many other savage peoples, ibit. 469; god of the flowing locks, erowned with ivy, carrying the thyrsus, ibid. 403; H. Fur. 172; H_{ID}^{*} , *753; marvellous powers of the thyrais, Ocd. *191; attended by his foster-father Silenus, ibel. 429; called Bassarens, Ocd. 432; Bromius, Hip. 760; Ogyvian Bachus, Ood. 457; Nyetchus, thel. 492; destroyed Lyeurgus, king of Thrace, because of opposition to him, H. Fer. 903; inspired his maddened worshippers, the women of Thebes, to rend Pentheus in pieces, Old. 411, 4-3; helped Jupiter in war against the giant', H. Iur. 458; found Ariadne on Naxos, made her his wife, and set her bridal crown in the sky, Ool, 455, 197 Hip. 760; H. Far. 18; dithyram ble cherns in his praise, giving numerous incident; in his career, Ord. **400; wen the favour of Juno and the homoge of her city of Argos, ibid. 486; gained a place in heaven, H. Ord. 94. See ARIANNE, BASSARIDES, BROMIES, NACTILLUS, COAVOES, PENTHEUS, PRESTIELS, SEMELP, SILENCES

BASSARIDES, female worshippers of Bacchus, so called because clad

in fox-skins, Ocd. 432

Bears, the northern constellations of the Great and Little Bears; were forbidden by the jealous Juno to bathe in the ocean, H. Oct. 2st, 1588; Th. 477; Mod. 405; have plunged into the sequinder influence of magle, bid 758; shall some day, by reversal of Lature's laws, plunge beneath the sea, Ther. 867; Great Bear used for steering ships by Greeks, Little Bear by Phoenicians, Mod. 694. See ARCADIAN BEARS, ARCTOS, CALLISTO.

Billas, one of the Belides, or grand-handsters of belus; they were also called D naides from their father, Danaiis, H. Oct. 960

BIELONA, goodless of war, dwells in hell. H. Oct. 1312; haunts the palaces of kings, Amon. 82

Rogaria, named from the heiter which guided Cadmus to the place where he should found his

city, Oct. 722

Boori's, notthern constellation of the Wasener, driving las wa cons (place e), under which form also the two Bears are conceived, Oct. 253; Agam. 70; mable to set beneath the sea, ibid. 60; not yet known as a constellation in the gollen age, Mod. 315.

BRIARLUS, one of the giants who stormed heaven, H. Oct. 167 BRISLIS, a captive muiden, beloved

BRISÉIS, a capture maiden, belove f by her captor, Achilles, from whom she was taken by Agamember, Tro. 191, 220, 318

Britannicus, son of the emperor Claudius and Messalina, brother of Octavic, and S perother of No of by whom of the institution of Acriet ma, Nero's mother, he was murdered, in order that Nero might undisputed have the throne,

Oct. 47, 67, *166, 242, 269
BROMUS (the "noisy one"), epithet of Bacchus, Hip. 760

BRUTUS, friend of Julius Caesar, leader of the conspirators against him, Oct. 498

Busiris, king of Egypt, who sacrificed strangers and was slain by Hercules, Tro. 1106; H. Fur. 483; H. Oet. 26; Alemena fears that a son of his may come to vex the earth, ibid, 1787

CADMEIDES, daughters of Cadmus, e.g. Agave, Autonoë, Inc, who tore Pentheus in pieces, H. Fur. 758

CADMUS, son of Agenor, king of Phoenicia. Sent by his father to find his lost sister, Europa, he wandered over the earth, at last founding a land of his own (Boeotia), guided thither by a heifer sent by Apollo. Here he kills the serpent sacred to Mars. sows its teeth, and from them armed men spring up, **712; H. Fur. 261, **712; *H. Fur.* 261, 917; *Phoen.* 125; was changed to a serpent, H. Fur. 392; his house was accursed, Phoen. 644

CAESAR, Julius, a mighty general, slain by his fellow-citizens, Oet.

500

CALCHAS (Troades), seer of the Greeks before Troy; his prophetic power, Tro. *353; decides that Polyxena must be sacrificed,

ibid. 360

Callisto, nymph of Arcadia, beloved of Jove, changed into a bear by Juno, and set in the heavens by Jove as the Great Bear, while her son Areas was made the Little Bear, H. Fur. 6; is the constellation by which Greek sailors guided their ships, ibid. 7; called the frozen Bear. ibid, 1139. See JUTITER, ARCTOS, BEARS

CALPE, one side of the passage rent by Hercules. One of the

"pillars of Hercules," Gibraltar, the opposite mass in Africa being called Abyla, H. Fur. 237; H. Oet. 1240, 1253, 1569 CANCER, zodiacal constellation of

the Crab, in which the sun is found at the summer solstice. Thy. 854; Hip. 287; H. Oet. 41, 67, 1219, 1573

CAPHEREUS, cliff of Euboea, where Nauplius lured the Greek fleet to destruction, Agam 500. NAUPLIUS

Capnomantia, method of divining by observation of the smoke of

sacrifice, Oed. *325

CASSANDRA (Agamemnon), beloved by Apollo, but, since she was false to him, the gift of prophecy was made of no avail by his decree that she should never be believed. Tro. 34; Agam. 255, 588; given by lot to Agamemnon, Tro. 978; in prophetic frenzy describes the murder of Agamemnon, Agam. *720; is led to death, predicting death of Clytemnestra and Aegisthus, ibid. 1004

CASTOR, one of the twin sons of Jupiter and Leda, wife of Tyndareus, king of Sparta; his brother was Pollux, Phoen. 128; Castor rode the famous horse, Cyllarus, given by Juno, Hip. 810; the twins were Argonauts. Med. 230; called Tyndaridae. H. Fur. 14; Castor a horseman. Pollux a boxer, Med. 89; the two were set as constellations in the sky to the grief of Juno, Oct. 208; Thy. 628

CAUCASUS, mountain range between the Black and Caspian Sens, Thy. 1048; here Prometheus was chained, H. Oct. 1378; Med.

709. See PROMETHEUS

CECROPS, mythical founder and first king of Athens; the Athenians called Cecropians, Med. 76; Thy. 1049

Cenaeum, north-west promontory of Euboca; here Hercules sacrificed to Cenaean Jove after his victory over Eurytus, H. Oct. 102: while sacrificing here. Hercules donned the poisoned robe sent by Deianira, ibid. 782

(ENTAURS, race in Thessaly, half man, half horse, H. Oct. 1049. 1195, 1925; their tight with Lapithae, H. Fur. 778; the centaur Nessus killed by Hercules, H. Oct. *503. See Chiron, NESSUS

CERBERUS, three-headed dog, guardian of Hales, Thy. 16; H. Oct. 23; H. Fur. 1107; bis existence denied, Tro. 404; said to have broken out of Hades and to be abroad in the Theban land, Oed. 171; his clanking chains heard on earth, ibid. 581; Hercules brought him to the upper world, II. Oct. 1245; Agam. 859; II. Fur. *50, 547; Thesens describes him and tells how he was brought to the upper world by Hercules, ibid. *760; his actions in the light of day, ibid. *813.

