

A2 Greek Unseen Verse (Sophocles) Past Paper: AQA 1994 (A messenger brings news of Heracles return to Deianeira)

A messenger tells Deianeira that her husband, Heracles, will soon be home from the war. He has run ahead of the herald, Lichus, eager to be the first to bring her the news.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

- δέσποινα Δηάνειρα, πρῶτος ἀγγέλων
ἄκνου σε λύσω· τὸν γὰρ Ἀλκμήνης τόκον
καὶ ζῶντ' ἐπίστω καὶ κρατοῦντα κακῆ μάχης
ἄγοντ' ἀπαρχὰς θεοῖσι τοῖς ἐγχωρίοις.
5 Δη. τίν' εἶπας, ὦ γεραιέ, τόνδε μοι λόγον;
Αγ. τάχ' ἐς δόμους σοῦς τὸν πολύζηλον πόσιν
ἤξειν, φανέντα σὺν κράτει νικηφόρῳ.
Δη. καὶ τοῦ τόδ' ἀστῶν ἢ ξένων μαθὼν λέγεις;
Αγ. ἐν βουθερεῖ λειμῶνι πρὸς πολλοὺς θροεῖ
10 Λίχας ὁ κῆρυξ ταῦτα· τοῦ δ' ἐγὼ κλύων
ἀπῆξ', ὅπως τοι πρῶτος ἀγγείλας τάδε
πρὸς σοῦ τι κερδάναιμι καὶ κτῶμην χάριν.

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Sophocles: *Trachiniae* 180–191

τὸν...Ἀλκμήνης τόκον (line 2): Heracles was the son of Alcmena.
ἐπίστω (line 3): 2nd person singular imperative of ἐπίσταμαι.

