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Phèdre - Racine.

"marvellous play" / "Greek aspect"

propriety, vraisemblance, bienséance, decorum.

↳ but Racine is a very "different" play.
↳ she falls in love with her stepson.

Revives Ancient Greek stigma attached to the relationship, INCEST - Against the law.

Louis 14th is king at the time of the play.

Guilt is a central theme of the play.

Theramenes | Hippolyte

↑
Phèdre loves him.

The play is written in alexandrins - 12 syllable lines.

The whole play (1600 lines) - rhyming couplets.
Masculine and feminine rhyme - mute "e".

↳ "Theramène" is what the play starts with
↳ feminine rhyme

260-262 (lines) → 3 dots, twice repeated

APOSIOPESIS

to suddenly
break speech

→ { "I love...", repeated "I love..."
they show an interruption in the
flow of the verse - she cannot
pronounce the name.
Eventually, the nurse says the
name

Caesura normally after sixth syllable

cutting of the line

In the French version, there are 1654 lines and they are all alexandrines.

FRENCH CLASSICAL TRAGEDY

there aren't many stage directions.

Language-ordered language - is the most important - it is a weapon

Act 1 scene 3 - there is a stage direction "she sits down"
- she can't contain herself or hide her secret any longer
- she is tearing at her jewellery.
line 161 - "everything afflicts me"

Something lost in translation is the effect of change from "vous" to "tu"

↳ Act II, Scene 5, 670: confrontation of Phèdre and Hippolyte
"The Creatan monster would have perished at your hand"
menotaur "vous"

She is pretending that Hippolyte is his father Thésée.

Hippolyte is incredulous at his stepmother saying these things to him. "But do you know that Thésée is my father and your husband?" "Yes, tu have understood me well."

"Ma flamme" - progress of love affair.

Racine - in Phèdre - gives back ferocity in the fire.

"When I saw Hippolyte for the first time, I felt my body burning."

Helios - the sun - Phèdre's grandfather.

Pasiphae

Venus + Aries - adulterous relationship.

"Le monstre" - the first metaphor
- sea monster kills

Moral poison - Phèdre commits suicide at the end, so this is a looking forward.

Typical of a Racinian play - the characters know that their days are numbered.

Phèdre says to the Sun "goodbye for the last time"

"The Gods are my witness - the gods that lit the flame of the fire that is fatal to my family blood."

↳ ATAVISM | HEREDITY

CENTRAL LINE OF THE PLAY

⇒ 827, Act 3, Scene 3:

"The king whom we thought dead, is going to appear before you."

The king is thought dead, which is why the nurse said the feelings were normal.

JANSENISM = good works did not earn fortune - one was damned anyway
OPPOSITE OF JESUITISM.

Oenone's suicide is caused by Phèdre.
Phèdre feels intense guilt - love turns to jealousy.

PHÈDRE'S LAST SPEECH - light and shade
- 164, 3-4, last scene

"death taking away the light from my eyes"
as she dies.