# Oedipus at Colonus

SOPHOCLES

c. 497–406 BC

# Oedipus at Colonus

Οἰδίπους ἐπὶ Κολωνῷ

*Translated from the Greek with AI (Claude) and edited*



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*Oedipus at Colonus* · Sophocles (c. 497–406 BC)

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# INTRODUCTION

Years after the events of Oedipus the King, the blind Oedipus, an exile and a beggar, arrives with his daughter Antigone at Colonus, a village just outside Athens. He sits down in a grove sacred to the Furies, and knows at once that this is where an old oracle said his life would end.

The locals are horrified to learn who he is, but Theseus, king of Athens, takes him under his protection. Then the past comes looking for him: his brother-in-law Creon tries to drag him back to Thebes by force, and his son Polynices begs for his blessing in a war against his own brother. Oedipus, who once thought himself guilty, now insists he sinned in ignorance, and he answers his son with a terrible curse.

Sophocles wrote the play near the end of his long life; it was staged after his death, in 401 BC. It is a meditation on old age, suffering and dignity, and it contains one of the most celebrated odes in Greek, the chorus's praise of Colonus, Sophocles' own birthplace.

# Oedipus at Colonus

*At the grove of the Furies at Colonus, near Athens.*
*The blind, exiled Oedipus finds the place where he is to die.*

## PROLOGUE

*The blind Oedipus and Antigone reach a sacred grove at Colonus, and a local tells them where they are.*

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | **OEDIPUS** τέκνον τυφλοῦ γέροντος Ἀντιγόνη, τίνας<br>χώρους ἀφίγμεθ' ἢ τίνων ἀνδρῶν πόλιν;<br>τίς τὸν πλανήτην Οἰδίπουν καθ' ἡμέραν<br>τὴν νῦν σπανιστοῖς δέξεται δωρήμασιν;<br>σμικρὸν μὲν ἐξαιτοῦντα, τοῦ σμικροῦ δ' ἔτι<br>μεῖον φέροντα, καὶ τόδ' ἐξαρκοῦν ἐμοί·<br>στέργειν γὰρ αἱ πάθαι με χὠ χρόνος ξυνὼν<br>μακρὸς διδάσκει καὶ τὸ γενναῖον τρίτον.<br>ἀλλ', ὦ τέκνον, θάκησιν εἴ τινα βλέπεις<br>ἢ πρὸς βεβήλοις ἢ πρὸς ἄλσεσιν θεῶν,<br>στῆσόν με κἀξίδρυσον, ὡς πυθώμεθα<br>ὅπου ποτ' ἐσμέν· μανθάνειν γὰρ ἥκομεν<br>ξένοι πρὸς ἀστῶν, ἃν δ' ἀκούσωμεν τελεῖν. | **OEDIPUS** Antigone, child of a blind old man, what country have we come to? Whose city is this? Who will take in the wanderer Oedipus today, with a few meager gifts? I ask for little, and I get even less than that little, and it's enough for me. My sufferings have taught me to be content, and so have the long years that have kept me company, and, third, my own nobility. But child, if you see somewhere to sit, on common ground or by the groves of the gods, stop and settle me there, so we can find out where in the world we are. We've come as strangers to learn from the people of the place, and to do whatever we hear we must. |
| 14 | **ANTIGONE** πάτερ ταλαίπωρ' Οἰδίπους, πύργοι μέν, οἳ<br>πόλιν στέγουσιν, ὡς ἀπ' ὀμμάτων, πρόσω·<br>χῶρος δ' ὅδ' ἱερός, ὡς ἀπεικάσαι, βρύων<br>δάφνης, ἐλαίας, ἀμπέλου· πυκνόπτεροι δ'<br>εἴσω κατ' αὐτὸν εὐστομοῦσ' ἀηδόνες·<br>οὗ κῶλα κάμψον τοῦδ' ἐπ' ἀξέστου πέτρου·<br>μακρὰν γὰρ ὡς γέροντι προὐστάλης ὁδόν. | **ANTIGONE** Poor father Oedipus, the towers that ring the city look, as far as my eyes can tell, a long way off. This place is sacred, it seems. It's thick with laurel, olive and vine, and deep inside it a throng of nightingales on beating wings is singing sweetly. Rest your limbs here on this rough, unhewn rock. You've traveled a long road for an old man. |
| 21 | **OEDIPUS** κάθιζέ νύν με καὶ φύλασσε τὸν τυφλόν. | **OEDIPUS** Sit me down, then, and look after the blind man. |
| 22 | **ANTIGONE** χρόνου μὲν οὕνεκ' οὐ μαθεῖν με δεῖ τόδε. | **ANTIGONE** After all this time, I hardly need to be told that. |
| 23 | **OEDIPUS** ἔχεις διδάξαι δή μ' ὅποι καθέσταμεν; | **OEDIPUS** Can you tell me, then, where we've stopped? |
| 24 | **ANTIGONE** τὰς γοῦν Ἀθήνας οἶδα, τὸν δὲ χῶρον οὔ. | **ANTIGONE** Athens, at least, I recognize, but not this spot. |
| 25 | **OEDIPUS** πᾶς γάρ τις ηὔδα τοῦτό γ' ἡμὶν ἐμπόρων. | **OEDIPUS** Yes, every traveler on the road told us that much. |
| 26 | **ANTIGONE** ἀλλ' ὅστις ὁ τόπος ἦ μάθω μολοῦσά ποι; | **ANTIGONE** Shall I go somewhere, then, and find out what this place is? |

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| 27 | **OEDIPUS** ναί, τέκνον, εἴπερ ἐστί γ' ἐξοικήσιμος. | **OEDIPUS** Yes, child—if anyone lives here, that is. |
| 28 | **ANTIGONE** ἀλλ' ἐστὶ μὴν οἰκητός· οἶομαι δὲ δεῖν / οὐδέν· πέλας γὰρ ἄνδρα τόνδε νῷν ὁρῶ. | **ANTIGONE** Oh, people live here, certainly. But I don't think I need to go: I see a man close by us. |
| 30 | **OEDIPUS** ἦ δεῦρο προσστείχοντα κἀξορμώμενον; | **OEDIPUS** Coming this way? Heading toward us? |
| 31 | **ANTIGONE** καὶ δὴ μὲν οὖν παρόντα· χὤ τί σοι λέγειν / εὔκαιρόν ἐστιν, ἔννεφ', ὡς ἀνὴρ ὅδε. | **ANTIGONE** He's here already. Say whatever the moment calls for—here he is. |
| 33 | **OEDIPUS** ὦ ξεῖν', ἀκούων τῆσδε τῆς ὑπέρ τ' ἐμοῦ αὐτῆς θ' ὁρώσης, οὕνεχ' ἡμὶν αἴσιος σκοπὸς προσήκεις ὧν ἀδηλοῦμεν φράσαι— | **OEDIPUS** Stranger, I hear from this girl, who sees for me as well as for herself, that you've come along, a welcome scout, to tell us what we don't know— |
| 36 | **STRANGER** πρὶν νῦν τὰ πλείον' ἱστορεῖν, ἐκ τῆσδ' ἕδρας / ἔξελθ'· ἔχεις γὰρ χῶρον οὐχ ἁγνὸν πατεῖν. | **STRANGER** Before you ask any more, get up off that seat. You're on ground that isn't pure for anyone to tread. |
| 38 | **OEDIPUS** τίς δ' ἔσθ' ὁ χῶρος; τοῦ θεῶν νομίζεται; | **OEDIPUS** What place is it? Which of the gods is it held sacred to? |
| 39 | **STRANGER** ἄθικτος οὐδ' οἰκητός· αἱ γὰρ ἔμφοβοι / θεαί σφ' ἔχουσι, Γῆς τε καὶ Σκότου κόραι. | **STRANGER** It's not to be touched or lived on. The fearful goddesses hold it, the daughters of Earth and Darkness. |
| 41 | **OEDIPUS** τίνων τὸ σεμνὸν ὄνομ' ἂν εὐξαίμην κλύων; | **OEDIPUS** What is their holy name? Tell me, so I can pray to them. |
| 42 | **STRANGER** τὰς πάνθ' ὁρώσας Εὐμενίδας ὅ γ' ἐνθάδ' ἂν / εἴποι λεώς νιν· ἄλλα δ' ἀλλαχοῦ καλά. | **STRANGER** The people here would call them the Kindly Ones, who see all things. Other places prefer other names.[1] |
| 44 | **OEDIPUS** ἀλλ' ἵλεῳ μὲν τὸν ἱκέτην δεξαίατο· / ὡς οὐχ ἕδρας γῆς τῆσδ' ἂν ἐξέλθοιμ' ἔτι. | **OEDIPUS** Then may they receive their suppliant graciously, because I will never leave my seat in this land again. |
| 46 | **STRANGER** τί δ' ἐστὶ τοῦτο; | **STRANGER** What do you mean by that? |
| | **OEDIPUS** ξυμφορᾶς ξύνθημ' ἐμῆς. | **OEDIPUS** It's the sign of my destiny. |
| 47 | **STRANGER** ἀλλ' οὐδ' ἐμοί τοι τοὐξανιστάναι πόλεως / δίχ' ἐστὶ θάρσος, πρίν γ' ἂν ἐνδείξω τί δρῶ. | **STRANGER** Well, I don't have the nerve to move you either, not without the city's say, until I've reported what I'm doing. |
| 49 | **OEDIPUS** πρός νυν θεῶν, ὦ ξεῖνε, μή μ' ἀτιμάσῃς, / τοιόνδ' ἀλήτην, ὧν σε προστρέπω φράσαι. | **OEDIPUS** Then for the gods' sake, stranger, don't refuse me—a wanderer like this—what I'm begging you to tell me. |
| 51 | **STRANGER** σήμαινε, κοὐκ' ἄτιμος ἔκ γ' ἐμοῦ φανεῖ. | **STRANGER** Ask away. You won't be refused, not by me. |
| 52 | **OEDIPUS** τίς ἔσθ' ὁ χῶρος δῆτ', ἐν ᾧ βεβήκαμεν; | **OEDIPUS** Then what is this place we've set foot in? |

1 "Kindly Ones" (Eumenides) is a euphemistic name for the Furies, the dreaded avenging powers of the underworld.

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| 53 | **STRANGER** ὅσ' οἶδα κἀγὼ πάντ' ἐπιστήσει κλύων·<br>χῶρος μὲν ἱερὸς πᾶς ὅδ' ἔστ'· ἔχει δέ νιν<br>σεμνὸς Ποσειδῶν· ἐν δ' ὁ πυρφόρος θεὸς<br>Τιτὰν Προμηθεύς· ὃν δ' ἐπιστείβεις τόπον,<br>χθονὸς καλεῖται τῆσδε χαλκόπους ὁδός,<br>ἔρεισμ' Ἀθηνῶν· οἱ δὲ πλησίοι γύαι<br>τόνδ' ἱππότην Κολωνὸν εὔχονται σφίσιν<br>ἀρχηγὸν εἶναι καὶ φέρουσι τοὔνομα<br>τὸ τοῦδε κοινὸν πάντες ὠνομασμένοι.<br>τοιαῦτά σοι ταῦτ' ἐστίν, ὦ ξέν', οὐ λόγοις<br>τιμώμεν', ἀλλὰ τῇ ξυνουσίᾳ πλέον. | **STRANGER** Everything I know myself, you'll hear and understand. This whole place is sacred. Holy Poseidon owns it, and the fire-bearing god is here too, the Titan Prometheus. The spot you're standing on is called the Bronze Threshold of this land, the bulwark of Athens. The fields round about claim the horseman Colonus here as their founder, and the people all share his name and are called after him. That's how things stand here, stranger: honored not so much in stories as in the life we live with them.[2] |
| 64 | **OEDIPUS** ἦ γάρ τινες ναίουσι τούσδε τοὺς τόπους; | **OEDIPUS** So people do live in these parts? |
| 65 | **STRANGER** καὶ κάρτα, τοῦδε τοῦ θεοῦ γ' ἐπώνυμοι. | **STRANGER** They certainly do, and they take their name from this god here. |
| 66 | **OEDIPUS** ἄρχει τις αὐτῶν ἢ 'πὶ τῷ πλήθει λόγος; | **OEDIPUS** Does someone rule them, or does the say lie with the people? |
| 67 | **STRANGER** ἐκ τοῦ κατ' ἄστυ βασιλέως τάδ' ἄρχεται. | **STRANGER** They're ruled by the king in the city. |
| 68 | **OEDIPUS** οὗτος δὲ τίς λόγῳ τε καὶ σθένει κρατεῖ; | **OEDIPUS** And who is he, who rules them in counsel and in strength? |
| 69 | **STRANGER** Θησεὺς καλεῖται, τοῦ πρὶν Αἰγέως τόκος. | **STRANGER** His name is Theseus, son of Aegeus, who was king before him. |
| 70 | **OEDIPUS** ἆρ' ἄν τις αὐτῷ πομπὸς ἐξ ὑμῶν μόλοι; | **OEDIPUS** Could one of you go to him with a message? |
| 71 | **STRANGER** ὡς πρὸς τί λέξων ἢ καταρτύσων μολεῖν; | **STRANGER** To tell him something? Or to bring him here—for what? |
| 72 | **OEDIPUS** ὡς ἂν προσαρκῶν σμικρὰ κερδάνῃ μέγα. | **OEDIPUS** So that by giving a little help he may gain a great deal. |
| 73 | **STRANGER** καὶ τίς πρὸς ἀνδρὸς μὴ βλέποντος ἄρκεσις; | **STRANGER** And what help can come from a man who can't see? |
| 74 | **OEDIPUS** ὅσ' ἂν λέγωμεν πάνθ' ὁρῶντα λέξομεν. | **OEDIPUS** There'll be sight in every word I speak. |
| 75 | **STRANGER** οἶσθ', ὦ ξέν', ὡς νῦν μὴ σφαλῇς; ἐπείπερ εἰ<br>γενναῖος, ὡς ἰδόντι, πλὴν τοῦ δαίμονος,<br>αὐτοῦ μέν' οὗπερ κἀφάνης, ἕως ἐγὼ<br>τοῖς ἐνθάδ' αὐτοῦ μὴ κατ' ἄστυ δημόταις<br>λέξω τάδ' ἐλθών· οἵδε γὰρ κρινοῦσί σοι<br>εἰ χρή σε μίμνειν ἢ πορεύεσθαι πάλιν. | **STRANGER** Do you know what to do now, stranger, so you don't come to grief? Since anyone can see you're of noble birth—apart from your fortune—stay right where you appeared, while I go and tell this to the people of the district here, not in the city. They'll decide for you whether you're to stay or go back the way you came. |
| 81 | **OEDIPUS** ὦ τέκνον, ἦ βέβηκεν ἡμὶν ὁ ξένος; | **OEDIPUS** Child, has the stranger gone? |

2 The Bronze Threshold was a steep spot at Colonus, Sophocles' own birthplace just north of Athens, believed to lead down to the underworld.

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| 82 | **ANTIGONE** βέβηκεν, ὥστε πᾶν ἐν ἡσύχῳ, πάτερ, /<br>ἔξεστι φωνεῖν, ὡς ἐμοῦ μόνης πέλας. | **ANTIGONE** He's gone, Father. You can say anything you like in peace; there's no one near but me. |
| 84 | **OEDIPUS** ὦ πότνιαι δεινῶπες, εὖτε νῦν ἕδρας<br>πρώτων ἐφ' ὑμῶν τῆσδε γῆς ἔκαμψ' ἐγώ,<br>Φοίβῳ τε κἀμοὶ μὴ γένησθ' ἀγνώμονες,<br>ὅς μοι, τὰ πόλλ' ἐκεῖν' ὅτ' ἐξέχρη κακά,<br>ταύτην ἔλεξε παῦλαν ἐν χρόνῳ μακρῷ,<br>ἐλθόντι χώραν τερμίαν, ὅπου θεῶν<br>σεμνῶν ἕδραν λάβοιμι καὶ ξενόστασιν,<br>ἐνταῦθα κάμψειν τὸν ταλαίπωρον βίον,<br>κέρδη μὲν οἰκήσαντα τοῖς δεδεγμένοις,<br>ἄτην δὲ τοῖς πέμψασιν, οἵ μ' ἀπήλασαν· | **OEDIPUS** Ladies of the dreadful gaze, since yours is the first seat in this land where I've bent my knees, don't be unkind to Phoebus or to me. When he foretold all those evils of mine, he spoke of this as my rest after long years: when I reached my journey's end in some country where I found a seat of the Holy Goddesses and a shelter for strangers, there I would round off my wretched life—a gain to those who took me in, by settling among them, and ruin to those who sent me off, who drove me out.[3] |
| 94 | σημεῖα δ' ἥξειν τῶνδέ μοι παρηγγύα,<br>ἢ σεισμὸν ἢ βροντήν τιν' ἢ Διὸς σέλας,<br>ἔγνωκα μέν νυν ὥς με τήνδε τὴν ὁδὸν<br>οὐκ ἔσθ' ὅπως οὐ πιστὸν ἐξ ὑμῶν πτερὸν<br>ἐξήγαγ' εἰς τόδ' ἄλσος· οὐ γὰρ ἄν ποτε<br>πρώταισιν ὑμῖν ἀντέκυρσ' ὁδοιπορῶν,<br>νήφων ἀοίνοις, κἀπὶ σεμνὸν ἑζόμην<br>βάθρον τόδ' ἀσκέπαρνον. ἀλλά μοι, θεαί,<br>βίου κατ' ὀμφὰς τὰς Ἀπόλλωνος δότε<br>πέρασιν ἤδη καὶ καταστροφήν τινα,<br>εἰ μὴ δοκῶ τι μειόνως ἔχειν, ἀεὶ<br>μόχθοις λατρεύων τοῖς ὑπερτάτοις βροτῶν. | And he promised me signs would come of this—an earthquake, or thunder, or the lightning of Zeus. Now I know it can only have been a trusty omen sent by you that led me down this road into this grove. Otherwise I would never have met you first of all in my wanderings—I, sober, and you who take no wine—or sat down on this holy seat of unhewn stone. Goddesses, as Apollo's voice foretold, grant me now at last some end to life, some close—unless I seem too low a thing for that, forever slaving at the worst miseries mortals know.[4] |
| 106 | ἴτ', ὦ γλυκεῖαι παῖδες ἀρχαίου Σκότου,<br>ἴτ', ὦ μεγίστης Παλλάδος καλούμεναι<br>πασῶν Ἀθῆναι τιμιωτάτη πόλις,<br>οἰκτίρατ' ἀνδρὸς Οἰδίπου τόδ' ἄθλιον<br>εἴδωλον· οὐ γὰρ δὴ τόδ' ἀρχαῖον δέμας. | Come, sweet daughters of ancient Darkness! Come, Athens, called the city of mighty Pallas, most honored of all cities! Pity this wretched ghost of the man Oedipus—for this is not the body he once had. |
| 111 | **ANTIGONE** σίγα· πορεύονται γὰρ οἵδε δή τινες / χρόνῳ<br>παλαιοί, σῆς ἕδρας ἐπίσκοποι. | **ANTIGONE** Quiet. Some men are coming this way, old men, to look over the place where you're sitting. |
| 113 | **OEDIPUS** σιγήσομαί τε καὶ σύ μ' ἐξ ὁδοῦ πόδα<br>κρύψον κατ' ἄλσος, τῶνδ' ἕως ἂν ἐκμάθω<br>τίνας λόγους ἐροῦσιν· ἐν γὰρ τῷ μαθεῖν<br>ἔνεστιν ηὐλάβεια τῶν ποιουμένων. | **OEDIPUS** I'll be quiet. And you, take me off the path and hide me in the grove, until I learn what these men will say. Knowing is what makes for caution in what we do. |

## PARODOS

*Old men of Colonus find the stranger in the grove, learn he is Oedipus, and order him away.*

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| 117 | **CHORUS** ὅρα. τίς ἄρ' ἦν; ποῦ ναίει;<br>ποῦ κυρεῖ ἐκτόπιος συθεὶς ὁ πάντων | **CHORUS** Look! Who was he? Where is he staying? Where has he rushed off to, out of the way, |

3 Phoebus is Apollo, whose oracle at Delphi had foretold Oedipus' fate.

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| | ὁ πάντων ἀκορέστατος;<br>προσδέρκου λεῦσσέ νιν,<br>προσπεύθου πανταχῇ.<br>πλανάτας πλανάτας τις ὁ πρέσβυς οὐδ’<br>ἔγχωρος· προσέβα γὰρ οὐκ<br>ἄν ποτ’ ἀστιβὲς ἄλσος ἐς<br>τᾶνδ’ ἀμαιμακετᾶν κορᾶν,<br>ἃς τρέμομεν λέγειν<br>καὶ παραμειβόμεσθ’ ἀδέρκτως,<br>ἀφώνως, ἀλόγως τὸ τᾶς.<br>εὐφάμου στόμα φροντίδος<br>ἰέντες, τὰ δὲ νῦν τιν’ ἥκειν<br>λόγος οὐδὲν ἄζονθ’,<br>ὃν ἐγὼ λεύσσων περὶ πᾶν οὔπω<br>δύναμαι τέμενος<br>γνῶναι ποῦ μοί ποτε ναίει. | of all men, of all men the most brazen?<br>Look for him, watch for him,<br>search on every side!<br>A wanderer, a wanderer, this old man,<br>not one of us. Otherwise he’d never have stepped<br>into the untrodden grove<br>of these maidens no one can withstand,<br>whom we tremble to name,<br>and pass by without a look,<br>without a sound, without a word,<br>moving our lips only in reverent thought.<br>But now the word is someone has come<br>who shows no awe,<br>and though I scan the whole precinct<br>I still can’t make out<br>where he’s hiding from me. |
| 138 | **OEDIPUS** ὅδ’ ἐκεῖνος ἐγώ· φωνῇ γὰρ ὁρῶ, / τὸ φατιζόμενον. | **OEDIPUS** Here I am, that man—for I see by sound, / as the saying goes. |
| 140 | **CHORUS** ἰὼ ἰώ, / δεινὸς μὲν ὁρᾶν, δεινὸς δὲ κλύειν. | **CHORUS** Oh! Oh! / Dreadful to see, dreadful to hear! |
| 142 | **OEDIPUS** μή μ’, ἱκετεύω, προσίδητ’ ἄνομον. | **OEDIPUS** Don’t, I beg you, look on me as a lawless man. |
| 143 | **CHORUS** Ζεῦ ἀλεξῆτορ, τίς ποθ’ ὁ πρέσβυς; | **CHORUS** Zeus, protector, who can the old man be? |
| 144 | **OEDIPUS** οὐ πάνυ μοίρας εὐδαιμονίσαι<br>πρώτης, ὦ τῆσδ’ ἔφοροι χώρας.<br>δηλῶ δ’· οὐ γὰρ ἂν ὧδ’ ἀλλοτρίοις<br>ὄμμασιν εἶρπον<br>κἀπὶ σμικροῖς μέγας ὥρμουν. | **OEDIPUS** Not one whose fate you’d call<br>the happiest, guardians of this land.<br>I prove it plainly: I wouldn’t otherwise be creeping<br>by another’s eyes,<br>a grown man moored to one so slight. |
| 149 | **CHORUS** ἐή, ἀλαῶν ὀμμάτων<br>ἆρα καὶ ἦσθα φυτάλμιος; δυσαίων<br>μακραίων γ’, ὅσ’ ἐπεικάσαι.<br>ἀλλ’ οὐ μὰν ἔν γ’ ἐμοὶ<br>προσθήσει τάσδ’ ἀράς.<br>περᾷς γάρ, περᾷς· ἀλλ’ ἵνα τῷδ’ ἐν ἀ-<br>φθέγκτῳ μὴ προπέσῃς νάπει<br>ποιάεντι, κάθυδρος οὗ<br>κρατὴρ μειλιχίων ποτῶν<br>ῥεύματι συντρέχει,<br>τόν, ξένε πάμμορ’, εὖ φύλαξαι;<br>μετάσταθ’ ἀπόβαθι. πολ-<br>λὰ κέλευθος ἐρατύει·<br>κλύεις, ὦ πολύμοχθ’ ἀλᾶτα;<br>λόγον εἴ τιν’ οἴσεις<br>πρὸς ἐμὰν λέσχαν, ἀβάτων ἀποβάς, | **CHORUS** Ah! Were your eyes<br>blind from your birth? Your life’s been hard,<br>and long, too, as far as one can guess.<br>But not if I can help it<br>will you add these curses too.<br>You’re going too far, too far! So that you don’t stumble<br>into this grassy glade<br>where no voice speaks, where the bowl of water<br>runs together with the stream<br>of honeyed drink,<br>take good care, poor ill-fated stranger!<br>Move off, step back!<br>Keep a long road between us—/ do you hear, much-suffering wanderer?<br>If you have anything to say |

4 Offerings to the Furies were made without wine.

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| | ἵνα πᾶσι νόμος,<br>φώνει· πρόσθεν δ' ἀπερύκου. | to us in our council, step off forbidden ground,<br>and where all may speak,<br>speak; until then, hold back. |
| 170 | **OEDIPUS** θύγατερ, ποῖ τις φροντίδος ἔλθῃ; | **OEDIPUS** Daughter, where should my thoughts turn now? |
| 171 | **ANTIGONE** ὦ πάτερ, ἀστοῖς ἴσα χρὴ μελετᾶν, / εἴκοντας ἃ δεῖ κἀκούοντας. | **ANTIGONE** Father, we must act as the people here do, / giving way where we must, and listening. |
| 173 | **OEDIPUS** πρόσθιγέ νύν μου. | **OEDIPUS** Then take hold of me. |
| | **ANTIGONE** ψαύω καὶ δή. | **ANTIGONE** There, I'm holding you. |
| 174 | **OEDIPUS** ὦ ξένε, μὴ δῆτ' ἀδικηθῶ σοὶ / πιστεύσας καὶ μεταναστάς. | **OEDIPUS** Stranger, don't let me be wronged / for trusting you and leaving my seat. |
| 176 | **CHORUS** οὔ τοι μήποτέ σ' ἐκ τῶνδ' ἑδράνων, / ὦ γέρον, ἄκοντά τις ἄξει. | **CHORUS** No one, old man, will ever take you / from this resting place against your will. |
| 178 | **OEDIPUS** ἔτ' οὖν; | **OEDIPUS** Farther, then? |
| | **CHORUS** ἔτι βαῖνε πόρσω. | **CHORUS** Farther still, keep walking. |
| 179 | **OEDIPUS** ἔτι; | **OEDIPUS** Farther? |
| 180 | **CHORUS** προβίβαζε, κούρα, / πόρσω· σὺ γὰρ ἀΐεις. | **CHORUS** Lead him on, girl, / farther—you can understand us. |
| 181 | **ANTIGONE** ... / ἕπεο μάν, ἕπε' ὦδ' ἀμαυρῷ κώλῳ, πάτερ, ᾗ σ' ἄγω. | **ANTIGONE** ... / Come, follow, follow me this way on your darkened feet, Father, where I lead you. |
| 184 | **CHORUS** τόλμα ξεῖνος ἐπὶ ξένης,<br>ὦ τλάμων, ὅ τι καὶ πόλις<br>τέτροφεν ἄφιλον ἀποστυγεῖν<br>καὶ τὸ φίλον σέβεσθαι. | **CHORUS** Bring yourself, a stranger in a strange land,<br>poor man, to hate<br>whatever this city has learned to hate,<br>and to revere what it loves. |
| 188 | **OEDIPUS** ἄγε νυν σύ με, παῖ,<br>ἵν' ἂν εὐσεβίας ἐπιβαίνοντες<br>τὸ μὲν εἴποιμεν, τὸ δ' ἀκούσαιμεν,<br>καὶ μὴ χρείᾳ πολεμῶμεν. | **OEDIPUS** Lead me, then, child,<br>to where we can stand on ground reverence allows,<br>and speak, and listen,<br>and not fight against necessity. |
| 192 | **CHORUS** αὐτοῦ· μηκέτι τοῦδ' αὐτοπέτρου βήματος ἔξω πόδα κλίνῃς. | **CHORUS** There. Don't move your foot outside this ledge of natural rock. |
| 193 | **OEDIPUS** οὕτως; | **OEDIPUS** Like this? |
| | **CHORUS** ἅλις, ὡς ἀκούεις. | **CHORUS** That's enough, you hear. |
| 195 | **OEDIPUS** ἦ ἑσθῶ; | **OEDIPUS** May I sit? |
| | **CHORUS** λέχριός γ' ἐπ' ἄκρου / λᾶος βραχὺς ὀκλάσας. | **CHORUS** Yes, sideways, on the edge / of the rock, crouching low. |
| 197 | | |

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| | **ANTIGONE** πάτερ, ἐμὸν τόδ᾽· ἐν ἀσυχαίᾳ | **ANTIGONE** Father, leave this to me. Quietly, gently— |
| 198 | **OEDIPUS** ἰώ μοί μοι. | **OEDIPUS** Oh, oh, oh! |
| 199 | **ANTIGONE** βάσει βάσιν ἅρμοσαι,<br>γεραὸν ἐς χέρα σῶμα σὸν<br>προκλίνας φιλίαν ἐμάν. | **ANTIGONE** match your step to my step,<br>and lean your old body<br>on my loving arm. |
| 202 | **OEDIPUS** ὤμοι δύσφρονος ἄτας. | **OEDIPUS** Oh, no—my bitter ruin! |
| 203 | **CHORUS** ὦ τλάμων, ὅτε νῦν χαλᾷς,<br>αὔδασον, τίς ἔφυς βροτῶν;<br>τίς ὁ πολύπονος ἄγει; τίν᾽ ἂν<br>σοῦ πατρίδ᾽ ἐκπυθοίμαν; | **CHORUS** Poor man, now that you're at rest,<br>tell us, who are you among mortals?<br>Who are you, led along in so much pain?<br>What country can I learn is yours? |
| 207 | **OEDIPUS** ὦ ξένοι, / ἀπόπτολις· ἀλλὰ μὴ | **OEDIPUS** Strangers, / I have no city. But don't— |
| 209 | **CHORUS** τί τόδ᾽ ἀπεννέπεις, γέρον; | **CHORUS** What are you forbidding, old man? |
| 210 | **OEDIPUS** μὴ μὴ μή μ᾽ ἀνέρῃ τίς εἰμι, / μηδ᾽ ἐξετάσῃς πέρα ματεύων. | **OEDIPUS** Don't, don't, don't ask me who I am, / don't probe or search any further. |
| 212 | **CHORUS** τί τόδ᾽; | **CHORUS** What's this? |
| | **OEDIPUS** αἰνὰ φύσις. | **OEDIPUS** A dreadful birth. |
| | **CHORUS** αὔδα. | **CHORUS** Speak. |
| 213 | **OEDIPUS** τέκνον, ὤμοι, τί γεγώνω; | **OEDIPUS** Child—oh, no—what shall I say? |
| 214 | **CHORUS** τίνος εἶ σπέρματος, ὦ ξένε, φώνει, πατρόθεν. | **CHORUS** Whose seed are you, stranger? Tell us—who was your father? |
| 215 | **OEDIPUS** ὤμοι ἐγώ, τί πάθω, τέκνον ἐμόν; | **OEDIPUS** Oh, no, what will become of me, my child? |
| 216 | **ANTIGONE** λέγ᾽, ἐπείπερ ἐπ᾽ ἔσχατα βαίνεις. | **ANTIGONE** Tell them, since you're already at the edge. |
| 217 | **OEDIPUS** ἀλλ᾽ ἐρῶ· οὐ γὰρ ἔχω κατακρυφάν. | **OEDIPUS** Then I'll speak. I can't keep it hidden. |
| 218 | **CHORUS** μακρὰ μέλλετον, ἀλλὰ τάχυνε. | **CHORUS** You two are taking a long time—hurry! |
| 220 | **OEDIPUS** Λαΐου ἴστε τιν᾽; | **OEDIPUS** Do you know of a son of Laius—[5] |
| | **CHORUS** ὦ ἰοὺ ἰού. | **CHORUS** Oh! No, no! |
| 221 | **OEDIPUS** τό τε Λαβδακιδᾶν γένος; | **OEDIPUS** and the race of the Labdacids? |
| | **CHORUS** ὦ Ζεῦ. | **CHORUS** Oh, Zeus! |
| 222 | **OEDIPUS** ἄθλιον Οἰδιπόδαν; | **OEDIPUS** wretched Oedipus? |
| | **CHORUS** σὺ γὰρ ὅδ᾽ εἶ; | **CHORUS** You—you are he? |

