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LYSISTRATA

A Dual Language Edition
translated by Ian Johnston

Fænum
Publishing

ΑΡΙΣΤΟΦΑΝΟΥΣ ARISTOPHANES'
Λυσιστράτη Lysistrata

A Dual Language Edition

Greek Text Edited by

F. W. Hall and W. M. Geldart

English Translation and Notes by

Ian Johnston

Edited by

Evan Hayes and Stephen Nimis

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Aristophanes' Lysistrata: A Dual Language Edition
First Edition

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for Geoffrey (1974-1997)

οἷη περ φύλλων γενεὴ τοίη δὲ καὶ ἀνδρῶν.
φύλλα τὰ μὲν τ' ἄνεμος χαμάδις χέει, ἄλλα δέ θ' ὕλη
τηλεθόωσα φύει, ἔαρος δ' ἐπιγίγνεται ὄρη:
ὡς ἀνδρῶν γενεὴ ἢ μὲν φύει ἢ δ' ἀπολήγει.

Generations of men are like the leaves.

In winter, winds blow them down to earth,

but then, when spring season comes again,

the budding wood grows more. And so with men:

one generation grows, another dies away. (*Iliad* 6)

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EDITORS' NOTE

This book presents the Greek text of Aristophanes' *Lysistrata* with a facing English translation. The Greek text is that of F. W. Hall and W. M. Geldart (1907), from the Oxford Classical Texts series, which is in the public domain and available as a pdf. This text has also been digitized by the Perseus Project (perseus.tufts.edu). The English translation and accompanying notes are those of Ian Johnston of Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC. This translation is available freely online (records.viu.ca/~johnstoi/). We have reset both texts, making a number of very minor corrections, and placed them on opposing pages. This facing-page format will be useful to those wishing to read the English translation while looking at the Greek version, or vice versa.

Note that some discrepancies exist between the Greek text and English translation. Occasionally readings from other editions of or commentaries on Aristophanes' Greek text are used, accounting for some minor departures from Hall and Geldart's edition.

HISTORICAL NOTE

Aristophanes (c. 446 BC to c. 386 BC) was the foremost writer of Old Comedy in classical Athens. His play *Lysistrata* was first performed in Athens in 411 BC, two years after the disastrous Sicilian Expedition, where Athens suffered an enormous defeat in the continuing war with Sparta and its allies (a conflict which lasted from 431 BC to 404 BC).

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

LYSISTRATA

ΤΑ ΤΟΥ ΔΡΑΜΑΤΟΣ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΑ*

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

ΛΑΜΠΙΤΩ

ΓΥΝΑΙΚΕΣ

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

ΠΑΙΣ ΚΙΝΗΣΙΟΥ

ΚΗΡΥΞ ΛΑΚΕΔΑΙΜΟΝΙΩΝ

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

ΠΡΕΣΒΕΙΣ ΛΑΚΕΔΑΙΜΟΝΙΩΝ

ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΙ ΤΙΝΕΣ

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

LYSISTRATA: a young Athenian wife

CALONICE: a mature married woman

MYRRHINE: a very attractive teenage wife

LAMPITO: a strong young country wife from Sparta

ISMENIA: a women from Thebes

SCYTHIAN GIRL: one of Lysistrata's slaves

MAGISTRATE: an elderly Athenian with white hair

CINESIAS: husband of Myrrhine

CHILD: infant son of Myrrhine and Cinesias

MANES: servant nurse of the Child

HERALD: A Spartan envoy

CHORUS OF OLD MEN

CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN

ATHENIAN AMBASSADOR

SPARTAN AMBASSADOR

WOMAN A: one of the wives following Lysistrata

WOMAN B: one of the wives following Lysistrata

WOMAN C: one of the wives following Lysistrata

ARMED GUARDS: four police officials attending on the Magistrate

WOMEN: followers of Lysistrata

RECONCILIATION: a goddess of harmony

ATHENIAN DELEGATES

SPARTAN DELEGATES

SLAVES AND ATTENDANTS

* In his translation, Johnston further divides the roles into more specific ones, such as WOMAN A, WOMAN B, CHORUS LEADER, etc., and includes directions for non-speaking parts. Further discussion of roles and line attributions may be found in the notes.

Λυσιστράτη

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἀλλ' εἴ τις ἐς Βακχείον αὐτὰς ἐκάλεσεν,
ἢ 'ς Πανὸς ἢ 'πὶ Κωλιάδ' ἢ 'ς Γενετυλλίδος,
οὐδ' ἂν διελθεῖν ἦν ἂν ὑπὸ τῶν τυμπάνων.
νῦν δ' οὐδεμία πάρεστιν ἐνταυθοῖ γυνή·
πλὴν ἢ γ' ἐμὴ κωμῆτις ἢδ' ἐξέρχεται. 5
χαῖρ' ὦ Καλονίκη.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

καὶ σύ γ' ὦ Λυσιστράτη.
τί συντετάραξαι; μὴ σκυθρώπαζ ὦ τέκνον.
οὐ γὰρ πρέπει σοι τοξοποιεῖν τὰς ὀφρῦς.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἀλλ' ὦ Καλονίκη κάομαι τὴν καρδίαν,
καὶ πόλλ' ὑπὲρ ἡμῶν τῶν γυναικῶν ἄχθομαι, 10
ὅτι ἡ παρὰ μὲν τοῖς ἀνδράσι νενομίσμεθα
εἶναι πανοῦργοι—

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

καὶ γὰρ ἐσμεν νῆ Δία.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

εἰρημένον δ' αὐταῖς ἀπαντᾶν ἐνθάδε
βουλευσομέναισιν οὐ περὶ φαύλου πράγματος,
εὔδουσι κοῦχ ἤκουσιν. 15

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

ἀλλ' ὦ φιλότατη
ἤξουσι χαλεπή τοι γυναικῶν ἔξοδος.
ἢ μὲν γὰρ ἡμῶν περὶ τὸν ἄνδρ' ἐκύπτασεν,
ἢ δ' οἰκέτην ἤγειρεν, ἢ δὲ παιδίον
κατέκλινεν, ἢ δ' ἔλουσεν, ἢ δ' ἐψώμισεν.

Lysistrata

[The action of the play takes place in a street in Athens, with the citadel on the Acropolis in the back, its doors facing the audience]

LYSISTRATA

If they'd called a Bacchic celebration
or some festival for Pan or Colias
or for Genetyllis, you'd not be able
to move around through all the kettle drums.
But as it is, there are no women here.

[Calonice enters, coming to meet Lysistrata]

Ah, here's my neighbour—at least she's come.¹
Hello, Calonice.

CALONICE

Hello, Lysistrata.

What's bothering you, child? Don't look so annoyed.
It doesn't suit you. Your eyes get wrinkled.

LYSISTRATA

My heart's on fire, Calonice—I'm so angry
at married women, at us, because, 10
although men say we're devious characters . . .

[10]

CALONICE [interrupting]

Because, by god, we are!

LYSISTRATA [continuing]

. . . when I call them all
to meet here to discuss some serious business,
they just stay in bed and don't show up.

CALONICE

Ah, my dear, they'll come. It's not so easy
for wives to get away. We've got to fuss
about our husbands, wake up the servants,
calm and wash the babies, then give them food.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἀλλ' ἕτερα τὰρ ἦν τῶνδε προὔργιαίτερα
αὐταῖς. 20

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

τί δ' ἐστὶν ὧ φίλη Λυσιστράτη,
ἐφ' ὅ τι ποθ' ἡμᾶς τὰς γυναῖκας συγκαλεῖς;
τί τὸ πρᾶγμα; πηλίκον τι;

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

μέγα.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

μῶν καὶ παχύ;

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

καὶ νῆ Δία παχύ.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

κᾶτα πῶς οὐχ ἤκομεν;

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

οὐχ οὗτος ὁ τρόπος· ταχὺ γὰρ ἂν ξυνήλθομεν. 25
ἀλλ' ἔστιν ὑπ' ἐμοῦ πρᾶγμ' ἀνεζητημένον
πολλαῖσί τ' ἀγρυπνίαισιν ἐριπτασμένον.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

ἦ πού τι λεπτόν ἐστι τοῦριπτασμένον.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

οὕτω γε λεπτόν ὡσθ' ὅλης τῆς Ἑλλάδος
ἐν ταῖς γυναῖξιν ἐστὶν ἡ σωτηρία. 30

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

ἐν ταῖς γυναῖξιν; ἐπ' ὀλίγου γ' ὠχεῖτ' ἄρα.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ὡς ἔστ' ἐν ἡμῖν τῆς πόλεως τὰ πράγματα,
ἢ μηκέτ' εἶναι μήτε Πελοποννησίου

LYSISTRATA

But there are other things they need to do—
more important issues. [20]

CALONICE

My dear Lysistrata,
why have you asked the women to meet here?
What's going on? Is it something big?

LYSISTRATA

It's huge.

CALONICE

And hard as well?

LYSISTRATA

Yes, by god, really hard.

CALONICE

Then why aren't we all here?

LYSISTRATA

I don't mean that!
If that were it, they'd all be charging here so fast.
No. It's something I've been playing with—
wrestling with for many sleepless nights.

CALONICE

If you've been working it like that, by now
it must have shrivelled up.

LYSISTRATA

Yes, so shrivelled up
that the salvation of the whole of Greece
is now in women's hands. [30]

CALONICE

In women's hands?
Then it won't be long before we done for.

LYSISTRATA

It's up to us to run the state's affairs—
the Spartans would no longer be around.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

βέλτιστα τοῖνυν μηκέτ' εἶναι νῆ Δία.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

Βοιωτίους τε πάντας ἐξολωλέναι. 35

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

μη δῆτα πάντας γ', ἀλλ' ἄφελε τὰς ἐγγέλεις.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

περὶ τῶν Ἀθηνῶν δ' οὐκ ἐπιγλωττήσομαι
 τοιοῦτον οὐδέν· ἀλλ' ὑπονόησον σύ μοι.
 ἦν δὲ ξυνέλθωσ' αἱ γυναῖκες ἐνθάδε
 αἶ τ' ἐκ Βοιωτῶν αἶ τε Πελοποννησίων 40
 ἡμεῖς τε, κοινῇ σώσομεν τὴν Ἑλλάδα.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

τί δ' ἂν γυναῖκες φρόνιμον ἐργασαίατο
 ἢ λαμπρόν, αἶ καθήμεθ' ἐξηθισμένοι,
 κροκωτοφοροῦσαι καὶ κεκαλλωπισμένοι
 καὶ Κιμμερικ' ὀρθοστάδια καὶ περιβαρίδας; 45

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ταῦτ' αὐτὰ γάρ τοι κάσθ' ἂ σώσειν προσδοκῶ,
 τὰ κροκωτίδια καὶ τὰ μύρα χαῖ περιβαρίδες
 χῆγχουσα καὶ τὰ διαφανῆ χιτώνια.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

τίνα δὴ τρόπον ποθ';

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ὥστε τῶν νῦν μηδένα
 ἀνδρῶν ἐπ' ἀλλήλοισιν ἄρεσθαι δόρυ— 50

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

κροκωτὸν ἄρα νῆ τῶ θεῶ γὰ βάψομαι.

CALONICE

If they weren't there, by god, not any more,
 that would be good news.

LYSISTRATA

And then if all Boeotians
 were totally destroyed!

CALONICE

Not all of them—
 you'd have to save the eels.²

LYSISTRATA

As for Athens,
 I won't say anything as bad as that.
 You can imagine what I'd say. But now,
 if only all the women would come here
 from Sparta and Boeotia, join up with us, [40]
 if we worked together, we'd save Greece.

CALONICE

But what sensible or splendid act
 could women do? We sit around playing
 with our cosmetics, wearing golden clothes,
 posing in Cimmerian silks and slippers.

LYSISTRATA

Those are the very things which I assume
 will save us—short dresses, perfumes, slippers,
 make up, and clothing men can see through.

CALONICE

How's that going to work?

LYSISTRATA

No man living
 will lift his spear against another man . . . [50]

CALONICE [*interrupting*]

By the two goddesses, I must take my dress
 and dye it yellow.³

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

μηδ' ἀσπίδα λαβεῖν—

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

Κιμμερικὸν ἐνδύσομαι.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

μηδὲ ξιφίδιον.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

κτήσομαι περιβαρίδας.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἀρ' οὐ παρέιναι τὰς γυναικας δῆτ' ἐχρῆν;

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

οὐ γὰρ μὰ Δί' ἀλλὰ πετομένας ἤκειν πάλαι. 55

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἀλλ' ὦ μέλ' ὄφει τοι σφόδρ' αὐτὰς Ἀττικάς,
 ἅπαντα δρώσας τοῦ δέοντος ὕστερον.
 ἀλλ' οὐδὲ Παράλων οὐδεμία γυνὴ πάρα,
 οὐδ' ἐκ Σαλαμῖνος.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

ἀλλ' ἐκεῖναί γ' οἶδ' ὅτι
 ἐπὶ τῶν κελήτων διαβεβήκασ' ὄρθρῃαι. 60

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

οὐδ' ἄς προσεδόκων κάλογιζόμεν ἐγὼ
 πρώτας παρέσεσθαι δεῦρο τὰς Ἀχαρνέων
 γυναικας, οὐχ ἤκουσιν.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

ἡ γοῦν Θεογένους
 ὡς δεῦρ' ἰούσα θοῦκάταιον ἤρετο.
 ἀτὰρ αἶδε καὶ δὴ σοι προσέρχονται τινες. 65
 αἰδί θ' ἕτεραι χωροῦσί τινες. ἰὸν ἰού,
 πόθεν εἰσίν;

LYSISTRATA [continuing]

. . . or pick up a shield . . .

CALONICE [interrupting again]

I'll have to wear my very best silk dress.

LYSISTRATA [continuing]

. . . or pull out his sword.

CALONICE

I need to get some shoes.

LYSISTRATA

O these women, they should be here by now!

CALONICE

Yes, by god! They should have sprouted wings and come here hours ago.

LYSISTRATA

They're true Athenians,
 you'll see—everything they should be doing
 they postpone till later. But no one's come
 from Salamis or those towns on the coast.

CALONICE [with an obscene gesture]

I know those women—they were up early
 on their boats riding the mizzen mast. [60]

LYSISTRATA

I'd have bet
 those women from Acharnia would come
 and get here first. But they've not shown up.

CALONICE

Well, Theogenes' wife will be here.
 I saw her hoisting sail to come.⁴ Hey, look!
 Here's a group of women coming for you.
 And there's another one, as well. Hello!
 Hello there! Where they from?

[Various women start arriving from all directions]

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

Ἄναγυροντόθεν.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

νῆ τὸν Δία·

ὁ γοῦν ἀνάγυρός μοι κεκινήσθαι δοκεῖ.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

μῶν ὕστεραι πάρεσμεν ὦ Λυσιστράτη;
τί φῆς; τί σιγᾶς;

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

οὐ σ' ἐπαινώ Μυρίνη

70

ἤκουσαν ἄρτι περὶ τοιούτου πράγματος.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

μόλις γὰρ ἠῦρον ἐν σκότῳ τὸ ζώνιον.
ἀλλ' εἴ τι πάνυ δεῖ, ταῖς παρούσαισιν λέγε.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

μὰ Δι' ἀλλ' ἐπαναμείνωμεν ὀλίγου γ' οὔνεκα
τάς τ' ἐκ Βοιωτῶν τάς τε Πελοποννησίων
γυναῖκας ἐλθεῖν.

75

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

πολὺ σὺ κάλλιον λέγεις.

ἦδὲ δὲ καὶ δὴ Λαμπιτῶ προσέρχεται.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ὦ φιλότατη Λάκαϊνα χαῖρε Λαμπιτοῖ.
οἶον τὸ κάλλος γλυκυτάτη σου φαίνεται.
ὡς δ' εὐχροεῖς, ὡς δὲ σφριγᾶ τὸ σῶμά σου.
κᾶν ταῦρον ἄγχοις.

80

ΛΑΜΠΙΤΩ

μάλα γ' οἶῶ ναὶ τὸ σιῶ·
γυμνάδδομαι γὰρ καὶ ποτὶ πυγὰν ἄλλομαι.

LYSISTRATA

Those? From Anagyrus.

CALONICE

My god, it seems we're kicking up a stink.⁵

[Enter Myrrhine]

MYRRHINE

Hey, Lysistrata, did we get here late?
What's the matter? Why are you so quiet?

LYSISTRATA

I'm not pleased with you, Myrrhine. You're late.
And this is serious business.

[70]

MYRRHINE

It was dark.

I had trouble tracking down my waist band.
If it's such a big deal, tell these women.

LYSISTRATA

No, let's wait a while until the women
from Sparta and Boeotia get here.

MYRRHINE

All right. That sounds like the best idea.
Hey, here comes Lampito.

[Lampito enters with some other Spartan women and with Ismenia, a woman from Thebes]

LYSISTRATA

Hello Lampito,
my dear friend from Sparta. How beautiful
you look, so sweet, such a fine complexion.
And your body looks so fit, strong enough
to choke a bull.

[80]

LAMPITO⁶Yes, by the two gods,
I could pull that off.⁷ I do exercise
and work out to keep my butt well toned.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

ὡς δὴ καλὸν τὸ χρῆμα τιθίῳν ἔχεις.

ΛΑΜΠΙΤΩ

ἄπερ ἱερείον τοί μ' ὑποψαλάσσετε.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἦδὲ δὲ ποδαπή 'σθ' ἡ νεᾶνις ἡτέρα;

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ΛΑΜΠΙΤΩ

πρέσβειρά τοι ναὶ τῶ σιῶ Βοιωτία
ἔκει ποθ' ὑμέ.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

νὴ μὰ Δία Βοιωτία,
καλὸν γ' ἔχουσα τὸ πεδίον.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

καὶ νὴ Δία
κομψότατα τὴν βληχῶ γε παρατετιλμένη.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

τίς δ' ἡτέρα παῖς;

90

ΛΑΜΠΙΤΩ

χαῖα ναὶ τῶ σιῶ,
Κορυθία δ' αὖ.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

χαῖα νὴ τὸν Δία
δήλη 'στὶν οὔσα ταυταγὶ τάντευθενί.

ΛΑΜΠΙΤΩ

τίς δ' αὖ ξυναλίαξε τόνδε τὸν στόλον
τὸν τᾶν γυναικῶν;

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἦδ' ἐγώ.

ΛΑΜΠΙΤΩ

μύσιδδέ τοι
ὅ τι λῆς ποθ' ἀμέ.

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CALONICE [*fondling Lampito's bosom*]

What an amazing pair of breasts you've got!

LAMPITO

O, you stroke me like I'm a sacrifice.

LYSISTRATA [*looking at Ismenia*]

And this young woman—where's she from?

[90]

LAMPITO

By the twin gods, she's an ambassador—
she's from Boeotia.MYRRHINE [*looking down Ismenia's elegant clothes*]

Of course, from Boeotia.

She's got a beautiful lowland region.

CALONICE [*peering down Ismenia's dress to see her pubic hair*]Yes. By god, she keeps that territory
elegantly groomed.

LYSISTRATA

Who's the other girl?

LAMPITO

A noble girl, by the two gods, from Corinth.

CALONICE [*inspecting the girl's bosom and buttocks*]A really noble girl, by Zeus—it's clear
she's got good lines right here, back here as well.

LAMPITO

All right, who's the one who called the meeting
and brought this bunch of women here?

LYSISTRATA

I did.

LAMPITO

Then lay out what it is you want from us.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

νῆ Δί' ὦ φίλη γύναι,
λέγε δῆτα τὸ σπουδαῖον ὃ τι τοῦτ' ἐστὶ σοι.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

λέγοιμ' ἂν ἤδη. πρὶν λέγειν <δ'>, ὑμᾶς τοδὶ
ἐπερήσομαί τι μικρόν.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

ὃ τι βούλει γε σύ.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

τοὺς πατέρας οὐ ποθεῖτε τοὺς τῶν παιδίων
ἐπὶ στρατιᾶς ἀπόντας; εὖ γὰρ οἶδ' ὅτι
πάσαισιν ὑμῖν ἐστὶν ἀποδημῶν ἀνὴρ.

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ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

ὁ γοῦν ἐμὸς ἀνὴρ πέντε μῆνας ὦ τάλαν
ἄπεστιν ἐπὶ Θράκης φυλάττων Εὐκράτη.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

ὁ δ' ἐμὸς γε τελέους ἑπτὰ μῆνας ἐν Πύλῳ.

ΛΑΜΠΙΤΩ

ὁ δ' ἐμὸς γὰρ καὶ κ' ἐκ τᾶς ταγᾶς ἔλση ποκά,
πορπακισάμενος φροῦδος ἀμπτάμενος ἔβα.

105

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἀλλ' οὐδὲ μοιχοῦ καταλέλειπται φειφάλυξ.
ἔξ οὗ γὰρ ἡμᾶς προῦδοσαν Μιλήσιοι,
οὐκ εἶδον οὐδ' ὄλισβον ὀκτωδάκτυλον,
ὅς ἦν ἂν ἡμῖν σκυτίνῃ ἴπικουρία.
ἐθέλοιτ' ἂν οὖν, εἰ μηχανὴν εὔροιμ' ἐγώ,
μετ' ἐμοῦ καταλῦσαι τὸν πόλεμον;

110

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

νῆ τῷ θεῷ·
ἔγωγ' ἂν <οὖν> κἂν εἴ με χρεΐη τοῦγκυκλον
τουτὶ καταθείσαν ἐκπιεῖν αὐθημερόν.

MYRRHINE

Come on, dear lady, tell us what's going on,
what's so important to you.

LYSISTRATA

In a minute.

Before I say it, I'm going to ask you
one small question.

CALONICE

Ask whatever you want.

LYSISTRATA

Don't you miss the fathers of your children
when they go off to war? I understand
you all have husbands far away from home.

[100]

CALONICE

My dear, it's five full months my man's been gone—
off in Thrace taking care of Eucrates.

MYRRHINE

And mine's been stuck in Pylos seven whole months.⁸

LAMPITO

And mine—as soon as he gets home from war
he grabs his shield and buggers off again.

LYSISTRATA

As for old flames and lovers—they're none left.
And since Milesians went against us,
I've not seen a decent eight-inch dildo.
Yes, it's just leather, but it helps us out.⁹
So would you be willing, if I found a way,
to work with me to make this fighting end?

[110]

MYRRHINE

By the twin goddesses, yes. Even if
in just one day I had to pawn this dress
and drain my purse.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

ἐγὼ δέ γ' ἂν κἄν ὡσπερὶ ψήτταν δοκῶ
δοῦναι ἂν ἐμαυτῆς παρατεμοῦσα θῆμισυ. 115

ΛΑΜΠΙΤΩ

ἐγὼ δὲ καί κα ποττὸ Ταῦγετόν γ' ἄνω
ἔλσοιμ' ὅπα μέλλοιμί γ' εἰράναν ἰδεῖν.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

λέγοιμ' ἄν· οὐ δεῖ γὰρ κεκρύφθαι τὸν λόγον.
ἡμῖν γὰρ ὦ γυναῖκες, εἵπερ μέλλομεν 120
ἀναγκάσειν τοὺς ἄνδρας εἰρήνην ἄγειν,
ἀφεκτέ' ἐστὶ—

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

τοῦ; φράσον.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ποιήσετ' οὖν;

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

ποιήσομεν, κἄν ἀποθανεῖν ἡμᾶς δέη.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἀφεκτέα τοῖνον ἐστὶν ἡμῖν τοῦ πέους.
τί μοι μεταστρέφεσθε; ποῖ βαδίζετε; 125
αὐταί τί μοιμῶτε κἀνανεύετε;
τί χρῶς τέτραπται; τί δάκρυον κατείβεται;
ποιήσετ' ἢ οὐ ποιήσετ'; ἢ τί μέλλετε;

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

οὐκ ἂν ποιήσαιμ', ἀλλ' ὁ πόλεμος ἐρπέτω.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

μὰ Δι' οὐδ' ἐγὼ γάρ, ἀλλ' ὁ πόλεμος ἐρπέτω. 130

CALONICE

Me too—they could slice me up
like a flat fish, then use one half of me
to get a peace.

LAMPITO

I'd climb up to the top
of Taygetus to get a glimpse of peace.¹⁰

LYSISTRATA

All right I'll tell you. No need to keep quiet
about my plan. Now, ladies, if we want
to force the men to have a peace, well then,
we must give up . . . [120]

MYRRHINE [*interrupting*]

Give up what? Tell us!

LYSISTRATA

Then, will you do it?

MYRRHINE

Of course, we'll do it,
even if we have to die.

LYSISTRATA

All right then—
we have to give up all male penises.

[*The women react with general consternation*]

Why do you turn away? Where are you going?
How come you bite your lips and shake your heads?
And why so pale? How come you're crying like that?
Will you do it or not? What will it be?

MYRRHINE

I won't do it. So let the war drag on.

CALONICE

I won't either. The war can keep on going.

[130]

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ταυτὶ σὺ λέγεις ὦ ψήττα; καὶ μὴν ἄρτι γε
ἔφησθα σαυτῆς κἂν παρατεμεῖν θῆμις.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

ἄλλ' ἄλλ' ὅ τι βούλει· κἂν με χρῆ διὰ τοῦ πυρός
ἐθέλω βαδίξειν· τοῦτο μᾶλλον τοῦ πέους.
οὐδὲν γὰρ οἶον ὦ φίλη Λυσιστράτη.

135

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

τί δαὶ σύ;

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

κἀγὼ βούλομαι διὰ τοῦ πυρός.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ὦ παγκατάπυγον θημέτερον ἅπαν γένος,
οὐκ ἐτὸς ἀφ' ἡμῶν εἰσιν αἱ τραγωδίαι.
οὐδὲν γὰρ ἐσμεν πλὴν Ποσειδῶν καὶ σκάφη.
ἀλλ' ὦ φίλη Λάκαινα, σὺ γὰρ εἴαν γένη
μόνη μετ' ἐμοῦ, τὸ πρᾶγμ' ἀνασωσαίμεσθ' ἔτ' <ἄν>,
ξυμψήφισαί μοι.

140

ΛΑΜΠΙΤΩ

χαλεπὰ μὲν ναὶ τῶ σιῶ
γυναϊκάς ἐσθ' ὑπνῶν ἄνευ ψωλᾶς μόνας.
ὄμως γὰρ μάν· δεῖ τᾶς γὰρ εἰράνας μάλ' αἶ.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ὦ φιλότατη σὺ καὶ μόνη τούτων γυνή.

145

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

εἰ δ' ὡς μάλιστ' ἀπεχοίμεθ' οὐδ' σὺ δὴ λέγεις,
ὃ μὴ γένοιτο, μᾶλλον ἂν διὰ τουτογὶ
γένοιτ' ἂν εἰρήνη;

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

πολύ γε νῆ τῶ θεῶ.
εἰ γὰρ καθοίμεθ' ἔνδον ἐντετριμμέναι,

LYSISTRATA

How can you say that, you flatfish? Just now
you said they could slice you into halves.

CALONICE

Ask what you like, but not that! If I had to,
I'd be willing to walk through fire—sooner that
than give up screwing. There's nothing like it,
dear Lysistrata.

LYSISTRATA

And what about you?

MYRRHINE

I'd choose the fire, too.

