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OENONE. See PARIS

OLYMPIANS. See

APHRODITE; APOLLO; ARES; ARTEMIS; ATHENA; DEMETER; DIONYSUS; HEPHAESTUS; HERA; HERMES; POSEIDON; ZEUS.

OLYMPUS. (1) A mountain in northern Greece, considered by the ancients as the home of the gods. See GODS AND GODDESSES; also AENEAS, APOTHEOSIS; BELLEROPHON; DIOSCURI; GANYMEDE; HEBE; HERACLES, APOTHEOSIS; MOMUS; PSYCHE; TANTALUS; TITANS AND GIANTS. (2) A Phrygian flute-player said to have been Marsyas's teacher. See MARSYAS.

OMPHALE. See HERACLES, and Omphale.

OPS. See CRONUS; CYBELE.

ORESTES. The son of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra and the brother of Iphigenia, Electra, and Chrysothemis, Orestes is best known today through the *Oresteia* trilogy of Aeschylus, produced in Athens in 458 BCE. The first tragedy, *Agamemnon*, chronicles Agamemnon's return after the Trojan War and his murder at the hands of his wife, Clytemnestra.

The Libation Bearers (Choephoroe) recounts the fortunes of Orestes, who, hearing of his father's death, returned to Argos after years of exile, accompanied by his friend Pylades and under orders from Apollo to avenge the murder. He was reunited with his sister Electra, and together they vowed vengeance. Orestes and Pylades first killed Clytemnestra's lover, Aegisthus. When Clytemnestra begged for her life Orestes faltered, but he was reminded by Pylades of his duty to Apollo and carried out his mission.

The Eumenides describes Orestes' quest to purify himself of the matricide. Harried by Furies (Eumenides), he fled first to the sanctuary of Apollo at Delphi, where the god instructed him to seek justice from Athena at her temple in Athens. Athena referred the judgment of Orestes to a tribunal of Athenian citizens, with the Furies serving as prosecutors and Orestes defending himself. The citizens were split in their decision, and Athena intervened to acquit Orestes.

Reid, J. Davidson, compl. Oxford Guide to Classical Mythology in the Arts, 1400 to 1990s. Oxford 1994.

A variant of the legend is told in Sophocles' *Electra* of c.418–410 BCE. After the murder of Agamemnon, Clytemnestra was plagued by disturbing dreams and ordered her daughter Chrysothemis to offer libations at Agamemnon's tomb. This inflamed her other daughter, Electra, who was determined to avenge her father's murder. When Orestes and Pylades reached Argos they sent out a false report of Orestes' death. Electra, who had been awaiting Orestes' arrival to exact revenge, now decided to kill Clytemnestra and Aegisthus herself and tried unsuccessfully to persuade Chrysothemis to join her. However, before she could act Orestes and Pylades entered the palace and performed the executions. Euripides' *Electra*, composed during the same period, follows a similar story line with slight variations, including Electra's marriage (to a poor farmer, to ensure that she would bear no son with a claim to the throne) and her equal participation with Orestes in the murder of Clytemnestra.

The *Orestes* of Euripides, composed in 408 BCE, plays yet another variation on the theme. Orestes was driven nearly mad by the Furies, and both he and Electra were sentenced to death by the citizens of Argos for killing Clytemnestra. Agamemnon's brother Menelaus, returning from Troy with his wife, Helen, arrived in Argos and assumed the regency but refused to aid his kin. With the support of Pylades, Orestes and Electra then tried to kill Helen; when she miraculously vanished they took her daughter Hermione hostage and set the palace afire. Amid the confusion Apollo appeared, explaining that Helen had been carried to heaven and that Orestes was destined to be tried and acquitted at Athens, to be married to Hermione, and to become ruler of Argos.

Orestes also appears in Euripides' *Iphigenia in Tauris*, which records the liberation of Iphigenia from the land of the Tauri, where Orestes had been sent to steal a statue of Artemis as a means of expiation.

As a child, Orestes had been betrothed by Agamemnon to Hermione, daughter of Menelaus and Helen. This pledge was broken at Troy when Menelaus promised Hermione to Neoptolemus (Pyrrhus), son of Achilles. After returning from Tauris, Orestes killed Neoptolemus at Delphi and reclaimed Hermione. Orestes ruled Argos for seventy years and upon his death received divine honors.

