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OEDIPUS THE KING.

"ἰοῦ ἵοῦ· τὰ πάντα ἄν ἔξηκεν σοφῆ."
Sophocles. Oedipus Tyrannus. Greek and English

OEDIPUS THE KING.

TEXT AND TRANSLATION.

UNIV. OF
CALIFORNIA

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BOSTON:
PUBLISHED BY OBER & FROHMAN.
1882.
THE ARGUMENT.

Oedipus was the son of Laius and Jocasta, who were King and Queen of Thebes. His birth had been forbidden, and his parents sent him to be exposed on Mount Cithaeron. But the messenger took pity on the child, and gave him to a servant of Polybus the King of Corinth, who adopted him.

Years afterwards, Laius went on a mission to Delphi, and was met by Oedipus, who had just received a dreadful oracle there, and was afraid to return to Corinth. The strangers quarrelled, and Oedipus slew his father. One of the attendants of Laius escaped. It was the same man who had spared him when a child. Oedipus passed on and came to Thebes, where the news of the death of Laius found the city already in distress. The Sphinx was killing all who failed to solve her riddle. But Oedipus solved it, and delivered Thebes. He was rewarded with the vacant throne and with the hand of the queen,—his mother Jocasta.

After another interval of several years, a pestilence falls upon the city, and the oracle declares that it is for the blood of Laius. Oedipus undertakes to find the murderer, and with the help of the old servant, who is brought from his retreat, unveils the horror of his birth.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ ΤΤΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΤΑ ΤΟΥ ΔΡΑΜΑΤΟΣ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΑ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ΙΕΡΕΥΣ. IΟΚΑΣΘΗ.
ΚΡΕΩΝ. ΑΙΓΕΛΕΟΣ.
ΧΟΡΟΣ γεράτων θηβαίων. ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ Δαλού.
ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ. ΕΧΑΙΓΕΛΕΟΣ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

Οι τέκνα, Κάδμου τοῦ σαράντα τριών, πολλάκις σάρκα κατανέσας μου παρεβίασε, τινάς ποθ' ἐδρασ τάσις μου θαύμασθε, ἵππιος, θυμιαμάτων ἐκδοτός, ἐμείς ὑμέν. πάντα μὲν ἐμοῖ εὐθανασίας ταύτων ἕμενε, ἀλλ' ἔμεν ἐκείνοι αὐτοῖς ὅπ' ἐλήλυθα, ἐμείς κλείνως Οἰδίπος καλούμενος. άλλ' ὃ περὶ, φράσει, ἐπει πρέπον ἐφύον πρὸ τῶν ἑορτῶν, τόν τινα τὴν καθέστατη, δείχνετε ώς στέρξαντες; ὦσ τέλοντας δὲν
OEDIPUS THE KING.

PERSONS REPRESENTED.

Oedipus, King of Thebes.
Jocasta, his wife.
Creon, her brother.
Teiresias, a blind seer.
Priest of Zeus.
Chorus of Theban old men.
Messenger from Corinth.
Messenger from within the Palace.

Servant of Laius.

MUTE PERSONS.

Antigone, Youthful daughters of
Ismene, J Oedipus.
Suppliants; Boy, attendant on Tei-
resias; Attendants on Oedipus,
Jocasta, and Creon, two to each.

Scene.—Before the Royal Palace in Boeotian Thebes.

OEDIPUS.—PRIEST OF ZEUS.—SUPPLIANTS.

OEDIPUS.
Why sit ye here, my-children, youngest brood
Of Cadmus famed of old, in solemn state,
Your hands thus wreathèd with the suppliants' boughs?
And all the city reeks with incense smoke,
And all re-echoes with your hymns and groans;
And I, my children, counting it unmeet
To hear report from others, I have come
Myself, whom all name Oedipus the Great.—
Do thou, then, agèd Sire, since thine the right
To speak for these, tell clearly how ye stand,
In terror or submission; speak to me
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ἐμοὶ προσαρκείν πάντως γενέσθε γὰρ ἄν
ei̇n toiȯndε μη οὐ κατοικτεῖρον ἐδραν.

ΙΕΡΕΤΕΣ.

ἀλλ', ὁ κρατύνων Οἰδίπους χώρας ἐμῆς,
ὅρας μὲν ἡμᾶς ἡλίκοι προσήμεθα·
βωμοῖς τοῖς σοῖς, οἱ μὲν οὐδὲνοι μακρὰν
πτέσθαι σκέννουτες, οἱ δὲ σὺν θηρὰ βαρεῖς,
ἱερῆς, ἐγὼ μὲν Ζηνὸς, οἱ δ᾽ ἐπ᾽ ἱδέων
λεκτοὶ· τοῦ δ᾽ ἄλλο φίλου ἥξεστεμένου
ἀγοραίας θακεῖ, πρὸς τε Παλλάδος διπλῶς
ναοῖς, ἐπ᾽ Ἰσμήνου τε μαντείᾳ σποδῷ·
πόλις γὰρ, ὡστερ καῦτος εἰσορᾶς, ἅγιαν
ἥδη σαλέεις κανάκουφίσαι κάρα
βυθῶν ἐτ′ οὐχ ὁ ἀν τε φοινίκου σάλων,
φθίνουσα μὲν κάλυξιν ἐγκάρπτους χθονός,
φθίνουσα δ᾽ ἀγέλαις βουνόμοις, τόκοισι τε
ἀγόνους γυναικῶν· ἐν δ᾽ ὁ πυρφόρος θεὸς
σκήψας ἔλαυνε, λοιμὸς ἔχθιστος, πόλιν,
ὑφ᾽ οὐ κενονται δόμα Καδμείων· μέλας δ᾽
'Αιδής στενημοῖος καὶ γόοις πλουτίζεται.
θεώιτα μὲν γενν οὐκ ἵσομενόν σ᾽ ἐγὼ
οὐδ᾽ οὐδὲ παίδες ἐξόμεσθ᾽ ἐφεστοι,
ἀνδρῶν δὲ πρῶτον ἐν τε συμφοραῖς βίον
κρίνουτες ἐν τε δαίμόνων συναλλαγαῖς·
δ᾽ τ᾽ ἔξελυσας, ἀστυ Καδμείων μολὼν,
σκληρὰς αὐτὸν δασμὸν ὑπὸ παρείχεμεν·
καὶ ταῦθ᾽ υφ᾽ ἡμῶν οὐδὲν ἐξειδὼς πλέον
OEDIPUS THE KING.

