

if you don't show me the culprit.

Kreon exits skenê.

GUARD

May he truly be found! Whether he is caught
or not, since luck decides that,
no way will you see me coming back.
For now, beyond my hope and reason,
I'm saved and owe the gods much thanks.

330

Guard exits BP.

Second Song

START HERE

CHORUS

Of the many strange wonders,
none is more wondrous than man.
He sails across the gray sea
through stormy south winds,
engulfed by the waves.
He tills Gaia
year after year,
plowing with mules,
wearing down
eternal, inexhaustible Earth,
the oldest of gods.

335

340

He traps the flighty
race of birds,
tribes of wild beasts,
and creatures from the salty sea,
casting with a coiled net.

345

Cunning man. He masters
with inventions the wild
animals roaming the hills, 350
tames the shaggy horse
and the untiring mountain bull,
leading them under the yoke.

Language and thought quick as wind
and the temper for city laws 355
he taught himself, and how to escape
exposure to hard frost
and arrows of heavy rain –
ingenious. He confronts no event
without his ingenuity. 360
From Hades alone
will he make no escape,
though devising refuge
from incurable disease.

With skillful technology, 365
clever beyond imagination,
sometimes he inches towards evil,
other times to good.
Who honors the laws of the land
and the oath-bound justice of the gods 370
is high in his city. But he has no city
if he joins the wicked in daring.
May he not share my hearth
nor share my thoughts,
whoever acts that way. 375