

Hercules furens

Prolog

[1] [IUNO]: **Soror Tonantis (hoc enim solum mihi**
[2] **nōmen relictum est) semper aliēnum Jovem**
[3] **ac tempa summi vidua dēseruī aetheris**
[4] **locumque caelō pulsa paelicibus dedī;**
[5] **tellūs colenda est: paelicēs caelum tenent,**
[6] **hinc Arctos altā parte glaciālis polī**
[7] **sublime 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 Ōrīon deōs**
[13] **suāsque Perseus aureus stellās habet;**
[14] **hinc clāra geminī signa Tyndaridae micant**
[15] **quibusque nātis 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 impiis**
[21] **quotiēns novercam fēcit! ēscendat licet**
[22] **meumque victrix teneat Alcmēnē locum,**
[23] **pariterque nātus astra prōmissa occupet,**
[24] **in cujus ortūs mundus impendit diem**
[25] **tardusque Eōō Phoebus effulsit marī**
[26] **retinēre mersum jussus Ōceanō jubar.**
[27] **nōn sīc abibunt 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 āēr 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 mihi**
[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 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 perit:
[50] vīdī ipsa, vīdī nocte discussā īferum
[51] et Dīte domitō spolia jactantem patrī
[52] frāterna, cūr nōn vīnctum et oppressum trahit
[53] ipsum catēnis 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 praeripie 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] congredere, 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 concipiat 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 cāligine,
[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 Ditis, 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, ārior 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 īferis reversus, hīc prōsit mihi**
[118] **Jove esse genitum, stābō at, ut certō exeant**
[119] **ēmissa nervō tēla, lībrābō 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 (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 stēllis Arcados ursae**
[131] **lūcem versō tēmōne vocat.**
[132] **Jam caeruleis ēvectus equīs**
[133] **Tītān summā prōspicit Oetā;**
[134] **jam Cadmēis 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 liber 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 sōli**
[148] **gestit querulōs inter nīdōs**

[149] **Thrācia paelex,**
[150] **turbaque circā cōfūsa sonat**
[151] **murmure mixtō testāta diem.**
[152] **Carbasa ventis crēdit dubius**
[153] **nāvita vītae,**
[154] **laxōs aurā complente sinūs,**
[155] **hic exēsis 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 clāmōsi rabiōsa forī**
[173] **jūrgia vēndēns**
[174] **improbus īrās et verba locat.**
[175] **Nōvit paucōs sēcūra quiēs,**
[176] **qui vēlōcis memorēs aevī**
[177] **tempora numquam reditūra tenent,**
[178] **dum fāta sinunt, vivite laeti:**
[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] **nīmīum, Alcīdē, pectore fortī**
[187] **properās maestōs vīsere mānēs:**
[188] **certō veniunt tempore Parcae,**
[189] **nūlli jussō cessāre licet,**
[190] **nūlli scriptum 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 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 Alcidae parēns.**
 [205] [AMPHITRUON]: **Ō magne Olympī rēctor et mundī arbiter,**
 [206] **jam statue tandem gravibus aerumnīs modum**
 [207] **finemque clādī. nūlla lūx umquam mihi**
 [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 p̄imō statim**
 [214] **īnfēsta Jūnō: numquid immūnis fuit**
 [215] **īfantis aetās? mōnstra superāvit prius**
 [216] **quam nōsse posset, gemina cristāti caput**
 [217] **anguēs ferēbant ūra, quōs contrā obvius**
 [218] **reptābat īfāns 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 p̄aeferēns aurō caput,**
 [224] **dēprēnsa cursū; maximus Nemeae timor**
 [225] **pressus lacertīs gemuit Herculeīs leō.**
 [226] **quid stabula memorem dīra Bistonīi gregis**
 [227] **suīsque rēgem pābulum armentīs datum,**
 [228] **solutumque dēnsīs hispidum Erymanthī jugīs**
 [229] **Arcadia quatere nemora Maenaliū suem,**
 [230] **taurumque centum nōn levem populīs metum?**
 [231] **inter remōtōs gentis Hesperiae gregēs**
 [232] **pāstor trifōrmis litoris Tartēsiī**
 [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 tristēs: 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 float?
[259] ferāx deōrum terra, quem dominū tremis?
[260] ē cujus arvīs ēque fēcundō sinū
[261] strictō juventūs orta cum ferrō stetit
[262] cujusque mūrōs nātus Amphiōn 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 Ophionium 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 cōfringit 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] paeceps 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] redditūsque lentōs nec meī memorēs querar?
[299] tibi, ô deōrum ductor, indomiti 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 magnanīmī 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 īsuper
[318] oppressus orbe quam viam ad superōs habet?

