

# Hercules furens

## Prolog

[1] [IUNO]: **Soror Tonantis** (hoc enim solum mihi  
[2] **nomen relictum est**) semper **alienum** Jovem  
[3] **ac templa summi vidua** deserui aetheris  
[4] **locumque caelo pulsa** paelicibus dedi;  
[5] **tellus colenda est**: paelices caelum tenent,  
[6] **hinc Arctos alta parte** glacialis poli  
[7] **sublime classēs sidus Argolicās** agit;  
[8] **hinc, quā tepenti vĕre** labatur diēs,  
[9] **Tyriae per undās** vector Eurōpae nitet;  
[10] **illinc timendum** ratibus **ac pontō** gregem  
[11] **passim vagantēs** exserunt Atlantides.  
[12] **ferrō mināx** hinc terret Ōrion deōs  
[13] **suāsque** Perseus aureus stēllās habet;  
[14] **hinc clāra geminī signa** Tyndaridae micant  
[15] **quibusque nātis mōbilis** tellūs stetit.  
[16] **nec ipse tantum Bacchus** aut **Bacchī** parēns  
[17] **adiere superōs**: nē **qua** pars probrō vacet,  
[18] **mundus puellae** sēta **Gnōsiacae** gerit,  
[19] **sed vetera** querimur; **ūna** mē dīra ac **fera**  
[20] **Thēbāna** tellūs nuribus ā! **sparsa impiis**  
[21] **quotiēns novercam** fēcit! ēscendat licet  
[22] **meumque** victrix 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** abibunt odia; **vivācēs** aget  
[28] **violentus irās** animus et **saevus** dolor  
[29] **aeterna bella pāce** sublātā geret.  
[30] **Quae bella?** quicquid **horridum** tellūs creat  
[31] **inimīca**, quicquid **pontus** aut **āēr** tulit  
[32] **terribile dīrum** pestilēns atrōx ferum,  
[33] **frāctum** atque **domitum** est. superat et crēscit malis  
[34] **irāque nostrā** fruitur; in laudēs **suās**  
[35] **mea** vertit odia: dum nimis **saeva** imperō,  
[36] **patrem probāvī**, glōriae fēcī locum,  
[37] **quā Sōl** redūcēns quāque dēpōnēns diem  
[38] **bīnōs propinquā** tinguit Aethiōpas face,  
[39] **indomita virtūs** colitur et **tōtō** deus  
[40] **nārrātur orbe**. mōnstra jam dēsunt mihi  
[41] **minorque** labor est Herculi jussa exsequi,  
[42] **quam mihi jubere**: **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 **limen** **īfernī** Jovis

[48] et opīma victī rēgis ad superōs refert,  
[49] parum est revertī, foedus umbrārum perīt:  
[50] vīdī ipsa, vīdī nocte discussā inferum  
[51] et Dīte domitō spolia jactantem patrī  
[52] frāterna, cūr nōn vinctum et oppressum trahit  
[53] ipsum catēnis paria sortitum Jovī  
[54] Erebōque captō potitur et retegīt Styga?  
[55] patefacta ab imīs mānibus retrō via est  
[56] et sacra dirae 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] visō labantem Cerberō vīdī diem  
[61] pavidumque Sōlem; mē quoque invāsīt tremor,  
[62] et terna mōnstrī colla dēvictī intuēns  
[63] timuī Imperāsse. levīa sed nimium queror;  
[64] caelō timendum est, rēgna nē summa occupet  
[65] quī vīcit īma: scēptra praeripiet patrī.  
[66] nec in astra lentā veniet ut Bacchus viā:  
[67] iter ruīnā quaeret et vacuō volet  
[68] rēgnāre mundō, rōbore expertō tumet,  
[69] et posse caelum vīribus vīcī 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 concipiat ferās  
[84] sed vīcit ista. quaeris Alcīdae parem?  
[85] nēmō est nisi ipse: bella jam sēcum gerat.  
[86] adsint ab imō Tartarī fundō excitae  
[87] Eumenides, ignem flammeae spargant comae,  
[88] viperea saevae verbera incutiant manūs,  
[89] ī nunc, superbe, caelitum sēdēs pete,  
[90] hūmāna temne. jam Styga et mānēs ferōx  
[91] fūgisce crēdis? hīc tibi ostendam īferōs,  
[92] revocābō in altā conditam cālīgine,  
[93] ultrā nocentum exilia, discordem deam  
[94] quam mūnit ingēns montis oppositī specus;  
[95] ēdūcam et imō 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, ācrior mentem excoquat  
[106] quam quī caminīs ignis Aetnaeīs furit:  
[107] ut possit animō captus Alcīdēs agī,  
[108] magnō furōre percitus, vōbīs prius  
[109] insāniendum 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 inferīs reversus, hīc prōsit mihi  
[118] Jove esse genitum, stābō at, ut certō exeant  
[119] ēmissa nervō tēla, librābō manū,  
[120] regam furentis arma, pugnanti Herculi  
[121] tandem favēbō; scelere perfectō licet  
[122] admittat illās genitor in caelum manūs.  
[123] Movenda jam sunt bella: clārescīt diēs  
[124] ortūque Titān lūcidus croceō subit.