Classical Sources. Homer, *Iliad* 9.142. Aeschylus, *The Libation Bearers; The Eumenides*. Pindar, *Pythian Odes* 11.34ff. Herodotus, *History* 4.103. Sophocles, *Electra*. Euripides, *Andromache; Electra; Iphigenia in Tauris; Orestes*. Ovid, *Heroides* 8; *Metamorphoses* 15.489. Apollodorus, *Bibliotheca* E6.14.6.23–28. Hyginus, *Fabulae* 101, 117–123, 261. *Orestes* 4–11. Diana's shrine at Argos. See also ANDROMACHE; IPHIGENIA, in Tauris.

Guido delle Colonne, c.1210–after 1287. (Orestes' murder of Clytemnestra in) *Historia destructionis Troiae* [History of the Destruction of Troy]. Latin prose chronicle, after Benoît de Sainte-Maure's *Roman de Troie* (c.1165). 1272–87. Modern edition by Nathaniel E. Griffin (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, with Medieval Academy of America, 1936; reprinted New York: Kraus, 1970). / Translated by M. E. Meek (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1974). [Benson 1980, p. 30]

✓ **Dante Alighieri**, 1265–1321. (Voice of Pylades, claiming to be Orestes, an example of charity in) *Purgatorio* 13.32. Completed c.1314? In *The Divine Comedy*. Poem. Foligno: Neumeister & Angelini, 1472. [Singleton 1970–75, vol. 2 / Toynbee 1968, p. 510]

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Peter Bornemisza, 1535–1585. *Die Magyar Elektra* [The Hungarian Elektra]. Tragedy in prose, based on Sophocles. First performed 1558, Protestant school, Hungary. [Czigány 1984, p. 38 / McGraw-Hill 1984, p. 534 / Oxford 1983b, p. 400 / Brunel 1971, p. 381]

John Pikerlyng, fl. 1560–67. *A Nawe Enterlude of Vice Conteyning the Historye of Horestes*. Tragedy. London: Gryffith, 1567. [Greg 1939–59, 1:126f., no. 48]

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Thomas Dekker, 1570?–1632, and **Henry Chettle**, 1565–1607. *Orestes' Furies*. Tragedy. First performed summer 1599, Rose Theatre, London. [DLB 1987, 62: 45]

William Shakespeare, 1564–1616. (Orestes theme paralleled in) *Hamlet*. Tragedy. c.1600–01. London: 1603 (inferior text); collected in First Folio, London: Jaggard, 1623. [Riverside 1974 / see also Gilbert Murray, "Hamlet and Orestes," in *The Classical Tradition in Poetry* (Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1927)]

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* Simpson's notes are excellent. pp. 277–79, 280–81. 763

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Thomas Heywood, 1573/74–1641. (Orestes' revenge in) *Troia Britannica: or, Great Brittaines Troy* canto 15. Epic poem. London: 1609. [Heywood 1974 / also Boas 1950, p. 59]

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Pier Francesco Cavalli, 1602–1676. *L'Egisto* [Aegisthus]. Opera (favola drammatica musicale). Libretto, Giovanni Faustini. First performed 1643, Teatro S. Cassiano, Vienna. [Grove 1980, 4:25, 32 / Glover 1978, pp. 75–76, 112 / Palisca 1968, pp. 123f. / Worsthorne 1954, pp. 15, 110–13, 137]

Benedetto Ferrari, 1597/1604–1681. *Egisto*. Opera (dramma per musica). Libretto, Faustini (though not named on surviving MS). First performed 22 Jan 1651, Piacenza. [Grove 1980, 6:491, 492]

Nicolas Pradon, 1644–1698. *Electre*. Tragedy. First performed 17 Dec 1677, Théâtre Guénégaud, Paris. [Lancaster 1929–42, pt. 4, 2:952 / DLLF 1984, 3:1785 / Brunel 1971, p. 381]

Michel Le Clerc, 1622–1691, and **Claude Boyer**, 1618?–1698. *Oreste*. Tragedy. First performed 27 Aug/3 Sep 1681, Fontainebleau. [Lancaster 1929–42, pt. 4, 2:952]

Giacomo Antonio Perti, 1661–1756. *Oreste in Argo*. Opera. Libretto, Giacomo Antonio Bergamori. First performed Carnival 1685, Modena. [Baker 1984, p. 1755 / Grove 1980, 14:556]

Hilaire Bernard de Requeleyn de Longepierre, 1659–1721. *Electre*. Tragedy. First performed 1702, Paris. Published Paris: 1730. [Girdlestone 1972, pp. 167, 219 n. / Brunel 1971, pp. 194ff. / DLF 1951–72, 3:631]

Prosper Jolyot de Crébillon, 1674–1762. *Electre*. Tragedy. First performed 1708, Paris. [Brunel 1971, pp. 120ff., 191ff. / DLLF 1984, 1:566]

