

“Iphianassa” (Agamemnon)

Monologue from the play *No More Trojan Wennen* by Justy DeForest

NOTE: Trailblazing English (TE) is used in this monologue. Actors agree not to substitute Conventional English words for TE terms as a condition for using this monologue, as stated on the “Permission to Perform My Work” page of the author’s website (<https://stagepagan.com/permission-to-perform-my-work/>).

Character: Agamemnon, Commander of Greek Forces

Setting: Agamemnon’s hut in the Greek Camp outside the ruins of Ancient Troy

Background: *After defeating Troy in a bitter ten-year war, the Greek Army is preparing to sail for home, anticipating what greeting they might expect from their families. In the privacy of his hut, Agamemnon, Commander of Achaean Forces, speaks candidly to another Greek General, Odysseus, of the troubling circumstances under which he sailed to Troy.*

AGAMEMNON

What homecoming can I expect?

I killed my own daughter in order to sail to Troy.

No other way would the goddess grant me the winds...

and I chose the winds!

A reasonable decision,

considering the “Greater Glory of Greece.” —

Sacrifice one female — a mere girl — to gain a city full!

And each of these is some man’s daughter...

Some man’s daughter.

I remember her eyes as I led her away.

I, of all people, should have protected her!

There are olive trees in my groves
that I would not trust myself to prune.

Yet, when it came to Iphianassa —

a seed of my own planting,
my first harvest —

with my own hand I cut her down.

Tell me, Odysseus,

why should a man hesitate to destroy the world
once he has killed his own daughter?

There have been times since,
when I'd meet an opponent in battle —
for an instant —
just before striking a lethal blow —
I'd see her face and catch myself shouting,
“You are not she!”

And so is my history these past ten years,
that in every prize I gain I find no daughter,
yet each life I take is Iphianassa's.

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