

# Hercules furens

## Prolog

[1] [IUNO]: Soror Tonantis (hoc enim solum mihi  
[2] nomen relictum est) semper alienum Jovem  
[3] ac templa summī vidua deseruī aetheris  
[4] locumque caelō pulsa paelicibus dedī;  
[5] tellūs colenda est: paelicēs caelum tenent,  
[6] hinc Arctos altā parte glaciālis poli  
[7] sublīme classēs sīdus Argolicās agit;  
[8] hinc, quā tepentī vēre lābātur diēs,  
[9] Tyriae per undās vector Eurōpae nitet;  
[10] illinc timendum ratibus ac pontō gregem  
[11] passim vagantēs exserunt Atlantides.  
[12] ferrō mināx hinc terret Ōrion deōs  
[13] suāsque Perseus aureus stēllās habet;  
[14] hinc clāra geminī signa Tyndaridae micant  
[15] quibusque nātīs mōbilis tellūs stetit.  
[16] nec ipse tantum Bacchus aut Bacchī parēns  
[17] adiēre superōs: nē qua pars probrō vacet,  
[18] mundus puellae sēta Gnōsiacae gerit,  
[19] sed vetera querimur; ūna mē dīra ac fera  
[20] Thēbāna tellūs nuribus ā! sparsa impiīs  
[21] quotiēns novercam fēcīt! ēscendat licet  
[22] meumque victrīx teneat Alcmēnē locum,  
[23] pariterque nātus astra prōmissa occupet,  
[24] in cuius ortūs mundus impendit diem  
[25] tardusque Eōō Phoebus effulsit marī  
[26] retinēre mersum jussus Ōceanō jubat.  
[27] nōn sīc abībunt odia; vīvācēs aget  
[28] violentus irās animus et saevus dolor  
[29] aeterna bella pāce sublātā geret.  
[30] Quae bella? quicquid horridum tellūs creat  
[31] inimīca, quicquid pontus aut aēr tulit  
[32] terribile dīrum pestilēns atrōx ferum,  
[33] frāctum atque domitum est. superat et crēscit malīs  
[34] Irāque nostrā fruitur; in laudēs suās  
[35] mea vertit odia: dum nimis saeva imperō,  
[36] patrem probāvī, glōriae fēcī locum,  
[37] quā Sōl redūcēns quāque dēpōnēns diem  
[38] bīnōs propinquā tinguīt Aethiōpas face,  
[39] indomita virtūs colitur et tōtō deus  
[40] nārrātur orbe. mōnstra jam dēsunt mihi  
[41] minorque labor est Herculi jussa exsequī,  
[42] quam mihi jubēre: laetus imperia excipit,  
[43] quae fera tyrannī jūra violentō queant  
[44] nocēre juvenī? nempe prō tēlīs gerit  
[45] quae timuit et quae fūdit: armātus venit  
[46] leōne et hydrā, nec satis terrae patent:  
[47] effrēgit ecce līmen īfernī Jovis

[48] et opīma victī rēgis ad superōs refert,  
[49] parum est revertī, foedus umbrārum perīt:  
[50] vīdī ipsa, vīdī nocte discussā inferum  
[51] et Dīte domitō spolia jactantem patrī  
[52] frāterna, cūr nōn vīnctum et oppressum trahit  
[53] ipsum catēnīs paria sortītum Jovī  
[54] Erebōque captō potitur et retegīt Styga?  
[55] patefacta ab īmīs mānibus retrō via est  
[56] et sacra dīrae mortis in apertō jacent.  
[57] at ille, ruptō carcere umbrārum ferōx,  
[58] dē mē triumphat et superbificā manū  
[59] ātrum per urbēs dūcit Argolicās canem.  
[60] vīsō labantem Cerberō vīdī diem  
[61] pavidumque Sōlem; mē quoque invāsit tremor,  
[62] et terna mōnstrī colla dēvictī intuēns  
[63] timuī imperāsse. levīa sed nimium queror;  
[64] caelō timendum est, rēgna nē summa occupet  
[65] quī vīcit īma: scēptra praeripiet patrī.  
[66] nec in astra lentā veniet ut Bacchus viā:  
[67] iter ruīnā quaeret et vacuō volet  
[68] rēgnāre mundō, rōbore expertō tumet,  
[69] et posse caelum vīribus vīncī suīs  
[70] didicit ferendō; subdidit mundō caput  
[71] nec flexit umerōs mōlis immēnsae labor  
[72] meliusque collō sēdit Herculeō polus.  
[73] immōta cervīx sīdera et caelum tulit  
[74] et mē prementem: quaerit ad superōs viam.  
[75] Perge īra, perge et magna meditantem opprime,  
[76] congregere, manibus ipsa dīlacerā tuīs:  
[77] quid tanta mandās odia? discēdant ferae,  
[78] ipse imperandō fessus Eurystheus vacet.  
[79] Titānas ausōs rumpere imperium Jovis  
[80] ēmitte, Siculī verticis laxā specum,  
[81] tellūs gigante Dōris excussō tremēns  
[82] supposita mōnstrī colla terrificī levet;  
[83] sublīmis aliās Lūna concipiat ferās  
[84] sed vīcit ista. quaeris Alcīdae parem?  
[85] nēmō est nisi ipse: bella jam sēcum gerat.  
[86] adsint ab īmō Tartarī fundō excītae  
[87] Eumenides, ignem flammeae spargant comae,  
[88] vīperea saevae verbera incutiant manūs,  
[89] ī nunc, superbe, caelitum sēdēs pete,  
[90] hūmāna temne. jam Styga et mānēs ferōx  
[91] fūgisce crēdis? hīc tibi ostendam īferōs,  
[92] revocābō in altā conditam cālīgine,  
[93] ultrā nocentum exilia, discordem deam  
[94] quam mūnit ingēns montis oppositī specus;  
[95] ēdūcam et īmō Dītis ē rēgnō extraham  
[96] quicquid relictum est: veniet invīsum Scelus  
[97] suumque lambēns sanguinem Impietās ferōx  
[98] Errorque et in sē semper armātus Furor;  
[99] hōc hōc ministrō noster ūtātur dolor.

[100] Incipite, famulae Dītis, ārdentem citae  
[101] concutite pīnum et agmen horrendum anguibus  
[102] Megaera dūcat atque lūctificā manū  
[103] vastam rogō flagrante corripiat trabem,  
[104] hoc agite, poenās petite vitiātae Stygis.  
[105] concutite pectus, ācrior mentem excoquat  
[106] quam quī camīnīs ignis Aetnaeīs furit:  
[107] ut possit animō captus Alcīdēs agī,  
[108] magnō furōre percitus, vōbīs prius  
[109] īnsāniendum est. Jūno, cūr nōndum furis?  
[110] mē mē, sorōrēs, mente dējectam meā  
[111] versāte prīmam, facere sī quicquam apparō  
[112] dignum novercā; vōta mūtentur mea:  
[113] nātōs reversus videat incolumēs precor  
[114] manūque fortis redeat, invēnī diem,  
[115] invīsa quō nōs Herculis virtūs juvet.  
[116] mē vīcit: et sē vincat et cupiat morī  
[117] ab īferīs reversus, hīc prōsit mihī  
[118] Jove esse genitum, stābō at, ut certō exeant  
[119] ēmissa nervō tēla, librābō manū,  
[120] regam furentis arma, pugnantī Herculī  
[121] tandem favēbō; scelere perfectō licet  
[122] admittat illās genitor in caelum manūs.  
[123] Movenda jam sunt bella: clārescīt diēs  
[124] ortūque Tītān lūcidus croceō subit.

## Chor (Anapāste)

[125] [CHORUS]: Jam rāra micant sīdera prōnō  
[126] languida mundō; nox vīcta vagōs  
[127] contrahit ignēs lūce renātā,  
[128] cōgit nitidum Phosphoros agmen:  
[129] signum celsī glaciāle polī  
[130] septem stēllīs Arcados ursae  
[131] lūcem versō tēmōne vocat.  
[132] Jam caeruleīs ēvectus equīs  
[133] Tītān summā prōspicit Oetā;  
[134] jam Cadmēis incluta Bacchīs  
[135] aspersa diē dūmēta rubent  
[136] Phoebīque fugit reditūra soror.  
[137] labor exoritur dūrus et omnīs  
[138] agitat cūrās aperitque domōs.  
[139] Pāstor gelidā cāna pruīnā  
[140] grege dīmissō pābula carpit;  
[141] lūdit prātō liber apertō  
[142] nōndum ruptā fronte juvencus,  
[143] vacuae reparant ūbera mātērē;  
[144] errat cursū levis incertō  
[145] mollī petulāns haedus in herbā.  
[146] Pendet summō strīdula rāmō  
[147] pinnāsque novō trādere sōlī  
[148] gestit querulōs inter nīdōs

[149] Thrācia paelex,  
[150] turbaque circā cōnfūsa sonat  
[151] murmure mixtō testāta diem.  
[152] Carbasa ventīs crēdit dubius  
[153] nāvita vītae,  
[154] laxōs aurā complente sinūs,  
[155] hic exēsīs pendēns scopulīs  
[156] aut dēceptōs īnstruit hāmōs  
[157] aut suspēnsus spectat pressā  
[158] praemia dextrā:  
[159] sentit tremulum līnea piscem.  
[160] Haec, innocuae quibus est vītae  
[161] tranquilla quiēs  
[162] et laeta suō parvōque domus;  
[163] spēs immānēs  
[164] urbibus errant trepidīque metūs.  
[165] dūraeque forēs expers somnī  
[166] colit, hic nūllō fine beātās  
[167] compōnit opēs gāzīs inhiāns  
[168] et congestō pauper in aurō.  
[169] Illum populī favor attonitum  
[170] flūctūque magis mōbile vulgus  
[171] aurā tumidum tollit inānī;  
[172] hic clāmōsī rabiōsa forī  
[173] jūrgia vēndēns  
[174] improbus īrās et verba locat.  
[175] Nōvit paucōs sēcūra quiēs,  
[176] quī vēlōcis memorēs aevī  
[177] tempora numquam reditūra tenent,  
[178] dum fāta sinunt, vīvite laetī:  
[179] properat cursū vīta citātō  
[180] rota praecipitis vertitur annī;  
[181] dūrae peragunt pēnsa sorōrēs  
[182] nec sua retrō fīla revolvunt.  
[183] At gēns hominum fertur rapidīs  
[184] obvia fātīs incerta suī:  
[185] Stygiās ultrō quaerimus undās.  
[186] nimium, Alcīdē, pectore fortī  
[187] properās maestōs vīsere mātēs:  
[188] certō veniunt tempore Parcae,  
[189] nūllī jussō cessāre licet,  
[190] nūllī scrīptum prōferre diem:  
[191] recipit populōs urna citātōs.  
[192] Alium multīs glōria terrīs  
[193] trādat et omnēs fāma per urbēs  
[194] garrula laudet  
[195] caelōque parem tollat et astrīs;  
[196] alius currū sublīmis eat:  
[197] mē mea tellūs  
[198] lare sēcūrētō tūtōque tegat.  
[199] venit ad pigrōs cāna senectūs,  
[200] sordida parvae fortūna domūs:

[201] altē virtūs animōsa cadit.  
[202] Sed maesta venit crīne solūtō  
[203] Megarā parvum comitāta gregem,

## Szene 1

[204] [CHORUS]: tardusque seniō graditur Alcīdae parēns.  
[205] [AMPHITRUON]: Ō magne Olympī rēctor et mundī arbiter,  
[206] jam statue tandem gravibus aerumnīs modum  
[207] finemque clādī. nūlla lūx umquam mihī  
[208] sēcūra fulsit: finis alterius malī  
[209] gradus est futūrī, prōtinus reducī novus  
[210] parātur hostis; antequam laetam domum  
[211] contingat, aliud jussus ad bellum meat;  
[212] nec ūlla requiēs tempus aut ūllum vacat,  
[213] nisi dum jubētur. sequitur ā prīmō statim  
[214] ĩnfēsta Jūnō: numquid immūnis fuit  
[215] ĩnfantis aetās? mōnstra superāvit prius  
[216] quam nōsse posset, gemina cristātī caput  
[217] anguēs ferēbant ōra, quōs contrā obviū  
[218] reptābat ĩnfāns igneōs serpentium  
[219] oculōs remissō lūmine ac placidō intuēns;  
[220] artōs serēnīs vultibus nōdōs tulit,  
[221] et tumida tenerā guttura ēlīdēns manū  
[222] prōlūsit hydrae. Maenalī pernīx fera,  
[223] multō decōrum praeferēns aurō caput,  
[224] dēprēnsa cursū; maximus Nemeae timor  
[225] pressus lacertīs genuit Herculeīs leō.  
[226] quid stabula memorem dīra Bistonī gregis  
[227] suīsque rēgem pābulum armentīs datum,  
[228] solitumque dēnsīs hispidum Erymanthī jugīs  
[229] Arcadia quater nemora Maenaliū suem,  
[230] taurumque centum nōn levem populīs metum?  
[231] inter remōtōs gentis Hesperiae gregēs  
[232] pāstor trifōrmis lītoris Tartēsī  
[233] perēemptus, ācta est praeda ab occāsū ultimō;  
[234] nōtum Cithaerōn pāvit Ōceanō pecus.  
[235] penetrāre jussus sōlis aestīvī plagās  
[236] et adusta medius rēgna quae torret diēs  
[237] utrimque montēs solvit ac ruptō obice  
[238] lātā ruentī fēcit Ōceanō viam.  
[239] post haec adortus nemoris opulentī domōs  
[240] aurīfera vigilis spolia serpentis tulit;  
[241] quid? saeva Lernae mōnstra, numerōsum malum,  
[242] nōn igne dēmum vīcit et docuit morī,  
[243] solitāsque pinnīs condere obductīs diem  
[244] petīt ab ipsīs nūbibus Stympālidas?  
[245] nōn vīcit illum caelībis semper torī  
[246] rēgīna gentis vidua Thermōdontiae,  
[247] nec ad omne clārum facinus audācēs manūs  
[248] stabulī fugāvit turpis Augēi labor.  
[249] Quid ista prōsunt? orbe dēfēnsō caret,

[250] sēnsēre terrae pācis auctōrem suae  
 [251] abesse trīstēs: prōsperum ac fēlīx scelus  
 [252] virtūs vocātur; sontibus pārent bonī.  
 [253] jūs est in armīs, opprimit lēgēs timor,  
 [254] ante ōra vīdī nostra truculentā manū  
 [255] gnātōs paternī cadere rēgnī vindicēs  
 [256] ipsumque, Cadmī nōbilis stirpem ultimam,  
 [257] occidere, vīdī rēgium capitis decus  
 [258] cum capite raptum, quis satis Thēbās fleat?  
 [259] ferāx deōrum terra, quem dominum tremis?  
 [260] ē cuius arvīs ēque fēcundō sinū  
 [261] strictō juventūs orta cum ferrō stetit  
 [262] cuiusque mūrōs nātus Amphīōn Jove  
 [263] strūxit canōrō saxa modulātū trahēns,  
 [264] in cuius urbem nōn semel dīvum parēns  
 [265] caelō relictō vēnit, haec quae caelitēs  
 [266] recēpit et quae fēcit et (fās sit loquī)  
 [267] fortasse faciet, sordidō premitur jugō.  
 [268] Cadmēa prōlēs atque Ophīonium genus,  
 [269] quō reccidistis? tremitis ignāvum exulem,  
 [270] suīs carentem finibus, nostrīs gravem.  
 [271] quī scelera terrā quīque persequitur marī  
 [272] ac saeva jūstā scēptra cōnfringit manū  
 [273] nunc servit absēns fertque quae fierī vetat,  
 [274] tenetque Thēbās exul Herculeās Lycus,  
 [275] sed nōn tenēbit, aderit et poenās petet  
 [276] subitusque ad astra ēmerget; inveniet viam  
 [277] aut faciet, adsīs sospes et remeēs precor  
 [278] tandemque veniās victor ad victam domum.  
 [279] [MEGARA]: Ēmerge, conjūnx, atque dispulsās manū  
 [280] abrumpe tenebrās; nūlla sī retrō via  
 [281] iterque clūsum est, orbe dīductō redī  
 [282] et quicquid ātrā nocte possessum latet  
 [283] ēmitte tēcum, dīrutīs quālis jugīs  
 [284] praeceps citātō flūminī quaerēns iter  
 [285] quondam stetistī, scissa cum vastō impetū  
 [286] patuēre Tempē; pectore impulsus tuō  
 [287] hūc mōns et illūc cessit et ruptō aggere  
 [288] novā cucurrit Thessalus torrēns viā:  
 [289] tālis, parentēs liberōs patriam petēns,  
 [290] ērumpe rērum terminōs tēcum efferēns,  
 [291] et quicquid avida tot per annōrum gradūs  
 [292] abscondit aetās redde et oblītōs suī  
 [293] lūcisque pavidōs ante tē populōs age.  
 [294] indigna tē sunt spolia, sī tantum refers  
 [295] quantum imperātum est. magna sed nimium loquor  
 [296] ignāra nostrae sortis, unde illum mihī  
 [297] quō tē tuamque dexteram amplectar diem  
 [298] reditūsque lentōs nec meī memorēs querar?  
 [299] tibi, ō deōrum ductor, indomitī ferent  
 [300] centēna taurī colla; tibi, frūgum potēns,  
 [301] sēcrēta reddam sacra: tibi mūtā fidē

[302] longās Eleusīn tacita jactābit facēs,  
 [303] tum restitūtās frātribus rēbor meīs  
 [304] animās et ipsum rēgna moderantem sua  
 [305] flōrēre patrem, sī qua tē major tenet  
 [306] clausum potestās, sequimur: aut omnēs tuō  
 [307] dēfende reditū sospes aut omnēs trahe.  
 [308] trahēs nec ūllus ēriget frāctōs deus.  
 [309] [AMPHITRUON]: Ō socia nostrī sanguinis, castā fidē  
 [310] servāns torum nātōsque magnanimī Herculis,  
 [311] meliōra mente concipe atque animum excitā.  
 [312] aderit profectō, quālis ex omnī solet  
 [313] labōre, major. Quod nimis miserī volunt  
 [314] [MEGARA]: hoc facile crēdunt. Immo quod metuunt nimis  
 [315] [AMPHITRUON]: numquam movērī posse nec tollī putant:  
 [316] prōna est timōrī semper in pejus fidēs.  
 [317] [MEGARA]: Dēmersus ac dēfossus et tōtō īnsuper  
 [318] oppressus orbe quam viam ad superōs habet?  
 [319] [AMPHITRUON]: Quam tunc habēbat, cum per ārentem plagam  
 [320] et fluctuantēs mōre turbātī maris  
 [321] adīt harēnās bisque discēdēns fretum  
 [322] et bis recurrēns, cumque dēsertā rate  
 [323] dēprēnsus haesit Syrtium brevibus vadīs  
 [324] et puppe fixā maria superāvit pedēs.  
 [325] [MEGARA]: Inīqua rārō maximīs virtūtibus  
 [326] fortūna parcit; nēmo sē tūtō diū  
 [327] perīculīs offerre tam crēbrīs potest:  
 [328] quem saepe trānsit cāsus, aliquandō invenit.  
 [329] Sed ecce saevus ac minās vultū gerēns  
 [330] et quālis animō est, tālis incessū venit  
 [331] aliēna dextrā scēptra concutiēns Lycus.  
 [332] [LYCUS]: Urbis regēns opulenta Thēbānae loca  
 [333] et omne quicquid ūberī cingit solō  
 [334] oblīqua Phōcis, quicquid Ismēnos rigat,  
 [335] quicquid Cithaerōn vertice excelsō videt,  
 [336] et bīna findēns Isthmos exīlis freta  
 [337] nōn vetera patriae jūra possideō domūs  
 [338] ignāvus hērēs; nōbilēs nōn sunt mihī  
 [339] avī nec altīs inclitum titulīs genus.  
 [340] sed clāra virtūs: quī genus jactat suum.  
 [341] aliēna laudat, rapta sed trepidā manū  
 [342] scēptra obtinentur; omnis in ferrō est salūs:  
 [343] quod cīvibus tenēre tē invītīs sciās.  
 [344] strictus tuētur ēnsis, aliēnō in locō  
 [345] haut stabile rēgnum est; ūna sed nostrās potest  
 [346] fundāre vīrēs jūcta rēgālī face  
 [347] thalamīsque Megarā: dūcet ē genere inclitō  
 [348] novitās colōrem nostra, nōn equidem reor  
 [349] fore ut recūset ac meōs spernat torōs;  
 [350] quod sī impotentī pertināx animō abnuet,  
 [351] stat tollere omnem penitus Herculeam domum.  
 [352] invidia factum ac sermo populāris premet?  
 [353] ars prīma rēgnī est posse in invidiam patī.

