

20 Μήδεια δ' ἡ δύστηνος ἡτιμασμένη
βοᾷ μὲν ὄρκους, ἀνακαλεῖ δὲ δεξιᾶς
πίστιν μεγίστην, καὶ θεοὺς μαρτύρεται
οἷας ἀμοιβῆς ἐξ Ἰάσονος κυρεῖ.
κεῖται δ' ἄσιτος, σῶμ' ὑφεῖσ' ἀλγηδόσιν,
25 τὸν πάντα συντήκουσα δακρύοις χρόνον
ἐπεὶ πρὸς ἀνδρὸς ἦσθετ' ἡδίκημένη,
οὔτ' ὅμμ' ἐπαίρουσ' οὔτ' ἀπαλλάσσουσα γῆς
πρόσωπον: ὥς δὲ πέτρος ἢ θαλάσσιος
κλύδων ἀκούει νουθετουμένη φίλων,
30 ἣν μή ποτε στρέψασα πάλλευκον δέρην
αὐτὴ πρὸς αὐτὴν πατέρ' ἀποιμώξῃ φίλον
καὶ γαῖαν οἴκους θ', οὓς προδοῦσ' ἀφίκετο
μετ' ἀνδρὸς ὅς σφε νῦν ἀτιμάσας ἔχει.
ἔγνωκε δ' ἡ τάλαινα συμφορᾶς ὑπο
35 οἷον πατρώας μὴ ἀπολείπεσθαι χθονός.¹

20 Medea, wretched woman, dishonoured,
cries aloud of oaths betrayed, and calls back to mind the pledge of his right hand,
that greatest bond of trust, and invokes the gods as witnesses
to what unjust return she has received from Jason.
She lies unfed, surrendering her whole body to suffering,
25 consuming all her days in tears,
from the moment she realised she was wronged by her husband,
her eyes never lifting, her face never turning from the ground;
but like a rock, or a wave of the sea,
she listens to her friends' advice,
30 unless she ever turns her pale-white neck away
and mourns in solitude for her beloved father,
and for her land and her ancestral home, which she betrayed when she left them behind,
for the man who now keeps her in dishonour.
Unhappy woman, she has come to learn, taught by suffering,
35 what a valuable thing it is not to abandon one's fatherland.

¹ *Oxford Classical Texts: Euripidis: Fabulae, Vol. 1: Cyclops; Alcestis; Medea; Heraclidae; Hippolytus; Andromacha; Hecuba*. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press, 1984. <https://www-oxfordscholarlyeditions-com.ezp.lib.cam.ac.uk/view/10.1093/actrade/9780198145943.book.1/actrade-9780198145943-book-1>