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Oedipus the king full text

Oedipus King and SophoclesCommentary: Quite a few comments have been posted about Oedipus King. Download: The 68k text-only version is available for download. Oedipus King Sophocles Translated by F. Storr Dramatis Personae OEDIPUS Priest ZEUS CREON ZBORBAN ELDER TEIRESIAS JOCASTA MESSENGER HERD LAIUS Scene Thebes. In front of the Oedipus Palace. Suppliants of all ages sit around the altar at the door of the palace, headed by the Priest of ZEUS. To specify OEDIPUS. OEDIPUS My children, the last born cadmus did, Why sit here like suppliants, in your hands Olive fillets with a wave? What does it mean that this incense everywhere, and everywhere laments and litanies? Kids, I didn't meet that I should learn from others, and I came here alone, I Oedipus, your world-famous king. It! in the age of sir, whose venerable locks Declare you a spokesperson of this company, explain your mood and allegedly. Is it the fear of the sick that moves you, or the blessing you desire? My zeal in your name cannot be doubted; Ruthless indeed I have been and obdurate if such a petition like you I have instigated. Priest yes, Oedipus, my sovereign lord and king, you will see how both extremes of age besiege the altars of your palace--nassant barely winged, and gray beards bent down with years, priests, like me Zeus, and these flower of our youth. Meanwhile, ordinary folk, with wreaths boughs Crowd our two market places, or in front of both pallas shrines gather, or where Ismenus gives his oracles fire. Because, as you reset alone, our ship of state, Pain Buffeted, can no longer lift its head, wrecked under a weltering wave of blood. Mold is on our harvest in the ear, mold for pasture flocks and herds. Mold on wives in travail; and withal armed with his burning torch God plague Hath swooped on our city emptying the house of Cadmus, and the dark realm of Pluto is full of groans and tears. Therefore, By the King, here in your heart we sit, me and these children; not as considered a new deity, but as the first of men; First, in the ordinary accidents of life, and first when visiting the gods. Isn't it him who comes to the city of Chaputová to exempt us from the tax we paid Fall on our asses? Neither hadst have you received a call from us or been trained by others; No, god-inspired (so all people consider it and testify) you've restored our lives. And now, O Oedipus, our unparalleled king, All You Will Excuse, you will find some succor, whether by voice from heaven Whispered or haply known by human wit. Tried counselors, methinks, are aptest found to provide for future pregnant rede. Upraise, About the Chief of Men, to smedut our state! Look at your laurels! because of your zeal from the yore savior of our country, you are the art you just celebrated: Om we must never record your government like this!-- He raised us only to overthrow us. Lift us up, build our city on a rock. Your Star Ascendant brought us happiness, O let's not drop! If you ruled this country like you are now, you'd rather rule a nation than a desert empire. Neither the battles nor the kitchen took advantage if the men approached the man and the guards guarded the tail. OEDIPUS Ah! my poor children, known, ach, known too well, quest that brings you here and your needs. You're disgusted by everyone, well wit I, but my pain, like the great soever you, outweighs it all. Your sadness touches every man, He and no one else, but I grieve at once both for the general, for me and for you. Therefore, no snail will wake up from daily dreams. Many, my children, are tears that I cried, and weaves a lot of mazes of tired thought. So he pondered one trace of hope I caught, and tracked it down; I sent Menoeceus's son, Creon, brother of my consortium, to ask Pythian Phoebeus at his delphic shrine. How could I save the state by act or word. And now I'm counting on the story of the days since he came out, and I'm amazed at how he's bee. 'Tis weird, this endless tarrying, around weird. But when it comes, then I was really the foundation, if I carried not all the god declares. PRIEST Your words are well timed; Even if you say screaming tells me creon is at hand. OEDIPUS About King Apollo! can its joyful appearance be presage the joyful news, it brings! Priest, as I believe, 'tis welcome; otherwise his head was barely crowned with berry-laden coves. OEDIPUS Soon we will know; Now he's in range of his ears. Enter CREON. My royal cousin, say, Menoeceus' child, What message did you bring us from God? CREON Good news, for e'en excruciating ailments, finding the right problem, tend to be nothing but good. OEDIPUS How to operate a oracle? so far your words do not give me reason for confidence or fear. Creon If you want to hear my message publicly, I'll tell you straight away and walk inside with you. OEDIPUS Speak in front of all, the burden I bear is more mine for these subjects than it is for me. Creon Let me then declare the message to all god. King Phoebeus offers us strait extirpate polluted pollution that will infect the earth, and no more port invertebrate pain. OEDIPUS What does expiation mean? What's wrong? CREON Expulsion, or spilling blood on the blood. This stain of blood is making our state shipwreck. OEDIPUS Who can he mean, miscreant condemned like this? CREON Before taking over the helm of the state, the monarch of this country was Laius. OEDIPUS I've heard so much but never seen a man. CREON Felt; and now God's command is simple: Punish its recipients-oft, whoever be. OEDIPUS Where are they? Where in the wide world to find far, faint traces of a formed crime? CREON In this country, said God; who tries, finds; Who sits with folded hands or sleeps is blind. OEDIPUS Was in his palace or outside him or on the road when Laius met his destiny? CREON Abroad; so he told us, pointing to Delphi, but he never came back. Returned. I didn't get any news, no traveler to give any clues that could be tracked? Creon But one escape that flies for dear life could tell you about everything he saw, but one thing for sure. OEDIPUS And what was that? One clue could lead us far, but it sparks hopes of leading our quest. Creon Raiders, he told us, not one bandit, but an army of knaves, attacked and murdered him. OEDIPUS Did any bandit dare such a daring stroke if he really was suborned from Thebes? Creon So 'twas surmised, but no