As willing helper. Heartless should I be
To see you prostrate thus, and feel no ruth.

PRIEST.

Yea, Oedipus, thou ruler of my land,
Thou seest our age, who sit as suppliants, bowed
Around thine altars; some as yet too weak
For distant flight, and some weighed down with age,
Priest, I, of Zeus, and these the chosen youth:
And in the market-places of the town
The people sit and wail, with wreath in hand,
By the two shrines of Pallas, or the grave,
Where still the seer Ismenius prophesies.
For this our city, as thine eyes may see,
Is sorely tempest-tossed, nor lifts its head
From out the surging sea of blood-flecked waves,
All smitten in the ripening blooms of earth,
All smitten in the herds that graze the fields,
Yea, and in timeless births of woman's fruit;
And still the God, fire-darting Pestilence,
As deadliest foe, upon our city swoops,
And desolates the home where Cadmus dwelt,
And Hades dark grows rich in sighs and groans.
It is not that we deem of thee as one
Equalled with Gods in power, that we sit here,
These little ones and I, as suppliants prone;
But, judging thee, in all life's shifting scenes,
Chiepest of men, yea, and of chiepest skill
In communings yea, and of chiepest skill
In communings with Heaven. For thou did'st come
And freed'st this city, named of Cadmus old,
From the sad tribute which of yore we paid
To that stern songstress, all untaught of us,
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

οὐδ’ ἐκδιδαχθεῖς, ἀλλὰ προσθῇκη θεοῦ λέγει νομίζει θ’ ἡμῖν ὁρθῶσαι βίον· νῦν τ’, ὁ κράτιστον πάσιν Οἰδίπου κάρα, ἰκετεύομέν σε πάντες οἴδε πρόστροφοι ἀλκήν των εὐρείν ἡμῖν, εἴτε τοῦ θεοῦ φήμην ἀκούσας εἶτ’ ἀπ’ ἀνδρὸς οἰσθά που· ὡς τοῖς ἐμπείρουσι καὶ τοῖς ξυμφορᾶς ξώσας ὄρῳ μάλιστα τῶν βουλευμάτων. ἢθ’, ὁ βροτῶν ἄριστ’ ἀνόρθωσον πόλιν· ἢθ’, εὔλαβήθηθ’ ὡς σὲ νῦν μὲν ἤδε γῆ σωτῆρα κλήζει τῆς πάρος προθυμίας· ἀρχής δὲ τῆς σῆς μηδαμῶς μεμνώμεθα στάντες τ’ ἐς ὁρθον καὶ πεσόντες ὅστερον, ἀλλ’ ἀσφαλεία τήνδ’ ἀνόρθωσον πόλιν. ἀρνιθι γὰρ καὶ τὴν τοί’ αἰσθή τύχην παρέσχες ἡμῖν, καὶ ταῦτά ἵσος γενοῦ. ὡς εἴπερ ἄρξεις τῆς δε γῆς, ὅσπερ κρατεῖς, ξύν ἀνδράσιν κάλλιον ἡ κενῆς κρατεῖς· ὡς οὐδέν ἔστιν οὔτε πύργος οὔτε ναῦς ἔρημος ἀνδρῶν μὴ ξυνοικούντων ἔσω.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ὁ παῖδες οἰκτροί, γνωτὰ κοῦκ ἀγνωτά μοι προσήλθεθ’ ἄμεροντες. εὐ γὰρ ὅδ’ ὅτι νοσεῖτε πάντες, καὶ νοσοῦντες, ὡς ἐγὼ οὐκ ἔστιν ἡμῶν ὅστις εἴ θ’ ξηθον νοσεῖ. τὸ μὲν γὰρ ἡμῶν ἄλλος εἰς ἐν’ ἐψηταὶ μόνον καθ’ αὐτῶν, κοῦδεν ἄλλον, ἣ δ’ ἐμῆ
And all unprompted; but by gift of God,
Men think and say, thou did'st our life upraise.
And now, dear Oedipus, most honored lord,
We pray thee, we thy suppliants, find for us
Some succor, whether voice of any God,
Or any man brings knowledge to thy soul;
For still I see, with those whom life has trained
To long-tried skill, the issues of their thoughts
Live and are mighty. Come then, noblest one,
Raise up our city; come, take heed to it;
As yet this land, for all thy former zeal,
Calls thee its saviour: do not give us cause
So to remember this thy reign, as men
Who having risen, then fall low again;
But raise our state to safety. Omens good
Were then with thee; thou did'st thy work, and now
Be equal to thyself! If thou wilt rule,
As thou dost sway, this land wherein we dwell,
'Twere better far to rule o'er living men
Than o'er a realm dispeopled. Nought avails,
Or tower or ship, when men are not within.

OEDIPUS.

O children, wailing loud, ye come with wish
Well-known, not unknown; well I know that ye
Are smitten, one and all, with taint of plague,
And yet though smitten, none that taint of plague
Feels as I feel it. Each his burden bears,
His own and not another's; but my heart
ΧΩΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ψυχὴ πόλιν τε καμὲ καὶ σ' ὁμοῦ στένει. 65
οὐτ' οὐχ ὑπνὸς ἕν' εὐδοτά μ' ἔξεγείρετε, ἀλλ' ἱστε πολλὰ μὲν μὲ δακρύσαντα δῆ, πολλάς δ' ὁδοὺς ἐλθόντα φροντίδος πλάνοις.

