

What is there new? What's your desire and will?

Megaera. Hotfoot from Acheron's pit *Megaera* stands to hear,

From thee, mother of ill, thy sweet commands.

Thisiphone. *Thisiphone* I; what hast in mind? 15

Now say Black *Hecate*, how to serve thee best I may.

Night. Hearken, all ye three furies, hear! offspring of darkness, bearers of all misfortune, listen to your poppy-crowned Queen of Night, protectress of thieves and robbers, friend and light to the incendiary, lover of stolen goods, and most-beloved goddess of all dishonourable lovers, how often will my evil altar be honoured for this deed! This night and during the coming day you must assist me, for the king of this realm burns in lust for his brother's wife, for whose sake he has murdered him that he may possess her and the kingdom. Now is the hour at hand in which he will celebrate his nuptials with her. I shall throw my mantle over them so that they see not their sin. Wherefore be ready to sow the seeds of discord, mix poison into their marriage and jealousy into their hearts. Kindle a fire of revenge, and make its sparks fly throughout the kingdom, entangle blood-brothers in the snare of incest, rejoice the infernal regions with deeds of ruthless and rancorous malice; be gone, hasten and fulfill my behests.

Thisiphone. Enough. I've heard; I'll finish, quickly too.

More than sable Night by herself could plan to do. 35

Megaera. *Pluto* himself can not inspire in me
More ill than men shall very shortly see performed.

Alecto. I fan the sparks, and make the fire to burn.
Within two days, all joy I'll overturn.

Night. Then haste; I now ascend; your tasks attend! 40

Ascends. Music.