

Dissertation Plan

Title: Female Solidarity and Female Conflict in Euripides' *Andromache*

Introduction: Discussing that there is a trend in most of Euripides' plays to have solidarity between female characters, that has led to the idea that Euripides has created a sense of shared womanhood. This shared womanhood allows for solidarity to be present between women with whom it would not be expected, for example between two opposing political sides as seen in *Suppliant Women* between Aethra and the Argive women. *Andromache* seemingly goes against this as Andromache and Hermione are in conflict.

Chapter 1: This chapter will look at solidarity in the play, to determine if the play is completely void of female solidarity or if it is just lacking between the female leads. Also evaluating if there is any solidarity between the pair and if there is not then why can there not be solidarity between them, comparing to *Trojan Women* and how other members of the same two families interact.

Chapter 2: Determining if Hermione is being the victim of prejudice and that is the reason, she is lacking female solidarity. The prejudice comes from her being a Spartan woman, in a play written during the time when Athens and Sparta were at war with one another. Also, that she has Helen as her mother who arguably caused the Trojan war which led to the current events of the play.

Chapter 3: Arguing against the notion that *Andromache* is a play that is criticizing Athenian Citizenship Laws, that instead Euripides is putting these laws in a Heroic setting in order to create a catalyst for conflict. That females in conflict create catastrophe is the real idea that Euripides is exploring will be expressed, comparing the events of the play to the events leading up to and during the Trojan war.

Conclusion: That to understand the *Andromache* the conflict between Andromache and Hermione needs to be focused on, that Hermione's character has been unfairly treated and the reason for not having female solidarity in the play is to explore female conflict and what the results of that conflict are.

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