[319] [AMPHITRUON]: Quam tunc habēbat, cum per ārentem plagam
[320] et fluctuantēs mōrē 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]: Iniqua rārō maximīs virtūtibus
[326] fortūna parcit; nēmo sē tūtō diū
[327] periculis 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] obliqua Phōcis, quicquid Ismēnos rigat,
[335] quicquid Cithaerōn vertice excelsō videt,
[336] et bīna findēns Isthmos exilis freta
[337] nōn vetera patriae jūra possideō domūs
[338] ignāvus hērēs; nōbilēs nōn sunt mihī
[339] avī nec altīs inclitum titulī genus.
[340] sed clāra virtūs: qui 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 rēgnū 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 omnē penitus Herculeam domum.
[352] invidia factum ac sermo populāris premet?
[353] ars pīma 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 īfēlix paret,
[365] nihil relinquēt bella; tum vastīs ager
[366] squālēbit arvīs, subditā tēctīs face
[367] altus sepultās obruet gentēs cinis.
[368] pācem redūci velle victōrī expedit,
[369] victō necesse est. particeps rēgnō venī;
[370] sociēmur animīs, pignus hoc fideī cape:
[371] contingē dextram, quid truci vultū silēs?
[372] [MEGARA]: Egone ut parentis sanguine aspersam manum
frātrumque geminā caede contingam? prius
extinguēt ortus, referet occāsus diem,
pāx ante fida nivibus et flammīs erit
et Scylla Siculum junget Ausoniō latus,
priusque multō vicibus alternīs fugāx
Eurīpus undā stābit Euboicā piger.
patrem abstulisti, rēgna, germānōs, larem
patrium; quid ultrā est? ūna rēs superest mihi
frātre ac parente cārior, rēgnō ac lare:
odium tuī, quod esse cum populō mihi
commūne doleō: pars quota ex illō mea est?
domināre tumidus, spīritūs altōs gere:
sequitur superbōs ultiōr ā tergō deus.
Thēbāna nōvī rēgna: quid mātrēs loquar
passās et ausās scelera? quid geminum nefās
mixtumque nōmen conjugis nātī patris?
quid bīna frātrum castra? quid totidem rogōs?
riget superba Tantalis lūctū parēns
maestusque Phrygiō mānat in Sipylō lapis.
quīn ipse torvum subrigēns cristā caput
Illyrica Cadmus rēgna permēnsus fugā
longās reliquit corporis tractī notās.
haec tē manent exempla: domināre ut libet,
dum solita rēgni fāta tē nostrī vocent
[397] [LYCUS]: Agedum efferātās rabida vōcēs āmovē
et disce rēgum imperia ab Alcīdē patī
ego rapta quamvīs scēptra victrīcī geram
dextrā regamque cūncta sine lēgum metū
quās arma vincunt, pauca prō causā loquar
nostrā, cruentō cecidit ī bellō pater?
cecidēre frātrēs? arma nōn servant modum;
nec temperārī facile nec reprimī potest
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 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 novis thalāmīs 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 cūncī 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]: **mōrtāle 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 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 fortē vīderīs, miserum negēs.**

[465] [LYCUS]: **Fortē vocēmus cujus ex umerīs leō,**
[466] **dōnum puellae factus, et clāva excidit**
[467] **fulsitque pictum veste Sīdoniā latus?**
[468] **fortē 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 thyrum, 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 suis**
[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 dabis;**
[491] **et tē magistrō nōn novum hoc discet nurus,**
[492] **etiam virō probante meliōrem sequī.**
[493] **sīn cōpulārī pertināx taedis 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 Danais: 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 suis**
[507] **injecta flagrant, conjugem et tōtum gregem**
[508] **cōnsūmat ūnus igne subjectō rogus.**

