

LINES 56-66

Yet it is not enough for the gods above:	56
behold the urn, choosing a master for the daughters and daughters-in-law of Priam,	57
is casting lots, and I will follow— see, a cheap reward!	58
This man pledges Hector's wife to himself,	59
this man wishes for the wife of Helenus, this for that of Antenor;	60
there is even someone who seeks your marriage bed, Cassandra.	61
My lot is feared, I alone am feared by the Danians.	62
Do your lamentations tarry, my band of captive women?	63
Beat your breasts with palms, beat out the sounds of sorrow,	64
and perform the funeral rites for Troy. Let Mt Ida sing	65
at once, the home of the skilful leader.	66

Vocabulary

nuribus - daughters in law

natis - daughters

legens - picking out

sortitur - chooses

vilis - cheap

despondet - pledges, is betrothed to

dest - is wanting, wishes

timetur - fears

metus - fear (4th)

lamenta - lamentings

cessant - tarry, rest

ferite - strike

palmis - palms

planctus - wailings, beating of breasts

date - give, beat out, utter, produce

iusta - funeral rites

iamdudum - long ago, immediately

iudicis - leader

diri - terrible, skilful

Summary

This destruction and sacrilege isn't alone enough. An *urn* chooses husbands for the women of Troy, and Hecuba calls herself a cheap reward. She speaks about men pledging different wives to themselves. She is feared because she is the oldest and most decrepit. She instructs the women to mourn, and perform the due rites for Troy. Also for Mt Ida to sing a funeral song also, the home of the skilful leader.

LINES 117-132

HECUBA:

For you my right hand hits my arms,	117
and it hits my bloody shoulders for you,	118
for you my right hand beats my head;	119
for you by maternal fingers, my breasts	120
lie torn:	121
Let it flow and be ruptured with much blood,	122
whichever scar I made at your funeral	123
Column of our country, delayer of Fates,	124
you were a protector for weary Phrygians,	125
you were a wall, and by your shoulders	126
she stood supported for ten years;	127
with you she fell, and the last day	128
for Hector was also his country's.	129
Turn your grief:	130
for Priam pour out your tears;	131
Hector has this enough.	132

Vocabulary

ferit - hits

umeros - shoulders

ubera - teat

laniata - torn

quacumque - wherever

funere - funeral

rupta - ruptured

cicatrix - scar

mora - delayer

praesidium - protector

fessis - wearied

fula - supported

idem - also

vertite - turn

fundite - fletus

Preview from Notesale.co.uk
Page 9 of 39

Summary

All the body parts go at each other. The right hand to the arms, and the shoulders. The right hand to the head, the breasts are torn by maternal fingers. All these scars were made at the funeral of Priam, and can flow for days. She describes the greatness of Priam, he delayed destruction, and was a protector for Phrygians and kept Troy afloat. Troy died with Hector. Hector's death is done with and now it is time to mourn Priam.

LINES 164-177

TALTHYBIUS:

O long delay always in port for the Danaeans, 164
whether they wish to seek war or their homeland. 165

CHORUS:

What is the cause of delay for the ships and the Danaeans 166
speak up, which god closes the returning paths/routes. 167

TALTHYBIUS:

My soul trembles, a fearful trembling shakes my fingers 168
I saw weird things, greater than of the truth, barely do they warrant faith, 169
I myself saw this. Now the Sun was grazing the highest peaks 170
with his rising, day had conquered the night. 170
When suddenly the earth was rumbling with unseen bellowing, 171
and shaken dragged up all its recesses out of the depths. 172
The forests shook their heads and the high wood 173
and the holy grove of trees with a vast crashing sound; 174
On Mt Ida rocks fell from broken ridges. 175
Not only did the earth tremble: even the sea felt 176
its own Achilles to be present and smoothed its streams. 177

Vocabulary

ratibus - ships
moram - delay
reduces - closes
pavet - trembles
horridus - fearful
quassat - shakes
tremor - trembling
vix - scarcely
iuga - peaks
stringebat - grazing, touching
ortu - rising
caeco - obscure
mugitu - bellowing
fremens - rumbling
concussa - dragged up
fragore - crashing
tonuit - thundered
lucus - grove, wood
Idaea - of Ida
iugis - ridges
solum - only
adesse - to have been/be present
vada - streams
volvit - wished

