

Hercules furens

Prolog

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

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

[100] Incipite, famulae Dītis, ārdentem citae
[101] concutite pīnum et agmen horrendum anguibus
[102] Megaera dūcat atque lūctificā manū
[103] vastam rogō flagrante corripiat trabem,
[104] hoc agite, poenās petite vitiātae Stygis.
[105] concutite pectus, ācrior mentem excoquat
[106] quam quī camīnīs ignis Aetnaeīs furit:
[107] ut possit animō captus Alcīdēs agī,
[108] magnō furōre percitus, vōbīs prius
[109] īnsāniendum est. Jūno, cūr nōndum furis?
[110] mē mē, sorōrēs, mente dējectam meā
[111] versāte prīmam, facere sī quicquam apparō
[112] dignum novercā; vōta mūtentur mea:
[113] nātōs reversus videat incolumēs precor
[114] manūque fortis redeat, invēnī diem,
[115] invīsa quō nōs Herculis virtūs juvet.
[116] mē vīcit: et sē vincat et cupiat morī
[117] ab īferīs reversus, hīc prōsit mihī
[118] Jove esse genitum, stābō at, ut certō exeant
[119] ēmissa nervō tēla, 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 (Anapāste)

[125] [CHORUS]: Jam rāra micant sīdera prōnō
[126] languida mundō; nox vīcta vagōs
[127] contrahit ignēs lūce renātā,
[128] cōgit nitidum Phosphoros agmen:
[129] signum celsī glaciāle polī
[130] septem stēllīs Arcados ursae
[131] lūcem versō tēmōne vocat.
[132] Jam caeruleīs ēvectus equīs
[133] Tītān summā prōspicit Oetā;
[134] jam Cadmēīs 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 līber apertō
[142] nōndum ruptā fronte juvencus,
[143] vacuae reparant ūbera mātērēs;
[144] errat cursū levis incertō
[145] mollī petulāns haedus in herbā.
[146] Pendet summō strīdula rāmō
[147] pinnāsque novō trādere sōlī
[148] gestit querulōs inter nīdōs