ἡν δ' εὖ σκοπῶν εὐρισκὼν ίασιν μόνην, ταύτην ἐπραξα· παῖδα γὰρ Μενοικέως Κρέοντ', ἐμαυτοῦ γαμβρόν, ἐς τὰ Πυθικα ἐπεμψα Φοίβου δώμαθ', ὥς πῦθοιθ' ὅ τ' ἔδρον ἢ τ' φωνῶν τήνδε ῥυσαίμην πόλιν.

καὶ μ' ἡμαρ ἡδὴ ξυμμετρούμενον χρόνῳ λυπεὶ τὶ πράσσει; τοῦ γὰρ εἰκότος πέρα ἀπεστὶ πλεῖω τοῦ καθήκουτος χρόνου.

ὅταν δ' ἐκηται, τηνίκαυτ' εγὼ κακὸς μὴ δρόν ἂν εἰπή πάνθ' ὅς' ἂν δῆλοι θεός.

ΙΕΡΕΤΣ.

ἀλλ' εἰς καλὸν σὺ τ' ἐπας οὐδὲ τ' ἀρτιῶς Κρέοντα προσπετέχοντα σημαίνουσί μοι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἀναξ' Ἀπολλόν, εἰ γὰρ ἐν τύχῃ χ' τῷ σωτήρι βαίν λαμπρὰς ὠσπερ ὃμματι.

ΙΕΡΕΤΣ.

ἀλλ' εἰκάσαι μὲν, ἂδως· οὐ γὰρ ἂν κάρα πολυστεφῆς ὡδ' εἰρπε παγκάρπου δάφνης.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τάχ' εἰσόμεσθα· ξύμμετρος γὰρ ὡς κλύειν. ἄναξ', ἐμὸν κήδευμα, παῖ Μενοικέως, τιν' ἡμῖν ἥκεις τοῦ θεοῦ φήμην φέρων;
OEDIPUS THE KING.

Mourns for the state, for you, and for myself;
And, lo, ye wake me not as plunged in sleep,
But find me weeping, weeping many tears,
And treading many paths in wandering thought;
And that one way of health I, seeking, found,
This have I acted on. Menoeceus' son,
Creon, my kinsman, have I sent to seek
The Pythian home of Phoebus, there to learn
The words or deeds wherewith to save the state;
And even now I measure o'er the time,
And ask, "How fares he?" grieving, for he stays,
Most strangely, far beyond the appointed day;
But when he comes, I should be base indeed,
Failing to do whate'er the God declares.

PRIEST.

Well hast thou spoken! And these bring me word,
That Creon comes advancing on his way.

OEDIPUS.

O king Apollo, may he come with chance
That brings deliverance, as his looks are bright.

PRIEST.

If one may guess, he's glad. He had not come
Crowned with rich wreaths of fruitful laurel else.

OEDIPUS.

Soon we shall know. Our voice can reach him now.
Say, prince, our well-beloved, Menoeceus' son,
What sacred answer bring'st thou from the God?
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
ἔσθλην· λέγω γὰρ καὶ τὰ δύσφορ', εἰ τύχοι [Introit.
κατ' ὀρθῶν ἐξελθόντα, πάντ' ἂν εὐτυχεῖν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἐστιν δὲ ποίον τοῦτο; οὔτε γὰρ θρασὺς
οὔτ' οὖν προδείσας εἰμι τῷ γε νῦν λόγῳ.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

εἰ τώνδε χρήζεις πλησιαζόντων κλέων,
ἔτοιμος εἰπεῖν, εἰτε καὶ στείχειν ἔσω.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἐς πάντας αὖδα. τώνδε γὰρ πλέον φέρω
τὸ πένθος ἢ καὶ τῆς ἐμῆς ψυχῆς πέρι.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

λέγοιμ ἂν οἴ ήκουσα τοῦ θεοῦ πάρα.
ἀνωθεν ἡμᾶς Φοῖβος ἐμφανὸς ἀναξ
μίαμα χώρας, ὡς τεθραμμένον χθονὶ
ἐν τῷ, ἐλαύνειν, μηδ' ἀνηκεστόν τρέφειν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ποίρ καθαρμῷ; τίς ο θρόπος τῆς ξυμφορᾶς;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἀνδρηλατούντας, ἢ φόνῳ φόνον πάλιν
λύοντας, ὡς τόδ' αἷμα χειμάζουν πόλιν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ποίου γὰρ ἄνδρος τήνδε μηνύει τύχην;
OEDIPUS THE KING.

CREON.

[Enters at the spectators' left, coming from Delphi.]

A right good answer! E'en our evil plight,
If all goes well, may end in highest good.

OEDIPUS.

What were the words? Nor full of eager hope,
Nor trembling panic, list I to thy speech.

CREON.

I, if thou wish, am ready, these being by,
To tell thee all, or go within the gates.

OEDIPUS.

Speak out to all. I sorrow more for them
Than for the woe which touches me alone.

CREON.

I then will speak what from the God I heard:
King Phoebus bids us chase the plague away
(The words were plain) now cleaving to our land,
Nor cherish guilt which still remains unhealed.

OEDIPUS.

But with what rites? And what the deed itself?

CREON.

Or drive far off, or blood for blood repay;
That guilt of blood is blasting all the state.

OEDIPUS.

But whose fate is it that He pointeth to?
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΩΥΣ

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἡμὴν ὡναξ, Λαῖος ποθ' ἠγεμὼν
γῆς τῆς, πρὶν σε τέμυδ' ἀπευθύνειν πάλιν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ἐξοιδ' ἀκούων· οὐ γὰρ εἰσείδον γε πω.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

τούτου θανῶντος νῦν ἐπιστέλλει σαφῶς
τοὺς αὐτοέντας χειρὶ τιμωρεῖν τινας.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

οἱ δ' εἰσὶ ποὺ γῆς; ποὺ τόδ' εὑρεθήσεται
ἄχρος παλαιάς δυστέκμαρτον αἰτίας;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἐν τῇδ' ἔφασκε γῆ. τὸ δὲ ξητούμενον
ἄλωτον, έκφευγει δὲ τάμελούμενον.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

πότερα δ' ἐν οἴκοις, ἣν ἀγροῖς ὁ Λαῖος,
ἡ γῆς ἐπ' ἄλλης τῷδε συμπίπτει φῶς;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

Θεωρός, ὡς ἔφασκεν, ἐκδημῶν, πάλιν
πρὸς οἶκων οὐκέθ' ἐκεθ', ὡς ἀπεστάλη.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

οὐδ' ἄγγελος τις οὐδὲ συμπρώκτωρ ὁδοῦ
κατείδειν, οὐ τις ἐκμαθῶν ἐχρήσατ' ἂν;
OEDIPUS THE KING.

