Lysistrata

ARISTOPHANES

c. 446–386 BC

Lysistrata

Λυσιστράτη

Translated from the Greek with AI (Claude) and edited



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INTRODUCTION

Twenty years into the war between Athens and Sparta, an Athenian woman named Lysistrata has a plan: the women of Greece will refuse their husbands sex until the men make peace. She gathers wives from Athens, Sparta, Boeotia and Corinth, swears them to the strike over a bowl of wine, and has the older women seize the Acropolis, where the city keeps the money that pays for the war.

What follows is a battle of the sexes on every front: a chorus of old men with firewood against a chorus of old women with water jars, Lysistrata against a pompous government official, and the wives against their own desire as the strike drags on. In the most famous scene, Myrrhine teases her desperate husband, Cinesias.

First staged in 411 BC, two years after Athens' disastrous defeat in Sicily, Lysistrata is bawdy and fantastic, but its plea for peace among the Greeks is in earnest.

Lysistrata

Athens, before the gates of the Acropolis.

PROLOGUE

Lysistrata gathers women from across Greece and swears them to a sex strike to end the war.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1	**LYSISTRATA** ἀλλ’ εἴ τις ἐς Βακχεῖον αὐτὰς ἐκάλεσεν, ἢ ’ς Πανὸς ἢ ’πὶ Κωλιάδ’ ἢ ’ς Γενετυλλίδος, οὐδ’ ἂν διελθεῖν ἦν ἂν ὑπὸ τῶν τυμπάνων. νῦν δ’ οὐδεμία πάρεστιν ἐνταυθοῖ γυνή· πλὴν ἥ γ’ ἐμὴ κωμῆτις ἥδ’ ἐξέρχεται. χαῖρ’ ὦ Καλονίκη.	**LYSISTRATA** Honestly, if someone had invited them to a Bacchic revel, or to Pan’s shrine, or to Colias or Genetyllis, you couldn’t get through the streets for all the tambourines. But now there isn’t a single woman here. Except, look, here’s my neighbor coming out. Hello, Calonice.[1]
6	**CALONICE** καὶ σύ γ’ ὦ Λυσιστράτη. τί συντετάραξαι; μὴ σκυθρώπαζ’ ὦ τέκνον. οὐ γὰρ πρέπει σοι τοξοποιεῖν τὰς ὀφρῦς.	**CALONICE** Hello to you too, Lysistrata. What’s got you so upset? Don’t scowl, honey. Arching your eyebrows like a bow doesn’t suit you.
9	**LYSISTRATA** ἀλλ’ ὦ Καλονίκη κάομαι τὴν καρδίαν, καὶ πόλλ’ ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν τῶν γυναικῶν ἄχθομαι, ὁτιὴ παρὰ μὲν τοῖς ἀνδράσιν νενομίσμεθα εἶναι πανοῦργοι—	**LYSISTRATA** Oh, Calonice, my heart’s on fire. I’m so annoyed on behalf of us women, because the men all think we’re a bunch of wicked schemers—
12	**CALONICE** καὶ γάρ ἐσμεν νὴ Δία.	**CALONICE** Well, we are, by Zeus!
13	**LYSISTRATA** εἰρημένον δ’ αὐταῖς ἁπαντᾶν ἐνθάδε βουλευσομέναισιν οὐ περὶ φαύλου πράγματος, εὕδουσι κοὐχ ἥκουσιν.	**LYSISTRATA** —and yet when they’re told to meet here to discuss no small matter, they sleep in and don’t show up.
15	**CALONICE** ἀλλ’ ὦ φιλτάτη ἥξουσι· χαλεπή τοι γυναικῶν ἔξοδος. ἡ μὲν γὰρ ἡμῶν περὶ τὸν ἄνδρ’ ἐκύπτασεν, ἡ δ’ οἰκέτην ἤγειρεν, ἡ δὲ παιδίον κατέκλινεν, ἡ δ’ ἔλουσεν, ἡ δ’ ἐψώμισεν.	**CALONICE** Oh, darling, they’ll come. It’s hard for a woman to get out of the house. One of us is fussing over her husband, another’s waking up the slave, another’s putting the baby to bed, or bathing it, or feeding it.
20	**LYSISTRATA** ἀλλ’ ἕτερά τἄρ’ ἦν τῶνδε προὐργιαίτερα / αὐταῖς.	**LYSISTRATA** But they had other things more important than all that.
21	**CALONICE** τί δ’ ἐστὶν ὦ φίλη Λυσιστράτη, ἐφ’ ὅ τι ποθ’ ἡμᾶς τὰς γυναῖκας συγκαλεῖς; τί τὸ πρᾶγμα; πηλίκον τι;	**CALONICE** So what is it, Lysistrata dear? What on earth are you calling us women together for? What’s the thing? How big is it?
23	**LYSISTRATA** μέγα.	**LYSISTRATA** Big.
	CALONICE μῶν καὶ παχύ;	**CALONICE** Thick, too?

1 Bacchus (Dionysus), Pan, and Aphrodite (worshipped at Cape Colias and as Genetyllis, a goddess of childbirth) all had women’s festivals known for wild celebration.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
24	**LYSISTRATA** καὶ νὴ Δία παχύ.	**LYSISTRATA** Yes, by Zeus, thick too.
	CALONICE κᾆτα πῶς οὐχ ἥκομεν;	**CALONICE** Then how come we're not all coming?
25	**LYSISTRATA** οὐχ οὗτος ὁ τρόπος· ταχὺ γὰρ ἂν ξυνήλθομεν. ἀλλ' ἔστιν ὑπ' ἐμοῦ πρᾶγμ' ἀνεζητημένον πολλαῖσί τ' ἀγρυπνίαισιν ἐρριπτασμένον.	**LYSISTRATA** It's not that kind of thing. If it were, we'd have come fast enough. No, it's something I've worked out myself, tossing it back and forth through many sleepless nights.
28	**CALONICE** ἦ πού τι λεπτόν ἐστι τοὐρριπτασμένον.	**CALONICE** After all that tossing, it must have worn pretty thin.
29	**LYSISTRATA** οὕτω γε λεπτὸν ὥσθ' ὅλης τῆς Ἑλλάδος / ἐν ταῖς γυναιξίν ἐστιν ἡ σωτηρία.	**LYSISTRATA** Thin, yes, and fine. So fine that the salvation of all Greece lies with the women.
31	**CALONICE** ἐν ταῖς γυναιξίν; ἐπ' ὀλίγου γ' ὠχεῖτ' ἄρα.	**CALONICE** With the women? Then it's hanging by a thread.
32	**LYSISTRATA** ὡς ἔστ' ἐν ἡμῖν τῆς πόλεως τὰ πράγματα, / ἢ μηκέτ' εἶναι μήτε Πελοποννησίους—	**LYSISTRATA** Because the city's affairs are in our hands: either there'll be no more Peloponnesians —
34	**CALONICE** βέλτιστα τοίνυν μηκέτ' εἶναι νὴ Δία.	**CALONICE** Well, that'd be best, by Zeus, no more of them.
35	**LYSISTRATA** Βοιωτίους τε πάντας ἐξολωλέναι.	**LYSISTRATA** —and all the Boeotians wiped out—
36	**CALONICE** μὴ δῆτα πάντας γ', ἀλλ' ἄφελε τὰς ἐγχέλεις.	**CALONICE** Not all of them, please! Spare the eels.[2]
37	**LYSISTRATA** περὶ τῶν Ἀθηνῶν δ' οὐκ ἐπιγλωττήσομαι τοιοῦτον οὐδέν· ἀλλ' ὑπονόησον σύ μοι. ἢν δὲ ξυνέλθωσ' αἱ γυναῖκες ἐνθάδε αἵ τ' ἐκ Βοιωτῶν αἵ τε Πελοποννησίων ἡμεῖς τε, κοινῇ σώσομεν τὴν Ἑλλάδα.	**LYSISTRATA** As for Athens, I won't say anything like that. You can fill that in for yourself. But if the women meet here, the ones from Boeotia, the ones from the Peloponnese, and us, together we'll save Greece.
42	**CALONICE** τί δ' ἂν γυναῖκες φρόνιμον ἐργασαίατο ἢ λαμπρόν, αἳ καθήμεθ' ἐξηνθισμέναι, κροκωτοφοροῦσαι καὶ κεκαλλωπισμέναι καὶ Κιμμερίκ' ὀρθοστάδια καὶ περιβαρίδας;	**CALONICE** What could women ever do that's sensible or brilliant? We sit around all prettied up, in our saffron gowns and our makeup, our sheer Cimmerian shifts and our fancy slippers.
46	**LYSISTRATA** ταῦτ' αὐτὰ γάρ τοι κἄσθ' ἃ σώσειν προσδοκῶ, τὰ κροκωτίδια καὶ τὰ μύρα χαὶ περιβαρίδες χἤγχουσα καὶ τὰ διαφανῆ χιτώνια.	**LYSISTRATA** But those are exactly the things I expect to save us: the little saffron gowns, the perfumes, the slippers, the rouge and the see-through dresses.
49	**CALONICE** τίνα δὴ τρόπον ποθ';	**CALONICE** How on earth?
	LYSISTRATA ὥστε τῶν νῦν μηδένα / ἀνδρῶν ἐπ' ἀλλήλοισιν ἄρεσθαι δόρυ—	**LYSISTRATA** So that not one man alive today will raise a spear against another—
51	**CALONICE** κροκωτὸν ἄρα νὴ τὼ θεὼ 'γὼ βάψομαι.	**CALONICE** Then by the Two Goddesses, I'm getting a gown dyed saffron!

2 Eels from Lake Copais in Boeotia were a prized delicacy, cut off from Athens by the war.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
52	**LYSISTRATA** μηδ' ἀσπίδα λαβεῖν—	**LYSISTRATA** —or take up a shield—
	CALONICE Κιμμερικὸν ἐνδύσομαι.	**CALONICE** I'll put on my Cimmerian shift!
53	**LYSISTRATA** μηδὲ ξιφίδιον.	**LYSISTRATA** —or even a dagger.
	CALONICE κτήσομαι περιβαρίδας.	**CALONICE** I'll buy some slippers!
54	**LYSISTRATA** ἆρ' οὐ παρεῖναι τὰς γυναῖκας δῆτ' ἐχρῆν;	**LYSISTRATA** So shouldn't the women be here by now?
55	**CALONICE** οὐ γὰρ μὰ Δί' ἀλλὰ πετομένας ἥκειν πάλαι.	**CALONICE** By Zeus, they should have come flying here ages ago.
56	**LYSISTRATA** ἀλλ' ὦ μέλ' ὄψει τοι σφόδρ' αὐτὰς Ἀττικάς, ἅπαντα δρώσας τοῦ δέοντος ὕστερον. ἀλλ' οὐδὲ Παράλων οὐδεμία γυνὴ πάρα, οὐδ' ἐκ Σαλαμῖνος.	**LYSISTRATA** Well, my friend, you'll see: they're Athenians through and through, doing everything later than they should. There's not a single woman here from the coast, either, or from Salamis.
59	**CALONICE** ἀλλ' ἐκεῖναί γ' οἶδ' ὅτι / ἐπὶ τῶν κελήτων διαβεβήκασ' ὄρθριαι.	**CALONICE** Oh, those ones, I know for a fact, have been riding since dawn, straddling their boats.[3]
61	**LYSISTRATA** οὐδ' ἃς προσεδόκων κἀλογιζόμην ἐγὼ πρώτας παρέσεσθαι δεῦρο τὰς Ἀχαρνέων γυναῖκας, οὐχ ἥκουσιν.	**LYSISTRATA** And the ones I expected and counted on to be here first, the women of Acharnae, haven't come either.
63	**CALONICE** ἡ γοῦν Θεογένους ὡς δεῦρ' ἰοῦσα θοὐκάταιον ἤρετο. ἀτὰρ αἵδε καὶ δή σοι προσέρχονταί τινες. αἰδί θ' ἕτεραι χωροῦσί τινες. ἰοὺ ἰού, πόθεν εἰσίν;	**CALONICE** Well, Theogenes' wife, at least, consulted her Hecate shrine about coming. But look, here are some women coming toward you. And here come some others. Hey, hey! Where are they from?[4]
67	**LYSISTRATA** Ἀναγυρουντόθεν.	**LYSISTRATA** From Anagyrus.
	CALONICE νὴ τὸν Δία· / ὁ γοῦν ἀνάγυρός μοι κεκινῆσθαι δοκεῖ.	**CALONICE** By Zeus, yes. Somebody's certainly stirred up the stink-bush.[5]
69	**MYRRHINE** μῶν ὕστεραι πάρεσμεν ὦ Λυσιστράτη; / τί φῄς; τί σιγᾷς;	**MYRRHINE** We're not late, are we, Lysistrata? What's that? Why don't you say something?
70	**LYSISTRATA** οὔ σ' ἐπαινῶ Μυρρίνη / ἥκουσαν ἄρτι περὶ τοιούτου πράγματος.	**LYSISTRATA** I'm not pleased with you, Myrrhine, turning up only now on business this important.
72	**MYRRHINE** μόλις γὰρ ηὗρον ἐν σκότῳ τὸ ζώνιον. / ἀλλ' εἴ τι πάνυ δεῖ, ταῖς παρούσαισιν λέγε.	**MYRRHINE** Well, I could hardly find my belt in the dark. But if it's that urgent, tell those of us who are here.
74	**LYSISTRATA** μὰ Δί' ἀλλ' ἐπαναμείνωμεν ὀλίγου γ' οὕνεκα	

3 The Greek word for a fast boat (*kelēs*, "racer") also named a sexual position with the woman astride.
4 Theogenes was an Athenian mocked as a braggart; small shrines of Hecate stood at house doors, and his wife treats hers like an oracle.
5 Anagyrus was an Attic district named after a foul-smelling shrub; "stirring the anagyros" was a proverb for asking for trouble.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	τάς τ' ἐκ Βοιωτῶν τάς τε Πελοποννησίων γυναῖκας ἐλθεῖν.	**LYSISTRATA** No, by Zeus, let's wait just a little while for the women from Boeotia and the Peloponnese to get here.
76	**MYRRHINE** πολὺ σὺ κάλλιον λέγεις. / ἡδὶ δὲ καὶ δὴ Λαμπιτὼ προσέρχεται.	**MYRRHINE** That's a much better idea. And look, here comes Lampito now.
78	**LYSISTRATA** ὦ φιλτάτη Λάκαινα χαῖρε Λαμπιτοῖ. οἷον τὸ κάλλος γλυκυτάτη σου φαίνεται. ὡς δ' εὐχροεῖς, ὡς δὲ σφριγᾷ τὸ σῶμά σου. κἂν ταῦρον ἄγχοις.	**LYSISTRATA** Lampito, my dearest Spartan, welcome! You look gorgeous, sweetheart! What a complexion, what a firm body! You could strangle a bull.
81	**LAMPITO** μάλα γ' οἰῶ ναὶ τὼ σιώ· / γυμνάδδομαι γὰρ καὶ ποτὶ πυγὰν ἄλλομαι.	**LAMPITO** I could, I reckon, by the Twin Gods. I train. I jump and kick my heels to my rump.[6]
83	**CALONICE** ὡς δὴ καλὸν τὸ χρῆμα τιτθίων ἔχεις.	**CALONICE** What a fine pair of tits you've got!
84	**LAMPITO** ᾇπερ ἱερεῖόν τοί μ' ὑποψαλάσσετε.	**LAMPITO** You are feeling me over like a beast for the altar.
85	**LYSISTRATA** ἡδὶ δὲ ποδαπή 'σθ' ἡ νεᾶνις ἡτέρα;	**LYSISTRATA** And this other young woman, where's she from?
86	**LAMPITO** πρέσβειρά τοι ναὶ τὼ σιὼ Βοιωτία / ἵκει ποθ' ὑμέ.	**LAMPITO** An envoy, by the Twin Gods. Boeotian. She comes to you.
87	**MYRRHINE** νὴ μὰ Δία Βοιωτία, / καλόν γ' ἔχουσα τὸ πεδίον.	**MYRRHINE** Boeotian all right, by Zeus, and what lovely lowlands she has.
88	**CALONICE** καὶ νὴ Δία / κομψότατα τὴν βληχώ γε παρατετιλμένη.	**CALONICE** And by Zeus, her pennyroyal's been very stylishly plucked.[7]
90	**LYSISTRATA** τίς δ' ἡτέρα παῖς;	**LYSISTRATA** And the other girl?
	LAMPITO χαΐα ναὶ τὼ σιώ, / Κορινθία δ' αὖ.	**LAMPITO** A fine one, by the Twin Gods. Corinthian, this one.
91	**CALONICE** χαΐα νὴ τὸν Δία / δῆλη 'στὶν οὖσα ταυταγὶ τἀντευθενί.	**CALONICE** Fine, by Zeus, you can see that. Here, and here.
93	**LAMPITO** τίς δ' αὖ ξυναλίαξε τόνδε τὸν στόλον / τὸν τᾶν γυναικῶν;	**LAMPITO** Who called this muster? This army of women?
94	**LYSISTRATA** ἥδ' ἐγώ.	**LYSISTRATA** That's me.
	LAMPITO μύσιδδέ τοι / ὅ τι λῇς ποθ' ἁμέ.	**LAMPITO** Speak, then. Say what you want of us.
95	**CALONICE** νὴ Δί' ὦ φίλη γύναι, / λέγε δῆτα τὸ σπουδαῖον ὅ τι τοῦτ' ἐστί σοι.	**CALONICE** Yes, by Zeus, dear woman, tell us what this serious business of yours is.
97	**LYSISTRATA** λέγοιμ' ἄν ἤδη. πρὶν λέγειν δ', ὑμᾶς τοδὶ / ἐπερήσομαί τι μικρόν.	**LYSISTRATA** I'll tell you now. But before I do, I want to ask you one small thing.

6 The Greek gives the Spartans their own Laconian dialect, marked here only by a blunter cadence. Lampito describes a Spartan exercise in which one jumped and kicked one's buttocks with one's heels.
7 Boeotia is a land of plains; the women are joking about her depilated groin, with pennyroyal, a wild herb, standing for pubic hair.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
98	**CALONICE** ὅ τι βούλει γε σύ.	**CALONICE** Anything you like.
99	**LYSISTRATA** τοὺς πατέρας οὐ ποθεῖτε τοὺς τῶν παιδίων ἐπὶ στρατιᾶς ἀπόντας; εὖ γὰρ οἶδ' ὅτι πάσαισιν ὑμῖν ἐστιν ἀποδημῶν ἀνήρ.	**LYSISTRATA** Don't you miss the fathers of your children, away on campaign? I know very well every one of you has a husband away from home.
102	**CALONICE** ὁ γοῦν ἐμὸς ἀνὴρ πέντε μῆνας ὦ τάλαν / ἄπεστιν ἐπὶ Θρᾴκης φυλάττων Εὐκράτη.	**CALONICE** Mine, honey, has been away five months in Thrace, keeping an eye on Eucrates.[8]
104	**MYRRHINE** ὁ δ' ἐμός γε τελέους ἑπτὰ μῆνας ἐν Πύλῳ.	**MYRRHINE** And mine's been seven whole months at Pylos.
105	**LAMPITO** ὁ δ' ἐμός γα καΐ κ' ἐκ τᾶς ταγᾶς ἔλσῃ ποκά, / πορπακισάμενος φροῦδος ἀμπτάμενος ἔβα.	**LAMPITO** And mine, if ever he gets back from his regiment, straps on his shield and he is off. Flown away.
107	**LYSISTRATA** ἀλλ' οὐδὲ μοιχοῦ καταλέλειπται φεψάλυξ. ἐξ οὗ γὰρ ἡμᾶς προὔδοσαν Μιλήσιοι, οὐκ εἶδον οὐδ' ὅλισβον ὀκτωδάκτυλον, ὃς ἦν ἂν ἡμῖν σκυτίνη 'πικουρία. ἐθέλοιτ' ἂν οὖν, εἰ μηχανὴν εὕροιμ' ἐγώ, μετ' ἐμοῦ καταλῦσαι τὸν πόλεμον;	**LYSISTRATA** And there's not so much as a spark of a lover left. Ever since the Milesians betrayed us, I haven't even seen a six-inch dildo, which would have been some leather relief for us. So would you be willing, if I found a way, to end the war with me?[9]
112	**CALONICE** νὴ τὼ θεώ· ἔγωγ' ἂν οὖν κἂν εἴ με χρείη τοὔγκυκλον τουτὶ καταθεῖσαν ἐκπιεῖν αὐθημερόν.	**CALONICE** By the Two Goddesses, I would, even if I had to pawn this wrap and drink the money the same day.
115	**MYRRHINE** ἐγὼ δέ γ' ἂν κἂν ὡσπερεὶ ψῆτταν δοκῶ / δοῦναι ἂν ἐμαυτῆς παρατεμοῦσα θἤμισυ.	**MYRRHINE** And so would I, even if I had to slice myself in half like a flatfish and give away half of me.
117	**LAMPITO** ἐγὼ δὲ καί κα ποττὸ Ταΰγετόν γ' ἄνω / ἔλσοιμ' ὅπᾳ μέλλοιμί γ' εἰράναν ἰδεῖν.	**LAMPITO** And I would climb to the top of Taygetus, if I could see peace from there.
119	**LYSISTRATA** λέγοιμ' ἄν· οὐ δεῖ γὰρ κεκρύφθαι τὸν λόγον. ἡμῖν γὰρ ὦ γυναῖκες, εἴπερ μέλλομεν ἀναγκάσειν τοὺς ἄνδρας εἰρήνην ἄγειν, ἀφεκτέ' ἐστὶ—	**LYSISTRATA** Then I'll tell you. There's no need to keep the plan hidden. Women, if we're going to force the men to make peace, we have to give up—
122	**CALONICE** τοῦ; φράσον.	**CALONICE** Give up what? Tell us.
	LYSISTRATA ποιήσετ' οὖν;	**LYSISTRATA** Will you do it?
123	**CALONICE** ποιήσομεν, κἂν ἀποθανεῖν ἡμᾶς δέῃ.	**CALONICE** We will, even if we have to die.
124	**LYSISTRATA** ἀφεκτέα τοίνυν ἐστὶν ἡμῖν τοῦ πέους. τί μοι μεταστρέφεσθε; ποῖ βαδίζετε; αὗται τί μοιμυᾶτε κἀνανεύετε;	**LYSISTRATA** Well then, we have to give up cock. Why are you turning away from me? Where are you going? You there, why are you pursing your

8 Eucrates, an Athenian general, apparently under suspicion.
9 Miletus revolted from Athens in 412 BC; it was known for making leather dildos.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	τί χρὼς τέτραπται; τί δάκρυον κατείβεται; ποιήσετ' ἢ οὐ ποιήσετ'; ἢ τί μέλλετε;	lips and shaking your heads? Why has your color changed? Why are tears trickling down? Will you do it or won't you? What are you waiting for?
129	**CALONICE** οὐκ ἂν ποιήσαιμ', ἀλλ' ὁ πόλεμος ἑρπέτω.	**CALONICE** I won't do it. Let the war drag on.
130	**MYRRHINE** μὰ Δί' οὐδ' ἐγὼ γάρ, ἀλλ' ὁ πόλεμος ἑρπέτω.	**MYRRHINE** No, by Zeus, I won't either. Let the war drag on.
131	**LYSISTRATA** ταυτὶ σὺ λέγεις ὦ ψῆττα; καὶ μὴν ἄρτι γε / ἔφησθα σαυτῆς κἂν παρατεμεῖν θἅμισυ.	**LYSISTRATA** You're saying this, flatfish? Just now you said you'd slice yourself in half.
133	**CALONICE** ἄλλ' ἄλλ' ὅ τι βούλει· κἄν με χρῇ διὰ τοῦ πυρὸς ἐθέλω βαδίζειν· τοῦτο μᾶλλον τοῦ πέους. οὐδὲν γὰρ οἷον ὦ φίλη Λυσιστράτη.	**CALONICE** Anything else, anything you like! If I have to, I'm ready to walk through fire. That, sooner than give up cock. There's nothing like it, Lysistrata dear.
136	**LYSISTRATA** τί δαὶ σύ;	**LYSISTRATA** And you?
	ANOTHER WOMAN κἀγὼ βούλομαι διὰ τοῦ πυρός.	**ANOTHER WOMAN** I'd rather walk through fire too.
137	**LYSISTRATA** ὦ παγκατάπυγον θἠμέτερον ἅπαν γένος, οὐκ ἐτὸς ἀφ' ἡμῶν εἰσιν αἱ τραγῳδίαι. οὐδὲν γάρ ἐσμεν πλὴν Ποσειδῶν καὶ σκάφη. ἀλλ' ὦ φίλη Λάκαινα, σὺ γὰρ ἐὰν γένῃ μόνη μετ' ἐμοῦ, τὸ πρᾶγμ' ἀνασωσαίμεσθ' ἔτ' ἄν, ξυμψήφισαί μοι.	**LYSISTRATA** Oh, what an utterly degenerate lot we women are! No wonder they write tragedies about us: all we are is Poseidon and a tub. But you, my dear Spartan, if you alone stand with me, we might still save the situation. Vote with me.[10]
142	**LAMPITO** χαλεπὰ μὲν ναὶ τὼ σιὼ γυναῖκάς ἐσθ' ὑπνῶν ἄνευ ψωλᾶς μόνας. ὅμως γα μάν· δεῖ τᾶς γὰρ εἰράνας μάλ' αὖ.	**LAMPITO** It is hard, by the Twin Gods, for a woman to sleep alone without a hard-on. All the same. We need peace. Badly.
145	**LYSISTRATA** ὦ φιλτάτη σὺ καὶ μόνη τούτων γυνή.	**LYSISTRATA** Oh, you darling, the only real woman of the lot!
146	**CALONICE** εἰ δ' ὡς μάλιστ' ἀπεχοίμεθ' οὗ σὺ δὴ λέγεις, ὃ μὴ γένοιτο, μᾶλλον ἂν διὰ τουτογὶ γένοιτ' ἂν εἰρήνη;	**CALONICE** But suppose we did keep as far as we could from what you're talking about, perish the thought: would that make peace any more likely?
148	**LYSISTRATA** πολύ γε νὴ τὼ θεώ. εἰ γὰρ καθοίμεθ' ἔνδον ἐντετριμμέναι, κἀν τοῖς χιτωνίοισι τοῖς Ἀμοργίνοις γυμναὶ παρίοιμεν δέλτα παρατετιλμέναι, στύοιντο δ' ἄνδρες κἀπιθυμοῖεν σπλεκοῦν, ἡμεῖς δὲ μὴ προσίοιμεν ἀλλ' ἀπεχοίμεθα, σπονδὰς ποιήσαιντ' ἂν ταχέως, εὖ οἶδ' ὅτι.	**LYSISTRATA** Much more, by the Two Goddesses. If we sat around at home all made up, and walked past them in our little Amorgos slips with nothing underneath, our deltas plucked, and the men got hard and were dying to screw, but we didn't go near them and kept away, they'd make a treaty fast, I'm sure of it.
155	**LAMPITO** ὁ γῶν Μενέλαος τᾶς Ἑλένας τὰ μᾶλά πᾳ / γυμνᾶς παραΐδων ἐξέβαλ', οἰῶ, τὸ ξίφος.	**LAMPITO** Menelaus, anyway. He got a look at Helen's naked apples and threw his sword away, I reckon.