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

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

Szene 1

[204] [CHORUS]: tardusque seniō graditur Alcīdae parēns.
[205] [AMPHITRUON]: Ō magne Olympī rēctor et mundī arbiter,
[206] jam statue tandem gravibus aerumnīs modum
[207] finemque clādī. nūlla lūx umquam mihī
[208] sēcūra fulsit: finis alterius malī
[209] gradus est futūrī, prōtinus reducī novus
[210] parātur hostis; antequam laetam domum
[211] contingat, aliud jussus ad bellum meat;
[212] nec ūlla requiēs tempus aut ūllum vacat,
[213] nisi dum jubētur. sequitur ā prīmō statim
[214] īnfēsta Jūnō: numquid immūnis fuit
[215] īnfantis aetās? mōnstra superāvit prius
[216] quam nōsse posset, gemina cristātī caput
[217] anguēs ferēbant ōra, quōs contrā obvius
[218] reptābat īnfāns igneōs serpentium
[219] oculōs remissō lūmine ac placidō intuēns;
[220] artōs serēnīs vultibus nōdōs tulit,
[221] et tumida tenerā guttura ēlīdēns manū
[222] prōlūsīt hydrae. Maenalī pernīx fera,
[223] multō decōrum praeferēns aurō caput,
[224] dēprēnsa cursū; maximus Nemeae timor
[225] pressus lacertīs genuit Herculeīs leō.
[226] quid stabula memorem dīra Bistonī gregis
[227] suīsque rēgem pābulum armentīs datum,
[228] solitumque dēnsīs hispidum Erymanthī jugīs
[229] Arcadia quater nemora Maenaliū suem,
[230] taurumque centum nōn levem populīs metum?
[231] inter remōtōs gentis Hesperiae gregēs
[232] pāstor trifōrmis lītoris Tartēsī
[233] perēptus, ācta est praeda ab occāsū ultimō;
[234] nōtum Cithaerōn pāvit Ōceanō pecus.
[235] penetrāre jussus sōlis aestīvī plagās
[236] et adusta medius rēgna quae torret diēs
[237] utrimque montēs solvit ac ruptō obice
[238] lātā ruentī fēcīt Ōceanō vīam.
[239] post haec adortus nemoris opulentī domōs
[240] aurīfera vigilis spolia serpentis tulit;
[241] quid? saeva Lernae mōnstra, numerōsum malum,
[242] nōn igne dēmum vīcit et docuit morī,
[243] solitāsque pinnīs condere obductīs diem
[244] petīt ab ipsīs nūbibus Stympālidas?
[245] nōn vīcit illum 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 fēlīx scelus
 [252] virtūs vocātur; sontibus pārent bonī.
 [253] jūs est in armīs, opprimit lēgēs timor,
 [254] ante ōra vīdī nostra truculentā manū
 [255] gnātōs paternī cadere rēgnī vindicēs
 [256] ipsumque, Cadmī nōbilis stirpem ultimam,
 [257] occidere, vīdī rēgium capitis decus
 [258] cum capite raptum, quis satis Thēbās fleat?
 [259] ferāx deōrum terra, quem dominum tremis?
 [260] ē cuius arvīs ēque fēcundō sinū
 [261] strictō juventūs orta cum ferrō stetit
 [262] cuiusque mūrōs nātus Amphīōn Jove
 [263] strūxit canōrō saxa modulātū trahēns,
 [264] in cuius urbem nōn semel dīvum parēns
 [265] caelō relictō vēnit, haec quae caelitēs
 [266] recēpit et quae fēcit et (fās sit loquī)
 [267] fortasse faciet, sordidō premitur jugō.
 [268] Cadmēa prōlēs atque Ophīonium genus,
 [269] quō reccidistis? tremitis ignāvum exulem,
 [270] suīs carentem finibus, nostrīs gravem.
 [271] quī scelera terrā quīque persequitur marī
 [272] ac saeva jūstā scēptra cōnfringit manū
 [273] nunc servit absēns fertque quae fierī vetat,
 [274] tenetque Thēbās exul Herculeās Lycus,
 [275] sed nōn tenēbit, aderit et poenās petet
 [276] subitusque ad astra ēmerget; inveniet viam
 [277] aut faciet, adsīs sospes et remeēs precor
 [278] tandemque veniās victor ad victam domum.
 [279] [MEGARA]: Ēmerge, conjūnx, atque dispulsās manū
 [280] abrumpe tenebrās; nūlla sī retrō via
 [281] iterque clūsum est, orbe dīductō redī
 [282] et quicquid ātrā nocte possessum latet
 [283] ēmitte tēcum, dīrutīs quālis jugīs
 [284] praeceps citātō flūminī quaerēns iter
 [285] quondam stetitī, scissa cum vastō impetū
 [286] patuēre Tempē; pectore impulsus tuō
 [287] hūc mōns et illūc cessit et ruptō aggere
 [288] novā cucurrit Thessalus torrēns viā:
 [289] tālis, parentēs liberōs patriam petēns,
 [290] ērumpe rērum terminōs tēcum efferēns,
 [291] et quicquid avida tot per annōrum gradūs
 [292] abscondit aetās redde et oblītōs suī
 [293] lūcisque pavidōs ante tē populōs age.
 [294] indigna tē sunt spolia, sī tantum refers
 [295] quantum imperātum est. magna sed nimium loquor
 [296] ignāra nostrae sortis, unde illum mihī
 [297] quō tē tuamque dexteram amplectar diem
 [298] reditūsque lentōs nec meī memorēs querar?
 [299] tibi, ō deōrum ductor, indomitī ferent
 [300] centēna taurī colla; tibi, frūgum potēns,
 [301] sēcrēta reddam sacra: tibi mūtā fidē

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

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

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

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

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

Chor (1st asclepiadeans)