[509] [AMPHITRUON]: **Hoc mūnus ā tē genitor Alcīdae petō,**

[510] rogāre quod mē deceat, ut p̄imus cadam.
[511] [LYCUS]: Quī morte cūctōs luere supplicium jubet
[512] nescit tyrannus esse: d̄versa inrogā;
[513] miserum vetā perire, fēlicem jubē.
[514] ego, dum cremandīs trabibus accrēscit rogus,
[515] sacrō regentem maria vōtivō 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 templā? cūr mūgit solum?
[522] īfernus īmō sonuit ē fundō fragor
[523] audīmur! est est sonitus Herculeī gradūs.

Chor (1st asclepiadeans)

[524] [CHORUS]: Ô 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 caeliferam manū:
[529] serpentis resecet colla ferācia,
[530] dēceptīs referat māla sorōribus,
[531] cum somnō dederit p̄ervigilēs 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 litoribus 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 ire viās inremeābilēs,
[549] vīdistī Siculae rēgna Proserpinæ?
[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 populi 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 cuspidē praefereñs:
[564] effūgit tenuī vulnere saucius
[565] et mortis dominus pertimuit morī.
[566] fātum rumpe manū, trīstibus īferīs
[567] p̄rospectus 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 cōstiterant ferae,
[575] mulcet nōn solitīs vōcibus īferōs
[576] et surdīs resonat clārius in locīs,
[577] dēflent Eurydicēn Thrēiciae 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 tuam respice conjugem,
[586] quam cum clāra deōs obtulerit diēs
[587] Spartānīque aderit jānua Taenarī.'
[588] ödit 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 caeli 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 öraque 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 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 dēcipiunt meōs.**
[619] **an ille domitor orbis et Grāium decus**
[620] **tristī silentem nūbilō līquit domum?**
[621] **estne ille nātūs? 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 lūgūribus**
[627] **amicta conjūnx? unde tam foedō obsitī**
[628] **paedōre nātī? quae domum clādēs gravat?**
[629] [AMPHITRUON]: **Socer 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 redisse. Flēbilem ex oculis 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 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 īsuētum 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] dēnsis ubi aequor Taenarus silvīs premit;
[664] hīc ūra solvit Dītis invīsī domus
[665] hiatque rūpēs alta et immēnsō specū
[666] ingēns vorāgō faucibus vastis patet
[667] lātumque pandit omnibus populīs iter.
[668] nōn caeca tenebrīs incipit pīmō via;
[669] tenuis relictæ lūcis ā tergō nitor
[670] fulgorque dubius sōlis afflictī cadit
[671] et lūdit aciem: nocte sīc mixtā solet
[672] praeberē lūmen pīmus aut sērus diēs.
[673] hīc 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 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] ômenque 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 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 lēni 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 obscūrō locus,
[710] quem gravibus umbrīs spissa cālīgō alligat.
[711] ā fonte discors mānat hīc 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, cujus aspectū 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 sortītūr 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 fēlix memoris Ēlysii 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 Sisyphiā 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 Phīnēās avis.
[760] [AMPHITRUON]: Nunc ēde nāti 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] qui terna vastō capita concutiēns sonō
[785] rēgnum 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 gravi
[794] loca mūta terret; sībilat tōtōs mināx
[795] serpēns per armōs, vōcis horrendae fragor
[796] per ūra missus terna fēlicēs quoque
[797] exterret umbrās, solvit ā laevā ferōs
[798] tunc ipse rictūs et Cleōnaeum caput
[799] oppōnit ac sē tegmine ingenti tegit,
[800] victrice magnum dexterā rōbur gerēns.
[801] hūc nunc et illūc verbere assiduō rotat,
[802] ingeminat ictūs; domitus īfrēgit minās
[803] et cūncta 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 Taenari 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 Alcidēs 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 spatia 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 theātri,
[840] quantus Ėlēum ruit ad Tonantem,
[841] quīnta cum sacrum revocāvit aestās;
[842] quanta, cum longae redit hōra noctī
[843] crēscere et somnōs cupiēns quiētōs
[844] libra Phoebēōs tenet aequa currūs,
[845] turba sēcrētam Cererem frequentat
[846] et citī tēctis properant relictis
[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 īfāns,
[855] hīs datum sōlis, 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 magnis vaga turba terris
[869] ībit ad mānēs facietque inertī
[870] vēla Cōcȳtō: tibi crēscit omne,
[871] et quod occāsus videt et quod ortus;
[872] parce ventūris; tibi, mors, parāmur.
[873] sis 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] dīlēcta tege pōpulō.