CREON.
Once, O my king, ere thou did'st guide our state,
Our sovereign Laïus ruled o'er all the land.

OEDIPUS.
So have I heard, for him I never saw.

CREON.
Now the God clearly bids us, he being dead,
To take revenge on those who shed his blood.

OEDIPUS.
Yes; but where are they? How to track the course
Of guilt all shrouded in the doubtful past?

CREON.
In this our land, so said He; those who seek
Shall find; unsought, we lose it utterly.

OEDIPUS.
Was it at home, or in the field, or else
In some strange land that Laïus met his doom?

CREON.
He went, so spake he, pilgrim-wise afar,
And never more came back as forth he went.

OEDIPUS.
Was there no courier, none who shared his road,
Who knew what, learning, one might turn to good?
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
θυσίκουσί γάρ, πλὴν εἶς τις, ὁ δὲ φάβω φυγὼν
ἄν εἰς πλὴν ἐν οὐδὲν εἶχ' εἰδὼς φράσαι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΕ.
τὸ ποίον; ἐν γὰρ πόλλ' ἂν ἐξεύροι μαθεῖν,
ἀρχὴν βραχείαν εἴ λάβομεν ἔλπιδος.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
ληστὰς ἐφασκε συντυχόντας οὐ μὴ
ῥώμη κτανείν νυν, ἄλλα σὺν πλήθει-χερῶν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΕ.
pῶς οὖν ὁ ληστής, εἰ τι μὴ ξὺν ἀργὺρῳ
ἐπράσετ' ἐνθενδ', ἐς τὸδ' ἄν τόλμης ἔβη;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
δοκοῦντα ταῦτ' ἢν· Δαινὸς ὡς ὀλωλότος
οὐδεὶς ἄρωγὸς ἐν κακοῖς ἐγγύνετο.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΕ.
κακῶν δὲ ποῖον ἐμποδῶν τυραννίδος
οὕτω πεσοῦσῃ ἐΐργη ταῦτ' ἐξειδέναι;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
η ποικιλωδὸς Σφίγξ τὸ πρὸς ποσὶ σκοπεῖν
μεθέντας ἡμᾶς τῷφανῆ προσήγητο.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΕ.
ἀλλ' ἐξ ὑπαρχῆς αὐθις αὐτ' ἐγὼ φανῶ.
ἐπανέῳς γὰρ Φοίβος, ἄξιος δὲ σὺ
πρὸς τοῦ θανόντος τὴν ἔθεσθ' ἐπιστροφή.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

CREON.
Dead were they all, save one who fled for fear,  
And he knew nought to tell but one small fact.

OEDIPUS.
And what was that? One fact might teach us much,  
Had we but one small starting-point of hope.

CREON.
He used to tell that robbers fell on him,  
Not man for man, but with outnumbering force.

OEDIPUS.
How could the robber e'er have dared this deed,  
Unless some bribe from hence had tempted him?

CREON.
So men might think; but Laüs having died,  
There was no helper for us in our ills.

OEDIPUS.
What ill then hindered, when your sovereignty  
Had fallen thus, from searching out the truth?

CREON.
The Sphinx, with her dark riddle, bade us look  
At nearer facts, and leave the dim obscure.

OEDIPUS.
Well, be it mine to track them to their source.  
Right well hath Phoebus, and right well hast thou,  
Shown for the dead your care, and ye shall find,
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ωστ' ἐνδίκως ὄφεσθε κἀμὲ σύμμαχον,
γη τῇ δὲ τιμωροῦντα τῷ θεῷ θ' ἄμα.
ὑπὲρ γὰρ οὐχὶ τῶν ἀπωτέρω φίλων,
ἀλλ' αὐτὸς αὐτοῦ, τούτ' ἀποσκεδῶ μῦσος.
δεικε, γὰρ ἂν ἔκεινον ὁ κταίνω τάχι ἄμ
κἀμι ἀν τοιαυτῇ χειρὶ τιμωρεῖν θέλω.
κείνῳ προσαρκὸν οὖν ἐμαυτὸν ὄφελῶ.
ἀλλ' ὡς τάχιστα, παῖδες, ὑμεῖς μὲν βιάρων
ἀστασθε, τούσδ' ἀραντες ἱκτηρας κλάδους,
ἀλλός δὲ Κάδμου λαὸν ὡς ἀθροιζέτω,
ὡς πᾶν ἐμοῦ δράσοντος. ἢ γὰρ εύτυχεις
σὺν τῷ θεῷ φανοῦμεθ', ἡ πεπτωκότες.

[Exeunt OEdipus et Creon.

ΙΕΡΕΥΣ.

ὡς παῖδες, ἱστώμεσθα. τῶνδε γὰρ χάριν.
καὶ δεῦρ' ἔρθημεν ἂν ὁδ' ἐξαγγελλείται.
Φοίβος δ' ὁ πέμψας τάδε μαντείας ἀμα
σωτήρ θ' ἱκοιτό καὶ νόσου πανοπτήριος.

[Exeunt supplices.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

περ. ἄ.

ὡς Δίος ἄνδεες Φάτη, τίς ποτε τὰς πολυχρύσους [Introit.

