



EVIDENCE: SEN_0014_EN

Title	Act 4, Scene 2, lines 816-848.
Subtitle	Medea poisons the robe destined for Creusa.
Author	Seneca
Date / Historical era	Antiquity
Theme(s)	Deities, vengeance.
Character(s)	Medea, the children
Language	EN
Translation	Translated by Ella Isabel Harris (1899)

Extract

Medea

Endue this robe with such a baleful power that the bride may feel at its first touch consuming fire of serpent's poison in her inmost veins; Let fire lurk hid in the bright gold, the fire Prometheus gave and taught men how to store— He now atones his daring theft from heaven with tortured vitals. Mulciber has given this flame, and I in sulphur nurtured it; I brought a spark from the destroying fire of Phaeton; I have the flame breathed forth by the Chimæra, and the fire I snatched from Colchis' savage bull; and mixed with these Medusa's venom.

I have bade all serve My secret sorcery; now, Hecate, add The sting of poison, aid the seeds of flame Hid in my gift; let them deceive the sight But burn the touch; let the



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MEDIA SUM

heat penetrate Her very heart and veins, stiffen her limbs, Consume her bones in smoke. Her burning hair shall glow more brightly than the nuptial torch!

My vows are paid, and Hecate thrice has barked, And shaken fire from her funeral torch.

'Tis finished! Call my sons. My precious gifts, Ye shall be borne by them to the new bride. Go, go, my sons, a hapless mother's sons! Placate with gifts and prayers your father's wife! But come again with speed, that I may know A last embrace!



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