5 Laius, king of Thebes, was Oedipus' father; the Labdacids are the house of Laius' father, Labdacus.

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| 223 | **OEDIPUS** δέος ἴσχετε μηδὲν ὅσ' αὐδῶ. | **OEDIPUS** Don't be afraid of anything I say. |
| 224 | **CHORUS** ἰὼ ὦ ὤ. | **CHORUS** Oh, oh, oh! |
| | **OEDIPUS** δύσμορος. | **OEDIPUS** Ill-fated as I am. |
| | **CHORUS** ὦ ὤ. | **CHORUS** Oh, oh! |
| 225 | **OEDIPUS** θύγατερ, τί ποτ' αὐτίκα κύρσει; | **OEDIPUS** Daughter, what will happen now? |
| 226 | **CHORUS** ἔξω πόρσω βαίνετε χώρας. | **CHORUS** Out! Go far away from this land! |
| 227 | **OEDIPUS** ἃ δ' ὑπέσχεο ποῖ καταθήσεις, | **OEDIPUS** And what you promised—what will you make of that? |
| 228 | **CHORUS** οὐδενὶ μοιριδία τίσις ἔρχεται<br>ἂν προπάθῃ τὸ τίνειν· ἀπάτα δ' ἀπά-<br>ταις ἑτέραις ἑτέρα παραβαλλομέ-<br>να πόνον, οὐ χάριν, ἀντιδίδωσιν ἔ-<br>χειν. σὺ δὲ τῶνδ' ἑδράνων πάλιν ἔκτοπος<br>αὖθις ἄφορμος ἐμᾶς χθονὸς ἔκθορε,<br>μή τι πέρα χρέος<br>ἐμᾷ πόλει προσάψῃς. | **CHORUS** No one is punished by fate<br>for paying back what he suffered first. One deceit<br>set against another deceit<br>pays back pain, not gratitude,<br>as its reward. You, get out of this seat again,<br>out and away from my land, go, leap clear,<br>before you fasten some further burden<br>on my city. |
| 237 | **ANTIGONE** ὦ ξένοι<br>αἰδόφρονες, ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ<br>γεραὸν πατέρα τόνδ' ἐμὸν<br>οὐκ ἀνέτλατ', ἔργων<br>ἀκόντων ἄΐοντες αὐδάν,<br>ἀλλ' ἐμὲ τὰν μελέαν, ἱκετεύομεν, ὦ ξένοι, οἰκτίραθ', ἃ<br>πατρὸς ὑπὲρ τοὐμοῦ μόνου<br>ἄντομαι οὐκ ἀλαοῖς προσορωμένα<br>ὄμμα σὸν ὄμμασιν, ὥς τις ἀφ' αἵματος<br>ὑμετέρου προφανεῖσα, τὸν ἄθλιον<br>αἰδοῦς κῦρσαι· ἐν ὕμμι γὰρ ὡς θεῷ<br>κείμεθα τλάμονες. ἀλλ' ἴτε, νεύσατε τὰν ἀδόκητον χάριν·<br>πρός σ' ὅ τι σοι φίλον ἐκ σέθεν ἄντομαι,<br>ἢ τέκνον ἢ λέχος ἢ χρέος ἢ θεός·<br>οὐ γὰρ ἴδοις ἂν ἀθρῶν βροτὸν ὅστις ἄν,<br>εἰ θεὸς ἄγοι,<br>ἐκφυγεῖν δύναιτο. | **ANTIGONE** Strangers,<br>you whose hearts know reverence, since<br>you couldn't bear my old father here,<br>once you heard the story of the deeds<br>he never meant to do,<br>then pity me at least, poor girl, we beg you,<br>strangers—/ me, pleading for my father, for him alone,<br>pleading, as I look into your eyes with eyes<br>that aren't blind, as if I were someone sprung<br>from your own blood, that this wretched man<br>may meet with mercy. On you, as on a god,<br>we depend in our misery. Come, grant us this<br>kindness we never hoped for.<br>I beg you by all you hold dear at home,<br>your child or wife, your goods or your god.<br>Search as you will, you'll never see a mortal<br>who, if a god leads him on,<br>could get away. |

## FIRST EPISODE

*Oedipus pleads to stay, Ismene brings new oracles, and Theseus takes him under Athens' protection.*

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| 254 | **CHORUS** ἀλλ' ἴσθι, τέκνον Οἰδίπου, σέ τ' ἐξ ἴσου<br>οἰκτίρομεν καὶ τόνδε συμφορᾶς χάριν· | **CHORUS** Be sure of this, daughter of Oedipus: we pity you and him alike for your misfortune. But we fear what comes from the gods, and we |

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| | τὰ δ' ἐκ θεῶν τρέμοντες οὐ σθένοιμεν ἂν<br>φωνεῖν πέρα τῶν πρὸς σὲ νῦν εἰρημένων. | couldn't say anything beyond what we've already said to you. |
| 258 | **OEDIPUS** τί δῆτα δόξης ἢ τί κληδόνος καλῆς<br>μάτην ῥεούσης ὠφέλημα γίγνεται,<br>εἰ τάς γ' Ἀθήνας φασὶ θεοσεβεστάτας<br>εἶναι, μόνας δὲ τὸν κακούμενον ξένον<br>σῴζειν οἵας τε καὶ μόνας ἀρκεῖν ἔχειν;<br>κἄμοιγε ποῦ τοῦτ' ἐστίν, οἵτινες βάθρων<br>ἐκ τῶνδέ μ' ἐξάραντες εἶτ' ἐλαύνετε,<br>ὄνομα μόνον δείσαντες; οὐ γὰρ δὴ τό γε<br>σῶμ' οὐδὲ τἄργα τἄμ'· ἐπεὶ τά γ' ἔργα μου<br>πεπονθότ' ἐστὶ μᾶλλον ἢ δεδρακότα,<br>εἴ σοι τὰ μητρὸς καὶ πατρὸς χρείη λέγειν, | **OEDIPUS** What use is a reputation, then, or a fine name that drifts away for nothing, if people say Athens is the most god-fearing of cities, the only one able to save a stranger in distress, the only one with the power to help him? Where is all that for me? You made me get up from this seat and now you're driving me away, afraid of nothing but a name. It can't be my person you fear, or my deeds. My deeds, at least, were suffered rather than done —if I had to tell you the story of my mother and my father, |
| 269 | ὧν οὕνεκ' ἐκφοβεῖ με· τοῦτ' ἐγὼ καλῶς<br>ἔξοιδα. καίτοι πῶς ἐγὼ κακὸς φύσιν,<br>ὅστις παθὼν μὲν ἀντέδρων, ὥστ' εἰ φρονῶν<br>ἔπρασσον, οὐδ' ἂν ὧδ' ἐγιγνόμην κακός;<br>νῦν δ' οὐδὲν εἰδὼς ἱκόμην ἵν' ἱκόμην,<br>ὑφ' ὧν δ' ἔπασχον, εἰδότων ἀπωλλύμην.<br>ἀνθ' ὧν ἱκνοῦμαι πρὸς θεῶν ὑμᾶς, ξένοι,<br>ὥσπερ με κἀνεστήσαθ', ὧδε σώσατε,<br>καὶ μὴ θεοὺς τιμῶντες εἶτα τοὺς θεοὺς<br>μοίρας ποιεῖσθε μηδαμῶς· ἡγεῖσθε δὲ<br>βλέπειν μὲν αὐτοὺς πρὸς τὸν εὐσεβῆ βροτῶν,<br>βλέπειν δὲ πρὸς τοὺς δυσσεβεῖς, φυγὴν δέ του<br>μήπω γενέσθαι φωτὸς ἀνοσίου βροτῶν. | which is why you're so terrified of me. I know that very well. And yet how am I evil by nature? I was wronged and struck back—so that even if I'd known what I was doing, I wouldn't have been evil even then. As it was, I knew nothing when I came where I came; but those who made me suffer knew, and they meant to destroy me. So I beg you by the gods, strangers: just as you made me move, now save me. Don't honor the gods and then treat the gods as nothing. Believe that they look upon the reverent among mortals, and look upon the irreverent too, and that no unholy man has ever yet escaped them. |
| 282 | ξὺν οἷς σὺ μὴ κάλυπτε τὰς εὐδαίμονας<br>ἔργοις Ἀθήνας ἀνοσίοις ὑπηρετῶν,<br>ἀλλ' ὥσπερ ἔλαβες τὸν ἱκέτην ἐχέγγυον,<br>ῥύου με κἀκφύλασσε· μηδέ μου κάρα<br>τὸ δυσπρόσοπτον εἰσορῶν ἀτιμάσῃς,<br>ἥκω γὰρ ἱερὸς εὐσεβής τε καὶ φέρων<br>ὄνησιν ἀστοῖς τοῖσδ'· ὅταν δ' ὁ κύριος<br>παρῇ τις, ὑμῶν ὅστις ἐστὶν ἡγεμών,<br>τότ' εἰσακούων πάντ' ἐπιστήσει· τὰ δὲ<br>μεταξὺ τούτου μηδαμῶς γίγνου κακός. | With them in mind, don't darken the good name of fortunate Athens by lending yourselves to unholy acts. You accepted the suppliant on your pledge; now rescue me and guard me to the end. Don't look at this face, so hard to look on, and treat me with contempt. I come as one holy and reverent, bringing benefit to the people here. When the one with authority arrives, whoever your leader is, you'll hear it all and understand. Until then, don't play me false in any way. |
| 292 | **CHORUS** ταρβεῖν μέν, ὦ γεραιέ, τἀνθυμήματα<br>πολλή 'στ' ἀνάγκη τἀπὸ σοῦ· λόγοισι γὰρ<br>οὐκ ὠνόμασται βραχέσι· τοὺς δὲ τῆσδε γῆς<br>ἄνακτας ἀρκεῖ ταῦτά μοι διειδέναι. | **CHORUS** Old man, I can't help standing in deep awe of your reasoning; it wasn't put in slight words. But it's enough for me that the rulers of this land should judge it. |
| 296 | **OEDIPUS** καὶ ποῦ 'σθ' ὁ κραίνων τῆσδε τῆς χώρας,<br>ξένοι; | **OEDIPUS** And where is the ruler of this country, strangers? |
| 297 | **CHORUS** πατρῷον ἄστυ γῆς ἔχει· σκοπὸς δέ νιν, / ὃς<br>κἀμὲ δεῦρ' ἔπεμψεν, οἴχεται στελῶν. | **CHORUS** He's in the city of his fathers here. The man who saw you, who sent me here too, has gone to bring him. |
| 299 | | |

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| | **OEDIPUS** ἦ καὶ δοκεῖτε τοῦ τυφλοῦ τιν' ἐντροπὴν / ἢ φροντίδ', ἔξειν, αὐτὸν ὥστ' ἐλθεῖν πέλας; | **OEDIPUS** Do you really think he'll have any regard or concern for a blind man, enough to come here himself? |
| 301 | **CHORUS** καὶ κάρθ', ὅταν περ τοὔνομ' αἴσθηται τὸ σόν. | **CHORUS** He certainly will, once he hears your name. |
| 302 | **OEDIPUS** τίς δ' ἔσθ' ὁ κείνῳ τοῦτο τοὔπος ἀγγελῶν; | **OEDIPUS** And who'll take him that word? |
| 303 | **CHORUS** μακρὰ κέλευθος· πολλὰ δ' ἐμπόρων ἔπη<br>φιλεῖ πλανᾶσθαι, τῶν ἐκεῖνος ἀΐων,<br>θάρσει, παρέσται. πολὺ γάρ, ὦ γέρον, τὸ σὸν<br>ὄνομα διήκει πάντας, ὥστε κεἰ βραδὺς<br>εὕδει, κλύων σοῦ δεῦρ' ἀφίξεται ταχύς. | **CHORUS** It's a long road, but travelers' talk tends to wander far. When he hears it, he'll be here, don't worry. Your name, old man, has reached everyone, so that even if he's lingering in bed, he'll hear of you and come here fast. |
| 308 | **OEDIPUS** ἀλλ' εὐτυχὴς ἵκοιτο τῇ θ' αὑτοῦ πόλει / ἐμοί τε· τίς γὰρ ἐσθλὸς οὐχ αὑτῷ φίλος; | **OEDIPUS** Well, may he come with good fortune for his own city and for me. What good man isn't his own friend? |
| 310 | **ANTIGONE** ὦ Ζεῦ, τί λέξω; ποῖ φρενῶν ἔλθω, πάτερ; | **ANTIGONE** Zeus! What can I say? What am I to think, Father? |
| 311 | **OEDIPUS** τί δ' ἔστι, τέκνον Ἀντιγόνη; | **OEDIPUS** What is it, Antigone, my child? |
| | **ANTIGONE** γυναῖχ' ὁρῶ<br>στείχουσαν ἡμῶν ἄσσον, Αἰτναίας ἐπὶ<br>πώλου βεβῶσαν· κρατὶ δ' ἡλιοστεγὴς<br>κυνῆ πρόσωπα Θεσσαλίς νιν ἀμπέχει.<br>τί φῶ;<br>ἆρ' ἔστιν; ἆρ' οὐκ ἔστιν; ἢ γνώμη πλανᾷ;<br>καὶ φημὶ κἀπόφημι κοὐκ ἔχω τί φῶ.<br>τάλαινα.<br>οὐκ ἔστιν ἄλλη· φαιδρὰ γοῦν ἀπ' ὀμμάτων<br>σαίνει με προσστείχουσα· σημαίνει δ' ὅτι<br>μόνης τόδ' ἐστὶ δῆλον Ἰσμήνης κάρα. | **ANTIGONE** I see a woman coming toward us, riding a colt from Etna. A Thessalian hat on her head shades her face from the sun. What can I say? Is it her? Isn't it? Is my mind playing tricks? I say yes, I say no, I don't know what to say. Oh, poor me! It's no one else. Her eyes are shining as she comes, she's greeting me, and it's plain this can be no one but Ismene herself.[6] |
| 322 | **OEDIPUS** πῶς εἶπας, ὦ παῖ; | **OEDIPUS** What did you say, child? |
| | **ANTIGONE** παῖδα σήν, ἐμὴν δ' ὁρᾶν / ὅμαιμον· αὐδῇ δ' αὐτίκ' ἔξεστιν μαθεῖν. | **ANTIGONE** That I see your daughter, my sister! You'll know her by her voice in a moment. |
| 324 | **ISMENE** ὦ δισσὰ πατρὸς καὶ κασιγνήτης ἐμοὶ<br>ἥδιστα προσφωνήμαθ', ὡς ὑμᾶς μόλις<br>εὑροῦσα λύπῃ δεύτερον μόλις βλέπω. | **ISMENE** Father and sister—the two sweetest names for me to speak! How hard it was to find you, and how hard it is now, for grief, to look at you. |
| 327 | **OEDIPUS** ὦ τέκνον, ἥκεις; | **OEDIPUS** Child, you've come? |
| | **ISMENE** ὦ πάτερ δύσμοιρ' ὁρᾶν. | **ISMENE** Oh, Father, how sad you are to see! |
| 328 | **OEDIPUS** τέκνον, πέφηνας; | **OEDIPUS** Child, you're here? |
| | **ISMENE** οὐκ ἄνευ μόχθου γέ μοι. | **ISMENE** And not without hardship, for me. |

6 Ponies from Etna in Sicily were prized; the Thessalian hat was a broad-brimmed traveler's hat.

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| 329 | **OEDIPUS** πρόσψαυσον, ὦ παῖ. | **OEDIPUS** Touch me, child. |
| | **ISMENE** θιγγάνω δυοῖν ὁμοῦ. | **ISMENE** I'm touching you both at once. |
| 330 | **OEDIPUS** ὦ σπέρμ' ὅμαιμον. | **OEDIPUS** Oh, my own seed, my own blood! |
| | **ISMENE** ὦ δυσάθλιαι τροφαί. | **ISMENE** Oh, what miserable lives! |
| 331 | **OEDIPUS** ἦ τῆσδε κἀμοῦ; | **OEDIPUS** Hers and mine? |
| | **ISMENE** δυσμόρου τ' ἐμοῦ τρίτης. | **ISMENE** And mine, unhappy me, the third. |
| 332 | **OEDIPUS** τέκνον, τί δ' ἦλθες; | **OEDIPUS** Child, why have you come? |
| | **ISMENE** σῇ, πάτερ, προμηθίᾳ. | **ISMENE** Because I was worried about you, Father. |
| 333 | **OEDIPUS** πότερα πόθοισι; | **OEDIPUS** Was it that you missed me? |
| | **ISMENE** καὶ λόγων γ' αὐτάγγελος, / ξὺν ᾧπερ εἶχον οἰκετῶν πιστῷ μόνῳ. | **ISMENE** Yes, and to bring you news myself, with the one servant I still had whom I could trust. |
| 335 | **OEDIPUS** οἱ δ' αὐθόμαιμοι ποῦ νεανίαι πονεῖν; | **OEDIPUS** And your brothers—where are those young men, when there's work to be done? |
| 336 | **ISMENE** εἴσ' οὖπέρ εἰσι· δεινὰ τἀν κείνοις τανῦν. | **ISMENE** They are where they are. Things are terrible between them now. |
| 337 | **OEDIPUS** ὦ πάντ' ἐκείνω τοῖς ἐν Αἰγύπτῳ νόμοις<br>φύσιν κατεικασθέντε καὶ βίου τροφάς·<br>ἐκεῖ γὰρ οἱ μὲν ἄρσενες κατὰ στέγας<br>θακοῦσιν ἱστουργοῦντες, αἱ δὲ σύννομοι<br>τἄξω βίου τροφεῖα πορσύνουσ' ἀεί.<br>σφῷν δ', ὦ τέκν', οὓς μὲν εἰκὸς ἦν πονεῖν τάδε,<br>κατ' οἶκον οἰκουροῦσιν ὥστε παρθένοι,<br>σφὼ δ' ἀντ' ἐκείνων τἀμὰ δυστήνου κακὰ<br>ὑπερπονεῖτον. ἡ μὲν ἐξ ὅτου νέας<br>τροφῆς ἔληξε καὶ κατίσχυσεν δέμας,<br>ἀεὶ μεθ' ἡμῶν δύσμορος πλανωμένη<br>γερονταγωγεῖ, πολλὰ μὲν κατ' ἀγρίαν<br>ὕλην ἄσιτος νηλίπους τ' ἀλωμένη, | **OEDIPUS** Oh, those two! In their nature and their way of life they're the very image of the customs of Egypt! There the men sit at home working at the loom, while their wives go out and see to the needs of life, always. And with you two, my children: the ones who ought to be bearing this burden keep house at home like girls, while you two, in their place, labor at the troubles of my miserable life. One of you, ever since she outgrew a child's care and came into her strength, has wandered with me always, poor girl, leading an old man—often wandering through wild woods, hungry and barefoot, |
| 350 | πολλοῖσι δ' ὄμβροις ἡλίου τε καύμασιν<br>μοχθοῦσα τλήμων δεύτερ' ἡγεῖται τὰ τῆς<br>οἴκοι διαίτης, εἰ πατὴρ τροφὴν ἔχοι.<br>σὺ δ', ὦ τέκνον, πρόσθεν μὲν ἐξίκου πατρὶ<br>μαντεῖ' ἄγουσα πάντα, Καδμείων λάθρᾳ,<br>ἃ τοῦδ' ἐχρήσθη σώματος, φύλαξ τέ μου<br>πιστὴ κατέστης, γῆς ὅτ' ἐξηλαυνόμην·<br>νῦν δ' αὖ τίν' ἥκεις μῦθον, Ἰσμήνη, πατρὶ<br>φέρουσα; τίς σ' ἐξῆρεν οἴκοθεν στόλος; | often drenched by rain and scorched by the sun's heat, toiling, poor thing, and she counts the comforts of home as second, if only her father can be cared for. And you, child, came to your father before, bringing all the oracles given about me, without the Cadmeans knowing, and you became my faithful guardian when I was being driven from the land. And now what news are you bringing your father this time, Ismene? What mission brought you from home?[7] |
| 359 | | |

7 The Cadmeans are the Thebans, named after Cadmus, the founder of Thebes.

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| | ἥκεις γὰρ οὐ κενή γε, τοῦτ' ἐγὼ σαφῶς / ἔξοιδα, μὴ οὐχὶ δεῖμ' ἐμοὶ φέρουσά τι. | You haven't come empty-handed, I know that well. You're bringing me something to fear. |
| 361 | ISMENE ἐγὼ τὰ μὲν παθήμαθ' ἅπαθον, πάτερ, ζητοῦσα τὴν σὴν ποῦ κατοικοίης τροφήν, παρεῖσ' ἐάσω· δὶς γὰρ οὐχὶ βούλομαι πονοῦσά τ' ἀλγεῖν καὶ λέγουσ' αὖθις πάλιν. ἃ δ' ἀμφὶ τοῖν σοῖν δυσμόροιν παίδοιν κακὰ νῦν ἐστι, ταῦτα σημανοῦσ' ἐλήλυθα. πρὶν μὲν γὰρ αὐτοῖς ἦν ἔρως Κρέοντί τε θρόνους ἐᾶσθαι μηδὲ χραίνεσθαι πόλιν, λόγῳ σκοποῦσι τὴν πάλαι γένους φθοράν, οἵα κατέσχε τὸν σὸν ἄθλιον δόμον· | ISMENE What I went through, Father, searching for where you were living, I'll pass over and leave aside. I don't want to suffer it twice, once in the hardship and again in the telling. What I've come to tell you about are the troubles that beset your two ill-fated sons now. At first they were eager to leave the throne to Creon and not pollute the city, when they reflected on the ancient ruin of the family and how it gripped your unhappy house. |
| 371 | νῦν δ' ἐκ θεῶν του κἀλιτηρίου φρενὸς εἰσῆλθε τοῖν τρὶς ἀθλίοιν ἔρις κακή, ἀρχῆς λαβέσθαι καὶ κράτους τυραννικοῦ. χὠ μὲν νεάζων καὶ χρόνῳ μείων γεγὼς τὸν πρόσθε γεννηθέντα Πολυνείκη θρόνων ἀποστερίσκει, κἀξελήλακεν πάτρας. ὁ δ', ὡς καθ' ἡμᾶς ἔσθ' ὁ πληθύων λόγος, τὸ κοῖλον Ἄργος βὰς φυγὰς προσλαμβάνει κῆδός τε καινὸν καὶ ξυνασπιστὰς φίλους ὡς αὐτίκ' Ἄργος ἢ τὸ Καδμείων πέδον τιμῇ καθέξον ἢ πρὸς οὐρανὸν βιβῶν. | But now, driven by some god and by a sinful mind, the two of them, thrice-wretched, have fallen into an evil quarrel, each grasping at rule and royal power. The younger, the one born later, has stripped Polynices, the firstborn, of the throne and driven him out of his country. And he, so the story that's going around among us says, has gone as an exile to hollow Argos, where he's taking on a new marriage alliance and comrades in arms—meaning that Argos will soon either win the land of the Cadmeans in glory or else lift that land's glory to the heavens. |
| 382 | ταῦτ' οὐκ ἀριθμός ἐστιν, ὦ πάτερ, λόγων, ἀλλ' ἔργα δεινά· τοὺς δὲ σοὺς ὅπου θεοὶ πόνους κατοικτιοῦσιν οὐκ ἔχω μαθεῖν. | These aren't just words, Father, they're terrible facts. And when the gods will take pity on your sufferings, I can't tell. |
| 385 | OEDIPUS ἤδη γὰρ ἔσχες ἐλπίδ' ὡς ἐμοῦ θεοὺς / ὥραν τιν' ἕξειν, ὥστε σωθῆναί ποτε; | OEDIPUS So you had some hope by now that the gods would give me a thought, that one day I'd be saved? |
| 387 | ISMENE ἔγωγε τοῖς νὺν γ', ὦ πάτερ, μαντεύμασιν. | ISMENE I do, Father, from the oracles that have come now. |
| 388 | OEDIPUS ποίοισι τούτοις; τί δὲ τεθέσπισται, τέκνον; | OEDIPUS What oracles? What has been prophesied, child? |
| 389 | ISMENE σὲ τοῖς ἐκεῖ ζητητὸν ἀνθρώποις ποτὲ / θανόντ' ἔσεσθαι ζῶντά τ' εὐσοίας χάριν. | ISMENE That one day the people there will seek you out, dead or alive, for their own safety. |
| 391 | OEDIPUS τίς δ' ἂν τοιοῦδ' ὑπ' ἀνδρὸς εὖ πράξειεν ἄν; | OEDIPUS And who could prosper through a man like me? |
| 392 | ISMENE ἐν σοὶ τὰ κείνων φασὶ γίγνεσθαι κράτη. | ISMENE They say their power comes to rest in you. |
| 393 | OEDIPUS ὅτ' οὐκέτ' εἰμί, τηνικαῦτ' ἄρ' εἴμ' ἀνήρ; | OEDIPUS When I'm no longer anything, is that when I'm a man? |
| 394 | ISMENE νῦν γὰρ θεοί σ' ὀρθοῦσι, πρόσθε δ' ὤλλυσαν. | ISMENE Yes, because now the gods are raising you up; before, they were destroying you. |

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| 395 | **OEDIPUS** γέροντα δ' ὀρθοῦν φλαῦρον ὃς νέος πέσῃ. | **OEDIPUS** It's a poor thing to raise up an old man who fell when he was young. |
| 396 | **ISMENE** καὶ μὴν Κρέοντά γ' ἴσθι σοι τούτων χάριν / ἥξοντα βαιοῦ κοὐχὶ μυρίου χρόνου. | **ISMENE** Still, you should know that Creon is coming to you for this very reason—and soon, not after any long time. |
| 398 | **OEDIPUS** ὅπως τί δράσῃ, θύγατερ; ἑρμήνευέ μοι. | **OEDIPUS** To do what, daughter? Explain it to me. |
| 399 | **ISMENE** ὡς σ' ἄγχι γῆς στήσωσι Καδμείας, ὅπως / κρατῶσι μὲν σοῦ, γῆς δὲ μὴ 'μβαίνῃς ὅρων. | **ISMENE** To settle you near the Cadmean land, so they can have you in their power, but you won't set foot inside its borders. |
| 401 | **OEDIPUS** ἡ δ' ὠφέλησις τίς θύρασι κειμένου; | **OEDIPUS** And what good am I to them lying outside their doors? |
| 402 | **ISMENE** κείνοις ὁ τύμβος δυστυχῶν ὁ σὸς βαρύς. | **ISMENE** If your tomb is neglected, it will weigh heavily on them. |
| 403 | **OEDIPUS** κἄνευ θεοῦ τις τοῦτό γ' ἂν γνώμῃ μάθοι. | **OEDIPUS** Anyone could work that out with common sense, without a god to tell him. |
| 404 | **ISMENE** τούτου χάριν τοίνυν σε προσθέσθαι πέλας / χώρας θέλουσι, μηδ' ἵν' ἂν σαυτοῦ κρατοῖς. | **ISMENE** That's why they want to place you close to their country, and not where you'd be your own master. |
| 406 | **OEDIPUS** ἦ καὶ κατασκιῶσι Θηβαίᾳ κόνει; | **OEDIPUS** Will they cover me in Theban dust, then? |
| 407 | **ISMENE** ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐᾷ τοὔμφυλον αἷμά σ', ὦ πάτερ. | **ISMENE** No, Father. Your kindred blood that you shed won't allow it. |
| 408 | **OEDIPUS** οὐκ ἄρ' ἐμοῦ γε μὴ κρατήσωσίν ποτε. | **OEDIPUS** Then they will never have me in their power. |
| 409 | **ISMENE** ἔσται ποτ' ἄρα τοῦτο Καδμείοις βάρος. | **ISMENE** Then one day this will be a heavy burden for the Cadmeans. |
| 410 | **OEDIPUS** ποίας φανείσης, ὦ τέκνον, συναλλαγῆς; | **OEDIPUS** When what turn of events comes about, child? |
| 411 | **ISMENE** τῆς σῆς ὑπ' ὀργῆς, σοῖς ὅταν στῶσιν τάφοις. | **ISMENE** Through your anger, when they stand at your tomb. |
| 412 | **OEDIPUS** ἃ δ' ἐννέπεις, κλύουσα τοῦ λέγεις, τέκνον; | **OEDIPUS** And who did you hear all this from, child? |
| 413 | **ISMENE** ἀνδρῶν θεωρῶν Δελφικῆς ἀφ' ἑστίας. | **ISMENE** From envoys who came from the hearth at Delphi. |
| 414 | **OEDIPUS** καὶ ταῦτ' ἐφ' ἡμῖν Φοῖβος εἰρηκὼς κυρεῖ; | **OEDIPUS** And Phoebus really said this about me? |
| 415 | **ISMENE** ὡς φασιν οἱ μολόντες εἰς Θήβης πέδον. | **ISMENE** So say the men who came back to the land of Thebes. |
| 416 | | |

