

# Hercules furens

## Prolog

[1] [IUNO]: Soror Tonantis (hoc enim sōlum mihī  
[2] nōmen relictum est) semper aliēnum Jovem  
[3] ac templa summī vidua dēseruī aetheris  
[4] locumque caelō pulsa paelicibus dedī;  
[5] tellūs colenda est: paelicēs caelum tenent,  
[6] hinc Arctos altā parte glaciālis polī  
[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 Ōrīōn 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 serta Gnōsiacae gerit,  
[19] sed vetera querimur; ūna mē dīra ac fera  
[20] Thēbāna tellūs nuribus ā! sparsa impiīs  
[21] quotiēns novercam fēcit! 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 jubar.  
[27] nōn sīc abībunt odia; vīvācēs aget  
[28] violentus īrās animus et saevus dolor  
[29] aeterna bella pāce sublātā geret.  
[30] Quae bella? quicquid horridum tellūs creat  
[31] inimīca, quicquid pontus aut āer tulit  
[32] terribile dīrum pestilēns atrōx ferum,  
[33] frāctum atque domitum est. superat et crēscit malīs  
[34] īrāque 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 tinguit Aethiopas face,  
[39] indomita virtūs colitur et tōtō deus  
[40] nārrātur orbe. mōnstra jam dēsunt mihī  
[41] minorque labor est Herculī jussa exsequī,  
[42] quam mihi jubēre: laetus imperia excipit,  
[43] quae fera tyrannī jūra violentō queant  
[44] nocēre juvenī? nempe prō tēlis 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 īferum  
[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 retegit 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. levia sed nimium queror;  
[64] caelō timendum est, rēgna nē summa occupet  
[65] quī vīcit īma: scēptra praeripet 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 vincī 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] Tītānas 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 concipiāt ferās  
[84] sed vīcit ista. quaeris Alcīdae parem?  
[85] nēmō est nisi ipse: bella jam sēcum gerat.  
[86] adsint ab īmō Tartarī fundō excitae  
[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] fūgisse 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 ütātur 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 furi:  
[107] ut possit animō captus Alcīdēs agī,  
[108] magnō furōre percitus, vōbīs prius  
īnsāniendum est. Jūno, cūr nōndum furis?  
[109] mē mē, sorōrēs, mente dējectam meā  
[110] versāte pīmam, facere sī quicquam apparō  
[111] dignum novercā; vōta mūtentur mea:  
[112] nātōs reversus videat incolumēs precor  
[113] manūque fortis redeat, invēnī diem,  
[114] invīsa quō nōs Herculis virtūs juvet.  
[115] mē vīcit: et sē vincat et cupiat morī  
[116] ab īferīs reversus, hīc prōsit mihi  
[117] Jove esse genitum, stābō at, ut certō exeant  
[118] ēmissa nervō tēla, lībrābō manū,  
[119] regam furentis arma, pugnantī Herculī  
[120] tandem favēbō; scelere perfectō licet  
[121] admittat illās genitor in caelum manūs.  
[122] Movenda jam sunt bella: clārescīt diēs  
[123] ortūque Tītān lūcidus croceō subit.  
[124]

