Birds

ARISTOPHANES

c. 446–386 BC

Birds

Ὄρνιθες

Translated from the Greek with AI (Claude) and edited



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Birds · Aristophanes (c. 446–386 BC)

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INTRODUCTION

Two Athenians, Peisetaerus and Euelpides, have had enough of Athens and its endless lawsuits. Guided by a jackdaw and a crow, they set off to find Tereus, the king who was turned into a hoopoe, and ask him where to live. Then Peisetaerus has a better idea: the birds should build a city in the sky, between heaven and earth, and cut the gods off from the smoke of men's sacrifices.

The birds are won over, and Cloudcuckooland rises in the air. At once the hangers-on of any new city arrive—a poet, an oracle-monger, the astronomer Meton, an inspector, a decree-seller, an informer—and Peisetaerus drives them off one after another, while the hungry gods send envoys to bargain.

Aristophanes staged Birds at the Dionysia of 414 BC, while Athens' great expedition was away in Sicily. It is his longest surviving play and his most extravagant fantasy, with some of the loveliest songs in Greek comedy.

Birds

A wild, rocky place far from Athens, where the birds build Cloudcuckooland, their city in the sky.

PROLOGUE

Two Athenians fed up with Athens find the Hoopoe, and Peisetaerus hatches a plan for a city of birds.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1	**EUELPIDES** ὀρθὴν κελεύεις, ᾗ τὸ δένδρον φαίνεται;	**EUELPIDES** Straight ahead, you say? Where that tree is?
2	**PEISETAERUS** διαρραγείης· ἥδε δ' αὖ κρώζει πάλιν.	**PEISETAERUS** Oh, go burst! And now this one's cawing back again.
3	**EUELPIDES** τί ὦ πόνηρ' ἄνω κάτω πλανύττομεν; / ἀπολούμεθ' ἄλλως τὴν ὁδὸν προφορουμένω.	**EUELPIDES** Why are we wandering up and down like this, you idiot? We'll be done for, trudging back and forth on this road for nothing.
5	**PEISETAERUS** τὸ δ' ἐμὲ κορώνῃ πειθόμενον τὸν ἄθλιον / ὁδοῦ περιελθεῖν στάδια πλεῖν ἢ χίλια.	**PEISETAERUS** To think that I, poor fool, took a crow's word for it and walked around in circles for more than a hundred miles!
7	**EUELPIDES** τὸ δ' ἐμὲ κολοιῷ πειθόμενον τὸν δύσμορον / ἀποσποδῆσαι τοὺς ὄνυχας τῶν δακτύλων.	**EUELPIDES** And I, poor devil, took a jackdaw's word for it and wore the nails right off my toes.
9	**PEISETAERUS** ἀλλ' οὐδ' ὅπου γῆς ἐσμὲν οἶδ' ἔγωγ' ἔτι.	**PEISETAERUS** I don't even know where on earth we are anymore.
10	**EUELPIDES** ἐντευθενὶ τὴν πατρίδ' ἂν ἐξεύροις σύ που;	**EUELPIDES** Could you find your way back home from here?
11	**PEISETAERUS** οὐδ' ἂν μὰ Δία γ' ἐντεῦθεν Ἐξηκεστίδης.	**PEISETAERUS** By Zeus, not even Execestides could, from here.[1]
12	**EUELPIDES** οἴμοι.	**EUELPIDES** Oh no.
	PEISETAERUS σὺ μὲν ὦ τᾶν τὴν ὁδὸν ταύτην ἴθι.	**PEISETAERUS** You go along this road, my friend.
13	**EUELPIDES** ἦ δεινὰ νὼ δέδρακεν οὐκ τῶν ὀρνέων, ὁ πινακοπώλης φιλοκράτης μελαγχολῶν, ὃς τώδ' ἔφασκε νῷν φράσειν τὸν Τηρέα τὸν ἔποφ' ὃς ὄρνις ἐγένετ' ἐκ τῶν ὀρνέων· κἀπέδοτο τὸν μὲν Θαρρελείδου τουτονὶ κολοιὸν ὀβολοῦ, τηνδεδὶ τριωβόλου. τὼ δ' οὐκ ἄρ' ἦστην οὐδὲν ἄλλο πλὴν δάκνειν. καὶ νῦν τί κέχηνας; ἔσθ' ὅποι κατὰ τῶν πετρῶν	**EUELPIDES** That crazy Philocrates, the bird-dealer in the market, has really done us dirty. He told us these two would show us the way to Tereus, the hoopoe, the one who became a bird from among the birds. And he sold us this one, Tharreleides' son the jackdaw, for an obol, and that one for three. And it turns out all they know how to do is bite. And now what are you gaping at? Is there

1 Execestides, mocked as a foreigner who had wormed his way into Athenian citizenship: a man who could find himself a homeland anywhere.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	ἡμᾶς ἔτ' ἔξεις. οὐ γάρ ἐστ' ἐνταῦθά τις ὁδός.	anywhere further down the rocks you still want to take us? There's no road here.[2]
22	**PEISETAERUS** οὐδὲ μὰ Δί' ἐνταῦθά γ' ἀτραπὸς οὐδαμοῦ.	**PEISETAERUS** No, by Zeus, there isn't a path here anywhere.
23	**EUELPIDES** οὐδ' ἡ κορώνη τῆς ὁδοῦ τι λέγει πέρι;	**EUELPIDES** And the crow—doesn't she say anything about the way?
24	**PEISETAERUS** οὐ ταὐτὰ κρώζει μὰ Δία νῦν τε καὶ τότε.	**PEISETAERUS** By Zeus, she's not cawing the same thing she was before.
25	**EUELPIDES** τί δὴ λέγει περὶ τῆς ὁδοῦ;	**EUELPIDES** So what is she saying about the way?
	PEISETAERUS τί δ' ἄλλο γ' ἢ / βρύκουσ' ἀπέδεσθαί φησί μου τοὺς δακτύλους;	**PEISETAERUS** What else but that she's going to gnaw my fingers off?
27	**EUELPIDES** οὐ δεινὸν οὖν δῆτ' ἐστὶν ἡμᾶς δεομένους ἐς κόρακας ἐλθεῖν καὶ παρεσκευασμένους ἔπειτα μὴ 'ξευρεῖν δύνασθαι τὴν ὁδόν; ἡμεῖς γάρ, ὦνδρες οἱ παρόντες ἐν λόγῳ, νόσον νοσοῦμεν τὴν ἐναντίαν Σάκᾳ· ὁ μὲν γὰρ ὢν οὐκ ἀστὸς ἐσβιάζεται, ἡμεῖς δὲ φυλῇ καὶ γένει τιμώμενοι, ἀστοὶ μετ' ἀστῶν, οὐ σοβοῦντος οὐδενὸς ἀνεπτόμεσθ' ἐκ τῆς πατρίδος ἀμφοῖν ποδοῖν, αὐτὴν μὲν οὐ μισοῦντ' ἐκείνην τὴν πόλιν τὸ μὴ οὐ μεγάλην εἶναι φύσει κεὐδαίμονα καὶ πᾶσι κοινὴν ἐναποτεῖσαι χρήματα.	**EUELPIDES** Isn't it awful? Here we are, dying to go to the crows, all packed and ready, and then we can't find the way! You see, gentlemen of the audience, we're suffering from the opposite disease to Sacas. He isn't a citizen and he forces his way in; while we, respected in tribe and clan, citizens among citizens, with nobody shooing us off, have taken flight from our country on both feet. Not that we hate the city itself—as if it weren't great by nature, and blessed, and open to absolutely everyone… to pay fines in.[3]
39	οἱ μὲν γὰρ οὖν τέττιγες ἕνα μῆν' ἢ δύο ἐπὶ τῶν κραδῶν ᾄδουσ', Ἀθηναῖοι δ' ἀεὶ ἐπὶ τῶν δικῶν ᾄδουσι πάντα τὸν βίον. διὰ ταῦτα τόνδε τὸν βάδον βαδίζομεν, κανοῦν δ' ἔχοντε καὶ χύτραν καὶ μυρρίνας πλανώμεθα ζητοῦντε τόπον ἀπράγμονα, ὅποι καθιδρυθέντε διαγενοίμεθ' ἄν. ὁ δὲ στόλος νῷν ἐστι παρὰ τὸν Τηρέα τὸν ἔποπα, παρ' ἐκείνου πυθέσθαι δεομένω, εἴ που τοιαύτην εἶδε πόλιν ᾗ 'πέπτετο.	Cicadas, you see, sing in the branches for a month or two, but the Athenians sing in the law courts all their lives long. That's why we're making this trek. With a basket, a pot and some myrtle branches we wander around looking for a place without hassle, where we can settle down and live out our days. Our journey's to Tereus, the hoopoe: we need to find out from him whether he's seen a city like that anywhere he's flown.[4]
49	**PEISETAERUS** οὗτος.	**PEISETAERUS** Hey!
	EUELPIDES τί ἔστιν;	**EUELPIDES** What is it?
	PEISETAERUS ἡ κορώνη μοι πάλαι / ἄνω τι φράζει.	**PEISETAERUS** My crow's been pointing up at something for a while now.
50	**EUELPIDES** χὠ κολοιὸς οὑτοσὶ ἄνω κέχηνεν ὡσπερεὶ δεικνύς τί μοι,	**EUELPIDES** And this jackdaw here is gaping upward as if he's showing me something. There must

2 Philocrates sold birds in the Athenian market. Tharreleides' son, Asopodorus, was a little man nicknamed "Jackdaw."
3 "Go to the crows" (es korakas) was the Athenian "go to hell." Sacas is the tragic poet Acestor, mocked as a foreigner passing himself off as a citizen.
4 Basket, pot and myrtle were the gear for the sacrifice made when founding a new settlement.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	κοὐκ ἔσθ' ὅπως οὐκ ἔστιν ἐνταῦθ' ὄρνεα. εἰσόμεθα δ' αὐτίκ', ἢν ποιήσωμεν ψόφον.	be birds here, no question. We'll find out soon enough if we make some noise.
54	**PEISETAERUS** ἀλλ' οἶσθ' ὃ δρᾶσον; τῷ σκέλει θένε τὴν πέτραν.	**PEISETAERUS** You know what to do? Kick the rock with your leg.
55	**EUELPIDES** σὺ δὲ τῇ κεφαλῇ γ', ἵν' ᾖ διπλάσιος ὁ ψόφος.	**EUELPIDES** And you bang it with your head, so the noise is twice as loud.
56	**PEISETAERUS** σὺ δ' οὖν λίθῳ κόψον λαβών.	**PEISETAERUS** Well, pick up a stone and knock.
	EUELPIDES πάνυ γ', εἰ δοκεῖ. / παῖ παῖ.	**EUELPIDES** Sure, if you like. Boy! Boy!
57	**PEISETAERUS** τί λέγεις οὗτος; τὸν ἔποπα παῖ καλεῖς; / οὐκ ἀντὶ τοῦ παιδός σ' ἐχρῆν ἐποποῖ καλεῖν;	**PEISETAERUS** What are you saying, you? Calling the hoopoe "boy"? Instead of "boy," shouldn't you be calling "Epopoi"?
59	**EUELPIDES** ἐποποῖ. ποιήσεις ἔτι με κόπτειν αὖθις αὖ. / ἐποποῖ.	**EUELPIDES** Epopoi! You're going to make me knock all over again! Epopoi!
60	**HOOPOE'S SERVANT** τίνες οὗτοι; τίς ὁ βοῶν τὸν δεσπότην;	**HOOPOE'S SERVANT** Who are these two? Who's that shouting for the master?
61	**EUELPIDES** Ἄπολλον ἀποτρόπαιε τοῦ χασμήματος.	**EUELPIDES** Apollo, Averter of Evil, what a gaping beak!
62	**HOOPOE'S SERVANT** οἴμοι τάλας ὀρνιθοθήρα τουτωί.	**HOOPOE'S SERVANT** Oh no, poor me—these two are bird-catchers!
63	**EUELPIDES** οὕτως τι δεινὸν οὐδὲ κάλλιον λέγειν.	**EUELPIDES** What a horrible thing to say! Couldn't you put it more nicely?
64	**HOOPOE'S SERVANT** ἀπολεῖσθον.	**HOOPOE'S SERVANT** You're both dead.
	EUELPIDES ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐσμὲν ἀνθρώπω.	**EUELPIDES** But we're not humans.
	HOOPOE'S SERVANT τί δαί;	**HOOPOE'S SERVANT** What are you, then?
65	**EUELPIDES** Ὑποδεδιὼς ἔγωγε Λιβυκὸν ὄρνεον.	**EUELPIDES** Me? I'm a Scaredy-Bird, a Libyan species.
66	**HOOPOE'S SERVANT** οὐδὲν λέγεις.	**HOOPOE'S SERVANT** Nonsense.
	EUELPIDES καὶ μὴν ἐροῦ τὰ πρὸς ποδῶν.	**EUELPIDES** Well then, ask what's at my feet.
67	**HOOPOE'S SERVANT** ὁδὶ δὲ δὴ τίς ἐστιν ὄρνις; οὐκ ἐρεῖς;	**HOOPOE'S SERVANT** And this one—what bird is he? Won't you tell me?
68	**PEISETAERUS** Ἐπικεχοδὼς ἔγωγε Φασιανικός.	**PEISETAERUS** Me? I'm a Shat-Myself—a pheasant.[5]
69	**EUELPIDES** ἀτὰρ σὺ τί θηρίον ποτ' εἶ πρὸς τῶν θεῶν;	**EUELPIDES** But you—what kind of creature are you, for the gods' sake?

5 Mock bird names: Hypodediōs, "Scared Stiff," and Epikechodōs, "Shat Himself." "Phasian," from Phasis on the Black Sea, is the pheasant.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
70	**HOOPOE'S SERVANT** ὄρνις ἔγωγε δοῦλος.	**HOOPOE'S SERVANT** Me? I'm a slave bird.
	EUELPIDES ἠττήθης τινὸς / ἀλεκτρυόνος;	**EUELPIDES** Beaten by some rooster, were you?
71	**HOOPOE'S SERVANT** οὐκ ἀλλ' ὅτε περ ὁ δεσπότης ἔποψ ἐγένετο, τότε γενέσθαι μ' ηὔξατο ὄρνιν, ἵν' ἀκόλουθον διάκονόν τ' ἔχῃ.	**HOOPOE'S SERVANT** No—when my master became a hoopoe, he prayed that I'd become a bird too, so he'd have someone to wait on him.
74	**EUELPIDES** δεῖται γὰρ ὄρνις καὶ διακόνου τινός;	**EUELPIDES** What, a bird needs a servant?
75	**HOOPOE'S SERVANT** οὗτός γ', ἅτ' οἶμαι πρότερον ἄνθρωπός ποτ' ὤν, τοτὲ μὲν ἐρᾷ φαγεῖν ἀφύας Φαληρικάς· τρέχω 'π' ἀφύας λαβὼν ἐγὼ τὸ τρύβλιον. ἔτνους δ' ἐπιθυμεῖ, δεῖ τορύνης καὶ χύτρας· τρέχω 'πὶ τορύνην.	**HOOPOE'S SERVANT** This one does, since I suppose he was a man once. Sometimes he's dying for some Phaleron anchovies: I grab the dish and run for anchovies. Or he fancies pea soup, and that needs a ladle and a pot: I run for the ladle.
79	**EUELPIDES** τροχίλος ὄρνις οὑτοσί. οἶσθ' οὖν ὃ δρᾶσον ὦ τροχίλε; τὸν δεσπότην ἡμῖν κάλεσον.	**EUELPIDES** A running bird—a trochilus, this one! You know what you should do, Runner? Call your master for us.[6]
81	**HOOPOE'S SERVANT** ἀλλ' ἀρτίως νὴ τὸν Δία / εὕδει καταφαγὼν μύρτα καὶ σέρφους τινάς.	**HOOPOE'S SERVANT** But, by Zeus, he's only just dropped off, after a meal of myrtle berries and a few gnats.
83	**EUELPIDES** ὅμως ἐπέγειρον αὐτόν.	**EUELPIDES** Wake him up anyway.
	HOOPOE'S SERVANT οἶδα μὲν σαφῶς / ὅτι ἀχθέσεται, σφῷν δ' αὐτὸν οὕνεκ' ἐπεγερῶ.	**HOOPOE'S SERVANT** I know perfectly well he'll be annoyed, but I'll wake him for your sake.
85	**PEISETAERUS** κακῶς σύ γ' ἀπόλοι', ὥς μ' ἀπέκτεινας δέει.	**PEISETAERUS** Damn you to hell, you scared me to death!
86	**EUELPIDES** οἴμοι κακοδαίμων χὠ κολοιός μοἴχεται / ὑπὸ τοῦ δέους.	**EUELPIDES** Oh no, damn it, my jackdaw's gone too—fright!
87	**PEISETAERUS** ὦ δειλότατον σὺ θηρίον, / δείσας ἀφῆκας τὸν κολοιόν;	**PEISETAERUS** You absolute coward of a creature, you were so scared you let go of the jackdaw?
88	**EUELPIDES** εἰπέ μοι, / σὺ δὲ τὴν κορώνην οὐκ ἀφῆκας καταπεσών;	**EUELPIDES** Tell me, didn't you let go of the crow when you fell over?
90	**PEISETAERUS** μὰ Δί' οὐκ ἔγωγε.	**PEISETAERUS** No, by Zeus, not me.
	EUELPIDES ποῦ γάρ ἐστ';	**EUELPIDES** Then where is she?
	PEISETAERUS ἀπέπτετο.	**PEISETAERUS** She flew away.
91	**EUELPIDES** οὐκ ἄρ' ἀφῆκας; ὦγάθ' ὡς ἀνδρεῖος εἶ.	**EUELPIDES** So you didn't let her go! My good man, how brave you are.
92	**HOOPOE** ἄνοιγε τὴν ὕλην, ἵν' ἐξέλθω ποτέ.	**HOOPOE** Open up the woods, so I may come forth at last.

6 Trochilos, a small bird, sounds like trechō, "I run."

	GREEK	ENGLISH
93	**EUELPIDES** ὦ Ἡράκλεις τουτὶ τί ποτ᾽ ἐστὶ τὸ θηρίον; / τίς ἡ πτέρωσις; τίς ὁ τρόπος τῆς τριλοφίας;	**EUELPIDES** Heracles! What on earth is this creature? What plumage! And what's the idea of the triple crest?
95	**HOOPOE** τίνες εἰσί μ᾽ οἱ ζητοῦντες;	**HOOPOE** Who are they who seek me?
	EUELPIDES οἱ δώδεκα θεοὶ / εἴξασιν ἐπιτρῖψαί σε.	**EUELPIDES** Looks like the twelve gods have done you over.
96	**HOOPOE** μῶν με σκώπτετον ὁρῶντε τὴν πτέρωσιν; ἦν γὰρ ὦ ξένοι ἄνθρωπος.	**HOOPOE** You're not mocking me, are you, at the sight of my plumage? I was once, strangers, a man.
98	**EUELPIDES** οὐ σοῦ καταγελῶμεν.	**EUELPIDES** We're not laughing at you.
	HOOPOE ἀλλὰ τοῦ;	**HOOPOE** At what, then?
99	**EUELPIDES** τὸ ῥάμφος ἡμῖν σου γέλοιον φαίνεται.	**EUELPIDES** It's your beak we find funny.
100	**HOOPOE** τοιαῦτα μέντοι Σοφοκλέης λυμαίνεται / ἐν ταῖς τραγῳδίαισιν ἐμὲ τὸν Τηρέα.	**HOOPOE** That's exactly how Sophocles mangles me, Tereus, in his tragedies.[7]
102	**EUELPIDES** Τηρεὺς γὰρ εἶ σύ; πότερον ὄρνις ἢ ταῶς;	**EUELPIDES** You're Tereus? So are you a bird, or a peacock?
103	**HOOPOE** ὄρνις ἔγωγε.	**HOOPOE** A bird, that's me.
	EUELPIDES κᾆτά σοι ποῦ τὰ πτερά;	**EUELPIDES** Then where are your feathers?
104	**HOOPOE** ἐξερρύηκε.	**HOOPOE** They've fallen out.
	EUELPIDES πότερον ὑπὸ νόσου τινός;	**EUELPIDES** From some disease?
105	**HOOPOE** οὔκ, ἀλλὰ τὸν χειμῶνα πάντα τῶρνεα πτερορρυεῖ τε καὖθις ἕτερα φύομεν. ἀλλ᾽ εἴπατόν μοι σφὼ τίν᾽ ἐστόν;	**HOOPOE** No—all we birds molt over the winter, and then we grow new ones. But tell me, who are you two?
107	**EUELPIDES** νώ; βροτώ.	**EUELPIDES** Us? Mortals.
108	**HOOPOE** ποδαπὼ τὸ γένος;	**HOOPOE** Of what people?
	EUELPIDES ὅθεν αἱ τριήρεις αἱ καλαί.	**EUELPIDES** From where the beautiful warships come.
109	**HOOPOE** μῶν ἡλιαστά;	**HOOPOE** Jurymen, then?
	EUELPIDES μἀλλὰ θατέρου τρόπου, / ἀπηλιαστά.	**EUELPIDES** No, the other sort: jury-dodgers.[8]
110	**HOOPOE** σπείρεται γὰρ τοῦτ᾽ ἐκεῖ / τὸ σπέρμ᾽;	**HOOPOE** Does that seed get sown there?
111	**EUELPIDES** ὀλίγον ζητῶν ἂν ἐξ ἀγροῦ λάβοις.	**EUELPIDES** If you hunt out in the countryside, you might find a little.

7 In Sophocles' lost *Tereus*, the Thracian king Tereus, who had raped his wife Procne's sister, was turned into a hoopoe and Procne into a nightingale.
8 Athens' courts were filled by hundreds of paid citizen jurors (heliasts); jury duty was a notorious Athenian passion.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
112	**HOOPOE** πράγους δὲ δὴ τοῦ δεομένω δεῦρ' ἦλθετον;	**HOOPOE** And what do you two want, coming here?
113	**EUELPIDES** σοὶ ξυγγενέσθαι βουλομένω.	**EUELPIDES** We want to talk with you.
114	**HOOPOE** τίνος πέρι;	**HOOPOE** About what?
	EUELPIDES ὅτι πρῶτα μὲν ἦσθ' ἄνθρωπος ὥσπερ νὼ ποτέ, κἀργύριον ὠφείλησας ὥσπερ νὼ ποτέ, κοὐκ ἀποδιδοὺς ἔχαιρες ὥσπερ νὼ ποτέ· εἶτ' αὖθις ὀρνίθων μεταλλάξας φύσιν καὶ γῆν ἐπέπτου καὶ θάλατταν ἐν κύκλῳ, καὶ πάνθ' ὅσαπερ ἄνθρωπος ὅσα τ' ὄρνις φρονεῖς· ταῦτ οὖν ἱκέται νὼ πρὸς σὲ δεῦρ' ἀφίγμεθα, εἴ τινα πόλιν φράσειας ἡμῖν εὔερον ὥσπερ σισύραν ἐγκατακλινῆναι μαλθακήν.	**EUELPIDES** Because first of all you were a man once, like us; and you owed money once, like us; and you loved not paying it back, like us. Then you changed into the nature of a bird, and flew all around over land and sea, and you know everything a man knows and everything a bird knows. So that's why we've come to you here as suppliants: to ask if you could tell us of some city that's nice and woolly, like a soft blanket to curl up in.
123	**HOOPOE** ἔμειτα μείζω τῶν Κραναῶν ζητεῖς πόλιν;	**HOOPOE** So you're looking for a city greater than that of the Cranaans?[9]
124	**EUELPIDES** μείζω μὲν οὐδέν, προσφορωτέραν δὲ νῷν.	**EUELPIDES** Not greater at all—just one that suits us better.
125	**HOOPOE** ἀριστοκρατεῖσθαι δῆλος εἶ ζητῶν.	**HOOPOE** Clearly you're after an aristocracy.
	EUELPIDES ἐγώ; / ἥκιστα· καὶ γὰρ τὸν Σκελίου βδελύττομαι.	**EUELPIDES** Me? Not in the least. I can't stand Scellias' son.[10]
127	**HOOPOE** ποίαν τιν' οὖν ἥδιστ' ἂν οἰκοῖτ' ἂν πόλιν;	**HOOPOE** Then what sort of city would you most like to live in?
128	**EUELPIDES** ὅπου τὰ μέγιστα πράγματ' εἴη τοιάδε· ἐπὶ τὴν θύραν μου πρῴ τις ἐλθὼν τῶν φίλων λέγοι ταδί· "πρὸς τοῦ Διὸς τοὐλυμπίου" "ὅπως παρέσει μοι καὶ σὺ καὶ τὰ παιδία" "λουσάμενα πρῴ· μέλλω γὰρ ἑστιᾶν γάμους·" "καὶ μηδαμῶς ἄλλως ποιήσῃς· εἰ δὲ μή," "μή μοι τότε γ' ἔλθῃς, ὅταν ἐγὼ πράττω κακῶς".	**EUELPIDES** One where the biggest troubles were like this: a friend comes to my door first thing in the morning and says, "By Olympian Zeus, make sure you come over to my place, you and the kids, nice and early, all freshly bathed—I'm giving a wedding feast. Don't you dare do anything else. If you do, don't come to me when I'm in trouble!"
135	**HOOPOE** νὴ Δία ταλαιπώρων γε πραγμάτων ἐρᾷς. / τί δαὶ σύ;	**HOOPOE** By Zeus, you certainly love your hardships! And what about you?
136	**PEISETAERUS** τοιούτων ἐρῶ κἀγώ.	**PEISETAERUS** I love the same sort of thing.
	HOOPOE τίνων;	**HOOPOE** Such as?
137	**PEISETAERUS** ὅπου ξυναντῶν μοι ταδί τις μέμψεται ὥσπερ ἀδικηθεὶς παιδὸς ὡραίου πατήρ· "καλῶς γέ μου τὸν υἱὸν ὦ Στιλβωνίδη" "εὑρὼν ἀπιόντ' ἀπὸ γυμνασίου λελουμένον"	**PEISETAERUS** Where the father of a pretty boy bumps into me and complains as if I'd done him wrong: "A fine way to treat me, Stilbonides! You met my son coming back from the gym, fresh

9 Cranaus, a legendary king of Athens; "Cranaans" is a poetic name for Athenians.
10 Scellias' son was Aristocrates, a leading Athenian: the joke is on his name.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	"οὐκ ἔκυσας, οὐ προσεῖπας, οὐ προσηγάγου," "οὐκ ὠρχιπέδισας, ὢν ἐμοὶ πατρικὸς φίλος."	from his bath, and you didn't kiss him, didn't speak to him, didn't give him a hug, didn't feel his balls—and you an old friend of the family!"
143	**HOOPOE** ὦ δειλακρίων σὺ τῶν κακῶν οἵων ἐρᾷς. ἀτὰρ ἔστι γ' ὁποίαν λέγετον εὐδαίμων πόλις παρὰ τὴν ἐρυθρὰν θάλατταν.	**HOOPOE** You poor little wretch, what troubles you're in love with! Well, there is a happy city of the kind you two describe, on the Red Sea.
145	**EUELPIDES** οἴμοι μηδαμῶς ἡμῖν παρὰ τὴν θάλατταν, ἵν' ἀνακύψεται κλητῆρ' ἄγουσ' ἔωθεν ἡ Σαλαμινία. Ἑλληνικὴν δὲ πόλιν ἔχεις ἡμῖν φράσαι;	**EUELPIDES** Oh no, not by the sea, please—where the *Salaminia* will pop up one morning with a summons-server on board! Can you tell us of a Greek city?[11]
149	**HOOPOE** τί οὐ τὸν Ἠλεῖον Λέπρεον οἰκίζετον / ἐλθόνθ';	**HOOPOE** Why don't you two go and settle in Lepreus, in Elis?
150	**EUELPIDES** ὁτιὴ νὴ τοὺς θεοὺς ὅσ' οὐκ ἰδὼν / βδελύττομαι τὸν Λέπρεον ἀπὸ Μελανθίου.	**EUELPIDES** Because, by the gods, without ever having seen it I loathe Lepreus—thanks to Melanthius.[12]
152	**HOOPOE** ἀλλ' εἰσὶν ἕτεροι τῆς Λοκρίδος Ὀπούντιοι, / ἵνα χρὴ κατοικεῖν.	**HOOPOE** Well, there are the other Opuntians, in Locris. That's where you should live.
153	**EUELPIDES** ἀλλ' ἔγωγ' Ὀπούντιος οὐκ ἂν γενοίμην ἐπὶ ταλάντῳ χρυσίου. οὗτος δὲ δὴ τίς ἔσθ' ὁ μετ' ὀρνίθων βίος; σὺ γὰρ οἶσθ' ἀκριβῶς.	**EUELPIDES** But I wouldn't become an Opuntius for a talent of gold. Anyway, what's this life with the birds like? You know it inside out.[13]
156	**HOOPOE** οὐκ ἄχαρις ἐς τὴν τριβήν· / οὗ πρῶτα μὲν δεῖ ζῆν ἄνευ βαλλαντίου.	**HOOPOE** It's not a bad way to pass the time. For a start, you have to live without a purse.
158	**EUELPIDES** πολλήν γ' ἀφεῖλες τοῦ βίου κιβδηλίαν.	**EUELPIDES** Well, that takes a lot of the fakery out of life.
159	**HOOPOE** νεμόμεσθα δ' ἐν κήποις τὰ λευκὰ σήσαμα / καὶ μύρτα καὶ μήκωνα καὶ σισύμβρια.	**HOOPOE** And we feed in gardens on white sesame, myrtle berries, poppy and mint.
161	**EUELPIDES** ὑμεῖς μὲν ἆρα ζῆτε νυμφίων βίον.	**EUELPIDES** So you live the life of bridegrooms![14]
	PEISETAERUS φεῦ φεῦ· ἦ μέγ' ἐνορῶ βούλευμ' ἐν ὀρνίθων γένει, καὶ δύναμιν ἣ γένοιτ' ἄν, εἰ πίθοισθέ μοι.	**PEISETAERUS** Ah! Ah! I see a great plan in the race of birds—and power that could be yours, if you'd trust me.
164	**HOOPOE** τί σοι πιθώμεσθ';	**HOOPOE** Trust you in what?
	PEISETAERUS ὅ τι πίθησθε; πρῶτα μὲν μὴ περιπέτεσθε πανταχῇ κεχηνότες· ὡς τοῦτ' ἄτιμον τοὔργον ἐστίν. αὐτίκα ἐκεῖ παρ' ἡμῖν τοὺς πετομένους ἢν ἔρῃ, "τίς ὄρνις οὗτος;" ὁ Τελέας ἐρεῖ ταδί·	**PEISETAERUS** In what? First, stop flying around everywhere with your beaks hanging open. It's a disgraceful way to behave. For instance, back home, if you ask about the flighty types, "Who's that bird?," Teleas will tell you: "That man? A bird

11 The *Salaminia* was an Athenian state ship, used among other things to fetch men home for trial.
12 Melanthius, a tragic poet mocked for having leprosy (lepra), hence the dig at Lepreus.
13 Opuntius, a one-eyed Athenian informer; the joke plays on Opus, a city in Locris.
14 Sesame cakes, poppy seed and myrtle wreaths all featured at Greek weddings.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	"ἄνθρωπος ὄρνις ἀστάθμητος πετόμενος," "ἀτέκμαρτος, οὐδὲν οὐδέποτ' ἐν ταὐτῷ μένων."	—unstable, flighty, untraceable, never staying put anywhere."[15]
171	**HOOPOE** νὴ τὸν Διόνυσον εὖ γε μωμᾷ ταυταγί. / τί ἂν οὖν ποιοῖμεν;	**HOOPOE** By Dionysus, that's a fair criticism. So what should we do?
172	**PEISETAERUS** οἰκίσατε μίαν πόλιν.	**PEISETAERUS** Found a single city.
173	**HOOPOE** ποίαν δ' ἂν οἰκίσαιμεν ὄρνιθες πόλιν;	**HOOPOE** And what sort of city could we birds found?
174	**PEISETAERUS** ἆληθες; ὦ σκαιότατον εἰρηκὼς ἔπος, / βλέψον κάτω.	**PEISETAERUS** Really? What a stupid thing to say! Look down.
175	**HOOPOE** καὶ δὴ βλέπω.	**HOOPOE** There, I'm looking.
	PEISETAERUS βλέπε νῦν ἄνω.	**PEISETAERUS** Now look up.
176	**HOOPOE** βλέπω.	**HOOPOE** I'm looking.
	PEISETAERUS περίαγε τὸν τράχηλον.	**PEISETAERUS** Turn your neck around.
	HOOPOE νὴ Δία / ἀπολαύσομαί τί γ', εἰ διαστραφήσομαι.	**HOOPOE** By Zeus, a fine reward I'll get, if I end up with my neck twisted!
178	**PEISETAERUS** εἶδές τι;	**PEISETAERUS** Did you see anything?
	HOOPOE τὰς νεφέλας γε καὶ τὸν οὐρανόν.	**HOOPOE** The clouds and the sky.
179	**PEISETAERUS** οὐχ οὗτος οὖν δήπου 'στὶν ὀρνίθων πόλος;	**PEISETAERUS** Well, isn't that the birds' pole?
180	**HOOPOE** πόλος; τίνα τρόπον;	**HOOPOE** Pole? What do you mean?
	PEISETAERUS ὥσπερ ἂν εἴποι τις τόπος. ὅτι δὲ πολεῖται τοῦτο καὶ διέρχεται ἅπαντα διὰ τούτου, καλεῖται νῦν πόλος. ἢν δ' οἰκίσητε τοῦτο καὶ φάρξηθ' ἅπαξ, ἐκ τοῦ πόλου τούτου κεκλήσεται πόλις. ὥστ' ἄρξετ' ἀνθρώπων μὲν ὥσπερ παρνόπων, τοὺς δ' αὖ θεοὺς ἀπολεῖτε λιμῷ Μηλίῳ.	**PEISETAERUS** Their place, you might say. And because it revolves, and everything passes through it, it's called the "pole" for now. But once you settle it and wall it in, instead of a "pole" it'll be called a "polis"—a city. Then you'll rule over humans as if they were locusts, and kill the gods with a Melian famine.[16]
187	**HOOPOE** πῶς;	**HOOPOE** How?
	PEISETAERUS ἐν μέσῳ δήπουθεν ἀήρ ἐστι γῆς. εἶθ' ὥσπερ ἡμεῖς, ἢν ἰέναι βουλώμεθα Πυθώδε, Βοιωτοὺς δίοδον αἰτούμεθα, οὗτως, ὅταν θύσωσιν ἄνθρωποι θεοῖς, ἢν μὴ φόρον φέρωσιν οἱ ὑμῖν οἱ θεοί, τῶν μηρίων τὴν κνῖσαν οὐ διαφρήσετε.	**PEISETAERUS** The air is in between earth and heaven, surely. So, just as we, when we want to go to Delphi, have to ask the Boeotians for right of passage, in the same way, when humans sacrifice to the gods, unless the gods pay you tribute, you won't let the savor of the thighbones pass through.
194	**HOOPOE** ἰοὺ ἰού· μὰ γῆν μὰ παγίδας μὰ νεφέλας μὰ δίκτυα,	**HOOPOE** Hurray! Hurray! By earth, by snares, by clouds, by nets, I've never heard a cleverer idea!

