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Tragic Heroines on Ancient and Modern Stage
Greek tragedy is dominated by imposing female figures, heroines who have become symbols and admirable archetypes in every civilization through the centuries. Passionate women, blessed with natural beauty, wisdom, intelligence and courage, who dared to go beyond the narrow frame of their time, oppose the laws and their rulers and turn the social establishment upside down. There is no place for tragic heroines, in a patriarchal society. Their acts needed to be devalued and these women had to be presented as crazy witches, prostitutes, or murderesses of their relatives. Nevertheless these female figures always stood before these imputations like large stones. In order to marginalize women, the newly established man-dominated society tried to suspend these figures and replace them with softer ones, such as Penelope (faith and obedience), Antigone (duty), Alcestis (sacrifice and modesty) and Ariadne (abandonment). But even these new examples were beyond the usual ones and looked alike the older ones, which could not be tamed.

Medea turns the divine Order of things upside down using her tremendous knowledge: not only she