

in his descendants, too, and thus create
an everlasting bond with his posterity.

ATHENA

Has each side said enough? Shall I now
instruct the judges to cast their votes,
acting on their judgment of what's
just? 860

CHORUS LEADER

Though we've already shot our final arrow,
we'll stay to hear this contest to the end.

ATHENA

Why not? Now, as for you defendants,
what can I do to avoid your censure?

APOLLO

You have heard what you have heard.

[To jurors]

My
friends,
as you cast your ballots, make sure your
hearts [680]
respect that oath you made.

ATHENA

You citizens of Athens, you judges
at the first trial ever held for murder,
hear what I decree. Now and
forever 870
this court of judges will be set up here
to serve Aegeus' people. This place,
this Mount of Ares, is where Amazons,
once marched in force, enraged at Theseus.
Here they pitched their tents. Then they built
a new city on the heights, with lofty walls
to match his own, making a sacrifice
to Ares, god of war, from whom this rock
derives its name, the Mount of
Ares. [690]
From this hill Reverence and
Terror, 880

START HERE

two kindred rulers of my citizens,
 will guarantee they don't commit injustice,
 by day or night, unless the citizens
 pollute the laws with evil innovations.
 Once limpid waters are stained with mud,
 you'll never find a drink. My people,
 avoid both anarchy and tyranny.
 I urge you to uphold this principle.
 Show it due reverence. As for terror,
 don't banish it completely from the
 city. 890

What mortal man is truly righteous
 without being afraid? Those who sense the
 fear [700]
 revere what's right. With citizens like these
 your country and your city will be safe,
 stronger than anything possessed by men
 in Pelops' country or in Scythia.
 So here I now establish this tribunal,
 incorruptible and magnificent,
 swift in punishment—it stands above you,
 your country's guardian as you lie
 asleep. 900
 I've gone through this at length to urge you
 on,
 my citizens, today and in the future.
 But now you must get up, cast your ballots,
 decide this case, while honouring your
 oath. [710]
 I'm finished—that's all I have to say.

← END HERE

*[The members of the tribunal begin to step
 forward and cast their votes into the urns.]*

CHORUS LEADER

Watch out. Don't ever show us disrespect.
 For our united power can crush your land.

APOLLO

Let me remind you—fear the oracles,
 not just mine, but those of Zeus the Father.
 Don't make them barren.

CHORUS LEADER *[to Apollo]*