André Campra, 1660–1744. (Electra takes refuge in Crete after the murder of Clytemnestra in) *Idoménée*. Opera. Libretto, Antoine Danchet. First performed 1712, Paris. [Grove 1980, 3:665 / cf. Einstein 1945, pp. 370, 387]

Lewis Theobald, 1688–1744. *Electra*. Tragedy, after Sophocles. London: Lintott, 1714. [Stratman 1966, p. 651 / Nicoll 1959–66, 2:359]

—, libretto. *Orestes*. Opera. First performed Apr 1731, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London. [Nicoll / Brunel 1971, p. 381]

Johann Augustin Kobelius, 1674–1731, attributed. *Der glückliche Betrug, oder, Clythia und Orestes* [The Fortunate Deception, or, Clythia and Orestes]. Opera. Libretto, composer? First performed 1716, Palace, Weissenfels. [Grove 1980, 10:129]

John Hughes, 1677–1720. *Orestes*. Tragedy. London: 1717. [Nicoll 1959–66, 2:338]

Benedetto Micheli, c.1700–after 15 Sep 1784. *L'Oreste*. Opera seria. First performed 1723, Sala Capranica, Rome. [Grove 1980, 12:266]

Antonio Caldara, c.1670–1736, with **Georg von Reutter the Younger**, 1708–1772 (act 1). *La forza dell'amicizia, ossia, Pilade ed Oreste* [The Strength of Friendship, or, Pylades and Orestes]. Opera. Libretto, Pasquini. First performed 17 Aug 1728, Graz. [Grove 1980, 3:615, 5:773]

George Frideric Handel, 1685–1759. music. *Oreste*. Ballet-opera (pasticcio). Libretto, adapted from G. Barlocchi. First performed 18 Dec 1734, Theatre Royal, Covent Garden, London; choreography, Marie Sallé. [Keates 1985, p. 182 / Hogwood 1984, pp. 125, 284 / Oxford 1982, p. 362 / Grove 1980, 8:116]

Giulio Cesare Becelli, 1686–1750. *Oreste vendicato* [Orestes Vindicated] (Orestes' trial and acquittal). Tragedy. Verona: Ramanzini, 1738. [DELI 1966–70, 1:298]

Francesco Feo, 1691–1761. *Oreste*. Serenata. First performed 20 Jan 1738, Palacio Buen Retiro, Madrid. [Grove 1980, 6:466]

Luisa Bergalli-Gozzi, 1703–1779. *Elettra*. Tragedy. 1743. [DELI 1966–70, 1:330]

Nicolaes Verkolje, 1653–1746. "Orestes and Pylades." Painting. Historisch Museum, Amsterdam, inv. A28673. [Wright 1980, p. 469]

Johann Ernst Galliard, c.1687–1749. *Oreste e Pilade*. Opera. Unfinished, lost. [Grove 1980, 7:108]

Voltaire, 1694–1778. *Oreste*. Tragedy. First performed 12 Jan 1750, Comédie-Française, Paris. [Moland 1877–85, vol. 5 / DLLF 1984, 3:2489 / Nicoll 1959–66, 3:60 / McGraw-Hill 1984, 5:117]

Johann Jakob Bodmer, 1698–1783. *Electra, oder, Die gerichte Übelthat* [Electra, or, The Evil Deed Righted]. Tragedy. Vienna & Leipzig: 1760. [Brunel 1971, p. 381 / DLL 1968–90, 1:649]

Louis Léon Félicité, Duc de Brancas, Comte de Lauraguais, 1733–1824. *Clytemnestre*. Tragedy. Paris: Lambert, 1761. [Brunel 1971, p. 381]

✓ **William Shirley**, fl. 1739–80. *Electra*. Tragedy. Published with *The Birth of Hercules* (London: Newbery & Davis, 1763). [NUC] See From Macintosh 1995

Henry Fuseli, 1741–1825. "Orestes Pursued by the Furies." Drawing. 1762–64. Staatliche Kunstsammlungen, Dresden. [Schiff 1973, no. 332—ill.] ^{see also Spangemann (Beid.) p. 606}

—, "Orestes and Pylades Lead Aegisthus before Electra, Who Reveals the Body of Clytemnestra." Drawing. 1776. Musée Magnin, Dijon. [Ibid., no. 392—ill.] Replica, 1776–78. Nationalmuseum, Stockholm, inv. 1773/1875. [Ibid., no. 393]

Carlo Monza, c.1735–1801. *Oreste*. Opera seria. First performed Carnival 1766, Regio, Turin. [Grove 1980, 12:544]

Thomas Francklin. *Orestes*. Tragedy, after Voltaire (1750). First performed 13 Mar 1769, Covent Garden, London. [Nicoll 1959–66, 3:60, 84, 261]

—, *Electra*. Tragedy, after Voltaire's *Oreste* (?). First performed 15 Dec 1774, Theatre Royal, Drury Lane, London. [Ibid.]

