

Parodos, strophe α 121-136

(trs. adapted from Lloyd-Jones 1994)

Χο. ὦ παῖ, παῖ δυστανοτάτας	---- - ~ ~ -	(choriambic)	Ch. Electra, daughter of a most wretched mother,
Ἥλέκτρα ματρός, τίν' αἰεὶ	---- - ~ ~ -		what is this lament that you always
τάκεις ὧδ' ἀκόρεστον οἰμωγὰν	-- ~ ~ ~ - ~ - - -		waste away in, never content to cease—
τὸν πάλαι ἐκ δολερᾶς ἀθεώτατα	- ~ ~ x <sup>4</sup> (dactylic tetrameter)		over Agamemnon, long ago brought down in
125 ματρός ἀλόντ' ἀπάταις Ἀγαμέμνονα	(4dact)		unholy fashion, by plot through your mother's
κακᾶ τε χειρὶ πρόδοτον; ὡς ὁ τάδε πορῶν	~ - - -   ~ ~ ~ ~ -   ~ ~ ~ ~ -	(iambic)	cunning, and sent to his doom by her cruel hand?
ὄλοιτ', εἴ μοι θέμις τάδ' αὐδᾶν.	~ - -   - ~ -   ~ - -		May the doer perish, if it is right for me to say this!
Ἥλ. ὦ γενέθλα γενναίων,	- ~ ~ ~ -   - -	(iambic)	El. Oh, race of noble ones,
130 ἦκετ' ἐμῶν καμάτων παραμύθιον.	(4dact)		you have come to comfort me in my sorrows;
οἶδά τε καὶ ξυνήμι τάδ', οὗ τί με	(4dact)		I know and understand this, and it does not
φυγγάνει, οὐδ' ἐθέλω προλιπεῖν τόδε,	(4dact)		escape me, yet I am not willing to give this up,
μὴ οὐ τὸν ἐμὸν στενάχειν πατέρ' ἄθλιον.	(4dact)		to not lament for my miserable father.
ἀλλ' ὦ παντοίας φιλότητος ἀμειβόμεναι χάριν	(6dact)		You, who repay kindness in every sort of friendship
135 ἐᾶτέ μ' ὧδ' ἀλύειν,	~ - ~ -   ~ - -	(iambic)	Leave me thus to be distraught,
αἰαῖ, ἰκνοῦμαι.	- -   ~ - -	(iambic)	ayyyyy! I beg you.

Works cited:

Cavarero, A. 2005. *For More than One Voice: Toward a Philosophy of Vocal Expression*. Translated by P. A. Kottman. Stanford.  
Dolar, M. 2006. *A Voice and Nothing More*. Cambridge.