## Chor (Anapäste)

[125] [CHORUS]: Jam rāra micant sīdera prōnō  
[126] languida mundō; nox victa 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 Cadmēīs incluta Bacchīs  
[135] aspersa diē dūmēta rubent  
[136] Phoebīque fugit redditūra 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 līber apertō  
[142] nōndum ruptā fronte juvencus,  
[143] vacuae reparant ūbera mātrēs;  
[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 īstruit 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 redditūra 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 fila 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 mānēs:  
[188] certō veniunt tempore Parcae,  
[189] nūllī jussō cessāre licet,  
[190] nūllī sc̄riptum 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] alias currū sublīmis eat:  
[197] mē mea tellūs  
[198] lare sēcrētō 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: fīnis 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 pīmō statim  
 [214]       īnfēsta Jūnō: numquid immūnis fuit  
 [215]       īnfantis aetās? mōnstra superāvit prius  
 [216]       quam nōsse posset, gemina cristātī caput  
 [217]       anguēs ferēbant ūra, quōs contrā obvius  
 [218]       reptābat īnfāns igneōs serpentium  
 [219]       oculōs remissō lūmine ac placidō intuēns;  
 [220]       artōs serēnīs vultibus nōdōs tulit,  
 [221]       et tumida tenerā guttura ēlidēns manū  
 [222]       prōlūsit hydrae. Maenalī pernīx fera,  
 [223]       multō decōrum pīferēns aurō caput,  
 [224]       dēprēnsa cursū; maximus Nemeae timor  
 [225]       pressus lacertīs gemuit Herculeīs leō.  
 [226]       quid stabula memorem dīra Bistonīī gregis  
 [227]       sūisque rēgem pābulum armentīs datum,  
 [228]       solitumque dēnsīs hispidum Erymanthī jugīs  
 [229]       Arcadia quatere nemora Maenalium suem,  
 [230]       taurumque centum nōn levem populīs metum?  
 [231]       inter remōtōs gentis Hesperiae gregēs  
 [232]       pāstor trifōrmis lītoris Tartēsīi  
 [233]       perēmptus, 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]       lātam ruentī fēcit Ōceanō viam.  
 [239]       post haec adortus nemoris opulentī domōs  
 [240]       aurifera 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 Stymphālidās?  
 [245]       nōn vīcit illum caelibis 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 suaē  
[251] abesse trīstēs: prōsperum ac fēlīx scelus  
[252] virtūs vocātur; sontibus pārent bonī.  
[253] jūs est in armīs, opprimit lēgēs timor,  
[254] ante ūra vīdī nostra truculentā manū  
[255] gnātōs paternī cadere rēgnī vindicēs  
[256] ipsumque, Cadmī nōbilis stirpem ultimam,  
[257] occidere, vīdī rēgium capitī decus  
[258] cum capite raptum, quis satis Thēbās fleat?  
[259] ferāx deōrum terra, quem dominum tremis?  
[260] ē cujus arvīs ēque fēcundō sinū  
[261] strictō juventūs orta cum ferrō stetit  
[262] cujusque mūrōs nātus Amphīōn Jove  
[263] strūxit canōrō saxa modulātū trahēns,  
[264] in cujus 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 Ophīonum 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 līberōs 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 nostrarē 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]: Ô socia nostrī sanguinis, castā fidē  
[310] servāns torum nātōsque magnanimī Herculis,  
[311] meliōra mente concipe atque animū 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 maximī 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 jūncta 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 fēlīx teneat īfēlīx paret,  
[365] nihil relinquent bella; tum vastīs ager  
[366] squālēbit arvīs, subditā tēctīs face  
[367] altus sepultās obruet gentēs cinis.  
[368] pācem redūcī velle victōri expedit,  
[369] victō necesse est. particeps rēgnō venī;  
[370] sociēmur animīs, pignus hoc fideī cape:  
[371] contingē 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 fida 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 mihī  
[381] frātre ac parente cārior, rēgnō ac lare:  
[382] odium tuī, quod esse cum populō mihī  
[383] commūne doleō: pars quota ex illō mea est?  
[384] domināre tumidus, spīritūs altōs gere:  
[385] sequitur superbōs ultiōr ā tergō deus.  
[386] Thēbāna nōvī rēgna: quid mātrēs 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 Tantalis lūctū parēns  
[391] maestusque Phrygiō mānat in Sipylō lapis.  
[392] quīn ipse torvum subrigēns cristā caput  
[393] Illyrica Cadmus rēgna permēnsus fugā  
[394] longās relīquit 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 quamvīs scēptra victīcī geram  
[400] dextrā regamque cūncta sine lēgum metū  
[401] quās arma vincunt, pauca prō causā loquar  
[402] nostrā, cruentō cecidit in bellō pater?  
[403] cecidērē 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 victimum decet  
[410] dēpōnere odia. nōn ut īflexō 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] gravent 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 mōnstrīsque 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 Titān 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 odio 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 gregās.  
[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 mātris uterō fulmine ējectus puer

