

CLCV 224

Artist's Statement

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The original source I am using is *Medea* by Euripides. The changes I have made are the making Medea converse with Zeus disguised as Athena instead of soliloquizing to the audience. Second, Medea is convinced to kill her children by Zeus because she believes it will prevent greater suffering of her children in the future. Finally, I added more to the ending where Zeus reveals himself to Medea and explains he only had her kill her children because he wanted to sleep with her.

For the first change, I made Medea communicate with Zeus instead of talking to herself. This occurred from lines 760 to 810. In the original, Medea talks to herself for the entire section. The beginning of the differences are "Now I shall explain to you my plan in full, but do not expect to hear a pleasant speech." Here, Medea is explaining her plan to kill her children as revenge for Jason's betrayal. However, I changed this direct explanation to the audience to a conversation between Zeus disguised as Athena and Medea.

For the second change, I made Medea come to the conclusion to kill her children due to the trickery of Zeus and not her own accord. In line 790, Medea says "But here I quit this theme. I grieve at the deed I must do next; for I will slay my own children." She comes to the conclusion to kill her children by herself. However, I found this deeply unsatisfying while reading and thought the deaths would have more meaning if she was tricked into doing so. Here, I have Zeus convincing Medea that her children will suffer horribly if they are left alive. After they argue back and forth, Medea eventually concedes and agrees to kill her children.

For the final change, I added a section to the end of the play. There is no direct quote to cite as this is something completely new. In this final section, I have Zeus admit that he tricked Medea to kill her children because he wanted to sleep with her. She breaks down and gets mad at Zeus for making her a monster. However, Zeus points out that he was not the one that made her kill the other people she had killed.

Writing this reception was very enjoyable for me. Getting to play the mind of Zeus and Medea was

interesting. I am very happy with how this project turned out and think I was very enjoyable the entire way through. There was nothing particularly challenging about this reception. Aside from this reception, I considered having Medea argue with a panel of gods who argue for or against her killing her children. However, I decided against this once I realized how long it would take. Athena was the first god I wrote in the panel for and Zeus was the second. I was part-way through writing the Zeus section when I realized how long it would take. Since I had writing for Athena and Zeus, I combined them into a scene I saw Zeus getting into. Zeus is a very promiscuous god, so him getting Medea to kill her children so he could sleep with her made sense to me.

After writing this reception, I had less respect for Medea. She seemed convinced that she was doing the best thing for her kids. However, Zeus argues very strongly against that at the end of the story. It made me reconsider that Medea killed her children out of spite and only tried to justify it to herself by saying she did it because she did not want them to suffer.