

A2 Greek Unseen Verse (Sophocles) Past Paper: 2009 (Neoptolemos regrets his cowardly trickery)

Translate the following passage into English. Please write your translation **on alternate lines**.

Neoptolemos, the son of Achilles, has tricked Philoktetes into giving him his bow, and now regrets deceiving him. Odysseus is appalled that he intends to give it back.

OD What are you going to do? I'm very much afraid –
NE Yes. I intend to give the bow back to the man I took it from.
OD For the gods' sake, what are you saying? Give it back?
NE Yes, because the way I acquired it was disgraceful, and I have no right to it.

Οδ πρὸς θεῶν, πότῃ δὴ κερτομῶν¹ λέγεις τάδε;
Νε εἰ κερτόμησίς ἐστι τάλῃθ' ἔστιν λέγειν.
Οδ τί φής, Ἀχιλλέως παῖ; τίν' εἴρηκας λόγον;
Νε δις ταῦτα βούλῃ καὶ τρίς ἀναπολεῖν² μ' ἔπη;
Οδ ἀρχὴν³ κλύειν ἂν οὐδ' ἄπαξ ἐβουλόμην. 5
Νε εὖ νῦν ἐπίστω⁴ πάντ' ἀκηκοὺς λόγον. 6
Οδ ἔστιν τις, ἔστιν, ὅς σε κωλύσει τὸ δρᾶν.
Νε τί φής; τίς ἔσται μ' οὐπικωλύσων τάδε;
Οδ ξύμπας Ἀχαιῶν λαός⁵, ἐν δὲ τοῖς ἐγώ.
Νε σοφὸς πεφυκὼς οὐδὲν ἐξαυδάς⁶ σοφόν.
Οδ σὺ δ' οὔτε φωνεῖς οὔτε δρασεῖς⁷ σοφά.
Νε ἀλλ' εἰ δίκαια, τῶν σοφῶν κρείσσω τάδε.
Οδ καὶ πῶς δίκαιον, ἃ γ' ἔλαβες βουλαῖς ἐμαῖς,
πάλιν μεθεῖναι ταῦτα;
Νε τὴν ἀμαρτίαν
αἰσχρὰν ἀμαρτῶν ἀναλαβεῖν⁸ πειράσομαι.

SOPHOCLES, *Philoktetes* 1235ff.

WORDS

¹ κερτομέω	I joke
² ἀναπολέω	I repeat
³ ἀρχήν (adverbial)	in the first place
⁴ ἐπίστω	is the IMPERATIVE of ἐπίσταμαι
⁵ λαός	people
⁶ ἐξαυδάω	I say
⁷ δρασεῖω	I intend to do
⁸ ἀναλαμβάνω	I put right

[42]

Write out and scan **lines 5 and 6** of the above passage.

[3]