10 An allusion to Sophocles' *Tyro*: Tyro, seduced by Poseidon, bore twins and set them adrift in a tub; sex and its consequences, the stuff of tragedy.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
157	**CALONICE** τί δ' ἢν ἀφιῶσ' ἄνδρες ἡμᾶς ὦ μέλε;	**CALONICE** But what if the men just let us go, my friend?
158	**LYSISTRATA** τὸ τοῦ Φερεκράτους, κύνα δέρειν δεδαρμένην.	**LYSISTRATA** Then it's what Pherecrates says: skin a skinned dog.[11]
159	**CALONICE** φλυαρία ταῦτ' ἐστὶ τὰ μεμιμημένα. ἐὰν λαβόντες δ' ἐς τὸ δωμάτιον βίᾳ ἕλκωσιν ἡμᾶς;	**CALONICE** Imitations are rubbish. And what if they grab us and drag us into the bedroom by force?
161	**LYSISTRATA** ἀντέχου σὺ τῶν θυρῶν.	**LYSISTRATA** Hold on to the door.
162	**CALONICE** ἐὰν δὲ τύπτωσιν;	**CALONICE** And if they beat us?
	LYSISTRATA παρέχειν χρὴ κακὰ κακῶς. οὐ γὰρ ἔνι τούτοις ἡδονὴ τοῖς πρὸς βίαν. κἄλλως ὀδυνᾶν χρή· κἀμέλει ταχέως πάνυ ἀπεροῦσιν. οὐ γὰρ οὐδέποτ' εὐφρανθήσεται ἀνήρ, ἐὰν μὴ τῇ γυναικὶ συμφέρῃ.	**LYSISTRATA** Then you have to give in, but badly. There's no pleasure in it for them when it's forced. And you have to make them suffer in other ways too. Don't worry, they'll give up soon enough. A man never enjoys himself unless the woman's in it with him.
167	**CALONICE** εἴ τοι δοκεῖ σφῷν ταῦτα, χἡμῖν ξυνδοκεῖ.	**CALONICE** If you two think so, we agree too.
168	**LAMPITO** καὶ τὼς μὲν ἁμῶν ἄνδρας ἁμὲς πείσομες παντᾷ δικαίως ἄδολον εἰράναν ἄγειν· τὸν τῶν Ἀσαναίων γα μὰν ῥυάχετον πᾷ κά τις ἀμπείσειεν αὖ μὴ πλαδδιῆν;	**LAMPITO** Our own men we will persuade to keep a fair peace, no tricks, in every way. But the Athenian rabble: how could anyone talk them out of their babbling?
172	**LYSISTRATA** ἡμεῖς ἀμέλει σοι τά γε παρ' ἡμῖν πείσομεν.	**LYSISTRATA** Don't worry, we'll persuade our side for you.
173	**LAMPITO** οὐχ ἅς πόδας κ' ἔχωντι ταὶ τριήρεες, / καὶ τὠργύριον τὤβυσσον ᾗ πὰρ τᾷ σιῷ.	**LAMPITO** Not while your triremes have feet and that bottomless money sits with the Goddess.[12]
175	**LYSISTRATA** ἀλλ' ἔστι καὶ τοῦτ' εὖ παρεσκευασμένον· καταληψόμεθα γὰρ τὴν ἀκρόπολιν τήμερον. ταῖς πρεσβυτάταις γὰρ προστέτακται τοῦτο δρᾶν, ἕως ἂν ἡμεῖς ταῦτα συντιθώμεθα, θύειν δοκούσαις καταλαβεῖν τὴν ἀκρόπολιν.	**LYSISTRATA** But that's all well arranged too. We're seizing the Acropolis today. The oldest women have orders to do it: while we're arranging all this, they're to pretend they're sacrificing and take the Acropolis.
180	**LAMPITO** παντᾷ κ' ἔχοι, καὶ τᾇδε γὰρ λέγεις καλῶς.	**LAMPITO** That would work every way. That is well said too.
181	**LYSISTRATA** τί δῆτα ταῦτ' οὐχ ὡς τάχιστ' ὦ Λαμπιτοῖ / ξυνωμόσαμεν, ὅπως ἂν ἀρρήκτως ἔχῃ;	**LYSISTRATA** Then why don't we swear to all this right away, Lampito, so it can't be broken?
183	**LAMPITO** πάρφαινε μὰν τὸν ὅρκον, ὡς ὀμιόμεθα.	**LAMPITO** Out with the oath, then. We will swear it.
184	**LYSISTRATA** καλῶς λέγεις. ποῦ 'σθ' ἡ Σκύθαινα; ποῖ βλέπεις;	**LYSISTRATA** Well said. Where's the Scythian girl? What are you staring at? Put the shield down here

11 Pherecrates was a comic poet; "skinning a skinned dog" was a proverb for useless effort, and "dog" here also hints at a dildo.
12 Athens' war treasury was kept on the Acropolis, in the temple of Athena.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	θὲς ἐς τὸ πρόσθεν ὑπτίαν τὴν ἀσπίδα, καί μοι δότω τὰ τόμιά τις.	in front, face up. And somebody give me the victim's parts.
186	**CALONICE** Λυσιστράτη / τίν' ὅρκον ὁρκώσεις ποθ' ἡμᾶς;	**CALONICE** Lysistrata, what oath are you going to make us swear?
187	**LYSISTRATA** ὅντινα; εἰς ἀσπίδ', ὥσπερ φάσ' ἐν Αἰσχύλῳ ποτέ, μηλοσφαγούσας.	**LYSISTRATA** What oath? Over a shield, like they did once in Aeschylus, slaughtering a sheep.[13]
189	**CALONICE** μὴ σύ γ' ὦ Λυσιστράτη / εἰς ἀσπίδ' ὀμόσῃς μηδὲν εἰρήνης πέρι.	**CALONICE** No, Lysistrata, don't swear anything about peace over a shield.
191	**LYSISTRATA** τίς ἂν οὖν γένοιτ' ἂν ὅρκος;	**LYSISTRATA** Then what should the oath be?
	CALONICE εἰ λευκόν ποθεν / ἵππον λαβοῦσαι τόμιον ἐντεμοίμεθα.	**CALONICE** What if we got hold of a white horse somewhere and cut up its parts?
193	**LYSISTRATA** ποῖ λευκὸν ἵππον;	**LYSISTRATA** A white horse? Come on!
	CALONICE ἀλλὰ πῶς ὀμούμεθα / ἡμεῖς;	**CALONICE** Well, how are we going to swear, then?
194	**LYSISTRATA** ἐγώ σοι νὴ Δί', ἢν βούλῃ, φράσω. θεῖσαι μέλαιναν κύλικα μεγάλην ὑπτίαν, μηλοσφαγοῦσαι Θάσιον οἴνου σταμνίον ὀμόσωμεν ἐς τὴν κύλικα μὴ 'πιχεῖν ὕδωρ.	**LYSISTRATA** I'll tell you, by Zeus, if you like. Let's set a big black cup face up, slaughter a jar of Thasian wine into it, and swear not to pour in any water.[14]
198	**LAMPITO** φεῦ δᾶ τὸν ὅρκον ἄφατον ὡς ἐπαινίω.	**LAMPITO** Oh, that oath! I cannot tell you how much I like it.
199	**LYSISTRATA** φερέτω κύλικά τις ἔνδοθεν καὶ σταμνίον.	**LYSISTRATA** Somebody bring a cup and a jar out from inside.
200	**MYRRHINE** ὦ φίλταται γυναῖκες, ὁ κεραμεὼν ὅσος.	**MYRRHINE** My dear women, what a monster of a pot!
201	**CALONICE** ταύτην μὲν ἄν τις εὐθὺς ἡσθείη λαβών.	**CALONICE** Grab hold of that one and you'd be happy right away.
202	**LYSISTRATA** καταθεῖσα ταύτην προσλαβοῦ μοι τοῦ κάπρου. δέσποινα Πειθοῖ καὶ κύλιξ φιλοτησία, τὰ σφάγια δέξαι ταῖς γυναιξὶν εὐμενής.	**LYSISTRATA** Set it down and help me take hold of the boar. Lady Persuasion, and you, Cup of Friendship, accept this sacrifice and be kind to us women.
205	**CALONICE** εὔχρων γε θαῖμα κἀποπυτίζει καλῶς.	**CALONICE** What a lovely color the blood is, and how nicely it spurts!
206	**LAMPITO** καὶ μὰν ποτόδδει γ' ἁδὺ ναὶ τὸν Κάστορα.	**LAMPITO** And it smells sweet, by Castor.
207	**MYRRHINE** ἐᾶτε πρώτην μ' ὦ γυναῖκες ὀμνύναι.	**MYRRHINE** Women, let me be the first to swear.
208	**CALONICE** μὰ τὴν Ἀφροδίτην οὔκ, ἐάν γε μὴ λάχῃς.	**CALONICE** No, by Aphrodite, not unless you draw the lot.

13 In Aeschylus' *Seven Against Thebes* the attackers swear their oath over a shield filled with a sacrificed bull's blood.
14 Greeks normally drank wine mixed with water; neat wine was the drink of the intemperate, a stock comic vice of women.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
209	**LYSISTRATA** λάζυσθε πᾶσαι τῆς κύλικος ὦ Λαμπιτοῖ· λεγέτω δ' ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν μί' ἅπερ ἂν κἀγὼ λέγω· ὑμεῖς δ' ἐπομεῖσθε ταὐτὰ κἀμπεδώσετε. οὐκ ἔστιν οὐδεὶς οὔτε μοιχὸς οὔτ' ἀνήρ—	**LYSISTRATA** Everyone lay hold of the cup, you too, Lampito. One of you will repeat after me on behalf of all; the rest of you will swear along and confirm it. No man at all, neither lover nor husband—
213	**CALONICE** οὐκ ἔστιν οὐδεὶς οὔτε μοιχὸς οὔτ' ἀνήρ—	**CALONICE** No man at all, neither lover nor husband—
214	**LYSISTRATA** ὅστις πρὸς ἐμὲ πρόσεισιν ἐστυκώς. λέγε.	**LYSISTRATA** —shall come near me with a hard-on. Say it.
215	**CALONICE** ὅστις πρὸς ἐμὲ πρόσεισιν ἐστυκώς. παπαῖ / ὑπολύεταί μου τὰ γόνατ' ὦ Λυσιστράτη.	**CALONICE** —shall come near me with a hard-on. Oh, oh! My knees are giving way, Lysistrata!
217	**LYSISTRATA** οἴκοι δ' ἀταυρώτη διάξω τὸν βίον—	**LYSISTRATA** At home I'll pass my days without a bull—
218	**CALONICE** οἴκοι δ' ἀταυρώτη διάξω τὸν βίον—	**CALONICE** At home I'll pass my days without a bull—
219	**LYSISTRATA** κροκωτοφοροῦσα καὶ κεκαλλωπισμένη,—	**LYSISTRATA** —in my saffron gown, all made up—
220	**CALONICE** κροκωτοφοροῦσα καὶ κεκαλλωπισμένη,—	**CALONICE** —in my saffron gown, all made up—
221	**LYSISTRATA** ὅπως ἂν ἀνὴρ ἐπιτυφῇ μάλιστά μου·	**LYSISTRATA** —so my husband will burn for me all the more.
222	**CALONICE** ὅπως ἂν ἀνὴρ ἐπιτυφῇ μάλιστά μου·	**CALONICE** —so my husband will burn for me all the more.
223	**LYSISTRATA** κοὐδέποθ' ἑκοῦσα τἀνδρὶ τὠμῷ πείσομαι.	**LYSISTRATA** And I'll never willingly give in to my husband.
224	**CALONICE** κοὐδέποθ' ἑκοῦσα τἀνδρὶ τὠμῷ πείσομαι.	**CALONICE** And I'll never willingly give in to my husband.
225	**LYSISTRATA** ἐὰν δέ μ' ἄκουσαν βιάζηται βίᾳ,—	**LYSISTRATA** And if he forces me against my will—
226	**CALONICE** ἐὰν δέ μ' ἄκουσαν βιάζηται βίᾳ,—	**CALONICE** And if he forces me against my will—
227	**LYSISTRATA** κακῶς παρέξω κοὐχὶ προσκινήσομαι.	**LYSISTRATA** —I'll be bad at it and I won't move with him.
228	**CALONICE** κακῶς παρέξω κοὐχὶ προσκινήσομαι.	**CALONICE** —I'll be bad at it and I won't move with him.
229	**LYSISTRATA** οὐ πρὸς τὸν ὄροφον ἀνατενῶ τὼ Περσικά.	**LYSISTRATA** I won't raise my Persian slippers toward the ceiling.
230	**CALONICE** οὐ πρὸς τὸν ὄροφον ἀνατενῶ τὼ Περσικά.	**CALONICE** I won't raise my Persian slippers toward the ceiling.
231	**LYSISTRATA** οὐ στήσομαι λέαιν' ἐπὶ τυροκνήστιδος.	

	GREEK	ENGLISH
		LYSISTRATA I won't crouch like the lioness on a cheese grater.[15]
232	**CALONICE** οὐ στήσομαι λέαιν' ἐπὶ τυροκνήστιδος.	**CALONICE** I won't crouch like the lioness on a cheese grater.
233	**LYSISTRATA** ταῦτ' ἐμπεδοῦσα μὲν πίοιμ' ἐντευθενί·	**LYSISTRATA** If I keep these vows, may I drink from this cup;
234	**CALONICE** ταῦτ' ἐμπεδοῦσα μὲν πίοιμ' ἐντευθενί·	**CALONICE** If I keep these vows, may I drink from this cup;
235	**LYSISTRATA** εἰ δὲ παραβαίην, ὕδατος ἐμπλῆθ' ἡ κύλιξ.	**LYSISTRATA** but if I break them, may the cup be full of water.
236	**CALONICE** εἰ δὲ παραβαίην, ὕδατος ἐμπλῆθ' ἡ κύλιξ.	**CALONICE** but if I break them, may the cup be full of water.
237	**LYSISTRATA** συνεπόμνυθ' ὑμεῖς ταῦτα πᾶσαι;	**LYSISTRATA** Do you all swear to this with her?
	MYRRHINE νὴ Δία.	**MYRRHINE** By Zeus, we do.
238	**LYSISTRATA** φέρ' ἐγὼ καθαγίσω τήνδε.	**LYSISTRATA** Now then, I'll consecrate this.
	CALONICE τὸ μέρος γ' ὦ φίλη, / ὅπως ἂν ὦμεν εὐθὺς ἀλλήλων φίλαι.	**CALONICE** Just your share, dear, so we can all be friends with each other from the start.
240	**LAMPITO** τίς ὠλολυγά;	**LAMPITO** Who is raising that cry?
	LYSISTRATA τοῦτ' ἐκεῖν' οὐγὼ 'λεγον· αἱ γὰρ γυναῖκες τὴν ἀκρόπολιν τῆς θεοῦ ἤδη κατειλήφασιν. ἀλλ' ὦ Λαμπιτοῖ σὺ μὲν βάδιζε καὶ τὰ παρ' ὑμῶν εὖ τίθει, τασδὶ δ' ὁμήρους κατάλιφ' ἡμῖν ἐνθάδε· ἡμεῖς δὲ ταῖς ἄλλαισι ταῖσιν ἐν πόλει ξυνεμβάλωμεν εἰσιοῦσαι τοὺς μοχλούς.	**LYSISTRATA** That's what I was telling you about: the women have already taken the Goddess's Acropolis. Now, Lampito, you go and get things in order on your side, and leave these women here with us as hostages. And let's go inside and help the others up in the citadel shoot the bolts.
247	**CALONICE** οὔκουν ἐφ' ἡμᾶς ξυμβοηθήσειν οἴει / τοὺς ἄνδρας εὐθύς;	**CALONICE** But don't you think the men will all come charging at us right away?
248	**LYSISTRATA** ὀλίγον αὐτῶν μοι μέλει. οὐ γὰρ τοσαύτας οὔτ' ἀπειλὰς οὔτε πῦρ ἥξουσ' ἔχοντες ὥστ' ἀνοῖξαι τὰς πύλας ταύτας, ἐὰν μὴ 'φ' οἷσιν ἡμεῖς εἴπομεν.	**LYSISTRATA** I don't much care about them. They won't come with enough threats or fire to open these gates, except on the terms we've set.
252	**CALONICE** μὰ τὴν Ἀφροδίτην οὐδέποτέ γ'· ἄλλως γὰρ ἂν / ἄμαχοι γυναῖκες καὶ μιαραὶ κεκλήμεθ' ἄν.	**CALONICE** No, by Aphrodite, never! Otherwise people would call us women unbeatable pests for nothing.

15 Sex positions: legs in the air, and crouching on all fours like the lioness carved on cheese-grater handles.

PARODOS

Old men bring fire to smoke the women off the Acropolis; old women drench them with water.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
254	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** χώρει Δράκης, ἡγοῦ βάδην, εἰ καὶ τὸν ὦμον ἀλγεῖς / κορμοῦ τοσουτονὶ βάρος χλωρᾶς φέρων ἐλάας.	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** Move along, Draces, lead on, step by step, even if your shoulder aches from carrying such a heavy load of green olive wood.
256	ἦ πόλλ' ἄελπτ' ἔνεστιν ἐν τῷ μακρῷ βίῳ φεῦ, ἐπεὶ τίς ἄν ποτ' ἤλπισ' ὦ Στρυμόδωρ' ἀκοῦσαι γυναῖκας, ἃς ἐβόσκομεν κατ' οἶκον ἐμφανὲς κακόν, κατὰ μὲν ἄγιον ἔχειν βρέτας, κατὰ δ' ἀκρόπολιν ἐμὰν λαβεῖν μοχλοῖς δὲ καὶ κλῄθροισι τὰ προπύλαια πακτοῦν;	Ah, a long life holds plenty of surprises! Who would ever have expected, Strymodorus, to hear that the women we've been feeding at home, an obvious plague, have taken hold of the holy image, have seized my Acropolis, and with bars and bolts are blocking up the gateway?
266	ἀλλ' ὡς τάχιστα πρὸς πόλιν σπεύσωμεν ὦ Φιλοῦργε, ὅπως ἄν, αὐταῖς ἐν κύκλῳ θέντες τὰ πρέμνα ταυτί, ὅσαι τὸ πρᾶγμα τοῦτ' ἐνεστήσαντο καὶ μετῆλθον, μίαν πυρὰν νήσαντες ἐμπρήσωμεν αὐτόχειρες πάσας, ὑπὸ ψήφου μιᾶς, πρώτην δὲ τὴν Λύκωνος.	Let's hurry up to the citadel as fast as we can, Philurgus, and pile these logs in a ring around them, all the women who started this business and went along with it. Then we'll build one pyre and burn them all with our own hands, by a single vote, starting with Lycon's wife.[16]
273	οὐ γὰρ μὰ τὴν Δήμητρ' ἐμοῦ ζῶντος ἐγχανοῦνται· ἐπεὶ οὐδὲ Κλεομένης, ὃς αὐτὴν κατέσχε πρῶτος, ἀπῆθεν ἀψάλακτος, ἀλλ' ὅμως Λακωνικὸν πνέων ᾤχετο θῶπλα παραδοὺς ἐμοί, σμικρὸν ἔχων πάνυ τριβώνιον, πινῶν ῥυπῶν ἀπαράτιλτος, ἓξ ἐτῶν ἄλουτος.	By Demeter, while I live they won't laugh at me! Not even Cleomenes, who seized it first, got away unscathed. No, for all his Spartan bluster he left, handing over his arms to me, in a tiny little cloak, grimy, filthy, unplucked, six years unwashed.[17]
281	οὕτως ἐπολιόρκησ' ἐγὼ τὸν ἄνδρ' ἐκεῖνον ὡμῶς ἐφ' ἑπτακαίδεκ' ἀσπίδων πρὸς ταῖς πύλαις καθεύδων. τασδὶ δὲ τὰς Εὐριπίδῃ θεοῖς τε πᾶσιν ἐχθρὰς ἐγὼ οὐκ ἄρα σχήσω παρὼν τολμήματος τοσούτου; μή νυν ἔτ' ἐν τῇ τετραπόλει τοὐμὸν τροπαῖον εἴη.	That's how fiercely I besieged that man, sleeping at the gates seventeen shields deep. And these women, hated by Euripides and every god, am I not going to stop them, when I'm right here, from such an outrage? Then let my trophy stand no longer in the Tetrapolis![18]
286	ἀλλ' αὐτὸ γάρ μοι τῆς ὁδοῦ λοιπόν ἐστι χωρίον τὸ πρὸς πόλιν τὸ σιμόν, οἳ σπουδὴν ἔχω· χὤπως ποτ' ἐξαμπρεύσομεν τοῦτ' ἄνευ κανθηλίου. ὡς ἐμοῦ γε τὼ ξύλω τὸν ὦμον ἐξιπώκατον·	But the only stretch of road I've got left is this steep slope up to the citadel, where I'm hurrying. How are we going to haul this up there without a donkey?