one was found to avenge his murder amid the problems that followed. OEDIPUS What problems can hinder a full expedition. When the royalty fell so suingly? CREON Riddling Sphinx forced us to leave a snapshot of the dark past and devote our attention to immediate needs. OEDIPUS Well, I'll start over and again to make the dark things clear. Right worthy of Phoebeus's fears, worthy of yours too, for the dead; Also, as I meet, I lend my help to avenge this injustice to Thebes and God. Not for some distant relative, but me, I should exit this poison into my blood; For whose killed that king might have a mind to hit me with his killer hand. That's why I serve myself in correcting it. Upstairs, kids, hurry up, end these stairs at the altar, take your suppliant wand, go summon Theban to the commons. With God's good help Success is certain; 'tis destroy if we fail. Exeunt OEDIPUS and CREON. Priest Come, children, therefore, let us; These grateful words Can be sure of the whole purpose of our suit. And may the God who sent this oracle save us and rid us of this pest. Exeunt PRIEST and suppliants. CHORUS Strophe 1 Sweet-voiced daughter Zeus from your gold-cobbled pythian shrine wafted on the Divine Thebes, What will you bring me? My soul is hacked and shaking with fear. Delos healer, listen! Hast you have any pain unknown before, or with circling years to restore repentance yore? Descendant of the golden hope, you immortal voice, Tell me. antistrophe 1 First on Athena I call; About the Zeus-born goddess, defend! Goddess and sister, make friends, Artemis, Lady of Thebes, high-throne in the middle of our mart! Lord of death-winged darts! I long for your triple help from death, and I'm destroying our city to save you. If in times of old, when we are close to perished, you will toil out of our land a fiery plague, be near us and defend ul strophe 2 Ah me what myriad misery are mine! All our hosts are in decline; Without weapons, my spirit is lying. The country denies its gracious fur; Women wall in barren torment; Life's life downstricken goes, faster than the wind of a bird's flight, faster than Fire-God's power, on the western shores of the night. antistrophe 2 Needless death to death Our entire city perished. Corpses spread the infection over and over again; No one tends or grieves to be found. Wailing in the stairwell of the altar Wives and old swish air-- Long drawn moaning and piercing cries Blent with prayers and Golden Child Zeus, O O Let your angelic face appear! strophe 3 And grant that Ares, whose hot breath I feel, even if without a sheet or steel He stems, whose voice is like a battle scream, can turn in a sudden rout, into uninjured thy waters accelerated, or amphetamine bed. For what the night leaves you back, Smit in mourning the sun Perisheth. Father Zeus, whose hand Doth wielded the brand of lightning, killed him under your levin's bold, we pray, kill him, Kill him! antistrophe 3 O that your arrows too, Lycian King, from that taut bow gold chain, can fly abroad, the proponents of our rights; Yes, and the flashing lights of Artemis, where the hunter sweeps through the Lycian steep. You also speak with gold-snooded hair whose name our country doth bear, Bacchus, to which your Maenads Evoo scream; Come with your bright torch, rout, Blithe god whom we adore, God whom the gods oppose. Enter OEDIPUS. OEDIPUS Pray; 'tis well, but you'd hear my words and give them disgust and apply redress, you could find solace and relief. Remember, I speak as the one who comes stranger to this report, no less than a crime; After that, how without help could I have watched away without a clue? Which is missing (too late I was enrolled citizen Thebes) This statement I address to all-- Thebans, if there is a knowing man to whom Laius, the son of Labdacus, was killed, I will call him to a clean shrine to me. And if it shrinks, let it reflect that so admitted that it will be a scapegoat capital charge; For the worst punishment that suffocates him, expulsion is unseemly. But if a foreigner from a foreign country is known as a murderer, let him know to speak, and he will have due retribution from me and thanks to the boot. But if you're still silent, if you ignore my hest through fear for yourself or friends, listen to what I'm going to solve; I gave the ban to the killer he is. Let no man in this country, why do I hold a sovereign right, harbor or talk to him; Don't attend prayer or sacrifice or chandler ceremonies, but catch it from your homes. Because this is our defilement, so god Hath showed me the oracles lately. Like their champion, I maintain the cause as god and murdered king. And to the killer of this curse I lay (on him and all partners in his guilt)-- Wretch, can pine in utter patheticity! And for myself, if, with my privacy, he obtains an concede to my heart, I pray that the curse I have placed on others will fall on me. You see that you are giving efficiency to all my hest, for my god and God and for our country, a desert blasted by the wrath of heaven. Because, let alone God's express command, it was a scandal that you should leave unatoned with the murder of a great man and your king, or follow him home. And now that I am the master, the successor to his throne, his bed, his wife, (And if he had not been thwarted in the hope of extradition, the common children of one womb have forced a closer bond twixt him and me, Fate has thrown at him), therefore I have his blood-avenger will maintain his cause as if he were my lord, and do not leave a stone unturned to follow the killer or avenge the son of Labdacus, of Polydore, Cadmus, and Agenor's first race. And for disobedience, I therefore pray: May the gods send them neither the early fruit of the Earth nor the teeming increase of the uterus, but they can waste pines and pines, because now they are wasting, Aye and the worse affected; but for all of you, my loyal subjects who approve of my actions, may justice, our ally, and all gods be grateful and attend to you even more. Chorus offered you an oath, sir, I take and swear. I killed him not alone, nor can I name the killer. For the inquest, 'Twere well, methinks that Phoebeus, who designed the riddle, himself should give the answer - who was the killer. OEDIPUS Well argued; but no living man can hope to force the gods to speak out against his ee. CHORUS Can I then tell you what seems closest to me? OEDIPUS Aye, if there will be