Prometheus Bound

AESCHYLUS

c. 525–456 BC

Prometheus Bound

Προμηθεὺς Δεσμώτης

Translated from the Greek with AI (Claude) and edited

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Prometheus Bound · Aeschylus (c. 525–456 BC)

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INTRODUCTION

Prometheus, a Titan, stole fire from the gods and gave it to human beings. For that, Zeus, the new ruler of heaven, has him nailed to a rock at the edge of the world. The play opens with Power and Violence dragging him there and the god Hephaestus reluctantly driving in the bolts.

Prometheus barely moves for the rest of the play, but visitors come to him: the daughters of Ocean, who make up the chorus; their father Oceanus, with cautious advice; and Io, a girl Zeus desired, turned into a heifer and driven across the world by a gadfly. To them Prometheus tells how he gave humans every art and skill, and hints that he holds a secret that could topple Zeus himself.

Ancient tradition credits the play to Aeschylus (died 456 BC), though many modern scholars doubt it. It was probably part of a trilogy whose other plays are lost, and its defiant hero has fascinated readers from the Romantics to Marx.

Prometheus Bound

A desolate crag in Scythia, at the edge of the world.

PROLOGUE

Power and Hephaestus nail Prometheus to a Scythian crag for giving fire to mortals; alone, he cries out.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1	**POWER** Χθονὸς μὲν ἐς τηλουρὸν ἥκομεν πέδον, Σκύθην ἐς οἶμον, ἄβατον εἰς ἐρημίαν. Ἥφαιστε, σοὶ δὲ χρὴ μέλειν ἐπιστολὰς ἅς σοι πατὴρ ἐφεῖτο, τόνδε πρὸς πέτραις ὑψηλοκρήμνοις τὸν λεωργὸν ὀχμάσαι ἀδαμαντίνων δεσμῶν ἐν ἀρρήκτοις πέδαις. τὸ σὸν γὰρ ἄνθος, παντέχνου πυρὸς σέλας, θνητοῖσι κλέψας ὤπασεν. τοιᾶσδέ τοι ἁμαρτίας σφε δεῖ θεοῖς δοῦναι δίκην, ὡς ἂν διδαχθῇ τὴν Διὸς τυραννίδα στέργειν, φιλανθρώπου δὲ παύεσθαι τρόπου.	**POWER** We've come to the far edge of the earth, to the Scythian tract, an untrodden wilderness. Hephaestus, it's you who must see to the orders the Father laid on you: to clamp this criminal to the high-cliffed rocks in unbreakable fetters of adamant chain. It was your own flower, the gleam of fire that serves every craft, that he stole and gave to mortals. For a wrong like that he has to pay the penalty to the gods, so that he learns to accept the tyranny of Zeus and gives up his love of humankind.[1]
12	**HEPHAESTUS** Κράτος Βία τε, σφῷν μὲν ἐντολὴ Διὸς ἔχει τέλος δὴ κοὐδὲν ἐμποδὼν ἔτι· ἐγὼ δ' ἄτολμός εἰμι συγγενῆ θεὸν δῆσαι βίᾳ φάραγγι πρὸς δυσχειμέρῳ. πάντως δ' ἀνάγκη τῶνδέ μοι τόλμαν σχεθεῖν· ἐξωριάζειν γὰρ πατρὸς λόγους βαρύ.	**HEPHAESTUS** Power and Violence, as far as you two are concerned, Zeus's command is carried out, and nothing stands in your way anymore. But I haven't the heart to bind a god, my own kin, by force to this storm-beaten ravine. Still, I have no choice but to find the nerve for it. It's a heavy thing to slight the Father's word.
18	τῆς ὀρθοβούλου Θέμιδος αἰπυμῆτα παῖ, ἄκοντά σ' ἄκων δυσλύτοις χαλκεύμασι προσπασσαλεύσω τῷδ' ἀπανθρώπῳ πάγῳ ἵν' οὔτε φωνὴν οὔτε του μορφὴν βροτῶν ὄψει, σταθευτὸς δ' ἡλίου φοίβῃ φλογὶ χροιᾶς ἀμείψεις ἄνθος. ἀσμένῳ δέ σοι ἡ ποικιλείμων νὺξ ἀποκρύψει φάος, πάχνην θ' ἑῴαν ἥλιος σκεδᾷ πάλιν· ἀεὶ δὲ τοῦ παρόντος ἀχθηδὼν κακοῦ τρύσει σ'· ὁ λωφήσων γὰρ οὐ πέφυκέ πω.	Son of Themis, whose counsel is straight, lofty-minded son: against your will, and against mine, I'll rivet you with bronze bonds that are hard to undo to this crag far from humankind. Here you'll make out neither the voice nor the shape of any mortal. Roasted by the sun's bright flame, you'll see the bloom of your skin change. You'll be glad when night in her spangled robe hides the daylight, and glad when the sun scatters the morning frost again. And always the weight of the pain at hand will wear you down, for the one who will relieve it hasn't yet been born.
28	τοιαῦτ' ἐπηύρω τοῦ φιλανθρώπου τρόπου. θεὸς θεῶν γὰρ οὐχ ὑποπτήσσων χόλον βροτοῖσι τιμὰς ὤπασας πέρα δίκης. ἀνθ' ὧν ἀτερπῆ τήνδε φρουρήσεις πέτραν	This is what you've earned with your love of humankind. A god yourself, you didn't cower before the anger of the gods, and you gave mortals honors beyond what was just. For that you'll keep

1 For the Greeks, Scythia was the vast country north of the Black Sea, the edge of the known world.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	ὀρθοστάδην, ἄυπνος, οὐ κάμπτων γόνυ· πολλοὺς δ' ὀδυρμοὺς καὶ γόους ἀνωφελεῖς φθέγξῃ· Διὸς γὰρ δυσπαραίτητοι φρένες. ἅπας δὲ τραχὺς ὅστις ἂν νέον κρατῇ.	watch on this joyless rock, standing upright, sleepless, never bending your knee. You'll utter many laments and groans, and all of them useless, for the heart of Zeus is hard to move by pleading. Everyone is harsh whose rule is new.
36	**POWER** εἶεν, τί μέλλεις καὶ κατοικτίζῃ μάτην; τί τὸν θεοῖς ἔχθιστον οὐ στυγεῖς θεόν, ὅστις τὸ σὸν θνητοῖσι προὔδωκεν γέρας;	**POWER** Well? Why are you dawdling and wasting your pity? Why don't you hate the god the gods hate most, the one who betrayed your own prerogative to mortals?
39	**HEPHAESTUS** τὸ συγγενές τοι δεινὸν ἥ θ' ὁμιλία.	**HEPHAESTUS** Kinship has a strange power, and so does long companionship.
40	**POWER** σύμφημ'· ἀνηκουστεῖν δὲ τῶν πατρὸς λόγων / οἷόν τε πῶς; οὐ τοῦτο δειμαίνεις πλέον;	**POWER** I agree. But to disobey the Father's words —how can you? Isn't that what you fear more?
42	**HEPHAESTUS** αἰεί γε δὴ νηλὴς σὺ καὶ θράσους πλέως.	**HEPHAESTUS** You never change, do you? Always pitiless and full of brazen nerve.
43	**POWER** ἄκος γὰρ οὐδὲν τόνδε θρηνεῖσθαι. σὺ δὲ / τὰ μηδὲν ὠφελοῦντα μὴ πόνει μάτην.	**POWER** Because lamenting him cures nothing. Don't waste your effort on what does no good.
45	**HEPHAESTUS** ὦ πολλὰ μισηθεῖσα χειρωναξία.	**HEPHAESTUS** Oh, this craft of my hands—how I hate it!
46	**POWER** τί νιν στυγεῖς; πόνων γὰρ ὡς ἁπλῷ λόγῳ / τῶν νῦν παρόντων οὐδὲν αἰτία τέχνη.	**POWER** Why hate it? To put it simply, your craft is in no way to blame for the troubles we have here.
48	**HEPHAESTUS** ἔμπας τις αὐτὴν ἄλλος ὤφελεν λαχεῖν.	**HEPHAESTUS** All the same, I wish it had fallen to someone else.
49	**POWER** ἅπαντ' ἐπαχθῆ πλὴν θεοῖσι κοιρανεῖν· / ἐλεύθερος γὰρ οὔτις ἐστὶ πλὴν Διός.	**POWER** Everything is a burden except ruling the gods. No one is free except Zeus.
51	**HEPHAESTUS** ἔγνωκα τοῖσδε κοὐδὲν ἀντειπεῖν ἔχω.	**HEPHAESTUS** I can see it in all this, and I have no answer.
52	**POWER** οὔκουν ἐπείξῃ τῷδε δεσμὰ περιβαλεῖν, / ὡς μή σ' ἐλινύοντα προσδερχθῇ πατήρ;	**POWER** Then hurry up and throw the chains on him, or the Father may see you idling.
54	**HEPHAESTUS** καὶ δὴ πρόχειρα ψάλια δέρκεσθαι πάρα.	**HEPHAESTUS** Look, the shackles are right here, ready to hand.
55	**POWER** βαλών νιν ἀμφὶ χερσὶν ἐγκρατεῖ σθένει / ῥαιστῆρι θεῖνε, πασσάλευε πρὸς πέτραις.	**POWER** Get them around his hands, then strike with your hammer, with all the strength you have. Nail him to the rocks.
57	**HEPHAESTUS** περαίνεται δὴ κοὐ ματᾷ τοὔργον τόδε.	**HEPHAESTUS** It's getting done, and the work isn't wasted.
58	**POWER** ἄρασσε μᾶλλον, σφίγγε, μηδαμῇ χάλα. / δεινὸς γὰρ εὑρεῖν κἀξ ἀμηχάνων πόρον.	**POWER** Strike harder, tighten it, leave no slack anywhere. He's terribly clever at finding a way out even where there is none.
60		

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	HEPHAESTUS ἄραρεν ἥδε γ' ὠλένη δυσεκλύτως.	**HEPHAESTUS** This arm, at any rate, is fixed fast. No getting it loose.
61	**POWER** καὶ τήνδε νῦν πόρπασον ἀσφαλῶς, ἵνα / μάθῃ σοφιστὴς ὢν Διὸς νωθέστερος.	**POWER** Now buckle this one securely too, so he learns that, clever one though he is, he's slower-witted than Zeus.
63	**HEPHAESTUS** πλὴν τοῦδ' ἂν οὐδεὶς ἐνδίκως μέμψαιτό μοι.	**HEPHAESTUS** No one could justly fault me, except him.
64	**POWER** ἀδαμαντίνου νῦν σφηνὸς αὐθάδη γνάθον / στέρνων διαμπὰξ πασσάλευ' ἐρρωμένως.	**POWER** Now drive the stubborn jaw of an adamant wedge clean through his chest. Put your strength into it.
66	**HEPHAESTUS** αἰαῖ, Προμηθεῦ, σῶν ὑπερστένω πόνων.	**HEPHAESTUS** Oh, Prometheus, I groan over your sufferings.
67	**POWER** σὺ δ' αὖ κατοκνεῖς τῶν Διός τ' ἐχθρῶν ὕπερ / στένεις; ὅπως μὴ σαυτὸν οἰκτιεῖς ποτε.	**POWER** Hanging back again? Groaning for the enemies of Zeus? Watch out you don't end up pitying yourself one day.
69	**HEPHAESTUS** ὁρᾷς θέαμα δυσθέατον ὄμμασιν.	**HEPHAESTUS** You see a sight that's hard for eyes to look on.
70	**POWER** ὁρῶ κυροῦντα τόνδε τῶν ἐπαξίων. / ἀλλ' ἀμφὶ πλευραῖς μασχαλιστῆρας βάλε.	**POWER** I see him getting what he deserves. Now throw the girth-straps around his sides.
72	**HEPHAESTUS** δρᾶν ταῦτ' ἀνάγκη, μηδὲν ἐγκέλευ' ἄγαν.	**HEPHAESTUS** I have to do it. Don't keep ordering me about so much.
73	**POWER** ἦ μὴν κελεύσω κἀπιθωύξω γε πρός. / χώρει κάτω, σκέλη δὲ κίρκωσον βίᾳ.	**POWER** Oh, I'll order you, all right, and shout at you as well. Get down there and ring his legs with force.
75	**HEPHAESTUS** καὶ δὴ πέπρακται τοὔργον οὐ μακρῷ πόνῳ.	**HEPHAESTUS** There, the work is done, and it didn't take long.
76	**POWER** ἐρρωμένως νῦν θεῖνε διατόρους πέδας· / ὡς οὐπιτιμητής γε τῶν ἔργων βαρύς.	**POWER** Now hammer the piercing fetters in hard. The one who'll inspect this work is a severe judge.
78	**HEPHAESTUS** ὅμοια μορφῇ γλῶσσά σου γηρύεται.	**HEPHAESTUS** Your tongue talks just the way you look.
79	**POWER** σὺ μαλθακίζου, τὴν δ' ἐμὴν αὐθαδίαν / ὀργῆς τε τραχύτητα μὴ 'πίπλησσέ μοι.	**POWER** You be soft if you like, but don't throw my stubbornness and my rough temper in my face.
81	**HEPHAESTUS** στείχωμεν, ὡς κώλοισιν ἀμφίβληστρ' ἔχει.	**HEPHAESTUS** Let's go. He has the net around his limbs.
82	**POWER** ἐνταῦθα νῦν ὕβριζε καὶ θεῶν γέρα συλῶν ἐφημέροισι προστίθει. τί σοι οἷοί τε θνητοὶ τῶνδ' ἀπαντλῆσαι πόνων; ψευδωνύμως σε δαίμονες Προμηθέα καλοῦσιν· αὐτὸν γάρ σε δεῖ προμηθέως, ὅτῳ τρόπῳ τῆσδ' ἐκκυλισθήσῃ τέχνης.	**POWER** Now go on, be insolent here. Steal the privileges of the gods and hand them to creatures of a day. What can mortals do to bail you out of these troubles? The gods call you Prometheus, "Forethought," but it's a false name. What you need is someone with forethought yourself, to

	GREEK	ENGLISH
		work out how you'll wriggle free of this handiwork.[2]
88	**PROMETHEUS** ὦ δῖος αἰθὴρ καὶ ταχύπτεροι πνοαί, ποταμῶν τε πηγαί, ποντίων τε κυμάτων ἀνήριθμον γέλασμα, παμμῆτόρ τε γῆ, καὶ τὸν πανόπτην κύκλον ἡλίου καλῶ. ἴδεσθέ μ' οἷα πρὸς θεῶν πάσχω θεός. δέρχθηθ' οἵαις αἰκείαισιν διακναιόμενος τὸν μυριετῆ	**PROMETHEUS** Divine sky, and you swift-winged winds, and you springs of rivers, and the countless laughter of the sea's waves, and Earth, mother of all—and you, the all-seeing circle of the sun, I call on you: look at what I, a god, suffer at the hands of gods. See the torments that will grind me down as I struggle through ten thousand
95	χρόνον ἀθλεύσω. τοιόνδ' ὁ νέος ταγὸς μακάρων ἐξηῦρ' ἐπ' ἐμοὶ δεσμὸν ἀεικῆ. φεῦ φεῦ, τὸ παρὸν τό τ' ἐπερχόμενον πῆμα στενάχω, πῇ ποτε μόχθων χρὴ τέρματα τῶνδ' ἐπιτεῖλαι.	years of time. Such is the shameful bondage the new ruler of the blessed ones has devised for me. Ah, ah, I groan for the pain that's here and the pain to come. Where must the end of these toils ever rise like a star?
101	καίτοι τί φημι; πάντα προυξεπίσταμαι σκεθρῶς τὰ μέλλοντ', οὐδέ μοι ποταίνιον πῆμ' οὐδὲν ἥξει. τὴν πεπρωμένην δὲ χρὴ αἶσαν φέρειν ὡς ῥᾷστα, γιγνώσκονθ' ὅτι τὸ τῆς ἀνάγκης ἔστ' ἀδήριτον σθένος. ἀλλ' οὔτε σιγᾶν οὔτε μὴ σιγᾶν τύχας οἷόν τέ μοι τάσδ' ἐστί. θνητοῖς γὰρ γέρα πορὼν ἀνάγκαις ταῖσδ' ἐνέζευγμαι τάλας. ναρθηκοπλήρωτον δὲ θηρῶμαι πυρὸς πηγὴν κλοπαίαν, ἣ διδάσκαλος τέχνης πάσης βροτοῖς πέφηνε καὶ μέγας πόρος. τοιῶνδε ποινὰς ἁμπλακημάτων τίνω ὑπαιθρίοις δεσμοῖς πεπασσαλευμένος.	And yet what am I saying? I know everything that's to come, exactly, beforehand; no suffering will come to me unforeseen. I must bear my allotted fate as lightly as I can, knowing that the strength of Necessity is not to be fought. And yet I can't keep silent about what has happened to me, and I can't speak of it either. Because I gave mortals privileges, I'm yoked, poor wretch, to these hard necessities. I hunted out the source of fire and stole it, packed in a fennel stalk, and it has shown itself to mortals as the teacher of every art and a great resource. That is the wrong I'm paying the penalty for, nailed in chains under the open sky.[3]
114	ἆ ἆ ἔα ἔα. τίς ἀχώ, τίς ὀδμὰ προσέπτα μ' ἀφεγγής, θεόσυτος, ἢ βρότειος, ἢ κεκραμένη; ἵκετο τερμόνιον ἐπὶ πάγον πόνων ἐμῶν θεωρός, ἢ τί δὴ θέλων; ὁρᾶτε δεσμώτην με δύσποτμον θεόν τὸν Διὸς ἐχθρόν, τὸν πᾶσι θεοῖς	Ah, ah! What's this? What sound, what scent has flown to me, unseen— sent by a god, or mortal, or a mixture of both? Has someone come to this crag at the world's end to gaze at my sufferings? Or what can he want? Look at me, a god in chains, ill-fated, the enemy of Zeus, at odds with all the gods
121	δι' ἀπεχθείας ἐλθόνθ' ὁπόσοι τὴν Διὸς αὐλὴν εἰσοιχνεῦσιν, διὰ τὴν λίαν φιλότητα βροτῶν. φεῦ φεῦ, τί ποτ' αὖ κινάθισμα κλύω	who come and go in Zeus's court, for loving mortals too well. Ah, ah, what is this rustling I hear of birds close by? The air

2 The Greeks heard in Prometheus' name the word for "forethought" (promētheia); Power mocks the name.
3 The dry pith of the giant fennel (narthex) will carry fire smoldering inside it.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	πέλας οἰωνῶν; αἰθὴρ δ' ἐλαφραῖς πτερύγων ῥιπαῖς ὑποσυρίζει. πᾶν μοι φοβερὸν τὸ προσέρπον.	whispers with the light beat of wings. Everything that comes near me makes me afraid.