16 Lycon, an Athenian politician (later one of Socrates' accusers), whose wife was mocked for loose living.
17 Cleomenes, a Spartan king, occupied the Acropolis in 508 BC and was besieged there until he surrendered.
18 The Tetrapolis was the district around Marathon, where Athens defeated the Persians in 490 BC; Euripides was notorious for his wicked heroines.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	ἀλλ᾽ ὅμως βαδιστέον, καὶ τὸ πῦρ φυσητέον, μή μ᾽ ἀποσβεσθὲν λάθῃ πρὸς τῇ τελευτῇ τῆς ὁδοῦ. φῦ φῦ. ἰοὺ ἰοὺ τοῦ καπνοῦ.	These two logs have rubbed my shoulder raw. Still, we've got to march on and keep blowing on the fire, so it doesn't go out on me before the end of the road. Phoo! Phoo! Ugh, ugh, the smoke!
296	ὡς δεινὸν ὦναξ Ἡράκλεις προσπεσόν μ᾽ ἐκ τῆς χύτρας ὥσπερ κύων λυττῶσα τὠφθαλμὼ δάκνει· κἄστιν γε Λήμνιον τὸ πῦρ τοῦτο πάσῃ μηχανῇ. οὐ γὰρ ἄν ποθ᾽ ὧδ᾽ ὀδὰξ ἔβρυκε τὰς λήμας ἐμοῦ. σπεῦδε πρόσθεν ἐς πόλιν καὶ βοήθει τῇ θεῷ. ἦ πότ᾽ αὐτῇ μᾶλλον ἢ νῦν ὦ Λάχης ἀρήξομεν; φῦ φῦ. ἰοὺ ἰοὺ τοῦ καπνοῦ.	What a terrible thing, Lord Heracles, comes leaping at me from the pot and bites my eyes like a rabid dog! This fire is Lemnian, every bit of it, or it would never gnaw my gummy eyes like this. Hurry on up to the citadel and help the Goddess. When will we ever stand by her, Laches, if not now? Phoo! Phoo! Ugh, ugh, the smoke![19]
306	τουτὶ τὸ πῦρ ἐγρήγορεν θεῶν ἕκατι καὶ ζῇ. οὔκουν ἄν, εἰ τὼ μὲν ξύλω θείμεσθα πρῶτον αὐτοῦ, τῆς ἀμπέλου δ᾽ ἐς τὴν χύτραν τὸν φανὸν ἐγκαθέντες ἅψαντες εἶτ᾽ ἐς τὴν θύραν κριηδὸν ἐμπέσοιμεν; κἂν μὴ καλούντων τοὺς μοχλοὺς χαλῶσιν αἱ γυναῖκες, ἐμπιμπράναι χρὴ τὰς θύρας καὶ τῷ καπνῷ πιέζειν. θώμεσθα δὴ τὸ φορτίον. φεῦ τοῦ καπνοῦ βαβαιάξ. τίς ξυλλάβοιτ᾽ ἂν τοῦ ξύλου τῶν ἐν Σάμῳ στρατη γῶν; ταυτὶ μὲν ἤδη τὴν ῥάχιν θλίβοντά μου πέπαυται.	This fire's awake, thank the gods, and alive. So how about this: we put the logs down first, stick the vine-wood torch into the pot, light it, and then charge the door like a battering ram? If the women won't undo the bolts when we call, we'll have to set fire to the doors and smoke them out. Let's put down our load. Phew, the smoke, ugh! Which of the generals at Samos will lend a hand with this wood? Well, at least these have stopped crushing my back.[20]
315	σὸν δ᾽ ἔργον ἐστὶν ὦ χύτρα τὸν ἄνθρακ᾽ ἐξεγείρειν, τὴν λαμπάδ᾽ ἡμμένην ὅπως πρώτιστ᾽ ἐμοὶ προσοίσεις. δέσποινα Νίκη ξυγγενοῦ τῶν τ᾽ ἐν πόλει γυναικῶν τοῦ νῦν παρεστῶτος θράσους θέσθαι τροπαῖον ἡμᾶς.	Your job, pot, is to wake up the coals, so you can be the very first to bring me a lighted torch. Lady Victory, stand with us, and let us set up a trophy over the women in the citadel and their present insolence.
319	CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN λιγνὺν δοκῶ μοι καθορᾶν καὶ καπνὸν ὦ γυναῖκες / ὥσπερ πυρὸς καομένου· σπευστέον ἐστὶ θᾶττον.	CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN Women, I think I can see soot and smoke, as if a fire's burning. We'd better hurry faster.
321	πέτου πέτου Νικοδίκη, πρὶν ἐμπεπρῆσθαι Καλύκην τε καὶ Κρίτυλλαν περιφυσήτω †ὑπό τε νόμων † ἀργαλέων ὑπό τε γερόντων ὀλέθρων. ἀλλὰ φοβοῦμαι τόδε, μῶν ὑστερόπους βοηθῶ. νῦν δὴ γὰρ ἐμπλησαμένη τὴν ὑδρίαν κνεφαία	Fly, fly, Nicodice, before Calyce and Critylla are burned up, fanned on every side by cruel winds and by deadly old men! But I'm afraid of this: am I too slow to help? Just now at dawn I filled my water jar

19 A pun: Lemnos was proverbial for fiery violence, and its name echoes *lēmai*, the gunk that gathers in old men's eyes.
20 The Athenian fleet and its generals were then based at Samos, far across the Aegean.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	μόλις ἀπὸ κρήνης ὑπ' ὄχλου καὶ θορύβου καὶ πατάγου χυτρείου, δούλαισιν ὠστιζομένη ... στιγματίαις θ', ἁρπαλέως ἀραμένη ταῖσιν ἐμαῖς δημότισιν καομέναις φέρουσ' ὕδωρ βοηθῶ.	and barely got it from the fountain, through the crowd and din and clatter of pots, jostled by slave women ... and branded slaves. I snatched it up quickly, and to the women of my district who are burning I'm bringing water to help.
335	ἤκουσα γὰρ τυφογέροντας ἄνδρας ἔρρειν, στελέχη φέροντας ὥσπερ βαλανεύσοντας ἐς πόλιν ὡς τριτάλαντον βάρος, δεινότατ' ἀπειλοῦντας ἐπῶν ὡς πυρὶ χρὴ τὰς μυσαρὰς γυναῖκας ἀνθρακεύειν· ἃς ὦ θεὰ μή ποτ' ἐγὼ πιμπραμένας ἴδοιμι, ἀλλὰ πολέμου καὶ μανιῶν ῥυσαμένας Ἑλλάδα καὶ πολίτας, ἐφ' οἵσπερ ὦ χρυσολόφα πολιοῦχε σὰς ἔσχον ἕδρας. καί σε καλῶ ξύμμαχον ὦ Τριτογένει', εἴ τις ἐκείνας ὑποπίμπρησιν ἀνήρ, φέρειν ὕδωρ μεθ' ἡμῶν.	For I heard that doddering old men were on their way, carrying logs like men off to heat a bathhouse, up to the citadel, three talents' weight, making the most terrible threats that these loathsome women must be burned to charcoal. Goddess, may I never see them burning, but see them rescue Greece and its citizens from war and madness: that's why, golden-crested Guardian of the City, they took your seat. And I call on you as our ally, Tritogeneia: if any man sets fire to them, help us carry water.[21]
350	ἔασον ὦ. τουτὶ τί ἦν; ὦνδρες πόνῳ πόνηροι· / οὐ γάρ ποτ' ἂν χρηστοί γ' ἔδρων οὐδ' εὐσεβεῖς τάδ' ἄνδρες.	Hold it! What's this? You men, you rotten, good-for-nothing wretches! No decent, god-fearing men would ever do a thing like this.
352	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** τουτὶ τὸ πρᾶγμ' ἡμῖν ἰδεῖν ἀπροσδόκητον ἥκει· / ἐσμὸς γυναικῶν οὑτοσὶ θύρασιν αὖ βοηθεῖ.	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** Here's something we didn't expect to see: a swarm of women out here at the gates, coming to help!
354	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** τί βδύλλεθ' ἡμᾶς; οὔ τί που πολλαὶ δοκοῦμεν εἶναι; / καὶ μὴν μέρος γ' ἡμῶν ὁρᾶτ' οὔπω τὸ μυριοστόν.	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** What are you farting with fright at us for? Do we look like a lot of us? You aren't seeing even a ten-thousandth of us yet.
356	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** ὦ Φαιδρία ταύτας λαλεῖν ἐάσομεν τοσαυτί; / οὐ περικατᾶξαι τὸ ξύλον τύπτοντ' ἐχρῆν τιν' αὐταῖς;	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** Phaedrias, are we going to let them run their mouths like this? Shouldn't someone beat them and break this wood over their heads?
358	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** θώμεσθα δὴ τὰς κάλπιδας χἠμεῖς χαμᾶζ', ὅπως ἂν / ἦν προσφέρῃ τὴν χεῖρά τις μὴ τοῦτό μ' ἐμποδίζῃ.	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** Let's put our pitchers down on the ground too, so they won't get in my way if anyone lays a hand on me.
360		

21 Tritogeneia is a title of Athena.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	CHORUS OF OLD MEN εἰ νὴ Δί' ἤδη τὰς γνάθους τούτων τις ἢ δὶς ἢ τρὶς / ἔκοψεν ὥσπερ Βουπάλου, φωνὴν ἂν οὐκ ἂν εἶχον.	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** By Zeus, if someone had punched them in the jaw two or three times, like Bupalus, they wouldn't have any voice left.[22]
362	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** καὶ μὴν ἰδοὺ παταξάτω τις· στᾶσ' ἐγὼ παρέξω, / κοὐ μή ποτ' ἄλλη σου κύων τῶν ὄρχεων λάβηται.	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** Go on, then, somebody hit me. I'll stand here and take it. And no other bitch will ever grab you by the balls!
364	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** εἰ μὴ σιωπήσει, θενών σου 'κκοκκιῶ τὸ γῆρας.	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** If you don't shut up, I'll beat the old age right out of your hide.
365	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** ἅψαι μόνον Στρατυλλίδος τῷ δακτύλῳ προσελθών.	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** Just come up and touch Stratyllis with one finger.
366	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** τί δ' ἢν σποδῶ τοῖς κονδύλοις; τί μ' ἐργάσει τὸ δεινόν;	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** And what if I pound you with my fists? What terrible thing will you do to me?
367	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** βρύκουσά σου τοὺς πλεύμονας καὶ τἄντερ' ἐξαμήσω.	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** I'll bite out your lungs and rip out your guts.
368	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** οὐκ ἔστ' ἀνὴρ Εὐριπίδου σοφώτερος ποιητής· / οὐδὲν γὰρ οὕτω θρέμμ' ἀναιδές ἐστιν ὡς γυναῖκες.	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** There's no poet wiser than Euripides: no creature on earth is as shameless as women.
370	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** αἰρώμεθ' ἡμεῖς θοὔδατος τὴν κάλπιν ὦ Ῥοδίππη.	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** Let's pick up our water jars, Rhodippe.
371	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** τί δ' ὦ θεοῖς ἐχθρὰ σὺ δεῦρ' ὕδωρ ἔχουσ' ἀφίκου;	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** Why did you come here with water, you god-forsaken woman?
372	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** τί δαὶ σὺ πῦρ ὦ τύμβ' ἔχων; ὡς σαυτὸν ἐμπυρεύσων;	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** And why have you got fire, you walking tomb? To cremate yourself?
373	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** ἐγὼ μὲν ἵνα νήσας πυρὰν τὰς σὰς φίλας ὑφάψω.	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** So I can build a pyre and burn your friends.
374	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** ἐγὼ δέ γ' ἵνα τὴν σὴν πυρὰν τούτῳ κατασβέσαιμι.	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** And I'm here so I can put out your pyre with this.
375	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** τοὐμὸν σὺ πῦρ κατασβέσεις;	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** You'll put out my fire?
	CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN τοὔργον τάχ' αὐτὸ δείξει.	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** You'll see soon enough.
376	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** οὐκ οἶδά σ' εἰ τῇδ' ὡς ἔχω τῇ λαμπάδι σταθεύσω.	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** I've half a mind to roast you with this torch, right here.
377	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** εἰ ῥύμμα τυγχάνεις ἔχων, λουτρόν γ' ἐγὼ παρέξω.	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** If you happen to have soap, I'll give you a bath.
378	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** ἐμοὶ σὺ λουτρὸν ὦ σαπρά;	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** A bath? From you, you rotten old bag?

22 The poet Hipponax threatened in his verses to punch the sculptor Bupalus in the jaw.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN καὶ ταῦτα νυμφικόν γε.	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** Yes, and a bridal one at that.
379	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** ἤκουσας αὐτῆς τοῦ θράσους;	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** Did you hear the nerve of her?
	CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN ἐλευθέρα γάρ εἰμι.	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** I'm a free woman.
380	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** σχήσω σ' ἐγὼ τῆς νῦν βοῆς.	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** I'll put a stop to your shouting.
	CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN ἀλλ' οὐκέθ' ἡλιάζει.	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** You're not on jury duty now.[23]
381	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** ἔμπρησον αὐτῆς τὰς κόμας.	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** Set her hair on fire!
	CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN σὸν ἔργον ὦχελῷε.	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** Your turn, Achelous![24]
382	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** οἴμοι τάλας.	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** Ow, poor me!
	CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN μῶν θερμὸν ἦν;	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** Too hot?
383	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** ποῖ θερμόν; οὐ παύσει; τί δρᾷς;	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** Hot? Will you stop it? What are you doing?
384	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** ἄρδω σ' ὅπως ἂν βλαστάνῃς.	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** Watering you, so you'll grow.
385	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** ἀλλ' αὖός εἰμ' ἤδη τρέμων.	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** But I'm withered already, and shivering!
386	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** οὐκοῦν ἐπειδὴ πῦρ ἔχεις, σὺ χλιανεῖς σεαυτόν.	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** Well, you've got fire, haven't you? Warm yourself up.

FIRST EPISODE

The Magistrate comes for the war money, and the women rout his archers.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
387	**MAGISTRATE** ἆρ' ἐξέλαμψε τῶν γυναικῶν ἡ τρυφὴ χὠ τυμπανισμὸς χοὶ πυκνοὶ Σαβάζιοι, ὅ τ' Ἀδωνιασμὸς οὗτος οὐπὶ τῶν τεγῶν, οὗ 'γώ ποτ' ὢν ἤκουον ἐν τἠκκλησίᾳ; ἔλεγε δ' ὁ μὴ ὥρασι μὲν Δημόστρατος πλεῖν ἐς Σικελίαν, ἡ γυνὴ δ' ὀρχουμένη "αἰαῖ Ἄδωνιν" φησίν, ὁ δὲ Δημόστρατος ἔλεγεν ὁπλίτας καταλέγειν Ζακυνθίων· ἡ δ' ὑποπεπωκυῖ' ἡ γυνὴ 'πὶ τοῦ τέγους "κόπτεσθ' Ἄδωνιν" φησίν· ὁ δ' ἐβιάζετο ὁ θεοῖσιν ἐχθρὸς καὶ μιαρὸς Χολοζύγης. τοιαῦτ' ἀπ' αὐτῶν ἐστιν ἀκόλαστ' ἄσματα.	**MAGISTRATE** So the women's wild ways have flared up again, have they? Their drumming, their endless cries to Sabazius, and this Adonis-wailing up on the rooftops that I heard once in the Assembly? Demostratus, damn him, was saying we should sail to Sicily, and his wife, dancing, cried, "Alas for Adonis!" Demostratus was saying we should enlist hoplites from Zacynthus, and the wife, a bit tipsy up on the roof, cried, "Beat your breasts for Adonis!" But he forced it through, that

23 Old Athenian men were notorious for serving on juries, which paid a small fee; the women mock their love of sitting in judgment.
24 Achelous was a river god whose name was used poetically for water itself.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
		god-forsaken scumbag Bile-Yoker. That's the kind of debauched songs you get from them.[25]
399	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** τί δῆτ' ἂν εἰ πύθοιο καὶ τὴν τῶνδ' ὕβριν; αἳ τἄλλα θ' ὑβρίκασι κἀκ τῶν καλπίδων ἔλουσαν ἡμᾶς, ὥστε θαἰματίδια σείειν πάρεστιν ὥσπερ ἐνεουρηκότας.	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** Then what if you heard how these ones have outraged us? On top of everything else, they've given us a bath out of their pitchers, so now we can wring out our cloaks like we'd pissed ourselves.
403	**MAGISTRATE** νὴ τὸν Ποσειδῶ τὸν ἁλυκὸν δίκαιά γε. ὅταν γὰρ αὐτοὶ ξυμπονηρευώμεθα ταῖσιν γυναιξὶ καὶ διδάσκωμεν τρυφᾶν, τοιαῦτ' ἀπ' αὐτῶν βλαστάνει βουλεύματα. οἷ λέγομεν ἐν τῶν δημιουργῶν τοιαδί· "ὦ χρυσοχόε τὸν ορμον ὃν ἐπεσκεύασας," "ὀρχουμένης μου τῆς γυναικὸς ἑσπέρας" "ἡ βάλανος ἐκπέπτωκεν ἐκ τοῦ τρήματος." "ἐμοὶ μὲν οὖν ἔστ' ἐς Σαλαμῖνα πλευστέα·" "σὺ δ' ἢν σχολάσῃς, πάσῃ τέχνῃ πρὸς ἑσπέραν" "ἐλθὼν ἐκείνῃ τὴν βάλανον ἐνάρμοσον."	**MAGISTRATE** By salty Poseidon, serves you right. When we men join in the women's wickedness ourselves and teach them to be self-indulgent, these are the plans that sprout from them. We go into the craftsmen's shops and say things like this: "Goldsmith, about that necklace you fixed: last night, while my wife was dancing, the pin slipped out of its hole. Now I've got to sail over to Salamis. But if you have time, do come by this evening and do your very best to fit her pin back in."
414	ἕτερος δέ τις πρὸς σκυτοτόμον ταδὶ λέγει νεανίαν καὶ πέος ἔχοντ' οὐ παιδικόν· "ὦ σκυτοτόμε μου τῆς γυναικὸς τοῦ ποδὸς" "τὸ δακτυλίδιον ξυμπιέζει τὸ ζυγὸν" "ἄθ' ἁπαλὸν ὄν· τοῦτ' οὖν σὺ τῆς μεσημβρίας" "ἐλθὼν χάλασον, ὅπως ἂν εὐρυτέρως ἔχῃ." τοιαῦτ' ἀπήντηκ' ἐς τοιαυτὶ πράγματα, ὅτε γ' ὢν ἐγὼ πρόβουλος, ἐκπορίσας ὅπως κωπῆς ἔσονται, τἀργυρίου νυνὶ δέον, ὑπὸ τῶν γυναικῶν ἀποκέκλῃμαι ταῖς πύλαις. ἀλλ' οὐδὲν ἔργον ἑστάναι. φέρε τοὺς μοχλούς, ὅπως ἂν αὐτὰς τῆς ὕβρεως ἐγὼ σχέθω. τί κέχηνας ὦ δύστηνε;	Another says this to a shoemaker, a young man with a cock that's no boy's: "Shoemaker, the strap is pinching my wife's little toe, it's so tender. So come by at midday and loosen it up, so it's got more room." That's the sort of thing that's led to this business, when I, a Magistrate, have found a supply of oar timber and need the money right now, and I'm locked out of the gates by women. But there's no point standing around. Bring the crowbars, so I can put a stop to their insolence. What are you gaping at, you idiot?
426	ποῖ δ' αὖ σὺ βλέπεις, οὐδὲν ποιῶν ἀλλ' ἢ καπηλεῖον σκοπῶν; οὐχ ὑποβαλόντες τοὺς μοχλοὺς ὑπὸ τὰς πύλας ἐντεῦθεν ἐκμοχλεύσετ'; ἐνθενδὶ δ' ἐγὼ ξυνεκμοχλεύσω.	And you, where are you looking? Doing nothing but eyeing the tavern? Get those crowbars under the gates and pry from over there. I'll pry along with you from this side.
430	**LYSISTRATA** μηδὲν ἐκμοχλεύετε· ἐξέρχομαι γὰρ αὐτομάτη. τί δεῖ μοχλῶν; οὐ γὰρ μοχλῶν δεῖ μᾶλλον ἢ νοῦ καὶ φρενῶν.	**LYSISTRATA** Don't pry anything. I'm coming out of my own accord. What do you need crowbars for? It isn't crowbars that are needed, it's brains and sense.
433	**MAGISTRATE** ἆληθες ὦ μιαρὰ σύ; ποῦ 'σθ' ὁ τοξότης; / ξυλλάμβαν' αὐτὴν κὠπίσω τὼ χεῖρε δεῖ.	**MAGISTRATE** Oh, really, you foul creature? Where's the archer? Grab her and tie her hands behind her back.[26]

25 The Magistrate is one of the ten *probouloi*, emergency commissioners appointed after the Sicilian disaster of 413 BC. He recalls the Assembly of 415 BC, where Demostratus ("Bile-Yoker" mangles his family name Bouzyges, "Ox-Yoker") pushed the expedition through while women mourned Adonis on the rooftops.
26 Athens' "archers" were publicly owned Scythian slaves who served as a police force.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
435	**LYSISTRATA** εἴ τἄρα νὴ τὴν Ἄρτεμιν τὴν χεῖρά μοι / ἄκραν προσοίσει δημόσιος ὤν, κλαύσεται.	**LYSISTRATA** By Artemis, if he lays so much as a fingertip on me, public slave that he is, he'll be howling.
437	**MAGISTRATE** ἔδεισας οὗτος; οὐ ξυναρπάσει μέσην / καὶ σὺ μετὰ τούτου κἀνύσαντε δήσετον;	**MAGISTRATE** Scared, are you? Grab her around the waist, and you help him, and the two of you tie her up, fast.
439	**FIRST WOMAN** εἴ τἄρα νὴ τὴν Πάνδροσον ταύτῃ μόνον / τὴν χεῖρ' ἐπιβαλεῖς, ἐπιχεσεῖ πατούμενος.	**FIRST WOMAN** By Pandrosos, if you so much as lay a hand on her, you'll get stomped till you shit yourself.[27]
441	**MAGISTRATE** ἰδού γ'ἐπιχεσεῖ. ποῦ 'στιν ἕτερος τοξότης; / ταύτην προτέραν ξύνδησον, ὁτιὴ καὶ λαλεῖ.	**MAGISTRATE** Listen to that, "shit yourself"! Where's another archer? Tie that one up first, since she's got a mouth on her too.
443	**SECOND WOMAN** εἴ τἄρα νὴ τὴν Φωσφόρον τὴν χεῖρ' ἄκραν / ταύτῃ προσοίσεις, κύαθον αἰτήσεις τάχα.	**SECOND WOMAN** By the Light-Bringer, if you lay a fingertip on her, you'll soon be begging for a cup to hold on your black eye.
445	**MAGISTRATE** τουτὶ τί ἦν; ποῦ τοξότης; ταύτης ἔχου. / παύσω τιν' ὑμῶν τῆσδ' ἐγὼ τῆς ἐξόδου.	**MAGISTRATE** What's this? Where's an archer? Hold on to that one. I'll put a stop to at least one of you coming out.
447	**THIRD WOMAN** εἴ τἄρα νὴ τὴν Ταυροπόλον ταύτῃ πρόσει, / ἐκκοκκιῶ σου τὰς στενοκωκύτους τρίχας.	**THIRD WOMAN** By Artemis of the Bulls, if you go near her, I'll tear your hair out till you wail and moan.
449	**MAGISTRATE** οἴμοι κακοδαίμων· ἐπιλέλοιφ' ὁ τοξότης. ἀτὰρ οὐ γυναικῶν οὐδέποτ' ἔσθ' ἡττητέα ἡμῖν· ὁμόσε χωρῶμεν αὐταῖς ὦ Σκύθαι ξυνταξάμενοι.	**MAGISTRATE** Oh, damn my luck! The archers have run out on me. But we must never be beaten by women. Form up, Scythians, and let's charge them together.
452	**LYSISTRATA** νὴ τὼ θεὼ γνώσεσθ' ἄρα ὅτι καὶ παρ' ἡμῖν εἰσι τέτταρες λόχοι μαχίμων γυναικῶν ἔνδον ἐξωπλισμένων.	**LYSISTRATA** By the Two Goddesses, then you'll find out we've got four companies of fighting women inside too, fully armed.
455	**MAGISTRATE** ἀποστρέφετε τὰς χεῖρας αὐτῶν ὦ Σκύθαι.	**MAGISTRATE** Twist their arms back, Scythians!
456	**LYSISTRATA** ὦ ξύμμαχοι γυναῖκες ἐκθεῖτ' ἔνδοθεν, ὦ σπερμαγοραιολεκιθολαχανοπώλιδες, ὦ σκοροδοπανδοκευτριαρτοπώλιδες, οὐχ ἕλξετ', οὐ παιήσετ', οὐκ ἀράξετε; οὐ λοιδορήσετ', οὐκ ἀναισχυντήσετε; παύσασθ', ἐπαναχωρεῖτε, μὴ σκυλεύετε.	**LYSISTRATA** Allied women, come running out! You seed-and-porridge-and-veggie-market-women! You garlic-and-guesthouse-and-bread-stall-women! Drag them, hit them, smash them! Curse them, show them no shame! Stop! Fall back! No stripping the bodies!
462	**MAGISTRATE** οἴμ' ὡς κακῶς πέπραγέ μου τὸ τοξικόν.	**MAGISTRATE** Ugh, what a beating my archers have taken!
463	**LYSISTRATA** ἀλλὰ τί γὰρ ᾤου; πότερον ἐπὶ δούλας τινὰς	

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	ἥκειν ἐνόμισας, ἢ γυναιξὶν οὐκ οἴει χολὴν ἐνεῖναι;	**LYSISTRATA** Well, what did you expect? Did you think you were up against some slave girls? Or don't you think women have any spirit in them?
465	**MAGISTRATE** νὴ τὸν Ἀπόλλω καὶ μάλα / πολλήν γ', ἐάνπερ πλησίον κάπηλος ᾖ.	**MAGISTRATE** By Apollo, plenty, as long as there's a tavern nearby.

