

The Foolish daughters

After Medea had abandoned her native environment and its natural restraints, she found herself doing some more frightful deeds, ending up by becoming a "killing mother." In the ancient world it was unthinkable to leave a family member unburied. (The best example of this is the story of Antigone as told by Sophocles in his play of that name.) So Medea, in order to force her father to abandon his pursuit of the Argo, killed her brother and threw his dismembered body into the sea, so as to delay her father. After their return to Thessaly she plotted and brought about the death of Pelias because she was impatient to gain power.

Vellere aureō captō et rēgī Pēliae trādītō, Jāsōn postulāvit ut rēgnū sibi darētur. Rēx Pēliās pīmō Jāsonī rēgnū postulantī nihil respondit, sed diū in eādem tristitiā manēbat.

Tandem ā Jāsone petīvit, ut sibi licēret rēgnū retinēre dum vīveret. Jāsōn, quōniam cognōvit eum brevī tempore moritūrum, concessit. Erant autem rēgī duae filiae, quae patrem morī nolēbant. Tam stupidae erant ut spērārent Medēam sibi auxiliō futūram esse. Putābant enim Medēae talem artis magicae scientiam esse ut senem juvenem facere posset.

Vocabulary

- enim** for (sentence connector, always occurs 2nd in clause)
- filia, -ae f.** daughter
- juvenis, -is adj.** young
- magicus, -a, -um** magical
- retineō, -tinēre, -tinuī, -tentum** hold back
- scientia, -ae f.** knowledge
- senex, senis m.** old man
- spērō (1)** to hope
- stupidus, -a, -um** senseless, stupid
- tandem, adv.** finally
- tristitia, -ae f.** sadness