ὠμούς, ἀζαλέους, περὶ δ' οἵγ' ἔσαν ἐσκληῶτες.
αὐτὰρ ὁ τόνγ' ἐπέεσσιν ὑπερφιάλοισι μετηύδα·
'Τῶνδέ τοι ὅν κ' ἐθέλησθα, πάλου ἄτερ ἐγγυαλίξω
αὐτὸς ἑκών, ἵνα μή μοι ἀτέμβηαι μετόπισθεν.
ἀλλὰ βάλευ περὶ χειρί· δαεὶς δέ κεν ἄλλῳ
ἐνίσποις,
ὅσσον ἐγὼ ῥινούς τε βοῶν περίειμι ταμέσθαι
ἀζαλέας, ἀνδρῶν τε παρηίδας αἵματι φύρσαι.'
Ὣς ἔφατ'· αὐτὰρ ὅγ' οὔτι παραβλήδην ἐρίδηνεν·
ἦκα δὲ μειδήσας, οἵ οἱ παρὰ ποσσὶν ἔκειντο,
τοὺς ἕλεν ἀπροφάτως· τοῦ δ' ἀντίος ἤλυθε Κάστωρ
ἠδὲ Βιαντιάδης Ταλαὸς μέγας· ὦκα δ' ἱμάντας
ἀμφέδεον, μάλα πολλὰ παρηγορέοντες ἐς ἀλκήν.
τῷ δ' αὖτ' Ἄρητός τε καὶ Ὄρνυτος, οὐδέ τι ἤδειν
νήπιοι ὕστατα κεῖνα κακῇ δήσαντες ἐν αἴσῃ.
Οἱ δ' ἐπεὶ οὖν ἱμᾶσι διασταδὸν ἠρτύναντο,
αὐτίκ' ἀνασχόμενοι ῥεθέων προπάροιθε βαρείας
χεῖρας, ἐπ' ἀλλήλοισι μένος φέρον ἀντιόωντες.
ἔνθα δὲ Βεβρύκων μὲν ἄναξ, ἅτε κῦμα θαλάσσης
τρηχὺ θοὴν ἐπὶ νῆα κορύσσεται, ἡ δ' ὑπὸ τυτθὸν
ἰδρείῃ πυκινοῖο κυβερνητῆρος ἀλύσκει,
ἰεμένου φορέεσθαι ἔσω τοίχοιο κλύδωνος,
ὣς ὅγε Τυνδαρίδην φοβέων ἔπετ', οὐδέ μιν εἴα
δηθύνειν. ὁ δ' ἄρ' αἰὲν ἀνούτατος ἦν διὰ μῆτιν
ἀίσσοντ'[1] ἀλέεινεν· ἀπηνέα δ' αἶψα νοήσας
πυγμαχίην, ἣ κάρτος ἀάατος, ἥ τε χερείων,
στῆ ῥ' ἄμοτον καὶ χερσὶν ἐναντία χεῖρας ἔμιξεν.
ὡς δ' ὅτε νήια δοῦρα θοοῖς ἀντίξοα γόμφοις
ἀνέρες ὑληουργοὶ ἐπιβλήδην ἐλάοντες
θείνωσι σφύρῃσιν, ἐπ' ἄλλῳ δ' ἄλλος ἄηται

[1] ἀίσσοντ' Pierson : ἀίσσων MSS.

tough. And the king addressed the hero with arrogant words:

"Whichever of these thou wilt, without casting lots, I grant thee freely, that thou mayst not blame me hereafter. Bind them about thy hands; thou shalt learn and tell another how skilled I am to carve the dry oxhides and to spatter men's cheeks with blood."

Thus he spake; but the other gave back no taunt in answer, but with a light smile readily took up the gauntlets that lay at his feet; and to him came Castor and mighty Talaus, son of Bias, and they quickly bound the gauntlets about his hands, often bidding him be of good courage. And to Amycus came Aretus and Ornytus, but little they knew, poor fools, that they had bound them for the last time on their champion, a victim of evil fate.

Now when they stood apart and were ready with their gauntlets, straightway in front of their faces they raised their heavy hands and matched their might in deadly strife. Hereupon the Bebrycian king—even as a fierce wave of the sea rises in a crest against a swift ship, but she by the skill of the crafty pilot just escapes the shock when the billow is eager to break over the bulwark—so he followed up the son of Tyndareus, trying to daunt him, and gave him no respite. But the hero, ever unwounded, by his skill baffled the rush of his foe, and he quickly noted the brutal play of his fists to see where he was invincible in strength, and where inferior, and stood unceasingly and returned blow for blow. And as when shipwrights with their hammers smite ships' timbers to meet the sharp clamps, fixing

