oedipus the king by sophocles

Oedipus the King by Sophocles: A Timeless Tragedy of Fate and Free Will

oedipus the king by sophocles stands as one of the most profound and enduring works in the canon of ancient Greek tragedy. Written by the playwright Sophocles around 429 BCE, this classic drama explores themes of fate, identity, and human suffering, weaving a gripping narrative that continues to captivate audiences and scholars alike. Far beyond its ancient origins, the play remains relevant today, offering deep insights into the complexities of human nature and the consequences of our choices.

The Plot and Setting of Oedipus the King by Sophocles

At the heart of Oedipus the King lies the story of Oedipus, the king of Thebes, who is determined to save his city from a devastating plague. The play opens with Thebes in crisis: crops are failing, disease is spreading, and the people are desperate. Oedipus vows to find the root cause of this suffering, only to discover that it is tied to a dark secret from his own past. What follows is a tragic unraveling of truth, where Oedipus learns that he has unwittingly fulfilled a terrible prophecy—that he killed his father and married his mother.

The setting of Thebes is not just a backdrop but a critical element that amplifies the tension and drama. Sophocles masterfully uses the city as a symbol of order disrupted by hidden sins and fate’s inexorable grip.

Key Themes in Oedipus the King by Sophocles

Fate vs. Free Will

One of the most compelling aspects of Oedipus the King is its exploration of fate versus free will. The prophecy that Oedipus will kill his father and marry his mother looms over the entire narrative. Despite numerous attempts to avoid this destiny, every action Oedipus takes inadvertently leads him closer to fulfilling the prophecy. This raises powerful questions about human agency—are we in control of our lives, or are we merely pawns of fate?

Sophocles presents fate as an unavoidable force, yet he also portrays Oedipus as a man who actively seeks the truth, suggesting that knowledge and self-awareness come at a great cost.

The Search for Identity

Oedipus’s journey is not just about saving Thebes but also about uncovering his own identity. The play delves into the idea that self-discovery can be painful and transformative. Oedipus begins as a confident ruler, but as he pieces together the puzzle of his origins, his world crumbles. This theme resonates deeply because it touches on the universal human experience of seeking one’s place in the world and confronting uncomfortable truths.

Blindness and Sight

Symbolism plays a vital role in the narrative, especially the motif of blindness and sight. Ironically, Oedipus is blind to the reality of his circumstances until the devastating climax, where he blinds himself physically after learning the truth. This act symbolizes the transition from ignorance to knowledge, emphasizing how insight often comes with suffering.

Characters That Bring the Tragedy to Life

Sophocles’s characters in Oedipus the King are richly drawn and contribute significantly to the play’s emotional power.

Oedipus

As the protagonist, Oedipus is both heroic and tragic. His determination, intelligence, and leadership qualities initially make him a revered figure. However, his tragic flaw—hubris or excessive pride—leads him to defy warnings and seek the truth relentlessly, even when it threatens his world.

Jocasta

Oedipus’s wife and mother, Jocasta, embodies both maternal warmth and tragic despair. Her attempts to comfort Oedipus and deny the prophecy highlight the human tendency to avoid painful realities. Her ultimate fate underscores the devastating impact of fate and personal choices.

Tiresias

The blind prophet Tiresias serves as a voice of truth and fate. His warnings and cryptic messages challenge Oedipus’s confidence and foreshadow the tragic

revelations to come. Tiresias represents the idea that insight and foresight are often shrouded in mystery and pain.

Why Oedipus the King by Sophocles Still Matters Today

The enduring legacy of Oedipus the King lies in its timeless exploration of themes that remain relevant across cultures and eras. Modern audiences and readers continue to find value in its portrayal of the human condition.

Psychological Insights

The play has influenced various fields, especially psychology. Sigmund Freud famously coined the term “Oedipus complex” based on the narrative, highlighting subconscious desires and family dynamics. Understanding Oedipus’s story provides valuable insights into human psychology, especially the conflicts between desire, identity, and societal norms.

Literary Significance

Oedipus the King is a cornerstone of classical literature and tragedy. It exemplifies Aristotle’s concept of catharsis—the emotional cleansing that occurs through experiencing pity and fear. For students and enthusiasts of literature, the play offers a masterclass in dramatic structure, character development, and thematic depth.