LYSISTRATA

What a debased race
we women are! It's no wonder men write
tragedies about us. We're good for nothing
but screwing Poseidon in the bath tub.
But my Spartan friend, if you were willing,
just you and me, we still could pull it off.
So help me out.

[140]

LAMPITO

By the twin gods, it's hard
for women to sleep all by themselves
without a throbbing cock. But we must try.
We've got to have a peace.

LYSISTRATA

O you're a true friend!
The only real woman in this bunch.

CALONICE

If we really do give up what you say—
I hope it never happens!—would doing that
make peace more likely?

LYSISTRATA

By the two goddesses, yes,
much more likely. If we sit around at home

κὰν τοῖς χιτωνίοισι τοῖς Ἀμοργίνοις
 γυμναὶ παρίοιμεν δέλτα παρατετιλμένα,
 στύουτο δ' ἄνδρες κάπιθυμοῖεν σπλεκοῦν,
 ἡμεῖς δὲ μὴ προσίοιμεν ἀλλ' ἀπεχοίμεθα,
 σπονδὰς ποιήσαιντ' ἂν ταχέως, εὖ οἶδ' ὅτι.

150

ΛΑΜΠΙΤΩ

ὁ γὼν Μενέλαος τᾶς Ἑλένας τὰ μάλᾳ πα
 γυμνᾶς παραιδῶν ἐξέβαλ', οἰῶ, τὸ ξίφος.

155

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

τί δ' ἦν ἀφίωσ' ἄνδρες ἡμᾶς ὦ μέλε;

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

τὸ τοῦ Φερεκράτους, κύνᾳ δέρειν δεδαρμένην.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

φλυαρία ταῦτ' ἐστὶ τὰ μεμμημένα.
 ἐὰν λαβόντες δ' ἐς τὸ δωμάτιον βία
 ἔλκωσι ἡμᾶς;

160

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἀντέχου σὺ τῶν θυρῶν.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

ἐὰν δὲ τύπτωσιν;

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

παρέχειν χρὴ κακὰ κακῶς.
 οὐ γὰρ ἐν τούτοις ἡδονὴ τοῖς πρὸς βίαν.
 κάλλως ὀδυνᾶν χρὴ· κάμει ταχέως πάντ'
 ἀπεροῦσιν. οὐ γὰρ οὐδέποτ' εὐφρανθήσεται
 ἀνὴρ, ἐὰν μὴ τῇ γυναικὶ συμφέρη.

165

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

εἴ τοι δοκεῖ σφῶν ταῦτα, χημῖν ξυνδοκεῖ.

with all our make up on and in those gowns
 made of Amorgos silk, naked underneath, [150]
 with our crotches neatly plucked, our husbands
 will get hard and want to screw. But then,
 if we stay away and won't come near them,
 they'll make peace soon enough. I'm sure of it.

LAMPITO

Yes, just like they say—when Menelaus
 saw Helen's naked tits, he dropped his sword.¹¹

CALONICE

But my friend, what if our men ignore us?

LYSISTRATA

Well then, in the words of Pherecrates,
 you'll find another way to skin the dog.¹²

CALONICE

But fake penises aren't any use at all.
 What if they grab us and haul us by force
 into the bedroom. [160]

LYSISTRATA

Just grab the door post.

CALONICE

And if they beat us?

LYSISTRATA

Then you must submit—
 but do it grudgingly, don't cooperate.
 There's no enjoyment for them when they just
 force it in. Besides, there are other ways
 to make them suffer. They'll soon surrender.
 No husband ever had a happy life
 if he did not get on well with his wife.

CALONICE

Well, if you two think it's good, we do, too.

ΛΑΜΠΙΤΩ

καὶ τῶς μὲν ἀμῶν ἀνδρας ἀμὲς πείσομεν
παντᾶ δικάϊως ἄδολον εἰράναν ἄγειν·
τὸν τῶν Ἀσαναίων γὰ μὰν ρυάχεται
πᾶ κά τις ἀμπίσειεν αὐ μὴ πλαδδιῆν;

170

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἡμεῖς ἀμέλει σοι τά γε παρ' ἡμῖν πείσομεν.

ΛΑΜΠΙΤΩ

οὐχ ἄς πόδας κ' ἔχωντι ταὶ τριήρεις,
καὶ τῶργύριον τῶβυσσον ἦ παρ τᾶ σιῶ.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἀλλ' ἔστι καὶ τοῦτ' εὖ παρεσκευασμένον·
καταληψόμεθα γὰρ τὴν ἀκρόπολιν τήμερον.
ταῖς πρεσβυτάταις γὰρ προστέτακται τοῦτο δρᾶν,
ἕως ἂν ἡμεῖς ταῦτα συντιθώμεθα,
θύειν δοκούσαις καταλαβεῖν τὴν ἀκρόπολιν.

175

ΛΑΜΠΙΤΩ

παντᾶ κ' ἔχοι, καὶ τᾶδε γὰρ λέγεις καλῶς.

180

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

τί δῆτα ταῦτ' οὐχ ὡς τάχιστ' ὦ Λαμπιτοῖ
ξυνωμόσαμεν, ὅπως ἂν ἀρήκτως ἔχη;

ΛΑΜΠΙΤΩ

πάρφαινε μὰν τὸν ὄρκον, ὡς ὁμιόμεθα.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

καλῶς λέγεις. ποῦ 'σθ' ἡ Σκύθαινα; ποῖ βλέπεις;
θὲς ἐς τὸ πρόσθεν ὑπίαν τὴν ἀσπίδα,
καὶ μοι δότω τὰ τόμά τις.

185

LAMPITO

I'm sure we can persuade our men to work
for a just peace in everything, no tricks.
But how'll you convince the Athenian mob?
They're mad for war. [170]

LYSISTRATA

That's not your worry.
We'll win them over.

LAMPITO

I don't think so—
not while they have triremes under sail
and that huge treasure stashed away
where your goddess makes her home.¹³

LYSISTRATA

But that's all been well taken care of.
Today we'll capture the Acropolis.
The old women have been assigned the task.
While we sit here planning all the details,
they'll pretend they're going there to sacrifice
and seize the place.

LAMPITO

You've got it all worked out.
What you say sounds good. [180]

LYSISTRATA

All right Lampito,
let's swear an oath as quickly as we can.
That way we'll be united.

LAMPITO

Recite the oath.
Then we'll all swear to it.

LYSISTRATA

That's good advice.
Where's that girl from Scythia?

[The Scythian slave steps forward. She's holding a small shield]

Why stare like that?
Put down your shield, the hollow part on top.
Now, someone get me a victim's innards.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

Λυσιστράτη

τίν' ὄρκον ὀρκώσεις ποθ' ἡμᾶς;

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ὄντινα;

εἰς ἀσπίδ', ὥσπερ φάσ' ἐν Αἰσχύλῳ ποτέ,
μηλοσφαγούσας.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

μὴ σύ γ' ὦ Λυσιστράτη

εἰς ἀσπίδ' ὁμόσης μηδὲν εἰρήνης πέρι. 190

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

τίς ἂν οὖν γένοιτ' ἂν ὄρκος;

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

εἰ λευκὸν ποθεν

ἵππον λαβοῦσαι τόμον ἐντεμοίμεθα.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ποῖ λευκὸν ἵππον;

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

ἀλλὰ πῶς ὁμούμεθα

ἡμεῖς;

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἐγὼ σοι νῆ Δί', ἣν βούλη, φράσω.
θεῖσαι μέλαιναν κύλικα μεγάλην ὑπτίαν, 195
μηλοσφαγοῦσαι Θάσιον οἴνου σταμνίον
ὁμόσωμεν ἐς τὴν κύλικα μὴ ἴπιχεῖν ὕδωρ.

ΛΑΜΠΙΤΩ

φεῦ δᾶ τὸν ὄρκον ἄφατον ὡς ἐπαινίω.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

φερέτω κύλικά τις ἐνδοθεν καὶ σταμνίον.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

ὦ φίλταται γυναικες, <ὁ> κεραμεῶν ὅσος. 200
ταύτην μὲν ἂν τις εὐθὺς ἤσθειη λαβών.

CALONICE

Lysistrata, what sort of oath is this
we're going to swear?

LYSISTRATA

What sort of oath?

One on a shield, just like they did back then
in Aeschylus' play—with slaughtered sheep.

CALONICE

You can't, Lysistrata, not on a shield,
you can't swear an oath for peace on that. [190]

LYSISTRATA

What should the oath be, then?

CALONICE

Let's get a stallion,
a white one, and then offer up its guts!

LYSISTRATA

Why a white horse?

CALONICE

Then how will we make our oath?

LYSISTRATA

I'll tell you, by god, if you want to hear.
Put a large dark bowl down on the ground,
then sacrifice a jug of Thasian wine,
and swear we'll never pour in water.

LAMPITO

Now, if you ask me, that's a super oath!

LYSISTRATA

Someone get the bowl and a jug of wine.

[The Scythian girl goes back in the house and returns with a bowl and a jug of wine. Calonice takes the bowl]

CALONICE

Look, dear ladies, at this splendid bowl. 200
Just touching this gives instant pleasure.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

καταθείσα ταύτην προσλαβοῦ μοι τοῦ κάπρου.
δέσποινα Πειθοῖ καὶ κύλιξ φιλοτησία,
τὰ σφάγια δέξει ταῖς γυναῖξιν εὐμενής.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

εὐχρων γε θαῖμα κάποπυτίζει καλῶς. 205

ΛΑΜΠΙΤΩ

καὶ μὰν ποτόδδει γ' ἀδὺ ναὶ τὸν Κάστορα.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

ἐᾶτε πρώτην μ' ὦ γυναῖκες ὀμνύναι.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

μὰ τὴν Ἀφροδίτην οὐκ, ἐάν γε μὴ λάχης.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

λάζυσθε πᾶσαι τῆς κύλικος ὦ Λαμπιτοῖ·
λεγέτω δ' ὑπὲρ ὑμῶν μί' ἅπερ ἂν καγὼ λέγω· 210
ὑμεῖς δ' ἐπομείσθε ταυτὰ κάμπεδώσετε.
οὐκ ἔστιν οὐδεὶς οὔτε μοιχὸς οὔτ' ἀνήρ—

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

οὐκ ἔστιν οὐδεὶς οὔτε μοιχὸς οὔτ' ἀνήρ—

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ὅστις πρὸς ἐμὲ πρόσσεισιν ἔστυκῶς. λέγε.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

ὅστις πρὸς ἐμὲ πρόσσεισιν ἔστυκῶς. παπαῖ 215
ὑπολύεται μου τὰ γόνατ' ὦ Λυσιστράτη.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

οἴκοι δ' ἀταυρώτη διάξω τὸν βίον—

LYSISTRATA

Put it down. Now join me and place your hands
on our sacrificial victim.

[The women gather around the bowl and lay their hands on the wine
jug. Lysistrata starts the ritual prayer]

O you,

Goddess of Persuasion and the bowl
which we so love, accept this sacrifice,
a women's offering, and be kind to us.

[Lysistrata opens the wine jug and lets the wine pour out into the bowl]

CALONICE

Such healthy blood spurts out so beautifully!

LAMPITO

By Castor, that's a mighty pleasant smell.

MYRRHINE

Ladies, let me be the first to swear the oath.

CALONICE

No, by Aphrodite, no—not unless
your lot is drawn.

LYSISTRATA [holds up a bowl full of wine]

Grab the brim, Lampito,
you and all the others. Someone repeat
for all the rest of you the words I say—
that way you'll pledge your firm allegiance:
No man, no husband and no lover . . .

[210]

CALONICE [taking the oath]

No man, no husband and no lover . . .

LYSISTRATA

. . . will get near me with a stiff prick. . . Come on . . .
Say it!

CALONICE

. . . will get near me with a stiff prick.
O Lysistrata, my knees are getting weak!

LYSISTRATA

At home I'll live completely without sex . . .

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

οἴκοι δ' ἀταυρώτη διάξω τὸν βίον—

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

κροκωτοφοροῦσα καὶ κεκαλλωπισμένη,—

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

κροκωτοφοροῦσα καὶ κεκαλλωπισμένη,— 220

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ὅπως ἂν ἀνὴρ ἐπιτυφῇ μάλιστά μου·

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

ὅπως ἂν ἀνὴρ ἐπιτυφῇ μάλιστά μου·

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

κοῦδέποθ' ἐκοῦσα τάνδρῖ τῶμῶ πείσομαι.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

κοῦδέποθ' ἐκοῦσα τάνδρῖ τῶμῶ πείσομαι.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἐὰν δέ μ' ἄκουσαν βιάζεται βία,— 225

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

ἐὰν δέ μ' ἄκουσαν βιάζεται βία,—

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

κακῶς παρέξω κοῦχὶ προσκινήσομαι.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

κακῶς παρέξω κοῦχὶ προσκινήσομαι.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

οὐ πρὸς τὸν ὄροφον ἀνατενῶ τὸ Περσικά.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

οὐ πρὸς τὸν ὄροφον ἀνατενῶ τὸ Περσικά. 230

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

οὐ στήσομαι λέαιν' ἐπὶ τυροκνήστιδος.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

οὐ στήσομαι λέαιν' ἐπὶ τυροκνήστιδος.

CALONICE

At home I'll live completely without sex . . .

LYSISTRATA

. . . wearing saffron silks, with lots of make up . . .

CALONICE

. . . wearing saffron silks, with lots of make up . . . [220]

LYSISTRATA

. . . to make my man as horny as I can.

CALONICE

. . . to make my man as horny as I can.

LYSISTRATA

If against my will he takes me by force . . .

CALONICE

If against my will he takes me by force . . .

LYSISTRATA

. . . I'll be a lousy lay, not move a limb.

CALONICE

. . . I'll be a lousy lay, not move a limb.

LYSISTRATA

I'll not raise my slippers up towards the roof . . .

CALONICE

I'll not raise my slippers up towards the roof . . . [230]

LYSISTRATA

. . . nor crouch down like a lioness on all fours.

CALONICE

. . . nor crouch down like a lioness on all fours.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ταῦτ' ἐμπεδοῦσα μὲν πίοιμι' ἐντευθενί·

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

ταῦτ' ἐμπεδοῦσα μὲν πίοιμι' ἐντευθενί·

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

εἰ δὲ παραβαίην, ὕδατος ἐμπλήθ' ἢ κύλιξ. 235

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

εἰ δὲ παραβαίην, ὕδατος ἐμπλήθ' ἢ κύλιξ.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

συνεπόμυθ' ὑμεῖς ταῦτα πᾶσαι;

ΠΑΣΑΙ

νῆ Δία.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

φέρ' ἐγὼ καθαγίσω τήνδε.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

τὸ μέρος γ' ὦ φίλη,
ὅπως ἂν ὤμεν εὐθὺς ἀλλήλων φίλαι.

ΛΑΜΠΙΤΩ

τίς ὠλολυγά; 240

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

τοῦτ' ἐκεῖν' οὐγὼ ἔλεγον·
αἱ γὰρ γυναῖκες τὴν ἀκρόπολιν τῆς θεοῦ
ἤδη κατειλήφασιν. ἀλλ' ὦ Λαμπιτοῖ
σὺ μὲν βιάδιζε καὶ τὰ παρ' ὑμῶν εἶ τίθει,
τασδὶ δ' ὀμήρους κατάλιφ' ἡμῖν ἐνθάδε·
ἡμεῖς δὲ ταῖς ἄλλαισι ταῖσιν ἐν πόλει
ξυνεμβάλωμεν εἰσιοῦσαι τοὺς μοχλοῦς. 245

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

οὔκουν ἐφ' ἡμᾶς ξυμβοηθήσειν οἶει
τοὺς ἄνδρας εὐθὺς;

LYSISTRATA

If I do all this, then I may drink this wine.

CALONICE

If I do all this, then I may drink this wine.

LYSISTRATA

If I fail, may this glass fill with water.

CALONICE

If I fail, may this glass fill with water.

LYSISTRATA

Do all you women swear this oath?

ALL

We do.

LYSISTRATA

All right. I'll make the offering.

[Lysistrata drinks some of the wine in the bowl]

CALONICE

Just your share,
my dear, so we all stay firm friends.

[A sound of shouting is heard from offstage]

LAMPITO

What's that noise?

[240]

LYSISTRATA

It's what I said just now—the women
have already captured the Acropolis.
So, Lampito, you return to Sparta—
do good work among your people there.
Leave these women here as hostages.
We'll go in the citadel with the others
and help them as they barricade the doors.

CALONICE

Don't you think the men will band together
and march against us—and quickly, too.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ὀλίγον αὐτῶν μοι μέλει.

οὐ γὰρ τοσαύτας οὐτ' ἀπειλὰς οὔτε πῦρ
ἤξουσ' ἔχοντες ὥστ' ἀνοιξαι τὰς πύλας
ταύτας, εἰ μὴ φ' οἴσω ἡμεῖς εἶπομεν. 250

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

μὰ τὴν Ἀφροδίτην οὐδέποτε γ' ἄλλως γὰρ ἂν
ἄμαχοι γυναῖκες καὶ μιαιραὶ κεκλήμεθ' ἄν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

χώρει Δράκης, ἡγοῦ βάδην, εἰ καὶ τὸν ὤμον ἀλγείς
κορμοῦ τοσουτονὶ βάρους χλωρῶς φέρων ἐλάας. 255

— ἦ πόλλ' ἄελπτ' ἔνεστιν ἐν τῷ μακρῷ βίῳ φεῦ,
ἐπεὶ τίς ἂν ποτ' ἤλπισ' ὦ Στρυμόδωρ' ἀκοῦσαι
γυναῖκας, ὡς ἐβόσκομεν 260
κατ' οἶκον ἐμφανὲς κακόν,
κατὰ μὲν ἅγιον ἔχειν βρέτας,
κατὰ δ' ἀκρόπολιν ἐμὰν λαβεῖν
μοχλοῖς δὲ καὶ κλήθροισι
τὰ προπύλαια πακτοῦν; 265

— ἀλλ' ὡς τάχιστα πρὸς πόλιν σπεύσωμεν ὦ Φιλοῦργε,
ὅπως ἂν, αὐταῖς ἐν κύκλῳ θέντες τὰ πρέμνα ταυτί,
ὄσαι τὸ πρᾶγμα τοῦτ' ἐνεστήσαντο καὶ μετῆλθον,
μίαν πυρὰν νήσαντες ἐμπρήσωμεν αὐτόχειρες
πάσας, ὑπὸ ψήφου μιᾶς, πρώτην δὲ τὴν Δύκωνος. 270

— οὐ γὰρ μὰ τὴν Δήμητρ' ἐμοῦ ζῶντος ἐγχανοῦνται
ἐπεὶ οὐδὲ Κλεομένης, ὃς αὐτὴν κατέσχε πρῶτος,
ἀπῆθεν ἀψάλακτος, ἀλλ' 275

LYSISTRATA

I'm not so worried about them. They'll come
carrying their torches and making threats,
but they'll not pry these gates of ours apart,
not unless they agree to our demands. [250]

CALONICE

Yes, by Aphrodite, that's right. If not,
we'll be labelled weak and gutless women.

[The women enter the citadel. The Chorus of Old Men enters slowly, for they are quite decrepit. They are carrying wood for a fire, glowing coals to start the blaze, and torches to light.]

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

Keep moving, Draces, pick up the pace,
even if your shoulder's tired lugging
all this heavy fresh-cut olive wood.

CHORUS OF OLD MEN

Alas, so many unexpected things
take place in a long life. O Strymodorus,
who'd ever think they'd hear such news
about our women—the ones we fed
in our own homes are truly bad. [260]
The sacred statue is in their hands,
they've seized my own Acropolis
and block the doors with bolts and bars.

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

Come on Philurgus, let's hurry there
as fast as we can go up to the city.
We'll set these logs down in a circle,
stack them so we keep them bottled up,
those women who've combined to do this.
Then with our own hands we'll set alight
a single fire and, as we all agreed
in the vote we took, we'll burn them all,
beginning first with Lycon's wife.¹⁴ [270]

CHORUS OF OLD MEN

They'll won't be making fun of me,
by Demeter, not while I'm still alive.
That man Cleomenes, who was the first
to take our citadel, went back unharmed.

ὄμως Λακωνικὸν πνέων
 ὄχετο θῶπλα παραδοὺς ἐμοί,
 σμικρὸν ἔχων πάνυ τριβώνιον,
 πωῶν ῥυπῶν ἀπαράτιλτος,
 ἕξ ἐτῶν ἄλουτος. 280

οὕτως ἐπολιόρηκ' ἐγὼ τὸν ἄνδρ' ἐκείνον ὡμῶς
 ἐφ' ἑπτακαίδεκ' ἀσπίδων πρὸς ταῖς πύλαις καθεύδων.
 τασδί δὲ τὰς Εὐριπίδη θεοῖς τε πᾶσιν ἐχθρὰς
 ἐγὼ οὐκ ἄρα σχήσω παρῶν τολμήματος τοσοῦτου;
 μή νυν ἔτ' ἐν <τῇ> τετραπόλει τοῦμὸν τροπαῖον εἶη. 285

ἀλλ' αὐτὸ γάρ μοι τῆς ὁδοῦ
 λοιπὸν ἐστι χωρίον
 τὸ πρὸς πόλιν τὸ σιμόν, οἷ σπουδὴν ἔχω·
 χῶπως ποτ' ἐξαμπρεύσομεν
 τοῦτ' ἄνευ κανθηλίου. 290
 ὡς ἐμοῦ γε τῶ ξύλω τὸν ὦμον ἐξιπώκατον·
 ἀλλ' ὄμως βαδιστέον,
 καὶ τὸ πῦρ φυσητέον,
 μή μ' ἀποσβεσθὲν λάθῃ πρὸς τῇ τελευτῇ τῆς ὁδοῦ.
 φῦ φῦ.
 ἰοὺ ἰοὺ τοῦ καπνοῦ. 295

ὡς δεινὸν ὤναξ Ἡράκλεις
 προσπεσόν μ' ἐκ τῆς χύτρας
 ὥσπερ κύων λυττώσα τῶφθαλμῶ δάκνει·
 κᾶστιν γε Λήμνιον τὸ πῦρ
 τοῦτο πάσῃ μηχανῇ. 300
 οὐ γὰρ <ἄν> ποθ' ὦδ' ὀδᾶξ ἔβρυκε τὰς λήμας ἐμοῦ.
 σπεῦδε πρόσθεν ἐς πόλιν
 καὶ βοήθει τῇ θεῶ.
 ἦ πότ' αὐτῇ μάλλον ἢ νῦν ὦ Λάχης ἀρήξομεν;
 φῦ φῦ.
 ἰοὺ ἰοὺ τοῦ καπνοῦ. 305

Snorting Spartan pride he went away,
 once he'd handed me his weapons,
 wearing a really tiny little cloak,
 hungry, filthy, with his hairy face.
 He'd gone six years without a bath.¹⁵ [280]

That's how I fiercely hemmed him in,
 our men in ranks of seventeen
 we even slept before the gates.
 So with these foes of all the gods
 and of Euripides, as well,
 will I not check their insolence?
 If I do not, then let my trophies
 all disappear from Marathon.¹⁶

The rest of the journey I have to make
 is uphill to the Acropolis.
 We must move fast, but how do we haul
 this wood up there without a donkey?
 This pair of logs makes my shoulders sore.
 But still we've got to soldier on
 giving our fire air to breathe.
 It may go out when I'm not looking
 just as I reach my journey's end.

[They blow on the coals to keep them alight. The smoke comes blowing up in their faces. The Old Men fall back, coughing and rubbing their eyes]

O the smoke!
 Lord Hercules, how savagely
 it jumped out from the pot right in my face
 and bit my eyes like a raving bitch.
 It works just like a Lemnian fire [300]
 or else it wouldn't use its teeth
 to feed on fluids in my eye.
 We need to hurry to the citadel
 and save the goddess. If not now,
 O Laches, when should we help her out?¹⁷

[The men blow on the coals and are again overpowered by the smoke]

Damn and blast this smoke!

— τουτὶ τὸ πῦρ ἐγρήγορεν θεῶν ἕκατι καὶ ζῆ.
 οὔκουν ἄν, εἰ τῶ μὲν ξύλω θείμεσθα πρῶτον αὐτοῦ,
 τῆς ἀμπέλου δ' ἐς τὴν χύτραν τὸν φανὸν ἐγκαθέντες
 ἄψαντες εἴτ' ἐς τὴν θύραν κρηδὸν ἐμπέσομεν;
 κἂν μὴ καλούντων τοὺς μοχλοὺς χαλώσιν αἱ γυναῖκες,³¹⁰
 ἐμπιμπράναι χρὴ τὰς θύρας καὶ τῷ καπνῷ πιέζειν.
 θώμεσθα δὴ τὸ φορτίον. φεῦ τοῦ καπνοῦ βαβαιάξ.
 τίς ξυλλάβοιτ' ἂν τοῦ ξύλου τῶν ἐν Σάμῳ στρατη γῶν;
 ταυτὶ μὲν ἤδη τὴν ράχιν θλίβοντά μου πέπανται.
 σὸν δ' ἔργον ἐστὶν ὦ χύτρα τὸν ἄνθρακ' ἐξεγείρειν, ³¹⁵
 τὴν λαμπάδ' ἡμμένην ὅπως πρῶτιστ' ἐμοὶ προσοίσεις.
 δέσποινα Νίκη ξυγγενοῦ τῶν τ' ἐν πόλει γυναικῶν
 τοῦ νῦν παρεστῶτος θράσους θέσθαι τροπαῖον ἡμᾶς.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

λιγνὺν δοκῶ μοι καθορᾶν καὶ καπνὸν ὦ γυναῖκες
 ὥσπερ πυρὸς καομένου· σπευστέον ἐστὶ θᾶπτον. ³²⁰

— πέτου πέτου Νικοδίκη,
 πρὶν ἐμπεπρήσθαι Καλύκη
 τε καὶ Κρίτυλλαν περιφυσήτω
 ὑπὸ τε νόμων ἀργαλέων
 ὑπὸ τε γερόντων ὀλέθρων. ³²⁵
 ἀλλὰ φοβοῦμαι τόδε, μῶν ὑστερόπους βοηθῶ.
 νῦν δὴ γὰρ ἐμπλησαμένη τὴν ὑδρίαν κνεφαία

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

Thanks to the gods, the fire's up again—
 a lively flame. So what if, first of all,
 we placed our firewood right down here, then put
 a vine branch in the pot, set it alight,
 and charged the door like a battering ram?
 We'll order women to remove the bars, [310]
 and, if they refuse, we'll burn down the doors.
 We'll overpower them with the smoke.
 All right, put down your loads.

[The men set down their logs. Once again the smoke is too much for them]

This bloody smoke!
 Is there any general here from Samos
 who'll help us with this wood?¹⁸

[He sets down his load of wood]

Ah, that's better.
 They're not shrinking my spine any more.
 All right, pot, it's now your job to arouse
 a fire from those coals, so first of all,
 I'll have a lighted torch and lead the charge.
 O lady Victory, stand with us here,
 so we can set our trophy up in there,
 defeat those women in our citadel
 put down this present insolence of theirs.

[The Old Men stack their logs in a pile and start lighting their torches on the coals. The Chorus of Old Women enters. They are carrying pitchers of water]

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

Ladies, I think I see some flames and smoke,
 as if a fire was burning. We'd better hurry. [320]

CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN

We have to fly, Nicodice, fly
 before Critylla is burned up
 and Calyce, too, by nasty winds
 and old men keen to wipe them out.
 But I'm afraid I'll be too late
 to help them out. I've only just
 filled up my pitcher in the dark.