AGON

Lysistrata debates the Magistrate and argues that women should run the city the way they work wool.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
467	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** ὦ πόλλ' ἀναλώσας ἔπη πρόβουλε τῆσδε τῆς γῆς, τί τοῖσδε σαυτὸν ἐς λόγους τοῖς θηρίοις συνάπτεις; οὐκ οἶσθα λουτρὸν οἷον αἵδ' ἡμᾶς ἔλουσαν ἄρτι ἐν τοῖσιν ἱματιδίοις, καὶ ταῦτ' ἄνευ κονίας;	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** Magistrate of this land, you've wasted plenty of words already. Why are you getting into a discussion with these beasts? Don't you know what kind of bath they just gave us, clothes and all, and without any soap at that?
471	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** ἀλλ' ὦ μέλ' οὐ χρὴ προσφέρειν τοῖς πλησίοισιν εἰκῇ τὴν χεῖρ'· ἐὰν δὲ τοῦτο δρᾷς, κυλοιδιᾶν ἀνάγκη. ἐπεὶ 'θέλω 'γὼ σωφρόνως ὥσπερ κόρη καθῆσθαι, λυποῦσα μηδέν' ἐνθαδί, κινοῦσα μηδὲ κάρφος, ἢν μή τις ὥσπερ σφηκιὰν βλίττῃ με κἀρεθίζῃ.	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** Look, mister, you shouldn't go laying hands on your neighbors just like that. If you do, you're bound to end up with a black eye. Because I'd much rather sit here demurely like a young girl, bothering nobody, not moving so much as a twig, unless somebody goes poking at me like a wasps' nest and riles me up.
476	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** ὦ Ζεῦ τί ποτε χρησόμεθα τοῖσδε τοῖς κνωδάλοις; ου' γὰρ ἔτ' ἀνεκτὰ τάδε γ', ἀλλὰ βασανιστέον τόδε σοι τὸ πάθος μετ' ἐμοῦ ὅ τι βουλόμεναί ποτε τὴν Κραναὰν κατέλαβον, ἐφ' ὅ τι τε μεγαλόπετρον ἄβατον ἀκρόπολιν ἱερὸν τέμενος.	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** Zeus, what on earth are we going to do with these monsters? This is past all bearing! No, you and I must get to the bottom of this business: what on earth they wanted when they seized Cranaa, and why they took the great rock, the untrodden Acropolis, the holy precinct.[28]
484	ἀλλ' ἀνερώτα καὶ μὴ πείθου καὶ πρόσφερε πάντας ἐλέγχους, / ὡς αἰσχρὸν ἀκωδώνιστον ἐᾶν τὸ τοιοῦτον πρᾶγμα μεθέντας.	Question them, don't be taken in, put them through every test there is. It would be a disgrace to let a business like this slip past untested.
486	**MAGISTRATE** καὶ μὴν αὐτῶν τοῦτ' ἐπιθυμῶ νὴ τὸν Δία πρῶτα πυθέσθαι, / ὅ τι βουλόμεναι τὴν πόλιν ἡμῶν ἀπεκλῄσατε τοῖσι μοχλοῖσιν.	**MAGISTRATE** Well, by Zeus, the first thing I want to find out from them is this: what did you mean by barring our city up with bolts?
488	**LYSISTRATA** ἵνα τἀργύριον σῶν παρέχοιμεν καὶ μὴ πολεμοῖτε δι' αὐτό.	**LYSISTRATA** To keep the money safe, so you won't be fighting a war because of it.
489	**MAGISTRATE** διὰ τἀργύριον πολεμοῦμεν γάρ;	**MAGISTRATE** So we're fighting a war because of the money?
	LYSISTRATA καὶ τἄλλα γε πάντ' ἐκυκήθη. ἵνα γὰρ Πείσανδρος ἔχοι κλέπτειν χοἱ ταῖς ἀρχαῖς	**LYSISTRATA** Yes, and that's what stirred up everything else too. Peisander and the men who

27 Pandrosos, a daughter of Athens' legendary king Cecrops, had a shrine on the Acropolis.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	ἐπέχοντες, ἀεί τινα κορκορυγὴν ἐκύκων. οἱ δ' οὖν τοῦδ' οὕνεκα δρώντων ὅ τι βούλονται· τὸ γὰρ ἀργύριον τοῦτ' οὐκέτι μὴ καθέλωσιν.	are after public office were always stirring up some commotion so they'd have the chance to steal. Well, let them do whatever they like for that reason: they'll never get their hands on this money again.[29]
493	**MAGISTRATE** ἀλλὰ τί δράσεις;	**MAGISTRATE** But what will you do?
	LYSISTRATA τοῦτό μ' ἐρωτᾷς; ἡμεῖς ταμιεύσομεν αὐτό.	**LYSISTRATA** You're asking me that? We'll manage it ourselves.
494	**MAGISTRATE** ὑμεῖς ταμιεύσετε τἀργύριον;	**MAGISTRATE** You'll manage the money?
	LYSISTRATA τί δὲ δεινὸν τοῦτο νομίζεις; / οὐ καὶ τἄνδον χρήματα πάντως ἡμεῖς ταμιεύομεν ὑμῖν;	**LYSISTRATA** What's so shocking about that? Don't we manage all the household money for you already?
496	**MAGISTRATE** ἀλλ' οὐ ταὐτόν.	**MAGISTRATE** But that's not the same.
	LYSISTRATA πῶς οὐ ταὐτόν;	**LYSISTRATA** How is it not the same?
	MAGISTRATE πολεμητέον ἔστ' ἀπὸ τούτου.	**MAGISTRATE** This is the money we have to fight the war with.
497	**LYSISTRATA** ἀλλ' οὐδὲν δεῖ πρῶτον πολεμεῖν.	**LYSISTRATA** But there's no need to fight a war in the first place.
	MAGISTRATE πῶς γὰρ σωθησόμεθ' ἄλλως;	**MAGISTRATE** Then how else are we going to be saved?
498	**LYSISTRATA** ἡμεῖς ὑμᾶς σώσομεν.	**LYSISTRATA** We'll save you.
	MAGISTRATE ὑμεῖς;	**MAGISTRATE** You?
	LYSISTRATA ἡμεῖς μέντοι.	**LYSISTRATA** Yes, us.
	MAGISTRATE σχέτλιόν γε.	**MAGISTRATE** Outrageous!
499	**LYSISTRATA** ὡς σωθήσει, κἂν μὴ βούλῃ.	**LYSISTRATA** You'll be saved whether you like it or not.
	MAGISTRATE δεινόν γε λέγεις.	**MAGISTRATE** That's a monstrous thing to say!
	LYSISTRATA ἀγανακτεῖς. / ἀλλὰ ποιητέα ταῦτ' ἐστὶν ὅμως.	**LYSISTRATA** You're upset. But it has to be done all the same.
500	**MAGISTRATE** νὴ τὴν Δήμητρ' ἄδικόν γε.	**MAGISTRATE** By Demeter, it isn't right!
501	**LYSISTRATA** σωστέον ὦ τᾶν.	**LYSISTRATA** You must be saved, my friend.
	MAGISTRATE κεἰ μὴ δέομαι;	**MAGISTRATE** Even if I don't want it?
	LYSISTRATA τοῦδ' οὕνεκα καὶ πολὺ μᾶλλον.	**LYSISTRATA** All the more for that very reason.
502		

28 Cranaa: an old poetic name for Athens and its Acropolis, after the mythical king Cranaus.
29 Peisander: an Athenian politician then helping to engineer the oligarchic coup of 411 BC.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	MAGISTRATE ὑμῖν δὲ πόθεν περὶ τοῦ πολέμου τῆς τ' εἰρήνης ἐμέλησεν;	**MAGISTRATE** And since when have you cared about war and peace?
503	**LYSISTRATA** ἡμεῖς φράσομεν.	**LYSISTRATA** We'll tell you.
	MAGISTRATE λέγε δὴ ταχέως, ἵνα μὴ κλάῃς,	**MAGISTRATE** Then tell me fast, or you'll be sorry.
	LYSISTRATA ἀκροῶ δή, / καὶ τὰς χεῖρας πειρῶ κατέχειν.	**LYSISTRATA** Listen, then, and try to keep your hands to yourself.
504	**MAGISTRATE** ἀλλ' οὐ δύναμαι· χαλεπὸν γὰρ / ὑπὸ τῆς ὀργῆς αὐτὰς ἴσχειν.	**MAGISTRATE** But I can't. I'm so angry it's hard to hold them back.
505	**FIRST WOMAN** κλαύσει τοίνυν πολὺ μᾶλλον.	**FIRST WOMAN** Then you'll be a lot sorrier.
506	**MAGISTRATE** τοῦτο μὲν ὦ γραῦ σαυτῇ κρώξαις· σὺ δέ μοι λέγε.	**MAGISTRATE** Croak that curse on yourself, you old hag! You, talk to me.
	LYSISTRATA ταῦτα ποιήσω. ἡμεῖς τὸν μὲν πρότερον πόλεμον † καὶ τὸν χρόνον ἠνεσχόμεθα † ὑπὸ σωφροσύνης τῆς ἡμετέρας τῶν ἀνδρῶν ἄττ' ἐποιεῖτε. οὐ γὰρ γρύζειν εἰᾶθ' ἡμᾶς. καίτοὐκ ἠρέσκετέ γ' ἡμᾶς. ἀλλ' ᾐσθανόμεσθα καλῶς ὑμῶν, καὶ πολλάκις ἔνδον ἂν οὖσαι ἠκούσαμεν ἄν τι κακῶς ὑμᾶς βουλευσαμένους μέγα πρᾶγμα· εἶτ' ἀλγοῦσαι τἄνδοθεν ὑμᾶς ἐπανηρόμεθ' ἂν γελάσασαι, "τί βεβούλευται περὶ τῶν σπονδῶν ἐν τῇ στήλῃ παραγράψαι" "ἐν τῷ δήμῳ τήμερονὑμῖν;" "τίδὲ σοὶ ταῦτ';" ἦ δ' ὃς ἂν ἀνήρ. "οὐ σιγήσει;" κἀγὼ ἐσίγων.	**LYSISTRATA** I'll do that. Through the earlier war, for a long time, we put up with whatever you men did, because we knew how to behave. You wouldn't let us make a peep. Not that you pleased us. But we kept a close eye on you, and often, at home, we'd hear that you'd made a bad decision on some big issue. Then, aching inside, we'd put on a smile and ask you, "What did you decide in the Assembly today about adding a clause to the treaty on the stone?" "What business is that of yours?" my husband would say. "Won't you shut up?" And I'd shut up.[30]
515	**FIRST WOMAN** ἀλλ' οὐκ ἂν ἐγώ ποτ' ἐσίγων.	**FIRST WOMAN** Well, I'd never have shut up.
516	**MAGISTRATE** κἂν ᾤμωζές γ', εἰ μὴ 'σίγας.	**MAGISTRATE** And you'd have been howling if you hadn't.
	LYSISTRATA τοιγὰρ ἔγωγ' ἔνδον ἐσίγων. ... ἕτερόν τι πονηρότερον βούλευμ' ἐπεπύσμεθ' ἂν ὑμῶν· εἶτ' ἠρόμεθ' ἄν· "πῶς ταῦτ' ὤνερ διαπράττεσθ' ὧδ' ἀνοήτως;" ὁ δέ μ' εὐθὺς ὑποβλέψας ἂν ἔφασκ', εἰ μὴ τὸν στήμονα νήσω, ὀτοτύξεσθαι μακρὰ τὴν κεφαλήν· "πόλεμος δ' ἄνδρεσσι μελήσει."	**LYSISTRATA** So I kept quiet at home. ... Then we'd hear about some decision of yours that was even worse, and we'd ask, "Husband, how can you be handling this so stupidly?" And he'd glare at me straight off and tell me that if I didn't spin my thread my head would be howling for a long time: "War shall be the business of men."[31]
521	**MAGISTRATE** ὀρθῶς γε λέγων νὴ Δί' ἐκεῖνος.	**MAGISTRATE** And he was right to say so, by Zeus.
	LYSISTRATA πῶς ὀρθῶς ὦ κακόδαιμον, εἰ μηδὲ κακῶς βουλευομένοις ἐξῆν ὑμῖν ὑποθέσθαι;	**LYSISTRATA** How was he right, you wretch, if we weren't even allowed to give you advice when you

30 The treaty: the Peace of Nicias (421 BC), inscribed on a stone pillar; in 418 BC the Athenians added a note there that the Spartans had broken their oaths.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	ὅτε δὴ δ' ὑμῶν ἐν ταῖσιν ὁδοῖς φανερῶς ἠκούομεν ἤδη, "οὐκ ἔστιν ἀνὴρ ἐν τῇ χώρᾳ;" "μὰ Δί' οὐ δῆτ'," εἶφ' ἕτερός τις· μετὰ ταῦθ' ἡμῖν εὐθὺς ἔδοξεν σῶσαι τὴν Ἑλλάδα κοινῇ ταῖσι γυναιξὶν συλλεχθείσαις. ποῖ γὰρ καὶ χρῆν ἀναμεῖναι; ἢν οὖν ἡμῶν χρηστὰ λεγουσῶν ἐθελήσητ' ἀντακροᾶσθαι κἀντισιωπᾶθ' ὥσπερ χἠμεῖς, ἐπανορθώσαιμεν ἂν ὑμᾶς.	were making bad decisions? But when we started hearing you say out loud in the streets, "Isn't there a man left in the country?" and somebody else answering, "No, by Zeus, there isn't," right after that we decided that the women should get together and save Greece together. Why should we have waited any longer? So if you're willing to listen to us in turn when we give good advice, and to keep quiet in turn as we did, we could set you straight.
529	**MAGISTRATE** ὑμεῖς ἡμᾶς; δεινόν γε λέγεις κοὐ τλητὸν ἔμοιγε.	**MAGISTRATE** You set us straight? That's a monstrous thing to say, and I won't stand for it.
	LYSISTRATA σιώπα.	**LYSISTRATA** Quiet.
530	**MAGISTRATE** σοί γ' ὦ κατάρατε σιωπῶ 'γώ, καὶ ταῦτα κάλυμμα φορούσῃ / περὶ τὴν κεφαλήν; μή νυν ζῴην.	**MAGISTRATE** Me, keep quiet for you, damn you, and you with a veil on your head? I'd sooner die.
531	**LYSISTRATA** ἀλλ' εἰ τοῦτ' ἐμπόδιόν σοι, παρ' ἐμοῦ τουτὶ τὸ κάλυμμα λαβὼν ἔχε καὶ περίθου περὶ τὴν κεφαλήν, κᾆτα σιώπα καὶ τοῦτον τὸν καλαθίσκον. κᾆτα ξαίνειν ξυζωσάμενος κυάμους τρώγων· πόλεμος δὲ γυναιξὶ μελήσει.	**LYSISTRATA** Well, if that's what's in your way, take this veil from me, have it, put it around your head, and then keep quiet. And take this little basket too. Then hitch up your clothes and card wool, munching beans. War shall be the business of women.
539	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** αἰρώμεθ' ὦ γυναῖκες ἀπὸ τῶν καλπίδων, ὅπως ἂν / ἐν τῷ μέρει χἠμεῖς τι ταῖς φίλαισι συλλάβωμεν.	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** Up, women, away from your water jars, so that we can do our part in turn and lend our friends a hand.
541	ἔγωγε γὰρ ἂν οὔποτε κάμοιμ' ἂν ὀρχουμένη, †οὐδὲ τὰ γόνατα κόπος ἕλοι μου καματηρόσ†· ἐθέλω δ' ἐπὶ πᾶν ἰέναι μετὰ τῶνδ' ἀρετῆς ἕνεχ', αἷς ἔνι φύσις, ἔνι χάρις, ἔνι θράσος, ἔνι δὲ σοφόν, ἔνι δὲ φιλόπολις ἀρετὴ φρόνιμος.	Me, I'd never tire of dancing, nor would aching weariness ever grip my knees. I'm ready to go to any lengths with these women, for their excellence: they have spirit, they have charm, they have daring, they have wisdom, they have a patriot's sensible excellence.
549	ἀλλ' ὦ τηθῶν ἀνδρειοτάτων καὶ μητριδίων ἀκαληφῶν, / χωρεῖτ' ὀργῇ καὶ μὴ τέγγεσθ'· ἔτι γὰρ νῦν οὔρια θεῖτε.	Come on, you daughters of the manliest grannies and of stinging-nettle mothers, charge in fury and don't go soft: the wind's still at your backs.

31 The quotation is Hector's line to his wife Andromache in the *Iliad* (6.492).

	GREEK	ENGLISH
551	**LYSISTRATA** ἀλλ᾽ ἥνπερ ὅ τε γλυκύθυμος Ἔρως χὴ Κυπρογένει᾽ Ἀφροδίτη ἵμερον ἡμῶν κατὰ τῶν κόλπων καὶ τῶν μηρῶν καταπνεύσῃ, κᾆτ᾽ ἐντήξῃ τέτανον τερπνὸν τοῖς ἀνδράσι καὶ ῥοπαλισμούς, οἶμαί ποτε Λυσιμάχας ἡμᾶς ἐν τοῖς Ἕλλησι καλεῖσθαι.	**LYSISTRATA** Well, if sweet-souled Eros and Cyprus-born Aphrodite breathe desire down over our breasts and thighs, and then fill the men with a delicious stiffness and hard-ons like clubs, I think someday the Greeks will call us Lysimaches, the Battle-Breakers.[32]
555	**MAGISTRATE** τί ποιησάσας;	**MAGISTRATE** By doing what?
	LYSISTRATA ἢν παύσωμεν πρώτιστον μὲν ξὺν ὅπλοισιν / ἀγοράζοντας καὶ μαινομένους.	**LYSISTRATA** First of all, by stopping men from shopping in the market in full armor and acting like lunatics.
556	**FIRST WOMAN** νὴ τὴν Παφίαν Ἀφροδίτην.	**FIRST WOMAN** Yes, by Aphrodite of Paphos!
557	**LYSISTRATA** νῦν μὲν γὰρ δὴ κἀν ταῖσι χύτραις κἀν τοῖς λαχάνοισιν ὁμοίως / περιέρχονται κατὰ τὴν ἀγορὰν ξὺν ὅπλοις ὥσπερ Κορύβαντες.	**LYSISTRATA** Right now, you see, they're going around the market among the pots and the vegetables alike, in full armor, like Corybants.[33]
559	**MAGISTRATE** νὴ Δία· χρὴ γὰρ τοὺς ἀνδρείους.	**MAGISTRATE** Yes, by Zeus, that's what real men have to do.
	LYSISTRATA καὶ μὴν τό γε πρᾶγμα γέλοιον, / ὅταν ἀσπίδ᾽ ἔχων καὶ Γοργόνα τις κᾆτ᾽ ὠνῆται κορακίνους.	**LYSISTRATA** And it really is a ridiculous sight, when a man with a shield with a Gorgon on it goes and buys sardines.
561	**FIRST WOMAN** νὴ Δί᾽ ἐγὼ γοῦν ἄνδρα κομήτην φυλαρχοῦντ᾽ εἶδον ἐφ᾽ ἵππου ἐς τὸν χαλκοῦν ἐμβαλλόμενον πῖλον λέκιθον παρὰ γραός· ἕτερος δ᾽ αὖ Θρᾷξ πέλτην σείων κἀκόντιον ὥσπερ ὁ Τηρεύς, ἐδεδίσκετο τὴν ἰσχαδόπωλιν καὶ τὰς δρυπεπεῖς κατέπινεν.	**FIRST WOMAN** By Zeus, I saw it myself: a long-haired cavalry commander on horseback, getting an old woman to pour him pea soup into his bronze helmet. And there was another one, a Thracian, shaking his shield and javelin like Tereus, who scared the fig-seller woman out of her wits and gobbled up her ripe olives.[34]
565	**MAGISTRATE** πῶς οὖν ὑμεῖς δυναταὶ παῦσαι τεταραγμένα πράγματα πολλὰ / ἐν ταῖς χώραις καὶ διαλῦσαι;	**MAGISTRATE** So how can you women stop all the tangled affairs of the different states and sort them out?
566	**LYSISTRATA** φαύλως πάνυ.	**LYSISTRATA** Very easily.
	MAGISTRATE πῶς; ἀπόδειξον.	**MAGISTRATE** How? Show me.
567	**LYSISTRATA** ὥσπερ κλωστῆρ᾽, ὅταν ἡμῖν ᾖ τεταραγμένος, ὧδε λαβοῦσαι, ὑπενεγκοῦσαι τοῖσιν ἀτράκτοις τὸ μὲν ἐνταυθοῖ τὸ δ᾽ ἐκεῖσε, οὕτως καὶ τὸν πόλεμον τοῦτον διαλύσομεν, ἤν τις ἐάσῃ, διενεγκοῦσαι διὰ πρεσβειῶν τὸ μὲν ἐνταυθοῖ τὸ δ᾽ ἐκεῖσε.	**LYSISTRATA** It's like a skein of wool when it's tangled: we take it like this and draw it out on our spindles, this way and that. That's how we'll untangle this war too, if we're allowed, drawing it out through embassies, this way and that.

32 "Lysimache" means "dissolver of battle"; it was also the name of the priestess of Athena of the City at the time.
33 Corybants: the frenzied attendants of the goddess Cybele, who danced in armor.
34 Tereus: a mythical king of Thrace, hero of a tragedy by Sophocles.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
571	**MAGISTRATE** ἐξ ἐρίων δὴ καὶ κλωστήρων καὶ ἀτράκτων πράγματα δεινὰ / παύσειν οἴεσθ' ὦ ἀνόητοι;	**MAGISTRATE** You think you'll stop terrible affairs with wool and skeins and spindles, you idiots?
572	**LYSISTRATA** κἂν ὑμῖν γ' εἴ τις ἐνῆν νοῦς, / ἐκ τῶν ἐρίων τῶν ἡμετέρων ἐπολιτεύεσθ' ἂν ἅπαντα.	**LYSISTRATA** Yes, and if you had any sense, you'd run all your politics the way we work our wool.
574	**MAGISTRATE** πῶς δή; φέρ' ἴδω.	**MAGISTRATE** How so? Let's see.
	LYSISTRATA πρῶτον μὲν ἐχρῆν, ὥσπερ πόκου ἐν βαλανείῳ ἐκπλύναντας τὴν οἰσπώτην, ἐκ τῆς πόλεως ἐπὶ κλίνης ἐκραβδίζειν τοὺς μοχθηροὺς καὶ τοὺς τριβόλους ἀπολέξαι, καὶ τούς γε συνισταμένους τούτους καὶ τοὺς πιλοῦντας ἑαυτοὺς ἐπὶ ταῖς ἀρχαῖσι διαξῆναι καὶ τὰς κεφαλὰς ἀποτῖλαι· εἶτα ξαίνειν ἐς καλαθίσκον κοινὴν εὔνοιαν, ἅπαντας καταμιγνύντας τούς τε μετοίκους κεἴ τις ξένος ἢ φίλος ὑμῖν, κεἴ τις ὀφείλει τῷ δημοσίῳ, καὶ τούτους ἐγκαταμεῖξαι· καὶ νὴ Δία τάς γε πόλεις, ὁπόσαι τῆς γῆς τῆσδ' εἰσὶν ἄποικοι,	**LYSISTRATA** First, just as with a raw fleece, you'd have to wash out the sheep dung in a bath; then lay the city on a bed and beat the scoundrels out of it with sticks, and pick out the burrs. As for the ones who clump together and mat themselves into knots to get public offices, you'd card them apart and pluck off their heads. Then card the common goodwill into a basket, mixing everyone in: the resident aliens, any foreigner who's a friend of yours, and anyone who owes money to the treasury, mix them in too. And, by Zeus, the cities that are colonies of this land:[35]
583	διαγιγνώσκειν ὅτι ταῦθ' ἡμῖν ὥσπερ τὰ κατάγματα κεῖται χωρὶς ἕκαστον· κᾆτ' ἀπὸ τούτων πάντων τὸ κάταγμα λαβόντας δεῦρο ξυνάγειν καὶ συναθροίζειν εἰς ἕν, κἄπειτα ποιῆσαι τολύπην μεγάλην κᾆτ' ἐκ ταύτης τῷ δήμῳ χλαῖναν ὑφῆναι.	you should recognize that they're lying around like separate tufts of wool, each one off by itself. Then you take the wool from all of them, bring it here and gather it all into one, and then make a big ball of yarn, and out of that weave a cloak for the people.
587	**MAGISTRATE** οὔκουν δεινὸν ταυτὶ ταύτας ῥαβδίζειν καὶ τολυπεύειν, / αἷς οὐδὲ μετῆν πάνυ τοῦ πολέμου;	**MAGISTRATE** Isn't it outrageous that these women should be beating and winding all this up, when they've had nothing whatever to do with the war?
588	**LYSISTRATA** καὶ μὴν ὦ παγκατάρατε πλεῖν ἢ γε διπλοῦν αὐτὸν φέρομεν, πρώτιστον μέν γε τεκοῦσαι κἀκπέμψασαι παῖδας ὁπλίτας.	**LYSISTRATA** Oh, but we have, you damned wretch! We bear more than twice our share of it. First of all, we give birth to sons and send them off to serve as soldiers.
590	**MAGISTRATE** σίγα, μὴ μνησικακήσῃς.	**MAGISTRATE** Quiet, don't bring up old wrongs.
591	**LYSISTRATA** εἶθ' ἡνίκα χρῆν εὐφρανθῆναι καὶ τῆς ἥβης ἀπολαῦσαι, μονοκοιτοῦμεν διὰ τὰς στρατιάς. καὶ θἠμέτερον μὲν ἐᾶτε, περὶ τῶν δὲ κορῶν ἐν τοῖς θαλάμοις γηρασκουσῶν ἀνιῶμαι.	**LYSISTRATA** Then, when we ought to be having fun and enjoying our youth, we sleep alone because of the campaigns. And never mind us: it's the girls growing old in their bedrooms that I grieve for.
594	**MAGISTRATE** οὔκουν χἄνδρες γηράσκουσιν;	**MAGISTRATE** But don't men grow old too?
	LYSISTRATA μὰ Δί' ἀλλ' οὐκ εἶπας ὅμοιον. ὁ μὲν ἥκων γάρ, κἂν ᾖ πολιός, ταχὺ παῖδα κόρην	**LYSISTRATA** By Zeus, what you're talking about isn't the same thing at all. When a man comes

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	γεγάμηκεν· τῆς δὲ γυναικὸς σμικρὸς ὁ καιρός, κἂν τούτου μὴ ᾽πιλάβηται, οὐδεὶς ἐθέλει γῆμαι ταύτην, ὀττευομένη δὲ κάθηται.	home, even if he's gray, he's quickly married a young girl. But a woman's season is short, and if she doesn't seize it, nobody wants to marry her, and she sits there looking for omens.
598	**MAGISTRATE** ἀλλ᾽ ὅστις ἔτι στῦσαι δυνατὸς—	**MAGISTRATE** But any man who can still get it up —
599	**LYSISTRATA** σὺ δὲ δὴ τί μαθὼν οὐκ ἀποθνῄσκεις; †χωρίον ἐστί·† σορὸν ὠνήσει· μελιτοῦτταν ἐγὼ καὶ δὴ μάξω. λαβὲ ταυτὶ καὶ στεφάνωσαι.	**LYSISTRATA** And you, what's got into you that you don't just die? There's a plot for you. You'll buy a coffin. I'll knead you a honey cake right now. Take these and put on a garland.[36]
603	**FIRST WOMAN** καὶ ταυτασὶ δέξαι παρ᾽ ἐμοῦ.	**FIRST WOMAN** And take these from me.
604	**SECOND WOMAN** καὶ τουτονγὶ λαβὲ τὸν στέφανον.	**SECOND WOMAN** And take this wreath.
605	**LYSISTRATA** τοῦ δεῖ; τί ποθεῖς; χώρει ᾽ς τὴν ναῦν· ὁ Χάρων σε καλεῖ, σὺ δὲ κωλύεις ἀνάγεσθαι.	**LYSISTRATA** What do you need? What are you missing? Get on the boat: Charon's calling you, and you're keeping him from casting off.

SECOND EPISODE

The Magistrate storms off to show his colleagues how he has been treated.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
608	**MAGISTRATE** εἶτ᾽ οὐχὶ ταῦτα δεινὰ πάσχειν ἔστ᾽ ἐμέ; νὴ τὸν Δί᾽ ἀλλὰ τοῖς προβούλοις ἄντικρυς ἐμαυτὸν ἐπιδείξω βαδίζων ὡς ἔχω.	**MAGISTRATE** Isn't it outrageous that I should be treated like this? By Zeus, I'm going straight to the other Magistrates to show myself to them just the way I am.
611	**LYSISTRATA** μῶν ἐγκαλεῖς ὅτι οὐχὶ προὐθέμεσθά σε; ἀλλ᾽ ἐς τρίτην γοῦν ἡμέραν σοὶ πρῲ πάνυ ἥξει παρ᾽ ἡμῶν τὰ τρίτ᾽ ἐπεσκευασμένα.	**LYSISTRATA** You're not complaining that we didn't lay you out properly, are you? Well, on the third day, first thing in the morning, you'll get your third-day offerings from us, all ready.[37]

FIRST CHORAL SONG

The old men and old women trade threats and boast of their service to the city.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
614	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** οὐκέτ᾽ ἔργον ἐγκαθεύδειν ὅστις ἔστ᾽ ἐλεύθερος, ἀλλ᾽ ἐπαποδυώμεθ᾽ ἄνδρες τουτῳὶ τῷ πράγματι. ἤδη γὰρ ὄζειν ταδὶ πλειόνων καὶ μειζόνων	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** No more dozing on the job for any man who's free! Let's strip for action, men, and take this business on. Because it seems to me this thing already reeks of more and bigger
617	πραγμάτων μοι δοκεῖ, καὶ μάλιστ᾽ ὀσφραίνομαι τῆς Ἱππίου τυραννίδος·	business still, and above all I catch the smell of Hippias' tyranny.

