

Briseis: an ἄλογος without εὐνή¹

Handout 1: *Il.*9.335-37

ἐμεῦ δ' ἀπὸ μούνου Ἀχαιῶν
εἴλετ', ἔχει δ' ἄλογον θυμαρέα: τῆ παριαύων
τερπέσθω.

but from me alone of the Achaeans
he seized and keeps (my) wife, dear to heart. Let him,
sleeping by her, enjoy himself.

Handout 2: *Od.*23.232

κλαῖε δ' ἔχων ἄλογον θυμαρέα, κεδνὰ ἰδυῖαν.

And he wept, holding his wife, dear to heart, true-
hearted

Handout 3: *Il.*9.341-43

ἐπει ὅς τις ἀνὴρ ἀγαθὸς καὶ ἐχέφρων
τὴν αὐτοῦ φιλεῖ καὶ κήδεται, ὡς καὶ ἐγὼ τὴν
ἐκ θυμοῦ φίλεον δουρικτητὴν περ ἐοῦσαν.

since whoever is a noble and sensible man
loves and cares his (bed-mate ἄλογον), as even I
loved her, although taken by spear, from my heart.

Handout 4: *Il.*9.348 & 443-46

μή με γύναι χαλεποῖσιν ὀνειδέσι θυμὸν ἔνιπτε

woman, don't rebuke my heart with difficult words.

οὐ γάρ πώ ποτέ μ' ὥδέ γ' ἔρωσ φρένας ἀμφεκάλυψεν,
οὐδ' ὅτε σε πρῶτον Λακεδαίμονος ἐξ ἑρατεινῆς
ἔπλεον ἀρπάξας ἐν ποντοπόροισι νέεσσι,
νήσω δ' ἐν Κραναῆ ἐμίγην φιλότῃ καὶ εὐνῇ,
ὡς σεο νῦν ἔραμαι καὶ με γλυκὺς ἕμερος αἰρεῖ.

for never did eros enwrap my mind in such way,
not when I first, having snatched you,
sailed in the sea-faring ships from lovely Lacedamon,
and on the Craneae island I mingled (with you) in the bed
of love,
as now I love you and sweet desire seizes me.

Handout 5: *Il.*14.294-96 & 315-16

ὡς δ' ἴδεν, ὡς μιν ἔρωσ πυκινὰς φρένας ἀμφεκάλυψεν,
οἶον ὅτε πρῶτον περ ἐμισγέσθην φιλότῃ
εἰς εὐνὴν φοιτῶντε, φίλους λήθοντε τοκῆας.

As he saw her, eros enwrapped his shrewd hearts,
such as when they first mingled with love,
both going into the bed, escaping the notice of parents.

οὐ γάρ πώ ποτέ μ' ὥδε θεᾶς ἔρωσ οὐδὲ γυναικὸς
θυμὸν ἐνὶ στήθεσσι περιπροχυθεὶς ἐδάμασεν.

not once did the eros of goddess or woman, having
poured around,
overpower my heart in the chest in this way.

Handout 6: *Il.*24.147 (= 24.176)

δῶρα δ' Ἀχιλλῆϊ φερέμεν τά κε θυμὸν ἰήνη

and to carry to Achilles gifts that would melt his mind

Handout 7: *Il.*24.229-35

ἐνθεν δώδεκα μὲν περικαλλέας ἔξελε πέπλους,
δώδεκα δ' ἀπλοῖδας χλαίνας, τόσσους δὲ τάπητας,
τόσσα δὲ φάρεα λευκά, τόσσους δ' ἐπὶ τοῖσι χιτῶνας.
χρυσοῦ δὲ στήσας ἔφερεν δέκα πάντα τάλαντα,
ἐκ δὲ δύο αἶθωνας τρίποδας, πίσυρας δὲ λέβητας,
ἐκ δὲ δέπας περικαλλές, ὅ οἱ Θρηῆκες πόρον ἄνδρες
ἐξεσίην ἐλθόντι μέγα κτέρας

There he selected twelve beautiful robes,
and twelve single-folded cloaks, and as many carpets,
and as many white mantles, and as many tunics upon
them.
and having weighed, he carried ten talents of gold,
and two flashing tripods, and four kettles,
and a very beautiful cup, which the Thracian men gave
to him having come on a mission, a great treasure.