HERCULES CERES, daughter of Saturn, sister of Jupiter, mother of Proservina, and goddess of agriculture; her vain and anxious search for her daughter, H. Fur. 659; taught Triptolemus the science of agriculture, Hip. 838; mystic rites of her worship, H. Fur. 300, 815. Her name used by metonymy for grain. See Eleusin, Proser-PINA, TRIPTOLEMUS (EYX, king of Trachin, suffered

death by shipwreck. His wire. Aleyone, mourned him incessantly; finally both were changed into kinglishers, H. Oct. 197; Agam. 681; Oct. 7

(HAONIAN OAKS, sacred grove in Chaonia of Epirus containing a temple and oracle of Jupiter, said to be oldest oracle in Gréece: oracles supposed to be given out by the oaks themselves, endowed with speech, or by the doves which resorted there. "Chaonian trees" used for tall trees in general, Oct. 728; the "talking oak" of Chaonia, H. Oct. 1623. See Dodona

(HARON, aged ferryman of the Styx, H. Fur. 555; Agam. 752; his personal appearance, ibil. *764; forced by Hercules to bear him across the Lethe (not Styx),

ibid. *770; overwearied by transporting throngs of Theban dead, Oct. 166; charmed by music of Orphons. H. Oct. 1072

CHARYBDIS, whicipool between Italy and Sicily, opposite Scylla, Med. 408; H. Oct, 235; Thy. 581. See SOYLIA

CHIMAERA, mouster combining lion, dragon, and goat, vonited forth

tire, Med. 828

CHRON, centaur dwelling in a cavern on Pelion, famous for his knowledge of medicine and To his training civination. were entrusted Jason, Hercules, Asseulapius, and Achilles, II. Uur. 971; Tro. 832; set in the sky as zodiscal constellation of Sagittarius, Thy. 860

CHRYSEIS, daughter of Chryses, priest of Apollo at Chrysa. Taken captive, she fell to the lot of Agamemnon, who, forced to give her up, claimed Briseis captive maid of Achilles. Hence arose strife between the two. Tro. 223. See ACRILIES

CIRRHA, ancient town in Phocis. near Delphi, Oed. 269; H. Oct.

92, 1475

CITHAERON, mountain near Thebes where the intant Oedipus was exposed, Phoen. 13; the scene of many wild and tragic deeds, see ACTAEON, AGAVE, DIRCE, PEN-THEUS

CLAULIUS, fourth Roman emperor. father of Octavia, murdered by his second wife, Agrippina, Oct.

26, 45, 269,

CLOTHO, one of the three fates or Parene, supposed to hold the distaff and spin the thread of life. H. Oct. 768; Oct. 16; Thy. 617

CLYTEMNESTRA (Agamemnon), daughter of Tyndarens and Leda. sister of Helen, wife of Agamenanon, mother of Orestes, Iphigenia. and Electra; called Tyndaus. Agair. 837 During her husband's alsence engaged in conspiracy with Aegisthus to murler Agamemmon. Deliberates whether to give up her course of crine r earry it through, ibid, 108; tests Aegisthus' courage and deter-

mination, ibid. 239; her murder of Agamemnon prophesied and described by Cassandra, *734. See AGAMEMNON and AEGISTHUS

COCYTUS, "the river of lamentation," river of Hades. H. Oct. 1963; "sluggish, vile," H. Fur. 686; the river over which spirits cross to the land of the dead, ibid. 870

COLCHIAN BULL, fire-breathing monster which Jason was set to yoke to the plough; Medea claims to have preserved some of his breath for her magic uses, Med. 829

Colonian Woman, see Medea
TREON (Medea), king of Corinth,
to whose court Jason and Medea fled when driven out of Thessaly; father of Creiisa, for whom he selected Jason as husband, decreeing banishment of Medea: headstrong and arbitrary, Med. 143; allows Medea one day of respite from exile, ibid. *190: called son of Sisyphus, ibid, 512; his death and that of his daughter. ibid. *879

CREON (Oedipus), Theban prince, brother of Jocasta, Oed. 210: sent by Gedinus to consult oracle. reports that cause of plague is unavenged murder of Laïus. ibid. *210; announces that Oedious himself is guilty of the murder. Is thrown into prison by Cedipus on charge of conspiracy with Tiresias, ibid. *509; slain by the usurper, Lycus, II. Fur. 254

CRETAN BULL, laid waste the island of Crete; caught and taken to Eurystheus by dercules, H. Fur.

230; Again, 833. See HERCHES CRECSA (Medea), daughter of Creon, king of Corinth; Creon chose Jason as her husband, Med. 105; Jason's wife, Medea, swears that Creiisa shall not bear brothers to her children, ibid. 509; Jason charged by Medea with love for Creusa, ibid, 495; Medea prepares a magic robe as present for Creins, Mid. *816; Creica's death, Mid. *79 Cuspikes, Reman knight, the

husband of Poppaga, Oct. 731

CUPID, god of love, son of Venus; addressed and characterised by Deianira, H. Oet. *541; all-powerful over gods and men, Hip. *185; his wide sway and instances of his irresistible power, *ibid.***275; his power, *Oct.* 806; there is no such god, *ibid.* **557; Hip. **275

Cybele, goldess worshipped in Phrygian groves, Hip. 1135; pines of Ida sacred to her, Tro. 72; wears a turreted crown, her worship described. Agam.

Cyclopes, race of giants in Sicily. each having but one eye; said to have built walls of Mycenae, H. Fur. 997; Thy. 407; Polyphemus, a Cyclop, sits on a crag of Aetna, ibid. 582

CYCNUS, son of Mars, slain by Hercules, H. Fur. 485

CYCNUS, son of Neptune, slain by Achilles and changed into a swan, Agam. 215; Tro. 184

CYLLARUS, famous horse which Juno received from Neptune and presented to Castor, Hip. 811

CYNOSURA, constellation of the Lesser Bear, Thy. 872

D

DAEDALUS, Athenian architect, the father of Icarus. Helped Pasiphaë, wife of Minos, to accomplish her unnatural desires, Hip. 120; built the labyrinth for Minotaur, ibid. 122, 1171; his escape from Crete on wings, Oed. *822; safe because he pursued a middle course, H. Oet. 683

DAMOCLES, a conrtier of Dionysius, tyrant of Syracuse, who showed his guest a sword hanging by a hair over his head as he lay at

banquet, *H. Oct.* 656

DANAE, daughter of Acrisins. mother of Perseus by Jupiter. who approached her in a golden shower, Oct. 207, 772. Perseus

Danaides, fifty daughters of Danaiis, brother of Aegyptus. They, being forced to marry the flity

sons of Aegyptus, slew their husbands on their wedding night. with the exception of Hyperinnestra, H. Fur. 498; their nunishment in Hades the task of filling a bottomless cistern with water earried in sieves, ibid. 757; Medea summons these to her aid, Med. 749; Deianira would till the vacant place in their number, H. Oct. 948; called also Belides, ibid. 960. See Belias, HYPERMNESTRA

DARDANUS, son of Jupiter and Electra, one of the royal house of Troy. Exults in Hades over the impending doom of Agamemnon, enemy of his house, Agam. 773

Daulian Bird, i.e. Proche, changed into a nightingale after the tragedy connected with name, enacted at Daulis, a city of Phocis. She mourns continually for Itys, H. Oct. 192. See