μόλις ἀπὸ κρήνης ὑπ' ὄχλου καὶ θορύβου καὶ πατάγῳ
χυτρείου,

δούλαισιν ὠστιζομένη 330

. . .
στιγματίαις θ', ἀρπαλέως
ἀραμένη ταῖσιν ἐμαῖς
δημότισιν καομέναις
φέρουσ' ὕδωρ βοηθῶ.

ἤκουσα γὰρ τυφογέροντας 335

ἄνδρας ἔρειν, στελέχη
φέροντας ὡσπερ βαλανεύσοντας
ἐς πόλιν ὡς τριτάλαντον βάρους,
δεινότατ' ἀπειλοῦντας ἐπῶν

ὡς πυρὶ χρῆ τὰς μυσσαρὰς γυναικὰς ἀνθρακεύειν· 340

ἄς ὦ θεὰ μή ποτ' ἐγὼ πιμπραμένας ἴδοιμι,
ἀλλὰ πολέμου καὶ μανιῶν ῥύσαμένας Ἑλλάδα καὶ
πολίτας,

ἐφ' οἷσπερ ὦ χρυσολόφα
πολιοῦχε σὰς ἔσχον ἔδρας. 345

καὶ σε καλῶ ξύμμαχον ὦ
Τριτογένει, εἴ τις ἐκείνας
ὑποπίμπρησιν ἀνὴρ,
φέρειν ὕδωρ μεθ' ἡμῶν.

— ἔασον ὦ. τουτὶ τί ἦν; ἄνδρες πόνω πόνηροι· 350

οὐ γὰρ ποτ' ἂν χρῆστοί γ' ἔδρων οὐδ' εὐσεβεῖς τάδ' ἄνδρες.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

τουτὶ τὸ πρᾶγμ' ἡμῖν ἰδεῖν ἀπροσδόκητον ἦκει·
ἐσμὸς γυναικῶν οὐτοσὶ θύρασιν αὐ βοηθεῖ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

τί βδύλλεθ' ἡμᾶς; οὐ τί που πολλὰ δοκοῦμεν εἶναι;
καὶ μὴν μέρος γ' ἡμῶν ὄρατ' οὐπω τὸ μυριοστόν. 355

It was not easy—at the well
the place was jammed and noisy too
with clattering pots, pushy servants,
and tattooed slaves. But I was keen
to carry water to these fires
to help my country's women.

I've heard some dim and dull old men
are creeping here and carrying logs—
a great big load—to our fortress,
as if to warm our public baths.
They're muttering the most awful things
how with their fire they need to turn
these hateful women into ash.
But, goddess, may I never see
them burned like that—but witness how
they rescue cities, all of Greece,
from war and this insanity.

[340]

That's why, golden-crested goddess
who guards our city, these women
now have occupied your shrine.
O Tritogeneia, I summon you
to be my ally—if any man
sets them on fire, help us out
as we carry this water up.¹⁹

[The Old Men have lit their torches and are about to move against the
Acropolis. The Old Women are blocking their way.]

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

Hold on, ladies. What this I see? Men—
dirty old men—hard at work. Honest types,
useful, god-fearing men, could never do
the things you do.

[350]

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

What's happening here
is something we did not expect to see—
a swarm of women standing here like this
to guard the doors.

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

So you're afraid of us?
Does it look like there's a huge crowd of us?
You're seeing just a fraction of our size—
there are thousands more.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

ὦ Φαιδρία ταύτας λαλεῖν ἐάσομεν τοσαντί;
οὐ περικατᾶξαι τὸ ξύλον τύπτουτ' ἐχρήν τω' αὐταῖς;

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

θώμεσθα δὴ τὰς κάλπιδας χήμεις χαμᾶζ, ὅπως ἂν
ἦν προσφέρῃ τὴν χεῖρά τις μὴ τοῦτό μ' ἐμποδίξῃ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

εἰ νῆ Δῖ ἤδη τὰς γνάθους τούτων τις ἢ δις ἢ τρίς 360
ἔκοιψεν ὥσπερ Βουπάλου, φωνὴν ἂν οὐκ ἂν εἶχον.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

καὶ μὴν ἰδοὺ παταξάτω τις· στᾶσ' ἐγὼ παρέξω,
κοῦ μὴ ποτ' ἄλλη σου κύων τῶν ὄρχεων λάβητα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

εἰ μὴ σιωπήσει, θενῶν σου ἴκκοκκιῶ τὸ γήρας.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

ἄψαι μόνον Στρατυλλίδος τῷ δακτύλῳ προσελθῶν. 365

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

τί δ' ἦν σποδῶ τοῖς κονδύλοις; τί μ' ἐργάσει τὸ δεινόν;

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

βρύκουσά σου τοὺς πλεύμονας καὶ τᾶντερ' ἐξαμήσω.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

οὐκ ἔστ' ἀνὴρ Εὐριπίδου σοφώτερος ποιητής·
οὐδὲν γὰρ οὕτω θρέμμ' ἀναιδές ἐστιν ὡς γυναῖκες.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

αἰρώμεθ' ἡμεῖς θοῦδατος τὴν κάλπιν ὦ Ῥοδίππη. 370

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

Hey there, Phaedrias!
Shall we stop her nattering on like this?
Someone hit her, smack her with a log.

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

Let's put our water jugs down on the ground,
in case they want to lay their hands on us.
Down there they won't get in our way.

[The Old Women set down their water jugs]

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

By god, someone should hit them on the jaw,
two or three times, and then, like Boupalus,
they'll won't have anything much more to say.²⁰

[360]

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

Come on then—strike me. I'm here, waiting.
No other bitch will ever grab your balls.

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

Shut up, or I hit you—snuff out your old age.

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

Try coming up and touching Stratyllis
with your finger tips!

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

What if I thrashed you
with my fists? Would you do something nasty?

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

With my teeth I'll rip out your lungs and guts!

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

Euripides is such a clever poet—
the man who says there's no wild animal
more shameless than a woman.

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

Come on then,
Rhodippe, let's pick up our water jugs.

[370]

[The Old Women pick up their water jugs again]

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

τί δ' ὦ θεοῖς ἐχθρὰ σὺ δεῦρ' ὕδωρ ἔχουσ' ἀφίκου;

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

τί δαὶ σὺ πῦρ ὦ τύμβ' ἔχων; ὡς σαυτὸν ἐμπυρεύσων;

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

ἐγὼ μὲν ἵνα νήσας πυρὰν τὰς σὰς φίλας ὑφάψω.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

ἐγὼ δέ γ' ἵνα τὴν σὴν πυρὰν τούτῳ κατασβέσαιμι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

τοῦμόν σὺ πῦρ κατασβέσεις;

375

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

τοῦργον τάχ' αὐτὸ δείξει.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

οὐκ οἶδά σ' εἰ τῆδ' ὡς ἔχω τῆ λαμπάδι σταθεύσω.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

εἰ ρύμμα τυγχάνεις ἔχων, λουτρόν <γ'> ἐγὼ παρέξω.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

ἐμοὶ σὺ λουτρόν ὦ σαπρά;

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

καὶ ταῦτα νυμφικόν γε.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

ἤκουσας αὐτῆς τοῦ θράσου;

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

ἐλευθέρα γάρ εἰμι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

σχήσω σ' ἐγὼ τῆς νῦν βοῆς.

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

Why have you damned women even come here carrying this water?

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

And why are you bringing fire, you old corpse? Do you intend to set yourself on fire?

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

Me? To start a blaze and roast your friends.

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

I'm here to douse your fire.

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

You'll put out my fire?

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

Yes I will. You'll see.

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS [*waving his torch*]

I don't know why I'm not just doing it, frying you in this flame.

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

Get yourself some soap. I'm giving you a bath.

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

You'll wash me, you old wrinkled prune?

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

Yes, it will be just like your wedding night.

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

Listen to her! She's a nervy bitch!

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

I'm a free woman.

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

I'll make you shut up!

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

ἀλλ' οὐκέθ' ἠλιάζει. 380

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

ἔμπρησον αὐτῆς τὰς κόμας.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

σὸν ἔργον ὠχελῶε.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

οἴμοι τάλας.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

μῶν θερμὸν ἦν;

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

ποῖ θερμόν; οὐ παύσει; τί δράς;

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

ἄρδω σ' ὅπως ἂν βλαστάνης.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

ἀλλ' αὐδὸς εἰμ' ἤδη τρέμων. 385

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

οὐκοῦν ἐπειδὴ πῦρ ἔχεις, σὺ χλιανεῖς σεαυτόν.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

ἄρ' ἐξέλαμψε τῶν γυναικῶν ἡ τρυφή
 χῶ τυμπανισμὸς χοῖ πυκνοὶ Σαβάζιοι,
 ὃ τ' Ἄδωνιασμὸς οὗτος οὐπὶ τῶν τεγῶν,
 οὐ γὰρ ποτ' ὦν ἤκουον ἐν τῆκκλησίᾳ;
 ἔλεγε δ' ὁ μὴ ὥρασι μὲν Δημόστρατος
 πλεῖν ἐς Σικελίαν, ἡ γυνὴ δ' ὀρχουμένη

390

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

You don't judge these things. [380]

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

Set her hair on fire!

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

Get to work, Achelous.²¹

[She throws her jar of water over the Leader of the Men's Chorus, and, following the leader's example, the women throw water all over the old men]

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

O, that's bad!

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

Was that hot enough?

[The women continue to throw water on the old men]

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

Hot enough?

Won't you stop doing that? What are you doing?

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

I'm watering you to make you bloom.

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

I'm too old and withered. I'm shaking.

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

Well, you've got your fire. Warm yourselves up.

[A Magistrate enters with an armed escort of four public guards and slaves with crowbars and some attendant soldiers]

MAGISTRATE

Has not our women's lewdness shown itself
 in how they beat their drums for Sabazius,
 that god of excess, or on their rooftops
 shed tears for Adonis? That's what I heard
 one time in our assembly. Demonstrates—
 what a stupid man he is—was arguing
 that we should sail to Sicily. Meanwhile,
 his wife was dancing round and screaming out

‘αἰαί Ἄδωνιν’ φησίν, ὁ δὲ Δημόστρατος
 ἔλεγεν ὀπλίτας καταλέγειν Ζακυνθίων·
 ἢ δ’ ὑποπεπωκυῖ ἢ γυνή’ πὶ τοῦ τέγουσ
 395 ‘κόπτεσθ’ Ἄδωνιν’ φησίν· ὁ δ’ ἐβιάζετο
 ὁ θεοῖσιν ἐχθρὸς καὶ μιαρὸς Χολοζύγης.
 τοιαῦτ’ ἀπ’ αὐτῶν ἐστιν ἀκόλαστ’ ἄσματα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

τί δῆτ’ ἂν εἰ πύθιοιο καὶ τὴν τῶνδ’ ὕβριν;
 αἰ τᾶλλα θ’ ὑβρίκασι κακ τῶν καλπιδῶν
 400 ἔλουσαν ἡμᾶς, ὥστε θαίματῖδια
 σείειν πάρεστιν ὥσπερ ἐνεουρηκότας.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

νῆ τὸν Ποσειδῶ τὸν ἀλυκὸν δίκαιά γε.
 ὅταν γὰρ αὐτοὶ ξυμπονηρευόμεθα
 ταῖσιν γυναιξὶ καὶ διδάσκωμεν τρυφᾶν,
 405 τοιαῦτ’ ἀπ’ αὐτῶν βλαστάνει βουλευήματα.
 οἷ λέγομεν ἐν τῶν δημιουργῶν τοιαδί·
 ‘ὦ χρυσοχόε τὸν ὀρμον ὃν ἐπεσκεύασας,
 ὀρχουμένης μου τῆς γυναικὸς ἐσπέρας
 ἢ βάλανος ἐκπέπτωκεν ἐκ τοῦ τρήματος.
 410 ἐμοὶ μὲν οὖν ἔστ’ ἐς Σαλαμίνα πλευστέα·
 σὺ δ’ ἦν σχολάσης, πάση τέχνῃ πρὸς ἐσπέραν
 ἐλθὼν ἐκείνῃ τὴν βάλανον ἐνάρμοσον.’
 ἕτερος δέ τις πρὸς σκυτοτόμον ταδὶ λέγει
 νεανίαν καὶ πέος ἔχοντ’ οὐ παιδικόν·
 415 ‘ὦ σκυτοτόμε μου τῆς γυναικὸς τοῦ ποδὸς
 τὸ δακτυλίδιον ξυμπιέζει τὸ ζυγὸν
 ἄθ’ ἀπαλὸν ὄν· τοῦτ’ οὖν σὺ τῆς μεσημβρίας
 ἐλθὼν χάλασον, ὅπως ἂν εὐρυτέρως ἔχη.’
 τοιαῦτ’ ἀπήντηκ’ ἐς τοιαυτὶ πράγματα,
 420 ὅτε γ’ ὦν ἐγὼ πρόβουλος, ἐκπορίσας ὅπως
 κωπῆς ἔσονται, τὰργυρίου νυνὶ δέον,
 ὑπὸ τῶν γυναικῶν ἀποκέκλημαι ταῖς πύλαις.
 ἀλλ’ οὐδὲν ἔργον ἐστάναι. φέρε τοὺς μοχλοὺς,
 ὅπως ἂν αὐτὰς τῆς ὕβρεως ἐγὼ σχέθω.
 425

“Alas, Adonis!” While Demostrates talked,
 saying we should levy soldiers from Zacynthus,
 the woman was on the roof top, getting drunk
 and yelling out “Weep for Adonis! Weep.”²²
 But he kept on forcing his opinion through,
 that mad brutal ox, whom the gods despise.
 That’s just the kind of loose degenerate stuff
 that comes from women.

LEADER OF MEN’S CHORUS

Wait until I tell you
 the insolent things these women did to us—
 all their abuse—they dumped their water jugs
 on us. So now we have to dry our clothes.
 We look as if we’ve pissed ourselves. [400]

MAGISTRATE

By Poseidon,
 god of the salt seas, it serves you right.
 We men ourselves share in the blame for this.
 We teach our wives their free and easy life,
 and so intrigues come flowering out from them.
 Here’s what we tell some working artisan,
 “O goldsmith, about that necklace I bought here—
 410 last night my wife was dancing and the bolt
 slipped from its hole. I have to take a boat
 to Salamis. If you’ve got time tonight,
 you could visit her with that tool of yours
 and fix the way the bolt sits in her hole.”
 Another man goes to the shoemaker,
 a strapping lad with an enormous prick,
 and says, “O shoemaker, a sandal strap
 is pinching my wife’s tender little toe.
 Could you come at noon and rub her strap,
 stretch it really wide?” That’s the sort of thing
 420 that leads to all this trouble. Look at me,
 a magistrate in charge of finding oars
 and thus in need of money now—these women
 have shut the treasury doors to keep me out.
 But standing here’s no use.

[He calls out to his two slaves]

Bring the crow bars.
 I’ll stop these women’s insolence myself.

τί κέχηνας ὦ δύστηνε; ποῖ δ' αὖ σὺ βλέπεις,
οὐδὲν ποιῶν ἀλλ' ἢ καπηλείον σκοπῶν;
οὐχ ὑποβαλόντες τοὺς μοχλοὺς ὑπὸ τὰς πύλας
ἐντεῦθεν ἐκμοχλεύσετ'; ἐνθενδὶ δ' ἐγὼ
ξυνεκμοχλεύσω.

430

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

μηδὲν ἐκμοχλεύετε
ἐξέρχομαι γὰρ αὐτομάτη. τί δεῖ μοχλῶν;
οὐ γὰρ μοχλῶν δεῖ μάλλον ἢ νοῦ καὶ φρενῶν.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

ἄληθες ὦ μιὰρὰ σύ; ποῦ 'σθ' ὁ τοξότης;
ξυλλάμβαν' αὐτὴν κώπισω τὼ χεῖρε δεῖ.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

εἶ τᾶρα νῆ τὴν Ἄρτεμιν τὴν χεῖρά μοι
ἄκραν προσοίσει δημόσιος ὄν, κλαύσεται.

435

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

ἔδεισας οὗτος; οὐ ξυναρπάσει μέσην
καὶ σὺ μετὰ τούτου κἀνύσαντε δήσετε;

ΓΥΝΗ Α

εἶ τᾶρα νῆ τὴν Πάνδροσον ταύτη μόνον
τὴν χεῖρ' ἐπιβαλείς, ἐπιχεσεῖ πατούμενος.

440

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

ἰδοὺ γ' ἐπιχεσεῖ. ποῦ 'στω ἕτερος τοξότης;
ταύτην προτέραν ξύνδησον, ὅτι καὶ λαλεῖ.

ΓΥΝΗ Β

εἶ τᾶρα νῆ τὴν Φωσφόρον τὴν χεῖρ' ἄκραν
ταύτην προσοίσεις, κύαθον αἰτήσεις τάχα.

[He turns to the armed guards he has brought with him]

What are you gaping at, you idiot!
And you—what are you looking at?
Why are you doing nothing—just staring round
looking for a tavern? Take these crowbars
to the doors there, and then pry them open.
Come, I'll work to force them with you.

LYSISTRATA [opening the doors and walking out]

No need to use those crowbars. I'm coming out—
and of my own free will. Why these crowbars?
This calls for brains and common sense, not force.

[430]

MAGISTRATE

Is that so, you slut? Where's that officer?
Seize that woman! Tie her hands!

LYSISTRATA

By Artemis,
he may be a public servant, but if
he lays a finger on me, he'll be sorry.

MAGISTRATE [to the first armed guard]

Are you scared of her? Grab her round the waist!
You there, help him out! And tie her up!

OLD WOMAN A²³

By Pandrosus, if you lift a hand to her,
I'll beat you until you shit yourself!

[440]

[The armed guard is so terrified he shits]

MAGISTRATE

Look at the mess you made! Where is he,
that other officer?

[The Magistrate turns to a third armed officer]

Tie up this one first,
the one who's got such a dirty mouth.

OLD WOMAN B

By the god of light, if you just touch her,
you'll quickly need a cup to fix your eyes.²⁴

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

τουτὶ τί ἦν; ποῦ τοξότης; ταύτης ἔχου. 445
παύσω τιν' ὑμῶν τῆσδ' ἐγὼ τῆς ἐξόδου.

ΓΥΝΗ Γ

εἴ τ' ἄρα νῆ τὴν Ταυροπόλον ταύτη πρόσει,
ἐκκοκκίῳ σου τὰς στενοκωκύτους τρίχας.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

οἴμοι κακοδαίμων· ἐπιλέλοιφ' ὁ τοξότης.
ἀτὰρ οὐ γυναικῶν οὐδέποτ' ἔσθ' ἠττητέα 450
ἡμῖν· ὁμόσε χωρῶμεν αὐταῖς ᾧ Σκύθαι
ξυνταξάμενοι.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

νῆ τὰ θεῶν γνώσεσθ' ἄρα
ὅτι καὶ παρ' ἡμῖν εἰσι τέτταρες λόχοι
μαχίμων γυναικῶν ἔνδον ἐξωπλισμένων.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

ἀποστρέφετε τὰς χεῖρας αὐτῶν ᾧ Σκύθαι. 455

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ᾧ ξύμμαχοι γυναῖκες ἐκθεῖτ' ἔνδοθεν,
ᾧ σπερμαγοραιολεκιθολαχανοπώλιδες,
ᾧ σκοροδοπανδοκευτριαρτοπώλιδες,
οὐχ ἔλξετ', οὐ παήσετ', οὐκ ἀράξετε;
οὐ λαιδορήσετ', οὐκ ἀναισχυντήσετε; 460
παύσασθ', ἐπαναχωρεῖτε, μὴ σκυλεύετε.

[This officer shits his pants and runs off. The Magistrate turns to a fourth officer]

MAGISTRATE

Who's this here? Arrest her! I'll put a stop
to all women in this demonstration!

OLD WOMEN C

By bull-bashing Artemis, if you move
to touch her, I'll rip out all your hair
until you yelp in pain.

[The fourth officer shits himself and runs off in terror]

MAGISTRATE

This is getting bad.
There're no officers left. We can't let ourselves
be beaten back by women. Come on then, 450
you Scythians, form up your ranks.²⁵ Then charge.
Go at them!

LYSISTRATA

By the two goddesses, you'll see—
we've got four companies of women inside,
all fighting fit and fully armed.

MAGISTRATE

Come on,
Scythians, twist their arms behind them!

LYSISTRATA [shouting behind her]

Come out here from where you are in there,
all you female allies, on the double—
you market women who sell grain and eggs,
garlic and vegetables, and those who run
our bakeries and taverns, to the attack!

[Many women emerge from the Acropolis, armed in various ways]

Hit them, stomp on them, scratch their eyeballs,
cover them with your abuse! Don't hold back! 460

[A general tumult occurs in which the women beat back the Scythian guards]

That's enough! Back off! Don't strip the armour
from those you have defeated.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

οἴμ' ὡς κακῶς πέπραγέ μου τὸ τοξικόν.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἀλλὰ τί γὰρ ᾧ; πότερον ἐπὶ δούλας τινὰς
ἤκειν ἐνόμισας, ἢ γυναιξίν οὐκ οἶει
χολήν ἐνεῖναι;

465

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

νῆ τὸν Ἀπόλλω καὶ μάλα
πολλήν γ', ἐάνπερ πλησίον κάπηλος ἦ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

ὦ πόλλ' ἀναλώσας ἔπη πρόβουλε τῆσδε <τῆς> γῆς,
τί τοῖσδε σαυτὸν ἐς λόγους τοῖς θηρίοις συνάπτεις;
οὐκ οἶσθα λουτρὸν οἶον αἶδ' ἡμᾶς ἔλουσαν ἄρτι
ἐν τοῖσιν ἱματιδίοις, καὶ ταῦτ' ἄνευ κούιας;

470

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

ἀλλ' ὦ μέλ' οὐ χρὴ προσφέρειν τοῖς πλησίοισιν εἰκῆ
τὴν χεῖρ'· ἐὰν δὲ τοῦτο δρᾶς, κυλοιδιᾶν ἀνάγκη.
ἐπεὶ ἴθελω ἔγωγε σωφρόνως ὥσπερ κόρη καθῆσθαι,
λυποῦσα μηδέν' ἐνθαδί, κινουσα μηδὲ κάρφος,
ἦν μή τις ὥσπερ σφηκιὰν βλίττη με κἀρεθίζῃ.

475

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

ὦ Ζεῦ τί ποτε χρησόμεθα τοῖσδε τοῖς κνωδάλοις;
οὐ γὰρ ἔτ' ἀνεκτὰ τάδε γ', ἀλλὰ βασανιστέον
τόδε σοι τὸ πάθος μετ' ἐμοῦ
ὅ τι βουλόμεναί ποτε τὴν
Κραναὰν κατέλαβον, ἐφ' ὅ τι τε
μεγαλόπετρον ἄβατον ἀκρόπολι
ἱερὸν τέμενος.

480

[The armed women return into the Acropolis]

MAGISTRATE

Disaster!
My guards have acted quite disgracefully.

LYSISTRATA

What did you expect? Did you really think
you were facing a bunch of female slaves?
Or is it your belief that mere women
have no spirit in them?

MAGISTRATE

Spirit? By Apollo, yes!
If they're near any man who's got some wine.

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

In this land you're a magistrate, but here
your words are useless. Why even try
to have a conversation with these bitches?
Don't you know they've just given us a bath
in our own cloaks? And they did not use soap!

[470]

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

Listen, friend. You should never raise your hand
against your neighbour. If you do, then I
will have to punch you in the eye. I'd prefer
to sit quietly at home, like a young girl,
and not come here to injure anyone
or agitate the nest, unless someone
disturbs the hive and makes me angry.

CHORUS OF OLD MEN

O Zeus, however will we find a way
to deal with these wild beasts? What's going on
is no longer something we can bear.
But we must question them and find out why
they are so angry with us, why they wish
to seize the citadel of Cranaus,
the holy ground where people do not go,
on the great rock of the Acropolis.²⁶

[480]

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

ἀλλ' ἀνερῶτα καὶ μὴ πείθου καὶ πρόσφερε πάντας
 ἐλέγχους,
 ὡς αἰσχρὸν ἀκωδώνιστον ἔαν τὸ τοιοῦτον πράγμα
 μεθέντας. 485

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

καὶ μὴν αὐτῶν τοῦτ' ἐπιθυμῶ νῆ τὸν Δία πρῶτα πυθέσθαι,
 ὅ τι βουλόμεναι τὴν πόλιν ἡμῶν ἀπεκλήσατε τοῖσι
 μοχλοῖσιν.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἵνα τὰργύριον σῶν παρέχομεν καὶ μὴ πολεμοῖτε δι' αὐτό.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

διὰ τὰργύριον πολεμοῦμεν γάρ;

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

καὶ τᾶλλα γε πάντ' ἐκυκλήθη.
 ἵνα γὰρ Πείσανδρος ἔχοι κλέπτειν χοῖ ταῖς ἀρχαῖς
 ἐπέχοντες, 490
 αἰεὶ τινα κορκορυγὴν ἐκύκων. οἱ δ' οὖν τοῦδ' οὔνεκα
 δρώντων
 ὅ τι βούλονται· τὸ γὰρ ἀργύριον τοῦτ' οὐκέτι μὴ καθέλωσιν.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

ἀλλὰ τί δράσεις;

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

τοῦτό μ' ἐρωτᾷς; ἡμεῖς ταμιεύσομεν αὐτό.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

ὑμεῖς ταμιεύσετε τὰργύριον;

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

τί <δὲ> δεινὸν τοῦτο νομίζεις;
 οὐ καὶ τᾶνδον χρήματα πάντως ἡμεῖς ταμιεύομεν
 ὑμῖν; 495

LEADER OF THE MEN'S CHORUS [to Magistrate]

So ask her. Don't let them win you over.
 Challenge everything they say. If we left
 this matter without seeking out the cause
 that would be disgraceful.

MAGISTRATE [turning to Lysistrata]

Well then, by god,
 first of all I'd like to know the reason
 why you planned to use these barriers here
 to barricade our citadel.

LYSISTRATA

To get your money
 so you couldn't keep on paying for war.

MAGISTRATE

Is it money that's the cause of war?

LYSISTRATA

Yes, and all the rest of the corruption.
 Peisander and our leading politicians
 need a chance to steal. That's the reason
 they're always stirring up disturbances.²⁷
 Well, let the ones who wish to do this
 do what they want, but from this moment on
 they'll get no more money.

[490]

MAGISTRATE

What will you do?

LYSISTRATA

You ask me that? We'll control it.

MAGISTRATE

You mean
 you're going to manage all the money?

LYSISTRATA

You consider that so strange? Isn't it true
 we take care of all the household money?

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ
ἀλλ' οὐ ταυτόν.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ
πῶς οὐ ταυτόν;

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ
πολεμητέον ἔστ' ἀπὸ τούτου.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ
ἀλλ' οὐδὲν δεῖ πρῶτον πολεμεῖν.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ
πῶς γὰρ σωθησόμεθ' ἄλλως;

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ
ἡμεῖς ὑμᾶς σώσομεν.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ
ὑμεῖς;

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ
ἡμεῖς μέντοι.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ
σχέτλιόν γε.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ
ὡς σωθήσει, κἂν μὴ βούλη.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ
δεινόν <γε> λέγεις.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ
ἀγανακτεῖς.
ἀλλὰ ποιητέα ταῦτ' ἐστὶν ὅμως. 500

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ
νὴ τὴν Δήμητρ' ἄδικόν γε.

