

τί γὰρ κακῶν ἄπεστι; τον πατέρα πατήρ
 ὑμῶν ἔπεφνε· τὴν τεκούσαν ἤροσεν,
 ὅθεν περ αὐτὸς ἐσπάρη, κακ τῶν ἴσων
 ἐκθήσαθ' ὑμᾶς ὦνπερ αὐτὸς ἐξέφυ.

τοιαῦτ' ὀνειδιείσθε. κᾶτα τίς γαμεῖ;

1500

οὐκ ἔστιν οὐδεῖς, ὦ τέκν', ἀλλὰ δηλαδὴ
 χέρσους φθαρῆναι καγάμους ὑμᾶς χρεῶν.

ὦ παῖ Μενοικέως, ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ μόνος πατήρ
 ταύταιν λέλειψαι, νῶ γάρ, ὦ 'φυτεύσαμεν,

ὀλώλαμεν δὺ' ὄντε, μή σφε περιίδης

1505

πτωχὰς ἀνάνδρους ἐγγενεῖς ἀλωμένας,

μηδ' ἐξισώσης τάσδε τοῖς ἐμοῖς κακοῖς.

ἀλλ' οἴκτισόν σφας, ὦδε τηλικάσδ' ὀρῶν

πάντων ἐρήμους, πλὴν ὅσον τὸ σὸν μέρος.

ξύννευσον, ὦ γενναῖε, σῆ ψαύσας χερί.

1510

σφῶν δ', ὦ τέκν', εἰ μὲν εἰχέτην ἤδη φρένας,

1497 τὴν τεκούσαν spurium esse censet Nauck., verba ὅθεν...ἐσπάρη nihil aliud significare posse existimans quam 'a quo (patre) satus est.' Quid vero obstat quin ὅθεν ἐσπάρη significet 'unde,'—id est ἐξ ἧς,—'satus est'? Reicit etiam verba τῶν ἴσων Nauck., cum Sophoclem credat ita scripsisse: ὑμῶν ἔπεφν', ὅθενπερ αὐτὸς ἐσπάρη, | κακθήσαθ' ὑμᾶς ὦνπερ αὐτὸς ἐξέφυ. 1505 μή σφε περιίδης codd.: μή

regards as impossible. 1496 πατέρα: for the tribrach see on 719. 1498 τῶν ἴσων is poetically equivalent to τῶν αὐτῶν, i.e. τῆς αὐτῆς: it is like saying, 'from a source which was even as that whence he sprang,' instead of, 'from the same source whence he sprang.' Cp. 845 οὐ γὰρ γένοιτ' ἂν εἷς γε τοῖς πολλοῖς ἴσος, and note. 1500 ὀνειδιείσθε: see on 672. 1501 δηλαδὴ: prosaic, but also in Eur. Or. 789, I. A. 1366. 1503 ἀλλ' after the vocative, like σὺ δέ, but stronger, as introducing an appeal: as O. C. 1405 ὦ τοῦδ' ὄμαιμοι παῖδες, ἀλλ' ὑμεῖς...μή μ' ἀτιμάσητέ γε: and *ib.* 237. 1505 δὺ' ὄντε, both of us: cp. Eur. Ion 518 σὺ δ' εὖ φρόνει γε καὶ δὺ' ὄντ' εὖ πράξομεν. περιίδης: on Porson's objection, see Appendix, Note 16. 1506 ἐγγενεῖς, your kinswomen as they are (where in prose we should have οὔσας added). The word was full of meaning for an Attic audience, who would think of Creon as placed by Oedipus in the position of ἐπίτροπος (guardian) and κύριος (representative before the law) of the unmarried girls who are here viewed as