PARODOS

The daughters of Ocean arrive on the wind and grieve with Prometheus over Zeus's harsh new rule.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
128	**CHORUS** μηδὲν φοβηθῇς· φιλία γὰρ ἅδε τάξις πτερύγων θοαῖς ἁμίλλαις προσέβα τόνδε πάγον, πατρῴας μόγις παρειποῦσα φρένας. κραιπνοφόροι δέ μ' ἔπεμψαν αὖραι· κτύπου γὰρ ἀχὼ χάλυβος διῆξεν ἄντρων μυχόν, ἐκ δ' ἔπληξέ μου τὰν θεμερῶπιν αἰδῶ· σύθην δ' ἀπέδιλος ὄχῳ πτερωτῷ.	**CHORUS** Don't be afraid. This flight of wings that has raced to this crag in swift rivalry comes as a friend; I barely won my father's heart over. The swift-carrying breezes brought me here, for the echo of clanging iron pierced the depths of our caves and struck the shy modesty from my eyes; I rushed off without sandals in a winged car.
136	**PROMETHEUS** αἰαῖ αἰαῖ, τῆς πολυτέκνου Τηθύος ἔκγονα, τοῦ περὶ πᾶσάν θ' εἱλισσομένου χθόν' ἀκοιμήτῳ ῥεύματι παῖδες πατρὸς, Ὠκεανοῦ, δέρχθητ', ἐσίδεσθ' οἵῳ δεσμῷ, προσπορπατὸς τῆσδε φάραγγος σκοπέλοις ἐν ἄκροις φρουρὰν ἄζηλον ὀχήσω.	**PROMETHEUS** Ah, ah, children of Tethys, mother of many, daughters of your father Ocean, who circles the whole earth with his never-sleeping stream: look, see with what chains I'm pinned to the topmost crags of this ravine, to keep a watch no one would envy.
144	**CHORUS** λεύσσω, Προμηθεῦ· φοβερὰ δ' ἐμοῖσιν ὄσσοις ὀμίχλα προσῆξε πλήρης δακρύων σὸν δέμας εἰσιδούσᾳ πέτραις προσαυαινόμενον ταῖσδ' ἀδαμαντοδέτοισι λύμαις. νέοι γὰρ οἰακονόμοι κρατοῦσ', Ὀλύμπου· νεοχμοῖς δὲ δὴ νόμοις Ζεὺς ἀθέτως κρατύνει. τὰ πρὶν δὲ πελώρια νῦν ἀιστοῖ.	**CHORUS** I see, Prometheus. And a mist of fear, full of tears, came rushing over my eyes when I saw your body withering against these rocks in this outrage of adamant chains. For new helmsmen steer Olympus now; Zeus rules lawlessly with laws of his own making, and the mighty ones of old he now blots out.
152	**PROMETHEUS** εἰ γάρ μ' ὑπὸ γῆν νέρθεν θ' Ἅιδου τοῦ νεκροδέγμονος εἰς ἀπέρατον Τάρταρον ἦκεν, δεσμοῖς ἀλύτοις ἀγρίως πελάσας, ὡς μήτε θεὸς μήτε τις ἄλλος τοῖσδ' ἐπεγήθει. νῦν δ' αἰθέριον κίνυγμ' ὁ τάλας ἐχθροῖς ἐπίχαρτα πέπονθα.	**PROMETHEUS** If only he had sent me under the earth, beneath Hades, receiver of the dead, into Tartarus, which has no way through, binding me savagely in chains that can't be undone, so that no god, nor anyone else, could gloat over this! As it is, poor wretch, I'm a plaything of the winds, and what I suffer makes my enemies glad.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
160	**CHORUS** τίς ὧδε τλησικάρδιος θεῶν, ὅτῳ τάδ' ἐπιχαρῆ; τίς οὐ ξυνασχαλᾷ κακοῖς τεοῖσι, δίχα γε Διός; ὁ δ' ἐπικότως ἀεὶ θέμενος ἄγναμπτον νόον δάμναται Οὐρανίαν γένναν, οὐδὲ λήξει, πρὶν ἂν ἢ κορέσῃ κέαρ ἢ παλάμᾳ τινὶ τὰν δυσάλωτον ἕλῃ τις ἀρχάν.	**CHORUS** Which of the gods is so hard of heart that this delights him? Who doesn't share your anguish at your troubles—except Zeus? He, always in anger, has set his mind unbending and crushes the brood of Uranus, and he won't stop until he has sated his heart, or until someone, by some trick of the hand, seizes the rule that is so hard to seize.
168	**PROMETHEUS** ἦ μὴν ἔτ' ἐμοῦ, καίπερ κρατεραῖς ἐν γυιοπέδαις αἰκιζομένου, χρείαν ἕξει μακάρων πρύτανις, δεῖξαι τὸ νέον βούλευμ' ὑφ' ὅτου σκῆπτρον τιμάς τ' ἀποσυλᾶται. καί μ' οὔτι μελιγλώσσοις πειθοῦς ἐπαοιδαῖσιν θέλξει, στερεάς τ' οὔποτ' ἀπειλὰς πτήξας τόδ' ἐγὼ καταμηνύσω, πρὶν ἂν ἐξ ἀγρίων δεσμῶν χαλάσῃ ποινάς τε τίνειν τῆσδ' αἰκείας ἐθελήσῃ.	**PROMETHEUS** And yet, I swear, though I'm tortured in these strong fetters on my limbs, the lord who presides over the blessed will need me still to reveal the new plan that will strip him of his scepter and his honors. He won't charm me with the honey-tongued spells of persuasion, and I'll never cower at his harsh threats and disclose it, until he frees me from these savage bonds and is willing to pay the penalty for this outrage.
180	**CHORUS** σὺ μὲν θρασύς τε καὶ πικραῖς δύαισιν οὐδὲν ἐπιχαλᾷς, ἄγαν δ' ἐλευθεροστομεῖς. ἐμὰς δὲ φρένας ἐρέθισε διάτορος φόβος· δέδια δ' ἀμφὶ σαῖς τύχαις, πᾷ ποτε τῶνδε πόνων χρή σε τέρμα κέλ- σαντ' ἐσιδεῖν· ἀκίχητα γὰρ ἤθεα καὶ κέαρ ἀπαράμυθον ἔχει Κρόνου παῖς.	**CHORUS** You are bold, and you don't give way at all to your bitter pains; you speak too freely. But a piercing fear has stirred my heart. I'm afraid for your fortunes: where will you ever have to put into harbor and see the end of these toils? For the son of Cronus has a temper no one can reach and a heart no pleading will move.
189	**PROMETHEUS** οἶδ' ὅτι τραχὺς καὶ παρ' ἑαυτῷ τὸ δίκαιον ἔχων Ζεύς. ἀλλ' ἔμπας μαλακογνώμων ἔσται ποθ', ὅταν ταύτῃ ῥαισθῇ· τὴν δ' ἀτέραμνον στορέσας ὀργὴν εἰς ἀρθμὸν ἐμοὶ καὶ φιλότητα σπεύδων σπεύδοντί ποθ' ἥξει.	**PROMETHEUS** I know he is harsh, Zeus, and keeps justice in his own hands. But all the same, one day his mind will soften, when he is broken in the way I've said. He will calm his unrelenting anger and come one day, eager to my eagerness, to a bond of friendship with me.

FIRST EPISODE

Prometheus tells how he helped Zeus to power and saved mortals; Oceanus comes to urge submission.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
196	**CHORUS** πάντ' ἐκκάλυψον καὶ γέγων' ἡμῖν λόγον, ποίῳ λαβών σε Ζεὺς ἐπ' αἰτιάματι, οὕτως ἀτίμως καὶ πικρῶς αἰκίζεται· δίδαξον ἡμᾶς, εἴ τι μὴ βλάπτει λόγῳ.	**CHORUS** Reveal everything and tell us the whole story: on what charge did Zeus seize you, to torment you so shamefully and so bitterly? Tell us, unless it does you some harm to speak of it.
200	**PROMETHEUS** ἀλγεινὰ μέν μοι καὶ λέγειν ἐστὶν τάδε, ἄλγος δὲ σιγᾶν, πανταχῇ δὲ δύσποτμα. ἐπεὶ τάχιστ' ἤρξαντο δαίμονες χόλου στάσις τ' ἐν ἀλλήλοισιν ὠροθύνετο, οἱ μὲν θέλοντες ἐκβαλεῖν ἕδρας Κρόνον, ὡς Ζεὺς ἀνάσσοι δῆθεν, οἱ δὲ τοὔμπαλιν σπεύδοντες, ὡς Ζεὺς μήποτ' ἄρξειεν θεῶν, ἐνταῦθ' ἐγὼ τὰ λῷστα βουλεύων πιθεῖν Τιτᾶνας, Οὐρανοῦ τε καὶ Χθονὸς τέκνα, οὐκ ἠδυνήθην. αἱμύλας δὲ μηχανὰς ἀτιμάσαντες καρτεροῖς φρονήμασιν ᾤοντ' ἀμοχθεὶ πρὸς βίαν τε δεσπόσειν· ἐμοὶ δὲ μήτηρ οὐχ ἅπαξ μόνον Θέμις, καὶ Γαῖα, πολλῶν ὀνομάτων μορφὴ μία, τὸ μέλλον ᾗ κραίνοιτο προυτεθεσπίκει, ὡς οὐ κατ' ἰσχὺν οὐδὲ πρὸς τὸ καρτερόν χρείη, δόλῳ δὲ τοὺς ὑπερσχόντας κρατεῖν.	**PROMETHEUS** It's painful even to speak of this, but it's painful to keep silent too; either way it's misery. As soon as the gods began their quarrel and strife was stirred up among them—some wanting to throw Cronus from his throne so that Zeus, if you please, could be king, others striving the opposite way, so that Zeus should never rule the gods—at that point I gave the Titans, the children of Uranus and Earth, the best advice, but I couldn't persuade them. They scorned crafty schemes in their stubborn pride and thought they would make themselves masters easily, by force. But my mother Themis—and not just once—and Earth, one form with many names, had foretold to me how the future would come about: that those who would prevail must win not by strength or by might, but by guile.
216	τοιαῦτ' ἐμοῦ λόγοισιν ἐξηγουμένου οὐκ ἠξίωσαν οὐδὲ προσβλέψαι τὸ πᾶν. κράτιστα δή μοι τῶν παρεστώτων τότε ἐφαίνετ' εἶναι προσλαβόντα μητέρα ἑκόνθ' ἑκόντι Ζηνὶ συμπαραστατεῖν. ἐμαῖς δὲ βουλαῖς Ταρτάρου μελαμβαθὴς κευθμὼν καλύπτει τὸν παλαιγενῆ Κρόνον αὐτοῖσι συμμάχοισι. τοιάδ' ἐξ ἐμοῦ ὁ τῶν θεῶν τύραννος ὠφελημένος κακαῖσι ποιναῖς ταῖσδὲ μ' ἐξημείψατο. ἔνεστι γάρ πως τοῦτο τῇ τυραννίδι νόσημα, τοῖς φίλοισι μὴ πεποιθέναι.	When I explained all this to them, they didn't think it worth a single glance. So the best course open to me then seemed to be to take my mother with me and stand at the side of Zeus, a willing ally to a willing friend. It's by my counsels that the black depths of Tartarus now hide ancient Cronus, allies and all. That's the help the tyrant of the gods had from me, and these vile punishments are how he's repaid me. There's a disease, somehow, built into tyranny: not trusting one's friends.
228	ὃ δ' οὖν ἐρωτᾶτ', αἰτίαν καθ' ἥντινα / αἰκίζεταί με, τοῦτο δὴ σαφηνιῶ.	As for what you're asking, the charge on which he torments me, I'll make that clear now.
230	ὅπως τάχιστα τὸν πατρῷον ἐς θρόνον καθέζετ', εὐθὺς δαίμοσιν νέμει γέρα ἄλλοισιν ἄλλα καὶ διεστοιχίζετο ἀρχήν· βροτῶν δὲ τῶν ταλαιπώρων λόγον οὐκ ἔσχεν οὐδέν', ἀλλ' ἀιστώσας γένος τὸ πᾶν ἔχρῃζεν ἄλλο φιτῦσαι νέον. καὶ τοῖσιν οὐδεὶς ἀντέβαινε πλὴν ἐμοῦ. ἐγὼ δ' ἐτόλμησ'· ἐξελυσάμην βροτοὺς τὸ μὴ διαρραισθέντας εἰς Ἅιδου μολεῖν.	As soon as he sat on his father's throne, he straight away assigned privileges to the gods, different ones to each, and ordered his realm rank by rank. But of wretched mortals he took no account at all. He wanted to wipe out their whole race and breed another, a new one. And no one stood against this except me. I dared it. I rescued mortals from being smashed to pieces and going down to Hades.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	τῷ τοι τοιαῖσδε πημοναῖσι κάμπτομαι, πάσχειν μὲν ἀλγειναῖσιν, οἰκτραῖσιν δ' ἰδεῖν· θνητοὺς δ' ἐν οἴκτῳ προθέμενος, τούτου τυχεῖν οὐκ ἠξιώθην αὐτός, ἀλλὰ νηλεῶς ὧδ' ἐρρύθμισμαι, Ζηνὶ δυσκλεὴς θέα.	That's why I'm bent under torments like these, painful to suffer and pitiful to see. I gave mortals first place in my pity, yet I wasn't thought worth pity myself; instead I've been ruthlessly disciplined like this, a sight that does Zeus no credit.
244	**CHORUS** σιδηρόφρων τε κἀκ πέτρας εἰργασμένος ὅστις, Προμηθεῦ, σοῖσιν οὐ συνασχαλᾷ μόχθοις· ἐγὼ γὰρ οὔτ' ἂν εἰσιδεῖν τάδε ἔχρῃζον εἰσιδοῦσά τ' ἠλγύνθην κέαρ.	**CHORUS** Anyone who doesn't share your distress at your sufferings, Prometheus, has a heart of iron and is carved out of rock. I wouldn't have wished to see this, and now that I have seen it, my heart aches.
248	**PROMETHEUS** καὶ μὴν φίλοις γ' ἐλεινὸς εἰσορᾶν ἐγώ.	**PROMETHEUS** Yes, to friends I'm a pitiful sight.
249	**CHORUS** μή πού τι προύβης τῶνδε καὶ περαιτέρω;	**CHORUS** You didn't by any chance go even further than this?
250	**PROMETHEUS** θνητούς γ' ἔπαυσα μὴ προδέρκεσθαι μόρον.	**PROMETHEUS** I stopped mortals from foreseeing their doom.
251	**CHORUS** τὸ ποῖον εὑρὼν τῆσδε φάρμακον νόσου;	**CHORUS** What cure did you find for that sickness?
252	**PROMETHEUS** τυφλὰς ἐν αὐτοῖς ἐλπίδας κατῴκισα.	**PROMETHEUS** I settled blind hopes in them.
253	**CHORUS** μέγ' ὠφέλημα τοῦτ' ἐδωρήσω βροτοῖς.	**CHORUS** That was a great blessing you gave mortals.
254	**PROMETHEUS** πρὸς τοῖσδε μέντοι πῦρ ἐγώ σφιν ὤπασα.	**PROMETHEUS** And besides that, I gave them fire.
255	**CHORUS** καὶ νῦν φλογωπὸν πῦρ ἔχουσ' ἐφήμεροι;	**CHORUS** And now creatures of a day have blazing fire?
256	**PROMETHEUS** ἀφ' οὗ γε πολλὰς ἐκμαθήσονται τέχνας.	**PROMETHEUS** Yes, and from it they'll learn many arts.
257	**CHORUS** τοιοῖσδε δή σε Ζεὺς ἐπ' αἰτιάμασιν—	**CHORUS** So it's on charges like these that Zeus—
258	**PROMETHEUS** αἰκίζεταί τε κοὐδαμῇ χαλᾷ κακῶν.	**PROMETHEUS** —torments me, and never lets up on my pain at all.
259	**CHORUS** οὐδ' ἔστιν ἄθλου τέρμα σοι προκείμενον;	**CHORUS** And is there no end to your ordeal set before you?
260	**PROMETHEUS** οὐκ ἄλλο γ' οὐδέν, πλὴν ὅταν κείνῳ δοκῇ.	**PROMETHEUS** None at all, except when he decides.
261	**CHORUS** δόξει δὲ πῶς; τίς ἐλπίς; οὐχ ὁρᾷς ὅτι ἥμαρτες; ὡς δ' ἥμαρτες οὔτ' ἐμοὶ λέγειν καθ' ἡδονὴν σοί τ' ἄλγος. ἀλλὰ ταῦτα μὲν μεθῶμεν, ἄθλου δ' ἔκλυσιν ζήτει τινά.	**CHORUS** And how will he decide that? What hope is there? Don't you see that you went wrong? How you went wrong is no pleasure for me to say, and painful for you to hear. But let's leave that. Look for some way out of your ordeal.
265	**PROMETHEUS** ἐλαφρὸν ὅστις πημάτων ἔξω πόδα ἔχει παραινεῖν νουθετεῖν τε τὸν κακῶς	**PROMETHEUS** It's easy for anyone who keeps his foot clear of trouble to advise and lecture someone

