Guilt by Descent Moral Inheritance And Decision Making In Greek Tragedy


Proclus: Ten Problems Concerning Providence This book reads tragedy as a genre in which the protagonist is estranged from the world around him, and, displaced in time, space, and language, comes to inhabit a milieu which is no longer shared by other characters. This alienation from others also entails a decomposition of the integrity of the individual, which is often seen in tragedy’s autonomy: do they act, or do the gods act through them? Where are the boundaries of the self, and the boundaries of the human? After an introductory essay exploring the theatrical and linguistic means by which the protagonist’s life is made to inhabit a strange and singular world, the book devotes escopic, medieval, and modern poetry, and the non-classical literature by Aeschylus, Sophocles, Seneca, Shakespeare, and Racine. Close attention is paid to the linguistic strangeness of the texts which is often smoothed over by editors and translators, as it is through the weirdness of tragic language that the deep estrangement of the characters is shown. Accordingly, the Greek, Latin, and French texts are quoted in the originals, with translations added, and attention is paid to textual cruces which illustrate the linguistic and conceptual difficulties of these plays.

Narrative, Intertext, and Space in Euripides’ “Phoenissae” Using insights from translation theory, this book uncovers the value of female prophets’ riddling prophecies in Greek and Latin poetry.

A Companion to Greek Literature Blighted and accused families are an inescapable feature of Greek tragedy, and many scholars have treated questions of inherited guilt, curses, and divine causation. N.J. Sewell-Rutter gives these familiar issues a fresh appraisal, arguing that tragedy is a medium that fuses the conceptual with the provoking and exciting of emotion, neither of which can be ignored if the texts are to be fully understood. He pays particular attention to Aeschylus’ Seven against Thebes and the Phoenician Women of Euripides, both of which dramatize the sorrows of the later generations of the House of Oedipus, but in very different, and perhaps complementary, ways. All Greek quotations are translated, making his study thoroughly accessible to the non-specialist reader.

The Agamemnon of Aeschylus “Blighted and accused families are an inescapable feature of Greek tragedy. How many a mortal agent under the canopy of these principles can be said to decide and act are by no means new. N.J. Sewell-Rutter gives these familiar issues a fresh appraisal, arguing that tragedy is a medium that fuses the conceptual with the provoking and exciting of emotion, neither of which can be ignored if the texts are to be fully understood. He discusses in detail a wide range of tragedies and other Greek texts, paying particular attention to two closely related plays, the Seven against Thebes of Aeschylus and the Phoenician Women of Euripides, both of which dramatize the sorrows of the later generations of the House of Oedipus, but in very different, and perhaps complementary, ways. In his final chapter Sewell-Rutter uses these perspectives to refine his focus upon the familiar question of what it is for a human character in tragedy to take a decision and to act: are these actions his or her own, and can they properly be laid to the charge of their human originator? All Greek quotations are translated, making this study thoroughly accessible to the non-specialist reader.”—Résumé de l'étude

Death, Posthumous Harm, and Bioethics Interprets the poetic meaning of the Iliad in relation to the heroic literature of the Ancient Near East.

Guilt by Descent The Hidden Chorus investigates the relationship between the chorus of Greek tragedy and other types of choral song in Greek society. Choruses performed on a range of occasions in Greek culture, ranging from private weddings and funerals to large-scale religious festivals, yet the relationship between these everyday or ‘ritual’ choruses and the choruses of tragedy has never been systematically examined. L. A. Swift discusses choruses from five ritual genres: paian (religious songs of celebration or healing), epinikon (songs for athletic victors), parthenia (songs for the transitions of young girls), hymenaios (wedding song), and thrê nos (funerary song), and explores how these choral forms are evoked in tragedy. By examining the relationship between tragic and non-tragic choral song, she not only provides fresh insights into individual plays, but also enriches our understanding of the role poetry and song played in Greek life.

Solon the Athenian, the Poetic Fragments This collection of essays reconsiders Greek tragedy as a reflection of Athenian political culture. The contributors explore the Athenianness of tragedy as the polyphonic discourse of tragedy; the presentation of Athens in some plays; tragedy as an Athenian form of choral performance and how family matters are presented.

