

# The curse of Atreus

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## Wheelock: Chapter 6

*Filiī Pelopis<sup>1</sup> erant Atreus<sup>2</sup> Thyestēsque<sup>3</sup>. Thyestēs uxōrem Atreī corrumpit; tum Atreus vitium invenit et tolerāre nōn potest. Īnsidiās igitur contra frātre[m] cōgitat: "Īra mē movet! Filiōs parvōs meī frātris necābō secābōque. Tum membra coquam et Thyestae cēnam dabō." Necat puerōs; Thyestēs suōs filiōs mortuōs in mēnsā videt. Ō miser Thyestē! Nihil nunc habēs. Sed, ō Atreu, propter tua magna vitia filiī tuī magnās poenās dabunt. In animīs filiōrum tuōrum manēbit tua culpa antīqua; erit perpetua. Quid dēbēmus dē tuīs Īnsidiīs cōgitāre, ō Atreu? Tuam ĩram nōn poterās superāre; mala igitur erit semper tua fāma. Tē tuamque vītam paucī bonī, sed multī malī laudābunt.*

## Translation:

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Atreus and Thyestes are Pelops' sons. Thyestes seduces Atreus' wife; then Atreus finds the crime and can not bear it. He thinks out a plot against his brother: "I'm angry! I will kill and cut up my brother's little sons. The I will cook their limbs and serve (them as) a supper to Thyestes." He kills the boys; Thyestes sees his two dead sons on the table. Oh poor Thyestes! Now he have none (of sons). However, Atreus, because of your great crime your ancient curse will stay in the souls of your sons; it will be perpetual. What do we think about your plot, Atreus? You could not overcome your anger, therefore, your fame will always be bad. People will hardly praise you and your life, but condemn your evil deed.

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1. a mythical Greek king; the name means "dark eye"[wikitionary](#) ↵

2. father of famous Agamemnon ↵

3. a mythical Greek king ↵