PHILOMELA and ITYS

DEIANIRA (Hercules Octaeus). daughter of Oenens, king of Calydonia, sister of Meleager, wife of Hercules, mother of Hyllus, plays with her maidens on banks of Achelous, H. Oct. 586; her abduction by Nessus, ibid. *500; her rage when she hears of Hercules' infatuation for Iole, ibid. 237; ignorant of its power, prepares to send the charmed robe to Hercules, ibid. *535; gives it to Lichas, ibid. 569; discovers its power, ibid. *716; learns from Hyllus effect of poison on Hercules, ibid. *742; prays for death, *ibid.* 842; begs Hyllus to slay her, *ibid.* 984; goes mad, *ibid.* 1002; dies by her own hand, ibid. 1120

PHIDAMIA, daughter of Lycomedes, king of Seyros, mother of

Pyrrhus by Achilles, Tro. 342
DEPHOBUS, son of Priam and
Hecuba, husband of Helen after
death of Paris; slain and manufed by the Greeks through wife's treachery, Agam. 749

DELOS, floating island in Aegean Sea, birthplace of Apollo and Diana, H. Fur 453; made firm at command of Diana, Agam, 284

DELPHIC ORACLE, of Apollo at Delphi in Phocis; expressed in enigmatic form, Oed. 214; the giving out of an oracle described. ibid. *225; II. Oct. 1475

DEUCALION, son of Prometheus, husband of Pyrrha; this pair the only survivors of the flood.

Tro. 1039. See Pyrrha

DIÁNA, daughter of Jupiter and Latona, twin sister of Apollo, H. Fur. 905; hymn to, Again. *367; caused Delos to stand firm, ibid, 369; punished Niobe for implety, ibid. 375; conceived as Luna or Phoebe in heaven, Diana on earth, and Hecate in Hades, Hip. 412; called Trivia, worshipped where three ways meet, Agam. 367; Happolytus prays to her as goddess of the chase, Hip. 51: her wide sway, ibit. *54; nurse of Phaedra prays that she may turn Hippolytus to love, ibid. 406; in form of Luna, an object of attack by Thessalian witchcraft, ibid. 421; slighted by Oeneus, she sent a huge boar to ravage the country, Pleuron is hostile to her. Tro.

DICTYNNA, "goddess of the nets,"

epithet of Diana, Med. 795 DIOMEDES, king of the Bistones, in Thrace, who gave his captives to his man-eating horses to devour. H. Oct. 1538; Tro. 1108; Hercules captured his horses, having given their master to them to devour, Agam, 842; H. Fur. 226, 1170; H. Oet. 20; Alemena fears that she may be given to these horses now that Hercules is dead. H. Oct. 1790. See HERCULES

DIRCE, wife of Lycus, king of Thebes, who, on account of her crucity to Autione, was tied by her sons, Zethus and Amphion. by the hair to a wild bull, and so dragged to death on Cithaeron, Phoen. 19; changed to the fountain Direc, duel, 126; H. Fuc. 916; this fountain flowed with blood at the time of the plague

at linebes, Ocd. 177

DISCORD, a Fury, summoned by Juno from Hades to drive Hercules to madness, H. Fur. 93;

her abode, ibid. *93

Dodona, city of Chaonia in Epirus, famous for ancient oracle of Jupiter, in a grove of oaks, which had the gift of speech, H. Oct. 1473; when Minerva aided in the construction of the Argo, she set in its prow timber cut from the speaking oak of Dodona, and this piece had oracular power; the Argo's "voice" was lost through fear of the Symplegades, Med. 349. See Chaonian Oaks

DOMITIUS, father of Nero, Oct. 249 DRAGON, (1) guardian of the apples of the Hesperides, slain by Hercules, and afterwards set in the heavens as constellation Draco. between the two Bears, Thy. 870; Med. 694; (2) of Colchis, guardian Med. 094; (2) of Corens, guardan of the golden fleece, put to sleep by Medea's magic, Med. 703; (3) dragon sacred to Mars killed by Cadmus near the site of his destined city of Thebes. From the teeth of this dragon, sown by Cadmus, armed men sprang up, Oed. **725; H. Fur. 260; some of these teeth were sown by Jason in Colchis with a similar result, Med. 469; the brothers who sprang up against Cadmus are described as living in Hades, Oed. 586 DRUSUS, Livius, the fate of, Oet.

887, 942

DRYADS, race of wood-nymphs, II. Oet. 1053; Hip. 784

Е

Eсно, nymph who pined away to a mere voice for unrequited love of Narcissus. She dwells in mountain caves, and repeats the last words of all that is said in her hearing, Tro. 109

ELECTRA (Agamemnon), daughter of Agamemnon and Clyteninestra, sister of Orestes; gives her brother to Strophius, king of Phocis, to save him from Clytemnesira and Aegisthus, Agam

910: defies her mother and Aegisthus, ibid. 953; is taken away to imprisonment, ibid, 1000: Octavia compares her woes with Electra's, to the advantage of the

latter, Oct. 60 ELEUSIN (Eleusis), ancient city of Attica, famous for its mysteries of Ceres, H. Oet. 590; Tro. 843; H. Fur. 300; Hip. 838; the mysteries described, H. Fur. *842. See CERES, TRIPTOLEMUS ELYSIUM, abode of the blest, Tro. 159, 944; H. Oet. 956, 1916; H. Fur. 744

ENCELADUS, one of the Titans who attempted to dethrone Jove, overthrown and buried under Sicily, H. Fur. 79; H. Oet. 1140, 1145, 1159, 1735

ERIDANUS, mythical and poetical name of the Po, H. Oct. 186.

See PHAETHONTIADES

ERINYES, the Furies, H. Fur. 982; Med. 952; Ocd. 590; Agam. 83; Thy. 251; H. Oct. 609, 671; Oct. 23, 161, 263, 619, 913. See FURIES

ERYX, son of Butes and Venus, famous boxer, overcome by Hercules, H. Fur. 481; mountain in Sicily, said to have been named from the preceding, Oed, 600 ETEOCLES (Phoenissae), one of

the two sons of Oedipus and Joeasta. After Oedipus abandoned the throne of Thebes (Phoen. 104), Eteocles and Polynices agreed to reign alternately. Eteocles, the elder, ascended the throne, but when his year was up refused to give way to his brother. Phoen. 55, 280, 389; H. Fur. 389. See POLYNICES

EUMENIDES ("the gracious ones"), a euphemistic name for the

Furies, H. Fur. 87; H. Oct. 1002 EURŌPA, daughter of Agenor, king of Tyre, beloved of Jupiter, who, as a bull, carried her away to Crete, Oct. 206, 766; H. Oct. 550; this episode immortalised by the constellation of Taurus, H. Fur. 9; sought in vain by her brother Cadmus, Ocd. 715; the continent of Europe named after her, Agam. 205, 274; Tro. 896

EURYBATES (Agamemnon), messenger of Agamemnon who announces victory of Greeks at to Mycenae, Agam. 392; relates the sufferings of the Greek fleet on the homeward voyage, ibid. *421

EURYPICE, wife of Orpheus, slain by a serpent's sting on her wedding day; story of Orpheus' quest for her in Hades, H. Fur. *569; rescued by Orpheus from the lower world, but lost again, H. Oet. *1084. See ORPHEUS

Eurystheus, son of Sthenelus, grandson of Perseus, who, by a trick of Juno, was given power over Hercules, and, at Juno's instance, laid upon Hercules his various labours, *H. Oct.* 403; *H. Fur.* 43, 78, 479, 526, 830; lord of Argos and Mycenae, ibid. 1180; H. Oct. 1800; his punishment predicted, ibid. 1973

EURYTUS, king of Oechalia and father of Iole, II. Oct. 1490; he and his house destroyed by Hercules because he refused the latter's suit for Iole, ibid 100, 207, 221; H. Fur. 477. See

HEROULES

F

PESCENNINE, of Fescennia, ancient town of Etruria, famous for a species of coarse dialogues in verse which bear its name, Med.

