

*Medea* translated by Ian Johnson  
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The city of Sana'a, Yemen is one of the oldest continually inhabited cities in the world, with records dating back more than 2,500 years. It is a city rich with tradition, and there is a natural bond between Sana'a and the character of Medea, who comes from an ancient and noble heritage, descended from Helios.





Beautiful designs surmount the windows of many buildings in the old city of Sana'a, which is a UNESCO world heritage site.





In 2011, Sana'a became a central battlefield in the Yemen Civil War, with US backed Saudi Arabian airstrikes marring the landscape and killing civilians. The imperialist arguments regarding holding on to stability in the face of savagery bear striking resemblances to Jason's claims that he saved Medea from a barbaric life.





Buildings which have stood for thousands of years come crashing to the ground.





And, like in the war between Jason and Medea, nothing is left sacred. Funerals and school busses are no safer from the bombs than terrorist bases.



Somehow, through all this violence, artists find ways of expressing the pain. For instance, Murad Sabay, a famous Yemeni street artist.









The Chorus are the street musicians, maintaining traditional Yemeni tunes despite, or perhaps because of, the desolation which surrounds them...





...even while some of the instruments they use are products of the very society which would see their music and traditions obliterated.





But the mindset leading up to these atrocities began long before war broke out. In 1992 Al Qaeda conducted its first act of terrorism, bombing the Gold Mohur Hotel in Aden, Yemen. Strange, how peaceful these mountains look.





Wreckage from one of the planes which destroyed the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. When Medea makes her escape she rides no princess chariot. Her vessel is the raw power of the sun, burning everything in its path.



**And she does not go in peace**