

Herald's description of shipwreck

Fire and Sea, enemies as a rule,  
made a pact and proved it  
by destroying the Argive army. [652]

By night came waves of troubles –  
gales from Thrace, whirlwinds, and rainstorms  
dashed the ships against each other.  
They were holed and disappeared,  
scattered by a wicked shepherd. [657]

When the bright sun rose we saw  
the Aegean Sea strewn  
with Greek bodies and broken ships. [660]

But we and our ship were unharmed,  
rescued by stealth or by intercession,  
with some god, not a man, at the helm. [663]

Kindly Fortune boarded and saved us,  
so we were not swamped at anchor,  
nor wrecked on the rocky shore. [666]

Then having survived, in daylight,  
scarcely believing our luck,  
we thought of what had just happened,  
the fleet struck down and badly damaged. [670]

If any of them are alive  
they will speak of us as dead,  
as we assume that they are.