



EVIDENCE: SEN_0005_EN

Title	Act 5, scene 1, lines 982-1027
Subtitle	Murder and conclusion
Author	Seneca
Date / Historical era	Antiquity
Theme(s)	Vengeance, justice, motherhood, divine order
Character(s)	Medea, Jason
Language	EN
Translation	Translated by Ella Isabel Harris (1899)

Excerpt

Medea

I have recaptured now my crown and throne, My brother and my father; Colchians hold The golden fleece; my kingdom is won back;

My lost virginity returns to me! O gods appeased, marriage, and happy days, Go now,—my vengeance is complete! Not yet— Finish it while thy hands are strong to strike. Why seek delay? Why hesitate, my soul?

Thou art able! All thine anger falls to nought! I do repent of that which I have done! Why did'st thou do it, miserable one? Yea, miserable! Ruth shall follow thee! 'Tis done, great joy fills my unwilling heart,



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MEDIA SUM

And, lo, the joy increases. But one thing Before was lacking—Jason did not see! All that he has not seen I count as lost.

(...)

Pile high the funeral pyre of thy sons, And rear their tomb. (...) This son is dead, and this shall soon be so, And thou shalt see him perish.

Jason.

By the gods, By our sad flight together, and the bond I have not willingly forsaken, spare our son! If there is any crime, 'tis mine; Put me to death, strike down the guilty one.

Medea.

There where thou askest mercy, and canst feel the sting, I thrust the sword. (...)

Had it been that one could satisfy my hands with blood, I had slain none. But two is not enough.

(...)

Now, grief, take slow revenge; It is my day; haste not, let me enjoy.

Jason.

Slay me, mine enemy!



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MEDIA SUM

Medea.

Dost thou implore My pity? It is well! I am avenged. Grief, there is nothing more that thou canst slay! Look up, ungrateful Jason, recognize Thy wife; so I am wont to flee. The way lies open through the skies; two dragons bend their necks, submissive to the yoke. I go In my bright car through heaven. Take thy sons!

Jason.

Go through the skies sublime, and going prove
That the gods dwell not in the heavens you seek.



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