Andromache:
Women on Violence

Themes:
War and the *oikos*
War and the *polis*
Violent peace?

1. Prologue (1-116): Widowed and Enslaved
   *my tears gush forth like a fountain welling from a rock* (115, p. 104)
2. Parodos (117-46): Chorus of Women from Phthia (Achilles' homeland):
   *fear* (*phobos*) for their lords vs. compassion (*eleos*) for Andromache:
   *fear keeps me silent* (p. 104)
3. 1st episode (147-273)
   Hermione: Look at my outfit and hairdo; you, instead, look like the slave that you are
   (all made in Sparta)
   Chorus (181): *Woman is by nature a jealous creature.*
   Andromache's rhetoric: like a sophist (183-231):
   Were you married to a polygamist, would you kill your rivals?
   I fed your bastards, Hector, to spare you any bitterness
   Watch you not outdo your mother in your love for men
   Hermione: Smarty pants, I'll set you on fire.
   Andromache: There are remedies against snake-poison, but nothing against evil women
4. 1st stasimon 274-308: War is bad for both winners and losers
5. 2nd episode (309-463): Menelaos to A.: You or your son
   A. to Menelaos: You destroyed a city for a woman's sake
   A.: Invective against Sparta; misfortune can strike anyone
6. 2nd stasimon (464-93): Warning about duplicity (to Hermione)
7. 3rd episode (494-765): A., Menelaus, Molossus; Peleus vs. Menelaus (unworthy of his glory)
8. 3rd stasimon (766-801): True (= Peleus) vs. fake (= Menelaus) nobility
9. 4th episode (802-1008): Nurse, Hermione, Orestes: Hemione's fear of Neoptolemus
10. 4th stasimon (1009-46): Gods' cruelty (Apollo and Poseidon): War is bad
11: Exodus (1047-288):
   a. Chorus and Peleus
   b. Neoptolemus' death
   c. Kommos: Chorus and Peleus on Neoptolemus' body
   d. Thetis (*dea ex machina*)

Coda (identical in *Alcestis* and *Bacchantes*, as well as *Helen*):

Many are the forms of divine intervention;
many things beyond expectation do the gods fulfil.
That which was expected has not been accomplished;
for that which was unexpected has god found the way.
Such was the end of this story.

Andro-mache = *men's battle*
Neo-ptolemos = *young warrior*
Asty-anax = *lord of the city*
The wedding of Hector and Andromache
(Sappho, fragment 44 Lobel-Page)

‘... Hector and his comrades are bringing a girl with dark eyes from holy Thebes and ... Plakia, soft Andromache, in their ships across the salt sea; many curved bands of gold and purple robes and intricate playthings, countless silver cups and ivory.' So he spoke, the messenger Idaeus.

And [Hector's] beloved father Priam quickly got up, and the story went out to his friends throughout the city [of Troy] with its wide dancing places. Then the Trojan women led mules to wheeled carts and a crowd of women came out, and also of ...-ankled maidens, and separately the daughters of Priam and men brought horses with chariots .... ... and the sweet-sounding flute was mixed with the noise of castanets, and the maidens sang a sacred song and the holy sound reached heaven

... bowls and goblets
... perfume and cassia and incense were mixed and all the older women shouted out, and all the men cried out a fair loud song, calling on Paean, the far-shooter, the lyre player, to sing of Hector and Andromache, who were like gods ...

L to R: Helen and Paris, Andromache and Hector, and Hector's squire, Kebriones
Attic Crater, Würzburg, Von Wagner Museum