FORTUNE, goddess of fate, ruling over affairs of men, H. Fur. 326, 524; Tro. *1, *259, 269, 697, 735; Phorn. \$2, 308, 452; Med. 159, 176, 287; Hip. 979, 1124, 1143; Oct. 11, 86, 674, 786, 825, 934; Agam. 28, 58, 72, 89, 101, 248, 594, 698; H. Oet. 697; Oet. 36, 377, 479, 563, 888, 898, 931, 962; Thy. 618

FURIES, avenging goddesses, dwelling in Hades, set to punish and torment men both on earth and in the lower world; described and appealed to, Med. 13; Juno plots to summon them from

Hades to make Hercules mad. H. Fur. 86; described, ibid. 87; described by Cassandra, Agam.
*759; move in bands, Thy. 78,
250; Med. 958; a Fury used as a character in prologue, driving on Thyestes' ghost to perform his mission, Thy. *23. See EUMENIDES, ERINYES, MEGAERA. TISIPHONE

G

GEMINI, zodiacal constellation of the Twins, Castor and Pollux Thu. 853

GERYON, mythical king in Spain. having three bodies; Hercules slew him and brought his famous cattle to Eurystheus as his tenth labour, H. Fur. 231, 487, 1170; Agam. 837; H. Oet. 26, 1204,

1900. See HERCULES GHOSTS. The ghost appears as a dramatis persona in the following plays: Agamemnon, in which the ghost of Thyestes appears in the prologue to urge Aegisthus on to fulfil his mission; Thyestes, in which the ghost of Tantalus similarly appears in the prologue; Octavia, in which the ghost of Agripping appears. In the following plays the ghost affects the action though not actually appearing upon the stage: Troades. in which the ghost of Achilles is reported to have appeared to the Greeks and demanded the sacrifice of Polyxena, 168 ff.; Andromache also claims to have seen the ghost of Hector warning her of the impending fate of Astyanax. 443 ff.: Oedipus, in which the ghost of Lafus and other departed spirits are described as set free by the necromancy of Tiresias, 582 ff.: Medea, in which the mangled ghost of Absyrtus seems to appear to the distracted Medea, 963; ghosts appear larger than mortal forms, Ocd. 175

GIANTS, monstrous sons of Earth. made war upon the gods, scaling heaven by piling mountains one on another, Tro. 829; Thy. 804, 810, 1084; H. Fur. 445, 976; H. Oet. 1139, *1151; overthrown by Jove's thunderbolt. H. Oet. 1302; Oed. 91; with the help of Hercules, H. Oet. 1215; buried under Sicily, ibid. 1309. See BRIAREUS, ENCELA-DUS, GYAS, MIMAS, OTHRYS, TY-PHOEUS, TITANS

GOLDEN AGE, first age of mankind. when peace and innocence reigned on earth. Hip. *525; Oct. *395;

Med. *329

olden-fleeced Ram, (1) on which Phrixus and his sister, Helle, escaped from Bocotia; as GOLDEN-FLEECED they fled through the air Helle fell off into the sea, Tro. 1035; on arrival at Colchis Phrixus sacrificed the ram and gave his fleece to King Acetes, who hung it in a tree sacred to Mark. This Here the price sought by the Argonauts, Met. 361, 471. See Phrings, Helle, Argonauts. (2) The emblem and pledge of sovereignty in the house of Pelops, Thy. *225 Gorgon, Medusa, one of the three

daughters of Phoreys, whose head was covered with snaky head was covered with shaky locks; the sight of her turned men to stone. Killed by Perseus, her head presented to Minerva, who fixed it upon her shield. H. Oct. 96; Agam. 530. See Per-

SEUS

GRACCHI, two popular leaders of the Seinpronian gens, brought to ruin by popular renown, Oct. 882

Graphyus, surname of Mars, II. Fur. 1312

GYAS, one of the giants who sought to dethrone Jove, H. Oct. 167, 1139

П

HADES, place of departed spirits, situated in the underworld; entrance to, H. Fur 662; description of ibid. 517; Thesens. returned therefrom, describes places and persons there, ibid. **655; the world of the dead and the throngs who pour into it. ibid. *830; its torments and personages described by ghost of Tantalus, Thy. 1; its regions and inhabitants seen by Creon through the chasm in the earth made by Tiresias' incantations. Ocd *582

Harpies, mythical monsters, half woman and half bird; driven from Phineus by Zetes and Calaïs, Med. 782; still torment Phineus in Hades, H. Fur. 759: used as type of winged speed.

Phoen. 424

HEBE, daughter of Juno, cupbearer to the gods, given as bride to Hercules, Oct. 211

HECATE, daughter of Perses, presider over enchantments; identified with Proserpina as the underworld manifestation of the deity seen in Diana on earth and Luna in heaven, H. Oct. 1519; Med. 6, 577, 833, 841; Tro. 389; Hip. 412; Oed. 569

HECTOR, son of Priam and Hecuba. husband of Andromache, bravest warrior and chief support of Troy, Tro. 125; burns Greek theet, ibid. 444; Agam. 743; slays Patroclus, Tro. 446; slain by Achilles and his body dragged around the walls, ibid. *413; Agam. 743; his body ransomed by Priam, ibid. 447; lamented by the captive Trojan women, Tro. 98; his ghost warns Andromache in a dream of the danger of their

son Astyanax, ibid. 443

HECUBA (Troades), wife of Priam, survives Troy; leads the captive women in lament for Troy's downfall, Tro. *1: before the birth of Paris, dreamed that she had given buth to a firebrand. ibid. 36; her once happy estate described, and contrasted with her present wretchedness, ibid. *958: given to Plysses by lot, ibid. 980; having suffered the loss of all her loved ones, she is at last changed into a dog, Agam. *705; rejoices for the first time after Hector's death on occasion of wooden horse being taken into Troy, ibid, 648

HELEN (Troudes), daughter of Jupiter and Leda, sister of Clytennestra, wife of Menelaus, the most beautiful woman in Greece; given by Venus to Paris as a reword for his indement in her favour, tiet, 773; fied from her husband for love of Paris, Agam. 123; pardoned by Agamemnon, she returns home with Menchaus, ibid. 273; sent by Greeks to deceive Polyxena and prepare her for sacrifice on Achilles' tomb, Tro. 861; cursed by Andromache, ibid. *892; bewails her own lot, ibid. 905; she is not to blame for the woes of Troy, ibid, 917; Clyteninestra likened to her, Agam. 795 HELLE, sister of Phrixus, who fled

with him on the golden-decred ram, and fell off into the sea. which thereafter bore her name (Helle-pont), Tro. 1034; Thy.