δοῦπος ἄδην· ὣς τοῖσι παρήιά τ' ἀμφοτέρωθεν
καὶ γένυες κτύπεον· βρυχὴ δ' ὑπετέλλετ' ὀδόντων
ἄσπετος, οὐδ' ἔλληξαν ἐπισταδὸν οὐτάζοντες,
ἔστε περ οὐλοὸν ἆσθμα καὶ ἀμφοτέρους ἐδάμασσεν.
στάντε δὲ βαιὸν ἄπωθεν ἀπωμόρξαντο μετώπων
ἱδρῶ ἅλις, καματηρὸν ἀυτμένα φυσιόωντε.
ἂψ δ' αὖτις συνόρουσαν ἐναντίοι, ἠύτε ταύρω
φορβάδος ἀμφὶ βοὸς κεκοτηότε δηριάασθον.
ἔνθα δ' ἔπειτ' Ἄμυκος μὲν ἐπ' ἀκροτάτοισιν
ἀερθείς,
βουτύπος οἷα, πόδεσσι τανύσσατο, κὰδ δὲ βαρεῖαν
χεῖρ' ἐπὶ οἱ πελέμιξεν· ὁ δ' ἀίξαντος ὑπέστη,
κρᾶτα παρακλίνας, ὤμῳ δ' ἀνεδέξατο πῆχυν
τυτθόν· ὁ δ' ἄγχ' αὐτοῖο παρὲκ γόνυ γουνὸς ἀμείβων
κόψε μεταΐγδην ὑπὲρ οὔατος, ὀστέα δ' εἴσω
ῥῆξεν· ὁ δ' ἀμφ' ὀδύνῃ γνὺξ ἤριπεν· οἱ δ' ἰάχησαν
ἥρωες Μινύαι· τοῦ δ' ἀθρόος ἔκχυτο θυμός.
Οὐδ' ἄρα Βέβρυκες ἄνδρες ἀφείδησαν βασιλῆος·
ἀλλ' ἄμυδις κορύνας ἀζηχέας ἠδὲ σιγύννους
ἰθὺς ἀνασχόμενοι Πολυδεύκεος ἀντιάασκον.
τοῦ δὲ πάρος κολεῶν εὐήκεα φάσγαν' ἑταῖροι
ἔσταν ἐρυσσάμενοι. πρῶτός γε μὲν ἀνέρα Κάστωρ
ἤλασ' ἐπεσσύμενον κεφαλῆς ὕπερ· ἡ δ' ἑκάτερθεν
ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθ' ὤμοισιν ἐπ' ἀμφοτέροις ἐκεάσθη.
αὐτὸς δ' Ἰτυμονῆα πελώριον ἠδὲ Μίμαντα,
τὸν μὲν ὑπὸ στέρνοιο θοῷ ποδὶ λὰξ ἐπορούσας
πλῆξε, καὶ ἐν κονίῃσι βάλεν· τοῦ δ' ἆσσον
ἰόντος
δεξιτερῇ σκαιῆς ὑπὲρ ὀφρύος ἤλασε χειρί,
δρύψε δέ οἱ βλέφαρον, γυμνὴ δ' ὑπελείπετ' ὀπωπή.
Ὠρείδης δ' Ἀμύκοιο βίην ὑπέροπλος ὀπάων
οὗτα Βιαντιάδαο κατὰ λαπάρην Ταλαοῖο,

layer upon layer; and the blows resound one after another; so cheeks and jaws crashed on both sides, and a huge clattering of teeth arose, nor did they cease ever from striking their blows until laboured gasping overcame both. And standing a little apart they wiped from their foreheads sweat in abundance, wearily panting for breath. Then back they rushed together again, as two bulls fight in furious rivalry for a grazing heifer. Next Amycus rising on tiptoe, like one who slays an ox, sprung to his full height and swung his heavy hand down upon his rival; but the hero swerved aside from the rush, turning his head, and just received the arm on his shoulder; and coming near and slipping his knee past the king's, with a rush he struck him above the ear, and broke the bones inside, and the king in agony fell upon his knees; and the Minyan heroes shouted for joy; and his life was poured forth all at once.

Nor were the Bebrycians reckless of their king; but all together took up rough clubs and spears and rushed straight on Polydeuces. But in front of him stood his comrades, their keen swords drawn from the sheath. First Castor struck upon the head a man as he rushed at him: and it was cleft in twain and fell on each side upon his shoulders. And Polydeuces slew huge Itymoneus and Mimas. The one, with a sudden leap, he smote beneath the breast with his swift foot and threw him in the dust; and as the other drew near he struck him with his right hand above the left eyebrow, and tore away his eyelid and the eyeball was left bare. But Oreides, insolent henchman of Amycus, wounded Talaus son of Bias in the side, but did not slay him,

ἀλλά μιν οὐ κατέπεφνεν, ὅσον δ' ἐπὶ δέρματι μοῦνον
νηδυίων ἄψαυστος ὑπὸ ζώνην θόρε χαλκός.
αὖτως δ' Ἄρητος μενεδήιον Εὐρύτου υἷα
Ἴφιτον ἀζαλέῃ κορύνῃ στυφέλιξεν ἐλάσσας,
οὔπω κηρὶ κακῇ πεπρωμένον· ἦ τάχ' ἔμελλεν
αὐτὸς δηώσεσθαι ὑπὸ ξίφεϊ Κλυτίοιο.
καὶ τότ' ἄρ' Ἀγκαῖος Λυκοόργοιο θρασὺς υἱὸς
αἶψα μάλ' ἀντεταγὼν πέλεκυν μέγαν ἠδὲ κελαινὸν
ἄρκτου προσχόμενος σκαιῇ δέρος ἔνθορε μέσσῳ
ἐμμεμαὼς Βέβρυξιν· ὁμοῦ δέ οἱ ἐσσεύοντο
Αἰακίδαι, σὺν δέ σφιν ἀρήιος ὦρνυτ' Ἰήσων.
ὡς δ' ὅτ' ἐνὶ σταθμοῖσιν ἀπείρονα μῆλ' ἐφόβησαν
ἤματι χειμερίῳ πολιοὶ λύκοι ὁρμηθέντες
λάθρῃ ἐυρρίνων τε κυνῶν αὐτῶν τε νομήων,
μαίονται δ' ὅ τι πρῶτον ἐπαΐξαντες ἕλωσιν,
πόλλ' ἐπιπαμφαλόωντες ὁμοῦ· τὰ δὲ πάντοθεν
αὖτως
στείνονται πίπτοντα περὶ σφίσιν· ὣς ἄρα τοίγε
λευγαλέως Βέβρυκας ὑπερφιάλους ἐφόβησαν.
ὡς δὲ μελισσάων σμῆνος μέγα μηλοβοτῆρες
ἠὲ μελισσοκόμοι πέτρῃ ἔνι καπνιόωσιν,
αἱ δ' ἤτοι τείως μὲν ἀολλέες ᾧ ἐνὶ σίμβλῳ
βομβηδὸν κλονέονται, ἐπιπρὸ δὲ λιγνυόεντι
καπνῷ τυφόμεναι πέτρης ἑκὰς ἀίσσουσιν·
ὣς οἵγ' οὐκέτι δὴν μένον ἔμπεδον, ἀλλ' ἐκέδασθεν
εἴσω Βεβρυκίης, Ἀμύκου μόρον ἀγγελέοντες·
νήπιοι, οὐδ' ἐνόησαν ὃ δή σφισιν ἐγγύθεν ἄλλο
πῆμ' ἀίδηλον ἔην. πέρθοντο γὰρ ἠμὲν ἀλωαὶ
ἠδ' οἶαι τῆμος δῄῳ ὑπὸ δουρὶ Λύκοιο
καὶ Μαριανδυνῶν ἀνδρῶν, ἀπεόντος ἄνακτος.
αἰεὶ γὰρ μάρναντο σιδηροφόρου περὶ γαίης.
οἱ δ' ἤδη σταθμούς τε καὶ αὔλια δηιάασκον·