## Chor (Anapāste)

[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] Titān summā prōspicit Oetā;  
[134] jam Cadmēis incluta Bacchīs  
[135] aspersa diē dūmēta rubent  
[136] Phoebīque fugit reditūra soror.  
[137] labor exoritur dūrus et omnīs  
[138] agitat cūrās aperitque domōs.  
[139] Pāstor gelidā cāna pruīnā  
[140] grege dīmissō pābula carpit;  
[141] lūdit prātō liber apertō  
[142] nōndum ruptā fronte juvenicus,  
[143] vacuae reparant ūbera matrēs;  
[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 ventis crēdit dubius  
[153] nāvita vītae,  
[154] laxōs aurā complente sinūs,  
[155] hic exēsis pendēns scopulis  
[156] aut dēceptōs instruit hāmōs  
[157] aut suspēsus spectat pressā  
[158] praemia dextrā:  
[159] sentit tremulum linea piscem.  
[160] Haec, innocuae quibus est vītae  
[161] tranquilla quiēs  
[162] et laeta suō parvōque domus;  
[163] spēs immānēs  
[164] urbibus errant trepidique 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 irās et verba locat.  
[175] Nōvit paucōs sēcūra quiēs,  
[176] quī vėlōcis memorēs aevī  
[177] tempora numquam reditūra tenent,  
[178] dum fāta sinunt, vīvite laetī:  
[179] properat cursū vīta citātō  
[180] rota praecipitis vertitur annī;  
[181] dūrae peragunt pēnsa sorōrēs  
[182] nec sua retrō fila revolvunt.  
[183] At gēns hominum fertur rapidīs  
[184] obvia fātis incerta suī:  
[185] Stygiās ultrō quaerimus undās.  
[186] nimium, Alcīdē, pectore forti  
[187] properās maestōs vīsere mānēs:  
[188] certō veniunt tempore Parcae,  
[189] nūllī jussō cessāre licet,  
[190] nūllī 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 sublimis eat:  
[197] mē mea tellūs  
[198] lare sēcretō 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 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 primō statim  
[214] infēsta Jūnō: numquid immūnis fuit  
[215] infantis aetās? mōnstra superāvit prius  
[216] quam nōsse posset, gemina cristātī caput  
[217] anguēs ferēbant ōra, quōs contrā obviū  
[218] reptābat infāns igneōs serpentium  
[219] oculōs remissō lūmine ac placidō intuēns;  
[220] artōs serēnis vultibus nōdōs tulit,  
[221] et tumida tenerā guttura ēlidēns manū  
[222] prōlūsit hydrae. Maenalī pernīx fera,  
[223] multō decōrum praeferēns aurō caput,  
[224] dēprēnsa cursū; maximus Nemeae timor  
[225] pressus lacertis gemuit Herculeīs leō.  
[226] quid stabula memorem dīra Bistonī gregis  
[227] suīsque rēgem pābulum armentis datum,  
[228] solitumque dēnsīs hispidum Erymanthī jugīs  
[229] Arcadia quater nemora Maenaliū suem,  
[230] taurumque centum nōn levem populīs metum?  
[231] inter remōtōs gentis Hesperiae gregēs  
[232] pāstor trifōrmis lītoris Tartēsī  
[233] perēptus, ācta est praeda ab occāsū ultimō;  
[234] nōtum Cithaerōn pāvit Ōceanō pecus.  
[235] penetrāre jussus sōlis aestivī plagās  
[236] et adusta medius rēgna quae torret diēs  
[237] utrimque montēs solvit ac ruptō obice  
[238] lātā ruentī fēcit Ōceanō viam.  
[239] post haec adortus nemoris opulentī domōs  
[240] aurīfera vigilis spolia serpentis tulit;  
[241] quid? saeva Lernae mōnstra, numerōsum malum,  
[242] nōn igne dēmum vīcit et docuit morī,  
[243] solitāsque pinnīs condere obductīs diem  
[244] petit ab ipsīs nūbibus Stympālidas?  
[245] nōn vīcit illum caelibis semper torī  
[246] rēgīna gentis vidua Thermōdontiae,  
[247] nec ad omne clārum facinus audācēs manūs  
[248] stabulī fugāvit turpis Augēī labor.  
[249] Quid ista prōsunt? orbe dēfēnsō caret,