35 Resident aliens (metics) were free foreigners living in Athens without citizenship; debtors to the treasury lost their civic rights until they paid.

36 The women are dressing him for his funeral: honey cakes (a sop for Cerberus), ribbons and garlands were given to the dead.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	καὶ πάνυ δέδοικα μὴ τῶν Λακώνων τινὲς δεῦρο συνεληλυθότες ἄνδρες ἐς Κλεισθένους τὰς θεοῖς ἐχθρὰς γυναῖκας ἐξεπαίρωσιν δόλῳ καταλαβεῖν τὰ χρήμαθ' ἡμῶν τόν τε μισθόν, ἔνθεν ἔζων ἐγώ.	And I'm very much afraid that some Spartan men have got together here at Cleisthenes' house and are craftily egging on these god-hated women to seize our funds and the jury pay I've been living on.[38]
626	δεινὰ γάρ τοι τάσδε γ' ἤδη τοὺς πολίτας νουθετεῖν, καὶ λαλεῖν γυναῖκας οὔσας ἀσπίδος χαλκῆς πέρι, καὶ διαλλάττειν πρὸς ἡμᾶς ἀνδράσιν Λακωνικοῖς, οἷσι πιστὸν οὐδὲν εἰ μή περ λύκῳ κεχηνότι. ἀλλὰ ταῦθ' ὕφηναν ἡμῖν ἄνδρες ἐπὶ τυραννίδι. ἀλλ' ἐμοῦ μὲν οὐ τυραννεύσουσ', ἐπεὶ φυλάξομαι καὶ φορήσω τὸ ξίφος τὸ λοιπὸν ἐν μύρτου κλαδί, ἀγοράσω τ' ἐν τοῖς ὅπλοις ἑξῆς Ἀριστογείτονι, ὧδέ θ' ἑστήξω παρ' αὐτόν· †αὐτὸσ† γάρ μοι γίγνεται τῆς θεοῖς ἐχθρᾶς πατάξαι τῆσδε γραὸς τὴν γνάθον.	It's an outrage that these women are already lecturing the citizens, women that they are, and babbling about bronze shields, and trying to reconcile us with the Spartans, men you can trust about as far as a wolf with its jaws open. No, it's men who have woven this plot against us, aiming at tyranny. Well, they won't play tyrant over me: I'll be on my guard, and from now on I'll "carry my sword in a myrtle branch," and I'll do my shopping under arms right next to Aristogeiton, standing beside him like this. Because now's my chance to smack this god-hated old hag in the jaw.[39]
636	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** οὐκ ἄρ' εἰσιόντα σ' οἴκαδ' ἡ τεκοῦσα γνώσεται. ἀλλὰ θώμεσθ' ὦ φίλαι γρᾶες ταδί πρῶτον χαμαί. ἡμεῖς γὰρ ὦ πάντες ἀστοὶ λόγων κατάρχομεν τῇ πόλει χρησίμων· εἰκότως, ἐπεὶ χλιδῶσαν ἀγλαῶς ἔθρεψέ με. ἑπτὰ μὲν ἔτη γεγῶσ' εὐθὺς ἠρρηφόρουν· εἶτ' ἀλετρὶς ἦ δεκέτις οὖσα τἀρχηγέτι· κᾆτ' ἔχουσα τὸν κροκωτὸν ἄρκτος ἦ Βραυρωνίοις· κἀκανηφόρουν ποτ' οὖσα παῖς καλὴ 'χουσ' ἰσχάδων ὁρμαθόν·	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** Then your own mother won't recognize you when you come home! Come, my dear old friends, let's put these down on the ground first. Because, citizens, all of you, we're starting a speech that will be useful to the city, and rightly, since it raised me in splendid luxury. As soon as I was seven, I carried the sacred things; then at ten I ground grain for the Foundress; then, in my saffron robe, I was a bear at Brauron; and once, as a pretty girl, I carried the basket wearing a string of dried figs.[40]
648	ἆρα προὐφείλω τι χρηστὸν τῇ πόλει παραινέσαι; εἰ δ' ἐγὼ γυνὴ πέφυκα, τοῦτο μὴ φθονεῖτέ μοι, ἢν ἀμείνω γ' εἰσενέγκω τῶν παρόντων πραγμάτων. τοὐράνου γάρ μοι μέτεστι· καὶ γὰρ ἄνδρας ἐσφέρω, τοῖς δὲ δυστήνοις γέρουσιν οὐ μέτεσθ' ὑμῖν, ἐπεὶ τὸν ἔρανον τὸν λεγόμενον παππῷον ἐκ τῶν Μηδικῶν εἶτ' ἀναλώσαντες οὐκ ἀντεσφέρετε τὰς ἐσφοράς, ἀλλ' ὑφ' ὑμῶν διαλυθῆναι προσέτι κινδυνεύομεν. ἆρα γρυκτόν ἐστιν ὑμῖν; εἰ δὲ λυπήσεις τί με, τῷδέ γ' ἀψήκτῳ πατάξω τῷ κοθόρνῳ τὴν γνάθον.	So don't I owe the city some useful advice? Even if I was born a woman, don't hold it against me, if I can contribute something better than what we've got now. I have a stake in the common fund: I contribute men. You miserable old men have no stake in it, because you squandered the fund they call Grandpa's, the one from the Persian Wars, and then never paid anything back in. On top of that, now we're in danger of being ruined by you. Have you got anything to grunt about? If you give me

37 Offerings were brought to the grave on the third day after a funeral.
38 Hippias was the last tyrant of Athens, expelled in 510 BC; Cleisthenes was a contemporary of Aristophanes endlessly mocked for his supposed softness.
39 Aristogeiton and Harmodius killed the tyrant Hippias' brother in 514 BC; a popular drinking song had them hide their swords in myrtle branches, and their statues stood in the Agora.
40 These were girls' religious offices in Athens: carrying Athena's sacred objects on the Acropolis, grinding meal for her cakes, serving Artemis as a "bear" at Brauron, and carrying the sacred basket in processions.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
		any trouble, I'll smack you in the jaw with this rawhide boot.[41]
658	CHORUS OF OLD MEN ταῦτ' οὖν οὐχ ὕβρις τὰ πράγματ' ἐστὶ πολλή; κἀπιδώσειν μοι δοκεῖ τὸ χρῆμα μᾶλλον. ἀλλ' ἀμυντέον τὸ πρᾶγμ' ὅστις γ' ἐνόρχης ἔστ' ἀνήρ. ἀλλὰ τὴν ἐξωμίδ' ἐκδυώμεθ', ὡς τὸν ἄνδρα δεῖ ἀνδρὸς ὄζειν εὐθύς, ἀλλ' οὐν ἐντεθριῶσθαι πρέπει. ἀλλ' ἄγετε λευκόποδες, οἵπερ επὶ Λείψύδριον ἤλθομεν ὅτ' ἦμεν ἔτι, νῦν δεῖ νῦν ἀνηβῆσαι πάλιν κἀναπτερῶσαι πᾶν τὸ σῶμα κἀποσείσασθαι τὸ γῆρας τόδε.	CHORUS OF OLD MEN Isn't all this a whole lot of insolence? And I think the thing will only get worse. Every man with balls has to fight this off. Come on, let's strip off our tunics: a man should smell like a man right from the start, not go about wrapped up like a stuffed vine leaf. Come on, you White-feet, who marched on Leipsydrion back when we were still something, now, now we have to be young again, and sprout wings all over our bodies, and shake off this old age.[42]
672	εἰ γὰρ ἐνδώσει τις ἡμῶν ταῖσδε κἂν σμικρὰν λαβήν, οὐδὲν ἐλλείψουσιν αὗται λιπαροῦς χειρουργίας, ἀλλὰ καὶ ναῦς τεκτανοῦνται, κἀπιχειρήσουσ' ἔτι ναυμαχεῖν καὶ πλεῖν ἐφ' ἡμᾶς ὥσπε, Ἀρτεμισία. ἢν δ' ἐφ' ἱππικὴν τράπωνται, διαγράφω τοὺς ἱππέας. ἱππικώτατον γάρ ἐστι χρῆμα κἄποχον γυνή, κοὐκ ἂν ἀπολίσθοι τρέχοντος· τὰς δ' Ἀμαζόνας σκόπει, ἃς Μίκων ἔγραψ' ἐφ' ἵππων μαχομένας τοῖς ἀνδράσιν. ἀλλὰ τούτων χρῆν ἁπασῶν ἐς τετρημένον ξύλον ἐγκαθαρμόσαι λαβόντας τουτονὶ τὸν αὐχένα.	Because if any of us gives these women even the slightest handhold, there's no end to the busy handiwork they'll get up to. They'll even build ships, and try to fight sea battles and sail against us, like Artemisia. And if they turn to riding, I can strike our cavalry off the rolls: there's nothing better at riding than a woman, she has a fine seat, and she won't slip off at a gallop. Just look at the Amazons Micon painted on horseback, fighting the men. No, we ought to grab every one of them by the neck, like this, and fit her into the stocks.[43]
683	CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN εἰ νὴ τὼ θεώ με ζωπυρήσεις, λύσω τὴν ἐμαυτῆς ὖν ἐγὼ δή, καὶ ποιήσω τήμερον τοὺς δημότας βωστρεῖν σ' ἐγὼ πεκτούμενον. ἀλλὰ χἠμεῖς ὦ γυναῖκες θᾶττον ἐκδυώμεθα, ὡς ἂν ὄζωμεν γυναικῶν αὐτοδὰξ ὠργισμένων. νῦν πρὸς ἔμ' ἴτω τις, ἵνα μή ποτε φάγῃ σκόροδα, μηδὲ κυάμους μέλανας. ὡς εἰ καὶ μόνον κακῶς ἐρεῖς, ὑπερχολῶ γάρ, αἰετὸν τίκτοντα κάνθαρός σε μαιεύσομαι.	CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN By the Two Goddesses, if you fire me up, I'll turn my own sow loose, I will, and today I'll give you such a combing you'll be screaming for the neighbors. Come on, women, let's strip off quickly too, so we can smell like women mad enough to bite. Now let somebody come at me, and he'll never eat garlic again, or black beans. If you so much as say a nasty word (I'm boiling over), I'll be the beetle that midwifes your eagle's egg.[44]
696	οὐ γὰρ ὑμῶν φροντίσαιμ' ἄν, ἢν ἐμοὶ ζῇ Λαμπιτὼ ἥ τε Θηβαία φίλη παῖς εὐγενὴς Ἰσμηνία. οὐ γὰρ ἔσται δύναμις, οὐδ' ἢν ἑπτάκις σὺ ψηφίσῃ,	I wouldn't give a thought to you, as long as I have Lampito, and my dear friend Ismenia, that fine Theban girl. You'll have no power, not even if you

41 The fund from the Persian Wars is the treasury of the Delian League, set up against Persia and long since spent by Athens.
42 Leipsydrion: a hill fort where Athenian exiles held out against the tyrant Hippias around 513 BC; "White-feet" was apparently a nickname for its defenders.
43 Artemisia, queen of Halicarnassus, fought for Xerxes at Salamis in 480 BC; Micon painted the battle with the Amazons in the Painted Stoa.
44 In Aesop's fable the dung beetle took revenge on the eagle by smashing its eggs, even when they were laid in Zeus' lap.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	ὅστις ὦ δύστην' ἀπήχθου πᾶσι καὶ τοῖς γείτοσιν. ὥστε κἀχθὲς θἠκάτῃ ποιοῦσα παιγνίαν ἐγὼ τοῖσι παισὶ τὴν ἑταίραν ἐκάλεσ' ἐκ τῶν γειτόνων, παῖδα χρηστὴν κἀγαπητὴν ἐκ Βοιωτῶν ἔγχελυν· οἱ δὲ πέμψειν οὐκ ἔφασκον διὰ τὰ σὰ ψηφίσματα. κοὐχὶ μὴ παύσησθε τῶν ψηφισμάτων τούτων, πρὶν ἄν τοῦ σκέλους ὑμᾶς λαβών τις ἐκτραχηλίσῃ φέρων.	pass your decrees seven times over, you wretch, hated by everyone, neighbors included. Why, just yesterday, when I was throwing a party for the children in honor of Hecate, I invited their playmate from next door, a fine, lovely girl from Boeotia: an eel. But they said they couldn't send her, because of your decrees. And you'll never stop passing these decrees of yours until somebody grabs you by the leg, carries you off and breaks your neck.[45]

THIRD EPISODE

Lysistrata catches wives sneaking home on false excuses and holds them together with an oracle.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
706	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** ἄνασσα πράγους τοῦδε καὶ βουλεύματος, / τί μοι σκυθρωπὸς ἐξελήλυθας δόμων;	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** Commander of this enterprise and this design, why have you come out of the house with such a gloomy face?
708	**LYSISTRATA** κακῶν γυναικῶν ἔργα καὶ θήλεια φρὴν / ποιεῖ μ' ἄθυμον περιπατεῖν τ' ἄνω κάτω.	**LYSISTRATA** The deeds of wicked women and the female heart make me pace up and down in despair.
710	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** τί φῄς; τί φῄς;	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** What are you saying? What are you saying?
711	**LYSISTRATA** ἀληθῆ, ἀληθῆ.	**LYSISTRATA** The truth, the truth.
712	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** τί δ' ἐστὶ δεινόν; φράζε ταῖς σαυτῆς φίλαις.	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** What's so terrible? Tell your friends.
713	**LYSISTRATA** ἀλλ' αἰσχρὸν εἰπεῖν καὶ σιωπῆσαι βαρύ.	**LYSISTRATA** It's shameful to say, and hard to keep silent.
714	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** μή νύν με κρύψῃς ὅ τι πεπόνθαμεν κακόν.	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** Then don't hide from me whatever trouble we're in.
715	**LYSISTRATA** βινητιῶμεν, ᾗ βράχιστον τοῦ λόγου.	**LYSISTRATA** To put it as briefly as I can: we want to fuck.
716	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** ἰὼ Ζεῦ.	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** Oh, Zeus!
717	**LYSISTRATA** τί Ζῆν' ἀυτεῖς; ταῦτα δ' οὖν οὕτως ἔχει. ἐγὼ μὲν οὖν αὐτὰς ἀποσχεῖν οὐκέτι οἵα τ' ἀπὸ τῶν ἀνδρῶν· διαδιδράσκουσι γάρ. τὴν μέν γε πρώτην διαλέγουσαν τὴν ὀπὴν κατέλαβον ᾗ τοῦ Πανός ἐστι ταὐλίον, τὴν δ' ἐκ τροχιλείας αὖ κατειλυσπωμένην, τὴν δ' αὐτομολοῦσαν, τὴν δ' ἐπὶ στρούθου †μίαν† ἤδη πέτεσθαι διανοουμένην κάτω ἐς Ὀρσιλόχου χθὲς τῶν τριχῶν κατέσπασα.	**LYSISTRATA** Why call on Zeus? Anyway, that's how things stand. I can't keep them away from their husbands any longer: they keep running off. The first one I caught widening the hole by Pan's grotto; another one shinnying down a pulley rope; another one deserting; and another, yesterday, all set to fly down to Orsilochus' place on a sparrow, I dragged back by the hair. They come up with

45 Eels from Lake Copais in Boeotia were a prized delicacy; wartime decrees had cut off trade with Boeotia, an enemy of Athens.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	πάσας τε προφάσεις ὥστ' ἀπελθεῖν οἴκαδε ἕλκουσιν. ἤδη γοῦν τις αὐτῶν ἔρχεται. αὕτη σὺ ποῖ θεῖς;	every excuse to go home. Look, here comes one of them now. You there, where are you running?[46]
728	**FIRST WOMAN** οἴκαδ' ἐλθεῖν βούλομαι. οἴκοι γάρ ἐστιν ἔριά μοι Μιλήσια ὑπὸ τῶν σέων κατακοπτόμενα.	**FIRST WOMAN** I want to go home. I've got Milesian wool at home, and the moths are chewing it to pieces.
730	**LYSISTRATA** ποίων σέων; / οὐκ εἶ πάλιν;	**LYSISTRATA** What moths? Get back here!
731	**FIRST WOMAN** ἀλλ' ἥξω ταχέως νὴ τὼ θεὼ / ὅσον διαπετάσασ' ἐπὶ τῆς κλίνης μόνον.	**FIRST WOMAN** But I'll come right back, by the Two Goddesses, just as soon as I've spread it out on the bed.
733	**LYSISTRATA** μὴ διαπετάννυ, μηδ' ἀπέλθῃς μηδαμῇ.	**LYSISTRATA** Don't spread anything, and don't go off anywhere.
734	**FIRST WOMAN** ἀλλ' ἐῶ 'πολέσθαι τἄρι';	**FIRST WOMAN** So I should just let my wool be ruined?
	LYSISTRATA ἢν τούτου δέῃ.	**LYSISTRATA** If that's what it takes.
735	**SECOND WOMAN** τάλαιν' ἐγώ, τάλαινα τῆς Ἀμοργίδος, / ἣν ἄλοπον οἴκοι καταλέλοιφ'.	**SECOND WOMAN** Oh, poor me, poor me, my flax from Amorgos! I've left it at home unstripped.[47]
736	**LYSISTRATA** αὕθητέρα ἐπὶ τὴν Ἄμοργιν τὴν ἄλοπον ἐξέρχεται. χώρει πάλιν δεῦρ'.	**LYSISTRATA** Here's the next one heading out to her unstripped flax. Come back here.
738	**SECOND WOMAN** ἀλλὰ νὴ τὴν Φωσφόρον / ἔγωγ' ἀποδείρασ' αὐτίκα μάλ' ἀνέρχομαι.	**SECOND WOMAN** But by the Light-Bringer, I'll just strip it and come straight back up.
740	**LYSISTRATA** μή μἀποδείρῃς. ἢν γὰρ ἄρξῃς τοῦτο σύ, / ἑτέρα γυνὴ ταὐτὸν ποιεῖν βουλήσεται.	**LYSISTRATA** Don't you strip anything! If you start this, another woman will want to do the same.
742	**THIRD WOMAN** ὦ πότνι' Εἰλείθυι' ἐπίσχες τοῦ τόκου, / ἕως ἂν εἰς ὅσιον μόλω 'γὼ χωρίον.	**THIRD WOMAN** Lady Eileithyia, hold off the birth until I can get to a place that isn't holy![48]
744	**LYSISTRATA** τί ταῦτα ληρεῖς;	**LYSISTRATA** What's this nonsense?
	THIRD WOMAN αὐτίκα μάλα τέξομαι.	**THIRD WOMAN** I'm going to give birth any minute!
745	**LYSISTRATA** ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐκύεις σύ γ' ἐχθές.	**LYSISTRATA** But you weren't pregnant yesterday.
	THIRD WOMAN ἀλλὰ τήμερον. ἀλλ' οἴκαδέ μ' ὡς τὴν μαῖαν ὦ Λυσιστράτη ἀπόπεμψον ὡς τάχιστα.	**THIRD WOMAN** Well, I am today. Please, Lysistrata, send me home to the midwife, as fast as you can.
747	**LYSISTRATA** τίνα λόγον λέγεις; / τί τοῦτ' ἔχεις τὸ σκληρόν;	**LYSISTRATA** What are you talking about? What's this hard thing you've got?
748		

46 Orsilochus was evidently a notorious seducer or pimp; the sparrow was Aphrodite's bird.
47 Amorgos: an Aegean island famous for fine flax and the sheer garments made from it.
48 Eileithyia: goddess of childbirth. Giving birth on the sacred Acropolis would pollute it.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	THIRD WOMAN ἄρρεν παιδίον.	**THIRD WOMAN** A baby boy.
749	**LYSISTRATA** μὰ τὴν Ἀφροδίτην οὐ σύ γ', ἀλλ' ἢ χαλκίον ἔχειν τι φαίνει κοῖλον· εἴσομαι δ' ἐγώ. ὦ καταγέλαστ' ἔχουσα τὴν ἱερὰν κυνῆν κυεῖν ἔφασκες;	**LYSISTRATA** By Aphrodite, not you! It looks like you've got some bronze thing in there, hollow. I'll find out. You ridiculous woman, you've got the sacred helmet, and you told me you were carrying?[49]
752	**THIRD WOMAN** καὶ κυῶ γε νὴ Δία.	**THIRD WOMAN** And I am pregnant, by Zeus!
753	**LYSISTRATA** τί δῆτα ταύτην εἶχες;	**LYSISTRATA** Then what were you doing with this?
	THIRD WOMAN ἵνα μ' εἰ καταλάβοι ὁ τόκος ἔτ' ἐν πόλει, τέκοιμ' ἐς τὴν κυνῆν ἐσβᾶσα ταύτην, ὥσπερ αἱ περιστεραί.	**THIRD WOMAN** So that if labor caught me while I was still on the Acropolis, I could climb into this helmet and have the baby in it, the way pigeons do.
756	**LYSISTRATA** τί λέγεις; προφασίζει· περιφανῆ τὰ πράγματα. / οὐ τἀμφιδρόμια τῆς κυνῆς αὐτοῦ μενεῖς;	**LYSISTRATA** What are you saying? You're making excuses; it's perfectly obvious. Won't you stay right here for the helmet's naming day?[50]
758	**THIRD WOMAN** ἀλλ' οὐ δύναμαι 'γωγ' οὐδὲ κοιμᾶσθ' ἐν πόλει, / ἐξ οὗ τὸν ὄφιν εἶδον τὸν οἰκουρόν ποτε.	**THIRD WOMAN** But I can't even sleep on the Acropolis anymore, not since the time I saw the guardian snake.[51]
760	**FIRST WOMAN** ἐγὼ δ' ὑπὸ τῶν γλαυκῶν γε τάλαιν' ἀπόλλυμαι / ταῖς ἀγρυπνίαισι κακκαβαζουσῶν ἀεί.	**FIRST WOMAN** And I'm dying, poor me, from lack of sleep, with the owls forever hooting.
762	**LYSISTRATA** ὦ δαιμόνιαι παύσασθε τῶν τερατευμάτων. ποθεῖτ' ἴσως τοὺς ἄνδρας· ἡμᾶς δ' οὐκ οἴει ποθεῖν ἐκείνους; ἀργαλέας γ' εὖ οἶδ' ὅτι ἄγουσι νύκτας. ἀλλ' ἀνάσχεσθ' ὦγαθαί, καὶ προσταλαιπωρήσατ' ἔτ' ὀλίγον χρόνον, ὡς χρησμὸς ἡμῖν ἐστιν ἐπικρατεῖν, ἐὰν μὴ στασιάσωμεν· ἔστι δ' ὁ χρησμὸς οὑτοσί.	**LYSISTRATA** You crazy women, stop these tall tales. Maybe you miss your husbands. Don't you think they miss us? They're having miserable nights, I know it for sure. But hold out, my good friends, and put up with it a little longer. There's an oracle that we'll win, as long as we don't fall out among ourselves. Here's the oracle.
769	**FIRST WOMAN** λέγ' αὐτὸν ἡμῖν ὅ τι λέγει.	**FIRST WOMAN** Tell us what it says.
	LYSISTRATA σιγᾶτε δή. ἀλλ' ὁπόταν πτήξωσι χελιδόνες εἰς ἕνα χῶρον, τοὺς ἔποπας φεύγουσαι, ἀπόσχωνταί τε φαλήτων, παῦλα κακῶν ἔσται, τὰ δ' ὑπέρτερα νέρτερα θήσει Ζεὺς ὑψιβρεμέτης—	**LYSISTRATA** Quiet, then. "But when the swallows huddle together in one place, fleeing the hoopoes, and keep away from the cocks, there shall be an end of troubles, and what is above shall be put below by Zeus who thunders on high—"
773	**FIRST WOMAN** ἐπάνω κατακεισόμεθ' ἡμεῖς;	**FIRST WOMAN** Are we going to be lying on top?
774	**LYSISTRATA** ἢν δὲ διαστῶσιν καὶ ἀναπτῶνται πτερύγεσσιν	**LYSISTRATA** "But if the swallows quarrel and fly away on their wings out of the holy temple, no

49 The Greek puns on *kynē*, "helmet" (here Athena's sacred one), and *kyein*, "to be pregnant."
50 The Amphidromia: the ceremony a few days after a birth when the baby was carried around the hearth and received into the family.
51 A sacred snake was believed to live on the Acropolis as its guardian.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	ἐξ ἱεροῦ ναοῖο χελιδόνες, οὐκέτι δόξει ὄρνεον οὐδ' ὁτιοῦν καταπυγωνέστερον εἶναι.	bird at all shall ever again be thought more degenerate."
777	**FIRST WOMAN** σαφής γ' ὁ χρησμὸς νὴ Δί'.	**FIRST WOMAN** By Zeus, that's a clear oracle.
	LYSISTRATA ὦ πάντες θεοί, μή νυν ἀπείπωμεν ταλαιπωρούμεναι, ἀλλ' εἰσίωμεν. καὶ γὰρ αἰσχρὸν τουτογὶ ὦ φίλταται, τὸν χρησμὸν εἰ προδώσομεν.	**LYSISTRATA** By all the gods, let's not give up because we're suffering. Let's go inside. It would be a disgrace, my dearest friends, to betray this oracle.

