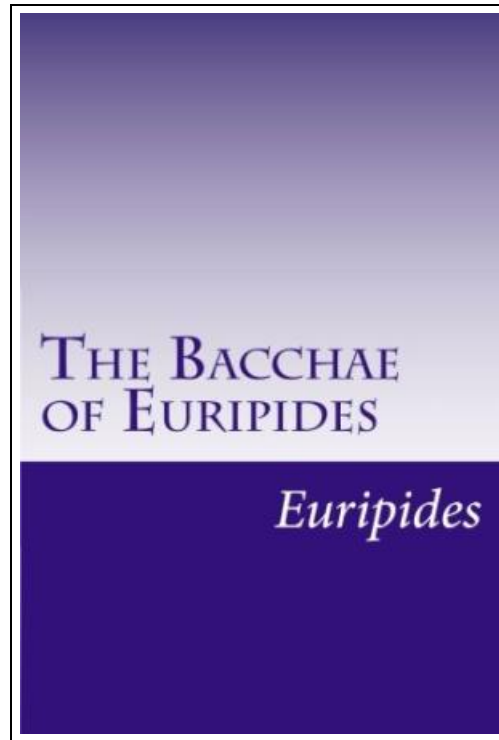


## The Bacchae of Euripides



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The background represents the front of the Castle of Pentheus, King of Thebes. At one side is visible the sacred Tomb of Semele, a little enclosure overgrown with wild vines, with a cleft in the rocky floor of it from which there issues at times steam or smoke. The God Dionysus is discovered alone. Dionysus. Behold, God s Son is come unto this land Of Thebes, even I, Dionysus, whom the brand Of heaven s hot splendour lit to life, when she Who bore me, Cadmus daughter Semele, Died here. So, changed in shape from God to man, I walk again by Dirce s streams and scan Ismenus shore. There by the castle side I see her place, the Tomb of the Lightning s Bride, The wreck of smouldering chambers, and the great Faint wreaths of fire undying-as the hate Dies not, that Hera held for Semele. Aye, Cadmus hath done well; in purity He keeps this place apart, inviolate, His daughter s sanctuary; and I have set My green and clustered vines to robe it round. Far now behind me lies the golden ground Of Lydian and of Phrygian; far away The wide hot plains where Persian sunbeams play, The Bactrian war-holds, and the storm-oppressed Clime of the Mede, and Araby the Blest, And Asia all, that by the salt sea lies In proud embattled cities, motley-wise Of Hellene and Barbarian interwrought; And now I come to Hellas-having taught All the world else my dances and my rite Of mysteries, to show me in men s sight Manifest God.

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