

Trachiniae

Sophocles 497 /6 - 405B.C.

LEADER OF ONE SEMI-CHORUS singing

Let the maidens raise a joyous strain for the house, with songs of triumph at the hearth; and, amidst them, let the shout of the men go up with one accord for Apollo of the bright quiver, our Defender! And at the same time, ye maidens, lift up a paeon, cry aloud to his sister, the Ortygian Artemis, smiter of deer, goddess of the twofold torch, and to the Nymphs her neighbours!

LEADER OF OTHER SEMI-CHORUS

My spirit soars; I will not reject the wooing of the flute.- O thou sovereign of my soul! Lo, the ivy's spell begins to work upon me! Euoe!- even now it moves me to whirl in the swift dance of Bachanals!

Translated by Richard C. Jebb