a third best, say it too. CHORUS My liege, if anyone sees eye to eye with our Mr. Phoebeus, y y y y our prophet, Mr. Teiresias; He of all men best can lead the seeker of this matter to the light. OEDIPUS Even here my zeal is not lagging behind, I've sent it twice to Creon's instance, and I've been amazed for a long time why he's not here. Chorus, i've had rumors a long time ago-- Mere gossip. OEDIPUS Tell them I fain know everything. CHORUS 'Twas said he fell off the passenger. OEDIPUS So I heard, but no one saw the man who saw him fall. Chorus Well, if he knows what fear is, he'll quail and escape from your terror course. OEDIPUS Words scare is not one who blanches not on deeds. CHORUS But here's one who accused him. Lo, at length, they bring a god-inspired oracle in which all other men of truth are born. Enter TEIRESIAS, under the direction of the boy. OEDIPUS Teiresias, seer, who understand all, Lore wise and hidden secrets, high things heaven and low things of the earth, You are the most conscious, even if your blind eyes see nothing. What morph infects our city; and we turn to you, O seer, our one defense and shield. The alleged answer that God came back to us, who was looking for his oracle, the messengers undoubtedly told us-- how one course alone could rid us of a pest, find the killers of Laius, and kill them or drive them out of the country. Therefore, they are reluctant to save all of this tarnishing of blood, which is yours, to protect yourself, your country, and your king. We'll rest on the other. This is the supreme end of man, serving others with all his ability to lend. TEIRESIAS Unfortunately, unfortunately, what an ordeal to be wise when wisdom gains nothing! This old tradition, which I forgot; Otherwise I wasn't here. OEDIPUS What are you smiling about? Why this melancholy mood? TEIRESIAS Let me go home; prevent me from not; It was best for you to tolerate burden and mine. OEDIPUS for shame! no No Theban patriot would thus withhold the word prophecy. TEIRESIAS Your words, About the King, are wide of the mark, and I fear that I too tip like you... OEDIPUS Oh say, Hold no, I adjourned you, if you know 'st, your knowledge. We're all your suppliants. TEIRESIAS Aye, because you're all funny, but my voice won't reveal my suffering-- or yours. OEDIPUS What then, you knowest, and yet wiltst not speak! Would you betray us and destroy the state? TEIRESIAS I will not vex myself or you. So why ask idly what you're not going to learn from me? OEDIPUS monster! Your silence would be flint incense. You're not going to miss a tongue? Can't anything melt or shake your dogged taciturnity? TEIRESIAS You blame my mood and resette not your own, where you have paired up; No, you taxed me. OEDIPUS And who could stay his cholera when he heard how steadfastly those enough flout the state? TEIRESIAS Well, it comes down to what it will be, even if I mute. OEDIPUS Since it comes, you have to tell me. TEIRESIAS I have nothing to say; storm as you will, and give the reins to all your anger. OEDIPUS Yes, I am a wroth, and will not stint my words, but speak my whole mind. You thought that you who planned the crime, yes, and carried it out too, all to save the assassination; and if you were not blind, I swore that you would start by doing the damn deed yourself. TEIRESIAS Isn't that right? Then I charge you to follow your own statement; from this day on Do not talk to them or with me. You're the man, you're the saturated polluter of this country. OEDIPUS I've slander, you smear these detests, and think 'st forthsooth as a seer go scot free. TEIRESIAS Yes, I am free, strong in the power of truth. OEDIPUS Who was your teacher? not methinks your art. TEIRESIAS You, come talk to me against my people. OEDIPUS What speech? repeat and resolve my doubts. TEIRESIAS Didst miss my sense of being you goad me? OEDIPUS I, but half seized its meaning; say it again. TEIRESIAS I'm saying you're the killer of the man you're following. OEDIPUS You're going to repeat it twice as rude as kalumny. TEIRESIAS Do I have to say more to exacerbate my anger? OEDIPUS Say everything they wilt; it's just a waste of breath. TEIRESIAS I say you live with your closest relatives in shame, unwittingly in your shame. OEDIPUS Do you think you're for aye unsay to wagging your tongue? TEIRESIAS Yes, if the power of truth can prevail. OEDIPUS With other men, but not with you, for your ear, wit, eye, blind in everything. TEIRESIAS Poor fool sheer gibes at me which everyone present here will cast back on you ere long. OEDIPUS Descendants of endless night, you have no power O'er me or a man who sees the sun. TEIRESIAS No, for your weird it doesn't fall on me. I'll leave Apollo as far as God is concerned. OEDIPUS Is this a Creon conspiracy or your own? TEIRESIAS Not Creon, you yourself art your own OEDIPUS About wealth and empyr and skills skills Outwitted on the battlefield of life, what a yet and envy to follow on your train! Look, for this crown, the state granted me. Dar, the thing I was looking for is no, for this crown faithful Creon, my well-known friend, Hath lain in waiting to expel me and suborned this mountebank, this juggling charlatan, this tricks beggar-priest, for profit keen-eyed himself, but in his proper art stone-blind. Say, Panerah, have you ever proved yourself a prophet? When the sphinphat was here, why did you deliver for this people? And yet the riddle should not have been solved by guess-work, but requires the prophet's art; In which you were found missing: neither birds nor signs from heaven helped you, but I came, simple Oedipus; I stopped her mouth with a joke, unteasy auguries. This is the man you'd undermine in the hope of governing with Creon instead of me. Methinks that you and you abettor will soon rue your plot to drive the scapegoat out. Thanks to your grayling hair, you still have to learn what such arrogance deserves. CHORUS For us, it seems that both seer and you, O Oedipus, have spoken angry words. This is not the time to have an argument, but to consult how best we can meet oracle. TEIRESIAS King like you art, freedom of speech at least is mine to answer; I'm your peer in this. I do not own a master, but Loxias; serve him, and ne'er can stand registered as Creon's man. Then I answer: since you didn't spare me from being smouched with your blindness - you're your eyes, yet you can't see in what misery your art fell in, or where