

**Euripides, *Alcestis* 691-705**  
**[text discussed by Maria-Elpiniki Oikonomou]**

χαίρεις ὀρώων φῶς· πατέρα δ' οὐ χαίρειν δοκεῖς;  
ἢ μὴν πολὺν γε τὸν κάτω λογίζομαι  
χρόνον, τὸ δὲ ζῆν σμικρὸν ἀλλ' ὅμως γλυκὺ.  
σὺ γοῦν ἀναιδῶς διεμάχου τὸ μὴ θανεῖν  
καὶ ζῆς παρελθῶν τὴν πεπρωμένην τύχην, 695  
ταύτην κατακτάς· εἴτ' ἐμὴν ἀψυχίαν  
ψέγεις, γυναικός, ᾧ κάκισθ', ἠσσημένος,  
ἢ τοῦ καλοῦ σοῦ προύθανεν νεανίου;  
σοφῶς δ' ἐφηῦρες ὥστε μὴ θανεῖν ποτε,  
εἰ τὴν παροῦσαν κατθανεῖν πείσεις ἀεὶ 700  
γυναῖχ' ὑπὲρ σοῦ· κᾶτ' ὄνειδίζεις φίλοις  
τοῖς μὴ θέλουσι δρᾶν τάδ', αὐτὸς ὦν κακός;  
σίγα· νόμιζε δ', εἰ σὺ τὴν σαυτοῦ φιλεῖς  
ψυχὴν, φιλεῖν ἅπαντας· εἰ δ' ἡμᾶς κακῶς  
ἐρεῖς, ἀκούσῃ πολλὰ κού ψευδῆ κακά. 705

You rejoice seeing the light? Do you think that your father does not rejoice?  
Indeed, I reckon the time below is long  
but living short but, nevertheless, sweet.  
And so you persisted in fighting shamelessly to escape death  
and you are alive, bypassing your destined fortune, 695  
killing her – then you blame my cowardice,  
you most evil one, being inferior to a woman,  
who died for you, the fine, young man?  
Wisely you discovered how not to die ever  
if you always convince your current wife to die 700  
for you. And then you reproach your friends,  
the ones who do not want to do that, even though you yourself are so bad?  
Be quiet! And think: if you love your  
life, everyone loves theirs. And if you talk badly about us,  
you will hear many – and not false – bad things about you. 705

[translation by Maria-Elpiniki Oikonomou]