

Eurylochus' Second Speech

'Suffering brothers, listen! We are thin with hunger and there is little hope that we will reach a port that will feed us anytime soon and the weather may well stay like this for another month. If we do not feed from the cattle that are all around us then I fear we will die for certain. However, if we eat of Helios' meat then we are told that we shall also perish. So, I have come up with a plan to save us from what would seem to be certain death, whichever path we choose. To die of starvation is to die without dignity. It would be better to die quickly at sea by the designs of a god. But, maybe we can avoid dying at sea altogether! If, when we have killed and eaten the cattle here, we pray to Helios and promise that we will build a temple in his honour on our return home, and if we also promise to make a sacrifice to Helios every year from then on, we might yet appease him and he may allow us to reach home safely. If our offer fails to appease Helios, at least we will die at sea without the suffering starvation would bring, and at least we would die with our dignity.'