but only grazing the skin the bronze sped under his belt and touched not the flesh. Likewise Aretus with well-seasoned club smote Iphitus, the steadfast son of Eurytus, not yet destined to an evil death; assuredly soon was he himself to be slain by the sword of Clytius. Then Ancaeus, the dauntless son of Lycurgus, quickly seized his huge axe, and in his left hand holding a bear's dark hide, plunged into the midst of the Bebrycians with furious onset; and with him charged the sons of Aeacus, and with them started warlike Jason. And as when amid the folds grey wolves rush down on a winter's day and scare countless sheep, unmarked by the keen-scented dogs and the shepherds too, and they seek what first to attack and carry off, often glaring around, but the sheep are just huddled together and trample on one another; so the heroes grievously scared the arrogant Bebrycians. And as shepherds or bee-keepers smoke out a huge swarm of bees in a rock, and they meanwhile, pent up in their hive, murmur with droning hum, till, stupefied by the murky smoke, they fly forth far from the rock; so they stayed steadfast no longer, but scattered themselves inland through Bebrycia, proclaiming the death of Amycus; fools, not to perceive that another woe all unforeseen was hard upon them. For at that hour their vineyards and villages were being ravaged by the hostile spear of Lycus and the Mariandyni, now that their king was gone. For they were ever at strife about the ironbearing land. And now the foe was destroying their steadings and farms,

ἤδη δ' ἄσπετα μῆλα περιτροπάδην ἐτάμοντο
ἥρωες, καὶ δή τις ἔπος μετὰ τοῖσιν ἔειπεν·
'Φράζεσθ' ὅττι κεν ἦσιν ἀναλκείῃσιν ἔρεξαν,
εἴ πως Ἡρακλῆα θεὸς καὶ δεῦρο κόμισσεν.
ἤτοι μὲν γὰρ ἐγὼ κείνου παρεόντος ἔολπα
οὐδ' ἂν πυγμαχίῃ κρινθήμεναι· ἀλλ' ὅτε θεσμοὺς
ἦλυθεν ἐξερέων, αὐτοῖς ἄφαρ οἷς ἀγόρευεν
θεσμοῖσιν ῥοπάλῳ μιν ἀγηνορίης λελαθέσθαι.
ναὶ μὲν ἀκήδεστον γαίῃ ἔνι τόνγε λιπόντες
πόντον ἐπέπλωμεν· μάλα δ' ἡμέων αὐτὸς ἕκαστος
εἴσεται οὐλομένην ἄτην, ἀπάνευθεν ἐόντος.'
Ὣς ἄρ' ἔφη· τὰ δὲ πάντα Διὸς βουλῇσι τέτυκτο.
καὶ τότε μὲν μένον αὖθι διὰ κνέφας, ἕλκεά τ' ἀνδρῶν
οὐταμένων ἀκέοντο, καὶ ἀθανάτοισι θυηλὰς
ῥέξαντες μέγα δόρπον ἐφώπλισαν· οὐδέ τιν' ὕπνος
εἶλε παρὰ κρητῆρι καὶ αἰθομένοις ἱεροῖσιν.
ξανθὰ δ' ἐρεψάμενοι δάφνῃ καθύπερθε μέτωπα
ἀγχιάλῳ, τῇ καί τε περὶ πρυμνήσι' ἀνῆπτο,
Ὀρφείῃ φόρμιγγι συνοίμιον ὕμνον ἄειδον
ἐμμελέως· περὶ δέ σφιν ἰαίνετο νήνεμος ἀκτὴ
μελπομένοις· κλεῖον δὲ Θεραπναῖον Διὸς υἷα.
Ἧμος δ' ἠέλιος δροσερὰς ἐπέλαμψε κολώνας,
ἐκ περάτων ἀνιών, ἤγειρε δὲ μηλοβοτῆρας,
δὴ τότε λυσάμενοι νεάτης ἐκ πείσματα δάφνης
ληίδα τ' εἰσβήσαντες ὅσην χρεὼ ἦεν ἄγεσθαι,
πνοιῇ δινήεντ' ἀνὰ Βόσπορον ἰθύνοντο.
ἔνθα μὲν ἠλιβάτῳ ἐναλίγκιον οὔρεϊ κῦμα
ἀμφέρεται προπάροιθεν ἐπαΐσσοντι ἐοικός,
αἰὲν ὑπὲρ νεφέων ἠερμένον· οὐδέ κε φαίης

and now the heroes from all sides were driving off their countless sheep, and one spake among his fellows thus:

"Bethink ye what they would have done in their cowardice if haply some god had brought Heracles hither. Assuredly, if he had been here, no trial would there have been of fists, I ween, but when the king drew near to proclaim his rules, the club would have made him forget his pride and the rules to boot. Yea, we left him uncared for on the strand and we sailed oversea; and full well each one of us shall know our baneful folly, now that he is far away."