15 Teleas, an Athenian politician with a reputation for fickleness.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	μὴ 'γὼ νόημα κομψότερον ἤκουσά πω· ὥστ' ἂν κατοικίζοιμι μετὰ σοῦ τὴν πόλιν, εἰ ξυνδοκοίη τοῖσιν ἄλλοις ὀρνέοις.	So I'll found the city with you—if the other birds agree.
198	**PEISETAERUS** τίς ἂν οὖν τὸ πρᾶγμ' αὐτοῖς διηγήσαιτο;	**PEISETAERUS** Then who's going to explain the plan to them?
	HOOPOE σύ. ἐγὼ γὰρ αὐτοὺς βαρβάρους ὄντας πρὸ τοῦ ἐδίδαξα τὴν φωνήν, ξυνὼν πολὺν χρόνον.	**HOOPOE** You. They couldn't speak Greek before, but I taught them language, living with them all this time.
201	**PEISETAERUS** πῶς δῆτ' ἂν αὐτοὺς ξυγκαλέσειας;	**PEISETAERUS** So how would you call them together?
	HOOPOE ῥᾳδίως. δευρὶ γὰρ ἐσβὰς αὐτίκα μάλ' ἐς τὴν λόχμην, ἔπειτ' ἀνεγείρας τὴν ἐμὴν ἀηδόνα, καλοῦμεν αὐτούς· οἱ δὲ νῷν τοῦ φθέγματος ἐάνπερ ἐπακούσωσι θεύσονται δρόμῳ.	**HOOPOE** Easily. I'll step right into this thicket here, wake up my nightingale, and we'll call them. If they hear our voices, they'll come running.
206	**PEISETAERUS** ὦ φίλτατ' ὀρνίθων σὺ μή νυν ἕσταθι· ἀλλ' ἀντιβολῶ σ' ἄγ' ὡς τάχιστ' ἐς τὴν λόχμην ἔσβαινε κἀνέγειρε τὴν ἀηδόνα.	**PEISETAERUS** Dearest of birds, don't just stand there! Please, I beg you, go into the thicket as fast as you can and wake the nightingale.

PARODOS

The Hoopoe wakes the Nightingale and calls the birds, who flock in and are outraged to find humans.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
209	**HOOPOE** ἄγε σύννομέ μοι παῦσαι μὲν ὕπνου, λῦσον δὲ νόμους ἱερῶν ὕμνων, οὓς διὰ θείου στόματος θρηνεῖς τὸν ἐμὸν καὶ σὸν πολύδακρυν Ἴτυν· ἐλελιζομένης δ' ἱεροῖς μέλεσιν γένυος ξουθῆς καθαρὰ χωρεῖ διὰ φυλλοκόμου μίλακος ἠχὼ πρὸς Διὸς ἕδρας, ἵν' ὁ χρυσοκόμας Φοῖβος ἀκούων τοῖς σοῖς ἐλέγοις ἀντιψάλλων ἐλεφαντόδετον φόρμιγγα θεῶν ἵστησι χορούς· διὰ δ' ἀθανάτων στομάτων χωρεῖ ξύμφωνος ὁμοῦ θεία μακάρων ὁλολυγή.	**HOOPOE** Come, my mate, leave off your sleep, let loose the strains of holy hymns that your divine mouth pours out in grief for Itys, yours and mine, so much lamented. And as you trill in holy melodies with your tawny throat, the pure sound travels through the leafy bindweed up to the throne of Zeus, where Phoebus of the golden hair hears, and plucks in answer to your laments his ivory-bound lyre, and the gods' dances begin; and from immortal lips there rises, all in harmony, the holy cry of the blessed ones.[17]
223	**PEISETAERUS** ὦ Ζεῦ βασιλεῦ τοῦ φθέγματος τοὐρνιθίου· / οἷον κατεμελίτωσε τὴν λόχμην ὅλην.	**PEISETAERUS** King Zeus, what a voice that little bird has! She's poured honey over the whole thicket.
225	**EUELPIDES** οὗτος.	**EUELPIDES** Hey!

16 A pun on pólos (the turning vault of the sky) and pólis (city). The "Melian famine" recalls Athens' siege and starvation of Melos in 416 BC.

17 Itys was the son of Tereus and Procne; she killed him in revenge, and as the nightingale mourns him forever.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	PEISETAERUS τί ἔστιν; / οὐ σιωπήσει;	**PEISETAERUS** What is it? Will you be quiet?
	EUELPIDES τί δαί;	**EUELPIDES** Why?
226	**PEISETAERUS** οὔποψ μελῳδεῖν αὖ παρασκευάζεται.	**PEISETAERUS** The hoopoe's getting ready to sing again.
227	**HOOPOE** ἐποποῖ ποποποποποποποῖ, ἰὼ ἰὼ ἰτὼ ἰτὼ ἰτὼ ἰτὼ, ἴτω τις ὧδε τῶν ἐμῶν ὁμοπτέρων· ὅσοι τ' εὐσπόρους ἀγροίκων γύας νέμεσθε, φῦλα μυρία κριθοτράγων σπερμολόγων τε γένη ταχὺ πετόμενα, μαλθακὴν ἱέντα γῆρυν· ὅσα τ' ἐν ἄλοκι θαμὰ βῶλον ἀμφιτιττυβίζεθ' ὧδε λεπτὸν ἡδομένᾳ φωνᾷ· τιὸ τιὸ τιὸ τιὸ τιὸ τιὸ τιό.	**HOOPOE** Epopoi popopopopopopopoi, io io ito ito ito ito, come here, come, my fellow feathered ones: all you who graze on the farmers' well-sown fields, countless tribes of barley-eaters, and the clans of seed-pickers, swift in flight, letting loose soft cries; all you who in the furrow often twitter around the clods like this, so delicately, with joyful voice: tio tio tio tio tio tio tio.
238	ὅσα θ' ὑμῶν κατὰ κήπους ἐπὶ κισσοῦ κλάδεσι νομὸν ἔχει, τά τε κατ' ὄρεα τά τε κοτινοτράγα τά τε κομαροφάγα, ἀνύσατε πετόμενα πρὸς ἐμὰν αὐδάν· τριοτὸ τριοτὸ τοτοβρίξ· οἵ θ' ἑλείας παρ' αὐλῶνας ὀξυστόμους ἐμπίδας κάπτεθ', ὅσα τ' εὐδρόσους γῆς τόπους ἔχετε λειμῶνά τ' ἐρόεντα Μαραθῶνος, ὄρνις πτερυγοποίκιλός τ' ἀτταγᾶς ἀτταγᾶς. ὧν τ' ἐπὶ πόντιον οἶδμα θαλάσσης φῦλα μετ' ἀλκυόνεσσι ποτῆται, δεῦρ' ἴτε πευσόμενοι τὰ νεώτερα, πάντα γὰρ ἐνθάδε φῦλ' ἀθροΐζομεν οἰωνῶν ταναοδείρων. ἥκει γὰρ τις δριμὺς πρέσβυς καινὸς γνώμην καινῶν τ' ἔργων ἐγχειρητής.	And all of you who in the gardens, on the ivy's branches, have your feeding grounds, and you of the mountains, the olive-eaters, the arbutus-eaters, hurry, fly to my call: trioto trioto totobrix. And you who in the marshy glens snap up the sharp-stinging gnats, and all who keep the dewy places of the earth and the lovely meadow of Marathon, and you bird with dappled wings, francolin, francolin! And you whose tribes over the swelling waves of the sea fly with the kingfishers, come here to hear the news, for here we're gathering every tribe of long-necked birds. A shrewd old man has come, new in his thinking, a man who takes on new deeds.
258	ἀλλ' ἴτ' ἐς λόγους ἅπαντα, / δεῦρο δεῦρο δεῦρο δεῦρο.	Come, all of you, to talk, / here, here, here, here.
260	**CHORUS** τοροτοροτοροτοροτίξ. κικκαβαῦ κικκαβαῦ. τοροτοροτοροτοροτολιλιλίξ.	**CHORUS** Torotorotorotorotorotix. Kikkabau kikkabau. Torotorotorotorotorolililix.
263	**PEISETAERUS** ὁρᾷς τιν' ὄρνιν;	**PEISETAERUS** Can you see any bird?
	EUELPIDES μὰ τὸν Ἀπόλλω 'γὼ μὲν οὔ· / καίτοι κέχηνά γ' ἐς τὸν οὐρανὸν βλέπων.	**EUELPIDES** By Apollo, I can't—and I've been gaping at the sky, looking.
265	**PEISETAERUS** ἄλλως ἄρ' οὔποψ, ὡς ἔοικ', ἐς τὴν λόχμην / ἐσβὰς ἐπῷζε χαραδριὸν μιμούμενος.	

	GREEK	ENGLISH
		PEISETAERUS So it seems the hoopoe went into the thicket and called away for nothing, imitating a plover.
267	**A BIRD** τοροτὶξ τοροτίξ.	**A BIRD** Torotix torotix.
268	**PEISETAERUS** ὦγάθ' ἀλλ' εἶς οὑτοσὶ καὶ δή τις ὄρνις ἔρχεται.	**PEISETAERUS** My good man, look, here's one—a bird's actually coming!
269	**EUELPIDES** νὴ Δί' ὄρνις δῆτα. τίς ποτ' ἐστίν; οὐ δήπου ταῶς;	**EUELPIDES** By Zeus, a bird all right. What on earth is it? Not a peacock, surely?
270	**PEISETAERUS** οὗτος αὐτὸς νῷν φράσει· τίς ἐστιν ὄρνις οὑτοσί;	**PEISETAERUS** He'll tell us himself. What bird is this?
271	**HOOPOE** οὗτος οὐ τῶν ἠθάδων τῶνδ' ὧν ὁρᾶθ' ὑμεῖς ἀεί, / ἀλλὰ λιμναῖος.	**HOOPOE** This one isn't one of the common ones you see all the time—he's a marsh bird.
272	**EUELPIDES** βαβαὶ καλός γε καὶ φοινικιοῦς.	**EUELPIDES** Wow, he's beautiful—and flame red!
273	**HOOPOE** εἰκότως γε· καὶ γὰρ ὄνομ' αὐτῷ 'στὶ φοινικόπτερος.	**HOOPOE** Naturally. That's why he's called a flamingo.
274	**EUELPIDES** οὗτος ὦ σέ τοι.	**EUELPIDES** Hey, you, I'm talking to you!
	PEISETAERUS τί βωστρεῖς;	**PEISETAERUS** What are you bawling about?
	EUELPIDES ἕτερος ὄρνις οὑτοσί.	**EUELPIDES** Here's another bird.
275	**PEISETAERUS** νὴ Δί' ἕτερος δῆτα χοὗτος ἔξεδρον χρόαν ἔχων. / τίς ποτ' ἔσθ' ὁ μουσόμαντις ἄτοπος ὄρνις ὀρειβάτης;	**PEISETAERUS** By Zeus, another one all right, and this one's got an outlandish color too. Who can he be, this weird bird, this prophet of the Muses, this mountain-walker?[18]
277	**HOOPOE** ὄνομα τούτῳ Μῆδός ἐστο.	**HOOPOE** His name is Mede.
	PEISETAERUS Μῆδος; ὦναξ Ἡράκλεις· / εἶτα πῶς ἄνευ καμήλου Μῆδος ὢν εἰσέπτετο;	**PEISETAERUS** Mede? Lord Heracles! Then how did he fly in without a camel, if he's a Mede?[19]
279	**EUELPIDES** ἕτερος αὖ λόφον κατειληφώς τις ὄρνις οὑτοσί.	**EUELPIDES** And here's another bird that's seized a crest.
280	**PEISETAERUS** τί τὸ τέρας τουτί ποτ' ἐστίν; οὐ σὺ μόνος ἄρ' ἦσθ' ἔποψ, / ἀλλὰ χοὗτος ἕτερος;	**PEISETAERUS** What is this marvel? So you weren't the only hoopoe—here's another one?
281	**HOOPOE** οὑτοσὶ μέν ἐστι Φιλοκλέους ἐξ ἔποπος, ἐγὼ δὲ τούτου πάππος, ὥσπερ εἰ λέγοις Ἱππόνικος Καλλίου κἀξ Ἱππονίκου Καλλίας.	**HOOPOE** This one is the son of Philocles' hoopoe, and I'm his grandfather—just as you'd say Hipponicus son of Callias, and Callias son of Hipponicus.[20]
284		

18 The line parodies Aeschylus' lost play *Edonians*.
19 A Mede is a Persian; the bird is probably the rooster, known as "the Persian bird."
20 Philocles, a tragic poet who wrote his own *Tereus*, reputedly borrowed from Sophocles. In the wealthy family of Callias, the names Callias and Hipponicus alternated by generation.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	PEISETAERUS Καλλίας ἄρ' οὗτος οὔρνις ἐστίν· ὡς πτεροῤῥυεῖ.	**PEISETAERUS** So this bird is Callias! Look how he's molting.
285	**EUELPIDES** ἅτε γὰρ ὢν γενναῖος ὑπό τε συκοφαντῶν τίλλεται, / αἵ τε θήλειαι προσεκτίλλουσιν αὐτοῦ τὰ πτερά.	**EUELPIDES** Well, he's well-born, so the informers pluck him, and the women pluck out his feathers too.[21]
287	**PEISETAERUS** ὦ Πόσειδον ἕτερος αὖ τις βαπτὸς ὄρνις οὑτοσί. / τίς ὀνομάξεταί ποθ' οὗτος;	**PEISETAERUS** Poseidon! Here's another one, a dyed bird. What on earth is he called?
288	**HOOPOE** οὑτοσὶ κατωφαγᾶς.	**HOOPOE** This one's a Gobbler.
289	**PEISETAERUS** ἔστι γὰρ κατωφαγᾶς τις ἄλλος ἢ Κλεώνυμος;	**PEISETAERUS** Is there any Gobbler besides Cleonymus?
290	**EUELPIDES** πῶς ἂν οὖν Κλεώνυμός γ' ὢν οὐκ ἀπέβαλε τὸν λόφον;	**EUELPIDES** But if he were Cleonymus, wouldn't he have thrown away his crest?[22]
291	**PEISETAERUS** ἀλλὰ μέντοι τίς ποθ' ἡ λόφωσις ἡ τῶν ὀρνέων; / ἦ 'πὶ τὸν δίαυλον ἦλθον;	**PEISETAERUS** But tell me, what's with all the crests on these birds? Have they come to run the double-lap race?
292	**HOOPOE** ὥσπερ οἱ Κᾶρες μὲν οὖν / ἐπὶ λόφων οἰκοῦσιν ὧγάθ' ἀσφαλείας οὕνεκα.	**HOOPOE** No, my good man—it's like the Carians: they live on the crests for safety.[23]
294	**PEISETAERUS** ὦ Πόσειδον οὐχ ὁρᾷς ὅσον συνείλεκται κακὸν / ὀρνέων;	**PEISETAERUS** Poseidon! Don't you see what a nasty mob of birds has gathered?
295	**EUELPIDES** ὦναξ Ἄπολλον τοῦ νέφους. ἰοὺ ἰού, / οὐδ' ἰδεῖν ἔτ' ἔσθ' ὑπ' αὐτῶν πετομένων τὴν εἴσοδον.	**EUELPIDES** Lord Apollo, what a cloud of them! Wow! You can't even see the entrance anymore, with them all flying about.
297	**HOOPOE** οὑτοσὶ πέρδιξ, ἐκεινοσί γε νὴ Δί' ἀτταγᾶς, / οὑτοσὶ δὲ πηνέλοψ, ἐκεινηὶ δέ γ' ἀλκυών.	**HOOPOE** This one's a partridge; that one, by Zeus, is a francolin; this one's a widgeon; and that one there's a kingfisher.
299	**PEISETAERUS** τίς γάρ ἐσθ' οὔπισθεν αὐτῆς;	**PEISETAERUS** And who's that behind her?
	HOOPOE ὅστις ἐστί; κειρύλος.	**HOOPOE** Who is it? A shearwater.
300	**PEISETAERUS** κειρύλος γάρ ἐστιν ὄρνις;	**PEISETAERUS** A shearer's a bird?
	HOOPOE οὐ γάρ ἐστι Σποργίλος; / χαὐτηί γε γλαῦξ.	**HOOPOE** Well, isn't Sporgilus? And this one here is an owl.[24]
301	**EUELPIDES** τί φῄς; τίς γλαῦκ' Ἀθήναζ' ἤγαγεν;	**EUELPIDES** What are you saying? Who brought an owl to Athens?[25]
302	**HOOPOE** κίττα τρυγὼν κορυδὸς ἐλεᾶς ὑποθυμὶς περιστερὰ	**HOOPOE** Jay, turtledove, lark, reed-warbler, wheatear, pigeon, nertos, hawk, ring-dove,

21 Callias squandered a huge fortune. Informers (sykophantai) were professional accusers who prosecuted, or threatened to, for profit.
22 Cleonymus, a politician mocked as a glutton and for throwing away his shield in battle.
23 Lophos means both a bird's crest and a hilltop; the Carians of Asia Minor were said to live on hilltops for safety.
24 The Greek keirylos puns on keirein, "to shear"; Sporgilus was an Athenian barber.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	νέρτος ἱέραξ φάττα κόκκυξ ἐρυθρόπους κεβλήπυρις πορφυρὶς κερχνὴς κολυμβὶς ἀμπελὶς φήνη δρύοψ.	cuckoo, redshank, firecrest, purple coot, kestrel, grebe, vine-bird, bearded vulture, woodpecker.[26]
305	**PEISETAERUS** ἰοὺ ἰοὺ τῶν ὀρνέων, ἰοὺ ἰοὺ τῶν κοψίχων· οἷα πιππίζουσι καὶ τρέχουσι διακεκραγότες. ἆρ' ἀπειλοῦσίν γε νῷν; οἴμοι, κεχήνασίν γέ τοι καὶ βλέπουσιν ἐς σὲ κἀμέ.	**PEISETAERUS** Wow, wow, the birds! Wow, wow, the blackbirds! How they cheep, and run around shrieking! Are they threatening us? Oh no, they've got their beaks open, and they're staring at you and me.
308	**EUELPIDES** τοῦτο μὲν κἀμοὶ δοκεῖ.	**EUELPIDES** That's how it looks to me too.
310	**CHORUS** ποποποποποποποποποῖ ποῦ μ' ἄρ' ὃς / ἐκάλεσε; τίνα τόπον ἄρα ποτὲ νέμεται;	**CHORUS** Popopopopopopopopopopoi, where then is he / who called me? Where on earth does he feed?
312	**HOOPOE** οὐτοσὶ πάλαι πάρειμι κοὐκ ἀποστατῶ φίλων.	**HOOPOE** Here I am, I've been here all along. I never desert my friends.
313	**CHORUS** τί τί τί τί τί τί τί τί· τίνα λόγον ἄρα ποτὲ / πρὸς ἐμὲ φίλον ἔχων;	**CHORUS** What-what-what-what-what-what-what-what—what word, then, / do you bring me, your friend?
316	**HOOPOE** κοινὸν ἀσφαλῆ δίκαιον ἡδὺν ὠφελήσιμον. / ἄνδρε γὰρ λεπτὼ λογιστὰ δεῦρ' ἀφῖχθον ὡς ἐμέ.	**HOOPOE** Something for all of us, safe, just, sweet and profitable. Two men, subtle thinkers, have come here to see me.
318	**CHORUS** ποῦ; πᾷ; πῶς φῄς;	**CHORUS** Where? Which way? What do you mean?
320	**HOOPOE** φήμ' ἀπ' ἀνθρώπων ἀφῖχθαι δεῦρο πρεσβύτα δύο· / ἥκετον δ' ἔχοντε πρέμνον πράγματος πελωρίου.	**HOOPOE** I mean two old men have come here from the human world, and they've brought the root of a colossal enterprise.
322	**CHORUS** ὦ μέγιστον ἐξαμαρτὼν ἐξ ὅτου 'τράφην ἐγώ, / πῶς λέγεις;	**CHORUS** You've made the biggest blunder since the day I was hatched! What are you saying?
323	**HOOPOE** μήπω φοβηθῇς τὸν λόγον.	**HOOPOE** Don't be afraid of the idea yet.
	CHORUS τί μ' ἠργάσω;	**CHORUS** What have you done to me?
324	**HOOPOE** ἄνδρ' ἐδεξάμην ἐραστὰ τῆσδε τῆς ξυνουσίας.	**HOOPOE** I've taken in two men who are in love with our company.
325	**CHORUS** καὶ δέδρακας τοῦτο τοὔργον;	**CHORUS** You actually did that?
	HOOPOE καὶ δεδρακώς γ' ἥδομαι.	**HOOPOE** I did, and I'm glad I did.
326	**CHORUS** κἀστὸν ἤδη που παρ' ἡμῖν;	**CHORUS** And they're already here somewhere among us?
	HOOPOE εἰ παρ' ὑμῖν εἴμ' ἐγώ.	**HOOPOE** As surely as I am.

25 "Owls to Athens" was a proverb for bringing something where it's already plentiful: the owl was Athena's bird and stamped on Athenian coins.
26 Several of these birds can't be identified with certainty; nertos is left untranslated.

FIRST AGON

The birds attack; the two men defend themselves with pots and spits until the Hoopoe talks the chorus down.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
327	**CHORUS** ἔα ἔα, προδεδόμεθ' ἀνόσιά τ' ἐπάθομεν· ὃς γὰρ φίλος ἦν ὁμότροφά θ' ἡμῖν ἐνέμετο πεδία παρ' ἡμῖν, παρέβη μὲν θεσμοὺς ἀρχαίους, παρέβη δ' ὅρκους ὀρνίθων· ἐς δὲ δόλον ἐκάλεσε, παρέβαλέ τ' ἐμὲ παρὰ γένος ἀνόσιον, ὅπερ ἐξότ' ἐγένετ' ἐπ' ἐμοὶ πολέμιον ἐτράφη.	**CHORUS** Ah! Ah! We're betrayed, we've suffered an outrage! He who was our friend, who fed with us on the same fields at our side, has broken our ancient laws, has broken the oaths of the birds! He called me into a trap, and threw me to an unholy race that, ever since it was born, has been raised as my enemy.
336	ἀλλὰ πρὸς τοῦτον μὲν ἡμῖν ἐστιν ὕστερος λόγος· τὼ δὲ πρεσβύτα δοκεῖ μοι τώδε δοῦναι τὴν δίκην διαφορηθῆναί θ' ὑφ' ἡμῶν.	Well, we'll deal with him later. These two old men, I say, should pay the penalty and be torn to pieces by us.
338	**PEISETAERUS** ὡς ἀπωλόμεσθ' ἄρα.	**PEISETAERUS** So we're done for.
339	**EUELPIDES** αἴτιος μέντοι σὺ νῷν εἶ τῶν κακῶν τούτων μόνος. / ἐπὶ τί γάρ μ' ἐκεῖθεν ἦγες;	**EUELPIDES** And you're the only one to blame for this mess. What did you bring me from there for?
340	**PEISETAERUS** ἵν' ἀκολουθοίης ἐμοί.	**PEISETAERUS** So you'd keep me company.
341	**EUELPIDES** ἵνα μὲν οὖν κλάοιμι μεγάλα.	**EUELPIDES** No—so I could cry my eyes out.
	PEISETAERUS τοῦτο μὲν ληρεῖς ἔχων / κάρτα· πῶς κλαύσει γάρ, ἢν ἅπαξ γε τὠφθαλμὼ 'κκοπῇς;	**PEISETAERUS** Now you're really talking non- sense. How are you going to cry, once your eyes have been pecked out?
343	**CHORUS** ἰὼ ἰώ, ἔπαγ' ἔπιθ' ἐπίφερε πολέμιον ὁρμὰν φονίαν, πτέρυγά τε παντᾷ ἐπίβαλε περί τε κύκλωσαι· ὡς δεῖ τώδ' οἰμώζειν ἄμφω καὶ δοῦναι ῥύγχει φορβάν. οὔτε γὰρ ὄρος σκιερὸν οὔτε νέφος αἰθέριον οὔτε πολιὸν πέλαγος ἔστιν ὅ τι δέξεται τώδ' ἀποφυγόντε με.	**CHORUS** Io! Io! Charge, attack, bring on the hostile, murderous onslaught! Wings on every side, throw them around them, close them in! These two must howl, both of them, and give my beak its fodder. For no shady mountain, no cloud in the upper air, no gray sea exists that will take in these two, if they escape me.
352	ἀλλὰ μὴ μέλλωμεν ἤδη τώδε τίλλειν καὶ δάκνειν. / ποῦ 'σθ' ὁ ταξίαρχος; ἐπαγέτω τὸ δεξιὸν κέρας.	No more delay: let's pluck them and bite them now. Where's the brigade commander? Let him lead on the right wing!
354	**EUELPIDES** τοῦτ' ἐκεῖνο· ποῖφύγω δύστηνος;	**EUELPIDES** This is it! Where can I run, poor me?
	PEISETAERUS οὗτος οὐ μενεῖς;	**PEISETAERUS** Hey, won't you stand your ground?
355	**EUELPIDES** ἵν' ὑπὸ τούτων διαφορηθῶ;	**EUELPIDES** So they can tear me to pieces?
	PEISETAERUS πῶς γὰρ ἂν τούτους δοκεῖς / ἐκφυγεῖν;	**PEISETAERUS** Well, how do you think you'd get away from them?

	GREEK	ENGLISH
356	**EUELPIDES** οὐκ οἶδ' ὅπως ἄν.	**EUELPIDES** I don't know how.
	PEISETAERUS ἀλλ' ἐγώ τοί σοι λέγω, / ὅτι μένοντε δεῖ μάχεσθαι λαμβάνειν τε τῶν χυτρῶν.	**PEISETAERUS** Then I'll tell you: we have to stand and fight, and grab some of these pots.
358	**EUELPIDES** τί δὲ χύτρα νώ γ' ὠφελήσει;	**EUELPIDES** And what good is a pot going to do us?
	PEISETAERUS γλαῦξ μὲν οὐ πρόσεισι νῷν.	**PEISETAERUS** An owl won't come near us.[27]
359	**EUELPIDES** τοῖς δὲ γαμψώνυξι τοισδί;	**EUELPIDES** And these ones here with the hooked claws?
	PEISETAERUS τὸν ὀβελίσκον ἁρπάσας / εἶτα κατάπηξον πρὸ σαυτοῦ.	**PEISETAERUS** Snatch up the spit and plant it in front of you.
360	**EUELPIDES** τοῖσι δ' ὀφθαλμοῖσι τί;	**EUELPIDES** And what about our eyes?
361	**PEISETAERUS** ὀξύβαφον ἐντευθενὶ προσδοῦ λαβὼν ἢ τρύβλιον.	**PEISETAERUS** Take a saucer or a bowl from here and tie it on.
362	**EUELPIDES** ὦ σοφώτατ', εὖ γ' ἀνηῦρες αὐτὸ καὶ στρατηγικῶς· / ὑπερακοντίζεις σύ γ' ἤδη Νικίαν ταῖς μηχαναῖς.	**EUELPIDES** You genius, that's brilliant—a real general's idea! You outshoot Nicias already when it comes to siege engines.[28]
364	**CHORUS** ἐλελελεῦ χώρει κάθες τὸ ῥύγχος· οὐ μέλλειν ἐχρῆν. / ἕλκε τίλλε παῖε δεῖρε, κόπτε πρώτην τὴν χύτραν.	**CHORUS** Eleleleu! Advance! Lower your beaks! No more delay! Drag, pluck, strike, flay—smash the pot first!
366	**HOOPOE** εἰπέ μοι τί μέλλετ' ὦ πάντων κάκιστα θηρίων ἀπολέσαι παθόντες οὐδὲν ἄνδρε καὶ διασπάσαι τῆς ἐμῆς γυναικὸς ὄντε ξυγγενεῖ καὶ φυλέτα;	**HOOPOE** Tell me, you vilest of all creatures, why are you about to kill and tear apart two men who've done you no harm—kinsmen and fellow tribesmen of my wife?[29]
369	**CHORUS** φεισόμεσθα γάρ τι τῶνδε μᾶλλον ἡμεῖς ἢ λύκων; / ἢ τίνας τεισαίμεθ' ἄλλους τῶνδ' ἂν ἐχθίους ἔτι;	**CHORUS** Why should we spare them any more than wolves? Or whom could we punish who are more hateful than these?
371	**HOOPOE** εἰ δὲ τὴν φύσιν μὲν ἐχθροὶ τὸν δὲ νοῦν εἰσιν φίλοι, / καὶ διδάξοντές τι δεῦρ' ἥκουσιν ὑμᾶς χρήσιμον;	**HOOPOE** But what if they're enemies by nature but friends in their intentions, and they've come here to teach you something useful?
373	**CHORUS** πῶς δ' ἂν οἵδ' ἡμᾶς τι χρήσιμον διδάξειάν ποτε / ἢ φράσειαν, ὄντες ἐχθροὶ τοῖσι πάπποις τοῖς ἐμοῖς;	**CHORUS** How could these two ever teach us anything useful, or tell us anything, when they're the enemies of my forefathers?
375	**HOOPOE** ἀλλ' ἀπ' ἐχθρῶν δῆτα πολλὰ μανθάνουσιν οἱ σοφοί. ἡ γὰρ εὐλάβεια σῴζει πάντα. παρὰ μὲν οὖν φίλου οὐ μάθοις ἂν τοῦθ', ὁ δ' ἐχθρὸς εὐθὺς ἐξηνάγκασεν. αὐτίχ' αἱ πόλεις παρ' ἀνδρῶν γ' ἔμαθον ἐχθρῶν κοὐ φίλων	**HOOPOE** Oh, but the wise learn a great deal from their enemies. Caution is what keeps everything safe. You wouldn't learn that from a friend, but an enemy forces it on you straight away. For instance, it was from enemies, not friends, that cities

27 Athena, whose bird was the owl, was patron of Athens' potters, so the owl would spare Athenian pottery.
28 Nicias, a cautious Athenian general known for siege works, then commanding at Syracuse (414 BC).
29 Tereus' wife Procne was an Athenian princess, so the two men are her countrymen.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	ἐκπονεῖν θ' ὑψηλὰ τείχη ναῦς τε κεκτῆσθαι μακράς· τὸ δὲ μάθημα τοῦτο σῴζει παῖδας οἶκον χρήματα.	learned to build high walls and to own warships; and that lesson keeps children, home and property safe.
381	**CHORUS** ἔστι μὲν λόγων ἀκοῦσαι πρῶτον, ὡς ἡμῖν δοκεῖ, / χρήσιμον· μάθοι γὰρ ἄν τις κἀπὸ τῶν ἐχθρῶν σοφόν.	**CHORUS** Well, it seems to us useful to hear what they have to say first. One can learn something wise even from enemies.
383	**PEISETAERUS** οἵδε τῆς ὀργῆς χαλᾶν εἴξασιν. ἄναγ' ἐπὶ σκέλος.	**PEISETAERUS** They seem to be letting their anger go. Fall back, slowly.
384	**HOOPOE** καὶ δίκαιόν γ' ἐστὶ κἀμοὶ δεῖ νέμειν ὑμᾶς χάριν.	**HOOPOE** And it's only right—and you owe me a favor.
385	**CHORUS** ἀλλὰ μὴν οὐδ' ἄλλο σοί πω πρᾶγμ' ἐνηντιώμεθα.	**CHORUS** Well, we've never opposed you in anything else so far.
386	**PEISETAERUS** μᾶλλον εἰρήνην ἄγουσι νὴ Δί', ὥστε τὴν χύτραν τώ τε τρυβλίω καθίει· καὶ τὸ δόρυ χρή, τὸν ὀβελίσκον, περιπατεῖν ἔχοντας ἡμᾶς τῶν ὅπλων ἐντός, παρ' αὐτὴν τὴν χύτραν ἄκραν ὁρῶντας ἐγγύς· ὡς οὐ φευκτέον νῷν.	**PEISETAERUS** By Zeus, they're turning more peaceable, so put down the pot and the two bowls. But we should keep the spear—the spit, I mean—and patrol inside our lines, keeping watch right over the rim of the pot, up close. There's no running away for us.
393	**EUELPIDES** ἐτεὸν ἦν δ' ἄρ' ἀποθάνωμεν, / κατορυχθησόμεσθα ποῦ γῆς;	**EUELPIDES** Seriously, though, if we do die, where on earth will we be buried?
395	**PEISETAERUS** ὁ Κεραμεικὸς δέξεται νώ. δημοσίᾳ γὰρ ἵνα ταφῶμεν, φήσομεν πρὸς τοὺς στρατηγοὺς μαχομένω τοῖς πολεμίοισιν ἀποθανεῖν ἐν Ὀρνεαῖς.	**PEISETAERUS** The Ceramicus will take us. To get a public funeral, we'll tell the generals we died fighting the enemy at Orneae.[30]

FIRST CHORAL SONG

The birds fall back into line and question the Hoopoe about the strangers and their purpose.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
400	**CHORUS** ἄναγ' ἐς τάξιν πάλιν ἐς ταὐτόν, καὶ τὸν θυμὸν κατάθου κύψας παρὰ τὴν ὀργὴν ὥσπερ ὁπλίτης· κἀναπυθώμεθα τούσδε τίνες ποτὲ καὶ πόθεν ἔμολον † ἐπὶ τίνα τ' ἐπίνοιαν. † ἰὼ ἔποψ σέ τοι καλῶ.	**CHORUS** Fall back into line, back to your places. Ground your temper beside your anger, the way a soldier stoops to ground his arms, and let's find out who these two are, where they've come from, and what they're after. Hey, Hoopoe, I'm calling you!
407	**HOOPOE** καλεῖς δὲ τοῦ κλύειν θέλων;	**HOOPOE** You call me—what do you want to hear?
408	**CHORUS** τίνες ποθ' οἵδε καὶ πόθεν;	**CHORUS** Who are they, and where are they from?

30 The Ceramicus was Athens' burial ground for the war dead. Orneae, a town in the Argolid attacked by Athens in 416 BC, sounds like ornea, "birds."

