

SHORTER NOTES

EURIPIDES, *HERACLIDAE* 147–50

(Κη.) ἀλλ' ἢ τιν' ἐς σέ μωρίαν ἐσκεμμένοι
 δεῦρ' ἦλθον ἢ κίνδυνον ἐξ ἀμηχάνων
 ῥίπτοντες, εἴτ' οὖν εἴτε μὴ γενήσεται.
 οὐ γὰρ φρενήρη γ' ὄντα σ' ἐλπίζουσί που . . . 150

147–8 ἢ . . . ἢ Jacobs, εἰ . . . εἰς L 149 ῥίπτοντες Elmsley, ῥιπτοῦντες L

The Argive herald is dissuading the king from championing the cause of his petitioners. 'It is either because they have detected some stupidity that they have come here to you, or because, being in a hopeless position,¹ they are just chancing their arm to see whether or not γενήσεται. For I doubt if they expect that, in your right senses, you would, etc.' For the alleged impersonal use of γενήσεται ('employed in a sense similar to that of our colloquial *to come off*', Pearson)² editors can quote only two passages of Aeschylus, which I transcribe from Page's text: *Su.* 527–8 πιθοῦ τε καὶ γένει σῶι (Schütz, γενέσθωM)/ ἄλευσον κτλ., Ch. 378–9 †στυγερῶν τούτων / παισὶ δὲ μᾶλλον γεγένηται† ('non intelleguntur; mutilum esse iudico inclusis scholiorum fragmentis', Page). I suggest that we mark a lacuna after verse 149. The sense we require is something like ' . . . to see whether or not there will be (on your side such unsoundness of mind)'. For example <τὰ σ' ὧδ' ἀσύνετα καὶ φρενῶν τητῶμενα>, like *Soph. El.* 1326 ὦ πλείστα μῶροι καὶ φρενῶν τητῶμενοι.

The construction of line 147 was rightly understood by Elmsley,³ but is misunderstood by almost everybody else. The construction is ἐς σέ δεῦρ' ἦλθον (similarly *Hec.* 993 δεῦρὸ γ' ὥς σέ . . . μολεῖν, *I.T.* 1409) μωρίαν τινὰ ἐσκεμμένοι. Others interpret 'observing some folly in you they have come here', which is to translate not ἐς σέ but ἐν σοί (as *Soph. O.T.* 536–7 δειλίαν ἢ μωρίαν / ἰδῶν τιν' ἐν ἐμοί). According to Pearson, 'Elmsley's view . . . offends against the order of the words'. No: the enclitic τις has followed its common tendency to migrate to the front of the sentence: *Od.* 3.348 ὥς τέ τευ ἢ παρὰ πάμπαν ἀνείμονος ἡ ἐπενυχροῦ, *Soph. O.C.* 729–30 ὁρῶ τιν' ὑμᾶς ὁμμάτων εἰληφότης / φόβον, *Eur. El.* 26 μὴ τῶι λαθραίως τέκνα γενναίῳ τέκοι. Similarly *Med.* 283, *Hipp.* 320, 520, *Su.* 90–1, *H.F.* 1388, *Ion* 673, *El.* 22, *I.T.* 264, Aesch. fr. 241 N (419 Mette), *Soph. El.* 902, *O.C.* 280, *Ar. Ran.* 170, Neophron fr. 1.1. See also Wackernagel, *Kleine Schriften* i (Göttingen, 1953), 35–8, and Barrett on *Hipp.* 10–11. For the interlacing of the main clause with the participial clause as a result of the enclitic's move forward see *Hipp.* 976 with Barrett's note, and *Ion* 293 καὶ πῶς ξένος σ' ὦν ἔσχευ οὖσαν ἐγγενῇ;, *I.T.* 528 ὥς πάνθ' ἅπαξ με συλλαβοῦσ' ἀνιστορεῖς, 1004–5 (Murray's text).

Queens' College, Cambridge

JAMES DIGGLE

¹ For the phrase ἐξ ἀμηχάνων see GRBS 14 (1973), 249.

² *Euripides, The Heraclidae*, ed.

A.C. Pearson (Cambridge, 1907).

³ *Euripidis Heraclidae*, ed. P. Elmsley (London, 1813).