you wouldn't dwell, or with whom for a friend. Do you know your lines? No, you know it's not, and all the unconscious art of a double enemy to your own relatives, the living and the dead; Yes, and the annoying course of mother and lord one day will guide you, like a double-edged sword, beyond our borders, and the eyes I see now clear will be an endless night from now on. Oh whither will be your bitter cry will not reach, What to argue in all cithæraon, but then the wailing when you found with hymeneal you brought home, but no righteous refuge, to a whirlwind! yes, and a flood of ailments you probably won't guess, you and the kids are going to be in the same line. Then creon back out and my words, because none of the mortals will strike worse than you. OEDIPUS Do I have to take comfort from this guy? Murrain to you! Get you then! Begone Avaunt! and never cross my threshold any more. TEIRESIAS I'm ne'er came hadst you not banned me. OEDIPUS I know you wouldn't be completely foolish, otherwise long hadst you expected to be summoned here. It seems like a fool to you, but to the parents who came to you, wise. OEDIPUS What does your parents say? Who please call me? TEIRESIAS This day is your day of birth and your grave. OEDIPUS You lo'vst talk in puzzles and dark words. TEIRESIAS When reading puzzles you are as skilled as OEDIPUS Twit me with the fact that in which my size lies. TEIRESIAS And yet this size proved its mine. OEDIPUS Regardless of whether I saved the community. TEIRESIAS 'Tis the time I left. Come on, boy, take me home. OEDIPUS Aye, take him quickly, for his presenceirks and allows me; gone, you can't be more affable to me. TEIRESIAS, I'm going, but first I'll tell you why I came. Your cloudy I'm afraid not because you can't hurt me. Listen then: this man you tried to arrest with threats and orders for so long, poor, who murdered Laius - the man is here. It passes for an alien in the country, but soon it turns out Theban, a native born. And yet his happiness brings him little joy. For the blind to see, clad in beggars, for purple robes, and leaning on their employees, a foreign country will soon dive its way. And of the children, prisoners from his home, he will be shown a brother and a master, from her, who gave birth to a son and husband as, co-partner, and the killer of his lord. Go and think about it, and if you find that I missed the mark, from now on declare that I have no wit or skill in prophecy. Example of TEIRESIAS and OEDIPUS. CHORUS strophe 1 Who is this immortal voice named from Pythia's rocky cell, Doer foul acts of carnage, horror that no language can say? Foot on the flight fleetler needs, like storm-fast steeds, Pro on the heels of doth to follow, armed with lightning bolts of his sire, Apollo. Like sleuth-dogs too fates to watch. antistrophe 1 Yes, but now flashed a summons from parnassus' snowy peak, near and far undiscovered o'er this murder search! Now, like a noble bull that roams forest brakes and forest groves, and in vain tries to fly with destruction that still sighs flits over his head, still avenging Phoebeus, the voice of the divine, from the central sanctuary of the Earth. Strophe 2 Pain confused I am in the words of the master seer. Are they true, are they false? I know not, and briske my tongue out of fear, fluttered with vague surmise; present or future is unclear. Hassle about an ancient date or in the coming days I do not yet know that I have no Twixt labdacidan house and our ruler, Polybus' son. The proof is not there any; how then can I challenge our king's reputation, How does a blood-feud attach to an untracked act of shame? antistrophe 2 All wise are Zeus and Apollo, and nothing is withheld from their ken; They are gods; and with wit, man can overcome his neighbor. But that the mortal knows more than I know.where has this been proven? Or as without a sign assured, can I blame him for who saved our state when the winged songstress came in, tested and tried to light us all up as gold tested? How can I consent now that a crime is laid on Oedipus? Creon Friends, compatriots, I learn King Oedipus Hath laid the most difficult charges against me, and come to you to protest. If he knows that I have or hurt him with a word or deed in our problems, I care about to extend the life. So ill-regarded; for kalumny hits not a single stain, but blasts my name. If in a general voice I condemn the False State and false you my friends. CHORUS This decreasing, it well may be, was smeared in petulance, did not speak advise. CREON Did he ever dare pretend that it was I was prompted by the presem to bring up a forged fee? CHORUS Such things have been said; with what purpose! I do not know. CREON Weren't his wits and vision all a part of it when he fixed this monstrous charge on me? CHORUS I do not know; I am blind to the actions of my monarch. But lo, he's going to come to account for himself. Enter OEDIPUS. OEDIPUS Sirrah, what mak'st here? You're leading you to my door, you cheeky crook, my killer and my crown filth? Come on, answer this, didst you reveal in me some touch of cowardice or wit that made you commit to this business? It seemed too easy for me to perceive a snake stealing at me in the dark, otherwise too weak to do scotch when I saw it. This one you are without the witty trying to own without following or friends crown, the prize that followers and wealth must win. CREON Run me in. You said, y00 my move to answer. Then he listened to me, Judge. OEDIPUS You're an art flash of language, but I'm slow to learn from you; I know your poisonous hatred very well. CREON First, I would argue just this point. OEDIPUS O says you're not a fraud. CREON If you count the virtue of stubbornness, un schooled for a reason, you're a lot a part of it. OEDIPUS If you keep a relative can be believed, and no pain to follow, you art a lot to look for. CREON You're judging right in it, but this is bad for telling me what it is. OEDIPUS Didst you or didst you not tell me to call the priest? CREON Yes, and I stand by it. OEDIPUS Tell me how long it is because Laius ... CREON Since Laius ...? I'm not following your drifter. OEDIPUS Violent hands were taken away. CREON In the dark past, many years ago. OEDIPUS Did the same prophet then follow his craft? CREON Yes, qualified both now and in no less a reputation. OEDIPUS Ever looked at me? Creon I don't know, not when I was. OEDIPUS But has no search