[354] temptēmus igitur, fors dedit nōbīs locum.  
 [355] namque ipsa, trīstī vestis obtentū caput  
 [356] vēlāta, juxtā praesidēs adstat deōs  
 [357] laterīque adhaeret vērus Alcīdae sator.  
 [358] [MEGARA]: Quidnam iste, nostrī generis exitium ac luēs,  
 [359] novī parat? quid temptat? Ō clārum trahēns  
 [360] [LYCUS]: ā stirpe nōmen rēgiā, facilis mea  
 [361] parumper aure verba patientī excipe.  
 [362] sī aeterna semper odia mortālēs gerant  
 [363] nec coeptus umquam cēdat ex animīs furor,  
 [364] sed arma fēlix teneat infēlix paret,  
 [365] nihil relinquent bella; tum vastīs ager  
 [366] squālēbit arvīs, subditā tēctīs face  
 [367] altus sepultās obruet gentēs cinis.  
 [368] pācem reducī velle victōrī expedit,  
 [369] victō necesse est. particeps rēgnō venī;  
 [370] sociēmur animīs, pignus hoc fideī cape:  
 [371] continge dextram, quid trucī vultū silēs?  
 [372] [MEGARA]: Egone ut parentis sanguine aspersam manum  
 [373] frātrumque geminā caede contingam? prius  
 [374] extinguet ortus, referet occāsus diem,  
 [375] pāx ante fīda nivibus et flammīs erit  
 [376] et Scylla Siculum junget Ausoniō latus,  
 [377] priusque multō vicibus alternīs fugāx  
 [378] Eurīpus undā stābit Euboicā piger.  
 [379] patrem abstulistī, rēgna, germānōs, larem  
 [380] patrium; quid ultrā est? ūna rēs superest mihi  
 [381] frātre ac parente cārīor, rēgnō ac lare:  
 [382] odium tuī, quod esse cum populō mihi  
 [383] commūne doleō: pars quota ex illō mea est?  
 [384] domināre tumidus, spīritūs altōs gere:  
 [385] sequitur superbōs ultor ā tergō deus.  
 [386] Thēbāna novī rēgna: quid mātres loquar  
 [387] passās et ausās scelera? quid geminum nefās  
 [388] mixtumque nōmen conjugis nātī patris?  
 [389] quid bīna frātrum castra? quid totidem rogōs?  
 [390] riget superba Tantalīs lūctū parēns  
 [391] maestusque Phrygiō mānat in Sipylo lapis.  
 [392] quī ipse torvum subrigēns cristā caput  
 [393] Illyrica Cadmus rēgna permēnsus fugā  
 [394] longās reliquit corporis tractī notās.  
 [395] haec tē manent exempla: domināre ut libet,  
 [396] dum solita rēgnī fāta tē nostrī vocent  
 [397] [LYCUS]: Agedum efferātās rabida vōcēs āmovē  
 [398] et disce rēgum imperia ab Alcīdē patī  
 [399] ego rapta quamvis scēptra victrīcī geram  
 [400] dextrā regamque cūncta sine lēgum metū  
 [401] quās arma vincunt, pauca prō causā loquar  
 [402] nostrā, cruentō cecidit in bellō pater?  
 [403] cecidēre frātrēs? arma nōn servant modum;  
 [404] nec temperārī facile nec reprimī potest  
 [405] strictī ēnsis īra, bella dēlectat cruor.



[406] sed ille rēgnō prō suō, nōs improbā  
 [407] cupīdine āctī? quaeritur bellī exitus,  
 [408] nōn causa, sed nunc pereat omnis memoria:  
 [409] cum victor arma posuit, et victum decet  
 [410] dēpōnere odia. nōn ut īnflexō genū  
 [411] rēgnantem adōrēs petimus: hoc ipsum placet  
 [412] animō ruīnās quod capis magnō tuās;  
 [413] es rēge conjūnx digna: sociēmus torōs.  
 [414] [MEGARA]: Gelidus per artūs vādit exsanguīs tremor.  
 [415] quod facinus aurēs pepulit? haut equidem horruī,  
 [416] cum pāce ruptā bellicus mūrōs fragor  
 [417] circumsonāret, pertulī intrepidē omnia:  
 [418] thalamōs tremēscō; capta nunc videor mihī.  
 [419] grauent catēnae corpus et longā famē  
 [420] mors prōtrahātur lenta: nōn vincet fidem  
 [421] vīs ūlla nostram; moriar, Alcīdē, tua.  
 [422] [LYCUS]: Animōsne mersus īferīs conjūnx facit?  
 [423] [MEGARA]: Īferna tetigit, posset ut supera assequī.  
 [424] [LYCUS]: Tellūris illum pondus immēnsae premit.  
 [425] [MEGARA]: Nūllō premētur onere, quī caelum tulit.  
 [426] [LYCUS]: Cōgēre. Cōgī quī potest nescit morī.  
 [427] Effāre potius, quod novīs thalamīs parem  
 [428] Rēgāle mūnus. Aut tuam mortem aut meam.  
 [429] Moriere dēmēns. Conjugī occurram meō.  
 [430] Scēptrōne nostrō famulus est potior tibī?  
 [431] [MEGARA]: Quot iste famulus trādidit rēgēs necī.  
 [432] [LYCUS]: Cūr ergo rēgī servit et patitur jugum?  
 [433] [MEGARA]: Imperia dūra tolle: quid virtūs erit?  
 [434] [LYCUS]: Obicī ferīs mōnstrisque virtūtem putās?  
 [435] [MEGARA]: Virtūtis est domāre quae cūnctī pavent.  
 [436] [LYCUS]: Tenebrae loquentem magna Tartareae premunt.  
 [437] [MEGARA]: Nōn est ad astra mollis ē terrīs via.  
 [438] [LYCUS]: Quō patre genitus caelitum spērat domōs?  
 [439] [AMPHITRUON]: Miseranda conjūnx Herculis magnī, silē:  
 [440] partēs meae sunt reddere Alcīdae patrem  
 [441] genusque vērum, post tot ingentis virī  
 [442] memoranda facta postque pācātum manū  
 [443] quodcumque Tītān ortus et lābēns videt,  
 [444] post mōnstra tot perdomita, post Phlegram impiō  
 [445] sparsam cruōre postque dēfēnsōs deōs  
 [446] nōndum liquet dē patre? mentīmur Jovem:  
 [447] Jūnōnis odiō crēde. Quid violās Jovem?  
 [448] [LYCUS]: mortāle caelō nōn potest jungī genus.  
 [449] [AMPHITRUON]: Commūnis ista plūribus causa est deīs.  
 [450] [LYCUS]: Famulīne fuerant ante quam fierent deī?  
 [451] [AMPHITRUON]: Pāstor Pheraeōs Dēlius pāvit gregēs.  
 [452] [LYCUS]: Sed nōn per omnēs exul errāvit plagās.  
 [453] [AMPHITRUON]: Quem profuga terrā māter errante ēdidit?  
 [454] [LYCUS]: Num mōnstra saeva Phoebus aut timuit ferās?  
 [455] [AMPHITRUON]: Prīmus sagittās imbuit Phoebī dracō.  
 [456] [LYCUS]: Quam gravia parvus tulerit ignōrās mala?  
 [457] [AMPHITRUON]: Ē māttris uterō fulmine ējectus puer

[458]               mox fulminantī proximus patrī stetit.  
[459]               quid? quī gubernat astra, quī nūbēs quatit,  
[460]               nōn latuit infāns rūpis Īdaeae specū?  
[461]               sollicita tantī pretia nātālēs habent  
[462]               semperque magnō cōstitit nāscī deum.  
[463] [LYCUS]: Quemcumque miserum vīderīs, hominem sciās.  
[464] [AMPHITRUON]: Quemcumque fortem vīderīs, miserum negēs.  
[465] [LYCUS]: Fortem vocēmus cujus ex umerīs leō,  
[466]               dōnum puellae factus, et clāva excidit  
[467]               fulsitque pictum veste Sīdoniā latus?  
[468]               fortem vocēmus cujus horrentēs comae  
[469]               maduēre nardō, laude quī nōtās manūs  
[470]               ad nōn virīlem tympanī mōvit sonum,  
[471]               mitrā ferōcem barbarā frontem premēns?  
[472] [AMPHITRUON]: Nōn ērubēscit Bacchus effūsōs tener  
[473]               sparsisse crīnēs nec manū mollī levem  
[474]               vibrāre thyrsū, cum parum fortī gradū  
[475]               aurō decōrum syrma barbaricum trahit:  
[476]               post multa virtūs opera laxārī solet.  
[477] [LYCUS]: Hoc Eurytī fatētur ēversī domus  
[478]               pecorumque rītū virginum oppressī gregēs:  
[479]               hoc nūlla Jūnō, nūllus Eurystheus jubet:  
[480]               ipsīus haec sunt opera. Nōn nōstī omnia:  
[481] [AMPHITRUON]: ipsīus opus est caestibus frāctus suīs  
[482]               Eryx et Erycī jūctus Antaeus Libys,  
[483]               et quī hospitālī caede mānantēs focī  
[484]               bibēre jūstum sanguinem Būsīridis;  
[485]               ipsīus opus est vulnerī et ferrō obuius  
[486]               mortem coāctus integer Cycnus patī  
[487]               nec ūnus ūnā Gēryōn victus manū.  
[488]               eris inter istōs; quī tamen nūllō stuprō  
[489]               laesēre thalamōs. Quod Jovī hoc rēgī licet:  
[490] [LYCUS]: Jovī dedistī conjugem, rēgī dabis;  
[491]               et tē magistrō nōn novum hoc discet nurus,  
[492]               etiam virō probante meliōrem sequī.  
[493]               sīn cōpulārī pertināx taedīs negat,  
[494]               vel ex coāctā nōbilem partum feram.  
[495] [MEGARA]: Umbrae Creontis et penātēs Labdacī  
[496]               et nūptiālēs impiī Oedipodae facēs,  
[497]               nunc solita nostrō fāta conjugio date.  
[498]               nunc, nunc, cruentae rēgis Aegyptī nurūs,  
[499]               adeste multō sanguine infectae manūs.  
[500]               dēest ūna numerō Danais: explēbō nefās.  
[501] [LYCUS]: Conjugia quoniam pervicāx nostra abnuis  
[502]               rēgemque terrēs, scēptra quid possint sciēs.  
[503]               complectere ārās: nūllus ēripiet deus  
[504]               tē mihi, nec orbe sī remōlītō queat  
[505]               ad supera victor nūmina Alcīdēs vehī.  
[506]               congerite silvās: templa supplicibus suīs  
[507]               injecta flagrent, conjugem et tōtum gregem  
[508]               cōsūmat ūnus igne subjectō rogos.  
[509] [AMPHITRUON]: Hoc mūnus ā tē genitor Alcīdae petō,

[510]                   rogāre quod mē deceat, ut prīmus cadam.  
[511] [LYCUS]: Quī morte cūnctōs luere supplicium jubet  
[512]                   nescit tyrannus esse: dīversa inrogā;  
[513]                   miserum vetā perīre, fēlicem jubē.  
[514]                   ego, dum cremandīs trabibus accrēscit rogos,  
[515]                   sacrō regentem maria vōtīvō colam.  
[516] [AMPHITRUON]: Prō nūminum vīs summa, prō caelestium  
[517]                   rēctor parēnsque, cujus excussīs tremunt  
[518]                   hūmāna tēlis, impiam rēgis ferī  
[519]                   compesce dextram! quid deōs frūstrā precor?  
[520]                   ubicumque es, audī, nāte. cūr subitō labant  
[521]                   agitāta mōtū templa? cūr mūgit solum?  
[522]                   īfernus īmō sonuit ē fundō fragor  
[523]                   audīmur! est est sonitus Herculeī gradūs.