[250] sēnsēre terrae pācis auctōrem suae  
 [251] abesse tristēs: prōsperum ac fēlix scelus  
 [252] virtūs vocātur; sontibus pārent bonī.  
 [253] jūs est in armīs, opprimit lēgēs timor,  
 [254] ante ōra vidī nostra truculentā manū  
 [255] gnātōs paternī cadere rēgnī vindicēs  
 [256] ipsumque, Cadmī nōbilis stirpem ultimam,  
 [257] occidere, vidī rēgium capitis decus  
 [258] cum capite raptum, quis satis Thēbās fleat?  
 [259] ferāx deōrum terra, quem dominum tremis?  
 [260] ē cuius arvīs ēque fēcundō sinū  
 [261] strictō juventūs orta cum ferrō stetit  
 [262] cuiusque mūrōs nātus Amphīōn Jove  
 [263] strūxit canōrō saxa modulātū trahēns,  
 [264] in cuius urbem nōn semel divum parēns  
 [265] caelō relictō vēnit, haec quae caelitēs  
 [266] recēpit et quae fēcit et (fās sit loquī)  
 [267] fortasse faciet, sordidō premitur jugō.  
 [268] Cadmēa prōlēs atque Ophīonium genus,  
 [269] quō reccidistis? tremitis ignāvum exulem,  
 [270] suīs carentem fīnibus, nostrīs gravem.  
 [271] quī scelera terrā quīque persequitur mari  
 [272] ac saeva jūstā scēptra cōnfringit manū  
 [273] nunc servit absēns fertque quae fieri 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 diductō redī  
 [282] et quicquid ātrā nocte possessum latet  
 [283] ēmitte tēcum, dīrutīs quālis jugīs  
 [284] praeceps citātō flūminī quaerēns iter  
 [285] quondam stetistī, scissa cum vastō impetū  
 [286] patuēre Tempē; pectore impulsus tuō  
 [287] hūc mōns et illūc cessit et ruptō aggere  
 [288] novā cucurrit Thessalus torrēns viā:  
 [289] tālis, parentēs liberōs patriam petēns,  
 [290] ērumpe rērum terminōs tēcum efferēns,  
 [291] et quicquid avida tot per annōrum gradūs  
 [292] abscondit aetās redde et oblītōs suī  
 [293] lūcisque pavidōs ante tē populōs age.  
 [294] indigna tē sunt spolia, sī tantum refers  
 [295] quantum imperātum est. magna sed nimium loquor  
 [296] ignāra nostrae sortis, unde illum mihi  
 [297] quō tē tuamque dexteram amplectar diem  
 [298] reditūsque lentōs nec meī memorēs querar?  
 [299] tibi, ō 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]: Ō socia nostrī sanguinis, castā fidē  
 [310] servāns torum nātōsque magnanimī Herculis,  
 [311] meliōra mente concipe atque animum excitā.  
 [312] aderit profectō, quālis ex omnī solet  
 [313] labōre, major. Quod nimis miserī volunt  
 [314] [MEGARA]: hoc facile crēdunt. Immo quod metuunt nimis  
 [315] [AMPHITRUON]: numquam movērī posse nec tollī putant:  
 [316] prōna est timōrī semper in pejus fidēs.  
 [317] [MEGARA]: Dēmersus ac dēfossus et tōtō īnsuper  
 [318] oppressus orbe quam viam ad superōs habet?  
 [319] [AMPHITRUON]: Quam tunc habēbat, cum per ārentem plagam  
 [320] et fluctuantēs mōre turbātī maris  
 [321] adīt harēnās bisque discēdēns fretum  
 [322] et bis recurrēns, cumque dēsertā rate  
 [323] dēprēnsus haesit Syrtium brevibus vadīs  
 [324] et puppe fixā maria superāvit pedēs.  
 [325] [MEGARA]: Inīqua rārō maximīs virtūtibus  
 [326] fortūna parcit; nēmo sē tūtō diū  
 [327] periculīs offerre tam crēbris 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 mihi  
 [339] avī nec altīs inclitum titulis genus.  
 [340] sed clāra virtūs: quī genus jactat suum.  
 [341] aliēna laudat, rapta sed trepidā manū  
 [342] scēptra obtinentur; omnis in ferrō est salūs:  
 [343] quod cīvibus tenēre tē invītīs sciās.  
 [344] strictus tuētur ēnsis, aliēnō in locō  
 [345] haut stabile rēgnum est; ūna sed nostrās potest  
 [346] fundāre vīrēs jūcta rēgālī face  
 [347] thalamisque 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 prima rēgnī est posse in invidiam patī.

[354] temptēmus igitur, fors dedit nōbīs locum.  
 [355] namque ipsa, trīstī vestis obtentū caput  
 [356] vēlāta, juxtā praesidēs adstat deōs  
 [357] laterīque adhaeret vērus Alcīdae sator.  
 [358] [MEGARA]: Quidnam iste, nostrī generis exitium ac luēs,  
 [359] novī parat? quid temptat? Ō clārum trahēns  
 [360] [LYCUS]: ā stirpe nōmen rēgiā, facilis mea  
 [361] parumper aure verba patientī excipe.  
 [362] sī aeterna semper odia mortālēs gerant  
 [363] nec coeptus umquam cēdat ex animīs furor,  
 [364] sed arma fēlix teneat infēlix paret,  
 [365] nihil relinquent bella; tum vastīs ager  
 [366] squālēbit arvīs, subditā tēctīs face  
 [367] altus sepultās obruet gentēs cinis.  
 [368] pācem reducī velle victōrī expedit,  
 [369] victō necesse est. particeps rēgnō venī;  
 [370] sociēmur animīs, pignus hoc fideī cape:  
 [371] continge dextram, quid trucī vultū silēs?  
 [372] [MEGARA]: Egone ut parentis sanguine aspersam manum  
 [373] frātrumque geminā caede contingam? prius  
 [374] extinguet ortus, referet occāsus diem,  
 [375] pāx ante fīda nivibus et flammīs erit  
 [376] et Scylla Siculum junget Ausoniō latus,  
 [377] priusque multō vicibus alternīs fugāx  
 [378] Eurīpus undā stābit Euboicā piger.  
 [379] patrem abstulistī, rēgna, germānōs, larem  
 [380] patrium; quid ultrā est? ūna rēs superest mihi  
 [381] frātre ac parente cārīor, rēgnō ac lare:  
 [382] odium tuī, quod esse cum populō mihi  
 [383] commūne doleō: pars quota ex illō mea est?  
 [384] domināre tumidus, spīritūs altōs gere:  
 [385] sequitur superbōs ultor ā tergō deus.  
 [386] Thēbāna nōvī rēgna: quid mātres loquar  
 [387] passās et ausās scelera? quid geminum nefās  
 [388] mixtumque nōmen conjugis nātī patris?  
 [389] quid bīna frātrum castra? quid totidem rogōs?  
 [390] riget superba Tantalīs lūctū parēns  
 [391] maestusque Phrygiō mānat in Sipylo lapis.  
 [392] quīn ipse torvum subrigēns cristā caput  
 [393] Illyrica Cadmus rēgna permēnsus fugā  
 [394] longās reliquit corporis tractī notās.  
 [395] haec tē manent exempla: domināre ut libet,  
 [396] dum solita rēgnī fāta tē nostrī vocent  
 [397] [LYCUS]: Agedum efferātās rabida vōcēs āmovē  
 [398] et disce rēgum imperia ab Alcīdē patī  
 [399] ego rapta quamvis scēptra victricī geram  
 [400] dextrā regamque cūncta sine lēgum metū  
 [401] quās arma vincunt, pauca prō causā loquar  
 [402] nostrā, cruentō cecidit in bellō pater?  
 [403] cecidēre frātrēs? arma nōn servant modum;  
 [404] nec temperārī facile nec reprimī potest  
 [405] strictī ēnsis ira, 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 inflexō genū  
 [411] rēgnantem adōrēs petimus: hoc ipsum placet  
 [412] animō ruīnās quod capis magnō tuās;  
 [413] es rēge conjūnx digna: sociēmus torōs.  
 [414] [MEGARA]: Gelidus per artūs vādit exsanguīs tremor.  
 [415] quod facinus aurēs pepulit? haut equidem horruī,  
 [416] cum pāce ruptā bellicus mūrōs fragor  
 [417] circumsonāret, pertulī intrepidē omnia:  
 [418] thalamōs tremēscō; capta nunc videor mihī.  
 [419] grauent catēnae corpus et longā famē  
 [420] mors prōtrahātur lenta: nōn vincet fidem  
 [421] vīs ūlla nostram; moriar, Alcīdē, tua.  
 [422] [LYCUS]: Animōsne mersus inferīs conjūnx facit?  
 [423] [MEGARA]: Inferna tetigit, posset ut supera assequī.  
 [424] [LYCUS]: Tellūris illum pondus immēnsae premit.  
 [425] [MEGARA]: Nūllō premētur onere, quī caelum tulit.  
 [426] [LYCUS]: Cōgēre. Cōgī quī potest nescit morī.  
 [427] Effāre potius, quod novīs thalamīs parem  
 [428] Rēgāle mūnus. Aut tuam mortem aut meam.  
 [429] Moriere dēmēns. Conjugī occurram meō.  
 [430] Scēptrōne nostrō famulus est potior tibī?  
 [431] [MEGARA]: Quot iste famulus trādidit rēgēs necī.  
 [432] [LYCUS]: Cūr ergo rēgī servit et patitur jugum?  
 [433] [MEGARA]: Imperia dūra tolle: quid virtūs erit?  
 [434] [LYCUS]: Obicī ferīs mōnstrisque virtūtem putās?  
 [435] [MEGARA]: Virtūtis est domāre quae cūctī 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? mentimur Jovem:  
 [447] Jūnōnis odiō crēde. Quid violās Jovem?  
 [448] [LYCUS]: mortāle caelō nōn potest jungī genus.  
 [449] [AMPHITRUON]: Commūnis ista plūribus causa est deīs.  
 [450] [LYCUS]: Famulīne fuerant ante quam fierent deī?  
 [451] [AMPHITRUON]: Pāstor Pheraeōs Dēlius pāvit gregēs.  
 [452] [LYCUS]: Sed nōn per omnēs exul errāvit plagās.  
 [453] [AMPHITRUON]: Quem profuga terrā māter errante ēdidit?  
 [454] [LYCUS]: Num mōnstra saeva Phoebus aut timuit ferās?  
 [455] [AMPHITRUON]: Primus sagittās imbuīt Phoebī dracō.  
 [456] [LYCUS]: Quam gravia parvus tulerit ignōrās mala?  
 [457] [AMPHITRUON]: Ē māttris uterō fulmine ējectus puer