Thus he spake, but all these things had been wrought by the counsels of Zeus. Then they remained there through the night and tended the hurts of the wounded men, and offered sacrifice to the immortals, and made ready a mighty meal; and sleep fell upon no man beside the bowl and the blazing sacrifice. They wreathed their fair brows with the bay that grew by the shore, whereto their hawsers were bound, and chanted a song to the lyre of Orpheus in sweet harmony; and the windless shore was charmed by their song; and they celebrated the Therapnaean son of Zeus.[1]

But when the sun rising from far lands lighted up the dewy hills and wakened the shepherds, then they loosed their hawsers from the stem of the bay-tree and put on board all the spoil they had need to take; and with a favouring wind they steered through the eddying Bosporus. Hereupon a wave like a steep mountain rose aloft in front as though rushing upon them, ever upheaved above the clouds; nor would you say that they could escape grim

[1] *i.e.* Polydeuces.

φεύξεσθαι κακὸν οἶτον, ἐπεὶ μάλα μεσσόθι νηὸς
λάβρον ἐπικρέμαται, καθάπερ νέφος. ἀλλὰ τόγ' ἔμπης
στόρνυται, εἴ κ' ἐσθλοῖο κυβερνητῆρος ἐπαύρῃ.
τῶ καὶ Τίφυος οἵδε δαημοσύνῃσι νέοντο,
ἀσκηθεῖς μέν, ἀτὰρ πεφοβημένοι. ἤματι δ' ἄλλῳ
ἀντιπέρην γαίῃ Βιθυνίδι πείσματ' ἀνῆψαν.
Ἔνθα δ' ἐπάκτιον οἶκον Ἀγηνορίδης ἔχε Φινεύς,
ὃς περὶ δὴ πάντων ὀλοώτατα πήματ' ἀνετλη
εἵνεκα μαντοσύνης, τήν οἱ πάρος ἐγγυάλιξεν
Λητοΐδης· οὐδ' ὅσσον ὀπίζετο καὶ Διὸς αὐτοῦ
χρείων ἀτρεκέως ἱερὸν νόον ἀνθρώποισιν.
τῶ καί οἱ γῆρας μὲν ἐπὶ δηναιὸν ἴαλλεν,
ἐκ δ' ἔλετ' ὀφθαλμῶν γλυκερὸν φάος· οὐδὲ γάνυ-
σθαι
εἴα ἀπειρεσίοισιν ὀνείασιν, ὅσσα οἱ αἰεὶ
θέσφατα πευθόμενοι περιναιέται οἴκαδ' ἄγειρον.
ἀλλὰ διὰ νεφέων ἄφνω πέλας ἀίσσουσαι
Ἅρπυιαι στόματος χειρῶν τ' ἀπὸ γαμφηλῇσιν
συνεχέως ἥρπαζον. ἐλείπετο δ' ἄλλοτε φορβῆς
οὐδ' ὅσον, ἄλλοτε τυτθόν, ἵνα ζώων ἀκάχοιτο.
καὶ δ' ἐπὶ μυδαλέην ὀδμὴν χέον· οὐδέ τις ἔτλη
μὴ καὶ λευκανίηνδε φορεύμενος, ἀλλ' ἀποτηλοῦ
ἑστηώς· τοῖόν οἱ ἀπέπνεε λείψανα δαιτός.
αὐτίκα δ' εἰσαΐων ἐνοπὴν καὶ δοῦπον ὁμίλου
τούσδ' αὐτοὺς παριόντας ἐπήισεν, ὧν οἱ ἰόντων
θέσφατον ἐκ Διὸς ἦεν ἑῆς ἀπόνασθαι ἐδωδῆς.
ὀρθωθεὶς δ' εὐνῆθεν, ἀκήριον ἠύτ' ὄνειρον,
βάκτρῳ σκηπτόμενος ῥικνοῖς ποσὶν ᾔε θύραζε,
τοίχους ἀμφαφόων· τρέμε δ' ἄψεα νισσομένοιο
ἀδρανίῃ γήραι τε· πίνῳ δέ οἱ αὐσταλέος χρὼς

death, for in its fury it hangs over the middle of the ship, like a cloud, yet it sinks away into calm if it meets with a skilful helmsman. So they by the steering-craft of Tiphys escaped, unhurt but sore dismayed. And on the next day they fastened the hawsers to the coast opposite the Bithynian land.

