

ADDENDUM

Translation

CHORUS

1. We here are the trustees, called to
stand guard over both the riches and gold-laden
estates of the Persians who have left
for the Grecian land; because of our age
5. lord Xerxes, king,
son of Darius
chose us to oversee the land.

- Our hearts - prophets of doom - are already
extremely worried here deep inside
10. about the royalty's return
and concerning the gold-paid army:
because a whole Asian generation
was led away, and is wailing about a young man,
yet neither a messenger nor any rider
 15. has returned to the city of the Persians;
these men that left Susa, Agbatana
and the ancient walled city of Cissia
set out, some on horseback,
others per ship, and marching on foot,
 20. surging forward as a solid column of war;
men like Amistres, Artaphrenes,
Megabates and Astaspes -
Persian marshals,
lords, subjects of the great king,
 25. hastened, supervisors of the great army,
archers and horsemen,
causing fear when seen, deadly in battle,
reputed for their steadfast courage:
Artembares, the one who relishes fighting from the chariot;
 30. Masistres; the archer brave
Himaeus; Pharandakes;
and the driver of horses Sosthenes.

- The big and prolific Nile also
sent some: Sousiskanes;
35. Pegastagon, Egyptian born;
the lord of holy Memphis,
great Arsames; the regent of
wealthy Thebes, Ariomardos;
and marsh-dwellers that row ships,
 40. skilled and uncountable in number.

They were followed by a crowd

of delicately living Lydians, who control
the whole Mainland nation, those leaders that Mitrogathes
and brave Arkteus, aspiring lords,
45. and wealthy Sardis,
excited with countless chariots,
arranged in squadrons two and three abreast,
a most fearful sight to observe!

The neighbours of holy Tmolos threaten
50. to throw the yoke of slavery over Greece:
Mardon; Tharybis, those anvils of the spear;
Mysian javeliners; Babylon - the
rich in gold - is sending a powerful multitude,
in a long row, and the commanders of ships;
55. they all have faith in the tight temper of the bow;
and the spear-bearing nation from all over
Asia follows
in the terrifying escort under the king.

Such is the blossom of men from the Persian land
60. who have gone,
all of the Asian soil that fed them
mourns for them with a glowing yearning;
parents and wives tremble as they count
the stretched out time day by day.

STROFE A

65. The royal army, the city destroyers
have gone to a neighbouring land
across the sea,
they crossed the Strait of Helle, Athama's daughter,
70. on a light boat fastened with ropes
while the way was strengthened
by fastening a yoke on the neck of the sea.

ANTISTROFE A

The impetuous lord of populous Asia,
drives his godly herd over every land
75. from both sides;
attacking by foot and from the sea
he trusts his marshals,
dependable and mighty,
80. an offspring of golden descent, a godlike man.

STROFE B

While he stares with the dark glare
of a murderous viper in his eyes
over his many men and plentiful ships,
while driving his Syrian chariot,
85. he an Ares sends the archer
in against men famed for their spears.

ANTISTROFE B

- Nobody, however renowned
can stand one's ground against such a great flood,
cast up strong walls
90. against the relentless wave from the sea;
because the Persian army cannot be withstood,
and the nation is battle-minded.

STROFE C

- Because when Moira (Goddess of fate) was in power
as of old, as the gods had sanctioned,
95. she allotted for the Persians
tower destructing battles,
chariot charges
as well as the
upheaval of citizens.

ANTISTROFE C

100. They mastered the broad pathway
of the grey growing ocean,
with the howling wind,
and they saw a green landscape,
while trusting on slightly-built
105. bridges
engineered with flimsy ropes.

MESODE

- But what mortal-man can escape
the crafty-minded deception of God?

Whose foot is so light
110. that he can leap aside easily?

Because while slanting friendly smiles,
Até (Ruin) first leads man into a net,
from where there is no escape
by fleeing for any mortal.

STROFE D

115. Concerning these things, my black-robed
heart is struck with fear -
oh, the Persian armoury -
may the city not hear this cry,
the big city Susa which is empty of men.

ANTISTROFE D

120. Also the Cissian city will
let an echo be resounded,
oh, a thronging crowd of women
will take up these lamentations,
125. and a tear appear on full-robcs made of fine linen.

STROFE E

- Because all the horse riders
and hordes of foot soldiers
have left like a swarm of bees
streaming after the soldiers' leader,
130. after they had crossed over the bridge
that yokes both lands' necks
together onto one another.

ANTISTROFE E

- And wedding beds are filled with tears
due to the yearning for men;
135. and while each Persian woman mourns separately
softly with a yearning for her marriage partner:
the brave soldier
whom she sent away into battle
has left her in her room alone.
140. But come, Persians, who sit here
at this ancient abode,
let us think the thoughts over, anxious and deep,
because the crisis demands it,
how the situation has developed for Xerxes the king
145. born of Darius,
.....
whether the victory belongs to the flight of the bow,
or whether the strength
of the sharpened spears has seized the victory.
150. But here comes the king's mother
whose eyes glow with the light of gods -
my queen - I fall down before her;
let us all now give honour to her
with welcoming words of praise.
155. Oh Lady, first-most amongst Persian women, wearers of flowing
dresses, honoured mother of Xerxes, greetings, wife of Darius;
spouse of the Persian god, and also mother of their god,
if their ancient Fortune Bringer were not to abandon the soldiers.

THE QUEEN

160. This is the reason I came from the palace's golden halls
and out from the room Darius and I too shared.

Serious anxieties also tear my heart; I shall thus tell my account
to you which leaves me in no way untroubled, friends, that Great
Patmos (Death) doesn't disturb the harmony of the earth's dust
with his foot, that which Darius had established, not without one of the gods.