	GREEK	ENGLISH
409	**HOOPOE** ξείνω σοφῆς ἀφ' Ἑλλάδος.	**HOOPOE** Two strangers from Greece, home of wisdom.
410	**CHORUS** τύχη δὲ ποία κομίζει ποτ' αὐτὼ πρὸς ὄρνιθας ἐλθεῖν;	**CHORUS** And what fortune, then, has brought the two of them to the birds, to come here?
412	**HOOPOE** ἔρως βίου διαίτης τε καὶ σοῦ ξυνοικεῖν τέ σοι καὶ ξυνεῖναι τὸ πᾶν.	**HOOPOE** Love— of your life and your way of living, and to live with you and be with you in everything.
416	**CHORUS** τί φῄς; / λέγουσι δὴ τίνας λόγους;	**CHORUS** What's that? / And what are they proposing?
417	**HOOPOE** ἄπιστα καὶ πέρα κλύειν.	**HOOPOE** Things past belief, beyond all hearing.
418	**CHORUS** ὁρᾷ τι κέρδος ἐνθάδ' ἄξιον μονῆς, ὅτῳ πέποιθ' ἐμοὶ ξυνὼν … κρατεῖν ἄν ἢ τὸν ἐχθρὸν ἢ φίλοισιν ὠφελεῖν ἔχειν;	**CHORUS** Does he see some gain here worth his staying for, that makes him trust that, living with me … he could beat his enemy or be able to help his friends?
422	**HOOPOE** λέγει μέγαν τιν' ὄλβον οὔτε λεκτὸν οὔτε πιστόν· ὡς σὰ γὰρ τὰ πάντα ταῦτα καὶ τὸ τῇδε καὶ τὸ κεῖσε καὶ τὸ δεῦρο προσβιβᾷ λέγων.	**HOOPOE** He speaks of some vast bliss, beyond all words, beyond belief: that all of this is yours— what's here, what's there, what's over here: that's how he wins you over.
427	**CHORUS** πότερα μαινόμενος;	**CHORUS** Is he mad?
428	**HOOPOE** ἄφατον ὡς φρόνιμος.	**HOOPOE** Unspeakably sensible.
429	**CHORUS** ἔνι σοφόν τι φρενί;	**CHORUS** Is there some wisdom in his head?
430	**HOOPOE** πυκνότατον κίναδος, / σόφισμα κύρμα τρῖμμα παιπάλημ' ὅλον.	**HOOPOE** The craftiest fox there is: all cleverness, a rare catch, worn smooth, sifted as fine as flour.
432	**CHORUS** λέγειν λέγειν κέλευέ μοι. κλύων γὰρ ὧν σύ μοι λέγεις λόγων ἀνεπτέρωμαι.	**CHORUS** Tell him, tell him to speak to me! For hearing the words you tell me I'm all aflutter.

FIRST EPISODE

The birds swear a truce, and Peisetaerus gets ready to make his case.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
435	**HOOPOE** ἄγε δὴ σὺ καὶ σὺ τὴν πανοπλίαν μὲν πάλιν ταύτην λαβόντε κρεμάσατον τύχἀγαθῇ ἐς τὸν ἰπνὸν εἴσω πλησίον τοὐπιστάτου· σὺ δὲ τούσδ' ἐφ' οἵσπερ τοῖς λόγοις συνέλεξ' ἐγὼ φράσον, δίδαξον.	**HOOPOE** Come on, then, you two. Take this armor and hang it back up, and good luck to it, in there in the kitchen next to the pot-stand. And you, explain to these birds the proposals I called them together to hear. Lay it all out for them.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
439	**PEISETAERUS** μὰ τὸν Ἀπόλλω ’γὼ μὲν οὔ, ἢν μὴ διάθωνταί γ’ οἵδε διαθήκην ἐμοὶ ἥνπερ ὁ πίθηκος τῇ γυναικὶ διέθετο, ὁ μαχαιροποιός, μήτε δάκνειν τούτους ἐμὲ μήτ’ ὀρχίπεδ’ ἕλκειν μήτ’ ὀρύττειν —	**PEISETAERUS** No, by Apollo, not me. Not unless they make the same pact with me that the Monkey made with his wife (the knife-maker, I mean): that they won’t bite me, or yank my balls, or poke into my—[31]
442	**CHORUS** οὔτι που / τόν —; οὐδαμῶς.	**CHORUS** You don’t mean your—? Never!
443	**PEISETAERUS** οὔκ, ἀλλὰ τὠφθαλμὼ λέγω.	**PEISETAERUS** No, I mean my eyes.
444	**CHORUS** διατίθεμαι ’γώ.	**CHORUS** I agree to the pact.
	PEISETAERUS κατόμοσόν νυν ταῦτά μοι.	**PEISETAERUS** Then swear to it.
445	**CHORUS** ὄμνυμ’ ἐπὶ τούτοις, πᾶσι νικᾶν τοῖς κριταῖς / καὶ τοῖς θεαταῖς πᾶσιν.	**CHORUS** I swear it, on these terms: that I win with every one of the judges and the whole audience.
446	**PEISETAERUS** ἔσται ταυταγί.	**PEISETAERUS** So it shall be.
447	**CHORUS** εἰ δὲ παραβαίην, ἑνὶ κριτῇ νικᾶν μόνον.	**CHORUS** And if I break it, may I win by just one judge’s vote.
448	**HERALD** ἀκούετε λεῴ· τοὺς ὁπλίτας νυνμενὶ ἀνελομένους θὤπλ’ ἀπιέναι πάλιν οἴκαδε, σκοπεῖν δ’ ὅ τι ἂν προγράφωμεν ἐν τοῖς πινακίοις.	**HERALD** Attention, people! The infantry are hereby ordered to pick up their weapons right now and go back home, and to watch for whatever we post on the noticeboards.

SECOND AGON

Peisetaerus argues that birds once ruled the world and shows how they can take power back from the gods.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
451	**CHORUS** δολερὸν μὲν ἀεὶ κατὰ πάντα δὴ τρόπον πέφυκεν ἄνθρωπος· σὺ δ’ ὅμως λέγε μοι. τάχα γὰρ τύχοις ἄν χρηστὸν ἐξειπὼν ὅ τι μοι παρορᾷς, ἢ δύναμίν τινα μείζω παραλειπομένην ὑπ’ ἐμῆς φρενὸς ἀξυνέτου· σὺ δὲ τοῦθ’ οὑρᾷς λέγ’ ἐς κοινόν. ὃ γὰρ ἂν σὺ τύχῃς μοι ἀγαθὸν πορίσας, τοῦτο κοινὸν ἔσται.	**CHORUS** Man is a crafty creature by nature, always, in every way. Still, speak to me. Maybe you’ll happen to tell me some good you see in me that I’ve missed, or some greater power my foolish mind has passed over. Tell everyone what you see. Whatever good you happen to bring me will belong to us all.
460	ἀλλ’ ἐφ’ ὅτῳπερ πράγματι τὴν σὴν ἥκεις γνώμην ἀναπείσας, / λέγε θαρρήσας· ὡς τὰς σπονδὰς οὐ μὴ πρότεροι παραβῶμεν.	Come on, whatever plan you’ve talked yourself into and brought here with you, out with it boldly. We certainly won’t be the first to break the truce.
462	**PEISETAERUS** καὶ μὴν ὀργῶ νὴ τὸν Δία καὶ προπεφύραται λόγος εἷς μοι, ὃν διαμάττειν οὐ κωλύει· φέρε παῖ στέφανον· καταχεῖσθαι κατὰ χειρὸς ὕδωρ φερέτω ταχύ τις.	**PEISETAERUS** Well, by Zeus, I’m swelling with eagerness. I’ve got one speech already mixed like dough, and there’s nothing to stop me kneading it.

31 Panaetius, a knife-maker nicknamed “the Monkey,” was apparently a small man with a large and formidable wife, and the two had reportedly made a pact not to fight.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
		Boy, bring me a garland! Someone fetch water, quick, to pour over my hands.
464	**EUELPIDES** δειπνήσειν μέλλομεν; ἢ τί;	**EUELPIDES** Are we about to have dinner, or what?
465	**PEISETAERUS** μὰ Δί' ἀλλὰ λέγειν ζητῶ τι πάλαι μέγα καὶ λαρινὸν ἔπος τι, ὅ το τὴν τούτων θραύσει ψυχήν· οὕτως ὑμῶν ὑπεραλγῶ, οἵτινες ὄντες πρότερον βασιλῆς —	**PEISETAERUS** No, by Zeus. I've been hunting for a while for something to say, something big and juicy, that'll crush these birds' souls. That's how sorry I feel for you, since you were once kings—
467	**CHORUS** ἡμεῖς βασιλῆς; τίνος;	**CHORUS** Us, kings? Of what?
	PEISETAERUS ὑμεῖς πάντων ὁπόσ' ἔστιν, ἐμοῦ πρῶτον, τουδί, καὶ τοῦ Διὸς αὐτοῦ, ἀρχαιότεροι πρότεροί τε Κρόνου καὶ Τιτάνων ἐγένεσθε, καὶ γῆς.	**PEISETAERUS** You were, of everything there is: of me first, of this fellow here, of Zeus himself. You were born before Cronus and the Titans, and you're older than they are. Older than Earth, too.
470	**CHORUS** καὶ γῆς;	**CHORUS** Than Earth, too?
	PEISETAERUS νὴ τὸν Ἀπόλλω.	**PEISETAERUS** Yes, by Apollo.
	CHORUS τουτὶ μὰ Δί' οὐκ ἐπεπύσμην.	**CHORUS** Well, by Zeus, I never heard that.
471	**PEISETAERUS** ἀμαθὴς γὰρ ἔφυς κοὐ πολυπράγμων, οὐδ' Αἴσωπον πεπάτηκας, ὃς ἔφασκε λέγων κορυδὸν πάντων πρώτην ὄρνιθα γενέσθαι, προτέραν τῆς γῆς, κἄπειτα νόσῳ τὸν πατέρ' αὐτῆς ἀποθνήσκειν· γῆν δ' οὐκ εἶναι, τὸν δὲ προκεῖσθαι πεμπταῖον· τὴν δ' ἀποροῦσαν ὑπ' ἀμηχανίας τὸν πατέρ' αὐτῆς ἐν τῇ κεφαλῇ κατορύξαι.	**PEISETAERUS** That's because you're ignorant and incurious by nature, and you haven't thumbed your Aesop. He says the crested lark was the very first bird to be born, before Earth even existed, and then her father fell sick and died. There was no earth yet, and he'd been lying out for five days, and she didn't know what to do. So in desperation she buried her father in her own head.[32]
476	**EUELPIDES** ὁ πατὴρ ἄρα τῆς κορυδοῦ νυνὶ κεῖται τεθνεὼς Κεφαλῆσιν.	**EUELPIDES** So the lark's father now lies dead and buried at Cephale.[33]
477	**PEISETAERUS** οὔκουν δῆτ' εἰ πρότεροι μὲν γῆς πρότεροι δὲ θεῶν ἐγένοντο, / ὡς πρεσβυτάτων αὐτῶν ὄντῶν ὀρθῶς ἐσθ' ἡ βασιλεία;	**PEISETAERUS** So, then, if they were born before Earth and before the gods, doesn't the kingship rightly belong to them as the eldest?
479	**EUELPIDES** νὴ τὸν Ἀπόλλω· πάνυ τοίνυν χρὴ ῥύγχος βόσκειν σε τὸ λοιπόν· / οὐκ ἀποδώσει ταχέως ὁ Ζεὺς τὸ σκῆπτρον τῷ δρυκολάπτῃ.	**EUELPIDES** By Apollo, it does! So from now on you'd better start growing yourself a beak. Zeus won't be in any hurry to hand his scepter over to the woodpecker.
481	**PEISETAERUS** ὡς δ' οὐχὶ θεοὶ τοίνυν ἦρχον τῶν ἀνθρώπων τὸ παλαιόν, ἀλλ' ὄρνιθες, κἀβασίλευον, πόλλ' ἐστὶ τεκμήρια τούτων. αὐτίκα δ' ὑμῖν πρῶτ' ἐπιδείξω τὸν ἀλεκτρυόν', ὡς ἐτυράννει	**PEISETAERUS** Now, there's plenty of evidence that in ancient times it wasn't gods who ruled human beings but birds, and that birds were kings. For a start, I'll show you the rooster: how he was tyrant and ruled the Persians before anyone else,

32 The lark's crest is imagined as the father's burial mound.
33 Cephale, an Attic deme, has a name meaning "Head."

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	ἦρχέ τε Περσῶν πρῶτον πάντων Δαρείου καὶ Μεγαβάζου, ὥστε καλεῖται Περσικὸς ὄρνις ἀπὸ τῆς ἀρχῆς ἔτ' ἐκείνης.	before Darius and Megabazus, so that he's still called "the Persian bird" from that reign of his.
486	**EUELPIDES** διὰ ταῦτ' ἄρ' ἔχων καὶ νῦν ὥσπερ βασιλεὺς ὁ μέγας διαβάσκει / ἐπὶ τῆς κεφαλῆς τὴν κυρβασίαν τῶν ὀρνίθων μόνος ὀρθήν.	**EUELPIDES** So that's why even now he struts around like the Great King, the only bird with his tiara standing upright on his head.[34]
488	**PEISETAERUS** οὕτω δ' ἴσχυσέ τε καὶ μέγας ἦν τότε καὶ πολύς, ὥστ' ἔτι καὶ νῦν ὑπὸ τῆς ῥώμης τῆς τότ' ἐκείνης, ὁπόταν μόνον ὄρθριον ᾄσῃ, ἀναπηδῶσιν πάντες ἐπ' ἔργον χαλκῆς κεραμῆς σκυλοδέψαι σκυτῆς βαλανῆς ἀλφιταμοιβοὶ τορνευτολυρασπιδοπηγοί· οἱ δὲ βαδίζουσ' ὑποδησάμενοι νύκτωρ.	**PEISETAERUS** He was so strong, so great and so mighty back then that even now, because of that old power of his, the moment he sings at dawn everyone leaps up and goes to work: smiths, potters, tanners, cobblers, bath-men, grain-dealers, lathe-lyre-shield-makers. Some of them even put on their shoes and set off while it's still dark.
492	**EUELPIDES** ἐμὲ τοῦτό γ' ἐρώτα. χλαῖναν γὰρ ἀπώλεσ' ὁ μοχθηρὸς Φρυγίων ἐρίων διὰ τοῦτον. ἐς δεκάτην γάρ ποτε παιδαρίου κληθεὶς ὑπέπινον ἐν ἄστει, κἄρτι καθηῦδον, καὶ πρὶν δειπνεῖν τοὺς ἄλλους οὗτος ἄρ' ἦσεν· κἀγὼ νομίσας ὄρθρον ἐχώρουν Ἀλιμουντάδε, κἄρτι προκύπτω ἔξω τείχους καὶ λωποδύτης παίει ῥοπάλῳ με τὸ νῶτον· κἀγὼ πίπτω μέλλω τε βοᾶν, ὁ δ' ἀπέβλισε θοἰμάτιόν μου.	**EUELPIDES** You can ask me about that! Thanks to him I lost a cloak of Phrygian wool, poor wretch that I am. I'd been invited into town once to a baby's tenth-day party, and I'd had a few drinks and just dropped off to sleep, when this fellow crowed before the others had even had dinner. I thought it was dawn and set off for Halimus. I'd only just stuck my nose outside the wall when a mugger clubbed me across the back. Down I went, and I was about to yell, but he'd already stripped the cloak off me.[35]
499	**PEISETAERUS** ἰκτῖνος δ' οὖν τῶν Ἑλλήνων ἦρχεν τότε κἀβασίλευεν.	**PEISETAERUS** Anyway, the kite was ruler and king of the Greeks back then.
500	**CHORUS** τῶν Ἑλλήνων;	**CHORUS** Of the Greeks?
	PEISETAERUS καὶ κατέδειξέν γ' οὗτος πρῶτος βασιλεύων / προκυλινδεῖσθαι τοῖς ἰκτίνοις.	**PEISETAERUS** Yes, and it was he who, as king, first taught them to roll on the ground before kites.[36]
501	**EUELPIDES** νὴ τὸν Διόνυσον, ἐγὼ γοῦν ἐκυλινδούμην ἰκτῖνον ἰδών· κᾆθ' ὕπτιος ὢν ἀναχάσκων ὀβολὸν κατεβρόχθισα· κᾆτα κενὸν τὸν θύλακον οἴκαδ' ἀφεῖλκον.	**EUELPIDES** By Dionysus, I certainly did roll over once when I saw a kite. And as I lay there on my back with my mouth wide open I swallowed an obol. Then I had to drag my empty bag back home.[37]
504	**PEISETAERUS** Αἰγύπτου δ' αὖ καὶ Φοινίκης πάσης κόκκυξ βασιλεὺς ἦν· χὠπόθ' ὁ κόκκυξ εἴποι "κόκκυ," τότ' ἂν οἱ Φοίνικες ἅπαντες τοὺς πυροὺς ἂν καὶ τὰς κριθὰς ἐν τοῖς πεδίοις ἐθέριζον.	**PEISETAERUS** Egypt and all Phoenicia, on the other hand, had the cuckoo for king. And whenever the cuckoo said "cuckoo," all the Phoenicians would harvest the wheat and barley in their fields.

34 Only the Persian king, the "Great King," could wear his tiara upright. The rooster's comb looks like one.
35 On the tenth day after a birth Athenians held a party at which the baby was named. Halimus was a coastal deme south of the city.
36 Greeks greeted the first kite of spring, the sign of the season's turn, by bowing down to the ground.
37 Athenians often carried small coins in their mouths. He had gone to market with nothing else to buy food with.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
507	**EUELPIDES** τοῦτ’ ἄρ’ ἐκεῖν’ ἦν τοὔπος ἀληθῶς· “κόκκυψωλοὶ πεδίονδε.”	**EUELPIDES** So that’s what the old saying really means: “Cuckoo! Circumcised men, out to the fields!”[38]
508	**PEISETAERUS** ἦρχον δ’ οὕτω σφόδρα τὴν ἀρχήν, ὥστ’ εἴ τις καὶ βασιλεύοι ἐν ταῖς πόλεσιν τῶν Ἑλλήνων Ἀγαμέμνων ἢ Μενέλαος, ἐπὶ τῶν σκήπτρων ἐκάθητ’ ὄρνις μετέχων ὅ τι δωροδοκοίη.	**PEISETAERUS** And their rule was so strong that if anyone was king in the cities of the Greeks, an Agamemnon or a Menelaus, a bird sat perched on his scepter, taking a share of any bribe he took.
511	**EUELPIDES** τουτὶ τοίνυν οὐκ ᾔδη ’γώ· καὶ δῆτά μ’ ἐλάμβανε θαῦμα, ὁπότ’ ἐξέλθοι Πρίαμός τις ἔχων ὄρνιν ἐν τοῖσι τραγῳδοῖς, ὁ δ’ ἄρ’ εἱστήκει τὸν Λυσικράτη τηρῶν ὅ τι δωροδοκοίη.	**EUELPIDES** Well, I didn’t know that. And it always used to amaze me when some Priam came on in the tragedies holding a bird. So it was standing there watching Lysicrates, to see what bribe he’d take![39]
514	**PEISETAERUS** ὃ δὲ δεινότατόν γ’ ἐστὶν ἁπάντων, ὁ Ζεὺς γὰρ ὁ νῦν βασιλεύων αἰετὸν ὄρνιν ἕστηκεν ἔχων ἐπὶ τῆς κεφαλῆς βασιλεὺς ὤν, ἡ δ’ αὖ θυγάτηρ γλαῦχ’, ὁ δ’ Ἀπόλλων ὥσπερ θεράπων ἱέρακα.	**PEISETAERUS** But here’s the most amazing thing of all. Zeus, the one who’s king now, stands there with an eagle on his head as the sign of his kingship, and his daughter has an owl, and Apollo, as his servant, a hawk.
517	**EUELPIDES** νὴ τὴν Δήμητρ’ εὖ ταῦτα λέγεις. τίνος οὕνεκα ταῦτ’ ἄρ’ ἔχουσιν;	**EUELPIDES** By Demeter, that’s true. So why do they have them?
518	**PEISETAERUS** ἵν’ ὅταν θύων τις ἔπειτ’ αὐτοῖς ἐς τὴν χεῖρ’, ὡς νόμος ἐστίν, τὰ σπλάγχνα διδῷ, τοῦ Διὸς αὐτοὶ πρότεροι τὰ σπλάγχνα λάβωσιν. ὤμνυ τ’ οὐδεὶς τότ’ ἂν ἀνθρώπων θεόν, ἀλλ’ ὄρνιθας ἅπαντες· Λάμπων δ’ ὄμνυσ’ ἔτι καὶ νυνὶ τὸν χῆν’, ὅταν ἐξαπατᾷ τι. οὕτως ὑμᾶς πάντες πρότερον μεγάλους ἁγίους τ’ ἐνόμιζον,	**PEISETAERUS** So that when someone sacrifices and then puts the innards into the god’s hand, as the custom is, the birds can grab them before Zeus does. And back then no human being ever swore by a god. Everyone swore by birds. Lampon still swears “by the goose” even now, whenever he’s cheating somebody. That’s how great and holy everyone used to think you were—[40]
523	νῦν δ’ ἀνδράποδ’ ἠλιθίους Μανᾶς· ὥσπερ δ’ ἤδη τοὺς μαινομένους βάλλουσ’ ὑμᾶς, κἀν τοῖς ἱεροῖς πᾶς τις ἐφ’ ὑμῖν ὀρνιθευτὴς ἵστησι βρόχους παγίδας ῥάβδους ἕρκη νεφέλας δίκτυα πηκτάς· εἶτα λαβόντες πωλοῦσ’ ἀθρόους· οἱ δ’ ὠνοῦνται βλιμάζοντες· κοὐδ’ οὖν, εἴπερ ταῦτα δοκεῖ δρᾶν, ὀπτησάμενοι παρέθενθ’ ὑμᾶς, ἀλλ’ ἐπικνῶσιν τυρὸν ἔλαιον σίλφιον ὄξος καὶ τρίψαντες κατάχυσμ’ ἕτερον γλυκὺ καὶ λιπαρόν,	but now they think you’re slaves and idiots, a bunch of Maneses. They throw stones at you now as if you were madmen, and in the temples every bird-catcher sets up traps for you: nooses, snares, lime-twigs, nets, fine nets, meshes and cages. Then they catch you and sell you off in bunches, and the buyers finger you to see how plump you are. And if they must do this, they don’t even just roast you and serve you up. No, they grate cheese over you, and oil, silphium, vinegar, and whisk up another sauce, sweet and greasy, and then they

38 A proverbial harvest call. Egyptians and Phoenicians practiced circumcision, and the Greek word (psōloi) is also crude slang for a bared, erect cock.
39 Lysicrates, an Athenian official evidently notorious for taking bribes.
40 Lampon, a prominent seer. “By the goose” (Greek Chēna) is a dodge for “by Zeus” (Zēna).

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	κἄπειτα κατεσκέδασαν θερμὸν τοῦτο καθ' ὑμῶν αὐτῶν ὥσπερ κενεβρείων.	pour it over you piping hot, as if you were carrion.[41]
539	**CHORUS** πολὺ δὴ πολὺ δὴ χαλεπωτάτους λόγους ἤνεγκας ἄνθρωφ'. ὡς ἐδάκρυσά γ' ἐμῶν πατέρων κάκην, οἳ τάσδε τὰς τιμὰς προγόνων παραδόντων ἐπ' ἐμοῦ κατέλυσαν. σὺ δέ μοι κατὰ δαίμονα καί τινα συντυχίαν ἀγαθὴν ἥκεις ἐμοὶ σωτήρ. ἀναθεὶς γὰρ ἐγώ σοι τὰ νεοττία κἀμαυτὸν οἰκήσω.	**CHORUS** Hard, hard indeed are the words you've brought us, man. How I've wept for my fathers' cowardice! They had these honors from their forebears and in my time they threw them away. But you've come to me by the gods' will, by some lucky chance, to be my savior. I'll put my chicks and myself in your hands and make my home with you.
548	ἀλλ' ὅ τι χρὴ δρᾶν, σὺ δίδασκε παρών· ὡς ζῆν οὐκ ἄξιον ἡμῖν, / εἰ μὴ κομιούμεθα παντὶ τρόπῳ τὴν ἡμετέραν βασιλείαν.	Now you're here, teach us what we have to do. Life isn't worth living for us unless we win back our kingship by any means we can.
550	**PEISETAERUS** καὶ δὴ τοίνυν πρῶτα διδάσκω μίαν ὀρνίθων πόλιν εἶναι, κἄπειτα τὸν ἀέρα πάντα κύκλῳ καὶ πᾶν τουτὶ τὸ μεταξὺ περιτειχίζειν μεγάλαις πλίνθοις ὀπταῖς ὥσπερ Βαβυλῶνα.	**PEISETAERUS** All right, then. First, I propose that there be one single city of the birds. And then that you wall in the whole air all around, all this space in between, with great baked bricks, like Babylon.
553	**HOOPOE** ὦ Κεβριόνη καὶ Πορφυρίων ὡς σμερδαλέον τὸ πόλισμα.	**HOOPOE** Cebriones and Porphyrion! What a fearsome fortress![42]
554	**PEISETAERUS** κἄπειτ' ἢν τοῦτ' ἐπανεστήκῃ, τὴν ἀρχὴν τὸν Δί' ἀπαιτεῖν· κἂν μὲν μὴ φῇ μηδ' ἐθελήσῃ μηδ' εὐθὺς γνωσιμαχήσῃ, ἱερὸν πόλεμον πρωὐδᾶν αὐτῷ, καὶ τοῖσι θεοῖσιν ἀπειπεῖν διὰ τῆς χώρας τῆς ὑμετέρας ἐστυκόσι μὴ διαφοιτᾶν, ὥσπερ πρότερον μοιχεύσοντες τὰς Ἀλκμήνας κατέβαινον καὶ τὰς Ἀλόπας καὶ τὰς Σεμέλας· ἤνπερ δ' ἐπίωσ', ἐπιβάλλειν σφραγῖδ' αὐτοῖς ἐπὶ τὴν ψωλήν, ἵνα μὴ βινῶσ' ἔτ' ἐκείνας.	**PEISETAERUS** And then, once it's up, you demand the rule back from Zeus. If he says no, or won't hear of it, or doesn't concede defeat right away, you declare a holy war on him and forbid the gods to go strolling through your territory with hard-ons, the way they used to come down before to cheat on their wives with the Alcmenas and the Alopes and the Semeles. And if they try it, you slap a seal on their pricks so they can't fuck those women anymore.[43]
561	τοῖς δ' ἀνθρώποις ὄρνιν ἕτερον πέμψαι κήρυκα κελεύω, ὡς ὀρνίθων βασιλευόντων θύειν ὄρνισι τὸ λοιπόν, κἄπειτα θεοῖς ὕστερον αὖθις· προσνείμασθαι δὲ πρεπόντως τοῖσι θεοῖσιν τῶν ὀρνίθων ὃς ἂν ἁρμόττῃ καθ' ἕκαστον· ἢν Ἀφροδίτῃ θύῃ, πυροὺς ὄρνιθι φαληρίδι θύειν· ἢν δὲ Ποσειδῶνί τις οἶν θύῃ, νήττῃ πυροὺς καθαγίζειν· ἢν δ' Ἡρακλέει θύῃ τι, λάρῳ ναστοὺς θύειν μελιτοῦντας· κἂν Διὶ θύῃ βασιλεῖ κριόν, βασιλεύς ἐστ' ὀρχίλος ὄρνις, ᾧ προτέρῳ δεῖ τοῦ Διὸς αὐτοῦ σέρφον ἐνόρχην σφαγιάζειν.	And to human beings, I say, send another bird as herald to tell them that since the birds are now kings, they must sacrifice to the birds from now on, and only after that to the gods. And they're to assign to each god whichever bird suits him. If someone sacrifices to Aphrodite, he's to offer wheat to the coot. If someone sacrifices a sheep to Poseidon, he's to dedicate wheat to the duck. If he sacrifices something to Heracles, he's to offer honey-cakes to the gull. And if he sacrifices a ram to Zeus the King, well, the wren is a king-bird, and

41 Manes was a common slave name.
42 Cebriones and Porphyrion were Giants who made war on the gods. Porphyrion is also the name of a bird.
43 Alcmena, Alope and Semele were mortal women seduced by gods.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
		before Zeus himself they must slaughter an uncastrated gnat for him.[44]
570	**EUELPIDES** ἥσθην σέρφῳ σφαγιαζομένῳ. βροντάτω νῦν ὁ μέγας Ζάν.	**EUELPIDES** I love it, a gnat for the slaughter! Now let great Zeus thunder all he likes!
571	**CHORUS** καὶ πῶς ἡμᾶς νομιοῦσι θεοὺς ἄνθρωποι κοὐχὶ κολοιούς, / οἳ πετόμεσθα πτέρυγάς τ' ἔχομεν;	**CHORUS** And how will humans think we're gods and not jackdaws, when we fly and have wings?
572	**PEISETAERUS** ληρεῖς· καὶ νὴ Δί' ὅ γ' Ἑρμῆς πέτεται θεὸς ὢν πτέρυγάς τε φορεῖ, κἄλλοι γε θεοὶ πάνυ πολλοί. αὐτίκα Νίκη πέτεται πτερύγοιν χρυσαῖν καὶ νὴ Δί' Ἔρως γε· Ἥρην δέ γ' Ὅμηρος ἔφασκ' ἰκέλην εἶναι τρήρωνι πελείῃ.	**PEISETAERUS** Nonsense! Why, by Zeus, Hermes flies, and he's a god, and he wears wings, and plenty of other gods do too. Victory, for one, flies on a pair of golden wings, and so, by Zeus, does Eros. And Homer said that Hera was like a timid dove.
576	**EUELPIDES** ὁ Ζεὺς δ' ἡμῖν οὐ βροντήσας πέμψει πτερόεντα κεραυνόν;	**EUELPIDES** And won't Zeus thunder at us and send down his winged thunderbolt?
577	**PEISETAERUS** ἢν δ' οὖν ὑμᾶς μὲν ὑπ' ἀγνοίας εἶναι νομίσωσι τὸ μηδέν, τούτους δὲ θεοὺς τοὺς ἐν Ὀλύμπῳ τότε χρὴ στρούθων νέφος ἀρθὲν καὶ σπερμολόγων ἐκ τῶν ἀγρῶν τὸ σπέρμ' αὐτῶν ἀνακάψαι· κἄπειτ' αὐτοῖς ἡ Δημήτηρ πυροὺς πεινῶσι μετρείτω.	**PEISETAERUS** Well, if out of ignorance they think you're nothing, and those gods on Olympus are the gods, then a cloud of sparrows and seed-pickers must rise up and peck the seed out of their fields. And then let Demeter measure out wheat to them when they're starving.
581	**EUELPIDES** οὐκ ἐθελήσει μὰ Δί', ἀλλ' ὄψει προφάσεις αὐτὴν παρέχουσαν.	**EUELPIDES** She won't want to, by Zeus. You'll see her making excuses.
582	**PEISETAERUS** οἱ δ' αὖ κόρακες τῶν ζευγαρίων, οἷσιν τὴν γῆν καταροῦσιν, καὶ τῶν προβάτων τοὺς ὀφθαλμοὺς ἐκκοψάντων ἐπὶ πείρᾳ· εἶθ' ὅ γ' Ἀπόλλων ἰατρός γ' ὢν ἰάσθω· μισθοφορεῖ δέ.	**PEISETAERUS** And the ravens, to test them, can peck out the eyes of the ox-teams they plow the land with, and of their sheep. Then let Apollo cure them, since he's a doctor. He's on a salary, after all.
585	**EUELPIDES** μὴ πρίν γ' ἂν ἐγὼ τὼ βοιδαρίω τὼμὼ πρώτιστ' ἀποδῶμαι.	**EUELPIDES** Not before I've sold off my pair of little oxen!
586	**PEISETAERUS** ἢν δ' ἡγῶνται σὲ θεὸν σὲ βίον σὲ δὲ γῆν σὲ Κρόνον σὲ Ποσειδῶ, / ἀγάθ' αὐτοῖσιν πάντα παρέσται.	**PEISETAERUS** But if they think of you as their god, their life, their Earth, their Cronus, their Poseidon, they'll have every good thing there is.
587	**HOOPOE** λέγε δή μοι τῶν ἀγαθῶν ἕν.	**HOOPOE** Name me one of those good things.
588	**PEISETAERUS** πρῶτα μὲν αὐτῶν τὰς οἰνάνθας οἱ πάρνοπες οὐ κατέδονται, ἀλλὰ γλαυκῶν λόχος εἷς αὐτοὺς καὶ κερχνήδων ἐπιτρίψει. εἶθ' οἱ κνῖπες καὶ ψῆνες ἀεὶ τὰς συκᾶς οὐ κατέδονται, ἀλλ' ἀναλέξει πάντας καθαρῶς αὐτοὺς ἀγέλη μία κιχλῶν.	**PEISETAERUS** First of all, the locusts won't eat up their vine-blossoms. A single company of owls and kestrels will wipe them out. Then the gnats and gall-flies won't be forever eating their figs. One flock of thrushes will pick them all off clean.