and inquisition been carried out? CREON Certainly a full expedition was done, but nothing was learned. OEDIPUS Why didn't seer tell your story then? CREON I don't know, and he couldn't hold his tongue. OEDIPUS So much you know and canst definitely say. CREON What do you mean? All I know, I'll declare. OEDIPUS But because of your prompting, she never gave me the death of Laius. CREON If so, you know best; but I would ask you a question in my order. OEDIPUS Question and prove me a killer if you can. Creon Then I'll ask you, didst you get my sister? OEDIPUS Really so clearly, I can't deny it well. CREON And how does your queen share the throne? I freely grant her all her hearts. CREON And I share a triple rule with you twain? OEDIPUS yes, and that's what proves to be a fake friend. Creon It's not like you have a reason with yourself, just like I do with yourself. First, I offer you think that every mortal should choose a troubled reign of horror rather than a safe repose, if the same power was given to him? As for me, I have no natural desire for the name of the king, preferring to do royal deeds, so he thinks of every sober-minded man. Now all my needs are met through you, and I have not disowned; but if I were king, my actions would not conflict with my love. How could the title then spell for me over the sweetness of boundless influence? I'm not crazy enough to understand the shadow when I hold the fabric fast. Now all the people cry me Godspeed! I wish everything good, and every suitor tries to get my ear if he hopes to get a pardon from us. Why should I leave, the better, choose the worse? That was a sneering frenzy, and I'm not angry. No such ambition ever tempts me, nor should I share such intrigue. And if you doubt me, first delphi go, find out if my message was true from God's answer; further investigation if I have sworn or conspired with the hanger, and if it turns out, take me to death, not just with my voice, but mine and yours. But O condemn me no, without appeal, to bare suspicion. 'Tis not right to judge bad men randomly good or good men bad. I as a lef man should throw away the thing that counts most valuable, his own life, how to incite a real friend. You wilt to learn in the time of Truth, for a time alone reveals only; The villain is detected in a day. CHORUS To the one who walketh carefully his words commend themselves; quick hints are not sure. OEDIPUS When you quickly steps stealthy plotter stalks I have to be quick too with my counterplot. Waiting for his arrival passively, for him is certainly a success, for me secured defeat. OEDIPUS What are you going to be? Drive me out of the country? OEDIPUS I would banish you, no, but dead that men can mark wages envy reaps. Creon I see you're not going to be a part of me or you're not attributing me. OEDIPUS None but crazy would credit like you. Creon You're smart. OEDIPUS Wise at least for yourself. CREON Why not for me? OEDIPUS Why for such a knave? Creon Suppose you lack meaning. OEDIPUS Nevertheless, kings must rule. CREON Not if they rule badly. OEDIPUS Oh my Thebans, listen to him! CREON You thebans? am I not theban too? CHORUS Stop, Princes; Lo's going to be there, and no one too soon, Jocasta from the palace. Who fits so well as a peacemaker to reconcile your dispute? Enter JOCASTA. JOCASTA The erring princes, why did you elevate this capricious alteration? Don't you be ashamed while the whole country lies on strike, so express your private injuries? Go inside, my lord; Go brother of mine, and ancestors, to make a public scandal of petty sadness. CREON My royal sister, Oedipus, your lord, offered me (About the fear alternative!) The exile of a criminal or the death of a criminal. OEDIPUS Yes, lady; I caught him practicing against my royal person his hideous art. CREON I can ne'er speed, but die accursed when I am in no way guilty of this charge. Jocasta Believe him, I adjourned you, Oedipus, first because of his solemn oath, then for mine, and for your elders who are waiting for you. CHORUS strophe 1 Hearken, King, reflect, we pray you, but not stubborn, but relentless. OEDIPUS Tell me what to agree with? CREON Respect and a man whose integrity and troth are known to all and now confirmed by oath. OEDIPUS Enough to know what grace you cravest? Chorus yes, I know. OEDIPUS Declare it then and make your meaning plain. CHORUS Brand is not a friend whose glibberish tongues assail; Don't suspect 'gainst his oath to prevail. OEDIPUS Do you think that in search of this you are looking in a very reassuring death or exile? CHORUS No, from the leader of the divine host! strophe 2 Witness, you Sun, such an idea has never been mine, Unbliest, unfriended I can perish. If ever I have such a desire to cherish! But Om my heart is desolate musings about our state strike, doubly fall'n should disagreements grow Twixt you twain, crowning our misery. OEDIPUS Well, let him go, no matter what it cost me, or certain death or shameful expulsion, for your good I am relentless, not his; and he, where he is, my heart will still be abhorrent. CREON You're like a sullen in your mood How in thin anger you weren't truculent. Such moods are most troubling in themselves. OEDIPUS Leave me alone and go away. Creon I'm going, by the fact that you misunderstood, but justified by these. Example CREON. CHORUS antistrophe 1 Lady, lead in the interior of your consortium; and therefore longer delays here? JOCASTA First tell me how the rift went up. CHORUS Rumors begged unfair suspects and injustice rankles pain. JOCASTA Were they both to blame? CHOIR BOTH. JOCASTA What was the story? Chorus Ask me nothing more. The country is sorely desperate; 'Twere better dormant ailments to leave in peace. OEDIPUS Strange advice, my friend! I know you think of me well, and yet you would alleviate and faten my zeal. CHORUS antistrophe 2 King, I say this once more, Witless I was proved insane when I easily put you down my countr yprop and stay, a pilot who in danger sought, to a quiet paradise brought our distracted state; and now, who can lead us properly, but you? Jocasta Let me also, adjourn you, you know, About the King. What cause provoked this relentless anger. OEDIPUS I will, for your art more than these. Lady, the cause is Creon and his land. JOCASTA But what sparked the argument? to be clear. OEDIPUS refers to me as Laius' killer. JOCASTA To your knowledge or on the basis of a report? OEDIPUS