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	πράσσοντ'· ἐγὼ δὲ ταῦθ' ἅπαντ' ἠπιστάμην. ἑκὼν ἑκὼν ἥμαρτον, οὐκ ἀρνήσομαι· θνητοῖς ἀρήγων αὐτὸς ηὑρόμην πόνους. οὐ μήν τι ποιναῖς γ' ᾠόμην τοίαισί με κατισχνανεῖσθαι πρὸς πέτραις πεδαρσίοις, τυχόντ' ἐρήμου τοῦδ' ἀγείτονος πάγου. καί μοι τὰ μὲν παρόντα μὴ δύρεσθ' ἄχη, πέδοι δὲ βᾶσαι τὰς προσερπούσας τύχας ἀκούσαθ', ὡς μάθητε διὰ τέλους τὸ πᾶν. πίθεσθέ μοι πίθεσθε, συμπονήσατε τῷ νῦν μογοῦντι. ταὐτά τοι πλανωμένη πρὸς ἄλλοτ' ἄλλον πημονὴ προσιζάνει.	who's faring badly. I knew all this. Willingly, willingly I went wrong; I won't deny it. By helping mortals I found suffering for myself. Not that I thought I'd be withered away by punishments like these, on rocks high in the air, given this desolate crag with no neighbors. Now, don't lament the pains I have at present. Come down to the ground and hear what fortunes are creeping toward me, so you learn the whole story to the end. Do as I ask, do as I ask: share the pain of the one who's suffering now. Misery wanders, you know, and perches now on one, now on another, just the same.
279	**CHORUS** οὐκ ἀκούσαις ἐπεθώυξας τοῦτο, Προμηθεῦ. καὶ νῦν ἐλαφρῷ ποδὶ κραιπνόσυτον θᾶκον προλιποῦσ', αἰθέρα θ' ἁγνὸν πόρον οἰωνῶν, ὀκριοέσσῃ χθονὶ τῇδε πελῶ, τοὺς σοὺς δὲ πόνους χρῄζω διὰ παντὸς ἀκοῦσαι.	**CHORUS** You've urged this on willing ears, Prometheus. Now with light foot I leave my swift-rushing seat and the holy air, the pathway of birds, and I'll come close to this rugged ground. I want to hear all your sufferings through to the end.
286	**OCEANUS** ἥκω δολιχῆς τέρμα κελεύθου διαμειψάμενος πρὸς σέ, Προμηθεῦ, τὸν πτερυγωκῆ τόνδ' οἰωνὸν γνώμῃ στομίων ἄτερ εὐθύνων· ταῖς σαῖς δὲ τύχαις, ἴσθι, συναλγῶ. τὸ τε γάρ με, δοκῶ, συγγενὲς οὕτως ἐσαναγκάζει, χωρίς τε γένους οὐκ ἔστιν ὅτῳ μείζονα μοῖραν νείμαιμ' ἢ σοί. γνώσῃ δὲ τάδ' ὡς ἔτυμ', οὐδὲ μάτην χαριτογλωσσεῖν ἔνι μοι· φέρε γὰρ σήμαιν' ὅ τι χρή σοι συμπράσσειν· οὐ γάρ ποτ' ἐρεῖς ὡς Ὠκεανοῦ φίλος ἐστὶ βεβαιότερός σοι.	**OCEANUS** I have come to the end of a long road, Prometheus, traveling to you, steering this swift-winged bird by my will alone, without a bit. Your fortunes, I want you to know, give me pain. Kinship, I think, compels me to it, and apart from our blood, there's no one I'd hold in higher regard than you. You'll find that this is true, and that it isn't in me to say pleasant things for nothing. Come, tell me what I should do to help you. You'll never say you have a firmer friend than Oceanus.
300	**PROMETHEUS** ἔα· τί χρῆμα λεύσσω; καὶ σὺ δὴ πόνων ἐμῶν ἥκεις ἐπόπτης; πῶς ἐτόλμησας, λιπὼν ἐπώνυμόν τε ῥεῦμα καὶ πετρηρεφῆ αὐτόκτιτ' ἄντρα, τὴν σιδηρομήτορα ἐλθεῖν ἐς αἶαν; ἦ θεωρήσων τύχας ἐμὰς ἀφῖξαι καὶ συνασχαλῶν κακοῖς; δέρκου θέαμα, τόνδε τὸν Διὸς φίλον, τὸν συγκαταστήσαντα τὴν τυραννίδα, οἵαις ὑπ' αὐτοῦ πημοναῖσι κάμπτομαι.	**PROMETHEUS** What's this? What do I see? Have you too come to watch my sufferings? How did you dare to leave the stream that bears your name and your rock-roofed caves that no hand built, and come to this land, the mother of iron? Have you come to gaze at my fortunes and share my distress at my troubles? Then look at the sight: this friend of Zeus, who helped him set up his tyranny—see the torments he bends me under.
309	**OCEANUS** ὁρῶ, Προμηθεῦ, καὶ παραινέσαι γέ σοι θέλω τὰ λῷστα, καίπερ ὄντι ποικίλῳ. γίγνωσκε σαυτὸν καὶ μεθάρμοσαι τρόπους	**OCEANUS** I see, Prometheus, and I want to give you the best advice, subtle as you are yourself. Know yourself, and adapt yourself to new ways,

GREEK

νέους· νέος γὰρ καὶ τύραννος ἐν θεοῖς.
εἰ δ' ὧδε τραχεῖς καὶ τεθηγμένους λόγους
ῥίψεις, τάχ' ἄν σου καὶ μακρὰν ἀνωτέρω
θακῶν κλύοι Ζεύς, ὥστε σοι τὸν νῦν ὄχλον
παρόντα μόχθων παιδιὰν εἶναι δοκεῖν.
ἀλλ', ὦ ταλαίπωρ', ἃς ἔχεις ὀργὰς ἄφες,
ζήτει δὲ τῶνδε πημάτων ἀπαλλαγάς.
ἀρχαῖ' ἴσως σοι φαίνομαι λέγειν τάδε·
τοιαῦτα μέντοι τῆς ἄγαν ὑψηγόρου
γλώσσης, Προμηθεῦ, τἀπίχειρα γίγνεται.
σὺ δ' οὐδέπω ταπεινὸς οὐδ' εἴκεις κακοῖς,
πρὸς τοῖς παροῦσι δ' ἄλλα προσλαβεῖν θέλεις.

324 οὔκουν ἔμοιγε χρώμενος διδασκάλῳ
πρὸς κέντρα κῶλον ἐκτενεῖς, ὁρῶν ὅτι
τραχὺς μόναρχος οὐδ' ὑπεύθυνος κρατεῖ.
καὶ νῦν ἐγὼ μὲν εἶμι καὶ πειράσομαι
ἐὰν δύνωμαι τῶνδέ σ' ἐκλῦσαι πόνων.
σὺ δ' ἡσύχαζε μηδ' ἄγαν λαβροστόμει.
ἢ οὐκ οἶσθ' ἀκριβῶς ὢν περισσόφρων ὅτι
γλώσσῃ ματαίᾳ ζημία προστρίβεται;

332 **PROMETHEUS** ζηλῶ σ' ὀθούνεκ' ἐκτὸς αἰτίας κυρεῖς
τούτων μετασχεῖν καὶ τετολμηκὼς ἐμοί.
καὶ νῦν ἔασον μηδέ σοι μελησάτω.
πάντως γὰρ οὐ πείσεις νιν· οὐ γὰρ εὐπιθής.
πάπταινε δ' αὐτὸς μή τι πημανθῇς ὁδῷ.

337 **OCEANUS** πολλῷ γ' ἀμείνων τοὺς πέλας φρενοῦν ἔφυς
ἢ σαυτόν· ἔργῳ κοὐ λόγῳ τεκμαίρομαι.
ὁρμώμενον δὲ μηδαμῶς ἀντισπάσῃς.
αὐχῶ γὰρ αὐχῶ τήνδε δωρεὰν ἐμοὶ
δώσειν Δί', ὥστε τῶνδέ σ' ἐκλῦσαι πόνων.

343 **PROMETHEUS** τὰ μὲν σ' ἐπαινῶ κοὐδαμῇ λήξω ποτέ·
προθυμίας γὰρ οὐδὲν ἐλλείπεις. ἀτὰρ
μηδὲν πόνει. μάτην γὰρ οὐδὲν ὠφελῶν
ἐμοὶ πονήσεις, εἴ τι καὶ πονεῖν θέλεις.
ἀλλ' ἡσύχαζε σαυτὸν ἐκποδὼν ἔχων·
ἐγὼ γὰρ οὐκ, εἰ δυστυχῶ, τοῦδ' εἵνεκα
θέλοιμ' ἂν ὡς πλείστοισι πημονὰς τυχεῖν.
οὐ δῆτ' ἐπεί με καὶ κασιγνήτου τύχαι
τείρουσ' Ἄτλαντος, ὃς πρὸς ἑσπέρους τόπους
ἕστηκε κίον' οὐρανοῦ τε καὶ χθονὸς
ὤμοις ἐρείδων, ἄχθος οὐκ εὐάγκαλον.
τὸν γηγενῆ τε Κιλικίων οἰκήτορα
ἄντρων ἰδὼν ᾤκτιρα, δάιον τέρας
ἑκατογκάρανον πρὸς βίαν χειρούμενον
Τυφῶνα θοῦρον· πᾶσιν ἀντέστη θεοῖς,
σμερδναῖσι γαμφηλαῖσι συρίζων φόβον·

ENGLISH

for the tyrant among the gods is new too. If you keep hurling words this harsh and this sharp, Zeus may hear you, though he sits far above, and then your present crowd of troubles will seem like child's play. Come, poor sufferer, let go of the anger you're holding on to, and look for a release from these pains. Maybe what I'm saying sounds old-fashioned to you. But this, Prometheus, is the wage of a tongue that talks too high. You're not humble yet, and you don't give way to trouble; you'd rather take on more on top of what you have.

So if you take me as your teacher, you won't kick out against the goad, seeing that a harsh monarch rules who answers to no one. Now I'll go and try, if I can, to free you from these sufferings. You keep quiet, and don't be so loud-mouthed. Or don't you know perfectly well, clever as you are, that punishment is the lot of a reckless tongue?

PROMETHEUS I envy you, because you've stayed clear of blame, though you shared in all this and dared it with me. Now let it be; don't trouble yourself. You won't persuade him whatever you do; he isn't easily persuaded. Watch out that you don't come to harm yourself on this journey.

OCEANUS You're far better at giving your neighbors sense than yourself. I judge by facts, not words. Don't hold me back now that I'm setting out. I'm confident, yes, confident Zeus will grant me this gift: to free you from these sufferings.

PROMETHEUS For that I praise you, and I'll never stop, because you lack nothing in eagerness. But don't trouble yourself. Your trouble will be wasted and do me no good, even if you do want to take the trouble. No, stay quiet and keep yourself out of the way. Just because I'm unfortunate, I wouldn't want suffering to come to as many as possible. Certainly not, when I'm already worn down by the fate of my brother Atlas, who stands in the regions of the west, propping on his shoulders the pillar of heaven and earth, a load not easy to hold. And I pitied the earth-born dweller of the Cilician caves when I saw him overpowered by force, the destructive hundred-headed monster, furious Typhon. He stood against all the gods, hissing terror from his fearsome jaws,[4]

	GREEK	ENGLISH
358	ἐξ ὀμμάτων δ' ἤστραπτε γοργωπὸν σέλας, ὡς τὴν Διὸς τυραννίδ' ἐκπέρσων βίᾳ· ἀλλ' ἦλθεν αὐτῷ Ζηνὸς ἄγρυπνον βέλος, καταιβάτης κεραυνὸς ἐκπνέων φλόγα, ὃς αὐτὸν ἐξέπληξε τῶν ὑψηγόρων κομπασμάτων. φρένας γὰρ εἰς αὐτὰς τυπεὶς ἐφεψαλώθη κἀξεβροντήθη σθένος. καὶ νῦν ἀχρεῖον καὶ παράορον δέμας κεῖται στενωποῦ πλησίον θαλασσίου ἰπούμενος ῥίζαισιν Αἰτναίαις ὕπο· κορυφαῖς δ' ἐν ἄκραις ἥμενος μυδροκτυπεῖ Ἥφαιστος· ἔνθεν ἐκραγήσονταί ποτε ποταμοὶ πυρὸς δάπτοντες ἀγρίαις γνάθοις τῆς καλλικάρπου Σικελίας λευροὺς γύας· τοιόνδε Τυφὼς ἐξαναζέσει χόλον θερμοῖς ἀπλάτου βέλεσι πυρπνόου ζάλης, καίπερ κεραυνῷ Ζηνὸς ἠνθρακωμένος.	and from his eyes flashed a grim, Gorgon-eyed glare, as if he meant to sack the tyranny of Zeus by force. But the sleepless shaft of Zeus came against him, the swooping thunderbolt breathing out flame, and it struck him out of his high-sounding boasts. Hit to the very heart, he was burned to ash and the strength was thundered out of him. And now he lies, a useless, sprawling body, near the narrows of the sea, pressed down under the roots of Etna, while on its topmost peaks sits Hephaestus, hammering the molten iron. From there, one day, rivers of fire will burst out, devouring with savage jaws the level fields of Sicily, land of fine fruit. That is the rage Typhon will boil over with, in hot shafts of an unapproachable, fire-breathing storm, even though he's been burned to cinders by Zeus's thunderbolt.
375	σὺ δ' οὐκ ἄπειρος, οὐδ' ἐμοῦ διδασκάλου χρῄζεις· σεαυτὸν σῷζ' ὅπως ἐπίστασαι· ἐγὼ δὲ τὴν παροῦσαν ἀντλήσω τύχην, ἕστ' ἂν Διὸς φρόνημα λωφήσῃ χόλου.	But you're not inexperienced, and you don't need me as your teacher. Save yourself, as you know how. I'll drain my present fortune to the dregs, until Zeus's mind lets go of its anger.
379	**OCEANUS** οὔκουν, Προμηθεῦ, τοῦτο γιγνώσκεις, ὅτι / ὀργῆς νοσούσης εἰσὶν ἰατροὶ λόγοι;	**OCEANUS** Don't you know this, then, Prometheus: that for a sick temper, words are the doctors?
381	**PROMETHEUS** ἐάν τις ἐν καιρῷ γε μαλθάσσῃ κέαρ / καὶ μὴ σφριγῶντα θυμὸν ἰσχναίνῃ βίᾳ.	**PROMETHEUS** Yes, if you soften the heart at the right moment, and don't try to shrink a swelling temper by force.
383	**OCEANUS** ἐν τῷ προθυμεῖσθαι δὲ καὶ τολμᾶν τίνα / ὁρᾷς ἐνοῦσαν ζημίαν; δίδασκέ με.	**OCEANUS** But in being eager, and daring, what harm do you see? Tell me.
385	**PROMETHEUS** μόχθον περισσὸν κουφόνουν τ' εὐηθίαν.	**PROMETHEUS** Wasted effort and empty-headed foolishness.
386	**OCEANUS** ἔα με τῇδε τῇ νόσῳ νοσεῖν, ἐπεὶ / κέρδιστον εὖ φρονοῦντα μὴ φρονεῖν δοκεῖν.	**OCEANUS** Then let me be sick with that sickness, since it pays best to be wise and not seem it.
388	**PROMETHEUS** ἐμὸν δοκήσει τἀμπλάκημ' εἶναι τόδε.	**PROMETHEUS** People will think the folly is mine.
389	**OCEANUS** σαφῶς μ' ἐς οἶκον σὸς λόγος στέλλει πάλιν.	**OCEANUS** What you're saying plainly sends me home again.
390	**PROMETHEUS** μὴ γάρ σε θρῆνος οὑμὸς εἰς ἔχθραν βάλῃ.	**PROMETHEUS** Yes, so that your mourning for me doesn't make you an enemy.
391	**OCEANUS** ἦ τῷ νέον θακοῦντι παγκρατεῖς ἕδρας;	**OCEANUS** An enemy of the one newly seated on the all-powerful throne?
392		

4 Typhon (or Typhoeus) was a monster born of Earth who challenged Zeus; here he is buried under Mount Etna in Sicily.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	PROMETHEUS τούτου φυλάσσου μή ποτ' ἀχθεσθῇ κέαρ.	**PROMETHEUS** Watch out that his heart doesn't one day turn against you.
393	**OCEANUS** ἡ σή, Προμηθεῦ, συμφορὰ διδάσκαλος.	**OCEANUS** Your misfortune, Prometheus, is my teacher.
394	**PROMETHEUS** στέλλου, κομίζου, σῷζε τὸν παρόντα νοῦν.	**PROMETHEUS** Off you go, get going, and keep the mind you have now.
395	**OCEANUS** ὁρμωμένῳ μοι τόνδ' ἐθώυξας λόγον. λευρὸν γὰρ οἶμον αἰθέρος ψαίρει πτεροῖς τετρασκελὴς οἰωνός· ἄσμενος δέ τἂν σταθμοῖς ἐν οἰκείοισι κάμψειεν γόνυ.	**OCEANUS** You urge this on me just as I'm setting out. My four-legged bird is already fanning the smooth road of the air with its wings. It would be glad to bend its knee in its own stall at home.