There Phineus, son of Agenor, had his home by the sea, Phineus who above all men endured most bitter woes because of the gift of prophecy which Leto's son had granted him aforetime. And he reverenced not a whit even Zeus himself, for he foretold unerringly to men his sacred will. Wherefore Zeus sent upon him a lingering old age, and took from his eyes the pleasant light, and suffered him not to have joy of the dainties untold that the dwellers around ever brought to his house, when they came to enquire the will of heaven. But on a sudden, swooping through the clouds, the Harpies with their crooked beaks incessantly snatched the food away from his mouth and hands. And at times not a morsel of food was left, at others but a little, in order that he might live and be tormented. And they poured forth over all a loathsome stench; and no one dared not merely to carry food to his mouth but even to stand at a distance; so foully reeked the remnants of the meal. But straightway when he heard the voice and the tramp of the band he knew that they were the men passing by, at whose coming Zeus' oracle had declared to him that he should have joy of his food. And he rose from his couch, like a lifeless dream, bowed over his staff, and crept to the door on his withered feet, feeling the walls; and as he moved, his limbs trembled for weakness and age; and his parched skin was caked with dirt,

ἐσκλήκει, ῥινοὶ δὲ σὺν ὀστέα μοῦνον ἔεργον.
ἐκ δ' ἐλθὼν μεγάροιο καθέζετο γοῦνα βαρυνθεὶς
οὐδοῦ ἐπ' αὐλείοιο· κάρος δέ μιν ἀμφεκάλυψεν
πορφύρεος, γαῖαν δὲ πέριξ ἐδόκησε φέρεσθαι
νειόθεν, ἀβληχρῷ δ' ἐπὶ κώματι κέκλιτ' ἄναυδος.
οἱ δέ μιν ὡς εἴδοντο, περισταδὸν ἠγερέθοντο
καὶ τάφον. αὐτὰρ ὁ τοῖσι μάλα μόλις ἐξ ὑπάτοιο
στήθεος ἀμπνεύσας μετεφώνεε μαντοσύνῃσιν·
'Κλῦτε, Πανελλήνων προφερέστατοι, εἰ ἐτεὸν δὴ
οἵδ' ὑμεῖς, οὓς δὴ κρυερῇ βασιλῆος ἐφετμῇ
'Αργῴης ἐπὶ νηὸς ἄγει μετὰ κῶας Ἰήσων.
ὑμεῖς ἀτρεκέως. ἔτι μοι νόος οἶδεν ἕκαστα
ἧσι θεοπροπίῃσι. χάριν νύ τοι, ὦ ἄνα, Λητοῦς
υἱέ, καὶ ἀργαλέοισιν ἀνάπτομαι ἐν καμάτοισιν.
Ἰκεσίου πρὸς Ζηνός, ὅτις ῥίγιστος ἀλιτροῖς
ἀνδράσι, Φοίβου τ' ἀμφὶ καὶ αὐτῆς εἵνεκεν Ἥρης
λίσσομαι, ἧ περίαλλα θεῶν μέμβλεσθε κιόντες,
χραίσμετέ μοι, ῥύσασθε δυσάμμορον ἀνέρα λύμης,
μηδέ μ' ἀκηδείῃσιν ἀφορμήθητε λιπόντες
αὖτως. οὐ γὰρ μοῦνον ἐπ' ὀφθαλμοῖσιν Ἐρινὺς
λὰξ ἐπέβη, καὶ γῆρας ἀμήρυτον ἐς τέλος ἔλκω·
πρὸς δ' ἔτι πικρότατον κρέμαται κακὸν ἄλλο κακοῖσιν.
Ἅρπυιαι στόματός μοι ἀφαρπάζουσιν ἐδωδὴν
ἔκποθεν ἀφράστοιο καταΐσσουσαι ὀλέθρου.
ἴσχω δ' οὔτινα μῆτιν ἐπίρροθον. ἀλλά κε ῥεῖα
αὐτὸς ἐὸν λελάθοιμι νόον δόρποιο μεμηλώς,
ἢ κείνας· ὧδ' αἶψα διηέριαι ποτέονται.
τυτθὸν δ' ἦν ἄρα δήποτ' ἐδητύος ἄμμι λίπωσιν,
πνεῖ τόδε μυδαλέον τε καὶ οὐ τλητὸν μένος ὀδμῆς·
οὔ κέ τις οὐδὲ μίνυνθα βροτῶν ἄνσχοιτο πελάσσας,
οὐδ' εἴ οἱ ἀδάμαντος ἐληλάμενον κέαρ εἴη.

and naught but the skin held his bones together. And he came forth from the hall with wearied knees and sat on the threshold of the courtyard; and a dark stupor covered him, and it seemed that the earth reeled round beneath his feet, and he lay in a strengthless trance, speechless. But when they saw him they gathered round and marvelled. And he at last drew laboured breath from the depths of his chest and spoke among them with prophetic utterance:

"Listen, bravest of all the Hellenes, if it be truly ye, whom by a king's ruthless command Jason is leading on the ship Argo in quest of the fleece. It is ye truly. Even yet my soul by its divination knows everything. Thanks I render to thee, O king, son of Leto, plunged in bitter affliction though I be. I beseech you by Zeus the god of suppliants, the sternest foe to sinful men, and for the sake of Phoebus and Hera herself, under whose especial care ye have come hither, help me, save an ill-fated man from misery, and depart not uncaring and leaving me thus as ye see. For not only has the Fury set her foot on my eyes and I drag on to the end a weary old age; but besides my other woes a woe hangs over me—the bitterest of all. The Harpies, swooping down from some unseen den of destruction, ever snatch the food from my mouth. And I have no device to aid me. But it were easier, when I long for a meal, to escape my own thoughts than them, so swiftly do they fly through the air. But if haply they *do* leave me a morsel of food it reeks of decay and the stench is unendurable, nor could any mortal bear to draw near even for a moment, no, not if his heart were wrought of adamant. But necessity,