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| | **OEDIPUS** παίδων τις οὖν ἤκουσε τῶν ἐμῶν τάδε; | **OEDIPUS** Did either of my sons hear it? |
| 417 | **ISMENE** ἄμφω γ' ὁμοίως, κἀξεπίστασθον καλῶς. | **ISMENE** Both of them alike, and they know it well. |
| 418 | **OEDIPUS** κᾆθ' οἱ κάκιστοι τῶνδ' ἀκούσαντες, πάρος / τοὐμοῦ πόθου προύθεντο τὴν τυραννίδα; | **OEDIPUS** And then those vilest of men heard it, and put the throne before their longing for me? |
| 420 | **ISMENE** ἀλγῶ κλύουσα ταῦτ' ἐγώ, φέρω δ' ὅμως. | **ISMENE** It pains me to hear it, but I bear it all the same. |
| 421 | **OEDIPUS** ἀλλ' οἱ θεοί σφιν μήτε τὴν πεπρωμένην<br>ἔριν κατασβέσειαν, ἔν τ' ἐμοὶ τέλος<br>αὐτοῖν γένοιτο τῆσδε τῆς μάχης πέρι,<br>ἧς νῦν ἔχονται κἀπαναίρονται δόρυ·<br>ὡς οὔτ' ἂν ὃς νῦν σκῆπτρα καὶ θρόνους ἔχει<br>μείνειεν οὔτ' ἂν οὐξεληλυθὼς πάλιν<br>ἔλθοι ποτ' αὖθις· οἵ γε τὸν φύσαντ' ἐμὲ<br>οὕτως ἀτίμως πατρίδος ἐξωθούμενον<br>οὐκ ἔσχον οὐδ' ἤμυναν, ἀλλ' ἀνάστατος<br>αὐτοῖς ἐπέμφθην κἀξεκηρύχθην φυγάς.<br>εἴποις ἂν ὡς θέλοντι τοῦτ' ἐμοὶ τότε<br>πόλις τὸ δῶρον εἰκότως κατήνεσεν. | **OEDIPUS** Then may the gods never quench their fated strife, and may the outcome of this battle they're locked in now, spears raised, come to rest with me! Then neither would the one who holds the scepter and throne now keep them, nor would the one who's gone ever come home again. When I, their own father, was being thrust out of my country so shamefully, they didn't stop it or stand up for me. I was sent off homeless and proclaimed an exile, for all they cared. You might say that I wanted this at the time, and that the city granted me the favor, and with reason. |
| 433 | οὐ δῆτ', ἐπεί τοι τὴν μὲν αὐτίχ' ἡμέραν,<br>ὁπηνίκ' ἔζει θυμός, ἥδιστον δέ μοι<br>τὸ κατθανεῖν ἦν καὶ τὸ λευσθῆναι πέτροις,<br>οὐδεὶς ἔρωτ' ἐς τόνδ' ἐφαίνετ' ὠφελῶν·<br>χρόνῳ δ', ὅτ' ἤδη πᾶς ὁ μόχθος ἦν πέπων,<br>κἀμάνθανον τὸν θυμὸν ἐκδραμόντα μοι<br>μείζω κολαστὴν τῶν πρὶν ἡμαρτημένων,<br>τὸ τηνίκ' ἤδη τοῦτο μὲν πόλις βίᾳ<br>ἤλαυνέ μ' ἐκ γῆς χρόνιον, οἱ δ' ἐπωφελεῖν,<br>οἱ τοῦ πατρός, τῷ πατρὶ δυνάμενοι, τὸ δρᾶν<br>οὐκ ἠθέλησαν, ἀλλ' ἔπους σμικροῦ χάριν<br>φυγάς σφιν ἔξω πτωχὸς ἠλώμην ἀεί. | No, not at all. On that very first day, when my passion was boiling, and the sweetest thing to me was to die, to be stoned to death, no one came forward to help me have my wish. But in time, when all my anguish had mellowed, and I was coming to see that my passion had run too far, punishing me more than my past mistakes deserved—it was then, after all that time, that the city drove me out of the land by force. And they, my sons, who could have helped their father, wouldn't do it. For want of one small word from them, I've wandered ever since, an exile and a beggar. |
| 445 | ἐκ ταῖνδε δ', οὔσαιν παρθένοιν, ὅσον φύσις<br>δίδωσιν αὐταῖν, καὶ τροφὰς ἔχω βίου<br>καὶ γῆς ἄδειαν καὶ γένους ἐπάρκεσιν·<br>τὼ δ' ἀντὶ τοῦ φύσαντος εἱλέσθην θρόνους<br>καὶ σκῆπτρα κραίνειν καὶ τυραννεύειν χθονός.<br>ἀλλ' οὔ τι μὴ λάχωσι τοῦδε συμμάχου,<br>οὐδέ σφιν ἀρχῆς τῆσδε Καδμείας ποτὲ<br>ὄνησις ἥξει· τοῦτ' ἐγῷδα, τῆσδέ τε<br>μαντεῖ' ἀκούων συννοῶν τε τἀξ ἐμοῦ<br>παλαίφαθ' ἁμοὶ Φοῖβος ἤνυσέν ποτε.<br>πρὸς ταῦτα καὶ Κρέοντα πεμπόντων ἐμοῦ<br>μαστῆρα, κεἴ τις ἄλλος ἐν πόλει σθένει. | From these two, girls as they are, I get, as far as their nature allows them, the means to live, a safe place to rest, and the help of family. But those two chose throne and scepter over their own father, to rule and be kings of the land. They'll never win me as an ally, and no good will ever come to them from ruling the Cadmeans. I know that, hearing this girl's oracles and thinking over the old prophecies about me that Phoebus has fulfilled at last. So let them send Creon to search for me, and anyone else who has power in the city. |
| 457 | ἐὰν γὰρ ὑμεῖς, ὦ ξένοι, θέληθ' ὁμοῦ<br>προστάτισι ταῖς σεμναῖσι δημούχοις θεαῖς<br>ἀλκὴν ποεῖσθαι, τῇδε τῇ πόλει μέγαν<br>σωτῆρ' ἀρεῖσθε, τοῖς δ' ἐμοῖς ἐχθροῖς πόνους. | For if you, strangers, along with the Holy Goddesses who guard your people, are willing to defend me, you'll win a great savior for this city, and troubles for my enemies. |

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| 461 | **CHORUS** ἐπάξιος μέν, Οἰδίπους, κατοικτίσαι,<br>αὐτός τε παῖδές θ' αἵδ'· ἐπεὶ δὲ τῆσδε γῆς<br>σωτῆρα σαυτὸν τῷδ' ἐπεμβάλλεις λόγῳ,<br>παραινέσαι σοι βούλομαι τὰ σύμφορα. | **CHORUS** You deserve pity, Oedipus, you and these girls with you. But since what you've said puts you forward as this land's savior, I want to give you some advice for your own good. |
| 465 | **OEDIPUS** ὦ φίλταθ', ὡς νῦν πᾶν τελοῦντι προξένει. | **OEDIPUS** Dear friend, be my sponsor, then. I'll do everything you say. |
| 466 | **CHORUS** θοῦ νῦν καθαρμὸν τῶνδε δαιμόνων, ἐφ' ἃς /<br>τὸ πρῶτον ἵκου καὶ κατέστειψας πέδον. | **CHORUS** Then perform a rite of purification to these goddesses, whose ground you came to first and trod on. |
| 468 | **OEDIPUS** τρόποισι ποίοις; ὦ ξένοι, διδάσκετε. | **OEDIPUS** How? Teach me, strangers. |
| 469 | **CHORUS** πρῶτον μὲν ἱερὰς ἐξ ἀειρύτου χοὰς / κρήνης<br>ἐνεγκοῦ, δι' ὁσίων χειρῶν θιγών. | **CHORUS** First bring holy libations from a spring that never stops flowing, and draw them with clean hands. |
| 471 | **OEDIPUS** ὅταν δὲ τοῦτο χεῦμ' ἀκήρατον λάβω; | **OEDIPUS** And when I have this untouched water? |
| 472 | **CHORUS** κρατῆρές εἰσιν, ἀνδρὸς εὔχειρος τέχνη, / ὧν<br>κρᾶτ' ἔρεψον καὶ λαβὰς ἀμφιστόμους. | **CHORUS** There are mixing bowls there, the work of a skilled craftsman. Crown their rims and the handles on either side. |
| 474 | **OEDIPUS** θαλλοῖσιν ἢ κρόκαισιν, ἢ ποίῳ τρόπῳ; | **OEDIPUS** With fresh shoots, or with woolen threads, or how? |
| 475 | **CHORUS** οἰός γε νεαρᾶς νεοπόκῳ μαλλῷ λαβών. | **CHORUS** With wool newly shorn from a young ewe. |
| 476 | **OEDIPUS** εἶεν· τὸ δ' ἔνθεν ποῖ τελευτῆσαί με χρή; | **OEDIPUS** Very well. And after that, how am I to finish? |
| 477 | **CHORUS** χοὰς χέασθαι στάντα πρὸς πρώτην ἕω. | **CHORUS** Pour your libations standing to face the first light of dawn. |
| 478 | **OEDIPUS** ἦ τοῖσδε κρωσσοῖς οἷς λέγεις χέω τάδε; | **OEDIPUS** Do I pour them from these vessels you speak of? |
| 479 | **CHORUS** τρισσάς γε πηγάς· τὸν τελευταῖον δ' ὅλον. | **CHORUS** Yes, in three streams. And empty the last one completely. |
| 480 | **OEDIPUS** τοῦ τόνδε πλήσας θῶ; δίδασκε καὶ τόδε. | **OEDIPUS** What do I fill it with before I set it down? Tell me this too. |
| 481 | **CHORUS** ὕδατος, μελίσσης· μηδὲ προσφέρειν μέθυ. | **CHORUS** Water and honey. And bring no wine to it. |
| 482 | **OEDIPUS** ὅταν δὲ τούτων γῆ μελάμφυλλος τύχῃ; | **OEDIPUS** And when the dark-leaved earth has received all this? |
| 483 | **CHORUS** τρὶς ἐννέ' αὐτῇ κλῶνας ἐξ ἀμφοῖν χεροῖν /<br>τιθεὶς ἐλαίας τάσδ' ἐπεύχεσθαι λιτάς. | **CHORUS** Lay three times nine sprigs of olive on it with both your hands, and pray this prayer over them. |

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| 485 | **OEDIPUS** τούτων ἀκοῦσαι βούλομαι· μέγιστα γάρ. | **OEDIPUS** I want to hear it. This is what matters most. |
| 486 | **CHORUS** ὥς σφας καλοῦμεν Εὐμενίδας, ἐξ εὐμενῶν<br>στέρνων δέχεσθαι τὸν ἱκέτην σωτήριον,<br>αἰτοῦ σύ τ' αὐτὸς κεἴ τις ἄλλος ἀντὶ σοῦ,<br>ἄπυστα φωνῶν μηδὲ μηκύνων βοήν·<br>ἔπειτ' ἀφέρπειν ἄστροφος. καὶ ταῦτά σοι<br>δράσαντι θαρσῶν ἂν παρασταίην ἐγώ·<br>ἄλλως δὲ δειμαίνοιμ' ἄν, ὦ ξέν', ἀμφὶ σοι. | **CHORUS** That as we call them the Kindly Ones, so with kindly hearts they may receive the suppliant who brings salvation. Ask this yourself, or whoever does it in your place, speaking so no one can hear, and not raising your voice. Then walk away and don't turn back. If you do this, I'll stand by you with confidence. Otherwise, stranger, I'd fear for you. |
| 493 | **OEDIPUS** ὦ παῖδε, κλύετον τῶνδε προσχώρων ξένων; | **OEDIPUS** Daughters, do you hear what these strangers who live here are saying? |
| 494 | **ANTIGONE** ἠκούσαμέν τε χὤ τι δεῖ πρόστασσε δρᾶν. | **ANTIGONE** We heard. Tell us what has to be done. |
| 495 | **OEDIPUS** ἐμοὶ μὲν οὐχ ὁδωτά· λείπομαι γὰρ ἐν<br>τῷ μὴ δύνασθαι μήδ' ὁρᾶν, δυοῖν κακοῖν·<br>σφῷν δ' ἀτέρα μολοῦσα πραξάτω τάδε.<br>ἀρκεῖν γὰρ οἶμαι κἀντὶ μυρίων μίαν<br>ψυχὴν τάδ' ἐκτίνουσαν, ἢν εὔνους παρῇ.<br>ἀλλ' ἐν τάχει τι πράσσετον· μόνον δέ με<br>μὴ λείπετ'· οὐ γὰρ ἂν σθένοι τοὐμὸν δέμας<br>ἔρημον ἕρπειν οὐδ' ὑφηγητοῦ δίχα. | **OEDIPUS** I can't make the journey. I fall short in two ways, two afflictions: I have no strength and no sight. Let one of you two go and do this. I think one soul is enough to pay this debt, even in place of ten thousand, if it comes in goodwill. But do it quickly. Only don't leave me alone: my body hasn't the strength to move on its own, deserted, without someone to guide me. |
| 503 | **ISMENE** ἀλλ' εἶμ' ἐγὼ τελοῦσα· τὸν τόπον δ' ἵνα /<br>χρῄσταί μ' ἐφευρεῖν, τοῦτο βούλομαι μαθεῖν. | **ISMENE** Then I'll go and do it. But the place where I'm to find what's needed—that's what I want to know. |
| 505 | **CHORUS** τοὐκεῖθεν ἄλσους, ὦ ξένη, τοῦδ'· ἢν δέ του /<br>σπάνιν τιν' ἴσχῃς, ἔστ' ἔποικος ὃς φράσει. | **CHORUS** On the far side of this grove, stranger. If you're short of anything, there's someone living there who will tell you. |
| 507 | **ISMENE** χωροῖμ' ἂν ἐς τόδ'· Ἀντιγόνη, σὺ δ' ἐνθάδε<br>φύλασσε πατέρα τόνδε· τοῖς τεκοῦσι γὰρ<br>οὐδ' εἰ πονεῖ τις, δεῖ πόνου μνήμην ἔχειν. | **ISMENE** I'll go there, then. Antigone, you stay here and look after Father. When it's for our parents, even if it's hard work, we shouldn't keep count of the work. |
| 510 | **CHORUS** δεινὸν μὲν τὸ πάλαι κείμενον ἤδη κακόν, ὦ<br>ξεῖν', ἐπεγείρειν· / ὅμως δ' ἔραμαι πυθέσθαι | **CHORUS** It is a terrible thing, stranger,<br>to wake an evil long since laid to rest.<br>And yet I long to learn— |
| 512 | **OEDIPUS** τί τοῦτο; | **OEDIPUS** What is it? |
| 513 | **CHORUS** τᾶς δειλαίας ἀπόρου φανείσας / ἀλγηδόνος, ᾇ<br>ξυνέστας. | **CHORUS** —of that wretched pain,<br>found past all remedy,<br>that you have lived with. |
| 515 | **OEDIPUS** μὴ πρὸς ξενίας ἀνοίξῃς / τᾶς σᾶς ἃ πέπονθ'<br>ἀναιδῆ. | **OEDIPUS** By the welcome you gave a guest,<br>don't lay open<br>the shameless things I've suffered. |

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
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| 517 | **CHORUS** τό τοι πολὺ καὶ μηδαμὰ λῆγον / χρῄζω, ξεῖν’, ὀρθὸν ἄκουσμ’ ἀκοῦσαι. | **CHORUS** The story’s told far and wide and never dies away.<br>I want to hear it, stranger,<br>told straight. |
| 519 | **OEDIPUS** ὤμοι. | **OEDIPUS** Oh, no. |
| | **CHORUS** στέρξον, ἱκετεύω. | **CHORUS** Bear with it, I beg you. |
| | **OEDIPUS** φεῦ φεῦ. | **OEDIPUS** Ah, ah. |
| 520 | **CHORUS** πείθου· κἀγὼ γὰρ ὅσον σὺ προσχρῄζεις. | **CHORUS** Do as I ask; I did all you asked of me. |
| 521 | **OEDIPUS** ἤνεγκ’ οὖν κακότατ’, ὦ ξένοι, ἤνεγκ’ ἀέκων μέν,<br>θεὸς ἴστω,<br>τούτων δ’ αὐθαίρετον οὐδέν. | **OEDIPUS** I bore an evil, strangers, / I bore it unwilling—/ let the god be my witness—/ and none of it was my own choice. |
| 524 | **CHORUS** ἀλλ’ ἐς τί; | **CHORUS** But in what way? |
| 525 | **OEDIPUS** κακᾷ μ’ εὐνᾷ πόλις οὐδὲν ἴδριν / γάμων ἐνέδησεν ἄτᾳ. | **OEDIPUS** The city bound me, knowing nothing, to an evil bed,<br>a marriage that was my ruin. |
| 527 | **CHORUS** ἦ ματρόθεν, ὡς ἀκούω, / δυσώνυμα λέκτρ’ ἐπλήσω; | **CHORUS** Is it true, as I hear,<br>that you shared your mother’s bed,<br>a bed with a name unspeakable? |
| 529 | **OEDIPUS** ὤμοι θάνατος μὲν τάδ’ ἀκούειν, / ὦ ξεῖν’· αὗται δὲ δύ’ ἐξ ἐμοῦ μὲν | **OEDIPUS** Oh, no—it is death to hear it, / stranger. And these two girls, from me— |
| 531 | **CHORUS** πῶς φῄς; | **CHORUS** What are you saying? |
| 532 | **OEDIPUS** παῖδε, δύο δ’ ἄτα | **OEDIPUS** —two daughters, two ruins— |
| 533 | **CHORUS** ὦ Ζεῦ. | **CHORUS** Zeus! |
| 534 | **OEDIPUS** ματρὸς κοινᾶς ἀπέβλαστον ὠδῖνος. | **OEDIPUS** —sprang from the labor / of the mother we share. |
| 535 | **CHORUS** σαί τ’ εἶσ’ ἄρ’ ἀπόγονοί τε καὶ | **CHORUS** Then they are your children, and also— |
| 536 | **OEDIPUS** κοιναί γε πατρὸς ἀδελφεαί. | **OEDIPUS** —yes, their own father’s sisters. |
| 537 | **CHORUS** ἰώ. | **CHORUS** Oh! |
| | **OEDIPUS** ἰὼ δῆτα μυρίων γ’ ἐπιστροφαὶ κακῶν. | **OEDIPUS** Oh, yes—evils past counting, / come round again. |
| 538 | **CHORUS** ἔπαθες | **CHORUS** You suffered— |
| | **OEDIPUS** ἔπαθον ἄλαστ’ ἔχειν. | **OEDIPUS** I suffered things never to be forgotten. |
| 539 | **CHORUS** ἔρεξας | **CHORUS** You did— |
| | **OEDIPUS** οὐκ ἔρεξα. | **OEDIPUS** I did nothing. |

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
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| | **CHORUS** τί γάρ; | **CHORUS** How so? |
| | **OEDIPUS** ἐδεξάμην<br>δῶρον, ὃ μήποτ' ἐγὼ ταλακάρδιος<br>ἐπωφέλησας πόλεος ἐξελέσθαι. | **OEDIPUS** I received<br>a gift—and I wish, heartbroken as I am,<br>I had never taken it from the city<br>I had served. |
| 542 | **CHORUS** δύστανε, τί γάρ; ἔθου φόνον | **CHORUS** Poor man, what then? You shed the blood— |
| 543 | **OEDIPUS** τί τοῦτο; τί δ' ἐθέλεις μαθεῖν; | **OEDIPUS** What now? What do you want to learn? |
| 544 | **CHORUS** πατρός; | **CHORUS** —of your father? |
| | **OEDIPUS** παπαῖ. δευτέραν ἔπαισας, ἐπὶ νόσῳ νόσον, | **OEDIPUS** Oh, oh! You've struck me a second blow, wound upon wound. |
| 545 | **CHORUS** ἔκανες | **CHORUS** You killed— |
| | **OEDIPUS** ἔκανον. ἔχει δέ μοι | **OEDIPUS** I killed. But I have— |
| 546 | **CHORUS** τί τοῦτο; | **CHORUS** What? |
| | **OEDIPUS** πρὸς δίκας τι. | **OEDIPUS** —some claim to justice. |
| | **CHORUS** τί γάρ; | **CHORUS** How so? |
| | **OEDIPUS** ἐγὼ φράσω.<br>καὶ γὰρ ἄν, οὓς ἐφόνευσ', ἔμ' ἀπώλεσαν·<br>νόμῳ δὲ καθαρός, ἄϊδρις εἰς τόδ' ἦλθον. | **OEDIPUS** I'll tell you.<br>The men I killed would have killed me.<br>Clean before the law, not knowing, I came to this. |
| 549 | **CHORUS** καὶ μὴν ἄναξ ὅδ' ἡμὶν Αἰγέως γόνος / Θησεὺς<br>κατ' ὀμφὴν σὴν ἐφ' ἁστάλη πάρα. | **CHORUS** But look, here is our lord, Theseus son of Aegeus, come at your word on the errand he was sent for.[8] |
| 551 | **THESEUS** πολλῶν ἀκούων ἔν τε τῷ πάρος χρόνῳ<br>τὰς αἱματηρὰς ὀμμάτων διαφθορὰς<br>ἔγνωκά σ', ὦ παῖ Λαΐου, τανῦν θ' ὁδοῖς<br>ἐν ταῖσδ' ἀκούων μᾶλλον ἐξεπίσταμαι.<br>σκευή τε γάρ σε καὶ τὸ δύστηνον κάρα<br>δηλοῦτον ἡμῖν ὅνθ' ὃς εἶ, καί σ' οἰκτίσας<br>θέλω 'περέσθαι, δύσμορ' Οἰδίπους, τίνα<br>πόλεως ἐπέστης προστροπὴν ἐμοῦ τ' ἔχων,<br>αὐτός τε χἠ σὴ δύσμορος παραστάτις. | **THESEUS** I've heard from many people in the past about the bloody ruin of your eyes, and so I recognize you, son of Laius. And now, from what I heard on my way here, I'm sure of it. Your clothing and that afflicted face make it plain to us who you are. I pity you, ill-fated Oedipus, and I want to ask what plea you've come here to make to the city and to me—you and the unhappy girl at your side. |
| 560 | δίδασκε· δεινὴν γάρ τιν' ἂν πρᾶξιν τύχοις<br>λέξας ὁποίας ἐξαφισταίμην ἐγώ,<br>ὃς οἶδα καὐτὸς ὡς ἐπαιδεύθην ξένος,<br>ὥσπερ σύ, χὡς εἷς πλεῖστ' ἀνὴρ ἐπὶ ξένης<br>ἤθλησα κινδυνεύματ' ἐν τὠμῷ κάρᾳ·<br>ὥστε ξένον γ' ἂν οὐδέν' ὄνθ', ὥσπερ σὺ νῦν,<br>ὑπεκτραποίμην μὴ οὐ συνεκσώζειν· ἐπεὶ | Tell me. It would take a dreadful thing, whatever you asked for, to make me turn away from it. I know that I too was raised in exile, as you were, and that I struggled through more dangers than any man in a foreign land, with my own life at stake. So I would never turn aside from any stranger, as you are now, and refuse to help bring |

8 Theseus is the legendary king of Athens, son of King Aegeus.

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
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| | ἔξοιδ’ ἀνὴρ ὢν χὤτι τῆς εἰς αὔριον<br>οὐδὲν πλέον μοι σοῦ μέτεστιν ἡμέρας. | him to safety. I know well that I’m a man, and that I have no greater share in tomorrow than you do. |
| 569 | **OEDIPUS** Θησεῦ, τὸ σὸν γενναῖον ἐν σμικρῷ λόγῳ<br>παρῆκεν, ὥστε βραχέα μοι δεῖσθαι φράσαι.<br>σὺ γάρ μ’ ὅς εἰμι κἀφ’ ὅτου πατρὸς γεγὼς<br>καὶ γῆς ὁποίας ἦλθον, εἰρηκὼς κυρεῖς·<br>ὥστ’ ἐστί μοι τὸ λοιπὸν οὐδὲν ἄλλο πλὴν<br>εἰπεῖν ἃ χρῄζω, χὠ λόγος διοίχεται. | **OEDIPUS** Theseus, your nobility, in a few words, has spared me the need for more than a few of my own. You’ve said who I am, what father I was born from, and what land I came from. So nothing is left for me but to say what I want, and my speech is done. |
| 575 | **THESEUS** τοῦτ’ αὐτὸ νῦν δίδασχ’, ὅπως ἂν ἐκμάθω. | **THESEUS** Then tell me exactly that, so I may know it. |
| 576 | **OEDIPUS** δώσων ἱκάνω τοὐμὸν ἄθλιον δέμας<br>σοὶ δῶρον, οὐ σπουδαῖον εἰς ὄψιν· τὰ δὲ<br>κέρδη παρ’ αὐτοῦ κρείσσον’ ἢ μορφὴ καλή. | **OEDIPUS** I’ve come to give you my wretched body as a gift. It isn’t much to look at, but the gains it brings are worth more than a fine shape. |
| 579 | **THESEUS** ποῖον δὲ κέρδος ἀξιοῖς ἥκειν φέρων; | **THESEUS** And what gain do you claim to bring? |
| 580 | **OEDIPUS** χρόνῳ μάθοις ἄν, οὐχὶ τῷ παρόντι που. | **OEDIPUS** In time you’ll learn. Not now, I think. |
| 581 | **THESEUS** ποίῳ γὰρ ἡ σὴ προσφορὰ δηλώσεται; | **THESEUS** When, then, will your gift be shown? |
| 582 | **OEDIPUS** ὅταν θάνω ’γὼ καὶ σύ μου ταφεὺς γένῃ | **OEDIPUS** When I’m dead and you have buried me. |
| 583 | **THESEUS** τὰ λοίσθι’ αἰτεῖ τοῦ βίου, τὰ δ’ ἐν μέσῳ / ἢ<br>λῆστιν ἴσχεις ἢ δι’ οὐδενὸς ποεῖ. | **THESEUS** You’re asking for the last things of life. What lies between, you either forget or count as nothing. |
| 585 | **OEDIPUS** ἐνταῦθα γάρ μοι κεῖνα συγκομίζεται. | **OEDIPUS** Yes—because in that one thing all the rest is gathered up for me. |
| 586 | **THESEUS** ἀλλ’ ἐν βραχεῖ δὴ τήνδε μ’ ἐξαιτεῖ χάριν. | **THESEUS** Then it’s a small favor you ask of me. |
| 587 | **OEDIPUS** ὅρα γε μήν· οὐ σμικρός, οὔχ, ἁγὼν ὅδε. | **OEDIPUS** Be careful, though. This is no small struggle—no. |
| 588 | **THESEUS** πότερα τὰ τῶν σῶν ἐκγόνων κἀμοῦ λέγεις;— | **THESEUS** Do you mean between your sons and me?— |
| 589 | **OEDIPUS** κεῖνοι κομίζειν κεῖσ’ ἄναξ, χρῄζουσί με. | **OEDIPUS** My lord, they will want to carry me back there. |
| 590 | **THESEUS** ἀλλ’ εἰ θέλοντά γ’ οὐδὲ σοὶ φεύγειν καλόν. | **THESEUS** But if they’d take you back willingly, staying in exile does you no credit either. |
| 591 | **OEDIPUS** ἀλλ’ οὐδ’, ὅτ’ αὐτὸς ἤθελον, παρίεσαν. | **OEDIPUS** But when I wanted it myself, they wouldn’t allow it. |
| 592 | **THESEUS** ὦ μῶρε, θυμὸς δ’ ἐν κακοῖς οὐ ξύμφορον. | **THESEUS** You foolish man, anger does no good when you’re in trouble. |
| 593 | **OEDIPUS** ὅταν μάθῃς μου, νουθέτει, τανῦν δ’ ἔα. | **OEDIPUS** Rebuke me when you’ve heard me out. For now, let it be. |
| 594 | **THESEUS** δίδασκ’· ἄνευ γνώμης γὰρ οὔ με χρὴ λέγειν. | |

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
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| | | **THESEUS** Tell me. I shouldn't speak without knowing. |
| 595 | **OEDIPUS** πέπονθα, Θησεῦ, δεινὰ πρὸς κακοῖς κακά. | **OEDIPUS** Theseus, I've suffered terrible things, evil on evil. |
| 596 | **THESEUS** ἦ τὴν παλαιὰν ξυμφορὰν γένους ἐρεῖς; | **THESEUS** Do you mean the old misfortune of your family? |
| 597 | **OEDIPUS** οὐ δῆτ', ἐπεὶ πᾶς τοῦτό γ' Ἑλλήνων θροεῖ. | **OEDIPUS** No, not that—every Greek talks of that. |
| 598 | **THESEUS** τί γὰρ τὸ μεῖζον ἢ κατ' ἄνθρωπον νοσεῖς; | **THESEUS** Then what is this affliction of yours, greater than a man can bear? |
| 599 | **OEDIPUS** οὕτως ἔχει μοι. γῆς ἐμῆς ἀπηλάθην<br>πρὸς τῶν ἐμαυτοῦ σπερμάτων· ἔστιν δέ μοι<br>πάλιν κατελθεῖν μήποθ', ὡς πατροκτόνῳ. | **OEDIPUS** Here is how things stand with me. I was driven from my own land by my own offspring, and I can never go back, because I killed my father. |
| 602 | **THESEUS** πῶς δῆτα σ' ἂν πεμψαίαθ', ὥστ' οἰκεῖν δίχα; | **THESEUS** Then why would they send for you, if you're to live apart? |
| 603 | **OEDIPUS** τὸ θεῖον αὐτοὺς ἐξαναγκάσει στόμα. | **OEDIPUS** The voice of the god will force them. |
| 604 | **THESEUS** ποῖον πάθος δείσαντας ἐκ χρηστηρίων; | **THESEUS** What harm do the oracles make them afraid of? |
| 605 | **OEDIPUS** ὅτι σφ' ἀνάγκη τῇδε πληγῆναι χθονί. | **OEDIPUS** That it is their fate to be struck down in this land. |
| 606 | **THESEUS** καὶ πῶς γένοιτ' ἂν τἀμὰ κἀκείνων πικρά; | **THESEUS** And how could bitterness come between me and them? |
| 607 | **OEDIPUS** ὦ φίλτατ' Αἰγέως παῖ, μόνοις οὐ γίγνεται<br>θεοῖσι γῆρας οὐδὲ κατθανεῖν ποτε.<br>τὰ δ' ἄλλα συγχεῖ πάνθ' ὁ παγκρατὴς χρόνος.<br>φθίνει μὲν ἰσχὺς γῆς, φθίνει δὲ σώματος,<br>θνῄσκει δὲ πίστις, βλαστάνει δ' ἀπιστία,<br>καὶ πνεῦμα ταὐτὸν οὔποτ' οὔτ' ἐν ἀνδράσιν<br>φίλοις βέβηκεν οὔτε πρὸς πόλιν πόλει.<br>τοῖς μὲν γὰρ ἤδη, τοῖς δ' ἐν ὑστέρῳ χρόνῳ<br>τὰ τερπνὰ πικρὰ γίγνεται καὖθις φίλα. | **OEDIPUS** Dearest son of Aegeus, only to the gods comes neither old age nor death, ever. Everything else is confounded by all-powerful time. The strength of the earth wastes away, the strength of the body wastes away; trust dies, distrust springs up; and the same spirit never stays steady, not between friends, nor between city and city. For some now, for others later, what was sweet turns bitter, and then dear again. |
| 616 | καὶ ταῖσι Θήβαις εἰ τανῦν εὐημερεῖ<br>καλῶς τὰ πρὸς σέ, μυρίας ὁ μυρίος<br>χρόνος τεκνοῦται νύκτας ἡμέρας τ' ἰών,<br>ἐν αἷς τὰ νῦν ξύμφωνα δεξιώματα<br>δόρει διασκεδῶσιν ἐκ σμικροῦ λόγου·<br>ἵν' οὑμὸς εὕδων καὶ κεκρυμμένος νέκυς<br>ψυχρός ποτ' αὐτῶν θερμὸν αἷμα πίεται,<br>εἰ Ζεὺς ἔτι Ζεὺς χὠ Διὸς Φοῖβος σαφής.<br>ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ αὐδᾶν ἡδὺ τἀκίνητ' ἔπη,<br>ἔα μ' ἐν οἷσιν ἠρξάμην, τὸ σὸν μόνον<br>πιστὸν φυλάσσων, κοὔποτ' Οἰδίπουν ἐρεῖς | And if all is fair weather now between Thebes and you, endless time, as it goes on, gives birth to endless nights and days, in which they will scatter with the spear the handclasps that are in harmony now, over some small word. Then my sleeping, hidden corpse, cold as it is, will one day drink their warm blood—if Zeus is still Zeus, and Zeus's son Phoebus speaks true. But since it's no pleasure to speak words that should be left undisturbed, let me stop where I began. Only keep your own pledge, and you will never say that you took in |

