



EVIDENCE: SEN_0008_EN

Title	Act 2, Scene 2, lines 179-275.
Subtitle	Creon meets Medea
Author	Seneca
Date / Historical era	Antiquity
Theme(s)	Justice, exile
Character(s)	Creon, Medea
Language	EN
Translation	Translated by Ella Isabel Harris (1899)

Extract

Creon

What, is Medea of the hated race Of Colchian Æëtes, not yet gone? Still she is plotting evil; well I know her guile, and well I know her cruel hand. Whom does she spare, or whom let rest secure? Verily I had thought to cut her off with the swift sword, but Jason's prayers availed to spare her life. She may go forth unharmed if she will set our city free from fear. Threatening and fierce, she seeks to speak with us; attendants, keep her off, bid her be still, and let her learn at last, a king's commands must be obeyed. Go, haste, and take her hence.

(...)



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Medea

Accuse me; I confess; this is my fault— I saved the Argo! Had I heard the voice of maiden modesty or filial love, Greece and her leaders had regretted it, and he, thy son-in-law, had fallen first a victim to the fire-belching bull. Let fortune trample on me as she will, my hand has succored princes, I am glad! Assign the recompense for these my deeds, condemn me if thou wilt, but tell the fault.

(...)

Creon

If thou wouldst say the deed was Jason's, he can prove his innocence; no guiltless blood has stained him, and his hands touched not the sword, are yet unstained by thee. Foul instigator of all evil deeds, with woman's wantonness in daring aught, and man's courageous heart—and void of shame, go, purge our kingdom; take thy deadly herbs, free us from fear; dwelling in other lands afar, invoke the gods.

Medea.

Thou bidst me go? Give back the ship and comrade of my flight. Why bid me go alone? Not so I came. If thou fear war, both should go forth, nor choice be made between two equally at fault.



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