Philosophical and Ethical Questions

The dilemmas faced by Oedipus invite readers to ponder profound philosophical questions: To what extent are our lives predestined? How do we handle truth and self-knowledge? What responsibilities do leaders have toward their people? These questions encourage reflection and dialogue, making the play a rich resource for ethical discussions.

Tips for Reading and Understanding Oedipus the King by Sophocles

Approaching a classical text like Oedipus the King can be intimidating, but a few strategies can enrich your experience:

- **Familiarize yourself with Greek mythology:** Knowing the background of Theban myths helps contextualize the characters and their motivations.
- **Pay attention to dramatic irony:** Much of the play's power comes from the audience knowing more than the characters themselves.
- **Consider the historical and cultural context:** Understanding ancient Greek society and values can deepen appreciation of the themes.
- **Reflect on the symbolism:** Elements like blindness, sight, and the plague carry layered meanings worth exploring.
- **Engage with different translations or adaptations:** Modern versions or performances can offer fresh perspectives and accessibility.

Oedipus the King by Sophocles in Popular Culture and Adaptations

The influence of Oedipus the King extends far beyond the stage. Its themes have inspired countless adaptations in theater, film, literature, and even psychology.

Modern Retellings

Numerous playwrights and authors have reinterpreted the Oedipus story, adapting it to contemporary settings or exploring its themes through new lenses. These include works like Jean Cocteau's "The Infernal Machine" and Tom Stoppard's "Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead," which, while not direct adaptations, echo the tragic structure and existential questions posed by Sophocles.

Film and Theater

Many directors have brought Oedipus to life on stage and screen, often highlighting different aspects of the story—from the political dimensions of leadership and power to the intimate psychological drama of family and identity. These adaptations help keep the play relevant and accessible to modern audiences.

Psychological and Philosophical Impact

The play’s exploration of fate and identity continues to influence fields such as psychoanalysis and philosophy, inspiring debates about determinism, free will, and human nature.

Oedipus the King by Sophocles is more than just an ancient tragedy; it’s a profound meditation on the forces that shape our lives. Its storytelling mastery and thematic richness invite readers and viewers alike to confront uncomfortable truths and consider the delicate balance between destiny and choice. Whether you’re a student, a lover of literature, or simply curious about one of the world’s greatest plays, diving into Oedipus’s story promises a powerful and thought-provoking experience.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the central theme of 'Oedipus the King' by Sophocles?

The central theme of 'Oedipus the King' is fate versus free will, exploring how Oedipus struggles against his predetermined destiny but ultimately fulfills the tragic prophecy despite his efforts to avoid it.

How does Sophocles portray the concept of fate in 'Oedipus the King'?

Sophocles portrays fate as an unavoidable force that governs human lives. Despite Oedipus's attempts to escape the prophecy, his actions ironically lead him to fulfill it, emphasizing the power of destiny over human will.

What role does blindness play in 'Oedipus the King'?

Blindness in 'Oedipus the King' symbolizes insight and ignorance. Physical blindness contrasts with Oedipus's earlier metaphorical blindness to the truth, while the blind prophet Tiresias sees the reality that Oedipus cannot.

Why is Oedipus considered a tragic hero?

Oedipus is a tragic hero because he possesses noble qualities but is doomed by a tragic flaw—his determination to uncover the truth—that leads to his downfall, evoking both pity and fear in the audience.

How does 'Oedipus the King' explore the theme of

identity?

The play explores identity through Oedipus's journey of self-discovery, where he uncovers his true origins and grapples with the horrifying realization of who he really is, challenging his understanding of self.

What is the significance of the prophecy in 'Oedipus the King'?

The prophecy drives the plot and highlights the inevitability of fate. It sets the tragic events into motion and underscores the theme that knowledge of the future cannot alter destiny but may lead to one's ruin.

How does 'Oedipus the King' reflect ancient Greek values?

The play reflects Greek values such as respect for the gods, the importance of fate, and the consequences of hubris. It also emphasizes moral lessons about human limitations and the pursuit of truth.

What is the role of the chorus in 'Oedipus the King'?