Jean-Georges Noverre, 1727–1810, choreography. *Der gerichte Agamemnon* [Agamemnon Avenged]. Tragic ballet. Music, Franz Asplmayr. First performed 1771, Kärntner Theater, Vienna. Also performed as *Agamemnon Vengé*, 1775, Regio Ducale, Milan. [Oxford 1982, p. 306 / Grove 1980, 1:658; 13:443 / Winter 1974, pp. 120, 142 / Lynham 1950, p. 74, 168 (as 1772)]

Friedrich Wilhelm Gotter, 1746–1797. *Orest und Elektra*. Tragedy, after Voltaire's *Oreste* (1750) and Crébillon's *Electre* (1708). First performed 7 Jan 1772, Hoftheater, Weimar. [DLL 1968–90, 6:622]

Simonin Vallouy, choreography. *Oreste et Electre*. Ballet. First performed 25 May 1775, King's Theatre, London. [Guest 1972, p. 148]

Alexander Runciman, 1736–1785. "Orestes and the Furies" (former identification; now called "St. Withold and the Nightmare"). Drawing. c.1772–78. National Gallery of Scotland, Edinburgh. [Pressly 1979, p. 16—ill.]

Vittorio Alfieri, 1749–1803. *Oreste*. Tragedy. 1778. First performed 1781, Teatro di Foligno, Rome. [McGraw-Hill 1984, 1: 48, 49]

Vicente García de la Huerta, 1734–1787. *Agamenón vengado* [Agamemnon Avenged]. Tragedy, after Sophocles and Pérez de Oliva (1528). 1778. In *Tragedias* (Madrid: Aznar, 1786). [DLE 1972, p. 369 / EDS 1954–66, 5:924]

George Romney, 1734–1802. "The Ghost of Clytemnestra" (with the Furies in the sanctuary of Apollo at Delphi). Drawing, illustrating the *Eumenides* of Aeschylus. c.1776–80. Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge. [Pressly 1979, pp. 124f.ill.]

Wolfgang Heribert von Dalberg, 1750–1806. *Elektra: Eine musikalische Declamation*. Dramatic poem. First performed 1780, National Theater, Mannheim. [DLL 1968–90, 2:950 / Strich 1970, 1:225 n.]

Benjamin West, 1738–1820. "Aegisthus Discovering the Body of Clytemnestra." Painting. c.1780. Lost. / Print by V. Green, published 1786. [von Erffa & Staley 1986, no. 185—ill.]

Christian Cannabich, 1731–1798. *Elektra*. Opera (melodrama). Libretto, Dahlberg. First performed 1781, Mannheim. [Baker 1984, p. 407 / Hunger 1959, p. 102]

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, 1756–1791. (Electra takes refuge in Crete after the murder of Clytemnestra in) *Idomeneo, re di Creta*. Opera (dramma per musica). Libretto, Giambattista Varesco, after Danchet's text for Campra (1712). First performed 29 January 1781, Hoftheater, Munich. [Einstein 1945, pp. 370, 387 / Mann 1977, pp. 252–88 / Grove 1980, 12:729]

André Grétry, 1741–1813. *Electra*. Opera. Libretto, J. C. Thilorier. 1782. Unperformed. [Grove 1980, 7:711]

Jean-Baptiste Lemoyne, 1751–1796, music. *Electre*. Opera (tragédie). Libretto, Nicolas-François Guillard. First performed 2 July 1782, L'Opéra, Paris. [Grove 1980, 10:653f. / Brunel 1971, p. 382]

Guillaume Dubois de Rochefort, 1731–1788. *Électre*. Tragedy. First performed 1782, Versailles; incidental music, François-Joseph Gossec. [Grove 1980, 7:562]

Domenico Cimarosa, 1749–1801. *Oreste*. Opéra-comique. Libretto, Luigi Serio. First performed 13 Aug 1783, Teatro San Carlo, Naples. [Grove 1980, 4:401 / Zinar 1971, p. 93 / DELI 1966–70, 5:114]

Honoré Langlé, 1741–1807. *Oreste et Tyndare* [Orestes and Tyndareus]. Opera. 1783. Unperformed. [Grove 1980, 10:452]

Angelica Kauffmann, 1741–1807. "Electra and Chrysothemis." Painting. / Print by Harding, 1786. [Manners & Williamson 1924, p. 224]

Johann Christian Friedrich Haeffner, 1759–1833. *Elektra*.

