

Oedipus The Tragic Hero

James B. Warren

Cathedral High School

World Literature

Mrs. Graning

September 13, 2024

Oedipus The Tragic Hero

Oedipus was a tragic hero and at the same time he wasn't because he was a hero for the people of the town he ruled but also he was the reason they were suffering without him knowing. In the beginning Oedipus defeated the sphinx which saved the seven gated city of Thebes and then married queen Jocasta and became the king of Thebes. The past king of Thebes had been murdered and the city was put to suffer until the person that killed the past king was killed. With all of this being said Oedipus has yet to realize that everything that has happened will come back to affect him in the future.

From the beginning Oedipus is a heroic person that is living his own tragedy without him even knowing. From the beginning Oedipus doesn't know who his parents are and he sets off and ends up killing a man and at the time he did not know who the man was. From this point Oedipus comes upon the city of Thebes and defeats the and saves the city and goes on to marry the queen not truly knowing who she is. Little does Oedipus know within these two actions he has caused his own downfall for the future. In these two actions not only did he cause his own downfall but he also caused the people of Thebes to suffer.

In the beginning Oedipus defeats the sphinx and saves the people but the people were soon after under a plague. With all the people being under a plague everyone was questioning why and then figuring out that they would remain under the plague until the person that killed the last king was killed. With this information Oedipus swears to find the person that killed the last king and begins to search and question to figure out who did it. During Oedipus' search he calls for Tiresias, the blind prophet and doesn't get the answers he was hoping for.

Tiresias tells Oedipus that he is the man that killed the last king which was his father and that he is sharing a bed with his mother. At first Oedipus thinks that he is being set up by Creon and accusing Creon of the murder. After all has settled Oedipus begins to really think about what was said and he asks his wife and she tells him that her and the past king had a son and his prophecy was to kill his father so they chained him and abandoned him on a mountain hillside to die. With this being said Oedipus begins to question when the last king was killed and finds out he was killed at a fork in the road and only one person got away. The person that got away was a slave and when he got back to the town he asked to be sent away and Jocasta sent him to where he wanted to go so Oedipus had people sent to get him and bring him to Thebes so he could talk to him.

As Oedipus finds out more information and remembers things, he and Jocasta find out that the information that Tiresias tells them was true and he did kill his father and he was married to his mom and had kids with his mom. With them now knowing this information his mom hung herself and he blinds himself and he is no longer the king of Thebes. Oedipus lives the rest of his life wandering around blind and in a deep depression and Creon becomes the new king of Thebes. With that turn in the story it proves that Oedipus is a tragic hero and his fate was set for him from the beginning and his actions caused a lot of people to suffer. Oedipus was a tragic hero and at the same time he wasn't because he was a hero for the people of the town he ruled but also he was the reason they were suffering without him knowing.