The chorus provides background information, reflects public opinion, and reacts to the events on stage, guiding the audience's emotional response and highlighting the moral and thematic elements of the play.

How does Sophocles use dramatic irony in 'Oedipus the King'?

Sophocles uses dramatic irony extensively, as the audience knows Oedipus's true identity and fate long before he does, which heightens the tragedy as viewers witness his determined but futile attempts to avoid the prophecy.

Additional Resources

Oedipus the King by Sophocles: A Timeless Tragedy of Fate and Free Will

oedipus the king by sophocles stands as one of the most influential works in classical Greek literature and drama, renowned for its profound exploration of fate, identity, and human suffering. Written in the 5th century BCE, this tragedy has captivated audiences for centuries, offering a compelling narrative that intertwines prophecy, irony, and moral complexity. Through its

intricate plot and well-drawn characters, Sophocles crafts a story that continues to resonate with modern readers and theatergoers, embodying universal themes of power, knowledge, and the limits of human understanding.

In-depth Analysis of Oedipus the King by Sophocles

The play, originally titled *Oedipus Tyrannus*, revolves around Oedipus, the king of Thebes, who is determined to rid his city of a devastating plague. The narrative unfolds as Oedipus embarks on a quest for truth, only to discover that he himself is the source of the city's suffering. This revelation stems from a prophecy that he would kill his father and marry his mother, a fate he desperately sought to avoid. The dramatic tension in *Oedipus the King* derives largely from this tragic irony—Oedipus’s relentless pursuit of knowledge leads to his downfall, highlighting the interplay between fate and free will.

The enduring appeal of *Oedipus the King* lies in Sophocles’ masterful use of dramatic techniques, particularly the concept of tragic irony and catharsis. The audience, aware of the prophecy from the outset, watches Oedipus’s actions with a sense of inevitable doom. This creates a poignant tension between the character’s ignorance and the audience’s foreknowledge, making the tragedy all the more impactful.

Themes Explored in Oedipus the King by Sophocles

Sophocles weaves multiple themes into the fabric of the play, each contributing to its depth and complexity:

- **Fate vs. Free Will:** The central conflict questions whether humans can escape predetermined destinies or if their attempts to do so only bring prophecies to fruition.
- **Knowledge and Ignorance:** Oedipus’s journey from ignorance to knowledge serves as a metaphor for human enlightenment and the painful consequences that often accompany truth.
- **Blindness and Sight:** Physical and metaphorical blindness are pivotal motifs, with Oedipus’s eventual self-blinding symbolizing the paradox of insight and ignorance.
- **Leadership and Responsibility:** The play critiques the nature of power, depicting Oedipus as a leader whose commitment to his people leads to personal tragedy.

Characters and Their Psychological Complexity

The psychological depth of *Oedipus the King* is largely attributed to its well-developed characters. Oedipus himself is a study in hubris, intelligence, and tragic flaw. His determination and pride propel him forward, yet these same traits blind him to the truth until it is too late. Jocasta, his wife and mother, embodies denial and despair, while the blind prophet Tiresias represents the paradox of insight and ignorance. These characters serve not only as individuals within a narrative but as symbols of larger philosophical questions about human existence.

Comparative Perspectives: Sophocles and Other Greek Tragedians

To fully appreciate *Oedipus the King by Sophocles*, it is useful to compare it with works by other Greek tragedians, such as Aeschylus and Euripides. While Aeschylus often incorporated divine intervention and a sense of cosmic justice, Sophocles focused more on human agency and psychological realism. Euripides, on the other hand, tends to emphasize emotional complexity and social criticism. Compared to these contemporaries, Sophocles’s *Oedipus the King* stands out for its tightly woven plot and the sophistication of its tragic structure.

Structural and Stylistic Features

Sophocles’s craftsmanship is evident in the play’s structure, adhering to the classical unities of time, place, and action. The entire drama unfolds in a single location, within the palace of Thebes, and within a 24-hour period, intensifying the sense of urgency and inevitability. The use of choral odes adds a lyrical dimension, providing commentary and reflecting the collective conscience of Theban society.

Moreover, Sophocles employs powerful rhetorical devices and poetic language that enhance the emotional resonance of the play. The gradual revelation of the truth is meticulously paced, ensuring that the audience remains engaged through suspense and dramatic tension.