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

[559] Parcārumque colōs nōn revocābilēs.
[560] hīc quī rēx populīs plūribus imperat,
[561] bellō cum peterēs Nestoream Pylon,
[562] tēcum cōseruit pestiferās manūs
[563] tēlum tergeminā cuspidē praeferēns:
[564] effūgit tenuī vulnere saucius
[565] et mortis dominus pertimuit morī.
[566] fātum rumpe manū, trīstibus īferīs
[567] prōspectus pateat lūcis et īvius
[568] līmes det facilēs ad superōs viās.
[569] Immītēs potuit flectere cantibus
[570] umbrārum dominōs et prece supplicī
[571] Orpheus, 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 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 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 illicitum 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 pollūī 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 trīstēs deōs
 [612] et fāta vīdī, morte contemptā redī.
 [613] quid restat aliud? vīdī et ostendī inferōs.
 [614] dā sī quid ultrā est, jam diū pateris manūs
 [615] cessāre nostrās, Jūno; quae vincī jubēs?
 [616] Sed templa quārē mīles īnfēstus tenet
 [617] līmenque, sacrum terror armōrum obsidet?
 [618] [AMPHITRUON]: Utrumne vīsūs vōta dēciipiunt meōs.
 [619] an ille domitor orbis et Grāium decus
 [620] trīstī silentem nūbilō līquit domum?
 [621] estne ille nātus? membra laetitiā stupent.
 [622] ō nāte. certa at sēra Thēbārum salūs,
 [623] teneōne in aurās ēditum an vānā fruor
 [624] dēceptus umbrā? tūne es? agnōscō torōs
 [625] umerōsque et altō nōbilem truncō manum.
 [626] [HERCULES]: Undē iste, genitor, squālor et lūgūbribus
 [627] amicta conjūnx? unde tam foedō obsitī
 [628] paedōre nātī? quae domum clādēs gravat?
 [629] [AMPHITRUON]: Socer est 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 inimīcum feror:
 [637] Thēseu, resiste, nē qua vīs subita ingruat.
 [638] mē bella poscunt, differ amplexūs, parēns,
 [639] conjūnxque differ, nūntiet Dītī Lycus
 [640] mē jam redīsse. Flēbilem ex oculīs fugā,
 [641] [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 ōrdinem,
 [648] quam longa maestōs dūcat ad mănēs via,
 [649] ut vincla tulerit dūra Tartareus canis.
 [650] [THESEUS]: Memorāre cōgis ācta sēcūrae quoque
 [651] horrenda mentī. vix adhūc certa est fidēs
 [652] vītālis aurae, torpet aciēs lūminum
 [653] hebetēsque vīsūs vix diem īnsuētum ferunt.
 [654] Pervince, Thēseu, quicquid altō in pectore
 [655] remanet pavōris nēve tē 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] 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 afflīctī cadit
 [671] et lūdit aciem: nocte sīc mixtā solet
 [672] praebēre lūmen prīmus aut sērus diēs.
 [673] hinc ampla vacuīs spatia laxantur locīs,
 [674] in quae omne mersum penetrat hūmānum genus.
 [675] nec īre labor est; ipsa dēdūcit via:
 [676] ut saepe puppēs aestus invītās rapit,
 [677] sīc prōnus āēr urguet atque avidum chaos,
 [678] gradumque retrō flectere haut umquam sinunt
 [679] umbrae tenācēs. intus immēnsī sinūs
 [680] placidō quiēta lābitur Lēthē vadō
 [681] dēmitque cūrās, nēve remeandī amplius
 [682] pateat facultās, flexibus multīs gravem
 [683] involvit amnem: quālis incertīs vagus
 [684] Maeander undīs lūdit et cēdit sibī
 [685] īstatque dubius lītus an fontem petat.
 [686] palūs inertis foeda Cōcȳtī jacet;
 [687] hīc vultur, illīc lūctifer būbō gemit
 [688] ōmenque trīste resonat īnfaustae strigis.
 [689] horrent opācā fronde nigrantēs comae,
 [690] taxō imminente quam tenet sēgnis Sopor,
 [691] Famēsque maesta tābidō rictū jacet
 [692] Pudorque sērus cōnsciōs vultūs tegit.
 [693] Metus Pavorque; Fūnus et frendēns Dolor
 [694] āterque Lūctus sequitur et Morbus tremēns
 [695] et cīncta ferrō Bella; in extrēmō abdita
 [696] iners Senectūs adjuvat baculō gradum.
 [697] [AMPHITRUON]: Estne aliqua tellūs Cereris aut Bacchī ferāx?
 [698] [THESEUS]: Nōn prāta viridī laeta faciē gerinant
 [699] nec adulta lēnī fluctuat Zephyrō seges;
 [700] nōn ūlla rāmōs silva pōmiferōs habet:
 [701] sterilis profundī vastitās squālet solī
 [702] et foeda tellūs torpet aeternō sitū.
 [703] rērumque maestus finis et mundī ultima
 [704] immōtus āēr haeret et pigrō sedet
 [705] nox ātra mundō: cūncta maerōre horrida
 [706] ipsāque morte pejor est mortis locus.
 [707] [AMPHITRUON]: Quid ille opāca quī regit scēptrō loca,
 [708] quā sēde positus temperat populōs levēs?
 [709] [THESEUS]: Est in recessū Tartarī obscurō locus,
 [710] quem gravibus umbrīs spissa cālīgō alligat.
 [711] ā fonte discors mānat hinc ūnō latex,