165. Concerning these things, there is an inexpressible double anxiety in my heart:

neither do the people revere the widows' wealth with respect;
nor does the light shine as bright as it could for the poor.

Because there is indeed over enough wealth, but my fear is for the eye;
because I maintain that the master's presence is the eye of the house.

170. Therefore, seeing that matters stand as such, be advisors
to me in this matter, Persians, trustworthy because of your age;
because you are appreciated advisors of all matters to me.

CHORUS

Be assured of this, Queen of this land, you shouldn't need to
request twice from us either a word or a deed in which we are able to guide you;
175. because we are so kindly disposed, you call us to give advice in these matters.

THE QUEEN

For many nights I have had constant dreams as
companions, since my son raised a force and went off to
the land of Ionians wishing to destroy it;
but never has the dream been so clear
180. as it was in the night that has just passed, I shall set it out for you:
I dreamed two well-clothed women appeared before me,
the one was attired in a Persian shawl,
and the other was in Doric dress,
they were far more distinguished in greatness than before,
185. and faultless in beauty, and they looked like sisters from the same
family; Greece was allotted to the one and she
resided in the land, the other was a Barbarian.

Then as I dreamed, an argument arose
between the two; and when my son found out about it
190. he tried to stop and calm them. He then tied them up
in front of his chariot and placed a yoke over their
heads. The one remained quiet in the grip due to her
towering pride and kept her mouth obediently to the reins,
but the other one fought, and with her hands she tore the
195. harness straps, and now she drags it on with force unchecked
by the bridle pieces and she broke the cross-bar into two between them.

My son falls, his father Darius stands close by
taking pity on him; but when Xerxes sees

him, he tears the clothes off his body.

200. And these then are the nightly dreams I tell.

After I had risen and washed my hands
at a fountain of clean water, I stood at the altar
with an offer in my hands, while I wished to make
an offering to the protecting gods, to whom these actions belong.

205. But there I saw an eagle that was flying to the altar of
Phoebos (Apollo); and in fear I stood speechless, friends;
and a moment later I saw a hawk circle about;
then with flapping feathers it attacked and tore at the eagle's head
with its claws; the eagle did nothing else except cower
210. and yield. It was a terrible sight for me to see,
and for you to hear. Because as you should well know, if my son
were to do well he would be a man admired by all,
but if he fares badly - he does not owe the city an explanation,
and if he is safe he will be ruler of the land as he was before.

CHORUS

215. We wish not to make you, mother, either fearful with our answer
nor to encourage you; but we wish you to go to the gods with petitions,
if what you saw were terrible, ask them to avert the evil,
and to provide you with every perfect gift as well as for your sons,
the city and all your people. Secondly it is necessary
220. to our offerings for the earth and the dead; you must request with gracious heart
that your husband, Darius, whom you say you saw in last night's dream,
send blessings up into the light to you and to your son,
from beneath the earth and to keep constrained the opposite of this in the darkness
under the ground.

Such advice I give you with compassion and a gracious heart;
225. and concerning these things we calculate that matters everywhere will go well for
you in all respects.

THE QUEEN

But surely, you, the first interpreter of these dreams
have kindly confirmed this report on my son and house.

May the outcome be very positive; and all these things, as you have
recommended,
we shall entrust to the gods and to our friends under the ground,
230. as soon as we return home. But first I wish to know this,
friends, where in the world do the people say Athens is situated?

CHORUS

Far in the region where Lord Helios declines and sets.

THE QUEEN

Does my son yearn to hunt down this city?

CHORUS

Yes indeed, then all of Greece will become subject to the king.

THE QUEEN

235. So, do they have an army consisting of many men at their disposal?

CHORUS

Yes, such an army that they provide the Medes with many problems.

THE QUEEN

What besides men do they possess? Are there ample riches in their homes?

CHORUS

A silver fountain they own, a treasure from the ground.

THE QUEEN

Do their powers in archer warfare show in their use of hand bows?

CHORUS

240. Definitely not, an erect spear and shields are their weapons.

THE QUEEN

And who has been appointed as shepherd and commands the army?

CHORUS

No-one's slaves they are called, nor are they subject to any man.

THE QUEEN

How then will the men possibly keep an enemy attack at bay?

CHORUS

So well that they could destroy Darius' large and excellent army.

THE QUEEN

245. You are telling terrible things to parents of children to think over.

CHORUS

But it seems to me you will soon receive a full and accurate report.

Because the style of this man coming seems suited to a Persian,
and he brings us a clear message to listen to, whether good or bad.

THE MESSENGER

250. Oh cities of all the Asian land,
oh Persian land and great harbour of wealth,
how only a single stroke brought great prosperity
to an end, and Persia's flower, that had fallen, has been destroyed

255. Oh, oh to be the first messenger of bad news is unfortunate;
but necessity demands that all suffering be made known,
Persians: because the whole Barbarian army has been wrecked.

STROFE A

CHORUS

Distress, anguish
unheard of and
disaster. Alas, mourn, Persians
when you hear of this woe.

MEESENGER

260. Indeed, everything there has gone to ruin for us;
and I myself unexpectedly see the light of my return.

ANTISTROFE A

CHORUS

Life has proven to be
too long for us,
old men, to hear
265. of such affliction unexpectedly.

THE MESSENGER

And since I was there, and not having heard my report from others,
Persians, I can thus tell what disasters have befallen us.

STROFE B

CHORUS

Oh no, oh no, to no avail
the great variety of weapons
270. left the Asian land for - alas -
the wretched land of Greece.

THE MESSENGER

Filled with corpses most miserably destroyed
are the beaches of Salamis and the whole surrounding coast.