## Chor (1st asclepiadeans)

[524] [CHORUS]: Ō Fortūna virīs invida fortibus,  
[525]                   quam nōn aequa bonīs praemia dīvidis.  
[526]                   Eurystheus facilī rēgnet in ōtiō:  
[527]                   Alcmēnā genitus bella per omnia  
[528]                   mōnstrīs exagitet caelīferam manum:  
[529]                   serpentis resecet colla ferācia,  
[530]                   dēceptīs referat māla sorōribus,  
[531]                   cum somnō dederit pervigilēs genū  
[532]                   pōmīs dīvitibus praepositus dracō.  
[533]                   Intrāvit Scythiae multivagās domōs  
[534]                   et gentēs patriīs sēdibus hospitēs,  
[535]                   calcāvitque fretī terga rīgentia  
[536]                   et mūtīs tacitum lītoribus mare.  
[537]                   illīc dūra carent aequora flūctibus,  
[538]                   et quā plēna ratēs carbasa tenderent,  
[539]                   intōnsīs teritur sēmita Sarmatīs,  
[540]                   stat pontus, vicibus mōbilis annuīs,  
[541]                   nāvem nunc facilis nunc equitem patī.  
[542]                   illīc quae viduīs gentibus imperat,  
[543]                   aurātō religāns īlia balteō,  
[544]                   dētrāxit spoliū nōbile corporī  
[545]                   et peltam et niveī vincula pectoris.  
[546]                   victōrem positō suspiciēns genū.  
[547]                   Quā spē praecipitēs āctus ad īferōs,  
[548]                   audāx īre viās inremeābilēs,  
[549]                   vidistī Siculae rēgna Proserpinae?  
[550]                   illīc nūlla notō nūlla favōniō  
[551]                   cōnsurgunt tumidīs flūctibus aequora:  
[552]                   nōn illīc geminum Tyndaridae genus  
[553]                   succurrunt timidīs sīdera nāvibus:  
[554]                   stat pigrō pelagus gurgite languidum,  
[555]                   et cum Mors avidīs pallida dentibus  
[556]                   gentēs innumerās mānibus intulit,  
[557]                   ūnō tot populī rēmige trāseunt.  
[558]                   Ēvincās utinam jūra ferae Stygis

[559] Parcārumque colōs nōn revocābilēs.  
[560] hīc quī rēx populīs plūribus imperat,  
[561] bellō cum peterēs Nestoream Pylon,  
[562] tēcum cōseruit pestiferās manūs  
[563] tēlum tergeminā cuspidē praeferēns:  
[564] effūgit tenuī vulnere saucius  
[565] et mortis dominus pertimuit morī.  
[566] fātum rumpe manū, trīstibus īferīs  
[567] prōspectus pateat lūcis et īvius  
[568] līmes det facilēs ad superōs viās.  
[569] Immītēs potuit flectere cantibus  
[570] umbrārum dominōs et prece supplicī  
[571] Orpheus, Eurydicē dum repetit suam.  
[572] quae silvās et avēs saxaque trāxerat  
[573] ars, quae praebuerat flūminibus morās,  
[574] ad cuius sonitum cōstiterant ferae,  
[575] mulcet nōn solitīs vōcibus īferōs  
[576] et surdīs resonat clārius in locīs,  
[577] dēflent Eurydicē Thrēiciae nurūs,  
[578] dēflent et lacrimīs difficilēs deī,  
[579] et quī fronte nimis crīmina tetricā  
[580] quaerunt ac veterēs excutiunt reōs  
[581] flentēs Eurydicē jūridicī sedent,  
[582] tandem mortis ait 'vincimur' arbiter,  
[583] 'ēvāde ad superōs, lēge tamen datā:  
[584] tū post terga tuī perge virī comes,  
[585] tū nōn ante tuam respice conjugem,  
[586] quam cum clāra deōs obtulerit diēs  
[587] Spartānique aderit jānuā Taenarī.'  
[588] ōdit vērus amor nec patitur morās:  
[589] mūnus dum properat cernere, perdidit.  
[590] Quae vincī potuit rēgia carmine.  
[591] haec vincī poterit rēgia vīribus.

## Szene 2

[592] [HERCULES]: Ō lūcis almae rēctor et caelī decus,  
[593] quī alterna currū spatia flammiferō ambiēns  
[594] inlūstre lātīs exseris terrīs caput,  
[595] dā, Phoebe, veniam, sī quid inlicitum tuī  
[596] vīdēre vultūs: jussus in lūcem extulī  
[597] arcāna mundī, tūque, caelestum arbiter  
[598] parēnsque, vīsūs fulmine oppositō tege;  
[599] et tū, secundō maria quī scēptrō regis,  
[600] īmās pete undās, quisquis ex altō aspicit  
[601] terrēna, faciē polluī metuēns novā,  
[602] aciem reflectat ōraque in caelum ērigat  
[603] portenta fugiēns: hoc nefās cernant duo,  
[604] quī advēxit et quae jussit, in poenās meās  
[605] atque in labōrēs nōn satis terrae patent  
[606] Jūnōnis odiō: vīdī inaccessa omnibus,  
[607] ignōta Phoebo quaeque dēterior polus

[608] obscūra dīrō spatia concessit Jovī;  
 [609] et, sī placērent tertiāe sortis loca,  
 [610] rēgnāre potuī: noctis aeternae chaos  
 [611] et nocte quiddam gravius et trīstēs deōs  
 [612] et fāta vīdī, morte contemptā redī.  
 [613] quid restat aliud? vīdī et ostendī inferōs.  
 [614] dā sī quid ultrā est, jam diū pateris manūs  
 [615] cessāre nostrās, Jūno; quae vincī jubēs?  
 [616] Sed templa quārē mīles infēstus tenet  
 [617] līmenque, sacrum terror armōrum obsidet?  
 [618] [AMPHITRUON]: Utrumne vīsūs vōta dēciunt meōs.  
 [619] an ille domitor orbis et Grāium decus  
 [620] trīstī silentem nūbilō līquit domum?  
 [621] estne ille nātus? membra laetitiā stupent.  
 [622] ō nāte. certa at sēra Thēbārum salūs,  
 [623] teneōne in aurās ēditum an vānā fruor  
 [624] dēceptus umbrā? tūne es? agnōscō torōs  
 [625] umerōsque et altō nōbilem truncō manum.  
 [626] [HERCULES]: Undē iste, genitor, squālor et lūgūbribus  
 [627] amicta conjūnx? unde tam foedō obsitī  
 [628] paedōre nātī? quae domum clādēs gravat?  
 [629] [AMPHITRUON]: Socer est perēptus, rēgna possēdit Lycus,  
 [630] nātōs parentem conjugem lētō petit.  
 [631] [HERCULES]: Ingrāta tellūs, nēmō ad Herculeae domūs  
 [632] auxilia vēnit? vīdit hoc tantum nefās  
 [633] dēfēsus orbis? cūr diem questū terō?  
 [634] mactētur hostia, hanc ferat virtūs notam  
 [635] fiatque summus hostis Alcīdae Lycus.  
 [636] ad hauriendum sanguinem inimicum feror:  
 [637] Thēseu, resiste, nē qua vīs subita ingruat.  
 [638] mē bella poscunt, differ amplexūs, parēns,  
 [639] conjūnxque differ, nūntiet Dītī Lycus  
 [640] mē jam redīsse. Flēbilem ex oculīs fugā,  
 [641] [THESEUS]: rēgīna, vultum, tūque nātō sospite  
 [642] lacrimās cadentēs reprime: sī nōvī Herculem,  
 [643] Lycus Creontī dēbitās poenās dabit,  
 [644] lentum est dabit: dat; hoc quoque est lentum: dedit.  
 [645] [AMPHITRUON]: Vōtum secundet quī potest nostrum deus  
 [646] rēbusque lassīs adsit. Ō magnī comes  
 [647] magnanime nātī. pande virtūtum ordinem,  
 [648] quam longa maestōs dūcat ad mănēs via,  
 [649] ut vincla tulerit dūra Tartareus canis.  
 [650] [THESEUS]: Memorāre cōgis ācta sēcūrae quoque  
 [651] horrenda mentī. vix adhūc certa est fidēs  
 [652] vītālis aurae, torpet aciēs lūminum  
 [653] hebetēsque vīsūs vix diem īnsuētum ferunt.  
 [654] Pervince, Thēseu, quicquid altō in pectore  
 [655] remanet pavōris nēve tē fructū optimō  
 [656] fraudā labōrum: quae fuit dūrum patī,  
 [657] meminisse dulce est. fāre cāsūs horridōs.  
 [658] Fās omne mundī tēque dominantem precor  
 [659] rēgnō capācī tēque quam āmōtam inrita

