

ναοῖς, ἐπ' Ἴσμηνοῦ τε μαντεία σποδῶ.
 πόλις γάρ, ὥσπερ καὐτὸς εἰσορᾶς, ἄγαν
 ἤδη σαλεύει κἀνακουφίσαι κάρα
 βυθῶν ἔτ' οὐχ οἶα τε φοινίου σάλου,
 φθίνουσα μὲν κάλυξιν ἐγκάρποις χθονός,

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sent the youth'). 21 μαντεία L, ex μαντείας radendo factum: manet litterae σ pars superior. A μαντεία (sic). E μαντεία.

would have their own altars of the ἀγοραῖοι θεοί, as of Artemis (161). One of the διπλοῖ ναοί may be that of Παλλὰς Ὀγκα, near the Ὀγκαία πύλη on the W. side of Thebes (πύλας | Ὀγκας Ἀθάνας Aesch. *Theb.* 487, Ὀγκα Παλλὰς *ib.* 501), whose statue and altar ἐν ὑπαίθρῳ Paus. mentions (9. 12. 2). The other temple may be that of Athene Καδμεία or of Athene Ἴσμηνία—both mentioned by the schol., but not by Paus. Athene Ζωστηρία, too, had statues at Thebes (Paus. 9. 17. 3). The schol. mentions also Ἀλαλκομενία, but her shrine was at the village of Alalcomenae near Haliartus (Paus. 9. 23. 5). It was enough for Soph. that his Athenian hearers would think of the Erechtheum and the Parthenon—the shrines of the Polias and the Parthenos—above them on the acropolis. 21 ἐπ' Ἴσμ. μ. σποδῶ. 'The oracular ashes of Ismenus' = the altar in the temple of Apollo Ἴσμήνιος, where divination by burnt offerings (ἡ δὲ ἐμπύρων μαντεία) was practised. So the schol., quoting Philochorus (in his *περὶ μαντικῆς*, circ. 290 B.C.). σποδῶ: the embers dying down when the μαντεῖον has now been taken from the burnt offering: cp. *Ant.* 1007. Soph. may have thought of Ἀπόλλων Σπόδιος, whose altar (ἐκ τέφρας τῶν ἱερείων) Paus. saw to the left of the Electrae gates at Thebes: 9. 11. 7. Ἴσμηνοῦ, because the temple was by the river Ismenus: Paus. 9. 10. 2 ἔστι δὲ λόφος ἐν δεξιᾷ τῶν πυλῶν (on the right of the Ἡλέκτραι πύλαι on the S. of Thebes, within the walls) ἱερὸς Ἀπόλλωνος· καλεῖται δὲ ὁ τε λόφος καὶ ὁ θεὸς Ἴσμήνιος, παραρρέοντος τοῦ ποταμοῦ ταύτῃ τοῦ Ἴσμηνοῦ. Ismenus (which name Curtius, *Etym.* 617, connects with *rt is*, to wish, as = 'desired') was described in the Theban myths as the son of Asopus and Metope, or of Amphion and Niobe. The son of Apollo by Melia (the fountain of the Ismenus) was called Ismenius. Cp. Her. 8. 134 (the envoy of Mardonius in the winter of 480—79) τῷ Ἴσμηνίῳ Ἀπόλλωνι ἐχρήσατο· ἔστι δὲ κατάπερ ἐν Ὀλυμπίῃ ἱροῖσι χρηστηριάζεσθαι: Pind. *Olymp.* 8. *init.* Οὐλυμπία | ...ἵνα μάντιες ἄνδρες | ἐμπύροις τεκμαιρόμενοι παραπειρῶνται Διός. In Pind. *Pyth.*