ANTISTROFE B

CHORUS

Oh no, oh no, corpses
275. of our beloved ones, shaken
and sea dipped, you say, floating
turbulent in their clothes.

THE MESSENGER

Because their bows were of no use, and the whole army
was destroyed, overcome by the battering of the ships.

STROFE C

CHORUS

280. Scream for the unhappy wretched

a most horrible unhappy wail,
as (the gods) ran everything everywhere
for the worse; oh, our destroyed army!

THE MESSENGER

Oh Salamis, most hateful name that could be heard;
285. groan, how I mourn when I remember Athens.

ANTISTROFE C

CHORUS

Athens hateful towards the wretched;
we too have reason to remember;
since they made so many Persian wives
into widows - so without their men.

THE QUEEN

290. I was quiet for so long, poor me, I was shattered
by the misfortune; because this sate is the best:
that suffering should neither be mentioned nor questions asked about it.

Even so, necessity dictates that people must bare all ills
when the gods send it; unfold the whole woeful
295. tale, take your stand, even if you cry because of the agony;
who did not die, and over which of the leaders
should we mourn, which officer's position
has been left manless, empty because he had died?

THE MESSENGER

Xerxes himself lives and looks at the light.

THE QUEEN

300. You refer to a great light for my house
and a bright morning after the black night.

THE MESSENGER

Artembares the leader of ten thousand horsemen
was slammed against the cruel coasts of Sileniae.

The leader of one thousand, Dadakes, due to a spear attack
305. jumped from his ship with a too light leap;
and Tenagon most honourably born of the Baktrians
fares about around the sea struck island of Ajax.

Lilaios, Arsames and thirdly Argestes
were defeated close to the island
310. and were shed against the tough, deadly land where doves find nurture;
and from the dwellers alongside the fountains of Egypt's Nile
Arkteus, Adeues as well as the heavily weaponed
Pharnouchos thirdly, fell from a single ship.

Chryseus with Matallos, he that is commander over ten thousand, died,

315. himself commander of thirty thousand dark horses,
his bushy, reddish, dark, full beard
was drenched, while his colour changed in the purple dye.

Also the Magus, Arabos, Artabes the Baktrian,
a stranger from a savage land, was slain there.

320. Amistris and Amphistreus, the skilful manipulator
of the spear, and he that brings forth suffering, noble Ariomardos
from Sardis, and Seisames the Mysian,
and Tharubis, lord over five times fifty ships,
a Lurnaeon by birth, a handsome man,
325. lies dead, victim of a not too fortunate fate;
and Suennesis foremost amongst the brave,
high commander of the Cilicians, one man who offered
the most resistance against the enemy, died like a hero.

Such then was my report concerning those things.

330. I have told a few disasters from many incidents.

THE QUEEN

Oh, oh, I have just heard the culmination of evils,
an embarrassment to Persians, and shrill lamentations.

- But tell me this, return back again;
the numerous ships the Greeks had, were they so many,
335. that they deemed it worthwhile to engage in battle
against the Persian regiment with their battering-ramming vessels?

THE MESSENGER

- On account of the numbers, be assured of this,
the Barbarian ships should have won. Because to be sure,
the Greeks ships were totalled at three hundred,
340. and of these, ten were placed one side specially;
but of Xerxes' fleet, as you well know, the number
was not less than one thousand, and those exceeding in speed
were two hundred and seven; and that's the issue.

Surely you do not think that we were overwhelmed here-in during battle?

345. No, a certain demon destroyed the fleet;
the weight of the scale was not equally distributed.

The gods protect goddess Pallas's city.

THE QUEEN

What, is the city of Athens not invaded yet?

THE MESSENGER

No, because as long as there are men there is a strong defence.

THE QUEEN

350. How did the battle between the ships start, tell;
which side attacked - the Greeks or my son,
while he depended on the number of his ships?

THE MESSENGER

The one, lady, who started all the evil
was one or other curse or an evil spirit
that appeared from somewhere.

355. Because a man, a Greek, came along out from the Athenian camp
and he said the following to your son Xerxes,
that as darkness and the black of night were to come along,
the Greeks would not remain, but would jump
onto the rowing chairs of their boats, each one for himself
360. and save their lives by fleeing in secret.

And immediately when he heard it, while he did not grasp the falsehood
of the man from the Greek camp nor the gods' jealousy,
he proclaimed to all his captains the decree:

365. that when the sun's brightness has stopped scorching the earth,
and darkness has covered the sky's vault,
they must divide the main corps of ships into three columns,
(368) and while others surround the island of Ajax,
(367) to guard the exits and the straits to the open sea;
so that, if the Greeks wished to escape an evil death,
370. by finding some hidden escape route for their ships,
it was put to them: "Off with their heads".

That was the totality of his words, and from an optimistic heart;
because he did not know the future as the gods had planned it.

- And everyone, not in chaotic manner, but with loyal hearts,
375. prepared their supper, and every man in the navy
placed his oar onto its well fitted pin.

When the sun's radiance had disappeared
and night had come along, every man in charge of an
oar went on board his ship, and each one that handled the heavy weapons:
380. the one regiment called out to the other regiment;
and everyone kept to his instructions as he had been ordered,
right through the night the ships' captains sailed to and fro
according to the whole strategy of the navy.

- And the night disappeared, the Greek fleet
385. had not attempted to sail out in secret at all;
but when the white horse chariot of a morning appeared
and filled the whole earth, beautiful to behold,
first, a noise; a call from the Greeks -
a joyful song, and in answer to this
390. piercing echoes resounded from the cliffs;
there was fear amongst the barbarians,

they were cheated in their hope; because not as in flight
did the Greeks sing a solemn song,
but boldly, they were busy rushing into battle with good courage;
395. and a trumpet let her sound reverberate over all else.

