

*In Med(e)as Res: Seneca the Advisor on the Familial Concerns of Claudius and Jason*  
Michelle Currie, Rhodes College

**Jason's opening speech:**

IAS. O dura fata semper et sortem asperam,  
cum saevit et cum parcit ex aequo malam!  
remedia quotiens invenit nobis deus  
periculis peiora! si vellem fidem  
praestare meritis coniugis, leto fuit 435  
caput offerendum; si mori nollem, fide  
misero carendum. non timor vicit fidem,  
sed trepida pietas; quippe sequeretur necem  
proles parentum. sancta si caelum incolis  
Iustitia, numen invoco ac testor tuum: 440  
nati patrem vicere. quin ipsam quoque,  
etsi ferox est corde nec patiens iugi,  
consulere natis malle quam thalamis reor.  
constituit animus precibus iratam aggredi.

JASON: O fates always harsh, and lot cruel and equally bad when raging and when sparing! How often the god finds for us remedies worse than the dangers! If I wanted to maintain my faithfulness as befits the merits of my wife, I had to offer myself to death; if I did not want to die, I had to be found lacking in wretched faithfulness. Not fear, but fearful devotion overcame my loyalty; certainly my children would have followed their parents' death. Holy Justice, if you do inhabit the heavens, I call upon your divine power as my witness: my sons conquered their father. Indeed even she, I think, although she is fierce in spirit and intolerant of the yoke, prefers to take care of her children over her marriage. My mind has resolved to approach her with entreaties, though she is angry.