

A2 Greek Unseen Verse (Sophocles) Past Paper: 1995 (Deianeira celebrates her husband Heracles' victory)

... *Deianeira is delighted by the news of her husband's victory, but sympathizes with the captive maidens whom he has sent home ahead of him, especially with one who stands out by her maturity and beauty.*

LICHAS: When he has made unblemished sacrifices to Zeus his father in thanks for the capture of the city, you can expect he will be here in person. I have told you much that is good, but this will be the sweetest of all for you to hear.

CHORUS: My lady, now you have plain cause for rejoicing, both from what you see before you and from the report you have heard.

DEIANEIRA: πῶς δ' οὐκ ἐγὼ χαίρομι' ἄν, ἀνδρὸς εὐτυχῆ
κλύουσα πράξιν τήνδε, πανδίκῳ φρενί;
ὁμῶς δ' ἔνεστι τοῖσιν εὖ σκοπούμενοις
ταρβεῖν τὸν εὖ πράσσοντα, μὴ σφαλῆ ποτε.
ἐμοὶ γὰρ οἶκτος δεινὸς εἰσέβη, φίλαι,
ταύτας ὀρώσῃ δυσπότημους ἐπὶ ξένης
χώρας ἀοίκους ἀπάτορας τ' ἀλωμένας¹,
αἱ πρὶν μὲν ἦσαν ἐξ ἐλευθέρων ἴσως
ἀνδρῶν, τὰ νῦν δὲ δοῦλον ἰσχουσιν² βίον.
ὦ Ζεῦ τροπαῖε³, μὴ ποτ' εἰσίδοιμί σε
πρὸς τοῦμόν οὔτω σπέρμα χωρήσαντά ποι,
μηδ' εἴ τι δράσεις, τῆσδέ⁴ γε ζώσης ἔτι. 11
οὔτως ἐγὼ δέδοικα τάσδ' ὀρωμένη. — 12
ὦ δυστάλαινα, τίς ποτ' εἰ νεανίδων;
ἄναδρος, ἢ τεκνούσα⁵; πρὸς μὲν γὰρ φύσιν⁶
πάντων ἄπειρος⁷ τῶνδε, γενναία δέ τις.
Λίχα, τίνος ποτ' ἐστὶν ἡ ξένη βροτῶν;
τίς ἢ τεκούσα, τίς δ' ὁ φητύσας πατήρ;
ἔξειπ' ἐπεὶ νῦν τῶνδε πλείστον ὤκτισα
βλέπουσ', ὅσῳ περ καὶ φρονεῖν οἶδεν μόνη.

SOPHOCLES: *Trachiniae* 293–313
(omitting 295)

¹ ἀλάομαι = I wander

² ἴσχω = ἔχω

³ τροπαῖος = giver of victory

⁴ ἡδε (here) = ἐγώ

⁵ τεκνούσα = mother of children

⁶ φύσις = (here) appearance

⁷ ἄπειρος = (here) without experience

[28]

Scan lines 11 and 12 (πρὸς τοῦμόν . . . ζώσης ἔτι).

[2]