At once dashing oars together in harmony
beat the sea from out deep after a summon,
and suddenly they were all visible to sight.

400. From the right first, a well arranged wing
showed the way in orderly fashion, and secondly the whole army
advanced forward, and jointly they brought forth
an enormous voice that could be heard: "Oh sons of Greece, go,
bring freedom to your fatherland, and bring freedom
to your children, wives, and to all the thrones of your forefathers' gods,
405. and to the graves of your predecessors; now the battle is for all of them".

Also on our side a multitude of Persian tongues
called out: "There is no more time for delay".

And immediately a ship rammed its bronze beak against
a ship; the ramming was started by a Greek
410. ship, it broke away a whole side of a Phoenician
ship, the one directed a spear to the other.

At first the flowing Persian force withstood;
but as their crowded ships thronged in the
passages, no longer giving assistance to one another,
415. they struck each other amongst themselves with bronzed
rams, they broke their whole stock of oars,
and the Greek ships hardly without plan,
came around them and struck, ships' hulls were overturned
and the sea was no longer visible,
420. being filled with wreckages and the slaughter of mortals,
the beaches and reefs around were filled with corpses.

Without order all the ships were hasting to the flight,
as many ships as there were in the Barbarian army.

425. Like Tuna or a certain catch of fish
they chased us, broke our oars
and smashed our wrecks; they hacked us to pieces;
the screaming kept control over the sea during the moaning,
until the eye of the dark night removed it.

430. And the pains are so great, that not even if I were to take ten days
to give an account, then I could not even tell it to you in full.

Because realise this well, never before in one day
has such a large sum of men gone to their death.

THE QUEEN

Ah ah, a great sea of evil has broken out
and has overwhelmed the Persian and Barbarian nations.

THE MESSENGER

435. Now realise it well, you have not heard half the evil yet;
because such a great number of suffering has come our way,
that they were out balanced twice in the scales.

THE QUEEN

What fortune could be more confronting than this?

440. Tell us what suffering befell the soldiers would you say
and tilted the balance of evil over.

THE MESSENGER

As great as they were in the prime of their Persian strength,
noblest courage and most outstanding family trees,
the first on whom the king could always rely,
disgracefully they were slain with the most inglorious death.

THE QUEEN

445. Oh poor me! How harsh my fate is, friends.

What kind of death do you say they died?

THE MESSENGER

There is a certain island just before Salamis,
a small one, without ship's anchorage, where Pan who
loves dancing wanders all along the sea's coast.

450. He sent these men there, so that, when the enemy
were to seek shelter from their abandoned ships on the island,
the easy to overcome Greek army would surely fall prey,
and he would rescue our beloved ones from the salty straits,
but he had judged the outcome of events poorly. Because when God
455. gave the honour of the naval battle to the Greeks,
on that very day, after setting up a tight defence with heavy shields
wrought from fine brass, the body leapt forth from their ships; and from around
the whole island they circled in, that the Persians were planless
of where they could turn. Because at first
460. hordes were struck by hand thrown rocks, and
arrows shot from bows showered down, destroying them;
finally, after storming forward in a single stream,
they struck, they butchered the limbs of the wretched,
until the life of everyone had been totally destroyed.

465. When Xerxes saw the magnitude of the destruction he screamed,
because he had a seat in full view of the entire army,
on top of a forested hill alongside the sea;
he tore his clothes and let out a sharp shrill;

- immediately after giving orders to the troops,
470. he fled in confused flight. To the previous events
these too are attached for you to mourn over.

THE QUEEN

- Oh hateful spirit, how you deceived the Persians'
minds; how bitter the vengeance was that my son
sought from famous Athens, had Marathon formerly
475. not destroyed enough of them - the Barbarians departed;
while my son thought he was avenging them
he drew in such a big catch of woes.

But you must tell, the ships that escaped destruction,
where did you leave them, would you know at all to be
able to tell it clearly?

THE MESSENGER

480. The captains of the remaining ships hastily
started a down-wind escape without any good order;
the remaining soldiers were marginalised
in the Boeotian land; some were suffering with thirst
for a nourishing fountain, but we passed out
485. through to the Phoenician land, exhausted from lack of breath,
and on to the Dorian country, the Gulf of Malia, whose
plain Spercheios waters with its friendly stream;
from there the land and soil of Achaea and the
towns of Thessalia received us, empty handed without food
490. as we were; most died there as a result of
thirst and hunger, because both these enemies were very present there.

- We arrived in the Magnesian land and in the land of the
Macedonians, at the stream of Axias,
at the reedy marsh of Bolbe, and at Pangaeus' mountains,
495. the home of the Edonites; during that same night God
evoked an untimely storm, and holy Strumon's
entire course froze. Whoever did not
have faith in the Gods before now prayed and
made promises, while kneeling before earth and sky.

500. When the soldiers completed their many
prayers, they started crossing over the bridge of solid ice;
and whoever of us could cross over before the rays of God's
sun spread out, crossed safely.

- Because the sun's bright disc, flaming with its rays,
505. bore through the middle of the passage, warming it with its flame;
and they fell over each other; and fortunate was
he whoever could breathe out his breath of life quickest.

- Whoever survived and was unfortunate to be saved,
after scarcely crossing through Thrace with much suffering,
510. arrived at refuge, not many of them though

at their sanctuary and land; with the result that the Persian city
is mourning, while yearning for the beloved youthfulness of the land.

That is the truth. Much have I omitted while relating
the woes that God brought down upon the Persians.