is too cunning to commit and makes a mouthpiece knavish seer. JOCASTA Then you Temper your conscience on this score. Listen, and I'll convince you that no man hath scot or much in prophetic art. Here's proof proof Short. Oracle Once came to Laius (I will not say 'Twas from the god Delphic himself, but from his ministers), he declared that he was doomed at the hands of his own son, a child who should be born to him by me. Now Laius-- so at least the report confirmed-- he was murdered one day by highwaymen, no natives, at a place where three roads meet. As for the baby, it was but three days old, When Laius, his ankles pierced and clipped together, he gave it away to others on the trackless mountain side. So Apollo then brought that not to pass the child should be his father's killer, or fear terror to find success, and Laius to be killed by his own son. Such was the prophet's horoscope. About the king, I don't look that way. Whate'er god deems appropriate to seek, alone without help reveals. OEDIPUS What memories, what a ferocious stormy soul came o'er me, lady, as I heard you speak! JOCASTA What does 'st you mean? What shocked and shocked you? OEDIPUS Methought I heard you say that Laius was murdered at a meeting of three roads. JOCASTA So ran a story that is still current. OEDIPUS Where did this happen? Do you know the place? JOCASTA Phocis country is called; the place is where the branch of the road from Delphi and from Daulis meet. OEDIPUS And how long is what these things yu? JOCASTA 'Twas, but short while you was declaring to our country's ruler that a report had been filed. OEDIPUS About Zeus, what hast you wanted to do with me! Jocasta What is it, Oedipus, that moves you that way? OEDIPUS Ask me not yet; Tell me the construction and height of Laius? Was he still in masculinity's prime? JOCASTA Tall was him, and his hair was lightly strewn with silver; and not unlike you in shape. OEDIPUS Alas, it's me! Methinks unwittingly I laid, but now fear the curse on myself. JOCASTA What do you say? When I look at myself, my king, they tremble. OEDIPUS 'Tis fear presentiment that at the end seer turns out not blind. One more question to resolve my doubts. JOCASTA I quail; but ask, and

I'll answer everyone. OEDIPUS Did he have with him few guides or a train of armed guards like the Prince? JOCASTA Were only five in all, and one of them herald; Laius in the mule-car was driving, OEDIPUS unfortunately! 'tis clear as noon now. But let's just say, lady, who took this message from Thebes? JOCASTA Sergy, the only survivor to come back. OEDIPUS Haply is at hand or in the house? JOCASTA No, as soon as he came back and found you ruling instead of Laius being killed, he shook my hand and replaced me to send him to the Alps and pastures, where he could be the furthest from Thebes's point of view. And so I sent it. He was an honorary slave and deserved better retribution. OEDIPUS Bring it at once. I fain would like to see a man. JOCASTA He will be brought; but therefore summon him? OEDIPUS Lady, I'm afraid my language has exceeded discretion; that's why I'd question him. JOCASTA Well, she's coming, Do I also not have to say that I share the burden of my heart, my king? OEDIPUS And you're not going to thwart your wish. Now my ideas have gone so far. Who has the above statement that you hear my story about disastrous adventures? So listen. My lord was a Corinthian polybus, and my mother Merope, Dorian; And I was kept in the forefront of the citizen until a strange thing fell to me, really strange, but precious deserves all the warmth that aroused. Roisterer at some banquet, flew wine, yelled You're not the real son of your lord. Irked me, but I stomach for nonce insult; in mourning, I searched for my mother and my lord and interrogated them. They were indignant at the random slur cast on my parenting and did their best to please me, but still the poisonous barb rankled, for yet the scandal spread and grew. So the privily without their vacation I went to Delphi, and Apollo sent me back balked knowing that I had come looking. But other difficult things he prophesied, torment, laments, sadness, heralded disastrous; The joke should tarnish my mother's bed and make the seed too hideous to look at, and kill the father from whose hips I jumped out of. Then, lady,--very heard the truth--when I approached the triple turns, The Herald met me and a man who was sitting in a car towed by foals -- as in your story-- the man in front and the old man himself threatened to rudely punch me out of the way, then shoved into the charioteer in anger I hit him, and the old man, seeing it, I watched until I passed and out of his car brought down full on my head a double-pointed goad. Yet I ended up with him and others; one stroke of my good staff is enough for me to throw him out of the seat of the wagon and put him in a position. And so I killed them all. But if betwixt this stranger was there aught in common with Laius, who more unhappy than me, what mortal could find more god-despicable? Wretch whom no sojourner, no citizen may harbor or address who all are bound by Harry from their homes. And the same curse was laid upon me, and laid by none other than me. yes, with these hands, I'm polluting his bed with all the bloody polluters, I killed. Tell me, am I disgusting? I am not completely impure, pathetic condemned to be banished, and in exile give up the sight of all the dearest mine, and will never trample on my native country; Or else, to get married to my mother and kill my lord, Polybus, who stinged me and poached me? If you could say this is the work of some inhuman power, who could blame His judgment? But you clean and terrible gods, protect, protect me to see that day! I can be deleted from the living men Ere such a plague site set on me his brand! CHORUS We, too, are concerned about the king; but until you hast doubted the survivors, still hope to move on. OEDIPUS My hope is weak, but she still survives enough to offer me the arrival of this herd. Jocasta.Suppse what you'd know about him? I'll tell you, lady, if his story story With you, I'll have a 'scaped calamity. JOCASTA What about the special import I said? OEDIPUS In its report on what the herd said Laius was killed by the robbers; Now that he's still talking about the robbers, not the robber, I killed him no, one with a lot can not square. But if he says one lonely wayfarer, the