

A victim of fate

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The book Oedipus is written 429B.C. in Ancient Greece by Sophocles. The book was later turned into a play in 429 B.C.E. There are three main points that prove that Oedipus was a victim of fate. It all started before he was born, a prophecy that he could not control that was spoken for before he was even born would be the end of Oedipus. His father dying at the hands of himself did nothing but further the prophecy from becoming a reality. No actions in his life could have changed the course of his fate. Oedipus was a victim of fate because he was doomed as a child by a prophecy, he unknowingly murdered his father, and him being saved as a baby by a shepherd and the events that unfolded after this information was let out.

Oedipus was always destined to fulfill his fate and the prophecy was always going to happen. The prophecy was always going to be fulfilled no matter what anyone did to prevent it. "To his children he will be both brother and father. To her who gave him birth both son and husband. And to his father he will be both killer and the man who shares his be"(Teresias 25). This prophecy shows that from birth he was supposed to kill his father, marry his mother and have children with her. Oedipus suffered because Laius tried to kill him in order to overcome the prophecy. "Laius and I had a son, but when he was only three days old Lsius pierced his ankles, and left him on a hill to die"(Jocasta 34). Laius wanted to get rid of his problem by killing the first born son so the prophecy would never be fulfilled and he would never die at the hands of his son and his son would never marry his mother and she would never bear her own child's children. Oedipus was unaware that polybus was not his real father. "Polybus had no blood ties to you"(messenger 45). This is oedipus finding

out that Polybus is not his biological father. The messenger explains the events that occurred to how Polybus and Merope become his “parents”. “ a long time ago I gave you to him as a gift” (messenger 45). This tells Oedipus that he actually doesn't know who his parents are. The accidental murder of his father that he committed and what followed. The story that Jocasta tells Oedipus about the death of Laius. “ Laius was killed in broad daylight where three roads meet” (Jocasta 34). This background information opens up Oedipus' eyes just a little because this information sounds so familiar to him because he killed someone out of range where three roads meet on his way into Thebes. Oedipus never to thebes and him becoming. “You saved us from the sphinx, who sang her doom from the stone of her breast. You saved us from her plague” (Priest 9). This is how Oedipus came to be king in the first place he killed the sphinx by solving her riddle and sense that the king just died; they rewarded oedipus with the kingdom. He falls in love with Jocasta and marries her and has kids with her. “ You married my sister is that correct and as your wife and queen she shares the throne and with you two I have a third share of power” (Creon 29). This is Creon trying to prove that he would never try to overthrow oedipus because he doesn't want to have the responsibility of having the throne he will leave that to oedipus and his sister. He gets to live like a king without having any responsibility for being king and Creon likes it that way. The shepherd that saved his life The man that found him on top of the hill. “I do not know. The man who gave you to me may know more. He was one of Laius's household” (Messenger 46). This first messenger told Oedipus that he was the one that found him but later told him that it was another that actually brought oedipus to the messenger. The servant that later became the shepherd. “ A servant. He was the only one to escape. This servant is the same

one that saved his life as a baby that also witnessed the murder the only one to make it out alive from the killing spree that Oedipus went on just because he got mad. The shepherd tells the whole story to Oedipus about the day he was supposed to die. "I did. And I wish I had died that very day. I have confessed that I gave him the child a long time ago" (Shepherd 51). The shepherd is trying his best to avoid telling Oedipus the story of what happened on top of the hill because he will be telling him that the prophecy has come true that if he is that child that he was the one that killed his father and that he also married his mother and had children with her all the bad things happened and he doesn't want to be the bearer of this terrible news. Jocasta kills herself and everyone finds out. "Our queen Jocasta is dead by her own hand" Jocasta killed herself because she could not deal with the fact that the prophecy has come true and that she has married her son and had children with him she also did not want to see Oedipus go through finding out and what had to be done to him for what all has happened she also feels guilt for giving the baby to someone so that she would not have to kill her baby but now she realizes that all that has happened was because of that mistake and her first husband is dead from it. Oedipus goes to find Jocasta and see what happened to her. "I curse the man who pulled the bolt from my feet. He saved my life but should have let me die. This heavy guilt would not now lie upon me and those I love" Oedipus is doing everything but blaming himself he blames Apollo for putting this prophecy on his life before he was even born, and then the shepherd for saving his life and pulling the bolts from his feet. Oedipus wants to be exiled from Thebes. "Send me to exile now! Put me in some desert where I will never again hear a human's voice" he said this because he wants to be away where no one will hear him.

Work cited

Sophocles. (429 B.C.). *Oedipus the king*. Ivan R. Dee.