851. See Phrixus

Hercean Jove, epithet of Jupiter as protector of the house; at his altar Priam was slain, Tro. 140; Antm. 448, 793

HERCULES (Hercules Fureus, Hercyles Octaeus), son of Juniter and Alemena, H. Pur. 20; H. Oct. 7 and passine; night minaturally Frolonged at his conception, Again, 814; H. Fur. 24, 1158; H. Oct. 147, 1500, 1697, 4861; born in Theres, tel. 749; in infanev strangled two serpents which Jugo sent against him, H Tur. *211: H. Oct. 1205; by a trick of Juno was made subject to Eurystheus, who set him varicos labours, H. Oct. (63; H. Fur. 78, 524, 280). These twelve labours are as follows: (1) Killing of Nemean lion, H. Fur. \$6, 221; H. Oct. 16, 411, 1192 1235, 1885; Ayam, 829; (2) destruction of Lernean bydra. Agam. 835 · Med. 701; H. Far. 46, 241, 529, 780, 1195; H. Oct. 19, 918, 1193, 1531, 1813; (3) capture of Arcadian stag, tamous for its fleetness and its golden antlers, H. Far. 222: H. Oct. 17, 1238; Agam. 831; (1) capture or wild boar of Erymanthus, H.

Fur. 228; H. Oct. 980, 1536. 1888; Agam. 832; (5) cleansing of Augean stables, H. Fur. 247; (6) killing of Stymphalian birds. H. Fur. 244; H. Oct. 17, 1237. 1813, 1889; Anam. 850; (7) capture of Cretan bull. H. Fur. 230; H. Oct. 27; Agam, 831; (8) capturing marcs of Diomedes and slaving of Diomedes, H. Fur. 226; H. Oct. 20, 1538, 1814, 1894; Agen. 812; (9) securing girdle of Hippolyte, H. Fur. 245, 542; H. Oct. 21, 1483, 1450; Agam. 848; (10) killing Geryon and capturing his oxen, H. Fur. 231. 487; H. Oct. 26, 1204, 1900; Agen. 837; (11) securing golden apples of Hesperides, H. Fer. 230, 530; H. Oct. 18; Phoen. 316 Agam. *852; (12) descent to Hades and bringing back Cerbeius, H. Fur. *46, **760; H. Ort. 23, 1162, 1244; Agum. 859 Other deeds of Hercules are : bore the heavens upon his shoulders in place of Atlas, H. Far. *69. 528, 1101; H. Od. 282, 1241, 1764, 1905; burst a passage for Pencus between Ossi and Olympus, H. Fur. *283; rent Calp-and Abyla (the Pillars of Hercules") apart and made a passage for the sea into the ocean, H. Fur, 237; H. Oct. 1240, 1253, 1569; overcame Centaurs, ibid. 1195; fought with Achelois for possession of Deianira, ibid, 299, 495; slew Nessus, who was carrying off his bride, ibid, *500, 921; overcame Eryx the boxer. H. Fur. 481; slew Antaeus, H. Fur. 182, 1171; H. Oct. 24, 1899; killed Busiris, H. Fur. 483; H. Cot. 26; Tro. 1106; slew Cycnus, son of Mars, II. Fur. 485; killed Zetes and Calais, Med. 634; killed Perielymenus, Vid. 635; wounded Pluto, who was going to aid the Pylians, H. Fur. 560: fought with Death for the recovery of Alcestis, H. O t. 766 n.; wrecked off the African coast. made his way on foot to shore, ibid. 319; assisted the gods in their light against the giants, ibid. 444; II. Oct. 170; captured

Troy with aid of Telamon during reign of Laomedon, Tro. 136, 719; his arrows said to be twice fated for the destruction of Troy, ibid, 825; Agam. 863; forced Charon to bear him across These from Hades, Hip. 843; H. Fur. 806; H. Oet. 1197, 1768; overcame Eurytus, king of Oechalia, H. Fur. 477; H. Oet. 422. More or less extended recapitulations of the deeds of Hercules are found in the following passages: Agam. 808-866; H. Fur. 205-308, Agum. 808-800, H. Par. 203-303, 481-487, 524-560; H. Oet. 1-98, 410-435, 1161-1206, 1218-1257, 1518-1606,1810-1830,1872-1939. The loves of Hercules are as follows: Hesione, daughter of Laomedon, rescued from the sea-monster, and made captive to Hercules with the first fall of Troy; he afterwards gave her to Telamon, H. Oet. 363; Auge, daughter of Aleus, king of Tegea, ibid. 367; the fifty daughters of Thespius, ibid. 369; Omphale, queen of Lydia, to whom Hercules, in expiation of an act of sacrilege, went into voluntary sactified, well into voluntary servitude for three years, ibid. *371, 573; H. Fur. *465; Hip. 317; Iole, daughter of Eurytus, king of Oechalia, whom Hercules destroyed because Iole denied to him, H. Oet. 100, 207, 221; H. Fur. 477. His wives were (1) Megara, daughter of Creon, king of Thebes; Hercules, in a fit of madness, slew her and his children by her, H. Fur. *987, *1010; H. Oet. 429, 903; when his sanity returned, Theseus promised him cleansing for his crime by Mars at Athens. H. Fur. 1341; elsewhere said to have been cleansed by washing in the Cinyps, a river in Africa. H. Oct. 907; (2) Deianira, daughter of Oeneus, king of See DEIANIRA and Calvdonla. The favourite tree Achelot's. of Hercules was the poplar, H. Fur. 894, 912; H. Oet. 1641. Hercules destined to come to a

tragic end after a life of great deeds. Med. 637; death in accordance with an oracle which declared that he should die by the hand of one whom he had slain, H. Oet. 1473; Deianira, ignorantly seeking to regain her husband's love from Iole, sends him a robe anointed with the him a robe anointed with the poisoned blood of Nessus, *ibid*, 535; Lichas bears the robe to his master, *ibid*, 509; Hercules was worshipping Cenaean Jove in Euboea when the robe was brought to him, *ibid*, 775; his sufferings caused by the poison, 1232 and 1248, but Lichas ibid. *749, 1218; hurls Lichas over a cliff, *ibid*. 809; after dire suffering, is borne by boat from Euboea to Mt. Oeta, where he was to perish, *ibid*. 839; funeral pyre built for him on Oeta, *ibid*. 1483; his place in heaven after death, ibid. 1565; his triumphant death in the midst of the flames. ibid. **1610, 1726; his fated bow is given to Philoctetes, ibid. 1648; his ashes are collected by his mother, Alemena, ibid, 1758; Medea possessed some of the ashes of Oeta's pyre soaked with his blood, Med. 777; his voice is heard from heaven, H, Oet, *1940; received into heaven in spite of Juno's opposition, he is given Hebe as his wife, Oct. 210

HERMIONE, daughter of Menelans and Helen, Tro. 1134

Hesione, daughter of Laomedon, exposed to a sea-monster sent by Neptune to punish the perfidy of Laomedon. Rescued by Hercules when he and Telamon took Troy, H. Oct. 363

HESPERIDES, golden apples of, on far western islands, watched over by three nymphs, guarded by dragon; Hercules in eleventh labour secured them for Eurysthens, Agam. 852; Phoen. 316;