Opera. Libretto, A. F. Ristell, after N.-F. Guillard (1782). First performed 22 July 1787, Drottningholm. [Grove 1980, 8:20]

Niccolò Piccinni, 1728–1800. *Clytemnestre*. Opera (tragédie lyrique). Libretto, Louis-Guillaume Pitrat? Rehearsed 1787, Paris, unperformed. [Grove 1980, 14:728]

Onorato Viganò, 1739–1811, choreography. *La morte di Clytemnestra, ossia, Oreste* [The Death of Clytemnestra, or, Orestes]. Ballet. Music, Luigi Marescalchi (1776). First performed Carnival 1787, Teatro Argentina, Rome. [Grove 1980, 11:675]

—, choreography. *La morte d'Egisto, ossia, Le Furie d'Oreste* [The Death of Aegisthus, or, The Furies of Orestes]. Ballet. Music, Marescalchi. First performed Ascension 1794, La Fenice, Venice. [Ibid.]

Louis Lafitte, 1770–1828. "Orestes Pursued by the Furies." Drawing. 1790. William Ackland Art Museum, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. [Scen by author]

Niccolò Zingarelli, 1752–1837. *La Vendetta giurata, ossia, L'Oreste* [Vengeance Judged, or, Orestes]. Cantata. First performed c.1793, Milan. [Grove 1980, 20:694]

—, *Clytemnestra*. Opera. Libretto, F. Salfi. First performed 26 Dec 1800, La Scala, Milan. [Ibid.]

John Flaxman, 1755–1826. Cycle of 13 drawings illustrating the *Oresteia*. 1793–94. Various collections. / Engraved by Tomasso Piroli, published London and Rome: 1795. [Irwin 1979, pp. 85ff.—ill. / also Flaxman 1872, 3: pls. 15–27 / Bindman 1979, no. 110—ill.]

—, "Ancient Drama" (Orestes and the Furies and other figures, flanking Aristophanes, Menander, and Aeschylus). Frieze, for façade of Covent Garden Theatre, London. 1809. Royal Opera House, London. [Irwin, pp. 172–74—ill.] Related (?) drawing, "Orestes Pursued by the Furies," c.1809, in Victoria and Albert Museum. [Bindman, no. 159—ill.]

—, "Electra at the Tomb of Agamemnon." Drawing with wash. 1820s? John Baskett coll. [Bindman, no. 160—ill.]

Luigi Cherubini, 1760–1842. *Clytemnestre*. Cantata for 1 voice. 1794. [Grove 1980, 4:211]

Philippe-Auguste Hennequin, 1763–1833. "The Remorse of Orestes" (pursued by Furies). Painting. Exhibited 1800, Louvre, Paris, inv. 5322. [Louvre 1979–86, 3:309—ill. / also Eitner 1983, fig. 129 (print)]

William Sotheby, 1757–1833. *Orestes*. Tragedy. Unperformed. London: 1802. [Stratman 1966, pp. 61ff.]

Francesco Orgitano, fl. 1790–1804. *Oreste agitato dalle Furie* [Orestes Tormented by the Furies]. Cantata. 1804. [Grove 1980, 13:821]

Francesco Morlacchi, 1784–1841. *Oreste*. Opera seria. Libretto, L. Bottoni. First performed 26 Dec 1808, Teatro Ducale, Parma. [Grove 1980, 12:578]

Louis Adrien Masreliez, 1748–1810. "Orestes Pursued by the Furies." Drawing. Nationalmuseum, Stockholm, no. 127/1919. [Pressly 1979, p. 113]

Marie-Joseph Chénier, 1764–1811. *Electre*. Tragedy. In *Oeuvres posthumes*, vol. 1 (Paris: Guillaume, 1824). [Brunel 1971, pp. 274ff.]

Stanislas Champein, 1753–1830. *Electre*. Opera. Libretto, composer, after Sophocles. Rehearsed 1812, unperformed. [Grove 1980, 4:126]

r Bernhard Meier orestes slaying Ag. & thus end
Clytemnestra (1654)

ORESTES

matic work. 1950. Libretto, D. Clarke, after Aeschylus. [Grove 1980, 5:363]

Willem Grimm, "Orestes and the Furies." Print, illustrating Sartre's *Les mouches* (1943). 1950. [Hannover 1950, no. 38-ill.]

Barbara Hepworth, 1903-1975. Set and costume designs for Old Vic, London, production of Sophocles' *Elektra*. 1951. [Hodin 1962, no. 167]

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