Πυθώνος ἀγλαῖς ἔβας
Θήβας; ἐκτέταμαι, φοβηρὰν φρένα δείματε πάλλων,
ἰηὲ Δάμε Παιάν,

ἀμφὶ σοὶ ἄξομενος, τὶ μοι ἢ νεὸν ἢ περιτελλομέναις
ἄραις πάλιν

ἐξανύσεις χρέος· εὑπέ μοι, ὡς χρυσέας τέκνων Ἐλπίδος, ἄμ-

βροτε Φάμα.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

As is most meet, in me a helper true,
Aiding at once my country and the God.
It is not for the sake of friends remote,
But for mine own, that I dispel this pest;
For he that slew him, whoso’er he be,
Will wish, perchance, with such a blow to smite
Me also. Helping him, I help myself.
And now, my children, rise with utmost speed
From off these steps, and raise your suppliant boughs;
And let another call my people here,
The race of Cadmus, and make known that I
Will do my taskwork to the uttermost:
So, as God wills, we prosper, or we fail.

[Oedipus and Creon go within.

PRIEST.
Rise then, my children, ’twas for this we came,
For these good tidings which those lips have brought,
And Phoebus, who hath sent these oracles,
Pray that He come to save, and heal our plague.

[Exeunt Priest and Suppliants, the latter taking their boughs from the altar and bearing them, as they march in procession.

Enter Chorus of Theban citizens, at the spectators’ right, from the city.

CHORUS.

O word of Zeus, glad-voiced, with what intent
From Pytho, bright with gold,
Cam’st thou to Thebes, our city of high fame?
For lo! I faint for fear,
Through all my soul I quiver in suspense,
(Hear, Io Paean! God of Delos, hear!)
In brooding dread, what doom, of present growth,
Or as the months roll on, thy hand will work;
Tell me, O deathless Voice, thou child of golden hope!
OIDIPUS TYRANNOS.

ἀντ. ἄ.

πρῶτα σε κεκλώμενος, θύγατερ Διός, ἄμβροτ' Ἀθάνα, γαιώχον τ' ἀδελφεῖν Ἄρτεμιν, ἢ κυκλόεντ' ἀγορᾶς θρόνον εύκλεα θύσσει, καὶ Φοῖβον ἐκαβόλοι, ἵω,

τρισοσι ἀλεξίμοροι προφάνητε μοι, ἐν ποτε καὶ προ-

tέρας ἄτας ὑπερ ὅρνυμένας πόλει ἡνύσατ' ἐκτοπίαν φλόγα πήματος, ἔλθετε καὶ νῦν.

στρ. β'.

ὁ πότοι, ἀνάρθιμα γὰρ φέρω

πήματα· νοσεῖ δέ μοι πρότας

στόλος, οὐδ' ἐνι φροντίδος ἕγχος

᾿ώ τις ἀλέξεται· οὔτε γὰρ ἐγκόνα

κλυτᾶς χθονὸς αὔξεται, οὔτε τόκωσιν

ὅην καμάτων ἀνέχουσι γυναῖκες·

ἄλλον ὅ ἀλλ' ἄλλης προσίδους, ἀπερ εὐπτερον ὅρων

κρείσσον ἀμαμακέτον πυρὸς ὀρμενον

ἀκτάν πρὸς ἐσπέρου θεοῦ.

ἀντ. β'.

ὅν πόλις ἀνάρθιμος ὀλλυται·

υηλέαι δὲ γενέθλα πρὸς πέδω

θανατοφώρα κείται ἀνωίκτως·

ἐν δ' ἄλοχοι τοιαῖ τ' ἐπὶ ματέρες

ἀκτάν παρὰ βωμὸν ἄλλοθεν ἄλλαι

λυγρῶν πόνων ἱκτήρες ἐπιστανέταιναν.

παιὰν δὲ λάμπει στονόσσα τε γῆρος ὀμαιλος·

ὅν ὑπερ, ὁ χρυσεὰ θύγατερ Διός,

εἰώσα πέμψον ἀλκαν·
OEDIPUS THE KING.

Antistrophe. I.

Thee first, Zeus-born Athena, thee I call,
Divine and deathless One,
And next thy sister, Goddess of our land,
Our Artemis, who sits,
Queen of our market, on encircled throne;
And Phoebus, the far-darter! O ye Three,
Shine on us, and deliver us from ill!
If e'er before, when storms of woe oppressed,
Ye stayed the fiery tide, O come and help us now!

Strophe. II.

Ah me, ah me, for sorrows numberless
Press on my soul;
And all the host is smitten, and our thoughts
Lack weapons to resist.
For increase fails of fruits of goodly earth,
And women sink in childbirth's wailing pangs,
And one by one, as flit
The swift-winged birds through air,
So, slitting to the shore of Him who dwells
Down in the darkling West,
Fleeter than mightiest fire,
Thou see'st them passing on.

Antistrophe. II.

Yea, numberless are they who perish thus;
And on the earth,
Still breeding plague, unpitied infants lie,
Cast out all ruthlessly;
And wives and mothers, gray with hoary age,
Some here, some there, by every altar mourn,
With woe and sorrow crushed,
And chant their wailing plaint.
Clear thrills the sense their solemn Paean cry,
And the sad anthem song;
Hear, golden child of Zeus,
And send us bright-eyed help.
ΣΩΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

οτρ. γ.

'Αρεά τε τον μαλερούν, δς υν άχαλκος ασπίδων
φλέγει με περιβόατος αντιμάζων,
παλάσσυτον δράμημα νοτίσαι πάτρας
αποσχουν, εύτ' εσ μέγαν θάλαμον 'Αμφιτρίτας,
εύτ' ες την απόξενων όρμων Θρήκιων κλώδωνα·
tέλει γάρ ει τι μυξ' ἀφῆ τούτ' ἐπ' ἠμαρ ἔρχεται·
tόν, ὡ τάν πυρφόρων ἀστραπάν κράτη νέμων,
ὡ Ζεύς πάτερ, ὑπὸ σφ' φθίσον κεραυνῷ.

ἀντ. γ.