H, Fur, 239, 530

HESPERUS, evening star, messenger of night, Med. 878; Hip. 750; H. Fur. 883; impatiently awaited by lovers, Med. 72; Phoen. 87; functions of evening and morning stars interchanged at the conception of Hercules, H. Fur. 821: H. Oct. 149

HIEROSCOPIA (extispicium), method of prophesying by inspecting viscera of sacrificial victim. practised by Tiresias, Oed. *353

HIPPODAMIA, daughter of Oenomails, king of Pisa. See MYRTILUS

HIPPOLYTE, queen of Amazons. posses-ed of belt of. Mars : Hereules as his ninth labour secured this belt, Agam. 848; H. Fur. 215, 542; H. Oct. 21,

1183, 1450

HIPPOLYTUS (Happolytus), son of and Hippolyte, Theseus according to others, of Theseus and Antiope; devoted to the hunt and to Diana, Hip. 1; object of Phaedra's guilty love, ibid. *99: hates all womankind, ibid. 230; his life as a recluse, ibid. 435; sings the praises of life in woods and fields, ibid. *483; is charged with assaulting Phaedra, ibid. 725; death caused by a monster sent by Neptune in response to prayer of Theseus, ibid, 1000; his innocence discovered, ibid. 1191

llyades, daughters of Atlas and sisters of the Pleiades; a constellation borne on horns of Taurus, Thy. 852; storm-bringing constellation, not yet recognised as such in the golden age, Med. 311; disturbed by magic power

of Medea, ibid. 769

HYDRA, monster which infested the marsh of Lerna; had nine heads, one of which was immortal. Slain by Hercules as his second Stant by Hercur's as his second labour, Agam. 835; Med. 701; H. Fur. 46, 241, 529, 780, 1195; H. Oct. 19, 94, 259, 851, 941, 948, 1193, 1534, 1650, 1843, 1927

HYLAS, youth, beloved by Hercules, accompanied him on Argonautic expedition; was seized by water-nymphs, 'Hip. Med. *617 780:

HYLLUS (Hercules Octaeus), son of Hercules and Delanira, H. Oct. 742 : the grandson of Jove, ibid. 1421; lole consigned to him as wife by the dying Hercules, ibid. 1490

HYMEN, god of marriage, Tro. 861. 895; Med. *66, 110, 116, 300

HYPERMNESTRA, one of the lifty daughters of Danaus, who refused to murder her husband, H. Fur. 500; not punished with her sisters in Hades. H. Oet. 948. See DANATOES

I

ICARUS, son of Daedalus; the wings on which he attempted flight were melted by the sun; fell into the sea, which received his name. Ayam, 506; Oed. *892; H. Oct. 686. See DAEDALUS

IDMON, son of Apollo and Asteria. Argonaut, had prophetic power; was killed by a wild boar, not, as Seneca says, by a serpent, Med.

652

INO, daughter of Cadmus, sister of Semele, wife of Athamas, king of Thebes. Athamas, driven mad by Juno, because Ino had nursed the infant Bacchus, attempted to slay her; she escaped by leaping into the sea with her son Melicerta. Both changed into seadivinities, Phoen. 22; Ocd. 445 See PALAEMON

10LE (Hercules Octacus), daughter of Eurytus, king of Occhalia. Was sought in marriage by Hercules, who, when refused. destroyed her father and all his house, H. Oct. 221; in captivity she mourns her fate, ibid. 173; sent as captive to Deianira, ibid. 224; her reception by Deianira, ibid. 237; is given to Hyllus as wife by the dying Hercules, ibid. 1490

IPHIGENIA, daughter of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra: taken to be sacrificed at Aulis, on pretext of marriage to Achilles, Agam. 158; sacrificed that Greeks might sail from Aulis, ibid. 160; Tro. 249, 360, 555 n., 570 n.; her sacrifice described, Agam. *164; rescued by Diana and taken to serve in goddess' temple among the Taurians, Oct. 972

1RIS, messenger of Juno, goddess of the rainbow, Oed. 315

ITYS, son of Terens, king of Thrace, and Proene, who, to punish her husband for his outrage upon her sister, Philomela, slew and served Itys at a banquet to his father. The sisters, changed to birds, ever bewall Itys, H. Oet. 192; Agam. 670

IXION, for his insult to Juno whirled on a wheel in Hades, Hip. 1236; Thy. 8; Agam. 15; Oct. 623; H. Fur. 750; H. Oct. 945, 1011; Med. 744; his wheel stood still at music of Orpheus, thid. 1068. See NEPHELE

J

JASON (Medea), son of Aeson, king of Thessaly, nephew of the usurping king, Pelias. Was persuaded by Pelias to undertake the adventure of the Golden Fleece, for which he organised and led the Argonautic expedition. Through Medea's aid performed the tasks in Colchis set by Aectes : tamed the fire-breathing bull, Med. 121, 211, 466; overcame the giants sprung from the serpent's teeth, ibid. 467; put to sleep the dragon, *ibid*.
471. Had no part in murder of Pelias, for which he and Medea were driven out of Thessaly, ibid. 262; but this and all Medea's crimes had been done for his sake, ibid. *275; living in exile in Corinth, is forced by Creon into marriage with the king's daughter, Creüsa, *ibid.* 137; Medea curses him, *ibid.* 19; he laments the dilemma in which he finds himself, ibid, 431; decides to yield to Creon's demands for the sake of his children, ibid. 441

JOCASTA (Ocdipus, Phoenissae), wife of Laius, king of Thebes, mother and afterwards wife of Ocdipus; on learning that Ocdipus is her son, kills herself, Ocd, 1024. According to another version, she is still living after Oedipus goes into exile; bewails the strife between her sons. Efeocles and Polynices, *Phoen.* 377; rushing between the two hosts, tries to reconcile her sons, *ibid.* *443

JUDGES IN HADES, Aeacus, Minos, and Rhadamanthus, weep when they hear Orpheus' strains, H. Fur. 579; Theseus describes their persons and judgments, the moral law under which the souls of men are judged, the punishments and rewards meted out, whill **727.

JULIA, daughter of Drusus and Livia Drusilla, exiled and after-

wards slain, Oct. 944

JUNO (Hercules Furens), reveals her motive in persecuting Hercules; recounts Jove's infidelities and relates her struggles with Hercules; she cannot overcome him by any toil, H. Fur. *1 ff.; type of wife who. by wise management, won back her husband's love. Oct. *201; hymn in praise of. Agam. 340; Argos is dear to her, ibid. 809

JUHTER, lord of Olympus, ruler of the skies and seasons, \$Hip.*960; ruler of heaven and earth, to whom victors consecrate their spoils, \$Agam.*802; his mother, Rhea, brought him forth in Crete and hid him in a cave of Ida, lest his father, Saturn, should discover and destroy him, \$H. Fur. 450; hymn in praise of, \$Agam.*381; his thunderbolts forged in Actna, \$Hip.*156; his amours with mortals: with Leda, to whom he appeared as a swan, \$Hip.*301; \$H. Fur.*14; with Europa, as a bull, \$Hip.*303; \$H. Fur.*13; with Callisto, \$tind.*6; with Danaé, as a golden shower, \$H. Fur.*13; with Callisto, \$tind.*6; with the Piciades (Electra, Maia, Taygete), \$tind.*10; with Latona, \$tind.*15; with Semcle, \$tind.*16; with Alemena, \$tind.*22. For his ancient oracle in Epirus, see Dopona; see also Ilergera.