[660] quaesivit Ennā māter, ut jūra abdita  
 [661] et operta terrīs liceat impūne ēloquī.  
 [662] Spartāna tellūs nōbile attollit jugum,  
 [663] dēnsīs ubi aequor Taenarus silvīs premit;  
 [664] hīc ōra solvit Dītis invīsī domus  
 [665] hiatque rūpēs alta et immēnsō specū  
 [666] ingēns vorāgō faucibus vastīs patet  
 [667] lātumque pandit omnibus populīs iter.  
 [668] nōn caeca tenebrīs incipit prīmō via;  
 [669] tenuis relictāe lūcis ā tergō nitor  
 [670] fulgorque dubius sōlis afflītī cadit  
 [671] et lūdit aciem: nocte sīc mixtā solet  
 [672] praeberē lūmen prīmus aut sērus diēs.  
 [673] hinc ampla vacuīs spatia laxantur locīs,  
 [674] in quae omne mersum penetrat hūmānum genus.  
 [675] nec īre labor est; ipsa dēdūcit via:  
 [676] ut saepe puppēs aestus invītās rapit,  
 [677] sīc prōnus āēr urguet atque avidum chaos,  
 [678] gradumque retrō flectere haut umquam sinunt  
 [679] umbrae tenācēs. intus immēnsī sinūs  
 [680] placidō quiēta lābitur Lēthē vadō  
 [681] dēmitque cūrās, nēve remeandī amplius  
 [682] pateat facultās, flexibus multīs gravem  
 [683] involvit amnem: quālis incertīs vagus  
 [684] Maeander undīs lūdit et cēdit sibī  
 [685] īstatque dubius lītus an fontem petat.  
 [686] palūs inertis foeda Cōcŷtī jacet;  
 [687] hīc vultur, illīc lūctifer būbō gemit  
 [688] ōmenque trīste resonat īfaustae strigis.  
 [689] horrent opācā fronde nigrantēs comae,  
 [690] taxō imminente quam tenet sēgnis Sopor,  
 [691] Famēsque maesta tābidō rictū jacet  
 [692] Pudorque sērus cōnsciōs vultūs tegit.  
 [693] Metus Pavorque; Fūnus et frendēns Dolor  
 [694] āterque Lūctus sequitur et Morbus tremēns  
 [695] et cīncta ferrō Bella; in extrēmō abdita  
 [696] iners Senectūs adjuvat baculō gradum.  
 [697] [AMPHITRUON]: Estne aliqua tellūs Cereris aut Bacchī ferāx?  
 [698] [THESEUS]: Nōn prāta viridī laeta faciē gerinant  
 [699] nec adulta lēnī fluctuat Zephyrō seges;  
 [700] nōn ūlla rāmōs silva pōmiferōs habet:  
 [701] sterilis profundī vastitās squālet solī  
 [702] et foeda tellūs torpet aeternō sitū.  
 [703] rērumque maestus finis et mundī ultima  
 [704] immōtus āēr haeret et pigrō sedet  
 [705] nox ātra mundō: cūncta maerōre horrida  
 [706] ipsāque morte pejor est mortis locus.  
 [707] [AMPHITRUON]: Quid ille opāca quī regit scēptrō loca,  
 [708] quā sēde positus temperat populōs levēs?  
 [709] [THESEUS]: Est in recessū Tartarī obscurō locus,  
 [710] quem gravibus umbrīs spissa cālīgō alligat.  
 [711] ā fonte discors mānat hinc ūnō latex,

[712] alter quiētō similis (hunc jūrant deī)  
 [713] tacente sacram dēvehēns fluviō Styga;  
 [714] at hīc tumultū rapitur ingentī ferōx  
 [715] et saxa flūctū volvit Acherōn invius  
 [716] renāvigārī. cingitur duplicī vadō  
 [717] adversa Dītis rēgia, atque ingēns domus  
 [718] umbrante lūcō tegitur, hīc vastō specū  
 [719] pendent tyrannī līmina, hoc umbrīs iter,  
 [720] haec porta rēgnī, campus hanc circā jacet,  
 [721] in quō superbō dīgerit vultū sedēns  
 [722] animās recentēs dīra majestās deī.  
 [723] frōns torva, frātrum quae tamen speciem gerat  
 [724] gentisque tantae, vultus est illī Jovis,  
 [725] sed fulminantis: magna pars rēgnī trucidis  
 [726] est ipse dominus, cujus aspectūs timet  
 [727] quicquid timētur. Vērane est fāma īnferīs  
 [728] [AMPHITRUON]: tam sēra reddī jūra et oblītōs suī  
 [729] sceleris nocentēs dēbitās poenās dare?  
 [730] quis iste vērī rēctor atque aequī arbiter?  
 [731] [THESEUS]: Nōn ūnus altā sēde quaesītōr sedēns  
 [732] jūdicia trepidīs sēra sortītur reīs.  
 [733] adītur illō Gnōsius Mīnōs forō,  
 [734] Rhadamanthus illō, Thetidis hōc audit socer.  
 [735] quod quisque fēcīt, patitur; auctōrem scelus  
 [736] repetit suōque premitur exemplō nocēns:  
 [737] vīdī cruentōs carcere inclūdī ducēs  
 [738] et impotentis terga plēbejā manū  
 [739] scindī tyrannī. quisquis est placidē potēns  
 [740] dominusque vītāe servat innocuās manūs  
 [741] et incruentum mītis imperium regit  
 [742] [THESEUS]: animōque parcit, longa permēnsus diū  
 [743] [THESEUS]: fēlicis aevī spatia vel caelum petit  
 [744] vel laeta fēlīx nemoris Ēlysīi loca,  
 [745] jūdex futūrus. sanguine hūmānō abstinē  
 [746] quīcumque rēgnās: scelera taxantur modō  
 [747] majōre vestra. Certus inclūsōs tenet  
 [748] [AMPHITRUON]: locus nocentēs? utque fert fāma. impiōs  
 [749] supplicia vinclīs saeva perpetuīs domant?  
 [750] [THESEUS]: Rapitur volucrī tortus Ixīōn rotā;  
 [751] cervīce saxum grande Sīsyp̄hiā sedet;  
 [752] in amne mediō faucibus siccīs senex  
 [753] sectātur undās, alluit mentum latex,  
 [754] fidemque cum jam saepe dēceptō dedit,  
 [755] perit unda in ōre; pōma dēstituunt famem.  
 [756] praebet volucrī Tityos aeternās dapēs  
 [757] urnāsque frūstrā Danaides plēnās gerunt;  
 [758] errant furentēs impiae Cadmēides  
 [759] terretque mēnsās avida Phīnēās avis.  
 [760] [AMPHITRUON]: Nunc ēde nātī nōbilem pugnam meī.  
 [761] patruī volentis mūnus an spoliū refert?  
 [762] [THESEUS]: Fērāle tardīs imminet saxum vadīs.  
 [763] stupent ubi undae, sēgne torpēscit fretum.

[764] hunc servat amnem cultū et aspectū horridus  
 [765] pavidōsque mănēs squālidus vectat senex.  
 [766] impexa pendet barba, dēfōrmem sinum  
 [767] nōdus coercet, concavae lūcent genae;  
 [768] regit ipse longō portitor contō ratem.  
 [769] hic onere vacuam lītorī puppem applicāns  
 [770] repetēbat umbrās; poscit Alcīdēs viam  
 [771] cēdente turbā; dīrus exclāmat Charōn:  
 [772] 'quō pergis, audāx? siste properantem gradum.'  
 [773] nōn passus ūllās nātus Alcmēnā morās  
 [774] ipsō coāctum nāvitam contō domat  
 [775] scanditque puppem. cumba populōrum capāx  
 [776] succubuit ūnī: sēdit et gravior ratis  
 [777] utrimque Lēthēn latere titubantī bibit.  
 [778] tum victa trepidant mōnstra, Centaurī trucēs  
 [779] Lapithaeque multō in bella succēnsī merō;  
 [780] Stygiae palūdis ultimōs quaerēns sinūs  
 [781] fēcunda mergit capita Lernaesus labor.  
 [782] post haec avārī Dītis appāret domus:  
 [783] hīc saevus umbrās territat Stygius canis,  
 [784] quī terna vastō capita concutiēns sonō  
 [785] rēgnū tuētur, sordidum tābō caput  
 [786] lambunt colubrae, vīperīs horrent jubae  
 [787] longusque tortā sībilat caudā dracō.  
 [788] pār īra fōmae: sēnsit ut mōtūs pedum,  
 [789] attollit hirtās angue vibrātō comās  
 [790] missumque captat aure subrēctā sonum,  
 [791] sentīre et umbrās solitus, ut propior stetit  
 [792] Jove nātus, antrō sēdit incertus canis  
 [793] leviterque timuit, ecce lātrātū gravī  
 [794] loca mūta terret; sībilat tōtōs mināx  
 [795] serpēns per armōs, vōcis horrendae fragor  
 [796] per ōra missus terna fēlicēs quoque  
 [797] exterret umbrās, solvit ā laevā ferōs  
 [798] tunc ipse rictūs et Cleōnaeum caput  
 [799] oppōnit ac sē tegmine ingentī tegit,  
 [800] victrīce magnum dexterā rōbur gerēns.  
 [801] hūc nunc et illūc verbere assiduō rotat,  
 [802] ingeminat ictūs; domitus īnfrēgit minās  
 [803] et cūncta lassus capita summīsīt canis  
 [804] antrōque tōtō cessit; extimuit sedēns  
 [805] uterque soliō dominus et dūcī jubet;  
 [806] mē quoque petentī mūnus Alcīdae dedit.  
 [807] Tum gravia mōnstrī colla permulcēns manū  
 [808] adamante textō vincit; oblītus suī  
 [809] cūstōs opācī pervigil rēgnī canis  
 [810] compōnit aurēs timidus et patiēns trahī  
 [811] erumque fassus, ōre summissō obsequēns,  
 [812] utrumque caudā pulsāt anguiferā latus.  
 [813] postquam est ad ōrās Taenarī ventum et nitor  
 [814] percussit oculōs lūcis ignōtae novus,  
 [815] resūmit animōs victus et vastās furēns



[816] quassat catēnās; paene victōrem abstulit  
 [817] prōnumque retrō vēxit et mōvit gradū.  
 [818] tunc et meās respexit Alcīdēs manūs;  
 [819] geminīs uterque vīribus tractum canem  
 [820] īrā furem et bella temptantem irrita  
 [821] intulimus orbī. vīdit ut clārum diem  
 [822] et pūra nitidī spatia cōspexit poli,  
 [823] oborta nox est; lūmina in terram dedit,  
 [824] compressit oculōs et diem invīsum expulit  
 [825] faciemque retrō flexit atque omnī petit  
 [826] cervīce terram; tum sub Herculeās caput  
 [827] abscondit umbrās. dēnsa sed laetō venit  
 [828] clāmōre turba frontibus laurum gerēns  
 [829] magnīque meritās Herculis laudēs canit.

## Chor (sapphics and glyconics)

[830] [CHORUS]: Nātus Eurystheus properante partū  
 [831] jusserat mundī penetrāre fundum:  
 [832] dērat hoc solum numerō labōrum,  
 [833] tertiae rēgem spoliāre sortis.  
 [834] ausus es caecōs aditūs inīre,  
 [835] dūcit ad mănēs via quā remōtōs  
 [836] trīstis et nigrā metuenda silvā,  
 [837] sed frequēns magnā comitante turbā.  
 [838] Quantus incēdit populus per urbēs  
 [839] ad novī lūdōs avidus theātrī,  
 [840] quantus Ēlēum ruit ad Tonantem,  
 [841] quīnta cum sacrum revocāvit aestās;  
 [842] quanta, cum longae redit hōra noctī  
 [843] crēscere et somnōs cupiēns quiētōs  
 [844] lībra Phoebēōs tenet aequa currūs,  
 [845] turba sēcrētam Cererem frequentat  
 [846] et citī tēctīs properant relictīs  
 [847] Atticī noctem celebrāre mystae:  
 [848] tanta per campōs agitur silentēs  
 [849] turba; pars tardā graditur senectā,  
 [850] trīstis et longā satiāta vītā:  
 [851] pars adhūc currit meliōris aevī:  
 [852] virginēs nōndum thalamīs jugātae  
 [853] et comīs nōndum positīs ephēbī  
 [854] mātis et nōmen modo doctus īnfāns,  
 [855] hīs datum sōlīs, minus ut timērent,  
 [856] igne praelātō relevāre noctem;  
 [857] cēterī vādunt per opāca trīstēs.  
 [858] quālis est vōbīs animus, remōtā  
 [859] lūce cum maestus sibi quisque sēnsit  
 [860] obrutum tōtā caput esse terrā?  
 [861] stat chaos dēnsum tenebraeque turpēs  
 [862] et color noctis malus ac silentis  
 [863] ōtium mundī vacuaeque nūbēs.  
 [864] Sēra nōs illō referat senectūs!

