

**THE HIPPOLYTUS
OF EURIPIDES**

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The Hippolytus of Euripides by Gilbert Murray

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THE
HIPPOLYTUS
OF
EURIPIDES

TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH RHYMING VERSE
WITH EXPLANATORY NOTES BY

GILBERT MURRAY, M.A., LL.D.

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TWELFTH THOUSAND

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HIPPOLYTUS

CHARACTERS OF THE PLAY

THE GODDESS APHERODITÆ.

THE GODDESS ARTEMIS.

THESEUS, *King of Athens and Troas.*

PHÆDRA, *daughter of Minos, King of Crete, wife to Theseus.*

HIPPOLYTUS, *bastard son of Theseus and the Amazon Hippolytè.*

THE NURSE OF PHÆDRA.

AN OLD HUNTSMAN.

A HENCHMAN OF HIPPOLYTUS.

A CHORUS OF HUNTMEN.

A CHORUS OF TROZEMIAN WOMEN, WITH THEIR LEADER.

ATTENDANTS ON THE THREE ROYAL PERSONS.

"The scene is laid in Troas. The play was first acted when Epameinon was Archon, Olympiad 87, year 4 (B.C. 429). Euripides was first, Iophon second, Ion third."

HIPPOLYTUS

The scene represents the front of the royal castle of Trozén, the chief door being in the centre, facing the audience. Two statues are visible, that of ARTEMIS on the right, that of APHRODITE or CYPRISS on the left. The goddess APHRODITE is discovered alone.

APHRODITE.

Great among men, and not unnamed am I,
The Cyprian, in God's inmost halls on high.
And wheresoe'er from Pontus to the far
Red West men dwell, and see the glad day-star,
And worship Me, the pious heart I bless,
And wreck that life that lives in stubbornness.
For that there is, even in a great God's mind,
That hungereth for the praise of human kind.

So runs my word; and soon the very deed
Shall follow. For this Prince of Theseus' seed,
Hippolytus, child of that dead Amazon,
And reared by saintly Pittheus in his own
Strait ways, hath dared, alone of all Trozén,
To hold me least of spirits and most mean,
And spurns my spell and seeks no woman's kiss.
But great Apollo's sister, Artemis,

He holds of all most high, gives love and praise,
 And through the wild dark woods for ever strays,
 He and the Maid together, with swift hounds
 To slay all angry beasts from out these bounds,
 To more than mortal friendship consecrate!

I grudge it not. ¶ No grudge know I, nor hate ;
 Yet, seeing he hath offended, I this day
 Shall smite Hippolytus. Long since my way
 Was opened, nor needs now much labour more.

For once from Pittheus' castle to the shore
 Of Athens came Hippolytus over-seas
 Seeking the vision of the Mysteries.
 And Phaedra there, his father's Queen high-born,
 Saw him, and, as she saw, her heart was torn
 With great love, by the working of my will.
 And for his sake, long since, on Pallas' hill,
 Deep in the rock, that Love no more might roam,
 She built a shrine, and named it *Love-at-home* :
 And the rock held it, but its face alway
 Seeks Trozên o'er the seas. Then came the day
 When Theseus, for the blood of kinsmen shed,
 Spake doom of exile on himself, and fled,
 Phaedra beside him, even to this Trozên.
 And here that grievous and amazed Queen,
 Wounded and wondering, with ne'er a word,
 Wastes slowly ; and her secret none hath heard
 Nor dreamed.

But never thus this love shall end !
 To Theseus' ear some whisper will I send,
 And all be bare ! And that proud Prince, my foe,
 His sire shall slay with curses. Even so
 Endeth that boon the great Lord of the Main
 To Theseus gave, the Three Prayers not in vain.