

Allusion and the Limits of Interpretability

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Cast in Another's Role: Medea as Nausicaa, Hannibal as Catiline

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I. Medea as Nausicaa

1. The protective mist and description of the palace.
2. The dream.
3. Comparison with Artemis.
4. Fear of being seen with a foreigner.
5. Divine enhancement of the hero's beauty.
6. Gratitude of the hero for the "helper maiden's" assistance.
7. The "helper maiden" asks to be remembered.

II. Hannibal as Catiline

1. Character sketch.
 - a) remarkable physical and intellectual powers
 - b) the ability to withstand hunger, cold, and sleeplessness
 - c) a paradoxical combination of positive and negative traits
 - d) abbreviated style
2. Use of Thucydides as a model.
3. Villain's use of sexual favors to further plans.
4. Villain's threat of fire.
5. Association of the villain's main opponent with the *optimi*.
6. The villain's *coniuratio*.
7. Historical association of Hannibal with Catiline.