

Example Text: Euripides Bacchae 1-12

Scan these lines and indicate the main caesura.

1 2 3 4 | 5 6 7 8 | 9 10 11 12

Ἡκω Διὸς παῖς τήνδε Θηβαίων χθόνα

Διόνυσος, ὅν τίκτει πόθ' ή Κάδμου κόρη

Σεμέλη λοχευθεῖσ' ἀστράπη φόρω πυρὶ.

μορφῆν δ' ἀμείψας ἐκ θεοῦ βροτησίαν

πάρειμι Δίρκης νάματ' Τσμῆνοῦ θύδωρ.

ὅρῶ δέ μητρὸς μνῆμα τῆς κεραυνίας

τόδ' ἔγγυς οὐκων καὶ δόμων ερείπια

τυφόμενα Δίου πυρὸς ἔτι ζῶσαν φλόγα,

ἀθάνατον Ἡρᾶς μητέρ' εἰς ἐμὴν ψβριν.

αἴνω δέ Κάδμον, ἀβατόν ὅς πέδον τόδε

τίθησι, θυγατρὸς σηκόν· ἀμπέλου δέ νιν

πέριξ ἔγω καλύψα βοτρυώδει χλόῃ.

| = metre division coincides with end of 2nd + 4th feet.

| = feet division

1, 2 etc = elements

P = Penthemimeral Caesura

H = Hepthemimeral Caesura

Mute + Liqui. Unclear whether the X is short or long - it doesn't matter as the 9th element is an epos

anapaest in  
first foot

dactyl in  
1st + 2nd foot

tribrach in  
1st foot

tribrach in  
3rd foot

tribrach in  
2nd foot

tribrach in  
4th foot

f = double consonant

v stays short before Mute + Liqui

- Strong pause after hepthemimeral caesura

naturally short o stays short - that's the tendency in tragic trimeters.