MAGISTRATE
That's not the same.

LYSISTRATA
Why not?

MAGISTRATE
We need the cash
to carry on the war.

LYSISTRATA
Well, first of all,
there should be no fighting.

MAGISTRATE
But without war
how will we save ourselves?

LYSISTRATA
We'll do that.

MAGISTRATE
You?

LYSISTRATA
That's right—us.

MAGISTRATE
This is outrageous!

LYSISTRATA
We'll save you,
even if that goes against your wishes.

MAGISTRATE
What you're saying is madness!

LYSISTRATA
You're angry,
but nonetheless we have to do it.

MAGISTRATE
By Demeter, this is against the law!

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

σωστέον ὦ τᾶν.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

κεῖ μὴ δέομαι;

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

τοῦδ' οὐνεκα καὶ πολὺ μάλλον.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

ὑμῖν δὲ πόθεν περὶ τοῦ πολέμου τῆς τ' εἰρήνης ἐμέλησεν;

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἡμεῖς φράσομεν.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

λέγε δὴ ταχέως, ἵνα μὴ κλάῃς.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἀκροῶ δὴ,
καὶ τὰς χεῖρας πειρῶ κατέχειν.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

ἀλλ' οὐ δύναμαι· χαλεπὸν γὰρ
ὑπὸ τῆς ὀργῆς αὐτὰς ἴσχειν. 505

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

κλαύσει τοῖνυν πολὺ μάλλον.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

τοῦτο μὲν ὦ γραῦ σαυτῇ κρώξαις· σὺ δέ μοι λέγε.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ταῦτα ποιήσω.
ἡμεῖς τὸν μὲν πρότερον πόλεμον καὶ τὸν χρόνον
ἠνεσχόμεθα
ὑπὸ σωφροσύνης τῆς ἡμετέρας τῶν ἀνδρῶν ἅττ' ἐποιεῖτε.
οὐ γὰρ γρύζειν εἰᾶθ' ἡμᾶς. καίτοι καὶ ἠρέσκετέ γ' ἡμᾶς.

LYSISTRATA

My dear fellow, we have to rescue you.

MAGISTRATE

And if I don't agree?

LYSISTRATA

Then our reasons
are that much more persuasive.

MAGISTRATE

Is it true
you're really going to deal with peace and war?

LYSISTRATA

We're going to speak to that.

MAGISTRATE [*with a threatening gesture*]Then speak fast,
or else you may well start to cry.

LYSISTRATA

Then listen—
and try to keep your fists controlled.

MAGISTRATE

I can't.
I find it difficult to hold my temper.

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

It's more likely you're the one who'll weep.

MAGISTRATE

Shut up your croaking, you old bag.

[*To Lysistrata*]

You—talk to me.

LYSISTRATA

I'll do that. Up to now through this long war
we kept silent about all those things
you men were doing. We were being modest.
And you did not allow us to speak up,
although we were not happy. But still,

ἀλλ' ἦσθανόμεσθα καλῶς ὑμῶν, καὶ πολλάκις ἔνδον ἂν
 οὔσαι 510
 ἠκούσαμεν ἂν τι κακῶς ὑμᾶς βουλευσαμένους μέγα
 πρᾶγμα·
 εἶτ' ἀλγοῦσαι τᾶνδοθεν ὑμᾶς ἐπανηρόμεθ' ἂν γελάσασαι,
 'τί βεβούλευται περὶ τῶν σπονδῶν ἐν τῇ στήλῃ
 παραγράψαι
 ἐν τῷ δήμῳ τήμερον ὑμῖν;' 'τίδ' ἐσὶ ταῦτ'; ἢ δ' ὅς ἂν ἀνὴρ.
 'οὐ σιγήσει;' κάγ' ἔσίγων.

ΓΥΝΗ Β

ἀλλ' οὐκ ἂν ἐγὼ ποτ' ἐσίγων. 515

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

κἂν ᾧμωζέσ γ', εἰ μὴ ἴσγας.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

τοιγὰρ ἔγωγ' ἔνδον ἐσίγων.
 . . . ἕτερόν τι πονηρότερον βούλευμ' ἐπεπύσμεθ' ἂν ὑμῶν·
 εἶτ' ἠρόμεθ' ἂν· 'πῶς ταῦτ' ὤνερ διαπράττεσθ' ὧδ' ἀνοήτως;
 ὁ δέ μ' εὐθὺς ὑποβλέψας <ἂν> ἔφασκ', εἰ μὴ τὸν στήμονα
 νήσω,
 ὁτοτύξεσθαι μακρὰ τὴν κεφαλὴν· 'πόλεμος δ' ἀνδρεσσι
 μελήσει.' 520

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

ὀρθῶς γε λέγων νῆ Δί' ἐκεῖνος.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

πῶς ὀρθῶς ὦ κακὸδαίμων,
 εἰ μὴδὲ κακῶς βουλευομένοις ἐξῆν ὑμῖν ὑποθέσθαι;
 ὅτε δὴ δ' ὑμῶν ἐν ταῖσιν ὁδοῖς φανερώς ἠκούομεν ἤδη,
 'οὐκ ἔστιν ἀνὴρ ἐν τῇ χώρᾳ;' 'μὰ Δί' οὐ δῆτ', <εἶφ'> ἕτερός
 τις· 524
 μετὰ ταῦθ' ἡμῖν εὐθὺς ἔδοξεν σῶσαι τὴν Ἑλλάδα κοινῇ
 ταῖσι γυναιξίν συλλεχθείσαις. ποῖ γὰρ καὶ χρῆν ἀναμείναι;

we listened faithfully to you, and often [510]
 inside the house we heard your wretched plans
 for some great deed. And if we ached inside,
 we'd force a smile and simply ask, "Today
 in the assembly did the men propose
 a treaty carved in stone decreeing peace?"
 But our husbands said, "Is that your business?
 Why don't you shut up?" And I'd stay silent.

OLD WOMAN

I'd not have kept my mouth shut.

MAGISTRATE [to Lysistrata]

You'd have been smacked
 if you hadn't been quiet and held your tongue.

LYSISTRATA

So there I am at home, saying nothing.
 Then you'd tell us of another project,
 even stupider than before. We'd say,
 "How can you carry out a scheme like that?
 It's foolish." Immediately he'd frown
 and say to me, "If you don't spin your thread,
 you'll get a major beating on your head. [520]
 War is men's concern."

MAGISTRATE

Yes, by god!

That man spoke the truth.

LYSISTRATA

You idiot!

Is that sensible—not to take advice
 when what you're proposing is so silly?
 Then we heard you speaking in the streets,
 asking openly, "Are there any men
 still left here in our land?" and someone said,
 "By god, there's no one." Well then, after that
 it seemed to us we had to rescue Greece
 by bringing wives into a single group
 with one shared aim. Why should we delay?

ἦν οὖν ἡμῶν χρηστὰ λεγουσῶν ἐβελήσητ' ἀντακροᾶσθαι
κάντισιωπάθ' ὥσπερ χῆμεις, ἐπανορθώσαιμεν ἂν ὑμᾶς.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

ὑμεῖς ἡμᾶς; δεινόν γε λέγεις κού τλητὸν ἔμοιγε.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

σιώπα.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

σοί γ' ὦ κατάρατε σιωπῶ ἄγώ, καὶ ταῦτα κάλυμμα
φορούση 530
περὶ τὴν κεφαλὴν; μή νυν ζώην.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἀλλ' εἰ τοῦτ' ἐμπόδιόν σοι,
παρ' ἐμοῦ τουτὶ τὸ κάλυμμα λαβῶν
ἔχε καὶ περίθου περὶ τὴν κεφαλὴν,
κᾶτα σιώπα

ΓΥΝΗ Α

καὶ τοῦτον τὸν καλαθίσκον. 535

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

κᾶτα ξαίνειν ξυζωσάμενος
κῦάμους τρώγων·
πόλεμος δὲ γυναιξὶ μελήσει.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

αἰρώμεθ' ὦ γυναῖκες ἀπὸ τῶν καλπιδῶν, ὅπως ἂν
ἐν τῷ μέρει χῆμεις τι ταῖς φίλαισι συλλάβωμεν. 540

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

ἔγωγε γὰρ <ἂν> οὔποτε κάμοιμ' ἂν ὀρχουμένη,
οὐδὲ τὰ γόνατα κόπος ἔλοι μου καματηρός·
ἐθέλω δ' ἐπὶ πᾶν ἰέναι
μετὰ τῶνδ' ἀρετῆς ἔνεχ', αἷς
ἐνὶ φύσις, ἐνὶ χάρις, ἐνὶ θράσος, 545
ἐνὶ δὲ σοφόν, ἐνὶ <δὲ> φιλόπολις
ἀρετῇ φρόνιμος.

If you'd like to hear us give some good advice,
then start to listen, keep your mouths quite shut,
the way we did. We'll save you from yourselves.

MAGISTRATE

You'll save us? What you're saying is madness.
I'm not going to put up with it!

LYSISTRATA

Shut up!

MAGISTRATE

Should I shut up for you, you witch, someone
with a scarf around her head? I'd sooner die! [530]

LYSISTRATA

If this scarf of mine really bothers you,
take it and wrap it round your head. Here—

[Lysistrata takes off her scarf and wraps it over the Magistrate's head.]

Now keep quiet!

OLD WOMAN A

And take this basket, too!

LYSISTRATA

Now put on a waist band, comb out wool,
and chew some beans. This business of the war
we women will take care of.

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

Come on, women,
get up and leave those jars. It's our turn now
to join together with our friends. [540]

WOMEN'S CHORUS

With dancing I'll never tire
weariness won't grip my knees
or wear me out. In everything
I'll strive to match the excellence
of these women here—in nature,
wisdom, boldness, charm,
and prudent virtue in the way
they love their country.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

ἀλλ' ὦ τηθῶν ἀνδρειοτάτων καὶ μητριδίων ἀκαληφῶν,
χωρεῖτ' ὀργῇ καὶ μὴ τέγγεσθ'. ἔτι γὰρ νῦν οὔρια θεῖτε. 550

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἀλλ' ἦνπερ ὁ <τε> γλυκύθυμος Ἔρως χῆ Κυπρογένει'
Ἄφροδίτη
ἤμερον ἡμῶν κατὰ τῶν κόλπων καὶ τῶν μηρῶν
καταπνεύση,
κᾶτ' ἐντήξῃ τέτανον τερπνὸν τοῖς ἀνδράσι καὶ
ρόπαλισμούς,
οἴμαί ποτε Λυσιμάχας ἡμᾶς ἐν τοῖς Ἑλλησι καλεῖσθαι.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

τί ποιησάσας; 555

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἦν παύσωμεν πρώτιστον μὲν ξὺν ὅπλοισιν
ἀγοράζοντας καὶ μαινομένους.

ΓΥΝΗ Α

νῆ τὴν Παφίαν Ἄφροδίτην.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

νῦν μὲν γὰρ δὴ κὰν ταῖσι χύτραις κὰν τοῖς λαχάνοισιν
ὁμοίως
περιέρχονται κατὰ τὴν ἀγορὰν ξὺν ὅπλοις ὥσπερ
Κορύβαντες.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

νῆ Δία· χρῆ γὰρ τοὺς ἀνδρείους.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

καὶ μὴν τό γε πρᾶγμα γέλοιον,
ὅταν ἀσπίδ' ἔχων καὶ Γοργόνα τις κᾶτ' ὠνήται
κορακίους. 560

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

You grandchildren of the bravest women,
sprung from fruitful stinging nettles,
let your passion drive you forward
and don't hold back, for now you've got
the winds of fortune at your back. [550]

LYSISTRATA

O Aphrodite born on Cyprus
and, you, sweet passionate Eros, breathe
sexual longing on our breasts and thighs
and fill our men with tortuous desire
and make their pricks erect. If so, I think
we'll win ourselves a name among the Greeks
as those who brought an end to warfare.

MAGISTRATE

What will you do?

LYSISTRATA

For a start, we'll stop
you men hanging around the market place
armed with spears and acting up like fools.

OLD WOMAN A

Yes, that's right, by Paphian Aphrodite!

LYSISTRATA

Right now in the market they stroll around
among the pots and vegetables, fully armed,
like Corybantes.²⁸

MAGISTRATE

Yes, that's right—
it's what brave men should do.

LYSISTRATA

It looks so silly—
going off to purchase tiny little birds
while carrying a Gorgon shield.²⁹ [560]

ΓΥΝΗ Α

νῆ Δί' ἐγὼ γοῦν ἄνδρα κομήτην φυλαρχοῦντ' εἶδον ἐφ'
ἵππου
ἐς τὸν χαλκοῦν ἐμβαλλόμενον πῖλον λέκιθον παρὰ γραός·
ἕτερος δ' <αὐ> Θραῖξ πέλτην σείων κἀκόντιον ὥσπερ ὁ
Τηρεύς,
ἐδεδίσκετο τὴν ἰσχαδόπωλιν καὶ τὰς δρυπεπεῖς κατέπινεν.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

πῶς οὖν ὑμεῖς δυνατὰ παῦσαι τεταραγμένα πράγματα
πολλὰ 565
ἐν ταῖς χώραις καὶ διαλύσαι;

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

φαύλως πάνυ.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

πῶς; ἀπόδειξον.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ὥσπερ κλωστήρ', ὅταν ἡμῖν ἦ τεταραγμένος, ὠδε
λαβοῦσαι,
ὑπενεγκοῦσαι τοῖσιν ἀτράκτοις τὸ μὲν ἐνταυθοῖ τὸ δ'
ἐκέϊσε,
οὕτως καὶ τὸν πόλεμον τοῦτον διαλύσομεν, ἣν τις
ἐάσῃ,
διενεγκοῦσαι διὰ πρεσβειῶν τὸ μὲν ἐνταυθοῖ τὸ δ'
ἐκέϊσε. 570

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

ἐξ ἐρίων δὴ καὶ κλωστήρων καὶ ἀτράκτων πράγματα
δεινὰ
παύσειν οἶεσθ' ὦ ἀνόητοι;

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

κἂν ὑμῖν γ' εἴ τις ἐνήν νοῦς,
ἐκ τῶν ἐρίων τῶν ἡμετέρων ἐπολιτεύεσθ' ἂν ἅπαντα.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

πῶς δὴ; φέρ' ἴδω.

OLD WOMAN A

By god,

I myself saw a cavalry commander—
he had long hair and was on horseback—
pouring out some pudding he'd just bought
from an old woman into his helmet.
Another Thracian was waving his spear
and his shield, as well, just like Tereus,
and terrifying the woman selling figs
while gobbling down the ripest ones she had.³⁰

MAGISTRATE

And how will you find the power to stop
so many violent disturbances
throughout our states and then resolve them?

LYSISTRATA

Very easily.

MAGISTRATE

But how? Explain that.

LYSISTRATA

It's like a bunch of yarn. When it's tangled,
we take it and pass it through the spindle
back and forth—that's how we'll end the war,
if people let us try, by sending out
ambassadors here and there, back and forth.

[570]

MAGISTRATE

You're an idiot! Do you really think
you can end such fearful acts with spindles,
spools, and wool?

LYSISTRATA

If you had any common sense,
you'd deal with everything the way we do
when we handle yarn.

MAGISTRATE

What does that mean?

Tell me.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

πρῶτον μὲν ἐχρήν, ὥσπερ πόκου ἐν βαλανείῳ
 ἐκπλύναντας τὴν οἰσπώτην, ἐκ τῆς πόλεως ἐπὶ κλίης 575
 ἐκραβδίξειν τοὺς μοχθηροὺς καὶ τοὺς τριβόλους
 ἀπολέξει,
 καὶ τοὺς γε συνισταμένους τούτους καὶ τοὺς πιλοῦντας
 ἑαυτοὺς
 ἐπὶ ταῖς ἀρχαῖσι διαξῆναι καὶ τὰς κεφαλὰς ἀποτίλαι·
 εἶτα ξαίνειν ἐς καλαθίσκον κοινὴν εὐνοίαν, ἅπαντας
 καταμιγνύντας τοὺς τε μετοίκους κεῖ τις ξένος ἢ φίλος
 ὑμῖν, 580
 κεῖ τις ὀφείλει τῷ δημοσίῳ, καὶ τούτους ἐγκαταμείξει·
 καὶ νῆ Δία τὰς γε πόλεις, ὅπόσαι τῆς γῆς τῆσδ' εἰσὶν
 ἄποικοι,
 διαγιγνώσκειν ὅτι ταῦθ' ἡμῖν ὥσπερ τὰ κατάγματα
 κείται
 χωρὶς ἕκαστον· κᾶτ' ἀπὸ τούτων πάντων τὸ κάταγμα
 λαβόντας
 δεῦρο ξυνάγειν καὶ συναθροίξειν εἰς ἓν, κᾶπειτα
 ποιῆσαι 585
 τολύπην μεγάλην κᾶτ' ἐκ ταύτης τῷ δήμῳ χλαῖναν
 ὑφῆναι.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

οὐκ οὖν δεινὸν ταυτὶ ταύτας ῥαβδίξειν καὶ τολυπεύειν,
 αἷς οὐδὲ μετῆν πάνυ τοῦ πολέμου;

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

καὶ μὴν ὦ παγκατάρατε
 πλεῖν ἢ γε διπλοῦν αὐτὸν φέρομεν, πρῶτιστον μὲν γε
 τεκοῦσαι
 κάκπέμψασαι παῖδας ὀπλίτας. 590

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

σίγα, μὴ μνησικακίσης.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

εἶθ' ἡνίκα χρήν εὐφρανθῆναι καὶ τῆς ἡβῆς ἀπολαῦσαι,
 μονοκοιτοῦμεν διὰ τὰς στρατιάς. καὶ θῆμέτερον μὲν ἔατε,
 περὶ τῶν δὲ κορῶν ἐν τοῖς θαλάμοις γηρασκουσῶν ἀνιῶμαι.

LYSISTRATA

First of all, just as we wash the wool
 in a rinsing tub to remove the dirt,
 you have to lay the city on a bed,
 beat out the rascals, and then drive away
 the thorns and break apart the groups of men
 who join up together in their factions
 seeking public office—pluck out their heads.
 Then into a common basket of good will
 comb out the wool, the entire compound mix,
 including foreigners, guests, and allies, 580
 anyone useful to the public good.
 Bundle them together. As for those cities
 which are colonies of this land, by god,
 you must see that, as far as we're concerned,
 each is a separate skein. From all of them,
 take a piece of wool and bring it here.
 Roll them together into a single thing.
 Then you'll have made one mighty ball of wool,
 from which the public then must weave its clothes.

MAGISTRATE

So women beat wool and roll it in balls!
 Isn't that wonderful? That doesn't mean
 they bear any part of what goes on in war.

LYSISTRATA

You damned fool, of course it does—we endure
 more than twice as much as you. First of all,
 we bear children and then send them off
 to serve as soldiers.

MAGISTRATE

All right, be quiet.

Don't remind me of all that.

[580]

[590]

LYSISTRATA

And then,
 when we should be having a good time,
 enjoying our youth, we have to sleep alone
 because our men are in the army.
 Setting us aside, it distresses me
 that young unmarried girls are growing old
 alone in their own homes.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

οὐκουν χᾶνδρες γηράσκουσιν;

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

μὰ Δί' ἀλλ' οὐκ εἶπας ὅμοιον.

ὁ μὲν ἤκων γάρ, κἂν ἦ πολίος, ταχὺ παῖδα κόρην

γεγάμηκεν· 595

τῆς δὲ γυναικὸς σμικρὸς ὁ καιρός, κἂν τούτου μὴ

'πιλάβηται,

οὐδεὶς ἐθέλει γῆμαι ταύτην, ὀττευομένη δὲ κάθηται.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

ἀλλ' ὅστις ἔτι στῦσαι δυνατὸς—

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

σὺ δὲ δὴ τί μαθὼν οὐκ ἀποθνήσκεις;

χωρίον ἐστί· σορὸν ὠνήσει· 600

μελιτοῦτταν ἐγὼ καὶ δὴ μάξω.

λαβὲ ταυτὶ καὶ στεφάνωσαι.

ΓΥΝΗ Α

καὶ ταυτασὶ δέξαι παρ' ἐμοῦ.

ΓΥΝΗ Β

καὶ τουτονὶ λαβὲ τὸν στέφανον.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

τοῦ δεῖ; τί ποθεῖς; χάρει 'ς τὴν ναῦν· 605

ὁ Χάρων σε καλεῖ,

σὺ δὲ κωλύεις ἀνάγεσθαι.

ΠΡΟΒΟΥΛΟΣ

εἶτ' οὐχὶ ταῦτα δεινὰ πάσχειν ἔστ' ἐμέ;

νῆ τὸν Δί' ἀλλὰ τοῖς προβούλοις ἀντικρυς

ἐμαντὸν ἐπιδείξω βαδίζων ὡς ἔχω. 610

MAGISTRATE

Don't men get old?

LYSISTRATA

By god, that's not the same at all. For men, even old ones with white hair, can come back and quickly marry some young girl. For women time soon runs out. If they don't seize their chance, no one wants to marry them—they sit there waiting for an oracle.

MAGISTRATE

But an old man who can still get his prick erect . . .

LYSISTRATA [*interrupting*]

O you—

why not learn your lesson and just die? It's time.

[600]

Buy a funeral urn. I'll prepare the dough for honey cakes.³¹ Take this wreath.

[*Lysistrata throws some water over the Magistrate*]

OLD WOMAN A

This one, too—

it's from me!

[*Old Woman A throws more water on the Magistrate*]

OLD WOMAN B

Here, take this garland!

[*Old Woman B throws more water on the Magistrate*]

LYSISTRATA

Well now,

what do you need? What are you waiting for?

Step aboard the boat. Charon's calling you.

You're preventing him from casting off.³²

MAGISTRATE

I don't have to put up with these insults!

I'll go to the other magistrates, by god,

and show myself exactly as I am!

[620]

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

μῶν ἐγκαλείς ὅτι οὐχὶ προϋθέμεσθά σε;
ἀλλ' ἐς τρίτην γοῦν ἡμέραν σοὶ πρῶ πάνυ
ἤξει παρ' ἡμῶν τὰ τρίτ' ἐπεσκευασμένα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

οὐκέτ' ἔργον ἐγκαθεύδειν ὅστις ἔστ' ἐλεύθερος,
ἀλλ' ἐπαποδύμεθ' ἄνδρες τουτῶι τῶ πράγματι. 615
ἤδη γὰρ ὄζευ ταδὶ πλειόνων καὶ μειζόνων
πραγμάτων μοι δοκεῖ,

— καὶ μάλιστα ὄσφραίνομαι τῆς Ἰππίου τυραννίδος·
καὶ πάνυ δέδοικα μὴ τῶν Λακώνων τινὲς 620
δεῦρο συνεληλυθότες ἄνδρες ἐς Κλεισθένους
τὰς θεοὺς ἐχθρὰς γυναικας ἐξεπαίρωσιν δόλω
καταλαβεῖν τὰ χρήμαθ' ἡμῶν τόν τε μισθόν,
ἔθθεν ἔζων ἐγώ. 625
δεινὰ γάρ τοι τάσδε γ' ἤδη τοὺς πολίτας νουθετεῖν,
καὶ λαλεῖν γυναικας οὔσας ἀσπίδος χαλκῆς πέρι,
καὶ διαλλάττειν πρὸς ἡμᾶς ἀνδράσι Λακωνικοῖς,
οἷσι πιστὸν οὐδὲν εἰ μὴ περ λύκῳ κεχηνότι.
ἀλλὰ ταῦθ' ὕφηναν ἡμῖν ἄνδρες ἐπὶ τυραννίδι. 630
ἀλλ' ἐμοῦ μὲν οὐ τυραννεύσουσ', ἐπεὶ φυλάξομαι
καὶ φορήσω τὸ ξίφος τὸ λοιπὸν ἐν μύρτου κλαδί,
ἀγοράσω τ' ἐν τοῖς ὄπλοις ἐξῆς Ἀριστογείτονι,
ὠδέ θ' ἐστήξω παρ' αὐτόν· αὐτὸς γάρ μοι γίγνεται
τῆς θεοῦ ἐχθρὰς πατάξαι τῆσδε γραδὸς τὴν γνάθον. 635

[The Magistrate exits with his attending slaves]

LYSISTRATA [calling out to him as he leaves]
Are you blaming us for not laying you out
for burial? Well then, on the third day,
we'll come and offer up a sacrifice
on your behalf first thing in the morning.

[Lysistrata and the old women with her return inside the Acropolis]

LEADER OF THE MEN'S CHORUS

You men, no more sleeping on the job
for anyone born free! Let's strip ourselves
for action on this issue. It seems to me
this business stinks—it's large and getting larger.

[The Old Men strip down, taking almost all their clothes off]

CHORUS OF OLD MEN

And I especially smelled some gas—
the tyrant rule of Hippias.
I've a great fear that Spartan men
collected here with Cleisthenes,
have with their trickery stirred up
these women, whom the gods all hate,
to seize the treasury and our pay,
the funds I need to live my way.³³
It's terrible these women here
are thinking about politics
and prattling on about bronze spears—
they're women!—and making peace
on our behalf with Spartan types,
whom I don't trust, not any more
than gaping wolves. In this affair,
those men are weaving plots for us,
so they can bring back tyranny. [630]
But me, I won't give any ground,
not to a tyrant. I'll stand guard,
from now on carrying a sword
inside my myrtle bough. I'll march
with weapons in the market place
with Aristogeiton at my side.³⁴
I'll stand with him. And now it's time
I struck those hostile to gods' law
and hit that old hag on the jaw.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

οὐκ ἄρ' εἰσιόντα σ' οἴκαδ' ἢ τεκοῦσα γνώσεται.
ἀλλὰ θώμεσθ' ὦ φίλαι γράες ταδί πρῶτον χαμαί.

— ἡμεῖς γὰρ ὦ πάντες ἀστοὶ λόγων κατάρχομεν

τῇ πόλει χρησίμων·

εἰκότως, ἐπεὶ χλιδῶσαν ἀγλαῶς ἔθρεψέ με. 640

ἑπτὰ μὲν ἔτη γεγῶσ' εὐθὺς ἡρηφόρου·

εἶτ' ἀλετρὶς ἢ δεκέτις οὔσα τὰρχηγέτι·

κᾶτ' ἔχουσα τὸν κροκωτὸν ἄρκτος ἢ Βραυρωνίοις· 645

κάκανηφόρου ποτ' οὔσα παῖς καλὴ ἔχουσ'

ἰσχάδων ὀρμαθόν·

ἄρα προῦφείλω τι χρηστὸν τῇ πόλει παραινέσαι;

εἰ δ' ἐγὼ γυνὴ πέφυκα, τοῦτο μὴ φθονεῖτέ μοι,

ἣν ἀμείνω γ' εἰσενέγκω τῶν παρόντων πραγμάτων. 650

τοῦράνου γάρ μοι μέτεστι· καὶ γὰρ ἄνδρας ἐσφέρω,

τοῖς δὲ δυστήνοισι γέρουσιν οὐ μέτεσθ' ὑμῖν, ἐπεὶ

τὸν ἔρανον τὸν λεγόμενον παππῶον ἐκ τῶν Μηδικῶν

εἶτ' ἀναλώσαντες οὐκ ἀντεσφέρετε τὰς ἐσφοράς,

ἀλλ' ὑφ' ὑμῶν διαλυθῆναι προσέτι κινδυνεύομεν. 655

ἄρα γρυκτόν ἐστιν ὑμῖν; εἰ δὲ λυπήσεις τί με,

τῶδέ γ' ἀψήκτω πατάξω τῶ κοθόρνῳ τὴν γνάθον.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

ταῦτ' οὖν οὐχ ὕβρις τὰ πράγματ' ἐστὶ

πολλή; κάπιδώσει μοι δοκεῖ τὸ χρῆμα μᾶλλον. 660

ἀλλ' ἀμυντέον τὸ πρᾶγμα ὅστις γ' ἐνόρχησ' ἔστ' ἀνὴρ.

