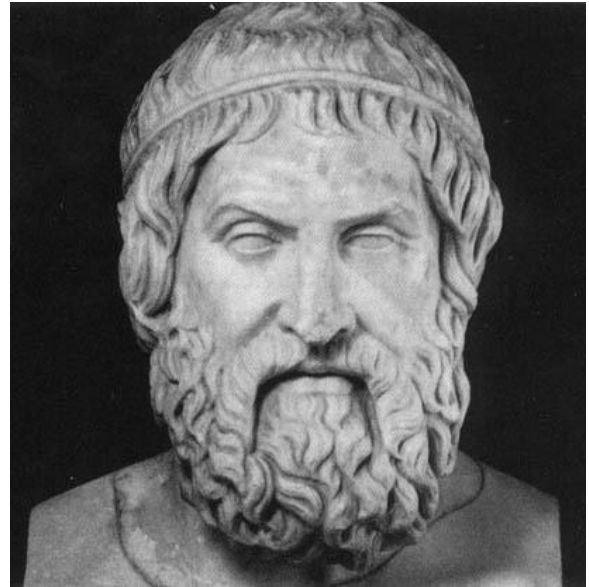


What We Don't See: Oedipus and Everyday Mistakes

In *Oedipus*, the idea of walking through life partially blind is shown really well in how Oedipus acts. At the beginning, he thinks he knows everything and is determined to save Thebes from the plague. But he's blind to the fact that he's the cause of the problems. Even when Tiresias tries to tell him the truth, or help him see, he refuses to see the truth. It's like he's blind to the truths that are right in front of him. What's interesting is when he finally learns the truth—that he was the one that killed his father and married his mother—he literally blinds himself, taking the analogy to another level. Sophocles is showing us that people can be very intelligent and still not see what's really going on in their lives.



This idea of being blind in life kind of reminds me of how I sometimes go through situations thinking I know everything, when I don't. There have been times when I misunderstood or judged people quickly or made decisions without thinking them through. But then, I saw things more clearly and realized I was wrong. Like Oedipus, I didn't mean to mess up—I just didn't know, or take the time to find the full story. I think everyone has times



like that, where we're trying to do our bests but don't have, or don't really want to know what's really going on. Life usually doesn't present things in a clear or easy way, and sometimes we find things out after it's too late.

Just like Oedipus and probably most people, I want to feel in control of my life and make good choices about my future. I have goals and things I want to do, and I try to plan them out. But I know that I won't see every hard or crazy thing coming in life. Life will throw lots of surprises at you, just like it did for Oedipus. The difference is that I want to be more open to change and admit when I'm wrong, which is really hard to do sometimes. Oedipus had a lot of pride, and it stopped him from seeing the truth until it was too late. I hope that I can do better in my life and have less pride, even when it's really hard.