44 Puns: phalēris (coot) suggests phallos, and orchilos (wren) suggests orcheis, "balls," so the wren's victim must have its balls, like a sacrificial ram. The gull is a glutton, like Heracles.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
592	**HOOPOE** πλουτεῖν δὲ πόθεν δώσομεν αὐτοῖς; καὶ γὰρ τούτου σφόδρ' ἐρῶσιν.	**HOOPOE** And where will we get wealth to give them? That's what they're really in love with.
593	**PEISETAERUS** τὰ μέταλλ' αὐτοῖς μαντευομένοις οὗτοι δώσουσι τὰ χρηστά, τάς τ' ἐμπορίας τὰς κερδαλέας πρὸς τὸν μάντιν κατεροῦσιν, ὥστ' ἀπολεῖται τῶν ναυκλήρων οὐδείς.	**PEISETAERUS** When they consult them for omens, these birds will give them the good mines, and they'll tell the seer which trading voyages pay, so that not one ship's captain will be lost.
595	**HOOPOE** πῶς οὐκ ἀπολεῖται;	**HOOPOE** How will none of them be lost?
596	**PEISETAERUS** προερεῖ τις ἀεὶ τῶν ὀρνίθων μαντευομένῳ περὶ τοῦ πλοῦ· / "νυνὶ μὴ πλεῖ, χειμὼν ἔσται·" "νυνὶ πλεῖ, κέρδος ἐπέσται."	**PEISETAERUS** Whenever he consults about a voyage, one of the birds will always tell him in advance: "Don't sail now, there'll be a storm," or "Sail now, there'll be profit."
598	**EUELPIDES** γαῦλον κτῶμαι καὶ ναυκληρῶ, κοὐκ ἂν μείναιμι παρ' ὑμῖν.	**EUELPIDES** I'm buying a freighter and going to sea. I'm not sticking around here with you!
599	**PEISETAERUS** τοὺς θησαυρούς τ' αὐτοῖς δείξουσ' οὓς οἱ πρότεροι κατέθεντο τῶν ἀργυρίων· οὗτοι γὰρ ἴσασι· λέγουσι δέ τοι τάδε πάντες, "οὐδεὶς οἶδεν τὸν θησαυρὸν τὸν ἐμὸν πλὴν εἴ τις ἄρ' ὄρνις."	**PEISETAERUS** And they'll show them the hoards of silver that people buried long ago, because they know where they are. That's what everyone says, after all: "Nobody knows where my treasure is, except maybe a bird."
602	**EUELPIDES** πωλῶ γαῦλον, κτῶμαι σμινύην, καὶ τὰς ὑδρίας ἀνορύττω.	**EUELPIDES** I'm selling the freighter, buying a shovel and digging up the jars!
603	**HOOPOE** πῶς δ' ὑγιείαν δώσουσ' αὐτοῖς, οὖσαν παρὰ τοῖσι θεοῖσιν;	**HOOPOE** And how will they give them health? That's in the gods' keeping.
604	**PEISETAERUS** ἢν εὖ πράττωσ', οὐχ ὑγιεία μεγάλη τοῦτ' ἐστί; σάφ' ἴσθι, / ὡς ἄνθρωπός γε κακῶς πράττων ἀτεχνῶς οὐδεὶς ὑγιαίνει.	**PEISETAERUS** If they're doing well, isn't that great health? Believe me, no man who's doing badly is ever really healthy.
606	**HOOPOE** πῶς δ' ἐς γῆράς ποτ' ἀφίξονται; καὶ γὰρ τοῦτ' ἔστ' ἐν Ὀλύμπῳ· / ἢ παιδάριʼ ὄντ' ἀποθνήσκειν δεῖ;	**HOOPOE** And how will they ever reach old age? That's on Olympus too. Or will they have to die as little children?
607	**PEISETAERUS** μὰ Δί' ἀλλὰ τριακόσι' αὐτοῖς / ἔτι προσθήσουσ' ὄρνιθες ἔτη.	**PEISETAERUS** No, by Zeus. The birds will add three hundred more years to their lives.
608	**HOOPOE** παρὰ τοῦ;	**HOOPOE** Taken from whom?
	PEISETAERUS παρ' ὅτου; παρ' ἑαυτῶν. / οὐκ οἶσθ' ὅτι πέντ' ἀνδρῶν γενεὰς ζώει λακέρυζα κορώνη;	**PEISETAERUS** From whom? From themselves. Don't you know that "the cawing crow lives five generations of men"?
610	**EUELPIDES** αἰβοῖ πολλῷ κρείττους οὗτοι τοῦ Διὸς ἡμῖν βασιλεύειν.	**EUELPIDES** Wow! These are far better kings for us than Zeus!
611	**PEISETAERUS** οὐ γὰρ πολλῷ; πρῶτον μέν γ' οὐχὶ νεὼς ἡμᾶς	**PEISETAERUS** Far better, aren't they? First of all, we won't have to build them stone temples or fit

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	οἰκοδομεῖν δεῖ λιθίνους αὐτοῖς, οὐδὲ θυρῶσαι χρυσαῖσι θύραις, ἀλλ' ὑπὸ θάμνοις καὶ πρινιδίοις οἰκήσουσιν. τοῖς δ' αὖ σεμνοῖς τῶν ὀρνίθων δένδρον ἐλάας ὁ νεὼς ἔσται· κοὐκ ἐς Δελφοὺς οὐδ' εἰς Ἄμμων' ἐλθόντες ἐκεῖ θύσομεν, ἀλλ' ἐν ταῖσιν κομάροις καὶ τοῖς κοτίνοις στάντες ἔχοντες κριθὰς πυροὺς εὐξόμεθ' αὐτοῖς ἀνατείνοντες τὼ χεῖρ' ἀγαθῶν διδόναι τι μέρος· καὶ ταῦθ' ἡμῖν παραχρῆμ' ἔσται πυροὺς ὀλίγους προβαλοῦσιν.	them with golden doors. They'll live under bushes and scrub oaks. And for the grander birds an olive tree will be their temple. We won't go to Delphi or to Ammon to sacrifice there. We'll stand among the strawberry trees and wild olives holding out barley and wheat, and raise our hands and pray to them to give us a share of good things. And we'll get them on the spot, for tossing them a few grains of wheat.[45]

FIRST LYRIC SCENE

Won over, the chorus pledges to follow Peisetaerus against the gods.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
627	**CHORUS** ὦ φίλτατ' ἐμοὶ πολὺ πρεσβυτῶν ἐξ ἐχθίστου μεταπίπτων, / οὐκ ἔστιν ὅπως ἂν ἐγώ ποθ' ἑκὼν τῆς σῆς γνώμης ἔτ' ἀφείμην.	**CHORUS** Dearest of old men to me by far, who've changed from my worst enemy, there's no way I'll ever willingly let go of your plan now.
629	ἐπαυχήσας δὲ τοῖσι σοῖς λόγοις ἐπηπείλησα καὶ κατώμοσα, ἢν σὺ παρ' ἐμὲ θέμενος ὁμόφρονας λόγους δικαίους ἀδόλους ὁσίους ἐπὶ θεοὺς ἴῃς, ἐμοὶ	Exulting in your words I've made a threat and sworn an oath: if you join with me in words of one mind, just, without guile, holy, and march against the gods, with me
635	φρονῶν ξυνῳδά, μὴ πολὺν χρόνον / θεοὺς ἔτι σκῆπτρα τἀμὰ τρίψειν.	in harmony of mind, then not much longer / will the gods be wearing out my scepter.
637	ἀλλ' ὅσα μὲν δεῖ ῥώμῃ πράττειν, ἐπὶ ταῦτα τεταξόμεθ' ἡμεῖς· / ὅσα δὲ γνώμῃ δεῖ βουλεύειν, ἐπὶ σοὶ τάδε πάντ' ἀνάκειται.	Whatever needs doing by strength, we'll take our stations for that. Whatever needs planning by judgment, all of that is up to you.

SECOND EPISODE

The Hoopoe takes the men inside to grow wings, and the Nightingale comes out to play for the chorus.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
639	**HOOPOE** καὶ μὴν μὰ τὸν Δί' οὐχὶ νυστάζειν ἔτι ὥρα 'στὶν ἡμῖν οὐδὲ μελλονικιᾶν, ἀλλ' ὡς τάχιστα δεῖ τι δρᾶν· πρῶτον δέ γε εἰσέλθετ' ἐς νεοττιάν γε τὴν ἐμὴν καὶ τἀμὰ κάρφη καὶ τὰ παρόντα φρύγανα, καὶ τοὔνομ' ἡμῖν φράσατον.	**HOOPOE** And now, by Zeus, it's no time for us to be dozing any longer, or to be doing a Nicias and dithering. We need to act, as fast as we can. But first, come inside my nest, my twigs and what bits of brush I have, and tell us your names.[46]

45 Ammon: the oracle of Zeus Ammon in the Libyan desert.
46 The Greek coins a verb from Nicias' name and mellein, "to put off": the general was famous for caution and delay.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
643	**PEISETAERUS** ἀλλὰ ῥᾴδιον. ἐμοὶ μὲν ὄνομα Πισθέταιρος, τῳδεδὶ Εὐελπίδης Κριῶθεν.	**PEISETAERUS** Easy enough. My name is Peisetaerus, and this fellow is Euelpides, from Crioa.[47]
645	**HOOPOE** ἀλλὰ χαίρετον / ἄμφω.	**HOOPOE** Well, welcome, both of you.
646	**PEISETAERUS** δεχόμεθα.	**PEISETAERUS** Thank you.
	HOOPOE δεῦρο τοίνυν εἴσιτον.	**HOOPOE** This way, then. Come on in.
647	**PEISETAERUS** ἴωμεν· εἰσηγοῦ σὺ λαβὼν ἡμᾶς.	**PEISETAERUS** Let's go. You lead us in.
	HOOPOE ἴθι.	**HOOPOE** Come.
648	**PEISETAERUS** ἀτὰρ τὸ δεῖνα, δεῦρ' ἐπανάκρουσαι πάλιν. φέρ' ἴδω, φράσον νῷν, πῶς ἐγώ τε χοὐτοσὶ ξυνεσόμεθ' ὑμῖν πετομένοις οὐ πετομένω;	**PEISETAERUS** But hey, what's-your-name, back water and come back here a moment. Let's see. Tell us: how are he and I going to live with you, when you fly and we don't?
651	**HOOPOE** καλῶς.	**HOOPOE** Easily.
	PEISETAERUS ὅρα νυν, ὡς ἐν Αἰσώπου λόγοις ἐστὶν λεγόμενον δή τι, τὴν ἀλώπεχ', ὡς φλαύρως ἐκοινώνησεν αἰετῷ ποτέ.	**PEISETAERUS** Watch out, though. There's a story in Aesop about the fox, and what a bad partnership she once made with an eagle.[48]
654	**HOOPOE** μηδὲν φοβηθῇς· ἔστι γάρ τι ῥιζίον, / ὃ διατραγόντ' ἔσεσθον ἐπτερωμένω.	**HOOPOE** Don't be afraid. There's a little root: chew it and you'll both have wings.
656	**PEISETAERUS** οὕτω μὲν εἰσίωμεν. ἄγε δὴ Ξανθία / καὶ Μανόδωρε λαμβάνετε τὰ στρώματα.	**PEISETAERUS** On that basis, let's go in. Come on, Xanthias and Manodorus, pick up the bedding.
658	**CHORUS** οὗτος σὲ καλῶ, σὲ λέγω.	**CHORUS** Hey, you! I'm calling you, yes, you!
	HOOPOE τί καλεῖς;	**HOOPOE** What are you calling me for?
	CHORUS τούτους μὲν ἄγων μετὰ σαυτοῦ ἀρίστισον εὖ· τὴν δ' ἡδυμελῆ ξύμφωνον ἀηδόνα Μούσαις κατάλειφ' ἡμῖν δεῦρ' ἐκβιβάσας, ἵνα παίσωμεν μετ' ἐκείνης.	**CHORUS** Take these two along with you and give them a good lunch. But the nightingale, sweet singer in tune with the Muses, bring her out here and leave her with us, so we can play with her.
661	**PEISETAERUS** ὦ τοῦτο μεντοι νὴ Δί' αὐτοῖσιν πιθοῦ· / ἐκβίβασον ἐκ τοῦ βουτόμου τοὐρνίθιον.	**PEISETAERUS** Oh yes, by Zeus, do as they say! Bring the little bird out of the rushes.
663	**EUELPIDES** ἐκβίβασον αὐτοῦ πρὸς θεῶν αὐτήν, ἵνα / καὶ νὼ θεασώμεσθα τὴν ἀηδόνα.	**EUELPIDES** For the gods' sake, bring her out, so we can have a look at the nightingale too.
665	**HOOPOE** ἀλλ' εἰ δοκεῖ σφῷν, ταῦτα χρὴ δρᾶν. ἡ Πρόκνη / ἔκβαινε καὶ σαυτὴν ἐπιδείκνυ τοῖς ξένοις.	**HOOPOE** Well, if you both want it, that's what we'll do. Procne! Come out and show yourself to our guests.
667	**PEISETAERUS** ὦ Ζεῦ πολυτίμητ' ὡς καλὸν τοὐρνίθιον, / ὡς δ' ἁπαλόν, ὡς δὲ λευκόν.	**PEISETAERUS** Zeus most honored, what a beautiful little bird! How soft, how white!

47 Crioa was an Attic deme.
48 In the fable the eagle broke the partnership by eating the fox's cubs.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
668	**EUELPIDES** ἆρά γ' οἶσθ' ὅτι / ἐγὼ διαμηρίζοιμ' ἂν αὐτὴν ἡδέως;	**EUELPIDES** You know what? I'd love to get between her thighs.
670	**PEISETAERUS** ὅσον δ' ἔχει τὸν χρυσόν, ὥσπερ παρθένος.	**PEISETAERUS** And all that gold she's wearing, like a young girl!
671	**EUELPIDES** ἐγὼ μὲν αὐτὴν κἂν φιλῆσαί μοι δοκῶ.	**EUELPIDES** I think I'd even give her a kiss.
672	**PEISETAERUS** ἀλλ' ὦ κακόδαιμον ῥύγχος ὀβελίσκοιν ἔχει.	**PEISETAERUS** You poor sap, her beak's like a pair of skewers!
673	**EUELPIDES** ἀλλ' ὥσπερ ᾠὸν νὴ Δί' ἀπολέψαντα χρὴ / ἀπὸ τῆς κεφαλῆς τὸ λέμμα κᾆθ' οὕτω φιλεῖν.	**EUELPIDES** Well then, by Zeus, you just peel the shell off her head like an egg, and kiss her that way.
675	**HOOPOE** ἴωμεν.	**HOOPOE** Let's go.
	PEISETAERUS ἡγοῦ δὴ σὺ νῷν τύχἀγαθῇ.	**PEISETAERUS** Lead on, then, and good luck to us.

FIRST PARABASIS

The birds address the audience, tell how they were born before the gods, and list their gifts to humans.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
676	**CHORUS** ὦ φίλη, ὦ ξουθή, ὦ φίλτατον ὀρνέων πάντων, ξύννομε τῶν ἐμῶν ὕμνων, ξύντροφ' ἀηδοῖ, ἦλθες ἦλθες ὤφθης, ἡδὺν φθόγγον ἐμοὶ φέρουσ'. ἀλλ' ὦ καλλιβόαν κρέκουσ' αὐλὸν φθέγμασιν ἠρινοῖς, ἄρχου τῶν ἀναπαίστων.	**CHORUS** Dear one, tawny one, dearest of all the birds, partner in all my songs, nightingale, my companion, you've come, you've come, I see you, bringing your sweet voice to me. You who strike up the fair-voiced pipe with notes of spring, lead off our anapests.[49]
685	ἄγε δὴ φύσιν ἄνδρες ἀμαυρόβιοι, φύλλων γενεᾷ προσόμοιοι, ὀλιγοδρανέες, πλάσματα πηλοῦ, σκιοειδέα φῦλ' ἀμενηνά, ἀπτῆνες ἐφημέριοι ταλαοὶ βροτοὶ ἀνέρες εἰκελόνειροι, προσέχετε τὸν νοῦν τοῖς ἀθανάτοις ἡμῖν τοῖς αἰὲν ἐοῦσιν, τοῖς αἰθερίοις τοῖσιν ἀγήρῳς τοῖς ἄφθιτα μηδομένοισιν, ἵν' ἀκούσαντες πάντα παρ' ἡμῶν ὀρθῶς περὶ τῶν μετεώρων. φύσιν οἰωνῶν γένεσίν τε θεῶν ποταμῶν τ' Ἐρέβους τε Χάους τε εἰδότες ὀρθῶς, Προδίκῳ παρ' ἐμοῦ κλάειν εἴπητε τὸ λοιπόν.	Come now, you men whose lives are dim by nature, like the generations of leaves: you feeble things, figures molded of clay, shadowy tribes without strength, wingless creatures of a day, wretched mortals, men like dreams. Pay attention to us, the immortals, the everlasting, the ones who live in the air, the ageless, whose thoughts never perish. Then you'll hear from us the whole truth about the things on high: the nature of birds, and the birth of the gods and the rivers, of Erebus and of Chaos. And once you know it properly, you can tell Prodicus from me to go to hell.[50]
693	Χάος ἦν καὶ Νὺξ Ἔρεβός τε μέλαν πρῶτον καὶ Τάρταρος εὐρύς, γῆ δ' οὐδ' ἀὴρ οὐδ' οὐρανὸς ἦν· Ἐρέβους δ' ἐν ἀπείροσι	In the beginning there were Chaos and Night and black Erebus and broad Tartarus. There was no earth, no air, no sky. And in the boundless lap of

49 The Nightingale's song was played on the aulos, a double reed-pipe, by a performer costumed as the bird.
50 Prodicus, a famous sophist who lectured on nature and the origins of the gods.

GREEK	ENGLISH
κόλποις τίκτει πρώτιστον ὑπηνέμιον Νὺξ ἡ μελανόπτερος ᾠόν, ἐξ οὗ περιτελλομέναις ὥραις ἔβλαστεν Ἔρως ὁ ποθεινός, στίλβων νῶτον πτερύγοιν χρυσαῖν, εἰκὼς ἀνεμώκεσι δίναις. οὗτος δὲ Χάει πτερόεντι μιγεὶς νυχίῳ κατὰ Τάρταρον εὐρὺν ἐνεόττευσεν γένος ἡμέτερον, καὶ πρῶτον ἀνήγαγεν ἐς φῶς. πρότερον δ' οὐκ ἦν γένος ἀθανάτων, πρὶν Ἔρως ξυνέμειξεν ἅπαντα· ξυμμιγνυμένων δ' ἑτέρων ἑτέροις γένετ' οὐρανὸς ὠκεανός τε καὶ γῆ πάντων τε θεῶν μακάρων γένος ἄφθιτον.	Erebus, Night of the black wings first of all laid a wind-egg. From it, as the seasons came around, sprang Eros the longed-for, his back gleaming with golden wings, like the swift whirlwinds. He mated with winged Chaos, dark as night, in broad Tartarus, and hatched our race, and was the first to bring it up into the light. Before that there was no race of immortals, until Eros mixed everything together. And as things mixed with one another, there came to be Sky and Ocean and Earth, and the imperishable race of all the blessed gods.[51]
702 ὧδε μέν ἐσμεν πολὺ πρεσβύτατοι πάντων μακάρων. ἡμεῖς δ' ὡς ἐσμὲν Ἔρωτος πολλοῖς δῆλον· πετόμεσθά τε γὰρ καὶ τοῖσιν ἐρῶσι σύνεσμεν· πολλοὺς δὲ καλοὺς ἀπομωμοκότας παῖδας πρὸς τέρμασιν ὥρας διὰ τὴν ἰσχὺν τὴν ἡμετέραν διεμήρισαν ἄνδρες ἐρασταί, ὁ μὲν ὄρτυγα δοὺς ὁ δὲ πορφυρίων' ὁ δὲ χῆν' ὁ δὲ Περσικὸν ὄρνιν.	So that's how we come to be by far the oldest of all the blessed ones. And there's plenty to show that we're children of Eros: we fly, and we keep company with lovers. Many beautiful boys who'd sworn off love, near the end of their youth, have let their lovers between their thighs thanks to our power, one for the gift of a quail, another a porphyrion, another a goose, another a Persian bird.[52]
708 πάντα δὲ θνητοῖς ἐστὶν ἀφ' ἡμῶν τῶν ὀρνίθων τὰ μέγιστα. πρῶτα μὲν ὥρας φαίνομεν ἡμεῖς ἦρος χειμῶνος ὀπώρας· σπείρειν μέν, ὅταν γέρανος κρώζουσ' ἐς τὴν Λιβύην μεταχωρῇ. καὶ πηδάλιον τότε ναυκλήρῳ φράζει κρεμάσαντι καθεύδειν, εἶτα δ' Ὀρέστῃ χλαῖναν ὑφαίνειν, ἵνα μὴ ῥιγῶν ἀποδύῃ. ἰκτῖνος δ' αὖ μετὰ ταῦτα φανεὶς ἑτέραν ὥραν ἀποφαίνει, ἡνίκα πεκτεῖν ὥρα προβάτων πόκον ἠρινόν· εἶτα χελιδών, ὅτε χρὴ χλαῖναν πωλεῖν ἤδη καὶ ληδάριόν τι πρίασθαι. ἐσμὲν δ' ὑμῖν Ἄμμων Δελφοὶ Δωδώνη Φοῖβος Ἀπόλλων.	All the greatest blessings mortals have come from us birds. First, we reveal the seasons: spring, winter, autumn. It's time to sow when the crane flies off croaking to Libya. That's when she tells the ship's captain to hang up his rudder and sleep, and tells Orestes to weave himself a cloak, so he won't shiver while he strips people of theirs. After that the kite appears and announces another season, when it's time to shear the sheep's spring fleece. Then comes the swallow, when it's time to sell your heavy cloak and buy something light. We're your Ammon, your Delphi, your Dodona, your Phoebus Apollo.[53]

51 A "wind-egg" is an unfertilized egg. Erebus is the primeval darkness.
52 Birds were customary love-gifts from men to boys. The porphyrion is the purple swamphen.
53 Orestes, apparently a notorious Athenian mugger who stole people's cloaks.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
717	ἐλθόντες γὰρ πρῶτον ἐπ᾽ ὄρνις οὕτω πρὸς ἅπαντα τρέπεσθε, πρός τ᾽ ἐμπορίαν, καὶ πρὸς βιότου κτῆσιν, καὶ πρὸς γάμον ἀνδρός. ὄρνιν τε νομίζετε πάνθ᾽ ὅσαπερ περὶ μαντείας διακρίνει· φήμη γ᾽ ὑμῖν ὄρνις ἐστί, πταρμόν τ᾽ ὄρνιθα καλεῖτε, ξύμβολον ὄρνιν, φωνὴν ὄρνιν, θεράποντ᾽ ὄρνιν, ὄνον ὄρνιν. ἆρ᾽ οὐ φανερῶς ἡμεῖς ὑμῖν ἐσμὲν μαντεῖος Ἀπόλλων;	You come to the birds first, and only then turn to everything else: business, making a living, a man's marriage. Everything that decides an omen you call a "bird." A chance remark is a "bird" to you. You call a sneeze a "bird," a chance meeting a "bird," a sound a "bird," a servant a "bird," a donkey a "bird." Isn't it obvious that we're your prophetic Apollo?[54]
723	ἢν οὖν ἡμᾶς νομίσητε θεούς, ἕξετε χρῆσθαι μάντεσι Μούσαις αὔραις ὥραις χειμῶνι θέρει μετρίῳ πνίγει· κοὐκ ἀποδράντες καθεδούμεθ᾽ ἄνω σεμνυνόμενοι παρὰ ταῖς νεφέλαις ὥσπερ χὠ Ζεύς· ἀλλὰ παρόντες δώσομεν ὑμῖν αὐτοῖς, παισίν, παίδων παισίν, πλουθυγιείαν εὐδαιμονίαν βίον εἰρήνην νεότητα γέλωτα χοροὺς θαλίας γάλα τ᾽ ὀρνίθων. ὥστε παρέσται κοπιᾶν ὑμῖν ὑπὸ τῶν ἀγαθῶν· οὕτω πλουτήσετε πάντες.	So if you treat us as gods, you'll have us as your prophets, your Muses, your breezes and seasons, your winter, your summer, your moderate heat. And we won't run off and sit up there among the clouds giving ourselves airs, the way Zeus does. No, we'll be right here, and we'll give to you, your children and your children's children wealth-and-health, happiness, life, peace, youth, laughter, dances, feasts, and bird's milk. You'll be worn out by all the good things. That's how rich you'll all be.[55]
737	Μοῦσα λοχμαία, τιὸ τιὸ τιὸ τιὸ τιὸ τιὸ τιοτίγξ, ποικίλη, μεθ᾽ ἧς ἐγὼ νάπαισι καὶ κορυφαῖς ἐν ὀρείαις, τιὸ τιὸ τιὸ τιοτίγξ, ἰζόμενος μελίας ἐπὶ φυλλοκόμου, τιὸ τιὸ τιὸ τιοτίγξ, δι᾽ ἐμῆς γένυος ξουθῆς μελέων Πανὶ νόμους ἱεροὺς ἀναφαίνω σεμνά τε μητρὶ χορεύματ᾽ ὀρεία, τοτοτοτοτοτοτοτοτίγξ, ἔνθεν ὡστερεὶ μέλιττα Φρύνιχος ἀμβροσίων μελέων ἀπεβόσκετο καρπὸν ἀεὶ φέρων γλυκεῖαν ᾠδάν. τιὸ τιὸ τιὸ τιοτίγξ.	Muse of the thicket, tio tio tio tio tio tio tiotinx, Muse of the dappled song, with whom I, in the glens and on the mountain peaks, tio tio tio tiotinx, perched on a leafy ash, tio tio tio tiotinx, pour from my tawny throat holy strains for Pan and solemn dances for the Mountain Mother, totototototototototinx, where, like a bee, Phrynichus fed on the fruit of ambrosial songs, always bringing back sweet song. tio tio tio tiotinx.[56]
752	εἰ μετ᾽ ὀρνίθων τις ὑμῶν ᾧ θεαταὶ βούλεται διαπλέκειν ζῶν ἡδέως τὸ λοιπόν, ὡς ἡμᾶς ἴτω. ὅσα γάρ ἐστιν ἐνθάδ᾽ αἰσχρὰ τῷ νόμῳ κρατούμενα, ταῦτα πάντ᾽ ἐστὶν παρ᾽ ἡμῖν τοῖσιν ὄρνισιν καλά. εἰ γὰρ ἐνθάδ᾽ ἐστὶν αἰσχρὸν τὸν πατέρα τύπτειν νόμῳ, τοῦτ᾽ ἐκεῖ καλὸν παρ᾽ ἡμῖν ἐστιν, ἤν τις τῷ πατρὶ προσδραμὼν εἴπῃ πατάξας, "αἶρε πλῆκτρον, εἰ μαχεῖ."	If any of you spectators wants to spend the rest of his life living pleasantly among the birds, let him come to us. Everything that's shameful here and ruled out by law is fine among us birds. If here it's shameful by law to beat your father, up there among us it's fine for someone to run up to his father, hit him and say, "Put up your spur, if you

54 Greek ornis, "bird," also meant "omen," so any sign at all could be called a "bird."
55 "Bird's milk" was proverbial for a luxury beyond imagining.
56 Phrynichus, a tragic poet of the early fifth century BC, famous for the sweetness of his lyrics.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	εἰ δὲ τυγχάνει τις ὑμῶν δραπέτης ἐστιγμένος, ἀτταγᾶς οὗτος παρ' ἡμῖν ποικίλος κεκλήσεται. εἰ δὲ τυγχάνει τις ὢν Φρὺξ μηδὲν ἧττον Σπινθάρου, φρυγίλος ὄρνις ἐνθάδ' ἔσται, τοῦ Φιλήμονος γένους.	want a fight." If one of you happens to be a runaway slave with a brand on him, among us he'll be called a speckled francolin. And if someone happens to be just as much a Phrygian as Spintharus, here he'll be a Phrygi-finch, of Philemon's line.[57]
764	εἰ δὲ δοῦλός ἐστι καὶ Κὰρ ὥσπερ Ἐξηκεστίδης, φυσάτω πάππους παρ' ἡμῖν, καὶ φανοῦνται φράτερες. εἰ δ' ὁ Πεισίου προδοῦναι τοῖς ἀτίμοις τὰς πύλας βούλεται, πέρδιξ γενέσθω, τοῦ πατρὸς νεοττίον· ὡς παρ' ἡμῖν οὐδὲν αἰσχρόν ἐστιν ἐκπερδικίσαι.	And if someone is a slave and a Carian, like Execestides, let him fledge some forefathers among us, and clan-brothers will turn up for him. And if Pisias' son wants to betray the city gates to the disenfranchised, let him become a partridge, a chick off the old bird. Among us there's nothing shameful in giving them the slip like a partridge.[58]
769	τοιάδε κύκνοι, τιὸ τιὸ τιὰ τιὸ τιὸ τιοτίγξ, συμμιγῆ βοὴν ὁμοῦ πτεροῖς κρέκοντες ἴακχον Ἀπόλλω, τιὸ τιὸ τιὸ τιοτίγξ, ὄχθῳ ἐφεζόμενοι παρ' Ἕβρον ποταμόν, τιὸ τιὸ τιὸ τιοτίγξ, διὰ δ' αἰθέριον νέφος ἦλθε βοά· πτῆξε δὲ φῦλά τε ποικίλα θηρῶν, κύματά τ' ἔσβεσε νήνεμος αἴθρη, τοτοτοτοτοτοτοτοτίγξ· πᾶς δ' ἐπεκτύπησ' Ὄλυμπος· εἶλε δὲ θάμβος ἄνακτας· Ὀλυμπιάδες δὲ μέλος Χάριτες Μοῦσαί τ' ἐπωλόλυξαν. τιὸ τιὸ τιὸ τιοτίγξ.	Just so the swans, tio tio tia tio tio tiotinx, beating their wings, raised all together their mingled cry to Apollo, tio tio tio tiotinx, perched on the bank by the river Hebrus, tio tio tio tiotinx, and the cry went up through the clouds of heaven. The dappled tribes of beasts cowered, a windless calm stilled the waves, totototototototototinx, all Olympus rang out, wonder seized its lords, and the Graces of Olympus and the Muses raised a joyful shout in answer. tio tio tio tiotinx.
785	οὐδέν ἐστ' ἄμεινον οὐδ' ἥδιον ἢ φῦσαι πτερά. αὐτίχ' ὑμῶν τῶν θεατῶν εἴ τις ἦν ὑπόπτερος, εἶτα πεινῶν τοῖς χοροῖσι τῶν τραγῳδῶν ἤχθετο, ἐκπτόμενος ἂν οὗτος ἠρίστησεν ἐλθὼν οἴκαδε, κᾆτ' ἂν ἐμπλησθεὶς ἐφ' ἡμᾶς αὖθις αὖ κατέπτετο. εἴ τε Πατροκλείδης τις ὑμῶν τυγχάνει χεζητιῶν, οὐκ ἂν ἐξίδισεν ἐς θοἰμάτιον, ἀλλ' ἀνέπτετο, κἀποπαρδὼν κἀναπνεύσας αὖθις αὖ κατέπτετο· εἴ τε μοιχεύων τις ὑμῶν ἐστιν ὅστις τυγχάνει, κᾆθ' ὁρᾷ τὸν ἄνδρα τῆς γυναικὸς ἐν βουλευτικῷ, οὗτος ἂν πάλιν παρ' ὑμῶν πτερυγίσας ἀνέπτετο, εἶτα βινήσας ἐκεῖθεν αὖθις αὖ κατέπτετο.	There's nothing better or sweeter than growing wings. Take any of you spectators: if he had wings, and got hungry and fed up with the tragic choruses, he could fly off, go home and have lunch, and then, once he'd eaten his fill, fly back down here to us. And if some Patroclides among you happens to need a shit, he wouldn't have to shit himself in his cloak. He'd fly up, let off a fart, catch his breath, and fly back down again. And if one of you happens to be having an affair, and sees the woman's husband in the Council seats, he could flap up and away from among you, go fuck her, and then fly back down again.[59]
797	ἆρ' ὑπόπτερον γενέσθαι παντός ἐστιν ἄξιον; ὡς Διειτρέφης γε πυτιναῖα μόνον ἔχων πτερὰ	So isn't growing wings worth anything? Look at Diitrephes. With nothing but wicker-jar wings, he

57 The Greek phrygilos, a kind of finch, sounds like Phryx, "Phrygian." Spintharus and Philemon were Athenians mocked as foreigners passing as citizens.
58 Greek pappos means both "grandfather" and "down feathers," and citizens proved their birth through their phratry, or "clan-brothers." Partridges were known for slipping away from hunters.
59 Patroclides, an Athenian apparently notorious for having soiled himself in public.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	ἠρέθη φύλαρχος, εἶθ' ἵππαρχος, εἶτ' ἐξ οὐδενὸς μεγάλα πράττει κἀστὶ νυνὶ ξουθὸς ἱππαλεκτρυών.	got elected tribal cavalry commander, then cavalry commander, and now, from nothing, he's a big success and a tawny horse-cock.[60]

SECOND LYRIC SCENE

The city is named Cloudcuckooland; a poet, an oracle-monger, Meton, an inspector and a decree-seller are driven off.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
801	**PEISETAERUS** ταυτὶ τοιαυτί· μὰ Δί' ἐγὼ μὲν πρᾶγμά πω / γελοιότερον οὐκ εἶδον οὐδεπώποτε.	**PEISETAERUS** Well, here we are. By Zeus, I've never in my life seen anything more ridiculous.
803	**EUELPIDES** ἐπὶ τῷ γελᾷς;	**EUELPIDES** What are you laughing at?
	PEISETAERUS ἐπὶ τοῖσι σοῖς ὠκυπτέροις. οἶσθ' ᾧ μάλιστ' ἔοικας ἐπτερωμένος; εἰς εὐτέλειαν χηνὶ συγγεγραμμένῳ.	**PEISETAERUS** At those swift wings of yours. Do you know what you look most like with your feathers on? A goose in a cut-price painting.
806	**EUELPIDES** σὺ δὲ κοψίχῳ γε σκάφιον ἀποτετιλμένῳ.	**EUELPIDES** And you look like a blackbird that's been plucked with a bowl cut.
807	**PEISETAERUS** ταυτὶ μὲν ἠκάσμεσθα κατὰ τὸν Αἰσχύλον· / τάδ' οὐχ ὑπ' ἄλλων ἀλλὰ τοῖς αὑτῶν πτεροῖς.	**PEISETAERUS** That's how we've been pictured, just as in Aeschylus: "not by others, but by our own feathers."[61]
809	**HOOPOE** ἄγε δὴ τί χρὴ δρᾶν;	**HOOPOE** Come on, then: what needs doing?
	PEISETAERUS πρῶτον ὄνομα τῇ πόλει θέσθαι τι μέγα καὶ κλεινόν, εἶτα τοῖς θεοῖς θῦσαι μετὰ τοῦτο.	**PEISETAERUS** First we give the city a name, something grand and glorious. Then, after that, we sacrifice to the gods.
811	**EUELPIDES** ταῦτα κἀμοὶ συνδοκεῖ.	**EUELPIDES** I'm with you on that.
812	**HOOPOE** φέρ' ἴδω, τί δ' ἡμῖν τοὔνομ' ἔσται τῇ πόλει;	**HOOPOE** Let's see, now. What's our city's name going to be?
813	**EUELPIDES** βούλεσθε τὸ μέγα τοῦτο τοὐκ Λακεδαίμονος / Σπάρτην ὄνομα καλῶμεν αὐτήν;	**EUELPIDES** How about that grand name from Lacedaemon? Shall we call it Sparta?
814	**PEISETAERUS** Ἡράκλεις· Σπάρτην γὰρ ἂν θείμην ἐγὼ τὴμῇ πόλει; οὐδ' ἂν χαμεύνῃ πάνυ γε κειρίαν γ' ἔχων.	**PEISETAERUS** Heracles! Would I give my city the name Sparta? I wouldn't even string my bed with sparta, not while I had good webbing.[62]
817	**EUELPIDES** τί δῆτ' ὄνομ' αὐτῇ θησόμεσθ';	**EUELPIDES** Then what name are we going to give it?
	HOOPOE ἐντευθενὶ ἐκ τῶν νεφελῶν καὶ τῶν μετεώρων χωρίων χαῦνόν τι πάνυ.	**HOOPOE** Something from right here, from the clouds and these lofty regions. Something really light and fluffy.

