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Title

The Wrath of Apollo

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Journal

Berkeley Undergraduate Journal of Classics, 3(2)

Author

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Publication Date

2015

Supplemental Material

<https://escholarship.org/uc/item/4rt66634#supplemental>

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The Wrath of Apollo

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***Abstract:** This project is a loose translation of lines 1-18 of Euripides' *Alcestis*, exploring Apollo's motives for sparing Admetus. The speech is reinterpreted and illustrated as a super villain-reminiscent monologue as he describes his scheme; the aim of this project is to suggest that, as Apollo is the god of prophesy, he foresaw the consequences of sparing Admetus, and thus acted out of anger rather than gratitude. The text used for translation was edited by C. A. E. Luschnig and H. M. Roisman, and the artwork was influenced by graphic novelist Jeff Smith.*

Text used for translation:

"Prologue." In *Euripides' Alcestis*, edited by C. A. E. Luschnig and H.M. Roisman, 1-18.
Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2003.

Ὡ δώματ' Ἀδμήτει', ἐν οἷς ἔτλην ἐγὼ
 θῆσαν τράπεζαν αἰνέσαι θεός περ ὦν.
 Ζεὺς γὰρ κατακτὰς παῖδα τὸν ἐμὸν αἴτιος
 Ἀσκληπιόν, στέρονοισιν ἐμβαλὼν φλόγα:

5

οὗ δὴ χολωθεὶς τέκτονας Δίου πυρὸς
 κτείνω Κύκλωπας: καί με θητεύειν πατήρ
 θνητῶ παρ' ἀνδρὶ τῶνδ' ἄποιν' ἠνάγκασεν.
 ἔλθων δὲ γαῖαν τήνδ' ἐβουφόρβουν ξένω,
 καὶ τόνδ' ἔσφζον οἶκον ἐς τόδ' ἡμέρας.

10

όσιου γὰρ ἀνδρὸς ὅσιος ὦν ἐτύγχανον
 παιδὸς Φέρητος, ὃν θανεῖν ἐρρυσάμην,
 Μοίρας δολώσας: ἤνεσαν δέ μοι θεαὶ
 Ἄδμητον ἄδην τὸν παραυτίκ' ἐκφυγεῖν,
 ἄλλον διαλλάξαντα τοῖς κάτω νεκρόν.

15

πάντας δ' ἐλέγξας καὶ διεξελθὼν φίλους,
 πατέρα γεραιάν θ' ἢ σφ' ἔτικτε μητέρα,
 οὐχ ἠῦρε πλήν γυναικὸς ὅστις ἤθελε
 θανῶν πρὸ κείνου μηκέτ' εἰσορᾶν φάος:

ALCESTIS: LINES 1-18

TRANSLATED BY AEWYAR DOME
EMILY SHANAHAN, IN THE STYLE OF JEFF SMITH



ZEUS IS RESPONSIBLE.
HE KILLED MY SON, ASCLEPIUS,
WITH A LIGHTNING BOLT TO HIS CHEST.



I WAS ANGRY,
SO I KILLED THE CYCLOPES
WHO MAKE ZEUS' LIGHTNING.

AND MY FATHER PUNISHED ME,
FORCING ME TO ACT
AS A SERVANT.



BECAUSE I FOUND THE SON OF
PHERES DEIOUS,
I SAVED HIM FROM DYING
BY TRICKING THE FAIES.



BUT COMING TO THIS
PLACE,
I WORKED AS A
HERDSMAN
AND SAVED THE
HOUSE UNTIL
THIS DAY.



AND THEY AGREED TO SPARE ADMETUS
FOR NOW, IF HE PROVIDED
ANOTHER CORPSE.

HE BEGGED EVERYTHING
HIS OWN MOTHER AND FATHER.



ONLY HIS WIFE AGREED
TO NEVER AGAIN
SEE THE LIGHT OF DAY.