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And who is my *philos*?  
Blood and Friendship in Euripides's *Orestes*

1. Euripides, *Orestes* 804-6

τοῦτ' ἐκεῖνο, κτᾶσθ' ἑταίρους, μὴ τὸ συγγενὲς μόνον·  
ὡς ἀνὴρ ὅστις τρόποισι **συντακῆ**, θυραῖος ὢν 805  
μυρίων κρείσσων ὁμαίμων ἀνδρὶ κεκτῆσθαι φίλος.

Here's the thing: "get friends, not just kinsmen," since a man who fuses with your character, though a foreigner, is a better friend for a man to have than countless relatives.<sup>1</sup>

2. Euripides, *Orestes* 283 (Orestes to Electra)

μὴ τῶν ἐμῶν ἕκατι **συντήκου** κακῶν.

Do not waste away on account of my misfortunes.

3. Euripides, *Orestes* 1075 (Orestes to Pylades)

μὴ **σύνθνησκέ** μοι.

Do not die with me!

4. Euripides, *Orestes* 406 (Orestes about Pylades)

ὁ **συνδρῶν** αἷμα

the collaborator in murder

5. Euripides, *Orestes* 767 (Pylades to Orestes)

**συνηράμην** φόνον σοι μητρός

I took up together with you the murder of your mother.

6. Euripides, *Orestes* 1089 (Pylades to Orestes)

**συγκατέκτανον**

I shared in the killing.

<sup>1</sup> Translations of Euripides are my own.

7. Euripides, *Orestes* 452-5 (Orestes to Menelaus)

ἀλλ' ἀντιλάζου καὶ πόνων ἐν τῷ μέρει,  
χάριτας πατρώας ἐκτίνων ἐς οὓς σε δεῖ.  
ὄνομα γάρ, ἔργον δ' οὐκ ἔχουσιν οἱ φίλοι  
οἱ μὴ 'πὶ ταῖσι συμφοραῖς ὄντες φίλοι.

But take also a share of troubles in turn, paying back the father's favors to those whom you owe.  
For friends who are not friends amidst suffering are friends in name, but not in deed.

8. Euripides, *Orestes* 794 (Pylades to Orestes)

ὄκνος γὰρ τοῖς φίλοις κακὸν μέγα

For hesitation is a great evil among friends.

9. Euripides, *Orestes* 1098-9 (Pylades to Orestes and Electra)

ἐπεὶ δὲ καθανούμεθ', ἐς κοινούς λόγους  
ἔλθωμεν, ὡς ἂν Μενέλεως **συνδυστυχῆι**

Since we will die, let's come to a shared plan for how Menelaus might suffer along with us.

10. Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics* 1156b

ἔτι δὲ προσδεῖται χρόνου καὶ συνηθείας· κατὰ τὴν παροιμίαν γὰρ οὐκ ἔστιν εἰδῆσαι ἀλλήλους πρὶν  
τοὺς λεγομένους ἄλας **συναναλῶσαι**· οὐδ' ἀποδέξασθαι δὴ πρότερον οὐδ' εἶναι φίλους, πρὶν ἂν  
ἐκάτερος ἐκατέρῳ φανῆ φιλητὸς καὶ πιστευθῆ.

Moreover they require time and intimacy: as the saying goes, you cannot get to know a man till you have consumed the proverbial amount of salt in his company; and so you cannot admit him to friendship or really be friends, before each has shown the other that he is worthy of friendship and has won his confidence.<sup>2</sup>

11. Euripides, *Orestes* 1658-9 (Apollo to Orestes)

Πυλάδῃ δ' ἀδελφῆς λέκτρον, ὡς ποτ' ἤνεσας,  
δόξ·

Give your sister's hand in marriage to Pylades, as you once promised.

12. Euripides, *Orestes* 668 (Orestes to Menelaus)

ὅταν δ' ὁ δαίμων εὖ διδῶ, τί δεῖ φίλων;

When the god is generous, what need is there of friends?

<sup>2</sup> Translations of Aristotle by H. Rackham.

13. Euripides, *Hercules Furens* 1336-7 (Theseus to Heracles)

κάγὼ χάριν σοι τῆς ἐμῆς σωτηρίας  
τήνδ' ἀντιδώσω: νῦν γὰρ εἶ χρεῖος φίλων

And I will repay this favor to you in exchange for my deliverance, for now you are in need of friends.

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