Szene 3

[895] [HERCULES]: Ultrice dextrā fūsus adversō Lycus
[896] terram cecidit 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] cōferte in ārās, pinguis exundet vapor,
[912] pōpulea nostrās arbor exōrnet comās,
[913] tē rāmus oleae fronde gentilī tegat,

[914] Thēseu; Tonantem nostra adōrābit manus,
[915] tū conditōrēs urbīs 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] libāre 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, dētūr aliquandō ōtium
[926] quiēsque fessīs. Ipse concipiām 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] violēta 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 nōster labor
[945] caeli 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] petātur aethēr: astra prōmittit pater.
[960] quid, sī negāret? nōn capit terra Herculem
[961] tandemque superīs reddit, ēn ultrō vocat
[962] omnīs deōrum coetus et laxat forēs,
[963] ūnā vetante. recipis et reserās polum?
[964] an contumācis jānuam mundī trahō?
[965] dubitātur etiam? vincla Sāturnō exuam

[966] **contrāque patris impīi 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 tertīō positus gradū**
[973] **perveniet aut mittētur. īfandōs 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 verbere excussō sonat**
[983] **rogisque adustās propius ac propius sudēs**
[984] **in ūra tendit; saeva Tīsiphonē, caput**
[985] **serpentibus vällāta, post raptum canem**
[986] **portam vacantem clausit oppositā face.**
[987] **sed ecce prōlēs rēgis inimīci latet.**
[988] **Lycī nefandum sēmen: invīsō patrī**
[989] **haec dextra jam vōs reddet, excutiat levis**
[990] **nervus sagittās, tēla sīc mitti decet**
[991] **Herculea. Quō sē caecus impēgit furor?**
[992] [AMPHITRUON]: **vastum coāctīs flexit arcum cornibus**
[993] **pharetramque solvit, strīdet ēmissa impetū**
[994] **harundo; mediō spiculum collō fugit**
[995] **vulnere relictō. Cēteram prōlem ēruam**
[996] [HERCULES]: **omnīsque latebrās, quid moror? majus mihi**
[997] **bellum Mycēnīs restat, ut Cyclōpia**
[998] **ēversa manib⁹s saxa nostrīs concidant.**
[999] **hūc eat et illūc valva dējectō obice**
[1000] **rumpatque postēs; culmen impulsum labet.**
[1001] **perlūcet omnis rēgia: hic videō abditum**
[1002] **gnātūm scelestī patris. Ēn blandās manūs**
[1003] [AMPHITRUON]: **ad genua tendēns vōce miserandā rogat:**
[1004] **scelus nefandum, triste et aspectū horridum!**
[1005] **dextrā precantem rapuit et circā furēns**
[1006] **bis ter rotātū misit; ast illī caput**
[1007] **sonuit, cerebrō tēcta dispersō madent.**
[1008] **at misera, parvum prōtegēns gnātūm sinū,**
[1009] **Megarā furentī similis ē latebris 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 īfēstō est locus.**
[1014] **amplectere ipsum potius et blandā prece**
[1015] **lēnire temptā. Parce jam, conjūnx, precor,**
[1016] [MEGARA]: **agnōsce Megaram. gnātūs hic vultūs tuōs**
[1017] **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]: **Pavefactus** īfāns īgneō 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 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 Herculeis 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: cōnsummā sacrum.
[1040] stat ecce ad ārās hostia, expectat manum
[1041] cervice prōnā; paebeō occurrō īsequor:
[1042] mactā; quid hoc est? errat aciēs lūminum
[1043] vīsusque 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 silvis ornus aut portum mari
[1048] datūra mōlēs, vīvis an lētō dedit
