

AGAMEMNON

Agamemnon is a great Greek tragedy play. It's a story of the Trojan War, which lasted for ten years and greatly influenced the future. Clytemnestra was Helen's half-sister. After the death of her son and husband she saw Agamemnon become king. She had a daughter with Agamemnon, named Iphigenia. When the war began, Agamemnon sacrificed Iphigenia to Artemis so he could go to fight at Troy. After the sacrifice of her daughter, Clytemnestra was devastated and was furious with her husband's decision. In my view she was so infuriated with Agamemnon for sacrificing her daughter and began to compose plans to try to kill him. When Agamemnon returned home with his newly won prize Cassandra, Clytemnestra and Aegisthus murdered them both. Some believe that Agamemnon was killed because he brought over Cassandra as a concubine but I believe that the murder was planned before the information that Agamemnon was bringing anyone back.

Clytemnestra is a highly controversial character in this play. While it is true that she committed adultery, it is also true that she killed her husband, though that, too, can be blamed on the fact Agamemnon killed her daughter so he could go fight in the war. He also brought back with Cassandra who was to be his concubine. In my view Clytemnestra was a victim, not only of her insensitive husband and her scheming lover, but also her own wounded vanity and self-esteem. She believed that she could take the law in her own hand and murder her husband and call the act, something done at the will of the Gods.

Even as the play goes on the chorus and other characters see her in very negative terms and in my opinion her actions do not prove them wrong. Even though she says that she is killing Agamemnon because he killed her daughter and gave another one away to go to war, she is forgetting that she also murdered a totally innocent woman in Cassandra. Even if Cassandra was not murdered then her actions could have been more justified. Its understandably how upset she was by the death of her daughter and how much she wanted to pay back Agamemnon but I don't think that murdering him and his mistress was the right solution.

Another way to try to justify her actions is her involvement with Aegisthus. While planning for the murder of her husband Clytemnestra said that one of the reasons she was doing it, was because he was bringing home a mistress. I think that she is forgetting that she had done something just as bad. How can she expect to be forgiven for her cheating because of a curse? I think that most of the opinions on Clytemnestra are correct and she definitely was at fault for a lot of things in her life including her own death.