[The Old Men move to threaten the Old Women with their fists]

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

When you get back home, your own mother
won't know who you are. Come on, old ladies,
you friends of mine, let's first set our burdens
on the ground.

WOMEN'S CHORUS

All you fellow citizens,
we'll start to give the city good advice
and rightly, since it raised us splendidly
so we lived very well. At seven years old, [640]
I carried sacred vessels, and at ten
I pounded barley for Athena's shrine.
Later as bear, I shed my yellow dress
for the rites of Brauronian Artemis.
And once I was a lovely full-grown girl,
I wore strings of figs around my neck
and was one of those who carried baskets.³⁵
So I am indebted to the city.

Why not pay it back with good advice?
I was born a woman, but don't hold that
against me if I introduce a plan
to make our present situation better. [650]

For I make contributions to the state—
I give birth to men. You miserable old farts,
you contribute nothing! That pile of cash
which we collected from the Persian Wars
you squandered. You don't pay any taxes.
What's more, the way you act so stupidly
endangers all of us. What do you say?
Don't get me riled up. I'll take this filthy shoe
and smack you one right on the jaw.

CHORUS OF OLD MEN

Is this not getting way too insolent?
I think it's better if we paid them back. [660]
We have to fight this out. So any one
who's got balls enough to be a man

ἀλλὰ τὴν ἐξωμίδ' ἐκδνώμεθ', ὡς τὸν ἄνδρα δεῖ
 ἀνδρὸς ὄζειν εὐθύς, ἀλλ' οὖν ἐντεθριώσθαι πρέπει.
 ἀλλ' ἄγετε λευκόποδες, οἵπερ ἐπὶ Δεΐψυδριον ἤλθομεν ὅτ'
 ἦμεν ἔτι, 665
 νῦν δεῖ νῦν ἀνηβῆσαι πάλιν κἀναπτερωῶσαι
 πᾶν τὸ σῶμα κάποσεῖσασθαι τὸ γήρας τόδε. 670
 εἰ γὰρ ἐνδώσει τις ἡμῶν ταῖσδε κἂν σμικρὰν λαβήν,
 οὐδὲν ἐλλείψουσιν αὐταὶ λιπαροῦς χειρουργίας,
 ἀλλὰ καὶ ναῦς τεκτανοῦνται, κάπιχειρήσουσ' ἔτι
 ναυμαχεῖν καὶ πλείν ἐφ' ἡμᾶς ὥσπερ, Ἄρτεμισία. 675
 ἦν δ' ἐφ' ἵππικὴν τράπωνται, διαγράφω τοὺς ἵππείας.
 ἵππικώτατον γὰρ ἐστὶ χρῆμα κᾶποχον γυνή,
 κοῦκ ἂν ἀπολίσθοι τρέχοντος· τὰς δ' Ἀμαζόνας σκόπει,
 ἄς Μίκων ἔγραψ' ἐθ' ἵππων μαχομένας τοῖς ἀνδράσιν.
 ἀλλὰ τούτων χρῆν ἅπασῶν ἐς τετρημένον ξύλον 680
 ἐγκαθαρμοῖσαι λαβόντας τουτονὶ τὸν ἀνχένα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

εἰ νῆ τὼ θεῶ με ζωπυρήσεις,
 λύσω τὴν ἐμαυτῆς ἦν ἐγὼ δὴ, καὶ ποιήσω
 τήμερον τοὺς δημότας βωστρεῖν σ' ἐγὼ πεκτούμενον. 685
 — ἀλλὰ χῆμεις ὦ γυναῖκες θᾶπτον ἐκδνώμεθα,
 ὡς ἂν ὄζωμεν γυναικῶν αὐτοδαξ ὠργισμένων.
 — νῦν πρὸς ἔμ' ἴτω τις, ἵνα μὴ ποτε φάγη σκόροδα, μηδὲ
 κυάμους μέλανας. 690
 ὡς εἰ καὶ μόνον κακῶς ἐρεῖς, ὑπερχολῶ γάρ,
 αἰετὸν τίκτοντα κἀνθαρὸς σε μαιεύσομαι. 695

take off your clothes so we men can smell
 the way we should—like men. We should strip.
 It's not right to keep ourselves wrapped up.
 We're the ones who've got white feet.
 We marched to Leipsydriion years ago.³⁶
 And now let's stand erect again, aroused
 in our whole bodies—shake off our old age. [670]

[The Old Men take off their remaining clothes, hold up their shrivelled
 phalluses, and threaten the women]

If one of us gives them the slightest chance
 there's nothing these women won't continue
 trying to work on—building fighting ships,
 attacking us at sea like Artemesia.³⁷
 If they switch to horses, I draw the line.
 For women are the best at riding bareback—
 their shapely arses do a lovely job.
 They don't slip off when grinding at a gallop.
 Just look how Micon painted Amazons
 fighting men on horseback hand to hand.³⁸
 So we must take a piece of wood with holes,
 and fit a yoke on them, around their necks. [680]

CHORUS OF OLD WOMEN

By the two goddesses, if you get me roused,
 I'll let my wild sow's passion loose and make
 you yell to all the people here today
 how I'm removing all your hair.

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

You ladies,
 let's not delay—let's take off all our clothes,
 so we can smell a woman's passion
 when we're in a ferocious mood.

[The Old Women take off their clothes]

WOMEN'S CHORUS

Now let any man step out against me—
 he won't be eating garlic any more,
 and no black beans. Just say something nasty,
 I'm so boiling mad, I'll treat you the same way
 the beetle did the eagle—smash your eggs.³⁹ [690]

— οὐ γὰρ ὑμῶν φροντίσαιμ' ἄν, ἣν ἐμοὶ ζῆ Λαμπιτῶ
 ἣ τε Θηβαία φίλη παῖς εὐγενῆς Ἴσμηνία.
 οὐ γὰρ ἔσται δύναμις, οὐδ' ἦν ἐπτάκις σὺ ψηφίση,
 ὅστις ᾧ δύστην' ἀπήχθου πᾶσι καὶ τοῖς γείτοσιν.
 ὥστε κάχθες θήκατη ποιούσα παιγνίαν ἐγὼ 700
 τοῖσι παισὶ τὴν ἐταίραν ἐκάλεσ' ἐκ τῶν γειτόνων,
 παῖδα χρηστὴν κάγαπητὴν ἐκ Βοιωτῶν ἔγχελυν·
 οἱ δὲ πέμφειν οὐκ ἔφασκον διὰ τὰ σὰ ψηφίσματα.
 κοῦχ' ἢ μὴ παύσησθε τῶν ψηφισμάτων τούτων, πρὶν ἂν
 τοῦ σκέλους ὑμᾶς λαβῶν τις ἐκτραχηλίση φέρων. 705
 ἄνασσα πράγους τοῦδε καὶ βουλευμάτος,
 τί μοι σκυθρωπὸς ἐξελήλυθας δόμων;

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

κακῶν γυναικῶν ἔργα καὶ θήλεια φρῆν
 ποιεῖ μ' ἄθυμον περιπατεῖν τ' ἄνω κάτω.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

τί φῆς; τί φῆς; 710

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἀληθῆ, ἀληθῆ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

τί δ' ἐστὶ δεινόν; φράζε ταῖς σαυτῆς φίλαις.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἀλλ' αἰσχρὸν εἰπεῖν καὶ σιωπήσαι βαρύ.

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

Not that I give a damn for you, not while
 I have Lampito here—Ismenia, too,
 my young Theban friend. You have no power,
 not even with seven times as many votes.
 You're such a miserable old man, even those
 who are you neighbours find you hateful.
 Just yesterday for the feast of Hecate, [700]
 I planned a party, so I asked my neighbours
 in Boeotia for one of their companions,
 a lovely girl—she was for my children—
 a splendid pot of eels.⁴⁰ But they replied
 they couldn't send it because you'd passed
 another one of your decrees. It doesn't seem
 you'll stop voting in these laws, not before
 someone takes your leg, carries you off
 and throws you out.

[Lysistrata comes out from the Acropolis, looking very worried and
 angry. The leader of the Women's Chorus addresses her]

Here's our glorious leader,
 who does the planning for this enterprise.
 Why have you come here, outside the building,
 and with such a sad expression on your face?

LYSISTRATA

It's the way these women act so badly,
 together with their female hearts, that makes
 me lose my courage and walk in circles.

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

What are you saying? What do you mean? [710]

LYSISTRATA

It's true, so true.

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

What's wrong? You can tell us—
 we're friends of yours.

LYSISTRATA

I'm ashamed to say,
 but it's hard to keep it quiet.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

μή νύν με κρύψῃς ὅ τι πεπόνθαμεν κακόν.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

βινητιῶμεν, ἢ βράχιστον τοῦ λόγου. 715

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

ὦ Ζεῦ.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

τί Ζῆν' ἀντεῖς; ταῦτα δ' οὖν οὕτως ἔχει.
 ἐγὼ μὲν οὖν αὐτὰς ἀποσχεῖν οὐκέτι
 οἶα τ' ἀπὸ τῶν ἀνδρῶν διαδιδράσκουσι γάρ.
 τὴν μὲν γε πρώτην διαλέγουσαν τὴν ὀπὴν 720
 κατέλαβον ἢ τοῦ Πανός ἐστι ταῦλίον,
 τὴν δ' ἐκ τροχιλείας αἰ κατελυσπωμένην,
 τὴν δ' αὐτομολοῦσαν, τὴν δ' ἐπὶ στρούθου μίαν
 ἤδη πέτεσθαι διανοομένην κάτω
 ἐς Ὀρσιλόχου χθῆς τῶν τριχῶν κατέσπασα. 725
 πάσας τε προφάσεις ὥστ' ἀπελθεῖν οἴκαδε
 ἔλκουσιν. ἤδη γοῦν τις αὐτῶν ἔρχεται.
 αὕτη σὺ ποῖ θεῖς;

ΓΥΝΗ Α

οἴκαδ' ἐλθεῖν βούλομαι.
 οἴκοι γάρ ἐστιν ἔριά μοι Μιλήσια
 ὑπὸ τῶν σέων κατακοπτόμενα.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ποίων σέων; 730
 οὐκ εἶ πάλιν;

ΓΥΝΗ Α

ἀλλ' ἤξω ταχέως νῆ τῶ θεῶ
 ὅσον διαπετάσασ' ἐπὶ τῆς κλίνης μόνον.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

μή διαπετάννυ, μηδ' ἀπέλθῃς μηδαμῆ.

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

Don't hide from me
 bad news affecting all of us.

LYSISTRATA

All right,
 I'll keep it short—we all want to get laid.

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

O Zeus!

LYSISTRATA

What's the point of calling Zeus?
 There's nothing he can do about this mess.
 I can't keep these women from their men,
 not any longer—they're all running off.
 First I caught one slipping through a hole [720]
 beside the Cave of Pan, then another
 trying it with a rope and pulley, a third
 deserting on her own, and yesterday
 there was a woman on a giant bird
 intending to fly down to that place
 run by Orsilochus.⁴¹ I grabbed her hair.
 They're all inventing reasons to go home.

[A woman come out of the citadel, trying to sneak off]

Here's one of them on her way right now.
 Where do you think you're going?

WOMAN A

Who me?
 I want to get back home. Inside the house
 I've got bolts of Milesian cloth, and worms
 are eating them.

LYSISTRATA

What worms? Get back in there! [730]

WOMAN A

I'll come back right away, by god—I just
 need to spread them on the bed.

LYSISTRATA

Spread them?
 You won't be doing that. You're not leaving!

ΓΥΝΗ Α
 ἀλλ' ἐὼ πολέσθαι τᾶρι;

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ
 ἦν τούτου δέη.

ΓΥΝΗ Β
 τάλαιν' ἐγώ, τάλαινα τῆς Ἀμοργίδος, 735
 ἦν ἄλοπον οἴκοι καταλέλοιφ'.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ
 αὐθιγτέρα
 ἐπὶ τὴν Ἀμοργιν τὴν ἄλοπον ἐξέρχεται.
 χῶρει πάλιν δεῦρ'.

ΓΥΝΗ Β
 ἀλλὰ νῆ τὴν Φωσφόρον
 ἔγωγ' ἀποδείρασ' αὐτίκα μάλ' ἀνέρχομαι.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ
 μὴ μάποδείρης. ἦν γὰρ ἄρξης τοῦτο σύ, 740
 ἑτέρα γυνὴ ταυτὸν ποιεῖν βουλήσεται.

ΓΥΝΗ Γ
 ὦ πότνι' Εἰλείθυι' ἐπίσχεσ τοῦ τόκου,
 ἕως ἂν εἰς ὄσιον μόλω ἴω χωρίον.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ
 τί ταῦτα ληρεῖς;

ΓΥΝΗ Γ
 αὐτίκα μάλα τέξομαι.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ
 ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐκύεις σύ γ' ἐχθές.

ΓΥΝΗ Γ
 ἀλλὰ τήμερον. 745
 ἀλλ' οἴκαδέ μ' ὡς τὴν μαῖαν ὦ Λυσιστράτη
 ἀπόπεμψον ὡς τάχιστα.

WOMAN A
 My wool just goes to waste?

LYSISTRATA
 If that's what it takes.

[Woman A trudges back into the Acropolis. Woman B emerges]

WOMAN B
 I'm such a fool, I've left my wretched flax
 back in my house unstripped.

LYSISTRATA
 Another one
 leaving here to go and strip her flax!
 Get back inside!

WOMAN B
 By the goddess of light,
 I'll be right back, once I've rubbed its skin.

LYSISTRATA
 You'll not rub anything. If you start that, [740]
 some other woman will want to do the same.

[Woman B returns dejected into the citadel. Woman C emerges from the citadel, looking very pregnant]

WOMAN C
 O sacred Eileithia, goddess of birth,
 hold back my labour pains till I can find
 a place where I'm permitted to give birth.⁴²

LYSISTRATA
 What are you moaning about?

WOMAN C
 It's my time—
 I'm going to have a child!

LYSISTRATA
 But yesterday
 you weren't even pregnant.

WOMAN C
 Well, today I am.
 Send me home, Lysistrata, and quickly.
 I need a midwife.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

τίνα λόγον λέγεις;
τί τοῦτ' ἔχεις τὸ σκληρόν;

ΓΥΝΗ Γ

ἄρεν παιδίον.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

μὰ τὴν Ἀφροδίτην οὐ σύ γ', ἀλλ' ἡ χαλκίον
ἔχειν τι φαίνει κοῖλον· εἴσομαι δ' ἐγώ. 750
ὦ καταγέλαστ' ἔχουσα τὴν ἱερὰν κυνῆν
κυεῖν ἔφασκες;

ΓΥΝΗ Γ

καὶ κυῶ γε νῆ Δία.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

τί δήτα ταύτην εἶχες;

ΓΥΝΗ Γ

ἵνα μ' εἰ καταλάβοι
ὁ τόκος ἔτ' ἐν πόλει, τέκοιμ' ἐς τὴν κυνῆν
ἐσβᾶσα ταύτην, ὥσπερ αἱ περιστεραί. 755

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

τί λέγεις; προφασίζει· περιφανῆ τὰ πράγματα.
οὐ τὰ μφιδρόμα τῆς κυνῆς αὐτοῦ μενεῖς;

ΓΥΝΗ Γ

ἀλλ' οὐ δύναμαι ἄγωγ' οὐδὲ κοιμᾶσθ' ἐν πόλει,
ἐξ οὗ τὸν ὄφιν εἶδον τὸν οἰκουρόν ποτε.

ΓΥΝΗ Δ

ἐγὼ δ' ὑπὸ τῶν γλαυκῶν γε τάλαιν' ἀπόλλυμαι 760
ταῖς ἀγρυπνίαισι κακκαβαζουσῶν αἰεί.

LYSISTRATA [*inspecting Woman C's clothing*]

What are you saying?
What's this you've got here? It feels quite rigid.

WOMAN C

A little boy.

LYSISTRATA

No, by Aphrodite,
I don't think so. It looks like you've got
some hollow metal here. I'll have a look. [750]

[*Lysistrata looks under the woman's dress and pulls out a helmet*]

You silly creature, you've got a helmet there,
Athena's sacred helmet. Didn't you say
you were pregnant.

WOMAN C

Yes, and by god, I am.

LYSISTRATA

Then why've you got this helmet?

WOMAN C

Well, in case
I went into labour in the citadel.
I could give birth right in the helmet,
lay it in there like a nesting pigeon.

LYSISTRATA

What are you talking about? You're just
making an excuse—that's so obvious.
You'll stay here for at least five days
until your new child's birth is purified.

WOMAN C

I can't get any sleep in the Acropolis,
not since I saw the snake that guards the place.

[*More women start sneaking out of the citadel*]

WOMAN D

Nor can I. I'm dying from lack of sleep
those wretched owls keep hooting all the time. [760]

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ὦ δαιμόνιαι παύσασθε τῶν τερατευμάτων.
ποθεῖτ' ἴσως τοὺς ἀνδρας· ἡμᾶς δ' οὐκ οἶε
ποθεῖν ἐκείνους; ἀργαλέας γ' εὖ οἶδ' ὅτι
ἄγουσι νύκτας. ἀλλ' ἀνάσχεσθ' ὦγαθαί,
καὶ προσταλαιπωρήσατ' ἔτ' ὀλίγον χρόνον,
ὡς χρησμὸς ἡμῖν ἔστιν ἐπικρατεῖν, ἐὰν
μὴ στασιάσωμεν· ἔστι δ' ὁ χρησμὸς οὕτοσί.

765

ΓΥΝΗ Α

λέγ' αὐτὸν ἡμῖν ὅ τι λέγει.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

σιγάτε δή.
ἀλλ' ὅποταν πτήξωσι χελιδόνες εἰς ἓνα χῶρον,
τοὺς ἔποπας φεύγουσαι, ἀπόσχωνταί τε φαλήτων,
παῦλα κακῶν ἔσται, τὰ δ' ὑπέρτερα νέρτερα θήσει
Ζεὺς ὑψιβρεμέτης—

770

ΓΥΝΗ Β

ἐπάνω κατακεισόμεθ' ἡμεῖς;

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἦν δὲ διαστώσω καὶ ἀναπτῶνται πτερύγεσσω
ἐξ ἱεροῦ ναοῦ χελιδόνες, οὐκέτι δόξει
ὄρνειον οὐδ' ὀτιοῦν καταπυγωνέστερον εἶναι.

775

ΓΥΝΗ Α

σαφής γ' ὁ χρησμὸς νῆ Δι'.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ὦ πάντες θεοί,
μὴ νυν ἀπέπωμεν ταλαιπωρούμεναι,
ἀλλ' εἰσῴωμεν. καὶ γὰρ αἰσχρὸν τουτογι
ὦ φίλταται, τὸν χρησμὸν εἰ προδώσομεν.

780

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

μῦθον βούλομαι λέξαι τῶν ὑμῖν, ὃν ποτ' ἤκουσ'
αὐτὸς ἔτι παῖς ὢν.

LYSISTRATA

Come on ladies, stop all these excuses!
All right, you miss your men. But don't you see
they miss you, too? I'm sure the nights they spend
don't bring them any pleasure. But please, dear friends,
hold on—persevere a little longer.
An oracle has said we will prevail,
if we stand together. That's what it said.

WOMAN A

Tell us what it prophesied.

LYSISTRATA

Then, keep quiet.
“When the sparrows, as they fly away,
escaping from the hoopoe birds, shall stay
together in one place and shall say nay
to sexual encounters, then a bad day
will be rare. High thundering Zeus will say
‘What once was underneath on top I'll lay.’”

[770]

WOMAN B [interrupting]

Women are going to lie on top of men?

LYSISTRATA [continuing the oracle]

“ . . . but if the sparrows fight and fly away
out of the holy shrine, people will say
no bird is more promiscuous than they.”

WOMAN A

That oracle is clear enough, by god.

LYSISTRATA

All you heavenly gods, can we stop talking
of being in such distress. Let us go back in.
For, my dearest friends, it will be a shame
if we don't live up to this prophecy.

[780]

[Lysistrata and the women go back into the citadel, leaving the two choruses]

MEN'S CHORUS

I'd like to tell you all a tale,
which I heard once when I was young

| | |
|----------------|--|
| | οὕτως ἦν νεανίσκος Μελανίων τις, ὃς φεύγων γάμον ἀφίκετ' ἐς ἐρημίαν, κάν τοῖς ὄρεσιν ᾤκει καῖτ' ἐλαγοθήρει πλεξάμενος ἄρκυς, καὶ κύνα τιν' εἶχεν, 785 |
| | κοῦκέτι κατήλθε πάλιν οἴκαδ' ὑπὸ μίσους. οὕτω τὰς γυναῖκας ἐβδελύχθη 'κείνος, ἡμεῖς τ' οὐδὲν ἦττον τοῦ Μελανίωνος οἱ σώφρονες. 790 |
| ΓΕΡΩΝ | βούλομαί σε γραῦ κύσαι— |
| ΓΥΝΗ | κρόμμυόν τᾶρ' οὐκ ἔδει. |
| ΓΕΡΩΝ | κἀνατείνας λακτίσαι. |
| ΓΥΝΗ | τὴν λόχμην πολλὴν φορεῖς. 800 |
| ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ | καὶ Μυρωνίδης γὰρ ἦν τραχὺς ἐντεύθεν μελάμπυγός τε τοῖς ἐχθροῖς ἅπασιν, ὥς δὲ καὶ Φορμίων. 805 |
| ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ | κάγῳ βούλομαι μῦθόν τιν' ὑμῖν ἀντιλέξαι τῷ Μελανίῳ. Τίμων ἦν αἰδρυτός τις ἀβάτοισιν ἐν σκώλοισι τὸ πρόσωπον περιειργμένος, Ἐρινύων ἀπορώξ. οὗτος οὖν ὁ Τίμων ᾧχεθ' ὑπὸ μίσους πολλὰ καταρασάμενος ἀνδράσι πονηροῖς. 810 815 |

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| | about Melanion, a lad who fled from marriage and then came into the wilds and so he lived up in the hills. He wove some nets and hunted hares. He had a dog. Not once did he return back home He hated women—they made him sick. And we are no less wise than he. [790] |
| LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS | Let's kiss, old bag, give it a try. |
| LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS | You won't need onions to make you cry. |
| LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS | I'll lift my leg—give you a kick. |
| LEADER OF WOMAN'S CHORUS | Down there your pubic hair's too thick. [800] |
| LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS | Myronides had a hairy dick and beat foes with his big black bum. That Phormio was another one. ⁴³ |
| WOMEN'S CHORUS | To you I'd like to tell a tale to answer your Melanion. There was a man called Timon once, a vagabond, the Furies' child. Wild thistles covered his whole face. He wandered off filled up with spite and always cursing evil types. [810] |

οὕτω 'κείνος ὑμῶν ἀντεμίσει
τοὺς πονηροὺς ἀνδρας αἰεί,
ταῖσι δὲ γυναιξίν ἦν φίλτατος.

820

ΓΥΝΗ

τὴν γνάθον βούλει θένω;

ΓΕΡΩΝ

μηδαμῶς· ἔδεισά γε.

ΓΥΝΗ

ἀλλὰ κρούσω τῷ σκέλει;

ΓΕΡΩΝ

τὸν σάκανδρον ἐκφανείς.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

ἀλλ' ὅμως ἂν οὐκ ἴδοις
καίπερ οὔσης γραδὸς ὄντ' αὐτὸν
κομήτην, ἀλλ' ἀπειλιωμένον
τῷ λύχνῳ.

825

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ιοὺ ἰοὺ γυναιῖκες ἴτε δεῦρ' ὡς ἐμέ
ταχέως.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

τί δ' ἔστιν; εἰπέ μοι τίς ἢ βοή;

830

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἄνδρ' <ἄνδρ'> ὁρῶ προσιόντα παραπεπληγμένον,
τοῖς τῆς Ἀφροδίτης ὀργίοις εἰλημμένον.
ὦ πότνια Κύπρου καὶ Κυθήρων καὶ Πάφου
μεδέουσ', ἴθ' ὀρθὴν ἦνπερ ἔρχι τὴν ὁδόν.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

ποῦ δ' ἐστὶν ὅστις ἐστί;

835

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

παρὰ τὸ τῆς Χλόης.

But though he always hated men,
those of you who are such rogues,
women he always really loved.

[820]

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

You'd like a punch right on the chin?

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

Not given the state of fear I'm in.

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

What if I kicked you with my toe?

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

We'd see your pussy down below.

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

And then you'd see, although I'm old
it's not all matted hair down there,
but singed by lamp and plucked with flair.

[Lysistrata appears on a balcony of the citadel, looking off in the distance.
Other women come out after her]

LYSISTRATA

Hey, you women! Over here to me. Come quick!

CALONICE

What's going on? Why are you shouting?

[830]

LYSISTRATA

A man!

I see a man approaching mad with love,
seized with desire for Aphrodite's rites.
O holy queen of Cyprus, Cythera,
and Paphos, keep moving down the road,
the straight path you've been travelling on.

CALONICE

Where is he, whoever he is?

LYSISTRATA

Over there,
right beside the shrine of Chloe.

ΚΑΛΟΝΙΚΗ

ὦ νῆ Δί' ἔστι δῆτα. τίς κάστιν ποτε;

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ὀράτε· γινώσκει τις ὑμῶν;

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

νῆ Δία

ἔγωγε· κάστιν οὐμὸς ἀνὴρ Κινησίας.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

σὸν ἔργον ἤδη τοῦτον ὀπτᾶν καὶ στρέφειν
 κάζηπεροπεύειν καὶ φιλεῖν καὶ μὴ φιλεῖν,
 καὶ πάνθ' ὑπέχειν πλὴν ὧν σύνοιδεν ἢ κύλιξ.

840

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

ἀμέλει ποιήσω ταῦτ' ἐγώ.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

καὶ μὴν ἐγὼ

ξυνηπεροπεύσω <σοι> παραμένουσ' ἐνθαδί,
 καὶ ξυσταθεύσω τοῦτον. ἀλλ' ἀπέλθετε.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

οἴμοι κακοδαίμων, οἶος ὁ σπασμὸς μ' ἔχει
 χῶ τέτανος ὥσπερ ἐπὶ τροχοῦ στρεβλούμενον.

845

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

τίς οὗτος οὐντὸς τῶν φυλάκων ἐστώς;

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

ἐγώ.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἀνήρ;

CALONICE

Oh yes,
 there he is, by god. Who is he?

LYSISTRATA

Have a look.
 Do any of you know him?

MYRRHINE

O god, I do.
 It's my husband Cinesias.