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

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

## Chor (1st asclepiadeans)

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

[559] **Parcārumque colōs nōn revocābilēs.**  
[560] **hic quī rēx populīs plūribus imperat,**  
[561] **bellō cum peterēs Nestoream Pylon,**  
[562] **tēcum cōseruit pestiferās manūs**  
[563] **tēlum tergeminā cuspide praeferēs:**  
[564] **effūgit tenuī vulnere saucius**  
[565] **et mortis dominus pertimuit morī.**  
[566] **fātum rumpe manū, trīstibus inferīs**  
[567] **prōspectus pateat lūcis et invius**  
[568] **limes det facilēs ad superōs viās.**  
[569] **Immitēs 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 cuius sonitum cōstiterant ferae,**  
[575] **mulcet nōn solitis vōcibus inferōs**  
[576] **et surdīs resonat clārius in locīs,**  
[577] **dēflent Eurydicēn Thrēiciae nurūs,**  
[578] **dēflent et lacrimis 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] **Spartānique aderit jānuā Taenarī.’**  
[588] **ōdit vērus amor nec patitur morās:**  
[589] **mūnus dum properat cernere, perdidit.**  
[590] **Quae vincī potuit rēgia carmine.**  
[591] **haec vincī poterit rēgia vīribus.**

## Szene 2

[592] [HERCULES]: **Ō lūcis almae rēctor et caelī decus,**  
[593] **quī alterna currū spatia flammiferō ambiēns**  
[594] **inlūstre lātīs exseris terrīs caput,**  
[595] **dā, Phoebe, veniam, sī quid inlicitum tuī**  
[596] **vīdēre vultūs: jussus in lūcem extulī**  
[597] **arcāna mundi, tūque, caelestum arbiter**  
[598] **parēnsque, visūs fulmine oppositō tege;**  
[599] **et tū, secundō maria quī scēptrō regis,**  
[600] **īmās pete undās, quisquis ex altō aspicit**  
[601] **terrēna, faciē pollui metuēns novā,**  
[602] **aciem reflectat ōraque in caelum ērigat**  
[603] **portenta fugiēns: hoc nefās cernant duo,**  
[604] **quī advēxit et quae jussit, in poenās meās**  
[605] **atque in labōrēs nōn satis terrae patent**  
[606] **Jūnōnis odiō: vīdī inaccessa omnibus,**  
[607] **ignōta 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 miles 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 liquit domum?  
 [621] estne ille nātus? membra laetitiā stupent.  
 [622] ō nāte. certa at sēra Thēbārum salūs,  
 [623] teneōne in aurās ēditum an vānā fruor  
 [624] dēceptus umbrā? tūne es? agnōscō torōs  
 [625] umerōsque et altō nōbilem truncō manum.  
 [626] [HERCULES]: Undē iste, genitor, squālor et lūgūbribus  
 [627] amicta conjūnx? unde tam foedō obsitī  
 [628] paedōre nātī? quae domum clādēs gravat?  
 [629] [AMPHITRUON]: Socer est perēemptus, 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 inimicum feror:  
 [637] Thēseu, resiste, nē qua vīs subita ingruat.  
 [638] mē bella poscunt, differ amplexūs, parēns,  
 [639] conjūnxque differ, nūntiet Dītī Lycus  
 [640] mē jam 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 mănēs via,  
 [649] ut vincla tulerit dūra Tartareus canis.  
 [650] [THESEUS]: Memorāre cōgis ācta sēcūrae quoque  
 [651] horrenda mentī. vix adhūc certa est fidēs  
 [652] vītālīs aurae, torpet aciēs lūminum  
 [653] hebetēsque vīsūs vix diem insuētum 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 mundi tēque dominantem precor  
 [659] rēgnō capācī tēque quam amōtam inrita

