

Title

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World Literature

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Hubris, temper and the pursuit of truth caused Oedipus' downfall

Oedipus' relentless pursuit of truth, driven by his hubris and unwavering determination
unfortunately leading to his tragic downfall by him revealing the catastrophic reality of his
identity and the events of his actions. In Sophocles, the tragic play "Oedipus Rex" Oedipus who is the protagonist in the play displays various characteristics to uncover the prophecy that was told to him. The play begins as Oedipus begins his journey to save the city of Thebes from a horrendous plague. This is where the first characteristic of determination is displayed. His commitment to track down the murderer who would kill King Laius. The events leading up to Oedipus' downfall corresponds to this one moment. His pursuit for knowledge blinded him from the warnings and signs. Oedipus decided not to listen and take matters into his own hands. He decided to go see the oracle for himself. On the way to see the oracle, he crossed paths with his father unknowingly. They got into a dispute about who should cross the path first. Laius grew angry and tried to run Oedipus over with his chariot. This sent Oedipus to outrage as he pulled out his sword and kill Laius.

How being overconfident can be lethal Oedipus' actions are also influenced by his hubris, or excessive pride, which is a common trait among tragic heroes in Greek literature. His confidence in his own abilities and his belief that he can outmaneuver the gods contribute significantly to the unfolding of his fate. Oedipus' pride blinds him to the possibility that he is not as in control of his destiny as he believes. His hubris manifests in his confrontations with the oracle and the prophet Tiresias, where he dismisses their warnings and accusations. This arrogance fuels his determination to prove himself as the savior of Thebes and as someone who can defy the gods' will. Oedipus' hubris contributes to his downfall, as his refusal to accept his limitations and his

denial of the possibility of fate lead him to actions that fulfill the prophecy he sought to escape. His hubris blinds him to the inevitability of the divine plan, and his insistence on controlling his own fate leads to the tragic irony of his story.

The affect of temper and how it fueled Oedipus At this point in the play, Oedipus chooses to act only on rage and impulsiveness. His excessive ambition to overcome the prophecy only dug his hole to his demise even further. The reality of Oedipus' actions was tragic and filled with irony. Despite his best intentions and efforts to avoid the prophecy announced by the Oracle at Delphi. After the murder of Laius, Oedipus returns back to his hometown. Here he is confronted by Creon and Tiresias. Tiresias was blind, but was still able to tell the future of people. When Oedipus learned of his prophecy, it sent him into outrage again. Tiresias saw the way Oedipus responded and said "Just send me home. You bear your burdens, I'll bear mine". Here Oedipus starts to insult and accuse Tiresias of conspiracy. Creon steps in and says that Oedipus is stepping out of line. Oedipus, excessive pride and self confidence began him to think that he would be able to control his own destiny. However, the Greek Gods believed that fate was something that was simply out of human control.

Truth can be a hard pill to swallow. After Oedipus' true identity had been discovered thanks to the drunken servant, it sent his life into a spiral of his demise. Not only did it trigger his downfall, it caused the relationships that he had created to shatter. One of those relationships being his own mother/wife Jocasta. While patrolling the castle, one of the servants went back and reported to Oedipus that Jocasta had hung herself. The sense of guilt that she felt must have been unbearable. Oedipus rushed to the room that she servant reported her death in. At this point in the story it was the last straw for Oedipus. As he is sitting there gazing on Jocasta's lifeless body it

made him realize that the myth that he was portrayed in had been actually true. The myth was that he would be a man so obsessed with truth, that it would eventually lead into his doom. He decided that he couldn't take it anymore. The shame and guilt that he felt would be too much for anyone to handle. He made the decision to take the pins out of what Jocasta was wearing when she died, and gouge his eyes out with them. "Why should I have eyes? Why, when nothing I saw was worth seeing" "Dark, dark! The horror of darkness, like a shroud, Wraps me and bears me on through mist and cloud" he said. This symbolizes him not being able to handle the truth of his own actions. As the play comes to a close Oedipus requested that he be taken to Creon. He had been named the new king of Thebes, because Oedipus gave up the title trying to escape the prophecy. His final request was to be able to hold his daughters and inform them of what was about to happen, as well as begging to be sent into exile.

In conclusion Oedipus' pride to the point where it blinded him to the warnings of others, his actions being driven by a temper, and his obsession with finding out truth unfortunately led to his downfall.

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