Modern Relevance and Interpretations

The themes and questions raised in *Oedipus the King by Sophocles* remain strikingly relevant in contemporary discourse. Modern psychology, particularly Freudian theory, has found in the play a rich source for exploring unconscious desires and familial dynamics, coining the term

"Oedipus complex." Additionally, the play’s exploration of leadership and accountability continues to be examined in political and ethical contexts.

Adaptations in theater, film, and literature frequently revisit *Oedipus the King*, reinterpreting the narrative through various cultural and philosophical lenses. Its universal themes allow for endless reinterpretation, from existentialist readings to feminist critiques, ensuring the play’s place in the canon of world literature is secure.

Pros and Cons of Studying Oedipus the King in Contemporary Education

- **Pros:**
  - Enhances understanding of classical literature and ancient Greek culture.
  - Promotes critical thinking about fate, morality, and human nature.
  - Provides insight into foundational narrative techniques and dramatic structure.
- **Cons:**
  - The archaic language and cultural references may pose challenges for modern readers.
  - Some interpretations, such as Freudian analysis, might overshadow the original context.
  - The tragic themes can be emotionally intense, requiring sensitive handling in educational settings.

Oedipus’s story, though rooted in ancient mythology, continues to challenge audiences to reflect on the human condition, making *Oedipus the King* by Sophocles a timeless masterpiece that bridges past and present. Its intricate narrative, rich symbolism, and profound questions ensure its enduring significance in literary and theatrical traditions worldwide.

Oedipus The King By Sophocles

oedipus the king by sophocles: *Oedipus Rex* Sophocles, 1991 One of the greatest of the classic Greek tragedies and a masterpiece of dramatic construction. Catastrophe ensues when King Oedipus discovers he has inadvertently killed his father and married his mother. Masterly use of dramatic irony greatly intensifies impact of agonizing events. Sophocles' finest play, Oedipus Rex ranks as a towering landmark of Western drama. A selection of the Common Core State Standards Initiative.

oedipus the king by sophocles: *Oedipus the King* Sophocles, 2012-12-18 The famed Athenian tragedy in which Oedipus's own faults contribute to his tragic downfall. A great masterpiece on which Aristotle based his aesthetic theory of drama in the Poetics and from which Freud derived the Oedipus complex, King Oedipus puts out a sentence on the unknown murderer of his father Laius. By a gradual unfolding of incidents, Oedipus learns that he was the assassin and that Jocasta, his wife, is also his mother. This Enriched Classic Edition includes: -A concise introduction that gives readers important background information -Timelines of significant events in Greek history and theater that provide the book's historical context -An outline of key themes and plot points to help readers form their own interpretations -Detailed explanatory notes -Critical analysis and modern perspectives on the work -Discussion questions to promote lively classroom and book group interaction -A list of recommended related books and films to broaden the reader's experience Enriched Classics offers readers affordable editions of great works of literature enhanced by helpful notes and insightful commentary. The scholarship provided in Enriched Classics enables readers to appreciate, understand, and enjoy the world's finest books to their full potential. Series edited by Cynthia Brantley Johnson

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oedipus the king by sophocles: Oedipus, King of Thebes Sophocles, 1911