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
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| | ἀχρεῖον οἰκητῆρα δέξασθαι τόπων<br>τῶν ἐνθάδ', εἴπερ μὴ θεοὶ ψεύσουσί με. | Oedipus as a useless dweller in this place—unless the gods deceive me. |
| 629 | CHORUS ἄναξ, πάλαι καὶ ταῦτα καὶ τοιαῦτ' ἔπη / γῇ<br>τῇδ' ὅδ' ἀνὴρ ὡς τελῶν ἐφαίνετο. | CHORUS My lord, this man has long been making it plain that he'd fulfill these promises, and others like them, for this land. |
| 631 | THESEUS τίς δῆτ' ἂν ἀνδρὸς εὐμένειαν ἐκβάλοι<br>τοιοῦδ', ὅτῳ πρῶτον μὲν ἡ δορύξενος<br>κοινὴ παρ' ἡμῖν αἰέν ἐστιν ἑστία;<br>ἔπειτα δ' ἱκέτης δαιμόνων ἀφιγμένος<br>γῇ τῇδε κἀμοὶ δασμὸν οὐ σμικρὸν τίνει.<br>ἀγὼ σεβισθεὶς οὔποτ' ἐκβαλῶ χάριν<br>τὴν τοῦδε, χώρᾳ δ' ἔμπολιν κατοικιῶ.<br>εἰ δ' ἐνθάδ' ἡδὺ τῷ ξένῳ μίμνειν, σέ νιν<br>τάξω φυλάσσειν, εἴτ' ἐμοῦ στείχειν μέτα,<br>τόδ' ἡδύ, τούτων, Οἰδίπους, δίδωμί σοι<br>κρίναντι χρῆσθαι· τῇδε γὰρ ξυνοίσομαι. | THESEUS Then who could cast away the goodwill of such a man? First, the hearth of allies in arms is always open to him among us. Then, he has come as a suppliant of the gods, and he pays no small tribute to this land and to me. I honor this, and I will never reject his favor; I will settle him in this country as a citizen. If the stranger would like to stay here, I'll put you in charge of guarding him; or if he'd rather come with me—Oedipus, I give you the choice of which to take. I'll go along with whatever you decide.[9] |
| 642 | OEDIPUS ὦ Ζεῦ, διδοίης τοῖσι τοιούτοισιν εὖ. | OEDIPUS Zeus, grant every blessing to men like this! |
| 643 | THESEUS τί δῆτα χρῄζεις; ἦ δόμους στείχειν ἐμούς; | THESEUS So what do you want? To come to my house? |
| 644 | OEDIPUS εἴ μοι θέμις γ' ἦν· ἀλλ' ὁ χῶρός ἐσθ' ὅδε, | OEDIPUS If it were right for me. But this is the place— |
| 645 | THESEUS ἐν ᾧ τί πράξεις; οὐ γὰρ ἀντιστήσομαι. | THESEUS Where you'll do what? I won't stand in your way. |
| 646 | OEDIPUS ἐν ᾧ κρατήσω τῶν ἔμ' ἐκβεβληκότων. | OEDIPUS —where I will prevail over those who threw me out. |
| 647 | THESEUS μέγ' ἂν λέγοις δώρημα τῆς συνουσίας. | THESEUS That's a great gift you speak of, in return for your coming to live with us. |
| 648 | OEDIPUS εἰ σοί γ' ἅπερ φῂς ἐμμενεῖ τελοῦντί μοι. | OEDIPUS Yes, if what you say holds firm, and you see it through for me. |
| 649 | THESEUS θάρσει τὸ τοῦδέ γ' ἀνδρός· οὔ σε μὴ προδῶ. | THESEUS Don't worry about me. I will never betray you. |
| 650 | OEDIPUS οὔτοι σ' ὑφ' ὅρκου γ' ὡς κακὸν πιστώσομαι. | OEDIPUS I won't bind you with an oath, as if you were a bad man. |
| 651 | THESEUS οὔκουν πέρα γ' ἂν οὐδὲν ἢ λόγῳ φέροις. | THESEUS Well, you'd get nothing more from an oath than from my word. |
| 652 | OEDIPUS πῶς οὖν ποήσεις; | OEDIPUS How will you act, then? |
| | THESEUS τοῦ μάλιστ' ὄκνος σ' ἔχει; | THESEUS What is it you fear most? |

9 A "hearth of allies in arms" alludes to a hereditary bond of hospitality and military alliance between royal houses.

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| 653 | **OEDIPUS** ἥξουσιν ἄνδρες | **OEDIPUS** Men will come— |
| | **THESEUS** ἀλλὰ τοῖσδ' ἔσται μέλον. | **THESEUS** These men here will see to that. |
| 654 | **OEDIPUS** ὅρα με λείπων | **OEDIPUS** Be careful, if you leave me— |
| | **THESEUS** μὴ δίδασχ' ἃ χρή με δρᾶν. | **THESEUS** Don't teach me what I have to do. |
| 655 | **OEDIPUS** ὀκνοῦντ' ἀνάγκη. | **OEDIPUS** A man who's afraid has to. |
| | **THESEUS** τοὐμὸν οὐκ ὀκνεῖ κέαρ. | **THESEUS** My heart isn't afraid. |
| 656 | **OEDIPUS** οὐκ οἶσθ' ἀπειλὰς | **OEDIPUS** You don't know the threats— |
| | **THESEUS** οἶδ' ἐγώ σε μή τινα<br>ἐνθένδ' ἀπάξοντ' ἄνδρα πρὸς βίαν ἐμοῦ.<br>πολλαὶ δ' ἀπειλαὶ πολλὰ δὴ μάτην ἔπη<br>θυμῷ κατηπείλησαν, ἀλλ' ὁ νοῦς ὅταν<br>αὑτοῦ γένηται, φροῦδα τἀπειλήματα.<br>κείνοις δ' ἴσως κεἰ δείν' ἐπερρώσθη λέγειν<br>τῆς σῆς ἀγωγῆς, οἶδ' ἐγώ, φανήσεται<br>μακρὸν τὸ δεῦρο πέλαγος οὐδὲ πλώσιμον.<br>θαρσεῖν μὲν οὖν ἔγωγε κἄν ἐμῆς ἄνευ<br>γνώμης ἐπαινῶ, Φοῖβος εἰ προὔπεμψέ σε·<br>ὅμως δὲ κἀμοῦ μὴ παρόντος οἶδ' ὅτι<br>τοὐμὸν φυλάξει σ' ὄνομα μὴ πάσχειν κακῶς. | **THESEUS** I know that no one is going to take you away from here against my will. Many threats have uttered many empty words in anger; but when the mind comes back to itself, the threats are gone. As for them, even if they've grown bold enough to talk dreadful talk about carrying you off, I know the sea between here and there will prove wide and hard to sail. Now, I urge you to take heart even without my decision, if Phoebus sent you here. Still, even when I'm not here, I know my name will guard you from harm. |

## FIRST STASIMON

*The chorus praises Colonus and Attica: nightingales, narcissus, crocus, the olive, horses and the sea.*

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| 668 | **CHORUS** εὐίππου, ξένε, τᾶσδε χώρας<br>ἵκου τὰ κράτιστα γᾶς ἔπαυλα,<br>τὸν ἀργῆτα Κολωνόν, ἔνθ'<br>ἁ λίγεια μινύρεται<br>θαμίζουσα μάλιστ' ἀηδὼν<br>χλωραῖς ὑπὸ βάσσαις,<br>τὸν οἰνωπὸν ἔχουσα κισσὸν<br>καὶ τὰν ἄβατον θεοῦ<br>φυλλάδα μυριόκαρπον ἀνήλιον<br>ἀνήνεμόν τε πάντων<br>χειμώνων· ἵν' ὁ βακχιώτας<br>ἀεὶ Διόνυσος ἐμβατεύει<br>θεαῖς ἀμφιπολῶν τιθήναις. | **CHORUS** Stranger, in this land of fine horses<br>you have come to earth's finest home,<br>to white Colonus,<br>where the nightingale,<br>most at home here,<br>trills her clear song<br>in the green glades,<br>dwelling in the wine-dark ivy<br>and in the god's untrodden leaves,<br>with its countless fruits,<br>sheltered from the sun,<br>sheltered from the wind<br>of every storm;<br>where Dionysus the reveler<br>walks forever,<br>keeping company with the goddesses<br>who nursed him. |
| 681 | θάλλει δ' οὐρανίας ὑπ' ἄχνας<br>ὁ καλλίβοτρυς κατ' ἦμαρ ἀεὶ<br>νάρκισσος, μεγάλαιν θεαῖν | And fed by heaven's dew<br>the narcissus blooms in lovely clusters<br>day after day, |

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| | ἀρχαῖον στεφάνωμ', ὅ τε<br>χρυσαυγὴς κρόκος· οὐδ' ἄϋπνοι<br>κρῆναι μινύθουσιν<br>Κηφισοῦ νομάδες ῥεέθρων,<br>ἀλλ' αἰὲν ἐπ' ἤματι<br>ὠκυτόκος πεδίων ἐπινίσσεται<br>ἀκηράτῳ σὺν ὄμβρῳ<br>στερνούχου χθονός· οὐδὲ Μουσᾶν<br>χοροί νιν ἀπεστύγησαν οὐδ' ἁ | ancient crown of the two Great Goddesses,<br>and the crocus gleaming gold.<br>Nor do the sleepless springs<br>that feed the wandering streams of the Cephisus<br>ever dwindle,<br>but every day<br>he moves over the plains<br>of the broad-breasted earth<br>with his pure water,<br>quickening them to birth.<br>Nor have the dancing choirs of the Muses<br>turned in loathing from this place, nor has—[10] |
| 693 | χρυσάνιος Ἀφροδίτα.<br>ἔστιν δ' οἷον ἐγὼ γᾶς Ἀσίας οὐκ ἐπακούω<br>οὐδ' ἐν τᾷ μεγάλᾳ Δωρίδι νάσῳ Πέλοπος πώποτε βλαστὸν<br>φύτευμ' ἀχείρωτον αὐτόποιον,<br>ἐγχέων φόβημα δαΐων,<br>ὃ τᾷδε θάλλει μέγιστα χώρᾳ,<br>γλαυκᾶς παιδοτρόφου φύλλον ἐλαίας·<br>τὸ μέν τις οὐ νεαρὸς οὐδὲ γήρᾳ<br>συνναίων ἁλιώσει χερὶ πέρσας· ὁ γὰρ αἰὲν ὁρῶν κύκλος<br>λεύσσει νιν μορίου Διὸς<br>χὰ γλαυκῶπις Ἀθάνα. | —Aphrodite of the golden reins.<br>And there is a thing—I have never heard<br>of such a thing growing in the land of Asia,<br>nor in the great Dorian island of Pelops—/ a tree<br>unconquered, self-renewing,<br>terror to the spears of enemies,<br>that flourishes greatest in this land:<br>the leaf of the gray-green olive, nurse of children.<br>No one, young, or living with old age,<br>will lay it waste and destroy it with his hand;<br>for the ever-watchful eye<br>of Zeus of the Sacred Olives looks on it,<br>and gray-eyed Athena.[11] |
| 707 | ἄλλον δ' αἶνον ἔχω ματροπόλει τᾷδε κράτιστον<br>δῶρον τοῦ μεγάλου δαίμονος, εἰπεῖν, χθονὸς αὔχημα<br>μέγιστον,<br>εὔιππον, εὔπωλον, εὐθάλασσον.<br>ὦ παῖ Κρόνου, σὺ γάρ νιν εἰς<br>τόδ' εἶσας αὔχημ', ἄναξ Ποσειδάν,<br>ἵπποισιν τὸν ἀκεστῆρα χαλινὸν<br>πρώταισι ταῖσδε κτίσας ἀγυιαῖς.<br>ἁ δ' εὐήρετμος ἔκπαγλ' ἁλία χερσὶ παραπτομένα πλάτα<br>θρῴσκει, τῶν ἑκατομπόδων<br>Νηρήδων ἀκόλουθος. | And I have another praise for this mother-city, the greatest,<br>a gift of the great god, the land's proudest boast:<br>its horses, its colts, its sea.<br>Son of Cronus, it was you who set her<br>on this height of pride, lord Poseidon,<br>when you first fashioned, in these streets,<br>the bit that tames horses.<br>And the oar, well fitted to the rower's hands,<br>leaps marvelously over the sea,<br>following the Nereids<br>with their hundred feet.[12] |

## SECOND EPISODE

*Creon tries to coax Oedipus home, seizes his daughters, and is stopped by Theseus.*

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| 720 | **ANTIGONE** ὦ πλεῖστ' ἐπαίνοις εὐλογούμενον πέδον, /<br>νῦν σὸν τὰ λαμπρὰ ταῦτα δὴ φαίνειν ἔπη. | |

10 The two Great Goddesses are Demeter and Persephone; the Cephisus is a river of Attica.
11 The "Dorian island of Pelops" is the Peloponnese. Zeus Morios guarded Attica's sacred olive trees, said to descend from Athena's own olive.
12 The Nereids are sea nymphs, the daughters of Nereus, imagined dancing in great numbers.

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| | | **ANTIGONE** Land praised above all others, now it is your part to make these shining words shine out. |
| 722 | **OEDIPUS** τί δ' ἔστιν, ὦ παῖ, καινόν; | **OEDIPUS** What's happening, child? |
| | **ANTIGONE** ἄσσον ἔρχεται / Κρέων ὅδ' ἡμῖν οὐκ ἄνευ πομπῶν, πάτερ. | **ANTIGONE** Creon is coming toward us, Father—and not without attendants. |
| 724 | **OEDIPUS** ὦ φίλτατοι γέροντες, ἐξ ὑμῶν ἐμοὶ / φαίνοιτ' ἂν ἤδη τέρμα τῆς σωτηρίας. | **OEDIPUS** Dearest old men, now is the time for you to make my safety good. |
| 726 | **CHORUS** θάρσει, παρέσται· καὶ γὰρ εἰ γέρων ἐγώ, / τὸ τῆσδε χώρας οὐ γεγήρακεν σθένος. | **CHORUS** Take heart, you'll have it. Even if I'm old, the strength of this country hasn't grown old. |
| 728 | **CREON** ἄνδρες χθονὸς τῆσδ' εὐγενεῖς οἰκήτορες,<br>ὁρῶ τιν' ὑμᾶς ὀμμάτων εἰληφότας<br>φόβον νεώρη τῆς ἐμῆς ἐπεισόδου,<br>ὃν μήτ' ὀκνεῖτε μήτ' ἀφῆτ' ἔπος κακόν.<br>ἥκω γὰρ οὐχ ὡς δρᾶν τι βουληθείς, ἐπεὶ<br>γέρων μέν εἰμι, πρὸς πόλιν δ' ἐπίσταμαι<br>σθένουσαν ἥκων, εἴ τιν' Ἑλλάδος, μέγα.<br>ἀλλ' ἄνδρα τόνδε τηλικόσδ' ἀπεστάλην<br>πείσων ἕπεσθαι πρὸς τὸ Καδμείων πέδον,<br>οὐκ ἐξ ἑνὸς στείλαντος, ἀλλ' ἀνδρῶν ὑπὸ<br>πάντων κελευσθείς, οὕνεχ' ἥκέ μοι γένει<br>τὰ τοῦδε πενθεῖν πήματ' εἰς πλεῖστον πόλεως. | **CREON** Noble men who dwell in this land, I can see from your eyes that my arrival has given you a sudden fright. Don't shrink from me, and don't let loose any harsh word. I haven't come here meaning to use force: I'm an old man, and I know I've come to a city that is mighty, if any in Greece is. No, I've been sent, old as I am, to persuade this man to follow me to the land of the Cadmeans. It wasn't one man who sent me; I was ordered by all the citizens, since it fell to me, as his kin, to grieve for his sufferings more than anyone in the city. |
| 740 | ἀλλ' ὦ ταλαίπωρ' Οἰδίπους, κλύων ἐμοῦ<br>ἵκου πρὸς οἴκους. πᾶς σε Καδμείων λεὼς<br>καλεῖ δικαίως, ἐκ δὲ τῶν μάλιστ' ἐγώ,<br>ὅσῳπερ, εἰ μὴ πλεῖστον ἀνθρώπων ἔφυν<br>κάκιστος, ἀλγῶ τοῖσι σοῖς κακοῖς, γέρον,<br>ὁρῶν σε τὸν δύστηνον ὄντα μὲν ξένον,<br>ἀεὶ δ' ἀλήτην κἀπὶ προσπόλου μιᾶς<br>βιοστερῆ χωροῦντα· τὴν ἐγὼ τάλας<br>οὐκ ἄν ποτ' ἐς τοσοῦτον αἰκίας πεσεῖν<br>ἔδοξ', ὅσον πέπτωκεν ἥδε δύσμορος,<br>ἀεί σε κηδεύουσα καὶ τὸ σὸν κάρα<br>πτωχῷ διαίτῃ, τηλικοῦτος, οὐ γάμων<br>ἔμπειρος, ἀλλὰ τοὐπιόντος ἁρπάσαι. | Come, unhappy Oedipus, listen to me and come home. All the people of Cadmus call you, and rightly—and I most of all, because, unless I'm the vilest man alive, I grieve most at your troubles, old man. I see you, poor wretch, a stranger, forever wandering, going about with nothing to live on and a single attendant. And she—wretched me, I would never have thought she could fall so low into misery as this unhappy girl has fallen, always tending you, living a beggar's life, at her age, unmarried, at the mercy of the first man who comes along to seize her. |
| 753 | ἆρ' ἄθλιον τοὔνειδος, ὦ τάλας ἐγώ,<br>ὠνείδισ' εἰς σὲ κἀμὲ καὶ τὸ πᾶν γένος;<br>ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ ἔστι τἀμφανῆ κρύπτειν, σύ νιν<br>πρὸς θεῶν πατρῴων, Οἰδίπους, πεισθεὶς ἐμοὶ<br>κρύψον, θελήσας ἄστυ καὶ δόμους μολεῖν<br>τοὺς σοὺς πατρῴους, τήνδε τὴν πόλιν φίλως<br>εἰπών· ἐπαξία γάρ· ἡ δ' οἴκοι πλέον<br>δίκῃ σέβοιτ' ἄν, οὖσα σὴ πάλαι τροφός. | Isn't this a wretched disgrace—oh, my misery—that I've flung at you and me and our whole family? But since what's out in the open can't be hidden, you, Oedipus—by the gods of our fathers, listen to me—you hide it. Agree to come back to the city and the house of your fathers, and say a friendly farewell to this city; it deserves it. But your home has a juster claim to your reverence, since long ago she nursed you. |
| 761 | **OEDIPUS** ὦ πάντα τολμῶν κἀπὸ παντὸς ἂν φέρων<br>λόγου δικαίου μηχάνημα ποικίλον, | **OEDIPUS** You who will dare anything, who would make a cunning device out of any just plea—why |

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| | τί ταῦτα πειρᾷ κἀμὲ δεύτερον θέλεις<br>ἑλεῖν ἐν οἷς μάλιστ' ἂν ἀλγοίην ἁλούς;<br>πρόσθεν τε γάρ με τοῖσιν οἰκείοις κακοῖς<br>νοσοῦνθ', ὅτ' ἦν μοι τέρψις ἐκπεσεῖν χθονός,<br>οὐκ ἤθελες θέλοντι προσθέσθαι χάριν·<br>ἀλλ' ἡνίκ' ἤδη μεστὸς ἦ θυμούμενος<br>καὶ τοὐν δόμοισιν ἦν διαιτᾶσθαι γλυκύ,<br>τότ' ἐξεώθεις κἀξέβαλλες, οὐδέ σοι<br>τὸ συγγενὲς τοῦτ' οὐδαμῶς τότ' ἦν φίλον· | are you trying this? Why do you want to catch me a second time in the trap where being caught would hurt me most? Before, when I was sick with the evils of my own house and it would have been a joy to be thrown out of the country, you refused me the favor I wanted. But when my rage had run its course at last, and living at home had become sweet, then you thrust me out and cast me away. This kinship of ours meant nothing at all to you then. |
| 772 | νῦν τ' αὖθις ἡνίκ' εἰσορᾷς πόλιν τέ μοι<br>ξυνοῦσαν εὔνουν τήνδε καὶ γένος τὸ πᾶν,<br>πειρᾷ μετασπᾶν, σκληρὰ μαλθακῶς λέγων.<br>καίτοι τίς αὕτη τέρψις ἄκοντας φιλεῖν;<br>ὥσπερ τις εἴ σοι λιπαροῦντι μὲν τυχεῖν<br>μηδὲν διδοίη μηδ' ἐπαρκέσαι θέλοι,<br>πλήρη δ' ἔχοντι θυμὸν ὧν χρῄζοις, τότε<br>δωροῖθ', ὅτ' οὐδὲν ἡ χάρις χάριν φέροι·<br>ἆρ' ἂν ματαίου τῆσδ' ἂν ἡδονῆς τύχοις;<br>τοιαῦτα μέντοι καὶ σὺ προσφέρεις ἐμοί,<br>λόγῳ μὲν ἐσθλά. τοῖσι δ' ἔργοισιν κακά. | And now again, when you see this city and all its people kindly disposed to me, you try to drag me away, saying hard things softly. Yet what pleasure is there in befriending people against their will? It's as if, when you begged for something, someone gave you nothing and refused to help, but when your heart was full of what you wanted, then gave it, when the favor could bring no favor. Wouldn't that be an empty pleasure? That is just the kind of thing you're offering me: good in word, bad in deed. |
| 783 | φράσω δὲ καὶ τοῖσδ', ὥς σε δηλώσω κακόν.<br>ἥκεις ἔμ' ἄξων, οὐχ' ἵν' ἐς δόμους ἄγῃς,<br>ἀλλ' ὡς πάραυλον οἰκίσῃς, πόλις δέ σοι<br>κακῶν ἄνατος τῆσδ' ἀπαλλαχθῇ χθονός.<br>οὐκ ἔστι σοι ταῦτ', ἀλλά σοι τάδ' ἔστ', ἐκεῖ<br>χώρας ἀλάστωρ οὐμὸς ἐνναίων ἀεί·<br>ἔστιν δὲ παισὶ τοῖς ἐμοῖσι τῆς ἐμῆς<br>χθονὸς λαχεῖν τοσοῦτον, ἐνθανεῖν μόνον.<br>ἆρ' οὐκ ἄμεινον ἢ σὺ τἀν Θήβαις φρονῶ;<br>πολλῷ γ', ὅσῳπερ κἀκ σαφεστέρων κλύω,<br>Φοίβου τε καὐτοῦ Ζηνός, ὃς κείνου πατήρ. | I'll tell these men too, so as to show you up for what you are. You've come to take me, not to bring me home, but to settle me at your border, so that your city may escape unharmed by troubles from this land. That is not for you. This is for you: my avenging spirit, dwelling there in that country forever. And my sons will get just this much of my land—enough to die in. Don't I understand affairs in Thebes better than you? Far better, since I hear from clearer sources: from Phoebus, and from Zeus himself, his father. |
| 794 | τὸ σὸν δ' ἀφῖκται δεῦρ' ὑπόβλητον στόμα,<br>πολλὴν ἔχον στόμωσιν· ἐν δὲ τῷ λέγειν<br>κάκ' ἂν λάβοις τὰ πλείον' ἢ σωτήρια.<br>ἀλλ' οἶδα γάρ σε ταῦτα μὴ πείθων, ἴθι·<br>ἡμᾶς δ' ἔα ζῆν ἐνθάδ'· οὐ γὰρ ἂν κακῶς<br>οὐδ' ὧδ' ἔχοντες ζῷμεν, εἰ τερποίμεθα. | That mouth of yours has come here as a forgery, with a hard, keen edge on it. But by talking you'd win more harm than safety. Still, I know I can't persuade you of this. Go. Let us live here. Even as we are, our lives wouldn't be bad, if we were content. |
| 800 | **CREON** πότερα νομίζεις δυστυχεῖν ἔμ' ἐς τὰ σά, / ἢ σ' εἰς τὰ σαυτοῦ μᾶλλον, ἐν τῷ νῦν λόγῳ; | **CREON** In this argument, do you think it's my fortunes that suffer from your stand, or rather your own? |
| 802 | **OEDIPUS** ἐμοὶ μέν ἐσθ' ἥδιστον, εἰ σὺ μήτ' ἐμὲ / πείθειν οἵός τ' εἶ μήτε τούσδε τοὺς πέλας. | **OEDIPUS** Nothing would please me more than for you to persuade neither me nor these men here. |
| 804 | **CREON** ὦ δύσμορ', οὐδὲ τῷ χρόνῳ φύσας φανεῖ /<br>φρένας ποτ' ἀλλὰ λῦμα τῷ γήρᾳ τρέφει; | **CREON** Poor wretch, won't you show, even with time, that you've grown some sense? Are you nursing a disgrace to your old age? |

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| 806 | **OEDIPUS** γλώσσῃ σὺ δεινός· ἄνδρα δ' οὐδέν' οἶδ' ἐγὼ / δίκαιον ὅστις ἐξ ἅπαντος εὖ λέγει. | **OEDIPUS** You're clever with your tongue. But I know no just man who can make a good case out of anything. |
| 808 | **CREON** χωρὶς τό τ' εἰπεῖν πολλὰ καὶ τὰ καίρια. | **CREON** Saying a lot and saying what's to the point are two different things. |
| 809 | **OEDIPUS** ὡς δὴ σὺ βραχέα, ταῦτα δ' ἐν καιρῷ λέγεις. | **OEDIPUS** As if what you say is brief, and to the point! |
| 810 | **CREON** οὐ δῆθ' ὅτῳ γε νοῦς ἴσος καὶ σοὶ πάρα. | **CREON** Not to anyone with sense like yours. |
| 811 | **OEDIPUS** ἄπελθ', ἐρῶ γὰρ καὶ πρὸ τῶνδε, μηδέ με / φύλασσ' ἐφορμῶν ἔνθα χρὴ ναίειν ἐμέ. | **OEDIPUS** Go away—I say it for these men as well—and stop blockading me, keeping watch on the place where I'm meant to live. |
| 813 | **CREON** μαρτύρομαι τούσδ', οὐ σέ· πρὸς δὲ τοὺς φίλους / οἵ' ἀνταμείβει ῥήματ', ἤν σ' ἔλω ποτέ | **CREON** I call these men to witness, not you, to the way you answer your own flesh and blood. If I ever get hold of you— |
| 815 | **OEDIPUS** τίς δ' ἄν με τῶνδε συμμάχων ἕλοι βίᾳ; | **OEDIPUS** And who could take me by force, with these allies here? |
| 816 | **CREON** ἦ μὴν σὺ κἄνευ τοῦδε λυπηθεὶς ἔσει. | **CREON** I swear you'll have grief enough even without that. |
| 817 | **OEDIPUS** ποίῳ σὺν ἔργῳ τοῦτ' ἀπειλήσας ἔχεις; | **OEDIPUS** What deed is there to back that threat? |
| 818 | **CREON** παίδοιν δυοῖν σοι τὴν μὲν ἀρτίως ἐγὼ / ξυναρπάσας ἔπεμψα, τὴν δ' ἄξω τάχα. | **CREON** Of your two girls, one I've just now seized and sent off; the other I'll take shortly. |
| 820 | **OEDIPUS** οἴμοι. | **OEDIPUS** Oh, no. |
| | **CREON** τάχ' ἕξεις μᾶλλον οἰμώζειν τάδε. | **CREON** Soon you'll have more to cry out about. |
| 821 | **OEDIPUS** τὴν παῖδ' ἔχεις μου; | **OEDIPUS** You have my daughter? |
| | **CREON** τήνδε τ' οὐ μακροῦ χρόνου. | **CREON** And this one too, before long. |
| 822 | **OEDIPUS** ἰὼ ξένοι, τί δράσετ'; ἦ προδώσετε, / κοὐκ ἐξελᾶτε τὸν ἀσεβῆ τῆσδε χθονός; | **OEDIPUS** Oh, strangers, what will you do? Will you betray me, and not drive this godless man out of your land? |
| 824 | **CHORUS** χώρει, ξέν', ἔξω θᾶσσον. οὔτε γὰρ τὰ νῦν / δίκαια πράσσεις οὔθ' ἃ πρόσθεν εἴργασαι. | **CHORUS** Get out, stranger, quickly. What you're doing now isn't just, and neither is what you've done before. |
| 826 | **CREON** ὑμῖν ἂν εἴη τήνδε καιρὸς ἐξάγειν / ἄκουσαν, εἰ θέλουσα μὴ πορεύεται. | **CREON** Now's your moment to take this girl away against her will, if she won't come willingly. |
| 828 | **ANTIGONE** οἴμοι τάλαινα, ποῖ φύγω; ποίαν λάβω / θεῶν ἄρηξιν ἢ βροτῶν; | **ANTIGONE** Oh, no, poor me, where can I run? What help can I find from gods or men? |
| 829 | **CHORUS** τί δρᾷς, ξένε; | **CHORUS** What are you doing, stranger? |
| 830 | **CREON** οὐχ ἅψομαι τοῦδ' ἀνδρός, ἀλλὰ τῆς ἐμῆς. | |

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
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| | | **CREON** I won't touch this man; but I will touch what's mine. |
| 831 | **OEDIPUS** ὦ γῆς ἄνακτες. | **OEDIPUS** Lords of this land! |
| | **CHORUS** ὦ ξέν', οὐ δίκαια δρᾷς. | **CHORUS** Stranger, what you're doing isn't just. |
| 832 | **CREON** δίκαια. | **CREON** It is just. |
| | **CHORUS** πῶς δίκαια; | **CHORUS** How is it just? |
| | **CREON** τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἄγω. | **CREON** I'm taking my own. |
| 833 | **OEDIPUS** ἰὼ πόλις. | **OEDIPUS** Oh, my city! |
| 834 | **CHORUS** τί δρᾷς, ὦ ξέν'; οὐκ ἀφήσεις; τάχ' εἰς βάσανον εἶ χερῶν. | **CHORUS** What are you doing, stranger? Won't you let her go? Soon you'll be put to the test of our hands. |
| 835 | **CREON** εἴργου. | **CREON** Keep back. |
| | **CHORUS** σοῦ μὲν οὔ, τάδε γε μωμένου. | **CHORUS** Not from you, not when this is what you intend. |
| 836 | **CREON** πόλει μαχεῖ γάρ, εἴ τι πημανεῖς ἐμέ. | **CREON** If you harm me, you'll be at war with my city. |
| 837 | **OEDIPUS** οὐκ ἠγόρευον ταῦτ' ἐγώ; | **OEDIPUS** Didn't I tell you this would happen? |
| | **CHORUS** μέθες χεροῖν / τὴν παῖδα θᾶσσον. | **CHORUS** Take your hands off the girl, quickly. |
| 838 | **CREON** μὴ 'πίτασσ' ἃ μὴ κρατεῖς. | **CREON** Don't give orders where you have no power. |
| 840 | **CHORUS** χαλᾶν λέγω σοι. | **CHORUS** Let go, I tell you. |
| | **CREON** σοὶ δ' ἔγωγ' ὁδοιπορεῖν. | **CREON** And I tell you to be on your way. |
| 841 | **CHORUS** πρόβαθ' ὧδε, βᾶτε βᾶτ', ἔντοποι· / πόλις ἐναίρεται, πόλις ἐμά, σθένει· πρόβαθ' ὧδέ μοι. | **CHORUS** Come here, come, come, people of this place!<br>The city is being slain, my city, by force!<br>Come here to me! |
| 843 | **ANTIGONE** ἀφέλκομαι δύστηνος, ὦ ξένοι ξένοι. | **ANTIGONE** They're dragging me away, poor me—strangers, strangers! |
| 844 | **OEDIPUS** ποῦ, τέκνον, εἴ μοι; | **OEDIPUS** Where are you, child? |
| | **ANTIGONE** πρὸς βίαν πορεύομαι. | **ANTIGONE** I'm being taken by force. |
| 845 | **OEDIPUS** ὄρεξον, ὦ παῖ, χεῖρας. | **OEDIPUS** Reach out your hands, my child! |
| | **ANTIGONE** ἀλλ' οὐδὲν σθένω. | **ANTIGONE** I can't—I have no strength. |
| 846 | **CREON** οὐκ ἄξεθ' ὑμεῖς; | **CREON** Take her away, won't you? |
| | **OEDIPUS** ὦ τάλας ἐγώ, τάλας. | **OEDIPUS** Oh, my misery, my misery! |

