

# The Wrath of Apollo

Emily Shanahan  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
Department of Communications Studies  
Class of 2016

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

## **Text used for translation:**

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

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

5

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

10

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

15

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

# ALCESTIS: LINES 1-18

TRANSLATION BY AEWREAK DONE  
EMILY SHANAHAN, IN THE STYLE OF JEFF SMITH



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



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



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



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



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

HE BEGGED EVERYONE  
HIS OWN MOTHER AND FATHER.



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