

Dion. Because, he like a man that deals in wool  
Put in a river ; rivers make it full  
Of water ; that you know gives weight to things.  
The line you put was light with feathery wings.(1)

Eur. Let's speak another and match weight for weight

Dion. Catch hold again then.

Aesch. and Eur. Ready all.

Dion. Now say it.

Eur. "Persuasion hath no temple than the tongue"(2)

Aesch. "Of all the gods Death only loves not gifts"(3)

Dion. Let go, let go.

[*Aeschylus' scale again drops.*]

Yes, down again his goes

He put in Death the *heaviest* of all woes.

Eur. Persuasion I ; what better could you find ?

Dion. Oh that's a *flimsy* thing without a mind !  
But look another of your heavy weight's out  
To pull your scale down, something large and stout.

Eur. "The iron-sheathed log in his right hand he took"(4)

Aesch. "For chariot heaped on chariot, corpse on corpse"(5)  
[*They let go, Aeschylus' scale again drops.*]

Dion. This time again he's fooled you.

Eur. How do you mean ?

Dion. He put two chariots and two corpses in  
Too heavy for a hundred Fellaheen.(6)

(1) Aeschylus by mentioning water in his verse made it heavy, like a woolseller makes his fleeces heavy. Euripides by the word "flown" has made his verse too light.

(2) From the *Antigone* of Euripides (lost).

(3) From the *Niobe* of Aeschylus (lost).

(4) From the *Meleager* of Euripides (lost).

(5) From the *Glaucus Patneius* of Aeschylus (lost).

(6) The Egyptians, as pyramid builders were proverbially capable of carrying heavy burdens.