[1049] īdem tuōs qui mīsit ad mortem furor?
[1050] sopor est: reciprocōs spīritus mōtūs agit.
[1051] dētur quiētī tempus, ut somnō gravi
[1052] vīs victa morbi 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 qui per terrās
[1058] tractūsque maris fundis radiōs
[1059] noctemque fugās ōre decōrō,
[1060] fervide Tītān: obitūs pariter
[1061] tēcum Alcidēs vīdit et ortūs
[1062] nōvitque tuās utrasque domōs.
[1063] Solvite tantīs animūs 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 lēti genus hūmānum
cōgis longam discere noctem:
[1076] placidus fessum lēnisque fovē,
preme dēvīctum torpōre gravi;
[1078] sopor indomitōs alliget artūs
[1079] nec torva prius pectora linquat,
quam mēns repetat prīstina cursum.
Ēn fūsus humī saeva ferōcī
[1082] corde volūtat somnia -nōndum est
tantī pestis superāta malī-
clāvaeque gravī lassum solitus
[1084] mandāre caput
[1085] quaerit vacuā pondera dextrā,
mōtū jactāns bracchia vānō.
[1086] nec adhūc omnīs expulit aestūs,
sed ut ingenti vexāta notō
[1087] servat longōs unda tumultūs
et jam ventō cessante tumet.
[1088] pelle īsānōs flūctūs animī,
redeat pietās virtūsque virō.
[1089] mēns vēsānō concita mōtū:
error caecus quā coepit eat;
[1090] sōlus tē jam praestāre potest
furor īsontem: proxima pūrīs
[1091] sors est manibus nescīre nefās.
Nunc Herculeīs percussa sonent
[1092] pectora palmīs,
mundum solitōs ferre lacertōs
[1093] verbera pulsent victīce manū;
gemitūs vastōs audiat aethēr,
[1094] audiat ātri rēgīna polī
vastisque ferōx
[1095] quī colla gerit vīcta catēnīs
īmō latitāns Cerberus antrō.
Resonet maestō clāmōre chaos
[1097] et quī medius tua tēla tamen
sēnserat āēr.
pectora tantīs obsessa malīs
[1098] nōn sunt ictū ferienda levī:
ūnō plānctū tria rēgna sonent.
Et tū collō decus ac tēlum
[1099] suspēnsa diū,
fortis harundō, pharetraeque gravēs,
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 cōrȳtīs
[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 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]: ulti 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 fatēri: 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 abit 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, cujus in fētū stetit
[1159] nox longior quam nostra- quod cernō nefās?
[1160] nātī cruentā caede cōflectī jacent,
[1161] perēmpta conjūnx. quis Lycus rēgnum obtinet
[1162] quis tanta Thēbīs scelera mōlīri ausus est
[1163] Hercule reversō? quisquis Ismēnī loca,
[1164] Actaea quisquis arva, quī geminō mari
[1165] pulsāta Pelopis rēgna Dardanī colis,
[1166] succurre, saevae clādis 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 armis 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 urbīs, numquid īfēstum Lycī**
[1182] **pereuntis agmen clāde nōs tantā obruit?**
[1183] **per tē meōrum facinorū laudem precor,**
[1184] **genitor, tuīque nōminis semper mihi**
[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 timēri 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 mihi?**
[1199] **ad vōs revertor; genitor, hoc nostrum est scelus?**
[1200] **tacuēre? nostrum est. Lūctus est istic tuus,**
[1201] [AMPHITRUON]: **crīmen novercae: cāsus hic culpā caret.**
[1202] [HERCULES]: **Nunc parte ab omnī, genitor, irātus 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 Promēthēi vacant**
[1208] **scopuli? 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 irās quodque habet proprium furor,**
[1221] **in sē ipse saevit. Dīra Furiārum loca**