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

[764] hunc servat amnem cultū et aspectū horridus
 [765] pavidōsque m̄nēs squālidus vectat senex.
 [766] impexa pendet barba, dēfōrmem sinum
 [767] nōdus coercet, concavae lūcent genae;
 [768] regit ipse longō portitor contō ratem.
 [769] hic onere vacuam lītorī puppem applicāns
 [770] repetēbat umbrās; poscit Alcīdēs viam
 [771] cēdente turbā; dīrus exclāmat Charōn:
 [772] 'quō pergis, audāx? siste properantem gradum.'
 [773] nōn passus ūllās nātus Alcmēnā morās
 [774] ipsō coāctum nāvitam contō domat
 [775] scanditque puppem. cumba populōrum capāx
 [776] succubuit ūnī: sēdit et gravior ratis
 [777] utrimque Lēthēn latere titubantī bibit.
 [778] tum victa trepidant mōnstra, Centaurī trucēs
 [779] Lapithaeque multō in bella succēnsī merō;
 [780] Stygiae palūdis ultimōs quaerēns sinūs
 [781] fēcunda mergit capita Lernaesus labor.
 [782] post haec avārī Dītis appāret domus:
 [783] hīc saevus umbrās territat Stygius canis,
 [784] quī terna vastō capita concutiēns sonō
 [785] rēgnū tuētur, sordidum tābō caput
 [786] lambunt colubrae, vīperīs horrent jubae
 [787] longusque tortā sībilat caudā dracō.
 [788] pār īra 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 summīsīt canis
 [804] antrōque tōtō cessit; extimuit sedēns
 [805] uterque soliō dominus et dūcī jubet;
 [806] mē quoque petentī mūnus Alcīdae dedit.
 [807] Tum gravia mōnstrī colla permulcēns manū
 [808] adamante textō vincit; oblītus suī
 [809] cūstōs opācī pervigil rēgnī canis
 [810] compōnit aurēs timidus et patiēns trahī
 [811] erumque fassus, ōre summissō obsequēns,
 [812] utrumque caudā 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] 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] jusserat mundī penetrāre fundum:
 [832] dērat hoc solum numerō labōrum,
 [833] tertiae rēgem spoliāre sortis.
 [834] ausus es caecōs aditūs inīre,
 [835] dūcit ad mănēs via quā remōtōs
 [836] trīstis et nigrā metuenda silvā,
 [837] sed frequēns magnā comitante turbā.
 [838] Quantus incēdit populus per urbēs
 [839] ad novī lūdōs avidus theātrī,
 [840] quantus Ēlēum ruit ad Tonantem,
 [841] quīnta cum sacrum revocāvit aestās;
 [842] quanta, cum longae redit hōra noctī
 [843] crēscere et somnōs cupiēns quiētōs
 [844] lībra Phoebēōs tenet aequa currūs,
 [845] turba sēcrētam Cererem frequentat
 [846] et citī tēctīs properant relictīs
 [847] Atticī noctem celebrāre mystae:
 [848] tanta per campōs agitur silentēs
 [849] turba; pars tardā graditur senectā,
 [850] trīstis et longā satiāta vītā:
 [851] pars adhūc currit meliōris aevī:
 [852] virginēs nōndum thalamīs jugātae
 [853] et comīs nōndum positīs ephēbī
 [854] māttris et nōmen modo doctus īnfāns,
 [855] hīs datum sōlīs, minus ut timērent,
 [856] igne praelātō relevāre noctem;
 [857] cēterī vādunt per opāca trīstēs.
 [858] quālis est vōbīs animus, remōtā
 [859] lūce cum maestus sibi quisque sēnsit
 [860] obrutum tōtā caput esse terrā?
 [861] stat chaos dēnsū tenebraeque turpēs
 [862] et color noctis malus ac silentis
 [863] ōtium mundī vacuaeque nūbēs.
 [864] Sēra nōs illō referat senectūs!

