

# **SOPHOCLEAN ROOTS**

Pre-performance talk for *The Wife of Heracles*

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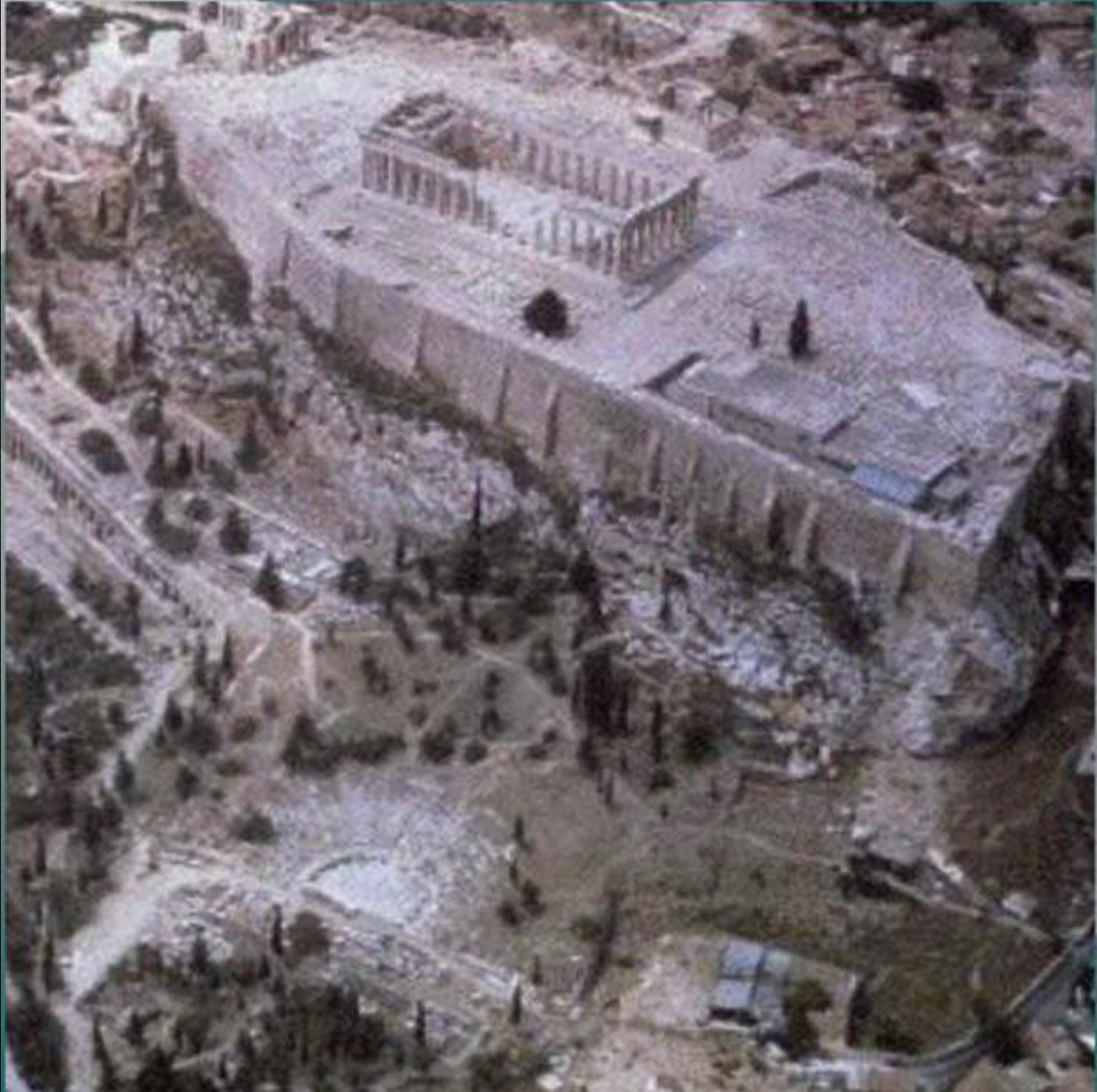
# The Theatre of Dionysus





# Acropolis, Athens

Theatre of  
Dionysus  
bottom left





# Theatre at Epidauros



## Hyllus:

For you know that the hearts of the callous gods  
Feel nothing in all these sorry events.

They beget their sons and are called our fathers,  
Yet look down calmly on our great pain.

Sophocles *Women of Trachis* 1266-9



First of all, if it is the virtue of a man you are after, it is easy to see that the virtue of a man consists in managing the city's affairs capably, and so that he will help his friends and harm his enemies while taking care to come to no harm himself. Or if you want a woman's virtue, that is easily described. She must manage the household well, looking after its contents and being obedient to her husband.

**Plato *Meno* 71e**

A stylized silhouette of a mountain range in a darker shade of teal, located at the bottom right of the slide.





Heracles attacks Nessus as he tries to rape Deianira  
Attic black-figure hydria, c. 560-40 BCE, (Louvre, Paris).





## **Heracles rescues Deianeira from Nessus**

Attic black-figure amphora, of Tyrrhenian type, from Vulci,  
c. 540 BCE (Munich).





## **Nessus and Deianeira**

**Attic red-figure  
cup interior  
by the  
Ambrosios Painter,  
c. 520 BCE  
(British Museum)**



# Heracles fighting Achelous

Athenian  
red-figure  
krater,  
C5 BCE  
(Louvre,  
Paris)



[www.theoi.com](http://www.theoi.com)



**Deianeira:**

We did have children, but Heracles rarely saw them,  
Like a farmer who only visits a distant field  
At seed-time and harvest.

**Sophocles *Women of Trachis* 31-3**



## Deianeira:

Those ill-starred prisoners, here in a foreign land,  
Exiles who've lost their fathers and lost their homes,  
The daughters of free men, maybe, but now condemned  
To a life as slaves.

Sophocles *Women of Trachis* 299-302

A stylized, dark teal silhouette of a mountain range is positioned in the bottom right corner of the slide, extending from the right edge towards the center.



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