ἀλλά με πικρὴ δῆτα καὶ ἄατος ἴσχει[1] ἀνάγκη
μίμνειν καὶ μίμνοντα κακῇ ἐν γαστέρι θέσθαι.
τὰς μὲν θέσφατόν ἐστιν ἐρητῦσαι Βορέαο
υἱέας. οὐδ' ὀθνεῖοι ἀλαλκήσουσιν ἐόντες,
εἰ δὴ ἐγὼν ὁ πρίν ποτ' ἐπικλυτὸς ἀνδράσι Φινεὺς
ὄλβῳ μαντοσύνῃ τε, πατὴρ δέ με γείνατ' Ἀγήνωρ·
τῶν δὲ κασιγνήτην, ὅτ' ἐνὶ Θρῄκεσσιν ἄνασσον,
Κλειοπάτρην ἔδνοισιν ἐμὸν δόμον ἦγον ἄκοιτιν.'
Ἴσκεν Ἀγηνορίδης· ἀδινὸν δ' ἔλε κῆδος ἕκαστον
ἡρώων, πέρι δ' αὖτε δύω υἷας Βορέαο.
δάκρυ δ' ὀμορξαμένω σχεδὸν ἦλυθον, ὧδέ τ' ἔειπεν
Ζήτης, ἀσχαλόωντος ἑλὼν χερὶ χεῖρα γέροντος·
'Ἆ δείλ', οὔτινά φημι σέθεν σμυγερώτερον ἄλλον
ἔμμεναι ἀνθρώπων. τί νύ τοι τόσα κήδε' ἀνῆπται;
ἦ ῥα θεοὺς ὀλοῇσι παρήλιτες ἀφραδίῃσιν
μαντοσύνας δεδαώς; τῶ τοι μέγα μηνιόωσιν;
ἄμμι γε μὴν νοός ἔνδον ἀτύζεται ἱεμένοισιν
χραισμεῖν, εἰ δὴ πρόχνυ γέρας τόδε πάρθετο δαίμων
νῶιν. ἀρίζηλοι γὰρ ἐπιχθονίοισιν ἐνιπαὶ
ἀθανάτων. οὐδ' ἂν πρὶν ἐρητύσαιμεν ἰούσας
Ἁρπυίας, μάλα περ λελιημένοι, ἔστ' ἂν ὀμόσσῃς,
μὴ μὲν τοῖό γ' ἔκητι θεοῖς ἀπὸ θυμοῦ ἔσεσθαι.'
Ὣς φάτο· τοῦ δ' ἰθὺς κενεὰς ὁ γεραιὸς ἀνέσχεν
γλήνας ἀμπετάσας, καὶ ἀμείψατο τοῖσδ' ἐπέεσσιν·
'Σίγα· μή μοι ταῦτα νόῳ ἔνι βάλλεο, τέκνον.
ἴστω Λητοῦς υἱός, ὅ με πρόφρων ἐδίδαξεν
μαντοσύνας· ἴστω δὲ δυσώνυμος, ἥ μ' ἔλαχεν, κὴρ

[1] καὶ ἄατος ἴσχει Kochly: καὶ δατὸς ἴσχει L: καὶ δαιτὸς ἴσχει G.

bitter and insatiate, compels me to abide and abiding to put food in my cursèd belly. These pests, the oracle declares, the sons of Boreas shall restrain. And no strangers are they that shall ward them off, if indeed I am Phineus who was once renowned among men for wealth and the gift of prophecy, and if I am the son of my father Agenor; and, when I ruled among the Thracians, by my bridal gifts I brought home their sister Cleopatra to be my wife."

So spake Agenor's son; and deep sorrow seized each of the heroes, and especially the two sons of Boreas. And brushing away a tear they drew nigh, and Zetes spake as follows, taking in his own the hand of the grief-worn sire:

"Unhappy one, none other of men is more wretched than thou, methinks. Why upon thee is laid the burden of so many sorrows? Hast thou with baneful folly sinned against the gods through thy skill in prophecy? For this are they greatly wroth with thee? Yet our spirit is dismayed within us for all our desire to aid thee, if indeed the god has granted this privilege to us two. For plain to discern to men of earth are the reproofs of the immortals. And we will never check the Harpies when they come, for all our desire, until thou hast sworn that for this we shall not lose the favour of heaven."

Thus he spake; and towards him the aged sire opened his sightless eyes, and lifted them up and replied with these words:

"Be silent, store not up such thoughts in thy heart, my child. Let the son of Leto be my witness, he who of his gracious will taught me the lore of prophecy, and be witness the ill-starred doom which