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

Szene 3

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

[914] Thēseu; Tonantem nostra adōrābit manus,
 [915] tū conditōrēs urbis et silvestria
 [916] trucidat antra Zēthī. nōbilis Dircēn aquae
 [917] laremque rēgis advenae Tyrium colēs.
 [918] date tūra flammīs. Nāte, mānantēs prius
 [919] [AMPHITRUON]: manūs cruentā caede et hostilī expiā.
 [920] [HERCULES]: Utinam cruōre capitis invīsī deīs
 [921] libāre possem: grātior nūllus liquor
 [922] tīxisset ārās; victima haut ūlla amplior
 [923] potest magisque opīma mactārī Jovī,
 [924] quam rēx inīquus. Fīniat genitor tuōs
 [925] [AMPHITRUON]: optā labōrēs, dētur aliquandō ōtium
 [926] quiēsq̄ fessīs. Ipse concipiam precēs
 [927] [HERCULES]: Jove mēque dignās, stet suō caelum locō
 [928] tellūsque et aequor; astra inoffēnsōs agant
 [929] aeterna cursūs, alta pāx gentēs alat:
 [930] ferrum omne teneat rūris innocuī labor
 [931] ēnsēsque lateant, nūlla tempestās fretum
 [932] violenta turbet, nūllus īrātō Jove
 [933] exsiliat ignis, nūllus hibernā nive
 [934] nūtrītus agrōs amnis ēversōs trahat.
 [935] venēna cessent, nūlla nocitūrō gravis
 [936] sūcō tumēscat herba, nōn saevī ac trucēs
 [937] rēgnent tyrannī; sī quod etiamnum est scelus
 [938] lātūra tellūs, properet, et sī quod parat
 [939] mōnstrum, meum sit. sed quid hoc? medium diem
 [940] cīnxēre tenebrae. Phoebus obscūrō meat
 [941] sine nūbe vultū. quis diem retrō fugat
 [942] agitque in ortūs? unde nox ātrum caput
 [943] ignōta prōfert? unde tot stēllae polum
 [944] implent diurnae? prīmus ēn noster labor
 [945] caelī refulget parte nōn minimā leō
 [946] īrāque 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] īnfērna nostrōs rēgna sēnsēre impetūs:
 [957] immūne caelum est, dignus Alcīdē labor.
 [958] in alta mundī spatia sublīmis ferar,
 [959] petātur aethēr: astra prōmittit pater.
 [960] quid, sī negāret? nōn capit terra Herculem
 [961] tandemque superīs reddit, ēn ultrō vocat
 [962] omnis deōrum coetus et laxat forēs,
 [963] ūnā vetante. recipis et reserās polum?
 [964] an contumācis jānuam mundī trahō?
 [965] dubitātur etiam? vincla Sātūrnō exuam

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

[1018] [HERCULES]: Teneō novercam. sequere, dā poenās mihi
 [1019] jugōque pressum liberā turpī Jovem;
 [1020] sed ante mātrem parvulum hoc mōnstrum occidat.
 [1021] [MEGARA]: Quō tendis āmēns? sanguinem fundēs tuum?
 [1022] [AMPHITRUON]: Pavefactus īnfāns igneō vultū patris
 [1023] perit ante vulnus, spīritum ēripuit timor.
 [1024] in conjugem nunc clāva librātur gravis:
 [1025] perfrēgit ossa, corporī truncō caput
 [1026] abest nec usquam est. cernere hoc audēs, nimis
 [1027] vīvāx senectūs? sī piget lūctūs, habēs
 [1028] mortem parātam: pectus in tēla induē,
 [1029] vel stīpitem istūc caede nostrōrum inlitum
 [1030] converte, falsum ac nōminī turpem tuō
 [1031] removē parentem, nē tuae laudī obstrepat.
 [1032] quō tē ipse, senior, obvium mortī ingeris?
 [1033] quō pergis āmēns? profuge et obtēctus latē,
 [1034] ūnumque manibus aufer Herculeīs scelus.
 [1035] [HERCULES]: Bene habet, pudendī rēgis excīsa est domus.
 [1036] tibi hunc dicātum, maximī conjūnx Jovis,
 [1037] gregem cecīdī; 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 cervīx capite summissō labat;
 [1046] flexō genū jam tōtus ad terram ruit,
 [1047] ut caesa silvīs ornus aut portum marī
 [1048] datūra mōlēs, vīvis an lētō dedit
 [1049] īdem tuōs quī 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 (Anapāste)