CHORUS

515. Oh spirit of suffering, with how heavy a leap
of your feet have you not pounced upon the whole Persian race.

THE QUEEN

Ah! I am miserable, the army totally destroyed;
oh vision of the night so clear in dreams,
how clearly you revealed the terrible disasters to me.

520. But you judged the warnings very thoughtlessly.

Nethertheless, since this is indeed what your words proclaimed,
I wish to pray, first to the gods,
thereafter for the earth and for the dead I shall give offerings
while from my home I shall bring libations;

525. I know for certain that it is for events now fulfilled,
but for that which remains, if something better were to arrive.

You must start with that which happened accurately
and convince your council on whom we trust to think it over;
and my son; if he should come along before I

530. return, set him at ease and lead him to my home,
so that to the previous woes he may not add more troubles.

CHORUS

Oh King Zeus, the Persian army's
proud appearance and great numbers
you have now destroyed -
535. the city of Susa and Agbatana too
you buried in dark grief;
and the veils of many wives, with soft hands
were torn,

540. their breasts drenched with tears
as they share in the pains.

The Persian women with feminine wailing
yearn to see their recently married husbands,
and their marital beds, of soft linen,
the comfortable pleasure of the youth, they have lost,
545. and they mourn with long unquenchable tears.

And I, because of the death of those who are away,
am shedding tears of absolute grief.

STROFE A

Because now all Asia's lands mourn
due to their empty state.

550. Xerxes led, oh oh,
Xerxes destroyed, woe woe,
Xerxes
all his plans failed
in ships in the sea.

555. Why did Darius then
bring no injury to his men
when he led them into battle,
the beloved leader of Susa?

ANTISTROFE A

Because foot soldiers and also sailors
led the dark cheeked

560. ships ahead, oh oh,
ships were destroyed, woe woe,
ships
with murderous thrusting rams,
and through Ionian hands.

565. The leader's escape was close,
as we hear,
through the abounding plains of Thrace,
dangerous and wayward.

STROFE B

They were the first to die, shame,
when they were caught through necessity, ah,

570. on the beaches around Kuchreuas, woe,
they were drowned, moan and snarl,
and in heavy lament
scream to the heavens your sorrows, ah;
stretch your sorrowful voices

575. in a heart-moving scream.

ANTISTROFE B

Terribly they were torn by the sea, shame,
mangled by the voiceless, ah,
the children of the unpolluted depths, woe.

Every house mourns for the man
it lost

580. and the childless parents
bemoan the loss, ah,
sent to them in their age
and they hear all the pain.

STROFE C

- Those people throughout Asia are no longer
585. controlled by Persian law,
no longer do they pay recognition
to the leader's decisions due to necessity,
and also they don't fall on the ground
to express honour, because the royal
590. power has been broken.

ANTISTROFE C

- There is no control over men's tongues,
because the crowds have been left to speak freely
without hindrance
when the power's yoke broke.
595. The fields on Ajax's Island,
drenched in blood
retains Persia's residue.

THE QUEEN

- Friends, who ever has met the experience of troubles,
how it comes up against men, when floods
600. of problems erupt, to become afraid of everything friendly,
but when the spirit flows, that wind
of good fortune is always trusted to blow.

- Because concerning me, for long everything was fear;
God's terrible visions have appeared before my eyes,
605. and a noise sounds in my ears, hardly healthy;
such are the evil's panic causing my thoughts to fear.

- Therefore I have returned once more from my dwelling
masking my way here without a chariot or without
the pomp, to bring pleasant gifts to my son's
610. father, that comfort the dead,
milk so white and sweet from an unyoked cow
and glowing honey, flower working bee's droplets,
mixed with globules from a virgin fountain,
and purified from its mother in the field
615. this drink is the pride of a very old vine;
and from the ever flowering yellow olive
here are the wonderful smelling fruits,
and woven garlands, child of the fertile earth.

- But, oh Friends, sing over these offers to
the dead a song of goodwill, and call on the spirit
of Darius, while I am sending these gifts,
to be drunk by the earth, to the gods beneath the earth.

CHORUS

Lady queen, whom the Persians honour,
you must send offers to the inner chambers beneath the surface
625. while we shall request the escorts
of the dead with songs
to be gracious down below.

But, holy spirits of the underworld,
Earth and Hermes, and King of the Dead,
630. send a soul from beneath the light.
because if he were to know of additional cures for our ailments,
he alone would hopefully share it with mortals.

STROFE A

Upon my honour does the Blessed King hear me
he equal to a god while
635. I send my Barbarian cries
sharply alternating and clear sorrowfully sad shrills?

Will my pitiful nagging
penetrate?

Can he hear me below?

ANTISTROFE A

640. But for me you, Earth and also the others
that lead the dead away, allow
the spirit to proudly
come forth from the home underneath, god born in Susa for the Persians;
send him up
645. he whose type
Persian soil never before covered up.

STROFE B

Beloved was the man, beloved his grave;
because the remains it covers are beloved.

Aidoneus let him free
650. and guide, oh Aidoneus,
our king Darius, ah.

ANTISTROFE B

Because he never killed our men
through the blindness of worthless warfare,
he was called God's councillor
655. by the Persians, and he was a God's councillor,
because he steered the army well, ah.

STROFE C

King, ancient
king, come, appear;
come to the highest point of your grave,

660. while you lift up your saffron coloured slippers,
of your royal garments
exhibit the feathers.
Make haste father unharmed Darius, oh.

ANTISTROFE C

- So that you may hear of hardship
665. new and strange,
appear lord of my lord.
- Because a certain (death) mist from Stugia hangs in the air;
seeing that all the youth
670. have already died.
- Make haste father unharmed Darius, oh.

EPODOS

- Ah ah
oh most mourned of the dead by friends,
675. why, oh lord, lord,
this abnormal double and twice mourned fault?
- All this land's
three oared ships are lost
680. ships no longer ships.