last message he wants to my guilt is forged. JOCASTA Well, rest assured, his story ran so at first, even he can not now download what he then said; Not me alone, but all our townspeople heard it. E'en should be a little different in his story, can not make the death of Laius in any wise jump with the oracle. For Loxias he said explicitly that he was condemned to die at the hands of my child, but he, poor babe, he shed no blood, but perished first himself. So much for divising. From now on, I'll be looking for signs to the right or the left. OEDIPUS You are the most reasoned well. Still, I would send you and bring the bondman here. We'll get on with it. JOCASTA I'll be straight. Come on, let's do it. I wouldn't do anything my master doesn't like. Exeunt OEDIPUS and JOCASTA. CHORUS strophe 1 My bunch is still leading a life of innocence and fly irreverence in word or deed, if you want to abide by still those laws ordained on a high Whose birthplace is a clear ethereal sky No mortal birth they own, Olympus their descendant alone: Ne'er will nap in the forgotten cold, God in them is strong and does not age. antistrophy 1 of insolence is a beched bully; Insolence full blown, with empty wealth surfeited, scales clot height and grabs the throne. Then topples o'er and lies in the rubble prone; No support for the steep vertigo. But The Hillside can heaven a true patriot to hold who burns with an emulous zeal to serve the state. God is my help and hope, I'm waiting for him. strophe 2 But a proud sinner, or a word or deed that will not be justice neglected, nor the reverence of the shrine of the images of the divine, Perdition seize his vain imagination, If, urged greed disparaging, he understands the ill-gotten gain, and puts an indecent hand on the holiest things. Who, when such deeds are done Can he hope that celestial bolts are avoided? If a sin like this in honor can aspire, why dance all the time and lead a sacred choir? Antistrophy 2 I will no longer seek the central oracle of the Earth, or Abae's sacred cell, nor will Olympia bring my vo sacrifice. If before all god's truth is not bade plain. About Zeus, to reveal your power, king, if you are named aright Almighty, all-seeing, as old; For Laius is forgotten; Its weird, men aware that they don't; Apollo is a forsook and faith grows cold. Enter JOCASTA. Jocasta My lords, you look amazed when you see your queen with wreaths and gifts of incense in her hands. I had a mind to visit the high shrine because Oedipus is overwritten, concerned about the horrors of the diverse. He won't use his past experience as a man of meaning, to assess the current need, but lends an ear to every croaker unless Sick. Ever since my naughty advice took advantage, I turn to you, our current help in Trouble, Apollo, Lord Lycean, and I bring my prayers and prayers to you here. Lighten us up, sir, and cleanse us of this curse! For now, we're all cow like sailors who see their helmsman dumbstruck in a storm. Enter Corinthian MESSENGER. MESSENGER My lords, tell me where the Palace of Oedipus is; or better, where the king is. CHORUS Here is the palace and he offers inside; This is his queen mother of his children. MESSENGER All the happiness of visiting her and the house blessed is her husband and her marriage-bed. JOCASTA My greetings to you, stranger; your righteous words deserve such an answer. But tell me why you're-- what you need or what your news is. MESSENGER Good for your consortium and royal house. JOCASTA What can it be? Whose messenger art are you? Messenger Isthmian commons have decided to make your husband king-- so 'was reported there. JOCASTA What! not in the age of Polybus still king? MESSENGER No, indeed; He's dead and in his grave. JOCASTA What! Is he dead, Mr. Oedipusu? Messenger If I speak falsely, I can die alone. JOCASTA Quick, virgin, wear these cleaners to my master. You gods sent oracles where you stand now! This is a man whom Oedipus has long avoided, in fear of proving his killer; and now he dies in nature, not his hand. Enter OEDIPUS. OEDIPUS My wife, my queen, Jocasta, why did you call me from my palace? JOCASTA Listen to this man, and as you are the weirdest judge of what has become of all those awe-inspiring oracles. OEDIPUS Who is this man, and what are his news to me? JOCASTA Comes from Corinth and his message is this: Your father Polybus has died. OEDIPUS What? Give it to me, stranger, from your mouth. MESSENGER If I must first clearly without a doubt My message, I know that Polybus is dead. OEDIPUS Betrayal, or disease visited? MESSENGER One touch sends an old man to his rest. OEDIPUS So some virgin died, poor guy. MESSENGER Yes, after measuring the full range of years. OEDIPUS Out on it, lady! Why should we consider a pythian kombu or birds that scream I air? Didn't they point at me so doomed to kill my father? but he is dead, and in his grave, and here I am, who ne'er fed off the sword; Unless he was killed by the way of his absent son, I killed him in a sense. But in the current situation, the oracles are dead,dust, ashes, nothing, dead like a Polybus. JOCASTA Say, didn't I want to foretell so long ago? OEDIPUS You didst; but I was misled by my fear. JOCASTA Then don't weigh your soul anymore. OEDIPUS I must not be afraid of my mother's marial bed. JOCASTA Why should a mortal man, a sport of coincidence, without being sure, be afraid? Best to live a careless life from hand to mouth. You're not afraid of this mother-in-one. As oft's chance to make dreams man out of his mother! Whoever at least considers such cerebral-fantasies lives most at ease. OEDIPUS I should share in full trust, I was not my mother living; since he's been alive, even though half believe I still have to live in fear. JOCASTA And yet the death of your lord will light up the darkness a lot. OEDIPUS A lot, but my fear touches her who lives. MESSENGER Who can this woman be, who are you afraid of? OEDIPUS Merope, stranger, wife of Polybus. Messenger and what can cause fear of it? OEDIPUS Heavenly oracle of terrible import. MESSENGER secrets, or can a stranger hear? OEDIPUS Aye, it's no secret. Loxias once predicted that I should mat with my own mother, and shed the blood of my own sir with my own hands. That's why Corinth was a distant home for many of me; and I'm abroad, but I missed the sweetest look, the face of my parents. Messenger Was it a fear that drove you out of your home? OEDIPUS, yes, and