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
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| 848 | **CREON** οὔκουν ποτ' ἐκ τούτοιν γε μὴ σκήπτροιν ἔτι<br>ὁδοιπορήσῃς· ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ νικᾶν θέλεις<br>πατρίδα τε τὴν σὴν καὶ φίλους, ὑφ' ὧν ἐγὼ<br>ταχθεὶς τάδ' ἔρδω, καὶ τύραννος ὢν ὅμως,<br>νίκα. χρόνῳ γάρ, οἶδ' ἐγώ, γνώσει τάδε,<br>ὁθούνεκ' αὐτὸς αὑτὸν οὔτε νῦν καλὰ<br>δρᾷς οὔτε πρόσθεν εἰργάσω βίᾳ φίλων,<br>ὀργῇ χάριν δούς, ἥ σ' ἀεὶ λυμαίνεται. | **CREON** Well, you'll never walk again with these two to lean on. But since you want to defeat your own country and your own people—on whose orders I'm doing this, king though I am—then win. In time, I know, you'll come to see that neither now nor before have you done yourself any good, defying your own flesh and blood to indulge your anger. It is your anger that always ruins you. |
| 856 | **CHORUS** ἐπίσχες αὐτοῦ, ξεῖνε. | **CHORUS** Stop where you are, stranger. |
| | **CREON** μὴ ψαύειν λέγω. | **CREON** Don't touch me, I tell you. |
| 857 | **CHORUS** οὗτοι σ' ἀφήσω, τῶνδέ γ' ἐστερημένος. | **CHORUS** I won't let you go, not when you've robbed me of these girls. |
| 858 | **CREON** καὶ μεῖζον ἆρα ῥύσιον πόλει τάχα / θήσεις·<br>ἐφάψομαι γὰρ οὐ ταύταιν μόναιν. | **CREON** Then you'll soon be handing my city a bigger prize to seize. I won't lay hands on these two alone. |
| 860 | **CHORUS** ἀλλ' ἐς τί τρέψει; | **CHORUS** Why, what will you turn to? |
| | **CREON** τόνδ' ἀπάξομαι λαβών. | **CREON** This man. I'll seize him and take him away. |
| 861 | **CHORUS** δεινὸν λέγοις ἄν. | **CHORUS** That's a dreadful thing you're saying. |
| | **CREON** τοῦτο νῦν πεπράξεται. | **CREON** It will be done, here and now. |
| 862 | **CHORUS** ἢν μή σ' ὁ κραίνων τῆσδε γῆς ἀπειργάθῃ. | **CHORUS** Unless the man who rules this land stops you. |
| 863 | **OEDIPUS** ὦ φθέγμ' ἀναιδές, ἦ σὺ γὰρ ψαύσεις ἐμοῦ; | **OEDIPUS** Shameless voice! Will you actually lay hands on me? |
| 864 | **CREON** αὐδῶ σιωπᾶν. | **CREON** Be silent, I tell you. |
| | **OEDIPUS** μὴ γὰρ αἵδε δαίμονες<br>θεῖέν μ' ἄφωνον τῆσδε τῆς ἀρᾶς ἔτι,<br>ὅς μ', ὦ κάκιστε, ψιλὸν ὄμμ' ἀποσπάσας<br>πρὸς ὄμμασιν τοῖς πρόσθεν ἐξοίχει βίᾳ.<br>τοιγὰρ σέ τ' αὐτὸν καὶ γένος τὸ σὸν θεῶν<br>ὁ πάντα λεύσσων Ἥλιος δοίη βίον<br>τοιοῦτον οἷον κἀμὲ γηρᾶναί ποτε. | **OEDIPUS** No—may these goddesses not make me speechless until I've spoken this curse! You, vilest of men, have torn away the one helpless eye I had left, besides the eyes I lost before, and you're gone with it by force. For this, may Helios, the Sun, the god who sees all things, give you yourself and your whole family a life like mine, to grow old in as I have. |
| 871 | **CREON** ὁρᾶτε ταῦτα, τῆσδε γῆς ἐγχώριοι; | **CREON** Do you see this, people of this land? |
| 872 | **OEDIPUS** ὁρῶσι κἀμὲ καὶ σέ, καὶ φρονοῦσ' ὅτι / ἔργοις<br>πεπονθὼς ῥήμασίν σ' ἀμύνομαι. | **OEDIPUS** They see me and they see you, and they understand: I've been wronged in deeds, and I defend myself with words. |
| 874 | **CREON** οὗτοι καθέξω θυμόν, ἀλλ' ἄξω βίᾳ / κεἰ μοῦνός<br>εἰμι τόνδε καὶ χρόνῳ βραδύς. | **CREON** I won't hold back my anger. I'll take him by force, even if I'm alone and slow with age. |

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
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| 876 | **OEDIPUS** ἰὼ τάλας. | **OEDIPUS** Oh, my misery! |
| 877 | **CHORUS** ὅσον λῆμ' ἔχων ἀφίκου, ξέν', εἰ τάδε δοκεῖς τελεῖν. | **CHORUS** What arrogance you came here with, stranger, if you think you'll carry this out! |
| 878 | **CREON** δοκῶ. | **CREON** I do. |
| 879 | **CHORUS** τάνδ' ἄρ' οὐκέτι νεμῶ πόλιν. | **CHORUS** Then I'll no longer count this a city. |
| 880 | **CREON** τοῖς τοι δικαίοις χὠ βραχὺς νικᾷ μέγαν. | **CREON** With justice on his side, you know, even a small man beats a great one. |
| 881 | **OEDIPUS** ἀκούεθ' οἷα φθέγγεται; | **OEDIPUS** Do you hear the way he talks? |
| | **CHORUS** τά γ' οὐ τελεῖ. | **CHORUS** Talk he'll never make good. |
| 883 | **CREON** Ζεύς γ' ἂν εἰδείη, σὺ δ' οὔ. | **CREON** Zeus may know that. You don't. |
| 884 | **CHORUS** ἆρ' οὐχ ὕβρις τάδ'; | **CHORUS** Isn't this outrage? |
| | **CREON** ὕβρις, ἀλλ' ἀνεκτέα. | **CREON** Outrage, yes, but you'll have to put up with it. |
| 885 | **CHORUS** ἰὼ πᾶς λεώς, ἰὼ γᾶς πρόμοι, / μόλετε σὺν τάχει, μόλετ', ἐπεὶ πέραν περῶσ' οἵδε δή. | **CHORUS** Help, all you people! Help, first men of the land!<br>Come quickly, come!<br>They're crossing over, they're getting away! |
| 887 | **THESEUS** τίς ποθ' ἡ βοή; τί τοὔργον; ἐκ τίνος φόβου ποτὲ<br>βουθυτοῦντά μ' ἀμφὶ βωμὸν ἔσχετ' ἐναλίῳ θεῷ<br>τοῦδ' ἐπιστάτῃ Κολωνοῦ; λέξαθ', ὡς εἰδῶ τὸ πᾶν,<br>οὗ χάριν δεῦρ' ᾔξα θᾶσσον ἢ καθ' ἡδονὴν ποδός. | **THESEUS** What's this shouting? What's going on? What fear made you stop me at the altar, as I was sacrificing oxen to the god of the sea, the guardian of this Colonus? Tell me, so I know the whole of it. That's why I've rushed here, faster than my feet would like. |
| 891 | **OEDIPUS** ὦ φίλτατ', ἔγνων γὰρ τὸ προσφώνημά σου, / πέπονθα δεινὰ τοῦδ' ὑπ' ἀνδρὸς ἀρτίως. | **OEDIPUS** Dearest friend, I know your voice. I've just been terribly wronged by this man. |
| 893 | **THESEUS** τὰ ποῖα ταῦτα, τίς δ' ὁ πημήνας; λέγε. | **THESEUS** Wronged how? And who has hurt you? Tell me. |
| 894 | **OEDIPUS** Κρέων ὅδ', ὃν δέδορκας, οἴχεται τέκνων / ἀποσπάσας μου τὴν μόνην ξυνωρίδα. | **OEDIPUS** Creon here, the man you see, has torn my children away from me, the only pair I had, and gone. |
| 896 | **THESEUS** πῶς εἶπας; | **THESEUS** What are you saying? |
| | **OEDIPUS** οἷά περ πέπονθ' ἀκήκοας. | **OEDIPUS** You've heard what's been done to me. |
| 897 | **THESEUS** οὔκουν τις ὡς τάχιστα προσπόλων μολὼν<br>πρὸς τούσδε βωμούς, πάντ' ἀναγκάσει λεὼν<br>ἄνιππον ἱππότην τε θυμάτων ἄπο<br>σπεύδειν ἀπὸ ῥυτῆρος, ἔνθα δίστομοι<br>μάλιστα συμβάλλουσιν ἐμπόρων ὁδοί,<br>ὡς μὴ παρέλθωσ' αἱ κόραι, γέλως δ' ἐγὼ | **THESEUS** Then won't one of my attendants go to the altars there as fast as he can? Make all the people, on foot and on horseback, leave the sacrifice and race at full gallop to the place where the two highways that travelers use come together. The girls mustn't get past, and I mustn't become a |

| GREEK | ENGLISH |
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| ξένῳ γένωμαι τῷδε, χειρωθεὶς βίᾳ.<br>ἴθ', ὡς ἄνωγα, σὺν τάχει. τοῦτον δ' ἐγώ,<br>εἰ μὲν δι' ὀργῆς ἦκον, ἧς ὅδ' ἄξιος,<br>ἄτρωτον οὐ μεθῆκ' ἂν ἐξ ἐμῆς χερός.<br>νῦν δ' οὕσπερ αὐτὸς τοὺς νόμους εἰσῆλθ' ἔχων,<br>τούτοισι κοὐκ ἄλλοισιν ἁρμοσθήσεται. | laughingstock to this stranger, overpowered by force. Go, as I've ordered, and quickly. As for this man, if I'd come in the anger he deserves, he wouldn't have left my hands unhurt. But as it is, he'll be dealt with by the very laws he brought in with him, and by no others. |
| 909 οὐ γάρ ποτ' ἔξει τῆσδε τῆς χώρας, πρὶν ἂν<br>κείνας ἐναργεῖς δεῦρό μοι στήσῃς ἄγων·<br>ἐπεὶ δέδρακας οὔτ' ἐμοῦ καταξίως<br>οὔθ' ὧν πέφυκας αὐτὸς οὔτε σῆς χθονός·<br>ὅστις δίκαι' ἀσκοῦσαν εἰσελθὼν πόλιν<br>κἄνευ νόμου κραίνουσαν οὐδέν, εἶτ' ἀφεὶς<br>τὰ τῆσδε τῆς γῆς κύρι', ὧδ' ἐπεισπεσὼν<br>ἄγεις θ' ἃ χρῄζεις καὶ παρίστασαι βίᾳ,<br>καί μοι πόλιν κένανδρον ἢ δούλην τινὰ<br>ἔδοξας εἶναι κἄμ' ἴσον τῷ μηδενί.<br>καίτοι σε Θῆβαί γ' οὐκ ἐπαίδευσαν κακόν· | You'll never leave this country until you bring those girls back and set them here before my eyes. What you've done disgraces me, and your own ancestors, and your country. You came into a city that practices justice and decides nothing without law, and then you brushed aside the authorities of this land, burst in like this, took whatever you wanted and carried it off by force. You thought my city was empty of men, or some slave state, and that I was as good as nothing. And yet it wasn't Thebes that taught you to be base; |
| 920 οὐ γὰρ φιλοῦσιν ἄνδρας ἐκδίκους τρέφειν,<br>οὐδ' ἄν σ' ἐπαινέσειαν, εἰ πυθοίατο<br>συλῶντα τἀμὰ καὶ τὰ τῶν θεῶν, βίᾳ<br>ἄγοντα φωτῶν ἀθλίων ἱκτήρια.<br>οὔκουν ἔγωγ' ἂν σῆς ἐπεμβαίνων χθονός,<br>οὐδ' εἰ τὰ πάντων εἶχον ἐνδικώτατα,<br>ἄνευ γε τοῦ κραίνοντος, ὅστις ἦν, χθονὸς<br>οὔθ' εἷλκον οὔτ' ἂν ἦγον, ἀλλ' ἠπιστάμην<br>ξένον παρ' ἀστοῖς ὡς διαιτᾶσθαι χρεών.<br>σὺ δ' ἀξίαν οὐκ οὖσαν αἰσχύνεις πόλιν<br>τὴν αὐτὸς αὑτοῦ, καί σ' ὁ πληθύων χρόνος<br>γέρονθ' ὁμοῦ τίθησι καὶ τοῦ νοῦ κενόν. | she doesn't like to raise lawless men. Nor would she praise you if she learned you were plundering what is mine and what is the gods', dragging off by force helpless people who came as suppliants. If I set foot in your country, even with the most just claim in the world, I would never drag or carry anyone away without the consent of whoever ruled that land. I'd know how a stranger ought to behave among its citizens. But you are shaming a city that doesn't deserve it, your own; and the fullness of your years is making you an old man and an empty-headed one at the same time. |
| 932 εἶπον μὲν οὖν καὶ πρόσθεν, ἐννέπω δὲ νῦν,<br>τὰς παῖδας ὡς τάχιστα δεῦρ' ἄγειν τινά,<br>εἰ μὴ μέτοικος τῆσδε τῆς χώρας θέλεις<br>εἶναι βίᾳ τε κοὐχ ἑκών· καὶ ταῦτά σοι<br>τῷ νῷ θ' ὁμοίως κἀπὸ τῆς γλώσσης λέγω. | So I said it before and I say it now: someone is to bring the girls here as fast as possible, unless you want to become a resident alien in this country, by force and against your will. And I mean what I say, in my mind as much as on my tongue. |
| 937 **CHORUS** ὁρᾷς ἵν' ἥκεις, ὦ ξέν'; ὡς ἀφ' ὧν μὲν εἶ /<br>φαίνει δίκαιος, δρῶν δ' ἐφευρίσκει κακά. | **CHORUS** You see where you've ended up, stranger? To judge by where you come from you seem a just man, but you're caught doing wrong. |
| 939 **CREON** ἐγὼ οὔτ' ἄνανδρον τήνδε τὴν πόλιν νέμων,<br>ὦ τέκνον Αἰγέως, οὔτ' ἄβουλον, ὡς σὺ φῄς,<br>τοὔργον τόδ' ἐξέπραξα, γιγνώσκων δ' ὅτι<br>οὐδείς ποτ' αὐτοὺς τῶν ἐμῶν ἂν ἐμπέσοι<br>ζῆλος ξυναίμων, ὥστ' ἐμοῦ τρέφειν βίᾳ.<br>ᾔδη δ' ὀθούνεκ' ἄνδρα καὶ πατροκτόνον<br>κἄναγνον οὐ δεξοίατ', οὐδ' ὅτῳ γάμοι<br>ξυνόντες ηὑρέθησαν ἀνόσιοι τέκνων.<br>τοιοῦτον αὐτοῖς Ἄρεος εὔβουλον πάγον<br>ἐγὼ ξυνῄδη χθόνιον ὄνθ', ὃς οὐκ ἐᾷ<br>τοιούσδ' ἀλήτας τῇδ' ὁμοῦ ναίειν πόλει· | **CREON** I didn't do this, son of Aegeus, because I thought this city lacked men, or lacked counsel, as you say. I did it because I knew that no zeal for my kin would ever take hold of your people so strongly that they would keep them against my will. And I knew they would never take in a man who had killed his father, an impure man, a man found living in an unholy marriage and fathering children by it. I knew they had the Areopagus here in their land, the wise Hill of Ares, which doesn't |

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| | allow wanderers like that to live in the same city with them.[13] |
| ᾧ πίστιν ἴσχων τήνδ' ἐχειρούμην ἄγραν. καὶ ταῦτ' ἂν οὐκ ἔπρασσον, εἰ μή μοι πικρὰς αὐτῷ τ' ἀρὰς ἠρᾶτο καὶ τὠμῷ γένει· ἀνθ' ὧν πεπονθὼς ἠξίουν τάδ' ἀντιδρᾶν. θυμοῦ γὰρ οὐδὲν γῆράς ἐστιν ἄλλο πλὴν θανεῖν· θανόντων δ' οὐδὲν ἄλγος ἅπτεται. πρὸς ταῦτα πράξεις οἷον ἂν θέλῃς· ἐπεὶ ἐρημία με, κεἰ δίκαι', ὅμως λέγω, σμικρὸν τίθησι· πρὸς δὲ τὰς πράξεις ὅμως, καὶ τηλικόσδ' ὤν, ἀντιδρᾶν πειράσομαι. | It was trusting in this that I set about taking this prize. And I wouldn't have done it if he hadn't called down bitter curses on me and on my family. After what he did to me, I thought it right to pay him back in kind. Anger has no old age except death; the dead feel no pain. So do whatever you like. I'm alone, and that makes me weak, however just my case. But even so, old as I am, I'll try to answer action with action. |
| **OEDIPUS** ὦ λῆμ' ἀναιδές, τοῦ καθυβρίζειν δοκεῖς, πότερον ἐμοῦ γέροντος ἢ σαυτοῦ, τόδε; ὅστις φόνους μοι καὶ γάμους καὶ συμφορὰς τοῦ σοῦ διῆκας στόματος, ἃς ἐγὼ τάλας ἤνεγκον ἄκων· θεοῖς γὰρ ἦν οὕτω φίλον, τάχ' ἄν τι μηνίουσιν εἰς γένος πάλαι. ἐπεὶ καθ' αὑτόν γ' οὐκ ἂν ἐξεύροις ἐμοὶ ἁμαρτίας ὄνειδος οὐδέν, ἀνθ' ὅτου τάδ' εἰς ἐμαυτὸν τοὺς ἐμούς θ' ἡμάρτανον. | **OEDIPUS** Shameless arrogance! Whom do you think you're insulting with this, me, an old man, or yourself? You've let pour from your mouth the killing, the marriage, the disasters that I bore, poor wretch, against my will. That was how the gods wanted it, angry, perhaps, with my family long ago. In myself you couldn't find any sin to reproach me with, for which I might have done these wrongs against myself and my own. |
| ἐπεὶ δίδαξον, εἴ τι θέσφατον πατρὶ χρησμοῖσιν ἱκνεῖθ' ὥστε πρὸς παίδων θανεῖν, πῶς ἂν δικαίως τοῦτ' ὀνειδίζοις ἐμοί, ὃς οὔτε βλάστας πω γενεθλίους πατρός, οὐ μητρὸς εἶχον, ἀλλ' ἀγέννητος τότ' ἦ; εἰ δ' αὖ φανεὶς δύστηνος, ὡς ἐγὼ 'φάνην, ἐς χεῖρας ἦλθον πατρὶ καὶ κατέκτανον, μηδὲν ξυνιεὶς ὧν ἔδρων εἰς οὕς τ' ἔδρων, πῶς ἂν τό γ' ἄκον πρᾶγμ' ἂν εἰκότως ψέγοις; μητρὸς δέ, τλῆμον, οὐκ ἐπαισχύνει γάμους οὔσης ὁμαίμου σῆς μ' ἀναγκάζων λέγειν, οἵους ἐρῶ τάχ'· οὐ γὰρ οὖν σιγήσομαι, σοῦ γ' εἰς τόδ' ἐξελθόντος ἀνόσιον στόμα. | Tell me this. If some oracle came to my father, prophesying that he would die at his son's hands, how could you justly blame that on me? I wasn't yet begotten by my father or conceived by my mother; I was still unborn. And if then, born to misery as I was born, I came to blows with my father and killed him, understanding nothing of what I was doing or to whom, how could you reasonably condemn an act done unwillingly? And my mother, you wretch: aren't you ashamed to force me to speak of her marriage, when she was your own sister? I'll tell you about that marriage right now. I won't keep silent, not when you've gone this far in your unholy talk. |
| ἔτικτε γάρ μ' ἔτικτεν, ὤμοι μοι κακῶν, οὐκ εἰδότ' οὐκ εἰδυῖα, καὶ τεκοῦσά με, αὐτῆς ὄνειδος παῖδας ἐξέφυσέ μοι. ἀλλ' ἓν γὰρ οὖν ἔξοιδα, σὲ μὲν ἑκόντ' ἐμὲ κείνην τε ταῦτα δυσστομεῖν· ἐγὼ δέ νιν ἄκων ἔγημα φθέγγομαί τ' ἄκων τάδε. ἀλλ' οὐ γὰρ οὔτ' ἐν τοῖσδ' ἁλώσομαι κακὸς γάμοισιν οὔθ' οὓς αἰὲν ἐμφορεῖς σύ μοι φόνους πατρῴους ἐξονειδίζων πικρῶς. ἓν γάρ μ' ἄμειψαι μοῦνον ὧν σ' ἀνιστορῶ. | She bore me, yes, she bore me, oh, the misery of it, neither of us knowing; and having borne me, she gave me children, to her own disgrace. But one thing I know for certain: you slander her and me like this willingly, while I married her unwillingly, and unwillingly I speak of it now. No, I won't be judged guilty for this marriage, or for my father's murder, which you keep hurling at me with your bitter taunts. Just answer me one thing that I ask you. |
| εἴ τις σὲ τὸν δίκαιον αὐτίκ' ἐνθάδε κτείνοι παραστάς, πότερα πυνθάνοι' ἂν εἰ | If someone came up to you, here and now, and tried to kill you, you, the just man, would you ask |

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| | πατήρ σ' ὁ καίνων ἢ τίνοι' ἂν εὐθέως;<br>δοκῶ μέν, εἴπερ ζῆν φιλεῖς, τὸν αἴτιον<br>τίνοι' ἂν οὐδὲ τοὔνδικον περιβλέποις.<br>τοιαῦτα μέντοι καὐτὸς εἰσέβην κακά,<br>θεῶν ἀγόντων· οἷς ἐγὼ οὐδὲ τὴν πατρὸς<br>ψυχὴν ἂν οἶμαι ζῶσαν ἀντειπεῖν ἐμοί.<br>σὺ δ', εἶ γὰρ οὐ δίκαιος, ἀλλ' ἅπαν καλὸν<br>λέγειν νομίζων ῥητὸν ἄρρητόν τ' ἔπος,<br>τοιαῦτ' ὀνειδίζεις με τῶνδ' ἐναντίον. | whether the man killing you was your father, or would you pay him back at once? I think, if you love your life, you'd pay back the man responsible, and not look around to see what was lawful. Into evils like these I walked myself, with the gods leading me; and I don't think even my father's soul, if it came back to life, would contradict me. But you, you are not just. You think it fine to say anything at all, speakable or unspeakable, and you throw these things in my face in front of these men. |
| 1003 | καί σοι τὸ Θησέως ὄνομα θωπεῦσαι καλόν,<br>καὶ τὰς Ἀθήνας, ὡς κατῴκηνται καλῶς·<br>κᾆθ' ὧδ' ἐπαινῶν πολλὰ τοῦδ' ἐκλανθάνει,<br>ὁθούνεκ' εἴ τις γῆ θεοὺς ἐπίσταται<br>τιμαῖς σεβίζειν, ἥδε τοῦθ' ὑπερφέρει·<br>ἀφ' ἧς σὺ κλέψας τὸν ἱκέτην γέροντ' ἐμὲ<br>αὐτόν τ' ἐχειροῦ τὰς κόρας τ' οἴχει λαβών.<br>ἀνθ' ὧν ἐγὼ νῦν τάσδε τὰς θεὰς ἐμοὶ<br>καλῶν ἱκνοῦμαι καὶ κατασκήπτω λιταῖς<br>ἐλθεῖν ἀρωγοὺς ξυμμάχους θ', ἵν' ἐκμάθῃς<br>οἵων ὑπ' ἀνδρῶν ἥδε φρουρεῖται πόλις. | You think it fine to flatter Theseus' name, and Athens, praising how well it is governed. And while you praise it so lavishly, you forget this: if any land knows how to honor the gods with worship, this one surpasses all. And from this land you tried to steal me, an old man and a suppliant; you laid hands on me, and you went off with my daughters. So now I call on these goddesses here; I beg them and implore them with prayers to come as my helpers and allies, so that you may learn what sort of men guard this city. |
| 1014 | **CHORUS** ὁ ξεῖνος, ὦναξ, χρηστός· αἱ δὲ συμφοραὶ /<br>αὐτοῦ πανώλεις, ἄξιαι δ' ἀμυναθεῖν. | **CHORUS** This stranger is a good man, my lord. His misfortunes are devastating, and they deserve our help. |
| 1016 | **THESEUS** ἅλις λόγων, ὡς οἱ μὲν ἐξειργασμένοι /<br>σπεύδουσιν, ἡμεῖς δ' οἱ παθόντες ἕσταμεν. | **THESEUS** Enough talk. The men who did it are hurrying away, and we who suffered it are standing still. |
| 1018 | **CREON** τί δῆτ' ἀμαυρῷ φωτὶ προστάσσεις ποεῖν; | **CREON** Then what do you order a man with no strength to do? |
| 1019 | **THESEUS** ὁδοῦ κατάρχειν τῆς ἐκεῖ, πομπὸν δέ με<br>χωρεῖν, ἵν', εἰ μὲν ἐν τόποισι τοῖσδ' ἔχεις<br>τὰς παῖδας ἡμῖν αὐτὸς ἐκδείξῃς ἐμοί·<br>εἰ δ' ἐγκρατεῖς φεύγουσιν, οὐδὲν δεῖ πονεῖν.<br>ἄλλοι γὰρ οἱ σπεύδοντες, οὓς οὐ μή ποτε<br>χώρας φυγόντες τῆσδ' ἐπεύξωνται θεοῖς.<br>ἀλλ' ἐξυφηγοῦ· γνῶθι δ' ὡς ἔχων ἔχει<br>καί σ' εἶλε θηρῶνθ' ἡ τύχη· τὰ γὰρ δόλῳ<br>τῷ μὴ δικαίῳ κτήματ' οὐχὶ σῴζεται. | **THESEUS** To lead the way there, with me as your escort, so that if you're holding the girls somewhere around here, you can show them to me yourself. But if your men are fleeing with them in their grip, we needn't trouble. Others are on the chase, and those men will never escape this land to thank their gods for it. Go on, lead. And understand that you have taken and are taken: fortune has caught you as you hunted. What's won by unjust trickery isn't kept. |
| 1028 | κοὐκ ἄλλον ἕξεις εἰς τάδ'· ὡς ἔξοιδά σε<br>οὐ ψιλὸν οὐδ' ἄσκευον ἐς τοσήνδ' ὕβριν<br>ἥκοντα τόλμης τῆς παρεστώσης τανῦν,<br>ἀλλ' ἔσθ' ὅτῳ σὺ πιστὸς ὢν ἔδρας τάδε.<br>ἃ δεῖ μ' ἀθρῆσαι, μηδὲ τήνδε τὴν πόλιν | And you'll have no one else to help you in this. I know very well you didn't come to such a pitch of arrogance, to this daring you show now, unarmed and unequipped. There's someone you were relying on when you did this. I must look into that, |

**13** The Areopagus, the "Hill of Ares" in Athens, was the seat of an ancient council that judged cases of homicide.

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| | ἑνὸς ποῆσαι φωτὸς ἀσθενεστέραν.<br>νοεῖς τι τούτων, ἢ μάτην τὰ νῦν τέ σοι<br>δοκεῖ λελέχθαι χὥτε ταῦτ' ἐμηχανῶ; | and not let this city be made weaker than one man. Do you take in any of this? Or does it seem as idle to you now as what you were told when you were plotting all this? |
| 1036 | **CREON** οὐδὲν σὺ μεμπτὸν ἐνθάδ' ὢν ἐρεῖς ἐμοί· / οἴκοι<br>δὲ χἠμεῖς εἰσόμεσθ' ἃ χρὴ ποεῖν. | **CREON** While you're here, you'll say nothing I'll object to. But at home, I too will know what I have to do. |
| 1038 | **THESEUS** χωρῶν ἀπείλει νῦν· σὺ δ' ἡμίν, Οἰδίπους,<br>ἔκηλος αὐτοῦ μίμνε, πιστωθεὶς ὅτι,<br>ἢν μὴ θάνω 'γὼ πρόσθεν, οὐχὶ παύσομαι<br>πρὶν ἄν σε τῶν σῶν κύριον στήσω τέκνων. | **THESEUS** Threaten as you go, then. And you, Oedipus, stay here at your ease, and rest assured: unless I die first, I won't stop until I've put your children back in your hands. |
| 1042 | **OEDIPUS** ὄναιο, Θησεῦ, τοῦ τε γενναίου χάριν / καὶ τῆς<br>πρὸς ἡμᾶς ἐνδίκου προμηθίας. | **OEDIPUS** Blessings on you, Theseus, for your nobility and for the just care you've taken of us. |

## SECOND STASIMON

*The chorus imagines Theseus' horsemen catching Creon's men on the road and freeing the girls.*

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| 1044 | **CHORUS** εἴην ὅθι δαΐων<br>ἀνδρῶν τάχ' ἐπιστροφαὶ<br>τὸν χαλκοβόαν Ἄρη<br>μείξουσιν, ἢ πρὸς Πυθίαις<br>ἢ λαμπάσιν ἀκταῖς,<br>οὗ πότνιαι σεμνὰ τιθηνοῦνται τέλη<br>θνατοῖσιν, ὧν καὶ χρυσέα<br>κλὴς ἐπὶ γλώσσᾳ βέβακε<br>προσπόλων Εὐμολπιδᾶν·<br>ἔνθ' οἶμαι τὸν ἐγρεμάχαν<br>Θησέα καὶ τὰς διστόλους<br>ἀδμῆτας ἀδελφὰς<br>αὐτάρκει τάχ' ἐμμίξειν βοᾷ<br>τούσδ' ἀνὰ χώρους· | **CHORUS** Oh, to be where the enemy<br>soon will wheel and turn<br>and join in the bronze-voiced clash of Ares,<br>by the Pythian shore<br>or the torch-lit shore,<br>where the Two Queens tend their holy rites<br>for mortals,<br>rites whose golden key<br>is laid on the tongues<br>of their ministers, the Eumolpidae.<br>There, I think, Theseus,<br>who rouses the battle,<br>and the two maiden sisters,<br>still unharmed,<br>will soon meet<br>in a war-cry that's all the help they need,<br>here within our borders.[14] |
| 1059 | ἤ που τὸν ἐφεσπέρου<br>πέτρας νιφάδος πελῶσ'<br>Οἰάτιδος εἰς νόμον,<br>πώλοισιν ἢ ῥιμφαρμάτοις<br>φεύγοντες ἀμίλλαις.<br>ἁλώσεται· δεινὸς ὁ προσχώρων Ἄρης,<br>δεινὰ δὲ Θησειδᾶν ἀκμά.<br>πᾶς γὰρ ἀστράπτει χαλινός,<br>πᾶσα δ' ὁρμᾶται καθεῖσ' | Or perhaps they're nearing the pastures<br>west of the snowy rock<br>of Oea,<br>fleeing on colts<br>or in racing chariots.<br>He'll be caught! Terrible is the Ares of our people,<br>terrible the strength of Theseus' men.<br>Every bridle flashes,<br>every horseman charges, |

**14** The torch-lit shore is Eleusis, where Demeter and Persephone ("the Two Queens") had their Mysteries, kept secret by the priestly clan of the Eumolpidae; the Pythian shore is the coast by a shrine of Apollo, god of Pytho (Delphi), on the road there.