[1222] [HERCULES]: et inferōrum carcer et sōntī plaga
[1223] dēcrēta turbae; sī quod exilium latet
[1224] ulterius Erebō, Cerberō ignōtum et mihi:
[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 malis
[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: 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 mihi
[1243] subtracta reddī, sāna sī mēns est mihi,
[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 pīs
[1249] cānōs, senectae parce dēsertae, precor,
[1250] annīsque fessīs; ūnicum lāpsae domūs
[1251] firmāmen, ūnum lūmen afflictō malis
[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 āmīsi bona,
[1260] mentem arma fāmam conjugem gnātōs manūs,
[1261] etiam furōrem, nēmo pollūtō queat
[1262] animō medēri: 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] ūnius ā tē crīminis veniam pete.
[1267] [HERCULES]: Veniam dabit sibi ipse, qui 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 mihi
[1280] mōnstrum impium saevumque et immīte ac ferum
oberrat: agedum dextra, cōnāre aggredi
[1281] ingēns opus, labōre bis sēnō amplius.
ignāva cessās, fortis in puerōs modo
[1283] pavidāsque mātrēs? arma nisi dantur mihi,
[1284] aut omne Pindi Thrācis excīdam nemus
Bacchīque lūcōs et Cithaerōnis juga
[1286] mēcum cremābō, aut tōta cum domibus suīs
dominīsque tēcta, cum deīs templa omnibus
[1288] Thēbāna suprā corpus excipiam meum
atque urbe versā condar, et, sī fortibus
[1289] leve pondus umerīs moenia immissa incident
septemque opertus nōn satis portīs premar,
[1290] onus omne mediā parte quod mundī sedet
dirimitque superōs, in meum vertam caput.
[1291] [AMPHITRUON]: Reddō arma. Vōx est digna genitōre Herculis.
[1292] [HERCULES]: hōc ēn perēmptus spīculō cecidit puer;
[1293] [AMPHITRUON]: Hoc Jūno tēlum manibus immisi tuis.
[1294] [HERCULES]: Hōc nunc ego ūtar. Ecce quam miserum metū
[1295] [AMPHITRUON]: cor palpitat pectusque sollicitum ferit.
[1296] [HERCULES]: Aptāta harundō est. Ecce jam faciēs scelus
[1297] [AMPHITRUON]: volēns sciēnsque. Pande, quid fierī jubēs?
[1298] Nihil rogāmus: noster in tūtō est dolor.
[1299] nātum potes servāre tū sōlus mihi,
[1300] ēripere nec tū; maximum ēvāsi metum:
[1301] miserum haut potes mē facere, fēlicem potes.
[1302] sīc statue, quicquid statuis, ut causam tuam
[1303] fāmamque in artō stāre et ancipiti sciās:
[1304] aut vīvis aut occīdis, hanc animam levem
[1305] fessamque seniō nec minus fessam malīs
[1306] in ōre prīmō teneo, tam tardē patrī
[1307] vītam dat aliquis? nōn feram ulterius moram,
[1308] laetāre! ferrō pectus impressō induam:
[1309] hīc, hīc jacēbit Herculis sānī scelus.
[1310] [HERCULES]: Jam parce, genitor, parce, jam revocā manum.
[1311] succumbe, virtūs, perfor imperium patris.
[1312] eat ad labōrēs hic quoque Herculeōs labor:
[1313] vīvāmus, artūs allevā afflictōs solō,
[1314] Thēseu, parentis. dextra contāctūs piōs
[1315] scelerāta refugit. Hanc manum amplector libēns,
[1316] hāc nīsus ibō, pectorī hanc aegrō admovēns
[1317] pellam dolōrēs. Quem locum profugus petam?
[1318] [HERCULES]: ubi mē recondam quāve tellūre obruar?
[1319] quis Tanais aut quis Nilus aut quis Persicā
[1320] violentus undā Tigris aut Rhēnus ferōx
[1321] Tagusve Hibērā turbidus gāzā fluēns

[1326] ablueret 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 Titān Cerberum
[1334] meliōre vultū vīdit, o 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 subiectum tuīs
[1340] cōnstitue 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, Alcidē, vocat,
[1344] facere innocentēs terra quae superōs solet.