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

[712] alter quiētō similis (hunc jūrant deī)  
 [713] tacente sacram dēvehēns fluviō Styga;  
 [714] at hīc tumultū rapitur ingentī ferōx  
 [715] et saxa flūctū volvit Acherōn invius  
 [716] renāvigārī. cingitur duplicī vadō  
 [717] adversa Dītis rēgia, atque ingēns domus  
 [718] umbrante lūcō tegitur, hīc vastō specū  
 [719] pendent tyrannī līmina, hoc umbrīs iter,  
 [720] haec porta rēgnī, campus hanc circā jacet,  
 [721] in quō superbō dīgerit vultū sedēns  
 [722] animās recentēs dīra majestās deī.  
 [723] frōns torva, frātrum quae tamen speciem gerat  
 [724] gentisque tantae, vultus est illī Jovis,  
 [725] sed fulminantis: magna pars rēgnī trucis  
 [726] est ipse dominus, cujus 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 quaesitor sedēns  
 [732] jūdicia trepidīs sēra sortitur reīs.  
 [733] adītur 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]: fēlicis aevī spatia vel caelum petit  
 [744] vel laeta fēlix nemoris Ēlysīi loca,  
 [745] jūdex futūrus. sanguine hūmānō abstinē  
 [746] quicumque rēgnās: scelera taxantur modō  
 [747] majōre vestra. Certus inclūsōs tenet  
 [748] [AMPHITRUON]: locus nocentēs? utque fert fāma. impiōs  
 [749] supplicia vinclīs saeva perpetuīs domant?  
 [750] [THESEUS]: Rapitur volucrī tortus Ixīōn rotā;  
 [751] cervīce saxum grande Sīsypīā sedet;  
 [752] in amne mediō faucibus siccīs senex  
 [753] sectātur undās, alluit mentum latex,  
 [754] fidemque cum jam saepe dēceptō dedit,  
 [755] perit unda in ōre; pōma dēstituunt famem.  
 [756] praebebet volucrī Tityos aeternās dapēs  
 [757] urnāsque frūstrā Danaides plēnās gerunt;  
 [758] errant furentēs impiae Cadmēides  
 [759] terretque mēnsās avida Phīnēās avis.  
 [760] [AMPHITRUON]: Nunc ēde nātī nōbilem pugnam meī.  
 [761] patruī volentis mūnus an spoliū refert?  
 [762] [THESEUS]: Fērāle tardīs imminet saxum vadīs.  
 [763] stupent ubi undae, sēgne torpēscit fretum.

[764] hunc servat amnem cultū et aspectū horridus  
 [765] pavidōsque mănēs squālidus vectat senex.  
 [766] impexa pendet barba, dēfōrmem sinum  
 [767] nōdus coercet, concavae lūcent genae;  
 [768] regit ipse longō portitor contō ratem.  
 [769] hic onere vacuam lītorī puppem applicāns  
 [770] repetēbat umbrās; poscit Alcīdēs viam  
 [771] cēdente turbā; dīrus exclāmat Charōn:  
 [772] 'quō pergis, audāx? siste properantem gradum.'  
 [773] nōn passus ūllās nātus Alcmēnā morās  
 [774] ipsō coāctum nāvitam contō domat  
 [775] scanditque puppem. cumba populōrum capāx  
 [776] succubuit ūnī: sēdit et gravior ratis  
 [777] utrimque Lēthēn latere titubantī bibit.  
 [778] tum victa trepidant mōnstra, Centaurī trucēs  
 [779] Lapīthaeque multō in bella succēnsī merō;  
 [780] Stygiae palūdis ultimōs quaerēns sinūs  
 [781] fēcunda mergit capita Lernaesus labor.  
 [782] post haec avārī Dītis appāret domus:  
 [783] hīc saevus umbrās territat Stygius canis,  
 [784] quī terna vastō capita concutiēns sonō  
 [785] rēgnum tuētur, sordidum tībō 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 ōra missus terna fēlicēs quoque  
 [797] exterret umbrās, solvit ā laevā ferōs  
 [798] tunc ipse rictūs et Cleōnaeum caput  
 [799] oppōnit ac sē tegmine ingentī tegit,  
 [800] victrīce magnum dexterā rōbur gerēns.  
 [801] hūc nunc et illūc verbere assiduō rotat,  
 [802] ingeminat ictūs; domitus īnfrēgit minās  
 [803] et cūncta lassus capita summisit canis  
 [804] antrōque tōtō cessit; extimuit sedēns  
 [805] uterque soliō dominus et dūcī jubet;  
 [806] mē quoque petentī mūnus Alcīdae dedit.  
 [807] Tum gravia mōnstrī colla permulcēns manū  
 [808] adamante textō vincit; oblītus suī  
 [809] cūstōs opācī pervigil rēgnī canis  
 [810] compōnit aurēs timidus et patiēns trahī  
 [811] erumque fassus, ōre summissō obsequēns,  
 [812] utrumque caudā pulsat anguiferā latus.  
 [813] postquam est ad ōrās Taenarī ventum et nitor  
 [814] percussit oculōs lūcis ignōtae novus,  
 [815] resūmit animōs victus et vastās furēns