Δύκει ἀναξ, τά τε σά χρυσοστρόφων ἀπ' ἀγκυλάν
βέλεα θέλομι ἄν υδάματ' ἐνδατείσθαι.
ἀρωγὰ προσταχθέντα, τάς' τε πυρφόρους
Ἀρτέμιδος αὐγας, ξυν αἷς Δύκι ὅρη διάσσει: [Introitu Ed.
τόν χρυσομίτραν τε κυκλήσκω τάσσ' ἐπώνυμον γάς,
oινότα Βάκχον εὐιον, Μανίδων ὀμόστολον
πελασθῆναι φλέγοντ' ἀγλαώπτυ σύμμαχον
πεύκα 'πι τὸν ἀπότιμον ἐν θεοὶς θεών.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΟΣ·

αίτεις· ἄ δ' αίτεις, τάμ' ἐαν θέλης ἐπη
κλώνν δέχεσθαι τῇ νόσῳ θ' ὑπηρετεῖν,
ἀληθὴν λάβοις ἀν κάνακούφισιν κακῶν·
ἀγὼ ξένος μὲν τοῦ λόγου τούτ' ἐξερῶ,
ξένος δ' τοῦ πραξιθέντος. οὐ γὰρ ἀν μακρῶν
ἐχθενον αὐτός, οὐκ ἔχων τι σύμβολον.
νῦν δ', ὕστερος γὰρ ἀστάς εἰς ἀστών τελῶ,
ὑμῖν προφωνῶ πάσιν Καδμείοις τάδε·
ὅστις ποθ' ύμῶν Δάιοι τὸν Δαβδάκον
OEDIPUS THE KING.

STROPH. III.
And Ares the destroyer drive away!
Who now, though hushed the din
Of brazen shield and spear,
With fiercest battle-cry
Wars on me mightily.
Bid him go back in flight,
Retreat from this our land,
Or to the ocean bed,
Where Amphitrite sleeps,
Or to that haven of the homeless sea
Which sweeps the Thracian shore.
If waning night spares aught,
That doth the day assail:
Do thou, then, Sire almighty,
Wielding the lightning's strength,
Blast him with thy dread fiery thunderbolts.

ANTISTROPH. III.
And thou, Lycian king, the wolf's dread foe,
Fain would I see thy darts
From out thy golden bow
Go forth invincible,
Helping and bringing aid;
And with them, winged with fire,
The rays of Artemis,
With which on Lycian hills
She moveth on her course.

[OEDIPUS enters.

And last, O golden-crowned, I call on thee,
Named after this our land,
Bacchus, all flushed with wine,
With clamor loud and long,
Wandering with Maenads wild,
Flashing with blazing torch,

Draw near against the God whom all the Gods disown.

OEDIPUS.
Thou prayest, and for thy prayers, if thou wilt hear
My words, and treat the dire disease with skill,
Thou shalt find help and respite from thy pain,—
My words, which I, a stranger to report,
A stranger to the deed, will now declare:
For I myself should fail to track it far,
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ:

κάτοικεν ἀνδρός ἐκ τίνος διώλετο,
τοῦτον κελεύω πάντα σημαίνειν ἐμοὶ·
κεὶ μὲν φοβεῖται, τούπικλημ' ὑπεξελὼν
αὐτὸς καθ' αὐτοῦ· πείσεται γὰρ ἄλλο μὲν
ἀστεργής οὐδὲν, γῆς δ' ἄπεισαν ἀσφαλής·
ei δ' αὐ τις ἀλλον οἶδεν ἐξ ἄλλης χθονος
τὸν αὐτόχειρα, μὴ σωπάτω· τὸ γὰρ
κέρδος τελῶ γω χῆ χάρις προσκείσεται.
ei δ' αὐ σωπήσεσθε, καὶ τις ἡ φίλου
δείσας ἀπώσει τοῦτος ἡ χαυτοῦ τόδε,
ἀκ τῶνδε δράσω, ταῦτα χρη κλίειν ἐμοὶ·
τὸν ἀνδρί' ἀπαυδὼ τοῦτον, ἂστις ἔστι, γῆς
τῆς', ἦς ἐγὼ κράτη τε καὶ θρόνοις νέμω,
μὴ ἐσδέχεσθαι μήτε προσφονεῖν τινα,
μὴ ἐν θεῶν εὔχασθε μήτε θύμασιν
cοινὸν ποιεῖσθαι, μήτε χέρνιβος νέμειν·
ἀθείν δ' ἀπ' οῖκων πάντας, ὡς μιᾶςματος
tοῦτ' ἡμῖν δοῦσι, ὡς τὸ Πυθικὸν θεόν
cαντεῖον ἐξέφηνεν ἀρτίως ἐμοί.
ἐγὼ μὲν οὖν τοιόσος τῷ τε δαιμονι.
τῷ τ' ἀνδρὶ τῷ βασιλεύτερόν πέλω·
κατεύχομαι δὲ τὸν δεδρακότ', εἰτε τις
εἰς ὅν λέληθην εἰτε πλειώνοις μέτα,
κακὸν κακὸς νῦν ἀμορον ἐκτρίψαι βίον.
ἐπευχομαι δ', οἰκουσίν εἰ ξινέσταιο
ἐν τοῖς ἐμοῖς γενέοιτ' ἐμοῦ συνειδότος,
παθεῖν ἄπερ τοῦτον ἀρτίως ἡρασάμην.
ὑμῶν δὲ ταῦτα πάντ' ἐπισκήπτω τελεῖν,
OEDIPUS THE KING.