FIRST STASIMON

The chorus mourn Prometheus, and the peoples of the world, the sea and Hades lament with him.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
399	**CHORUS** στένω σε τᾶς οὐλομένας τύχας, Προμηθεῦ· δακρυσίστακτα δ' ἀπ' ὄσσων ῥαδινὰν λειβομένα ῥέος παρειὰν νοτίοις ἔτεγξα παγαῖς· ἀμέγαρτα γὰρ τάδε Ζεὺς ἰδίοις νόμοις κρατύνων ὑπερήφανον θεοῖς τοῖς πάρος ἐνδείκνυσιν αἰχμάν.	**CHORUS** I mourn for your ruinous fortune, Prometheus. Shedding a stream of tears from my eyes I have wet my soft cheek with their flowing springs. For Zeus does these grievous things, ruling by laws of his own, and shows the gods of old an overbearing spear.
407	πρόπασα δ' ἤδη στονόεν λέλακε χώρα, μεγαλοσχήμονά ἀρχαι- οπρεπῆ ... στένουσι τὰν σὰν ξυνομαιμόνων τε τιμάν, ὁπόσοι τ' ἔποικον ἁγνᾶς Ἀσίας ἕδος νέμονται, μεγαλοστόνοισι σοῖς πή- μασι συγκάμνουσι θνατοί.	Already the whole land cries out in lament; grand and time-honored ... they mourn your honor and your brothers'; and all the mortals who make their home in the settled seat of holy Asia suffer with you in your much-lamented pains,
415	Κολχίδος τε γᾶς ἔνοικοι παρθένοι, μάχας ἄτρεστοι, καὶ Σκύθης ὅμιλος, οἳ γᾶς ἔσχατον τόπον ἀμφὶ Μαι- ῶτιν ἔχουσι λίμναν,	and the maidens who live in the land of Colchis, fearless in battle, and the Scythian throng who hold the farthest region of the earth around the lake of Maeotis,[5]
420	Ἀραβίας τ' ἄρειον ἄνθος, ὑψίκρημνον οἳ πόλισμα Καυκάσου πέλας νέμονται, δάιος στρατός, ὀξυπρῴ- ροισι βρέμων ἐν αἰχμαῖς.	and the warlike flower of Arabia, who hold the high-cliffed citadel near the Caucasus, a fierce host, roaring among sharp-pointed spears.
425	μόνον δὴ πρόσθεν ἄλλον ἐν πόνοις δαμέντ' ἀδαμαντοδέτοις	Only one other Titan before this have I seen subdued in torments,

GREEK	ENGLISH
Τιτᾶνα λύμαις εἰσιδόμαν, θεόν, Ἄτλαντος; ὑπέροχον σθένος κραταιόν, ὃς οὐράνιόν πόλον νώτοις στέγων ὑποστενάζει.	in the outrage of adamant chains: the god Atlas, whose strength surpassed all, mighty strength, who holds up the vault of heaven on his back, and groans beneath it.
431 βοᾷ δὲ πόντιος κλύδων ξυμπίτνων, στένει βυθός, κελαινὸς δ' Ἄιδος ὑποβρέμει μυχὸς γᾶς, παγαί θ' ἁγνορύτων ποταμῶν στένουσιν ἄλγος οἰκτρόν.	The waves of the sea cry out as they crash together; the deep groans; the black pit of Hades rumbles below the earth, and the springs of holy-flowing rivers groan with pitiful pain.

SECOND EPISODE

Prometheus lists the arts he taught mortals and hints that Fate holds something in store for Zeus.

GREEK	ENGLISH
436 **PROMETHEUS** μή τοι χλιδῇ δοκεῖτε μηδ' αὐθαδίᾳ σιγᾶν με· συννοίᾳ δὲ δάπτομαι κέαρ, ὁρῶν ἐμαυτὸν ὧδε προυσελούμενον. καίτοι θεοῖσι τοῖς νέοις τούτοις γέρα τίς ἄλλος ἢ 'γὼ παντελῶς διώρισεν; ἀλλ' αὐτὰ σιγῶ· καὶ γὰρ εἰδυίαισιν ἂν ὑμῖν λέγοιμι· τὰν βροτοῖς δὲ πήματα ἀκούσαθ', ὥς σφας νηπίους ὄντας τὸ πρὶν ἔννους ἔθηκα καὶ φρενῶν ἐπηβόλους. λέξω δέ, μέμψιν οὔτιν' ἀνθρώποις ἔχων, ἀλλ' ὧν δέδωκ' εὔνοιαν ἐξηγούμενος·	**PROMETHEUS** Don't think it's out of pride or stubbornness that I'm silent. My heart is eaten away with brooding, as I see myself outraged like this. And yet who but I marked out, once and for all, the privileges of these new gods? But I'll say nothing about that; I'd only be telling you what you know. Hear instead about the miseries of mortals: how, childish as they were before, I made them intelligent and masters of their wits. I'll tell it not to find fault with humans, but to explain the goodwill behind what I gave them.
447 οἳ πρῶτα μὲν βλέποντες ἔβλεπον μάτην, κλύοντες οὐκ ἤκουον, ἀλλ' ὀνειράτων ἀλίγκιοι μορφαῖσι τὸν μακρὸν βίον ἔφυρον εἰκῇ πάντα, κοὔτε πλινθυφεῖς δόμους προσείλους, ᾖσαν, οὐ ξυλουργίαν· κατώρυχες δ' ἔναιον ὥστ' ἀήσυροι μύρμηκες ἄντρων ἐν μυχοῖς ἀνηλίοις. ἦν δ' οὐδὲν αὐτοῖς οὔτε χείματος τέκμαρ οὔτ' ἀνθεμώδους ἦρος οὔτε καρπίμου θέρους βέβαιον, ἀλλ' ἄτερ γνώμης τὸ πᾶν ἔπρασσον, ἔστε δή σφιν ἀντολὰς ἐγὼ ἄστρων ἔδειξα τάς τε δυσκρίτους δύσεις.	At first they had eyes, but saw in vain; they had ears, but didn't hear. Like shapes in dreams, all their long life they jumbled everything at random. They knew no brick-built houses facing the sun, no working in wood; they lived dug into the ground like tiny ants, in the sunless depths of caves. They had no sure sign of winter, or of flowery spring, or of fruitful summer, but did everything without judgment, until I showed them the risings of the stars and their settings, so hard to make out.
459 καὶ μὴν ἀριθμόν, ἔξοχον σοφισμάτων, ἐξηῦρον αὐτοῖς, γραμμάτων τε συνθέσεις, μνήμην ἁπάντων, μουσομήτορ' ἐργάνην. κἄζευξα πρῶτος ἐν ζυγοῖσι κνώδαλα ζεύγλαισι δουλεύοντα σάγμασίν θ', ὅπως θνητοῖς μεγίστων διάδοχοι μοχθημάτων γένοινθ', ὑφ' ἅρμα τ' ἤγαγον φιληνίους ἵππους, ἄγαλμα τῆς ὑπερπλούτου χλιδῆς.	And number, too, the finest of all devices, I invented for them, and the combining of letters, the memory of all things, the Muses' mother, the skilled worker. I was the first to put wild beasts under the yoke, to serve as slaves to the yoke strap and the pack saddle, so that they could take over the heaviest of mortals' labors; and I led horses under the chariot, obedient to the rein, the pride

5 The fearless maidens are the Amazons; Lake Maeotis is the Sea of Azov, north of the Black Sea.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	θαλασσόπλαγκτα δ' οὔτις ἄλλος ἀντ' ἐμοῦ λινόπτερ' ηὗρε ναυτίλων ὀχήματα.	of lavish wealth. And no one but I invented the sailors' linen-winged vehicles that roam the sea.
469	τοιαῦτα μηχανήματ' ἐξευρὼν τάλας βροτοῖσιν, αὐτὸς οὐκ ἔχω σόφισμ' ὅτῳ τῆς νῦν παρούσης πημονῆς ἀπαλλαγῶ.	Such are the contrivances I devised for mortals—and I, poor wretch, have no clever device myself to free me from my present suffering.
472	**CHORUS** πέπονθας αἰκὲς πῆμ'· ἀποσφαλεὶς φρενῶν πλανᾷ, κακὸς δ' ἰατρὸς ὥς τις ἐς νόσον πεσὼν ἀθυμεῖς καὶ σεαυτὸν οὐκ ἔχεις εὑρεῖν ὁποίοις φαρμάκοις ἰάσιμος.	**CHORUS** You've suffered a shameful torment. You've lost your wits and wander astray. Like a bad doctor who's fallen ill, you lose heart and can't find what remedies will cure you.
476	**PROMETHEUS** τὰ λοιπά μου κλύουσα θαυμάσῃ πλέον, οἵας τέχνας τε καὶ πόρους ἐμησάμην. τὸ μὲν μέγιστον, εἴ τις ἐς νόσον πέσοι, οὐκ ἦν ἀλέξημ' οὐδέν, οὔτε βρώσιμον, οὐ χριστόν, οὐδὲ πιστόν, ἀλλὰ φαρμάκων χρείᾳ κατεσκέλλοντο, πρίν γ' ἐγώ σφισιν ἔδειξα κράσεις ἠπίων ἀκεσμάτων, αἷς τὰς ἁπάσας ἐξαμύνονται νόσους. τρόπους τε πολλοὺς μαντικῆς ἐστοίχισα, κἄκρινα πρῶτος ἐξ ὀνειράτων ἃ χρὴ ὕπαρ γενέσθαι, κληδόνας τε δυσκρίτους ἐγνώρισ' αὐτοῖς ἐνοδίους τε συμβόλους· γαμψωνύχων τε πτῆσιν οἰωνῶν σκεθρῶς διώρισ', οἵτινές τε δεξιοὶ φύσιν εὐωνύμους τε, καὶ δίαιταν ἥντινα ἔχουσ' ἕκαστοι, καὶ πρὸς ἀλλήλους τίνες ἔχθραι τε καὶ στέργηθρα καὶ συνεδρίαι·	**PROMETHEUS** When you hear the rest, you'll marvel even more at the arts and resources I devised. The greatest is this: if anyone fell ill, there was no defense—nothing to eat, nothing to rub on, nothing to drink—and they wasted away for lack of remedies, until I showed them how to mix gentle cures, with which they now ward off every disease. I set out the many ways of prophecy. I was the first to judge from dreams which must come true in waking life; I made known to them chance words of omen, hard to interpret, and signs met on the road. I defined precisely the flight of crook-taloned birds: which are lucky by nature and which unlucky, what way of life each kind has, and what hatreds, loves, and gatherings they have with one another;
493	σπλάγχνων τε λειότητα, καὶ χροιὰν τίνα ἔχουσ' ἂν εἴη δαίμοσιν πρὸς ἡδονὴν χολή, λοβοῦ τε ποικίλην εὐμορφίαν. κνίσῃ τε κῶλα συγκαλυπτὰ καὶ μακρὰν ὀσφῦν πυρώσας δυστέκμαρτον ἐς τέχνην ὤδωσα θνητούς, καὶ φλογωπὰ σήματα ἐξωμμάτωσα, πρόσθεν ὄντ' ἐπάργεμα. τοιαῦτα μὲν δὴ ταῦτ'· ἔνερθε δὲ χθονὸς κεκρυμμέν', ἀνθρώποισιν ὠφελήματα, χαλκόν, σίδηρον, ἄργυρον, χρυσόν τε τίς φήσειεν ἂν πάροιθεν ἐξευρεῖν ἐμοῦ; οὐδείς, σάφ' οἶδα, μὴ μάτην φλύσαι θέλων. βραχεῖ δὲ μύθῳ πάντα συλλήβδην μάθε, πᾶσαι τέχναι βροτοῖσιν ἐκ Προμηθέως.	and the smoothness of the entrails, and what color the gall must have to please the gods, and the dappled symmetry of the liver's lobe. And by burning the thighbones wrapped in fat, and the long chine, I led mortals into an art hard to read, and gave eyes to the signs in the flame, which before were clouded over. So much for these. As for the benefits hidden from humans under the earth—bronze, iron, silver, and gold—who could claim he found them before I did? No one, I know very well, unless he wants to babble nonsense. Learn it all in one short word: every art that mortals have comes from Prometheus.[6]
507	**CHORUS** μή νυν βροτοὺς μὲν ὠφέλει καιροῦ πέρα, σαυτοῦ δ' ἀκήδει δυστυχοῦντος. ὡς ἐγὼ εὔελπίς εἰμι τῶνδέ σ' ἐκ δεσμῶν ἔτι λυθέντα μηδὲν μεῖον ἰσχύσειν Διός.	**CHORUS** Then don't help mortals beyond due measure while you neglect yourself in your misfortune. I'm hopeful you'll yet be freed from these chains and be no less powerful than Zeus.

6 Greek seers read the future from the entrails of sacrificed animals, especially the liver, and from the way the offerings burned on the altar.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
511	**PROMETHEUS** οὐ ταῦτα ταύτῃ Μοῖρά πω τελεσφόρος κρᾶναι πέπρωται, μυρίαις δὲ πημοναῖς δύαις τε καμφθεὶς ὧδε δεσμὰ φυγγάνω· τέχνη δ' ἀνάγκης ἀσθενεστέρα μακρῷ.	**PROMETHEUS** Fate, who brings all things to their end, has not yet ordained that it will end like that. Only when I've been bent by countless pains and agonies will I escape these chains. Art is far weaker than Necessity.
515	**CHORUS** τίς οὖν ἀνάγκης ἐστὶν οἰακοστρόφος;	**CHORUS** Then who steers the helm of Necessity?
516	**PROMETHEUS** Μοῖραι τρίμορφοι μνήμονές τ' Ἐρινύες	**PROMETHEUS** The three-formed Fates, and the Furies, who never forget.
517	**CHORUS** τούτων ἄρα Ζεύς ἐστιν ἀσθενέστερος;	**CHORUS** So Zeus is weaker than they are?
518	**PROMETHEUS** οὔκουν ἂν ἐκφύγοι γε τὴν πεπρωμένην.	**PROMETHEUS** Well, he certainly couldn't escape what is destined.
519	**CHORUS** τί γὰρ πέπρωται Ζηνὶ πλὴν ἀεὶ κρατεῖν;	**CHORUS** Why, what is destined for Zeus, except to rule forever?
520	**PROMETHEUS** τοῦτ' οὐκέτ' ἂν πύθοιο μηδὲ λιπάρει.	**PROMETHEUS** That you mustn't learn yet. Don't press me.
521	**CHORUS** ἦ πού τι σεμνόν ἐστιν ὃ ξυναμπέχεις.	**CHORUS** It must be something solemn you're keeping wrapped up.
522	**PROMETHEUS** ἄλλου λόγου μέμνησθε, τόνδε δ' οὐδαμῶς καιρὸς γεγωνεῖν, ἀλλὰ συγκαλυπτέος ὅσον μάλιστα· τόνδε γὰρ σῴζων ἐγὼ δεσμοὺς ἀεικεῖς καὶ δύας ἐκφυγγάνω.	**PROMETHEUS** Think of some other subject. This one it's no time at all to speak of; it has to be kept covered as closely as possible. By keeping it safe I'll escape my shameful chains and my agonies.

SECOND STASIMON

The chorus pray never to offend Zeus and reflect on how little mortals can repay Prometheus.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
526	**CHORUS** μηδάμ' ὁ πάντα νέμων θεῖτ' ἐμᾷ γνώμᾳ κράτος ἀντίπαλον Ζεύς, μηδ' ἐλινύσαιμι θεοὺς ὁσίαις θοίναις ποτινισομένα βουφόνοις παρ' Ὠκεανοῦ πατρὸς ἄσβεστον πόρον, μηδ' ἀλίτοιμι λόγοις· ἀλλά μοι τόδ' ἐμμένοι καὶ μήποτ' ἐκτακείη·	**CHORUS** May Zeus, who orders all things, never set his power against my will; may I never be slow to approach the gods with holy feasts of slaughtered oxen beside the unquenchable stream of my father Ocean; and may I never offend in what I say. Let this stay with me and never melt away.
537	ἁδύ τι θαρσαλέαις τὸν μακρὸν τείνειν βίον ἐλπίσι, φαναῖς θυμὸν ἀλδαίνουσαν ἐν εὐφροσύναις. φρίσ- σω δέ σε δερκομένα μυρίοις μόχθοις διακναιόμενον .... Ζῆνα γὰρ οὐ τρομέων ἰδίᾳ γνώμᾳ σέβῃ θνατοὺς ἄγαν, Προμηθεῦ.	It is sweet to stretch out a long life in confident hopes, feeding the heart on bright good cheer. But I shudder to see you worn away by countless toils ... For you don't tremble before Zeus; with a will of your own you honor mortals too much, Prometheus.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
545	φέρ', ὅπως ἄχαρις χάρις, ὦ φίλος· εἰπὲ ποῦ τίς ἀλκά; τίς ἐφαμερίων ἄρηξις; οὐδ' ἐδέρχθης ὀλιγοδρανίαν ἄκικυν, ἰσόνειρον, ᾗ τὸ φωτῶν ἀλαὸν γένος ἐμπεποδισμένον; οὔποτε … τὰν Διὸς ἁρμονίαν θνατῶν παρεξίασι βουλαί.	Come, my friend, see how thankless your favor was. Tell me, where is any help? What aid can creatures of a day give? Didn't you see the feeble helplessness, like a dream, in which the blind race of men is shackled? Never … will the plans of mortals get past the order Zeus has set.
552	ἔμαθον τάδε σὰς προσιδοῦσ' ὀλο- ὰς τύχας, Προμηθεῦ. τὸ διαμφίδιον δέ μοι μέλος προσέπτα τόδ' ἐκεῖνό θ', ὅ τ' ἀμφὶ λουτρὰ καὶ λέχος σὸν ὑμεναίουν ἰότατι γάμων, ὅτε τὰν ὁμοπάτριον ἔδνοις ἄγαγες Ἡσιόναν πείθὼν δάμαρτα κοινόλεκτρον.	I learned this by looking at your ruinous fortunes, Prometheus. And this song came flying to me, so different from that other song I sang around your bath and your bed at your wedding, when you won my sister, our father's daughter, with bridal gifts, and led Hesione home to be your wife and share your bed.[7]

THIRD EPISODE

Io, driven by a gadfly, tells her story; Prometheus foretells her wanderings and Zeus's possible fall.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
561	IO τίς γῆ; τί γένος; τίνα φῶ λεύσσειν τόνδε χαλινοῖς ἐν πετρίνοισιν χειμαζόμενον; τίνος ἀμπλακίας ποινὰς ὀλέκῃ; σήμηνον ὅποι γῆς ἡ μογερὰ πεπλάνημαι.	IO What land is this? What people? Who shall I say I see storm-beaten here in these bridles of rock? For what offense are you paying with your ruin? Tell me where on earth I have wandered in my misery.
566	ἆ ἆ, ἒ ἔ, χρίει τις αὖ με τὰν τάλαιναν οἶστρος, εἴδωλον Ἄργου γηγενοῦς, ἄλευ' ἆ δᾶ· φοβοῦμαι τὸν μυριωπὸν εἰσορῶσα βούταν. ὁ δὲ πορεύεται δόλιον ὄμμ' ἔχων, ὃν οὐδὲ κατθανόντα γαῖα κεύθει. ἀλλ', ἐμὲ τὰν τάλαιναν ἐξ ἐνέρων περῶν κυναγετεῖ, πλανᾷ τε νῆστιν ἀνὰ τὰν παραλίαν ψάμμαν.	Ah, ah! Ah, ah! Again some gadfly stings me, wretched me— the ghost of earth-born Argus—keep it off, *a, da*! I'm afraid, I see the herdsman with his countless eyes. He comes on, with his crafty gaze, he whom even in death the earth will not hide. No—up from the dead he crosses and hunts me, wretched me, and drives me wandering, starving, along the sand of the shore.[8]
574	ὑπὸ δὲ κηρόπλαστος ὀτοβεῖ δόναξ ἀχέτας ὑπνοδόταν νόμον·	And under it the wax-joined reed pipe drones its ringing, sleep-bringing tune.