[458] mox fulminantī proximus patrī stetit.  
[459] quid? quī gubernat astra, quī nūbēs quatit,  
[460] nōn latuit īfāns rūpis īdaeae specū?  
[461] sollicita tantī pretia nātālēs habent  
[462] semperque magnō cōnstitit 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 ritū 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 jūnctus Antaeus Libys,  
[483] et quī hospitālī caede mānantēs focī  
[484] bibēre jūstum sanguinem Būsīridis;  
[485] ipsīus opus est vulnerī et ferrō obvius  
[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 dabīs;  
[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 conjugiō date.  
[498] nunc, nunc, cruentae rēgis Aegyptī nurūs,  
[499] adeste multō sanguine īfectae manūs.  
[500] dēest ūna numerō Danaīs: explēbō nefās.  
[501] [LYCUS]: Conjugia quoniam pervicāx nostra abnūis  
[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] cōnsūmat ūnus igne subjectō roguis.  
[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, fēlīcem jubē.  
[514] ego, dum cremandīs trabibus accrēscit rogus,  
[515] sacrō regentem maria vōtīvō colam.  
[516] [AMPHITRUON]: Prō nūminum vīs summa, prō caelestium  
[517] rēctor parēnsque, cujus excussīs tremunt  
[518] hūmāna tēlīs, 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 otiō:  
[527] Alcmēnā genitus bella per omnia  
[528] mōnstrīs exagitet caeliferam 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 rigentia  
[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 spolium 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] vīdistī 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 trānseunt.  
[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 cuspide p̄aeferēns:  
[564] effūgit tenuī vulnere saucius  
[565] et mortis dominus pertimuit morī.  
[566] fātum rumpe manū, tr̄istibus īferīs  
[567] prōspectus pateat lūcis et invius  
[568] līmes det facilēs ad superōs viās.  
[569] Immītēs potuit flectere cantibus  
[570] umbrārum dominōs et prece supplicī  
[571] Orpheus, Eurydicēn dum repetit suam.  
[572] quae silvās et avēs saxaque trāxerat  
[573] ars, quae praebuerat flūminibus morās,  
[574] ad cujus sonitum cōnstiterant ferae,  
[575] mulcet nōn solitīs vōcibus īferōs  
[576] et surdīs resonat clārius in locīs,  
[577] dēflent Eurydicēn Thrēīciae nurūs,  
[578] dēflent et lacrimīs difficilēs deī,  
[579] et quī fronte nimis crīmina tetricā  
[580] quaerunt ac veterēs excutiunt reōs  
[581] flentēs Eurydicēn 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 tuām respice conjugem,  
[586] quam cum clāra deōs obtulerit diēs  
[587] Spartānīque aderit jānua 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]: O 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 ḥraque 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 Phoebō quaeque dēterior polus

