

Oedipus was a tragic hero

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The book of oedipus the king was written in 429 B.C. This book was placed in ancient greece. The background story of Oedpis the king is Oedipus was the king of Thebes while he was dealing with the prophecies that he would end up killing his father(laius) which was the previous king and marry his mother(Jocasta) who was the queen. In the beginning of the story Oedpius is king and the city of Thebes which is the city they are living in. The city of Thebes takes part in suffering a plague. The people of Thebes beg Oedipus to undo the plague as it was threatening their city. Oedipus was a tragic hero because he kills his father and marries his mother, causing him to suffer the rest of his life.

In the story Oedipus was told the prophecies about him killing his dad but he didn't want to believe the prophecies he tried his hardest to avoid them all Oedipus left his hometown Corinth to escape what was true(Sophocles 429 B.C.). Oedipus explains how he never wants to return home because he doesn't want the prophecies he has been told to become true.Oedipus decides to travel to Thebes instead of going back to his hometown, On the way there the messenger starts to tell Oedipus that his adoptive dad (Polybus) was not his biological dad(Sophocles 429 B.C.). Messenger tells Oedipus that he and Polybus had no blood ties and Oedipus begins to question the messenger asking “Are you saying that Polybus was not my real dad”. During his journey to Thebes Oedipus contact with Laci

while driving his chariot , In the middle of their encounterment they began to have an argument over who had the right of way while they were traveling at this time Oedipus did not know that Laicus was his father. The two men started to fight after Laicus failed to run Oedibus over with a chariot, Oedipus then killed Laicus with his sword(Sophocles 429 B.C.). Oedipus says as Laicus was heading towards him so he struck him with his sword because he was angry, Oedipus says hopefully Laicus was not a part of his family(Sophocles 429 B.C.).

The king of Thebes, which was Laicus at the time heard the Prophecy of his newborn son killing him and marrying his wife he abandoned him on a mountainside so he could be left there to die and that's where the shepherd found him and raised him as if he was his own child. Laicus pierced Oeidpuis ankles when he was a newborn(Sophocles 429 B.C.). So all along the ex king (Laicus) knew about the prophecies. The moment when Oedipus killed his father he solved the riddle of the sphinx and that is what made him king when he killed his father and married his mother. Creon, who is Queen Jocasta's brother, let the city know that whoever could get rid of the sphinx that was in the city of Thebes would be given a chance to be king and marry the queen. Everyone in the city of Thebes was happy that Oedipus got Sphinx. The whole time Josasta was starting to believe that her husband died while trying to solve the riddle to the sphinx. Jocasta kills herself by hanging herself after she discovers that she married her son, Oeidpus and had four children with him(Sophocles 429 B.C.). Jocasta was overwhelmed by shame and grief during her relationship with her son. She realizes that she helped bring

about the prophecy that led to her abandoning her son as a baby. She was feeling personal guilt while being involved with the situation. She was super embarrassed she couldn't even take the public shame while she was dealing with the situation. All along Jocasta was aware of all of the prophecies that were being said about her and her son Oedipus (Sophocles 429 B.C.).

While Oedipus was suffering due to the prophecies he couldn't take anymore of the guilt he was feeling anymore so he decides to put a brooch pin in his eyes after discovering that his wife and mother killed herself because he couldn't bear to see the kids he made with her (Sophocles 429 B.C.). Oedipus also suffers with the murder of his father who was the former king of Thebes when they both had an argument on who had the right of way which caused them to fight and Oedipus kills him with his sword. He suffers the loss of his parents when he fled from his hometown and loses his mom and wife due to suicide. Oedipus was exiled from Thebes which caused him to lose his reputation and his legacy (Sophocles 429 B.C.). He suffered many types of darkness after he blinded himself. Oedipus didn't want to believe that all of the prophecies he was hearing were true; he did everything in his power to avoid making the prophecies come true but he failed. Oedipus believes that the gods hated him more than any other person because he was suffering the most. He was overly confident that the prophecies were not true.

In conclusion Oedipus was too confident that the prophecies wouldn't come true, But also he did everything he could to avoid himself from killing his father and marrying his mother which turned into his wife and they had four kids together. The prophecies failed meaning they all came true and he killed himself with blindness due to all the grief he was dealing with.

References

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