Summary

Talthybius joins in, and addresses the long delay, no matter the Danaeans motivations. Chorus asks him to clarify which god is the delay. Talthybius claims that at sun rise the earth had suddenly rumbled and spewed its innards, all the woods shook. Also the sea decides to accept Achilles and became smooth. (Are these omens of Achilles).

preview from Notesale.co.uk
Page 13 of 39

LINES 197-202

Having said these things he banished the daylight with deep darkness,	197
and as he returned to Dis and having sunk himself down	198
he joined with the earth coming back together.	199
The tranquility of the calmed seas lie flat, the wind dropped its menace,	200
and the tranquil sea murmured with gentle waves,	201
and a chorus of Tritinians sung a hymn from the deep.	202

Vocabulary

divisit - banished
mersus - having sunk oneself
repetens - returning
coeunte - coming together
pelagi - the open sea
ventus - wind
abiecit - dropped
minas - menace
fluctu - waves
leni - gentle
cecinit - sung
hymenaeum - hymn

Summary

When all was said, he took the daylight with him and sunk himself as the earth joined together again. The seas lie flat, the wind stopped howling, and the Tritinians sung a hymn.

Preview from Notesale.co.uk
Page 15 of 39

LINES 360-370

CALCHAS:

The Fates give to the Danaans a passage by which price they are accustomed: 360
A virgin is needing to be sacrificed at the funeral mound of the Thessalian leader. 361
But in which clothing Thessalian brides are accustomed to be married in 362
or Ionians or the Mycenaeans, 363
let Pyrrhus deliver the bride to his father: 364
thus she will be given with proper rites. However, this cause alone doesn't hold 365
back our ships: more noble than yours 366
blood is owed, Polyxena. 367
Whom the fates seek, let that person fall from the tower's height, 368
the Hectorian grandson of Priam and let him then meet his death. 369
Then let the fleet fill the seas with its thousand sails. 370

Vocabulary

solent - they are accustomed to
pretio - price
mactanda - needs to be sacrificed
busto - funeral mound
iugari - to be married
nurus - brides
tradat - let him give
rite - with proper rites
puppae - ships
nobilior - more noble
quaerunt - seek
turre - from the tower
nepos - grandson
Hectoreus - Hectorian
letum - death
oppetat - let him meet
velis - sails
impleat - fill
classis - fleet

Preview from Notesale.co.uk
Page 21 of 39

Summary

The fates then intervene and give the Greeks a passage, but it must be by sacrifice yet again. She must be dressed in the clothes of a bride to be sacrifice (can be any race). Yet the blood needed must be more noble than Polyxena's. The fates actually seek Priam's grandson through Priam must fall from the height of the tower. Only then can the fleet set sail.

LINES 382-396

CHORUS:

Whatever the rising sun knows, and the setting sun knows,	382
all that is washed by Ocean with its blue waters	383
twice approaching and twice fleeing,	384
time will seize at the pace of Pegasus.	385
As the twelve constellations fly at whirlwind speed,	386
as the lord of the stars hastens apace	387
to roll on the centuries, in the way that Hecate	388
hurries to run on her slanting arcs:	389
so we all head for death. No longer does one	390
who has reached the pools that bind the gods' oaths	391
exist at all. As smoke from burning fires	392
fades away, soiling the air for a brief space;	393
as the leaden clouds that we saw just now	394
the onset of northern Boreas scatter	395
so this spirit, by which we are ruled, will flow away.	396

Vocabulary

oriens - rising
aetas - time
occidens - setting
caeruleis - blue
corripiet - will seize
gradu - pace
sena - twelve (two sixes)
turbine - whirlwind
properat - flies (hastens)
volvere - roll
saecula - centuries
astrorum - of the stars
obliquis - arcs
currere - to run
flexibus - slanting
(nec) amplius - no longer
iuratos - oaths
lacus - reservoirs (pools)
calidis - burning (pure)
vanescit - vanishes
sordidus - soiling (dirtying)
nubes - clouds
arctoi - northern
impetus - onset
regimur - we are ruled
effluet - flow away

Summary

Starts off with a grand description of all known to the Sun, covered by the ocean - with its tidal activities, time will swallow up quickly. The zodiac and the lord of the stars turn the centuries, just as Hecate runs on her slanting arcs - all things die. Nothing exists beyond death. When smoke from the funeral fires fade into the heavens eccetera, our spirit fades.

Preview from Notesale.co.uk
Page 23 of 39