

In Medea no one truly receives justice. Discuss.

Through out history, many individuals have desired true justice. Justice is fairness, the act of setting something or someone equal, a balance between vices. In the Ancient Greek tragedy, 'Medea', a play by Euripides performed in 431 BCE, no one truly received justice for their wrong doing or their act of crime. Medea, the protagonist, is unjustly betrayed by her husband Jason and seeks to find justice for the wrong done against her in the way she knows best, through revenge. After crying out to man and the supernatural gods to gain justice against the treachery of her husband, she in turn is denied and "exiled", leaving her with no security and the feeling of abandonment from the gods, seeing they too do not respond to her request for justice. Euripides demonstrates Medea is not the only one who deserves justice, as Medea's vengeance for justice towards Jason is played to an extreme with the result of murders on Jason most loved ones. Seeing that Jason suffers because of Medea, he too should receive justice. Nevertheless, none of the characters, protagonists or antagonists, truly receive justice.

To help readers obtain an emotional response and a feel of sympathy towards Medea, Euripides includes information about Jason and Medea's history together, setting the scene for the audience. In the past, as informed by the nurse, Jason stole the golden fleece from Medea's family in order to receive his rightful throne and be identified as a "hero", however this would have been impossible if Medea had not intervened. For true justice to have been served in 'Medea', Medea should have had a share of all the glory and nobility Jason obtained through this golden fleece. Medea should not have been seen as a barbarian princess, and heartless although she "took [her] own brother's life". She should have also been rewarded as equally as Jason not as a lesser because of her heritage. True justice would also mean that Jason apprehend a lawful punishment for theft as well as Medea for the murder of her brother. Society did not regard Medea's role in obtaining the Golden Fleece, in reality she was never genuinely accepted by the Corinth society as she was from an area far from Corinth, a "barbarian". Medea, an "unordinary woman" was filled with joy by her marriage to Jason as a result for capturing the fleece, "her heart transfixed by desire for Jason". She would have done anything for the man she loved "seek[ing] to please [him] in all she does" as he "was the world to [her]", as exhibited by betraying her own blood. Both Medea and Jason should have received a form of punishment for their actions of theft and murder for the purpose of true justice to be received in 'Medea'.

Jason's adultery to a younger and more powerful women is the basis on which the ancient greek tragedy, 'Medea', is based upon. This treachery and heartache solely forms the reason for Medea's wicked acts of revenge. Due to men and gods ignoring her "calls ... to witness how unjustly she has been treated" and plea for justice towards Jason, Medea decides to take matters into her own hands, as for Medea revenge is her version of justice, restoring the balance of hurt caused to her by Jason by bringing grief upon Jason himself. Any suffering that is brought upon Jason is justice in Medea's perception. True justice may have been performed if Jason had offered Medea an alimony before she was "exiled", like failed marriages in today's society do, then maybe Medea would have been "calm[er]" with the situation. Jason suggesting Medea to be his "mistress", the normality for men to have in ancient greek, is an act of betrayal as the leader in Medea sees it to be, "betraying her who loved thee and was true". Being once a wife, having precedence over all other women in your man's life, to becoming a mistress is degrading Medea's social status as well as a person overall, humiliating her and fuelling her "dangerous" reputation. Medea being ignored of justice by all who she cried upon caused her to act in a way she believes justice

would have been served, however this in turn caused more hurt and suffering to herself, therefore justice was not truly received.

The loss of a child is an unbearable pain. The loss of your only two sons, the heir to carry your family name and reputation is what Jason faced as Medea committed infanticide. Due to Medea involving her sons in her wicked plan to murder Glauce and collaterally King Creon, she too “murdered her sons” so that they are not hated on as she is, and also to bring about intolerable pain to Jason, furthermore to the loss of his bride. Medea’s vengeance towards Jason was left “scot free” as she flew off “in a chariot drawn by dragons” provided by her grandfather, Helios. In this way Jason does not receive justice for the illegal acts of murder Medea carried out against him. The justice Jason receives is only riddance of Medea from anymore harm, yet this still is not sincere justice for the wrong performed. Moreover, Medea’s godly heritage fortunately rescues her from the town of Corinth and hands of Jason, this displays that Medea on some degree received justice for the immoral acts conducted by Jason. However since her children were murdered by her own hands, Medea now has to live with that “guilt” and pain, not bringing about true and real justice.

Justice, the act of fairness, was never truly received in Medea. Many characters in the play did not receive justice for their wrong doing, Medea and Jason especially. Medea attempted to seek justice for herself after being betrayed, however she did not truly succeed in obtaining it as her method of revenge to gain justice caused even more hurt and suffering to herself. Jason, comparatively, wronged against Medea yet did not receive justice for his imperfect act of adultery, in turn he suffered more because of Medea’s heartache, leading to Jason to be the one who deserves justice for the wicked acts of Medea played against him. Therefore, in Medea no one truly receives justice.