

μή νύν ποτ', ὦ παῖ, τὰς φρένας γ' ὑφ' ἡδονῆς
 γυναικὸς οὔνεκ' ἐκβάλης, εἰδὼς ὅτι
 ψυχρὸν παραγκάλισμα τοῦτο γίγνεται, 650
 γυνὴ κακὴ ξύνεννος ἐν δόμοις. τί γὰρ
 γένοιτ' ἂν ἕλκος μείζον ἢ φίλος κακός;
 ἀλλὰ πτύσας ὡσεὶ τε δυσμενῆ μέθες
 τὴν παιδ' ἐν Ἄιδου τήνδε νυμφεύειν τινί 655
 ἐπεὶ γὰρ αὐτὴν εἶλον ἐμφανῶς ἐγὼ
 πόλεως ἀπιστήσασαν ἐκ πάσης μόνην,
 ψευδῆ γ' ἐμαυτὸν οὐ καταστήσω πόλει,
 ἀλλὰ κτενῶ. πρὸς ταῦτ' ἐφυμνείτω Δία
 ξύναιμον· εἰ γὰρ δὴ τά γ' ἐγγενῆ φύσει
 ἄκοσμα θρέψω, κάρτα τοὺς ἔξω γένους. 660
 ἐν τοῖς γὰρ οἰκείοισιν ὅστις ἔστ' ἀνὴρ
 χρηστός, φανείται κὰν πόλει δίκαιος ὢν.

648. μή νυν] μή νύν L. μή τοί νυν A. γ'] So Vat. Ven. 617 corr. om.
 L. etc. φρένας, (sic) V. φρένας ἢ φ' ἡδονῆς R p. m. 649. ἐκβάλης] ἐκβά-
 λους Vat. b. 650. γίγνεται] γίνεται L. 654. νυμφεύειν] νυμφεύσειν AL².
 τινί] τινὰ Vat. V¹L². pr. sed. ἰ corr. 655. εἶλον] εἶδον L². 656. πάσης]
 πάσας L. πάσης A. 657. οὐ καταστήσω] οὐκ ἀπιστήσω A. 658. ταῦτ']
 ταῦθ' L. ταῦθ' C³. 659. τά γ'] τάδ' AV³. τά τ' cett. Erf. corr. ἐγγενῆ]
 ἐγγενῆ L. ἐγγενῆ C³. 660. τοὺς] τοὺς γ L². τοὺς (γ') V. τοὺς γ' V⁴.
 662. κὰν] καὶ L².

648. τὰς φρένας γ' ὑφ' ἡδονῆς] The reading of Vat. is retained, not as clearly right, but as more probable than later corrections. γε may be supposed to give a strong emphasis to φρένας. 'Do not lose your wits, whatever you do.' And this is rather confirmed by the way in which Haemon echoes the word in l. 683.

650. 1. ψυχρὸν παραγκάλισμα.. ἐν δόμοις] 'Small comfort comes of such a union,—of having a bad wife to share one's couch at home.'

653. πτύσας] 'Rejecting with abhorrence.' Here and in l. 1232, πτύειν seems to imply a gesture of dislike or loathing, directed towards a person or thing. Cp. Aesch. Ag. 1192, ἐν μέρει δ' ἀπέπτυσαν | εὐνὰς ἀδελφοῦ.

ὡσεὶ τε] An Epic or Ionic form. See Introd. p. 456.

654. The construction is rather μέθες τήνδε τινὶ νυμφεύειν, 'Leave her for

some one to wed,' than μέθες τήνδε νυμφεύειν τινί, 'Leave her to wed some one.'

657. ψευδῆ.. πόλει] 'I certainly will not break my word to the state.'

658. ἀλλὰ κτενῶ] The abruptness of the pause helps the incisiveness of Creon's language.

659, 60. εἰ γὰρ.. γένους] 'For if I fail to bring up orderly those born akin to me, most surely I shall fail with those remote.' Creon turns Antigone's nearness of kindred to him into a reason for severity. If he cannot control his kinswoman, how much less can he control the state! Authority begins at home.

659. For ἐγγενῆ φύσει, see E. on L. § 40. p. 69, and p. 82, β.

661. τοῖς.. οἰκείοισιν] Neuter. Creon characteristically relies on commonplace maxims.