

at which thou oft, slumbering the while, didst suck with thy toothless mouth the feeding milk. *(Enter Pylades.)*

Or. Pylades, what shall I do? My mother! May I spare her?

Pylades. And what then of Loxias' command yet unfulfilled, his Pythian oracle? And the faith of oaths, what of it? Think that the enmity of all the world is better than that of heaven.

Or. I judge thy sentence better, and thou exhortest me well.—Come with me; upon the dead man there I choose to slay thee. Because, when he lived, thou thoughtest him a better man than my father, so do thou sleep with him in death, forasmuch as him thou lovest, him, and whom thou wast bound to love, dost hate.

Clyt. It was I who gave thee thy rearing, and now I would live my term.

Or. With the blood of the father on thee shalt thou share house with me?

Clyt. Nay, child, the blame should lie in part on our Destiny¹.

Or. Then this thy death also destiny did devise.

Clyt. Hast thou no respect for a parent's curse, my child?

Or. Not for a mother's, who cast me away into misery.

Clyt. It was no casting away, when I sent thee to the house of our ally!

Or. A two-fold sale of me, of me a free man's son!

Clyt. Show me then the price which I am thought to have received.

Or. O shame! That thou shouldst not know it beyond a doubt!

Clyt. Nay, but make mention likewise of thy father's slips.

Or. It is not for thee, idle at home, to be hard on him who toiled afar.

Clyt. It is pain for a woman to be kept from man, my child!

Or. Aye, but man's labour maintains her, idle at home!

Clyt. Thou, it seems, wilt take, O child, the life of thy mother away.

Or. Thou, not I, wilt be thine own murderess.

Clyt. Take heed; beware of a mother's enraged pursuers.

Or. But my father's, how shall I escape them, if I neglect the duty?

Clyt. My words, I see, are vain as the dirge of the living unheard by the tomb.

Or. Yes, vain, for my father's fate with serpent voice calls for thy death.

Clyt. Oh me! This is the snake which I bare and nursed!

¹ Should we read ἡ μοῖρα?