oedipus the king by sophocles: Oedipus the King Sophocles, 2017-07-30 How is this book unique? Font adjustments & biography included Unabridged (100% Original content) Illustrated About Oedipus the King by Sophocles Oedipus the King by Sophocles was first performed around 429 BC. Originally, to the ancient Greeks, the title was simply Oedipus, as it is referred to by Aristotle in the Poetics. It is thought to have been renamed Oedipus Tyrannus to distinguish it from Oedipus at Colonus. In antiquity, the term tyrant referred to a ruler, but it did not necessarily have a negative connotation. Of his three Theban plays that have survived, and that deal with the story of Oedipus, Oedipus Rex was the second to be written. However, in terms of the chronology of events that the plays describe, it comes first, followed by Oedipus at Colonus and then Antigone. Prior to the start of Oedipus Rex, Oedipus has become the king of Thebes while unwittingly fulfilling a prophecy that he would kill his father, Laius (the previous king), and marry his mother, Jocasta (whom Oedipus took as his queen after solving the riddle of the Sphinx). The action of Sophocles' play concerns Oedipus' search for the murderer of Laius in order to end a plague ravaging Thebes, unaware that the killer he is looking for is none other than himself. At the end of the play, after the truth finally comes to light, Jocasta hangs herself while Oedipus, horrified at his patricide and incest, proceeds to gouge out his own eyes in despair. Oedipus Rex is regarded by many scholars as the masterpiece of ancient Greek tragedy. In his Poetics, Aristotle refers several times to the play in order to exemplify aspects of the genre. Many parts or elements of the myth of Oedipus take place before the opening scene of the play. They may be described or referred to in the text. In his youth, Laius was a guest of King Pelops of Elis, and became the tutor of Chrysippus, youngest of the king's sons, in chariot racing. He then violated the sacred laws of hospitality by abducting and raping Chrysippus, who according to some versions, killed himself in shame. This murder cast a doom over Laius, his son Oedipus, and all of his other descendants. However, most scholars are in agreement that the seduction or rape of Chrysippus was a late addition to the Theban myth. A son is born to King Laius and Queen Jocasta of Thebes. After Laius learns from an oracle that he is doomed/To

perish by the hand of his own son, he tightly binds the feet of the infant together with a pin and orders Jocasta to kill the infant. Hesitant to do so, she orders a servant to commit the act for her. Instead, the servant takes the baby to a mountain top to die from exposure. A shepherd rescues the infant and names him Oedipus (or swollen feet). (The servant directly hands the infant to the shepherd in most versions.) The shepherd carries the baby with him to Corinth, where Oedipus is taken in and raised in the court of the childless King Polybus of Corinth as if he were his own.

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oedipus the king by sophocles: A Study Guide for Sophocles's "Oedipus Rex (aka Oedipus the King)" Gale, Cengage Learning, A Study Guide for Sophocles's Oedipus Rex (aka Oedipus the King), excerpted from Gale's acclaimed Drama For Students. This concise study guide includes plot summary; character analysis; author biography; study questions; historical context; suggestions for further reading; and much more. For any literature project, trust Drama For Students for all of your research needs.

oedipus the king by sophocles: Oedipus the King Sophocles, 2018-07-03 Sophocles: Oedipus The King translated by F. Storr. First published in 1912. Classic Greek Tragedy. Oedipus Rex, also known by its Greek title, Oedipus Tyrannus, or Oedipus the King, is an Athenian tragedy by

Sophocles that was first performed around 429 BC. To Laius, King of Thebes, an oracle foretold that the child born to him by his queen Jocasta would slay his father and wed his mother. So when in time a son was born the infant's feet were riveted together and he was left to die on Mount Cithaeron. But a shepherd found the babe and tended him, and delivered him to another shepherd who took him to his master, the King of Corinth. Polybus being childless adopted the boy, who grew up believing that he was indeed the King's son. Afterwards doubting his parentage he inquired of the Delphic god and heard himself the word declared before to Laius. Wherefore he fled from what he deemed his father's house and in his flight he encountered and unwillingly slew his father Laius. Arriving at Thebes he answered the riddle of the Sphinx and the grateful Thebans made their deliverer king. So he reigned in the room of Laius, and espoused the widowed queen. Children were born to them and Thebes prospered under his rule, but again a grievous plague fell upon the city. Again the oracle was consulted and it bade them purge themselves of blood-guiltiness. Oedipus denounces the crime of which he is unaware, and undertakes to track out the criminal. Step by step it is brought home to him that he is the man. The closing scene reveals Jocasta slain by her own hand and Oedipus blinded by his own act and praying for death or exile.

oedipus the king by sophocles: Oedipus Sophocles, 2025-02-13 Vengeance will be taken on the killer, then the land will be clean. The contamination will be washed away. The rains will come and the people will be healed. According to the Oracle, if the murderer of old King Laius is found and punished then all will be well. The people turn to their new ruler, Oedipus, the man who solved the riddle of the Sphinx, to hunt down the perpetrator and bring salvation. He vows to succeed whatever the cost--and so begins an unstoppable pursuit of the truth through a harrowing labyrinth of fear and love.