7 Hesione, an Oceanid, is here Prometheus' wife; bathing before the wedding was part of the marriage rites.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	ἰὼ ἰὼ πόποι, ποῖ μ’ ἄγουσι τη- λέπλαγκτοι πλάναι; τί ποτέ μ’, ὦ Κρόνιε παῖ, τί ποτε ταῖσδ’ ἐνέζευξας εὑρὼν ἁμαρτοῦσαν ἐν πημοναῖσιν; ἔ ἔ, οἰστρηλάτῳ δὲ δείματι δειλαίαν παράκοπον ὧδε τείρεις; πυρί με φλέξον, ἢ χθονὶ κάλυψον, ἤ ποντίοις δάκεσι δὸς βοράν, μηδέ μοι φθονήσῃς εὐγμάτων, ἄναξ. ἄδην με πολύπλανοι πλάναι γεγυμνάκασιν, οὐδ’ ἔχω μαθεῖν ὅπα πημονὰς ἀλύξω. κλύεις φθέγμα τᾶς βούκερω παρθένου;	Oh, oh, *popoi*! Where are they taking me, these far-roaming wanderings? What, son of Cronus, what fault did you ever find in me that you yoked me to these miseries—ah, ah!— and torment me so, a wretched, maddened girl, with gadfly-driven terror? Burn me with fire, or bury me in the earth, or give me as food to the monsters of the sea, and don’t begrudge me my prayers, lord. Enough—my much-wandering wanderings have run me ragged, and I can’t learn how to escape my pains. Do you hear the voice of the cow-horned girl?
589	**PROMETHEUS** πῶς δ’ οὐ κλύω τῆς οἰστροδινήτου κόρης, τῆς Ἰναχείας; ἢ Διὸς θάλπει κέαρ ἔρωτι, καὶ νῦν τοὺς ὑπερμήκεις δρόμους Ἥρᾳ στυγητὸς πρὸς βίαν γυμνάζεται.	**PROMETHEUS** How could I not hear the gadfly-whirled girl, the daughter of Inachus? She warms Zeus’s heart with desire, and now, hated by Hera, she is forced to run these endless courses.[9]
593	**IO** πόθεν ἐμοῦ σὺ πατρὸς ὄνομ’ ἀπύεις; εἰπέ μοι τᾷ μογερᾷ τίς ὤν; τίς ἄρα μ’, ὦ τάλας, τὰν τάλαιναν ὧδ’ ἔτυμα προσθροεῖς; θεόσυτόν τε νόσον ὠνόμασας, ἃ μαραίνει με χρίουσα κέντροις, ἰώ, φοιταλέοισιν ἔ ἔ· σκιρτημάτων δὲ νήστισιν αἰκείαις λαβρόσυτος ἦλθον, Ἥρας ἐπικότοισι μήδεσι δαμεῖσα. δυσ- δαιμόνων δὲ τίνες οἵ, ἔ ἔ, οἷ’ ἐγὼ μογοῦσιν; ἀλλά μοι τορῶς τέκμηρον ὅ τι μ’ ἐπαμμένει παθεῖν, τί μῆχαρ, ἢ τί φάρμακον νόσου, δεῖξον, εἴπερ οἶσθα· θρόει, φράζε τᾷ δυσπλάνῳ παρθένῳ.	**IO** How do you know my father’s name, that you speak it? Tell me, in my misery—who are you? Who are you, poor sufferer, that you address me, the miserable one, so truly, and name the god-sent sickness that wastes me, stinging me with its maddening goads? Oh! Ah, ah! With starving, leaping torments I have come here in a headlong rush, beaten down by Hera’s vengeful schemes. Of all the ill-fated, who—ah, ah!— suffer as I do? But tell me clearly what still awaits me to suffer, what remedy, what cure there is for my sickness— show me, if you know. Speak, tell it to the wretched wandering girl.
609	**PROMETHEUS** λέξω τορῶς σοι πᾶν ὅπερ χρῄζεις μαθεῖν, οὐκ ἐμπλέκων αἰνίγματ’, ἀλλ’ ἁπλῷ λόγῳ, ὥσπερ δίκαιον πρὸς φίλους οἴγειν στόμα. πυρὸς βροτοῖς δοτῆρ’ ὁρᾷς Προμηθέα.	**PROMETHEUS** I’ll tell you plainly all you want to learn, not weaving in riddles but in simple words, the way it’s right to open your mouth to friends. You see before you Prometheus, who gave mortals fire.

8 Argus was the many-eyed herdsman Hera set to guard Io; Hermes killed him on Zeus's orders.
9 Inachus, Io's father, was the river of Argos and its first king; as a river he was a son of Ocean, so the Oceanids are his sisters.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
613	**IO** ὦ κοινὸν ὠφέλημα θνητοῖσιν φανείς, / τλῆμον Προμηθεῦ, τοῦ δίκην πάσχεις τάδε;	**IO** You who appeared as a blessing shared by all mortals, long-suffering Prometheus—what is it you're being punished like this for?
615	**PROMETHEUS** ἁρμοῖ πέπαυμαι τοὺς ἐμοὺς θρηνῶν πόνους.	**PROMETHEUS** I've only just stopped lamenting my own pains.
616	**IO** οὔκουν πόροις ἂν τήνδε δωρεὰν ἐμοί;	**IO** Then won't you grant me this favor?
617	**PROMETHEUS** λέγ' ἥντιν' αἰτῇ· πᾶν γὰρ ἂν πύθοιό μου.	**PROMETHEUS** Say what it is you ask. You could learn anything from me.
618	**IO** σήμηνον ὅστις ἐν φάραγγί σ' ὤχμασεν.	**IO** Tell me who clamped you in this ravine.
619	**PROMETHEUS** βούλευμα μὲν τὸ Διῖον, Ἡφαίστου δὲ χείρ.	**PROMETHEUS** The will was Zeus's; the hand, Hephaestus'.
620	**IO** ποινὰς δὲ ποίων ἀμπλακημάτων τίνεις;	**IO** And for what offenses are you paying the penalty?
621	**PROMETHEUS** τοσοῦτον ἀρκῶ σοι σαφηνίσας μόνον.	**PROMETHEUS** That much is all I'll make clear to you.
622	**IO** καὶ πρός γε τούτοις τέρμα τῆς ἐμῆς πλάνης / δεῖξον, τίς ἔσται τῇ ταλαιπώρῳ χρόνος.	**IO** Then besides that, show me the end of my wandering. When will it come for me in my misery?
624	**PROMETHEUS** τὸ μὴ μαθεῖν σοι κρεῖσσον ἢ μαθεῖν τάδε.	**PROMETHEUS** Better for you not to learn it than to learn it.
625	**IO** μήτοι με κρύψῃς τοῦθ' ὅπερ μέλλω παθεῖν.	**IO** Please don't hide from me what I'm going to suffer.
626	**PROMETHEUS** ἀλλ' οὐ μεγαίρω τοῦδέ σοι δωρήματος.	**PROMETHEUS** It isn't that I begrudge you this gift.
627	**IO** τί δῆτα μέλλεις μὴ οὐ γεγωνίσκειν τὸ πᾶν;	**IO** Then why put off telling me the whole thing?
628	**PROMETHEUS** φθόνος μὲν οὐδείς, σὰς δ' ὀκνῶ θράξαι φρένας.	**PROMETHEUS** There's no ill will in it. I'm only reluctant to shatter your spirit.
629	**IO** μή μου προκήδου μᾶσσον ὡς ἐμοὶ γλυκύ.	**IO** Don't spare me more than I want to be spared.
630	**PROMETHEUS** ἐπεὶ προθυμῇ, χρὴ λέγειν. ἄκουε δή.	**PROMETHEUS** Since you're so eager, I must speak. Listen, then.
631	**CHORUS** μήπω γε· μοῖραν δ' ἡδονῆς κἀμοὶ πόρε. τὴν τῆσδε πρῶτον ἱστορήσωμεν νόσον, αὐτῆς λεγούσης τὰς πολυφθόρους τύχας· τὰ λοιπὰ δ' ἄθλων σοῦ διδαχθήτω πάρα.	**CHORUS** Not yet. Give us a share of the pleasure too. Let's first hear about her affliction, with her telling us herself the fortunes that have ruined her; then let her learn the rest of her trials from you.
635	**PROMETHEUS** σὸν ἔργον, Ἰοῖ, ταῖσδ' ὑπουργῆσαι χάριν, ἄλλως τε πάντως καὶ κασιγνήταις πατρός. ὡς τἀποκλαῦσαι κἀποδύρασθαι τύχας	**PROMETHEUS** It's for you, Io, to do these women this favor—all the more since they're your father's sisters. To weep and lament your fortunes where you'll win a tear from those who listen is time well spent.

GREEK	ENGLISH
ἐνταῦθ', ὅπου μέλλοι τις οἴσεσθαι δάκρυ πρὸς τῶν κλυόντων, ἀξίαν τριβὴν ἔχει.	
640 **IO** οὐκ οἶδ' ὅπως ὑμῖν ἀπιστῆσαί με χρή, σαφεῖ δὲ μύθῳ πᾶν ὅπερ προσχρῄζετε πεύσεσθε· καίτοι καὶ λέγουσ' αἰσχύνομαι θεόσσυτον χειμῶνα καὶ διαφθορὰν μορφῆς, ὅθεν μοι σχετλίᾳ προσέπτατο.	**IO** I don't see how I could refuse you. You'll hear everything you ask in a plain account. And yet even to speak of it shames me: the god-sent storm, the ruin of my shape, and how it came swooping down on me in my misery.
645 αἰεὶ γὰρ ὄψεις ἔννυχοι πωλεύμεναι ἐς παρθενῶνας τοὺς ἐμοὺς παρηγόρουν λείοισι μύθοις "ὦ μέγ' εὔδαιμον κόρη, τί παρθενεύει δαρόν, ἐξὸν σοι γάμου τυχεῖν μεγίστου; Ζεὺς γὰρ ἱμέρου βέλει πρὸς σοῦ τέθαλπται καὶ συναίρεσθαι Κύπριν θέλει· σὺ δ', ὦ παῖ, μὴ 'πολακτίσῃς λέχος τὸ Ζηνός, ἀλλ' ἔξελθε πρὸς Λέρνης βαθὺν λειμῶνα, ποίμνας βουστάσεις τε πρὸς πατρός, ὡς ἂν τὸ Δῖον ὄμμα λωφήσῃ πόθου."	Night after night visions kept coming into my maiden rooms and coaxing me with smooth words: "Girl, so greatly blessed, why stay a maiden so long, when you could win the greatest of marriages? Zeus has been fired by desire's arrow for you, and he wants to join with you in love. Child, don't kick away the bed of Zeus. Go out to the deep meadow of Lerna, to your father's flocks and cattle-stalls, so that the eye of Zeus may find relief from its longing."
655 τοιοῖσδε πάσας εὐφρόνας ὀνείρασι συνειχόμην δύστηνος, ἔστε δὴ πατρὶ ἔτλην γεγωνεῖν νυκτίφοιτ' ὀνείρατα. ὁ δ' ἔς τε Πυθὼ κἀπὶ Δωδώνης πυκνοὺς θεοπρόπους ἴαλλεν, ὡς μάθοι τί χρὴ δρῶντ' ἢ λέγοντα δαίμοσιν πράσσειν φίλα. ἦκον δ' ἀναγγέλλοντες αἰολοστόμους χρησμοὺς ἀσήμους δυσκρίτως τ' εἰρημένους. τέλος δ' ἐναργὴς βάξις ἦλθεν Ἰνάχῳ σαφῶς ἐπισκήπτουσα καὶ μυθουμένη ἔξω δόμων τε καὶ πάτρας ὠθεῖν ἐμέ, ἄφετον ἀλᾶσθαι γῆς ἐπ' ἐσχάτοις ὅροις· κεἰ μὴ θέλοι, πυρωπὸν ἐκ Διὸς μολεῖν κεραυνόν, ὃς πᾶν ἐξαϊστώσοι γένος.	Every night I was beset by dreams like these, poor me, until at last I dared to tell my father of the dreams that walked by night. He sent envoy after envoy to Pytho and to Dodona to learn what he should do or say to please the gods. They came back reporting oracles that twisted their words, obscure and darkly spoken. But at last a clear message came to Inachus, plainly charging him and telling him to drive me out of house and homeland, to wander loose to the farthest bounds of the earth—and if he refused, a fiery thunderbolt would come from Zeus and wipe out his whole race.[10]
669 τοιοῖσδε πεισθεὶς Λοξίου μαντεύμασιν ἐξήλασέν με κἀπέκλῃσε δωμάτων ἄκουσαν ἄκων· ἀλλ' ἐπηνάγκαζέ νιν Διὸς χαλινὸς πρὸς βίαν πράσσειν τάδε. εὐθὺς δὲ μορφὴ καὶ φρένες διάστροφοι ἦσαν, κεραστὶς δ', ὡς ὁρᾶτ', ὀξυστόμῳ μύωπι χρισθεῖσ' ἐμμανεῖ σκιρτήματι ᾔσσον πρὸς εὔποτόν τε Κερχνείας ῥέος Λέρνης τε κρήνην· βουκόλος δὲ γηγενὴς ἄκρατος ὀργὴν Ἄργος ὠμάρτει, πυκνοῖς ὄσσοις δεδορκὼς τοὺς ἐμοὺς κατὰ στίβους. ἀπροσδόκητος δ' αὐτὸν ἀφνίδιος μόρος τοῦ ζῆν ἀπεστέρησεν. οἰστροπλὴξ δ' ἐγὼ μάστιγι θείᾳ γῆν πρὸ γῆς ἐλαύνομαι.	Persuaded by such prophecies of Loxias, he drove me out and shut me out of the house, against my will and against his own; but the bridle of Zeus forced him to do it. At once my shape and my mind were twisted. Horned, as you see, and stung by a sharp-mouthed gadfly, I rushed in frenzied leaps to the sweet waters of Cerchneia and the spring of Lerna. And the earth-born herdsman Argus, untempered in his rage, followed, watching my tracks with his crowd of eyes. But a sudden, unlooked-for death robbed him of life. And I, gadfly-stung, am driven from land to land by a whip from the gods.[11]