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| | ἀμπυκτήρια στομίων<br>ἄμβασις, οἳ τὰν ἱππίαν<br>τιμῶσιν Ἀθάναν<br>καὶ τὸν πόντιον γαιάοχον<br>Ῥέας φίλον υἱόν. | reins slack on the bits,<br>all who honor Athena of the horses<br>and the sea god who holds the earth,<br>Rhea's dear son.[15] |
| 1074 | ἔρδουσ' ἢ μέλλουσιν; ὡς<br>προμνᾶταί τί μοι<br>γνώμα τάχ' ἀντάσειν<br>τᾶν δεινὰ τλασᾶν, δεινὰ δ' εὑρουσᾶν πρὸς αὐθαίμων<br>πάθη.<br>τελεῖ τελεῖ Ζεύς τι κατ' ἄμαρ<br>μάντις εἶμ' ἐσθλῶν ἀγώνων.<br>εἴθ' ἀελλαία ταχύρρωστος πελειὰς<br>αἰθερίας νεφέλας κύρσαιμ' ἄνωθ' ἀγώνων<br>αἰωρήσασα τοὐμὸν ὄμμα. | Are they fighting, or about to?<br>My mind<br>foretells that soon they'll be given back to us,<br>the girls who have endured terrible things,<br>met terrible suffering at their own kinsman's<br>hands.<br>Zeus is bringing, bringing something to pass this<br>very day.<br>I am a prophet of a fight well won.<br>If only I were a dove, swift and strong as the storm<br>wind,<br>to reach a cloud high in the air<br>and lift my eyes above the struggle! |
| 1085 | ἰὼ θεῶν πάνταρχε, παντ-<br>όπτα Ζεῦ, πόροις<br>γᾶς τᾶσδε δαμούχοις<br>σθένει 'πινικείῳ τὸν εὔαγρον τελειῶσαι λόχον,<br>σεμνά τε παῖς Παλλὰς Ἀθάνα.<br>καὶ τὸν ἀγρευτὰν Ἀπόλλω<br>καὶ κασιγνήταν πυκνοστίκτων ὀπαδὸν<br>ὠκυπόδων ἐλάφων στέργω διπλᾶς ἀρωγὰς<br>μολεῖν γᾷ τᾷδε καὶ πολίταις.<br>ὦ ξεῖν' ἀλᾶτα, τῷ σκοπῷ μὲν οὐκ ἐρεῖς<br>ὡς ψευδόμαντις· τὰς κόρας γὰρ εἰσορῶ<br>τάσδ' ἄσσον αὖθις ὧδε προσπολουμένας. | Zeus, ruler of all the gods,<br>all-seeing Zeus,<br>grant to the guardians of this land<br>the strength of victory<br>to bring off the ambush that takes its prey,<br>and you too, his holy child, Pallas Athena.<br>And Apollo the hunter<br>and his sister, who follows<br>the dappled, swift-footed deer:<br>I pray they come, a double help,<br>to this land and its people.<br>Wandering stranger, you won't say<br>your lookout is a false prophet.<br>I see the girls,<br>coming close again with an escort. |

## THIRD EPISODE

*Theseus brings the daughters back and reports that Polynices waits at an altar to speak with Oedipus.*

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| 1098 | **OEDIPUS** ποῦ ποῦ; τί φής; πῶς εἶπας; | **OEDIPUS** Where? Where? What are you saying? What did you say? |
| 1099 | **ANTIGONE** ὦ πάτερ πάτερ,<br>τίς ἂν θεῶν σοι τόνδ' ἄριστον ἄνδρ' ἰδεῖν<br>δοίη, τὸν ἡμᾶς δεῦρο προσπέμψαντά σοι; | **ANTIGONE** Father, oh Father, if only some god would let you see this man, the best of men, who has brought us back here to you! |
| 1102 | **OEDIPUS** ὦ τέκνον, ἦ πάρεστον; | **OEDIPUS** My child, are you both here? |

15 Oea was a district of Attica on the road from Colonus toward Thebes.

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| | **ANTIGONE** αἵδε γὰρ χέρες / Θησέως ἔσωσαν φιλτάτων τ' ὀπαόνων. | **ANTIGONE** Yes. These hands saved us, Theseus' hands and those of his dear companions. |
| 1104 | **OEDIPUS** προσέλθετ' ὦ παῖ, πατρὶ καὶ τὸ μηδαμὰ / ἐλπισθὲν ἥξειν σῶμα βαστάσαι δότε. | **OEDIPUS** Come close, children. Let your father hold you, though he never hoped you'd come back. |
| 1106 | **ANTIGONE** αἰτεῖς ἃ τεύξει· σὺν πόθῳ γὰρ ἡ χάρις. | **ANTIGONE** You'll have what you ask. What you ask is what we long for. |
| 1107 | **OEDIPUS** ποῦ δῆτα, ποῦ 'στόν; | **OEDIPUS** Where, then? Where are you? |
| | **ANTIGONE** αἵδ' ὁμοῦ πελάζομεν. | **ANTIGONE** Here, we're both coming near. |
| 1108 | **OEDIPUS** ὦ φίλτατ' ἔρνη. | **OEDIPUS** My dearest young shoots! |
| | **ANTIGONE** τῷ τεκόντι πᾶν φίλον. | **ANTIGONE** To a father, all his own are dear. |
| 1109 | **OEDIPUS** ὦ σκῆπτρα φωτός. | **OEDIPUS** My staffs to lean on! |
| | **ANTIGONE** δυσμόρου γε δύσμορα. | **ANTIGONE** Ill-fated staffs of an ill-fated man. |
| 1110 | **OEDIPUS** ἔχω τὰ φίλτατ', οὐδ' ἔτ' ἂν πανάθλιος<br>θανὼν ἂν εἴην σφῷν παρεστώσαιν ἐμοί.<br>ἐρείσατ', ὦ παῖ, πλευρὸν ἀμφιδέξιον<br>ἐμφύντε τῷ φύσαντι, κἀναπαύσατον<br>τοῦ πρόσθ' ἐρήμου τοῦδε δυστήνου πλάνου.<br>καί μοι τὰ πραχθέντ' εἴπαθ' ὡς βράχιστ', ἐπεὶ<br>ταῖς τηλικαῖσδε σμικρὸς ἐξαρκεῖ λόγος. | **OEDIPUS** I have what I love most. If I died now, I wouldn't be utterly wretched, with you two standing beside me. Press close against my sides, children, one on each side; grow close to the man who gave you life, and give me rest from the lonely, miserable wandering I had before. And tell me what happened, as briefly as you can. For girls your age, a short account is enough. |
| 1117 | **ANTIGONE** ὅδ' ἔσθ' ὁ σώσας· τοῦδε χρὴ κλύειν, πάτερ, /<br>οὗ κἄστι τοὔργον· τοὐμὸν ὧδ' ἔσται βραχύ. | **ANTIGONE** Here's the man who saved us. You should hear it from him, Father, since the deed is his. That way my part will be short. |
| 1119 | **OEDIPUS** ὦ ξεῖνε, μὴ θαύμαζε, πρὸς τὸ λιπαρὲς<br>τέκν' εἰ φανέντ' ἄελπτα μηκύνω λόγον.<br>ἐπίσταμαι γὰρ τήνδε τὴν ἐς τάσδε μοι<br>τέρψιν παρ' ἄλλου μηδενὸς πεφασμένην·<br>σὺ γάρ νιν ἐξέσωσας, οὐκ ἄλλος βροτῶν.<br>καί σοι θεοὶ πόροιεν ὡς ἐγὼ θέλω,<br>αὐτῷ τε καὶ γῇ τῇδ', ἐπεὶ τό γ' εὐσεβὲς<br>μόνοις παρ' ὑμῖν ηὗρον ἀνθρώπων ἐγὼ<br>καὶ τοὐπιεικὲς καὶ τὸ μὴ ψευδοστομεῖν. | **OEDIPUS** Stranger, don't be surprised if I go on and on to my children, now that they've appeared beyond all hope. I know that this joy in them has come to me from no one else. You saved them, no other mortal. May the gods give you what I wish for you, you and this land, since among you alone of all mankind I have found reverence, fairness and tongues that do not lie. |
| 1128 | εἰδὼς δ' ἀμύνω τοῖσδε τοῖς λόγοις τάδε·<br>ἔχω γὰρ ἄχω διὰ σὲ κοὐκ ἄλλον βροτῶν·<br>καί μοι χέρ', ὦναξ, δεξιὰν ὄρεξον, ὡς<br>ψαύσω φιλήσω τ', εἰ θέμις, τὸ σὸν κάρα.<br>καίτοι τί φωνῶ; πῶς σ' ἂν ἄθλιος γεγὼς<br>θιγεῖν θελήσαιμ' ἀνδρός, ᾧ τίς οὐκ ἔνι<br>κηλὶς κακῶν ξύνοικος; οὐκ ἔγωγέ σε,<br>οὐδ' οἶν ἐάσω· τοῖς γὰρ ἐμπείροις βροτῶν<br>μόνοις οἷόν τε συνταλαιπωρεῖν τάδε. | I know it, and I repay your kindness with these words: what I have, I have through you and no other mortal. Reach out your right hand to me, so I may touch it, and kiss your head, if that is allowed. And yet what am I saying? Wretch that I've become, how could I want you to touch a man in whom every stain of evil makes its home? No, I won't, and I won't let you. Only those mortals who have lived through it can share such misery. |

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| 1137 | σὺ δ’ αὐτόθεν μοι χαῖρε καὶ τὰ λοιπά μου / μέλου δικαίως, ὥσπερ ἐς τόδ’ ἡμέρας. | Accept my greeting from where you stand, and go on caring for me rightly, as you have until today. |
| 1139 | **THESEUS** οὔτ’ εἴ τι μῆκος τῶν λόγων ἔθου πλέον, τέκνοισι τερφθεὶς τοῖσδε, θαυμάσας ἔχω, οὔτ’ εἰ πρὸ τοὐμοῦ προύλαβες τὰ τῶνδ’ ἔπη. βάρος γὰρ ἡμᾶς οὐδὲν ἐκ τούτων ἔχει. οὐ γὰρ λόγοισι τὸν βίον σπουδάζομεν λαμπρὸν ποεῖσθαι μᾶλλον ἢ τοῖς δρωμένοις. | **THESEUS** I’m not surprised if you went on rather long in your joy at these children, nor if you took their words before mine. None of that weighs on me. We aren’t as eager to make our lives glorious with words as with deeds. |
| 1145 | δείκνυμι δ’· ὧν γὰρ ὤμοσ’ οὐκ ἐψευσάμην οὐδέν σε, πρέσβυ· τάσδε γὰρ πάρειμ’ ἄγων ζώσας, ἀκραιφνεῖς τῶν κατηπειλημένων. χὤπως μὲν ἀγὼν ἠρέθη, τί δεῖ μάτην κομπεῖν, ἃ γ’ εἴσει καὐτὸς ἐκ ταύταιν ξυνών; λόγος δ’ ὃς ἐμπέπτωκεν ἀρτίως ἐμοὶ στείχοντι δεῦρο, συμβαλοῦ γνώμην, ἐπεὶ σμικρὸς μὲν εἰπεῖν, ἄξιος δὲ θαυμάσαι· | And I’m proving it. I haven’t broken my word in anything I swore to you, old man. Here I am, bringing these girls back alive, untouched by the threats made against them. As for how the fight was won, why should I boast idly, when you’ll learn it from them yourself as you spend time with them? But a report has just reached me on my way here, and I’d like your thoughts on it. It’s a small thing to tell, but worth wondering at; |
| 1153 | πρᾶγος δ’ ἀτίζειν οὐδὲν ἄνθρωπον χρεών. | and a man shouldn’t treat anything lightly. |
| 1154 | **OEDIPUS** τί δ’ ἔστι, τέκνον Αἰγέως; δίδασκέ με / ὡς μὴ εἰδότ’ αὐτὸν μηδὲν ὧν σὺ πυνθάνει. | **OEDIPUS** What is it, son of Aegeus? Tell me. I know nothing myself of what you’re asking about. |
| 1156 | **THESEUS** φασίν τιν’ ἡμῖν ἄνδρα, σοὶ μὲν ἔμπολιν οὐκ ὄντα, συγγενῆ δέ, προσπεσόντα πως βωμῷ καθῆσθαι τῷ Ποσειδῶνος, παρ’ ᾧ θύων ἔκυρον, ἡνίχ’ ὡρμώμην ἐγώ. | **THESEUS** They tell me a man, not from your city but a kinsman of yours, has somehow thrown himself down at the altar of Poseidon, where I was sacrificing when I set out here, and is sitting there. |
| 1160 | **OEDIPUS** ποδαπόν; τί προσχρῄζοντα τῷ θακήματι· | **OEDIPUS** From where? What does he want, sitting there as a suppliant? |
| 1161 | **THESEUS** οὐκ οἶδα πλὴν ἕν· σοῦ γάρ, ὡς λέγουσί μοι, / βραχύν τιν’ αἰτεῖ μῦθον οὐκ ὄγκου πλέων. | **THESEUS** I don’t know, except one thing. He’s asking you, so they say, for a few words, nothing much. |
| 1163 | **OEDIPUS** ποῖόν τιν’; οὐ γὰρ ἥδ’ ἕδρα σμικροῦ λόγου. | **OEDIPUS** What sort of words? Sitting at that altar is no small request. |
| 1164 | **THESEUS** σοὶ φασὶν αὐτὸν ἐς λόγους ἐλθεῖν μόνον / αἰτεῖν ἀπελθεῖν τ’ ἀσφαλῶς τῆς δεῦρ’ ὁδοῦ. | **THESEUS** They say he asks only to come and talk with you, and then to go back safely from his journey here. |
| 1166 | **OEDIPUS** τίς δῆτ’ ἂν εἴη τήνδ’ ὁ προσθακῶν ἕδραν; | **OEDIPUS** Who could it be, sitting there as a suppliant? |
| 1167 | **THESEUS** ὅρα κατ’ Ἄργος εἴ τις ὑμὶν ἐγγενὴς / ἔσθ’, ὅστις ἄν σου τοῦτο προσχρῄζοι τυχεῖν. | **THESEUS** Think whether you have any kinsman in Argos who might want this from you. |
| 1169 | **OEDIPUS** ὦ φίλτατε, σχὲς οὖπερ εἶ. | **OEDIPUS** Dearest friend, stop there. |
| | **THESEUS** τί δ’ ἔστι σοι; | **THESEUS** What’s wrong? |
| 1170 | **OEDIPUS** μή μου δεηθῇς. | **OEDIPUS** Don’t ask me— |

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| | **THESEUS** πράγματος ποίου; λέγε. | **THESEUS** Ask you what? Tell me. |
| 1171 | **OEDIPUS** ἔξοιδ' ἀκούων τῶνδ' ὅς ἐσθ' ὁ προστάτης. | **OEDIPUS** From what you've said, I know who the suppliant is. |
| 1172 | **THESEUS** καὶ τίς ποτ' ἐστὶν ὅν γ' ἐγὼ ψέξαιμί τι; | **THESEUS** And who is he, that I should find fault with him? |
| 1173 | **OEDIPUS** παῖς οὑμός, ὦναξ, στυγνός, οὗ λόγων ἐγὼ / ἄλγιστ' ἂν ἀνδρῶν ἐξανασχοίμην κλύων. | **OEDIPUS** My son, my hateful son. His words would be more painful to me to hear than any man's. |
| 1175 | **THESEUS** τί δ'; οὐκ ἀκούειν ἔστι καὶ μὴ δρᾶν ἃ μὴ / χρῄζεις; τί σοι τοῦτ' ἐστὶ λυπηρὸν κλύειν; | **THESEUS** Why? Can't you listen without doing what you don't want to do? Why should it hurt you to hear him? |
| 1177 | **OEDIPUS** ἔχθιστον, ὦναξ, φθέγμα τοῦθ' ἥκει πατρί· / καὶ μή μ' ἀνάγκῃ προσβάλῃς τάδ' εἰκαθεῖν. | **OEDIPUS** That voice is the most hateful sound a father could hear. Don't force me to give in on this. |
| 1179 | **THESEUS** ἀλλ' εἰ τὸ θάκημ' ἐξαναγκάζει, σκόπει / μή σοι πρόνοι' ᾖ τοῦ θεοῦ φυλακτέα. | **THESEUS** But if his place as a suppliant compels it, consider whether you must respect the god. |
| 1181 | **ANTIGONE** πάτερ, πιθοῦ μοι, κεἰ νέα παραινέσω. τὸν ἄνδρ' ἔασον τόνδε τῇ θ' αὑτοῦ φρενὶ χάριν παρασχεῖν τῷ θεῷ θ' ἃ βούλεται, καὶ νῷν ὕπεικε τὸν κασίγνητον μολεῖν. οὐ γάρ σε, θάρσει, πρὸς βίαν παρασπάσει γνώμης, ἃ μή σοι συμφέροντα λέξεται. λόγων δ' ἀκοῦσαι τίς βλάβη; τά τοι κακῶς ηὑρημέν' ἔργα τῷ λόγῳ μηνύεται. | **ANTIGONE** Father, listen to me, though I'm young to be advising you. Let this man here satisfy his own conscience and give the god what the god wants; and for our sake, let our brother come. Don't worry, he won't drag you by force from your judgment with anything he says that isn't good for you. What harm is there in hearing words? Deeds wickedly plotted are exposed in the telling. |
| 1190 | ἔφυσας αὐτόν· ὥστε μηδὲ δρῶντά σε τὰ τῶν κακίστων δυσσεβέστατ', ὦ πάτερ, θέμις σέ γ' εἶναι κεῖνον ἀντιδρᾶν κακῶς. ἀλλ' ἔασον· εἰσὶ χἀτέροις γοναὶ κακαὶ καὶ θυμὸς ὀξύς, ἀλλὰ νουθετούμενοι φίλων ἐπῳδαῖς ἐξεπᾴδονται φύσιν. σὺ δ' εἰς ἐκεῖνα, μὴ τὰ νῦν, ἀποσκόπει πατρῷα καὶ μητρῷα πήματ' ἄπαθες· κἂν κεῖνα λεύσσῃς, οἶδ' ἐγώ, γνώσει κακοῦ θυμοῦ τελευτὴν ὡς κακὴ προσγίγνεται. | You fathered him. So even if he did you the most impious wrongs the worst of men could do, Father, it isn't right for you to wrong him in return. Let him come. Other people have bad children too, and quick tempers, but when their loved ones counsel them, their charms charm the anger out of their nature. Look back, not at the present, but at the sufferings you went through because of your father and mother. If you look at those, I know you'll see what an evil end evil anger comes to. |
| 1200 | ἔχεις γὰρ οὐχὶ βαιὰ τἀνθυμήματα, τῶν σῶν ἀδέρκτων ὀμμάτων τητώμενος. ἀλλ' ἡμὶν εἶκε· λιπαρεῖν γὰρ οὐ καλὸν δίκαια προσχρῄζουσιν, οὐδ' αὐτὸν μὲν εὖ πάσχειν, παθόντα δ' οὐκ ἐπίστασθαι τίνειν. | You have no small reminders of it, robbed of your eyes that can no longer see. Give in to us. It isn't right that people with just requests should have to keep on begging, or that a man should be treated well and then not know how to repay it. |
| 1205 | **OEDIPUS** τέκνον, βαρεῖαν ἡδονὴν νικᾶτέ με λέγοντες· ἔστω δ' οὖν ὅπως ὑμῖν φίλον. μόνον, ξέν', εἴπερ κεῖνος ὧδ' ἐλεύσεται, μηδεὶς κρατείτω τῆς ἐμῆς ψυχῆς ποτε. | **OEDIPUS** Child, it's a heavy pleasure you win from me with your pleading. Well, let it be as you wish. Only, stranger, if he's coming here, let no one ever become master of my life. |

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| 1209 | **THESEUS** ἅπαξ τὰ τοιαῦτ', οὐχὶ δὶς χρῄζω κλύειν,<br>ὦ πρέσβυ. κομπεῖν δ' οὐχὶ βούλομαι· σὺ δ' ὢν<br>σῶς ἴσθ', ἐάν περ κἀμέ τις σῴζῃ θεῶν. | **THESEUS** I need to hear that sort of thing once,<br>not twice, old man. I don't want to boast. But know<br>that you are safe, as long as some god keeps me<br>safe. |

### THIRD STASIMON

*The chorus reflects that long life brings sorrow and that it is best never to be born.*

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| 1211 | **CHORUS** ὅστις τοῦ πλέονος μέρους χρῄζει τοῦ μετρίου<br>παρεὶς<br>ζώειν, σκαιοσύναν φυλάσσων<br>ἐν ἐμοὶ κατάδηλος ἔσται.<br>ἐπεὶ πολλὰ μὲν αἱ μακραὶ ἁμέραι κατέθεντο δὴ<br>λύπας ἐγγυτέρω, τὰ τέρποντα δ' οὐκ ἂν ἴδοις ὅπου,<br>ὅταν τις ἐς πλέον πέσῃ<br>τοῦ δέοντος· ὁ δ' ἐπίκουρος ἰσοτέλεστος,<br>Ἅϊδος ὅτε μοῖρ' ἀνυμέναιος<br>ἄλυρος ἄχορος ἀναπέφηνε,<br>θάνατος ἐς τελευτάν. | **CHORUS** Whoever craves the larger share of life<br>and scorns a moderate span<br>is clinging to folly:<br>that's plain to me.<br>For the long days lay up<br>many things that lie nearer to grief,<br>and you will look in vain for joy<br>once a man has fallen into more<br>than is his due.<br>But the helper comes to all alike,<br>when Hades' portion appears,<br>with no wedding song, no lyre, no dancing:<br>death at the last. |
| 1225 | μὴ φῦναι τὸν ἅπαντα νικᾷ λόγον· τὸ δ', ἐπεὶ φανῇ,<br>βῆναι κεῖθεν ὅθεν περ ἥκει,<br>πολὺ δεύτερον, ὡς τάχιστα.<br>ὡς εὖτ' ἂν τὸ νέον παρῇ κούφας ἀφροσύνας φέρον,<br>τίς πλαγὰ πολύμοχθος ἔξω; τίς οὐ καμάτων ἔνι;<br>φθόνος, στάσεις, ἔρις, μάχαι<br>καὶ φόνοι· τό τε κατάμεμπτον ἐπιλέλογχε<br>πύματον ἀκρατὲς ἀπροσόμιλον<br>γῆρας ἄφιλον, ἵνα πρόπαντα<br>κακὰ κακῶν ξυνοικεῖ. | Never to be born is best,<br>past all reckoning.<br>But once a man has come into the light,<br>to go back where he came from<br>as quickly as he can<br>is next best by far.<br>For once youth has come,<br>bringing its light-headed follies,<br>what heavy blow is out of reach?<br>What hardship isn't there?<br>Envy, factions, strife, battles<br>and killing. And last of all his lot is<br>old age, reviled,<br>powerless, unsociable,<br>friendless, where every<br>evil of evils lives. |
| 1239 | ἐν ᾧ τλάμων ὅδ', οὐκ ἐγὼ μόνος,<br>πάντοθεν βόρειος ὥς τις<br>ἀκτὰ κυματοπλὴξ χειμερία κλονεῖται,<br>ὡς καὶ τόνδε κατ' ἄκρας<br>δειναὶ κυματοαγεῖς<br>ἄταισι κλονέουσιν ἀεὶ ξυνοῦσαι,<br>αἱ μὲν ἀπ' ἀελίου δυσμᾶν,<br>αἱ δ' ἀνατέλλοντος· | In it this sufferer lives, not I alone.<br>As some north-facing headland,<br>lashed by waves, is battered by winter storms on<br>every side,<br>so this man too<br>is battered from top to bottom<br>by terrible ruin breaking over him like waves,<br>never leaving him,<br>some from the setting sun, |

| GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| αἱ δ' ἀνὰ μέσσαν ἀκτῖν',<br>αἱ δ' ἐννυχιᾶν ἀπὸ Ῥιπᾶν. | some from the rising,<br>some from the noonday rays,<br>some from the night-dark Rhipaean mountains.[16] |

## FOURTH EPISODE

*Polynices begs his father's support for his war on Thebes, and Oedipus curses both his sons.*

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| 1249 | **ANTIGONE** καὶ μὴν ὅδ' ἡμῖν, ὡς ἔοικεν, ὁ ξένος<br>ἀνδρῶν γε μοῦνος, ὦ πάτερ, δι' ὄμματος<br>ἀστακτὶ λείβων δάκρυον ὧδ' ὁδοιπορεῖ. | **ANTIGONE** Look, Father, here's the stranger coming toward us, it seems, alone, with no men with him, tears streaming from his eyes as he walks. |
| 1252 | **OEDIPUS** τίς οὗτος; | **OEDIPUS** Who is it? |
| | **ANTIGONE** ὅνπερ καὶ πάλαι κατείχομεν / γνώμῃ,<br>πάρεστι δεῦρο Πολυνείκης ὅδε. | **ANTIGONE** The one we've had in our minds for some time. Polynices is here. |
| 1254 | **POLYNICES** οἴμοι, τί δράσω; πότερα τἀμαυτοῦ κακὰ<br>πρόσθεν δακρύσω, παῖδες, ἢ τὰ τοῦδ' ὁρῶν<br>πατρὸς γέροντος; ὃς ξένης ἐπὶ χθονὸς<br>σὺν σφῷν ἐφηύρηκ' ἐνθάδ' ἐκβεβλημένον<br>ἐσθῆτι σὺν τοιᾷδε, τῆς ὁ δυσφιλὴς<br>γέρων γέροντι συγκατῴκηκεν πίνος<br>πλευρὰν μαραίνων, κρατὶ δ' ὀμματοστερεῖ<br>κόμῃ δι' αὔρας ἀκτένιστος ᾄσσεται·<br>ἀδελφὰ δ', ὡς ἔοικε, τούτοισιν φορεῖ<br>τὰ τῆς ταλαίνης νηδύος θρεπτήρια.<br>ἀγὼ πανώλης ὄψ' ἄγαν ἐκμανθάνω· | **POLYNICES** Oh, no, what shall I do? Shall I weep first for my own troubles, sisters, or for my old father's, now that I see them? I've found him in a foreign land, cast out here with you two, in clothes like these. The foul old filth has settled into them, aging along with the old man, wasting his flesh; and on his eyeless head his uncombed hair flutters in the breeze. And the food he carries, it seems, goes with all this, to feed his miserable belly. Wretch that I am, I learn all this too late. |
| 1265 | καὶ μαρτυρῶ κάκιστος ἀνθρώπων τροφαῖς<br>ταῖς σαῖσιν ἥκειν· τἀμὰ μὴ 'ξ ἄλλων πύθῃ.<br>ἀλλ' ἔστι γὰρ καὶ Ζηνὶ σύνθακος θρόνων<br>Αἰδὼς ἐπ' ἔργοις πᾶσι, καὶ πρὸς σοί, πάτερ,<br>παρασταθήτω· τῶν γὰρ ἡμαρτημένων<br>ἄκη μέν ἐστι, προσφορὰ δ' οὐκ ἔστ' ἔτι.<br>τί σιγᾷς;<br>φώνησον, ὦ πάτερ, τι· μή μ' ἀποστραφῇς.<br>οὐδ' ἀνταμείβει μ' οὐδέν, ἀλλ' ἀτιμάσας<br>πέμψεις ἄναυδος, οὐδ' ἃ μηνίεις φράσας; | And I bear witness that I have been the worst of men in caring for you. Don't learn about me from others. But Mercy shares Zeus' throne in all he does; let her stand by you too, Father. For the wrongs that have been done there are cures, but there's no making them worse. Why are you silent? Say something, Father. Don't turn away from me. Won't you answer me at all? Will you dishonor me and send me away without a word, without even telling me why you're angry? |
| 1275 | ὦ σπέρματ' ἀνδρὸς τοῦδ', ἐμαὶ δ' ὁμαίμονες,<br>πειράσατ' ἀλλ' ὑμεῖς γε κινῆσαι πατρὸς<br>τὸ δυσπρόσοιστον κἀπροσήγορον στόμα,<br>ὡς μή μ' ἄτιμον, τοῦ θεοῦ γε προστάτην,<br>οὕτως ἀφῇ με μηδὲν ἀντειπὼν ἔπος. | You children of this man, my own sisters, you at least, try to move our father's mouth, so hard to approach and so hard to address, so that he won't send me off dishonored like this, without a word in reply, though I'm the god's suppliant. |
| 1280 | **ANTIGONE** λέγ', ὦ ταλαίπωρ', αὐτὸς ὧν χρείᾳ πάρει·<br>τὰ πολλὰ γάρ τοι ῥήματ' ἢ τέρψαντά τι,<br>ἢ δυσχεράναντ' ἢ κατοικτίσαντά πως,<br>παρέσχε φωνὴν τοῖς ἀφωνήτοις τινά. | **ANTIGONE** Tell him yourself, poor brother, what you've come for. Many words, by giving a little pleasure, or by giving offense, or by stirring pity |

16 The Rhipaean mountains were imagined at the far north of the world.

GREEK

ENGLISH

somehow, have given a voice to those who had none.

1284 **POLYNICES** ἀλλ' ἐξερῶ· καλῶς γὰρ ἐξηγεῖ σύ μοι·
πρῶτον μὲν αὐτὸν τὸν θεὸν ποιούμενος
ἀρωγόν, ἔνθεν μ' ὧδ' ἀνέστησεν μολεῖν
ὁ τῆσδε τῆς γῆς κοίρανος, διδοὺς ἐμοὶ
λέξαι τ' ἀκοῦσαί τ' ἀσφαλεῖ σὺν ἐξόδῳ.
καὶ ταῦτ' ἀφ' ὑμῶν, ὦ ξένοι, βουλήσομαι
καὶ ταῖνδ' ἀδελφαῖν καὶ πατρὸς κυρεῖν ἐμοί.
ἃ δ' ἦλθον, ἤδη σοι θέλω λέξαι, πάτερ.
γῆς ἐκ πατρῴας ἐξελήλαμαι φυγάς,
τοῖς σοῖς πανάρχοις οὕνεκ' ἐνθακεῖν θρόνοις
γονῇ πεφυκὼς ἠξίουν γεραίτερος.

1295 ἀνθ' ὧν μ' Ἐτεοκλῆς, ὢν φύσει νεώτερος,
γῆς ἐξέωσεν, οὔτε νικήσας λόγῳ
οὔτ' εἰς ἔλεγχον χειρὸς οὐδ' ἔργου μολών,
πόλιν δὲ πείσας. ὧν ἐγὼ μάλιστα μὲν
τὴν σὴν ἐρινὺν αἰτίαν εἶναι λέγω.
ἔπειτα κἀπὸ μάντεων ταύτῃ κλύω.
ἐπεὶ γὰρ ἦλθον Ἄργος ἐς τὸ Δωρικόν,
λαβὼν Ἄδραστον πενθερόν, ξυνωμότας
ἔστησ' ἐμαυτῷ γῆς ὅσοιπερ Ἀπίας
πρῶτοι καλοῦνται καὶ τετίμηνται δόρει,
ὅπως τὸν ἑπτάλογχον ἐς Θήβας στόλον
ξὺν τοῖσδ' ἀγείρας ἢ θάνοιμι πανδίκως
ἢ τοὺς τάδ' ἐκπράξαντας ἐκβάλοιμι γῆς.

1308 εἶεν· τί δῆτα νῦν ἀφιγμένος κυρῶ;
σοὶ προστροπαίους, ὦ πάτερ, λιτὰς ἔχων
αὐτός τ' ἐμαυτοῦ ξυμμάχων τε τῶν ἐμῶν,
οἳ νῦν σὺν ἑπτὰ τάξεσιν σὺν ἑπτά τε
λόγχαις τὸ Θήβης πέδιον ἀμφεστᾶσι πᾶν·
οἷος δορυσσοῦς Ἀμφιάρεως, τὰ πρῶτα μὲν
δόρει κρατύνων, πρῶτα δ' οἰωνῶν ὁδοῖς·
ὁ δεύτερος δ' Αἰτωλὸς Οἰνέως τόκος
Τυδεύς. τρίτος δ' Ἐτέοκλος, Ἀργεῖος γεγώς·
τέταρτον Ἱππομέδοντ' ἀπέστειλεν πατὴρ
Ταλαός· ὁ πέμπτος δ' εὔχεται κατασκαφῇ
Καπανεὺς τὸ Θήβης ἄστυ δηώσειν πυρί·

1320 ἕκτος δὲ Παρθενοπαῖος Ἀρκὰς ὄρνυται,
ἐπώνυμος τῆς πρόσθεν ἀδμήτης χρόνῳ
μητρὸς λοχευθείς, πιστὸς Ἀταλάντης γόνος·
ἐγὼ δὲ σός, κεἰ μὴ σός, ἀλλὰ τοῦ κακοῦ
πότμου φυτευθείς, σός γέ τοι καλούμενος,
ἄγω τὸν Ἄργους ἄφοβον ἐς Θήβας στρατόν.
οἵ σ' ἀντὶ παίδων τῶνδε καὶ ψυχῆς, πάτερ,
ἱκετεύομεν ξύμπαντες ἐξαιτούμενοι

**POLYNICES** Then I'll speak out; you guide me well. First I'll make the god himself my helper, from whose altar the lord of this land raised me up to come here, granting me the right to speak and to listen and to leave in safety. And I'll want the same from you, strangers, and from my two sisters here, and from my father. Now, Father, I want to tell you why I've come. I've been driven out of my homeland, an exile, because I claimed the right, as the elder born, to sit on your sovereign throne.