FIRST LYRIC SCENE

The choruses trade tales of Melanion, who hated women, and Timon, who hated men.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
781	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** μῦθον βούλομαι λέξαι τιν' ὑμῖν, ὅν ποτ' ἤκουσ' αὐτὸς ἔτι παῖς ὤν. οὕτως ἦν νεανίσκος Μελανίων τις, ὃς φεύγων γάμον ἀφίκετ' ἐς ἐρημίαν, κἀν τοῖς ὄρεσιν ᾤκει· κἄτ' ἐλαγοθήρει πλεξάμενος ἄρκυς, καὶ κύνα τιν' εἶχεν, κοὐκέτι κατῆλθε πάλιν οἴκαδ' ὑπὸ μίσους. οὕτω τὰς γυναῖκας ἐβδελύχθη 'κ'εῖνος, ἡμεῖς τ' οὐδὲν ἧττον τοῦ Μελανίωνος οἱ σώφρονες.	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** I want to tell you a story that I heard once, when I was still a boy. There was once a young man called Melanion, who ran away from marriage into the wilderness and lived in the mountains. And he hunted hares with nets he wove himself, and he had a dog, and never came back home again, he hated it so much. That's how much he loathed women, and we loathe them just as much as Melanion did, we sensible men.[52]
797	**OLD MAN** βούλομαί σε γραῦ κύσαι—	**OLD MAN** Old woman, I want to kiss you—
798	**WOMAN** κρόμμυόν τἄρ' οὐκ ἔδει.	**WOMAN** Then you won't need an onion to make you cry.
799	**OLD MAN** κἀνατείνας λακτίσαι.	**OLD MAN** —and lift my leg and kick you.
800	**WOMAN** τὴν λόχμην πολλὴν φορεῖς.	**WOMAN** That's a thick bush you've got there.
801	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** καὶ Μυρωνίδης γὰρ ἦν τραχὺς ἐντεῦθεν μελάμπυγός τε τοῖς ἐχθροῖς ἅπασιν, ὥς δὲ καὶ Φορμίων.	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** Well, Myronides too was rough down there, and black-assed to all his enemies, and so was Phormio.[53]
805	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** κἀγὼ βούλομαι μῦθόν τιν' ὑμῖν ἀντιλέξαι τῷ Μελανίωνι. Τίμων ἦν ἀίδρυτός τις ἀβάτοισιν ἐν σκώλοισι τὸ πρόσωπον περιειργμένος, Ἐρινύων ἀπορρώξ. οὗτος οὖν ὁ Τίμων	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** I want to tell you a story too, to answer your Melanion. There was a certain Timon, a restless drifter, his face fenced in with thorns no one could get through,

52 Melanion: a mythical huntsman, usually known as the man who won Atalanta; here he is made into a woman-hater.
53 Myronides and Phormio: famous Athenian generals of earlier days. A hairy, "black" backside was a sign of manly toughness.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	…	an offshoot of the Furies.
	ᾤχεθ' ὑπὸ μίσους	Well, this Timon
	πολλὰ καταρασάμενος ἀνδράσι πονηροῖς.	…
	οὕτω 'κεῖνος ὑμῶν ἀντεμίσει	went away out of hatred,
	τοὺς πονηροὺς ἄνδρας ἀεί,	heaping curses on wicked men.
	ταῖσι δὲ γυναιξὶν ἦν φίλτατος.	That's how he hated you in return,
		you wicked men, forever,
		but to women he was the dearest of friends.[54]
821	**WOMAN** τὴν γνάθον βούλει θένω;	**WOMAN** Want me to smack you in the jaw?
822	**OLD MAN** μηδαμῶς· †ἔδεισά γε.†	**OLD MAN** No way! I'm terrified.
823	**WOMAN** ἀλλὰ κρούσω τῷ σκέλει;	**WOMAN** Then shall I give you a kick?
824	**OLD MAN** τὸν σάκανδρον ἐκφανεῖς.	**OLD MAN** You'll flash your man-sack.
825	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** ἀλλ' ὅμως ἂν οὐκ ἴδοις	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** But all the same you
	καίπερ οὖσης γραὸς ὄντ' αὐτὸν	wouldn't see it,
	κομήτην, ἀλλ' ἀπεψιλωμένον	old woman though I am,
	τῷ λύχνῳ.	all shaggy: no, it's been singed bare
		with the lamp.[55]

SECOND LYRIC SCENE

Myrrhine teases her desperate husband Cinesias and leaves him unsatisfied; an aching Spartan herald arrives.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
829	**LYSISTRATA** ἰοὺ ἰοὺ γυναῖκες ἴτε δεῦρ' ὡς ἐμὲ / ταχέως.	**LYSISTRATA** Hey! Hey! Women, come over here to me, quick!
830	**WOMAN** τί δ' ἔστιν; εἰπέ μοι τίς ἡ βοή;	**WOMAN** What is it? Tell me, what's all the shouting about?
831	**LYSISTRATA** ἄνδρ' ἄνδρ' ὁρῶ προσιόντα παραπεπληγμένον, τοῖς τῆς Ἀφροδίτης ὀργίοις εἰλημμένον. ὦ πότνια Κύπρου καὶ Κυθήρων καὶ Πάφου μεδέουσ', ἴθ' ὀρθὴν ἥνπερ ἔρχι τὴν ὁδόν.	**LYSISTRATA** A man! I see a man coming, out of his mind, in the grip of Aphrodite's rites. Lady who rules Cyprus and Cythera and Paphos, keep going straight and upright along the road you're on![56]
835	**WOMAN** ποῦ δ' ἐστὶν ὅστις ἐστί;	**WOMAN** Where is he, whoever he is?
	LYSISTRATA παρὰ τὸ τῆς Χλόης.	**LYSISTRATA** Over by the shrine of Chloe.[57]
836	**WOMAN** ὦ νὴ Δί' ἔστι δῆτα. τίς κἀστίν ποτε;	**WOMAN** Oh, by Zeus, there he is! Who on earth is he?
837	**LYSISTRATA** ὁρᾶτε· γιγνώσκει τις ὑμῶν;	**LYSISTRATA** Take a look. Does any of you know him?

54 Timon: a famous Athenian misanthrope of the fifth century BC.
55 Women removed their pubic hair by singeing it with a lamp.
56 Cyprus, Cythera and Paphos were Aphrodite's chief cult centers. "Straight and upright" (*orthos*) is also the Greek for "erect."
57 Demeter Chloe ("the Green") had a shrine on the slope below the Acropolis.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	MYRRHINE νὴ Δία / ἔγωγε· κἀστὶν οὑμὸς ἀνὴρ Κινησίας.	**MYRRHINE** By Zeus, I do. It's my husband, Cinesias.[58]
839	**LYSISTRATA** σὸν ἔργον ἤδη τοῦτον ὀπτᾶν καὶ στρέφειν κἀξηπεροπεύειν καὶ φιλεῖν καὶ μὴ φιλεῖν, καὶ πάνθ' ὑπέχειν πλὴν ὧν σύνοιδεν ἡ κύλιξ.	**LYSISTRATA** Then it's your job now to roast him and turn him on the spit, lead him on, love him and not love him, and give him everything except what the cup knows about.[59]
842	**MYRRHINE** ἀμέλει ποιήσω ταῦτ' ἐγώ.	**MYRRHINE** Don't worry, I'll do it.
	LYSISTRATA καὶ μὴν ἐγὼ ξυνηπεροπεύσω σοι παραμένουσ' ἐνθαδί, καὶ ξυσταθεύσω τοῦτον. ἀλλ' ἀπέλθετε.	**LYSISTRATA** And I'll stay right here and help you lead him on, and help you roast him. Now, the rest of you, off you go.
845	**CINESIAS** οἴμοι κακοδαίμων, οἷος ὁ σπασμός μ' ἔχει / χὠ τέτανος ὥσπερ ἐπὶ τροχοῦ στρεβλούμενον.	**CINESIAS** Oh, I'm miserable! These spasms have got hold of me, and this stiffness, like I'm being twisted on the rack.
847	**LYSISTRATA** τίς οὗτος οὑντὸς τῶν φυλάκων ἑστώς;	**LYSISTRATA** Who's that standing inside the guard line?
	CINESIAS ἐγώ.	**CINESIAS** Me.
848	**LYSISTRATA** ἀνήρ;	**LYSISTRATA** A man?
	CINESIAS ἀνὴρ δῆτ'.	**CINESIAS** Very much a man.
	LYSISTRATA οὐκ ἄπει δῆτ' ἐκποδών;	**LYSISTRATA** Then get out of the way!
849	**CINESIAS** σὺ δ' εἶ τίς ἡκβάλλουσά μ';	**CINESIAS** And who are you, to throw me out?
	LYSISTRATA ἡμεροσκόπος.	**LYSISTRATA** The day watch.
850	**CINESIAS** πρὸς τῶν θεῶν νυν ἐκκάλεσόν μοι Μυρρίνην.	**CINESIAS** For the gods' sake, then, call Myrrhine out here for me.
851	**LYSISTRATA** ἰδοὺ καλέσω 'γὼ Μυρρίνην σοι; σὺ δὲ τίς εἶ;	**LYSISTRATA** Oh, so I'm to call Myrrhine for you? And who are you?
852	**CINESIAS** ἀνὴρ ἐκείνης, Παιονίδης Κινησίας.	**CINESIAS** Her husband, Cinesias, from Paeonidae.[60]
853	**LYSISTRATA** ὦ χαῖρε φίλτατ'· οὐ γὰρ ἀκλεὲς τοὔνομ τὸ σὸν παρ' ἡμῖν ἐστιν οὐδ' ἀνώνυμον. ἀεὶ γὰρ ἡ γυνή σ' ἔχει διὰ στόμα. κἂν ᾠὸν ἢ μῆλον λάβῃ, "Κινησίᾳ" "τουτὶ γένοιτο," φησίν.	**LYSISTRATA** Oh, hello, darling! Your name's famous around here, believe me, everybody knows it. Your name's always on your wife's lips. If she picks up an egg or an apple, she says, "This one's for Cinesias."
857	**CINESIAS** ὦ πρὸς τῶν θεῶν.	**CINESIAS** Oh, by the gods!
858	**LYSISTRATA** νὴ τὴν Ἀφροδίτην· κἂν περὶ ἀνδρῶν γ' ἐμπέσῃ	

58 Cinesias' name suggests *kinein*, Greek slang for "screw."
59 The women swore their oath to refuse their husbands over a cup of wine.
60 Paeonidae was a real Athenian deme, but the name also suggests *paiein*, "bang."

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	λόγος τις, εἴρηκ' εὐθέως ἡ σὴ γυνὴ ὅτι λῆρός ἐστι τἄλλα πρὸς Κινησίαν.	**LYSISTRATA** Yes, by Aphrodite. And if the talk ever turns to men, your wife says right away that the rest are rubbish next to Cinesias.
861	**CINESIAS** ἴθι νυν κάλεσον αὐτήν.	**CINESIAS** Go on, then, call her.
	LYSISTRATA τί οὖν; δώσεις τί μοι;	**LYSISTRATA** And what's in it for me? Will you give me something?
862	**CINESIAS** ἔγωγέ σοι νὴ τὸν Δί', ἢν βούλῃ γε σύ· / ἔχω δὲ τοῦθ'· ὅπερ οὖν ἔχω, δίδωμί σοι.	**CINESIAS** I will, by Zeus, if you want it. I've got this here. Whatever I've got, it's yours.
864	**LYSISTRATA** φέρε νυν καλέσω καταβᾶσά σοι.	**LYSISTRATA** All right, I'll go down and call her for you.
	CINESIAS ταχύ νυν πάνυ. ὡς οὐδεμίαν ἔχω γε τῷ βίῳ χάριν, ἐξ οὗπερ αὕτη 'ξῆλθεν ἐκ τῆς οἰκίας· ἀλλ' ἄχθομαι μὲν εἰσιών, ἔρημα δὲ εἶναι δοκεῖ μοι πάντα, τοῖς δὲ σιτίοις χάριν οὐδεμίαν οἶδ' ἐσθίων· ἔστυκα γάρ.	**CINESIAS** Quick, then, really quick! Because I've had no joy in life since she walked out of the house. I hate going home, everything there seems empty, and I get no pleasure out of my food when I eat. I've got a hard-on, you see.
870	**MYRRHINE** φιλῶ φιλῶ 'γὼ τοῦτον· ἀλλ' οὐ βούλεται / ὑπ' ἐμοῦ φιλεῖσθαι. σὺ δ' ἐμὲ τούτῳ μὴ κάλει.	**MYRRHINE** I love him, I love him! But he doesn't want my love. Don't call me out to him.
872	**CINESIAS** ὦ γλυκύτατον Μυρρινίδιον τί ταῦτα δρᾷς; / κατάβηθι δεῦρο.	**CINESIAS** Myrrhine, my sweetest little Myrrhinikins, why are you doing this? Come down here.
873	**MYRRHINE** μὰ Δί' ἐγὼ μὲν αὐτόσ' οὔ.	**MYRRHINE** No, by Zeus, I'm not coming down there.
874	**CINESIAS** ἐμοῦ καλοῦντος οὐ καταβήσει Μυρρίνη;	**CINESIAS** I'm calling you, and you won't come down, Myrrhine?
875	**MYRRHINE** οὐ γὰρ δεόμενος οὐδὲν ἐκκαλεῖς ἐμέ.	**MYRRHINE** You're calling me out, but you don't need anything.
876	**CINESIAS** ἐγὼ οὐ δεόμενος; ἐπιτετριμμένος μὲν οὖν.	**CINESIAS** Me, not need anything? I'm being ground to pieces!
877	**MYRRHINE** ἄπειμι.	**MYRRHINE** I'm leaving.
	CINESIAS μὴ δῆτ', ἀλλὰ τῷ γοῦν παιδίῳ / ὑπάκουσον· οὗτος οὐ καλεῖς τὴν μαμμίαν;	**CINESIAS** No, don't! At least listen to the baby. You there, won't you call your mommy?
879	**BABY** μαμμία, μαμμία, μαμμία.	**BABY** Mommy, mommy, mommy!
880	**CINESIAS** αὕτη τί πάσχεις; οὐδ' ἐλεεῖς τὸ παιδίον / ἄλουτον ὂν κἄθηλον ἕκτην ἡμέραν;	**CINESIAS** What's wrong with you? Don't you even feel sorry for the baby? Six days now, no bath, no breast.
882	**MYRRHINE** ἔγωγ' ἐλεῶ δῆτ'· ἀλλ' ἀμελὴς αὐτῷ πατὴρ / ἔστιν.	**MYRRHINE** Of course I feel sorry for him. But his father doesn't care about him.
883	**CINESIAS** κατάβηθ' ὦ δαιμονία τῷ παιδίῳ.	

	GREEK	ENGLISH
		CINESIAS Come down, you crazy woman, for the baby's sake.
884	**MYRRHINE** οἷον τὸ τεκεῖν· καταβατέον. τί γὰρ πάθω;	**MYRRHINE** Oh, what it is to be a mother! I'll have to go down. What else can I do?
885	**CINESIAS** ἐμοὶ γὰρ αὕτη καὶ νεωτέρα δοκεῖ πολλῷ γεγενῆσθαι κἀγανώτερον βλέπειν· χἀ δυσκολαίνει πρὸς ἐμὲ καὶ βρενθύεται, ταῦτ' αὐτὰ δή 'σθ' ἃ κἄμ' ἐπιτρίβει τῷ πόθῳ.	**CINESIAS** She looks so much younger to me, and her eyes look softer. And the way she's difficult with me and plays proud, that's exactly what's grinding me down with desire.
889	**MYRRHINE** ὦ γλυκύτατον σὺ τεκνίδιον κακοῦ πατρός, / φέρε σε φιλήσω γλυκύτατον τῇ μαμμίᾳ.	**MYRRHINE** You sweetest little baby, with such a bad father, come here, let Mommy kiss you, sweetest.
891	**CINESIAS** τί ὦ πονήρα ταῦτα ποιεῖς χἀτέραις πείθει γυναιξί, κἀμέ τ' ἄχθεσθαι ποιεῖς αὐτή τε λυπεῖ;	**CINESIAS** Why are you doing this, you wicked woman, listening to the other women? You're making me miserable, and you're hurting yourself too.
893	**MYRRHINE** μὴ πρόσαγε τὴν χεῖρά μοι.	**MYRRHINE** Keep your hands off me.
894	**CINESIAS** τὰ δ' ἔνδον ὄντα τἀμὰ καὶ σὰ χρήματα / χεῖρον διατίθης.	**CINESIAS** And our things at home, yours and mine, you're letting them go to ruin.
895	**MYRRHINE** ὀλίγον αὐτῶν μοι μέλει.	**MYRRHINE** I don't much care about them.
896	**CINESIAS** ὀλίγον μέλει σοι τῆς κρόκης φορουμένης / ὑπὸ τῶν ἀλεκτρυόνων;	**CINESIAS** You don't much care that the chickens are making off with your weaving?
897	**MYRRHINE** ἔμοιγε νὴ Δία.	**MYRRHINE** Not much, by Zeus.
898	**CINESIAS** τὰ δὲ τῆς Ἀφροδίτης ἱέρ' ἀνοργίαστά σοι / χρόνον τοσοῦτόν ἐστιν. οὐ βαδιεῖ πάλιν;	**CINESIAS** And Aphrodite's rites have gone uncelebrated by you all this time. Won't you come back home?
900	**MYRRHINE** μὰ Δί' οὐκ ἔγωγ', ἢν μὴ διαλλαχθῆτέ γε / καὶ τοῦ πολέμου παύσησθε.	**MYRRHINE** No, by Zeus, I won't, not unless you men make peace and stop the war.
901	**CINESIAS** τοιγάρ, ἢν δοκῇ, / ποιήσομεν καὶ ταῦτα.	**CINESIAS** Well, then, if that's what's decided, we'll do that too.
902	**MYRRHINE** τοιγάρ, ἢν δοκῇ, / κἄγωγ' ἄπειμ' ἐκεῖσε· νῦν δ' ἀπομώμοκα.	**MYRRHINE** Well, then, if that's what's decided, I'll come back home too. For now I've sworn not to.
904	**CINESIAS** σὺ δ' ἀλλὰ κατακλίνηθι μετ' ἐμοῦ διὰ χρόνου.	**CINESIAS** Then at least lie down with me. It's been so long.
905	**MYRRHINE** οὐ δῆτα· καίτοι σ' οὐκ ἐρῶ γ' ὡς οὐ φιλῶ.	**MYRRHINE** No. And yet I won't tell you I don't love you.
906	**CINESIAS** φιλεῖς; τί οὖν οὐ κατεκλίνης ὦ Μύρριον;	**CINESIAS** You love me? Then why won't you lie down, Myrrhy?
907	**MYRRHINE** ὦ καταγέλαστ' ἐναντίον τοῦ παιδίου;	**MYRRHINE** You ridiculous man, in front of the baby?

	GREEK	ENGLISH
908	**CINESIAS** μὰ Δί' ἀλλὰ τοῦτό γ' οἴκαδ' ὦ Μανῆ φέρε. ἰδοὺ τὸ μέν σοι παιδίον καὶ δὴ 'κποδών, σὺ δ' οὐ κατακλίνει.	**CINESIAS** No, by Zeus, not that. Manes, take this one home. There you go, the baby's out of the way. And you still won't lie down.
910	**MYRRHINE** ποῦ γὰρ ἄν τις καὶ τάλαν / δράσειε τοῦθ';	**MYRRHINE** But where, poor me, could anyone do it?
911	**CINESIAS** ὅπου; τὸ τοῦ Πανὸς καλόν.	**CINESIAS** Where? Pan's grotto. Perfect.
912	**MYRRHINE** καὶ πῶς ἔθ' ἁγνὴ δῆτ' ἂν ἔλθοιμ' ἐς πόλιν;	**MYRRHINE** And how could I go back up to the Acropolis pure?
913	**CINESIAS** κάλλιστα δήπου λουσαμένη τῇ Κλεψύδρᾳ.	**CINESIAS** Easiest thing in the world: wash in the Clepsydra spring.
914	**MYRRHINE** ἔπειτ' ὀμόσασα δῆτ' ἐπιορκήσω τάλαν;	**MYRRHINE** And then, poor me, I'd be breaking the oath I swore?
915	**CINESIAS** εἰς ἐμὲ τράποιτο· μηδὲν ὅρκου φροντίσῃς.	**CINESIAS** Let that fall on my head. Don't you worry about the oath.
916	**MYRRHINE** φέρε νυν ἐνέγκω κλινίδιον νῷν.	**MYRRHINE** All right, let me fetch us a little bed.
	CINESIAS μηδαμῶς. / ἀρκεῖ χαμαὶ νῷν.	**CINESIAS** No need. The ground's good enough for us.
917	**MYRRHINE** μὰ τὸν Ἀπόλλω μή σ' ἐγὼ / καίπερ τοιοῦτον ὄντα κατακλινῶ χαμαί.	**MYRRHINE** By Apollo, I'm not laying you down on the ground, not even you, the way you are.
919	**CINESIAS** ἥ τοι γυνὴ φιλεῖ με, δήλη 'στὶν καλῶς.	**CINESIAS** My wife loves me, that's plain as day.
920	**MYRRHINE** ἰδοὺ κατάκεισ' ἀνύσας τι, κἀγὼ 'κδύομαι. / καίτοι, τὸ δεῖνα, ψίαθός ἐστ' ἐξοιστέα.	**MYRRHINE** There, lie down, will you, and I'll get undressed. Oh, what's-it, I have to bring out a mat.
922	**CINESIAS** ποία ψίαθος; μὴ μοί γε.	**CINESIAS** What mat? Not for me!
	MYRRHINE νὴ τὴν Ἄρτεμιν, / αἰσχρὸν γὰρ ἐπὶ τόνου γε.	**MYRRHINE** Yes, by Artemis. It's disgraceful on the bare straps.
923	**CINESIAS** δός μοί νυν κύσαι.	**CINESIAS** Then give me a kiss.
924	**MYRRHINE** ἰδού.	**MYRRHINE** There.
	CINESIAS παπαιάξ· ἧκέ νυν ταχέως πάνυ.	**CINESIAS** Oooh! Hurry back, really fast!
925	**MYRRHINE** ἰδοὺ ψίαθος· κατάκεισο, καὶ δὴ 'κδύομαι. / καίτοι, τὸ δεῖνα, προσκεφάλαιον οὐκ ἔχεις.	**MYRRHINE** Here's the mat. Lie down, I'm getting undressed. Oh, what's-it, you haven't got a pillow.
927	**CINESIAS** ἀλλ' οὐδὲ δέομ' ἔγωγε.	**CINESIAS** But I don't even want one!
	MYRRHINE νὴ Δί' ἀλλ' ἐγώ.	**MYRRHINE** Well, by Zeus, I do.
928	**CINESIAS** ἀλλ' ἢ τὸ πέος τόδ' Ἡρακλῆς ξενίζεται.	**CINESIAS** This dick of mine is getting the Heracles treatment at dinner.[61]

