

AGE Unit 7 (-ω verbs) Part 3 (consonant stems)
CLASSICAL reading

selections from Euripides *Iphigenia in Tauris* 737-92

The specter of human sacrifice haunted ancient Greek mythology, especially when it was dramatized in the form of Greek tragedy. Among the more famous of these narratives was the story of Iphigenia, the oldest daughter of Agamemnon, who led the Greek forces to the Trojan War. He faced the divine command to sacrifice Iphigenia on the altar to the goddess Artemis in order get his troops to the war, a horror Euripides developed into a tragedy called *Iphigenia at Aulis*. In an earlier play, however, Euripides had made an adventure story out of a version of the myth where Iphigenia escapes the sacrifice and is transported to the far-off land of the Taurians. There she serves the goddess Artemis as a priestess. Many years later, her younger brother, Orestes, and his best friend, Pylades, arrive in the land of the Taurians, unaware that Iphigenia is even alive. Paradoxically, Iphigenia is supposed to make a human sacrifice of any foreigners to come to the temple. When she realizes that her newest victims are in fact fellow Greeks, she agrees to spare Pylades, so that he may deliver a message back to her family in Greece (not yet realizing that her own brother is right before her). To be sure that Pylades will in fact deliver her message, she demands that he swear an oath, and so begins one of the most famous recognition scenes in world literature:

ORESTES

ἦ κἀντιδώσεις τῶδε τοὺς αὐτοὺς λόγους;

IPHIGENIA

τί χρῆμα δράσειν ἢ τί μὴ δράσειν; λέγε.

ORESTES

ἐκ γῆς ἀφήσειν μὴ θάνοντα βαρβάρου.

Iphigenia agrees. Orestes then asks whether the king of the Taurians will agree to the plan.

IPHIGENIA

ναί· πείσω σφε...

Orestes then says that the swearing of the oath can go on. τήνδε refers to the δέλτον.

IPHIGENIA

δώσειν λέγειν χρὴ τήνδε τοῖς ἐμοῖς φίλοις.

PYLADES

τοῖς σοῖς φίλοισι γράμματ' ἀποδώσω τάδε.

IPHIGENIA

κἀγὼ σὲ σώσω...

Pylades then worries that if there is an accident and the letter is lost, he will not be able to deliver the message. He says in part, if there is a shipwreck:

PYLADES

...σῶμα δ' ἐκώσω μόνον.

Iphigenia then says she will read the letter aloud to Pylades, so that he can either deliver the letter or relay the message.

IPHIGENIA

λόγῳ φράσω σοι πάντ' ἀπαγγεῖλαι φίλοις...

τὸ σῶμα σώσας τοὺς λόγους σώσεις ἐμοί.

Iphigenia begins reading the letter aloud, a letter wherein she is writing to Orestes and explaining how she herself is still alive. At one point Orestes shouts out:

ORESTES

Πυλάδη, τί λέξω;

Iphigenia ignores the interruptions and insists on reading the letter to the end, at which point Pylades declares:

PYLADES

τὸν δ' ὄρκον ὃν κατώμοσ' ἐμπεδώσομεν.

ἰδοῦ, φέρω σοι δέλτον ἀποδίδωμί τε,

Ὅρεστα, τῆσδε σῆς κασιγνήτης πάρα.

VOCABULARY

ἀπαγγεῖλαι (inf act) report

ἀντιδίδωμι -δώσω give in return

βαρβάρου (gen sg) ἢ foreign, barbarian

γῆς (gen sg) ἢ earth, land

γράμμα -ατος τό letter, writing

δέλτον (acc sg) ἢ tablet

δράω, δράσω do

ἐγώ (nom sg) I

ἐκώσω ~ σώσω

ἐμοί (dat sg) me

ἐμοῖς (dat pl) ὁ my

ἐμπεδώω -ώσω establish, accomplish

ἔχω, σχήσω have, hold

ἤ makes a yes/no question

θάνων -οντος ὁ dead

ἰδοῦ Look!

κάγώ = καὶ ἐγώ

κἀντιδώσεις = καὶ ἀντιδώσεις

κασιγνήτης (gen sg) ἢ sister

κατώμοσ' (1st sg) swore

λέγω, λέξω say, talk λέγε (a command)

λόγους (acc pl) λόγῳ (dat sg) ὁ word

μόνον only

ναί yes

ὄρκον (acc sg) ὁ oath

πάντ' = πάντα (acc pl) τό everything

σέ (acc sg) σοι (dat sg) you

σῆς (gen sg) ἢ / σοῖς (dat pl) ὁ your

σφε (acc sg) him

σώσας (nom sg) by saving

φέρω carry

φίλοις/φίλοισι (dat pl) ὁ friends, family

φράζω -σω declare

χρή it is necessary

χρῆμα -ατος τό thing