

A2 Greek Unseen Verse (Euripides) Past Paper: AQA 2003 (Hecuba contrasts her previous good fortune & present misfortune)

Queen Hecabe of Troy contrasts her previous good fortune with the horrors she witnessed in the destruction of her city.

AQA

ἦμεν τύραννοι κὰς τύρανν' ἐγημάμην,
 κἀνταῦθ' ἀριστεύοντ' ἐγεινάμην τέκνα·
 κἀκεῖνά τ' εἶδον δορὶ πεσόνθ' Ἑλληνικῶ
 καὶ τὸν φυτουργὸν Πρίαμον, οὐκ ἄλλων πάρα
 κλύουσ', κατασφαγέντ' ἐφ' ἐρκείῳ πυρᾷ,
 πόλιν θ' ἀλοῦσαν. ἄς δ' ἔθρεψα παρθένους,
 ἄλλοισι θρέψασ', ἐκ χειρῶν ἀφηρέθην.
 κοῦτ' ἐξ ἐκείνων ἐλπίς ὡς ὀφθήσομαι,
 αὐτὴ τ' ἐκείνας οὐκέτ' ὄψομαι ποτε.
τὸ λοίσθιον δέ, θριγκὸς ἀθλίων κακῶν,
 δοῦλη γυνὴ γραυῶς Ἑλλάδ' εἰσαφίζομαι.

EURIPIDES, *Trojan Women*, 474-490 (with omissions)

ἀριστεύειν	to be the best
γείνεσθαι	to give birth to
ἐξ ἐρκείως, -ον	= ὄπῳ in the courtyard
θριγκὸς	climax
κατασφάζω	= σφάζω
Πρίαμος πυρᾷ	Priam (husband of Hecabe) altar
τὸ λοίσθιον τύραννα	lastly royalty
φυτουργός	father