[608] obscūra dīrō spatia concessit Jovī;  
[609] et, sī placērent tertiae sortis loca,  
[610] rēgnāre potuī: noctis aeternae chaos  
[611] et nocte quiddam gravius et tristēs deōs  
[612] et fāta vīdī, morte contemptā redī.  
[613] quid restat aliud? vīdī et ostendī īferōs.  
[614] dā sī quid ultrā est, jam diū pateris manūs  
[615] cessāre nostrās, Jūno; quae vincī jubēs?  
[616] Sed templa quārē mīles īfēstus tenet  
[617] līmenque, sacrum terror armōrum obsidet?  
[618] [AMPHITRUON]: Utrumne vīsūs vōta dēcipiunt meōs.  
[619] an ille domitor orbis et Grāium decus  
[620] tristī silentem nūbilō liquit domum?  
[621] estne ille nātus? membra laetitiā stupent.  
[622] ō nātē. 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]: Sōcer est perēmptus, 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] dēfēnsus orbis? cūr diem questū terō?  
[634] mactētur hostia, hanc ferat virtūs notam  
[635] fiatque summus hostis Alcīdae Lycus.  
[636] ad hauriendum sanguinem inimīcum 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] 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 īordinem,  
[648] quam longa maestōs dūcat ad mānēs 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 frūctū 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] quaesīvit 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 ūra 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 relictæ lūcis ā tergō nitor  
[670] fulgorque dubius sōlis afflīctī cadit  
[671] et lūdit aciem: nocte sīc mixtā solet  
[672] praebeare 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 invitās 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 incertī vagus  
[684] Maeander undīs lūdit et cēdit sibī  
[685] īstatque dubius lītus an fontem petat.  
[686] palūs inertis foeda Cōcȳtī jacet;  
[687] hīc vultur, illīc lūctifer būbō gemit  
[688] ōmenque trīste resonat īfaustae strigis.  
[689] horrent opācā fronde nigrantēs comae,  
[690] taxō imminentē quam tenet sēgnis Sopor,  
[691] Famēsque maesta tābidō rictū jacet  
[692] Pudorque sērus cōnciōs vultūs tegit.  
[693] Metus Pavorque; Fūnus et frendēns Dolor  
[694] āterque Lūctus sequitur et Morbus tremēns  
[695] et cīcta 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 germinant  
[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 fīnis 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 obscūrō 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 duplīcī 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 trucis  
[726] est ipse dominus, cuius aspectūs timet  
[727] quicquid timētur. Vērane est fāma īferīs  
[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 quaesītor sedēns  
[732] jūdicia trepidīs sēra sortitūr reīs.  
[733] adītūr illō Gnōsius Mīnōs forō,  
[734] Rhadamanthus illō, Thetidis hōc audit socer.  
[735] quod quisque fēcit, 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 vītae servat innocuās manūs  
[741] et incruentum mītis imperium regit  
[742] [THEESUS]: animōque parcit, longa permēnsus diū  
[743] [THESEUS]: fēlīcis 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 Ixiōn rotā;  
[751] cervīce saxum grande Sīsyphiā sedet;  
[752] in amne mediō faucibus siccīs senex  
[753] sectātūr 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 Phīnēas avis.  
[760] [AMPHITRUON]: Nunc ēde nātī nōbilem pugnam meī.  
[761] patruī volentis mūnus an spolium 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 mānēs 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 Lernaeus 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 fōrmae: 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 ūra missus terna fēlīcēs 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 īfrēgit minās  
[803] et cūcta lassus capita summīsit 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, ūre summissō obsequēns,  
[812] utrumque caudā pulsat anguiferā latus.  
[813] postquam est ad ūrās 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 furentem et bella temptantem inrita  
[821] intulimus orbī. vīdit ut clārum diem  
[822] et pūra nitidī spatiā cōspexit polī,  
[823] oborta nox est; lūmina in terram dedit,  
[824] compressit oculōs et diem invīsum expulit  
[825] faciemque retrō flexit atque omnī petīt  
[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] jusserrat mundī penetrāre fundum:  
[832] dērat hoc sōlum numerō labōrum,  
[833] tertiae rēgem spoliāre sortis.  
[834] ausus es caecōs aditūs inīre,  
[835] dūcit ad mānēs 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] mātris 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 mānēs 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 ūre; 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, cuius in laevā ciet  
[902] aegis ferōcēs ūre 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 capitī invīsī deīs  
[921] lībāre possem: grātior nūllus liquor  
[922] tīnxisset 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] quiēsque 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 īrātō Jove  
[933] exsiliat ignis, nūllus hībernā 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? pīmus ēn noster labor  
[945] caelī refulget parte nōn minimā leō  
[946] īrāque tōtus fervet et morsūs parat.  
[947] jam rapiet aliquod sīdus: ingentī mināx  
[948] stat ūre 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] īferna nostrōs rēgna sēnsēre impetūs:  
[957] immūne caelum est, dignus Alcīdē labor.  
[958] in alta mundī spatia sublīmis ferar,  
[959] petātūr 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] dubitātūr etiam? vincla Sāturnō exuam