Sophocles: Oedipus at Colonus This is the fourth volume in the series Studies in Ancient Greek Narrative. The book deals with the narratological concepts of character and characterization and explores the textual devices used for purposes of characterization by ancient Greek authors from Homer to Heliodorus.

Performing Oaths in Classical Greek Drama The Hippocratic texts and other contemporary medical sources have often been overlooked in discussions of ancient psychology. They have been considered to be more mechanical and less detailed than poetic and philosophical representations, as well as later medical texts such as those of Galen. This book does justice to these early medical accounts by demonstrating their richness and sophistication, their many connections with other contemporary cultural products and the indebtedness of later medicine to their observations. In addition, it reads these sources not only as archaeological documents but also in the light of methodological discussions that are fundamental to the histories of psychiatry and psychology. As a result of this approach, the book will be important for scholars of these disciplines as well as those of Greek literature and philosophy, strongly advocating the relevance of ancient ideas to modern debates.

Cassandra and the Poetics of Prophecy in Greek and Latin Literature Volume 2 is a detailed commentary on the texts of Early Greek Mythography: Volume 1, a critical edition of the twenty-nine authors of this genre from the late 6th to early 4th centuries BC. Volume 2 provides a mythological commentary of the original works, as well as a philological commentary on separate authors.

Achilles beside GilgameshEssays on key moments in the intellectual history of the West This book forms a major contribution to the discussion on fate, providence and moral responsibility in Antiquity, the Middle Ages and Early Modern times. Through 37 original papers, renowned scholars from many different countries, as well as a number of young and promising researchers, write the history of the philosophical problems of freedom and determinism since its origins in pre-socratic philosophy up to the seventeenth century. The main focus points are classic Antiquity (Plato and Aristotle), the Neoplatonic synthesis of late Antiquity (Plotinus, Proclus, Simpligius), and thirteenth-century scholasticism (Thomas Aquinas, Henry of Ghent). They do not only report key moments in the intellectual history of the West, but are also the central figures and periods to which Carlso Steel, the dedicatary of this volume, has devoted his philosophical career.
Ancient Law, Ancient Society In his final play, Sophocles returns to the ever-popular character of Oedipus, the blind outcast of Thebes, the ultimate symbol of human reversal, whose fall he had so memorably treated in the 'Oedipus Tyrannus'. In this play, Sophocles brings the aged Oedipus to Athens, where he seeks succor and finds refuge, despite the threatening arrival of his kinsman Creon, who tries to tempt and then force the old man back under Theban control. Oedipus' resistance shows a fierce ness in no way dimmed by incapacity, but he also refuses to aid his repentant son, Polynices, in his coming attack on Thebes, manifesting once more the passion and harshness which mark his character so thoroughly. His mysterious death at the end of the play, witnessed only by Theseus himself, seems the sole fitting end for such an exceptional and problematic figure, transforming Oedipus into one of the 'powerful dead' whose beneficence towards Athens heralds a positive future for the city. This useful companion provides background, context, a synopsis and detailed analysis of the play.

La raison des signes. A Companion to Sophocles presents the first comprehensive collection of essays in decades to address all aspects of the life, works, and critical reception of Sophocles. First collection of its kind to provide introductory essays to the fragments of his lost plays and to the remaining fragments of one satyr-play, the Ichnoeuctae, in addition to each of his extant tragedies. Features new essays on Sophoclean drama that go well beyond the current state of scholarship on Sophocles. Presents readings that historicize Sophocles in relation to the social, cultural, and intellectual world of fifth century Athens. Seeks to place later interpretations and adaptations of Sophocles in their historical context. Includes essays dedicated to issues of gender and sexuality; significant moments in the history of interpreting Sophocles; and reception of Sophocles by both ancient and modern playwrights.

Harmful Interaction Between the Living and the Dead in Greek Tragedy. Examining the manifest and invisible dead, this book considers the nature, extent and limitations of harmful interaction between the living and the dead. Central themes of the book include illness and healing, bodily fragmentation, human-animal hybridity, transmission and reception of traditions, and the mechanics of personal transformation in religious rituals.

