

# Oedipus the King

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## Oedipus the King

Oedipus was once a great king and beloved by his people until he learned about his past and went crazy. Oedipus was a great king and ruler and loved by many. His people turned to him when their city was going through a plague. He sought after the prophet and asked how to stop this plague and he was told that must kill the killer of the past king. He later found out he was the killer and he exiled and blinded himself.

Oedipus was a beloved king and loved by his people and ruled over Thebes with a kind heart and a love for his people. Oedipus saved Thebes from the sphinx's riddle. From that point on the people made him king and they loved him and trusted him. "You saved us from the Sphinx, who sang her doom from the stone of her breast. You saved us from her plague." (Sophocles pg 10) Oedipus solved the Sphinx's riddles and saved the people of Thebes and they gave him much praise and crowned him king of Thebes after their past king was killed. After Oedipus was crowned king he ruled the land and married the past king's wife and had kids with his wife. Thebes was hit by a plague that struck them and they all turned to Oedipus and asked him to save them from the plague. "Therefore, great king of Thebes, we turn to you. Save us. Heal us. Listen To the gods. Listen to the minds of mortals. Your wisdom saved us long ago. It can save us now when troubles seethe again." (Sophocles pg. 10) The people of Thebes are asking Oedipus to talk to the gods and ask what to do to save them from the plague. They are giving Oedipus a lot of praise and glory

and treating him as if he was a god. The gods told Oedipus that he must kill the killer of the past king. So he asked the prophet Teiresias who the killer was.

Teiresias said that the killer was Oedipus and also said many other things about him. Oedipus did not believe Teiresias and grew angry with him for accusing him of such things. "You are the killer. You bring the pollution upon Thebes." (Sophocles pg. 20) Teiresias did not want to say who the killer was at first but Oedipus wanted to know and made Teiresias angry with him and made him say who it was. This made Oedipus angry and enraged with Teiresias and accused him of trying to steal the throne and also caused him to siding with Creon the queen's brother. "Is this plot yours alone or was it Creon's idea?" (Sophocles Pg. 23) He is beginning to grow paranoid and he's starting to accuse other people. Oedipus then makes Teiresias say more about the prophecy and says that Oedipus married his mom and will go blind. "The man you seek with your edicts warrants and decrees the man who killed the king. That man is here you think of him as foreign-born. But he is a Theban. His good fortune will turn to sorrow. Though he has eyes, he will be blind." (Sophocles pg. 25) "to his children he will be both father and brother. To her who gave birth to both son and husband. And to his father he will be both killer and the man who shared his bed." (Sophocles pg. 25) Teiresias calls out Oedipus for sleeping with his own mother, killing his father, and also going

blind. Oedipus, filled with rage after hearing this, throws Teiresias out of his castle and wants to know more about his childhood. So he goes out and seeks the truths of his past.

Oedipus goes to find the truth of his past and to see what all is going on.

Oedipus learns from a messenger that he was adopted by his adopted parents from Corinth and that his real parents are Jocasta (his wife) and Lias who was the former king and the man that he killed. So finds out that the Prophecy was true and that he did kill his father and sleep with his mother. “Because the man that stands before you was that child”(Sophocles Pg. 49) Oedipus starts to put the pieces together and figures everything out.

He is devastated by this information that he learns from his past. He curses himself and wishes he was never born. He goes crazy, decides to blind himself, be exiled and to become a beggar on the street. “It was Apollo, my friends, Apollo. He did this to me. He buried me in this pain. But it was this hand, no other’s, that struck my eyes. For why should I have eyes when there is nothing that I yearn to see?” (Sophocles Pg. 56) Oedipus blames the god Apollo for his but blames himself for blinding himself. The people of Thebes turn away from him and feel nothing but pity for him after these events. Oedipus goes out into the street and becomes a blind beggar.

Oedipus was once a great kind and beloved by his people until he learned about his past and went crazy. Oedipus in the end went from being a beloved king to a beggar in the streets. He was too ambitious and wanted to find out what his past was when the people he knew told him not to go on. Yet he still wanted to know the truth even though it ruined his life and his families for generations to come.

## References

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