60 Diitrephes got rich making wicker-covered wine jars, whose handles were called "wings." The horse-cock was a fabulous creature, half horse and half rooster, named in a play by Aeschylus.
61 In a lost play of Aeschylus, an eagle shot down by an arrow fletched with eagle feathers says it is struck "not by others, but by our own feathers."
62 Spartē, besides the city, is esparto rope, used for stringing beds.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
819	**PEISETAERUS** βούλει Νεφελοκοκκυγίαν;	**PEISETAERUS** How about Cloudcuckooland?
820	**HOOPOE** ἰοὺ ἰού· / καλόν γ' ἀτεχνῶς σὺ καὶ μέγ' ηὗρες τοὔνομα.	**HOOPOE** Hurray, hurray! That's a truly fine, grand name you've found.
821	**EUELPIDES** ἆρ' ἐστὶν αὐτηγὶ Νεφελοκοκκυγία, ἵνα καὶ τὰ Θεογένους τὰ πολλὰ χρήματα τά τ' Αἰσχίνου γ' ἅπαντα;	**EUELPIDES** Is this Cloudcuckooland where Theogenes keeps his vast fortune, and all of Aeschines' wealth?[63]
823	**PEISETAERUS** καὶ λῷστον μὲν οὖν τὸ Φλέγρας πεδίον, ἵν' οἱ θεοὶ τοὺς γηγενεῖς ἀλαζονευόμενοι καθυπερηκόντισαν.	**PEISETAERUS** Better still, it's the Plain of Phlegra, where the gods outdid the Earth-born Giants at bragging.[64]
826	**HOOPOE** λιπαρὸν τὸ χρῆμα τῆς πόλεως. τίς δαὶ θεὸς / πολιοῦχος ἔσται; τῷ ξανοῦμεν τὸν πέπλον;	**HOOPOE** A splendid thing, this city! But which god will be its guardian? For whom shall we card the wool for the robe?[65]
828	**EUELPIDES** τί δ' οὐκ Ἀθηναίαν ἐῶμεν Πολιάδα;	**EUELPIDES** Why not let Athena of the City keep the job?
829	**PEISETAERUS** καὶ πῶς ἂν ἔτι γένοιτ' ἂν εὔτακτος πόλις, ὅπου θεὸς γυνὴ γεγονυῖα πανοπλίαν ἕστηκ' ἔχουσα, Κλεισθένης δὲ κερκίδα;	**PEISETAERUS** And how could a city ever be well ordered where a god who was born a woman stands there in full armor, while Cleisthenes holds a weaving shuttle?[66]
832	**EUELPIDES** τίς δαὶ καθέξει τῆς πόλεως τὸ Πελαργικόν;	**EUELPIDES** Then who'll hold our city's Stork Wall?[67]
833	**HOOPOE** ὄρνις ἀφ' ἡμῶν τοῦ γένους τοῦ Περσικοῦ, ὅσπερ λέγεται δεινότατος εἶναι πανταχοῦ Ἄρεως νεοττός.	**HOOPOE** A bird from our own ranks, of the Persian breed, said to be the fiercest anywhere: the War-god's chick.
835	**EUELPIDES** ὦ νεοττὲ δέσποτα· / ὡς δ' ὁ θεὸς ἐπιτήδειος οἰκεῖν ἐπὶ πετρῶν.	**EUELPIDES** Oh, Lord Chick! What a perfect god to live up on the rocks!
837	**PEISETAERUS** ἄγε νυν σὺ μὲν βάδιζε πρὸς τὸν ἀέρα καὶ τοῖσι τειχίζουσι παραδιακόνει, χάλικας παραφόρει, πηλὸν ἀποδὺς ὄργασον, λεκάνην ἀνένεγκε, κατάπεσ' ἀπὸ τῆς κλίμακος, φύλακας κατάστησαι, τὸ πῦρ ἔγκρυπτ' ἀεί, κωδωνοφορῶν περίτρεχε καὶ κάθευδ' ἐκεῖ· κήρυκα δὲ πέμψον τὸν μὲν ἐς θεοὺς ἄνω, ἕτερον δ' ἄνωθεν ἄλλον παρ' ἀνθρώπους κάτω, κἀκεῖθεν αὖθις παρ' ἐμέ.	**PEISETAERUS** Right, then. You get going up to the air and lend the wall-builders a hand: carry up gravel, strip off and knead the mortar, haul up the hod, fall off the ladder, post sentries, keep the fire banked, run the rounds with the bell and sleep up there. And send off heralds, one up to the gods above, another from up there down to mankind below, and from there back to me again.
845	**EUELPIDES** σὺ δέ γ' αὐτοῦ μένων / οἴμωζε παρ' ἔμ'.	**EUELPIDES** And you can stay right here and go to hell—"back to me"!
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63 Theogenes and Aeschines were Athenian braggarts whose riches existed mainly in their talk.
64 Phlegra was where the gods fought and defeated the Giants.
65 At the Panathenaea the Athenians presented a newly woven robe (peplos) to Athena, the city's guardian.
66 Cleisthenes, an Athenian Aristophanes constantly mocks as beardless and soft.
67 The old fortification of the Athenian Acropolis was the Pelargikon, a name that sounds like pelargos, "stork."

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	PEISETAERUS ἴθ' ὦγάθ' οἷ πέμπω σ' ἐγώ. οὐδὲν γὰρ ἄνευ σοῦ τῶνδ' ἃ λέγω πεπράξεται. ἐγὼ δ' ἵνα θύσω τοῖσι καινοῖσιν θεοῖς, τὸν ἱερέα πέμψοντα τὴν πομπὴν καλῶ. παῖ παῖ, τὸ κανοῦν αἴρεσθε καὶ τὴν χέρνιβα.	**PEISETAERUS** Go where I'm sending you, my good man. Nothing I've been talking about will get done without you. As for me, I'm going to sacrifice to the new gods, so I'll call the priest to lead the procession. Boy! Boy! Pick up the basket and the holy water.
851	**PRIEST** ὁμορροθῶ, συνθέλω, συμπαραινέσας ἔχω προσόδια μεγάλα σεμνὰ προσιέναι θεοῖσιν, ἅμα δὲ προσέτι χάριτος ἕνεκα προβάτιόν τι θύειν. ἴτω ἴτω δὲ Πυθιὰς βοὰ θεῷ, συναδέτω δὲ Χαῖρις ᾠδάν.	**PRIEST** I'm with you, I want it too, I join in urging great and solemn processional songs to go up to the gods, and, on top of that, in thanks, to sacrifice some little sheep. Let it come, let it come, the Pythian cry to the god, and let Chaeris pipe along with the song.[68]
859	**PEISETAERUS** παῦσαι σὺ φυσῶν. Ἡράκλεις τουτὶ τί ἦν; τουτὶ μὰ Δί' ἐγὼ πολλὰ δὴ καὶ δεῖν' ἰδὼν οὔπω κόρακ' εἶδον ἐμπεφορβειωμένον. ἱερεῦ σὸν ἔργον, θῦε τοῖς καινοῖς θεοῖς.	**PEISETAERUS** You, stop blowing! Heracles, what was that? By Zeus, I've seen plenty of awful things, but I've never yet seen a raven wearing a piper's mouth-strap. Priest, it's your job: sacrifice to the new gods.[69]
864	**PRIEST** δράσω τάδ'. ἀλλὰ ποῦ 'στιν ὁ τὸ κανοῦν ἔχων; / εὔχεσθε τῇ Ἑστίᾳ τῇ ὀρνιθείῳ καὶ τῷ ἰκτίνῳ τῷ ἑστιούχῳ καὶ ὄρνισιν Ὀλυμπίοις καὶ Ὀλυμπίῃσι πᾶσι καὶ πάσῃσιν —	**PRIEST** I will. But where's the man with the basket? Pray to Hestia of the Birds, and to the Kite, Keeper of the Hearth, and to the Olympian birds and bird-goddesses, all of them, every one—
866	**PEISETAERUS** ὦ Σουνιέρακε χαῖρ' ἄναξ Πελαργικέ.	**PEISETAERUS** Hail, Sunium-hawk, lord of the Stork Wall![70]
867	**PRIEST** καὶ κύκνῳ Πυθίῳ καὶ Δηλίῳ καὶ Λητοῖ Ὀρτυγομήτρᾳ καὶ Ἀρτέμιδι Ἀκαλανθίδι —	**PRIEST** —and to the Pythian and Delian Swan, and to Leto, Mother of Quails, and to Artemis Goldfinch—
868	**PEISETAERUS** οὐκέτι Κολαινὶς ἀλλ' Ἀκαλανθὶς Ἄρτεμις.	**PEISETAERUS** No more Artemis Colaenis: now it's Artemis Goldfinch.[71]
876	**PRIEST** καὶ φρυγίλῳ Σαβαζίῳ καὶ στρούθῳ μεγάλῃ μητρὶ θεῶν καὶ ἀνθρώπων —	**PRIEST** —and to Sabazius, the Phrygian Finch, and to the Ostrich, great mother of gods and men—[72]
877	**PEISETAERUS** δέσποινα Κυβέλη, στροῦθε, μῆτερ Κλεοκρίτου.	**PEISETAERUS** Lady Cybele, Ostrich, mother of Cleocritus![73]
878	**PRIEST** διδόναι Νεφελοκοκκυγιεῦσιν ὑγιείαν καὶ σωτηρίαν αὐτοῖσι καὶ Χίοισι —	**PRIEST** —grant health and safety to the Cloud-cuckoolanders, to themselves and to the Chians—

68 Chaeris, a piper Aristophanes mocks as a terrible player.
69 The piper is costumed as a raven, with the leather band pipers wore around the mouth.
70 A parody of the cult title "Poseidon of Sunium," from the cape at the southern tip of Attica.
71 Colaenis was a cult title of Artemis; the Greek Akalanthis, "goldfinch," sounds much like it.
72 Sabazius was a Phrygian god, hence the Phrygian finch; the Great Mother becomes an ostrich, in Greek "the great sparrow."
73 Cleocritus, an Athenian apparently mocked for an ostrich-like build.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
880	**PEISETAERUS** Χίοισιν ἥσθην πανταχοῦ προσκειμένοις.	**PEISETAERUS** I love the way the Chians get tacked on everywhere.[74]
881	**PRIEST** καὶ ἥρωσιν ὄρνισι καὶ ἡρώων παισί, πορφυρίωνι καὶ πελεκᾶντι καὶ πελεκίνῳ καὶ φλέξιδι καὶ τέτρακι καὶ ταὼνι καὶ ἐλεᾷ καὶ βασκᾷ καὶ ἐλασᾷ καὶ ἐρωδιῷ καὶ καταρράκτῃ καὶ μελαγκορύφῳ καὶ αἰγιθάλλῳ —	**PRIEST** —and to the hero-birds and to the heroes' children: to the swamphen and the woodpecker and the pelican and the phlexis and the grouse and the peacock and the eleas and the bascas and the elasas and the heron and the cataract-bird and the blackcap and the titmouse—[75]
889	**PEISETAERUS** παῦ' ἐς κόρακας, παῦσαι καλῶν. ἰοὺ ἰού, ἐπὶ ποῖον ὦ κακόδαιμον ἱερεῖον καλεῖς ἁλιαιέτους καὶ γῦπας; οὐχ ὁρᾷς ὅτι ἰκτῖνος εἷς ἂν τοῦτό γ' οἴχοιθ' ἁρπάσας; ἄπελθ' ἀφ' ἡμῶν καὶ σὺ καὶ τὰ στέμματα· ἐγὼ γὰρ αὐτὸς τουτογὶ θύσω μόνος.	**PEISETAERUS** Stop, go to hell, stop calling them! Ugh, ugh! What sort of victim are you inviting sea-eagles and vultures to, you wretch? Can't you see that a single kite could snatch this up and be off with it? Get away from us, you and your garlands. I'll do this sacrifice myself, on my own.
895	**PRIEST** εἶτ' αὖθις αὖ τἄρα σοι δεῖ με δεύτερον μέλος χέρνιβι θεοσεβὲς ὅσιον ἐπιβοᾶν, καλεῖν δὲ μάκαρας, ἕνα τινὰ μόνον, εἴπερ ἱκανὸν ἔξετ' ὄψον. τὰ γὰρ παρόντα θύματ' οὐδὲν ἄλλο πλὴν γένειόν ἐστι καὶ κέρατα.	**PRIEST** Then once again, it seems, I must sing you a second song, god-fearing and holy, over the holy water, and call on the blessed ones—just one of them, if you're going to have enough to eat. For the victims we've got here are nothing but beard and horns.
903	**PEISETAERUS** θύοντες εὐξώμεσθα τοῖς πτερίνοις θεοῖς.	**PEISETAERUS** As we sacrifice, let's pray to the feathered gods.
904	**POET** Νεφελοκοκκυγίαν τὰν εὐδαίμονα / κλῆσον ὦ Μοῦσα τεαῖς ἐν ὕμνων ἀοιδαῖς.	**POET** Cloudcuckooland the blessed, sing her glory, Muse, in the music of your hymns.
906	**PEISETAERUS** τουτὶ τὸ πρᾶγμα ποδαπόν; εἰπέ μοι τίς εἶ;	**PEISETAERUS** Where's this thing from? Tell me, who are you?
907	**POET** ἐγὼ μελιγλώσσων ἐπέων ἰεὶς ἀοιδὰν Μουσάων θεράπων ὀτρηρός, κατὰ τὸν Ὅμηρον.	**POET** I am one who pours forth a song of honey-tongued verses, a zealous servant of the Muses, as Homer has it.
911	**PEISETAERUS** ἔπειτα δῆτα δοῦλος ὢν κόμην ἔχεις;	**PEISETAERUS** So you're a slave, and you've got long hair?[76]
912	**POET** οὔκ, ἀλλὰ πάντες ἐσμὲν οἱ διδάσκαλοι Μουσάων θεράποντες ὀτρηροί, κατὰ τὸν Ὅμηρον.	**POET** No, no. All of us poets are "zealous servants of the Muses," as Homer has it.
915	**PEISETAERUS** οὐκ ἐτὸς ὀτρηρὸν καὶ τὸ ληδάριον ἔχεις. / ἀτὰρ ὦ ποιητὰ κατὰ τί δεῦρ' ἀνεφθάρης;	**PEISETAERUS** No wonder your little cloak is so "zealous" too: it's worked itself full of holes. But

74 The Chians, loyal allies of Athens, were included in Athenian public prayers.
75 Some of these birds (phlexis, eleas, bascas, elasas) can no longer be identified.
76 He takes "servant" literally: slaves in Athens wore their hair short.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
		tell me, poet, what damned business brought you up here?[77]
917	**POET** μέλη πεποίηκ' ἐς τὰς Νεφελοκοκκυγίας τὰς ὑμετέρας κύκλιά τε πολλὰ καὶ καλὰ καὶ παρθένεια καὶ κατὰ τὰ Σιμωνίδου.	**POET** I've composed songs for your Cloudcuckoo-land: lots of fine circle-dances, and maiden-songs, and songs in the manner of Simonides.[78]
920	**PEISETAERUS** ταυτὶ σὺ πότ' ἐποίησας; ἀπὸ ποίου χρόνου;	**PEISETAERUS** And when did you compose these? Since when?
921	**POET** πάλαι πάλαι δὴ τήνδ' ἐγὼ κλῄζω πόλιν.	**POET** Long, long have I been singing this city's glory.
922	**PEISETAERUS** οὐκ ἄρτι θύω τὴν δεκάτην ταύτης ἐγώ, / καὶ τοὔνομ' ὥσπερ παιδίῳ νῦν δὴ 'θέμην;	**PEISETAERUS** But I'm only now holding its tenth-day sacrifice, and I've only just given it its name, like a baby!
924	**POET** ἀλλά τις ὠκεῖα Μουσάων φάτις οἵἁπερ ἵππων ἀμαρυγά. σὺ δὲ πάτερ κτίστορ Αἴτνας, ζαθέων ἱερῶν ὁμώνυμε, δὸς ἐμὶν ὅ τι περ τεᾷ κεφαλᾷ θέλῃς πρόφρων δόμεν ἐμὶν τείν.	**POET** But swift is the word of the Muses, like the flashing of horses. And you, father, founder of Aetna, namesake of holy rites, give me whatever with a nod of your head you're glad to give me, give.[79]
931	**PEISETAERUS** τουτὶ παρέξει τὸ κακὸν ἡμῖν πράγματα, εἰ μή τι τούτῳ δόντες ἀποφευξούμεθα. οὗτος, σὺ μέντοι σπολάδα καὶ χιτῶν' ἔχεις, ἀπόδυθι καὶ δὸς τῷ ποιητῇ τῷ σοφῷ. ἔχε τὴν σπολάδα· πάντως δέ μοι ῥιγῶν δοκεῖς.	**PEISETAERUS** This pest is going to give us trouble unless we give him something and get rid of him. You there, you've got a jerkin as well as a tunic: take it off and give it to our clever poet. Here, have the jerkin. You look like you're freezing anyway.
936	**POET** τόδε μὲν οὐκ ἀέκουσα φίλα Μοῦσα δῶρον δέχεται· τὺ δὲ τεᾷ φρενὶ μάθε Πινδάρειον ἔπος —	**POET** This gift the dear Muse receives not unwillingly. But you, take to heart a Pindaric word—
940	**PEISETAERUS** ἄνθρωπος ἡμῶν οὐκ ἀπαλλαχθήσεται.	**PEISETAERUS** The fellow's never going to leave us alone.
941	**POET** νομάδεσσι γὰρ ἐν Σκύθαις ἀλᾶται Στράτων, ὃς ὑφαντοδόνατον ἔσθος οὐ πέπαται· ἀκλεὴς δ' ἔβα σπολὰς ἄνευ χιτῶνος. ξύνες ὅ τοι λέγω.	**POET** For among the nomad Scythians Straton wanders, who owns no garment shuttle-woven; without glory goes a jerkin with no tunic. Mark what I tell you.
946	**PEISETAERUS** ξυνῆχ' ὅτι βούλει τὸν χιτωνίσκον λαβεῖν. ἀπόδυθι· δεῖ γὰρ τὸν ποιητὴν ὠφελεῖν. ἄπελθε τουτονὶ λαβών.	**PEISETAERUS** I've marked that you want the little tunic. Take it off; we have to help the poet. There, take it and go.

77 The Homeric word otrēros, "zealous," puns on tetrēmenos, "full of holes."
78 Circle-dances (dithyrambs) and maiden-songs were genres of choral lyric; Simonides was a famous lyric poet.
79 A parody of Pindar's verses to Hieron of Syracuse, founder of Aetna, whose name echoes hiera, "holy rites."

	GREEK	ENGLISH
948	**POET** ἀπέρχομαι, κἀς τὴν πόλιν γ' ἐλθὼν ποιήσω τοιαδί· "κλῆσον ὦ χρυσόθρονε τὰν τρομερὰν κρυεράν·" "νιφόβολα πεδία πολύπορά τ' ἤλυθον ἀλαλάν."	**POET** I'm going. And when I get to the city I'll compose things like this: "Sing, you on the golden throne, the shivering, the freezing city." "To snow-struck plains and many-pathed I came. Alalai!"
952	**PEISETAERUS** νὴ τὸν Δί' ἀλλ' ἤδη πέφευγας ταυταγὶ τὰ κρυερὰ τονδὶ τὸν χιτωνίσκον λαβών. τουτὶ μὰ Δί' ἐγὼ τὸ κακὸν οὐδέποτ' ἤλπισα, οὕτω ταχέως τοῦτον πεπύσθαι τὴν πόλιν. αὖθις σὺ περιχώρει λαβὼν τὴν χέρνιβα. εὐφημία 'στω.	**PEISETAERUS** Well, by Zeus, you've escaped that freezing stuff now that you've got the little tunic! By Zeus, I never expected this pest—that he'd hear about the city so quickly. You, take the holy water and go around again. Let all be silent!
959	**ORACLE-MONGER** μὴ κατάρξῃ τοῦ τράγου.	**ORACLE-MONGER** Don't start the rites on that goat!
960	**PEISETAERUS** σὺ δ' εἶ τίς;	**PEISETAERUS** And who are you?
	ORACLE-MONGER ὅστις; χρησμολόγος.	**ORACLE-MONGER** Who am I? An oracle-monger.
	PEISETAERUS οἴμωζέ νυν.	**PEISETAERUS** Then go to hell.
961	**ORACLE-MONGER** ὦ δαιμόνιε τὰ θεῖα μὴ φαύλως φέρε· ὡς ἔστι Βάκιδος χρησμὸς ἄντικρυς λέγων ἐς τὰς Νεφελοκοκκυγίας.	**ORACLE-MONGER** My dear sir, don't make light of divine matters. There's an oracle of Bacis that refers directly to Cloudcuckooland.[80]
963	**PEISETAERUS** κὔπειτα πῶς ταῦτ' οὐκ ἐχρησμολόγεις σὺ πρὶν ἐμὲ τὴν πόλιν τήνδ' οἰκίσαι;	**PEISETAERUS** Then how come you weren't reciting these oracles before I founded this city?
965	**ORACLE-MONGER** τὸ θεῖον ἐνεπόδιζέ με.	**ORACLE-MONGER** Divine power was holding me back.
966	**PEISETAERUS** ἀλλ' οὐδὲν οἷόν ἐστ' ἀκοῦσαι τῶν ἐπῶν.	**PEISETAERUS** Well, there's nothing like hearing the verses.
967	**ORACLE-MONGER** ἀλλ' ὅταν οἰκήσωσι λύκοι πολιαί τε κορῶναι / ἐν ταὐτῷ τὸ μεταξὺ Κορίνθου καὶ Σικυῶνος, —	**ORACLE-MONGER** "But when wolves and gray crows dwell together in the same place, between Corinth and Sicyon—"
969	**PEISETAERUS** τί οὖν προσήκει δῆτ' ἐμοὶ Κορινθίων;	**PEISETAERUS** And what have I got to do with Corinthians?
970	**ORACLE-MONGER** ᾐνίξαθ' ὁ Βάκις τοῦτο πρὸς τὸν ἀέρα. πρῶτον Πανδώρᾳ θῦσαι λευκότριχα κριόν· ὃς δέ κ' ἐμῶν ἐπέων ἔλθῃ πρώτιστα προφήτης, τῷ δόμεν ἱμάτιον καθαρὸν καὶ καινὰ πέδιλα —	**ORACLE-MONGER** Bacis was speaking in riddles: he meant the air. "First sacrifice to Pandora a white-fleeced ram; and whoever first comes to interpret my verses, give to him a clean cloak and new sandals—"
974	**PEISETAERUS** ἔνεστι καὶ τὰ πέδιλα;	**PEISETAERUS** The sandals are in there too?

80 Bacis, a legendary prophet whose oracles circulated widely in Athens.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	ORACLE-MONGER λαβὲ τὸ βιβλίον. / καὶ φιάλην δοῦναι, καὶ σπλάγχνων χεῖρ' ἐπιπλῆσαι.	ORACLE-MONGER Take the book. "And give him a bowl, and fill his hand with innards."
976	PEISETAERUS καὶ σπλάγχνα διδόν' ἔνεστι;	PEISETAERUS Giving innards is in there too?
	ORACLE-MONGER λαβὲ τὸ βιβλίον. κἂν μὲν θέσπιε κοῦρε ποιῇς ταῦθ' ὡς ἐπιτέλλω, αἰετὸς ἐν νεφέλῃσι γενήσεαι· αι' δέ κε μὴ δῷς, οὐκ ἔσει οὐ τρυγὼν οὐδ' αἰετὸς οὐ δρυκολάπτης.	ORACLE-MONGER Take the book. "And if, inspired youth, you do as I command, an eagle in the clouds you shall become; but if you do not give, you shall be no turtledove, nor eagle, nor woodpecker."
980	PEISETAERUS καὶ ταῦτ' ἔνεστ' ἐνταῦθα;	PEISETAERUS That's in there too?
	ORACLE-MONGER λαβὲ τὸ βιβλίον.	ORACLE-MONGER Take the book.
981	PEISETAERUS οὐδὲν ἄρ' ὅμοιός ἐσθ' ὁ χρησμὸς τουτῳί, ὃν ἐγὼ παρὰ τἀπόλλωνος ἐξεγραψάμην· αὐτὰρ ἐπὴν ἄκλητος ἰὼν ἄνθρωπος ἀλαζὼν λυπῇ θύοντας καὶ σπλαγχνεύειν ἐπιθυμῇ, δὴ τότε χρὴ τύπτειν αὐτὸν πλευρῶν τὸ μεταξὺ —	PEISETAERUS Well, your oracle's nothing like this one, which I copied down from Apollo's: "But when uninvited there comes a man, a fraud, to trouble those who sacrifice and to hanker after the innards, then you must strike him between the ribs—"
986	ORACLE-MONGER οὐδὲν λέγειν οἶμαί σε.	ORACLE-MONGER I think you're talking nonsense.
	PEISETAERUS λαβὲ τὸ βιβλίον. καὶ φείδου μηδὲν μηδ' αἰετοῦ ἐν νεφέλῃσιν, μήτ' ἢν Λάμπων ᾖ μήτ' ἢν ὁ μέγας Διοπείθης.	PEISETAERUS Take the book. "And spare him not at all, not even an eagle in the clouds, not if he be Lampon, not if he be the great Diopeithes."[81]
989	ORACLE-MONGER καὶ ταῦτ' ἔνεστ' ἐνταῦθα;	ORACLE-MONGER That's in there too?
	PEISETAERUS λαβὲ τὸ βιβλίον. / οὐκ εἶ θύραζ'; ἐς κόρακας.	PEISETAERUS Take the book. Get out of here, won't you? Go to hell!
990	ORACLE-MONGER οἴμοι δείλαιος.	ORACLE-MONGER Oh no, poor me!
991	PEISETAERUS οὔκουν ἑτέρωσε χρησμολογήσεις ἐκτρέχων;	PEISETAERUS Run off and do your oracle-mongering somewhere else, won't you?
992	METON ἥκω παρ' ὑμᾶς —	METON I've come to you—
	PEISETAERUS ἕτερον αὖ τουτὶ κακόν. τί δ' αὖ σὺ δράσων; τίς δ' ἰδέα βουλεύματος; τίς ἡ 'πίνοια, τίς ὁ κόθορνος τῆς ὁδοῦ;	PEISETAERUS Another pest! And what are you here to do? What's the shape of your plan? What's the idea? Why the tragic boots for the trip?
995	METON γεωμετρῆσαι βούλομαι τὸν ἀέρα / ὑμῖν διελεῖν τε κατὰ γύας.	METON I want to survey the air for you and divide it up into plots.
996	PEISETAERUS πρὸς τῶν θεῶν / σὺ δ' εἶ τίς ἀνδρῶν;	PEISETAERUS By the gods, and who among men are you?
997	METON ὅστις εἴμ' ἐγώ; Μέτων, / ὃν οἶδεν Ἑλλὰς χὠ Κολωνός.	METON Who am I? Meton, known to Greece and to Colonus.[82]

81 Diopeithes, a well-known Athenian oracle-monger.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
998	**PEISETAERUS** εἰπέ μοι, / ταυτὶ δέ σοι τί ἔστι;	**PEISETAERUS** Tell me, what are these things you've got?
999	**METON** κανόνες ἀέρος. αὐτίκα γὰρ ἀήρ ἐστι τὴν ἰδέαν ὅλος κατὰ πνιγέα μάλιστα. προσθεὶς οὖν ἐγὼ τὸν κανόν', ἄνωθεν τουτονὶ τὸν καμπύλον ἐνθεὶς διαβήτην — μανθάνεις;	**METON** Rulers for the air. You see, the air, taken as a whole, is shaped very much like a baking lid. So I apply this curved ruler from above, set the compass in—you follow?
1004	**PEISETAERUS** οὐ μανθάνω.	**PEISETAERUS** I don't follow.
	METON ὀρθῷ μετρήσω κανόνι προστιθείς, ἵνα ὁ κύκλος γένηται σοι τετράγωνος κἀν μέσῳ ἀγορά, φέρουσαι δ' ὧσιν εἰς αὐτὴν ὁδοὶ ὀρθαὶ πρὸς αὐτὸ τὸ μέσον, ὥσπερ δ' ἀστέρος αὐτοῦ κυκλοτεροῦς ὄντος ὀρθαὶ πανταχῇ ἀκτῖνες ἀπολάμπωσιν.	**METON** I'll lay the straight ruler on and measure, so that your circle becomes a square, with a marketplace in the middle, and straight roads leading into it, right to the very center; just as from a star, which is itself round, straight rays shine out in every direction.
1009	**PEISETAERUS** ἄνθρωπος Θαλῆς. / Μέτων —	**PEISETAERUS** The man's a Thales! Meton—[83]
1010	**METON** τί ἔστιν;	**METON** What is it?
	PEISETAERUS οἶσθ' ὁτιὴ φιλῶ σ' ἐγώ, / κἀμοὶ πιθόμενος ὑπαποκίνει τῆς ὁδοῦ.	**PEISETAERUS** You know I'm fond of you. Take my advice and quietly slip off down the road.
1012	**METON** τί δ' ἐστὶ δεινόν;	**METON** Why, what's the danger?
	PEISETAERUS ὥσπερ ἐν Λακεδαίμονι ξενηλατοῦνται καὶ κεκίνηνταί τινες· πληγαὶ συχναὶ κατ' ἄστυ.	**PEISETAERUS** It's like Sparta: they're expelling foreigners, and some have already been sent packing. There's a lot of beating going on around town.
1014	**METON** μῶν στασιάζετε;	**METON** You're not having a civil war, are you?
1015	**PEISETAERUS** μὰ τὸν Δί' οὐ δῆτ'.	**PEISETAERUS** No, by Zeus, not at all.
	METON ἀλλὰ πῶς;	**METON** Then what?
	PEISETAERUS ὁμοθυμαδὸν / σποδεῖν ἅπαντας τοὺς ἀλαζόνας δοκεῖ.	**PEISETAERUS** It's been unanimously decided to thrash all frauds.
1017	**METON** ὑπάγοιμί τἄρ' ἄν.	**METON** Then I'd better slip away.
	PEISETAERUS νὴ Δί' ὡς οὐκ οἶδ' ἂν εἰ / φθαίης ἄν· ἐπίκεινται γὰρ ἐγγὺς αὐταιί.	**PEISETAERUS** By Zeus, yes, though I'm not sure you'll make it in time. They're closing in, right here—these!
1019	**METON** οἴμοι κακοδαίμων.	**METON** Ow, damn it!
	PEISETAERUS οὐκ ἔλεγον ἐγὼ πάλαι; / οὐκ ἀναμετρήσεις σαυτὸν ἀπιὼν ἀλλαχῇ;	**PEISETAERUS** Didn't I tell you ages ago? Go and measure your way out of here, somewhere else, won't you?
1021	**INSPECTOR** ποῦ πρόξενοι;	**INSPECTOR** Where are the official hosts?

82 Meton, a famous Athenian astronomer and geometer who devised a calendar cycle and built a fountain at Colonus.
83 Thales of Miletus, the proverbial wise man and mathematician.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	PEISETAERUS τίς ὁ Σαρδανάπαλλος οὑτοσί;	**PEISETAERUS** Who's this Sardanapalus?[84]
1022	**INSPECTOR** ἐπίσκοπος ἥκω δεῦρο τῷ κυάμῳ λαχὼν / ἐς τὰς Νεφελοκοκκυγίας.	**INSPECTOR** I've come here to Cloudcuckooland as inspector, selected by lot with the bean.[85]
1023	**PEISETAERUS** ἐπίσκοπος; / ἔπεμψε δὲ τίς σε δεῦρο;	**PEISETAERUS** An inspector? And who sent you here?
1024	**INSPECTOR** φαῦλον βιβλίον / Τελέου.	**INSPECTOR** A shabby little decree of Teleas.
1025	**PEISETAERUS** τί; βούλει δῆτα τὸν μισθὸν λαβὼν / μὴ πράγματ' ἔχειν ἀλλ' ἀπιέναι;	**PEISETAERUS** Tell me: would you like to take your pay and leave without any trouble?
1026	**INSPECTOR** νὴ τοὺς θεούς. ἐκκλησιάσαι δ' οὖν ἐδεόμην οἴκοι μένων. ἔστιν γὰρ ἃ δι' ἐμοῦ πέπρακται Φαρνάκῃ.	**INSPECTOR** By the gods, yes. I really needed to stay home for the Assembly. There's some business I've been handling for Pharnaces.[86]
1029	**PEISETAERUS** ἄπιθι λαβών· ἔστιν δ' ὁ μισθὸς οὑτοσί.	**PEISETAERUS** Take it and go. Here's your pay.
1030	**INSPECTOR** τουτὶ τί ἦν;	**INSPECTOR** What was that?
	PEISETAERUS ἐκκλησία περὶ Φαρνάκου.	**PEISETAERUS** An Assembly about Pharnaces.
1031	**INSPECTOR** μαρτύρομαι τυπτόμενος ὢν ἐπίσκοπος.	**INSPECTOR** I call witnesses: I'm being beaten, and I'm an inspector!
1032	**PEISETAERUS** οὐκ ἀποσοβήσεις; οὐκ ἀποίσεις τὼ κάδω; οὐ δεινά; καὶ πέμπουσιν ἤδη 'πισκόπους ἐς τὴν πόλιν, πρὶν καὶ τεθύσθαι τοῖς θεοῖς;	**PEISETAERUS** Shoo, won't you? Take your two voting urns and get out, won't you? Isn't it outrageous? They're already sending inspectors to the city before we've even sacrificed to the gods!
1035	**DECREE-SELLER** ἐὰν δ' ὁ Νεφελοκοκκυγιεὺς τὸν Ἀθηναῖον ἀδικῇ —	**DECREE-SELLER** "And if a Cloudcuckoolander does wrong to an Athenian—"
1036	**PEISETAERUS** τουτὶ τί ἔστιν αὖ κακὸν τὸ βιβλίον;	**PEISETAERUS** What's this new pest of a document?
1037	**DECREE-SELLER** ψηφισματοπώλης εἰμὶ καὶ νόμους νέους / ἥκω παρ' ὑμᾶς δεῦρο πωλήσων.	**DECREE-SELLER** I'm a decree-seller, and I've come here to sell you new laws.
1038	**PEISETAERUS** τὸ τί;	**PEISETAERUS** Such as?
1040	**DECREE-SELLER** χρῆσθαι Νεφελοκοκκυγιᾶς τοῖσδε τοῖς μέτροισι καὶ / σταθμοῖσι καὶ ψηφίσμασι καθάπερ Ὀλοφύξιοι.	**DECREE-SELLER** "The Cloudcuckoolanders shall use the same measures and weights and decrees as the Olophyxians."
1042	**PEISETAERUS** σὺ δέ γ' οἷσπερ ὠτοτύξιοι χρήσει τάχα.	**PEISETAERUS** And you'll soon be using what the Ow-ow-yxians use.[87]
1043	**DECREE-SELLER** οὗτος τί πάσχεις;	

84 Sardanapalus, a legendary Assyrian king proverbial for luxury: the Inspector is grandly dressed.
85 Athens sent inspectors (episkopoi) to supervise its subject cities.
86 Pharnaces, a Persian satrap: the Inspector is hinting at his own bribe-taking.
87 Olophyxus was a small town in northern Greece; Peisetaerus twists the name into one formed from ototoi, "ow!," as he starts hitting.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
		DECREE-SELLER Hey, what's the matter with you?
1044	**PEISETAERUS** οὐκ ἀποίσεις τοὺς νόμους; / πικροὺς ἐγώ σοι τήμερον δείξω νόμους.	**PEISETAERUS** Take your laws away, won't you? Today I'll show you some laws that really sting.
1046	**INSPECTOR** καλοῦμαι Πισθέταιρον ὕβρεως ἐς τὸν Μουνιχιῶνα μῆνα.	**INSPECTOR** I summon Peisetaerus for assault, to appear in the month of Munychion.
1047	**PEISETAERUS** ἄληθες οὗτος; ἔτι γὰρ ἐνταῦθ' ἦσθα σύ;	**PEISETAERUS** Really, you? Are you still here?
1050	**DECREE-SELLER** ἐὰν δέ τις ἐξελαύνῃ τοὺς ἄρχοντας καὶ μὴ δέχηται / κατὰ τὴν στήλην —	**DECREE-SELLER** "And if anyone drives out the magistrates and does not receive them as laid down on the inscribed pillar—"
1052	**PEISETAERUS** οἴμοι κακοδαίμων, καὶ σὺ γὰρ ἐνταῦθ' ἦσθ' ἔτι;	**PEISETAERUS** Oh, damn it, you're still here too?
	INSPECTOR ἀπολῶ σε καὶ γράφω σε μυρίας δραχμάς.	**INSPECTOR** I'll ruin you! I'm suing you for ten thousand drachmas.
1053	**PEISETAERUS** ἐγὼ δὲ σοῦ γε τὼ κάδω διασκεδῶ.	**PEISETAERUS** And I'll scatter your two urns.
1054	**DECREE-SELLER** μέμνησ' ὅτε τῆς στήλης κατετίλας ἑσπέρας;	**DECREE-SELLER** Remember that evening you took a shit on the inscribed pillar?
1055	**PEISETAERUS** αἰβοῖ· λαβέτω τις αὐτόν. οὗτος οὐ μενεῖς; ἀπίωμεν ἡμεῖς ὡς τάχιστ' ἐντευθενὶ θύσοντες εἴσω τοῖς θεοῖσι τὸν τράγον.	**PEISETAERUS** Ugh! Somebody grab him! Hey, you, won't you stay put? Let's get away from here as fast as we can and go inside to sacrifice the goat to the gods.