¹ All the translations in this handout are mine. The texts are from the Perseus Project.

Handout 8: *Od.*23.184-86

τίς δέ μοι ἄλλοσε θῆκε λέχος; χαλεπὸν δέ κεν εἶη
καὶ μάλ' ἐπισταμένῳ, ὅτε μὴ θεὸς αὐτὸς ἐπελθὼν
ρήϊδίως ἐθέλων θεῖη ἄλλη ἐνὶ χώρῃ.

but who set my bed at another time? It would be very
difficult for him who knows well, unless the god
himself, after coming, wishing, puts it easily in another
place.

Handout 9: *Od.*23.225-29

νῦν δ', ἐπεὶ ἤδη σήματ' ἀριφραδέα κατέλεξας
εὐνής ἡμετέρης, ἦν οὐ βροτὸς ἄλλος ὀπώπει,
ἀλλ' οἷοι σύ τ' ἐγὼ τε καὶ ἀμφίπολος μία μούνη,
Ἄκτορις, ἦν μοι δῶκε πατήρ ἔτι δεῦρο κίουση,
ἦ νῶϊν εἴρυτο θύρας πυκινῶν θαλάμοιο.

now, since you have recounted the clear signs
of our bed, which no other mortal had seen,
but you and I and only one maid,
the daughter of Actor, whom my father gave to coming
hither,
who guarded the doors of the firm chamber for me.

Handout 10: *Od.*23.299-300

αὐτοὶ δ' εὐνάζοντο κατὰ μέγαρα σκιόεντα.
τῷ δ' ἐπεὶ οὖν φιλότιτος ἐταρπήτην ἐρατεινῆς,

and they slept in the shady hall,
and then when they enjoyed the erotic affection.

Handout 11: *Il.*9.131-34

τὰς μὲν οἱ δώσω, μετὰ δ' ἔσσεται ἦν τὸτ' ἀπηύρων
κούρη Βρισηῖος: ἐπὶ δὲ μέγαν ὄρκον ὁμοῦμαι
μὴ ποτε τῆς εὐνῆς ἐπιβήμεναι ἠδὲ μιγῆναι,
ἦ θέμις ἀνθρώπων πέλει ἀνδρῶν ἠδὲ γυναικῶν.

I will give these women to him, and among them there
will be
the girl Briseis, whom once I took away: I swear a great
oath
that I did not ever go to her bed and mingle,
which is the norm of human, men and women alike.

Handout 12: *Il.*9.617-19

οὔτοι δ' ἀγγελέουσι, σὺ δ' αὐτόθι λέξεο μίμων
εὐνῇ ἐνὶ μαλακῇ: ἅμα δ' ἦοῖ φαινομένηφι
φρασσόμεθ' ἢ κε νεώμεθ' ἐφ' ἡμέτερ' ἢ κε μένωμεν.

They will convey messages, but you, remaining here, lie
in a soft bed, at once when dawn appears
we will discuss whether we shall return to our own or
we shall remain here.

Handout 13: *Il.*24.673-76

οἱ μὲν ἄρ' ἐν προδόμῳ δόμου αὐτόθι κοιμήσαντο
κῆρυξ καὶ Πρίαμος πυκινὰ φρεσὶ μήδε' ἔχοντες,
αὐτὰρ Ἀχιλλεὺς εὔδε μυχῷ κλισίης εὐπήκτου:
τῷ δὲ Βρισηῖς παρελέξατο καλλιπάρηος.

On the one hand they slept in the fore-chamber of the
house
the herald and Priam having thick thoughts in hearts,
but Achilles slept in the inner part of the well-built hut,
and the beautiful-cheeked Briseis lay by him.

Handout 14: *Il.*9.663-65

αὐτὰρ Ἀχιλλεὺς εὔδε μυχῷ κλισίης εὐπήκτου:
τῷ δ' ἄρα παρκατέλεκτο γυνή, τὴν Λεσβόθεν ἦγε,
Φόρβαντος θυγάτηρ Διομήδη καλλιπάρηος.

but Achilles slept in the inner part of the well-built hut,
and a woman lay by him, whom he led from Lesbos,
the beautiful-cheeked Diomedede, daughter of Phorbas.

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