καὶ τόδ' ἐπ' ὀφθαλμῶν ἀλαὸν νέφος, οἵθ' ὑπένερθεν
δαίμονες, οἳ μηδ' ὧδε θανόντι περ εὐμενέοιεν,
ὡς οὔ τις θεόθεν χόλος ἔσσεται εἵνεκ' ἀρωγῆς.'
Τὼ μὲν ἔπειθ' ὅρκοισιν ἀλαλκέμεναι μενέαινον.
αἶψα δὲ κουρότεροι πεπονήατο δαῖτα γέροντι,
λοίσθιον Ἁρπυίῃσιν ἑλώριον· ἐγγύθι δ' ἄμφω
στῆσαν, ἵνα ξιφέεσσιν ἐπεσσυμένας ἐλάσειαν.
καὶ δὴ τὰ πρώτισθ' ὁ γέρων ἔψαυεν ἐδωδῆς·
αἱ δ' ἄφαρ ἠύτ' ἄελλαι ἀδευκέες, ἢ στεροπαὶ ὥς,
ἀπρόφατοι νεφέων ἐξάλμεναι ἐσσεύοντο
κλαγγῇ μαιμώωσαι ἐδητύος· οἱ δ' ἐσιδόντες
ἥρωες μεσσηγὺς ἀνίαχον· αἱ δ' ἅμ' αὐτῇ
πάντα καταβρόξασαι ὑπὲρ πόντοιο φέροντο
τῆλε παρέξ· ὀδμὴ δὲ δυσάσχετος αὖθι λέλειπτο.
τάων δ' αὖ κατόπισθε δύω υἷες Βορέαο
φάσγαν' ἐπισχόμενοι πρόσσω[1] θέον. ἐν γὰρ ἔηκεν
Ζεὺς μένος ἀκάματόν σφιν· ἀτὰρ Διὸς οὔ κεν ἐπέσθην
νόσφιν, ἐπεὶ ζεφύροιο παραΐσσεσκον ἀέλλας
αἰέν, ὅτ' ἐς Φινῆα καὶ ἐκ Φινῆος ἴοιεν.
ὡς δ' ὅτ' ἐνὶ κνημοῖσι κύνες δεδαημένοι ἄγρης
ἢ αἶγας κεραοὺς ἠὲ πρόκας ἰχνεύοντες
θείωσιν, τυτθὸν δὲ τιταινόμενοι μετόπισθεν
ἄκρῃς ἐν γενύεσσι μάτην ἀράβησαν ὀδόντας·
ὣς Ζήτης Κάλαΐς τε μάλα σχεδὸν αἴσσοντες
τάων ἀκροτάτῃσιν ἐπέχραον ἤλιθα χερσίν.
καί νύ κε δή σφ' ἀέκητι θεῶν διεδηλήσαντο
πολλὸν ἐκὰς νήσοισιν ἔπι Πλωτῇσι κιχόντες,
εἰ μὴ ἄρ' ὠκέα Ἶρις ἴδεν, κατὰ δ' αἰθέρος ἆλτο
οὐρανόθεν, καὶ τοῖα παραιφαμένη κατέρυκεν·

[1] πρόσσω O. Schneider : ὀπίσω MSS.

possesses me and this dark cloud upon my eyes, and the gods of the underworld—and may their curse be upon me if I die perjured thus—no wrath from heaven will fall upon you two for your help to me."

Then were those two eager to help him because of the oath. And quickly the younger heroes prepared a feast for the aged man, a last prey for the Harpies; and both stood near him, to smite with the sword those pests when they swooped down. Scarcely had the aged man touched the food when they forthwith, like bitter blasts or flashes of lightning, suddenly darted from the clouds, and swooped down with a yell, fiercely craving for food; and the heroes beheld them and shouted in the midst of their onrush; but they at the cry devoured everything and sped away over the sea afar; and an intolerable stench remained. And behind them the two sons of Boreas raising their swords rushed in pursuit. For Zeus imparted to them tireless strength; but without Zeus they could not have followed, for the Harpies used ever to outstrip the blasts of the west wind when they came to Phineus and when they left him. And as when, upon the mountain-side, hounds, cunning in the chase, run in the track of hornèd goats or deer, and as they strain a little behind gnash their teeth upon the edge of their jaws in vain; so Zetes and Calais rushing very near just grazed the Harpies in vain with their finger-tips. And assuredly they would have torn them to pieces, despite heaven's will, when they had overtaken them far off at the Floating Islands, had not swift Iris seen them and leapt down from the sky from heaven above, and checked them with these words:

'Οὐ θέμις, ὦ υἱεῖς Βορέω, ξιφέεσσιν ἐλάσσαι
Ἁρπυίας, μεγάλοιο Διὸς κύνας· ὅρκια δ' αὐτὴ
δώσω ἐγών, ὡς οὔ οἱ ἔτι χρίμψουσιν ἰοῦσαι.'
Ὣς φαμένη λοιβὴν Στυγὸς ὤμοσεν, ἥτε θεοῖσιν
ῥιγίστη πάντεσσιν ὀπιδνοτάτη τε τέτυκται,
μὴ μὲν Ἀγηνορίδαο δόμοις ἔτι τάσδε πελάσσαι
εἰσαῦτις Φινῆος, ἐπεὶ καὶ μόρσιμον ἦεν.
οἱ δ' ὄκρῳ εἴξαντες ὑπέστρεφον ἂψ ἐπὶ νῆα
σώεσθαι. Στροφάδας δὲ μετακλείουσ' ἄνθρωποι
νήσους τοῖό γ' ἔκητι, πάρος Πλωτὰς καλέοντες.
Ἄρπυιαί τ' Ἶρίς τε διέτμαγεν. αἱ μὲν ἔδυσαν
κευθμῶνα Κρήτης Μινωίδος· ἡ δ' ἀνόρουσεν
Οὔλυμπόνδε, θοῇσι μεταχρονίη πτερύγεσσιν.
Τόφρα δ' ἀριστῆες πινόεν περὶ δέρμα γέροντος
πάντῃ φοιβήσαντες ἐπικριδὸν ἱρεύσαντο
μῆλα, τάτ' ἐξ Ἀμύκοιο λεηλασίης ἐκόμισσαν.
αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ μέγα δόρπον ἐνὶ μεγάροισιν ἔθεντο
δαίνυνθ' ἑζόμενοι· σὺν δέ σφισι δαίνυτο Φινεὺς
ἁρπαλέως, οἷόν τ' ἐν ὀνείρασι θυμὸν ἰαίνων.
ἔνθα δ', ἐπεὶ δόρποιο κορέσσαντ' ἠδὲ ποτῆτος,
παννύχιοι Βορέω μένον υἱέας ἐγρήσσοντες.
αὐτὸς δ' ἐν μέσσοισι παρ' ἐσχάρῃ ἧστο γεραιὸς
πείρατα ναυτιλίης ἐνέπων ἄνυσίν τε κελεύθου·
'Κλῦτέ νυν. οὐ μὲν πάντα πέλει θέμις ὔμμι δαῆναι
ἀτρεκές· ὅσσα δ' ὄρωρε θεοῖς φίλον, οὐκ ἐπικεύσω.
ἀασάμην καὶ πρόσθε Διὸς νόον ἀφραδίῃσιν
χρείων ἐξείης τε καὶ ἐς τέλος. ὧδε γὰρ αὐτὸς
βούλεται ἀνθρώποις ἐπιδευέα θέσφατα φαίνειν
μαντοσύνης, ἵνα καί τι θεῶν χατέωσι νόοιο.