Routledge Encyclopedia of Ancient Mediterranean Religions. Le recueil compare les procédés de fabrication et d'interprétation des signes dans les sociétés polythéistes ou monothéistes de la Méditerranée ancienne. Il analyse les rites ou l'argumentation critique visant à endiguer les signes et à préserver l'initiative humaine face aux injonctions du destin. - The essays compare the procedure of fabrication and interpretation of signs in the polytheistic and monotheistic societies of the ancient Mediterranean Sea. The writers analyze the rites or the critical argumentation intending to stem the signs and to preserve the human initiative facing the injunctions of destiny.

Votive Body Parts in Greek and Roman Religion. A new interpretation of a Greek tragedy on the fall of Troy: do violence, war and slavery make people less human?

Greek Tragic Style. A new interpretation of Sophocles' Antigone, exploring the intertwined history of law, politics, gender and humanism.

The Life and Health of the Mind. In Classical Greek Medical Thought Death, Posthumous Harm, and Bioethics offers a highly distinctive and original approach to the metaphysics of death and applies this approach to contemporary debates in bioethics that address end-of-life and post-mortem issues. Taylor defends the controversial Epicurean view that death is not a harm to the person who dies and the neo-Epicurean thesis that persons cannot be affected by events that occur after their deaths, and hence that posthumous harms (and benefits) are impossible. He then extends this argument by asserting that the dead cannot be wronged, finally presenting a defence of revisionary views concerning posthumous organ procurement.

Euripides: Hecuba. This book examines a type of object that was widespread and very popular in classical antiquity - votive offerings in the shape of parts of the human body. It collects examples from four principal areas and time periods: Classical Greece, pre-Roman Italy, Roman Gaul and Roman Asia Minor. It uses a compare-and-contrast methodological approach to highlight differences between these sets of votives, exploring the implications for our understandings of how beliefs about the body changed across classical antiquity. The book also looks at how far these ancient beliefs overlap with, or differ from, modern ideas about the body and its physical and conceptual boundaries. Central themes of the book include illness and healing, bodily fragmentation, human-animal hybridity, transmission and reception of traditions, and the mechanics of personal transformation in religious rituals.

Herodotus - narrator, scientist, historian. This book illuminates the authoritative voice of Solon of Athens by an integrated literary, historical, and philological approach and the use of a range of hermeneutic frameworks, from literary theory to oral poetics.

Catullus Rediscovering E. R. Dodds offers the first comprehensive assessment of a remarkable classical scholar, who was also a poet with extensive links to twentieth-century English and Irish literary culture, the friend of Auden and MacNeice. Dodds was born in Northern Ireland, but made his name as Regius Professor of Greek at Oxford from 1936 to 1960, succeeding Gilbert Murray. Before this he taught at Reading and Birmingham, was active in the Association of University Teachers, or AUT (of which he became president), and brought an outsider's perspective to the comfortable and introspective world of Oxford. His famous book The Greeks and the Irrational (1951) remains one of the most distinguished and visionary works of scholarship of his time, though much less well-known is his long and influential involvement with psychiatric research and his work for the reconstruction of German education after the Second World War. The contributions to this volume seek to shed light on these less explored areas of Dodds' life and his significance as perhaps the last classicist to play a significant role in British literary culture, as well as examining his work across different areas of scholarship, notably Greek tragedy. A group of memoirs - one by his pupil and former literary executor, Donald Russell, and three by younger friends who knew, visited, and looked after Dodds in his last years - complement this portrait of the influential scholar and poet, offering a glimpse of the man behind the legacy.

The Strangeness of Tragedy. A Companion to Greek Literature presents a comprehensive introduction to the wide range of texts and literary forms produced in the Greek language over the course of a millennium beginning from the fifth century BCE up to the early years of the Byzantine Empire. Features contributions from a wide range of established experts and emerging scholars of the Greek literature. Offers comprehensive coverage of the many genres and literary forms produced by the ancient Greeks—including epic and lyric poetry, oratory, historiography, biography, philosophy, the novel, and technical literature. Includes readings that address the production and transmission of ancient Greek texts, historic reception, individual authors, and much more Explores the subject of ancient Greek literature in innovative ways.