LYSISTRATA

All right,
 your job is to torment him, be a tease,
 make him hot, offer to have sex with him
 and then refuse, try everything you can,
 except the things you swore to on the cup.

[840]

MYRRHINE

Don't you worry. I'll do that.

LYSISTRATA

All right, then.
 I'll stay here to help you play with him.
 We'll warm him up together. You others,
 go inside.

[The women go inside, including Myrrhine. Cinesias enters with a very large erection. An attendant comes with him carrying a young baby]

CINESIAS

I'm in a dreadful way.
 It's all this throbbing. And the strain. I feel
 as if I'm stretched out on the rack.

LYSISTRATA

Who's there,
 standing inside our line of sentinels?

CINESIAS

It's me.

LYSISTRATA

A man?

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

ἀνὴρ δῆτ'.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

οὐκ ἄπει δῆτ' ἐκποδών;

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

σὺ δ' εἰ τίς ἠκβάλλουσά μ';

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἡμεροσκόπος.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

πρὸς τῶν θεῶν νυν ἐκκάλεσόν μοι Μυρίνην. 850

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἰδοὺ καλέσω γὰρ Μυρίνην σοι; σὺ δὲ τίς εἶ;

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

ἀνὴρ ἐκείνης, Παιονίδης Κινησίας.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ὦ χαῖρε φίλτατ'· οὐ γὰρ ἀκλεῆς τοῦνομ
 τὸ σὸν παρ' ἡμῖν ἔστιν οὐδ' ἀνώνυμον.
 ἀεὶ γὰρ ἡ γυνὴ σ' ἔχει διὰ στόμα. 855
 κὰν ᾧδὸν ἢ μῆλον λάβῃ, 'Κινησία
 τουτὶ γένοιτο,' φησί.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

ὦ πρὸς τῶν θεῶν.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

νὴ τὴν Ἀφροδίτην· κὰν περὶ ἀνδρῶν γ' ἐμπέσῃ
 λόγος τις, εἴρηκ' εὐθέως ἢ σὴ γυνὴ
 ὅτι λήρὸς ἔστι τᾶλλα πρὸς Κινησίαν. 860

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

ἴθι νυν κάλεσον αὐτήν.

CINESIAS

Yes, take a look at this!

LYSISTRATA

In that case leave. Go on your way.

CINESIAS

Who are you
 to tell me to get out?

LYSISTRATA

The daytime watch.

CINESIAS

Then, by the gods, call Myrrhine for me. [850]

LYSISTRATA

You tell me to summon Myrrhine for you?
 Who are you?

CINESIAS

Cinesias, her husband,
 from Paeonidae.⁴⁴

LYSISTRATA

Welcome, dear friend, your name
 is not unknown to us. Your wife always
 has you on her lips. Any time she licks
 an apple or an egg she says, "Ah me,
 if only this could be Cinesias."

[Lysistrata licks her fist obscenely]

CINESIAS

O my god!

LYSISTRATA

Yes, by Aphrodite, yes. And when our talk
 happens to deal with men, your wife speaks up
 immediately, "O they're all useless sorts
 compared to my Cinesias." [860]

CINESIAS

Please call her out.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

τί οὖν; δώσεις τί μοι;

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

ἔγωγέ <σοι> νῆ τὸν Δί', ἣν βούλη γε σύ·
ἔχω δὲ τοῦθ'· ὅπερ οὖν ἔχω, δίδωμί σοι.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

φέρε νυν καλέσω καταβᾶσά σοι.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

ταχύ νυν πάνυ.

ὡς οὐδεμίαν ἔχω γε τῷ βίῳ χάριν, 865
ἐξ οὐπερ αὐτῆ ἔξηλθεν ἐκ τῆς οἰκίας·
ἀλλ' ἄχθομαι μὲν εἰσιῶν, ἔρημα δὲ
εἶναι δοκεῖ μοι πάντα, τοῖς δὲ σιτίοις
χάριν οὐδεμίαν οἶδ' ἐσθίων· ἔστυκα γάρ.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

φιλῶ φιλῶ ἄγὼ τοῦτον· ἀλλ' οὐ βούλεται 870
ὑπ' ἐμοῦ φιλεῖσθαι. σὺ δ' ἐμὲ τούτω μὴ κάλει.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

ὦ γλυκύτατον Μυρινίδιον τί ταῦτα δρᾶς;
κατάβηθι δεῦρο.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

μὰ Δί' ἐγὼ μὲν αὐτόσ' οὔ.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

ἐμοῦ καλοῦντος οὐ καταβήσει Μυρίνη;

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

οὐ γὰρ δεόμενος οὐδὲν ἐκκαλεῖς ἐμέ. 875

LYSISTRATA

Why should I do that? What will you give me?

CINESIAS

Whatever you want, by god. I have this . . .

[Cinesias waves his erection in front of Lysistrata]

I'll give you what I've got.

LYSISTRATA

No thanks.

I think I'll tell her to come out to you.

[Lysistrata leaves to fetch Myrrhine]

CINESIAS

Hurry up. I've had no pleasure in life
since she's been gone from home. I go out,
but I'm in pain. To me now everything
seems empty. There's no joy in eating food.
I'm just so horny.

[Lysistrata appears dragging Myrrhine with her. Myrrhine is pretending to be reluctant]

MYRRHINE [loudly so that Cinesias can hear]

I love him. I do.

But he's unwilling to make love to me,
to love me back. Don't make me go to him.

[870]

CINESIAS

O my dear sweetest little Myrrhine,
what are you doing? Come down here.

MYRRHINE

I'm not going there, by god.

CINESIAS

If I ask you,
won't you come down, Myrrhine?

MYRRHINE

You've got no reason to be calling me.
You don't want me.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

ἐγὼ οὐ δεόμενος; ἐπιτετριμμένος μὲν οὖν.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

ἄπειμι.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

μὴ δῆτ', ἀλλὰ τῷ γούν παιδίῳ
ὑπάκουσον· οὗτος οὐ καλεῖς τὴν μαμμίαν;

ΠΑΙΣ

μαμμία, μαμμία, μαμμία.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

αὕτη τί πάσχεις; οὐδ' ἐλεεῖς τὸ παιδίον
ἄλουτον ὃν κᾶθλον ἔκτην ἡμέραν; 880

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

ἔγωγ' ἐλεῶ δῆτ'· ἀλλ' ἀμελῆς αὐτῷ πατήρ
ἔστιν.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

κατάβηθ' ὦ δαιμονία τῷ παιδίῳ.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

οἶον τὸ τεκεῖν καταβατέον. τί γὰρ πάθω;

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

ἐμοὶ γὰρ αὕτη καὶ νεωτέρα δοκεῖ
πολλῷ γεγενῆσθαι κάγανώτερον βλέπειν·
χὰ δυσκολαίνει πρὸς ἐμὲ καὶ βρενθύεται,
ταῦτ' αὐτὰ δὴ ἴσθ' ἂ κάμ' ἐπιτρίβει τῷ πόθῳ. 885

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

ὦ γλυκύτατον σὺ τεκνίδιον κακοῦ πατρός,
φέρε σε φιλήσω γλυκύτατον τῇ μαμμίᾳ. 890

CINESIAS

You don't think I want you?
I'm absolutely dying for you!

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

I'm leaving.

CINESIAS

Hold on! You might want to hear our child.
Can you call out something to your mama?

CHILD

Mummy, mummy, mummy!

CINESIAS

What's wrong with you? [880]
Don't you feel sorry for the boy. It's now
six days since he's been washed or had some food.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

Ah yes, I pity him. But it's quite clear
his father doesn't.

CINESIAS

My lovely wife,
come down here to the child.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

Being a mother
is so demanding. I better go down.
What I put up with!

[Myrrhine starts coming down from the Acropolis accentuating the
movement of her hips as she goes]

CINESIAS

She seems to me
to be much younger, easier on the eyes.
She was acting like a shrew and haughty,
but that just roused my passion even more.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ [to the child]

My dear sweet little boy. But your father—
such rotten one. Come here. I'll hold you.
Mummy's little favourite. [890]

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

τί ὦ πονήρα ταῦτα ποιεῖς χātέραις
 πείθει γυναιξί, κάμέ τ' ἄχθεσθαι ποιεῖς
 αὐτή τε λυπεῖ;

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

μη πρόσαγε τὴν χεῖρά μοι.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

τὰ δ' ἔνδον ὄντα τὰμὰ καὶ σὰ χρήματα
 χεῖρον διατίθης.

895

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

ὀλίγον αὐτῶν μοι μέλει.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

ὀλίγον μέλει σοι τῆς κρόκης φορουμένης
 ὑπὸ τῶν ἀλεκτρονῶν;

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

ἔμοιγε νῆ Δία.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

τὰ <δὲ> τῆς Ἀφροδίτης ἱέρ' ἀνοργιάστὰ σοι
 χρόνον τοσοῦτόν ἐστιν. οὐ βαδιεῖ πάλιν;

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

μὰ Δί' οὐκ ἔγωγ', ἦν μὴ διαλλαχθῆτέ γε
 καὶ τοῦ πολέμου παύσησθε.

900

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

τοιγάρ, ἦν δοκῆ,
 ποιήσομεν καὶ ταῦτα.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

τοιγάρ, ἦν δοκῆ,
 κάγωγ' ἄπειμ' ἐκέισε· νῦν δ' ἀπομώμοκα.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

σὺ δ' ἀλλὰ κατακλίθηθι μετ' ἐμοῦ διὰ χρόνου.

CINESIAS

You dim-witted girl,
 what are you doing, letting yourself
 be led on by these other women,
 causing me grief and injuring yourself?

MYRRHINE

Don't lay a hand on me!

CINESIAS

Inside our home
 things are a mess. You stopped doing anything.

MYRRHINE

I don't care.

CINESIAS

You don't care your weaving
 is being picked apart by hens?

MYRRHINE

So what?

CINESIAS

You haven't honoured holy Aphrodite
 by having sex, not for a long time now.
 So won't you come back?

MYRRHINE

No, by god, I won't—
 unless you give me something in return.
 End this war.

[900]

CINESIAS

Well now, that's something I'll do,
 when it seems all right.

MYRRHINE

Well then, I'll leave here,
 when it seems all right. But now I'm under oath.

CINESIAS

At least lie down with me a little while.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ
οὐ δῆτα· καίτοι σ' οὐκ ἐρῶ γ' ὡς οὐ φιλω̄. 905

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ
φιλεῖς; τί οὖν οὐ κατεκλίνης ᾧ Μύριον;

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ
ᾧ καταγέλαστ' ἐναντίον τοῦ παιδίου;

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ
μὰ Δεῦ' ἀλλὰ τοῦτό γ' οἴκαδ' ᾧ Μανῆ φέρε.
ἰδού τὸ μέν σοι παιδίον καὶ δὴ ἔκποδών,
σὺ δ' οὐ κατακλίνει.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ
ποῦ γὰρ ἄν τις καὶ τάλαν 910
δράσειε τοῦθ';

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ
ὅπου; τὸ τοῦ Πανὸς καλόν.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ
καὶ πῶς ἔθ' ἀγνή δῆτ' ἂν ἔλθοιμ' ἐς πόλιν;

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ
κάλλιστα δήπου λουσαμένη τῇ Κλειψύδρα.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ
ἔπειτ' ὁμόσασα δῆτ' ἐπιορκήσω τάλαν;

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ
εἰς ἐμὲ τράποιτο· μηδὲν ὄρκου φροντίσης. 915

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ
φέρε νυν ἐνέγκω κλινίδιον νῶν.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ
μηδαμῶς.
ἀρκεῖ χαμαὶ νῶν.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ
I can't. I'm not saying I wouldn't like to.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ
You'd like to? Then, my little Myrrhine,
lie down right here.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ
You must be joking—
in front of our dear baby child?

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ
No, by god.
[Cinesias turns toward the attendant]
Manes, take the boy back home. All right then,
the lad's no longer in the way. Lie down.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ
But, you silly man, where do we do it? [910]

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ
Where? The Cave of Pan's an excellent place.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ
How will I purify myself when I return
into the citadel?

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ
You can wash yourself
in the water clock. That would do the job.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ
What about the oath I swore? Should I become
a wretched perjurer?

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ
I'll deal with that.
Don't worry about the oath.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ
Well then,
I'll go and get a bed for us.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ
No, no.
The ground will do.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

μὰ τὸν Ἀπόλλω μή σ' ἐγὼ
καίπερ τοιοῦτον ὄντα κατακλινῶ χαμαί.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

ἦ τοι γυνή φιλεῖ με, δήληγ' ὅστιν καλῶς.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

ἰδοὺ κατάκεισ' ἀνύσας τι, κάγῳ κδύομαι. 920
καίτοι, τὸ δεῖνα, ψίαθός ἐστ' ἐξοιστέα.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

ποία ψίαθος; μὴ μοί γε.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

νῆ τῆν Ἄρτεμιν,
αἰσχρὸν γὰρ ἐπὶ τόνου γε.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

δός μοί νυν κύσαι.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

ἰδού.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

παπαιάξ· ἦκέ νυν ταχέως πάνυ.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

ἰδοὺ ψίαθος· κατάκεισο, καὶ δὴ κδύομαι. 925
καίτοι, τὸ δεῖνα, προσκεφάλαιον οὐκ ἔχεις.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

ἀλλ' οὐδὲ δέομ' ἔγωγε.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

No, by Apollo, no!
You may be a rascal, but on the ground?
No, I won't make you lie down there.

[Myrrhine goes back into the Acropolis to fetch a bed]

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

Ah, my wife—
she really loves me. That's so obvious.

[Myrrhine reappears carrying a small bed]

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

Here we are. Get on there while I undress. [920]
O dear! I forgot to bring the mattress.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

Why a mattress? I don't need that.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

You can't lie
on the bed cord. No, no, by Artemis,
that would be a great disgrace.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

Give me a kiss—
right now!

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ [kissing him]

There you go.

[Myrrhine goes back to the Acropolis to fetch the mattress]

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

Oh my god—
get back here quickly!

[Myrrhine reappears with the mattress]

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

Here's the mattress.
You lie down on it. I'll get my clothes off.
O dear me! You don't have a pillow.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

But I don't need a pillow!

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

νῆ Δί' ἀλλ' ἐγώ.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

ἀλλ' ἢ τὸ πέος τόδ' Ἡρακλῆς ξενίζεται.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

ἀνίστασ', ἀναπήδησον. ἤδη πάντ' ἔχω.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

ἅπαντα δῆτα. δεῦρό νυν ᾧ χρύσιον. 930

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

τὸ στρόφιον ἤδη λύομαι. μέμνησό νυν·
μή μ' ἔξαπατήσης τὰ περὶ τῶν διαλλαγῶν.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

νῆ Δί' ἀπολοίμην ἄρα.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

σισύραν οὐκ ἔχεις.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

μὰ Δί' οὐδὲ δέομαί γ', ἀλλὰ βινεῖν βούλομαι.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

ἀμέλει ποιήσεις τοῦτο· ταχὺ γὰρ ἔρχομαι. 935

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

ἄνθρωπος ἐπιτρίβει με διὰ τὰ στρώματα.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

ἔπαιρε σαυτόν.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

By god, I do.

[Myrrhine goes back to the Acropolis for a pillow]

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

This cock of mine is just like Hercules—
he's being denied his supper.⁴⁵

[Myrrhine returns with a pillow]

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

Lift up a bit.

Come on, up! There, I think that's everything.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

That's all we need. Come here, my treasure.

[930]

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

I'm taking off the cloth around my breasts.
Now, don't forget. Don't you go lying to me
about that vote for peace.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

O my god,
may I die before that happens!

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

There's no blanket.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

I don't need one, by god! I want to get laid!

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

Don't worry. You will be. I'll be right back.

[Myrrhine goes back to the Acropolis to fetch a blanket]

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

That woman's killing me with all the bedding!

[Myrrhine returns with a blanket]

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

All right, get up.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

ἀλλ' ἐπήρται τοῦτό γε.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

βούλει μυρίσω σε;

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

μὰ τὸν Ἀπόλλω μὴ μέ γε.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

νὴ τὴν Ἀφροδίτην ἦν τε βούλη γ' ἦν τε μή.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

εἴθ' ἐκχυθείη τὸ μύρον ᾧ Ζεῦ δέσποτα. 940

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

πρότεινέ νυν τὴν χεῖρα καλείφου λαβῶν.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

οὐχ ἦδὺ τὸ μύρον μὰ τὸν Ἀπόλλω τουτογί,
εἰ μὴ διατριπτικόν γε κοῦκ ὄζον γάμων.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

τάλαιν' ἐγὼ τὸ Ρόδιον ἤνεγκον μύρον.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

ἀγαθόν· ἔα αὐτ' ᾧ δαιμονία.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

ληρεῖς ἔχων. 945

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

κάκιστ' ἀπόλοιθ' ὁ πρῶτος εἰήσας μύρον.

CINESIAS

But it's already up!

MYRRHINE

You want me to rub some scent on you?

CINESIAS

No, by Apollo. Not for me.

MYRRHINE

I'll do it,
whether you want it rubbed on there or not—
for Aphrodite's sake.*[Myrrhine goes back to the Acropolis to get the perfume]*

CINESIAS

O great lord Zeus, [940]
pour the perfume out!*[Myrrhine returns with the perfume]*

MYRRHINE

Hold out your hand, now.
Take that and spread it round.CINESIAS *[rubbing the perfume on himself]*By Apollo,
this stuff doesn't smell so sweet, not unless
it's rubbed on thoroughly—no sexy smell.MYRRHINE *[inspecting the jar of perfume]*

I'm such a fool. I brought the Rhodian scent!

CINESIAS

It's fine. Just let it go, my darling.

MYRRHINE *[getting up to leave]*

You're just saying that.

[Myrrhine goes back to the Acropolis to get the right perfume]

CINESIAS

Damn the wretch who first came up with perfume!

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

λαβὲ τόνδε τὸν ἀλάβαστον.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

ἀλλ' ἕτερον ἔχω.

ἀλλ' ὦζυρά κατάκεισο καὶ μὴ μοι φέρε
μηδέν.

ΜΥΡΡΙΝΗ

ποιήσω ταῦτα νῆ τὴν Ἄρτεμιν.
ὑπολύομαι γούν. ἀλλ' ὅπως ᾧ φίλτατε
σπονδὰς ποιείσθαι ψηφιεῖ.

950

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

βουλεύσομαι.

ἀπολώλεκέν με κάπιτέτριφεν ἡ γυνὴ
τά τ' ἄλλα πάντα κάποδείρασ' οἴχεται.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

οἴμοι τί πάθω; τίνα βνήσω
τῆς καλλίστης πασῶν ψευσθεῖς;
πῶς ταυτηνὶ παιδοτροφήσω;
ποῦ Κυναλώπηξ;
μίσθωσόν μοι τὴν τίτθην.

955

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

ἐν δεινῷ γ' ᾧ δύστηνε κακῷ
τείρει ψυχὴν ἐξαπατηθεῖς.
κάγωγ' οἰκτίρω σ' αἰαί.
ποῖος γὰρ ἂν ἡ νέφρος ἀντίσχοι,
ποία ψυχὴ, ποῖοι δ' ὄρχεις,
ποία δ' ὄσφῦς, ποῖος δ' ὄρος
κατατεινόμενος
καὶ μὴ βινῶν τοὺς ὄρθρους;

960

965

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

ὦ Ζεῦ δεινῶν ἀντισπασμῶν.

[Myrrhine comes back from the Acropolis with another box of perfume]

MYRRHINE

Grab this alabaster thing.

CINESIAS *[waving his cock]*

You grab this alabaster cock.

Come lie down here, you tease. Don't go and fetch
another thing for me.

MYRRHINE

By Artemis, I'll grab it.

I'm taking off my shoes. Now, my darling,
you will be voting to bring on a peace.

[950]

CINESIAS

I'm planning to.

*[Myrrhine goes back to the Acropolis. Cinesias turns and sees she's gone]*That woman's killing me!
She teased me, got me all inflamed, then left.*[Cinesias gets up and declaims in a parody of tragic style]*

Alas, why suffer from such agony?

Who can I screw? Why'd she betray me,
the most beautiful woman of them all?
Poor little cock, how can I care for you?
Where's that Cynalopex? I'll pay him well
to nurse this little fellow back to health.⁴⁶

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

You poor man, in such a fix—your spirit
so tricked and in distress. I pity you.
How can your kidneys stand the strain,
your balls, your loins, your bum, your brain
endure an erection that's hard for you,
without a chance of a morning screw.

[960]

CINESIAS

O mighty Zeus, it's started throbbing once again.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

ταυτὶ μέντοι νυνὶ σ' ἐποίησ'
ἢ παμβδελυρὰ καὶ παμμυσαρά.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

μὰ Δί' ἀλλὰ φίλη καὶ παγγλυκερά. 970

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

ποία γλυκερά; μιὰρὰ μιὰρά.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

<μιὰρὰ> δῆτ' ὦ Ζεῦ ὦ Ζεῦ·
εἴθ' αὐτήν ὥσπερ τοὺς θωμοὺς
μεγάλῳ τυφῶ καὶ πρηστήρι
ξυστρέψας καὶ ξυγγογγύλας 975
οἴχοιο φέρων, εἶτα μεθείης,
ἢ δὲ φέροιτ' αὐτὸ πάλιν ἐς τὴν γῆν,
καὶ τ' ἐξαίφνης
περὶ τὴν ψωλὴν περιβαίη.

ΚΗΡΥΞ ΛΑΚΕΔΑΙΜΟΝΙΩΝ

πᾶ τᾶν Ἀσανᾶν ἐστιν ἅ γερωχία 980
ἢ τοὶ πρυτάνεις; λῶ τι μωσίζαι νέον.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

σὺ δ' εἰ πότερον ἄνθρωπος ἢ κονίσσαλος;

ΚΗΡΥΞ ΛΑΚΕΔΑΙΜΟΝΙΩΝ

καρνεὺς ἐγὼν ὦ κυρσάνιε ναὶ τῶ σιῶ
ἔμολον ἀπὸ Σπάρτας περὶ τᾶν διαλλαγᾶν.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

κάπειτα δόρυ δῆθ' ὑπὸ μάλης ἤκεις ἔχων; 985

ΚΗΡΥΞ ΛΑΚΕΔΑΙΜΟΝΙΩΝ

οὐ τὸν Δί' οὐκ ἐγὼν γα.

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

A dirty stinking bitch did this to you.

CINESIAS

No, by god, a loving girl, a sweet one, too. [970]

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

Sweet? Not her. She's a tease, a slut.

CINESIAS

All right, she is a tease, but—
O Zeus, Zeus, I wish
you'd sweep her up there
in a great driving storm,
like dust in the air,
whirl her around,
then fall to the ground.
And as she's carried down,
to earth one more time,
let her fall right away
on this pecker of mine.

[Enter the Spartan herald. He, too, has a giant erection, which he is trying to hide under his cloak]

SPARTAN HERALD

Where's the Athenian Senate and the Prytanes?⁴⁷ [980]
I come with fresh dispatches.

CINESIAS [looking at the Herald's erection]

Are you a man,
or some phallic monster?

SPARTAN HERALD

I'm a herald,
by the twin gods. And my good man,
I come from Sparta with a proposal,
arrangements for a truce.

CINESIAS

If that's the case,
why do you have a spear concealed in there?

SPARTAN HERALD

I'm not concealing anything, by god.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

ποῖ μεταστρέφει;
τί δὴ προβάλλει τὴν χλαμύδ'; ἢ βουβωνιᾶς
ὑπὸ τῆς ὁδοῦ;

ΚΗΡΥΞ ΛΑΚΕΔΑΙΜΟΝΙΩΝ

παλαιόρ γα ναὶ τὸν Κάστορα
ὄνθρωπος.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

ἀλλ' ἔστukas ὦ μαρώτατε.

ΚΗΡΥΞ ΛΑΚΕΔΑΙΜΟΝΙΩΝ

οὐ τὸν Δί' οὐκ ἐγών γα· μηδ' αὐ πλαδδίη. 990

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

τί δ' ἐστὶ σοι τοδί;

ΚΗΡΥΞ ΛΑΚΕΔΑΙΜΟΝΙΩΝ

σκυτάλα Λακωνικά.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

εἴπερ γε χαῦτη ἴστί σκυτάλη Λακωνική.
ἀλλ' ὡς πρὸς εἰδότη' ἐμέ σὺ τάληθῆ λέγε.
τί τὰ πράγμαθ' ὑμῖν ἐστι τὰν Λακεδαίμονι;

ΚΗΡΥΞ ΛΑΚΕΔΑΙΜΟΝΙΩΝ

ὄρσα Λακεδαίμων πᾶα καὶ τοὶ σύμμαχοι 995
ἅπαντες ἐστύκαντι· Πελλάνας δὲ δεῖ.

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

ἀπὸ τοῦ δὲ τουτὶ τὸ κακὸν ὑμῖν ἐνέπεσεν;
ἀπὸ Πανός;

ΚΗΡΥΞ ΛΑΚΕΔΑΙΜΟΝΙΩΝ

οὔκ, ἀλλ' ἄρχεν οἰῶ Λαμπιτώ,
ἔπειτα τᾶλλαι ταὶ κατὰ Σπάρταν ἄμα
γυναῖκες περ ἀπὸ μᾶς ὑσπλαγίδος 1000
ἀπήλααν τὼς ἄνδρας ἀπὸ τῶν ὑσάκων.

CINESIAS

Then why are you turning to one side?
What that thing there, sticking from your cloak?
Has your journey made your groin inflamed?

SPARTAN HERALD

By old Castor, this man's insane!

CINESIAS

You rogue,
you've got a hard on!

SPARTAN HERALD

No I don't, I tell you. [990]
Let's have no more nonsense.

CINESIAS [*pointing to the herald's erection*]

Then what's that?

SPARTAN HERALD

It's a Spartan herald's stick.

CINESIAS

O that's what it is,
a Spartan herald stick. Let's have a chat.
Tell me the truth. How are things going for you
out there in Sparta?

SPARTAN HERALD

Not good. The Spartans
are all standing tall and the allies, too—
everyone is firm and hard. We need a thrust
in someone's rear.⁴⁸

CINESIAS

This trouble of yours—
where did it come from? Was it from Pan?⁴⁹

SPARTAN HERALD

No. I think it started with Lampito.
Then, at her suggestion, other women
in Sparta, as if from one starting gate,
ran off to keep men from their honey pots.⁵⁰ [1000]

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

πῶς οὖν ἔχετε;

ΚΗΡΥΞ ΛΑΚΕΔΑΙΜΟΝΙΩΝ

μογίομες. ἂν γὰρ τὰν πόλιν
ἄπερ λυχνοφορῖοντες ἐπικεκύφαμες.
ταὶ γὰρ γυναικες οὐδὲ τῷ μύρτω σιγῆν
ἔωντι, πρὶν γ' ἅπαντες ἐξ ἑνὸς λόγῳ
σπονδὰς ποιησώμεσθα ποττὰν Ἑλλάδα. 1005

ΚΙΝΗΣΙΑΣ

τουτὶ τὸ πρᾶγμα πανταχόθεν ξυνομώμοται
ὑπὸ τῶν γυναικῶν ἄρτι νυνὶ μανθάνω.
ἀλλ' ὡς τάχιστα φράζε περὶ διαλλαγῶν
αὐτοκράτορας πρέσβεις ἀποπέμπειν ἐνθαδί. 1010
ἐγὼ δ' ἐτέρους ἐνθένδε τῇ βουλῇ φράσω
πρέσβεις ἐλίσθαι τὸ πέος ἐπιδείξας τοδί.