For that, Eteocles, though he's the younger by birth, thrust me out of the land, not by beating me in argument, nor by putting it to the test of strength or action, but by winning over the city. Of all this I say your Fury is most of all the cause; and that's what I hear from the seers too. When I came to Dorian Argos, I took Adrastus as my father-in-law, and I bound to myself by oath all the men in the land of Apia who are called foremost and honored for the spear. With them I would gather the expedition of seven spears against Thebes, and either die with justice on my side or drive out of the land the men who did this to me.[17]

Well then, why have I come here now? I bring suppliant prayers to you, Father, for myself and for my allies, who now with seven armies and seven spears surround the whole plain of Thebes. There is Amphiaraus, hurler of the spear, foremost with the spear and foremost in reading the paths of birds; second, the Aetolian son of Oeneus, Tydeus; third, Eteoclus, born in Argos; fourth, Hippomedon, sent by his father Talaus; the fifth, Capaneus, boasts that he will raze the town of Thebes to the ground and burn it;[18]

sixth, Parthenopaeus the Arcadian rushes into battle, named for his mother, the maiden who stayed unwed so long before she bore him, Atalanta's true son. And I, your son, or if not yours, then the offspring of an evil fate, but called yours at least, I lead the fearless army of Argos against Thebes. All of us, Father, by these children and by your soul, beg and implore you to let go of

17 Adrastus was king of Argos; Apia is an old name for the Peloponnese.
18 These are the Seven against Thebes, the legendary Argive champions; Amphiaraus was a seer as well as a warrior.

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| | μῆνιν βαρεῖαν εἰκαθεῖν ὁρμωμένῳ<br>τῷδ' ἀνδρὶ τοὐμοῦ πρὸς κασιγνήτου τίσιν,<br>ὅς μ' ἐξέωσε κἀπεσύλησεν πάτρας. | your heavy anger against this man, as I set out to punish my brother, who thrust me out and robbed me of my fatherland.[19] |
| 1331 | εἰ γάρ τι πιστόν ἐστιν ἐκ χρηστηρίων,<br>οἷς ἂν σὺ προσθῇ, τοῖσδ' ἔφασκ' εἶναι κράτος.<br>πρὸς νῦν σε κρηνῶν καὶ θεῶν ὁμογνίων<br>αἰτῶ πιθέσθαι καὶ παρεικαθεῖν, ἐπεὶ<br>πτωχοὶ μὲν ἡμεῖς καὶ ξένοι, ξένος δὲ σύ.<br>ἄλλους δὲ θωπεύοντες οἰκοῦμεν σύ τε<br>κἀγώ, τὸν αὐτὸν δαίμον' ἐξειληχότες.<br>ὁ δ' ἐν δόμοις τύραννος, ὦ τάλας ἐγώ,<br>κοινῇ καθ' ἡμῶν ἐγγελῶν ἁβρύνεται· | For if anything in oracles can be trusted, they said that those you side with will have the power. So now, by the springs and the gods of our race, I ask you to listen and give way. We are beggars and strangers, and you're a stranger too. We both live by flattering others, you and I, since we've drawn the same lot from fate. Meanwhile the man who rules in our house, oh, my misery, laughs at us both and lives in luxury; |
| 1340 | ὅν, εἰ σὺ τῇμῇ ξυμπαραστήσει φρενί,<br>βραχεῖ σὺν ὄγκῳ καὶ χρόνῳ διασκεδῶ.<br>ὥστ' ἐν δόμοισι τοῖσι σοῖς στήσω σ' ἄγων.<br>στήσω δ' ἐμαυτόν, κεῖνον ἐκβαλὼν βίᾳ.<br>καὶ ταῦτα σοῦ μὲν ξυνθέλοντος ἔστι μοι<br>κομπεῖν, ἄνευ σοῦ δ' οὐδὲ σωθῆναι σθένω. | and if you stand with me in my purpose, I'll scatter him with little trouble and in little time. Then I'll bring you back and set you in your own house, and set myself there too, once I've thrown him out by force. With you on my side, I can boast of this; without you, I haven't even the strength to survive. |
| 1346 | **CHORUS** τὸν ἄνδρα τοῦ πέμψαντος οὕνεκ', Οἰδίπους /<br>εἰπὼν ὁποῖα ξύμφορ' ἔκπεμψαι πάλιν. | **CHORUS** Oedipus, for the sake of the one who sent him, tell this man whatever seems right, and then send him on his way. |
| 1348 | **OEDIPUS** ἀλλ' εἰ μέν, ἄνδρες, τῆσδε δημοῦχοι χθονός<br>μὴ 'τύγχαν' αὐτὸν δεῦρο προσπέμψας ἐμοὶ<br>Θησεύς, δικαιῶν ὥστ' ἐμοῦ κλύειν λόγους,<br>οὔ τἄν ποτ' ὀμφῆς τῆς ἐμῆς ἐπήσθετο·<br>νῦν δ' ἀξιωθεὶς εἶσι κἀκούσας γ' ἐμοῦ<br>τοιαῦθ' ἃ τὸν τοῦδ' οὔ ποτ' εὐφρανεῖ βίον·<br>ὅς γ', ὦ κάκιστε, σκῆπτρα καὶ θρόνους ἔχων,<br>ἃ νῦν ὁ σὸς ξύναιμος ἐν Θήβαις ἔχει,<br>τὸν αὐτὸς αὑτοῦ πατέρα τόνδ' ἀπήλασας<br>κἄθηκας ἄπολιν καὶ στολὰς ταύτας φορεῖν,<br>ἃς νῦν δακρύεις εἰσορῶν, ὅτ' ἐν πόνῳ<br>ταὐτῷ βεβηκὼς τυγχάνεις κακῶν ἐμοί. | **OEDIPUS** Men who keep this land: if it weren't Theseus who sent him here to me, thinking it right that he should hear me speak, he would never have heard my voice. But since he's been granted that, he'll go, and go having heard from me things that will never gladden his life. You villain! When you held the scepter and the throne your brother now holds in Thebes, you drove out your own father, me, and made me a man without a city, and made me wear these clothes you weep to see now, now that you find yourself in the same misery as I am. |
| 1360 | οὐ κλαυστὰ δ' ἐστίν, ἀλλ' ἐμοὶ μὲν οἰστέα<br>τάδ', ἕωσπερ ἂν ζῶ, σοῦ φονέως μεμνημένος·<br>σὺ γάρ με μόχθῳ τῷδ' ἔθηκας ἔντροφον,<br>σύ μ' ἐξέωσας, ἐκ σέθεν δ' ἀλώμενος<br>ἄλλους ἐπαιτῶ τὸν καθ' ἡμέραν βίον.<br>εἰ δ' ἐξέφυσα τάσδε μὴ 'μαυτῷ τροφοὺς<br>τὰς παῖδας, ἦ τἂν οὐκ ἂν ἦ, τὸ σὸν μέρος·<br>νῦν δ' αἵδε μ' ἐκσῴζουσιν, αἵδ' ἐμαὶ τροφοί,<br>αἵδ' ἄνδρες, οὐ γυναῖκες, εἰς τὸ συμπονεῖν· | This is nothing to weep over. I must bear it for as long as I live, and remember you as my murderer. It was you who made this hardship my way of life. You drove me out. Because of you I wander, begging strangers for my bread from day to day. If I hadn't fathered these girls to look after me, I'd be dead, for all you did. As it is, they keep me alive. They look after me. When it comes to sharing my hardship, they are men, not women. |
| 1369 | ὑμεῖς δ' ἀπ' ἄλλου κοὐκ ἐμοῦ πεφύκατον.<br>τοιγάρ σ' ὁ δαίμων εἰσορᾷ μὲν οὔ τί πω | But you two are some other man's sons, not mine. That's why fate has its eye on you, though not yet |

19 His name echoes *parthenos*, "maiden".

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| | ὡς αὐτίκ', εἴπερ οἵδε κινοῦνται λόχοι<br>πρὸς ἄστυ Θήβης. οὐ γὰρ ἔσθ' ὅπως πόλιν<br>κείνην ἐρείψεις, ἀλλὰ πρόσθεν αἵματι<br>πεσεῖ μιανθεὶς χὠ σύναιμος ἐξ ἴσου.<br>τοιάσδ' ἀρὰς σφῷν πρόσθε τ' ἐξανῆκ' ἐγὼ<br>νῦν τ' ἀνακαλοῦμαι ξυμμάχους ἐλθεῖν ἐμοί,<br>ἵν' ἀξιῶτον τοὺς φυτεύσαντας σέβειν<br>καὶ μὴ 'ξατιμάζητον, εἰ τυφλοῦ πατρὸς<br>τοιώδ' ἐφύτην· αἵδε γὰρ τάδ' οὐκ ἔδρων. | as it soon will, if those companies of yours are really on the march toward Thebes. There's no way you'll bring that city down. Before that you'll fall, stained with blood, and your brother with you, the two of you alike. Curses like these I let loose on you both before, and now I call on them to come and fight at my side, so that you two learn it's right to honor the parents who gave you life, and not to treat your father with contempt because he's blind, sons like you. These girls never did such things. |
| 1380 | τοιγὰρ τὸ σὸν θάκημα καὶ τοὺς σοὺς θρόνους<br>κρατοῦσιν, εἴπερ ἐστὶν ἡ παλαίφατος<br>Δίκη ξύνεδρος Ζηνὸς ἀρχαίοις νόμοις.<br>σὺ δ' ἔρρ' ἀπόπτυστός τε κἀπάτωρ ἐμοῦ,<br>κακῶν κάκιστε, τάσδε συλλαβὼν ἀράς,<br>ἃς σοι καλοῦμαι, μήτε γῆς ἐμφυλίου<br>δόρει κρατῆσαι μήτε νοστῆσαί ποτε<br>τὸ κοῖλον Ἄργος, ἀλλὰ συγγενεῖ χερὶ<br>θανεῖν κτανεῖν θ' ὑφ' οὗπερ ἐξελήλασαι.<br>τοιαῦτ' ἀρῶμαι καὶ καλῶ τὸ Ταρτάρου<br>στυγνὸν πατρῷον ἔρεβος, ὥς σ' ἀποικίσῃ,<br>καλῶ δὲ τάσδε δαίμονας, καλῶ δ' Ἄρη<br>τὸν σφῷν τὸ δεινὸν μῖσος ἐμβεβληκότα. | So my curses have the mastery over your suppliant's seat and your throne, if Justice, proclaimed from long ago, sits beside Zeus by the ancient laws. As for you, get out! I spit on you, I disown you, vilest of the vile! And take with you these curses I call down on you: never to conquer your native land with the spear, never to return to Argos in its hollow plain, but to die by a kinsman's hand and to kill the man who drove you out. That is my curse. And I call on the hateful darkness of Tartarus, where our fathers lie, to give you a new home. I call on these goddesses here. I call on Ares, who has cast this terrible hatred between you two. |
| 1393 | καὶ ταῦτ' ἀκούσας στεῖχε, κἀξάγγελλ' ἰὼν<br>καὶ πᾶσι Καδμείοισι τοῖς σαυτοῦ θ' ἅμα<br>πιστοῖσι συμμάχοισιν, οὕνεκ' Οἰδίπους<br>τοιαῦτ' ἔνειμε παισὶ τοῖς αὑτοῦ γέρα. | Now that you've heard this, go. Go and announce it to all the people of Cadmus, and to your own loyal allies too: these are the portions Oedipus has dealt out to his sons. |
| 1397 | **CHORUS** Πολύνεικες, οὔτε ταῖς παρελθούσαις ὁδοῖς /<br>ξυνήδομαί σοι, νῦν τ' ἴθ' ὡς τάχος πάλιν. | **CHORUS** Polynices, I took no pleasure in the journeys you made before, and now go back, as fast as you can. |
| 1399 | **POLYNICES** οἴμοι κελεύθου τῆς τ' ἐμῆς δυσπραξίας,<br>οἴμοι δ' ἑταίρων· οἷον ἆρ' ὁδοῦ τέλος<br>Ἄργους ἀφωρμήθημεν, ὦ τάλας ἐγώ,<br>τοιοῦτον οἷον οὐδὲ φωνῆσαί τινι<br>ἔξεσθ' ἑταίρων, οὐδ' ἀποστρέψαι πάλιν,<br>ἀλλ' ὄντ' ἄναυδον τῇδε συγκῦρσαι τύχῃ.<br>ὦ τοῦδ' ὅμαιμοι παῖδες, ἀλλ' ὑμεῖς, ἐπεὶ<br>τὰ σκληρὰ πατρὸς κλύετε ταῦτ' ἀρωμένου,<br>μή τοί με πρὸς θεῶν σφώ γ', ἐὰν αἱ τοῦδ' ἀραὶ<br>πατρὸς τελῶνται καί τις ὑμῖν ἐς δόμους<br>νόστος γένηται, μή μ' ἀτιμάσητέ γε,<br>ἀλλ' ἐν τάφοισι θέσθε κἀν κτερίσμασιν. | **POLYNICES** Oh, no—my journey, my failure! Oh, no—my comrades! What an end to the road we set out on from Argos—what misery for me! An end I can't even speak of to any of my comrades, or turn them back from, but must meet this fate in silence. You, his daughters, my sisters, you've heard the hard curses our father is calling down. For the gods' sake, you two at least: if his curses are fulfilled and you ever find your way home, don't dishonor me. Lay me in a grave, and give me the rites of the dead. |
| 1411 | καὶ σφῷν ὁ νῦν ἔπαινος, ὃν κομίζετον<br>τοῦδ', ἀνδρὸς οἷς πονεῖτον, οὐκ ἐλάσσονα<br>ἔτ' ἄλλον οἴσει τῆς ἐμῆς ὑπουργίας. | Then the praise you two win from him now for the hardships you bear for his sake will be joined by another, no smaller, for what you've done for me. |

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| 1414 | **ANTIGONE** Πολύνεικες, ἱκετεύω σε πεισθῆναί τί μοι. | **ANTIGONE** Polynices, I beg you, listen to me in one thing. |
| 1415 | **POLYNICES** ὦ φιλτάτη, τὸ ποῖον, Ἀντιγόνη; λέγε. | **POLYNICES** Antigone, my dearest, what is it? Tell me. |
| 1416 | **ANTIGONE** στρέψαι στράτευμ' ἐς Ἄργος ὡς τάχιστά γε, / καὶ μὴ σέ τ' αὐτὸν καὶ πόλιν διεργάσῃ. | **ANTIGONE** Turn your army back to Argos, as quickly as you can, and don't destroy yourself and the city. |
| 1418 | **POLYNICES** ἀλλ' οὐχ οἷόν τε· πῶς γὰρ αὖθις ἂν πάλιν / στράτευμ' ἄγοιμι ταὐτόν. εἰσάπαξ τρέσας; | **POLYNICES** That's impossible. How could I ever lead the same army out again, once I'd shown I was afraid? |
| 1420 | **ANTIGONE** τί δ' αὖθις, ὦ παῖ, δεῖ σε θυμοῦσθαι; τί σοι / πάτραν κατασκάψαντι κέρδος ἔρχεται; | **ANTIGONE** But why must you rage all over again, my dear? What do you gain by tearing down your own country? |
| 1422 | **POLYNICES** αἰσχρὸν τὸ φεύγειν καὶ τὸ πρεσβεύοντ' ἐμὲ / οὕτω γελᾶσθαι τοῦ κασιγνήτου πάρα. | **POLYNICES** Running away is shameful—and so is being laughed at like this by my brother, when I'm the elder. |
| 1424 | **ANTIGONE** ὁρᾷς τὰ τοῦδ' οὖν ὡς ἐς ὀρθὸν ἐκφέρει / μαντεύμαθ', ὃς σφῷν θάνατον ἐξ ἀμφοῖν θροεῖ; | **ANTIGONE** Then don't you see you're carrying his prophecies straight to their fulfillment? He foretells death for you both, each at the other's hand. |
| 1426 | **POLYNICES** χρῄζει γάρ· ἡμῖν δ' οὐχὶ συγχωρητέα. | **POLYNICES** Yes, because that's what he wants. But I can't give way. |
| 1427 | **ANTIGONE** οἴμοι τάλαινα· τίς δὲ τολμήσει κλύων / τὰ τοῦδ' ἕπεσθαι τἀνδρός, οἳ' ἐθέσπισεν; | **ANTIGONE** Oh, no, poor me! But who will dare to follow you once they hear what this man has prophesied? |
| 1429 | **POLYNICES** οὐκ ἀγγελοῦμεν φλαῦρ'· ἐπεὶ στρατηλάτου / χρηστοῦ τὰ κρείσσω μηδὲ τἀνδεᾶ λέγειν. | **POLYNICES** We won't report bad news. A good general tells the better side, not what's lacking. |
| 1431 | **ANTIGONE** οὕτως ἄρ', ὦ παῖ, ταῦτά σοι δεδογμένα; | **ANTIGONE** So you've really made up your mind, my dear? |
| 1432 | **POLYNICES** καὶ μή μ' ἐπίσχῃς γ'· ἀλλ' ἐμοὶ μὲν ἥδ' ὁδὸς ἔσται μέλουσα δύσποτμός τε καὶ κακὴ πρὸς τοῦδε πατρὸς τῶν τε τοῦδ' ἐρινύων· σφῷν δ' εὖ διδοίη Ζεύς, τάδ' εἰ θανόντι μοι τελεῖτ', ἐπεὶ οὔ μοι ζῶντί γ' αὖθις ἔξετον. μέθεσθε δ' ἤδη χαίρετόν τ'· οὐ γάρ μ' ἔτι βλέποντ' ἐσόψεσθ' αὖθις. | **POLYNICES** Yes, and don't hold me back. This road will be my concern, doomed and evil as my father here and his Furies have made it. But may Zeus be good to you two, if you do this for me when I'm dead, since you'll never do anything for me alive again. Now let me go, and goodbye. You'll never see me alive again. |
| 1438 | **ANTIGONE** ὦ τάλαιν' ἐγώ. | **ANTIGONE** Oh, I'm so wretched. |
| 1439 | **POLYNICES** μή τοί μ' ὀδύρου. | **POLYNICES** Don't mourn for me. |
| | **ANTIGONE** καὶ τίς ἄν σ' ὀρμώμενον / εἰς προῦπτον Ἅιδην οὐ καταστένοι, κάσι; | **ANTIGONE** And who wouldn't grieve for you, brother, when you're rushing into a death you can see in front of you? |

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| 1441 | **POLYNICES** εἰ χρή, θανοῦμαι. | **POLYNICES** If I must, I'll die. |
| | **ANTIGONE** μὴ σύ γ', ἀλλ' ἐμοὶ πιθοῦ. | **ANTIGONE** No, don't! Listen to me. |
| 1442 | **POLYNICES** μὴ πεῖθ' ἃ μὴ δεῖ. | **POLYNICES** Don't urge me to do what I mustn't. |
| | **ANTIGONE** δυστάλαινά τἄρ' ἐγώ, εἴ σου στερηθῶ. | **ANTIGONE** Then I'm utterly wretched, if I lose you. |
| 1443 | **POLYNICES** ταῦτα δ' ἐν τῷ δαίμονι<br>καὶ τῇδε φῦναι χἀτέρᾳ. σφὼ δ' οὖν ἐγὼ<br>θεοῖς ἀρῶμαι μή ποτ' ἀντῆσαι κακῶν·<br>ἀνάξιαι γὰρ πᾶσίν ἐστε δυστυχεῖν. | **POLYNICES** That lies with fate, whether it turns out this way or another. As for you two, I pray to the gods you never meet with harm. In everyone's eyes, you don't deserve misfortune. |

## FIFTH EPISODE

*Thunder announces Oedipus' end; he tells Theseus the secret of his grave and leads the way to it.*

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| 1447 | **CHORUS** νέα τάδε νεόθεν ἦλθέ μοι<br>κακὰ βαρύποτμὰ παρ' ἀλαοῦ ξένου,<br>εἴ τι μοῖρα μὴ κιγχάνει.<br>μάταν γὰρ οὐδὲν ἀξίωμα δαιμόνων ἔχω φράσαι.<br>ὁρᾷ ὁρᾷ ταῦτ' ἀεὶ χρόνος, τρέχων μὲν ἕτερα,<br>τὰ δὲ παρ' ἦμαρ αὖθις αὔξων ἄνω.<br>ἔκτυπεν αἰθήρ, ὦ Ζεῦ. | **CHORUS** New troubles, newly come,<br>have reached me, heavy with doom,<br>from the blind stranger—<br>unless it is fate that is finding its mark.<br>For I cannot say that any decree of the gods is ever in vain.<br>Time watches, watches these things forever,<br>casting some down,<br>and on the next day raising others up again.<br>The sky has thundered. Zeus! |
| 1457 | **OEDIPUS** ὦ τέκνα τέκνα, πῶς ἄν, εἴ τις ἔντοπος, / τὸν πάντ' ἄριστον δεῦρο Θησέα πόροι; | **OEDIPUS** Children, children, is there anyone from this place nearby who could bring Theseus here, the best of men in every way? |
| 1459 | **ANTIGONE** πάτερ, τί δ' ἐστὶ τἀξίωμ' ἐφ' ᾧ καλεῖς; | **ANTIGONE** Father, why are you calling for him? |
| 1460 | **OEDIPUS** Διὸς πτερωτὸς ἥδε μ' αὐτίκ' ἄξεται / βροντὴ πρὸς Ἅιδην· ἀλλὰ πέμψαθ' ὡς τάχος. | **OEDIPUS** This winged thunder of Zeus will soon lead me down to Hades. Send for him—quickly! |
| 1462 | **CHORUS** μέγας, ἴδε, μάλ' ὅδ' ἐρείπεται<br>κτύπος ἄφατος διόβολος· ἐς δ' ἄκραν<br>δεῖμ' ὑπῆλθε κρατὸς φόβαν.<br>ἔπτηξα θυμόν· οὐρανία γὰρ ἀστραπὴ φλέγει πάλιν.<br>τί μὰν ἀφήσει τέλος; δέδοικα δ'· οὐ γὰρ ἄλιον<br>ἀφορμᾷ ποτ', οὐκ ἄνευ ξυμφορᾶς.<br>ὦ μέγας αἰθήρ, ὦ Ζεῦ. | **CHORUS** Look, look—here it crashes down,<br>huge, unspeakable, the thunder hurled by Zeus!<br>Terror has crept<br>to the very ends of my hair.<br>My heart cowers:<br>the lightning blazes from the sky again.<br>What end will it let loose? I'm afraid:<br>it never rushes out for nothing,<br>never without disaster.<br>Great sky! Zeus! |
| 1472 | **OEDIPUS** ὦ παῖδες, ἥκει τῷδ' ἐπ' ἀνδρὶ θέσφατος / βίου τελευτὴ κοὐκέτ' ἔστ' ἀποστροφή. | **OEDIPUS** Children, the end of life foretold for the man before you has come, and there's no turning it away now. |

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| 1474 | **ANTIGONE** πῶς οἶσθα; τῷ δὲ τοῦτο συμβαλὼν ἔχεις; | **ANTIGONE** How do you know? What sign made you put this together? |
| 1475 | **OEDIPUS** καλῶς κάτοιδ'· ἀλλ' ὡς τάχιστά μοι μολὼν / ἄνακτα χώρας τῆσδέ τις πορευσάτω. | **OEDIPUS** I know it well. But someone go, as quickly as you can, and bring me the king of this land. |
| 1477 | **CHORUS** ἔα ἔα, ἰδοὺ μάλ' αὖθις ἀμφίσταται διαπρύσιος ὄτοβος.<br>ἵλαος, ὦ δαίμων, ἵλαος εἴ τι γᾷ<br>ματέρι τυγχάνεις ἀφεγγὲς φέρων.<br>ἐναισίου δὲ σοῦ τύχοιμι, μηδ' ἅλαστον ἄνδρ' ἰδὼν<br>ἀκερδῆ χάριν μετάσχοιμί πως. Ζεῦ ἄνα σοὶ φωνῶ. | **CHORUS** Ah, ah! Look, again it rings all around us, that piercing roar!<br>Be gracious, god, be gracious,<br>if you are bringing something without light<br>to the earth, our mother.<br>May I find you kindly,<br>and not, because I have looked on a man accursed, somehow share in a reward that brings no gain.<br>Lord Zeus, to you I cry! |
| 1486 | **OEDIPUS** ἆρ' ἐγγὺς ἀνήρ; ἆρ' ἔτ' ἐμψύχου, τέκνα, / κιχήσεταί μου καὶ κατορθοῦντος φρένα; | **OEDIPUS** Is the man near? Children, will he find me still alive, and my mind still clear? |
| 1488 | **ANTIGONE** τί δ' ἂν θέλοις τὸ πιστὸν ἐμφῦναι φρενί; | **ANTIGONE** What pledge do you want to plant in his mind? |
| 1489 | **OEDIPUS** ἀνθ' ὧν ἔπασχον εὖ, τελεσφόρον χάριν / δοῦναί σφιν, ἥνπερ τυγχάνων ὑπεσχόμην. | **OEDIPUS** In return for the kindness they've shown me, I want to give them the favor I promised when I received it, and bring it to fulfillment. |
| 1491 | **CHORUS** ἰὼ ἰὼ παῖ, βᾶθι βᾶθ', εἴτ' ἄκρα,<br>περὶ γύαλ' ἐναλίῳ Ποσειδωνίῳ θεῷ, τυγχάνεις<br>βούθυτον ἑστίαν ἁγίζων, ἱκοῦ.<br>ὁ γὰρ ξένος σε καὶ πόλισμα καὶ φίλους ἐπαξιοῖ<br>δικαίαν χάριν παρασχεῖν παθών.<br>ἄϊσσ', ὦναξ. | **CHORUS** Oh, oh, son! Come, come!<br>Even if at the far end of the glen<br>you are hallowing the altar<br>with sacrifice of oxen<br>to Poseidon, god of the sea,<br>come!<br>For the stranger thinks it right<br>to give you, your city, and your people<br>a just return for the kindness he received.<br>Hurry, my lord! |
| 1500 | **THESEUS** τίς αὖ παρ' ὑμῶν κοινὸς ἠχεῖται κτύπος,<br>σαφὴς μὲν ἀστῶν, ἐμφανὴς δὲ τοῦ ξένου;<br>μή τις Διὸς κεραυνὸς ἤ τις ὀμβρία<br>χάλαζ' ἐπιρράξασα; πάντα γὰρ θεοῦ<br>τοιαῦτα χειμάζοντος εἰκάσαι πάρα. | **THESEUS** What's this shout ringing out from all of you again—clear from your citizens, plain from the stranger? Was it a thunderbolt from Zeus, or a storm of hail bursting down? When a god is storming like this, you can imagine anything. |
| 1505 | **OEDIPUS** ἄναξ, ποθοῦντι προυφάνης, καί σοι θεῶν / τύχην τις ἐσθλὴν τῆσδ' ἔθηκε τῆς ὁδοῦ. | **OEDIPUS** You've come just when I longed for you. Some god has given you good fortune on this journey. |
| 1507 | **THESEUS** τί δ' ἐστίν, ὦ παῖ Λαΐου, νέορτον αὖ; | **THESEUS** Son of Laius, what's happened now that's new? |
| 1508 | **OEDIPUS** ῥοπὴ βίου μοι· καί σ' ἅπερ ξυνήνεσα / θέλω πόλιν τε τήνδε μὴ ψεύσας θανεῖν. | |

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| | | **OEDIPUS** The scale of my life has tipped. And I want to die without breaking my promises to you and to this city. |
| 1510 | **THESEUS** τῷ δ' ἐκπέπεισαι τοῦ μόρου τεκμηρίῳ; | **THESEUS** What sign has convinced you that your death is near? |
| 1511 | **OEDIPUS** αὐτοὶ θεοὶ κήρυκες ἀγγέλλουσί μοι, / ψεύδοντες οὐδὲν σῆμα τῶν προκειμένων. | **OEDIPUS** The gods themselves are my heralds and bring me the news. They falsify none of the signs foretold to me. |
| 1513 | **THESEUS** πῶς εἶπας, ὦ γεραιέ, δηλοῦσθαι τάδε; | **THESEUS** How do you mean, old man, that these things are being shown to you? |
| 1514 | **OEDIPUS** αἱ πολλὰ βρονταὶ διατελεῖς τὰ πολλά τε / στράψαντα χειρὸς τῆς ἀνικήτου βέλη. | **OEDIPUS** The thunder that rolls on and on, and the many bolts of lightning flung by that unconquerable hand. |
| 1516 | **THESEUS** πείθεις με· πολλὰ γάρ σε θεσπίζονθ' ὁρῶ / κοὐ ψευδόφημα· χῷ τι χρὴ ποιεῖν λέγε. | **THESEUS** You've convinced me. I see you've prophesied a great deal, and nothing false. Tell me what has to be done. |
| 1518 | **OEDIPUS** ἐγὼ διδάξω, τέκνον Αἰγέως, ἃ σοι<br>γήρως ἄλυπα τῇδε κείσεται πόλει.<br>χῶρον μὲν αὐτὸς αὐτίκ' ἐξηγήσομαι,<br>ἄθικτος ἡγητῆρος, οὗ με χρὴ θανεῖν.<br>τοῦτον δὲ φράζε μή ποτ' ἀνθρώπων τινί,<br>μήθ' οὗ κέκευθε μήτ' ἐν οἷς κεῖται τόποις·<br>ὡς σοι πρὸ πολλῶν ἀσπίδων ἀλκὴν ὅδε<br>δορός τ' ἐπακτοῦ γειτονῶν ἀεὶ τιθῇ.<br>ἃ δ' ἐξάγιστα μηδὲ κινεῖται λόγῳ,<br>αὐτὸς μαθήσει, κεῖσ' ὅταν μόλῃς μόνος· | **OEDIPUS** I'll teach you, son of Aegeus, what will lie in store for this city, a treasure that age will never harm. I myself, with no guide's hand to touch me, will lead the way to the place where I must die. Never tell anyone about it, neither where it's hidden nor in what region it lies, so that it may always be your defense, better than many shields or the spear of allies brought in from your neighbors. The things too sacred to be stirred by speech you'll learn for yourself, when you come there alone. |
| 1528 | ὡς οὔτ' ἂν ἀστῶν τῶνδ' ἂν ἐξείποιμί τῳ<br>οὔτ' ἂν τέκνοισι τοῖς ἐμοῖς, στέργων ὅμως.<br>ἀλλ' αὐτὸς αἰεὶ σῷζε, χὥταν εἰς τέλος<br>τοῦ ζῆν ἀφικνῇ, τῷ προφερτάτῳ μόνῳ<br>σήμαιν', ὁ δ' αἰεὶ τὠπιόντι δεικνύτω.<br>χοὕτως ἀδῇον τήνδ' ἐνοικήσεις πόλιν<br>σπαρτῶν ἀπ' ἀνδρῶν· αἱ δὲ μυρίαι πόλεις,<br>κἂν εὖ τις οἰκῇ, ῥᾳδίως καθύβρισαν.<br>θεοὶ γὰρ εὖ μέν, ὀψὲ δ' εἰσορῶσ', ὅταν<br>τὰ θεῖ' ἀφείς τις εἰς τὸ μαίνεσθαι τραπῇ· | For I wouldn't reveal them to any of these citizens, or even to my own children, much as I love them. Keep them to yourself always, and when you come to the end of your life, reveal them only to the foremost man, and let him show them in turn to the one who comes after him. In this way you'll keep this city safe from ravage by the Sown Men. Countless cities, even when a man governs them well, slip easily into outrage. For the gods see clearly, but late, when someone casts off what is divine and turns to madness.[20] |
| 1538 | ὃ μὴ σύ, τέκνον Αἰγέως, βούλου παθεῖν.<br>τὰ μὲν τοιαῦτ' οὖν εἰδότ' ἐκδιδάσκομεν.<br>χῶρον δ', ἐπείγει γάρ με τοὐκ θεοῦ παρόν,<br>στείχωμεν ἤδη μηδ' ἔτ' ἐντρεπώμεθα.<br>ὦ παῖδες, ὧδ' ἕπεσθ'· ἐγὼ γὰρ ἡγεμὼν | Don't wish that on yourself, son of Aegeus. But I'm teaching you what you know already. Now to the place—the god's presence is urging me on—let us go now and hesitate no longer. Children, follow me this way. Now, strangely, I've turned out to be |

