

# The Oresteia Agamemnon The Libation Bearers The Eumenides

## Penguin Classics

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divclassic trilogy by great tragedian concerns the bloody history of the house of atreus grand style rich diction and dramatic dialogue still powerful after 2500 years div

first performed in 458bc aeschylus's trilogy of plays known collectively as the oresteia remains perhaps the great masterpiece of ancient tragic drama telling the bloody story of the house of atreus aeschylus's tragedy stages an eternal debate about justice and revenge that remains relevant more than two millenia later now available in the bloomsbury revelations series in this classic and authoritative translation by hugh lloyd jones this book contains the text of all three plays agamemnon the libation bearers and the eumenides with extensive scholarly annotation throughout

the only surviving trilogy of greek plays the oresteia also known as the house of atreus is comprised of early masterworks of the playwright aeschylus agamemnon the libation bearers and the furies together the plays tell a story of murder revenge curses and justice the characters include the greek gods who interact with humanity and influence events

this spellbinding groundbreaking translation reenergizes aeschylus enduring saga of split loyalties bloody sacrifice and the efforts to bring peace after generations of strife the most renowned of aeschylus tragedies and one of the foundational texts of western literature the oresteia trilogy is about cycles of deception and brutality within the ruling family of argos in agamemnon afflicted queen clytemnestra awaits her husband's return from war to commit a terrible act of retribution for the murder of her daughter the next two plays radically retitled here as the women at the graveside and orestes in athens deal with the aftermath of the regicide orestes search to avenge his father's death and the ceaseless torment of the young prince a powerful discourse on the formation of democracy after a period of violent chaos the oresteia has long illuminated the tensions between loyalty to one's family and to the greater community now oliver taplin's vivid and accessible translation victoria mohl captures the lyricism of the original in what is sure to be a classic for generations to come

one of the founding documents of western culture and the only surviving ancient greek trilogy the oresteia of aeschylus is one of the great tragedies of all time the three plays of the oresteia portray the bloody events that follow the victorious return of king agamemnon from the trojan war at the start of which he had sacrificed his daughter

iphigeneia to secure divine favor after iphi geneia s mother clytemnestra kills her husband in revenge she in turn is murdered by their son orestes with his sister electra s encouragement orestes is pursued by the furies and put on trial his fate decided by the goddess athena far more than the story of murder and ven geance in the royal house of atreus the oresteia serves as a dramatic parable of the evolution of justice and civilization that is still powerful after 2 500 years the trilogy is presented here in george thomson s classic translation renowned for its fidelity to the rhythms and richness of the original greek

aeschylus was the first of the three ancient greek tragedians whose plays can still be read or performed the others being sophocles and euripides he is often described as the father of tragedy our knowledge of the genre begins with his work and our understanding of earlier tragedies is largely based on inferences from his surviving plays only seven of his estimated seventy to ninety plays have survived into modern times fragments of some other plays have survived in quotes and more continue to be discovered on egyptian papyrus often giving us surprising insights into his work

this collection includes three full length plays agamemnon the libation bearers and the eumenides collectively known as the oresteia in agamemnon the title character having sacrificed his daughter iphigenia to win the battle of troy returns to argos his wife clytaemnestra murders him while her lover aegisthus who will soon assume the throne looks on in the libation bearers agamemnon s daughter electra mourns her father s death her brother orestes returns to argos to kill their mother and stepfather now king and avenge their father s death in the eumenides orestes trying to escape the vengeance of the furies is rescued by the gods and ordered to stand trial in a democratic court in athens he is acquitted and the furies are transformed and civilized to end the cycle of violence the oresteia is the granddaddy of domestic violence drama and that s hardly greek to us the 2 500 year old aeschylean trilogy on which sonny kills mom and her love who made sword meat of dad is as american as apple pie aulette whose own works include walk the dog willie rundown and the obie winning stops and virgins seems an odd collaborator for aeschylus but he is in fact an old hand at diddling with old greeks he has adapted both sophocles s ajax and aeschylus s the persians for peter sellars he also adapted georg buchner s danton s death for robert wilson carolyn clay phoenix boston i very like very much the truncated colloquial that you ve worked out it s better than ezra pound managed and it s just right for

the purpose you have to provide a fast moving text for the stage letter from james laughlin new directions auletta s script glistens with old strokes highlighting rather than detracting from aeschylus ed siegel the boston globe

from the penn greek drama series this volume offers translations by david slavitt of the great trilogy of the house of atreus telling of agamemnon s murder at the hands of his wife clytemnestra and her lover aegisthus and of electra s rebelliousness and orestes s ultimate revenge

aeschylus famed tragedies agamemnon the libation bearers and the eumenides comprise the oresteia which uses the story of a family curse and a long history of murder and revenge to raise haunting questions about the nature and the price of justice

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the oresteia ancient greek is a trilogy of greek tragedies written by aeschylus in the 5th century bc concerning the murder of agamemnon by clytemnestra the murder of clytemnestra by orestes the trial of orestes the end of the curse on the house of atreus and the pacification of the erinyes the trilogy consisting of agamemnon the libation bearers and the eumenides also shows how the greek gods interacted with the characters and influenced their decisions pertaining to events and disputes

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a bold iconoclastic new look at one of the great works of greek tragedy in this innovative rendition of the oresteia the poet translator and essayist anne carson combines three different visions aischylos agamemnon sophokles elektra and euripides orestes giving birth to a wholly new experience of the classic greek triumvirate of vengeance after the murder of her daughter iphegenia by her husband agamemnon klytaimestra exacts a mother s revenge murdering agamemnon and his mistress kassandra displeased with klytaimestra s actions apollo calls on her son orestes to avenge his father s death with the help of his sister elektra in the end orestes driven mad by the furies for his bloody betrayal of family and elektra are condemned to death by the people of argos and must justify their actions signaling a call to change in society a shift from the capricious governing of the gods to the rule of manmade law carson s accomplished rendering combines elements of contemporary vernacular with the traditional structures and rhetoric of greek tragedy opening up the plays to a modern audience in addition to its accessibility the wit and dazzling morbidity of her prose sheds new light on the saga for scholars anne carson s oresteia is a watershed translation a death dance of vengeance and passion not to be missed

aeschylus 525 c 456 bc set his great trilogy in the immediate aftermath of the fall of troy when king agamemnon returns to argos a victor in war agamemnon depicts the hero s discovery that his family has been destroyed by his wife s infidelity and ends with his death at her callous hand clytemnestra s crime is repaid in the choepori when her outraged son orestes kills both her and her lover the eumenides then follows orestes as he is hounded to athens by

the furies law of vengeance and depicts athene replacing the bloody cycle of revenge with a system of civil justice written in the years after the battle of marathon the oresteian trilogy affirmed the deliverance of democratic athens not only from persian conquest but also from its own barbaric past

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