oedipus the king by sophocles: Sophocles' Oedipus Rex Harold Bloom, 2006 A critical guide to Oedipus rex, Sophocles' Greek tragedy which addresses questions about the power of fate.

oedipus the king by sophocles: The Oedipus Plays of Sophocles Sophocles, 1996-05-01 A collection that includes the complete texts of Sophocles' Oedipus the King, Oedipus at Colonus, and Antigone—translated by Paul Roche. Revising and updating his classic 1958 translation, Paul Roche captures the dramatic power and intensity, the subtleties of meaning, and the explosive emotions of Sophocles' great Theban trilogy. In vivid, poetic language, he presents the timeless story of a noble family moving toward catastrophe, dragged down from wealth and power by pride, cursed with incest, suicide, and murder. William Carlos Williams called the Roche translation of Antigone “brilliantly successful...as spirited and powerful as the original must have been.” Roche's versions of the Oedipus plays are both stunning and sympathetic, awe-inspiring and intimate, and bring the elemental myths of ancient Greece to life for modern readers. Included in this edition are a glossary of classical names, notes on pronunciation and meter, suggestions for production and acting, and historical material, which offer the reader a greater appreciation of Sophocles' dramatic genius.

oedipus the king by sophocles: Sophocles: Oedipus the King Sophocles, 2020 Sophocles' great masterpiece, Oedipus the King, is here translated into highly-polished English verse alongside an introduction and notes to the translation which seek to make his achievements in both plot and language accessible to students at graduate, undergraduate, and secondary school level.

oedipus the king by sophocles: *King Oedipus* Sophocles, 2015-08-24 Widely regarded as one of the greatest Greek tragedies, 'King Oedipus' (or 'Oedipus Rex') is the first play in the Oedipus trilogy (followed by 'Oedipus at Colonus' and then 'Antigone'). After defeating the Sphinx and freeing the kingdom of Thebes from her curse, the flawed hero unwittingly fulfills a prophecy that he would kill his father and marry his mother.

oedipus the king by sophocles: The Oedipus Trilogy: Oedipus the King, Oedipus at Colonus, Antigone Sophocles Sophocles, 2015-04-28 Three of Greatest Greek Plays in one Collection “Time, which sees all things, has found you out.” — Sophocles, Oedipus Rex Sophocles' three Theban plays, Oedipus, Oedipus at Colonus, and Antigone, are cornerstones of western civilization and dramatic history. Each play stems from the fated tragedy that Oedipus would kill his father and marry his mother. This Xist Classics edition has been professionally formatted for

e-readers with a linked table of contents. This eBook also contains a bonus book club leadership guide and discussion questions. We hope you'll share this book with your friends, neighbors and colleagues and can't wait to hear what you have to say about it. Xist Publishing is a digital-first publisher. Xist Publishing creates books for the touchscreen generation and is dedicated to helping everyone develop a lifetime love of reading, no matter what form it takes

oedipus the king by sophocles: Oedipus Rex Or Oedipus the King: (annotated) (Worldwide Classics) Sophocles, 2019-03-13 Oedipus, King of Thebes, sends his brother-in-law, Creon, to ask advice of the oracle at Delphi, concerning a plague ravaging Thebes. Creon returns to report that the plague is the result of religious pollution, since the murderer of their former king, Laius, has never been caught. Oedipus vows to find the murderer and curses him for causing the plague.Oedipus summons the blind prophet Tiresias for help. When Tiresias arrives he claims to know the answers to Oedipus's questions, but refuses to speak, instead telling him to abandon his search. Oedipus is enraged by Tiresias' refusal, and verbally accuses him of complicity in Laius' murder. Outraged, Tiresias tells the king that Oedipus himself is the murderer (You yourself are the criminal you seek). Oedipus cannot see how this could be, and concludes that the prophet must have been paid off by Creon in an attempt to undermine him. The two argue vehemently, as Oedipus mocks Tiresias' lack of sight, and Tiresias in turn tells Oedipus that he himself is blind. Eventually Tiresias leaves, muttering darkly that when the murderer is discovered he shall be a native citizen of Thebes, brother and father to his own children, and son and husband to his own mother.

