

Dr Wecklein, following H. L. Ahrens, by transposition and correction produces this,

θεοῖς δ' ἀναμπλάκητος εἰ μόλοι στρατός,
κάμψαι διαύλον θάτερον κῶλον πάλιν
γένοιτ' ἄν, εἰ πρόσπαια μὴ τεύχοι κακὰ
ἐγρηγορὸς τὸ πῆμα τῶν ὀλωλότων.

This though not faultless (κάμψαι...γένοιτ' ἄν is not an elegant construction) might pass in itself; but the changes are very bold and, as I think, unjustifiable.

J.

v. 363. XO. β'. γύναι, κατ' ἄνδρα σώφρον' εὐφρόνως λέγεις.
ἐγὼ δ' ἀκούσας πιστά σου τεκμήρια
θεοὺς προσειπεῖν εὖ παρασκευάζομαι· κτλ.

Here for the first time a question presents itself, which will occur several times hereafter in the play. What is the character of the speaker?

It is commonly assumed that every speaker, who is not one of the principal actors, is one of the elders, by whom are sung the great odes of the play. In the foregoing Introduction (§ 3) I have tried to show that there is no *a priori* ground for assuming this. It is plain from the plays themselves, that in Greek drama there were often on the stage together, besides the principal actors, subordinate persons of various descriptions. It is *a priori* not probable, that all speaking should be confined, against manifest convenience, to one sort of persons. And in fact the assumption that there is only one chorus and only one class of χορευταί makes in the *Agamemnon* great and hopeless difficulties.

Here we have two speeches, neither of which can be assigned to any of the principal actors, separated by a speech from Clytaemnestra (vv. 329—366). The attitude of the two speakers towards the subject before them is not merely different but diametrically opposed. The first speaker (v. 329) treats the queen's proffered 'proof' of the Greek victory with a reserve which is barely saved from discourtesy. He distinctly declines to act upon it at once, and requests that the amazing story may be repeated again 'in full detail'. His behaviour is in fact only distinguished from the open incredulity of the speakers at the close of the following ode (v. 481) by such a decent disguise as the queen's presence necessarily commands.