SECOND PARABASIS

The birds proclaim their power, put a price on a bird-seller's head, and promise the judges rewards.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1058	**CHORUS** ἤδη 'μοὶ τῷ παντόπτᾳ καὶ παντάρχᾳ θνητοὶ πάντες θύσουσ' εὐκταίαις εὐχαῖς. πᾶσαν μὲν γὰρ γᾶν ὀπτεύω, σῴζω δ' εὐθαλεῖς καρποὺς κτείνων παμφύλων γένναν θηρῶν, ἃ πάντ' ἐν γαίᾳ ἐκ κάλυκος αὐξανόμενον γένυσι παμφάγοις δένδρεσί τ' ἐφημένα καρπὸν ἀποβόσκεται· κτείνω δ' οἳ κήπους εὐώδεις φθείρουσιν λύμαις ἐχθίσταις, ἑρπετά τε καὶ δάκετα πάνθ' ὅσαπερ ἔστιν ὑπ' ἐμᾶς πτέρυγος ἐν φοναῖς ὄλλυται.	**CHORUS** Now to me, the all-seeing and all-ruling, all mortals will sacrifice with prayers and vows. For I watch over all the earth, and I keep the flourishing crops safe by killing the brood of beasts of every kind, who with all-devouring jaws graze on every growing thing that springs from the bud in the earth, and on the fruit that sits upon the trees; and I kill the ones that ruin fragrant gardens with their hateful havoc, and creeping things and biting things, all there are, beneath my wing perish in slaughter.
1072	τῇδε μέντοι θἠμέρᾳ μάλιστ' ἐπαναγορεύεται, ἢν ἀποκτείνῃ τις ὑμῶν Διαγόραν τὸν Μήλιον,	On this very day, as it happens, there's a proclamation going out: if any of you kills Diagoras of

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	λαμβάνειν τάλαντον, ἤν τε τῶν τυράννων τίς τινα τῶν τεθνηκότων ἀποκτείνῃ, τάλαντον λαμβάνειν. βουλόμεσθ' οὖν νυν ἀνειπεῖν ταὐτὰ χἠμεῖς ἐνθάδε. ἤν ἀποκτείνῃ τις ὑμῶν Φιλοκράτη τὸν Στρούθιον, λήψεται τάλαντον, ἤν δὲ ζῶντά γ' ἀγάγῃ, τέτταρα, ὅτι συνείρων τοὺς σπίνους πωλεῖ καθ' ἑπτὰ τοὐβολοῦ, εἶτα φυσῶν τὰς κίχλας δείκνυσι καὶ λυμαίνεται, τοῖς τε κοψίχοισιν ἐς τὰς ῥῖνας ἐγχεῖ τὰ πτερά, τὰς περιστεράς θ' ὁμοίως ξυλλαβὼν εἴρξας ἔχει, κἀπαναγκάζει παλεύειν δεδεμένας ἐν δικτύῳ.	Melos, he gets a talent, and if anyone kills one of the tyrants—the dead ones—he gets a talent. So we want to make a proclamation of our own here. If any of you kills Philocrates of Sparrowdale, he'll get a talent, and if he brings him in alive, four, because he strings finches together and sells them at seven for an obol; then he puffs up thrushes, puts them on display and abuses them; he stuffs feathers up the blackbirds' nostrils; and he likewise catches pigeons and keeps them penned up, and forces them to work as decoys, tied up in a net.[88]
1084	ταῦτα βουλόμεσθ' ἀνειπεῖν· κεἴ τις ὄρνιθας τρέφει εἰργμένους ὑμῶν ἐν αὐλῇ, φράζομεν μεθιέναι. ἢν δὲ μὴ πίθησθε, συλληφθέντες ὑπὸ τῶν ὀρνέων αὖθις ὑμεῖς αὖ παρ' ἡμῖν δεδεμένοι παλεύσετε.	That's the proclamation we want to make. And if any of you keeps birds shut up in his yard, we're telling you: let them go. If you don't obey, you'll be caught by the birds, and then it'll be your turn to be tied up at our place and work as decoys.
1088	εὔδαιμον φῦλον πτηνῶν οἰωνῶν, οἳ χειμῶνος μὲν χλαίνας οὐκ ἀμπισχνοῦνται· οὐδ' αὖ θερμὴ πνίγους ἡμᾶς ἀκτὶς τηλαυγὴς θάλπει· ἀλλ' ἀνθηρῶν λειμώνων φύλλων τ' ἐν κόλποις ναίω, ἡνίκ' ἂν ὁ θεσπέσιος ὀξὺ μέλος ἀχέτας θάλπεσι μεσημβρινοῖς ἡλιομανὴς βοᾷ. χειμάζω δ' ἐν κοίλοις ἄντροις νύμφαοις οὐρείαις ξυμπαίζων· ἠρινά τε βοσκόμεθα παρθένια λευκότροφα μύρτα Χαρίτων τε κηπεύματα.	Happy the race of winged birds, who in winter wrap themselves in no cloaks; nor again does the hot, far-shining ray of stifling summer scorch us; but in the lap of flowering meadows and of leaves I make my home, when the god-sent cicada, mad with the sun, shrills his sharp song in the noonday heat. I winter in hollow caves, at play with the mountain nymphs; and in spring we feed on the virgin white-budding myrtle and the gardens of the Graces.
1102	τοῖς κριταῖς εἰπεῖν τι βουλόμεσθα τῆς νίκης πέρι, ὅσ' ἀγάθ', ἢν κρίνωσιν ἡμᾶς, πᾶσιν αὐτοῖς δώσομεν, ὥστε κρείττω δῶρα πολλῷ τῶν Ἀλεξάνδρου λαβεῖν. πρῶτα μὲν γὰρ οὗ μάλιστα πᾶς κριτὴς ἐφίεται, γλαῦκες ὑμᾶς οὔποτ' ἐπιλείψουσι Λαυρειωτικαί· ἀλλ' ἐνοικήσουσιν ἔνδον, ἔν τε τοῖς βαλλαντίοις ἐννεοττεύσουσι κἀκλέψουσι μικρὰ κέρματα. εἶτα πρὸς τούτοισιν ὥσπερ ἐν ἱεροῖς οἰκήσετε· τὰς γὰρ ὑμῶν οἰκίας ἐρέψομεν πρὸς αἰετόν· κἂν λαχόντες ἀρχίδιον εἶθ' ἁρπάσαι βούλησθέ τι, ὀξὺν ἱερακίσκον ἐς τὰς χεῖρας ὑμῖν δώσομεν. ἢν δέ που δειπνῆτε, πρηγορεῶνας ὑμῖν πέμψομεν.	We want to say a word to the judges about the prize: all the good things we'll give every one of them if they judge in our favor, so they get far better gifts than Alexander got. First, what every judge craves most: owls from Laurium will never leave you. They'll make their homes with you, nest inside your purses and hatch out small change. Then, on top of that, you'll live as if in temples, because we'll roof your houses with eagles. And if you're allotted some little office and then want to grab something, we'll put a sharp little hawk in your hands. And if you're dining out somewhere, we'll send you extra crops.[89]

88 Diagoras of Melos, a poet with a price on his head for impiety; "Sparrowdale" mocks an Athenian deme name, from strouthos, "sparrow."

89 Athenian silver coins, minted from Laurium silver, bore an owl; a temple's pediment was called an "eagle"; Alexander is Paris, bribed by the goddesses he judged; a bird's crop is a pouch for storing food.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1114	ἢν δὲ μὴ κρίνητε, χαλκεύεσθε μηνίσκους φορεῖν ὥσπερ ἀνδριάντες· ὡς ὑμῶν ὃς ἂν μὴ μῆν' ἔχῃ, ὅταν ἔχητε χλανίδα λευκήν, τότε μάλισθ' οὕτω δίκην δώσεθ' ἡμῖν, πᾶσι τοῖς ὄρνισι κατατιλώμενοι.	But if you don't vote for us, get yourselves bronze crescents forged to wear on your heads, the way statues do. Because any of you without a crescent, especially when you're wearing a white cloak, will pay the price to us: you'll be shat on by every bird there is.[90]

THIRD LYRIC SCENE

Messengers report the finished wall and an intruding god; Peisetaerus abuses Iris, and a herald reports bird-mania on earth.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1118	**PEISETAERUS** τὰ μὲν ἱέρ' ἡμῖν ἐστιν ὦρνιθες καλά· ἀλλ' ὡς ἀπὸ τοῦ τείχους πάρεστιν ἄγγελος οὐδείς, ὅτου πευσόμεθα τἀκεῖ πράγματα. ἀλλ' οὑτοσὶ τρέχει τις Ἀλφειὸν πνέων.	**PEISETAERUS** The sacrifices have turned out well for us, birds. But there's still no messenger from the wall to tell us how things are going up there. Wait, here's someone running, panting like a racer at Olympia.
1122	**FIRST MESSENGER** ποῦ ποῦ 'στι, ποῦ ποῦ ποῦ 'στι, ποῦ ποῦ ποῦ 'στι ποῦ, / ποῦ Πισθέταιρός ἐστιν ἄρχων;	**FIRST MESSENGER** Where, where is he, where where where is he, where where where is he, where—where's Peisetaerus, our ruler?
1123	**PEISETAERUS** οὑτοσί.	**PEISETAERUS** Right here.
1124	**FIRST MESSENGER** ἐξῳκοδόμηταί σοι τὸ τεῖχος.	**FIRST MESSENGER** Your wall's been built!
	PEISETAERUS εὖ λέγεις.	**PEISETAERUS** Good news.
1125	**FIRST MESSENGER** κάλλιστον ἔργον καὶ μεγαλοπρεπέστατον· ὥστ' ἂν ἐπάνω μὲν Προξενίδης ὁ Κομπασεὺς καὶ Θεογένης ἐναντίω δύ' ἅρματε, ἵππων ὑπόντων μέγεθος ὅσον ὁ δούριος, ὑπὸ τοῦ πλάτους ἂν παρελασαίτην.	**FIRST MESSENGER** A gorgeous piece of work, utterly magnificent! It's so wide that up on top Proxenides of Boastville and Theogenes could drive two chariots past each other, with horses under them as big as the Wooden Horse.[91]
1129	**PEISETAERUS** Ἡράκλεις.	**PEISETAERUS** Heracles!
1130	**FIRST MESSENGER** τὸ δὲ μῆκός ἐστι, καὶ γὰρ ἐμέτρησ' αὖτ' ἐγώ, / ἑκατοντορόγυιον.	**FIRST MESSENGER** And its length—I measured it myself—is a hundred fathoms.
1131	**PEISETAERUS** ὦ Πόσειδον τοῦ μάκρους. / τίνες ᾠκοδόμησαν αὐτὸ τηλικουτονί;	**PEISETAERUS** Poseidon, what length! Who built it that big?
1133	**FIRST MESSENGER** ὄρνιθες, οὐδεὶς ἄλλος, οὐκ Αἰγύπτιος πλινθοφόρος, οὐ λιθουργός, οὐ τέκτων παρῆν, ἀλλ' αὐτόχειρες, ὥστε θαυμάζειν ἐμέ. ἐκ μέν γε Λιβύης ἦκον ὡς τρισμύριαι γέρανοι θεμελίους καταπεπωκυῖαι λίθους. τούτους δ' ἐτύκιζον αἱ κρέκες τοῖς ῥύγχεσιν. ἕτεροι δ' ἐπλινθοφόρουν πελαργοὶ μύριοι·	**FIRST MESSENGER** Birds, nobody else. There wasn't an Egyptian brick-carrier or stonemason or carpenter there; they did it with their own hands—I was amazed. From Libya came about thirty thousand cranes that had swallowed stones for the foundations, and the corncrakes dressed them with their beaks. Another ten thousand storks car-

90 Bronze crescents were fixed on statues' heads to keep birds off them.
91 Proxenides, a braggart; "Boastville" parodies his deme name, built on kompos, "boast."

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	ὕδωρ δ' ἐφόρουν κάτωθεν ἐς τὸν ἀέρα οἱ χαραδριοὶ καὶ τἄλλα ποτόμι' ὄρνεα.	ried bricks, and the plovers and the other river-birds carried water up from below into the air.
1142	**PEISETAERUS** ἐπηλοφόρουν δ' αὐτοῖσι τίνες;	**PEISETAERUS** And who carried the mortar for them?
	FIRST MESSENGER ἐρωδιοὶ / λεκάναισι.	**FIRST MESSENGER** Herons, in hods.
1143	**PEISETAERUS** τὸν δὲ πηλὸν ἐνεβάλλοντο πῶς;	**PEISETAERUS** And how did they get the mortar into the hods?
1144	**FIRST MESSENGER** τοῦτ' ὦγάθ' ἐξηύρητο καὶ σοφώτατα· οἱ χῆνες ὑποτύπτοντες ὥσπερ ταῖς ἅμαις ἐς τὰς λεκάνας ἐνέβαλλον αὐτοῖς τοῖν ποδοῖν.	**FIRST MESSENGER** That, my good man, was worked out very cleverly: the geese dug their feet in like shovels and threw it into the hods.
1147	**PEISETAERUS** τί δῆτα πόδες ἂν οὐκ ἂν ἐργασαίατο;	**PEISETAERUS** Well, what can't a good pair of feet do?
1148	**FIRST MESSENGER** καὶ νὴ Δί' αἱ νῆτταί γε περιεζωσμέναι ἐπλινθοφόρουν· ἄνω δὲ τὸν ὑπαγωγέα ἐπέτοντ' ἔχουσαι κατόπιν †ὥσπερ παιδία τὸν πηλὸν ἐν τοῖς στόμασιν† αἱ χελιδόνες.	**FIRST MESSENGER** And by Zeus, the ducks put on aprons and carried bricks, and the swallows flew up with the trowel behind them, like little apprentices, carrying the mortar in their mouths.
1152	**PEISETAERUS** τί δῆτα μισθωτοὺς ἂν ἔτι μισθοῖτό τις; φέρ' ἴδω, τί δαί; τὰ ξύλινα τοῦ τείχους τίνες ἀπηργάσαντ';	**PEISETAERUS** Why would anyone hire hired hands anymore? Let's see, what else? Who did the woodwork on the wall?
1154	**FIRST MESSENGER** ὄρνιθες ἦσαν τέκτονες σοφώτατοι πελεκᾶντες, οἳ τοῖς ῥύγχεσιν ἀπεπελέκησαν τὰς πύλας· ἦν δ' ὁ κτύπος αὐτῶν πελεκώντων ὥσπερ ἐν ναυπηγίῳ. καὶ νῦν ἅπαντ' ἐκεῖνα πεπύλωται πύλαις καὶ βεβαλάνωται καὶ φυλάττεται κύκλῳ, ἐφοδεύεται, κωδωνοφορεῖται, πανταχῇ, φυλακαὶ καθεστήκασι καὶ φρυκτωρίαι ἐν τοῖσι πύργοις. ἀλλ' ἐγὼ μὲν ἀποτρέχων ἀπονίψομαι· σὺ δ' αὐτὸς ἤδη τἄλλα δρᾶ.	**FIRST MESSENGER** The carpenters were birds: very skilled woodpeckers, who hacked out the gates with their beaks, and the din of their hacking was like a shipyard. And now the whole place is fitted with gates and bolted and guarded all around; it's patrolled, the bell goes the rounds, sentries are posted everywhere, and there are beacons in the towers. But I'm going to run off and wash. You take care of the rest yourself.
1164	**CHORUS** οὗτος τί ποιεῖς; ἆρα θαυμάζεις ὅτι / οὕτω τὸ τεῖχος ἐκτετείχισται ταχύ;	**CHORUS** Hey, what are you doing? Are you amazed the wall's been walled so fast?
1166	**PEISETAERUS** νὴ τοὺς θεοὺς ἔγωγε· καὶ γὰρ ἄξιον· ἴσα γὰρ ἀληθῶς φαίνεταί μοι ψεύδεσιν. ἀλλ' ὅδε φύλαξ γὰρ τῶν ἐκεῖθεν ἄγγελος ἐσθεῖ πρὸς ἡμᾶς δεῦρο πυρρίχην βλέπων.	**PEISETAERUS** By the gods, I am, and it deserves it. Honestly, it looks to me just like a pack of lies. But here comes a guard, a messenger from up there, rushing toward us with a war-dance glare.
1170	**SECOND MESSENGER** ἰοὺ ἰού, ἰοὺ ἰού, ἰοὺ ἰού.	**SECOND MESSENGER** Oh no, oh no! Oh no, oh no! Oh no, oh no!
1171	**PEISETAERUS** τί τὸ πρᾶγμα τουτί;	**PEISETAERUS** What's all this?
	SECOND MESSENGER δεινότατα πεπόνθαμεν. τῶν γὰρ θεῶν τις ἄρτι τῶν παρὰ τοῦ Διὸς	**SECOND MESSENGER** Something terrible has happened to us. One of the gods, one of Zeus' gods,

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	διὰ τῶν πυλῶν εἰσέπτετ' ἐς τὸν ἀέρα, λαθὼν κολοιοὺς φύλακας ἡμεροσκόπους.	just flew in through the gates into the air, slipping past the jackdaws on day watch.
1175	**PEISETAERUS** ὦ δεινὸν ἔργον καὶ σχέτλιον εἰργασμένος. / τίς τῶν θεῶν;	**PEISETAERUS** What a terrible, outrageous thing he's done! Which of the gods?
1176	**SECOND MESSENGER** οὐκ ἴσμεν· ὅτι δ' εἶχε πτερά, / τοῦτ' ἴσμεν.	**SECOND MESSENGER** We don't know. That it had wings—that we know.
1177	**PEISETAERUS** οὔκουν δῆτα περιπόλους ἐχρῆν / πέμψαι κατ' αὐτὸν εὐθύς;	**PEISETAERUS** Then shouldn't you have sent the border patrol after him right away?
1178	**SECOND MESSENGER** ἀλλ' ἐπέμψαμεν τρισμυρίους ἱέρακας ἱπποτοξότας, χωρεῖ δὲ πᾶς τις ὄνυχας ἠγκυλωμένος, κερχνὴς τριόρχης γὺψ κύμινδις αἰετός· ῥύμῃ τε καὶ πτεροῖσι καὶ ῥοιζήμασιν αἰθὴρ δονεῖται τοῦ θεοῦ ζητουμένου· κἄστ' οὐ μακρὰν ἄπωθεν, ἀλλ' ἐνταῦθά που ἤδη 'στίν.	**SECOND MESSENGER** But we did send them: thirty thousand hawks, mounted archers, and every one of them is moving out with talons curved—kestrel, buzzard, vulture, nighthawk, eagle. With the rush of wings and the whirring, the sky is shaking as they hunt for the god. And he's not far off; he's somewhere around here already.
1185	**PEISETAERUS** οὔκουν σφενδόνας δεῖ λαμβάνειν καὶ τόξα; χώρει δεῦρο πᾶς ὑπηρέτης· τόξευε παῖε, σφενδόνην τίς μοι δότω.	**PEISETAERUS** Shouldn't we get slings and bows? Here, all attendants! Shoot! Hit him! Somebody give me a sling!
1189	**CHORUS** πόλεμος αἴρεται, πόλεμος οὐ φατὸς πρὸς ἐμὲ καὶ θεούς. ἀλλὰ φύλαττε πᾶς ἀέρα περινέφελον, ὃν ἔρεβος ἐτέκετο, μή σε λάθῃ θεῶν τις ταύτῃ περῶν·	**CHORUS** War is rising, war beyond words, between me and the gods. Come, everyone, guard the cloud-wrapped air that Erebus begot, so no god slips past you crossing here.
1196	... ἄθρει δὲ πᾶς κύκλῳ σκοπῶν, ὡς ἐγγὺς ἤδη δαίμονος πεδαρσίου δίνης πτερωτὸς φθόγγος ἐξακούεται.	...Everyone, keep watch, look all around you, because close by now you can hear the winged whirring of a god on high.
1199	**PEISETAERUS** αὖτη σύ, ποῖ ποῖ ποῖ πέτει; μέν' ἥσυχος, ἔχ' ἀτρέμας· αὐτοῦ στῆθ'· ἐπίσχες τοῦ δρόμου. τίς εἶ; ποδαπή; λέγειν ἐχρῆν ὁπόθεν πότ' εἶ.	**PEISETAERUS** You there, where, where, where are you flying? Stay quiet! Keep still! Stop right there! Halt! Who are you? Where are you from? You have to say where you come from.
1202	**IRIS** παρὰ τῶν θεῶν ἔγωγε τῶν Ὀλυμπίων.	**IRIS** I come from the gods, the Olympians.
1203	**PEISETAERUS** ὄνομα δέ σο. τί ἐστι; πλοῖον ἢ κυνῆ;	**PEISETAERUS** And your name? What are you—a ship or a bonnet?
1204	**IRIS** Ἶρις ταχεῖα.	**IRIS** Swift Iris.
	PEISETAERUS Πάραλος ἢ Σαλαμινία;	**PEISETAERUS** The *Paralus* or the *Salaminia*?[92]
1205	**IRIS** τί δὲ τοῦτο;	**IRIS** What's that supposed to mean?
	PEISETAERUS ταυτηνί τις οὐ συλλήψεται / ἀναπτόμενος τρίορχος;	**PEISETAERUS** Won't some buzzard fly up and arrest this one?

92 The *Paralus* and the *Salaminia* were Athens' two fast state ships.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1206	**IRIS** ἐμὲ συλλήψεται; / τί ποτ' ἐστὶ τουτὶ τὸ κακόν;	**IRIS** Arrest me? What on earth is this nonsense?
1207	**PEISETAERUS** οἰμώξει μακρά.	**PEISETAERUS** You're going to howl for this, long and loud.
1208	**IRIS** ἄτοπόν γε τουτὶ πρᾶγμα.	**IRIS** This is very peculiar.
	PEISETAERUS κατὰ ποίας πύλας / εἰσῆλθες ἐς τὸ τεῖχος ὦ μιαρωτάτη;	**PEISETAERUS** Which gate did you come through into the wall, you filthy wretch?
1210	**IRIS** οὐκ οἶδα μὰ Δί' ἔγωγε κατὰ ποίας πύλας.	**IRIS** By Zeus, I've no idea which gate.
1211	**PEISETAERUS** ἤκουσας αὐτῆς οἷον εἰρωνεύεται; πρὸς τοὺς κολοιάρχας προσῆλθες; οὐ λέγεις; σφραγῖδ' ἔχεις παρὰ τῶν πελαργῶν;	**PEISETAERUS** Did you hear how she's playing dumb? Did you report to the jackdaw-captains? Won't you answer? Do you have a stamped pass from the storks?
1213	**IRIS** τί τὸ κακόν.	**IRIS** What is this nonsense?
1214	**PEISETAERUS** οὐκ ἔλαβες;	**PEISETAERUS** You didn't get one?
	IRIS ὑγιαίνεις μέν;	**IRIS** Are you quite right in the head?
	PEISETAERUS οὐδὲ σύμβολον / ἐπέβαλεν ὀρνίθαρχος οὐδείς σοι παρών;	**PEISETAERUS** And no bird-officer on duty stuck a pass on you either?
1216	**IRIS** μὰ Δί' οὐκ ἔμοιγ' ἐπέβαλεν οὐδεὶς ὦ μέλε.	**IRIS** No, by Zeus, nobody's stuck anything on me, mister.
1217	**PEISETAERUS** κἄπειτα δῆθ' οὕτω σιωπῇ διαπέτει / διὰ τῆς πόλεως τῆς ἀλλοτρίας καὶ τοῦ χάους;	**PEISETAERUS** And so you just fly on through like this, without a word, through a city that's not yours, and through the void?
1219	**IRIS** ποίᾳ γὰρ ἄλλῃ χρὴ πέτεσθαι τοὺς θεούς;	**IRIS** Well, what other way are gods supposed to fly?
1220	**PEISETAERUS** οὐκ οἶδα μὰ Δί' ἔγωγε· τῇδε μὲν γὰρ οὔ. ἀδικεῖς δὲ καὶ νῦν. ἆρά γ' οἶσθα τοῦθ' ὅτι δικαιότατ' ἂν ληφθεῖσα πασῶν Ἰρίδων ἀπέθανες, εἰ τῆς ἀξίας ἐτύγχανες;	**PEISETAERUS** By Zeus, I've no idea—but not this way. You're breaking the law even now. Do you realize that of all the Irises there are, you'd be the one most justly caught and put to death, if you got what you deserve?
1224	**IRIS** ἀλλ' ἀθάνατός εἰμ'.	**IRIS** But I'm immortal.
	PEISETAERUS ἀλλ' ὅμως ἂν ἀπέθανες. δεινότατα γάρ τοι πεισόμεσθ', ἐμοὶ δοκεῖ, εἰ τῶν μὲν ἄλλων ἄρχομεν, ὑμεῖς δ' οἱ θεοὶ ἀκολαστανεῖτε, κοὐδέπω γνώσεσθ' ὅτι ἀκροατέον ὑμῖν ἐν μέρει τῶν κρειττόνων. φράσον δέ τοί μοι τὼ πτέρυγε ποῖ ναυστολεῖς;	**PEISETAERUS** You'd have died all the same. It'd be a terrible state of affairs, it seems to me, if we rule everything else while you gods run riot and still don't grasp that it's your turn now to obey your betters. Now tell me: where are you sailing those two wings of yours?
1230	**IRIS** ἐγώ; πρὸς ἀνθρώπους πέτομαι παρὰ τοῦ πατρὸς φράσουσα θύειν τοῖς Ὀλυμπίοις θεοῖς μηλοσφαγεῖν τε βουθύτοις ἐπ' ἐσχάραις κνισᾶν τ' ἀγυιάς.	**IRIS** Me? I'm flying to mankind from my father, to tell them to sacrifice to the Olympian gods, to slaughter sheep on ox-offering altars and fill the streets with the savor of sacrifice.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1233	**PEISETAERUS** τί σὺ λέγεις; ποίοις θεοῖς;	**PEISETAERUS** What are you talking about? Which gods?
1234	**IRIS** ποίοισιν; ἡμῖν τοῖς ἐν οὐρανῷ θεοῖς.	**IRIS** Which? Us, the gods in heaven.
1235	**PEISETAERUS** θεοὶ γὰρ ὑμεῖς;	**PEISETAERUS** So you're gods?
	IRIS τίς γάρ ἐστ' ἄλλος θεός;	**IRIS** Well, what other god is there?
1236	**PEISETAERUS** ὄρνιθες ἀνθρώποισι νῦν εἰσιν θεοί, / οἷς θυτέον αὐτούς, ἀλλὰ μὰ Δί' οὐ τῷ Διί.	**PEISETAERUS** Birds are mankind's gods now, and it's to them men must sacrifice—not, by Zeus, to Zeus.
1238	**IRIS** ὦ μῶρε μῶρε μὴ θεῶν κίνει φρένας δεινάς, ὅπως μή σου γένος πανώλεθρον Διὸς μακέλλῃ πᾶν ἀναστρέψῃ Δίκη, λιγνὺς δὲ σῶμα καὶ δόμων περιπτυχὰς καταιθαλώσῃ σου Λικυμνίαις βολαῖς.	**IRIS** Fool, fool, do not stir the gods' dread wrath, lest Justice with the mattock of Zeus overturn your whole race root and branch, and smoky flame burn your body and the enfolding walls of your house to cinders with Licymnian bolts![93]
1243	**PEISETAERUS** ἄκουσον αὖτη· παῦε τῶν παφλασμάτων· ἔχ' ἀτρέμα. φέρ' ἴδω, πότερα Λυδὸν ἢ Φρύγα ταυτὶ λέγουσα μορμολύττεσθαι δοκεῖς; ἆρ' οἶσθ' ὅτι Ζεὺς εἴ με λυπήσει πέρα, μέλαθρα μὲν αὐτοῦ καὶ δόμους Ἀμφίονος καταιθαλώσω πυρφόροισιν αἰετοῖς; πέμψω δὲ πορφυρίωνας ἐς τὸν οὐρανὸν ὄρνις ἐπ' αὐτὸν παρδαλᾶς ἐνημμένους πλεῖν ἑξακοσίους τὸν ἀριθμόν. καὶ δή ποτε εἷς Πορφυρίων αὐτῷ παρέσχε πράγματα. σὺ δ' εἴ με λυπήσεις τι, τῆς διακόνου πρώτης ἀνατείνας τὼ σκέλει διαμηριῶ τὴν Ἶριν αὐτήν, ὥστε θαυμάζειν ὅπως οὕτω γέρων ὢν στύομαι τριέμβολον.	**PEISETAERUS** Listen, you: stop that bubbling and frothing. Keep still. Let's see now: do you think it's some Lydian or Phrygian you're frightening with talk like that? Do you realize that if Zeus gives me any more trouble, I'll burn his halls and the houses of Amphion to cinders with fire-bearing eagles? I'll send swamphens up to heaven against him, birds dressed in leopard skins, more than six hundred of them. Once upon a time a single Porphyrion gave him plenty of trouble. And as for you, if you give me any trouble, I'll start with the servant: I'll hoist her legs and fuck Iris herself between the thighs, and she'll be amazed how an old man like me can still stand up stiff as a warship's triple ram.[94]
1257	**IRIS** διαρραγείης ὦ μέλ' αὐτοῖς ῥήμασιν.	**IRIS** Damn you, mister, may you burst, words and all!
1258	**PEISETAERUS** οὐκ ἀποσοβήσεις; οὐ ταχέως; εὐρὰξ πατάξ.	**PEISETAERUS** Shoo, won't you? Quick now! Shoo! Scat!
1259	**IRIS** ἦ μήν σε παύσει τῆς ὕβρεως οὑμὸς πατήρ.	**IRIS** My father will put a stop to your insolence, I swear it!
1260	**PEISETAERUS** οἴμοι τάλας. οὔκουν ἐτέρωσε πετομένη / καταιθαλώσεις τῶν νεωτέρων τινά;	**PEISETAERUS** Oh dear, poor me! Why not fly off somewhere else and burn some younger man to cinders?
1263	**CHORUS** ἀποκεκλήκαμεν διογενεῖς θεοὺς μηκέτι τὴν ἐμὴν διαπερᾶν πόλιν,	**CHORUS** We've shut the Zeus-born gods out: no more shall they cross my city,

93 "Licymnian" thunderbolts recall a lightning strike in Euripides' tragedy *Licymnius*; Iris is speaking in tragic style.
94 Peisetaerus answers in tragic style himself; Amphion was a legendary king of Thebes.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	μηδέ γέ τιν' ἱερόθυτον ἀνὰ δάπεδον ἔτι τῇδε βροτῶν θεοῖσι πέμπειν καπνόν.	and no more shall any mortal send up to the gods from the ground here the smoke of sacrifice.
1269	**PEISETAERUS** δεινόν γε τὸν κήρυκα τὸν παρὰ τοὺς βροτοὺς / οἰχόμενον, εἰ μηδέποτε νοστήσει πάλιν.	**PEISETAERUS** It's worrying about that herald who went off to the mortals, if he's never coming back.
1271	**HERALD** ὦ Πισθέταιρ' ὦ μακάρι' ὦ σοφώτατε, ὦ κλεινότατ' ὦ σοφώτατ' ὦ γλαφυρώτατε, ὦ τρισμακάρι' ὦ κατακέλευσον.	**HERALD** Peisetaerus! Blessed one! Wisest of men! Most famous! Wisest! Smoothest! Thrice-blessed! Give me the word!
1273	**PEISETAERUS** τί σὺ λέγεις;	**PEISETAERUS** What are you saying?
1274	**HERALD** στεφάνῳ σε χρυσῷ τῷδε σοφίας οὕνεκα / στεφανοῦσι καὶ τιμῶσιν οἱ πάντες λεῴ.	**HERALD** With this golden crown, for your wis- dom, all the peoples crown you and honor you.
1276	**PEISETAERUS** δέχομαι. τί δ' οὕτως οἱ λεῳ τιμῶσί με;	**PEISETAERUS** I accept. But why do the peoples honor me like this?
1277	**HERALD** ὦ κλεινοτάτην αἰθέριον οἰκίσας πόλιν, οὐκ οἶσθ' ὅσην τιμὴν παρ' ἀνθρώποις φέρει, ὅσους τ' ἐραστὰς τῆσδε τῆς χώρας ἔχεις. πρὶν μὲν γὰρ οἰκίσαι σε τήνδε τὴν πόλιν, ἐλακωνομάνουν ἅπαντες ἄνθρωποι τότε, ἐκόμων ἐπείνων ἐρρύπων ἐσωκράτουν σκυτάλι' ἐφόρουν, νυνὶ δ' ὑποστρέψαντες αὖ ὀρνιθομανοῦσι, πάντα δ' ὑπὸ τῆς ἡδονῆς ποιοῦσιν ἅπερ ὄρνιθες ἐκμιμούμενοι· πρῶτον μὲν εὐθὺς πάντες ἐξ εὐνῆς ἅμα ἐπέτονθ' ἕωθεν ὥσπερ ἡμεῖς ἐπὶ νομόν· κἄπειτ' ἂν ἅμα κατῆραν ἐς τὰ βιβλία· εἶτ' ἀπενέμοντ' ἐνταῦθα τὰ ψηφίσματα. ὠρνιθομάνουν δ' οὕτω περιφανῶς ὥστε καὶ πολλοῖσιν ὀρνίθων ὀνόματ' ἦν κείμενα.	**HERALD** You founder of the glorious city in the sky, you don't know how much honor you've won among mankind, or how many lovers of this land you have! Before you founded this city, all man- kind was Sparta-mad: they grew their hair long, went hungry, went unwashed, played Socrates and carried Spartan sticks. But now they've turned right around and gone bird-mad, and they get such a kick out of it that they copy everything birds do. First thing at dawn they all fly out of bed together, just like us, to go and feed; then they all swoop down together on the papers, and there they graze on decrees. They were so openly bird- mad that plenty of them even had bird names giv- en to them.[95]
1292	πέρδιξ μὲν εἷς κάπηλος ὠνομάζετο χωλός, Μενίππῳ δ' ἦν χελιδὼν τοὔνομα, Ὀπουντίῳ δ' ὀφθαλμὸν οὐκ ἔχων κόραξ, κορυδὸς Φιλοκλέει, χηναλώπηξ Θεογένει, ἶβις Λυκούργῳ, Χαιρεφῶντι νυκτερίς, Συρακοσίῳ δὲ κίττα· Μειδίας δ' ἐκεῖ ὄρτυξ ἐκαλεῖτο· καὶ γὰρ ᾖκειν ὄρτυγι ὑπὸ στυφοκόπου τὴν κεφαλὴν πεπληγμένῳ. ᾔδον δ' ὑπὸ φιλορνιθίας πάντες μέλη, ὅπου χελιδὼν ἦν τις ἐμπεποιημένη ἢ πηνέλοψ ἢ χήν τις ἢ περιστερὰ ἢ πτέρυγες, ἢ πτεροῦ τι καὶ σμικρὸν προσῆν. τοιαῦτα μὲν τἀκεῖθεν.	One lame shopkeeper was called Partridge; Menip- pus was named Swallow; one-eyed Opuntius was Raven; Philocles was Lark; Theogenes, Fox-Goose; Lycurgus, Ibis; Chaerephon, Bat; Syracosius, Mag- pie; and Meidias there was called Quail—and he did look like a quail that's been bashed on the head by a quail-flicker. And they were so in love with birds that they all sang songs with a swallow worked in somewhere, or a duck, or a goose, or a dove, or wings, or even just a little bit of feather. That's how things are down there.[96]

95 Spartan affectations (long hair, austerity, the Spartan staff) were fashionable among some Athenians; the philosopher Socrates was known for going hungry and unwashed.
96 All contemporary Athenians: Chaerephon was Socrates' pale, sickly-looking follower; Meidias gambled on quail-flicking, a game of striking quails on the head.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1304	ἓν δέ σοι λέγω· ἥξουσ' ἐκεῖθεν δεῦρο πλεῖν ἢ μύριοι πτερῶν δεόμενοι καὶ τρόπων γαμψωνύχων· ὥστε πτερῶν σοι τοῖς ἐποίκοις δεῖ ποθέν.	And one thing more, I'm telling you: more than ten thousand of them are going to come here from down there, wanting wings and the ways of hook-clawed birds. So you'll need to get wings from somewhere for the settlers.
1308	**PEISETAERUS** οὐκ ἆρα μὰ Δί' ἡμῖν ἔτ' ἔργον ἑστάναι. ἀλλ' ὡς τάχιστα σὺ μὲν ἰὼν τὰς ἀρρίχους καὶ τοὺς κοφίνους ἅπαντας ἐμπίμπλη πτερῶν· Μανῆς δὲ φερέτω μοι θύραζε τὰ πτερά· ἐγὼ δ' ἐκείνων τοὺς προσιόντας δέξομαι.	**PEISETAERUS** Then, by Zeus, this is no time for us to stand around. You, go as fast as you can and fill all the hampers and baskets with wings. Let Manes bring the wings out to me, and I'll welcome the people as they arrive.

