

	Ξέρξει δέ, καὶ γὰρ οἶδα, χιλιάς μὲν ἦν ὧν ἦγε πλῆθος, αἱ δ' ὑπέρκοποι τάχει ἐκατὸν δις ἦσαν ἑπτὰ θ'· ὧδ' ἔχει λόγος	The best ships were 207 or 214, in case δις should be in common
(345)	ἀλλ' ὧδε δαίμων τις κατέφθειρε στρατὸν τάλαντα βρίας οὐκ ἰσορρόπῳ τύχηι θεοὶ πόλιν σώιζουσι Παλλάδος θεᾶς, ἔτ' ἄρ' Ἀθηνῶν ἔστ' ἀπόρθητος πόλις; ἀνδρῶν γὰρ ὄντων ἕρκος ἐστὶν ἀσφαλές, ἀρχὴ δὲ ναυσὶ συμβολῆς τίς ἦν, φράσον· τίνες κατήρξαν, πότερον Ἑλληνες, μάχης, ἢ παῖς ἐμός, πλήθει καταυχήσας νεῶν;	Weighing down Persians' beam of the balance; "down sank the day of doom of the Achaeans" (<i>Il.</i> 8,72)
Messenger	ἦρξεν μὲν, ὦ δέσποινα, τοῦ παντὸς κακοῦ φανεῖς ἀλάστωρ ἢ κακὸς δαίμων ποθέν· (355) ἀνὴρ γὰρ Ἑλλήν ἐξ Ἀθηναίων στρατοῦ ἐλθὼν ἔλεξε παιδὶ σῶι Ξέρξει τάδε· ὡς εἰ μελαίνης νυκτὸς ἕξεται κνέφας Ἑλληνες οὐ μενοῖεν, ἀλλὰ σέλμασιν ναῶν ἐπανθορόντες ἄλλος ἄλλοσε (360) δρασμῶι κρυφαίωι βίοτον ἐκσωσοῖατο. ὁ δ' εὐθύς ὡς ἤκουσεν, οὐ ζυνεῖς δόλον Ἑλληνος ἀνδρὸς οὐδὲ τὸν θεῶν φθόνον, πᾶσιν προφωνεῖ τόνδε ναυάρχους λόγον· εὖτ' ἂν φλέγων ἀκτίσιν ἥλιος χθόνα λήξει, κνέφας δὲ τέμενος αἰθέρος λάβηι, τάξαι νεῶν στίφος μὲν ἐν στοίχοις τρισίν, ἄλλας δὲ κύκλωι νῆσον Αἴαντος πέριξ ἔκπλους φυλάσσειν καὶ πόρους ἀλιρρόθους· ὡς εἰ μόρον φευξοῖαθ' Ἑλληνες κακόν, (370) ναυσὶν κρυφαίως δρασμὸν εὐρόντες τινά, πᾶσι στέρεσθαι κρατὸς ἦν προκείμενον. τοσαῦτ' ἔλεξε κάρθ' ὑπ' εὐθύμου φρενός, οὐ γὰρ τὸ μέλλον ἐκ θεῶν ἠπίστατο. οἱ δ' οὐκ ἀκόσμως ἀλλὰ πειθάρχῳ φρενὶ (375) δεῦπνόν τ' ἐπορσύνοντο, ναυβάτης τ' ἀνὴρ τροποῦτο κώπην σκαλμὸν ἄμφ' εὐήρητμον. ἐπεὶ δὲ φέγγος ἡλίου κατέφθιτο καὶ νύξ ἐπήϊει, πᾶς ἀνὴρ κώπης ἄναξ ἐς ναῦν ἐχώρει, πᾶς θ' ὄπλων ἐπιστάτης· (380) τάξις δὲ τάξιν παρεκάλει νεῶς μακρᾶς, πλέουσι δ' ὡς ἕκαστος ἦν τεταγμένος· καὶ πάννηχοι δὴ διάπλοον καθίστασαν ναῶν ἄνακτες πάντα ναυτικὸν λεῶν. καὶ νύξ ἐχώρει, κοῦ μάλ' Ἑλλήνων στρατὸς	Alcaeus: "for men are a city's warlike tower" (fr. 112,10 V.) A Greek man: since the Greeks intended to flee because of the great number of the Persians, Themistocles sent Sikinnos, his paedagogus, to Xerxes as a deserter, telling Xerxes that the Greeks were about to flee. He did this so that the Greeks would fight in desperation
As if it were Xerxes to speak		Periphrastically 'the aether'
The ways out		'Order' is in common From the narrative to the mimetic mode: for, he [scil. the Messenger] says, if the Greeks should wriggle out and escape, he [scil. Xerxes] threatened all those assigned to guard them with the loss of their heads. But it is absurd to threaten such a multitude with death. It is better, then, to be deprived of the power, i.e. of honour and power, on condition that κράτος may stand for κράτους :
		He fastened the well-fitted oar around the oarlock. † τροπωτηροδω† securing the oar to the oarlock: ° And night fell, and none of the Greeks deemed it worthy :