Finding no trace to guide my steps aright.
But now, as I have joined you since the deed,
A citizen with citizens, I speak
To all the sons of Cadmus. Lives there one
Who knows of Laïus, son of Labdacus,
The hand that slew him; him I bid to tell
His tale to me; and should it chance he shrinks
From raking up the charge against himself,
Still let him speak; no heavier doom is his
Than to depart uninjured from the land;
Or, if there be that knows an alien arm
As guilty, let him hold his peace no more;
I will secure his gain and thanks beside.
But if ye hold your peace, if one through fear,
Or for himself, or friend, shall hide this thing,
What then I purpose let him hear from me.
That man I banish, whoso'er he be,
From out this land whose power and throne are mine;
And none may give him shelter, none speak to him,
Nor join with him in prayers and sacrifice,
Nor give him share in holy lustral stream;
But all shall thrust him from their homes, declared
Our curse and our pollution, as but now
The Pythian God's prophetic word has shown:
With acts like this, I stand before you here,
A helper to the God and to the dead.
All this I charge you do, for mine own sake,
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

υπέρ τ' ἐμαυτοῦ, τοῦ θεοῦ τε, τῆςδὲ τε γῆς ὡδ' ἀκάρπως κάθεως ἐφθαρμένης.
οὐδ' εἰ γὰρ ἦν τὸ πράγμα μὴ θείατον,
ἀκάθαρτον ὑμᾶς εἰκὸς ἦν οὕτως ἔαν,
ἀνδρὸς γ' ἀρίστου βασιλέως τ' ἀλωλότος,
ἀλλ' ἐξερευνῶν· νῦν δ' ἐπεὶ κυρῶ δ' ἔγω
ἐχων μὲν ἀρχας, ἃς ἐκείνος ἐχεὶ πρίν,
ἐχων δὲ λέγετα καὶ γνωσὶ' ὀμόσπορον,
καυνῶν τε παῖδων κοίν' ἀν, εὶ κείνῳ γένος
μὴ δυστύχησεν, ἦν ἂν ἐκπεφυκότα,
νῦν δ' ἐς τὸ κείνου κράτ' ἐνήλθαθ' ἢ τύχη.
ἀνθ' ὦν ἐγὼ τάξ', ὁσπερεὶ τούμον πατρός,
ὑπερμαχοῦμαι κατὶ πάντ' ἀφίξομαι,
ζητῶν τὸν αὐτόχειρα τοῦ φόνου λαβεῖν
τῷ Δαβδακείῳ παιδὶ Πολυδώρου τε καὶ
τοῦ πρόσθε Κάδμου τοῦ πάλαι τ' Ἀγήνωρος·
καὶ ταύτα τοῖς μὴ δρῶσιν εὐχομαι θεοῦς
μὴτ' ἄροτον αὐτοῖς γῆς ἀνίεναι τυά
μὴτ' οὖν γυναικῶν παῖδας, ἀλλὰ τῷ πότμῳ
τῷ νῦν φθερεῖσθαι κατὶ τοῦ τ' ἔχθιον·
ομίν δὲ τοῖς ἄλλοις Καδμείοις, ὅσοις
τάδ' ἐστ' ἄρεσκον', ἢ τε σύμμαχος Δῖκη
χοὶ τάντες εὐ ξυνείν εἰσαεὶ θεοὶ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ὡσπερ μ' ἀραίον ἔλαβες, ὡδ', ἀναξ', ἵππο.
οὔτ' ἐκταναν γὰρ οὔτε τὸν κτανόντ' ἔχω
δείξαι. τὸ δὲ ζήτημα τοῦ πέμψαντος ἦν
Φοίβου τὸν εἰπεῖν, ὅστις εἴργασταί ποτε.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

And for the God's, and for this land that pines
Barren and god-deserted. Wrong 'twould be
E'en if no voice from heaven had urged us on,
That ye should leave the stain of guilt uncleansed,
Your noblest chief, your king himself, being slain.
Yea, rather, seek and find. And since I reign,
Wielding the might his hand did wield before,
Filling his couch, and calling his wife mine,
Yea, and our offspring too, but for the fate
That fell on his, had grown in brotherhood;
But now an evil chance on his head swooped;
And therefore will I strive my best for him,
As for my father, and will go all lengths
To seek and find the murderer, him who slew
The son of Labdacus, and Polydore,
And earlier Cadmus, and Agenor old;
And for all those who hearken not, I pray
The Gods to give them neither fruit of earth,
Nor seed of woman, but consume their lives
With this dire plague, or evil worse than this.
And for the man who did the guilty deed,
Whether alone he lurks, or leagued with more,
I pray that he may waste his life away,
For vile deeds vilely dying; and for me,
If in my house, I knowing it, he dwells,
May every curse I spake on my head fall.
And you, the rest, the men from Cadmus sprung,
To whom these words approve themselves as good,
May righteousness befriend you, and the Gods,
In full accord, dwell with you evermore.

CHORUS.

Since thou hast bound me by a curse, O king,
I will speak thus. I neither slew the man,
Nor know who slew. To say who did the deed
Is quest for Him who sent us on the search.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

δίκαι' ἑλέξας· ἀλλ' ἀναγκῶςι θεοὺς
ἀν μὴ θέλωσιν οὐδ' ἄν εἰς δύνατ' ἄνηρ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τὰ δεύτερ' ἐκ τῶν ἂν λέγομι' ἀμοὶ δοκεῖ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

εἰ καὶ τρίτ' ἔστι, μὴ παρῆς τὸ μὴ οὐ φράσας.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἀνακτ' ἀνακτὶ ταῦθ' ὁρῶντ' ἐπίσταμαι
μᾶλλοντα Φοῖβῷ Τειρεσίαν, παρ' οὗ τις ἂν
σκοπῶν τάδ', ὅναξε, ἐκμάθου σαφέστατα.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐν ἅργοις οὐδὲ τοὺτ' ἐπραξάμην.
ἐπεμψα γὰρ Κρέοντος ἐπούντος διπλῶς
πομποῖς· πῦλαι δὲ μὴ παρὼν θαυμάζεται.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

καὶ μὴν τὰ γ' ἄλλα κωφά καὶ παλαί' ἔπη.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τὰ πολλὰ ταῦτα; πάντα γὰρ σκοπῶ λόγων.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

θανεῖν ἐλέξθη πρὸς τίνων ὁδοιπόρων.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἡκουσα κἂγώ· τὸν δ' ἰδόντ' οὐδεὶς ὁρᾷ.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

OEDIPUS.
Right well thou speak'st, but man's best strength must fail
To force the Gods to do the things they will not.
✓

CHORUS.
Fain would I speak the thoughts that second stand.

