MEDEA
SUM

Judge David Ginzburg
Ermou Street - Athens

To all the Institutions addressed

Subject: Establishment of a joint commission for the reopening of the Medea trial.

My name is David Ginzburg. I used to be a judge, but today I am a man who questions the search for truth.

I write these words for who I am today, no longer a judge, but a man, with a hand that trembles with age and a heart weighed down by thoughts.

During the years I spent behind that bench, I handed down hundreds of sentences, convinced – or perhaps deluded – that I could always distinguish right from wrong. But now, after many seasons and sleepless nights, I recognise that in one case **I was wrong**. **And this mistake, although written on paper and in code, had a real, human impact on a woman's life.**

I remember the day of her trial well. I was a judge at the beginning of my career, but my early successes had made me confident in my innate abilities for this role. She was composed, but her eyes betrayed a suffering that I, blinded by my role, mistook for coldness. I was unable to read what her dignity was trying to hide. I stopped at appearances, at the bare facts, neglecting the contours, the nuances, the deeper reasons. Perhaps I did not listen thoroughly.

Now, on the day I learn of her death in the cell where I sentenced her, **I can see everything through the lens of remorse and the experience** that time imposes. I wonder if that sentence really did justice. I wonder if I really understood that woman's story.

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I admit, perhaps for the first time in my life, that I am torn, trying to discern between what reason dictates and what my heart says.

I am addressing you with humility. I hope you can understand me. If there is a chance, however small or large, to make amends, I will seek it. The law has its own timing and rules, but true justice has higher duties; it must be universal and go beyond the passing of days.

And so, today, to prevent a human error based on prejudice, corrupt information, and poor listening from unjustly condemning someone, I declare my intention to reopen the case of another woman, perhaps never truly heard. A mother, possibly guilty, maybe a victim; a woman, perhaps fierce, perhaps destroyed, but who has gone down in history as guilty. I am talking about **Medea**.

Reopening Medea's case means seeking justice where history has perhaps only built condemnation. It means returning to that cell, to that sentence, to those eyes that I did not understand. To say: **this time I will really listen**.

If I was wrong then, if I failed to see beyond the silence, now is the time to give at least one chance to her, to Medea, and to all women whose pain has been reduced to guilt.

Today I see what I did not see then: the dignity that resists under the judgmental gaze, the words silenced by shame, the misunderstood gestures, the questions never asked.

I want Medea to be heard not as a myth or a monster, but as a human being.

I will not rest until her story, in its entirety, is seen with open eyes and an open mind.

The work of a judge is not so different from that of a historian. Like the historian, the judge is called upon to investigate past events and ascertain the truth; like the historian, the judge is said to have to work not with imagination but with choice and reconstruction based on pre-existing “data”.

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This is why I have launched an investigation that has allowed me to gather important information about Medea and her story, as well as about those who participated in her tragic events.

What I would like now is for this material to be analysed by those who, like me, are driven by a desire for justice and want to ask new questions without stopping at appearances and prejudices.

Reopening Medea's case does not mean only judging a figure from the past, but also asking new questions about justice, the role of women in history, and how the power of storytelling has influenced perceptions of truth for centuries.

To this end, I will initiate the establishment of a joint commission composed of legal historians, experts in Greek mythology, forensic psychiatrists, and also citizens with different skills, knowledge, and life experiences so that:

- A **symbolic hearing of witnesses**, including Jason, Creon, the nurse, and other secondary characters, can be reconstructed using available sources.
- A possible **reclassification of the crime** attributed to Medea can be achieved by attending to the psychological and social status of women in the ancient context.

Anyone who accepts this intention may submit their application to acquire all the material in my possession that may facilitate the reconstruction of the truth and the search for justice.

With sincere thanks,

In faith

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