

## Oedipus' Quest For Knowledge

The quest for knowledge is a common theme, not only present in Oedipus the King, but also existent in other plays. Oedipus, in his quest for knowledge, is <sup>a typical</sup> ~~the usual~~ protagonist of Greek plays. No matter what a Greek play is about, they usually involve the theme of inescapable fate. Oedipus the King is no different <sup>from</sup> ~~than~~ other Greek plays in this aspect. Oedipus' quest for knowledge results in disaster, in part, from Teiresias's message, Oedipus' conversation with Jocasta, and Oedipus' ultimate fate.

First, Oedipus has trouble dealing with the message of Teiresias. Oedipus, proud of the fact that he solves the Sphinx's riddle, becomes king of Thebes. Teiresias, a prophet, informs Oedipus that, ~~his luck~~ "It is the very luck that has destroyed you." (line 500) Teiresias



is revealing partly ~~at~~ how Oedipus' fate will transpire. Oedipus, refusing to accept the prophecy, reacts in anger and disbelief by claiming Teiresias is not a true prophet for not solving the Sphinx's riddle. Then, to feel secure, Oedipus <sup>accuses</sup> ~~places the~~ Teiresias and Creon of conspiring to murder Laius. The stubbornness and perseverance of Oedipus is very clear.

Oedipus' conversation with Jocasta is very numbing for Oedipus, for... because of its actuality. Jocasta reveals, "Laius... should die a victim of his own son, a son to be born of Laius and me." (lines 788-793) This quote shakes Oedipus' confidence, because he realizes he is the one who killed Laius. Oedipus is Laius' son.

- nice sentence variety (long, short)

excellent  
word choice

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\* Finally, Oedipus realizes his ultimate fate, because Jocasta uncovers the truth. Oedipus is devastated. A little later he finds out Jocasta is his mother, and she commits suicide. \* Oedipus blinds himself permanently, and gives up the throne.

Oedipus' quest for knowledge results in disaster, in part from Teiresias' message, Oedipus' conversation with Jocasta, and Oedipus' ultimate fate. This is a true ~~tragedy~~ tragedy. Oedipus is affected by his fate.

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