[865] nēmō ad id sērō venit, unde numquam,  
[866] cum semel vēnit, potuit revertī;  
[867] quid juvat dūrum properāre fātum?  
[868] omnis haec magnīs vaga turba terrīs  
[869] ībit ad mănēs facietque inertī  
[870] vēla Cōcȳtō: tibi crēscit omne,  
[871] et quod occāsus videt et quod ortus;  
[872] parce ventūrīs; tibi, mors, parāmur.  
[873] sīs licet sēgnis, properāmus ipsī:  
[874] prīma quae vītam dedit hōra, carpit.  
[875] Thēbīs laeta diēs adest.  
[876] ārās tangite supplicēs,  
[877] pinguēs caedite victimās;  
[878] permixtae maribus nurūs  
[879] sollemnēs agitent chorōs;  
[880] cessent dēpositō jugō  
[881] arvī fertilis incolae.  
[882] Pāx est Herculeā manū  
[883] Aurōram inter et Hesperum,  
[884] et quā sōl medium tenēns  
[885] umbrās corporibus negat;  
[886] quodcumque alluitur solum  
[887] longō Tēthyos ambitū,  
[888] Alcīdae domuit labor.  
[889] Trānsvectus vada Tartarī  
[890] pācātīs redit īferīs.  
[891] jam nūllus superest timor:  
[892] nīl ultrā jacet īferōs,  
[893] stantēs sacrificus comās  
[894] dīlēctā tege pōpulō.

## Szene 3

[895] [HERCULES]: Ultrīce dextrā fūsus adversō Lycus  
[896] terram cecīdit ōre; tum quisquis comes  
[897] fuerat tyrannī jacuit et poenae comes,  
[898] nunc sacra patrī victor et superīs feram  
[899] caesīsque meritās victimīs ārās colam.  
[900] Tē tē labōrum socia et adjūtrīx precor.  
[901] belligera Pallas, cujus in laevā ciet  
[902] aegis ferōcēs ōre saxificō minās;  
[903] adsit Lycūrgī domitor et rubrī maris,  
[904] tēctam virente cuspidem thyrsō gerēns,  
[905] geminumque nūmen Phoebus et Phoebī soror:  
[906] soror sagittīs aptior, Phoebus lyrae;  
[907] frāterque quisquis incolit caelum meus  
[908] nōn ex novercā frāter, hūc appellite  
[909] gregēs opīmōs; quicquid Indōrum est seges  
[910] Arabesque odōris quicquid arboribus legunt  
[911] cōnferte in ārās, pinguis exundet vapor,  
[912] pōpulea nostrās arbor exōrnet comās,  
[913] tē rāmus oleae fronde gentīlī tegat,

[914] Thēseu; Tonantem nostra adōrābit manus,  
 [915] tū conditōrēs urbis et silvestria  
 [916] trucis antra Zēthī. nōbilis Dircēn aquae  
 [917] laremque rēgis advenae Tyrium colēs.  
 [918] date tūra flammīs. Nāte, mānantēs prius  
 [919] [AMPHITRUON]: manūs cruentā caede et hostilī expiā.  
 [920] [HERCULES]: Utinam cruōre capitis invīsī deīs  
 [921] libāre possem: grātor nūllus liquor  
 [922] tīxisset ārās; victima haut ūlla amplior  
 [923] potest magisque opīma mactārī Jovī,  
 [924] quam rēx inīquus. Fīniat genitor tuōs  
 [925] [AMPHITRUON]: optā labōrēs, dētur aliquandō ōtium  
 [926] quiēsq̄ fessīs. Ipse concipiam precēs  
 [927] [HERCULES]: Jove mēque dignās, stet suō caelum locō  
 [928] tellūsque et aequor; astra inoffēnsōs agant  
 [929] aeterna cursūs, alta pāx gentēs alat:  
 [930] ferrum omne teneat rūris innocuī labor  
 [931] ēnsēsque lateant, nūlla tempestās fretum  
 [932] violenta turbet, nūllus irātō Jove  
 [933] exsiliat ignis, nūllus hibernā nive  
 [934] nūtrītus agrōs amnis ēversōs trahat.  
 [935] venēna cessent, nūlla nocitūrō gravis  
 [936] sūcō tumēscat herba, nōn saevī ac trucēs  
 [937] rēgnent tyrannī; sī quod etiamnum est scelus  
 [938] lātūra tellūs, properet, et sī quod parat  
 [939] mōnstrum, meum sit. sed quid hoc? medium diem  
 [940] cīnxēre tenebrae. Phoebus obscūrō meat  
 [941] sine nūbe vultū. quis diem retrō fugat  
 [942] agitque in ortūs? unde nox ātrum caput  
 [943] ignōta prōfert? unde tot stēllae polum  
 [944] implent diurnae? prīmus ēn noster labor  
 [945] caelī refulget parte nōn minimā leō  
 [946] irāque tōtus fervet et morsūs parat.  
 [947] jam rapiet aliquod sīdus: ingentī mināx  
 [948] stat ōre et ignēs efflat et rutilā jubam  
 [949] cervīce jactāns quicquid autumnus gravis  
 [950] hiemsque gelidō frīgida spatiō refert  
 [951] ūnō impetū trānsiliet et vernī petet  
 [952] frangetque taurī colla. Quod subitum hoc malum est?  
 [953] [AMPHITRUON]: quō, nāte, vultūs hūc et hūc ācrēs refers  
 [954] aciēque falsum turbidā caelum vidēs?  
 [955] [HERCULES]: Perdomita tellūs, tumida cessērunt freta,  
 [956] īnfēna nostrōs rēgna sēnsēre impetūs:  
 [957] immūne caelum est, dignus Alcīdē labor.  
 [958] in alta mundī spatia sublīmis ferar,  
 [959] petātur aethēr: astra prōmittit pater.  
 [960] quid, sī negāret? nōn capit terra Herculem  
 [961] tandemque superīs reddit, ēn ultrō vocat  
 [962] omnis deōrum coetus et laxat forēs,  
 [963] ūnā vetante. recipis et reserās polum?  
 [964] an contumācis jānuam mundī trahō?  
 [965] dubitātur etiam? vincla Sātūrnō exuam

[966] contrāque patris impiī rēgnum impotēns  
 [967] avum resolvam; bella Tītānes parent,  
 [968] mē duce furentēs; saxa cum silvīs feram  
 [969] rapiamque dextrā plēna Centaurīs juga.  
 [970] jam monte geminō līmitem ad superōs agam:  
 [971] videat sub Ossā Pēlion Chīrōn suum,  
 [972] in caelum Olympus tertiō positus gradū  
 [973] perveniet aut mittētur. Īnfandōs procul  
 [974] [AMPHITRUON]: āverte sēnsūs; pectoris sānī parum  
 [975] magnī tamen compesce dēmentem impetum.  
 [976] [HERCULES]: Quid hoc? Gigantes arma pestiferī movent.  
 [977] profūgit umbrās Tityos ac lacerum gerēns  
 [978] et ināne pectus quam prope ā caelō stetit.  
 [979] labat Cithaerōn, alta Pellēnē tremit  
 [980] marcentque Tempē. rapuit hic Pindī juga,  
 [981] hic rapuit Oetēn, saevit horrendum Mimāns.  
 [982] flammifera Erīnys verberē excussō sonat  
 [983] rogisque adustās propius ac propius sudēs  
 [984] in ōra tendit; saeva Tisiphonē, caput  
 [985] serpentibus vāllāta, post raptum canem  
 [986] portam vacantem clausit oppositā face.  
 [987] sed ecce prōlēs rēgis inimīcī latet.  
 [988] Lycī nefandum sēmen: invīsō patrī  
 [989] haec dextra jam vōs reddet, excutiat levis  
 [990] nervus sagittās, tēla sīc mittī decet  
 [991] Herculea. Quō sē caecus impēgit furor?  
 [992] [AMPHITRUON]: vastum coāctīs flexit arcum cornibus  
 [993] pharetramque solvit, strīdet ēmissa impetū  
 [994] harundo; mediō spīculum collō fugit  
 [995] vulnere relictō. Cēteram prōlem ēruam  
 [996] [HERCULES]: omnīsque latebrās, quid moror? majus mihi  
 [997] bellum Mycēnīs restat, ut Cyclōpia  
 [998] ēversa manibus saxa nostrīs concidant.  
 [999] hūc eat et illūc valva dējectō obice  
 [1000] rumpatque postēs; culmen impulsū labet.  
 [1001] perlūcet omnis rēgia: hīc videō abditum  
 [1002] gnātum scelestī patris. Ēn blandās manūs  
 [1003] [AMPHITRUON]: ad genua tendēns vōce miserandā rogat:  
 [1004] scelus nefandum, trīste et aspectū horridum!  
 [1005] dextrā precantem rapuit et circā furēns  
 [1006] bis ter rotātum mīsīt; ast illī caput  
 [1007] sonuit, cerebrō tēcta dispersō madent.  
 [1008] at misera, parvum prōtegēns gnātum sinū,  
 [1009] Megarā furentī similis ē latebrīs fugit.  
 [1010] [HERCULES]: Licet tonantis profuga condāris sinū,  
 [1011] petet undecumque tēmet haec dextra et feret.  
 [1012] [AMPHITRUON]: Quō misera pergis? quam fugam aut latebram petis?  
 [1013] nūllus salūtis Hercule ĩnfēstō est locus.  
 [1014] amplectere ipsum potius et blandā prece  
 [1015] lēnīre temptā. Parce jam, conjūnx, precor,  
 [1016] [MEGARA]: agnōsce Megaram. gnātus hic vultūs tuōs  
 [1017] habitūsque reddit; cernis, ut tendat manūs?