ΚΗΡΥΞ ΛΑΚΕΔΑΙΜΟΝΙΩΝ

ποτάομαι κράτιστα γὰρ παντᾶ λέγεις.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

οὐδέν ἐστι θηρίον γυναικὸς ἀμαχώτερον,
οὐδὲ πῦρ, οὐδ' ὦδ' ἀναιδῆς οὐδεμία πόρδαλις. 1015

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

ταῦτα μέντοι <σὺ> ξυνιῆς εἶτα πολεμῆς ἐμοί,
ἐξὸν ᾧ πόνηρε σοὶ βέβαιον ἔμ' ἔχειν φίλην;

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

ὡς ἐγὼ μισῶν γυναικας οὐδέποτε παύσομαι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

ἀλλ' ὅταν βούλη σὺ νῦν δ' οὖν οὐ σε περιόψομαι
γυμνὸν ὄνθ' οὕτως. ὀρῶ γὰρ ὡς καταγέλαστος εἶ. 1020
ἀλλὰ τὴν ἐξωμίδ' ἐνδύσω σε προσιούσ' ἐγώ.

CINESIAS

How are you doing?

SPARTAN HERALD

We're all in pain.
We go around the city doubled up,
like men who light the lamps.⁵¹ The women
won't let us touch their pussies, not until
we've made a peace with all of Greece.

CINESIAS

This matter
is a female plot, a grand conspiracy
affecting all of Greece. Now I understand.
Return to Sparta as fast as you can go.
Tell them they must send out ambassadors
with full authority to deal for peace. [1010]
I'll tell out leaders here to make a choice
of our ambassadors. I'll show them my prick.

SPARTAN HERALD

All you've said is good advice. I must fly.

[Cinesias and the Spartan Herald exit in opposite directions]

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

There's no wild animal harder to control
than women, not even blazing fire.
The panther itself displays more shame.

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

If you know that, then why wage war with me?
You old scoundrel, we could be lasting friends.

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

But my hatred for women will not stop!

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

Whatever you want. But I don't much like
to look at you like this, without your clothes. [1020]
It makes me realize how silly you are.
Look, I'll come over and put your shirt on.

[The Leader of the Women's Chorus picks up a tunic, goes over to the
Leader of the Men's Chorus, and helps him put it on.]

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

τοῦτο μὲν μὰ τὸν Δι' οὐ πονηρὸν ἐποιήσατε·
ἀλλ' ὑπ' ὀργῆς γὰρ πονηρᾶς καὶ τότε' ἀπέδυν ἐγώ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

πρῶτα μὲν φαίνει γ' ἀνὴρ, εἶτ' οὐ καταγέλαστος εἶ.
κεῖ με μὴ λύπεις, ἐγὼ σου κἂν τόδε τὸ θηρίον 1025
τοῦπι τῶφθαλμῶ λαβοῦσ' ἐξείλον ἂν ὁ νῦν ἐνι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

τοῦτ' ἄρ' ἦν με τοῦπιτριβόν, δακτύλιος οὔτοσί·
ἐκσκάλευσον αὐτό, κἄτα δείξον ἀφελουσά μοι
ὡς τὸν ὀφθαλμόν γέ μου νῆ τὸν Δία πάλαι δάκνει.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

ἀλλὰ δρᾶσω ταῦτα· καίτοι δύσκολος ἔφυς ἀνὴρ. 1030
ἦ μέγ' ὦ Ζεῦ χρεῖμ' ἰδεῖν τῆς ἐμπίδος ἔνεστί σοι.
οὐχ ὀρᾶς; οὐκ ἐμπίς ἐστιν ἦδε Τρικορυσία;

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

νῆ Δι' ὠνησάς γέ μ', ὡς πάλαι γέ μ' ἐφρεωρύχει,
ὡστ' ἐπειδὴ ἔξηρέθη, ρεῖ μου τὸ δάκρυον πολὺ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

ἀλλ' ἀποψήσω σ' ἐγώ, καίτοι πάνυ πονηρὸς εἶ, 1035
καὶ φιλήσω.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

μὴ φιλήσης.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΥΝΑΙΚΩΝ

ἦν τε βούλη γ' ἦν τε μή.

ΧΟΡΟΣ ΓΕΡΟΝΤΩΝ

ἀλλὰ μὴ ὄρασ' ἵκοισθ'· ὡς ἐστὲ θωπικαὶ φύσει,
κάστ' ἐκείνο τοῦπος ὀρθῶς κοῦ κακῶς εἰρημένον,
οὔτε σὺν πανωλέθροισιν οὔτ' ἄνευ πανωλέθρων.

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

By god, what you've just done is not so bad.
I took it off in a fit of stupid rage.

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

Now at least you look like a man again.
And people won't find you ridiculous.
If you hadn't been so nasty to me,
I'd grab that insect stuck in your eye
and pull it out. It's still in there.

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

So that's what's been troubling me. Here's a ring.
Scrape it off. Get it out and show it to me.
God, that's been bothering my eye for ages.

*[The Leader of the Women's Chorus takes the ring and inspects the
Leader of the Men's Chorus in the eye]*

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

I'll do it. You men are born hard to please. [1030]
My god, you picked up a monstrous insect.
Have a look. That's a Tricorynthus bug!⁵²

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

By Zeus, you've been a mighty help to me.
That thing's been digging wells in me a while.
Now it's been removed, my eyes are streaming.

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

I'll wipe it for you, though you're a scoundrel.
I'll give you a kiss.

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

I don't want a kiss.

LEADER OF WOMEN'S CHORUS

I'll will, whether it's what you want or not.

[She kisses him]

LEADER OF MEN'S CHORUS

O you've got me. You're born to flatter us.
That saying got it right—it states the case
quite well, “These women—one has no life
with them, and cannot live without them.”

ἀλλὰ νυνὶ σπένδομαί σοι, καὶ τὸ λοιπὸν οὐκέτι 1040
οὔτε δράσω φλαῦρον οὐδὲν οὔθ' ὑφ' ὑμῶν πείσομαι.
ἀλλὰ κοινῇ συσταλέντες τοῦ μέλους ἀρξώμεθα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

οὐ παρασκευαζόμεσθα
τῶν πολιτῶν οὐδέν' ὦνδρες
φλαῦρον εἰπεῖν οὐδὲ ἔν. 1045

ἀλλὰ πολὺ τοῦμπαλιν πάντ' ἀγαθὰ καὶ λέγειν
καὶ δρᾶν· ἱκανὰ γὰρ τὰ κακὰ καὶ τὰ παρακείμενα.
ἀλλ' ἐπαγγελλέτω πᾶς ἀνὴρ καὶ γυνή,

εἴ τις ἀργυρίδιον δέεται 1050
λαβεῖν μνάς ἢ δύο ἢ τρεῖς,
ὡς πόλλ' ἔσω ὅστιν

κᾶχομεν βαλλάντια.
κᾶν ποτ' εἰρήνη φανῆ,
ὅστις ἂν νυνὶ δανείση- 1055

ται παρ' ἡμῶν,
ἂν λάβῃ μηκέτ' ἀποδοῶ.

ἔστιᾶν δὲ μέλλομεν ξέ-
νους τινὰς Καρυστίους, ἄν-
δρας καλοὺς τε καὶ ἀγαθοὺς. 1060

κᾶστιν <ἔτ'> ἔτνος τι καὶ δελφάκιον ἦν τί μοι,
καὶ τοῦτο τέθυχ', ὡς τὰ κρέ' ἔδεσθ' ἀπαλὰ καὶ καλά.
ἦκετ' οἶν εἰς ἐμοῦ τήμερον· πρῶ δὲ χρῆ

τοῦτο δρᾶν λελουμένους αὐ-
τούς τε καὶ τὰ παιδί', εἴτ' εἴ-
σω βαδίξιν, 1065

μηδ' ἐρέσθαι μηδένα,
ἀλλὰ χωρεῖν ἄντικρυς
ὥσπερ οἴκαδ' εἰς ἑαυτῶν

γεννικῶς, ὡς 1070
ἢ θύρα κεκλήσεται.

— καὶ μὴν ἀπὸ τῆς Σπάρτης οἰδὶ πρέσβεις ἔλκοντες ὑπήνας
χωροῦσ', ὥσπερ χοιροκομείον περὶ τοῖς μηροῖσιν ἔχοντες.

But now I'll make a truce with you. I won't 1040
insult you any more in days to come,
and you won't make me suffer. So now,
let's make a common group and sing a song.

[The Men's and Women's Choruses combine]

COMBINED CHORUS [addressing the audience]

You citizens, we're not inclined
with any of you to be unkind.
Just the reverse—our words to you
will be quite nice. We'll act well, too.
For now we've had enough bad news.
So if a man or woman here 1050

needs ready cash, give out a cheer,
and take some minae, two or three.
Coins fill our purses now, you see.
And if we get a peace treaty,
you take some money from the sack,
and keep it. You don't pay it back.

I'm going to have a great shindig—
I've got some soup, I'll kill a pig—
with friends of mine from Carystia.⁵³ 1060

You'll eat fine tender meat again.
Come to my house this very day.
But first wash all the dirt away,
you and your kids, then walk on by.
No need to ask a person why.
Just come straight in, as if my home
was like your own—for at my place 1070
we'll shut the door right in your face.

[A group of Spartans enters]

LEADER OF THE CHORUS

Ah, here come the Spartan ambassadors
trailing their long beards. They've got
something like a pig pen between their thighs.

[The Spartan ambassadors enter, moving with difficulty because of their
enormous erections.]

ἄνδρες Λάκωνες πρῶτα μὲν μοι χαίρετε,
εἴτ' εἵπαθ' ἡμῖν πῶς ἔχοντες ἦκετε. 1075

ΛΑΚΩΝ

τί δεῖ ποθ' ὑμέ πολλὰ μυσίδδεν ἔπη;
ὀρῆν γὰρ ἔξεσθ' ὡς ἔχοντες ἴκομεν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

βαβαί· νενεύρωται μὲν ἦδε συμφορὰ
δεινῶς, τεθερμῶσθαι γε χεῖρον φαίνεται.

ΛΑΚΩΝ

ἄφατα. τί κα λέγοι τις; ἀλλ' ὅπα σέλει 1080
παντᾶ τις ἐλσὼν ἀμὲν εἰράναν σέτω.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

καὶ μὴν ὀρῶ καὶ τούσδε τοὺς αὐτόχθονας
ὥσπερ παλαιστὰς ἄνδρας ἀπὸ τῶν γαστέρων
θαίματι ἀποστέλλοντας· ὥστε φαίνεται
ἀσκητικὸν τὸ χρῆμα τοῦ νοσήματος. 1085

ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΣ

τίς ἂν φράσεις ποῦ' στω ἢ Λυσιστράτη;
ὡς ἄνδρες ἡμεῖς οὐτοῦ τοιουτοῦ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

χαῦτη ξυνάδει χητέρα ταύτη νόσῳ.
ἦ που πρὸς ὀρθρον σπασμὸς ὑμᾶς λαμβάνει;

ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΣ

μὰ Δι' ἀλλὰ ταυτὶ δρῶντες ἐπιτετρίμμεθα. 1090
ὥστ' εἴ τις ἡμᾶς μὴ διαλλάξει ταχύ,
οὐκ ἔσθ' ὅπως οὐ Κλεισθένη βινήσομεν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

εἰ σωφρονεῖτε, θαίματια λήψεσθ', ὅπως
τῶν Ἑρμοκοπιδῶν μὴ τις ὑμᾶς ὄψεται.

Men of Sparta, first of all, our greetings.
Tell us how you are. Why have you come?

SPARTAN AMBASSADOR

Why waste a lot of words to tell you?
You see the state that brought us here.

[The Spartans all display their erections with military precision]

LEADER OF THE CHORUS

Oh my! The crisis has grown more severe.
It seems the strain is worse than ever.

SPARTAN AMBASSADOR

It's indescribable. What can I say? 1080
But let someone come, give us a peace
in any way he can.

LEADER OF THE CHORUS

Well now, I see
our own ambassadors—they look just like
our wrestling men with their shirts sticking out
around their bellies or like athletic types
who need to exercise to cure their sickness.

ATHENIAN AMBASSADOR

Where's Lysistrata? Can someone tell me?
We're men here and, well, look . . .

[The Athenians pull back their cloaks and reveal that, like the Spartans, they all have giant erections]

LEADER OF THE CHORUS

They're clearly suffering from the same disease.
Hey, does it throb early in the morning?

ATHENIAN AMBASSADOR

By god, yes. What this is doing to me— 1090
it's torture. If we don't get a treaty soon
we'll going to have to cornhole Cleisthenes.⁵⁴

LEADER OF THE CHORUS

If you're smart, keep it covered with your cloak.
One of those men who chopped off Hermes' dick
might see you.⁵⁵

ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΣ

νῆ τὸν Δι' εὖ μέντοι λέγεις.

ΛΑΚΩΝ

ναὶ τῶ σιῶ
παντᾶ γα. φέρε τὸ ἔσθος ἀμβαλώμεθα. 1095

ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΣ

ὦ χαίρετ' ὦ Λάκωνες· αἰσχρά γ' ἐπάθομεν.

ΛΑΚΩΝ

ὦ Πολυχαρείδα δεινά κ' αὖ' πεπόνθεμες,
αἰ εἶδον ἀμὲ τῶνδρες ἀμπεφλασμένως.

ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΣ

ἄγε δὴ Λάκωνες αὖθ' ἕκαστα χρῆ λέγειν.
ἐπὶ τί πάρεστε δεῦρο; 1100

ΛΑΚΩΝ

περὶ διαλλαγᾶν
πρέσβεις.

ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΣ

καλῶς δὴ λέγετε· χῆμῆς τουτογί.
τί οὐ καλοῦμεν δῆτα τὴν Λυσιστράην,
ἥπερ διαλλάξειεν ἡμᾶς ἄν μόνη;

ΛΑΚΩΝ

ναὶ τῶ σιῶ κἂν λῆτε τὸν Λυσίστρατον. 1105

ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΣ

ἀλλ' οὐδὲν ἡμᾶς, ὡς ἔοικε, δεῖ καλεῖν·
αὐτὴ γάρ, ὡς ἤκουσεν, ἦδ' ἐξέρχεται.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

χαῖρ' ὦ πασῶν ἀνδρειοτάτη· δεῖ δὴ νυνὶ σε γενέσθαι
δεινὴν <δειλὴν> ἀγαθὴν φαύλην σεμνὴν ἀγανὴν
πολύπειρον·
ὡς οἱ πρῶτοι τῶν Ἑλλήνων τῇ σῇ ληφθέντες ἕγγι 1110
συνεχώρησάν σοι καὶ κοινῇ τὰγκλήματα πάντ' ἐπέτρεψαν.

ATHENIAN AMBASSADOR [*pulling his cloak over his erection*]

By god, that's good advice.

SPARTAN AMBASSADOR [*doing the same*]

Yes, by the twin gods, excellent advice.
I'll pull my mantle over it.

ATHENIAN AMBASSADOR

Greetings, Spartans.
We're both suffering disgracefully.

SPARTAN AMBASSADOR

Yes, dear sir, we'd have been in real pain
if one of those dick-clippers had seen us
with our peckers sticking up like this.

ATHENIAN AMBASSADOR

All right, Spartans, we each need to talk.
Why are you here? [1100]

SPARTAN AMBASSADOR

Ambassadors for peace.

ATHENIAN AMBASSADOR

Well said. We want the same. Why don't we call
Lysistrata. She's the only one who'll bring
a resolution to our differences.

SPARTAN AMBASSADOR

By the two gods, bring in Lysistratus,
if he's the ambassador you want.

[*Lysistrata emerges from the gates of the citadel*]

ATHENIAN AMBASSADOR

It seems there is no need to summon her.
She's heard us, and here she is in person.

LEADER OF THE CHORUS

Hail to the bravest woman of them all.
You must now show that you're resilient—
stern but yielding, with a good heart but mean,
stately but down-to-earth. The foremost men
in all of Greece in deference to your charms
have come together here before you
so you can arbitrate all their complaints. [1110]

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἀλλ' οὐχὶ χαλεπὸν τοῦργον, εἰ λάβοι γέ τις
 ὀργῶντας ἀλλήλων τε μὴ 'κπειρωμένους.
 τάχα δ' εἴσομαι ἴω. ποῦ ἴστιν ἡ Διαλλαγή;
 πρόσαγε λαβοῦσα πρῶτα τοὺς Λακωνικούς, 1115
 καὶ μὴ χαλεπῇ τῇ χειρὶ μηδ' αὐθαδικῇ,
 μηδ' ὥσπερ ἡμῶν ἄνδρες ἀμαθῶς τοῦτ' ἔδρων,
 ἀλλ' ὡς γυναῖκας εἰκός, οἰκείως πάνυ,
 ἦν μὴ διδώ τὴν χεῖρα, τῆς σάθης ἄγε.
 ἴθι καὶ σὺ τούτους τοὺς Ἀθηναίους ἄγε, 1120
 οὐδ' ἂν διδώσι πρόσαγε τούτους λαβομένη.
 ἄνδρες Λάκωνες στήτε παρ' ἐμὲ πλησίον,
 ἐνθὲνδε δ' ὑμεῖς, καὶ λόγων ἀκούσατε.
 ἐγὼ γυνὴ μὲν εἰμι, νοῦς δ' ἔνεστί μοι,
 αὐτὴ δ' ἐμαυτῆς οὐ κακῶς γνώμης ἔχω, 1125
 τοὺς δ' ἐκ πατρός τε καὶ γεραιτέρων λόγους
 πολλοὺς ἀκούσασ' οὐ μεμούσωμαι κακῶς.
 λαβοῦσα δ' ὑμᾶς λοιδορῆσαι βούλομαι
 κοινῇ δικαίως, οἱ μᾶς ἐκ χέρνιβος
 βωμοὺς περιραίνοντες ὥσπερ ξυγγενεῖς 1130
 Ὀλυμπίασιν, ἐν Πύλαις, Πυθοῖ (πόσους
 εἴπομι' ἂν ἄλλους, εἴ με μηκύνειν δέοι;)
 ἐχθρῶν παρόντων βαρβάρων στρατεύματι
 Ἕλληνας ἄνδρας καὶ πόλεις ἀπόλλυτε.
 εἷς μὲν λόγος μοι δεῦρ' αἰὲν περαίνεται. 1135

LYSISTRATA

That task should not be difficult, unless
 they're so aroused they screw each other.
 I'll quickly notice that. But where is she,
 the young girl Reconciliation?

*[The personification of the goddess Reconciliation comes out. She's completely naked. Lysistrata addresses her first]*⁵⁶

Come here,
 and first, take hold of those from Sparta,
 don't grab too hard or be too rough, not like
 our men who act so boorishly—instead
 do it as women do when they're at home.
 If they won't extend their hands to you,
 then grab their cocks.

[Reconciliation takes two Spartans by their penises and leads them over to Lysistrata]

Now go and do the same [1120]
 for the Athenians. You can hold them
 by whatever they stick out.

[Reconciliation leads the Athenians over to Lysistrata]

Now then,
 you men of Sparta, stand here close to me,
 and you Athenians over here. All of you,
 listen to my words. I am a woman,
 but I have a brain, and my common sense
 is not so bad—I picked it up quite well
 from listening to my father and to speeches
 from our senior men. Now I've got you here,
 I wish to reprimand you, both of you,
 and rightly so. At Olympia, Delphi, [1130]
 and Thermopylae (I could mention
 many other places if I had a mind
 to make it a long list) both of you
 use the same cup when you sprinkle altars,
 as if you share the same ancestral group.⁵⁷
 We've got barbarian enemies, and yet
 with your armed expeditions you destroy
 Greek men and cities. At this point, I'll end
 the first part of my speech.

ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΣ

ἐγὼ δ' ἀπόλλυμαί γ' ἀπειρωλημένος.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

εἶτ' ὦ Λάκωνες, πρὸς γὰρ ὑμᾶς τρέφομαι,
οὐκ ἴσθ' ὅτ' ἐλθὼν δεῦρο Περικλείδας ποτὲ
ὁ Λάκων Ἀθηναίων ἰκέτης καθέζετο
ἐπὶ τοῖσι βωμοῖς ὠχρὸς ἐν φοινικίδι 1140
στρατιὰν προσαιτῶν; ἢ δὲ Μεσσήνη τότε
ὑμῖν ἐπέκειτο χῶ θεὸς σείων ἄμα.
ἐλθὼν δὲ σὺν ὀπλίταισι τετρακισχιλίοις
Κίμων ὄλην ἔσωσε τὴν Λακεδαίμονα.
ταυτὶ παθόντες τῶν Ἀθηναίων ὑπο 1145
δηοῦτε χῶραν, ἧς ὑπ' εὖ πεπόνθατε;

ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΣ

ἀδικοῦσιν οὗτοι νῆ Δί' ὦ Λυσιστράτη.

ΛΑΚΩΝ

ἀδικίωμας· ἀλλ' ὁ πρωκτὸς ἄφατον ὡς καλός.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ὑμᾶς δ' ἀφήσειν τοὺς Ἀθηναίους <μ> οἶει;
οὐκ ἴσθ' ὅθ' ὑμᾶς οἱ Λάκωνες αὐθις αὖ 1150
κατωνάκας φοροῦντας ἐλθόντες δορὶ
πολλοὺς μὲν ἄνδρας Θετταλῶν ἀπώλεσαν,
πολλοὺς δ' ἑταίρους Ἴππίου καὶ ξυμμάχους,
ξυνεκμαχοῦντες τῇ τόθ' ἡμέρα μόνοι,
κῆλευθέρωσαν κἀντὶ τῆς κατωνάκης 1155
τὸν δῆμον ὑμῶν χλαῖναν ἡμπέσχον πάλιν;

ΛΑΚΩΝ

οὔπα γυναῖκ' ὅπωπα χαῖωτεραν.

ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΣ

ἐγὼ δὲ κύσθον γ' οὐδέπω καλλίονα.

ATHENIAN AMBASSADOR

This erection—
it's killing me!

LYSISTRATA

And now you Spartans,
I'll turn to you. Don't you remember how,
some time ago, Periclidias came,
a fellow Spartan, and sat down right here,
a suppliant at these Athenian altars— [1140]
he looked so pale there in his purple robes—
begging for an army? Messenians then
were pressing you so hard, just at the time
god sent the earthquake. So Cimon set out
with four thousand armed infantry and saved
the whole of Sparta.⁵⁸ After going through that,
how can you ravage the Athenians' land,
the ones who helped you out?

ATHENIAN AMBASSADOR

Lysistrata,
you're right, by god. They're in the wrong.

SPARTAN AMBASSADOR [*looking at Reconciliation*]

Not true,
but look at that incredibly fine ass!

LYSISTRATA

Do you Athenians think I'll forget you?
Don't you remember how these Spartans men,
back in the days when you were dressed as slaves [1150]
came here with spears and totally destroyed
those hordes from Thessaly and many friends
of Hippias and those allied with him?
It took them just one day to drive them out
and set you free. At that point you exchanged
your slavish clothes for cloaks which free men wear.

SPARTAN AMBASSADOR

I've never seen a more gracious woman.

ATHENIAN AMBASSADOR [*looking at Reconciliation*]

I've never seen a finer looking pussy.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

τί δῆθ' υπηργγμένων γε πολλῶν κᾱγαθῶν
μάχεσθε κοὺ παύεσθε τῆς μοχθηρίας;
τί δ' οὐ διηλλάγητε; φέρε τί τοῦμποδῶν;

1160

ΛΑΚΩΝ

ἀμές γε λῶμες, αἴ τις ἀμὴν τῶγκυκλον
λῆ τοῦτ' ἀποδόμεν.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ποῖον ᾧ τᾶν;

ΛΑΚΩΝ

τὰν Πύλον,
ἄσπερ πάλαι δεόμεθα καὶ βλιμάττομες.

ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΣ

μὰ τὸν Ποσειδῶ τοῦτο μὲν γ' οὐ δράσετε.

1165

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἄφετ' ᾧγάθ' αὐτοῖς.

ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΣ

κᾶτα τίνα κινήσομεν;

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἕτερόν γ' ἀπαιτεῖτ' ἀντὶ τούτου χωρίον.

ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΣ

τὸ δεῖνα τοῖνυν παράδοθ' ἡμῖν τουτονὶ
πρώπιστα τὸν Ἐχινούντα καὶ τὸν Μηλιᾶ
κόλπον τὸν ὄπισθεν καὶ τὰ Μεγαρικὰ σκέλη.

1170

ΛΑΚΩΝ

οὐ τῶ σιῶ οὐχὶ πάντα γ' ᾧ λισσάνιε.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἐᾶτε, μηδὲν διαφέρου περὶ σκελοῖν.

LYSISTRATA

If you've done many good things for each other,
why go to war? Why not stop this conflict? [1160]
Why not conclude a peace? What's in the way?

[In the negotiations which follow, the ambassadors use the body of Reconciliation as a map of Greece, pointing to various parts to make their points]

SPARTAN AMBASSADOR

We're willing, but the part that's sticking out
we want that handed back.

LYSISTRATA

Which one is that?

SPARTAN AMBASSADOR [pointing to Reconciliation's buttocks]

This one here—that's Pylos. We must have that—
we've been aching for it a long time now.⁵⁹

ATHENIAN AMBASSADOR

By Poseidon, you won't be having that!

LYSISTRATA

My good man, you'll surrender it to them.

ATHENIAN AMBASSADOR

Then how do we make trouble, stir up shit?

LYSISTRATA

Ask for something else of equal value.

ATHENIAN AMBASSADOR [inspecting Reconciliation's body and pointing to her public hair]

Then give us this whole area in here—
first, there's Echinous, and the Melian Gulf,
the hollow part behind it, and these legs
which make up Megara.⁶⁰ [1170]

SPARTAN AMBASSADOR

By the twin gods,
my good man, you can't have all that!

LYSISTRATA

Let it go.
Don't start fighting over a pair of legs.

ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΣ

ἤδη γεωργεῖν γυμνὸς ἀποδὺς βούλομαι.

ΛΑΚΩΝ

ἐγὼ δὲ κοπραγωγεῖν γὰ πρῶτα ναὶ τῷ σιώ.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἐπὴν διαλλαγῆτε, ταῦτα δράσετε. 1175
 ἀλλ' εἰ δοκεῖ δρᾶν ταῦτα, βουλευσασθε καὶ
 τοῖς ξυμμάχοις ἐλθόντες ἀνακουώσατε.

ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΣ

ποίοισιν ὦ τᾶν ξυμμάχοις; ἐστύκαμεν.
 οὐ ταῦτ' ἀδόξει τοῖσι συμμαχοῖσι νῦν
 βινεῖν ἅπασιν; 1180

ΛΑΚΩΝ

τοῖσι γῶν ναὶ τῷ σιώ
 ἀμοῖσι.

ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΣ

καὶ γὰρ ναὶ μὰ Δία Καρυστίοις.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

καλῶς λέγετε. νῦν οὖν ὅπως ἀγνεύσετε,
 ὅπως ἂν αἱ γυναῖκες ὑμᾶς ἐν πόλει
 ξενίσωμεν ὧν ἐν ταῖσι κίσταις εἴχομεν.
 ὄρκους δ' ἐκεῖ καὶ πίστιν ἀλλήλοισι δότε. 1185
 κᾶπειτα τὴν αὐτοῦ γυναῖχ' ὑμῶν λαβῶν
 ἅπεισ' ἕκαστος.

ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΣ

ἀλλ' ἴωμεν ὡς τάχος.

ΛΑΚΩΝ

ἄγ' ὅπα τυ λῆς.

ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΣ

νῆ τὸν Δί' ὡς τάχιστ' ἄγε.

ATHENIAN AMBASSADOR

I'd like to strip and start ploughing naked.

SPARTAN AMBASSADOR

By god, yes! But me first. I'll fork manure.

LYSISTRATA

You can do those things once you've made peace.
 If these terms seem good, you'll want your allies
 to come here to join negotiations.

ATHENIAN AMBASSADOR

What of our allies? We've all got hard ons.
 Our allies will agree this is just fine.
 They're all dying to get laid!

SPARTAN AMBASSADOR

Ours, as well— [1180]
 no doubt of that.

ATHENIAN AMBASSADOR

And the Carystians—
 they'll also be on board, by Zeus.

LYSISTRATA

Well said. Now you must purify yourselves.
 We women will host a dinner for you
 in the Acropolis. We'll use the food
 we brought here in our baskets. In there
 you will make a oath and pledge your trust
 in one another. Then each of you
 can take his wife and go back home.

ATHENIAN AMBASSADOR

Let's go—
 and hurry up.

SPARTAN AMBASSADOR [to Lysistrata]

Lead on. Wherever you wish.

ATHENIAN AMBASSADOR

All right by Zeus, as fast as we can go.

[Lysistrata and Reconciliation lead the Spartan and Athenian
 delegations into the Acropolis]

ΧΟΡΟΣ

στρωμάτων δὲ ποικίλων καὶ
 χλανιδίων καὶ ξυστίδων καὶ 1190
 χρυσίων, ὅσ' ἐστί μοι,
 οὐ φθόνος ἔνεστί μοι πᾶσι παρέχειν φέρειν
 τοῖς παισίν, ὅποταν τε θυγάτηρ τινὶ κανηφορῇ.
 πᾶσιν ὑμῖν λέγω λαμβάνειν τῶν ἐμῶν
 χρημάτων νῦν ἔνδοθεν, καὶ 1195
 μηδὲν οὕτως εἶ σεσημάν-
 θαι τὸ μὴ οὐχὶ
 τοὺς ρύπους ἀνασπάσαι,
 χᾶττ' <ἄν> ἔνδον ἢ φορεῖν.
 ὄψεται δ' οὐδὲν σκοπῶν, εἰ 1200
 μή τις ὑμῶν
 ὀξύτερον ἐμοῦ βλέπει.
 εἰ δέ τω μὴ σίτος ὑμῶν
 ἔστι, βόσκει δ' οἰκέτας καὶ
 σμικρὰ πολλὰ παιδιά, 1205
 ἔστι παρ' ἐμοῦ λαβεῖν πυρίδια λεπτὰ μέν,
 ὁ δ' ἄρτος ἀπὸ χοίνικος ἰδεῖν μάλα νεανίας.
 ὅστις οὖν βούλεται τῶν πενήτων ἵτω
 εἰς ἐμοῦ σάκκους ἔχων καὶ
 κωρύκους, ὡς λήψεται πυ- 1210
 ρούς· ὁ Μανῆς δ'
 οὐμὸς αὐτοῖς ἐμβαλεῖ.
 πρὸς γε μέντοι τὴν θύραν
 προαγορεύω μὴ βαδίζειν
 τὴν ἐμήν, ἀλλ'
 εὐλαβεῖσθαι τὴν κύνα. 1215

ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΣ Α

ἄνοιγε τὴν θύραν· παραχωρεῖν οὐ θέλεις;
 ὑμεῖς τί κάθησθε; μὲν ἐγὼ τῇ λαμπάδι
 ὑμᾶς κατακαύσω; φορτικὸν τὸ χωρίον.

CHORUS

Embroidered gowns and shawls,
 robes and golden ornaments—
 everything I own—I offer you
 with an open heart. Take these things
 and let your children have them,
 if you've a daughter who will be
 a basket bearer. I tell you all
 take my possessions in my home—
 nothing is so securely closed
 you can't break open all the seals
 and take whatever's there inside. [1200]
 But if you look, you won't see much
 unless your eyesight's really keen,
 far sharper than my own.

If anyone is out of corn
 to feed his many tiny children
 and household slaves, at home
 I've got a few fine grains of wheat—
 a quart of those will make some bread,
 a fresh good-looking loaf. If there's a man
 who wants some bread and is in need [1210]
 let him come with his sacks and bags
 to where I live to get his wheat.
 My servant Manes will pour it out.
 But I should tell you not to come
 too near my door—there's a dog
 you need to stay well clear of.

ATHENIAN DELEGATE A [*from inside the citadel*]

Open the door!

[*The Athenian Delegate A comes staggering out of the citadel, evidently drunk. He's carrying a torch. Other delegates in the same condition come out behind him. Athenian Delegate A bumps into someone by the door, probably one of a group of Spartan slaves standing around waiting for their masters to come out*]⁶¹

ATHENIAN DELEGATE A

Why don't you get out of my way?
 Why are you lot sitting there? What if I
 burned you with this torch? That's a stale routine!⁶²

οὐκ ἂν ποιήσαιμ'. εἰ δὲ πάνυ δεῖ τοῦτο δρᾶν,
 ὑμῖν χαρίσασθαι, προσταλαιπωρήσομεν. 1220

ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΣ Β

χῆμέϊς γε μετὰ σοῦ ξυνταλαιπωρήσομεν.
 οὐκ ἄπιτε; κωκύσεσθε τὰς τρίχας μακρά.

ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΣ Α

οὐκ ἄπιθ', ὅπως ἂν οἱ Λάκωνες ἔνδοθεν
 καθ' ἡσυχίαν ἀπίωσιν εὐωχημένοι;

ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΣ Β

οὐπω τοιοῦτον συμπόσιον ὅπωπ' ἐγώ. 1225
 ἦ καὶ χαρίεντες ἦσαν οἱ Λακωνικοί·
 ἡμεῖς δ' ἐν οἴνῳ συμπόται σοφώτατοι.

ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΣ Α

ὀρθῶς γ', ὅτιν' νήφοντες οὐχ ὑγιαίνομεν·
 ἦν τοὺς Ἀθηναίους ἐγὼ πείσω λέγων,
 μεθύοντες αἰὲ πανταχοῖ πρεσβεύσομεν. 1230
 νῦν μὲν γὰρ ὅταν ἔλθωμεν ἐς Λακεδαίμονα
 νήφοντες, εὐθύς βλέπομεν ὅ τι ταραζόμεν·
 ὥσθ' ὅ τι μὲν ἂν λέγωσιν οὐκ ἀκούομεν,
 ἃ δ' οὐ λέγουσι, ταῦθ' ὑπονενοήκαμεν,
 ἀγγέλλομεν δ' οὐ ταῦτὰ τῶν αὐτῶν πέρι. 1235
 νυνὶ δ' ἅπαντ' ἤρρεσκεν· ὥστ' εἰ μὲν γέ τις
 ἄδοι Τελαμῶνος, Κλειταγόρας ἄδειν δέον,
 ἐπηνέσαμεν ἂν καὶ προσεπιωρκήσαμεν.
 ἀλλ' οὐτοῖ γὰρ αὐθις ἔρχονται πάλιν
 ἐς ταῦτόν. οὐκ ἐρήσετ' ὦ μαστιγίαι; 1240

I won't do that. Well, if I really must,
 to keep you happy, I'll go through with it. [1220]

[Athenian Delegate A chases an onlooker away with his torch]

ATHENIAN DELEGATE B [waving a torch]

We'll be here with you to help you do it.
 Why not just leave? You may soon be screaming
 for that hair of yours.

ATHENIAN DELEGATE A

Go on, piss off!
 So the Spartans inside there can come on out
 and go away in peace.

[The two Athenian delegates force the Spartan slaves away from the door]

ATHENIAN DELEGATE B

Well now,
 I never seen a banquet quite like this.
 The Spartans were delightful. As for us,
 we had too much wine, but as companions
 we said lots of really clever things.

ATHENIAN DELEGATE A

That's right. When we're sober, we lose our minds.
 I'll speak up and persuade Athenians
 what when our embassies go anywhere 1230
 they stay permanently drunk. As it is,
 whenever we go sober off to Sparta,
 right away we look to stir up trouble.
 So we just don't hear what they have to say
 and get suspicious of what they don't state.
 Then we bring back quite different reports
 about the same events. But now these things
 have all been sorted out. So if someone there
 sang "Telamon" when he should have sung
 "Cleitagora," we'd applaud the man
 and even swear quite falsely that . . .⁶³

[The Spartan slaves they forced away from the door are gradually coming back]

Hey, those slaves
 are coming here again. You whipping posts,
 why can't you go away? [1240]

ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΣ Β

νή τὸν Δί' ὡς ἤδη γε χωροῦσ' ἔνδοθεν.

ΛΑΚΩΝ

ὦ Πολυχαρεΐδα λαβέ τὰ φουσατήρια,
ἴν' ἐγὼ διποδιάξω τε κἀείσω καλὸν
ἐς τῶς Ἄσσαναίως τε καὶ ἐς ἡμᾶς ἄμα.

ΑΘΗΝΑΙΟΣ

λαβέ δῆτα τὰς φουσαλλίδας πρὸς τῶν θεῶν, 1245
ὡς ἤδομαί γ' ὑμᾶς ὀρώων ὀρχουμένους.

ΛΑΚΩΝ

ὄρμασον

τῶς κυρσανίως ὦ Μναμοῦνα
τάν τ' ἐμὰν Μῶαν, ἄτις
οἶδεν ἀμέ τῶς τ' Ἄσσαναίως, 1250
ὄκα τοὶ μὲν ἐπ' Ἄρταμιτίῳ
πρῶκροον σιοεῖκελοι
ποττὰ κᾶλα τῶς Μήδως τ' ἐνίκων,
ἀμέ δ' αὖ Λεωνίδας 1255
ἄγεν περ τῶς κάπρωσ
θάγοντας οἰῶ τὸν ὀδόντα·
πολὺς δ' ἀμφὶ τὰς γένυας ἀφρὸς ἦνσει,
πολὺς δ' ἀμᾶ καττῶν σκελῶν ἀφρὸς ἔτο.
ἦν γὰρ τῶνδρες οὐκ ἐλάσσωσ 1260
τᾶς ψάμματος τοὶ Πέρσαι.
ἀγροτέρα σηροκτόνε
μόλε δεῦρο παρσένε σιὰ
ποττὰς σπονδάς,
ὡς συνέχης πολὺν ἀμέ χρόνον. 1265
νῦν δ' αὖ φιλία τ' αἰῆς εὖπορος εἴη
ταῖς συνθήκαισ,
καὶ τᾶν αἰμυλᾶν ἀλωπέκων παυσαίμεθα.
ὦ δεῦρ' ἴθι δεῦρ' ὦ
κυναγὲ παρσένε. 1270

ATHENIAN DELEGATE B

By Zeus,
the ones in there are coming out again.

[The Spartan delegates come out of the citadel. The Spartan ambassador is carrying a musical instrument]

SPARTAN AMBASSADOR

Here, my dear sir, take this wind instrument,
so I can dance and sing a lovely song
to honour both Athenians and ourselves.

ATHENIAN AMBASSADOR [turning to one of the slaves]

Yes, by the gods, take the pipes. I love
to see you Spartans dance and sing.

[The music starts. The Spartan Ambassador sings and dances]

SPARTAN AMBASSADOR

O Memory, to this young man
send down your child the Muse
who knows the Spartans and Athenians.⁶⁴ [1250]
Back then at Artemesium
they fought the ships like gods of war
and overpowered the Medes,
while we, I know, led by Leonidas
whetted our teeth like boars
with foaming mouths, which dripped
down on our legs. The Persian force
possessed more fighting men
than grains of sea shore sand. [1260]
O Artemis, queen of the wild,
slayer of beasts, chaste goddess,
come here to bless our treaty,
to make us long united.
May our peace be always blessed
with friendship and prosperity,
and may we put an end
to all manipulating foxes. [1270]
Come here, O come here,
Virgin Goddess of the Hunt.

[Lysistrata emerges from the citadel bringing all the wives with her]

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

ἄγε νυν ἐπειδὴ τᾶλλα πεποίηται καλῶς,
ἀπάγεσθε ταύτας ᾧ Λάκωνες, τάσδε τε
ὑμεῖς· ἀνὴρ δὲ παρὰ γυναῖκα καὶ γυνή
στήτω παρ' ἄνδρα, κᾶτ' ἐπ' ἀγαθαῖς συμφοραῖς
ὀρχησάμενοι θεοῖσιν εὐλαβώμεθα
τὸ λοιπὸν ἀθις μὴ ἔξαμαρτάνειν ἔτι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ

πρόσαγε χορόν, ἔπαγε <δὲ> Χάριτας,
ἐπὶ δὲ κάλεσον Ἄρτεμιν,
ἐπὶ δὲ δίδυμον ἀγέχορον
Ἴήιον
εὐφρον', ἐπὶ δὲ Νύσιον,
ὃς μετὰ μαινάσι Βάκχιος ὄμμασι δαίεται,
Δία τε πυρὶ φλεγόμενον, ἐπὶ τε
πότνιαν ἄλοχον ὀλβίαν·
εἶτα δὲ δαίμονας, οἷς ἐπιμάρτυσι
χρησόμεθ' οὐκ ἐπιλήσοισιν
Ἑσυχίας πέρι τῆς ἀγανόφρονος,
ἣν ἐποίησε θεὰ Κύπρις.
ἀλαλαὶ ἰὴ παιήων·
αἴρεσθ' ἄνω ἰαί,
ὡς ἐπὶ νίκη ἰαί.
εὐοὶ εὐοὶ, εὐαί εὐαί.

ΛΥΣΙΣΤΡΑΤΗ

πρόφαινε δὴ σὺ Μοῦσαν ἐπὶ νέα νέαν.

ΛΑΚΩΝ

Ταῦγετον αὐτ' ἐραννὸν ἐκλιπῶα
Μῶα μόλε Λάκαινα πρεπτόν ἀμὴν
κλέωα τὸν Ἀμύκλαις σιὸν
καὶ χαλκίοικον Ἀσάναν,
Τυνδαρίδας τ' ἀγασώς,

LYSISTRATA⁶⁵

Come now, since everything has turned out well,
take these women back with you, you Spartans.
And, you Athenians, these ones are yours.
Let each man stand beside his wife, each wife
beside her man, and then to celebrate
good times let's dance in honour of the gods.
And for all future time, let's never make
the same mistake again.

[The Chorus now sings to the assembled group, as the wives and
husbands are rejoined]

CHORUS

Lead on the dance, bring on the Graces,
and summon Artemis and her twin,
Apollo, the god who heals us all, [1280]
call on Bacchus, Nysa's god,
whose eyes blaze forth
amid his Maenads' ecstasy,
and Zeus alight with flaming fire,
and Hera, Zeus' blessed wife,
and other gods whom we will use
as witnesses who won't forget
the meaning of the gentle Peace
made her by goddess Aphrodite. [1290]

Alalai! Raise the cry of joy,
raise it high, iai!
the cry of victory, iai!
Evoi, evoi, evoi, evoi!

LYSISTRATA

Spartan, now offer us another song,
match our new song with something new.

SPARTAN AMBASSADOR

Leave lovely Taygetus once again
and, Spartan Muse, in some way
that is appropriate for us
pay tribute to Amyclae's god,
and to bronze-housed Athena,
to Tyndareus' splendid sons, [1300]

τοὶ δὴ πὰρ Εὐρώταν ψιάδδοντι.
 εἶα μάλ' ἔμβη
 ὦ εἶα κοῦφα πάλλων,
 ὡς Σπάρταν ὑμνίωμες, 1305
 τᾶ σῶν χοροὶ μέλοντι
 καὶ ποδῶν κτύπος,
 ἧ τε πῶλοι ταὶ κόραι
 πὰρ τὸν Εὐρωταν
 ἀμπάλλοντι πυκνὰ ποδοῖν 1310
 ἀγκονίωαι,
 ταὶ δὲ κόμαι σείονθ' περ Βακχᾶν
 θυρσαδδῶν καὶ παιδδῶν.
 ἀγείται δ' ἅ Λήδας παῖς
 ἀγνὰ χοραγὸς εὐπρεπής. 1315
 ἀλλ' ἄγε κόμαν παραμπύκιδδε χερί, ποδοῖν τε πάδη
 ἧ τις ἔλαφος· κρότον δ' ἀμᾶ ποίει χορωφελήταν.
 καὶ τὰν σιὰν δ' αὖ τὰν κρατίστην Χαλκίοικον ὕμνει 1320
 τὰν πάμμαχον.

who play beside the Eurotas.
 Step now, with many a nimble turn,
 so we may sing a hymn to Sparta,
 dancing in honour of the gods,
 with stamping feet in that place
 where by the river Eurotas
 young maidens dance,
 like fillies raising dust, [1310]
 tossing their manes,
 like bacchantes who play
 and wave their thyrsus stalks,
 brought on by Leda's lovely child,
 their holy leader in the choral dance.⁶⁶

But come let your hands bind up your hair.
 Let your feet leap up like deer, sound out the beat
 to help our dance. Sing out a song of praise
 for our most powerful bronze-house goddess,
 all-conquering Athena!

[They all exit singing and dancing]

NOTES

- 1 Lysistrata is complaining that if the city had called a major festival all the women would be in the streets enjoying themselves. But none of them, it seems, has answered her invitation to a meeting (as we find out a few lines further on).
- 2 At the time *Lysistrata* was first produced, the Athenians and Spartans had been fighting for many years. The Boeotians were allies of the Spartans. Boeotia was famous for its eels, considered a luxury item in Athens.
- 3 The two goddesses are Demeter and her daughter Persephone. The Athenian women frequently invoke them.
- 4 Theogenes was a well-known merchant and ship owner.
- 5 Calonice is making an obscure joke on the name Anagyryus, a political district named after a bad-smelling plant.
- 6 In Aristophanes' text, Lampito and other Spartans use a parody of a Spartan dialect, a style of speaking significantly different from (although related to) Athenian Greek. Translators have dealt with this in different ways, usually by giving the Spartans a recognizable English dialect, for example, from the Southern States or Scotland, or English with a foreign accent. The difference between the Spartans' speech and the language of the others reflects the political antagonism between the Athenians and Spartans. Here I have not tried to follow this trend. My main reasons for doing so are (in brief) that, first, some dialects are in places incomprehensible to some readers or have been made irrelevant (e.g., Jack Lindsay's Scottish language in the Bantam edition of Aristophanes or the erratic Russian English of the Perseus translation) and, second, I wish to leave the choice of dialect or accent up to the imagination of the readers or the directors of stage productions (who might like to experiment with dialects which will connect with their particular audiences more immediately than any one I might select).
- 7 Spartans commonly invoke the divine twins Castor and Pollux, brothers of Helen and Clytemnestra.
- 8 Thrace is a region to the north of Greece, a long way from Athens. Eucrates was an Athenian commander in the region. Pylos is a small

- area in the south Peloponnese which the Athenians had occupied for a number of years.
- 9 Miletus had rebelled against Athens in the previous year. That city was associated with sexuality and (in this case) the manufacture of sexual toys.
- 10 Taygetus was a high mountain in the Peloponnese.
- 11 In a famous story, Menelaus went storming through Troy looking for his wife, Helen, in order to kill her. But when he found her, he was so overcome by her beauty that he relented and took her back home to Sparta.
- 12 Pherecrates was an Athenian comic dramatist. The line may be a quotation from one of his plays.
- 13 The financial reserves of the Athenian state were stored in the Acropolis
- 14 Lycon's wife was an Athenian famous for her promiscuity.
- 15 Cleomenes, a king of Sparta, once came with a small army to Athens (in 508) to help the oligarch party. He had a very hostile reception and took refuge in the Acropolis, where he stayed under siege for two days. A truce was arranged and the Spartans left peacefully.
- 16 Euripides is the famous tragic dramatist, a younger contemporary of Aristophanes. Marathon was the site of the great Greek victory of the Persian expeditionary forces in 490 BC, a high point of Athenian military achievement.
- 17 The reference to Lemnian fire is not clear. The island of Lemnos perhaps had some volcanic activity, or else the reference is to the women of Lemnos who killed all their husbands. There is a pun on the Greek word for *Lemnos* and the word in the same speech referring to material in the eye.
- 18 Samos is an important island near Athens. A number of the generals of Athenian forces came from there.
- 19 Sommerstein observes (p. 171) that the epithet Tritogeneia ("Trito born") refers to Athena's birth beside the River Triton or Lake Tritonis in North Africa.
- 20 Bupalus was a sculptor from Chios.

- 21 The Achelous was a large well-known river in northern Greece.
- 22 Sabazius was a popular foreign god associated with drinking (like Dionysus). Adonis was a mortal youth loved by Aphrodite. An annual festival was celebrated in his memory. Demostrates was a politician promoting the disastrous Athenian military expedition to Sicily. Zacynthus is an island off the Peloponnese, an ally of Athens.
- 23 OLD WOMAN A: In modern productions the old women who speak in this scene either come out of the gates to the Acropolis or are members of the Chorus. Alternatively the speeches could be assigned to the characters we have met earlier (Myrrhine and Calonice), who have emerged from the Acropolis behind Lysistrata.
- 24 Black eyes were treated with a small cup placed over the eye to reduce the swelling.
- 25 The armed guards accompanying the Magistrate are traditionally Scythian archers.
- 26 Cranaus was a legendary king of Athens.
- 27 Peisander was a leading Athenian politician, suspected of favouring the war for selfish reasons.
- 28 Corybantes were divine attendants on the foreign goddess Cybele. They were associated with ecstatic music and dancing.
- 29 Shields with monstrous Gorgon's heads depicted on them were common in Athens.
- 30 Tereus was a mythical king of Thrace and a popular figure with Athenian dramatists.
- 31 A honey cake was traditionally part of the funeral service. It was given to make sure the dead shade reached Hades.
- 32 Charon is the ferryman who transports the shades of the dead across the river into Hades.
- 33 Hippias was a tyrant in Athens from 528 to 510. Cleisthenes, an Athenian, was a favourite target of Aristophanes, ridiculed as a passive homosexual. Here there's an accusation that he is sympathetic to the Spartans. The pay the old men refer to is a daily payment of three obols from the state to jury men.

- 34 Aritogeiton and his friend Harmodius assassinated the tyrant Hipparchus, the brother of Hippias. The two were celebrated as heroes of democratic Athens.
- 35 The Old Women are referring to many city activities and rituals in which girls of noble families played important roles. The phrase “pounding barley” refers to making cakes for sacrifices.
- 36 Leipsydrion was the site of a battle years before when the tyrant Hippias besieged and defeated his opponents. The old men are treating the event as if they had been victorious. The detail about their white feet, Sommerstein suggests, refers to those who were hostile to Hippias and the tyrants (hence, lovers of freedom).
- 37 Artemesia was queen of Halicarnassus in Asia Minor. She led ships from her city as part of the Persian expedition against Athens in 480 and fought at the Battle of Salamis.
- 38 Micon was a well-known Athenian painter.
- 39 This is a reference to an old story in which the dung beetle got its revenge against an eagle by smashing its eggs. The old woman obviously threatens the man’s testicles as she says this.
- 40 Hecate was a goddess whose worship was associated with, among other things, birth and children.
- 41 Orsilochus is either a well known seducer or someone who keeps a brothel.
- 42 To have a child in a holy place, like the Acropolis, was considered a sacrilege.
- 43 Myronides and Phormio were two dead generals who fought for Athens.
- 44 Sommerstein (p. 200) points out that Paeonidae is a political district in northern Attica. The name suggest the Greek verb *paiein*, meaning to *strike* or *copulate*. Sommerstein offers the translation “Bangwell.” Jack Lindsay translates the place as “Bangtown.”
- 45 Hercules was famous for always being hungry and having an enormous appetite.
- 46 Cynalopex (meaning “Fox Dog”) was the nickname of Philostratus who apparently was a pimp.

- 47 Prytanes was the business committee of the Athenian council.
- 48 The Greek reads “we need Pellene,” an area in the Peloponnese allied with Sparta. But, as Sommerstein points out (p. 206), this is undoubtedly a pun invoking a word meaning *vagina* or *anus*. In the exchanges which follow, the Spartans are depicted as having a decided preference for anal sex.
- 49 Pan was a god associated with wild unrestrained sex in the wilderness.
- 50 The meaning of the Greek word *hussakos* (here translated as *honey pots*) is very obscure. Sommerstein translates as “pork barrels.”
- 51 Lamplighters had to walk along bent over in order to protect the flame they carried.
- 52 Tricorynthus is a region in Attica, near Marathon. Presumably it was famous for its insects.
- 53 Carystus is a state from Euboea, allied to Athens.
- 54 Cleisthenes was a well known Athenian, whom Aristophanes frequently ridicules as a passive homosexual.
- 55 In 415 the statues of Hermes in Athens were mutilated by having their penises chopped off, a very sacrilegious act .
- 56 In Aristophanes’ time, this character (Reconciliation) would be played by a man with a body stocking prominently displaying female characteristics: breasts, pubic hair, buttocks.
- 57 Lysistrata is listing some of the festivals where all the Greek states cooperated in the ritual celebrations.
- 58 In 464 Sparta suffered a massive earthquake, which killed many citizens. Their slaves, who included the Messenians, rose in revolt. Sparta appealed to Athens for help, and the Athenians, after some debate, sent Cimon with an army to assist the Spartans.
- 59 Pylos was a small but important part of the south Peloponnese which the Athenians had seized in 425 and held onto ever since.
- 60 Echinous, Melian Gulf, and Megara are places relatively close to Athens.
- 61 The stage business at this point is somewhat confusing. It’s not clear whether the Athenian delegates who now appear are leaving the meeting in the citadel or arriving and wanting to get in. Here I follow

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Sommerstein, who is following Henderson, and have the delegates emerge from the meeting. The people hanging around the door are probably the slaves who came with the Spartans and who are waiting for their masters inside.

- 62 This comment is taking a swipe at other comic dramatists who use a stock set of situations or actions, while at the same time the action uses the stock technique (not an uncommon feature of Aristophanic comedy).
- 63 "Telamon" and "Cleitagora" are well known drinking songs.
- 64 The Spartan Ambassador is singing about two famous battles against the Persians (both in 480), the Athenian naval victory at Artemisium and the Spartan stand of the 300 at Thermopylae. This military campaign was an important highlight of Greek unity.
- 65 There is some dispute about who this speech should be assigned to. Sommerstein (p. 221) has a useful summary of the arguments.
- 66 Taygetus is an important mountain in Sparta. Amyclae's god is Apollo who had a shrine at Amyclae, near Sparta. Bronze-housed Athena is a reference to the shrine of Athena in Sparta. Tyndareus' splendid sons are Castor and Pollux, the twin gods (brothers of Helen and Clytaemnestra). The Eurotas is a river near Sparta. The thyrsus stalk is a plant stem held by the followers of Bacchus in their ecstatic dancing. Leda's child is Helen (wife of Menelaus, sister of Castor and Pollux and Clytaemnestra, a child of Zeus).