SECOND CHORAL SONG

The chorus sings of the crowds coming to settle while Peisetaerus hurries the servants along with baskets of wings.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1313	**CHORUS** ταχὺ δὴ πολυάνορα τάνδε πόλιν / καλεῖ τις ἀνθρώπων.	**CHORUS** Soon enough some human / will call this city "crowded with men."
1315	**PEISETAERUS** τύχη μόνον προσείη.	**PEISETAERUS** If only our luck holds.
1316	**CHORUS** κατέχουσι δ' ἔρωτες ἐμᾶς πόλεως.	**CHORUS** Love for my city has everyone in its grip.
1317	**PEISETAERUS** θάττον φέρειν κελεύω.	**PEISETAERUS** Bring them faster, I said!
1318	**CHORUS** τί γὰρ οὐκ ἔνι ταύτῃ καλὸν ἀνδρὶ μετοικεῖν; Σοφία Πόθος Ἀμβροσία Χάριτες τό τε τῆς ἀγανόφρονος Ἡσυχίας εὐήμερον πρόσωπον.	**CHORUS** For what good thing isn't here for a man who comes to settle? Wisdom, Desire, Ambrosia, the Graces, and the sunny face of gentle-hearted Peace and Quiet.
1323	**PEISETAERUS** ὡς βλακικῶς διακονεῖς· / οὐ θᾶττον ἐγκονήσεις;	**PEISETAERUS** How lazily you serve! / Won't you get a move on?
1325	**CHORUS** φερέτω κάλαθον ταχύ τις πτερύγων, / σὺ δ' αὖθις ἐξόρμα —	**CHORUS** Someone bring a basket of wings, and quick! / And you, get him going again—
1327	**PEISETAERUS** τύπτων γε τοῦτον ὠδί.	**PEISETAERUS** Yes, by hitting him like this.
1328	**CHORUS** πάνυ γὰρ βραδύς ἐστί τις ὥσπερ ὄνος.	**CHORUS** He's as slow as a donkey.
1329	**PEISETAERUS** Μανῆς γάρ ἐστι δειλός.	**PEISETAERUS** That's because Manes is useless.
1330	**CHORUS** σὺ δὲ τὰ πτερὰ πρῶτον διάθες τάδε κόσμῳ, τά τε μουσίχ' ὁμοῦ τά τε μαντικὰ καὶ τὰ θαλάττι'. ἔπειτα δ' ὅπως φρονίμως πρὸς ἄνδρ' ὁρῶν πτερώσεις.	**CHORUS** And you, first sort out these wings in proper order: the musical ones together, the prophetic ones, and the sea birds. Then be sure to size up each man and fit him with wings to suit.

THIRD EPISODE

Peisetaerus deals with three would-be settlers: a father-beater, the poet Cinesias, and an informer he whips away.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1335	**PEISETAERUS** οὔ τοι μὰ τὰς κερχνῆδας ἔτι σοῦ σχήσομαι, / οὕτως ὁρῶν σε δειλὸν ὄντα καὶ βραδύν.	**PEISETAERUS** By the kestrels, I can't keep my hands off you any longer, seeing how useless and slow you are.
1337	**FATHER-BEATER** γενοίμαν αἰετὸς ὑψιπέτας, ὡς ἀμποταθείην ὑπὲρ ἀτρυγέτου γλαυκᾶς ἐπ' οἶδμα λίμνας.	**FATHER-BEATER** Oh, to become a high-flying eagle, to soar above the barren swell of the gray-blue sea!
1340	**PEISETAERUS** ἔοικεν οὐ ψευδαγγελήσειν ἄγγελος. / ᾄδων γὰρ ὅδε τις αἰετοὺς προσέρχεται.	**PEISETAERUS** Looks like our messenger's report was no lie: here comes someone singing about eagles.
1342	**FATHER-BEATER** αἰβοῦ· οὐκ ἔστιν οὐδὲν τοῦ πέτεσθαι γλυκύτερον· ὀρνιθομανῶ γὰρ καὶ πέτομαι καὶ βούλομαι οἰκεῖν μεθ' ὑμῶν κἀπιθυμῶ τῶν νόμων.	**FATHER-BEATER** Aah! There's nothing sweeter than flying! I'm bird-mad, I'm flying, and I want to live with you. I'm longing for your laws.
1346	**PEISETAERUS** ποίων νόμων; πολλοὶ γὰρ ὀρνίθων νόμοι.	**PEISETAERUS** Which laws? Birds have plenty of laws.
1347	**FATHER-BEATER** πάντων· μάλιστα δ' ὅτι καλὸν νομίζεται / τὸν πατέρα τοῖς ὄρνισιν ἄγχειν καὶ δάκνειν.	**FATHER-BEATER** All of them. But most of all the one where birds think it's fine to throttle your father and bite him.
1349	**PEISETAERUS** καὶ νὴ Δί' ἀνδρεῖόν γε πάνυ νομιζομεν, / ὃς ἂν πεπλήγῃ τὸν πατέρα νεοττὸς ὤν.	**PEISETAERUS** Yes, by Zeus, we think it's very manly indeed when a chick has beaten up his father.
1351	**FATHER-BEATER** διὰ ταῦτα μέντοι δεῦρ' ἀνοικισθεὶς ἐγὼ / ἄγχειν ἐπιθυμῶ τὸν πατέρα καὶ πάντ' ἔχειν.	**FATHER-BEATER** That's exactly why I've moved here: I want to throttle my father and get everything he's got.
1353	**PEISETAERUS** ἀλλ' ἔστιν ἡμῖν τοῖσιν ὄρνισιν νόμος παλαιὸς ἐν ταῖς τῶν πελαργῶν κύρβεσιν· ἐπὴν ὁ πατὴρ ὁ πελαργὸς ἐκπετησίμους πάντας ποιήσῃ τοὺς πελαργιδέας τρέφων, δεῖ τοὺς νεοττοὺς τὸν πατέρα πάλιν τρέφειν.	**PEISETAERUS** Ah, but we birds have an ancient law, written on the storks' law-tablets: once the father stork has raised all his storklings and got them ready to fly, the chicks have to feed their father in turn.
1358	**FATHER-BEATER** ἀπέλαυσά τἄρα νὴ Δί' ἐλθὼν ἐνθαδί, / εἴπερ γέ μοι καὶ τὸν πατέρα βοσκητέον.	**FATHER-BEATER** Well, by Zeus, a fat lot of good coming here did me, if I have to feed my father too!
1360	**PEISETAERUS** οὐδέν γ'. ἐπειδήπερ γὰρ ἦλθες ὦ μέλε εὔνους, πτερώσω σ' ὥσπερ ὄρνιν ὀρφανόν. σοὶ δ' ὦ νεανίσκ' οὐ κακῶς ὑποθήσομαι, ἀλλ' οἷάπερ αὐτὸς ἔμαθον ὅτε παῖς ἦ. σὺ γὰρ τὸν μὲν πατέρα μὴ τύπτε· ταυτηνδὶ λαβὼν τὴν πτέρυγα καὶ τουτὶ τὸ πλῆκτρον θἀτέρᾳ,	**PEISETAERUS** Not at all. Since you came here with good intentions, my friend, I'll fit you out with wings like an orphan bird. And I'll give you some advice, young man, and not bad advice either: the kind I was taught myself when I was a boy. Don't hit your father. Here, take this wing,

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	νομίσας ἀλεκτρυόνος ἔχειν τονδὶ λόφον, φρούρει στρατεύου μισθοφορῶν σαυτὸν τρέφε, τὸν πατέρ ἔα ζῆν· ἀλλ᾽ ἐπειδὴ μάχιμος εἶ, ἐς τἀπὶ Θρᾴκης ἀποπέτου κἀκεῖ μάχου.	and this spur in your other hand, and think of this crest as a rooster's comb. Now stand guard, go soldiering, earn your own keep on army pay, and let your father live. Since you're so keen on fighting, fly off to the Thracian front and fight there.[97]
1370	**FATHER-BEATER** νὴ τὸν Διόνυσον εὖ γέ μοι δοκεῖς λέγειν, / καὶ πείσομαί σοι.	**FATHER-BEATER** By Dionysus, I think you're talking sense. I'll do as you say.
1371	**PEISETAERUS** νοῦν ἄρ᾽ ἔξεις νὴ Δία.	**PEISETAERUS** Then you'll be showing some sense, by Zeus.
1373	**CINESIAS** ἀναπέτομαι δὴ πρὸς Ὄλυμπον πτερύγεσσι κούφαις· / πέτομαι δ᾽ ὁδὸν ἄλλοτ᾽ ἐπ᾽ ἄλλαν μελέων —	**CINESIAS** Up I fly to Olympus on weightless wings; / I fly now down one path of song, now another—
1375	**PEISETAERUS** τουτὶ τὸ πρᾶγμα φορτίου δεῖται πτερῶν.	**PEISETAERUS** This job is going to need a whole cargo of wings.
1376	**CINESIAS** ἀφόβῳ φρενὶ σώματί τε νέαν ἐφέπων —	**CINESIAS** with fearless mind and body, pursuing a new—
1377	**PEISETAERUS** ἀσπαζόμεσθα φιλύρινον Κινησίαν. / τί δεῦρο πόδα σὺ κυλλὸν ἀνὰ κύκλον κυκλεῖς;	**PEISETAERUS** Greetings, Cinesias, man of linden-wood! Why are you whirling that crooked foot of yours around and around in a circle over here?[98]
1380	**CINESIAS** ὄρνις γενέσθαι βούλομαι λιγύφθογγος ἀηδών.	**CINESIAS** I want to become a bird, a clear-voiced nightingale.
1381	**PEISETAERUS** παῦσαι μελῳδῶν, ἀλλ᾽ ὅ τι λέγεις εἰπέ μοι.	**PEISETAERUS** Stop singing and tell me what you mean.
1382	**CINESIAS** ὑπὸ σοῦ πτερωθεὶς βούλομαι μετάρσιος ἀναπτόμενος ἐκ τῶν νεφελῶν καινὰς λαβεῖν ἀεροδονήτους καὶ νιφοβόλους ἀναβολάς.	**CINESIAS** I want you to give me wings, so I can soar aloft and fetch fresh preludes from the clouds, air-whirled and snow-swept.
1386	**PEISETAERUS** ἐκ τῶν νεφελῶν γὰρ ἄν τις ἀναβολὰς λάβοι;	**PEISETAERUS** You can get preludes from the clouds?
1387	**CINESIAS** κρέμαται μὲν οὖν ἐντεῦθεν ἡμῶν ἡ τέχνη. τῶν διθυράμβων γὰρ τὰ λαμπρὰ γίγνεται ἀέρια καὶ σκότιά γε καὶ κυαναυγέα καὶ πτεροδόνητα· σὺ δὲ κλύων εἴσει τάχα.	**CINESIAS** Why, our whole art hangs from them! The brilliant parts of a dithyramb are airy and murky and dark-gleaming and wing-whirled. Listen and you'll soon see.
1391	**PEISETAERUS** οὐ δῆτ᾽ ἔγωγε.	**PEISETAERUS** No, I really won't.
	CINESIAS νὴ τὸν Ἡρακλέα σύ γε. / ἅπαντα γὰρ δίειμί σοι τὸν ἀέρα.	**CINESIAS** Oh yes you will, by Heracles. I'll take you through the whole of the air.
1393		

97 At Athens the sons of men killed in war were given a full set of armor by the city when they came of age; here the wing is a shield, the spur a spear, the crest a helmet plume.
98 Cinesias, a dithyrambic poet mocked for being skinny and frail (linden is a light, flimsy wood); dithyrambs were performed by choruses dancing in a circle.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	εἴδωλα πετεινῶν αἰθεροδρόμων οἰωνῶν ταναοδείρων —	Phantoms of winged, sky-coursing, long-necked birds—
1395	**PEISETAERUS** ὠόπ.	**PEISETAERUS** Whoa there!
1396	**CINESIAS** τὸν ἁλάδρομον ἁλάμενος / ἅμ' ἀνεμων πνοαῖσι βαίην.	**CINESIAS** leaping along the sea-paths, / may I travel on the breath of the winds—
1398	**PEISETAERUS** νὴ τὸν Δί' ἦ 'γώ σου καταπαύσω τὰς πνοάς.	**PEISETAERUS** By Zeus, I'll put a stop to your breath!
1399	**CINESIAS** τοτὲ μὲν νοτίαν στείχων πρὸς ὁδόν, τοτὲ δ' αὖ βορέᾳ σῶμα πελάζων ἁλίμενον αἰθέρος αὔλακα τέμνων.	**CINESIAS** now striding down the southern road, now bringing my body close to the North Wind, cutting a harborless furrow through the sky—
1401	χαρίεντά γ' ὦ πρεσβῦτ' ἐσοφίσω καὶ σοφά.	Very charming, old man, and very clever of you.
1402	**PEISETAERUS** οὐ γὰρ σὺ χαίρεις πτεροδόνητος γενόμενος;	**PEISETAERUS** What, don't you enjoy being wing-whirled?
1403	**CINESIAS** ταυτὶ πεποίηκας τὸν κυκλιοδιδάσκαλον, / ὃς ταῖσι φυλαῖς περιμάχητός εἰμ' ἀεί;	**CINESIAS** Is that how you treat a trainer of circular choruses, a man the tribes are always fighting over?
1405	**PEISETAERUS** βούλει διδάσκειν καὶ παρ' ἡμῖν οὖν μένων Λεωτροφίδῃ χορὸν πετομένων ὀρνέων Κεκροπίδα φυλήν;	**PEISETAERUS** Well then, would you like to stay here with us and train a chorus of flying birds for Leotrophides, from the tribe of Cecropis?[99]
1407	**CINESIAS** καταγελᾷς μου, δῆλος εἶ. ἀλλ' οὖν ἔγωγ' οὐ παύσομαι, τοῦτ' ἴσθ' ὅτι, πρὶν ἂν πτερωθεὶς διαδράμω τὸν ἀέρα.	**CINESIAS** You're making fun of me, that's obvious. But I won't stop, you can be sure of that, until I've got my wings and gone racing through the air.
1410	**INFORMER** ὄρνιθες τίνες οὐδὲν ἔχοντες πτεροποίκιλοι, / τανυσίπτερε ποικίλα χελιδοῖ;	**INFORMER** Who are these birds with nothing, with their dappled wings? / Long-winged, dappled swallow!
1412	**PEISETAERUS** τουτὶ τὸ κακὸν οὐ φαῦλον ἐξεγρήγορεν. / ὅδ' αὖ μινυρίζων δεῦρό τις προσέρχεται.	**PEISETAERUS** This is no small trouble that's woken up. Here comes another one, warbling his way over.
1415	**INFORMER** τανυσίπτερε ποικίλα μάλ' αὖθις.	**INFORMER** Long-winged, dappled—once again!
1416	**PEISETAERUS** ἐς θοἰμάτιον τὸ σκόλιον ᾄδειν μοι δοκεῖ, / δεῖσθαι δ' ἔοικεν οὐκ ὀλίγων χελιδόνων.	**PEISETAERUS** I think he's singing his drinking song to that cloak of his. He looks like he needs quite a few swallows.[100]
1418	**INFORMER** τίς ὁ πτερῶν δεῦρ' ἐστὶ τοὺς ἀφικνουμένους;	**INFORMER** Who's the one who gives wings to new arrivals around here?
1419	**PEISETAERUS** ὁδὶ πάρεστιν· ἀλλ' ὅτου δεῖ χρὴ λέγειν.	

99 Leotrophides was another notoriously skinny Athenian. Dithyrambic choruses competed by tribe, and Cecropis was one of Athens' ten tribes.

100 As the proverb says, one swallow doesn't make a spring: his cloak is so threadbare he needs a lot of warm weather.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
		PEISETAERUS He's right here. But you'll have to tell me what you need.
1420	**INFORMER** πτερῶν πτερῶν δεῖ· μὴ πύθῃ τὸ δεύτερον.	**INFORMER** Wings, wings, I need wings. Don't make me say it twice.
1421	**PEISETAERUS** μῶν εὐθὺ Πελλήνης πέτεσθαι διανοεῖ;	**PEISETAERUS** You're not planning to fly straight to Pellene, are you?[101]
1422	**INFORMER** μὰ Δί' ἀλλὰ κλητήρ εἰμι νησιωτικὸς / καὶ συκοφάντης —	**INFORMER** No, by Zeus. I serve summonses in the islands, and I'm an informer—
1423	**PEISETAERUS** ὦ μακάριε τῆς τέχνης.	**PEISETAERUS** Lucky you, what a profession!
1424	**INFORMER** καὶ πραγματοδίφης. εἶτα δέομαι πτερὰ λαβὼν / κύκλῳ περισοβεῖν τὰς πόλεις καλούμενος.	**INFORMER** —and a lawsuit-digger. So I need to get wings and go whizzing around the cities serving summonses.
1426	**PEISETAERUS** ὑπὸ πτερύγων τι προσκαλεῖ σοφώτερον;	**PEISETAERUS** And you'll serve summonses more cleverly with wings?
1427	**INFORMER** μὰ Δί' ἀλλ' ἵν' οἱ λῃσταί τε μὴ λυπῶσί με, μετὰ τῶν γεράνων τ' ἐκεῖθεν ἀναχωρῶ πάλιν, ἀνθ' ἕρματος πολλὰς καταπεπωκὼς δίκας.	**INFORMER** No, by Zeus. It's so the pirates won't bother me, and so I can fly back from there with the cranes, with a load of lawsuits swallowed for ballast.[102]
1430	**PEISETAERUS** τουτὶ γὰρ ἐργάζει σὺ τοὔργον; εἰπέ μοι, / νεανίας ὢν συκοφαντεῖς τοὺς ξένους;	**PEISETAERUS** So that's the work you do? Tell me, a young man like you, and you make a living informing on foreigners?
1432	**INFORMER** τί γὰρ πάθω; σκάπτειν γὰρ οὐκ ἐπίσταμαι.	**INFORMER** What else can I do? I don't know how to dig.
1433	**PEISETAERUS** ἀλλ' ἔστιν ἕτερα νὴ Δί' ἔργα σώφρονα, ἀφ' ὧν διαζῆν ἄνδρα χρῆν τοσουτονὶ ἐκ τοῦ δικαίου μᾶλλον ἢ δικορραφεῖν.	**PEISETAERUS** But by Zeus there are other, decent jobs a man your size ought to be making an honest living from, instead of stitching up lawsuits.
1436	**INFORMER** ὦ δαιμόνιε μὴ νουθέτει μ' ἀλλὰ πτέρου.	**INFORMER** My dear sir, don't lecture me, just give me wings.
1437	**PEISETAERUS** νῦν τοι λέγων πτερῶ σε.	**PEISETAERUS** I'm giving you wings right now, as I talk.
	INFORMER καὶ πῶς ἂν λόγοις / ἄνδρα πτερώσειας σύ;	**INFORMER** And how could you give a man wings with words?
1438	**PEISETAERUS** πάντες τοῖς λόγοις / ἀναπτεροῦνται.	**PEISETAERUS** Words give everyone wings.
1439	**INFORMER** πάντες;	**INFORMER** Everyone?
	PEISETAERUS οὐκ ἀκήκοας, ὅταν λέγωσιν οἱ πατέρες ἑκάστοτε τοῖς μειρακίοις ἐν τοῖσι κουρείοις ταδί;	**PEISETAERUS** Haven't you heard the fathers in the barbershops, always going on about their boys like this? "It's terrible: Diitrephes has talked my

101 Pellene, a town famous for its warm woolen cloaks, which were given as prizes at its games.
102 Cranes were believed to swallow stones as ballast for their long migrations.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	“δεινῶς γέ μου τὸ μειράκιον Διειτρέφης” “λέγων ἀνεπτέρωκεν ὥσθ’ ἱππηλατεῖν.” ὁ δέ τις τὸν αὐτοῦ φησιν ἐπὶ τραγῳδίᾳ ἀνεπτερῶσθαι καὶ πεποτῆσθαι τὰς φρένας.	boy into such a flutter that he’s all wings for riding horses.” And another says his son has taken wing for tragedy, and his mind has flown off.
1446	**INFORMER** λόγοισί τἄρα καὶ πτεροῦνται;	**INFORMER** So people really get wings from words?
	PEISETAERUS φήμ’ ἐγώ. ὑπὸ γὰρ λόγων ὁ νοῦς τε μετεωρίζεται ἐπαίρεταί τ’ ἄνθρωπος. οὕτω καί σ’ ἐγὼ ἀναπτερώσας βούλομαι χρηστοῖς λόγοις τρέψαι πρὸς ἔργον νόμιμον.	**PEISETAERUS** I’d say so. Words send the mind soaring and lift a man up. And that’s how I want to give you wings too, with good words, and turn you to an honest job.
1450	**INFORMER** ἀλλ’ οὐ βούλομαι.	**INFORMER** But I don’t want to.
1451	**PEISETAERUS** τί δαὶ ποιήσεις;	**PEISETAERUS** Then what will you do?
	INFORMER τὸ γένος οὐ καταισχυνῶ. παππῷος ὁ βίος συκοφαντεῖν ἐστί μοι. ἀλλὰ πτέρου με ταχέσι καὶ κούφοις πτεροῖς ἱέρακος ἢ κερχνῆδος, ὡς ἂν τοὺς ξένους καλεσάμενος κᾆτ’ ἐγκεκληκὼς ἐνθαδὶ κατ’ αὖ πέτωμαι πάλιν ἐκεῖσε.	**INFORMER** I won’t disgrace my family. Informing is the life my grandfather led. Just give me wings, fast, light wings, a hawk’s or a kestrel’s, so I can summon the foreigners, bring my charges here, and then fly back over there again.
1456	**PEISETAERUS** μανθάνω. ὠδὶ λέγεις· ὅπως ἂν ὠφλήκῃ δίκην ἐνθάδε πρὶν ἥκειν ὁ ξένος.	**PEISETAERUS** I get it. What you mean is, the foreigner has already lost his case here before he even arrives.
1458	**INFORMER** πάνυ μανθάνεις.	**INFORMER** You get it exactly.
1459	**PEISETAERUS** κἄπειθ’ ὁ μὲν πλεῖ δεῦρο, σὺ δ’ ἐκεῖσ’ αὖ πέτει / ἁρπασόμενος τὰ χρήματ’ αὐτοῦ.	**PEISETAERUS** And then, while he’s sailing over here, you fly back over there to grab his property.
1460	**INFORMER** πάντ’ ἔχεις. / βέμβικος οὐδὲν διαφέρειν δεῖ.	**INFORMER** You’ve got it all. I have to be just like a spinning top.
1461	**PEISETAERUS** μανθάνω βέμβικα· καὶ μὴν ἔστι μοι νὴ τὸν Δία κάλλιστα Κορκυραῖα τοιαυτὶ πτερά.	**PEISETAERUS** I get it: a top. And by Zeus, I happen to have just the thing, some lovely Corcyraean wings.[103]
1464	**INFORMER** οἴμοι τάλας μάστιγ’ ἔχεις.	**INFORMER** Oh no, you’ve got a whip!
	PEISETAERUS πτερὼ μὲν οὖν, / οἷσί σε ποιήσω τήμερον βεμβικιᾶν.	**PEISETAERUS** No, these are wings, and with them I’ll set you spinning like a top today.
1466	**INFORMER** οἴμοι τάλας.	**INFORMER** Oh no!
	PEISETAERUS οὐ πτερυγιεῖς ἐντευθενί; οὐκ ἀπολιβάξεις ὦ κάκιστ’ ἀπολούμενος; πικρὰν τάχ’ ὄψει στρεψοδικοπανουργίαν. ἀπίωμεν ἡμεῖς ξυλλαβόντες τὰ πτερά.	**PEISETAERUS** Wing it out of here, won’t you? Scram, you damned crook! You’ll soon get a bitter taste of your case-twisting crookery. Come on, let’s gather up the wings and go.

103 Corcyra (Corfu) was famous for its whips; a top is kept spinning by whipping it.

FOURTH LYRIC SCENE

Prometheus brings secret advice, and the gods' envoys, outmaneuvered, hand over the scepter and Basileia.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1470	**CHORUS** πολλὰ δὴ καὶ καινὰ καὶ θαυμάστ' ἐπεπτόμεσθα καὶ δεινὰ πράγματ' εἴδομεν. ἔστι γὰρ δένδρον πεφυκὸς ἔκτοπόν τι Καρδίας ἀ- πωτέρω Κλεώνυμος, χρήσιμον μὲν οὐδέν, ἄλλως δὲ δειλὸν καὶ μέγα. τοῦτο τοῦ μὲν ἦρος ἀεὶ βλαστάνει καὶ συκοφαντεῖ, τοῦ δὲ χειμῶνος πάλιν τὰς ἀσπίδας φυλλορροεῖ.	**CHORUS** Many new and marvelous things we've flown over, and strange sights we've seen. There's a tree that grows, an outlandish thing, out beyond Cardia: Cleonymus, useless for anything, but big and cowardly. Every spring it sprouts its figs and informs, and every winter, in turn, it sheds its shields like leaves.[104]
1482	ἔστι δ' αὖ χώρα πρὸς αὐτῷ τῷ σκότῳ πόρρω τις ἐν τῇ λύχνων ἐρημίᾳ, ἔνθα τοῖς ἥρωσιν ἄνθρωποι ξυναριστῶσι καὶ ξύν- εισι πλὴν τῆς ἑσπέρας. τηνικαῦτα δ' οὐκέτ' ἦν ἀσφαλὲς ξυντυγχάνειν. εἰ γὰρ ἐντύχοι τις ἥρῳ τῶν βροτῶν νύκτωρ Ὀρέστῃ, γυμνὸς ἦν πληγεὶς ὑπ' αὐτοῦ πάντα τἀπιδέξια.	And there's a land, besides, far off near the Dark itself, in the land without lamps, where people lunch with the heroes and keep them company— except in the evening. At that hour it was no longer safe to run into them. For if any mortal met the hero Orestes at night, he was stripped naked, and struck by him all down his right side.[105]
1494	**PROMETHEUS** οἴμοι τάλας, ὁ Ζεὺς ὅπως μή μ' ὄψεται. / ποῦ Πισθέταιρός ἐστ'; **PEISETAERUS** ἔα τουτὶ τί ἦν; / τίς ὁ συγκαλυμμός;	**PROMETHEUS** Oh no, I hope Zeus doesn't see me! Where's Peisetaerus? **PEISETAERUS** Hey, what's this? Who's this all muffled up?
1496	**PROMETHEUS** τῶν θεῶν ὁρᾷς τινα / ἐμοῦ κατόπιν ἐνταῦθα; **PEISETAERUS** μὰ Δί' ἐγὼ μὲν οὔ. / τίς δ' εἶ σύ;	**PROMETHEUS** Do you see any of the gods behind me here? **PEISETAERUS** No, by Zeus, I don't. But who are you?
1498	**PROMETHEUS** πηνίκ' ἐστὶν ἄρα τῆς ἡμέρας; **PEISETAERUS** ὀπηνίκα; σμικρόν τι μετὰ μεσημβρίαν. / ἀλλὰ σὺ τίς εἶ;	**PROMETHEUS** So what time of day is it? **PEISETAERUS** What time? A little past noon. But who are you?
1500	**PROMETHEUS** βουλυτὸς ἢ περαιτέρω;	**PROMETHEUS** Ox-unyoking time, or later?