Tragic Agency in Classical Drama from Aeschylus to Voltaire. The essays brought together in this volume are the product of a series of interdisciplinary workshops that brought together scholars from a plethora of countries. Funded by the British Academy the workshops convened over a period of two years in London, Cairo and Izmir. The workshops and the ensuing papers focus on recent debates about the nature of sacred and secular law and most engage case studies from specific countries including Egypt, Israel, Kazakhstan, Mauritania, Pakistan and the UK. Islam, Law and Identity also addresses broader and over-arching concerns about relationships between religion, human rights, law and modernity. Drawing on a variety of theoretical and empirical approaches, the collection presents law as central to the complex ways in which different Muslim communities and institutions create and re-create their identities around inherently ambiguous symbols of faith. From their different perspectives, the essays argue that there is no essential conflict between secular law and Shari'a but a variety of different articulations of the sacred and the secular. Islam, Law and Identity already have much more nuanced and sophisticated understandings of the tensions that animate such terms as Shari'a law, modernity and secularization.

Harmful Interaction Between the Living and the Dead in Greek Tragedy. Examining the manifest and invisible dead, this book considers the nature, extent and implications of harmful interaction between the living and the dead in Greek tragedy, concentrating on the abilities of the dead, the consequences of corpse exposure and mutilation, and the use of avenging agents by the dead.
tackles many of the basic issues that confront any attempt to understand Herodotus’ work.

Characterization in Ancient Greek Literature Oaths were ubiquitous rituals in ancient Athenian legal, commercial, civic and international spheres. Their importance is reflected by the fact that much of surviving Greek drama features a formal oath sworn before the audience. This is the first comprehensive study of that phenomenon. The book explores how the oath can mark or structure a dramatic plot, at times compelling characters like Euripides’ Hippolytus to act contrary to their best interests. It demonstrates how dramatic oaths resonate with oath rituals familiar to the Athenian audiences. Aristophanes’ Lysistrata and her accomplices, for example, swear an oath that blends protocols of international treaties with priestesses’ vows of sexual abstinence. By employing the principles of speech act theory, this book examines how the performative power of the dramatic oath can mirror the status quo, but also disturb categories of gender, social status and civic identity in ways that redistribute and confound social authority.

Opuscula Atheniensia The Children of Heracles is a powerful and challenging tragedy of exile and supplication. Driven from their homeland by Eurystheus, king of Argos, the children of Heracles flee as fugitives throughout Greece until they are granted protection in Athens.

Guilt by Descent An engaging look at how ancient Greeks and Romans crafted laws that fit—and, in turn, changed—their worlds

A Companion to Sophocles The Routledge Encyclopedia of Ancient Mediterranean Religions is the first comprehensive single-volume reference work offering authoritative coverage of ancient religions in the Mediterranean world. Chronologically, the volume’s scope extends from pre-historical antiquity in the third millennium B.C.E. through the rise of Islam in the seventh century C.E. An interdisciplinary approach draws out the common issues and elements between and across generations has a long, deep antecedent in classical Greek literature and its reception. This book retraces the trajectories of Greek ancestral fault and the varieties of its expression through the many genres and centuries where it is found.

The burning modern preoccupation with collective responsibility traditions and contexts in the Poetry of Horace (Cambridge University Press, 2002), ten leading Latin scholars provide specially commissioned in-depth discussions of the poetry of Catullus, one of ancient Rome’s most favourite and best loved poets. Some chapters focus on the collection as a whole and the interrelationship of various poems; others deal with intertextuality and translation and Catullus’ response to his Greek predecessors, both classical and Hellenistic. Two of the key subjects of desire and the presentation of the real world. Some chapters provide analyses of individual poems, others discuss how Catullus’ poetry was read by Virgil and Ovid. A wide variety of critical approaches is on offer, and in the Epilogue the editors provide a provocative survey of the issues raised by the volume.

Euripides: the Children of Heracles In Brill’s Companion to Status, thirty-four newly commissioned chapters from internationally recognized experts provide a comprehensive overview of various approaches to arguably the most important poet of the Flavian period in Rome.

