

Monologue Choice # 2 (Haemon)

Is she not worthy to win golden honor?
Such the dark rumor silently spreads. 700
I have no possession more valuable
than your good welfare.
What adornment is greater for children
than a father's thriving glory, or for a father than his son's?
Don't set one standard for yourself alone, 705
that whatever you say is correct and nothing else.
Whoever thinks that he alone contains good sense
in speech or spirit, which no other has,
when opened up is found to be a blank tablet.
No, even if a man is wise, there's no shame 710
in learning many things and not being too rigid.
By the winter-swollen streams you see
which trees bend and save even their twigs,
but the stiff are destroyed root and branch.
And when a man in power keeps taut 715
his ship's rigging and yields not a bit,
he overturns the ship and navigates upside down.
Relax your anger and let yourself change.
If any judgment can come from me, a younger man,
I say it is best by far for a man 720
to be naturally full of all knowledge.
But if not, as is nature's usual way,
when someone speaks wisely, it is good to learn.