

Name: _____

Euripides: *Medea*

CREON:

Your words are soothing, but I'm terrified
of what's in your mind. I trust you less than ever.
It's easier to guard against a woman
(or man, for that matter) with a fiery spirit
than one who's wise and silent. You must leave
at once—don't waste my time with talk. It's settled.
Since you are my enemy, and hate me,
no ruse of yours can keep you here among us.

(Medea kneels before Creon and grasps his hand and knees in supplication.)

MEDEA:

No, by your knees! By your new-married daughter!

CREON:

You're wasting words. There's no way you'll persuade me.

MEDEA:

You'll drive me out, with no reverence for my prayers?

CREON:

I care more for my family than for you.

MEDEA:

How clearly I recall my fatherland.

CREON:

Yes, that's what I love most—after my children.

MEDEA:

Oh, god—the harm Desire does to mortals!

CREON:

Depending on one's fortunes, I suppose.

MEDEA:

Zeus, do not forget who caused these troubles.

CREON:

Just leave, you fool. I'm tired of struggling with you.

MEDEA:

Struggles. Yes. I've had enough myself.

CREON:

My guards will force you out in just a moment.

MEDEA:

Oh please, not that! Creon, I entreat you!

CREON:

You intend to make a scene, I gather.

MEDEA:

I'll leave, don't worry. That's not what I'm asking.

CREON:

Why are you forcing me? Let go of my hand!

MEDEA:

Please, let me stay just one more day, that's all.
I need to make arrangements for my exile,
find safe asylum for my children, since
their father doesn't give them any thought.
Take pity on them. You yourself have children.
It's only right for you to treat them kindly.
If we go into exile, I'm not worried
about myself-I weep for their disaster.

CREON:

I haven't got a ruler's temperament;
reverence has often led me into ruin.
Woman, I realize this is all wrong,
but you shall have your wish. I warn you, though:
if the sun god's lamp should find you and your children
still within our borders at first rising,
it means your death. I've spoken; it's decided.
Stay for one day only, if you must.
You won't have time to do the things I fear.