61 Heracles, the glutton of comedy, was a stock figure kept waiting for a meal that never arrives.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
929	**MYRRHINE** ἀνίστασ', ἀναπήδησον.	**MYRRHINE** Up you get, jump up.
	CINESIAS ἤδη πάντ' ἔχω.	**CINESIAS** Now I've got everything.
930	**MYRRHINE** ἅπαντα δῆτα.	**MYRRHINE** Absolutely everything.
	CINESIAS δεῦρό νυν ὦ χρύσιον.	**CINESIAS** Come here, then, my treasure.
931	**MYRRHINE** τὸ στρόφιον ἤδη λύομαι. μέμνησό νυν· / μή μ' ἐξαπατήσῃς τὰ περὶ τῶν διαλλαγῶν.	**MYRRHINE** I'm undoing my breastband now. Remember: don't you cheat me over the peace.
933	**CINESIAS** νὴ Δί' ἀπολοίμην ἆρα.	**CINESIAS** By Zeus, may I drop dead if I do.
	MYRRHINE σισύραν οὐκ ἔχεις.	**MYRRHINE** You haven't got a blanket.
934	**CINESIAS** μὰ Δί' οὐδὲ δέομαί γ', ἀλλὰ βινεῖν βούλομαι.	**CINESIAS** No, by Zeus, and I don't want one. I want to fuck!
935	**MYRRHINE** ἀμέλει ποιήσεις τοῦτο· ταχὺ γὰρ ἔρχομαι.	**MYRRHINE** Don't worry, you will. I'll be right back.
936	**CINESIAS** ἄνθρωπος ἐπιτρίψει με διὰ τὰ στρώματα.	**CINESIAS** This woman's going to kill me with her bedding.
937	**MYRRHINE** ἔπαιρε σαυτόν.	**MYRRHINE** Lift yourself up.
	CINESIAS ἀλλ' ἐπῆρται τοῦτό γε.	**CINESIAS** Oh, this is up already.
938	**MYRRHINE** βούλει μυρίσω σε;	**MYRRHINE** Do you want me to put some perfume on you?
	CINESIAS μὰ τὸν Ἀπόλλω μὴ μέ γε.	**CINESIAS** By Apollo, not on me!
939	**MYRRHINE** νὴ τὴν Ἀφροδίτην ἥν τε βούλῃ γ' ἥν τε μή.	**MYRRHINE** Yes, by Aphrodite, whether you like it or not.
940	**CINESIAS** εἴθ' ἐκχυθείη τὸ μύρον ὦ Ζεῦ δέσποτα.	**CINESIAS** Lord Zeus, let the perfume spill!
941	**MYRRHINE** πρότεινέ νυν τὴν χεῖρα κἀλείφου λαβών.	**MYRRHINE** Hold out your hand, then, take some and rub it on.
942	**CINESIAS** οὐχ ἡδὺ τὸ μύρον μὰ τὸν Ἀπόλλω τουτογί, / εἰ μὴ διατριπτικόν γε κοὐκ ὄζον γάμων.	**CINESIAS** By Apollo, this perfume's not nice at all. All it's good for is stalling, and it doesn't smell of the marriage bed.
944	**MYRRHINE** τάλαιν' ἐγὼ τὸ Ῥόδιον ἤνεγκον μύρον.	**MYRRHINE** Oh dear, I brought the Rhodian perfume!
945	**CINESIAS** ἀγαθόν· ἔα αὖτ' ὦ δαιμονία.	**CINESIAS** It's fine! Leave it, you crazy woman.
	MYRRHINE ληρεῖς ἔχων.	**MYRRHINE** Don't talk nonsense.
946	**CINESIAS** κάκιστ' ἀπόλοιθ' ὁ πρῶτος ἑψήσας μύρον.	**CINESIAS** Damn the man who first cooked up perfume!
947	**MYRRHINE** λαβὲ τόνδε τὸν ἀλάβαστον.	**MYRRHINE** Take this flask.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	CINESIAS ἀλλ' ἕτερον ἔχω. ἀλλ' ᾠζυρὰ κατάκεισο καὶ μή μοι φέρε μηδέν.	CINESIAS I've got another one right here. Just lie down, you awful woman, and don't bring me anything more.
949	MYRRHINE ποιήσω ταῦτα νὴ τὴν Ἄρτεμιν. ὑπολύομαι γοῦν. ἀλλ' ὅπως ὦ φίλτατε σπονδὰς ποιεῖσθαι ψηφιεῖ.	MYRRHINE I'll do that, by Artemis. There, I'm taking off my shoes. But, darling, make sure you vote for a peace treaty.
951	CINESIAS βουλεύσομαι. ἀπολώλεκέν με κἀπιτέτριφεν ἡ γυνὴ τά τ' ἄλλα πάντα κἀποδείρασ' οἴχεται.	CINESIAS I'll think about it. The woman's ruined me, wrecked me, and on top of everything else she's skinned me raw and gone off!
954	οἴμοι τί πάθω; τίνα βινήσω τῆς καλλίστης πασῶν ψευσθείς; πῶς ταυτηνὶ παιδοτροφήσω; ποῦ Κυναλώπηξ; μίσθωσόν μοι τὴν τίτθην.	Oh no, what will I do? Who can I fuck, now the loveliest of them all has cheated me? How will I raise this little one? Where's Foxdog? Hire me a wet nurse![62]
959	CHORUS OF OLD MEN ἐν δεινῷ γ' ὦ δύστηνε κακῷ τείρει ψυχὴν ἐξαπατηθείς. κἄγωγ' οἰκτίρω σ' αἰαῖ. ποῖος γὰρ ἂν ἢ νέφρος ἀντίσχοι, ποία ψυχή, ποῖοι δ' ὄρχεις, ποία δ' ὀσφῦς, ποῖος δ' ὄρρος κατατεινόμενος καὶ μὴ βινῶν τοὺς ὄρθρους;	CHORUS OF OLD MEN You're in terrible trouble, you poor wretch, tormented in your soul, deceived. I pity you too, alas! What kidneys could hold out, what soul, what balls, what loins, what ass, stretched to the limit with no fucking in the mornings?
967	CINESIAS ὦ Ζεῦ δεινῶν ἀντισπασμῶν.	CINESIAS Zeus, these terrible cramps!
968	CHORUS OF OLD MEN ταυτὶ μέντοι νυνί σ' ἐποίησ' / ἡ παμβδελυρὰ καὶ παμμυσαρά.	CHORUS OF OLD MEN That's what she's done to you now, / that utterly loathsome, utterly disgusting woman.
970	CINESIAS μὰ Δί' ἀλλὰ φίλη καὶ παγγλυκερά.	CINESIAS No, by Zeus, she's dear and utterly sweet.
971	CHORUS OF OLD MEN ποία γλυκερά; μιαρὰ μιαρά.	CHORUS OF OLD MEN Sweet? She's vile, vile!
972	CINESIAS μιαρὰ δῆτ' ὦ Ζεῦ ὦ Ζεῦ· εἴθ' αὐτὴν ὥσπερ τοὺς θωμοὺς μεγάλῳ τυφῷ καὶ πρηστῆρι ξυστρέψας καὶ ξυγγογγύλας οἴχοιο φέρων, εἶτα μεθείης, ἡ δὲ φέροιτ' αὖ πάλιν ἐς τὴν γῆν, κᾆτ' ἐξαίφνης περὶ τὴν ψωλὴν περιβαίη.	CINESIAS Yes, vile she is, Zeus, Zeus! If only you'd take her like a heap of grain in a great whirlwind and hurricane, twist her round and roll her up, carry her off, then let her drop, and down she'd come to earth again, and suddenly land right astride my hard-on!
980	SPARTAN HERALD πᾷ τᾶν Ἀσανᾶν ἐστιν ἁ γερωχία / ἢ τοὶ πρυτάνιες; λῶ τι μυσίξαι νέον.	SPARTAN HERALD Where is the Athenians' council of elders? Or the Prytanes? I have news to tell.[63]

62 "Foxdog" was the nickname of Philostratus, a pimp.
63 The herald uses the Spartan word for a council of elders; the Prytanes were the standing committee of the Athenian Council.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
982	**CINESIAS** σὺ δ' εἶ πότερον ἄνθρωπος ἢ κονίσαλος;	**CINESIAS** And what are you, a human being or a Conisalus?[64]
983	**SPARTAN HERALD** κᾆρυξ ἐγὼν ὦ κυρσάνιε ναὶ τὼ σιὼ / ἔμολον ἀπὸ Σπάρτας περὶ τᾶν διαλλαγᾶν.	**SPARTAN HERALD** I am a herald, young man, by the Twin Gods. I come from Sparta about a peace.
985	**CINESIAS** κἄπειτα δόρυ δῆθ' ὑπὸ μάλης ἥκεις ἔχων;	**CINESIAS** So that's why you've come with a spear tucked under your arm?
986	**SPARTAN HERALD** οὐ τὸν Δί' οὐκ ἐγών γα.	**SPARTAN HERALD** No, by Zeus. Not me.
	CINESIAS ποῖ μεταστρέφει; τί δὴ προβάλλει τὴν χλαμύδ'; ἢ βουβωνιᾷς ὑπὸ τῆς ὁδοῦ;	**CINESIAS** Why are you turning away? Why are you holding your cloak out in front? Did you get a swollen groin from the journey?
988	**SPARTAN HERALD** παλαιόρ γα ναὶ τὸν Κάστορα / ὥνθρωπος.	**SPARTAN HERALD** The man's gone senile, by Castor.
989	**CINESIAS** ἀλλ' ἔστυκας ὦ μιαρώτατε.	**CINESIAS** But you've got a hard-on, you scoundrel!
990	**SPARTAN HERALD** οὐ τὸν Δί' οὐκ ἐγών γα· μηδ' αὖ πλαδδίη.	**SPARTAN HERALD** No, by Zeus. Not me. Stop your babbling.
991	**CINESIAS** τί δ' ἐστί σοι τοδί;	**CINESIAS** Then what's this you've got?
	SPARTAN HERALD σκυτάλα Λακωνικά.	**SPARTAN HERALD** A Spartan message-staff.[65]
992	**CINESIAS** εἴπερ γε χαὔτη 'στὶ σκυτάλη Λακωνική. ἀλλ' ὡς πρὸς εἰδότ' ἐμὲ σὺ τἀληθῆ λέγε. τί τὰ πράγμαθ' ὑμῖν ἐστι τἀν Λακεδαίμονι;	**CINESIAS** Sure, if this here is a Spartan message-staff too. But tell me the truth, I know what's what. How are things with you people in Sparta?
995	**SPARTAN HERALD** ὀρσὰ Λακεδαίμων πᾶα καὶ τοὶ σύμμαχοι / ἅπαντες ἐστύκαντι· Πελλάνας δὲ δεῖ.	**SPARTAN HERALD** All Sparta stands up stiff, and the allies, every one, have hard-ons. We need Pellene.[66]
997	**CINESIAS** ἀπὸ τοῦ δὲ τουτὶ τὸ κακὸν ὑμῖν ἐνέπεσεν; / ἀπὸ Πανός;	**CINESIAS** And where did this curse come down on you from? From Pan?
998	**SPARTAN HERALD** οὔκ, ἀλλ' ἄρχεν οἰῶ Λαμπιτώ, ἔπειτα τἄλλαι ταὶ κατὰ Σπάρταν ἅμα γυναῖκες ᾗπερ ἀπὸ μιᾶς ὑσπλαγίδος ἀπήλααν τὼς ἄνδρας ἀπὸ τῶν ὑσσάκων.	**SPARTAN HERALD** No. Lampito started it, I reckon. Then the rest of the women all over Sparta, all together, as if from one starting gate, drove their husbands away from their pussies.
1002	**CINESIAS** πῶς οὖν ἔχετε;	**CINESIAS** So how are you holding up?
	SPARTAN HERALD μογίομες. ἂν γὰρ τὰν πόλιν ᾗπερ λυχνοφορίοντες ἐπικεκύφαμες. ταὶ γὰρ γυναῖκες οὐδὲ τῶ μύρτω σιγεῖν ἐῶντι, πρίν γ' ἅπαντες ἐξ ἑνὸς λόγω σπονδὰς ποιησώμεσθα ποττὰν Ἑλλάδα.	**SPARTAN HERALD** Badly. We walk bent double through the city, like men carrying lamps. The women won't let us touch so much as their myrtle till we all, with one voice, make a peace treaty for Greece.

64 Conisalus was a phallic spirit worshipped at Athens.
65 Spartan dispatches were written on a strip wound around a staff (*skytalē*) and could only be read on a matching staff.
66 Pellene was a city in Achaea, but the name also seems to suggest a woman, perhaps a well-known courtesan.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1007	**CINESIAS** τουτὶ τὸ πρᾶγμα πανταχόθεν ξυνομώμοται ὑπὸ τῶν γυναικῶν· ἄρτι νυνὶ μανθάνω. ἀλλ᾽ ὡς τάχιστα φράζε περὶ διαλλαγῶν αὐτοκράτορας πρέσβεις ἀποπέμπειν ἐνθαδί. ἐγὼ δ᾽ ἑτέρους ἐνθένδε τῇ βουλῇ φράσω πρέσβεις ἑλέσθαι τὸ πέος ἐπιδείξας τοδί.	**CINESIAS** The women have hatched this conspiracy everywhere, I see that now. Well, as fast as you can, tell them back home to send ambassadors here with full powers to make peace. And I'll tell the Council here to choose ambassadors of our own. I'll show them this cock of mine.
1013	**SPARTAN HERALD** ποτάομαι· κράτιστα γὰρ παντᾷ λέγεις.	**SPARTAN HERALD** I fly. Your words are best in every way.

SECOND CHORAL SONG

The old women make up with the old men, and the two choruses join together.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1014	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** οὐδέν ἐστι θηρίον γυναικὸς ἀμαχώτερον, / οὐδὲ πῦρ, οὐδ᾽ ὦδ᾽ ἀναιδὴς οὐδεμία πόρδαλις.	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** There's no beast harder to fight than a woman, no, not fire either. No leopard is so shameless.
1016	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** ταῦτα μέντοι σὺ ξυνιεὶς εἶτα πολεμεῖς ἐμοί, / ἐξὸν ὦ πόνηρε σοὶ βέβαιον ἔμ᾽ ἔχειν φίλην;	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** You understand that, and still you go to war with me, you rogue, when you could have me as a friend you can count on?
1018	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** ὡς ἐγὼ μισῶν γυναῖκας οὐδέποτε παύσομαι.	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** Let me tell you, I will never stop hating women.
1019	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** ἀλλ᾽ ὅταν βούλῃ σύ· νῦν δ᾽ οὖν οὔ σε περιόψομαι γυμνὸν ὄνθ᾽ οὕτως. ὁρῶ γὰρ ὡς καταγέλαστος εἶ. ἀλλὰ τὴν ἐξωμίδ᾽ ἐνδύσω σε προσιοῦσ᾽ ἐγώ.	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** Whenever you like, then. But for now I won't let you stand there naked like that. I can see what a laughingstock you are. Here, I'll come over and put your tunic on you.
1022	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** τοῦτο μὲν μὰ τὸν Δί᾽ οὐ πονηρὸν ἐποιήσατε· / ἀλλ᾽ ὑπ᾽ ὀργῆς γὰρ πονηρᾶς καὶ τότ᾽ ἀπέδυν ἐγώ.	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** Well, by Zeus, that's no bad thing you've done. It was a bad temper that made me strip it off back then.
1024	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** πρῶτα μὲν φαίνει γ᾽ ἀνήρ, εἶτ᾽ οὐ καταγέλαστος εἶ. κεἴ με μὴ ᾽λύπεις, ἐγώ σου κἂν τόδε τὸ θηρίον τοὐπὶ τὠφθαλμῷ λαβοῦσ᾽ ἐξεῖλον ἂν ὃ νῦν ἔνι.	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** For one thing, now you look like a man, and for another, you're no longer a laughingstock. And if you hadn't been so nasty to me, I'd have taken hold of this little beast that's in your eye right now and pulled it out.
1027	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** τοῦτ᾽ ἄρ᾽ ἦν με τοὐπιτρῖβον, δακτύλιος οὑτοσί· ἐκσκάλευσον αὐτό, κᾆτα δεῖξον ἀφελοῦσά μοι· ὡς τὸν ὀφθαλμόν γέ μου νὴ τὸν Δία πάλαι δάκνει.	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** So that's what's been grinding me down! Here's my ring. Dig it out, take it out and show it to me. By Zeus, it's been biting my eye for ages.
1030	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** ἀλλὰ δράσω ταῦτα· καίτοι δύσκολος ἔφυς ἀνήρ. ἦ μέγ᾽ ὦ Ζεῦ χρῆμ᾽ ἰδεῖν τῆς ἐμπίδος ἔνεστί σοι. οὐχ ὁρᾷς; οὐκ ἐμπίς ἐστιν ἥδε Τρικορυσία;	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** All right, I'll do it, even though you were born a crabby old man. Zeus! What a monster of a gnat you've got in there! Do you see it? Isn't this a gnat from Tricorythus?[67]

67 Tricorythus was a marshy district of Attica, famous for its gnats.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1033	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** νὴ Δί' ὤνησάς γέ μ', ὡς πάλαι γέ μ' ἐφρεωρύχει, / ὥστ' ἐπειδὴ 'ξῃρέθη, ῥεῖ μου τὸ δάκρυον πολύ.	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** By Zeus, you've done me a favor! It's been digging wells in me for ages. Now it's out, the tears are just pouring down.
1035	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** ἀλλ' ἀποψήσω σ' ἐγώ, καίτοι πάνυ πονηρὸς εἶ, / καὶ φιλήσω.	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** I'll wipe you dry, even though you're a thorough rogue, and give you a kiss.
1036	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** μὴ φιλήσῃς.	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** Don't kiss me!
	CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN ἤν τε βούλῃ γ' ἤν τε μή.	**CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN** Whether you like it or not.
1037	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** ἀλλὰ μὴ ὥρασ' ἵκοισθ'· ὡς ἐστὲ θωπικαὶ φύσει, κἄστ' ἐκεῖνο τοὔπος ὀρθῶς κοὐ κακῶς εἰρημένον, οὔτε σὺν πανωλέθροισιν οὔτ' ἄνευ πανωλέθρων. ἀλλὰ νυνὶ σπένδομαί σοι, καὶ τὸ λοιπὸν οὐκέτι οὔτε δράσω φλαῦρον οὐδὲν οὔθ' ὑφ' ὑμῶν πείσομαι. ἀλλὰ κοινῇ συσταλέντες τοῦ μέλους ἀρξώμεθα.	**CHORUS OF OLD MEN** Damn you all! You're born flatterers. That old saying gets it exactly right: "Can't live with the pests, can't live without the pests." But now I'm making a truce with you, and from here on I won't do you any harm and won't take any from you either. Come on, let's form up together and start our song.

THIRD CHORAL SONG

The united chorus sings; Lysistrata scolds the aching Spartan and Athenian envoys into making peace.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1043	**CHORUS** οὐ παρασκευαζόμεσθα τῶν πολιτῶν οὐδέν' ὦνδρες φλαῦρον εἰπεῖν οὐδὲ ἕν. ἀλλὰ πολὺ τοὔμπαλιν πάντ' ἀγαθὰ καὶ λέγειν καὶ δρᾶν· ἱκανὰ γὰρ τὰ κακὰ καὶ τὰ παρακείμενα. ἀλλ' ἐπαγγελλέτω πᾶς ἀνὴρ καὶ γυνή, εἴ τις ἀργυρίδιον δεῖται λαβεῖν μνᾶς ἢ δύ' ἢ τρεῖς, ὡς † πόλλ' ἔσω 'στὶν† κἄχομεν βαλλάντια. κἄν ποτ' εἰρήνη φανῇ, ὅστις ἂν νυνὶ δανείσηται παρ' ἡμῶν, ἂν λάβῃ μηκέτ' ἀποδῷ.	**CHORUS** We're not getting ready, gentlemen, to say anything bad about a single citizen, not one thing. Quite the opposite: we'll say and do only good, since the troubles we have already are plenty. So let every man and woman tell us if anyone needs a little cash, two minas, say, or three: we've got plenty at home, and we've got purses. And if peace ever comes, whoever borrows from us now won't have to pay back what he got.
1058	ἑστιᾶν δὲ μέλλομεν ξένους τινὰς Καρυστίους, ἄν- δρας καλούς τε κἀγαθούς. κἄστιν ἔτ' ἔτνος τι· καὶ δελφάκιον ἦν τί μοι, καὶ τοῦτο τέθυχ', ὡς τὰ κρέ' ἕδεσθ' ἁπαλὰ καὶ καλά. ἥκετ' οὖν εἰς ἐμοῦ τήμερον· πρῳὶ δὲ χρὴ τοῦτο δρᾶν λελουμένους αὖ- τούς τε καὶ τὰ παιδί', εἶτ' εἴσω βαδίζειν, μηδ' ἐρέσθαι μηδένα, ἀλλὰ χωρεῖν ἄντικρυς ὥσπερ οἴκαδ' εἰς ἑαυτῶν	We're about to entertain some guests from Carystus, fine, upstanding gentlemen. There's still some soup, and I had a little pig, and I've sacrificed it, so you'll eat meat that's tender and good. So come to my place today, but early, once you've had your baths, you and your children; then walk right in, don't ask anybody,

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	γεννικῶς, ὡς ἡ θύρα κεκλῄσεται.	just march straight ahead as if you were going home, bold as you please, because the door will be locked.[68]
1072	καὶ μὴν ἀπὸ τῆς Σπάρτης οἰδὶ πρέσβεις ἕλκοντες ὑπήνας / χωροῦσ', ὥσπερ χοιροκομεῖον περὶ τοῖς μηροῖσιν ἔχοντες.	And look, here come the envoys from Sparta, trailing their beards, with what looks like a pig crate strapped around their thighs.[69]
1074	ἄνδρες Λάκωνες πρῶτα μέν μοι χαίρετε, / εἶτ' εἴπαθ' ἡμῖν πῶς ἔχοντες ἥκετε.	Men of Sparta, first of all, welcome. Then tell us how you're doing, coming here.
1076	SPARTAN τί δεῖ ποθ' ὑμὲ πολλὰ μυσίδδειν ἔπη; / ὁρῆν γὰρ ἔξεσθ' ὡς ἔχοντες ἵκομες.	SPARTAN Why waste many words on you? You can see how we are doing.
1078	CHORUS βαβαί· νενεύρωται μὲν ἥδε συμφορὰ / δεινῶς, †τεθερμῶσθαί γε† χεῖρον φαίνεται.	CHORUS Whoa! This calamity is stretched terribly tight. It looks like the inflammation is getting worse.
1080	SPARTAN ἄφατα. τί κα λέγοι τις; ἀλλ' ὅπᾳ σέλει / παντᾷ τις ἐλσὼν ἁμὶν εἰράναν σέτω.	SPARTAN Past words. What can a man say? Let somebody come, any way he likes, and make peace for us.
1082	CHORUS καὶ μὴν ὁρῶ καὶ τούσδε τοὺς αὐτόχθονας ὥσπερ παλαιστὰς ἄνδρας ἀπὸ τῶν γαστέρων θαἰμάτι' ἀποστέλλοντας· ὥστε φαίνεται ἀσκητικὸν τὸ χρῆμα τοῦ νοσήματος.	CHORUS And look, I see our own native sons too, holding their cloaks out from their bellies like wrestlers. So this disease looks like some kind of athlete's complaint.
1086	ATHENIAN τίς ἂν φράσειε ποῦ' στιν ἡ Λυσιστράτη; / ὡς ἄνδρες ἡμεῖς οὑτοιὶ τοιουτοί.	ATHENIAN Who can tell us where Lysistrata is? Because we men here are… well, like this.
1088	CHORUS χαὕτη ξυνᾴδει χἠτέρα ταύτῃ νόσῳ. / ἦ που πρὸς ὄρθρον σπασμὸς ὑμᾶς λαμβάνει;	CHORUS This one's singing in harmony with that one's disease. Do you get a cramp around dawn?
1090	ATHENIAN μὰ Δί' ἀλλὰ ταυτὶ δρῶντες ἐπιτετρίμμεθα. ὥστ' εἴ τις ἡμᾶς μὴ διαλλάξει ταχύ, οὐκ ἔσθ' ὅπως οὐ Κλεισθένη βινήσομεν.	ATHENIAN No, by Zeus, it's this, doing this, that's wrecked us. If somebody doesn't reconcile us quick, there's no way around it: we'll be fucking Cleisthenes.
1093	CHORUS εἰ σωφρονεῖτε, θαἰμάτια λήψεσθ', ὅπως / τῶν Ἑρμοκοπιδῶν μή τις ὑμᾶς ὄψεται.	CHORUS If you've got any sense, you'll put your cloaks back on, so none of the Herm-choppers sees you.[70]
1095	ATHENIAN νὴ τὸν Δί' εὖ μέντοι λέγεις.	ATHENIAN By Zeus, that's a good point.
	SPARTAN ναὶ τὼ σιὼ / παντᾷ γα. φέρε τὸ ἔσθος ἀμβαλώμεθα.	SPARTAN By the Twin Gods, every way. Come, let us put our clothes on.
1097	ATHENIAN ὦ χαίρετ' ὦ Λάκωνες· αἰσχρά γ' ἐπάθομεν.	ATHENIAN Hello there, Spartans! We've been through something shameful.