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

## Chor (sapphics and glyconics)

[830] [CHORUS]: Nātus Eurystheus properante partū  
[831] jusserat mundi penetrāre fundum:  
[832] dērat hoc solum numerō labōrum,  
[833] tertiae rēgem spoliāre sortis.  
[834] ausus es caecōs aditūs inīre,  
[835] dūcit ad mănēs via quā remōtōs  
[836] trīstis et nigrā metuenda silvā,  
[837] sed frequēns magnā comitante turbā.  
[838] Quantus incēdit populus per urbēs  
[839] ad novī lūdōs avidus theātrī,  
[840] quantus Ēlēum ruit ad Tonantem,  
[841] quīnta cum sacrum revocāvit aestās;  
[842] quanta, cum longae redit hōra noctī  
[843] crēscere et somnōs cupiēns quiētōs  
[844] libra 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 vitā:  
[851] pars adhūc currit meliōris aevi:  
[852] virginēs nōndum thalamīs jugātae  
[853] et comīs nōndum positīs ephēbī  
[854] mātīs et nōmen modo doctus infāns,  
[855] his 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 dēnsū tenebraeque turpēs  
[862] et color noctis malus ac silentis  
[863] ōtium mundi vacuaeque nūbēs.  
[864] Sēra nōs illō referat senectūs!

[865] nēmō ad id sērō venit, unde numquam,  
[866] cum semel vēnit, potuit reverti;  
[867] quid juvat dūrum properāre fātum?  
[868] omnis haec magnīs vaga turba terrīs  
[869] ībit ad mănēs facietque inertī  
[870] vēla Cōcȳtō: tibi crēscit omne,  
[871] et quod occāsus videt et quod ortus;  
[872] parce ventūrīs; tibi, mors, parāmur.  
[873] sīs licet sēgnis, properāmus ipsī:  
[874] p̄ma quae vītā 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] pācātis redit īferīs.  
[891] jam nūllus superest timor:  
[892] nīl ultrā jacet īferōs,  
[893] stantēs sacrificus comās  
[894] dīlētā tege pōpulō.

## Szene 3

[895] [HERCULES]: Ultrīce dextrā fūsus adversō Lycus  
[896] terram cecīdit ōre; tum quisquis comes  
[897] fuerat tyrannī jacuit et poenae comes,  
[898] nunc sacra patrī victor et superīs feram  
[899] caesisque 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 segēs  
[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 flammis. Nāte, mānantēs prius  
[919] [AMPHITRUON]: manūs cruentā caede et hostilī explā.  
[920] [HERCULES]: Utinam cruōre capitis invīsī deīs  
[921] libāre possem: grātior nūllus liquor  
[922] tīnxisset ārās; victima haut ūlla amplior  
[923] potest magisque opima mactārī Jovī,  
[924] quam rēx inīquus. Finiat genitor tuōs  
[925] [AMPHITRUON]: optā labōrēs, dētur aliquandō ōtium  
[926] quīēque fessīs. Ipse concipiam precēs  
[927] [HERCULES]: Jove mēque dignās, stet suō caelum locō  
[928] tellūsque et aequor; astra inoffēnsōs agent  
[929] aeterna cursūs, alta pāx gentēs alat:  
[930] ferrum omne teneat rūris innocuī labor  
[931] ēnsēsque lateant, nūlla tempestās fretum  
[932] violenta turbet, nūllus irātō Jove  
[933] exsiliat ignis, nūllus hibernā nive  
[934] nūtritus 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 obscurō meat  
[941] sine nūbe vultū. quis diem retrō fugat  
[942] agitque in ortūs? unde nox ātrum caput  
[943] ignōta prōfert? unde tot stēllae polum  
[944] implent diurnae? prīmus ēn noster labor  
[945] caelī refulget parte nōn minimā leō  
[946] irāque tōtus fervet et morsūs parat.  
[947] jam rapiet aliquod sīdus: ingentī mināx  
[948] stat ōre et ignēs efflat et rutilā jubam  
[949] cervīce jactāns quicquid autumnus gravis  
[950] hiemsque gelidō frīgida spatiō refert  
[951] ūnō impetū trānsiliet et vernī petet  
[952] frangetque taurī colla. Quod subitum hoc malum est?  
[953] [AMPHITRUON]: quō, nāte, vultūs hūc et hūc ācrēs refers  
[954] aciēque falsum turbidā caelum vidēs?  
[955] [HERCULES]: Perdomita tellūs, tumida cessērunt freta,  
[956] īnfēna nostrōs rēgna sēnsēre impetūs:  
[957] immūne caelum est, dignus Alcīdē labor.  
[958] in alta mundī spatia sublimis ferar,  
[959] petātur aethēr: astra prōmittit pater.  
[960] quid, sī negāret? nōn capit terra Herculem  
[961] tandemque superīs reddit, ēn ultrō vocat  
[962] omnis deōrum coetus et laxat forēs,  
[963] ūnā vetante. recipis et reserās polum?  
[964] an contumācis jānuam mundī trahō?  
[965] dubitātur etiam? vincla Sātūrnō exuam