ENTER DARIUS

- Oh trustworthy amongst the faithful, friends of my youth
aged Persians, which pain hurts the city?
- It moans, it has been struck and the ground has been irritated.
- As I look upon my wife standing near the grave
685. I am afraid, the offers I received were wonderful.
- You standing around my grave raising groans
and while you scream shrill crying to call up the dead
you are calling me inconsiderately; it is not an easy way out
all in another, the Gods beneath the ground are
690. more eager to receive than to part.
- Nevertheless I have exercised authority and
I have come; but make haste, so that you receive no blame
for wasting time.
- What is the new evil the Persians are experiencing?

STROFE

CHORUS

695. Respectfully I hesitate to look,
respectfully I decline to speak
because of the ancient fear for you.

DARIUS

But seeing that I have come from down there after hearing your shrilling,
don't make any long story but shorten the tale,
speak and complete all, place my respect one side.

ANTISTROFE

CHORUS

700. Fearfully I am reluctant to obey,
fearfully I decline to speak,
words that are confusing to friends.

DARIUS

Seeing that the age old fear has taken up its stand before your thoughts,
aged partner of my bed, noble lady,
705. take a rest from your mourning and these sighs and speak clearly
to me. The human condition indicates that suffering will come to men.

Since on one hand much from sea, and on the other much evil from land
will fall over men, especially if you stretch you life that longer too far.

THE QUEEN

Oh you that surpasses the happiness of all men in fortunate destiny,
710. In as much as when you still looked upon the sun rays how jealous
didn't you make men as you led your life amongst the Persians like a god,
and now I desire your death, before the deep evil could be seen.

Because everything, Darius, you will hear in shortened version;
The Persian interests have all been brought to an end, as the saying goes.

DARIUS

715. How'd that happen? Did a disease suddenly appear, or a city rebellion?

THE QUEEN

Not so ever, but the whole army was destroyed close to Athens.

DARIUS

Who of all my sons drove the army there in warfare? Talk.

THE QUEEN

Furious Xerxes, who emptied the whole far stretching mainland.

DARIUS

And in what manner did he tackle the doomed expedition, on foot or sea?

THE QUEEN

720. Both, his onslaught was doubled with two faces.

DARIUS

How did such a large army succeed in crossing on foot?

THE QUEEN

With innovation he manipulated the strait of Helle, that it held a road.

DARIUS

And did he contrive this, that he closed the great Bosphoros?

THE QUEEN

In this way he did; but I think a certain spirit stood him by.

DARIUS

725. Ah, a certain big spirit must have come, that he couldn't think straight.

THE QUEEN

So much so that the evil he accomplished at the end can be seen.

DARIUS

And what happened to them that you cry so bad?

THE QUEEN

After the navy was doomed the foot soldiers were destroyed.

DARIUS

So that the whole armoured force was totally destroyed by the spear.

THE QUEEN

730. For this so that the whole city of Susa grows for its lack of men.

DARIUS

Oh the loss of secure support and the defence of soldiers.

THE QUEEN

Bactrians also went to the defence, without any success.

DARIUS

Oh pitiful, how young was the friendship's bond which he destroyed.

THE QUEEN

And only Xerxes alone they say, and not with many along with him.

DARIUS

735. How and where did he meet his end? Was there any escape?

THE QUEEN

He was fortunate to arrive at the bridge that joins two lands.

DARIUS

Did he really succeed in crossing safely to the side?

THE QUEEN

Yes, this tale wins the day, without any competition.

DARIUS

740. Ah, the resolution of the oracle has come swiftly, Zeus has hurled
down against my son the prophecy's fulfilment; but I thought
the gods would fulfil their promise in a long time to come;
but, when someone hastens himself, god speeds him on.

Now it would seem a fountain of disaster has been found for all our friends.

745. This is what my son brought about blindly in his rash youth;
he that hoped to possess the flowing sacred open sea of Greece,
a slave as in chains, Bosphoros, the streams of the gods;
and forced to root against its nature, and after casting across
strengthened chains he succeeded in crossing the great passage with the great
army.

As a mortal that he was he attempted to manipulate the gods, not with good
reason,

750. And to conquer Poseidion, surely my son did not possess
this madness of mind? I am afraid the fruit of my vast
wealth is no longer being set forward for anyone to plunder.

THE QUEEN

Eager Xerxes learned this from instruction through evil
men; they said you accumulated great wealth through warfare
755. and left it to your children, and he fought the inner self through
unmanliness, and the inherited wealth was not honoured.

After continuously hearing reproach as this from evil men
he planned this passage and lead his army to Greece.

DARIUS

760. Therefore an action accomplished by him is
gigantic, unforgettable, emptiness such as has never before
been brought upon this city of Susa,
since Lord Zeus bestowed this honour upon us,
one man would govern all the Asian sheep
grazing; holding the ruling sceptre.

765. Because Medos was the first to lead our army;
and another his son accomplished this task;
because he controlled his heart with his mind.

770. Third after him was Cyrus, a blessed man,
as monarch he established peace for all his friends;
he collected the people from Lydia and Phryggia,
and he suppressed the whole Ionia with force.

Because he was not hated by god, so wise was he.

The son of Cyrus was the fourth to lead the army.

775. Mardos was fifth, an embarrassment to the fatherland
and the ancient throne; he was assassinated in a clever plot
by Artafrenes in the royal halls,
assisted by brave friends, for whom this was essential.

[The sixth was Marafis, and the seventh Artathrenes.]

780. I was inaugurated after I desired the lot,
and led many expeditions with many men;
but I never brought down so much ill fortune on the city.

