

2012 transcription of 1968-9 version
of Racine, Phèdre, II, v, 634-662

p. 1

PHÈDRE:

Highness, yes. Burning sets in all about my heart
At mention of Theseus — not that votive rake
Whom Hell has seen service the shrines of many dames,
Who indeed to Hell's own Queen dreamt of offering vows —
When I say, "I love Theseus," it's not he I intend
But another: self-respecting, sure to the point of brusque,
A charming exulter over girls' hearts in the dust,
The kind of man I see our painters do gods from,
The kind of man I see before me now.
The way you carry yourself, that look, those phrases,
This blush commendable — all these had he at that time
When, striking across our waves, he stood in Crete,
Worthy to receive avowals no more than his due
From Minos' daughters.

Where were you keeping at that time, Prince? How
Could the Greek elite suppose itself complete
Wanting Hippolytus? Why not yet come to years
To make one of them Fate dropped ~~on~~^{upon} our coast?
Then had you been the death of that ghostliness in Crete,
For all the windings of his vast retreat.
To bring you through that nightmare, my sisters
should have armed
Your hand with the cords of Fate. "My Sisters,"
did I say? No,

Another had been before her in that design.
 I myself, Prince, I, most serviceable, I
 Had made you perfect in the twistings of that maze.
 What pains I should have taken to assure
 that charming mien!

Had I been your ~~help~~ helpmate, all had not
 hung by a thread!

(No, but,
~~But~~) comrade in the dangers it fell you
 to seek out,

I should have gone before you — it would
 have been my wish —

And Phèdre, gone down into the labyrinth with you,
 Had found herself with you or lost herself in you.

* That you might make one of them fate dropped on our beach?

Racine translation worksheet 1 (of 3)

wanting Hippolytus. Why were you not yet come to years to make one of that party

That fate dropped on our coast. Ah, then had you been the death of that hastiness in Crete

Highness; yes, Burning starts in all about my heart
Mention of Theseus - not that native rake
Whom Hell has seen service the shrines of many dames,
Who, indeed, to Hell's own Queen dreamt of offering vows.

When I say, "I love Theseus," it's not he I intend
But another: self-respecting, self-assured to the point of bragsque,
A charming exultor over fields of vanquished hearts,

The kind I see painted as gods, the kind I have before me now

The kind of men I see before me now,
Your way of holding yourself, that look, your phrases

Your blush commendable - all these had he then at that time

When he came across our waves and stood in Crete
Worthy to receive annuals from Minos' daughters

Where were you keeping that time, Prince? Why How

Could the Greek elite suppose itself complete
Wanting Hippolytus. Had you not come to years

* (Where) you might make one of the party, that fate dropped on our coast

Then had you been the death of that hastiness in Crete
For all the windings of his retreat, my sister should have averted

No, but I, prince, I had made you perfect in the twistings of that maze
Had I been your favored helper, all had been dashed by a thread

No, but I, your guide in the dangers, it fell you to seek out
I should have gone before you, it would have been my wish -

661-2 And Phoebe down with you into the maze

Racine translation worksheet 2 (of 3)

Highness: eyes, Browning starts in all about my heart
 At mention of Theseus - not that I ^{votive rakes} ~~was~~ ~~from~~ Hell
 Hell ~~has been~~ ~~granted~~ ~~to~~ ~~will~~ ~~has~~ ~~not~~ ~~the~~ ~~privilege~~ ~~of~~ ~~watching~~ ~~it~~ ~~serve~~
 From today's shins to today's shins, a votary the ~~shin~~ crown
 Of whose devotion would be to drag down
 The high queen of those regions into his bed

when Hell has ^{so ardent for} ~~scratched~~ ~~service~~ the shins of many dames
 (To Hell's own queen lately he ^{would have paid} ~~thought to pay~~ his due)
 - Indeed, Hell's own queen lately he ^{might} ~~dreamt~~ ^{besmirch} to delirium
 - Indeed, to Hell's own queen lately he thought to offer vows.
 - To Hell's ^{own} ~~very~~ queen, ^{lately} ~~indeed~~ he ^{indeed} ~~thought to~~ offer vows
 Fidelity -

And who to Hell's own queen lately thought to offer vows
 (Indeed to Hell's own queen he lately thought to offer vows)
 - who indeed to Hell's own queen lately thought to offer vows

Racine translation worksheet 3 (of 3)

the kind of man I see in you
exulting, & over hearts

even to pride ~~for~~ ~~from~~ fame, ^{brilliantly}
~~the~~ ~~fast~~ ~~thing~~
loyal, ~~not~~ ~~fast~~ ~~but~~ ~~something~~, rough
~~yet~~ ~~but~~ ~~never~~ ~~quite~~
yet untamed

But another: ~~loyal~~ ~~self~~ ~~esteeming~~ ~~respecting~~ ~~esteeming~~ ~~loyal~~ ~~not~~ ~~fast~~ ~~but~~ ~~something~~, rough
~~True, proud~~ ~~True, proud~~ ~~and wild~~
True, proud and wild

From ~~land~~, a young charmer

~~Under control~~

A charming exults over fields of vanquished hearts

But ^{another} ~~another~~: self-respect, self-possessed
~~loyal~~ ~~self-esteeming~~ ~~loyal~~ ~~self-esteeming~~ ^{to the point of} ~~loyal~~ ~~self-esteeming~~ ~~loyal~~ ~~self-esteeming~~

A charming exults over fields of vanquished hearts
The ^{kind} ~~type~~ I see painted as gods, the ^{kind} ~~type~~ I see ^{before} ~~in~~ ~~you~~ ^{now}

A man such as "painters" do gods from, a man such
As I have before me now