Jonathan Quang

HW #12

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| Text | Reasoning |
| "He (Oedipus) rips off her brooches, the log gold pins holder her robes - and lifting them high, looking straight up it the points, he digs them down the sockets of his eyes, crying, "You, you'll see no more the pain I suffered, all the pain I caused,""(1402-1406) | This scene elicits a strong sense of pity from the audience. Oedipus founds out the horrible truth of what happened to him as a baby and also has to deal with the grief of witnessing the dead body of the wife he loved who died by suicide. To express such despair, he resorts to stabbing his own two eyes with pins from his wife/mother so that he/they do not have to see pain anymore. |
| "I pitied the little baby, master, hoped he'd take him off to his own country, far away, but he saved him for this, this fate. If you are the man he says you are, believe me, you were born for pain,"(1301-1305). | This statement has a deep connection with the theme of free-will versus fate. Oedipus's mother/future wife had given away Oedipus as a baby to prevent Oedipus from killing his own two parents. He also hears roughly the same story when he ventured out to meet an oracle. Both Jocasta and Oedipus have done their best to avoid making the prophecy true. To a degree, yes they have stopped the prophecy. Oedipus's father died of sickness rather than at the hands of Oedipus. However, Oedipus still managed to marry his own mother. The end result of Oedipus finding out who is who in this play was the death of both his father and mother/wife. At least in this play, it is argued that free-will is just a slight deviation from the ultimate fate. |