785. Xerxes my son is young in years and young in intelligence,
and he cannot remember any of my lessons;
because you know this well, my aged friends
none of us, that ever held this power,
would never have caused this much trouble.

CHORUS

Thus wherefore, Lord Darius, whence do you bring to an end
the conclusion of your message? How could we the people of Persia
survive in the situation as it is so that we excel?

DARIUS

790. If you were not to wage war against the place of Greece,
and if there were no more Median expeditions.

Because the land itself becomes their battle ally.

CHORUS

What are you saying here, in what manner does it fight with?

DARIUS

Enemy that is too big, it kills through famine.

CHORUS

795. But we will select a well-chosen force.

DARIUS

No, not even the army that now waits in
Greece will ever reach safety.

CHORUS

What are you saying? That not all the Barbarian forces
will return over the seaway of Greece from Europe?

DARIUS

800. A few of many, if someone trusts in the gods'
prophesies it will be, if everything that has happened till now

is looked upon; because that happens - not on the one hand and then not on the other.

If this were the case, he leaves behind a hand picked army in vain who are yielding to his futureless hope.

805. They are waiting where Asopus waters the fields with its streams, bringing a friendly wealth to the Boeotian land; where the climax of disasters await them to be experienced, a retaliation for their unfaithfulness and impious thoughts; they went to the land of Greece, not hesitating from looting the images of the gods nor from burning down their temples; 810. altars were destroyed, the spirits' shrines were uprooted from their foundations and thrown about in confusion.

- Therefore, because they acted in evil manner they suffer no less in reception, though more, and the boundaries of evil 815. have not yet been established, but still flows forth.

- Because the flow of blood from the wounds will be so great in the land of the Plataeans through Dorian swords; and the piles of corpses, even in generations to come will indicate in silence to the eyes of men 820. that a mortal must not think greater than what needs be,

Because faithlessness blossomed and brought forth a crop of ruin, and a harvest full of tears was collected from it.

- While you look down upon these deeds and ponder on them remember Athens and Greece and let no person 825. despise the presence of the spirits casting eyes onto other and so losing great wealth.

Zeus stands as the punisher of overly arrogant though, a terrible investigator.

- Taking this into consideration, when he that lacks good sense returns, 830. give him good advice and reason, to stop him wounding God with overbearing pride.

- And you, oh beloved aged mother of Xerxes, enter the house and take which ever cloak is most suitable and go greet your son. Because all 835. his clothing around his body are in tatters and his knitted coats are torn through grief.

But you must comfort him with tender words; because to you alone, I know, will he bear to listen.

I return once more beneath the dark earth.

840. To you, eldest, greetings, even in disasters

allow your souls to enjoy daily pleasures,
seeing that wealth has no use for the dead.

CHORUS

The sufferings present and still to come
are multiple as I have heard and over which I shudder.

THE QUEEN

845. Oh spirit, how much suffering from evil
has come, but this situation halts me most,
to hear of my dishonoured son who wears shredded
garments around his body, oh to clothe him.

But I am, and I will bring him a cloak from the house
850. on my way to try meeting my son.

Because we will not betray our beloved ones in these trying times.

STROFE A

CHORUS

Oh how great and good the life was that we had
of civil law and order,
when the aged
855. and totally in control, maliceless, unconquered king
Darius equal to God
ruled the land.

ANTISTROFE A

First the army we displayed
was honoured, and attacked all the villages
860. of the enemy legally.

And back from warfare, healthy and unscaffed
they returned once more
successfully to their homes.

STROFE B

865. How many cities did he take in without
crossing the Halys river,
without departing from the homeland,
from the Acheloin towns all along the Strymon
870. and the Thrygian lands,

ANTISTROFE B

and those around the lake on the mainland, which is surrounded
by towers
listened to him as lord,
875. and those near Greece's broad river, and the interior
of Propontis,
also the mouths of Pantos honoured him;

STROFE C

880. islands, washed through the sea near the mainland
located close to this land
such as Lesbos and Samos where olives grow,
Chios and Paros,
885. Nachos, Mukonos, and Andros the
neighbour beyond Tanus.

ANTISTROFE C

- He governed over those on the sea from the mainland,
890. Lemnos, Ikaros,
Rhodes, Knidos and the towns of Cyprus,
Paphos, Soli, and Salamis,
895. whose mother city is the cause
of the complaints.

EPODOS

- He also ruled the wealthy Greek inhabited
cities in Ionia
900. with all his wisdom.
- The unplenishable power of soldiers
and countless allies were near at hand
but now we experience the contrary to this,
where God has turned it without reasonability,
905. we were overwhelmed
and by and large given a thrashing on the sea.

XERXES

- Ah ah,
How unfortunate am I because this terrible fate
910. I experienced did not indicate what was to come,
how cruel the spirit came down
on the Persian race; what will I do with my poor self?
- Because the strength has flowed forth from my limbs.
- When I see this youthfulness of the city
915. oh that he had, Zeus, also buried me with
the men that died
through the result of death.

CHORUS

- Oh please no, king, the beloved soldiers
and the great honour of Persian domination,
920. and the extent of men,
that the demon mowed down.

PRODOS

The land cries out aloud
for the youth of Persia that Xerxes murdered
and cast into Hades; because those carrying prickles

925. were many people, flower of the land,
that died through the bow, a dense thicket that was
a thousand men, all destroyed.

Ah ah, the proud force,
and the land of Asia, oh king of the earth,
930. has sunk down onto her knees.

STROFE A

XERXES

I am here, ah, with fruitless mourning
to be received as evil
by family and fatherland.

CHORUS

935. I greet you sir from your journey
evil sounding scream, an evil natured sound
of a Mariandunian mourner
940. I shall send up send up, a cry full of tears.