[966] **contrāque patris impiī rēgnum impotēns**  
[967] **avum resolvam; bella Titānes 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 Chirōn suum,**  
[972] **in caelum Olympus tertiō positus gradū**  
[973] **perveniet aut mittētur. Īnfandōs procul**  
[974] [AMPHITRUON]: **āverte sēnsūs; pectoris sānī parum**  
[975] **magnī tamen compesce dēmentem impetum.**  
[976] [HERCULES]: **Quid hoc? Gigantes arma pestiferī movent.**  
[977] **profūgit umbrās Tityos ac lacerum gerēns**  
[978] **et ināne pectus quam prope ā caelō stetit.**  
[979] **labat Cithaerōn, alta Pellēnē tremit**  
[980] **marcentque Tempē. rapuit hic Pindī juga,**  
[981] **hic rapuit Oetēn, saevit horrendum Mimāns.**  
[982] **flammifera Erinys verbere excussō sonat**  
[983] **rogisque adustās propius ac propius sudēs**  
[984] **in ōra tendit; saeva Tisiphonē, caput**  
[985] **serpentibus vāllāta, post raptum canem**  
[986] **portam vacantem clausit oppositā face.**  
[987] **sed ecce prōlēs rēgis inimicī 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 spīculum collō fugit**  
[995] **vulnere relictō. Cēteram prōlem ēruam**  
[996] [HERCULES]: **omnisque latebrās, quid moror? majus mihi**  
[997] **bellum Mycēnis restat, ut Cyclōpia**  
[998] **ēversa manibus 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] **gnātum scelestī patris. Ēn blandās manūs**  
[1003] [AMPHITRUON]: **ad genua tendēns vōce miserandā rogat:**  
[1004] **scelus nefandum, trīste et aspectū horridum!**  
[1005] **dextrā precantem rapuit et circā furēns**  
[1006] **bis ter rotātum mīsīt; ast illī caput**  
[1007] **sonuit, cerebrō tēcta dispersō madent.**  
[1008] **at misera, parvum prōtegēns gnātum sinū,**  
[1009] **Megarā furentī similis ē 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 ĩnfēstō est locus.**  
[1014] **amplectere ipsum potius et blandā prece**  
[1015] **lēnīre temptā. Parce jam, conjūnx, precor,**  
[1016] [MEGARA]: **agnōsce Megaram. gnātus hic vultūs tuōs**  
[1017] **habitūsque reddit; cernis, ut tendat manūs?**

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

## Chor (Anapästē)

[1054] [CHORUS]: **Lūgeat aethēr magnusque parēns**  
[1055] **aetheris altī tellūsque ferāx**  
[1056] **et vaga pontī mōbilis unda,**  
[1057] **tūque ante omnīs quī per terrās**  
[1058] **tractūsque maris fundis radiōs**  
[1059] **noctemque fugās ore decōrō,**  
[1060] **fervide 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] volucre ō mātris genus Astraeae,  
[1070] vērīs miscēns falsa, futūrī  
[1071] certus et īdem pessimus auctor,  
[1072] pater ō rērum, portus vītae,  
[1073] lūcis requiēs noctisque comes,  
[1074] quī pār rēgī famulōque venis,  
[1075] pavidum lētī genus hūmānum  
[1076] cōgis longam discere noctem:  
[1077] placidus fessum lēnisque fovē,  
[1078] preme dēvinctum torpōre gravī;  
[1079] sopor indomitōs alliget artūs  
[1080] nec torva prius pectora linquat,  
[1081] quam mēns repetat prīstina cursum.  
[1082] Ēn fūsus humī saeva ferōcī  
[1083] corde volūtāt somnia -nōndum est  
[1084] tantī pestis superāta malī-  
[1085] clāvaeque gravī lassum solitus  
[1086] mandāre caput  
[1087] quaerit vacuā pondera dextrā,  
[1088] mōtū jactāns braccia vānō.  
[1089] nec adhūc omnis expulit aestūs,  
[1090] sed ut ingentī vexāta notō  
[1091] servat longōs unda tumultūs  
[1092] et jam ventō cessante tumet.  
[1093] pelle īnsānōs flūctūs animī,  
[1094] redeat pietās virtūsque virō.  
[1095] mēns vēsānō concita mōtū:  
[1096] error caecus quā coepit eat;  
[1097] sōlus tē jam praestāre potest  
[1098] furor īnsontem: proxima pūrīs  
[1099] sors est manibus nescire 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 poli  
[1106] vastisque ferōx  
[1107] quī colla gerit vīncta catēnis  
[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 ausi  
 [1127] tēlum Scythicīs leve cōrētis  
 [1128] missum certā librāre manū  
 [1129] tūtōsque fugā fīgere cervōs:  
 [1130] nōndumque ferae terga jubātae  
 [1131] īte ad Stygiōs, umbrae, portūs  
 [1132] īte, innocuae,  
 [1133] quās in primō limine vītae  
 [1134] scelus oppressit patriusque furor,  
 [1135] īte, irātōs vīsitate rēgēs.

