

2. Child's Lament

Euripides, *Alcestis*, lines 394–415. First produced in Athens in 438 BCE. Set to music by Armand D'Angour and Barnaby Brown for performances at Bradfield College, UK, 22–27 June 2019

Two sounds exist in French and German but not in English:

ē = les, mes, c'ēst, c'ētait; zehn, lederhosen, wie geht's? | ü = tu, sur, plus; fünf, über, tschüß

The Dochmiac bars of $\frac{8}{8}$ are always subdivided $\frac{\triangle}{3}$ $\frac{\square}{2}$ $\frac{\triangle}{3}$

Strophe (extremely agitated and distressed)

CHILD

6 I-aw moi tük-has. Mai-a dē ka-taw be-ba-ken ou-ket'es-

10 tin, aw pa-ter, hüp' ha - li-aw, pro-li-pou-sa d'e-mon bi-on awr-p-ha-

14 ni-sen tla-mawn. I - de gar i-de blep-ha-ra kai pa-ra-to-nous khe-

18 ras. Hü-pa-kou-son a-kou - son, aw ma-ter, an - ti-az-daw.

22 E - gaw, s'e-gaw, ma - ter, ma - ter, ho sos po-ti

26 soi - si pit-nawn ka-lou-mai sto-ma-sin ne-os - sos.

Tempo rubato30 *Declaimed, allowing the beats to have dramatically different durations.*

ADMETUS



Tēn ou klü - ou - san oud' ho - raw - san; hawst' e - gaw

33



kai sp-haw ba - rei - a sump - ho - rai pep - lēg - met - ha.

Antistrophe

CHILD




Ne-os e-gaw, pa-ter, lei-po-mai p-hi-las mo-nos-to-los te mat

41



Ne-os e-gaw, pa-ter, lei-po-mai p-hi-las mo-nos-to-los te mat

45



ros; aw skhet-li-a dē pat-hawn, e-gaw erg' ha sü sün-ka-si moi sü

49



net-las kou-ra. me-le-a me-le' e-pat-hon haws e-pat-hon aw pa

53



ter; a-no-nat' a-no-nat' e-nümp-heu-sas ou - de gē-raws

57



e-bas te-los sün tad-e ept - hi-to gar pa-ros.

61



Oik-ho-me-nas de sou, ma-ter, o-law-len oi - kos.

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CHILD

I-aw moi tükhas.

Alas, I am so unlucky.

Maia dē kataw

Mummy has gone

bebaken ouket' estin,

below – she is no more,

aw pater, hüp' haliaw,

O father, under the sun.

prolipousa d'emon

By leaving my

bion awrp-hanisen tla-mawn.

life she has made me a miserable orphan.

Ide gar ide blep-hara

Look, look here: her eyelids

kai paratonous kheras.

and her hands are limp.

Hüpakouson akouson,

Listen to me! Listen,

aw mater, antiazdaw.

O mother, I beg you.

Egaw, s' egaw, mater,

I, it is I – mother,

mater, ho sos poti

mother! – your child

soisi pitnawn kaloumai

who is leaning over your

stomasin neossos.

face, your little boy.

ADMETUS

Tēn ou klüousan oud' horawsan; hawst' egaw

She neither hears nor sees. So both I

kai sp-haw bareia sump-horai peplēgmet-ha.

and you are stricken by this heavy catastrophe.

CHILD

Neos egaw, pater,

I am just a boy, father,

leipomai p-hilas

abandoned by my dear

monostolos te matros;

mother, left alone;

aw skhetlia dē pat-hawn

oh, terrible things I am suffering,

egaw erg' ha sü sünkasi

sufferings which you share

moi sünetlas koura.

with me, sister.

Melea mele' epat-hon

Unhappy, unhappy is my lot,

haws epat-hon aw pater;

my lot, father;

anonat' anonat'

in vain, in vain

enümp-heusas oude gēraws

you married and never into old age

ebas telos sün tade:

grew with her:

ept-hito gar paros.

she died too soon.

Oikhomenas de sou,

Your leaving us,

mater, olawlen oikos.

mother, has destroyed our family.

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Euripides, Alcestis, lines 394–415, ed. David Kovacs (1994)
<http://data.perseus.org/texts/urn:cts:greekLit:tlg0006.tlg002>

Font: Biblical Uncial, based on Codex Bezae Cantabrigiensis (5th century CE)
<http://guindo.pntic.mec.es/~jmag0042/palegreek.html>

Rough breathing marks: ῑ (first half of the letter Η).
Smooth breathing marks removed, line breaks revised,
and βλέφαρον revised to βλέφαρα (line 397).

ΠΑῖΣ

ΙΩ ΜΟΙ ΤΥΧΑΣ.
ΜΑΙΑ ΔΗ ΚΑΤΩ
ΒΕΒΑΚΕΝ, ΟΥΚΕΤ' ΕΣΤΙΝ,

Ω ΠΑΤΕΡ, ῑΦ' ἈΛΙΩ,
ΠΡΟΛΙΠΟΥΣΑ Δ' ΕΜΟΝ
ΒΙΟΝ ΩΡΦΑΝΙΣΕΝ
ΤΛΑΜΩΝ.

ΙΔΕ ΓΑΡ ΙΔΕ ΒΛΕΦΑΡΑ
ΚΑΙ ΠΑΡΑΤΟΝΟΥΣ ΧΕΡΑΣ.
ῑΠΑΚΟΥΣΟΝ ΑΚΟΥΣΟΝ,
Ω ΜΑΤΕΡ, ΑΝΤΙΑΖΩ.

ΕΓΩ Σ' ΕΓΩ, ΜΑΤΕΡ,
ΜΑΤΕΡ, ὅ ΣΟΣ ΠΟΤΙ
ΣΟΪΣΙ ΠΙΤΝΩΝ ΚΑΛΟῤ-
ΜΑΙ ΣΤΟΜΑΣΙΝ ΝΕΟCCΟΣ.

ἌΔΜΗΤΟΣ

ΤΗΝ ΟΥ ΚΛΎΟΥΣΑΝ ΟΥΔ' ὈΡῶΣΑΝ:
ὥστ' ΕΓΩ
καὶ σφῶν βαρεῖα συμφορὰ πεπλήγμεθα.

ΠΑῖΣ

ΝΕΟΣ ΕΓΩ, ΠΑΤΕΡ,
ΛΕΙΠΟΜΑΙ ΦΙΛΑΣ
ΜΟΝΟCΤΟΛΟΣ ΤΕ ΜΑΤΡΟΣ:

ὦ σκέτλια δὴ παθῶν
ΕΓΩ ἔργ' ἄ σὺ σύγ-
κασί μοι συνέτλας
κούρα.

[ΜΕΛΕΑ ΜΕΛΕ' ἔπαθον
ὥς ἔπαθον] ὦ ΠΑΤΕΡ,
ΑΝΟΝΑΤ' ΑΝΟΝΑΤ'
ΕΝΎΜΦΕΥCΑΣ ΟΥΔΕ ΓΗΡΩC

12 missing syllables supplemented

by Armand D'Angour

ΕΒΑΣ ΤΕΛΟΣ CΥΝ ΤΑΔ':
ΕΦΘΙΤΟ ΓΑΡ ΠΑΡΟΣ:
ΟΙΧΟΜΕΝΑΣ ΔΕ CΟΨ,
ΜΑΤΕΡ, ὈΛΩΛΕΝ Οἶκος.