

who will carry thee to the plains of Troy perforce, whether the son of Achilles will or no.

PH. But to thy cost, if this arrow fly straight.

[*Bends his bow.*

NE. (*seizing his arm*). Ah, for the gods' love, forbear—launch not thy shaft!

PH. Unhand me, in Heaven's name, dear youth!

NE. I will not. PH. Alas! why hast thou disappointed me of slaying my hated enemy with my bow?

NE. Nay, it suits not with my honour, nor with thine.

[*Exit ODYSSEUS.*

PH. Well, thou mayest be sure of one thing,—that the chiefs of the host, the lying heralds of the Greeks, though brave with words, are cowards in fight.

NE. Good; the bow is thine; and thou hast no cause of anger or complaint against me.

PH. I grant it; and thou hast shown the race, my son,

field transposed *καλόν* to the end of the v. Brunck, keeping the MS. order, changed *τοῦτ'* to *τόδ'*. 1306 *τοὺς τῶν Ἀχαιῶν*] Blaydes writes *τοῦ τῶν Ἀχαιῶν*.

1308 *τὰ μὲν δὴ τόξ'* A, with most of the later MSS., and Ald.: *τὰ μὲν τοι τόξ'* Harl., V²: *τὰ μὲν τόξ'* L (and so K). Wecklein conj. *τὰ μὲν νυν τόξ'*: Seyffert, *τὰ μὲν γε τόξ'*: Burges, *τὰ μὲν σὰ τόξ'*.—*οἴτου* Turnebus: *οἴπου* MSS. 1310 *φύσιν δ'*] *δ'* is omitted in L, Γ, B, K.

τὸ δεσπότητος τάχος | ἀφείλετ' αὐτὴν παῖδα μὴ δοῦναι τάφω, 'her master's haste deprived her of the power to bury her son.' So, here, the true construction seems to be, *τί ἀφείλου με μὴ κτανεῖν ἄνδρα πολέμιον*, 'why hast thou robbed me of the chance of slaying a foe?' In admitting, but not requiring, *μὴ* with the inf., this *ἀφαιροῦμαι* is like other verbs of hindering. *πολέμιον*: for the tribrach in the 5th place, cp. *O. T.* 719 n. This is the rarest form of it (the last word of the verse being a 'paeon quartus'): cp. 1327: Aesch. *Eum.* 780 *ἐγὼ δ' ἄτιμος ἢ τάλαινα βαρύκοτος*.—*ἐχθρόν τ'*: cp. 1323 *πολέμιον δυσμενῆ θ'*. He has avowed his hostility to the whole Greek army (1200), and can properly call Odysseus *πολέμιος*,—as Menelaus gives that name to Ajax (*Ai.* 1132).

1305 ff. *ἀλλ' οὖν...γε*: cp. *Ant.* 84 n.—*τοὺς πρ. στρατοῦ*: for the omission of *τοῦ*, cp. *Ant.* 10 n.—*ψευδοκήρυκας*, lying heralds. The word alludes more particularly (as is indicated by *ἐν δὲ τοῖς λόγοις θρασεῖς*) to the protest which Odysseus has just made 'in the name of the whole army' (1293 f.), and to

his threat at vv. 1257 f.:—it is not merely an equivalent for 'false envoy' (because he had executed his mandate by fraud). In Attic Tragedy the *κῆρυξ* was especially associated with unsuccessful bluster. Examples are afforded by the herald of Aegyptus (Aesch. *Suppl.* 836 ff.), the herald of Creon (Eur. *Suppl.* 399 ff.), and the herald of Eurystheus (id. *Heracl.* 55 ff.). Menelaus plays a similar part when he forbids the burial of Ajax (*Ai.* 1047), and he is then attended by a *κῆρυξ* (*ib.* 1115 *πρὸς ταῦτα πλείους δεῦρο κήρυκας λαβῶν κ.τ.λ.*). With *ψευδοκήρυξ* cp. *ψευδόμαντις* (*O. C.* 1097): for the allusive plur., *O. T.* 366 n.—*πρὸς αἰχμήν*: cp. *Tr.* 266 *πρὸς τόξου κρίσιν*.

1308 f. *εἰεν*, 'so far so good': cp. Eur. *Helen.* 761 ΕΛ. *εἰεν τὰ μὲν δὴ δεῦρ' αἰεὶ καλῶς ἔχει*: similarly it marks a pause between statement and comment (*O. C.* 1308 n.).—*οἴτου*, causal gen.: cp. *O. T.* 698 *οἴτου ποτὲ | μῆνιν τοσσηνδε πράγματος στήσας ἔχεις*. The MS. *οἴπου*, though defensible, seems less suitable here.—*εἰς ἐμέ*: cp. 522.

1310 ff. *τὴν φύσιν δ'*: the elision gives quasi-caesura: cp. 276 and 101 n.—