10 Pytho is Delphi, Apollo's oracle; Dodona, in northwestern Greece, was the oracle of Zeus.
11 Loxias is Apollo's name as the god of oracles.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
683	κλύεις τὰ πραχθέντ'· εἰ δ' ἔχεις εἰπεῖν ὅ τι λοιπὸν πόνων, σήμαινε· μηδέ μ' οἰκτίσας ξύνθαλπε μύθοις ψευδέσιν· νόσημα γὰρ αἴσχιστον εἶναί φημι συνθέτους λόγους.	You've heard what happened. If you can tell me what remains of my troubles, tell me. And don't pity me and comfort me with false words, because I say made-up stories are the most shameful sickness there is.
687	**CHORUS** ἔα ἔα, ἄπεχε, φεῦ· οὔποτ' οὔποτ' ηὔχουν ὧδε ξένους μολεῖσθαι λόγους εἰς ἀκοὰν ἐμάν, οὐδ' ὧδε δυσθέατα καὶ δύσοιστα πήματα, λύματα, ἀμ- φάκει κέντρῳ τύψειν ψυχὰν ἐμάν. ἰὼ μοῖρα μοῖρα, πέφρικ' εἰσιδοῦσα πρᾶξιν Ἰοῦς.	**CHORUS** Ah, ah! Stop! Ah! Never, never did I think such strange words would reach my ears, nor that sufferings so hard to look on, so hard to bear, pains and defilements, would strike my soul with a double-edged goad. Oh fate, fate, I shudder to see what has come upon Io.
696	**PROMETHEUS** πρῴ γε στενάζεις καὶ φόβου πλέα τις εἶ· / ἐπίσχες ἔστ' ἂν καὶ τὰ λοιπὰ προσμάθῃς.	**PROMETHEUS** You're groaning too soon, and you're full of fear. Hold on until you've learned the rest as well.
698	**CHORUS** λέγ', ἐκδίδασκε· τοῖς νοσοῦσί τοι γλυκὺ / τὸ λοιπὸν ἄλγος προυξεπίστασθαι τορῶς.	**CHORUS** Speak, tell it all. For the sick, it's sweet to know clearly beforehand the pain still to come.
700	**PROMETHEUS** τὴν πρίν γε χρείαν ἠνύσασθ' ἐμοῦ πάρα κούφως· μαθεῖν γὰρ τῆσδε πρῶτ' ἐχρῄζετε τὸν ἀμφ' ἑαυτῆς ἆθλον ἐξηγουμένης· τὰ λοιπὰ νῦν ἀκούσαθ', οἷα χρὴ πάθη τλῆναι πρὸς Ἥρας τήνδε τὴν νεάνιδα. σύ τ' Ἰνάχειον σπέρμα, τοὺς ἐμοὺς λόγους θυμῷ βάλ', ὡς ἂν τέρματ' ἐκμάθῃς ὁδοῦ.	**PROMETHEUS** Your first request you got from me easily: you wanted first to learn about her, with her recounting her own ordeal. Now hear the rest—the sufferings this young woman must endure at Hera's hands. And you, child of Inachus' seed, lay my words to heart, so that you learn where your road ends.
707	πρῶτον μὲν ἐνθένδ' ἡλίου πρὸς ἀντολὰς στρέψασα σαυτὴν στεῖχ' ἀνηρότους γύας· Σκύθας δ' ἀφίξῃ νομάδας, οἳ πλεκτὰς στέγας πεδάρσιοι ναίουσ' ἐπ' εὐκύκλοις ὄχοις ἑκηβόλοις τόξοισιν ἐξηρτυμένοι· οἷς μὴ πελάζειν, ἀλλ' ἁλιστόνοις πόδας χρίμπτουσα ῥαχίαισιν ἐκπερᾶν χθόνα. λαιᾶς δὲ χειρὸς οἱ σιδηροτέκτονες οἰκοῦσι Χάλυβες, οὓς φυλάξασθαί σε χρή. ἀνήμεροι γὰρ οὐδὲ πρόσπλατοι ξένοις.	First, from here, turn toward the sunrise and make your way across unplowed fields. You'll come to the nomad Scythians, who live in wicker houses raised high on well-wheeled wagons, armed with far-shooting bows. Don't go near them; keep your feet close to the surf-roaring shore and pass through their land. On your left hand live the ironworking Chalybes, and you must beware of them, for they're fierce and no friends to strangers.[12]
717	ἥξεις δ' Ὑβριστὴν ποταμὸν οὐ ψευδώνυμον, ὃν μὴ περάσῃς, οὐ γὰρ εὔβατος περᾶν, πρὶν ἂν πρὸς αὐτὸν Καύκασον μόλῃς, ὀρῶν ὕψιστον, ἔνθα ποταμὸς ἐκφυσᾷ μένος κροτάφων ἀπ' αὐτῶν. ἀστρογείτονας δὲ χρὴ κορυφὰς ὑπερβάλλουσαν ἐς μεσημβρινὴν βῆναι κέλευθον, ἔνθ', Ἀμαζόνων στρατὸν ἥξεις στυγάνορ', αἳ Θεμίσκυράν ποτε	You'll come to the river Hybristes—the Violent—and it's well named. Don't cross it, for it isn't easy to cross, until you reach the Caucasus itself, highest of mountains, where the river blasts out its fury from the very temples of the peaks. You must climb over the summits that neighbor the stars and take the road south, where you'll come to the man-hating host of the Amazons, who will one

12 The Chalybes were a people of the Black Sea's southeastern coast, famous as ironworkers.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	κατοικιοῦσιν ἀμφὶ Θερμώδονθ', ἵνα τραχεῖα πόντου Σαλμυδησσία γνάθος ἐχθρόξενος ναύταισι, μητρυιὰ νεῶν· αὗταί σ' ὁδηγήσουσι καὶ μάλ' ἀσμένως.	day settle Themiscyra on the Thermodon, where the rough jaw of the sea at Salmydessus is hostile to sailors, a stepmother to ships. They'll guide you on your way, and gladly.[13]
729	ἰσθμὸν δ' ἐπ' αὐταῖς στενοπόροις λίμνης πύλαις Κιμμερικὸν ἥξεις, ὃν θρασυσπλάγχνως σε χρὴ λιποῦσαν αὐλῶν' ἐκπερᾶν Μαιωτικόν· ἔσται δὲ θνητοῖς εἰσαεὶ λόγος μέγας τῆς σῆς πορείας, Βόσπορος δ' ἐπώνυμος κεκλήσεται. λιποῦσα δ' Εὐρώπης πέδον ἤπειρον ἥξεις Ἀσιάδ'. ἆρ', ὑμῖν δοκεῖ ὁ τῶν θεῶν τύραννος ἐς τὰ πάνθ' ὁμῶς βίαιος εἶναι; τῇδε γὰρ θνητῇ θεὸς χρῄζων μιγῆναι τάσδ' ἐπέρριψεν πλάνας. πικροῦ δ' ἔκυρσας, ὦ κόρη, τῶν σῶν γάμων μνηστῆρος. οὓς γὰρ νῦν ἀκήκοας λόγους, εἶναι δόκει σοι μηδέπω 'ν προοιμίοις.	Right at the narrow gates of the lake you'll come to the Cimmerian isthmus; you must leave it behind and boldly cross the Maeotic strait. There will be great talk among mortals of your crossing forever, and it will be called Bosporus after it. Leaving the plain of Europe, you'll reach the continent of Asia. Now, don't you think, all of you, that the tyrant of the gods is violent in everything alike? This god wanted to sleep with this mortal girl, and so he flung these wanderings on her. A bitter suitor you've found for your hand, girl. As for the words you've heard so far—think of them as not even the prelude yet.[14]
742	**IO** ἰώ μοί μοι, ἔ ἔ.	**IO** Oh, no, no! Ah, ah!
743	**PROMETHEUS** σὺ δ' αὖ κέκραγας κἀναμυχθίζῃ; τί που / δράσεις, ὅταν τὰ λοιπὰ πυνθάνῃ κακά;	**PROMETHEUS** Crying and moaning again? What will you do, I wonder, when you hear the rest of the evils?
745	**CHORUS** ἦ γάρ τι λοιπὸν τῇδε πημάτων ἐρεῖς;	**CHORUS** What—you've still more sufferings to tell for her?
746	**PROMETHEUS** δυσχείμερόν γε πέλαγος ἀτηρᾶς δύης.	**PROMETHEUS** Yes—a wintry sea of ruinous misery.
747	**IO** τί δῆτ' ἐμοὶ ζῆν κέρδος, ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐν τάχει ἔρριψ' ἐμαυτὴν τῆσδ' ἀπὸ στύφλου πέτρας, ὅπως πέδοι σκήψασα τῶν πάντων πόνων ἀπηλλάγην; κρεῖσσον γὰρ εἰσάπαξ θανεῖν ἢ τὰς ἁπάσας ἡμέρας πάσχειν κακῶς.	**IO** Then what's the good of living? Why don't I throw myself right now from this rugged rock, so that I crash to the ground and am rid of all my pains? Better to die once and for all than to suffer miserably all my days.
752	**PROMETHEUS** ἦ δυσπετῶς ἂν τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἄθλους φέροις, ὅτῳ θανεῖν μέν ἐστιν οὐ πεπρωμένον· αὕτη γὰρ ἦν ἂν πημάτων ἀπαλλαγή· νῦν δ' οὐδέν ἐστι τέρμα μοι προκείμενον μόχθων, πρὶν ἂν Ζεὺς ἐκπέσῃ τυραννίδος.	**PROMETHEUS** You'd find my ordeals hard to bear, then, since for me it isn't fated to die—that would have been a release from suffering. As it is, there's no end to my labors set before me until Zeus falls from his tyranny.
757	**IO** ἦ γάρ ποτ' ἔστιν ἐκπεσεῖν ἀρχῆς Δία;	**IO** What? Is Zeus ever going to fall from power?
758	**PROMETHEUS** ἥδοι' ἄν, οἶμαι, τήνδ' ἰδοῦσα συμφοράν.	**PROMETHEUS** You'd be glad, I think, to see that disaster.
759		

13 The Amazons, a nation of warrior women, were placed by legend at Themiscyra on the river Thermodon, in northern Asia Minor.
14 Bosporus means "cow's crossing"; this is the Cimmerian Bosporus (the Strait of Kerch), between Lake Maeotis (the Sea of Azov) and the Black Sea.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	IO πῶς δ’ οὐκ ἄν, ἥτις ἐκ Διὸς πάσχω κακῶς;	**IO** How could I not, when it’s Zeus who makes me suffer?
760	**PROMETHEUS** ὡς τοίνυν ὄντων τῶνδέ σοι μαθεῖν πάρα.	**PROMETHEUS** Then you may take it from me that it’s so.
761	**IO** πρὸς τοῦ τύραννα σκῆπτρα συληθήσεται;	**IO** Who will strip him of his tyrant’s scepter?
762	**PROMETHEUS** πρὸς αὐτὸς αὑτοῦ κενοφρόνων βουλευμάτων.	**PROMETHEUS** He himself, by his own empty-headed plans.
763	**IO** ποίῳ τρόπῳ; σήμηνον, εἰ μή τις βλάβη.	**IO** How? Tell me, if there’s no harm in it.
764	**PROMETHEUS** γαμεῖ γάμον τοιοῦτον ᾧ ποτ’ ἀσχαλᾷ.	**PROMETHEUS** He’ll make a marriage he’ll one day regret.
765	**IO** θέορτον, ἢ βρότειον; εἰ ῥητόν, φράσον.	**IO** With a goddess or a mortal? Tell me, if it can be told.
766	**PROMETHEUS** τί δ’ ὅντιν’·; οὐ γὰρ ῥητὸν αὐδᾶσθαι τόδε.	**PROMETHEUS** Why ask which? It isn’t something that can be spoken.
767	**IO** ἦ πρὸς δάμαρτος ἐξανίσταται θρόνων;	**IO** Will his wife throw him from his throne?
768	**PROMETHEUS** ἢ τέξεταί γε παῖδα φέρτερον πατρός.	**PROMETHEUS** Yes—she’ll bear a son stronger than his father.
769	**IO** οὐδ’ ἔστιν αὐτῷ τῆσδ’ ἀποστροφὴ τύχης;	**IO** And he has no way to turn this fate aside?
770	**PROMETHEUS** οὐ δῆτα, πλὴν ἔγωγ’ ἂν ἐκ δεσμῶν λυθείς.	**PROMETHEUS** None—unless I’m set free from these chains.
771	**IO** τίς οὖν ὁ λύσων ἐστὶν ἄκοντος Διός;	**IO** Then who’s going to free you against Zeus’s will?
772	**PROMETHEUS** τῶν σῶν τιν’ αὐτὸν ἐγγόνων εἶναι χρεών.	**PROMETHEUS** It’s fated to be one of your own descendants.
773	**IO** πῶς εἶπας; ἦ ’μὸς παῖς σ’ ἀπαλλάξει κακῶν;	**IO** What did you say? A child of mine will release you from your sufferings?
774	**PROMETHEUS** τρίτος γε γένναν πρὸς δέκ’ ἄλλαισιν γοναῖς.	**PROMETHEUS** Yes, third in line, after ten generations more.
775	**IO** ἥδ’ οὐκέτ’ εὐξύμβλητος ἡ χρησμῳδία.	**IO** Now that prophecy is no longer easy to make out.
776	**PROMETHEUS** καὶ μηδὲ σαυτῆς ἐκμαθεῖν ζήτει πόνους.	**PROMETHEUS** Then don’t try to learn your own troubles either.
777	**IO** μή μοι προτείνων κέρδος εἶτ’ ἀποστέρει.	**IO** Don’t hold out a gift to me and then snatch it away.
778	**PROMETHEUS** δυοῖν λόγοιν σε θατέρῳ δωρήσομαι.	**PROMETHEUS** I’ll give you one of two stories.
779	**IO** ποίοιν; πρόδειξον, αἵρεσίν τ’ ἐμοὶ δίδου.	**IO** Which two? Show me first, and give me the choice.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
780	**PROMETHEUS** δίδωμ'· ἑλοῦ γάρ, ἢ πόνων τὰ λοιπά σοι / φράσω σαφηνῶς, ἢ τὸν ἐκλύσοντ' ἐμέ.	**PROMETHEUS** I give it. Choose: either I tell you plainly the rest of your trials, or the one who will free me.
782	**CHORUS** τούτων σὺ τὴν μὲν τῇδε, τὴν δ' ἐμοὶ χάριν θέσθαι θέλησον, μηδ' ἀτιμάσῃς λόγου· καὶ τῇδε μὲν γέγωνε τὴν λοιπὴν πλάνην, ἐμοὶ δὲ τὸν λύσοντα· τοῦτο γὰρ ποθῶ.	**CHORUS** Be willing to grant one of these favors to her and the other to me, and don't refuse us the telling. Tell her the rest of her wandering, and me the one who'll free you—that's what I long to hear.
786	**PROMETHEUS** ἐπεὶ προθυμεῖσθ', οὐκ ἐναντιώσομαι τὸ μὴ οὐ γεγωνεῖν πᾶν ὅσον προσχρήζετε. σοὶ πρῶτον, Ἰοῖ, πολύδονον πλάνην φράσω, ἣν ἐγγράφου σὺ μνήμοσιν δέλτοις φρενῶν.	**PROMETHEUS** Since you're so eager, I won't refuse to tell all that you ask. First to you, Io, I'll tell your much-tossed wandering. Write it on the remembering tablets of your mind.
790	ὅταν περάσῃς ῥεῖθρον ἠπείροιν ὅρον, πρὸς ἀντολὰς φλογῶπας ἡλιοστιβεῖς … πόντου περῶσα φλοῖσβον, ἔστ' ἂν ἐξίκῃ πρὸς Γοργόνεια πεδία Κισθήνης, ἵνα αἱ Φορκίδες ναίουσι δηναιαὶ κόραι τρεῖς κυκνόμορφοι, κοινὸν ὄμμ' ἐκτημέναι, μονόδοντες, ἃς οὔθ' ἥλιος προσδέρκεται ἀκτῖσιν οὔθ' ἡ νύκτερος μήνη ποτέ. πέλας δ' ἀδελφαὶ τῶνδε τρεῖς κατάπτεροι, δρακοντόμαλλοι Γοργόνες βροτοστυγεῖς, ἃς θνητὸς οὐδεὶς εἰσιδὼν ἔξει πνοάς.	When you've crossed the stream that marks the boundary of the two continents, toward the fiery east where the sun walks … crossing the roaring surge of the sea, until you reach the Gorgonean plains of Cisthene, where the daughters of Phorcys live, three ancient maidens shaped like swans, who share a single eye and have a single tooth, on whom the sun never looks with his rays, nor the moon by night. Near them are their three winged sisters, the snake-haired Gorgons, hated by mortals, whom no mortal can look on and still breathe.[15]
801	τοιοῦτο μέν σοι τοῦτο φρούριον λέγω· ἄλλην δ' ἄκουσον δυσχερῆ θεωρίαν· ὀξυστόμους γὰρ Ζηνὸς ἀκραγεῖς κύνας γρῦπας φύλαξαι, τόν τε μουνῶπα στρατὸν Ἀριμασπὸν ἱπποβάμον', οἳ χρυσόρρυτον οἰκοῦσιν ἀμφὶ νᾶμα Πλούτωνος πόρου· τούτοις σὺ μὴ πέλαζε. τηλουρὸν δὲ γῆν ἥξεις, κελαινὸν φῦλον, οἳ πρὸς ἡλίου ναίουσι πηγαῖς, ἔνθα ποταμὸς Αἰθίοψ. τούτου παρ' ὄχθας ἔρφ', ἕως ἂν ἐξίκῃ καταβασμόν, ἔνθα Βιβλίνων ὀρῶν ἄπο ἵησι σεπτὸν Νεῖλος εὔποτον ῥέος. οὗτός σ' ὁδώσει τὴν τρίγωνον ἐς χθόνα Νειλῶτιν, οὗ δὴ τὴν μακρὰν ἀποικίαν, Ἰοῖ, πέπρωται σοί τε καὶ τέκνοις κτίσαι.	That's the kind of garrison I warn you of. Now hear of another grim sight. Beware the sharp-beaked hounds of Zeus that never bark, the griffins, and the one-eyed host of Arimaspians on horseback, who live around the gold-flowing stream of Pluto's ford. Don't go near them. Then you'll come to a far-off land, a black race, who live by the springs of the sun, where the river Aethiops runs. Creep along its banks until you reach the cataract where the Nile sends out its holy, sweet stream from the Bybline mountains. It will guide you on your way to the three-cornered land of the Nile, where, Io, it's fated that you and your children will found your far-off colony.[16]
816	τῶν δ' εἴ τί σοι ψελλόν τε καὶ δυσεύρετον, ἐπανδίπλαζε καὶ σαφῶς ἐκμάνθανε· σχολὴ δὲ πλείων ἢ θέλω πάρεστί μοι.	If any of this is unclear or hard to grasp, go over it again and learn it clearly. I have more time on my hands than I'd like.
819	**CHORUS** εἰ μέν τι τῇδε λοιπὸν ἢ παρειμένον ἔχεις γεγωνεῖν τῆς πολυφθόρου πλάνης,	**CHORUS** If there's anything left or passed over that you can tell her of her ruinous wandering, say

