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Poetic Structure and Political Meaning in Euripides' *Iphigenia in Tauris*

Abstract

A new interpretation of Euripides' *Iphigenia in Tauris* proposed in the paper is based on a thematic analysis of the play. The thematic structure is described in a following way: the liberation from the barbarian land of the Taurians and the deliverance from human sacrifices that they practice symbolically expresses the cessation of internal discords in the Hellenic world; a major part in this is played by the city of Athens, as well as the goddess Athena. A striking similarity of this theme to the events in Argos in 417-416 BC, i.e. the civil war solved with the help of Athens, makes it possible to suppose that the tragedy celebrated an alliance between Athens and Argos made after the war in spring 416.