

the Golden Fleece is the start of Medea's suffering, as the fleece stands for the Argonaut's ambitions for power, and, ultimately, leads to his destruction.

While married to Medea, Jason begins a new relationship with the princess of Corinth, the land to which he and Medea escaped after the murder of King Pelias. The princess represents an excellent opportunity for Jason to gain his dreamt-of power, and he goes as far as attempting to convince Medea that betraying and leaving her is in fact for the good of their children. Medea, who has gone to extremes before, such as in the case of killing Pelias, is not impressed by Jason's behavior and decides to take a revenge on him by not only killing the princess of Corinth, but also slaying her own children in order to further hurt Jason. She plans "to send [the children] with gifts in their hands, carrying [the gifts] unto the bride to save them from banishment, a robe of finest woof and a chaplet of gold (Euripides, 31)." In this extract, the chaplet of gold represents Medea's precious plan full of evil intentions. The gold evokes the thought of glory, prestige and honour, as if it was Medea's way of communicating and proving to everyone that she also comes from a royal family. At the same time, it also embodies her hatred for Jason and for society in general for abandoning her in such a hard time. Eventually, the gold chalice brings about the downfall of both the princess of Corinth and her father.

By accepting the expensive presents from the hands of Medea's sons, the princess of Corinth signs her death note. Medea knows that the "hapless bride will take, ay, take the golden crown that is to be her ruin; with her own hand will she lift and place upon her golden locks the garniture of death (Euripides, 37)." While longing for gold, the princess is oblivious to the danger she puts herself into, and this mistake ends up to be her very last, as Medea's plan quickly unfolds. "The chaplet of gold about her head was sending forth a wondrous stream of ravening flame, while the fine raiment, thy children's gift, was preying on the hapless maiden's fair white flesh; and she starts from her seat in a blaze and seeks to fly,