JOVE and CENAEUM JUSTICE (Justitia), the goddess Astraea, who once lived on earth

during the innocence of man in the golden age of Saturn, Oct. 398; fled the earth when sin became dominant, ibid. 421. See ASTRALA

L

Labdacidae, Thebans, from Labdaeus, king of Thebes, father of Laïus, Oed. 710; Phoen. 53: H. Fur. 495

LACHESIS, one of the three fates, or Parcae, who measured out the thread of human life, Ocd, 985. The other two were Clotho and Atropos. See CLOTHO

LAERTES, father of Ulysses, dwelling in Ithaca, Tro. 700; Thy. 587

LAIUS, king of Thebes, husband of Jocasta, father of Oedipus, whom, fearing an oracle, he had exposed in infancy; his murder by an unknown man must be avenged before the plague afflicting Thebes can be relieved, Oed, *217; place and supposed manner of his death, ibid. *276, 776; his shade. raised by Tiresias, declares that Oedipus is his murderer, ibid. *619; his shade seems to appear to the bland Oedipus in exile, Phoen, 39

LAOMEDON, king of Troy, father of Priam; deceived Apollo and Neptune, who built the walls of Troy, and again cheated Her-cules out of his promised reward for delivering Hesione; hence his house is called a

house," Agam. 864

LAPITHAE, tribe of Thessaly, associated in story with the Centaurs, and both with a struggle against Hereules in which they were worsted; in Hades still tear their great enemy when he appears,

H. Fur. 779 LATONA, beloved of Jupiter, to whom she bore Apollo and Diana, Agam. 324; the floating Island, Delos, the only spot allowed her by jealous Juno for

her travail, H. Fur. 15

LEDA, wife of Tyndareus, king of Sparta: was beloved by Jupiter in the torm of a swan, Oct. 205. 764; became by him mother of Castor and Pollux, H. Fur. 14; Oct. 208; mother of Clytemnestra by Tyndareus, Agam. 125, 23.4

LEMNOS, Island in the Aegean, where Vulcan fell and established his torges, H. Oct. 1962; ail the Lemnian women, except Hypsipyle, murdered their male

relatives, Agam. 566

LEO, zodiacal constellation of the Lion, representing the Nemean lion slain by Hercules, H. Far. 69, 945; Thy, 855; said to have fallen from the meon, where, according to the Pythagoreaus, all mon-ters had their origin, H. Fur, 83

LETHE, river of the lower world whose waters cause those who drink to forget the past, H. Oet. 936; H. Fur. 680; Hip. 1202; is used as equivalent to Styx or the lower world in general, ibid. 147; Oct. 560; H. Oct. 1162, 1208, 1550, 1985; Charon plies his boat over this river, $H. F. \tau$.

LIBRA, zodiacai constellation of the Scales, marking the autumnal

equinox, Hip. 839; Thu, 858 LICHAS, me senger of Hercules to Delanira, H. Ot., 99; bearer of the poisoned robe from Deignica. thrown over a cliff by Hercules. ib 7, 567, 570, 800, 814, 978. 1460

LIVIA, wife of Drusus; her fate, Oct. 942

LOVES, Epos (Capiel) and Arrepose twin sons of Venus, Hip. 275 LUCIFER, morning star, the herali

of the sun, Hip. 752; Oed. 507, $741: H. \ O(I, 14)$

LUCINA, geddess who presides over child-lirth, i.c. Diena or Luna, Agage, 385; Med. 2; or Juno,

ibid. 61

LUCRETIA, daughter of Lucretius, wife of Collations, avenged by a bloody war for the outrage committed upon her by Sextu-Tarquinius, Oct. 300

3.UNA, goddess of the moon, identified with Diana upon the earth, called also Phoebe as sister of Phoebus, Ocd. 44; reflects her brother's fres, idd. 253; passes his car in shorter course, Thy. 838; in love with Endymion, she seeks the earth, Hip. 309, 422, 785; gives her chariot to her brother to drive, bid. 310; saved by the clashing of vessels from the influence of magic, ibid. 790

LYCURGUS, king of Thrace; destroyed for his opposition to Bacchus, H. Fur. 903; Oed. 471
LYCUS (Hercules Furens), usurper in Theles while Hercules is absent in Hades; slew Creon and his sons, H. Fur. 270; boasts of his power and wealth, bibl. 392; desires union with Megara, wife of the absent Hercules, daughter of Creon, bibl. 345; proposes marriage to Megara, bibl. 320; scorned by her, bibl. 372; slain by Hercules, bibl. 895

LYNOEUS, one of the Argonauts, renowned for his keenness of

vision, Med. 232

M

MAEANDER, river of Phrygla, celebrated for its winding course, Phoen. 606; H. Fur. 684

MAENADS, female attendants and worshippers of Baechus, Oct. 436; mad under inspiration of Baechus, H. Oct. 243; unconsciousness of pain, Tro. 674; range over the mountains, Med. 383

MAGIC ARTS, as practised by Meden, Med. 670-842; by Tiresias, Oct. 548-625; by the nurse of Defanira, H. Oct. 452-64

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SILENUS, demigod, foster-father and constant attendant of Bacchus,

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SISYPHUS, son of Acolus, founder of ancient Corinth father of

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STROPHIUS (Agamemnon), see

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STYMPHALIAN BIRDS, monstrous creatures haunting a pool near town of Stymphalus in Arcadia; were killed by Hercules as his were after by Hercules as his sixth labour, H. Fur. 244; Med 783; Agam. 850; H. Oct. 17, 1237, 1890; type of winged speed,

Phoen. 422

STYX, river of Hades, H. Fur. 780; Ocd, 162, over which spirits pass into nether world, river of death; in Seneca, this conception is not confined to Styx, but is used of that river in common with Acheron, H. Fur. *713; Hip. 1180; Agam. 608; with Lethe, Hip. 148; H. Oct. 1161, 1550; with Phlegethon, Ayam. *750; by the Styx the gods swear their inviolable oaths, H. Fur. 713; Hip. 911; Thy. 666.

H. Oct. 1066; comes to mean death itself, H, Fur. 185, 558; most frequently the river signifies the lower world in general, the the lower world in general, the land of the dead; so are found Stygian "shades," "homes," "caverns," "ports," "gates," "borders," "torches," "fires," etc., H. Fur. 54, 90, 104, 1131; Tro. 430; Med. 632, 804; Hip. 477, 625, 928, 1151; Oed. 396, 401, 621; Agam. 493; Thy. 1007; H. Oet. 77, 560, 1014, 1145, 1198, 1203, 1711, 1766, 1870, 1919, 1983; Oet. 24, 79, 135, 162, 263, 504; Cerberus is the "Stygian dog" and "Stygian guardian," Agam. 13; Hip. 223; H. Oet. 79, 1245; the "deep embrace of Styx" is the jit which Andromache prays may which Andromache prays may open up beneath Hector's tomb and hide Astyanax, Tro. 520; the boat on which Agrippina was to meet her death is called the Stygian boat, Oct. 127 SYMPLEGADES (the "clashers"),

two rocks or crags at entrance of Euxino Sea, which clashed together when an object passed between them. II. Fur. 1210; II. Oct. 1273, 1380; escaped by the Argo, Med. 341, 456, 610

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TAENARUS, promontory on the southernmost point of Peloponnesus, near which was a cave. said to be entrance to the lower world, Tro. 402; H. Fur. 587, *663, 813; Ocd. 171; Hip. 1203; H. Oct. 1061, 1771

TAGUS, river of Spain, celebrated for its golden sands, H. Fur. 1325; Thy. 351; H. Oct. 626

TANTALUS (Thyestes) (1), king of Lydia, son of Jupiter and the nymph Pluto, father of Pelops and Niobe, H. Fur. 390; Oed. 613; Med. 954; Agam. 392; H. Oct. 198; because of his sin against the gods (see Prtors) was doomed to suffer in Hades endless pangs of hunger and thirst with fruit and water almost within reach of his lips, H, Fur.