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

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

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

Szene 4

[1136] [HERCULES]: Quis hic locus, quae mundi plaga?
[1137] ubi sum? sub ortū sōlis, an sub cardine
[1138] [CHORUS]: ultī saevōs vulnere rēgēs,
[1139] nōn Argīvā membra palaestrā
[1140] [HERCULES]: glaciālīs ursae? numquid Hesperīī 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 īnfērna? post reditūs quoque
[1146] oberrat oculīs turba fērālīs mēis?
[1147] pudet fatērī: paveō; nescioquod mihi,
[1148] nescioquod animus grande praesāgit malum,
[1149] ubi es, parēs? ubi illa nātōrum grege
[1150] animōsa conjūnx? cūr latus laevum vacat
[1151] spoliō leōnis? quōnam abīt tegimen meum
[1152] īdemque somnō mollis Herculeō torus?
[1153] ubi tēla? ubi arcus? arma quis vīvō mihi
[1154] dētrahere potuit? spolia quis tanta abstulit
[1155] ipsumque quis nōn Herculis somnum horruit?
[1156] libet meum vidēre victōrem, libet
[1157] (exsurge, virtūs) quem novum caelō pater
(erhebe dich, Tapferkeit)
[1158] genuit relictō, cuius in fētū stetit
[1159] nox longior quam nostra- quod cernō nefās?
[1160] nātī cruentā caede cōfectī jacent,
[1161] perēmta conjūnx. quis Lycus rēgnū obtinet
[1162] quis tanta Thēbīs scelera mōlīrī ausus est
[1163] Hercule reversō? quisquis Ismēnī loca,
[1164] Actaea quisquis arva, quī geminō marī
[1165] pulsāta Pelopis rēgna Dardaniī colis,
[1166] succurre, saevae 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 armīs licet
 [1173] petās inermem, cūr meōs Thēseus fugit
 [1174] paterque vultūs? ōra cūr condunt sua?
 [1175] differte flētūs; quis meōs dederit necī
 [1176] omnīs simul, profāre. quid, genitor, silēs?
 [1177] at tū ēde, Thēseu, sed tuā, Thēseu, fidē.
 [1178] uterque tacitus ōra pudibunda obtegit
 [1179] fūrtimque lacrimās fundit, in tantīs malīs
 [1180] quid est pudendum? numquid Argīvae impotēns
 [1181] dominātor urbis, numquid īnfēstum Lycī
 [1182] pereuntis agmen clāde nōs tantā obruit?
 [1183] per tē meōrum facinorum laudem precor,
 [1184] genitor, tuīque nōminis semper mihī
 [1185] nūmen secundum, fāre, quis fūdit domum?
 [1186] cui praeda jacuī? Tacita sīc abeant mala.
 [1187] Ut inultus ego sim? Saepe vindicta obfuit.
 [1188] Quisquamne sēgnis tanta tolerāvit mala?
 [1189] [AMPHITRUON]: Majōra quisquis timuit. Hīs etiam, pater,
 [1190] [HERCULES]: quicquam timērī majus aut gravius potest?
 [1191] [AMPHITRUON]: Clādīs tuae pars īsta 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 Lernaēa nece
 [1196] jam tēla videō nostra, nōn quaerō manum.
 [1197] quis potuit arcum flectere aut quae dextera
 [1198] sinuāre nervum rīte cēdentem mihī?
 [1199] ad vōs revertor; genitor, hoc nostrum est scelus?
 [1200] tacuēre? nostrum est. Lūctus est istīc tuus,
 [1201] [AMPHITRUON]: crīmen novercae: cāsus hic culpā caret.
 [1202] [HERCULES]: Nunc parte ab omnī, genitor, īrātus tonā,
 [1203] oblīte nostrī vindicā sērā manū
 [1204] saltem nepōtēs. stelliger mundus sonet
 [1205] flammāsque et hic et ille jaculētur polus:
 [1206] rūpēs ligātum Caspiae corpus trahant
 [1207] atque āles avida; cūr Promēthēī vacant
 [1208] scopulī? vacat cūr vertice immēnsō ferās
 [1209] volucrēsque pāscēns Caucasī abruptum latus
 [1210] nūdumque silvīs? illa quae pontum Scythēn
 [1211] Symplēgas artat hinc et hinc vīnctās manūs
 [1212] distendat altō, cumque revocatā vice
 [1213] in sē coībunt saxaque in caelum expriment
 [1214] āctīs utrimque rūpibus medium mare,
 [1215] ego inquiētā montium jaceam morā.
 [1216] quīn strūctum acervāns nemore congestō aggerem
 [1217] cruōre corpus impiō sparsum cremō?
 [1218] sīc, sīc agendum est: īnferīs reddam Herculem.
 [1219] [AMPHITRUON]: Nōndum tumultū pectus attonitō carēns
 [1220] mūtāvit īrās quodque habet proprium furor,
 [1221] in sē ipse saevit. Dīra Furiārum loca

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

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

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