## Szene 4

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

[1170] **Thrācis cruentī sive Gēryonae pecus**  
 [1171] **Libyaeve dominōs, nūlla pugnandī mora est.**  
 [1172] **ēn nūdus astō; vel meīs armīs licet**  
 [1173] **petās inermem, cūr meōs Thēseus fugit**  
 [1174] **paterque vultūs? ōra cūr condunt sua?**  
 [1175] **differte flētūs; quis meōs dederit necī**  
 [1176] **omnis 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 tantis malīs**  
 [1180] **quid est pudendum? numquid Argivae impotēns**  
 [1181] **dominātor urbis, numquid infēstum Lycī**  
 [1182] **pereuntis agmen clāde nōs tantā obruit?**  
 [1183] **per tē meōrum facinorum laudem precor,**  
 [1184] **genitor, tuīque nōminis semper mihi**  
 [1185] **nūmen secundum, fāre, quis fūdit domum?**  
 [1186] **cui praeda jacuī? Tacita sic 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, hic errat scelus.**  
 [1194] **unde hic cruor? quid illa puerilī madēns**  
 [1195] **harundo lētō? tincta Lernaēā 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 istīc 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] **scopulī? vacat cūr vertice immēnsō ferās**  
 [1209] **volucrēsque pāscēns Caucasī abruptum latus**  
 [1210] **nūdumque silvīs? illa quae pontum Scythēn**  
 [1211] **Symplēgas artat hinc et hinc vīctās 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: inferīs 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 sontī plaga**  
[1223] **dēcrēta turbae; sī quod exilium latet**  
[1224] **ulterius Erebo, Cerbero ignōtum et mihī:**  
[1225] **hōc mē abde, tellūs; Tartarī ad finem ultimum**  
[1226] **mānsūrus ibō. 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, stipitem hūc vastum date.**  
[1231] **tibi tēla frangam nostra, tibi nostrōs, puer,**  
[1232] **rumpēmus arcūs; at tuīs stīpes gravis**  
[1233] **ārdēbit umbris; ipsa Lernaēis frequēns**  
[1234] **pharetra tēlis in tuōs ibit rogōs:**  
[1235] **dent arma poenās, vōs quoque īfaustās meīs**  
[1236] **cremābo tēlis, 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 extinctus 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, sive mē altōrem vocās**  
[1248] **seu tū parentem, perque venerandōs piīs**  
[1249] **cānōs, senectae parce dēsertae, precor,**  
[1250] **annisque 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 dētimeam amplius**  
[1259] **mōrerque nihil est: cūncta jam āmisī bona,**  
[1260] **mentem arma fāmam conjugem gnātōs manūs,**  
[1261] **etiam furōrem, nēmo pollūtō queat**  
[1262] **animō medērī: morte sānandum est scelus.**  
[1263] [AMPHITRUON]: **Perimēs parentem. Facere nē possim, occidam.**  
[1264] **Genitōre cōram? Cernere hunc docuī nefās.**  
[1265] **Memoranda potius omnibus facta intuēns**  
[1266] **ūnūs ā tē crīminis veniam pete.**  
[1267] [HERCULES]: **Veniam dabit sibi ipse, quī nūllī dedit?**  
[1268] **laudanda fēcī jussus: hoc ūnum meum est.**  
[1269] **succurre, genitor; sive tē pietās movet**  
[1270] **seu triste fātum sive 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 tibi  
[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  
[1281] oberrat: agedum dextra, cōnāre aggredi  
[1282] ingēns opus, labōre bis sēnō amplius.  
[1283] ignāva cessās, fortis in puerōs modo  
[1284] pavidāsque mātērēs? arma nisi dantur mihi,  
[1285] aut omne Pindī Thrācis excīdam nemus  
[1286] Bacchīque lūcōs et Cithaerōnis juga  
[1287] mēcum cremābō, aut tōta cum domibus suis  
[1288] dominisque tēcta, cum deīs templa omnibus  
[1289] Thēbāna suprā corpus excipiam meum  
[1290] atque urbe versā condar, et, sī fortibus  
[1291] leve pondus umeris moenia immissa incident  
[1292] septemque opertus nōn satis portīs premar,  
[1293] onus omne mediā parte quod mundi sedet  
[1294] dirimitque superōs, in meum vertam caput.  
[1295] [AMPHITRUON]: Reddō arma. Vōx est digna genitōre Herculis.  
[1296] [HERCULES]: hōc ēn perēptus spīculō cecidit puer;  
[1297] [AMPHITRUON]: Hoc Jūno tēlum manibus immisit tuīs.  
[1298] [HERCULES]: Hōc nunc ego ūtar. Ecce quam miserum metū  
[1299] [AMPHITRUON]: cor palpitāt pectusque sollicitum ferit.  
[1300] [HERCULES]: Aptāta harundō est. Ecce jam faciēs scelus  
[1301] [AMPHITRUON]: volēns sciēnsque. Pande, quid fierī jubēs?  
[1302] Nihil rogāmus: noster in tūtō est dolor.  
[1303] nātum potes servāre tū sōlus mihi,  
[1304] ēripere nec tū; maximum ēvāsī metum:  
[1305] miserum haut potes mē facere, fēlicem potes.  
[1306] sīc statue, quicquid statuis, ut causam tuam  
[1307] fāmamque in artō stāre et ancipitī sciās:  
[1308] aut vīvis aut occīdis, hanc animam levem  
[1309] fessamque seniō nec minus fessam malīs  
[1310] in ōre primō teneo, tam tardē patrī  
[1311] vītā dat aliquis? nōn feram ulterius moram,  
[1312] laetāre! ferrō pectus impressō induam:  
[1313] hīc, hīc jacēbit Herculis sānī scelus.  
[1314] [HERCULES]: Jam parce, genitor, parce, jam revocā manum.  
[1315] succumbe, virtūs, perfer imperium patris.  
[1316] eat ad labōrēs hic quoque Herculeōs labor:  
[1317] vivāmus, artūs allevā afflictōs solō,  
[1318] Thēseu, parentis. dextra contāctūs piōs  
[1319] scelerāta refugit. Hanc manum amplector libēns,  
[1320] [AMPHITRUON]: hāc nīsus ibō, pectorī hanc aegrō admovēns  
[1321] pellam dolōrēs. Quem locum profugus petam?  
[1322] [HERCULES]: ubi mē recondam quāve tellūre obruar?  
[1323] quis Tanais aut quis Nilus aut quis Persicā  
[1324] violentus undā Tigris aut Rhēnus ferōx  
[1325] Tagusve Hibērā turbidus gāzā fluēns

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