104 Cardia, a town in Thrace, also means "heart," so Cleonymus grows beyond the heart. "Inform" (sykophantein) contains sykon, "fig."
105 Meeting a hero at night was believed to bring a stroke that paralyzed one side; Orestes is the mugger named in the parabasis.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1501	**PEISETAERUS** οἴμ' ὡς βδελύττομαί σε.	**PEISETAERUS** Ugh, you're making me sick.
	PROMETHEUS τί γὰρ ὁ Ζεὺς ποιεῖ; / ἀπαιθριάζει τὰς νεφέλας ἢ ξυννέφει;	**PROMETHEUS** What's Zeus doing? Clearing the clouds away or piling them up?
1503	**PEISETAERUS** οἴμωζε μεγάλ'.	**PEISETAERUS** Go to hell!
	PROMETHEUS οὕτω μὲν ἐκκεκαλύψομαι.	**PROMETHEUS** All right, then, I'll uncover myself.
1504	**PEISETAERUS** ὦ φίλε Προμηθεῦ.	**PEISETAERUS** Prometheus, my dear friend!
	PROMETHEUS παῦε παῦε, μὴ βόα.	**PROMETHEUS** Stop it, stop it, don't shout!
1505	**PEISETAERUS** τί γὰρ ἔστι;	**PEISETAERUS** Why, what's the matter?
	PROMETHEUS σίγα, μὴ κάλει μου τοὔνομα· ἀπὸ γάρ μ' ὀλεῖς, εἴ μ' ἐνθάδ' ὁ Ζεὺς ὄψεται. ἀλλ' ἵνα φράσω σοι πάντα τἄνω πράγματα, τουτὶ λαβών μου τὸ σκιάδειον ὑπέρεχε ἄνωθεν, ὡς ἂν μή μ' ὁρῶσιν οἱ θεοί.	**PROMETHEUS** Quiet, don't say my name! You'll be the death of me if Zeus sees me here. But so I can tell you everything that's going on up there, take this parasol of mine and hold it up over me, so the gods can't see me.
1510	**PEISETAERUS** ἰοὺ ἰού· εὖ γ' ἐπενόησας αὐτὸ καὶ προμηθικῶς. ὑπόδυθι ταχὺ δὴ κᾆτα θαρρήσας λέγε.	**PEISETAERUS** Ha, ha! Well thought of, and very Promethean of you: real forethought! Get under it quick, and then speak up and don't be afraid.
1513	**PROMETHEUS** ἄκουε δή νυν.	**PROMETHEUS** Listen, then.
	PEISETAERUS ὡς ἀκούοντος λέγε.	**PEISETAERUS** Go on, I'm listening.
1514	**PROMETHEUS** ἀπόλωλεν ὁ Ζεύς.	**PROMETHEUS** Zeus is finished.
	PEISETAERUS πηνίκ' ἄττ' ἀπώλετο;	**PEISETAERUS** Since when, roughly?
1515	**PROMETHEUS** ἐξ οὗπερ ὑμεῖς ᾠκίσατε τὸν ἀέρα. θύει γὰρ οὐδεὶς οὐδὲν ἀνθρώπων ἔτι θεοῖσιν, οὐδὲ κνῖσα μηρίων ἄπο ἀνῆλθεν ὡς ἡμᾶς ἀπ' ἐκείνου τοῦ χρόνου, ἀλλ' ὡσπερεὶ Θεσμοφορίοις νηστεύομεν ἄνευ θυηλῶν· οἱ δὲ βάρβαροι θεοὶ πεινῶντες ὥσπερ Ἰλλυριοὶ κεκριγότες ἐπιστρατεύσειν φάσ' ἄνωθεν τῷ Διί, εἰ μὴ παρέξει τἀμπόρι' ἀνεῳγμένα, ἵν' εἰσάγοιτο σπλάγχνα κατατετμημένα.	**PROMETHEUS** Ever since you people settled the air. Not a single human sacrifices anything to the gods anymore, and not a whiff of the savor of burnt thighbones has come up to us since that day. We're fasting with no offerings, as if it were the Thesmophoria. And the foreign gods, starving and screeching like Illyrians, say they'll march down on Zeus from up above unless he gets the trading posts opened, so that sliced-up innards can be imported.[106]
1525	**PEISETAERUS** εἰσὶν γὰρ ἕτεροι βάρβαροι θεοί τινες / ἄνωθεν ὑμῶν;	**PEISETAERUS** You mean there are other gods, foreign ones, above you?
1526	**PROMETHEUS** οὐ γάρ εἰσι βάρβαροι, / ὅθεν ὁ πατρῷός ἐστιν Ἐξηκεστίδῃ;	**PROMETHEUS** Well, if there were no foreigners, where would Execestides have gotten his ancestral god from?[107]
1528		

106 The Thesmophoria, a women's festival of Demeter, included a day of fasting.
107 Claiming an ancestral god was part of proving Athenian citizenship.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	PEISETAERUS ὄνομα δὲ τούτοις τοῖς θεοῖς τοῖς βαρβάροις / τί ἔστιν;	**PEISETAERUS** And what's the name of these foreign gods?
1529	**PROMETHEUS** ὅ τι ἔστιν; Τριβαλλοί.	**PROMETHEUS** Their name? Triballians.[108]
	PEISETAERUS μανθάνω. / ἐντεῦθεν ἄρα τοὐπιτριβείης ἐγένετο;	**PEISETAERUS** I get it. So that's where we get "tribulation" from![109]
1531	**PROMETHEUS** μάλιστα πάντων. ἓν δέ σοι λέγω σαφές· ἥξουσι πρέσβεις δεῦρο περὶ διαλλαγῶν παρὰ τοῦ Διὸς καὶ τῶν Τριβαλλῶν τῶν ἄνω· ὑμεῖς δὲ μὴ σπένδεσθ', ἐὰν μὴ παραδιδῷ τὸ σκῆπτρον ὁ Ζεὺς τοῖσιν ὄρνισιν πάλιν, καὶ τὴν Βασίλειάν σοι γυναῖκ' ἔχειν διδῷ.	**PROMETHEUS** Exactly. Now I'll tell you one thing straight. Envoys are going to come here to talk peace, from Zeus and from the Triballians up there. Don't you make a treaty unless Zeus hands the scepter back to the birds and gives you Basileia for your wife.[110]
1537	**PEISETAERUS** τίς ἐστιν ἡ Βασίλεια;	**PEISETAERUS** Who's Basileia?
	PROMETHEUS καλλίστη κόρη, ἥπερ ταμιεύει τὸν κεραυνὸν τοῦ Διὸς καὶ τἄλλ' ἁπαξάπαντα, τὴν εὐβουλίαν τὴν εὐνομίαν τὴν σωφροσύνην τὰ νεώρια, τὴν λοιδορίαν τὸν κωλακρέτην τὰ τριώβολα.	**PROMETHEUS** A gorgeous girl, the one who keeps Zeus' thunderbolt for him, and absolutely everything else as well: good counsel, good government, self-control, the dockyards, the name-calling, the paymaster, the three-obol jury pay.[111]
1542	**PEISETAERUS** ἅπαντά γ' ἄρ' αὐτῷ ταμιεύει;	**PEISETAERUS** So she keeps everything for him?
	PROMETHEUS φήμ' ἐγώ. ἢν γ' ἣν σὺ παρ' ἐκείνου παραλάβῃς, πάντ' ἔχεις. τούτων ἕνεκα δεῦρ' ἦλθον, ἵνα φράσαιμί σοι. ἀεί ποτ' ἀνθρώποις γὰρ εὔνους εἴμ' ἐγώ.	**PROMETHEUS** I'd say so. If you get her from him, you've got everything. That's why I came here, to tell you. I've always been a friend to humans.
1546	**PEISETAERUS** μόνον θεῶν γὰρ διὰ σ' ἀπανθρακίζομεν.	**PEISETAERUS** Yes, you're the only god we have to thank for our barbecues.
1547	**PROMETHEUS** μισῶ δ' ἅπαντας τοὺς θεούς, ὡς οἶσθα σύ.	**PROMETHEUS** And I hate all the gods, as you know.
1548	**PEISETAERUS** νὴ τὸν Δί' ἀεὶ δῆτα θεομισὴς ἔφυς.	**PEISETAERUS** By Zeus, you've always been hated by the gods, that's for sure.
1549	**PROMETHEUS** Τίμων καθαρός. ἀλλ' ὡς ἂν ἀποτρέχω πάλιν, φέρε τὸ σκιάδειον, ἵνα με κἂν ὁ Ζεὺς ἴδῃ ἄνωθεν, ἀκολουθεῖν δοκῶ κανηφόρῳ.	**PROMETHEUS** A regular Timon. But I have to run back. Give me the parasol, so that even if Zeus does see me from up there, it'll look like I'm attending a basket-bearer.[112]
1552	**PEISETAERUS** καὶ τὸν δίφρον γε διφροφόρει τονδὶ λαβών.	**PEISETAERUS** Here, take this stool too, and carry it like a stool-bearer.
1553	**CHORUS** πρὸς δὲ τοῖς Σκιάποσιν λίμνη τις ἔστ' ἄλουτος οὗ	**CHORUS** And near the Shadowfeet there's a lake, unwashed, where Socrates calls up souls.

108 The Triballians were a Thracian tribe; their god appears later as one of the envoys.
109 The Greek pun is on Triballoi and epitribeiēs, "may you be ground to bits."
110 Basileia, "Sovereignty," is pictured as a girl who keeps Zeus' power for him.
111 The paymaster (kōlakretēs) was the Athenian official who paid jurors their three obols a day.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	ψυχαγωγεῖ Σωκράτης· ἔνθα καὶ Πείσανδρος ἦλθε δεόμενος ψυχὴν ἰδεῖν ἣ ζῶντ' ἐκεῖνον προὔλιπε, σφάγι' ἔχων κάμηλον ἀμνόν τιν', ἧς λαιμοὺς τεμὼν ὥσπερ ποθ' οὐδυσσεὺς ἀπῆλθε, κᾆτ' ἀνῆλθ' αὐτῷ κάτωθεν πρὸς τὸ λαῖτμα τῆς καμήλου Χαιρεφῶν ἡ νυκτερίς.	Peisander came there too, begging to see the soul that deserted him while he was alive. For victim he brought a camel-lamb, cut its throat, just as Odysseus once did, and stepped back; and up from below to meet him, to the camel's gushing gullet, came Chaerephon the bat.[113]
1565	**POSEIDON** τὸ μὲν πόλισμα τῆς Νεφελοκοκκυγίας ὁρᾶν τοδὶ πάρεστιν, οἷ πρεσβεύομεν. οὗτος τί δρᾷς; ἐπ' ἀριστέρ' οὕτως ἀμπέχει; οὐ μεταβαλεῖς θοἰμάτιον ὧδ' ἐπιδέξια; τί ὦ κακόδαιμον; Λαισποδίας εἶ τὴν φύσιν; ὦ δημοκρατία ποῖ προβιβᾷς ἡμᾶς ποτε, εἰ τουτονί γ' ἐχειροτόνησαν οἱ θεοί;	**POSEIDON** Well, there's the town of Cloudcuckoo-land in view, where we're going as envoys. You there, what are you doing? Wearing your cloak on the left like that? Shift it over to the right, won't you, like this? What's wrong with you, you poor wretch? Were you born a Laespodias? Democracy, democracy, where will you lead us in the end, if the gods have gone and elected this fellow?[114]
1572	ἔξεις ἀτρέμας;	Will you keep still?
	οἴμωζε· πολὺ γὰρ δή σ' ἐγὼ ἑόρακα πάντων βαρβαρώτατον θεῶν. ἄγε δὴ τί δρῶμεν Ἡράκλεις;	Damn you! I've never seen a god as foreign as you, not by a long way. Well, Heracles, what do we do?
1574	**HERACLES** ἀκήκοας ἐμοῦ γ' ὅτι τὸν ἄνθρωπον ἄγχειν βούλομαι, ὅστις ποτ' ἔσθ' ὁ τοὺς θεοὺς ἀποτειχίσας.	**HERACLES** You've heard me say it: I want to throttle the fellow, whoever he is, who walled the gods off.
1577	**POSEIDON** ἀλλ' ὦγάθ' ἡρήμεσθα περὶ διαλλαγῶν / πρέσβεις.	**POSEIDON** But my good man, we were chosen as envoys to make peace.
1578	**HERACLES** διπλασίως μᾶλλον ἄγχειν μοι δοκεῖ.	**HERACLES** That makes me want to throttle him twice as much.
1579	**PEISETAERUS** τὴν τυρόκνηστίν τις δότω· φέρε σίλφιον· / τυρὸν φερέτω τις· πυρπόλει τοὺς ἄνθρακας.	**PEISETAERUS** Somebody give me the cheese-grater. Bring the silphium. Someone bring cheese. Stoke up the coals.[115]
1581	**POSEIDON** τὸν ἄνδρα χαίρειν οἱ θεοὶ κελεύομεν / τρεῖς ὄντες ἡμεῖς.	**POSEIDON** We gods, the three of us, bid the man good day.
1582	**PEISETAERUS** ἀλλ' ἐπικνῶ τὸ σίλφιον.	**PEISETAERUS** Hold on, I'm grating the silphium.
1583	**HERACLES** τὰ δὲ κρέα τοῦ ταῦτ' ἐστίν;	**HERACLES** Whose meat is this?

112 Timon was Athens' famous misanthrope. In processions such as the Panathenaea, girls carrying the sacred baskets were attended by others holding parasols and stools.
113 The Shadowfeet were a fabled people who shaded themselves under their one huge foot. Peisander, a politician mocked as a coward, has lost his nerve (his "soul"); the scene parodies Odysseus calling up the dead with a sacrifice.
114 Laespodias, an Athenian general apparently mocked for wearing his cloak in an odd way, supposedly to hide his misshapen legs.
115 Silphium, a prized seasoning plant from Cyrene in North Africa, now extinct.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	PEISETAERUS ὄρνιθές τινες ἐπανιστάμενοι τοῖς δημοτικοῖσιν ὀρνέοις ἔδοξαν ἀδικεῖν.	**PEISETAERUS** Some birds who rose up against the democratic birds were found guilty.
1585	**HERACLES** εἶτα δῆτα σίλφιον / εἴπικνῇς πρότερον αὐτοῖσιν;	**HERACLES** And so you're grating silphium on them first?
1586	**PEISETAERUS** ὦ χαῖρ' Ἡράκλεις. / τί ἔστι;	**PEISETAERUS** Oh, hello, Heracles! What can I do for you?
1587	**POSEIDON** πρεσβεύοντες ἡμεῖς ἥκομεν / παρὰ τῶν θεῶν περὶ πολέμου καταλλαγῆς.	**POSEIDON** We've come as envoys from the gods to settle the war.
1589	**PEISETAERUS** ἔλαιον οὐκ ἔνεστιν ἐν τῇ ληκύθῳ.	**PEISETAERUS** There's no oil left in the flask.
1590	**HERACLES** καὶ μὴν τά γ' ὀρνίθεια λιπάρ' εἶναι πρέπει.	**HERACLES** And bird-meat really ought to be nice and rich.
1591	**POSEIDON** ἡμεῖς τε γὰρ πολεμοῦντες οὐ κερδαίνομεν, ὑμεῖς τ' ἂν ἡμῖν τοῖς θεοῖς ὄντες φίλοι ὄμβριον ὕδωρ ἂν εἴχετ' ἐν τοῖς τέλμασιν, ἀλκυονίδας τ' ἂν ἤγεθ' ἡμέρας ἀεί. τούτων περὶ πάντων αὐτοκράτορες ἥκομεν.	**POSEIDON** You see, we gain nothing from fighting this war. And you, if you were friends with us gods, would have rainwater in your pools, and you'd live in halcyon days forever. We've come with full powers to settle all of this.[116]
1596	**PEISETAERUS** ἀλλ' οὔτε πρότερον πώποθ' ἡμεῖς ἤρξαμεν πολέμου πρὸς ὑμᾶς, νῦν τ' ἐθέλομεν, εἰ δοκεῖ, ἐάν τι δίκαιον ἀλλὰ νῦν ἐθέλητε δρᾶν, σπονδὰς ποιεῖσθαι. τὰ δὲ δίκαι' ἐστὶν ταδί, τὸ σκῆπτρον ἡμῖν τοῖσιν ὄρνισιν πάλιν τὸν Δί' ἀποδοῦναι· κἂν διαλλαττώμεθα ἐπὶ τοῖσδε, τοὺς πρέσβεις ἐπ' ἄριστον καλῶ.	**PEISETAERUS** But we never started a war with you before, and now we're willing, if you agree, and provided you're now willing to do what's just, to make a treaty. And what's just is this: Zeus gives the scepter back to us birds. If we can settle on those terms, I invite the envoys to lunch.
1603	**HERACLES** ἐμοὶ μὲν ἀπόχρη ταῦτα καὶ ψηφίζομαι.	**HERACLES** That's good enough for me. I vote yes.
1604	**POSEIDON** τί ὦ κακόδαιμον; ἠλίθιος καὶ γάστρις εἶ. / ἀποστερεῖς τὸν πατέρα τῆς τυραννίδος;	**POSEIDON** What, you poor fool? You're an idiot and a glutton. Would you rob your own father of his throne?
1606	**PEISETAERUS** ἆληθες; οὐ γὰρ μεῖζον ὑμεῖς οἱ θεοὶ ἰσχύσετ', ἢν ὄρνιθες ἄρξωσιν κάτω; νῦν μέν γ' ὑπὸ ταῖς νεφέλαισιν ἐγκεκρυμμένοι κύψαντες ἐπιορκοῦσιν ὑμᾶς οἱ βροτοί· ἐὰν δὲ τοὺς ὄρνις ἔχητε συμμάχους, ὅταν ὀμνύῃ τις τὸν κόρακα καὶ τὸν Δία, ὁ κόραξ παρελθὼν τοὐπιορκοῦντος λάθρᾳ προσπτόμενος ἐκκόψει τὸν ὀφθαλμὸν θενών.	**PEISETAERUS** Really? Won't you gods be more powerful if the birds rule down below? As it is, people hide under the clouds, keep their heads down, and swear false oaths by you. But if you have the birds as allies, whenever a man swears by the raven and by Zeus, the raven will come along on the sly, swoop down on the perjurer, and peck his eye out with one blow.
1614	**POSEIDON** νὴ τὸν Ποσειδῶ ταῦτά γέ τοι καλῶς λέγεις.	**POSEIDON** By Poseidon, now that's well said.
1615	**HERACLES** κἀμοὶ δοκεῖ.	**HERACLES** I think so too.

116 Halcyon days: a spell of calm weather in midwinter, when the kingfisher (halcyon) was thought to nest on the sea.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	PEISETAERUS τί δαὶ σὺ φῄς;	**PEISETAERUS** And what do you say?
	TRIBALLIAN ναβαισατρεῦ.	**TRIBALLIAN** Nabaisatreu.
1616	**PEISETAERUS** ὁρᾷς; ἐπαινεῖ χοὗτος. ἕτερόν νυν ἔτι ἀκούσαθ' ὅσον ὑμᾶς ἀγαθὸν ποιήσομεν. ἐάν τις ἀνθρώπων ἱερεῖόν τῳ θεῶν εὐξάμενος εἶτα διασοφίζηται λέγων, "μενετοὶ θεοί," καὶ μἀποδιδῷ μισητίᾳ, ἀναπράξομεν καὶ ταῦτα.	**PEISETAERUS** See? He approves too. Now listen to another big favor we'll do you. If any human vows a sacrificial victim to one of the gods and then tries to wriggle out of it, saying, "The gods are patient," and out of stinginess doesn't pay up, we'll collect that too.
1621	**POSEIDON** φέρ' ἴδω τῷ τρόπῳ;	**POSEIDON** Let's see, how?
1622	**PEISETAERUS** ὅταν διαριθμῶν ἀργυρίδιον τύχῃ ἄνθρωπος οὗτος, ἢ καθῆται λούμενος, καταπτόμενος ἰκτῖνος ἁρπάσας λάθρᾳ προβάτοιν δυοῖν τιμὴν ἀνοίσει τῷ θεῷ.	**PEISETAERUS** Whenever this man happens to be counting his bit of cash, or sitting in the bath, a kite will swoop down, snatch the price of two sheep on the sly, and carry it up to the god.
1626	**HERACLES** τὸ σκῆπτρον ἀποδοῦναι πάλιν ψηφίζομαι / τούτοις ἐγώ.	**HERACLES** I vote to give the scepter back to them.
1627	**POSEIDON** καὶ τὸν Τριβαλλόν νυν ἐροῦ.	**POSEIDON** Now ask the Triballian too.
1628	**HERACLES** ὁ Τριβαλλός, οἰμώζειν δοκεῖ σοι;	**HERACLES** Triballian, are you in favor of a thrashing?
	TRIBALLIAN σαυνάκα / βακταρικροῦσα.	**TRIBALLIAN** Saunaka baktarikrousa.
1629	**HERACLES** φησί μ' εὖ λέγειν πάνυ.	**HERACLES** He says I'm absolutely right.
1630	**POSEIDON** εἴ τοι δοκεῖ σφῷν ταῦτα, κἀμοὶ συνδοκεῖ.	**POSEIDON** Well, if you two agree, I agree too.
1631	**HERACLES** οὗτος, δοκεῖ δρᾶν ταῦτα τοῦ σκήπτρου πέρι.	**HERACLES** You there, we've agreed to do it, about the scepter.
1632	**PEISETAERUS** καὶ νὴ Δί' ἕτερόν γ' ἐστὶν οὗ 'μνήσθην ἐγώ. τὴν μὲν γὰρ Ἥραν παραδίδωμι τῷ Διί, τὴν δὲ Βασίλειαν τὴν κόρην γυναῖκ' ἐμοὶ ἐκδοτέον ἐστίν.	**PEISETAERUS** Oh, and by Zeus, there's another thing I've just remembered. Zeus can keep Hera, but the girl Basileia has to be given to me as my wife.
1635	**POSEIDON** οὐ διαλλαγῶν ἐρᾷς. / ἀπίωμεν οἴκαδ' αὖθις.	**POSEIDON** You don't want peace at all. Let's go back home.
1636	**PEISETAERUS** ὀλίγον μοι μέλει. / μάγειρε τὸ κατάχυσμα χρὴ ποιεῖν γλυκύ.	**PEISETAERUS** Little I care. Cook, make the sauce a sweet one.
1638	**HERACLES** ὦ δαιμόνι' ἀνθρώπων Πόσειδον ποῖ φέρει; / ἡμεῖς περὶ γυναικὸς μιᾶς πολεμήσομεν;	**HERACLES** Poseidon, you madman, where are you off to? Are we going to fight a war over one woman?
1640	**POSEIDON** τί δαὶ ποιῶμεν;	**POSEIDON** Then what should we do?
	HERACLES ὅ τι; διαλλαττώμεθα.	**HERACLES** What? Make peace.
1641		

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	POSEIDON τί δ' ᾠζύρ'; οὐκ οἶσθ' ἐξαπατώμενος πάλαι; βλάπτεις δέ τοι σὺ σαυτόν. ἢν γὰρ ἀποθάνῃ ὁ Ζεὺς παραδοὺς τούτοισι τὴν τυραννίδα, πένης ἔσει σύ. σοῦ γὰρ ἅπαντα γίγνεται τὰ χρήμαθ', ὅσ' ἂν ὁ Ζεὺς ἀποθνήσκων καταλίπῃ.	**POSEIDON** What, you poor sap? Can't you see you've been tricked all along? You're only hurting yourself, you know. If Zeus hands his rule over to these people and then dies, you'll be a pauper. Because everything Zeus leaves behind when he dies comes to you.
1646	**PEISETAERUS** οἴμοι τάλας οἷόν σε περισοφίζεται. δεῦρ' ὡς ἔμ' ἀποχώρησον, ἵνα τί σοι φράσω. διαβάλλεταί σ' ὁ θεῖος ὦ πόνηρε σύ. τῶν γὰρ πατρῴων οὐδ' ἀκαρῆ μέτεστί σοι κατὰ τοὺς νόμους· νόθος γὰρ εἶ κοὐ γνήσιος.	**PEISETAERUS** Oh dear, the way he's trying to outsmart you! Come over here to me, so I can tell you something. Your uncle's cheating you, you poor sucker. By law you don't get a hair's worth of your father's estate. You're a bastard, not legitimate.
1651	**HERACLES** ἐγὼ νόθος; τί λέγεις;	**HERACLES** Me, a bastard? What are you talking about?
	PEISETAERUS σὺ μέντοι νὴ Δία ὧν γε ξένης γυναικός. ἢ πῶς ἄν ποτε ἐπίκληρον εἶναι τὴν Ἀθηναίαν δοκεῖς, οὖσαν θυγατέρ', ὄντων ἀδελφῶν γνησίων;	**PEISETAERUS** Yes, you, by Zeus, since your mother was a foreign woman. Otherwise, how do you think Athena could ever be heiress, when she's a daughter, if there were legitimate brothers?[117]
1655	**HERACLES** τί δ' ἢν ὁ πατὴρ ἐμοὶ διδῷ τὰ χρήματα / νοθεῖ ἀποθνήσκων;	**HERACLES** But what if my father leaves me his property when he dies, bastard or not?
1656	**PEISETAERUS** ὁ νόμος αὐτὸν οὐκ ἐᾷ. οὗτος ὁ Ποσειδῶν πρῶτος, ὃς ἐπαίρει σε νῦν, ἀνθέξεταί σου τῶν πατρῴων χρημάτων φάσκων ἀδελφὸς αὐτὸς εἶναι γνήσιος. ἐρῶ δὲ δὴ καὶ τὸν Σόλωνός σοι νόμον· "νόθῳ δὲ μὴ εἶναι ἀγχιστείαν παίδων ὄντων" "γνησίων. ἐὰν δὲ παῖδες μὴ ὦσι γνήσιοι, τοῖς" "ἐγγυτάτω γένους μετεῖναι τῶν χρημάτων."	**PEISETAERUS** The law won't let him. This Poseidon here, the one who's egging you on now, will be the first to lay claim to your father's estate, saying he's the legitimate brother. I'll quote you Solon's law, too: "A bastard shall have no right of kinship if there are legitimate children. If there are no legitimate children, the property shall go to the next of kin."
1667	**HERACLES** ἐμοὶ δ' ἄρ' οὐδὲν τῶν πατρῴων χρημάτων / μέτεστιν;	**HERACLES** So I get no share at all of my father's property?
1668	**PEISETAERUS** οὐ μέντοι μὰ Δία. λέξον δέ μοι, / ἤδη σ' ὁ πατὴρ εἰσήγαγ' ἐς τοὺς φράτερας;	**PEISETAERUS** None at all, by Zeus. Tell me, has your father ever presented you to his phratry?[118]
1670	**HERACLES** οὐ δῆτ' ἐμέ γε. καὶ δῆτ' ἐθαύμαζον πάλαι.	**HERACLES** No, not me he hasn't. I've been wondering about that for a long time.
1671	**PEISETAERUS** τί δῆτ' ἄνω κέχηνας αἴκειαν βλέπων; ἀλλ' ἢν μεθ' ἡμῶν ᾖς, καταστήσας σ' ἐγὼ τύραννον ὀρνίθων παρέξω σοι γάλα.	**PEISETAERUS** Then why are you gaping up there with murder in your eyes? If you join us, I'll make you ruler of the birds and keep you in bird's milk.
1674	**HERACLES** δίκαι' ἔμοιγε καὶ πάλαι δοκεῖς λέγειν / περὶ τῆς κόρης, κἄγωγε παραδίδωμί σοι.	**HERACLES** I think what you've been saying about the girl is fair, and has been all along. I'm handing her over to you.

117 At Athens a daughter inherited the estate as "heiress" only when there were no legitimate sons, and children of a non-Athenian mother were not legitimate; Heracles' mother was the mortal Alcmene.
118 A phratry was a hereditary brotherhood; a father's presenting his son to it was the standard proof of legitimacy.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1676	**PEISETAERUS** τί δαὶ σὺ φῄς;	**PEISETAERUS** And what do you say?
	POSEIDON τἀναντία ψηφίζομαι.	**POSEIDON** I vote against.
1677	**PEISETAERUS** ἐν τῷ Τριβαλλῷ πᾶν τὸ πρᾶγμα. τί σὺ λέγεις;	**PEISETAERUS** It all comes down to the Triballian. What do you say?
1678	**TRIBALLIAN** καλάνι κόραυνα καὶ μεγάλα βασιλιναῦ / ὄρνιτο παραδίδωμι.	**TRIBALLIAN** Pretty girly, big-big queenie Basilinau, to birdy me handover.[119]
1679	**HERACLES** παραδοῦναι λέγει.	**HERACLES** He says hand her over.
1680	**POSEIDON** μὰ τὸν Δί' οὐχ οὗτός γε παραδοῦναι λέγει, / εἰ μὴ † βαδίζειν † ὥἄσπερ αἱ χελιδόσιν λέγει.	**POSEIDON** No, by Zeus, he doesn't say hand her over, unless he's just twittering like the swallows.
1682	**PEISETAERUS** οὐκοῦν παραδοῦναι ταῖς χελιδόσιν λέγει.	**PEISETAERUS** Right: so he says hand her over to the swallows.
1683	**POSEIDON** σφὼ νῦν διαλλάττεσθε καὶ ξυμβαίνετε· / ἐγὼ δ', ἐπειδὴ σφῷν δοκεῖ, σιγήσομαι.	**POSEIDON** All right, you two make peace and come to terms. Since you both agree, I'll keep quiet.
1685	**HERACLES** ἡμῖν ἃ λέγεις σὺ πάντα συγχωρεῖν δοκεῖ. ἀλλ' ἴθι μεθ' ἡμῶν αὐτὸς ἐς τὸν οὐρανόν, ἵνα τὴν Βασίλειαν καὶ τὰ πάντ' ἐκεῖ λάβῃς.	**HERACLES** We agree to grant everything you ask. But come with us to heaven yourself, so you can take Basileia and everything else up there.
1688	**PEISETAERUS** ἐς καιρὸν ἄρα κατεκόπησαν οὑτοιὶ / ἐς τοὺς γάμους.	**PEISETAERUS** Well, these birds got chopped up just in time for the wedding.
1689	**HERACLES** βούλεσθε δῆτ' ἐγὼ τέως / ὀπτῶ τὰ κρέα ταυτὶ μένων; ὑμεῖς δ' ἴτε.	**HERACLES** Do you want me to stay here and roast this meat in the meantime? You go on.
1691	**POSEIDON** ὀπτᾷς τὰ κρέα; πολλήν γε τενθείαν λέγεις. / οὐκ εἶ μεθ' ἡμῶν;	**POSEIDON** Roast the meat? That's pure gluttony talking. Aren't you coming with us?
1692	**HERACLES** εὖ γε μέντἂν διετέθην.	**HERACLES** I'd have had a lovely time of it, though.
1693	**PEISETAERUS** ἀλλὰ γαμικὴν χλανίδα δότω τις δεῦρό μοι.	**PEISETAERUS** Now someone bring me a wedding cloak, over here.
1694	**CHORUS** ἔστι δ' ἐν Φαναῖσι πρὸς τῇ Κλεψύδρᾳ πανοῦργον ἐγ- γλωττογαστόρων γένος, οἳ θερίζουσίν τε καὶ σπείρουσι καὶ τρυγῶσι ταῖς γλώτταισι συκάζουσί τε· βάρβαροι δ' εἰσὶν γένος, Γοργίαι τε καὶ Φίλιπποι. κἀπὸ τῶν ἐγγλωττογαστόρων ἐκείνων τῶν Φιλίππων	**CHORUS** And in Phanae, near the Water-Clock, there lives a crooked race of Tongue-Bellies, who reap and sow and harvest with their tongues, and pick figs too. They're a foreign breed, Gorgiases and Philippuses. And thanks to those Tongue-Bellies, those Philippuses,

119 Here the Triballian mangles real Greek (roughly "the pretty girl and great Basileia I hand over to the birds"), so his words are rendered as broken English.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	πανταχοῦ τῆς Ἀττικῆς ἡ γλῶττα χωρὶς τέμνεται.	everywhere in Attica the tongue is cut out separately.[120]

FOURTH EPISODE

A messenger announces that Peisetaerus is arriving with his bride and Zeus' thunderbolt.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1706	**THIRD MESSENGER** ὦ πάντ' ἀγαθὰ πράττοντες, ὦ μείζω λόγου, ὦ τρισμακάριον πτηνὸν ὀρνίθων γένος, δέχεσθε τὸν τύραννον ὀλβίοις δόμοις. προσέρχεται γὰρ οἷς οὔτε παμφαὴς ἀστὴρ ἰδεῖν ἔλαμψε χρυσαυγεῖ δόμῳ, οὔθ' ἡλίου τηλαυγὲς ἀκτίνων σέλας τοιοῦτον ἐξέλαμψεν, οἷον ἔρχεται ἔχων γυναικὸς κάλλος οὐ φατὸν λέγειν, πάλλων κεραυνόν, πτεροφόρον Διὸς βέλος· ὀσμὴ δ' ἀνωνόμαστος ἐς βάθος κύκλου χωρεῖ, καλὸν θέαμα· θυμιαμάτων δ' αὖραι διαψαίρουσι πλεκτάνην καπνοῦ. ὁδὶ δὲ καὐτός ἐστιν. ἀλλὰ χρὴ θεᾶς Μούσης ἀνοίγειν ἱερὸν εὔφημον στόμα.	**THIRD MESSENGER** You who fare well in everything, beyond what words can tell, thrice-blessed winged race of birds, welcome your ruler to his happy halls! He's on his way, more radiant than any star that ever shone, all-gleaming, in its golden-rayed home; not even the far-flung blaze of the sun's rays ever shone out so bright as he does now, coming with a woman whose beauty is past all telling, brandishing the thunderbolt, Zeus' winged shaft. A fragrance beyond naming spreads to the depths of the circling sky, a lovely sight; and breezes of incense waft the coiling smoke away. And here he is himself. Now the divine Muse must open her holy mouth in auspicious song.

EXODOS

The birds celebrate the wedding of Peisetaerus and Basileia and hail him as highest of the gods.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1720	**CHORUS** ἄναγε δίεχε πάραγε πάρεχε. περιπέτεσθε τὸν μάκαρα μάκαρι σὺν τύχᾳ. ὦ φεῦ φεῦ τῆς ὥρας τοῦ κάλλους. ὦ μακαριστὸν σὺ γάμον τῇδε πόλει γημας.	**CHORUS** Back! Part! Make way! Give room! Fly around the blessed man with blessed fortune. Oh, oh, the youth of him, the beauty! What a blessed marriage you've made for this city!
1726	μεγάλαι μεγάλαι κατέχουσι τύχαι γένος ὀρνίθων διὰ τόνδε τὸν ἄνδρ'. ἀλλ' ὑμεναίοις καὶ νυμφιδίοισι δέχεσθ' ᾠδαῖς αὐτὸν καὶ τὴν Βασίλειαν.	Great, great is the good fortune that holds the race of birds, thanks to this man. Come, welcome him and Basileia with wedding hymns and bridal songs.
1731	Ἥρᾳ ποτ' Ὀλυμπίᾳ τῶν ἠλιβάτων θρόνων ἄρχοντα θεοῖς μέγαν Μοῖραι ξυνεκοίμισαν ἐν τοιῷδ' ὑμεναίῳ. Ὑμὴν ὦ Ὑμέναι' ὦ, Ὑμὴν ὦ Ὑμέναι' ὦ.	Once the Fates laid the great ruler of the gods, lord of the lofty thrones, to bed with Olympian Hera to a wedding song like this. Hymen, Hymenaeus, oh! Hymen, Hymenaeus, oh![121]

120 Phanae suggests phainein, "to denounce"; the Water-Clock timed speeches in court; "picking figs" again plays on informing. Gorgias was the famous Sicilian orator, Philippus his follower. At sacrifices the victim's tongue was cut out and set aside separately.
121 The traditional wedding refrain, calling on Hymen or Hymenaeus, god of weddings.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1737	ὁ δ’ ἀμφιθαλὴς Ἔρως χρυσόπτερος ἡνίας ηὔθυνε παλιντόνους, Ζηνὸς πάροχος γάμων τῆς τ’ εὐδαίμονος Ἥρας. Ὑμὴν ὦ Ὑμέναι’ ὦ, Ὑμὴν ὦ Ὑμέναι’ ὦ.	And Eros, in full bloom, on golden wings, held the reins drawn tight and steered, groomsman at the wedding of Zeus and fortunate Hera. Hymen, Hymenaeus, oh! Hymen, Hymenaeus, oh!
1743	**PEISETAERUS** ἐχάρην ὕμνοις, ἐχάρην ᾠδαῖς· ἄγαμαι δὲ λόγων. ἄγε νυν αὐτοῦ καὶ τὰς χθονίας κλήσατε βροντὰς τάς τε πυρώδεις Διὸς ἀστεροπὰς δεινόν τ’ ἀργῆτα κεραυνόν.	**PEISETAERUS** Your hymns delight me, your songs delight me, and I admire your words. Come now, sing too of the rumbling thunder of the earth, and Zeus’ fiery lightning, and the terrible white-flashing thunderbolt.
1748	**CHORUS** ὦ μέγα χρύσεον ἀστεροπῆς φάος, ὦ Διὸς ἄμβροτον ἔγχος πυρφόρον, ὦ χθόνιαι βαρυαχέες ὀμβροφόροι θ’ ἅμα βρονταί, αἷς ὅδε νῦν χθόνα σείει. διὰ σὲ τὰ πάντα κρατήσας καὶ πάρεδρον Βασίλειαν ἔχει Διός. Ὑμὴν ὦ Ὑμέναι’ ὦ.	**CHORUS** Great golden light of the lightning, immortal fire-bearing spear of Zeus, deep-roaring thunders of the earth, bringers of rain as well, with which this man now shakes the earth! Through you he has mastered all things, and holds Basileia, who sat at Zeus’ side. Hymen, Hymenaeus, oh!
1755	**PEISETAERUS** ἕπεσθε νῦν γάμοισιν ὦ φῦλα πάντα συννόμων πτεροφόρ’ ἐπὶ δάπεδον Διὸς καὶ λέχος γαμήλιον. ὄρεξον ὦ μάκαιρα σὴν χεῖρα καὶ πτερῶν ἐμῶν λαβοῦσα συγχόρευσον· αἴρων δὲ κουφιῶ σ’ ἐγώ.	**PEISETAERUS** Follow the wedding now, all you feathered tribes of my fellow flock, to Zeus’ floor and the marriage bed. Reach out your hand, my blessed one, take hold of my wings and dance with me; I’ll lift you and carry you high.
1763	**CHORUS** ἀλαλαλαὶ ἰὴ παιών, τήνελλα καλλίνικος, ὦ δαιμόνων ὑπέρτατε.	**CHORUS** Alalalai! Ie paion! Tenella, glorious in victory, highest of the gods![122]

122 “Tenella” imitates the twang of a lyre; it opened a famous victory hymn by the poet Archilochus.