

**It ends with Fate**

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The play Oedipus the King, which was written by an author who was named Sophocles, of whom wrote 120 plays but only seven got published and Oedipus the King was one of them. This is a play about how King Oedipus became a tragic hero without knowing that he would fulfill his prophecy all along. While experiencing this play people see that Oedipus is the King of Thebes and is well known by everyone in the city, but there are quite a few things that nobody knows, not even Oedipus. However, this king's life story would soon be revealed and take a tragic turn. People reading or watching this play will see how this king's life took an unexpected turn and how his downfall was shown. Oedipus is a prime example of a tragic hero because he was born a very noble birth, had fatal flaws, as well as excessive pride.

Oedipus was born of a noble birth because his biological parents were the king and queen of the city of Thebes. In the play the shepherd claims that the child he was given was born from someone in the house of Laius, which was the house where King Laius and Queen Jocasta lived. Oedipus knows this because the Shepherd states this, "Well then . . . it was a child of the house of Laius." (Sophocles 51). This shows that the shepherd knows that Oedipus is the child that he was given all those years ago, but the shepherd did not want to tell Oedipus that because he was scared of what would happen if he knew the truth. However, Oedipus has not realized that he is the child of King Laius and Queen Jocasta. Oedipus does know that the child was the king and queen's son of which they gave to the shepherd but does not know that he is that child. Oedipus realizes this when the shepherd says, "Know that the . . . the child . . . so people said . . . was his. But the lady in the palace, your wife, she could tell you best." (Sophocles 51). This is when Oedipus starts putting things together and realizes that he was the child born of a noble birth, he realizes because he said that the queen could tell him more which was his wife, but why would

his wife know how he was born. So King Oedipus thought about it and realized that he could be the child that the previous King Laius and Queen Jocasta gave away all those years ago.

Oedipus had a lot of fatal flaws which made him a tragic hero, these fatal flaws would make him think that he could not live out his fate. Oedipus sent Creon to the oracle to find out his prophecy and when he heard what it was he tried to keep it from happening. However, Oedipus faced fate when he ran into the two men on a crossroad and killed them and one was his biological dad, but he didn't know that, so that was one part of his prophecy being fulfilled unknowingly. This is shown when Jocasta says, "I am afraid. When I look on you I am afraid." (Sophocles 35). This proves that Oedipus killed King Laius because a servant that survived told Jocasta, because she would not have known otherwise. Another part of the prophecy that Oedipus fulfilled was that he married Jocasta, who was his biological mother but Oedipus did not know that and neither did she. This is shown when Oedipus says, " My queen, Jocasta, why have you summoned me from the palace?" (Sophocles 42). Oedipus called Jocasta his queen which means they are married, the reason for this is because Oedipus killed the king which nobody knew, so they had to have a new king, and that new king was Oedipus. This is the fatal flaw that he has, which makes him think he can not fulfill his fate, but he ended up fulfilling it without knowing. Therefore, he had to marry the queen so he could become king, so that is how he became King Oedipus.

One thing about Oedipus was that he was a very prideful person, which means that he loved himself a lot and was proud of everything that he did. Oedipus never wanted to take the blame for himself, he always put it on someone else to make himself look good to the people around him. A situation where Oedipus did that was when King Laius was killed and he would not take the blame, this is shown when Oedipus says this, "Proceed. Prove me a killer if you

can.” (Sophocles 29). This quote shows that Oedipus was being very sarcastic when he said this by trying to use reverse psychology on them to make them think that he did not kill King Laius, by owning up to it but trying to trick them to make them think it was not him. Another example of how Oedipus was very prideful was when Teiresias told him his prophecy and when Oedipus heard what he was saying he got so mad because he was embarrassed of it and claimed that it would not be fulfilled. People know this because Oedipus said, “You are a child of endless darkness, and you have no power over me or any man who can see the light of the sun.”

(Sophocles 22). This was said so it did not make Oedipus look bad in front of his people, which is how he was very confident in himself to think that he would not fulfill his prophecy. However, Oedipus was very stubborn and thought he was better than everyone in the city of Thebes because he was king and he had the perfect life, so he thought. This shows how Oedipus was very prideful because he always made himself look good and never took the blame for anything.

In conclusion Oedipus put all the pieces together of what everyone was telling him. He soon realized that he killed his father and married his mother and had two kids with her, and he did not even realize that he fulfilled his prophecy. He didn't realize it because he was born by Queen Jocasta and King Laius but they gave him away to a shepherd when he was just a newborn. So the shepherd found him new parents which were Polybus and Merope, and they raised him so he thought those were his parents. Eventually when Oedipus figured out that he fulfilled his prophecy he blinded himself and left the city of Thebes. He also told his daughters that they will never find a husband because of the things that he has done. The noble birth, the fatal flaws, and the excessive pride are things that make somebody a tragic hero and Oedipus was born with all of that but he soon realized that he was never perfect, even from birth, and could not pretend to be somebody that he was not.

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