[1018] [HERCULES]: Teneō novercam. sequere, dā poenās mihi  
[1019] jugōque pressum liberā turpī Jovem;  
[1020] sed ante mātrem parvulum hoc mōnstrum occidat.  
[1021] [MEGARA]: Quō tendis āmēns? sanguinem fundēs tuum?  
[1022] [AMPHITRUON]: Pavefactus īnfāns igneō vultū patris  
[1023] perit ante vulnus, spīritum ēripuit timor.  
[1024] in conjugem nunc clāva librātur gravis:  
[1025] perfrēgit ossa, corporī truncō caput  
[1026] abest nec usquam est. cernere hoc audēs, nimis  
[1027] vīvāx senectūs? sī piget lūctūs, habēs  
[1028] mortem parātam: pectus in tēla induē,  
[1029] vel stīpitem istūc caede nostrōrum inlitum  
[1030] converte, falsum ac nōminī turpem tuō  
[1031] removē parentem, nē tuae laudī obstrepat.  
[1032] quō tē ipse, senior, obvium mortī ingeris?  
[1033] quō pergis āmēns? profuge et obtēctus latē,  
[1034] ūnumque manibus aufer Herculeīs scelus.  
[1035] [HERCULES]: Bene habet, pudendī rēgis excīsa est domus.  
[1036] tibi hunc dicātum, maximī conjūnx Jovis,  
[1037] gregem cecidī; vōta persolvī libēns  
[1038] tē digna, et Argos victimās aliās dabit.  
[1039] [AMPHITRUON]: Nōndum litāstī, nāte: cōsummā sacrum.  
[1040] stat ecce ad ārās hostia, expectat manum  
[1041] cervīce prōnā; praebeō occurrō īnsequor:  
[1042] mactā; quid hoc est? errat aciēs lūminum  
[1043] vīsūque maeror hebetat? an videō Herculis  
[1044] manūs trementēs? vultus in somnum cadit  
[1045] et fessa cervīx capite summissō labat;  
[1046] flexō genū jam tōtus ad terram ruit,  
[1047] ut caesa silvīs ornus aut portum marī  
[1048] datūra mōlēs, vīvis an lētō dedit  
[1049] idem tuōs quī mīsīt ad mortem furor?  
[1050] sopor est: reciprocōs spīritus mōtūs agit.  
[1051] dētur quiētī tempus, ut somnō gravī  
[1052] vīs victa morbī pectus oppressum levet.  
[1053] removēte, famulī, tēla, nē repetat furēns.

## Chor (Anapästē)

[1054] [CHORUS]: Lūgeat aethēr magnusque parēns  
[1055] aetheris altī tellūsque ferāx  
[1056] et vaga pontī mōbilis unda,  
[1057] tūque ante omnīs quī per terrās  
[1058] tractūsque maris fundis radiōs  
[1059] noctemque fugās ore decōrō,  
[1060] fervide Tītān: obitūs pariter  
[1061] tēcum Alcīdēs vīdit et ortūs  
[1062] nōvitque tuās utrasque domōs.  
[1063] Solvite tantīs animum mōnstrīs,  
[1064] solvite superī,  
[1065] rēctam in melius flectite mentem.  
[1066] tūque, ō domitor Somne malōrum,

[1067] requiēs animī,  
[1068] pars hūmānae melior vītae,  
[1069] volucre ō mātris genus Astraeae,  
[1070] vērīs miscēns falsa, futūrī  
[1071] certus et īdem pessimus auctor,  
[1072] pater ō rērum, portus vītae,  
[1073] lūcis requiēs noctisque comes,  
[1074] quī pār rēgī famulōque venis,  
[1075] pavidum lētī genus hūmānum  
[1076] cōgis longam discere noctem:  
[1077] placidus fessum lēnisque fovē,  
[1078] preme dēvīnctum torpōre gravī;  
[1079] sopor indomitōs alliget artūs  
[1080] nec torva prius pectora linquat,  
[1081] quam mēns repetat prīstina cursum.  
[1082] Ēn fūsus humī saeva ferōcī  
[1083] corde volūtāt somnia -nōndum est  
[1084] tantī pestis superāta malī-  
[1085] clāvaeque gravī lassum solitus  
[1086] mandāre caput  
[1087] quaerit vacuā pondera dextrā,  
[1088] mōtū jactāns brachia vānō.  
[1089] nec adhūc omnīs expulit aestūs,  
[1090] sed ut ingentī vexāta notō  
[1091] servat longōs unda tumultūs  
[1092] et jam ventō cessante tumet.  
[1093] pelle īnsānōs flūctūs animī,  
[1094] redeat pietās virtūsque virō.  
[1095] mēns vēsānō concita mōtū:  
[1096] error caecus quā coepit eat;  
[1097] sōlus tē jam praestāre potest  
[1098] furor īnsontem: proxima pūrīs  
[1099] sors est manibus nescīre nefās.  
[1100] Nunc Herculeīs percussa sonent  
[1101] pectora palmīs,  
[1102] mundum solitōs ferre lacertōs  
[1103] verbera pulsant victrīce manū;  
[1104] gemitūs vastōs audiat aethēr,  
[1105] audiat ātrī rēgīna polī  
[1106] vastisque ferōx  
[1107] quī colla gerit vīncta catēnīs  
[1108] īmō latitāns Cerberus antrō.  
[1109] Resonet maestō clāmōre chaos  
[1110] et quī medius tua tēla tamen  
[1111] sēnserrat āēr.  
[1112] pectora tantīs obsessa malīs  
[1113] nōn sunt ictū ferienda levī:  
[1114] ūnō plānctū tria rēgna sonent.  
[1115] Et tū collō decus ac tēlum  
[1116] suspēnsa diū,  
[1117] fortis harundō, pharetraeque gravēs,  
[1118] date saeva ferō verbera tergō;

[1119] caedant umerōs rōbora fortēs  
[1120] dūrīs oneret pectora nōdīs:  
[1121] plangant tantōs arma dolōrēs.  
[1125] flectere doctī fortēs caestū  
[1126] fortēsque manū, jam tamen ausī  
[1127] tēlum Scythicīs leve cōrītīs  
[1128] missum certā librāre manū  
[1129] tūtōsque fugā figere cervōs:  
[1130] nōndumque ferae terga jubātae  
[1131] īte ad Stygiōs, umbrae, portūs  
[1132] īte, innocuae,  
[1133] quās in prīmō limine vītae  
[1134] scelus oppressit patriusque furor,  
[1135] īte, īrātōs vīsīte rēgēs.

## Szene 4

[1136] [HERCULES]: Quis hic locus, quae regio, quae mundi plaga?  
[1137] ubi sum? sub ortū sōlis, an sub cardine  
[1138] [CHORUS]: ultī saevōs vulnere rēgēs,  
[1139] nōn Argīvā membra palaestrā  
[1140] [HERCULES]: glaciālis ursae? numquid Hesperīi maris  
[1141] extrēma tellūs hunc dat Ōceanō modum?  
[1142] quās trahimus aurās? quod solum fessō subest?  
[1143] certē redīmus, unde prōstrāta ad domum  
[1144] videō cruenta corpora? an nōndum exuit  
[1145] simulācra mēns īnferna? post reditūs quoque  
[1146] oberrat oculīs turba fērālis meīs?  
[1147] pudet fatērī: paveō; nescioquod mihi,  
[1148] nescioquod animus grande praesāgit malum,  
[1149] ubi es, parēns? ubi illa nātōrum grege  
[1150] animōsa conjūnx? cūr latus laevum vacat  
[1151] spoliō leōnis? quōnam abīt tegimen meum  
[1152] īdemque somnō mollis Herculeō torus?  
[1153] ubi tēla? ubi arcus? arma quis vīvō mihi  
[1154] dētrahere potuit? spolia quis tanta abstulit  
[1155] ipsumque quis nōn Herculis somnum horruit?  
[1156] libet meum vidēre victōrem, libet  
[1157] (exsurge, virtūs) quem novum caelō pater  
(erhebe dich, Tapferkeit)  
[1158] genuit relictō, cuius in fētū stetit  
[1159] nox longior quam nostra- quod cernō nefās?  
[1160] nātī cruentā caede cōnfectī jacent,  
[1161] perēmta conjūnx. quis Lycus rēgnum obtinet  
[1162] quis tanta Thēbīs scelera mōlīrī ausus est  
[1163] Hercule reversō? quisquis Ismēnī loca,  
[1164] Actaea quisquis arva, quī geminō marī  
[1165] pulsāta Pelopis rēgna Dardaniī colis,  
[1166] succurre, saevae clādīs auctōrem indicā.  
[1167] ruat īra in omnīs: hostis est quisquis mihi  
[1168] nōn mōnstrat hostem. victor Alcīdae, latēs?  
[1169] prōcēde, seu tū vindicās currūs trucēs

[1170] Thrācis cruentī sīve Gēryonae pecus  
 [1171] Libyaeve dominōs, nūlla pugnandī mora est.  
 [1172] ēn nūdus astō; vel meīs armīs licet  
 [1173] petās inermem, cūr meōs Thēseus fugit  
 [1174] paterque vultūs? ōra cūr condunt sua?  
 [1175] differte flētūs; quis meōs dederit necī  
 [1176] omnīs simul, profāre. quid, genitor, silēs?  
 [1177] at tū ēde, Thēseu, sed tuā, Thēseu, fidē.  
 [1178] uterque tacitus ōra pudibunda obtegit  
 [1179] fūrtimque lacrimās fundit, in tantīs malīs  
 [1180] quid est pudendum? numquid Argīvae impotēns  
 [1181] dominātor urbis, numquid īnfēstum Lycī  
 [1182] pereuntis agmen clāde nōs tantā obruit?  
 [1183] per tē meōrum facinorum laudem precor,  
 [1184] genitor, tuīque nōminis semper mihī  
 [1185] nūmen secundum, fāre, quis fūdit domum?  
 [1186] cui praeda jacuī? Tacita sīc abeant mala.  
 [1187] Ut inultus ego sim? Saepe vindicta obfuit.  
 [1188] Quisquamne sēgnis tanta tolerāvit mala?  
 [1189] [AMPHITRUON]: Majōra quisquis timuit. Hīs etiam, pater,  
 [1190] [HERCULES]: quicquam timērī majus aut gravius potest?  
 [1191] [AMPHITRUON]: Clādis tuae pars ista quam nōstī quota est?  
 [1192] [HERCULES]: Miserēre, genitor, supplicēs tendō manūs.  
 [1193] quid hoc? manūs refūgit, hīc errat scelus.  
 [1194] unde hic cruor? quid illa puerilī madēns  
 [1195] harundo lētō? tīncta Lernaēā nece  
 [1196] jam tēla videō nostra, nōn quaerō manum.  
 [1197] quis potuit arcum flectere aut quae dextera  
 [1198] sinuāre nervum rīte cēdentem mihī?  
 [1199] ad vōs revertor; genitor, hoc nostrum est scelus?  
 [1200] tacuēre? nostrum est. Lūctus est istīc tuus,  
 [1201] [AMPHITRUON]: crīmen novercae: cāsus hic culpā caret.  
 [1202] [HERCULES]: Nunc parte ab omnī, genitor, īrātus tonā,  
 [1203] oblīte nostrī vindicā sērā manū  
 [1204] saltem nepōtēs. stelliger mundus sonet  
 [1205] flammāsque et hic et ille jaculētur polus:  
 [1206] rūpēs ligātum Caspiae corpus trahant  
 [1207] atque āles avida; cūr Promēthēī vacant  
 [1208] scopulī? vacat cūr vertice immēnsō ferās  
 [1209] volucrēsque pāscēns Caucasī abruptum latus  
 [1210] nūdumque silvīs? illa quae pontum Scythēn  
 [1211] Symplēgas artat hinc et hinc vīnctās manūs  
 [1212] distendat altō, cumque revocatā vice  
 [1213] in sē coībunt saxaque in caelum expriment  
 [1214] āctīs utrimque rūpibus medium mare,  
 [1215] ego inquiētā montium jaceam morā.  
 [1216] quīn strūctum acervāns nemore congestō aggerem  
 [1217] cruōre corpus impiō sparsum cremō?  
 [1218] sīc, sīc agendum est: īferīs reddam Herculem.  
 [1219] [AMPHITRUON]: Nōndum tumultū pectus attonitō carēns  
 [1220] mūtāvit īrās quodque habet proprium furor,  
 [1221] in sē ipse saevit. Dīra Furiārum loca