the fear of killing my own lord. Messenger Why, because I came to give you joy, King, I did not get rid of you of this second fear? OEDIPUS Well, you're going to have querdon for your pain. Messenger Well, I confess what made me come was the hope of profit by coming home. OEDIPUS Nay, I'll ne'er go near my parents any more. Messenger My son, 'tis plain, you know't not what you doest. OEDIPUS How is it, old man? For God's sake, tell me everything. MESSENGER If that's why you're the most threatening to return. OEDIPUS Yes, so that god's word does not come true in me. MESSENGER Otherwise through your parents you should be accursed? OEDIPUS This and no one else is my constant fear. MESSENGER Do you not know enough that your concerns are unfounded all? OEDIPUS How unfounded when I am their son? MESSENGER Since Polybus was naughty to you in the blood. OEDIPUS What do you say? Wasn't Polybus my lord? MESSENGER As much as I am, and nothing more. OEDIPUS My lord no more for me than the one who is naughty? Messenger Since I thy ing no, nothing more done. OEDIPUS What reason did he have then to call me son? Messenger Know he took you out of my hands, a gift. OEDIPUS Yet, if no child of his, he loved me well. Messenger childless man in the meantime, he warned to it. OEDIPUS A bone or a purchased slave, that child? The messenger I found in cithaeron is wooded glens. OEDIPUS What led you to discover those raised glades? MESSENGER My thing was to tend to mountain flocks. OEDIPUS Vagrant shepherd road for rent? Messenger True, but your savior in that hour, my son. OEDIPUS My savior? from what injury? What hurts me then? MESSENGER Those ankle joints are proof enow. OEDIPUS Ah, why remind me of that ancient pain? Messenger I loosened the pin that riveted your feet. OEDIPUS Yes, from my cradle, that fear marks I carried. MESSENGER Whence you deriv'st name that is still yours. OEDIPUS Who did this? I adjourned, tell me, who said it was dad, mother? MESSENGER I do not know. The man I got you from may know more. OEDIPUS What, found me different, not myself? MESSENGER Not me; another shepherd gave you OEDIPUS Who was it? Would you recognize him again? Messenger passed really for one of Laius' house. OEDIPUS The king who ruled the country a long time ago? It was a herd of kings. OEDIPUS And he's still alive for me to see him? MESSENGER His compatriots should know best. OEDIPUS Doth some passerby among you knows the herd talking or by seeing him Afield or in town? answer straight! An hour has come to clean up this store. CHORUS Methinks he means none other than back Who are you anon wert fain see; but that our Queen Jocasta best of all could say. OEDIPUS Ma'am, do you know the man we sent to bring? Is it the same thing a stranger is talking about? JOCASTA Who's this man? What's the matter? let go. 'Twere wasted the thought of weighing such idle words. OEDIPUS No, with such clues, I cannot fail to bring to light the secret of my birth. JOCASTA Oh, like you carest for your life, give o'er this quest. Enough anxiety I'm experiencing. OEDIPUS Be in good spirits; Although I have proved that the son of a bondwoman, aye, through the three descents of triply slave, your honor is unmissed. JOCASTA Yet humor me, I pray you; it's not. OEDIPUS I can not; I have to get this thing home. JOCASTA 'Tis for your good I advise you the best. OEDIPUS I am impatient with this best advice. JOCASTA Ah mayst you ne'er find out who you art OEDIPUS Go, bring me a herd, and let yon woman celebrate in her pride of ancestors. JOCASTA Oh woe is you, poor mant I'll leave you with that last word, from now on, I'm silent. Quit JOCASTA. CHORUS Why, Oedipus, why stabbed with a passionate sadness Hath queen has gone like this? I'm very wored that a storm of misery will burst from this dead lull. OEDIPUS Whatever storm bursts, my firm determination still holds true for me to learn my lineage, whether it's ne'er so low. It could be her with all the female pride, she thinks contempt for my basic parenting. But I, who rank myself as fortune's favorite child, a donor of good gifts, must not be ashamed. She is my mother and changing for months my brothers, and with them I wax and shrink. So sprung, why should I be afraid to watch my birth? Nothing can do me other than me. CHORUS strophe If my soul's prophetic mistake is not if my wisdom has been used, you, cithaeron, I will hail it as the nurse and foster mother of our Oedipus greets Ere tomorrow's full moon rises, and elevate you as it is fulfilled. Dance and song will be the anthem of your praise, a lover of our royal race. Phoebus, let my words find grace! antistrophe child who bares you, nymph or goddess? Sure sure he was more than a man, Haply hill-roamer Pan. From loxias to get you because he haunts the highlanders by; Or is Cyllene's master, or Bacchus, cold on the hill? Did he give him some Heliconian Oread, a newborn joy? Nymphs with whom he loves to play? OEDIPUS Older, if I, who have never met a man before, can guess that I see I see who we have been looking for for a long time; Its time-worn aspect struggles with Yonder's years of age messenger; Besides, I seem to recognize the men who bring him as servants of their own. But those perchance, having in recent days known or seen herds, can do better by definitely knowing my surmise. CHORUS I recognize him; one of Laius' houses; Simple back, but true as any man. Enter HERDSMAN. OEDIPUS Corinthian, stranger, address you first, this is the man you mean! Messenger That's him. OEDIPUS And now the old man, look up and answer everything I ask you. Were you once from Laius' house? The Herdsman I was, thrall, not bought, but home-raised. OEDIPUS What was your business like? How were you employed? Herdsman the best part of my life I tended sheep. OEDIPUS What were the pastures that you most often have? HERDSMAN Cithaeron and the neighbouring Alps. OEDIPUS Then there you must know yon man, at least fame? HERDSMAN Yon man? How? What do you mean? OEDIPUS The man here who met him in past times ... Herdsman Off-hand I can't call him well in mind. No wonder, Master. But I'm going to revive His numb memories. Surely he remembers how much time we both drove our flocks together, He two, me one, on the cithaeron scale, for three long summers; Also his friend from spring to rose Arcturus; then in winter I led my home, he h

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