

death for which he longed.' Death was what he desired, and the gods consented; that is all that she understands, beyond the import for herself<sup>1</sup>.

The  
Chorus.

The Salaminians are the staunch followers of Ajax, true to him in weal or woe, and jealous of his good name, which is their own. He turns to them in his misery, as to tried friends, charging them with his last wishes, and with his message to Teucer. But their leading characteristic is their complete dependence on Ajax, and their utter helplessness when his protection is withdrawn. They are dismayed by the anger of the Greeks, and at one moment even think of seeking safety in flight; they bewail the hardships of the camp, and pine for the delights of home. In thus portraying them, the poet probably intended to suggest the Homeric contrast between the passive common folk (*λαοί*) and the 'Zeus-nurtured' chiefs. The Salaminians contribute to illustrate the greatness of the hero who had been their 'defence against nightly terror and the darts of the foe'; even their complainings, however unmeet for warriors, serve to recall the weary stress of those ten years at Troy during which Ajax had been the bulwark of the ungrateful Achaeans.

The  
*Teucer*  
of Sopho-  
cles.

§ 18. The sequel to the story of Ajax was treated by Sophocles in two of his lost plays, the *Teucer* and the *Eury-saces*. The subject of the former is already adumbrated in the *Ajax* (1008—1020): Teucer, on his return to Salamis, is upbraided and expelled by Telamon. A few verses remain from a speech in which the aged king lamented the death of his son, —verses of much beauty and pathos, which reveal some gentler traits in the gloomy and choleric Telamon:—

ὡς ἄρ', ὃ τέκνον, κενὴν  
ἑτερπόμεν σου τέρψιν εὐλογουμένου  
ὡς ζῶντος· ἡ δ' ἄρ' ἐν σκότῳ λήθουσά με  
ἔσαιν' Ἐρινὺς ἠδοναῖς ἐψευσμένον<sup>2</sup>.

This work is supposed to have been the model of Pacuvius in his tragedy of the same name, from which Cicero quotes

<sup>1</sup> See vv. 961—973.

<sup>2</sup> Soph. fr. 519 (Nauck), from Stobaeus *Flor.* 122. 10.