[1222] [HERCULES]: et **inferōrum** carcer et **sontī** plaga  
[1223] **dēcrēta** turbae; sī quod **exilium** latet  
[1224] ulterius **Erebō**, **Cerberō** **ignōtum** et mihī:  
[1225] hōc mē **abde**, **tellūs**; **Tartarī** ad **finem ultimum**  
[1226] **mānsūrus** **ībō**. **pectus** ō nimium **ferum!**  
[1227] quis vōs per **omnem**, **liberī**, **sparsōs** domum  
[1228] **dēflēre** dignē poterit? hic **dūrus** malīs  
[1229] **lacrimāre** vultus nescit. hūc arcum date,  
[1230] date hūc **sagittās**, **stīpitem** hūc **vastum** date.  
[1231] tibi **tēla** frangam **nostra**, tibi **nostrōs**, puer,  
[1232] **rumpēmus** arcūs; at **tuīs** stīpes **gravis**  
[1233] **ārdēbit** umbrīs; ipsa **Lernaeīs** frequēns  
[1234] **pharetra** tēlīs in **tuōs** ībit rogōs:  
[1235] dent arma poenās, vōs quoque **īnfaustās** meīs  
[1236] **cremābo** tēlīs, ō **novercālēs** manūs.  
[1237] [AMPHITRUON]: Quis **nōmen** usquam **sceleris** **errōrī** addidit?  
[1238] [HERCULES]: Saepe **error** **ingēns** **sceleris** obtinuit locum.  
[1239] [AMPHITRUON]: Nunc **Hercule** opus est: **perfer** hanc **mōlem** malī.  
[1240] [HERCULES]: Nōn sīc **furōre** cessit **extīnctus** pudor,  
[1241] **populōs** ut **omnēs** **impiō** aspectū fugem.  
[1242] arma, arma, **Thēseu**, **flāgitō** **properē** mihī  
[1243] **subtracta** reddī, **sāna** sī mēns est mihī,  
[1244] **referte** manibus tēla; sī remanet furor,  
[1245] **pater**, **recēde**: mortis inveniam viam.  
[1246] [AMPHITRUON]: Per **sāncta** generis sacra, per jūs nōminis  
[1247] **utrumque** nostrī, sīve mē **altōrem** vocās  
[1248] seu tū **parentem**, perque **venerandōs** piīs  
[1249] **cānōs**, **senectae** parce **dēsertae**, precor,  
[1250] **annīsque** **fessīs**; **ūnicum** **lāpsae** domūs  
[1251] **firmāmen**, **ūnum** **lūmen** **afflictō** malīs  
[1252] tēmet **reservā**. **nūllus** ex tē **contigit**  
[1253] **frūctus** labōrum; semper aut **dubium** mare  
[1254] aut **mōnstra** timuī; quisquis in **tōtō** furit  
[1255] **rēx** **saevus** orbe, manibus aut **ārīs** **nocēns**,  
[1256] ā mē timētur: semper **absentis** pater  
[1257] **frūctum** tuī **factumque** et **aspectum** petō.  
[1258] [HERCULES]: Cūr **animam** in **istā** **lūce** **dētineam** amplius  
[1259] **mōrerque** nihil est: **cūncta** jam **āmīsī** bona,  
[1260] **mentem** arma **fāmam** **conjugem** **gnātōs** manūs,  
[1261] etiam **furōrem**, nēmo **pollūtō** queat  
[1262] **animō** **medērī**: morte **sānandum** est scelus.  
[1263] [AMPHITRUON]: **Perimēs** **parentem**. **Facere** nē possim, occidam.  
[1264] **Genitōre** cōram? **Cernere** hunc **docuī** nefās.  
[1265] **Memoranda** potius omnibus **facta** **intuēns**  
[1266] **ūnūs** ā tē **crīminis** **veniam** **pete**.  
[1267] [HERCULES]: **Veniam** dabit sibi ipse, quī **nūllī** **dedit**?  
[1268] **laudanda** **fēcī** **jussus**: hoc **ūnum** **meum** est.  
[1269] **succurre**, genitor; sīve tē **pietās** movet  
[1270] seu **trīste** **fātum** sīve **violātum** decus  
[1271] **virtūtis**: **effer** arma; **vincātur** **meā**  
[1272] **fortūna** dextrā. Sunt quidem **patriae** **precēs**  
[1273] [THESEUS]: satis **efficācēs**, sed tamen **nostrō** quoque

[1274] mōvēre flētū, surge et adversa impetū  
[1275] perfringe solitō, nunc tuum nūllī imparem  
[1276] animum malō resūme, nunc magnā tibī  
[1277] virtūte agendum est: Herculem irāscī vetā.  
[1278] [HERCULES]: Sī vīvo, fēcī scelera; sī morior, tulī.  
[1279] pūrgāre terrās propero, jamdūdum mihī  
[1280] mōnstrum impium saevumque et immīte ac ferum  
[1281] oberrat: agedum dextra, cōnāre aggredī  
[1282] ingēns opus, labōre bis sēnō amplius.  
[1283] ignāva cessās, fortis in puerōs modo  
[1284] pavidāsque mātērēs? arma nisi dantur mihī,  
[1285] aut omne Pindī Thrācis excīdam nemus  
[1286] Bacchīque lūcōs et Cithaerōnis juga  
[1287] mēcum cremābō, aut tōta cum domibus suīs  
[1288] dominīsque tēcta, cum deīs templa omnibus  
[1289] Thēbāna suprā corpus excipiam meum  
[1290] atque urbe versā condar, et, sī fortibus  
[1291] leve pondus umerīs moenia immissa incident  
[1292] septemque opertus nōn satis portīs premar,  
[1293] onus omne mediā parte quod mundī sedet  
[1294] dirimitque superōs, in meum vertam caput.  
[1295] [AMPHITRUON]: Reddō arma. Vōx est digna genitōre Herculis.  
[1296] [HERCULES]: hōc ēn perēemptus spīculō cecidit puer;  
[1297] [AMPHITRUON]: Hoc Jūno tēlum manibus immīsīt tuīs.  
[1298] [HERCULES]: Hōc nunc ego ūtar. Ecce quam miserum metū  
[1299] [AMPHITRUON]: cor palpitāt pectusque sollicitum ferit.  
[1300] [HERCULES]: Aptāta harundō est. Ecce jam faciēs scelus  
[1301] [AMPHITRUON]: volēns sciēnsque. Pande, quid fierī jubēs?  
[1302] Nihil rogāmus: noster in tūtō est dolor.  
[1303] nātum potes servāre tū sōlus mihī,  
[1304] ēripere nec tū; maximum ēvāsī metum:  
[1305] miserum haut potes mē facere, fēlicem potes.  
[1306] sīc statue, quicquid statuis, ut causam tuam  
[1307] fāmamque in artō stāre et ancipitī sciās:  
[1308] aut vīvis aut occīdis, hanc animam levem  
[1309] fessamque seniō nec minus fessam malīs  
[1310] in ōre prīmō teneo, tam tardē patrī  
[1311] vītā dat aliquis? nōn feram ulterius moram,  
[1312] laetāre! ferrō pectus impressō induam:  
[1313] hīc, hīc jacēbit Herculis sānī scelus.  
[1314] [HERCULES]: Jam parce, genitor, parce, jam revocā manum.  
[1315] succumbe, virtūs, perfer imperium patris.  
[1316] eat ad labōrēs hic quoque Herculeōs labor:  
[1317] vīvāmus, artūs allevā afflictōs solō,  
[1318] Thēseu, parentis. dextra contāctūs piōs  
[1319] scelerāta refugit. Hanc manum amplector libēns,  
[1320] [AMPHITRUON]: hāc nīsus ībō, pectorī hanc aegrō admovēns  
[1321] pellam dolōrēs. Quem locum profugus petam?  
[1322] [HERCULES]: ubi mē recondam quāve tellūre obruar?  
[1323] quis Tanais aut quis Nīlus aut quis Persicā  
[1324] violentus undā Tigris aut Rhēnus ferōx  
[1325] Tagusve Hibērā turbidus gāzā fluēns

[1326] abluere dextram poterit? Arctōum licet  
[1327] Maeōtis in mē gelida trānsfundat mare  
[1328] et tōta Tēthys per meās currat manūs,  
[1329] haerēbit altum facinus. in quās impius  
[1330] terrās recēdēs? ortum an occāsum petēs?  
[1331] ubīque nōtus perdidī exiliō locum.  
[1332] mē refugit orbis, astra trānsversōs agunt  
[1333] oblīqua cursūs, ipse Tītān Cerberum  
[1334] meliōre vultū vīdit, ō fidum caput,  
[1335] Thēseu, latebram quaere longinquam abditam;  
[1336] quoniamque semper sceleris aliēnī arbiter  
[1337] amās nocentēs, grātiā meritīs refer  
[1338] vicemque nostrīs: redde mē īfernīs precor  
[1339] umbrīs reductum, mēque subjectum tuīs  
[1340] cōstitue vinclīs: ille mē abscondet locus.  
[1341] sed et ille nōvit. Nostra tē tellūs manet.  
[1342] [THESEUS]: illīc solūtam caede Grādīvus manum  
[1343] restituit armīs: illa tē, Alcīdē, vocat,  
[1344] facere innocentēs terra quae superōs solet.