

AGAVE AND CHORUS SIDE – 10 Women

AGAVE

Women of Asia, Bacchae –

CHORUS 4 - EUTERPE

Me? What do you want of me?

AGAVE

From the mountain, I have brought it.

All the way, a tender branch,

Fresh-cut, with curly shoots. A beautiful catch.

CHORUS 8 - THALIA

We see. And we accept you.

We shall cry out together.

AGAVE

Without a trap, I trapped it.

A lion – a savage whelp of a lion.

Look! Look at it!

CHORUS 6 - POLYHYMNIA

In what wilderness, how?

AGAVE

Cithaeron...

CHORUS 9 - URANIA

Cithaeron?

AGAVE

Killed him. Most totally.

CHORUS 5 - MELPOMENE

But who, whose hands?

AGAVE

Mine first! Mine is the prize for striking first!

You know what the other women are singing?

Agave, the best. Agave, most blest.

CHORUS 1 - CALLIOPE

Who else? Whose hands?

AGAVE

Oh, Cadmus'...

CHORUS 2 - CLIO

Cadmus!

AGAVE

Cadmus' daughters. My sisters,

Yes, but only after me, after *me*,

Did *they* lay hands on the quarry.

Oh, what a fortunate hunting.

CHORUS 4 - EUTERPE

The God knows when to smile.

AGAVE

Come feast with me. Share in my success.

CHORUS 8 - THALIA

Share – unhappy woman?

AGAVE

The beast is young! See how the down

Blooms upon its cheek like newborn silk,

Under the rich, soft mane.

CHORUS 3 - ERATO

The hair does make it look indeed

Like a beast of the woods.

AGAVE

Bacchus,

Skilled hunter that he is,

Most skillfully unleashed his maenads
And led them to the kill.

CHORUS 7 - TERPSICORE

God is the king of hunters.

AGAVE

Do you praise me?

CHORUS 6 - POLYHYMNIA

We do – praise you.

AGAVE

So will Cadmus soon.

So will all his people.

CHORUS 9 - URANIA

And Pentheus?

Will he also praise his mother?

AGAVE

He *will* praise her

When he sees the lion she has caught.

Is it not glorious?

CHORUS 4 - EUTERPE

Prodigious.

AGAVE

Prodigiously conquered.

CHORUS 2 - CLIO

You rejoice?

AGAVE

More! I exult!

My conquest is great, plain to see!

And great the acclaim it deserves.

CHORUS 5 - MELPOMENE

Show then, poor woman, show to everyone in Thebes

This priceless trophy you have carried proudly home.