15 The daughters of Phorcys are the Graeae, the "Gray Ones"; the sight of their sisters the Gorgons turned men to stone.
16 The Arimaspians were a legendary one-eyed people at the edge of the world who stole gold guarded by griffins.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	λέγ'· εἰ δὲ πάντ' εἴρηκας, ἡμῖν αὖ χάριν δὸς ἥνπερ αἰτούμεσθα, μέμνησαι δέ που.	it. But if you've told it all, give us in turn the favor we ask. You remember it, I'm sure.
823	**PROMETHEUS** τὸ πᾶν πορείας ἥδε τέρμ' ἀκήκοεν. ὅπως δ' ἂν εἰδῇ μὴ μάτην κλύουσά μου, ἃ πρὶν μολεῖν δεῦρ' ἐκμεμόχθηκεν φράσω, τεκμήριον τοῦτ' αὐτὸ δοὺς μύθων ἐμῶν.	**PROMETHEUS** She has heard her journey all the way to its end. But so she knows she hasn't listened to me for nothing, I'll tell what she struggled through before coming here, and give her that as proof of my words.
827	ὄχλον μὲν οὖν τὸν πλεῖστον ἐκλείψω λόγων, / πρὸς αὐτὸ δ' εἶμι τέρμα σῶν πλανημάτων.	I'll leave out most of the crowd of details and go straight to the end of your wanderings.
829	ἐπεὶ γὰρ ἦλθες πρὸς Μολοσσὰ γάπεδα, τὴν αἰπύνωτόν τ' ἀμφὶ Δωδώνην, ἵνα μαντεῖα θᾶκός τ' ἐστὶ Θεσπρωτοῦ Διός, τέρας τ' ἄπιστον, αἱ προσήγοροι δρύες, ὑφ' ὧν σὺ λαμπρῶς κοὐδὲν αἰνικτηρίως προσηγορεύθης ἡ Διὸς κλεινὴ δάμαρ μέλλουσ' ἔσεσθαι. τῶνδε προσσαίνει σέ τι; ἐντεῦθεν οἰστρήσασα τὴν παρακτίαν κέλευθον ᾔξας πρὸς μέγαν κόλπον Ῥέας, ἀφ' οὗ παλιμπλάγκτοισι χειμάζῃ δρόμοις· χρόνον δὲ τὸν μέλλοντα πόντιος μυχός, σαφῶς ἐπίστασ', Ἰόνιος κεκλήσεται,. τῆς σῆς πορείας μνῆμα τοῖς πᾶσιν βροτοῖς.	When you came to the plains of the Molossians and steep-ridged Dodona, where the oracle and seat of Thesprotian Zeus are, and that wonder past belief, the talking oaks, which hailed you plainly, not in riddles at all, as the one who would be the glorious bride of Zeus—does any of this stir you? From there, stung by the gadfly, you rushed along the coast road to the great gulf of Rhea, and from there you're storm-tossed back and forth on wandering courses. And in time to come that inner sea —know it well—will be called Ionian, a memorial of your journey to all mortals.[17]
842	σημεῖά σοι τάδ' ἐστὶ τῆς ἐμῆς φρενός, ὡς δέρκεται πλέον τι τοῦ πεφασμένου. τὰ λοιπὰ δ' ὑμῖν τῇδέ τ' ἐς κοινὸν φράσω, ἐς ταὐτὸν ἐλθὼν τῶν πάλαι λόγων ἴχνος.	These are signs for you that my mind sees further than what's been revealed. The rest I'll tell to you and her together, going back to the track of my earlier words.
846	ἔστιν πόλις Κάνωβος ἐσχάτη χθονός, Νείλου πρὸς αὐτῷ στόματι καὶ προσχώματι· ἐνταῦθα δή σε Ζεὺς τίθησιν ἔμφρονα ἐπαφῶν ἀταρβεῖ χειρὶ καὶ θιγὼν μόνον. ἐπώνυμον δὲ τῶν Διὸς γεννημάτων τέξεις κελαινὸν Ἔπαφον, ὃς καρπώσεται ὅσην πλατύρρους Νεῖλος ἀρδεύει χθόνα· πέμπτη δ' ἀπ' αὐτοῦ γέννα πεντηκοντάπαις πάλιν πρὸς Ἄργος οὐχ ἑκοῦσ' ἐλεύσεται θηλύσπορος, φεύγουσα συγγενῆ γάμον ἀνεψιῶν· οἱ δ' ἐπτοημένοι φρένας, κίρκοι πελειῶν οὐ μακρὰν λελειμμένοι, ἥξουσι θηρεύοντες οὐ θηρασίμους γάμους, φθόνον δὲ σωμάτων ἕξει θεός· Πελασγία δὲ δέξεται θηλυκτόνῳ Ἄρει, δαμέντων νυκτιφρουρήτῳ θράσει. γυνὴ γὰρ ἄνδρ' ἕκαστον αἰῶνος στερεῖ, δίθηκτον ἐν σφαγαῖσι βάψασα ξίφος· τοιάδ' ἐπ' ἐχθροὺς τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἔλθοι Κύπρις.	There is a city, Canobus, at the farthest edge of the land, right at the mouth of the Nile and the silt it has built up. There Zeus restores your mind, stroking you with a hand that brings no fear, with a touch and nothing more. And named for that touch of Zeus's begetting, you'll bear dark Epaphus, who will reap the fruit of all the land the broad-flowing Nile waters. Fifth in line from him, a generation of fifty children, all girls, will come back to Argos, not willingly, fleeing marriage with their own kin, their cousins. And the men, their minds aflutter, hawks not far behind doves, will come hunting marriages they have no right to hunt; but the god will begrudge them those bodies. Pelasgia will take them in, the men struck down by a war of women's making, a daring that keeps watch in the night. For each wife will rob her husband of his life, dipping a two-edged sword

17 The oaks of Dodona were said to speak Zeus's oracles; the "gulf of Rhea" is the Adriatic.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
		in his blood. May love like that come upon my enemies![18]
865	μίαν δὲ παίδων ἵμερος θέλξει τὸ μὴ κτεῖναι σύνευνον, ἀλλ' ἀπαμβλυνθήσεται γνώμην· δυοῖν δὲ θάτερον βουλήσεται, κλύειν ἄναλκις μᾶλλον ἢ μιαιφόνος· αὕτη κατ' Ἄργος βασιλικὸν τέξει γένος. μακροῦ λόγου δεῖ ταῦτ' ἐπεξελθεῖν τορῶς. σπορᾶς γε μὴν ἐκ τῆσδε φύσεται θρασὺς τόξοισι κλεινός, ὃς πόνων ἐκ τῶνδ' ἐμὲ λύσει. τοιόνδε χρησμὸν ἡ παλαιγενὴς μήτηρ ἐμοὶ διῆλθε Τιτανὶς Θέμις· ὅπως δὲ χὤπη, ταῦτα δεῖ μακροῦ λόγου εἰπεῖν, σύ τ' οὐδὲν ἐκμαθοῦσα κερδανεῖς.	But desire will charm one of the girls not to kill her bedfellow; her resolve will be blunted. Of the two she'll choose the one: to be called a coward rather than a murderer. She will bear a royal line in Argos. It would take a long account to go through all this clearly. But from this seed a bold man will be born, famed for his bow, who will free me from these sufferings. Such is the prophecy my mother, the ancient Titaness Themis, told me in full. But how and in what way—that would take a long account to tell, and you'd gain nothing by learning it.[19]
877	**IO** ἐλελεῦ ἐλελεῦ, ὑπό μ' αὖ σφάκελος καὶ φρενοπληγεῖς μανίαι θάλπουσ', οἴστρου δ' ἄρδις χρίει μ' ἄπυρος· κραδία δὲ φόβῳ φρένα λακτίζει. τροχοδινεῖται δ' ὄμμαθ' ἑλίγδην, ἔξω δὲ δρόμου φέρομαι λύσσης πνεύματι μάργῳ, γλώσσης ἀκρατής· θολεροὶ δὲ λόγοι παίουσ' εἰκῆ στυγνῆς πρὸς κύμασιν ἄτης.	**IO** *Eleleu, eleleu!* Again the spasm, the mind-striking madness burns me, and the gadfly's arrowhead, never forged in fire, stings me. My heart kicks at my breast in fear; my eyes go spinning round and round; I'm swept off course by madness' raging blast, no master of my tongue; my muddied words beat blindly against the waves of hateful ruin.

THIRD STASIMON

The chorus pray to marry their equals and never to draw the love of a god.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
887	**CHORUS** ἦ σοφὸς ἦ σοφὸς ὃς πρῶτος ἐν γνώμᾳ τόδ' ἐβάστασε καὶ γλώσ- σᾳ διεμυθολόγησεν, ὡς τὸ κηδεῦσαι καθ' ἑαυτὸν ἀριστεύει μακρῷ, καὶ μήτε τῶν πλούτῳ διαθρυπτομένων μήτε τῶν γέννᾳ μεγαλυνομένων ὄντα χερνήταν ἐραστεῦσαι γάμων.	**CHORUS** Wise, he was wise indeed, who first weighed this in his mind and spoke it out with his tongue: that to marry within one's own rank is best by far, and that one who works with his hands should never long to marry among those spoiled by wealth or those made grand by birth.
894	μήποτε μήποτέ μ', ὦ πότνιαι Μοῖραι, λεχέων Διὸς εὐνά- τειραν ἴδοισθε πέλουσαν· μηδὲ πλαθείην γαμέτᾳ τινὶ τῶν ἐξ οὐρανοῦ. ταρβῶ γὰρ ἀστεργάνορα παρθενίαν εἰσορῶσ' Ἰοῦς ἀμαλαπτομέναν δυσπλάνοις Ἥρας ἀλατείαις πόνων.	Never, never, revered Fates, may you see me come to share the bed of Zeus, and may I never be brought near a husband from among those in heaven. For I tremble when I see Io's maidenhood, that wanted no man,

18 Epaphus' name echoes the Greek word for "touching." The fifty girls are the Danaids, who killed their bridegrooms on their wedding night.

19 The one who spares her husband is Hypermnestra; the archer descended from her is Heracles.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
		ravaged by the cruel wanderings of Hera's torments.
901	ἐμοὶ δ' ὅτε μὲν ὁμαλὸς ὁ γάμος, ἄφοβος· μηδὲ κρεισσόνων θεῶν ἔρως ἄφυκτον ὄμμα προσδράκοι με. ἀπόλεμος ὅδε γ' ὁ πόλεμος, ἄπορα πόριμος· οὐδ' ἔχω τίς ἂν γενοίμαν. τὰν Διὸς γὰρ οὐχ ὁρῶ μῆτιν ὅπα φύγοιμ' ἄν.	For me, when marriage is between equals, there's nothing to fear; and may the love of mightier gods never cast its inescapable eye on me. That is a war no one can fight; it makes a way where there is none. I don't know what would become of me, for I can't see how I could escape the cunning of Zeus.

EXODOS

Prometheus refuses to tell Hermes his secret and sinks into the earth amid thunder and storm.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
907	**PROMETHEUS** ἦ μὴν ἔτι Ζεύς, καίπερ αὐθάδης φρενῶν, ἔσται ταπεινός, οἷον ἐξαρτύεται γάμον γαμεῖν, ὃς αὐτὸν ἐκ τυραννίδος θρόνων τ' ἄιστον ἐκβαλεῖ· πατρὸς δ' ἀρὰ Κρόνου τότ' ἤδη παντελῶς κρανθήσεται, ἣν ἐκπίτνων ἠρᾶτο δηναιῶν θρόνων. τοιῶνδε μόχθων ἐκτροπὴν οὐδεὶς θεῶν δύναιτ' ἂν αὐτῷ πλὴν ἐμοῦ δεῖξαι σαφῶς. ἐγὼ τάδ' οἶδα χὦ τρόπῳ. πρὸς ταῦτά νυν θαρσῶν καθήσθω τοῖς πεδαρσίοις κτύποις πιστός, τινάσσων τ' ἐν χεροῖν πύρπνουν βέλος.	**PROMETHEUS** I swear it: Zeus, for all his stubborn pride, will yet be brought low, such is the marriage he's preparing to make—one that will hurl him out of his tyranny and his throne into nothingness. Then the curse of his father Cronus will be brought fully to pass, the curse he called down as he fell from his ancient throne. No god but me could show him clearly a way out of troubles like these. I know these things, and how they'll come. So let him sit there now, bold and trusting in his thunderclaps on high, brandishing his fire-breathing bolt in his hands.
918	οὐδὲν γὰρ αὐτῷ ταῦτ' ἐπαρκέσει τὸ μὴ οὐ πεσεῖν ἀτίμως πτώματ' οὐκ ἀνασχετά· τοῖον παλαιστὴν νῦν παρασκευάζεται ἐπ' αὐτὸς αὑτῷ, δυσμαχώτατον τέρας· ὃς δὴ κεραυνοῦ κρείσσον' εὑρήσει φλόγα, βροντῆς θ' ὑπερβάλλοντα καρτερὸν κτύπον· θαλασσίαν τε γῆς τινάκτειραν νόσον τρίαιναν, αἰχμὴν τὴν Ποσειδῶνος, σκεδᾷ. πταίσας δὲ τῷδε πρὸς κακῷ μαθήσεται ὅσον τό τ' ἄρχειν καὶ τὸ δουλεύειν δίχα.	None of it will be enough to save him from falling a shameful, unbearable fall. Such is the wrestler he's now preparing against himself, a monster nearly impossible to fight, who will find a flame stronger than the lightning and a mighty crash to drown the thunder, and will shatter Poseidon's spear, the trident, the sea's plague that shakes the earth. And when Zeus stumbles against this evil, he'll learn how far apart ruling and slavery are.
928	**CHORUS** σύ θην ἃ χρῄζεις, ταῦτ' ἐπιγλωσσᾷ Διός.	**CHORUS** Surely what you're mouthing against Zeus is just what you wish for.
929	**PROMETHEUS** ἅπερ τελεῖται, πρὸς δ' ἃ βούλομαι λέγω.	**PROMETHEUS** I say what will come to pass—and what I want, besides.
930	**CHORUS** καὶ προσδοκᾶν χρὴ δεσπόσειν Ζηνός τινα;	**CHORUS** And are we to expect that someone will be master over Zeus?
931	**PROMETHEUS** καὶ τῶνδέ γ', ἔξει δυσλοφωτέρους πόνους.	**PROMETHEUS** Yes, and his neck will bear troubles harder than these of mine.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
932	**CHORUS** πῶς δ' οὐχὶ ταρβεῖς τοιάδ' ἐκρίπτων ἔπη;	**CHORUS** How are you not afraid, flinging out words like these?
933	**PROMETHEUS** τί δ' ἂν φοβοίμην ᾧ θανεῖν οὐ μόρσιμον;	**PROMETHEUS** What should I fear, when I'm not fated to die?
934	**CHORUS** ἀλλ' ἄθλον ἄν σοι τοῦδ' ἔτ' ἀλγίω πόροι.	**CHORUS** But he could give you an ordeal still more painful than this.
935	**PROMETHEUS** ὁ δ' οὖν ποιείτω· πάντα προσδοκητά μοι.	**PROMETHEUS** Then let him do it. I'm ready for anything.
936	**CHORUS** οἱ προσκυνοῦντες τὴν Ἀδράστειαν σοφοί.	**CHORUS** Those who bow down to Adrasteia are wise.[20]
937	**PROMETHEUS** σέβου, προσεύχου, θῶπτε τὸν κρατοῦντ' ἀεί. ἐμοὶ δ' ἔλασσον Ζηνὸς ἢ μηδὲν μέλει. δράτω, κρατείτω τόνδε τὸν βραχὺν χρόνον, ὅπως θέλει· δαρὸν γὰρ οὐκ ἄρξει θεοῖς. ἀλλ' εἰσορῶ γὰρ τόνδε τὸν Διὸς τρόχιν, τὸν τοῦ τυράννου τοῦ νέου διάκονον· πάντως τι καινὸν ἀγγελῶν ἐλήλυθεν.	**PROMETHEUS** Revere, pray, fawn on whoever's in power at the moment. For me, Zeus matters less than nothing. Let him act, let him rule for this short while however he likes; he won't rule the gods for long. But wait—I see Zeus's runner here, the new tyrant's errand-boy. No doubt he's come to announce some news.
944	**HERMES** σὲ τὸν σοφιστήν, τὸν πικρῶς ὑπέρπικρον, τὸν ἐξαμαρτόντ' εἰς θεοὺς ἐφημέροις πορόντα τιμάς, τὸν πυρὸς κλέπτην λέγω· πατὴρ ἄνωγέ σ' οὕστινας κομπεῖς γάμους αὐδᾶν, πρὸς ὧν ἐκεῖνος ἐκπίπτει κράτους. καὶ ταῦτα μέντοι μηδὲν αἰνικτηρίως, ἀλλ' αὖθ' ἕκαστα φράζε· μηδέ μοι διπλᾶς ὁδούς, Προμηθεῦ, προσβάλῃς· ὁρᾷς δ' ὅτι Ζεὺς τοῖς τοιούτοις οὐχὶ μαλθακίζεται.	**HERMES** You, the clever one, bitter beyond bitterness, who wronged the gods by handing their honors to creatures of a day—I mean you, the thief of fire: the Father orders you to declare this marriage you keep boasting about, the one that will throw him from power. And none of your riddles, mind you—tell it point by point. Don't send me running on a second trip, Prometheus. You can see that Zeus isn't softened by this sort of thing.
953	**PROMETHEUS** σεμνόστομός γε καὶ φρονήματος πλέως ὁ μῦθός ἐστιν, ὡς θεῶν ὑπηρέτου. νέον νέοι κρατεῖτε καὶ δοκεῖτε δὴ ναίειν ἀπενθῆ πέργαμ'· οὐκ ἐκ τῶνδ' ἐγὼ δισσοὺς τυράννους ἐκπεσόντας ἠσθόμην; τρίτον δὲ τὸν νῦν κοιρανοῦντ' ἐπόψομαι αἴσχιστα καὶ τάχιστα. μή τί σοι δοκῶ ταρβεῖν ὑποπτήσσειν τε τε τοὺς νέους θεούς; πολλοῦ γε καὶ τοῦ παντὸς ἐλλείπω. σὺ δὲ κέλευθον ἥνπερ ἦλθες ἐγκόνει πάλιν· πεύσῃ γὰρ οὐδὲν ὧν ἀνιστορεῖς ἐμέ.	**PROMETHEUS** What a pompous speech, so full of self-importance—just what you'd expect from the gods' lackey. You're young, all of you, and your power is young, and you think you live in a citadel no grief can touch. Haven't I seen two tyrants thrown out of it already? And I'll see the third, the one who lords it now, fall most shamefully and most swiftly. Do you think I'm at all afraid of the new gods, that I cower before them? Far from it—nowhere near. Now you hurry back the way you came. You'll learn nothing of what you're asking me.[21]
964	**HERMES** τοιοῖσδε μέντοι καὶ πρὶν αὐθαδίσμασιν / ἐς τάσδε σαυτὸν πημονὰς καθώρμισας.	