[966] contrāque patris impī rēgnum impotēns  
[967] avum resolvam; bella Tītānes parent,  
[968] mē duce furentēs; saxa cum silvīs feram  
rapiamque dextrā plēna Centaurīs juga.  
[970] jam monte geminō līmitem ad superōs agam:  
[971] videat sub Ossā Pēlion Chīrōn suum,  
[972] in caelum Olympus tertīō positus gradū  
[973] perveniet aut mittētur. Īnfandōs procul  
[974] [AMPHITRUON]: āverte sēnsūs; pectoris sānī parum  
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.  
labat Cithaerōn, alta Pellēnē tremit  
[980] marcentque Tempē. rapuit hic Pindī juga,  
hic rapuit Oetēn, saevit horrendum Mimāns.  
[982] flammifera Erīnys verbere excussō sonat  
rogīsque adustās propius ac propius sudēs  
[983] in ūra tendit; saeva Tīsiphonē, caput  
serpentibus vällāta, post raptum canem  
[985] portam vacantem clausit oppositā face.  
[986] sed ecce prōlēs rēgis inimīcī latet.  
Lycī nefandum sēmen: invīsō patrī  
[988] haec dextra jam vōs reddet, excutiat levis  
[989] nervus sagittās, tēla sīc mittī decet  
[990] Herculea. Quō sē caecus impēgit furor?  
[992] [AMPHITRUON]: vastum coāctī flexit arcum cornibus  
pharetramque solvit, strīdet ēmissa impetū  
[993] harundo; mediō spīculum collō fugit  
vulnere relictō. Cēteram prōlem ēruam  
[995] [HERCULES]: omnīsque latebrās, quid moror? majus mihi  
bellum Mycēnīs restat, ut Cyclōpia  
[996] ēversa manibus saxa nostrīs concidant.  
hūc eat et illūc valva dējectō obice  
[999] rumpatque postēs; culmen impulsum labet.  
perlūcet omnis rēgia: hīc videō abditum  
gnātūm scelestī patris. Ēn blandās manūs  
[1002] [AMPHITRUON]: ad genua tendēns vōce miserandā rogat:  
scelus nefandum, trīste et aspectū horridum!  
[1004] dextrā precantem rapuit et circā furēns  
bis ter rotātum mīsit; ast illī caput  
[1006] sonuit, cerebrō tēcta dispersō madent.  
at misera, parvum prōtegēns gnātūm sinū,  
[1008] Megarā furentī similis ē latebrīs fugit.  
[1010] [HERCULES]: Licet tonantis profuga condāris sinū,  
petet undecumque tēmet haec dextra et feret.  
[1012] [AMPHITRUON]: Quō misera pergis? quam fugam aut latebram petis?  
nūllus salūtis Hercule īfēstō est locus.  
amplectere ipsum potius et blandā prece  
lēnīre temptā. Parce jam, conjūnx, precor,  
[1016] [MEGARA]: agnōsce Megaram. gnātūs hic vultūs tuōs  
habitūsque reddit; cernis, ut tendat manūs?

[1018] [HERCULES]: Teneō novercam. sequere, dā poenās mihī  
[1019]               jugōque pressum līberā turpī Jovem;  
[1020]               sed ante mātrem parvulum hoc mōnstrum occidat.  
[1021] [MEGARA]: Quō tendis āmēns? sanguinem fundēs tuum?  
[1022] [AMPHITRUON]: Pavēfactus īnfāns igneō vultū patris  
[1023]               perit ante vulnus, spīritum ēripuit timor.  
[1024]               in conjugem nunc clāva lībrātur 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 indue,  
[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 cecīdī; vōta persolvī libēns  
[1038]               tē digna, et Argos victimās aliās dabit.  
[1039] [AMPHITRUON]: Nōndum litāstī, nāte: cōnsummā sacram.  
[1040]               stat ecce ad ārās hostia, expectat manum  
[1041]               cervīce prōnā; praebeō occurrō īsequor:  
[1042]               mactā; quid hoc est? errat aciēs lūminum  
[1043]               vīsūsque 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]               īdem tuōs quī mīsit 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 (Anapäste)

[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 ōre decōrō,  
[1060]               fervide Titān: 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] volucrē 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 dēvīctum 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 volūtat somnia -nōndum est  
[1084] tantī pestis superāta malī-  
[1085] clāvaeque gravī lassum solitus  
[1086] mandāre caput  
[1087] quaerit vacuā pondera dextrā,  
[1088] mōtū jactāns bracchia 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 īsontem: proxima pūris  
[1099] sors est manibus nescīre nefās.  
[1100] Nunc Herculeīs percussa sonent  
[1101] pectora palmīs,  
[1102] mundum solitōs ferre lacertōs  
[1103] verbera pulsent victrīce manū;  
[1104] gemitūs vastōs audiat aethēr,  
[1105] audiat ātrī rēgīna polī  
[1106] vastīsque 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] sēnserat 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 cōrytīs  
[1128] missum certā lībrāre manū  
[1129] tūtōsque fugā figere cervōs:  
[1130] nōndumque ferae terga jubātae  
[1131] īte ad Stygiōs, umbrae, portūs  
[1132] īte, innocuae,  
[1133] quās in prīmō līmine vītae  
[1134] scelus oppressit patriusque furor,  
[1135] īte, īrātōs vīsite rēgēs.

