

Unnatural Longing: Nostalgia in Sophocles' *Philoctetes*

1. ἀπηγριωμένον; δύστένον; μόνον; ἐρήμιον

having become wild; wretched; alone; lonely
(lines 226, 227, 228)

2. ὦ φίλτατον φώνημα· φεῦ τὸ καὶ λαβεῖν
πρόσφθεγμα τοιοῦδ' ἀνδρὸς ἐν χρόνῳ μακρῷ.
τίς σ' , ὦ τέκνον, κατέσχε, τίς προσήγαγεν
χρεία; τίς ὁρμή; τίς ἀνέμων ὁ φίλτατος;
γέγωνέ μοι πᾶν τοῦθ' , ὅπως εἰδῶ τίς εἶ.

Oh most dear voice! Oh, to receive an address from such a man after such a long time!
What need brought you here, child, and made you approach? What impulse? What most
favouring of winds? Tell me everything, so that I might know who you are.
(234-8)

3. ἔξοιδα γάρ νιν παντὸς ἂν λόγου κακοῦ
γλώσση θιγόντα καὶ πανουργίας, ἀφ' ἧς
μηδὲν δίκαιον ἐς τέλος μέλλοι ποεῖν.

I have known him to put his tongue to any speech that is evil, any outrage, by which he
might bring about an injustice.
(407-409)

4. Ὀδυσσεὺς δ' ἔστιν αὖ κἀνταῦθ' ἵνα
χρῆν ἀντὶ τούτων αὐτὸν αὐδάσθαι νεκρόν;

Odysseus is still here when he should be dead instead of those men?
(429-30)

5. ἔξοιδα, παῖ, φύσει σε μὴ πεφυκότα
τοιαῦτα φωνεῖν μηδὲ τεχνάσθαι κακά·
ἀλλ' ἡδὺ γάρ τι κτήμα τῆς νίκης λαβεῖν,
τόλμα· δίκαιοι δ' αὐθις ἐκφανόμεθα.

I know, child, that it is not in your nature to say such things and to plot evil; but since it
is sweet to gain victory, be daring. We can be just another time.
(79-82)

6. οὐκ, εἰ τὸ σωθῆναί γε τὸ ψεῦδος φέρει
ὅταν τι δροῶς εἰς κέρδος, οὐκ ὀκνεῖν πρόπτει.
No – not if lying means safety;
and when to act is to gain an advantage, there's no need for scruples
(109; 111)

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