*752; Hip. 1232; Agam. 19; Thy. 1011; Oct. 621; his sin and punishment, Thy. *137; H. Oct. 943; his ghost appears, describes his sufferings in Hades, and is incited by a fury to urge on his house to greater crimes, ibid. 1; Med. 745; type of outrageous sinner, Thy. 242; he forgets his thirst in his grief for disasters which threaten house, Agam. 769; forgets his thirst under influence of Orpheus' music, H. Oct. 1075

TANTALUS (Thyestes) (2), one of the sons of Thyestes, great-grandson of Tantalus (1), encourages his father to hope for reconciliation with his brother Atreus. Thu. 421; slain by Atreus, ibid.

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TARTARUS (also written TARTARA), strictly that portion of the lower world devoted to the punishment of the wicked, the abode of the Furies and of those like Tantalus, Ixion, etc., who are suffering torments, H. Fur. 85; Oed. 161; Med. 742; Oet. 965; usually, however, the lower world in general, whence gheats come back general, where grass of the mark to earth, Agam. 2; Oct. 593; to which Orpheus went in search of his wife, Med. 632; H. Oct. 1064; to which Hercules went to fetch Cerberus, H. Oct. 461; Hip. 841; where was the palace of Dis, ibid, 951; Agam. 751; where Cerberus stands guard, H. Fur. Cerberts stands guard, H. Far. 649; H. Oct. 1770; where are the "Tertarian pools." Hip. 1179; and so in general, H. Fur. 436, 740, 889, 1225; Oct. 839; Phoen. 144, 145; Thy. 1013, 1071; H. Oct. 1126, 1119, 1514, 1765, 1779; Oct. 223, 644

TAURUS, second zodiacal (onstellation, the Bull; the buil (Jupiter) which bore Europa from Piocnicia to Crete, H. Fer. 9, 952;

Thy, 852 TELEPHUS, king of Mysia, wounded by Achilles' quer, and afterwards cured by application of the rust scraped from its point, Tro. 215 Tennus, king of Thrace, whose feast upon his own son, Hys, is colled the "Thracian crime," Thu. 56. See PHILOMELA and PROCNE

Terhys, goddess of the sea, used frequently for the sea itself, in nequently for the sea asca, in which the sum sets and from which it rises, Hip. 571, 1161; H. Fur. 887, 1328; Tro. 879; Mel. 378; H. Oct. 1252, 1902
Thebes, capital city of Boeotia, Tro. 879, Tro. 879, Tro.

founded by Cadmus, H. Fur. 268; its walls built by magic of Amphion's lyre, ibid. 262; frequently visited by the gods, especially Jove, ibid. 265; plaguesmitten under Oedipus, Oed. *37; plague described, ibid. *125; a curse was on Thebes from the time of Cadmus, ibid. *709; conquered by Lycus, usurper, who slew Creon, father of Megara, H. Fur. 270; seene of the Hercules Furens, Oedipus, and

Phoenissae (in part) THESEUS (Hercules Furens, Hippolytus), king of Athens, son of Aegeus and Aethra, daughter of Pittheus, king of Troezene; reputed son of Neptune, who had granted him three wishes, Hip. 942, 943, 1252, the last of which he used against his son, Hippolytus. ibid. 945; went to Crete to slay the Minotaur; his beauty, ibid. *646, 1067; finds his way out of the labyrinth by aid of a thread given by Arladne, ibid. described her on Naxos, Oed. 488; was cause of his father's death, since he did not display the white sail on his return to Athens, *Hip.* 1165; married Antiope, the Amazon, who became the mother of Hippolytus, but afterwards slew her, ibid. 226, 927, 1167; married Phaedra, ibid. passim; went to Hades with his friend Picithous, to assist in carrying away Proscrpina, ibid, 91, 627; the two were appre-hended by Dis and set upon an enchanted rock which held them fast, H. Fur. 1339; Theseus resened by Hercules, ibid. 806; H. Oct. 1137, 1768; Hip. 843; returns from Hades, ibid. 829

THESPIADES, fifty daughters Thespius, loved by Hercules, II.

Oet. 269

littiffs, sea-goddess, daughter of Nereus; was given as wife to Peleus, Mod. 6.7; Oct. 707; became by him mether of Achilles, Tro. 349, 889; Journ. 616; to Loep her son from Trojan War hid him di guised in girl's garments at the court of Lybomedes. Tro. 213; this ruse discovered and exposed by Liysses, ibid. 500

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HRESIAS (Oction), prophet of Thebes, lether it Manto; attempts to discover the nauderer of Lains, O. J. 288; practises porom in'd, capina artis, hieroreopia, and later resomeintia, ibid, *307; Escovers by the last process that Oedipus himself slew Lanus, doid, *550 TISTRIONE, one of the Furies, who

seems to appear to Dein Jra, H. Ot. 1012; seems to appear to H wealer, H. Tree. 951.

TITANS, sons of Coclus and Terra, ore of whom was Hyperion, identified by Hamor with the Sun. Warred against one of their own numier. Satura, who had succeeded to his rather's throne. Frequently confound d with the tennits, who baseded together to dethrone dove; they put I un mountains in their attempt to scale Lerven, but were over-thrown by Jove's turn-brobt and buried under 81 cy, B. Fuc. 79, 967; Mr. J. 310; J. and 310; B. 101; J. J. 310; J. 310; J. 310; H, Oct. 144, 1212, 1500 in all other passages in Select 13 a means the sun, more or less completely personified as the

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THYUS, giant, son of Earth, who offered violence to Latona; for this he was punished in Hades, where a vulture kept feeding upon his ever-renewed vitals. проп. им. vverчененски 77. И. Fur. 756, 977; Н. Ост. 947; Игр. 1203; Дуат. 17; Тhy. 9, 800; Oct. 622; relieved for a while by music of Ornheus, H. Oct. 1070

TMOLUS, mountain in Lydia, haunt of Baechus, Phoen, 602

Toxevs, youth slain by Hercules, H. Oct. 214

TRIPTOLEMUS, son of the king of Eleusis, through whom Ceres gave the arts of agriculture to manki ol. Hip. 838

Pritons, sca-dedies; they song the marriage chorus of Achilles, Tro.

Thirty A. epithet of Diana, because she presided over places where three roads mot, Agam, 382; Oct. 978; applied by association to Lune, the heaverdy manifestation of Diana, Med. §787

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