## Szene 4

[1136] [HERCULES]: Quis hic locus, quae regio, quae mundī 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 Hesperiī 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 īferna? post reditūs quoque  
[1146] oberrat oculīs turba fērālis meīs?  
[1147] pudet fatērī: paveō; nescioquod mihī,  
[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 mihī  
[1154] dētrahere potuit? spolia quis tanta abstulit  
[1155] ipsumque quis nōn Herculis somnum horruit?  
[1156] libet meum vidēre victōrem, libet  
    (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 cōflectī jacent,  
[1161] perēmpta conjūnx. quis Lycus rēgnum obtinet  
    quis tanta Thēbīs sclera mōlīrī ausus est  
[1163] Hercule reversō? quisquis Ismēnī loca,  
[1164] Actaea quisquis arva, quī geminō marī  
[1165] pulsāta Pelopis rēgna Dardanī colis,  
[1166] succurre, saevae clādis auctōrem indicā.  
[1167] ruat īra in omnīs: hostis est quisquis mihī  
[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? ūra 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 ūra pudibunda obtegit  
[1179] fūrtimque lacrimās fundit, in tantīs malīs  
[1180] quid est pudendum? numquid Argīvae impotēns  
[1181] dominātor urbīs, numquid īfēstum 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 Lernaeā 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 Caucasi abruptum latus  
[1210] nūdumque silvīs? illa quae pontum Scythēn  
[1211] Symplēgas artat hinc et hinc vīnctās manūs  
[1212] distendat altō, cumque revocātā 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 īferōrum carcer et sōtī 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, līberī, 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 īfaustās 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: perfor 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 afflīctō 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: cūnta 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 docū nefās.  
[1265] Memoranda potius omnibus facta intuēns  
[1266] ūnīus 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 īrāscī 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 mātrēs? 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 perēmptus spīculō cecidit puer;  
[1297] [AMPHITRUON]: Hoc Jūno tēlum manibus immīsit tuīs.  
[1298] [HERCULES]: Hōc nunc ego ūtar. Ecce quam miserum metū  
[1299] [AMPHITRUON]: cor palpitat 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, fēlīcem 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 ūre prīmō teneo, tam tardē patrī  
[1311] vītam 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, perfor imperium patris.  
[1316] eat ad labōrēs hic quoque Herculeōs labor:  
[1317] vīvāmus, artūs allevā afflīctōs solō,  
[1318] Thēseu, parentis. dextra contāctūs piōs  
[1319] scelerāta refugit. Hanc manum amplector libēns,  
[1320] [AMPHITRUON]: hāc nīsus ūbō, 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,  
haerēbit altum facinus. in quās impius  
[1329] terrās recēdēs? ortum an occāsum petēs?  
ubīque nōtus perdidī exiliō locum.  
[1330] mē refugit orbis, astra trānsversōs agunt  
oblīqua cursūs, ipse Titān Cerberum  
[1331] meliōre vultū vīdit, o fidum caput,  
Thēseu, latebram quaere longinquam abditam;  
[1332] quoniamque semper sceleris alienī arbiter  
amās nocentēs, grātiam meritīs refer  
[1333] vicemque nostrīs: redde mē īfernīs precor  
umbrīs reductum, mēque subjectum tuīs  
[1334] cōnstitue vinclīs: ille mē abscondet locus.  
[1335] sed et ille nōvit. Nostra tē tellūs manet.  
[1336] [THESEUS]: illīc solūtam caede Grādīvus manum  
[1337] restituit armīs: illa tē, Alcīdē, vocat,  
[1338] facere innocentēs terra quae superōs solet.