oedipus the king by sophocles: *Oedipus Rex* Sophocles, 2021-09-15 The second Theban play written by Sophocles, Oedipus Rex, or Oedipus the King, is the drama which chronologically begins the Oedipus cycle. After Laius, King of Thebes, learns from an oracle that he is doomed to perish by the hand of his own son, he binds the feet of his newborn child and orders his wife Jocasta to kill the infant. Unable to kill her own child, Jocasta entrusts a servant with the task instead, who takes the baby to a mountaintop to die of exposure. A passing shepherd rescues the baby and names it Oedipus, or swollen feet, taking it with him to Corinth where it is raised by the childless King Polybus as if it were his own. When Oedipus hears a rumor that he is not the biological son of Polybus, he seeks the counsel of the Oracle of Delphi who relates to him the prophecy of patricide. Still believing that Polybus is his father he flees Corinth thus initiating a series of events that would fulfill that which the oracle has prophesied. Oedipus Rex, along with its Theban counterparts, Oedipus at Colonus, and Antigone, established Sophocles as one of the most renowned dramatists of his era. This edition follows the translation of E. H. Plumptre and is printed on premium acid-free paper.

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oedipus the king by sophocles: *Oedipus the King* Sophocles, 2015-06-09 Oedipus the King - Sophocles - The Plays of Sophocles - To Laius, King of Thebes, an oracle foretold that the child born to him by his queen Jocasta would slay his father and wed his mother. So when in time a son was born the infant's feet were riveted together and he was left to die on Mount Cithaeron. But a shepherd found the babe and tended him, and delivered him to another shepherd who took him to his master, the King of Corinth. Polybus being childless adopted the boy, who grew up believing that he was indeed the King's son. Afterwards doubting his parentage he inquired of the Delphic god and heard himself the word declared before to Laius. Wherefore he fled from what he deemed his father's house and in his flight he encountered and unwillingly slew his father Laius. Arriving at Thebes he answered the riddle of the Sphinx and the grateful Thebans made their deliverer king. So he reigned in the room of Laius, and espoused the widowed queen. Children were born to them and Thebes prospered under his rule, but again a grievous plague fell upon the city. Again the oracle was consulted and it bade them purge themselves of blood-guiltiness. Oedipus denounces the crime of which he is unaware, and undertakes to track out the criminal. Step by step it is brought home to him that he is the man. The closing scene reveals Jocasta slain by her own hand and Oedipus blinded by his own act and praying for death or exile.

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accessible for the modern reader, our Prestwick House Literary Touchstone Edition? includes a glossary of the more difficult words, as well as convenient sidebar notes to enlighten the reader on aspects that may be confusing or overlooked. We hope that the reader may, through this edition, more fully enjoy the beauty of the verse, the wisdom of the insights, and the impact of the drama.Sophocles? Oedipus Rex has never been surpassed for the raw and terrible power with which its hero struggles to answer the eternal question, Who am I? The play, a story of a king who?acting entirely in ignorance?kills his father and marries his mother, unfolds with shattering power; we are helplessly carried along with Oedipus towards the final, horrific truth.This vibrant, new translation invites its readers to lose themselves in the unfolding of this tragic tale?as suspenseful as a detective mystery, yet with an outcome long ago determined by Fate.

oedipus the king by sophocles: Oedipus the King Sophocles, 2016-08-21 Oedipus The King is one of the three Theban Plays of the Greek Athenian tragedian Sophocles. The ancient & classical Greek tragedy Oedipus The King was first performed in 429 BC. Of Sophocles three Theban Plays that deal with Oedipus, Oedipus The King was the second to be written. However, in terms of the chronology of events that the plays describe, Oedipus The King comes first, followed by Oedipus at Colonus and then Antigone. In the drama & play Oedipus The King tells the story of Oedipus, a man who becomes the king of Thebes, while unwittingly fulfilling a prophecy that he would kill his father, Laius, and marry his mother, Jocasta. Sophocles' Oedipus The King is considered a literature & fiction classic in the Greek dramas & plays genre and is often required textbook reading in the following disciplines; English, literature & fiction, Ancient & Medieval Literature, ancient & classical, dramas & plays, Greek tragedy, and world literature.

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