68 Carystus, on Euboea, was an ally of Athens; its men had a reputation for lustiness.
69 "Piglet" (*choiros*) was slang for a woman's genitals; the wicker crate hides the envoys' erections.
70 In 415 BC vandals mutilated the Herms, pillars with an erect phallus that stood all over Athens.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1098	**SPARTAN** ὦ Πολυχαρείδα δεινά κ' αὖ 'πεπόνθεμες, / αἰ εἶδον ἁμὲ τὤνδρες ἀμπεφλασμένως.	**SPARTAN** Polycharidas, my friend, it would have gone hard with us again if those men had seen us all exposed.
1100	**ATHENIAN** ἄγε δὴ Λάκωνες αὖθ' ἕκαστα χρὴ λέγειν. / ἐπὶ τί πάρεστε δεῦρο;	**ATHENIAN** Come on, Spartans, we need to go through it all point by point. What have you come here for?
1101	**SPARTAN** περὶ διαλλαγᾶν / πρέσβεις.	**SPARTAN** As envoys, about peace.
1102	**ATHENIAN** καλῶς δὴ λέγετε· χἡμεῖς τουτογί. τί οὐ καλοῦμεν δῆτα τὴν Λυσιστράην, ἥπερ διαλλάξειεν ἡμᾶς ἂν μόνη;	**ATHENIAN** Well said. Same with us. Then why don't we call Lysistrata? She's the only one who could reconcile us.
1105	**SPARTAN** ναὶ τὼ σιὼ κἂν λῆτε τὸν Λυσίστρατον.	**SPARTAN** By the Twin Gods, yes. And Lysistratus too, if you like.[71]
1106	**ATHENIAN** ἀλλ' οὐδὲν ἡμᾶς, ὡς ἔοικε, δεῖ καλεῖν· / αὐτὴ γάρ, ὡς ἤκουσεν, ἥδ' ἐξέρχεται.	**ATHENIAN** But it looks like we don't need to call her. She heard us, and here she is coming out herself.
1108	**CHORUS** χαῖρ' ὦ πασῶν ἀνδρειοτάτη· δεῖ δὴ νυνί σε γενέσθαι δεινὴν δειλὴν ἀγαθὴν φαύλην σεμνὴν ἀγανὴν πολύπειρον· ὡς οἱ πρῶτοι τῶν Ἑλλήνων τῇ σῇ ληφθέντες ἴυγγι συνεχώρησάν σοι καὶ κοινῇ τἀγκλήματα πάντ' ἐπέτρεψαν.	**CHORUS** Hail, manliest of all women! Now you have to be fierce and soft, high and low, stern and gentle, and wise in every way. Because the leading men of Greece, caught by your charm, have given way to you and handed all their grievances over to you together.
1112	**LYSISTRATA** ἀλλ' οὐχὶ χαλεπὸν τοὔργον, εἰ λάβοι γέ τις ὀργῶντας ἀλλήλων τε μὴ 'κπειρωμένους. τάχα δ' εἴσομαι 'γώ. ποῦ 'στιν ἡ Διαλλαγή; πρόσαγε λαβοῦσα πρῶτα τοὺς Λακωνικούς, καὶ μὴ χαλεπῇ τῇ χειρὶ μηδ' αὐθαδικῇ, μηδ' ὥσπερ ἡμῶν ἄνδρες ἀμαθῶς τοῦτ' ἔδρων, ἀλλ' ὡς γυναῖκας εἰκός, οἰκείως πάνυ, ἢν μὴ διδῷ τὴν χεῖρα, τῆς σάθης ἄγε. ἴθι καὶ σὺ τούτους τοὺς Ἀθηναίους ἄγε, οὗ δ' ἂν διδῶσι πρόσαγε τούτους λαβομένη. ἄνδρες Λάκωνες στῆτε παρ' ἐμὲ πλησίον, ἐνθένδε δ' ὑμεῖς, καὶ λόγων ἀκούσατε.	**LYSISTRATA** Well, it's not a hard job, if you catch them while they're aching for it and not trying each other out. I'll soon know. Where's Reconciliation? Take the Spartans first and bring them over here, and not with a rough hand or a high-handed one, or clumsily, the way our husbands used to do it, but the way women do it, nice and friendly. If he won't give you his hand, lead him by the prick. Now you go and bring these Athenians as well; take hold of whatever they offer you and bring them. Men of Sparta, stand here next to me, and you over here, and listen to what I have to say.
1124	ἐγὼ γυνὴ μέν εἰμι, νοῦς δ' ἔνεστί μοι, αὐτὴ δ' ἐμαυτῆς οὐ κακῶς γνώμης ἔχω, τοὺς δ' ἐκ πατρός τε καὶ γεραιτέρων λόγους πολλοὺς ἀκούσασ' οὐ μεμούσωμαι κακῶς. λαβοῦσα δ' ὑμᾶς λοιδορῆσαι βούλομαι κοινῇ δικαίως, οἳ μιᾶς ἐκ χέρνιβος βωμοὺς περιρραίνοντες ὥσπερ ξυγγενεῖς Ὀλυμπίασιν, ἐν Πύλαις, Πυθοῖ "πόσους"	I'm a woman, but I have a mind. I'm not badly off for judgment of my own, and I've heard plenty of talk from my father and older men, so I'm not badly educated. Now that I've got you, I want to give you both the scolding you deserve. You sprinkle altars from one basin of holy water, like kinsmen, at Olympia, at Thermopylae, at Delphi, and how many other places could I name, if I had

71 Lysistratus was an Athenian often mocked in comedy; in his state, the Spartan will take a man or a woman.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	"εἶποιμ' ἂν ἄλλους, εἴ με μηκύνειν δέοι;" ἐχθρῶν παρόντων βαρβάρων στρατεύματι Ἕλληνας ἄνδρας καὶ πόλεις ἀπόλλυτε. εἷς μὲν λόγος μοι δεῦρ' ἀεὶ περαίνεται.	to go on? And yet, with your foreign enemies right there with their army, it's Greek men and Greek cities you're destroying. That's my first point, thrust all the way home.[72]
1136	**ATHENIAN** ἐγὼ δ' ἀπόλλυμαί γ' ἀπεψωλημένος.	**ATHENIAN** And me, I'm dying here, with my cock peeled bare.
1137	**LYSISTRATA** εἶτ' ὦ Λάκωνες, πρὸς γὰρ ὑμᾶς τρέψομαι, οὐκ ἴσθ' ὅτ' ἐλθὼν δεῦρο Περικλείδας ποτὲ ὁ Λάκων Ἀθηναίων ἱκέτης καθέζετο ἐπὶ τοῖσι βωμοῖς ὠχρὸς ἐν φοινικίδι στρατιὰν προσαιτῶν; ἡ δὲ Μεσσήνη τότε ὑμῖν ἐπέκειτο χὠ θεὸς σείων ἅμα. ἐλθὼν δὲ σὺν ὁπλίταισι τετρακισχιλίοις Κίμων ὅλην ἔσωσε τὴν Λακεδαίμονα. ταυτὶ παθόντες τῶν Ἀθηναίων ὕπο δῃοῦτε χώραν, ἧς ὑπ' εὖ πεπόνθατε;	**LYSISTRATA** Next, Spartans, because I'm turning to you now: don't you remember how Pericleidas the Spartan once came here and sat at the altars as a suppliant of the Athenians, white as a sheet in his scarlet cloak, begging for an army? Messene was bearing down on you then, and the god was shaking the earth at the same time. And Cimon came with four thousand hoplites and saved all Sparta. That's how the Athenians treated you, and now you ravage the land of the people who did you good?[73]
1147	**ATHENIAN** ἀδικοῦσιν οὗτοι νὴ Δί' ὦ Λυσιστράτη.	**ATHENIAN** They're in the wrong, by Zeus, Lysistrata!
1148	**SPARTAN** ἀδικίομες· ἀλλ' ὁ πρωκτὸς ἄφατον ὡς καλός.	**SPARTAN** We are in the wrong. But that ass is beautiful past words.
1149	**LYSISTRATA** ὑμᾶς δ' ἀφήσειν τοὺς Ἀθηναίους μ' οἴει; οὐκ ἴσθ' ὅθ' ὑμᾶς οἱ Λάκωνες αὖθις αὖ κατωνάκας φοροῦντας ἐλθόντες δορὶ πολλοὺς μὲν ἄνδρας Θετταλῶν ἀπώλεσαν, πολλοὺς δ' ἑταίρους Ἱππίου καὶ ξυμμάχους, ξυνεκμαχοῦντες τῇ τόθ' ἡμέρᾳ μόνοι, κἠλευθέρωσαν κἀντὶ τῆς κατωνάκης τὸν δῆμον ὑμῶν χλαῖναν ἠμπέσχον πάλιν;	**LYSISTRATA** And do you think I'm letting you Athenians off? Don't you remember how the Spartans, in their turn, when you were wearing slaves' sheepskins, came in arms and killed many Thessalian men and many of Hippias' friends and allies? They were the only ones fighting at your side that day, and they set you free, and in place of the sheepskin they dressed your people in the cloak of free men again.[74]
1157	**SPARTAN** οὔπα γυναῖκ' ὄπωπα χαϊωτεραν.	**SPARTAN** I never saw a finer woman.
1158	**ATHENIAN** ἐγὼ δὲ κύσθον γ' οὐδέπω καλλίονα.	**ATHENIAN** And I never saw a lovelier pussy.
1159	**LYSISTRATA** τί δῆθ' ὑπηργμένων γε πολλῶν κἀγαθῶν μάχεσθε κοὐ παύεσθε τῆς μοχθηρίας; τί δ' οὐ διηλλάγητε; φέρε τί τοὐμποδών;	**LYSISTRATA** Then with so many good turns between you, why are you fighting? Why don't you stop this wickedness? Why haven't you made peace? Come on, what's in the way?
1162	**SPARTAN** ἁμές γε λῶμες, αἴ τις ἁμὶν τὤγκυκλον / λῇ τοῦτ' ἀποδόμεν.	**SPARTAN** We are willing, if they are willing to give us back this round thing here.
1163	**LYSISTRATA** ποῖον ὦ τᾶν;	**LYSISTRATA** Which one, my friend?

72 Thermopylae ("Pylae") was the meeting place of the Amphictyonic League, which ran the shrine at Delphi.
73 After the earthquake of 464 BC Sparta's helots in Messenia revolted, and Athens sent Cimon with troops to help.
74 In 510 BC a Spartan army helped drive the tyrant Hippias and his Thessalian allies out of Athens.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	SPARTAN τὰν Πύλον, / ἅσπερ πάλαι δεόμεθα καὶ βλιμάττομες.	**SPARTAN** Pylos. We have wanted it a long time, and been feeling for it.[75]
1165	**ATHENIAN** μὰ τὸν Ποσειδῶ τοῦτο μέν γ' οὐ δράσετε.	**ATHENIAN** By Poseidon, that you won't get!
1166	**LYSISTRATA** ἄφετ' ὦγάθ' αὐτοῖς.	**LYSISTRATA** Let them have it, my good man.
	ATHENIAN κᾆτα τίνα κινήσομεν;	**ATHENIAN** Then what will we have left to screw?
1167	**LYSISTRATA** ἕτερόν γ' ἀπαιτεῖτ' ἀντὶ τούτου χωρίον.	**LYSISTRATA** Ask for some other spot in exchange.
1168	**ATHENIAN** τὸ δεῖνα τοίνυν παράδοθ' ἡμῖν τουτονὶ πρώτιστα τὸν Ἐχινοῦντα καὶ τὸν Μηλιᾶ κόλπον τὸν ὄπισθεν καὶ τὰ Μεγαρικὰ σκέλη.	**ATHENIAN** Well then, hand over this, er, thing-ummy to us: first of all Echinus, and the Malian Gulf around the back, and the Legs of Megara.[76]
1171	**SPARTAN** οὐ τὼ σιὼ οὐχὶ πάντα γ' ὦ λισσάνιε.	**SPARTAN** No, by the Twin Gods, not all of it, my dear fellow.
1172	**LYSISTRATA** ἐᾶτε, μηδὲν διαφέρου περὶ σκελοῖν.	**LYSISTRATA** Let it go. Don't quarrel over a pair of legs.
1173	**ATHENIAN** ἤδη γεωργεῖν γυμνὸς ἀποδὺς βούλομαι.	**ATHENIAN** Right now I want to strip naked and start plowing.
1174	**SPARTAN** ἐγὼ δὲ κοπραγωγεῖν γα †πρῶτα† ναὶ τὼ σιώ.	**SPARTAN** And I, by the Twin Gods, want to spread manure first.
1175	**LYSISTRATA** ἐπὴν διαλλαγῆτε, ταῦτα δράσετε. ἀλλ' εἰ δοκεῖ δρᾶν ταῦτα, βουλεύσασθε καὶ τοῖς ξυμμάχοις ἐλθόντες ἀνακοινώσατε.	**LYSISTRATA** Once you've made peace, you'll do just that. But if you've decided to do this, talk it over, and go and share it with your allies.
1178	**ATHENIAN** ποίοισιν ὦ τᾶν ξυμμάχοις; ἐστύκαμεν. οὐ ταὐτὰ δόξει τοῖσι συμμάχοισι νῷν βινεῖν ἅπασιν;	**ATHENIAN** What allies, my friend? We're hard. Won't all our allies decide the same as us two: to fuck?
1180	**SPARTAN** τοῖσι γῶν ναὶ τὼ σιὼ / ἁμοῖσι.	**SPARTAN** Ours will, by the Twin Gods.
1181	**ATHENIAN** καὶ γὰρ ναὶ μὰ Δία Καρυστίοις.	**ATHENIAN** Yes, and by Zeus, so will the Carystians.
1182	**LYSISTRATA** καλῶς λέγετε. νῦν οὖν ὅπως ἁγνεύσετε, ὅπως ἂν αἱ γυναῖκες ὑμᾶς ἐν πόλει ξενίσωμεν ὧν ἐν ταῖσι κίσταις εἴχομεν. ὅρκους δ' ἐκεῖ καὶ πίστιν ἀλλήλοις δότε. κἄπειτα τὴν αὑτοῦ γυναῖχ' ὑμῶν λαβὼν ἄπεισ' ἕκαστος.	**LYSISTRATA** Well said. Now, then, purify yourselves, so that we women can entertain you on the Acropolis with what we had in our hampers. There you'll swear oaths and give your pledges to each other. And then each of you will take his own wife and go home.
1187	**ATHENIAN** ἀλλ' ἴωμεν ὡς τάχος.	**ATHENIAN** Let's go, quickly.
1188	**SPARTAN** ἄγ' ὅπᾳ τυ λῇς.	**SPARTAN** Lead where you will.
	ATHENIAN νὴ τὸν Δί' ὡς τάχιστ' ἄγε.	**ATHENIAN** By Zeus, lead on, fast as you can.

75 Athens had held Pylos since 425 BC; the name suggests *pylē*, "gate," and the Spartan is pointing at Reconciliation's behind.
76 Echinus ("sea urchin") suggests pubic hair, the "gulf" (*kolpos*) the vagina, and the Megarian "Legs" were the long walls running down to Megara's port.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1189	**CHORUS** στρωμάτων δὲ ποικίλων καὶ χλανιδίων καὶ ξυστίδων καὶ χρυσίων, ὅσ' ἐστί μοι, οὐ φθόνος ἔνεστί μοι πᾶσι παρέχειν φέρειν τοῖς παισίν, ὁπόταν τε θυγάτηρ τινὶ κανηφορῇ. πᾶσιν ὑμῖν λέγω λαμβάνειν τῶν ἐμῶν χρημάτων νῦν ἔνδοθεν, καὶ μηδὲν οὕτως εὖ σεσημάν- θαι τὸ μὴ οὐχὶ τοὺς ῥύπους ἀνασπάσαι, χἄττ' ἂν ἔνδον ᾖ φορεῖν. ὄψεται δ' οὐδὲν σκοπῶν, εἰ μή τις ὑμῶν ὀξύτερον ἐμοῦ βλέπει.	**CHORUS** Embroidered blankets, and fine cloaks and gowns, and gold jewelry, all I have: I don't begrudge anyone; I offer it all, to take to your sons, and when your daughter carries the basket. I tell you all, help yourselves to my things in there now; nothing's sealed up so tight that you can't pull the seals right off and carry away whatever's inside. But you won't see a thing when you look, unless one of you has sharper eyes than I do.
1203	εἰ δέ τῳ μὴ σῖτος ὑμῶν ἔστι, βόσκει δ' οἰκέτας καὶ σμικρὰ πολλὰ παιδία, ἔστι παρ' ἐμοῦ λαβεῖν πυρίδια λεπτὰ μέν, ὁ δ' ἄρτος ἀπὸ χοίνικος ἰδεῖν μάλα νεανίας. ὅστις οὖν βούλεται τῶν πενήτων ἴτω εἰς ἐμοῦ σάκκους ἔχων καὶ κωρύκους, ὡς λήψεται πυ- ρούς· ὁ Μανῆς δ' οὑμὸς αὐτοῖς ἐμβαλεῖ. πρός γε μέντοι τὴν θύραν προαγορεύω μὴ βαδίζειν τὴν ἐμήν, ἀλλ' εὐλαβεῖσθαι τὴν κύνα.	And if any of you has no grain, but feeds slaves and lots of little children, you can have some wheat from me; it's only fine-ground, true, but a loaf from a quart of it is a strapping lad to look at. So any of you poor folk who want some, come to my place with sacks and bags, and you'll get wheat: my Manes will pour it in for you. But I'm warning you now: don't come near my door. Beware of the dog.

EXODOS

After a feast, Athenians and Spartans celebrate the peace with songs and dances.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1216	**FIRST ATHENIAN** ἄνοιγε τὴν θύραν· παραχωρεῖν οὐ θέλεις; ὑμεῖς τί κάθησθε; μῶν ἐγὼ τῇ λαμπάδι ὑμᾶς κατακαύσω; φορτικὸν τὸ χωρίον. οὐκ ἂν ποιήσαιμ'. εἰ δὲ πάνυ δεῖ τοῦτο δρᾶν, ὑμῖν χαρίσασθαι, προσταλαιπωρήσομεν.	**FIRST ATHENIAN** Open the door! Won't you get out of the way? What are you sitting there for? Do you want me to burn you up with this torch? That's a cheap old routine. I won't do it. Still, if I really have to, to please you, we'll go through with it.
1221	**SECOND ATHENIAN** χἠμεῖς γε μετὰ σοῦ ξυνταλαιπωρήσομεν.	**SECOND ATHENIAN** And we'll go through with it alongside you.
1222	**FIRST ATHENIAN** οὐκ ἄπιτε; κωκύσεσθε τὰς τρίχας μακρά.	**FIRST ATHENIAN** Get out of here! You'll be howling over your hair for a long time. Get out, so the

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	οὐκ ἄπιθ', ὅπως ἂν οἱ Λάκωνες ἔνδοθεν καθ' ἡσυχίαν ἀπίωσιν εὐωχημένοι;	Spartans can come out from inside in peace after their feast.
1225	**SECOND ATHENIAN** οὔπω τοιοῦτον συμπόσιον ὅπωπ' ἐγώ. ἦ καὶ χαρίεντες ἦσαν οἱ Λακωνικοί· ἡμεῖς δ' ἐν οἴνῳ συμπόται σοφώτατοι.	**SECOND ATHENIAN** I've never seen a party like it. The Spartans really were charming. And we were the cleverest company you ever saw, over the wine.
1228	**FIRST ATHENIAN** ὀρθῶς γ', ὁτιὴ νήφοντες οὐχ ὑγιαίνομεν· ἢν τοὺς Ἀθηναίους ἐγὼ πείσω λέγων, μεθύοντες ἀεὶ πανταχοῖ πρεσβεύσομεν. νῦν μὲν γὰρ ὅταν ἔλθωμεν ἐς Λακεδαίμονα νήφοντες, εὐθὺς βλέπομεν ὅ τι ταράξομεν· ὥσθ' ὅ τι μὲν ἂν λέγωσιν οὐκ ἀκούομεν, ἃ δ' οὐ λέγουσι, ταῦθ' ὑπονενοήκαμεν, ἀγγέλλομεν δ' οὐ ταὐτὰ τῶν αὐτῶν πέρι. νυνὶ δ' ἅπαντ' ἤρεσκεν· ὥστ' εἰ μέν γέ τις ᾄδοι Τελαμῶνος, Κλειταγόρας ᾄδειν δέον, ἐπῃνέσαμεν ἂν καὶ προσεπιωρκήσαμεν. ἀλλ' οὑτοιὶ γὰρ αὖθις ἔρχονται πάλιν ἐς ταὐτόν. οὐκ ἐρρήσετ' ὦ μαστιγίαι;	**FIRST ATHENIAN** Quite right, because sober we're not in our right minds. If I can talk the Athenians into it, we'll always go on our embassies drunk, wherever we go. As it is, when we go to Sparta sober, right away we're looking for some trouble to stir up. So we don't listen to what they do say, and we read things into what they don't say, and we don't report the same story about the same things. But this time everything went down well. So if somebody sang the Telamon song when he should have sung the Cleitagora, we'd have cheered him and sworn to it falsely as well. Hey, those people are coming back to the same spot again! Go to hell, you whipping-posts![77]
1241	**SECOND ATHENIAN** νὴ τὸν Δί' ὡς ἤδη γε χωροῦσ' ἔνδοθεν.	**SECOND ATHENIAN** By Zeus, yes, they're already coming out.
1242	**SPARTAN** ὦ Πολυχαρείδα λαβὲ τὰ φυσατήρια, ἵν' ἐγὼ διποδιάξω τε κἀείσω καλὸν ἐς τὼς Ἀσαναίως τε † καὶ ἐς ἡμᾶς ἅμα †.	**SPARTAN** Polycharidas, my friend, take up the pipes, so I can do the two-step and sing a fine song for the Athenians and for us together.
1245	**ATHENIAN** λαβὲ δῆτα τὰς φυσαλλίδας πρὸς τῶν θεῶν, / ὡς ἥδομαί γ' ὑμᾶς ὁρῶν ὀρχουμένους.	**ATHENIAN** Yes, by the gods, take up the pipes, because I love watching you people dance.
1247	**CHORUS OF SPARTANS** ὄρμαον τὼς κυρσανίως ὦ Μναμοῦνα τάν τ' ἐμὰν Μῶαν, ἅτις οἶδεν ἁμὲ τώς τ' Ἀσαναίως, ὅκα τοὶ μὲν ἐπ' Ἀρταμιτίῳ πρῶκροον σιοείκελοι ποττὰ κᾶλα τὼς Μήδως τ' ἐνίκων, ἁμὲ δ' αὖ Λεωνίδας ἆγεν ἅπερ τὼς κάπρως θάγοντας οἰῶ τὸν ὀδόντα· πολὺς δ' ἀμφὶ τὰς γένυας ἀφρὸς † ἤνσει †, πολὺς δ' ἁμᾷ καττῶν σκελῶν ἀφρὸς ἴετο. ἦν γὰρ τῶνδρες οὐκ ἐλάσσως τᾶς ψάμμας τοὶ Πέρσαι. ἀγροτέρα σηροκτόνε μόλε δεῦρο παρσένε σιὰ	**CHORUS OF SPARTANS** Rouse, Memory, for these young men my Muse, who knows us and the Athenians: how at Artemisium they charged like gods against the ships and beat the Medes, and Leonidas led us like boars, I think, whetting their tusks; thick foam bloomed around their jaws, thick foam ran down their legs as well. For the men were no fewer than the sands, those Persians. Wild huntress, slayer of beasts, come here, maiden goddess,

77 Songs about Telamon and Cleitagora were well-known drinking songs; at a party each guest had to cap the last.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	ποττὰς σπονδάς, ὡς συνέχῃς πολὺν ἁμὲ χρόνον.	to the truce, to keep us together a long time.[78]
1266	νῦν δ' αὖ φιλία τ' αἰὲς εὔπορος εἴη ταῖς συνθήκαις, καὶ τᾶν αἱμυλᾶν ἀλωπέκων παυσαίμεθα. ὦ δεῦρ' ἴθι δεῦρ' ὦ κυναγὲ παρσένε.	Now let friendship flow freely forever from our pact, and let us stop being wily foxes. Oh, come here, come here, huntress maiden!
1273	ATHENIAN ἄγε νυν ἐπειδὴ τἄλλα πεποίηται καλῶς, ἀπάγεσθε ταύτας ὦ Λάκωνες, τάσδε τε ὑμεῖς· ἀνὴρ δὲ παρὰ γυναῖκα καὶ γυνὴ στήτω παρ' ἄνδρα, κᾆτ' ἐπ' ἀγαθαῖς συμφοραῖς ὀρχησάμενοι θεοῖσιν εὐλαβώμεθα τὸ λοιπὸν αὖθις μὴ 'ξαμαρτάνειν ἔτι.	ATHENIAN Come now, since everything else has turned out well, Spartans, take these women home, and you, take these. Let husband stand by wife and wife by husband, and then, after dancing to the gods for our good fortune, let's take care never to go wrong again.
1279	CHORUS OF ATHENIANS πρόσαγε χορόν, ἔπαγε δὲ Χάριτας, ἐπὶ δὲ κάλεσον Ἄρτεμιν, ἐπὶ δὲ δίδυμον ἀγέχορον Ἰήιον εὔφρον', ἐπὶ δὲ Νύσιον, ὃς μετὰ μαινάσι Βάκχιος ὄμμασι δαίεται, Δία τε πυρὶ φλεγόμενον, ἐπί τε πότνιαν ἄλοχον ὀλβίαν· εἶτα δὲ δαίμονας, οἷς ἐπιμάρτυσι χρησόμεθ' οὐκ ἐπιλήσμοσιν Ἡσυχίας πέρι τῆς ἀγανόφρονος, ἣν ἐποίησε θεὰ Κύπρις. ἀλαλαὶ ἰὴ παιήων· αἴρεσθ' ἄνω ἰαί, ὡς ἐπὶ νίκῃ ἰαί. εὐοῖ εὐοῖ, εὐαί εὐαί.	CHORUS OF ATHENIANS Bring on the dance, bring the Graces, and call on Artemis, and her twin, leader of the dance, the Healer, the kindly one; and the Nysian, Bacchus, whose eyes blaze among the maenads, and Zeus, aflame with fire, and his queenly, blessed wife; and then the spirits, whom we'll call on as witnesses who won't forget the gentle-hearted Peace and Quiet that the goddess Aphrodite made. Alalai! Iē paiōn! Leap high, iai, as for a victory, iai! Euoi, euoi, euai, euai![79]
1295	ATHENIAN πρόφαινε δὴ σὺ Μοῦσαν ἐπὶ νέᾳ νέαν.	ATHENIAN Now you, bring out a new Muse to follow the new one.
1296	CHORUS OF SPARTANS Ταΰγετον αὖτ' ἐραννὸν ἐκλιπῶα Μῶα μόλε Λάκαινα πρεπτὸν ἁμὶν κλέωα τὸν Ἀμύκλαις σιὸν καὶ χαλκίοικον Ἀσάναν, Τυνδαρίδας τ' ἀγασώς, τοὶ δὴ πὰρ Εὐρώταν ψιάδδοντι. εἶα μάλ' ἔμβη ὦ εἶα κοῦφα πάλλων, ὡς Σπάρταν ὑμνίωμες, τᾷ σιῶν χοροὶ μέλοντι καὶ ποδῶν κτύπος,	CHORUS OF SPARTANS Leave lovely Taygetus once more, Spartan Muse, and come, glorify for us, as is fitting, the god at Amyclae and Athena of the Bronze House, and the noble sons of Tyndareus, who play beside the Eurotas. Come on, step high, oh, come, leap lightly, so we may sing of Sparta, who loves the gods' dances

78 In 480 BC the Athenian fleet fought the Persians at Artemisium while Leonidas and his Spartans held the pass at Thermopylae.
79 The Healer (Iēios) is Apollo, Artemis' twin; the Nysian is Dionysus. The cries at the end are ritual shouts of triumph and Bacchic joy.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	ᾖ τε πῶλοι ταὶ κόραι πὰρ τὸν Εὐρωταν ἀμπάλλοντι πυκνὰ ποδοῖν ἀγκονίωαι, ταὶ δὲ κόμαι σείονθ’ ᾗπερ Βακχᾶν θυρσαδδωᾶν καὶ παιδδωᾶν. ἀγεῖται δ’ ἀ Λήδας παῖς ἀγνὰ χοραγὸς εὐπρεπής. ἀλλ’ ἄγε κόμαν παραμπύκιδδε χερί, ποδοῖν τε πάδη ᾖ τις ἔλαφος· κρότον δ’ ἁμᾶ ποίει χορωφελήταν.	and the stamp of feet, where like fillies the girls beside the Eurotas leap, with quick feet raising the dust, and their hair tosses like Bacchants’ waving the thyrsus at play. Leda’s daughter leads them, the pure and lovely leader of the dance. Come, bind up your hair with your hand, and leap with your feet like a deer; and clap to help the dance along.[80]
1320	καὶ τὰν σιὰν δ’ αὖ τὰν κρατίσταν Χαλκίοικον ὕμνει τὰν πάμμαχον.	And sing again of the goddess, the mightiest, the Goddess of the Bronze House, who wins every fight!

80 Apollo had a great shrine at Amyclae, and Athena of the Bronze House stood on the Spartan acropolis; Tyndareus’ sons are Castor and Pollux, and Leda’s daughter is Helen.