Islam, Law and Identity A radical rethinking of ethics set within the development of a philosophically anthropology. In his last book, Towards a Relational Ontology, Andrew Benjamin provided a philosophical account of what he terms original relationality, demonstrating how this concept can be seen to be at work throughout the history of philosophy. In Virtue in Being, he builds on that project to argue for a new way of understanding the relationship between ontology and ethics through insightful readings of texts by Immanuel Kant, Hannah Arendt, and Jacques Derrida. Structuring the book around the themes of violence, evil, and pardon, Benjamin builds a convincing case for the connections he draws between thinkers not commonly associated with one another. “In this original and engaging study, Benjamin opens a nuanced dialogue between the work of Kant, Arendt, and Derrida to create a conversation about virtue that illuminates our human condition. Benjamin’s innovative scholarship enriches our understanding of each of the figures he treats.”— Elizabeth Millán Brusslan, author of Friedrich Schlegel and the Emergence of Romantic Philosophy

Brill’s Companion to Status Are we free agents? This perennial question is addressed by tragedy when it dramatizes the struggle of individuals with supernatural forces, or maps the inner conflict of a mind divided against itself. The book discusses plays from classical Greece to neo-classical France.

No Regrets Ancestral fault is a core idea of Greek literature. The guiltless will pay for the deeds later: either the man’s children, or his descendants thereafter’, said Solon in the sixth century BC., a statement echoed throughout the rest of antiquity. This notion lies at the heart of ancient Greek thinking on theodicy, inheritance and privilege, the meaning of suffering, the links between wealth and morality, individual responsibility, the bonds that unite generations and the grand movements of history. From Homer to Proclus, it played a major role in some of the most critical and pressing reflections of Greek philosophy on divine, society and dominion. The burning modern preoccupation with collective responsibility across generations has a long, deep antecedent in classical Greek literature and its reception. This book retraces the trajectories of Greek ancestral fault and the varieties of its expression through the many genres and centuries where it is found.

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Early Greek Mythography In this treatise, Proclus discusses ten problems on providence and fate.

A Versatile Gentleman Plutarch was a brilliant Platonist, an erudite historian, a gifted author of highly polished literary dialogues, a priest of Apollo at Delphi, and a devoted politician in his hometown Chaeronea. He felt confident in the most technical and specialized discussions, yet was not afraid of rhetorical generalizations. In his voluminous oeuvre, he appears as a sharp polemicist and a loving father, an ardent pupil but also a kind, insiring teacher, a sober historian and a teller of wondrous tales. In view of all these different personae, erudite versatility is without any doubt a major characteristic of Plutarch’s works. A Versatile Gentleman is dedicated to Luc Van der Stockt, professor emeritus of Greek language and literature at KU Leuven and a truly versatile gentleman. The volume aims to do justice to his and Plutarch’s versatility by discussing the Chaeronean from many different angles. As such, it sheds new light on the coherence of, and the tensions in, Plutarch’s thinking and writing.

Antigone, Interrupted This is the first sustained study examining how the emotions of remorse and regret were manifested in Greek and Roman public life. By discussing the standard lexical denotations of remorse, Fulkerson shows how it was tensions in Plutarch’s thinking and writing.

Why Athens? An exploration of the poetic qualities of the Greek tragic dramatists Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides highlighting their similarities and differences.
Rediscovering E. R. Dodds: This commentary discusses Aeschylus' play Agamemnon (458 BC), which is one of the most popular of the surviving ancient Greek tragedies, and is the first to be published in English since 1958. It is designed particularly to help students who are tackling Aeschylus in the original Greek for the first time, and includes a reprint of D. L. Page's Oxford Classical Text of the play. The introduction defines the place of Agamemnon within the Oresteia trilogy as a whole, and the historical context in which the plays were produced. It discusses Aeschylus' handling of the traditional myth and the main ideas which underpin his overall design: such as the development of justice and the nature of human responsibility; and it emphasizes how the power of words, seen as ominous speech-acts which can determine future events, makes a central contribution to the play's dramatic momentum. Separate sections explore Aeschylus' use of theatrical resources, the role of the chorus, and the solo characters. Finally there is an analysis of Aeschylus' distinctive poetic style and use of imagery, and an outline of the transmission of the play from 458 BC to the first printed editions.