"It is not lawful, O sons of Boreas, to strike with your swords the Harpies, the hounds of mighty Zeus; but I myself will give you a pledge, that hereafter they shall not draw near to Phineus."

With these words she took an oath by the waters of Styx, which to all the gods is most dread and most awful, that the Harpies would never thereafter again approach the home of Phineus, son of Agenor, for so it was fated. And the heroes yielding to the oath, turned back their flight to the ship. And on account of this men call them the Islands of Turning though aforetime they called them the Floating Islands. And the Harpies and Iris parted. They entered their den in Minoan Crete; but she sped up to Olympus, soaring aloft on her swift wings.

Meanwhile the chiefs carefully cleansed the old man's squalid skin and with due selection sacrificed sheep which they had borne away from the spoil of Amycus. And when they had laid a huge supper in the hall, they sat down and feasted, and with them feasted Phineus ravenously, delighting his soul, as in a dream. And there, when they had taken their fill of food and drink, they kept awake all night waiting for the sons of Boreas. And the aged sire himself sat in the midst, near the hearth, telling of the end of their voyage and the completion of their journey:

"Listen then. Not everything is it lawful for you to know clearly; but whatever is heaven's will, I will not hide. I was infatuated aforetime, when in my folly I declared the will of Zeus in order and to the end. For he himself wishes to deliver to men the utterances of the prophetic art incomplete, in order that they may still have some need to know the will of heaven.

‘Πέτρας μὲν πάμπρωτον, ἀφορμηθέντες ἐμεῖο,
Κυανέας ὄψεσθε δύω ἁλὸς ἐν ξυνοχῇσιν,
τάων οὔτινά φημι διαμπερὲς ἐξαλέασθαι.
οὐ γάρ τε ῥίζῃσιν ἐρήρεινται νεάτῃσιν,
ἀλλὰ θαμὰ ξυνίασιν ἐναντίαι ἀλλήλῃσιν
εἰς ἕν, ὕπερθε δὲ πολλὸν ἁλὸς κορθύεται ὕδωρ
βρασσόμενον· στρηνὲς δὲ περὶ στυφελῇ βρέμει
ἀκτῇ.
τῷ νῦν ἡμετέρῃσι παραιφασίῃσι πίθεσθε,
εἰ ἐτεὸν πυκινῷ τε νόῳ μακάρων τ᾽ ἀλέγοντες
πείρετε· μηδ᾽ αὔτως αὐτάγρετον οἶτον ὄλησθε
ἀφραδέως, ἢ θύνετ᾽ ἐπισπόμενοι νεότητι.
οἰωνῷ δὴ πρόσθε πελειάδι πειρήσασθαι
νηὸς ἄπο προμεθέντες ἐφιέμεν. ἢν δὲ δι᾽ αὐτῶν
πετράων πόντονδε σόῃ πτερύγεσσι δίηται,
μηκέτι δὴν μηδ᾽ αὐτοὶ ἐρητύεσθε κελεύθου,
ἀλλ᾽ εὖ καρτύναντες ἑαῖς ἐνὶ χερσὶν ἐρετμὰ
τέμνεθ᾽ ἁλὸς στεινωπόν· ἐπεὶ φάος οὔ νύ τι τόσσον
ἔσσετ᾽ ἐν εὐχωλῇσιν, ὅσον τ᾽ ἐνὶ κάρτεϊ χειρῶν.
τῷ καὶ τἆλλα μεθέντες ὀνήιστον πονέεσθαι
θαρσαλέως. πρὶν δ᾽ οὔτι θεοὺς λίσσεσθαι ἐρύκω.
εἰ δέ κεν ἀντικρὺ πταμένη μεσσηγὺς ὄληται,
ἄψορροι στέλλεσθαι· ἐπεὶ πολὺ βέλτερον εἶξαι
ἀθανάτοις. οὐ γάρ κε κακὸν μόρον ἐξαλέαισθε
πετράων, οὐδ᾽ εἴ κε σιδηρείη πέλοι Ἀργώ.
‘Ὦ μέλεοι, μὴ τλῆτε παρὲξ ἐμὰ θέσφατα βῆναι,
εἰ καί με τρὶς τόσσον ὀίεσθ᾽ Οὐρανίδῃσιν,
ὅσσον ἀνάρσιός εἰμι, καὶ εἰ πλεῖον στυγέεσθαι·
μὴ τλῆτ᾽ οἰωνοῖο πάρεξ ἔτι νηὶ περῆσαι.
καὶ τὰ μὲν ὥς κε πέλῃ, τῶς ἔσσεται. ἢν δὲ φύγητε
σύνδρομα πετράων ἀσκηθέες ἔνδοθι Πόντου,
αὐτίκα Βιθυνῶν ἐπὶ δεξιὰ γαῖαν ἔχοντες