

RECIPROCITY IN HADES: THE APPEARANCE OF THESEUS ON STAGE IN EURIPIDES' *HERACLES*

Paper abstract:

<https://camws.org/sites/default/files/meeting2020/abstracts/2070ReciprocityinHades.pdf>

1 (Eur. *Her.* 1153-4)

[Ἡρακλῆς·] ἀλλ' ἐμποδὼν μοι θανασίμων βουλευμάτων
Θησεὺς ὄδ' ἔρπει συγγενῆς φίλος τ' ἐμός¹

[Heracles:] but, **an obstacle** to my deathly resolutions,
here comes Theseus, relative and friend.

2 (Eur. *Her.* 1188-91)

[Θησεύς·] τί φῆς; τί δράσας; [Ἀμφιτρυῶν·] μαινομένῳ πιτύλῳ πλαγχθεὶς
ἑκατοκεφάλου τε βαφαῖς ὕδρας.
[Θησεύς·] Ἦρας ὄδ' ἀγῶν

[Theseus:] What do you say? what has he done? [Amphitryon:] in a fit of madness, he killed them
with arrows dipped in the venom of the hundred-headed hydra.
[Theseus:] **This is Hera's work**

3 (Eur. *Her.* 1133)

[Ἀμφιτρυῶν·] ἀπόλεμον, ὃ παῖ, πόλεμον ἔσπευσας τέκνοις.

[Amphitryon:] Oh son, you waged a war that is not a war on your children.

¹ All translations of Euripides' *Heracles* hereafter are my own.

4 (Eur. Her. 1205-10)

βάρος αντίπαλον, δακρύοις συναμιλλαταί,
[Ἀμφιτρύων·] ἱκετεύομεν ἀμφὶ γενειάδα καὶ
γόνυ καὶ χέρα σὰν προπίτνων, πολίων τε
δάκρυον ἐκβάλλων

[Amphitryon:] **As a counterweight, fighting with my tears,**
I supplicate you, as I embrace your beard,
your knees, your hands, and spill a tear from my old eyes.

5 (Eur. Her. 1226-8)

[Θησεύς·] ἀνίστασ', ἐκκάλυψον ἄθλιον κάρα,
βλέψον πρὸς ἡμᾶς. ὅστις εὐγενῆς βροτῶν,
φέρει τά γ' ἐκ θεῶν **πτώματ'** οὐδ' ἀναίνεται.

[Theseus:] Get up, uncover your wretched face,
look at me. Those of men who are noble
bear **the fallings** given by the gods without complaining.

6 (Eur. Her. 1220-2)

[Θησεύς·] οὐδὲν μέλει μοι σύν γε σοὶ πράσσειν κακῶς·
καὶ γάρ ποτ' εὐτύχησα. ἐκεῖσ' **ἀνοιστέον,**
ὅτ' ἐξέσφασάς μ' ἐς φάος νεκρῶν πάρα.

[Theseus:] I do not care about sharing your misfortune,
for once we shared good fortune: there **one must go back,**
to when you brought me to light from the underworld.

7 (Eur. Her. 1106-7)

[Ἡρακλῆς·] ὦή, τίς ἐγγυς ἢ πρόσω φίλων ἐμῶν,
δύσγνωιαν ὅστις τὴν ἐμὴν ἰάσεται;

[Heraclēs:] oh, who of my friends is near or far
to cure my confusion?

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