20 The Sown Men sprang from the dragon's teeth that Cadmus planted; the Thebans claimed descent from them.

| GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| σφῷν αὖ πέφασμαι καινός, ὥσπερ σφὼ πατρί.<br>χωρεῖτε καὶ μὴ ψαύετ', ἀλλ' ἐᾶτέ με<br>αὐτὸν τὸν ἱερὸν τύμβον ἐξευρεῖν, ἵνα<br>μοῖρ' ἀνδρὶ τῷδε τῇδε κρυφθῆναι χθονί.<br>τῇδ' ὧδε, τῇδε βᾶτε· τῇδε γάρ μ' ἄγει<br>Ἑρμῆς ὁ πομπὸς ἥ τε νερτέρα θεός. | your guide, as you two were your father's. Go on, and don't touch me. Let me find for myself the sacred grave where it is my fate to be hidden in this earth. This way—this way—come this way. This is the way Hermes the Guide is leading me, and the goddess below.[21] |
| 1549 ὦ φῶς ἀφεγγές, πρόσθε πού ποτ' ἦσθ' ἐμόν,<br>νῦν δ' ἔσχατόν σου τοὐμὸν ἅπτεται δέμας.<br>ἤδη γὰρ ἕρπω τὸν τελευταῖον βίον<br>κρύψων παρ' Ἅιδην. ἀλλά, φίλτατε ξένων,<br>αὐτός τε χώρα θ' ἥδε πρόσπολοί τε σοὶ<br>εὐδαίμονες γένοισθε, κἀπ' εὐπραξίᾳ<br>μέμνησθέ μου θανόντος εὐτυχεῖς ἀεί. | Light that is no light to me—once, long ago, you were mine; now my body feels you for the last time. For now I go to hide the last of my life with Hades. But you, dearest of strangers—you, this land, and your people—may you be blessed, and in your prosperity remember me when I am dead, and be fortunate forever. |

## FOURTH STASIMON

*The chorus prays to the gods below to grant Oedipus a painless passage to the dead.*

| GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| 1556 **CHORUS** εἰ θέμις ἐστί μοι τὰν ἀφανῆ θεὸν<br>καὶ σὲ λιταῖς σεβίζειν,<br>ἐννυχίων ἄναξ,<br>Αἰδωνεῦ Αἰδωνεῦ, λίσσωμαι<br>ἄπονα μήτ' ἐπὶ βαρυαχεῖ<br>ξένον ἐξανύσαι<br>μόρῳ τὰν παγκευθῆ κάτω<br>νεκρῶν πλάκα καὶ Στύγιον δόμον.<br>πολλῶν γὰρ ἂν καὶ μάταν<br>πημάτων ἱκνουμένων<br>πάλιν σφε δαίμων δίκαιος αὔξοι. | **CHORUS** If it is right for me to honor with prayers<br>the unseen goddess,<br>and you, lord of those who dwell in night,<br>Aidoneus, Aidoneus, I pray:<br>let the stranger come, without pain,<br>by no death heavy with groaning,<br>to the plain of the dead below that hides all<br>and the house of the Styx.<br>For many sorrows came upon him,<br>and for no cause;<br>now let a just god lift him up again.[22] |
| 1568 ὦ χθόνιαι θεαὶ σῶμά τ' ἀνικάτου<br>θηρός, ὃν ἐν πύλαισι<br>ταῖσι πολυξένοις<br>εὐνᾶσθαι κνυζεῖσθαί τ' ἐξ ἄντρων<br>ἀδάματον φύλακα παρ' Ἅιδᾳ<br>λόγος αἰὲν ἔχει·<br>τόν, ὦ Γᾶς παῖ καὶ Ταρτάρου,<br>κατεύχομαι ἐν καθαρῷ βῆναι<br>ὁρμωμένῳ νερτέρας<br>τῷ ξένῳ νεκρῶν πλάκας·<br>σέ τοι κικλήσκω τὸν αἰένυπνον. | Goddesses of the earth below,<br>and you, monstrous form of the unconquered beast,<br>who, as the story always tells,<br>lie in your lair by the gates<br>where so many guests pass through,<br>and snarl from your cave,<br>the untamed guard at the door of Hades:<br>child of Earth and Tartarus,<br>I pray that he stand clear<br>of the stranger's path<br>as he sets out<br>for the plains of the dead below.<br>On you I call, lord of the everlasting sleep.[23] |

21 Hermes the Guide escorts the souls of the dead to the underworld; the goddess below is Persephone.
22 Aidoneus is a poetic name for Hades; the Styx is the river of the underworld.
23 The beast is Cerberus, the watchdog of Hades; the "child of Earth and Tartarus" called on to restrain him is probably Death himself.

## EXODOS

*A messenger tells how Oedipus vanished; his daughters mourn and ask to go back to Thebes.*

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| 1579 | **MESSENGER** ἄνδρες πολῖται, ξυντομωτάτως, μὲν ἂν<br>τύχοιμι λέξας Οἰδίπουν ὀλωλότα·<br>ἃ δ' ἦν τὰ πραχθέντ', οὔθ' ὁ μῦθος ἐν βραχεῖ<br>φράσαι πάρεστιν οὔτε τἄργ' ὅσ' ἦν ἐκεῖ. | **MESSENGER** Citizens, I could put it most briefly by saying that Oedipus is dead. But what happened can't be told in a few words, and the things done there were not few. |
| 1583 | **CHORUS** ὄλωλε γὰρ δύστηνος; | **CHORUS** Is he dead, then, poor man? |
| | **MESSENGER** ὡς λελοιπότα / κεῖνον τὸν ἀεὶ βίοτον ἐξεπίστασο. | **MESSENGER** Know for certain that he has left life behind for good. |
| 1585 | **CHORUS** πῶς; ἆρα θείᾳ κἀπόνῳ τάλας τύχῃ; | **CHORUS** How? Poor man—was it a heaven-sent end, and painless? |
| 1586 | **MESSENGER** ταῦτ' ἐστὶν ἤδη κἀποθαυμάσαι πρέπον.<br>ὡς μὲν γὰρ ἐνθένδ' εἶρπε, καὶ σύ που παρὼν<br>ἔξοισθ', ὑφηγητῆρος οὐδενὸς φίλων,<br>ἀλλ' αὐτὸς ἡμῖν πᾶσιν ἐξηγούμενος.<br>ἐπεὶ δ' ἀφῖκτο τὸν καταρράκτην ὀδὸν<br>χαλκοῖς βάθροισι γῆθεν ἐρριζωμένον,<br>ἔστη κελεύθων ἐν πολυσχίστων μιᾷ,<br>κοίλου πέλας κρατῆρος, οὗ τὰ Θησέως<br>Περίθου τε κεῖται πίστ' ἀεὶ ξυνθήματα.<br>ἀφ' οὗ μέσος στὰς τοῦ τε Θορικίου πέτρου<br>κοίλης τ' ἀχέρδου κἀπὸ λαΐνου τάφου,<br>καθέζετ'· εἶτ' ἔλυσε δυσπινεῖς στολάς. | **MESSENGER** Now that's where it truly becomes a thing to wonder at. How he went from here you know, I think, since you were here: none of his loved ones guided him, but he himself led the way for all of us. When he came to the sheer threshold, rooted in the earth with steps of bronze, he stopped on one of the many branching paths, near the hollow basin where the pledges of Theseus and Pirithous, faithful forever, are laid. He stood midway between that and the Thorician rock, the hollow pear tree, and the stone tomb, and sat down. Then he undid his filthy clothes.[24] |
| 1598 | κἄπειτ' ἀΰσας παῖδας ἠνώγει ῥυτῶν<br>ὑδάτων ἐνεγκεῖν λουτρὰ καὶ χοάς ποθεν·<br>τὼ δ' εὐχλόου Δήμητρος εἰς προσόψιον<br>πάγον μολοῦσαι τάσδ' ἐπιστολὰς πατρὶ<br>ταχεῖ 'πόρευσαν σῦν χρόνῳ, λουτροῖς τέ νιν<br>ἐσθῆτί τ' ἐξήσκησαν ᾗ νομίζεται.<br>ἐπεὶ δὲ παντὸς εἶχε δρῶντος ἡδονὴν<br>κοὐκ ἦν ἔτ' οὐδὲν ἀργὸν ὧν ἐφίετο,<br>κτύπησε μὲν Ζεὺς χθόνιος αἱ δὲ παρθένοι<br>ῥίγησαν, ὡς ἤκουσαν· ἐς δὲ γούνατα<br>πατρὸς πεσοῦσαι 'κλαιον οὐδ' ἀνίεσαν<br>στέρνων ἀραγμοὺς οὐδὲ παμμήκεις γόους. | Then he called to his daughters and told them to bring water from a flowing stream for washing and for libations. They went to the hill of Demeter of the green shoots, there in plain view, and quickly brought back what their father had asked. Then they washed him and dressed him as custom requires. When he was content with all that had been done and nothing he wanted was left undone, Zeus of the earth below thundered, and the girls shuddered as they heard it. They fell at their father's knees and wept, and would not stop beating their breasts or their long, long wailing. |
| 1610 | ὁ δ' ὡς ἀκούει φθόγγον ἐξαίφνης πικρόν,<br>πτύξας ἐπ' αὐταῖς χεῖρας εἶπεν· ὦ τέκνα,<br>οὐκ ἔστ' ἔθ' ὑμῖν τῇδ' ἐν ἡμέρᾳ πατήρ.<br>ὄλωλε γὰρ δὴ πάντα τἀμά, κοὐκέτι<br>τὴν δυσπόνητον ἕξετ' ἀμφ' ἐμοὶ τροφήν·<br>σκληρὰν μέν, οἶδα, παῖδες· ἀλλ' ἓν γὰρ μόνον<br>τὰ πάντα λύει ταῦτ' ἔπος μοχθήματα. | As soon as he heard their sudden, bitter cry, he folded his arms around them and said: "Children, from this day you no longer have a father. Everything that was mine is gone, and you won't have the hard work of caring for me anymore—hard, I know it was, my children. But one word |

24 Theseus and his friend Pirithous were said to have sworn their pact here before going down to the underworld; the "sheer threshold" is the Bronze Threshold.

| GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|
| τὸ γὰρ φιλεῖν οὐκ ἔστιν ἐξ ὅτου πλέον<br>ἢ τοῦδε τἀνδρὸς ἔσχεθ', οὗ τητώμεναι<br>τὸ λοιπὸν ἤδη τὸν βίον διάζετον. | alone undoes all those hardships. Love: you had more of it from no one than from this man, and now you must live the rest of your lives without him." |
| 1620 τοιαῦτ' ἐπ' ἀλλήλοισιν ἀμφικείμενοι<br>λύγδην ἔκλαιον πάντες. ὡς δὲ πρὸς τέλος<br>γόων ἀφίκοντ' οὐδ' ἔτ' ὠρώρει βοή,<br>ἦν μὲν σιωπή· φθέγμα δ' ἐξαίφνης τινὸς<br>θώϋξεν αὐτόν, ὥστε πάντας ὀρθίας<br>στῆσαι φόβῳ δείσαντας ἐξαίφνης τρίχας,<br>καλεῖ γὰρ αὐτὸν πολλὰ πολλαχῇ θεός·<br>ὦ οὗτος οὗτος, Οἰδίπους, τί μέλλομεν<br>χωρεῖν; πάλαι δὴ τἀπὸ σοῦ βραδύνεται.<br>ὁ δ' ὡς ἐπῄσθετ' ἐκ θεοῦ καλούμενος,<br>αὐδᾷ μολεῖν οἱ γῆς ἄνακτα Θησέα. | So, clinging to one another, they all sobbed and wept. When they had come to the end of their weeping and no cry rose any longer, there was silence. Then suddenly a voice called out to him, so that all of us felt our hair stand on end with sudden fear. For the god was calling him, many times, from every side: "You there, you there, Oedipus, why are we waiting to go? You've been holding us back too long." And when he understood that the god was calling him, he asked for Theseus, the king of the land, to come to him. |
| 1631 κἀπεὶ προσῆλθεν, εἶπεν· ὦ φίλον κάρα,<br>δός μοι χερὸς σῆς πίστιν ὁρκίαν τέκνοις,<br>ὑμεῖς τε, παῖδες, τῷδε· καὶ καταίνεσον<br>μήποτε προδώσειν τάσδ' ἑκών, τελεῖν δ' ὅσ' ἂν<br>μέλλῃς φρονῶν εὖ ξυμφέροντ' αὐτοῖς ἀεί.<br>ὁ δ', ὡς ἀνὴρ γενναῖος, οὐκ οἴκτου μέτα<br>κατῄνεσεν τάδ' ὅρκιος δράσειν ξένῳ.<br>ὅπως δὲ ταῦτ' ἔδρασεν, εὐθὺς Οἰδίπους<br>ψαύσας ἀμαυραῖς χερσὶν ὧν παίδων λέγει· | And when he came, Oedipus said: "Dear friend, give my children the pledge of your hand as an oath—and you, children, give him yours. Promise never to betray them willingly, and always to do whatever your good judgment tells you will be for their good." And Theseus, noble man that he is, without lamenting, promised on oath to do this for the stranger. As soon as he'd done so, Oedipus touched his children with his blind hands and said: |
| 1640 ὦ παῖδε, τλάσας χρὴ τὸ γενναῖον φρενὶ<br>χωρεῖν τόπων ἐκ τῶνδε, μηδ' ἃ μὴ θέμις<br>λεύσσειν δικαιοῦν μηδὲ φωνούντων κλύειν,<br>ἀλλ' ἔρπεθ' ὡς τάχιστα· πλὴν ὁ κύριος<br>Θησεὺς παρέστω μανθάνων τὰ δρώμενα.<br>τοσαῦτα φωνήσαντος εἰσηκούσαμεν<br>ξύμπαντες· ἀστακτὶ δὲ σὺν ταῖς παρθένοις<br>στένοντες ὠμαρτοῦμεν. ὡς δ' ἀπήλθομεν,<br>χρόνῳ βραχεῖ στραφέντες ἐξαπείδομεν<br>τὸν ἄνδρα τὸν μὲν οὐδαμοῦ παρόντ' ἔτι,<br>ἄνακτα δ' αὐτὸν ὀμμάτων ἐπίσκιον<br>χεῖρ' ἀντέχοντα κρατός, ὡς δεινοῦ τινος<br>φόβου φανέντος οὐδ' ἀνασχετοῦ βλέπειν. | "Children, you must bear this with noble hearts and leave this place. Don't ask to see what isn't lawful to see, or to hear what isn't lawful to hear. Go as quickly as you can. Only Theseus, who has the right, must stay and learn what is done." Those were his words, and all of us heard them. Weeping without end, we went along with the girls. When we had gone a little way, we turned, and from far off we saw that the man was no longer there anywhere, and the king himself was holding his hand before his face to shade his eyes, as if something terrifying had appeared, too dreadful to look at. |
| 1653 ἔπειτα μέντοι βαιὸν οὐδὲ σὺν χρόνῳ<br>ὁρῶμεν αὐτὸν γῆν τε προσκυνοῦνθ' ἅμα<br>καὶ τὸν θεῶν Ὄλυμπον ἐν ταὐτῷ λόγῳ.<br>μόρῳ δ' ὁποίῳ κεῖνος ὤλετ', οὐδ' ἂν εἷς<br>θνητῶν φράσειε, πλὴν τὸ Θησέως κάρα.<br>οὐ γάρ τις αὐτὸν οὔτε πυρφόρος θεοῦ<br>κεραυνὸς ἐξέπραξεν οὔτε ποντία<br>θύελλα κινηθεῖσα τῷ τότ' ἐν χρόνῳ,<br>ἀλλ' ἤ τις ἐκ θεῶν πομπὸς ἢ τὸ νερτέρων<br>εὔνουν διαστὰν γῆς ἀλύπητον βάθρον. | Then, a moment later, in hardly any time at all, we saw him bowing down to the earth and to Olympus of the gods, both in the same prayer. But by what death that man passed away, no mortal could tell, except Theseus. No fiery thunderbolt of the god carried him off, no whirlwind rising from the sea at that moment, but either some escort sent from the gods, or the foundation of the earth, the realm of the dead, opened for him in kindness, without pain. |
| 1663 | |

| | GREEK | ENGLISH |
|---|---|---|
| | ἀνὴρ γὰρ οὐ στενακτὸς οὐδὲ σὺν νόσοις<br>ἀλγεινὸς ἐξεπέμπετ', ἀλλ' εἴ τις βροτῶν<br>θαυμαστός. εἰ δὲ μὴ δοκῶ φρονῶν λέγειν,<br>οὐκ ἂν παρείμην οἶσι μὴ δοκῶ φρονεῖν. | The man was sent on his way without groaning,<br>without the pain of sickness, in a way to wonder<br>at, if any mortal's ever was. And if anyone thinks<br>I'm talking nonsense, I wouldn't bother pleading<br>with those who think I have no sense. |
| 1667 | CHORUS ποῦ δ' αἵ τε παῖδες χοἱ προπέμψαντες φίλων; | CHORUS And where are his daughters, and the<br>friends who escorted him? |
| 1668 | MESSENGER αἵδ' οὐχ ἑκάς· γόων γὰρ οὐκ ἀσήμονες /<br>φθόγγοι σφε σημαίνουσι δεῦρ' ὁρμωμένας. | MESSENGER They're not far off. The sound of<br>their weeping, clear enough, tells us they're on<br>their way here. |
| 1670 | ANTIGONE αἰαῖ, φεῦ, ἔστιν ἔστι νῷν δὴ<br>οὐ τὸ μέν, ἄλλο δὲ μή, πατρὸς ἔμφυτον<br>ἄλαστον αἷμα δυσμόροιν στενάζειν,<br>ὥτινι τὸν πολὺν<br>ἄλλοτε μὲν πόνον ἔμπεδον εἴχομεν,<br>ἐν πυμάτῳ δ' ἀλόγιστα παροίσομεν<br>ἰδόντε καὶ παθόντε. | ANTIGONE Ah, ah! Oh! Now it is ours, it is ours,<br>not in part but wholly,<br>ill-fated as we are, to mourn<br>the cursed blood we were born with from our father.<br>For him we bore our long hardship steadfastly<br>all the time before;<br>now at the last we will carry with us<br>things beyond all reckoning,<br>that we have seen and suffered. |
| 1677 | CHORUS τί δ' ἔστιν; | CHORUS What is it? |
| | ANTIGONE ἔστιν μὲν εἰκάσαι, φίλοι. | ANTIGONE You can guess, friends. |
| 1678 | CHORUS βέβηκεν; | CHORUS He's gone? |
| | ANTIGONE ὡς μάλιστ' ἂν ἐν πόθῳ λάβοις.<br>τί γάρ, ὅτῳ μήτ' Ἄρης<br>μήτε πόντος ἀντέκυρσεν,<br>ἄσκοποι δὲ πλάκες ἔμαρψαν<br>ἐν ἀφανεῖ τινι μόρῳ φερόμενον.<br>τάλαινα· νῶν δ' ὀλεθρία<br>νὺξ ἐπ' ὄμμασιν βέβακε.<br>πῶς γὰρ ἥ τιν' ἀπίαν<br>γᾶν ἢ πόντιον κλύδων' ἀλώμεναι, βίου δύσοιστον ἔξομεν<br>τροφάν; | ANTIGONE Gone, just as you'd most wish.<br>How else, when neither war<br>nor sea came against him,<br>but the unseen plains seized him,<br>swept off in some hidden doom?<br>Poor me—a deadly night<br>has come down over our eyes.<br>For how, wandering in some far-off land<br>or over the waves of the sea,<br>will we find bread for our hard lives? |
| 1687 | ISMENE οὐ κάτοιδα. κατά με φόνιος<br>Ἅΐδας ἕλοι πατρὶ ξυνθανεῖν γεραιῷ<br>τάλαιναν, ὡς ἔμοιγ' ὁ μέλλων βίος οὐ βιωτός. | ISMENE I don't know. Let murderous Hades<br>take me down to die with my old father,<br>poor me, since the life ahead of me<br>is not worth living. |
| 1691 | CHORUS ὦ διδύμα τέκνων ἀρίστα,<br>τὸ φέρον ἐκ θεοῦ φέρειν,<br>μηδὲν ἄγαν φλέγεσθον· οὔ τοι κατάμεμπτ' ἔβητον. | CHORUS Best of daughters, both of you,<br>bear what the god brings;<br>don't let your grief burn so fiercely.<br>The path you've walked deserves no blame. |
| 1696 | ANTIGONE πόθος τοὶ καὶ κακῶν ἄρ' ἦν τις.<br>καὶ γὰρ ὃ μηδαμὰ δὴ φίλον ἦν φίλον, | ANTIGONE So there can be longing even for sorrows. |

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| | ὁπότε γε καὶ τὸν ἐν χεροῖν κατεῖχον.<br>ὦ πάτερ, ὦ φίλος,<br>ὦ τὸν ἀεὶ κατὰ γᾶς σκότον εἱμένος·<br>οὐδέ γ' ἔνερθ' ἀφίλητος ἐμοί ποτε<br>καὶ τᾷδε μὴ κυρήσῃς. | What was never dear at all was dear<br>while I still held him in my arms.<br>Father, my dear one,<br>wrapped forever in the darkness under the earth,<br>even down there you will never<br>be without love, from me and from her. |
| 1706 | **CHORUS** ἔπραξεν; | **CHORUS** He met his end—? |
| | **ANTIGONE** ἔπραξεν οἷον ἤθελεν. | **ANTIGONE** He met the end he wanted. |
| 1707 | **CHORUS** τὸ ποῖον; | **CHORUS** What end? |
| | **ANTIGONE** ἅς ἔχρῃζε γᾶς ἐπὶ ξένας<br>ἔθανε· κοίταν δ' ἔχει<br>νέρθεν εὐσκίαστον αἰέν,<br>οὐδὲ πένθος ἔλιπ' ἄκλαυτον.<br>ἀνὰ γὰρ ὄμμα σε τόδ', ὦ πάτερ, ἐμὸν<br>στένει δακρῦον, οὐδ' ἔχω<br>πῶς με χρὴ τὸ σὸν τάλαιναν<br>ἀφανίσαι τοσόνδ' ἄχος.<br>ὤμοι, γᾶς ἐπὶ ξένας θανεῖν ἔχρῃζες ἀλλ'<br>ἔρημος ἔθανες ὧδέ μοι. | **ANTIGONE** He died in the foreign land<br>he longed for; he has his bed<br>below, in shadow forever,<br>and the mourning he left is not unwept.<br>For this eye of mine, Father,<br>weeps for you, grieving, and I don't know<br>how, in my misery, I am to wipe away<br>such sorrow for you.<br>Oh, no—you wanted to die on foreign soil,<br>but you died like this, alone, away from me. |
| 1715 | **ISMENE** ὦ τάλαινα, τίς ἄρα με πότμος αὖθις ὧδ'<br>...<br>...<br>ἐπαμμένει σέ τ', ὦ φίλα, τὰς πατρὸς ὧδ' ἐρήμας; | **ISMENE** Oh, poor me, what fate is it, then, that<br>from now on like this<br>...<br>...<br>awaits me, and you, my dear,<br>left like this, without our father? |
| 1720 | **CHORUS** ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ ὀλβίως γ' ἔλυσεν<br>τὸ τέλος, ὦ φίλαι, βίου,<br>λήγετε τοῦδ' ἄχους· κακῶν γὰρ δυσάλωτος οὐδείς. | **CHORUS** But since he ended his life<br>in blessedness, my dears,<br>let this grief go. No one is beyond the reach of<br>trouble. |
| 1723 | **ANTIGONE** πάλιν, φίλα, συθῶμεν. | **ANTIGONE** Let's hurry back, sister. |
| | **ISMENE** ὡς τί ῥέξομεν; | **ISMENE** To do what? |
| 1724 | **ANTIGONE** ἵμερος ἔχει με. | **ANTIGONE** A longing has hold of me— |
| | **ISMENE** τίς; | **ISMENE** For what? |
| 1725 | **ANTIGONE** τὰν χθόνιον ἑστίαν ἰδεῖν | **ANTIGONE** to see the hearth beneath the earth |
| 1726 | **ISMENE** τίνος; | **ISMENE** Whose? |
| | **ANTIGONE** πατρός, τάλαιν' ἐγώ. | **ANTIGONE** Our father's—poor me! |
| 1727 | **ISMENE** θέμις δὲ πῶς τάδ' ἐστί; μῶν / οὐχ ὁρᾷς; | **ISMENE** But how can that be lawful? Don't you / see? |
| 1730 | **ANTIGONE** τί τόδε ἐπέπληξας; | **ANTIGONE** Why do you reproach me like this? |
| 1731 | | |

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| | ISMENE καὶ τόδ', ὡς | ISMENE And this, too—that |
| | ANTIGONE τί τόδε μάλ' αὖθις; | ANTIGONE What is this, again? |
| 1732 | ISMENE ἄταφος ἔπιτνε δίχα τε παντός. | ISMENE he fell without a grave, apart from everyone. |
| 1733 | ANTIGONE ἄγε με, καὶ τότ' ἐπενάριξον. | ANTIGONE Take me there, and then kill me too. |
| 1734 | ISMENE αἰαῖ, δυστάλαινα, ποῦ δῆτ'<br>αὖθις ὧδ' ἔρημος ἄπορος<br>αἰῶνα τλάμον' ἔξω; | ISMENE Ah, ah, poor me! Where, then,<br>alone like this and helpless,<br>am I to live out my wretched life? |
| 1737 | CHORUS φίλαι, τρέσητε μηδέν. | CHORUS My dears, don't be afraid. |
| | ANTIGONE ἀλλὰ ποῖ φύγω; | ANTIGONE But where can I escape to? |
| 1738 | CHORUS καὶ πάρος ἀπέφυγε | CHORUS Before this, too, it escaped— |
| | ANTIGONE τί; | ANTIGONE What did? |
| 1740 | CHORUS τὰ σφῷν τὸ μὴ πίτνειν κακῶς. | CHORUS your fortune, from falling into disaster. |
| 1741 | ANTIGONE φρονῶ. | ANTIGONE I'm thinking— |
| | CHORUS τί δῆθ' ὅπερ νοεῖς; | CHORUS Thinking what? |
| 1742 | ANTIGONE ὅπως μολούμεθ' ἐς δόμους, / οὐκ ἔχω. | ANTIGONE how we'll get home, / I don't know. |
| 1743 | CHORUS μηδέ γε μάτευε. | CHORUS Don't even look for a way. |
| 1744 | ANTIGONE μόγος ἔχει. | ANTIGONE Trouble has hold of me. |
| | CHORUS καὶ πάρος ἐπεῖχε. | CHORUS It had hold of you before. |
| 1745 | ANTIGONE τοτὲ μὲν ἄπορα, τοτὲ δ' ὕπερθεν. | ANTIGONE Then it was hopeless; now it's beyond even that. |
| 1746 | CHORUS μέγ' ἄρα πέλαγος ἐλάχετόν τι. | CHORUS It's a vast sea, then, that you two have drawn as your lot. |
| 1747 | ANTIGONE ναὶ ναί. | ANTIGONE Yes, yes. |
| | CHORUS ξύμφημι καὐτός. | CHORUS I say so too. |
| 1748 | ANTIGONE αἰαῖ, ποῖ μόλωμεν, ὦ Ζεῦ;<br>ἐλπίδων γὰρ ἐς τίν' ἔτι με<br>δαίμων τανῦν γ' ἐλαύνει; | ANTIGONE Ah, ah! Where are we to go, Zeus?<br>Toward what hope<br>is fate driving me now? |
| 1751 | THESEUS παύετε θρήνων, παῖδες· ἐν οἷς γὰρ<br>χάρις ἡ χθονία ξύν' ἀπόκειται,<br>πενθεῖν οὐ χρή· νέμεσις γάρ. | THESEUS Stop your lament, children.<br>Where the kindness of the dead below<br>is laid up as a blessing shared,<br>there should be no mourning:<br>it would bring down the gods' anger. |
| 1754 | ANTIGONE ὦ τέκνον Αἰγέως, προσπίτνομέν σοι. | ANTIGONE Son of Aegeus, we fall at your feet. |
| 1755 | THESEUS τίνος, ὦ παῖδες, χρείας ἀνύσαι; | THESEUS What do you need from me, children? |

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| 1756 | **ANTIGONE** τύμβον θέλομεν προσιδεῖν αὐταὶ πατρὸς ἡμετέρου. | **ANTIGONE** We want to see our father's tomb with our own eyes. |
| 1757 | **THESEUS** ἀλλ' οὐ θεμιτόν. | **THESEUS** That isn't permitted. |
| 1758 | **ANTIGONE** πῶς εἶπας, ἄναξ, κοίραν' Ἀθηνῶν; | **ANTIGONE** What do you mean, my lord, ruler of Athens? |
| 1760 | **THESEUS** ὦ παῖδες, ἀπεῖπεν ἐμοὶ κεῖνος<br>μήτε πελάζειν ἐς τούσδε τόπους<br>μήτ' ἐπιφωνεῖν μηδένα θνητῶν<br>θήκην ἱεράν, ἣν κεῖνος ἔχει.<br>καὶ ταῦτά μ' ἔφη πράσσοντα καλῶς<br>χώραν ἕξειν αἰὲν ἄλυπον.<br>ταῦτ' οὖν ἔκλυεν δαίμων ἡμῶν<br>χὠ πάντ' ἀΐων Διὸς Ὅρκος. | **THESEUS** Children, he forbade me<br>to let anyone come near this place,<br>or let any mortal at all<br>speak a word to the sacred tomb where he lies.<br>And he told me that if I did this rightly<br>I would keep my land free of pain forever.<br>The god heard me promise this,<br>and Oath, the servant of Zeus, who hears all things. |
| 1768 | **ANTIGONE** ἀλλ' εἰ τάδ' ἔχει κατὰ νοῦν κείνῳ,<br>ταῦτ' ἂν ἀπαρκοῖ· Θήβας δ' ἡμᾶς<br>τὰς ὠγυγίους πέμψον, ἐάν πως<br>διακωλύσωμεν ἰόντα φόνον<br>τοῖσιν ὁμαίμοις. | **ANTIGONE** If this is what he wished,<br>it will have to be enough. But send us<br>to ancient Thebes, in case somehow<br>we can stop the slaughter<br>that is coming for our brothers. |
| 1773 | **THESEUS** δράσω καὶ τάδε καὶ πάνθ' ὁπόσ' ἂν<br>μέλλω πράσσειν πρόσφορά θ' ὑμῖν<br>καὶ τῷ κατὰ γῆς, ὃς νέον ἔρρει,<br>πρὸς χάριν· οὐ δεῖ μ' ἀποκάμνειν. | **THESEUS** I'll do that, and all else<br>I can do that will serve you<br>and please him beneath the earth,<br>who has just now passed away.<br>I must not grow weary. |
| 1777 | **CHORUS** ἀλλ' ἀποπαύετε μηδ' ἐπὶ πλείω<br>θρῆνον ἐγείρετε·<br>πάντως γὰρ ἔχει τάδε κῦρος. | **CHORUS** Come, stop now, and stir up<br>your lament no longer:<br>all this is settled, and stands fast. |