20 Adrasteia, "the Inescapable," was a goddess of retribution; people paid her homage to avert punishment for proud words.
21 The two fallen tyrants are Uranus, overthrown by his son Cronus, and Cronus, overthrown by his son Zeus.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
		HERMES It was stubbornness just like this, you know, that steered you into this harbor of misery before.
966	**PROMETHEUS** τῆς σῆς λατρείας τὴν ἐμὴν δυσπραξίαν, / σαφῶς ἐπίστασ', οὐκ ἂν ἀλλάξαιμ' ἐγώ.	**PROMETHEUS** I wouldn't trade my misfortune for your slavery—be sure of that.
968	**HERMES** κρεῖσσον γὰρ οἶμαι τῇδε λατρεύειν πέτρᾳ / ἢ πατρὶ φῦναι Ζηνὶ πιστὸν ἄγγελον.	**HERMES** Of course. I suppose it's better to be a slave to this rock than to be born Father Zeus's trusty messenger.
970	**PROMETHEUS** οὕτως ὑβρίζειν τοὺς ὑβρίζοντας χρεών.	**PROMETHEUS** That's how the insolent deserve to be insulted.
971	**HERMES** χλιδᾶν ἔοικας τοῖς παροῦσι πράγμασι.	**HERMES** You seem to be reveling in your present situation.
972	**PROMETHEUS** χλιδῶ; χλιδῶντας ὧδε τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἐγὼ / ἐχθροὺς ἴδοιμι· καὶ σὲ δ' ἐν τούτοις λέγω.	**PROMETHEUS** Reveling? I'd like to see my enemies reveling like this—and I count you among them.
974	**HERMES** ἦ κἀμὲ γάρ τι συμφοραῖς ἐπαιτιᾷ;	**HERMES** What? You blame me for your misfortunes too?
975	**PROMETHEUS** ἁπλῷ λόγῳ τοὺς πάντας ἐχθαίρω θεούς, / ὅσοι παθόντες εὖ κακοῦσί μ' ἐκδίκως.	**PROMETHEUS** In a word, I hate all the gods who got good from me and pay me back with wrong, unjustly.
977	**HERMES** κλύω σ' ἐγὼ μεμηνότ' οὐ σμικρὰν νόσον.	**HERMES** I can hear you're mad—and it's no small sickness.
978	**PROMETHEUS** νοσοῖμ' ἄν, εἰ νόσημα τοὺς ἐχθροὺς στυγεῖν.	**PROMETHEUS** Then I'd be sick, if hating your enemies is a sickness.
979	**HERMES** εἴης φορητὸς οὐκ ἄν, εἰ πράσσοις καλῶς.	**HERMES** You'd be unbearable if you were doing well.
980	**PROMETHEUS** ὤμοι.	**PROMETHEUS** Oh, no.
980a	**HERMES** ὤμοι; τόδε Ζεὺς τοὔπος οὐκ ἐπίσταται.	**HERMES** "Oh, no"? That's a word Zeus doesn't know.
981	**PROMETHEUS** ἀλλ' ἐκδιδάσκει πάνθ' ὁ γηράσκων χρόνος.	**PROMETHEUS** Time, as it grows old, teaches everything.
982	**HERMES** καὶ μὴν σύ γ' οὔπω σωφρονεῖν ἐπίστασαι.	**HERMES** And yet you still haven't learned to be sensible.
983	**PROMETHEUS** σὲ γὰρ προσηύδων οὐκ ἂν ὄνθ' ὑπηρέτην.	**PROMETHEUS** No—or I wouldn't be talking to you, a servant.
984	**HERMES** ἐρεῖν ἔοικας οὐδὲν ὧν χρῄζει πατήρ.	**HERMES** It looks as if you won't say anything the Father wants.
985	**PROMETHEUS** καὶ μὴν ὀφείλων γ' ἂν τίνοιμ' αὐτῷ χάριν.	**PROMETHEUS** Oh, but I owe him a favor, and I'd gladly pay it back!

	GREEK	ENGLISH
986	**HERMES** ἐκερτόμησας δῆθεν ὡς παῖδ' ὄντα με.	**HERMES** You're making fun of me, I see, as if I were a child.
987	**PROMETHEUS** οὐ γὰρ σὺ παῖς τε κἄτι τοῦδ' ἀνούστερος εἰ προσδοκᾷς ἐμοῦ τι πεύσεσθαι πάρα; οὐκ ἔστιν αἴκισμ' οὐδὲ μηχάνημ' ὅτῳ προτρέψεταί με Ζεὺς γεγωνῆσαι τάδε, πρὶν ἂν χαλασθῇ δεσμὰ λυμαντήρια. πρὸς ταῦτα ῥιπτέσθω μὲν αἰθαλοῦσσα φλόξ, λευκοπτέρῳ δὲ νιφάδι καὶ βροντήμασι χθονίοις κυκάτω πάντα καὶ ταρασσέτω. γνάμψει γὰρ οὐδὲν τῶνδέ μ' ὥστε καὶ φράσαι πρὸς οὗ χρεών νιν ἐκπεσεῖν τυραννίδος.	**PROMETHEUS** Well, aren't you a child, and sillier than one, if you expect to learn anything from me? There's no torture, no contrivance by which Zeus will drive me to tell this, until these outrageous chains are loosened. So let him hurl his smoky flame, let him stir up and confound everything with white-winged snow and thunder from under the earth: none of it will bend me to tell him at whose hands he's fated to fall from his tyranny.
997	**HERMES** ὅρα νυν εἴ σοι ταῦτ' ἀρωγὰ φαίνεται.	**HERMES** Consider now whether this looks like it will help you.
998	**PROMETHEUS** ὦπται πάλαι δὴ καὶ βεβούλευται τάδε.	**PROMETHEUS** It was all foreseen long ago, and decided.
999	**HERMES** τόλμησον, ὦ μάταιε, τόλμησόν ποτε / πρὸς τὰς παρούσας πημονὰς ὀρθῶς φρονεῖν,	**HERMES** Bring yourself, you fool, bring yourself at last to think straight in the face of your present miseries.
1001	**PROMETHEUS** ὀχλεῖς μάτην με κῦμ' ὅπως παρηγορῶν. εἰσελθέτω σε μήποθ' ὡς ἐγὼ Διὸς γνώμην φοβηθεὶς θηλύνους γενήσομαι, καὶ λιπαρήσω τὸν μέγα στυγούμενον γυναικομίμοις ὑπτιάσμασιν χερῶν λῦσαί με δεσμῶν τῶνδε· τοῦ παντὸς δέω.	**PROMETHEUS** You're wasting your breath pestering me, like talking to a wave. Never let it enter your head that I'll be frightened of Zeus's purpose and go soft, and beg the one I hate so much, with my hands upturned like a woman's, to free me from these chains. I'm nowhere near it.
1007	**HERMES** λέγων ἔοικα πολλὰ καὶ μάτην ἐρεῖν· τέγγῃ γὰρ οὐδὲν οὐδὲ μαλθάσσῃ λιταῖς ἐμαῖς· δακὼν δὲ στόμιον ὡς νεοζυγὴς πῶλος βιάζῃ καὶ πρὸς ἡνίας μάχῃ. ἀτὰρ σφοδρύνῃ γ' ἀσθενεῖ σοφίσματι· αὐθαδία γὰρ τῷ φρονοῦντι μὴ καλῶς αὐτὴ καθ' αὑτὴν οὐδενὸς μεῖζον σθένει. σκέψαι δ', ἐὰν μὴ τοῖς ἐμοῖς πεισθῇς λόγοις, οἷός σε χειμὼν καὶ κακῶν τρικυμία ἔπεισ' ἄφυκτος· πρῶτα μὲν γὰρ ὀκρίδα φάραγγα βροντῇ καὶ κεραυνίᾳ φλογὶ πατὴρ σπαράξει τήνδε, καὶ κρύψει δέμας τὸ σόν, πετραία δ' ἀγκάλη σε βαστάσει.	**HERMES** I think I could talk on and on and get nowhere, for my pleas don't melt or soften you at all. You've got the bit between your teeth like a newly yoked colt, and you fight and struggle against the reins. But your violence rests on a feeble cleverness: for a man who doesn't think straight, stubbornness by itself is worth less than nothing. Consider, if my words don't persuade you, what a storm, what a towering third wave of evils will come down on you, with no escape. First the Father will shatter this jagged ravine with thunder and lightning-flame and bury your body, and the rock's embrace will hold you.
1020	μακρὸν δὲ μῆκος ἐκτελευτήσας χρόνου ἄψορρον ἥξεις εἰς φάος· Διὸς δέ τοί πτηνὸς κύων, δαφοινὸς αἰετός, λάβρως διαρταμήσει σώματος μέγα ῥάκος, ἄκλητος ἕρπων δαιταλεὺς πανήμερος, κελαινόβρωτον δ' ἧπαρ ἐκθοινήσεται.	And when you've completed a long stretch of time, you'll come back into the light. Then Zeus's winged hound, the blood-red eagle, will greedily carve your body into great rags of flesh, an uninvited guest coming to dine all day long, and he'll feast on your liver till it's eaten black.
1026		

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	τοιοῦδε μόχθου τέρμα μή τι προσδόκα, πρὶν ἂν θεῶν τις διάδοχος τῶν σῶν πόνων φανῇ, θελήσῃ τ' εἰς ἀναύγητον μολεῖν Ἅιδην κνεφαῖά τ' ἀμφὶ Ταρτάρου βάθη.	Don't expect any end to such torment until some god appears to take your sufferings on himself, and is willing to go down to sunless Hades and the dark depths around Tartarus.
1030	πρὸς ταῦτα βούλευ'· ὡς ὅδ' οὐ πεπλασμένος ὁ κόμπος, ἀλλὰ καὶ λίαν εἰρημένος· ψευδηγορεῖν γὰρ οὐκ ἐπίσταται στόμα τὸ Δῖον, ἀλλὰ πᾶν ἔπος τελεῖ· σὺ δὲ πάπταινε καὶ φρόντιζε, μηδ' αὐθαδίαν εὐβουλίας ἀμείνον' ἡγήσῃ ποτέ.	So think about this. This is no made-up boast; it's spoken all too truly. The mouth of Zeus doesn't know how to lie; it brings every word to pass. So you look around and consider, and never think stubbornness better than good counsel.
1036	**CHORUS** ἡμῖν μὲν Ἑρμῆς οὐκ ἄκαιρα φαίνεται λέγειν. ἄνωγε γάρ σε τὴν αὐθαδίαν μεθέντ' ἐρευνᾶν τὴν σοφὴν εὐβουλίαν. πιθοῦ· σοφῷ γὰρ αἰσχρὸν ἐξαμαρτάνειν.	**CHORUS** To us, what Hermes says seems not out of place. He tells you to let go of your stubbornness and seek wise counsel. Be persuaded. For the wise, it's shameful to go wrong.
1040	**PROMETHEUS** εἰδότι τοί μοι τάσδ' ἀγγελίας ὅδ' ἐθώυξεν· πάσχειν δὲ κακῶς ἐχθρὸν ὑπ' ἐχθρῶν οὐδὲν ἀεικές. πρὸς ταῦτ' ἐπ' ἐμοὶ ῥιπτέσθω μὲν πυρὸς ἀμφήκης βόστρυχος, αἰθὴρ δ' ἐρεθιζέσθω βροντῇ σφακέλῳ τ' ἀγρίων ἀνέμων· χθόνα δ' ἐκ πυθμένων αὐταῖς ῥίζαις πνεῦμα κραδαίνοι, κῦμα δὲ πόντου τραχεῖ ῥοθίῳ συγχώσειεν τῶν οὐρανίων ἄστρων διόδους· εἴς τε κελαινὸν Τάρταρον ἅρδην ῥίψειε δέμας τοὐμὸν ἀνάγκης στερραῖς δίναις· πάντως ἐμέ γ' οὐ θανατώσει.	**PROMETHEUS** I knew already the message this fellow has bellowed out. For an enemy to suffer at his enemies' hands is no disgrace. So let the double-edged curl of fire be hurled at me; let the sky be stirred up with thunder and the convulsion of savage winds; let the blast shake the earth from its foundations, roots and all; let the sea's wave with its rough surge heap up and choke the paths of the stars of heaven; and let him fling my body headlong into black Tartarus in the hard whirlpools of Necessity: whatever he does, he will not put me to death.
1054	**HERMES** τοιάδε μέντοι τῶν φρενοπλήκτων βουλεύματ' ἔπη τ' ἔστιν ἀκοῦσαι. τί γὰρ ἐλλείπει μὴ οὐ παραπαίειν ἡ τοῦδ' εὐχή; τί χαλᾷ μανιῶν; ἀλλ' οὖν ὑμεῖς γ' αἱ πημοσύναις συγκάμνουσαι ταῖς τοῦδε τόπων μετά ποι χωρεῖτ' ἐκ τῶνδε θοῶς, μὴ φρένας ὑμῶν ἠλιθιώσῃ βροντῆς μύκημ' ἀτέραμνον.	**HERMES** These, I tell you, are the plans and words you hear from the brain-struck. What does this prayer of his lack of raving? Where does it let up from madness? But you, at least, who share in his sufferings, get away quickly from here, somewhere else, or the relentless bellow of thunder may stun your wits.
1063	**CHORUS** ἄλλο τι φώνει καὶ παραμυθοῦ μ' ὅ τι καὶ πείσεις· οὐ γὰρ δή που τοῦτό γε τλητὸν παρέσυρας ἔπος. πῶς με κελεύεις κακότητ' ἀσκεῖν; μετὰ τοῦδ' ὅ τι χρὴ πάσχειν ἐθέλω· τοὺς προδότας γὰρ μισεῖν ἔμαθον, κοὐκ ἔστι νόσος τῆσδ' ἥντιν' ἀπέπτυσα μᾶλλον.	**CHORUS** Say something else, and urge on me something you can persuade me of. This word you've dragged in is surely not one I can bear. How can you tell me to practice baseness? With him I'm willing to suffer whatever I must. I've learned to hate traitors,

	GREEK	ENGLISH
		and there's no plague I spit on more than this.
1071	**HERMES** ἀλλ' οὖν μέμνησθ' ἀγὼ προλέγω μηδὲ πρὸς ἄτης θηραθεῖσαι μέμψησθε τύχην, μηδέ ποτ' εἴπηθ' ὡς Ζεὺς ὑμᾶς εἰς ἀπρόοπτον πῆμ' εἰσέβαλεν· μὴ δῆτ' αὐταὶ δ' ὑμᾶς αὐτάς. εἰδυῖαι γὰρ κοὐκ ἐξαίφνης οὐδὲ λαθραίως εἰς ἀπέρατον δίκτυον ἄτης ἐμπλεχθήσεσθ' ὑπ' ἀνοίας.	**HERMES** Well then, remember what I'm telling you beforehand, and when you're hunted down by ruin, don't blame your fortune, and never say that Zeus threw you into suffering you couldn't foresee. No, not at all— blame yourselves. For knowingly, not suddenly, not by stealth, you'll be tangled through your own folly in the endless net of ruin.
1080	**PROMETHEUS** καὶ μὴν ἔργῳ κοὐκέτι μύθῳ χθὼν σεσάλευται· βρυχία δ' ἠχὼ παραμυκᾶται βροντῆς, ἕλικες δ' ἐκλάμπουσι στεροπῆς ζάπυροι, στρόμβοι δὲ κόνιν εἰλίσσουσι· σκιρτᾷ δ' ἀνέμων πνεύματα πάντων εἰς ἄλληλα στάσιν ἀντίπνουν ἀποδεικνύμενα· ξυντετάρακται δ' αἰθὴρ πόντῳ. τοιάδ' ἐπ' ἐμοὶ ῥιπὴ Διόθεν τεύχουσα φόβον στείχει φανερῶς. ὦ μητρὸς ἐμῆς σέβας, ὦ πάντων αἰθὴρ κοινὸν φάος εἱλίσσων, ἐσορᾷς μ' ὡς ἔκδικα πάσχω.	**PROMETHEUS** And now in deed, no longer in word, the earth is shaken; the deep echo of thunder bellows past; the blazing coils of lightning flash out; whirlwinds spin the dust; the blasts of all the winds leap at one another, showing forth a war of wind against wind; sky and sea are churned together. Such is the onslaught from Zeus that comes against me openly, working terror. Mother, holy and revered, and you, sky, who wheel the light all creatures share, you see how unjustly I suffer.