ANTISTROFE A

XERXES

Let your voice go filled with
tears and noise. Because this spirit on the other hand
has turned against me.

CHORUS

I will cry many tears for you sir,
945. overflowing misfortunes and highly regarded seamen and a ship,
the city mourns over her sons.

I shall scream and scream a tearful wail.

STROFE B

XERXES

950. Because the Ionians stole,
Aries gave strength
to the Ionian warships
while they cut through the double haunted
sea and shore during the night.

Ah.

CHORUS

955. Ah please no, learn everything.
Where are the other multitudes of friends?
Where are they that stood by you,

- men like Pharandakes,
Sousas, Pelagius, Dotomas, Psammis,
960. Sousiskanes and Agabates
who left Agabataria?

ANTISTROFE B

XERXES

- I left them behind
where they went to their death
from a Turian warship
965. on the beaches of Salamis,
when they struck the rock hard coast.

CHORUS

Ah please no, where did you leave
Pharnochos and also good Ariomandos?

- And where is lord Sevalkes,
970. or the honourable Lilaïos,
Memphis, Tharybis and Masistras,
Artembares and Hustaichmas?

I ask you again.

STROFE C

XERXES

- Poor poor me.
975. after they all saw old
and hateful Athens with one stroke,
ah ah, they pitifully breathed out their last breathe on a beach.

CHORUS

- And the Flower of the Persians
your totally trustworthy eye
980. who counted the tens of thousands
Alpistos son of Batanchos

son of Sesame, son of Megabates,
and Parthos also big Oibares
985. you have left behind? Oh poor people.

Evil upon evil you tell to the honourable Persians.

ANTISTROFE C

XERXES

- To be sure you keep me drinking
the howling earth of the beloved and those longed for,
990. when you speak of hateful cruelty on cruelty.

My heart screams and screams within my limbs.

CHORUS

And the others whom we miss,
captain over ten thousand Marondites,
Xanthes, Agcharen from Arion,

995. Diailia and also Arsaken
the calvary leaders,
and Agdatates, Luthimnas
and Tolmos the war hero.

1000. I am amazed, amazed, they are not
in your train, they are not following your wheeled and curtained carriage.

STROFE D

XERXES

But however therefore the pursuing have gone.

CHORUS

They have gone, oh without names.

XERXES

Ah ah, oh oh.

CHORUS

1005. Oh oh, devils;
you have brought an unexpected
evil, how visible Ata is.

ANTISTROFE D

XERXES

We are struck through the misfortune of the time;

CHORUS

we are struck, that is visible;

XERXES

1010. new pains new pains

CHORUS

without good fortune we ran
into Ionian sailors.

The Persian nation is definitely unfortunate in war.

STROFE E

XERXES

1015. Was it not so? I felt the onslaught
against such an overwhelming army.

CHORUS

And who did not die, the Persian greatly struck with ruin?

XERXES

Can you not see who has remained from my troops?

CHORUS

I see, I see.

XERXES

1020. And this arrow holder...

CHORUS

What is it you say has been spared?

XERXES

A store house for keen arrow heads?

CHORUS

So little from so much.

XERXES

We were stripped from our supporters.

CHORUS

1025. Ionian folk don't flee from battle.

ANTISTROFE E

XERXES

Very warlike; without foresight
I looked at a tragedy.

CHORUS

Are you talking about the route of the throng warships?

XERXES

1030. I tore my clothes at the sight of the disaster.

CHORUS

Ah shame ah shame.

XERXES

And even more than a mere ah shame.

CHORUS

Because it is double even triple...

XERXES

A casualty, but a prize for our enemy.

CHORUS

1035. And our strength was cut short...

XERXES

I am naked and bodyguardless.

CHORUS

Our friends died in sea disasters.

STROFE Z

XERXES

Weep wet your cheeks; go onto your homes.

CHORUS

I wet them in mourning.

XERXES

1040. Scream now to echo mine.

CHORUS

A terrible feedback to a terrible situation.

XERXES

Place your shrills alongside mine.

CHORUS

Ah please no.

These circumstances are heavy
1045. they also fill me with pains.

ANTISTROFE Z

XERXES

Row, wow and cry on my behalf.

CHORUS

Ah ah pain pain.

XERXES

Scream to resound mine.

CHORUS

We are still standing beside you, master.

XERXES

1050. Now exalt your sobs.

CHORUS

Ah please no.

The mixture will be black,
ah, that what tears cause.

STROFE H

XERXES

And hit your chests and scream a Mysian lamentation.

CHORUS

1055. Sorrow sorrow.

XERXES

And pull the white hair from your aged beard for me.

CHORUS

Firm, my hold is firm, shrill my complaint.

XERXES

Scream out aloud.

CHORUS

That I will do too.

ANTISTROFE H

XERXES

1060. And tear the clothes from your chests with your fingertips.

CHORUS

Oh horror horror.

XERXES

And pull your hair and pity the soldiers.

CHORUS

Firm, my hold is firm, my complaint is shrill.

XERXES

Let your eyes weep.

CHORUS

1065. I am drenching them.

EPODOS

XERXES

Now resound to resound mine.

CHORUS

Ah ah.

XERXES

Call out and go home.

CHORUS

Ah ah, [the earth is deeply trodden for Persia].

XERXES

1070. Call out through the city.

CHORUS

Yes yes, a call indeed.

XERXES

Mourn with a tender stride.

CHORUS

Ah ah, the earth is deeply trodden for Persia.

XERXES

Ah ah, the ships with three benches,
1075. ah ah, they that destroyed the ships.

CHORUS

I will walk with you with mourns and groans.

fin