OEDIPUS.
Though there be third, shrink not from speaking out.

CHORUS.
One man I know, a prince, whose insight deep
Sees clear as princely Phoebus, and from him,
Teiresias, one might learn, O king, the truth.

OEDIPUS.
That too is done. No loiterer I in this,
For I, on Creon's hint, two couriers sent
To summon him, and wonder that he comes not.

CHORUS.
Old rumors are there also, dark and dumb.

OEDIPUS.
And what are they? I weigh the slightest word.

CHORUS.
'Twas said he died by some chance traveller's hand.

OEDIPUS.
I, too, heard that. But none the eye-witness sees.
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

άλλ' εἶ τι μὲν δὴ δειμάτων ἔχει μέρος,
tὰς σὺς ἀκούων οὐ μενεῖ τοιάσδ' ἀράς.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ὅ μή 'στι δρώντι τάφρος, οὐδ' ἔπος φοβεῖ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

άλλ' οὐξελέγχων αὐτῶν ἔστιν· οὐδὲ γὰρ
tὸν θείον ἥδη μάντιν ὁδὸ ἀγούσιν, ὃ
τάληθες ἐμπέφυκεν ἀνθρώπων μόνῳ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ὡ πάντα νομῶν Τειρεσία, διδακτά τε
ἀρρητά τ', οὐράνια τε καὶ χθονοστιβή, [Introit Tiresias.
πόλιν μέν, εἰ καὶ μὴ βλεπεῖς, φρονεῖς δ' ὅμως
οἷς νόσῳ σύνεστιν· ἃς σὲ προστάτην
σωτηρία τ', ὦναξ, μοῦνον ἔξευρισκομέν.
Φοῖβος γὰρ, εἰ καὶ μὴ κλείς τῶν ἁγγέλων,
πέμψασιν ἡμῖν ἀντέπεμψεν, ἐκλύσω
μόνην ἄν ἐλθεῖν τούδε τοῦ νοστῆματος,
eἰ τοὺς κταιόντας Δάιον μαθόντες εὐ
κτείνωμεν, ἢ γῆς φυγάδας ἐκπεμψαίμεθα.

σὺ δ' οὖν φθονήσας μῆτ' ἀπ' οἰωνῶν φάτων
μῆτ' εἰ τῶν ἀλλήν μαντικής ἔχεις ὤδον,
ῥῦσαι σεαυτὸν καὶ πόλιν, ῥῦσαι δ' ἐμὲ,
ῥῦσαι δὲ πᾶν μίασμα τοῦ τεθνηκότος.
ἐν σοὶ γὰρ ἐσμέν· ἀνδρα δ' ὀφελεῖν ἕφ' ὅν
ἔχοι τε καὶ δύναιτο κάλλιστος πόνων.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

CHORUS.
If yet his soul be capable of awe,
Hearing thy curses, he will shrink from them.

OEDIPUS.
Words fright not him, who doing, knows no fear.

CHORUS.
Well, here is one who'll put him to the proof.
For lo! they bring the seer inspired of God,
With whom alone, of all men, truth abides.

Enter TEIRESIAS at the right, blind, and guided by a boy.

OEDIPUS.
Teiresias! thou whose mind embraceth all,
Told or untold, of heaven or paths of earth;
Thou knowest, although thou see'st not, what a pest
Dwells on us, and we find in thee, O prince,
Our one deliverer, yea, our only help.
For Phoebus (if the couriers told thee not)
Sent back this word to us, who sent to ask,
That this one way was open to escape
From this fell plague, — if those who Laius slew,
We in our turn discovering should slay,
Or drive them forth as exiles from the land.
Thou, therefore, grudge not either sign from birds,
Or any other path of prophecy;
But save the city, save thyself, save me;
Save from the curse the dead has left behind;
On thee we hang. To use our means, our power,
In doing good, is noblest service owned.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

φεῦ φεῦ, φρονεῖν ὡς δεινὸν ἐνθα μὴ τέλη
λύῃ φρονοῦντι. ταῦτα γὰρ καλῶς ἐγὼ
εἰδὼς διώλεσ᾽ οὐ γὰρ ἂν δεῦρ᾽ ἱκόμην.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τί δ᾽ ἔστω; ὡς ἄθυμος ἐισελήλυθας.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

ἄφες μ᾽ ἐς οἶκον . ἡμάτα γὰρ τὸ σὸν τὲ σὺ
καὶ λάβῃ διοίσω τοῦμόν, ἢν ἐμοὶ πίθη.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

οὔτ' ἐνυομὶ εἶπας οὔτε προσφιλῆ πόλει
τῷ, ἤ σ᾽ ἐθρεψε, τῇδ᾽ ἀποστερῶν φάτων.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

ὁρῶ γὰρ οὐδὲ σοὶ τὸ σὸν φῶνημ᾽ ἵνα
πρὸς καρφῶν ὡς ὅλη ἡμὶ ἐγὼ ταῦτον πάθω —

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

μὴ πρὸς θεῶν φρονῶν γ᾽ ἀποστραφῆς, ἐπεὶ
πάντες σε προσκυνοῦμεν οὐδ᾽ ἱκτήριοι.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

πάντες γὰρ οὐ φρονεῖτ᾽. ἐγὼ δ᾽ οὐ μὴ ποτε
τὰμ᾽ ὡς ἂν εἶπο μὴ τὰ σ᾽ ἐκφήνῳ κακά.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τί φῆς; ἔνωδες οὐ φράσεις, ἀλλ᾽ ἐννοεῖς
ἡμᾶς προδοῦναι καὶ καταφθεῖραι πόλιν;
OEDIPUS THE KING.

TEIRESIAS.
Ah me! ah me! how dread is wisdom's gift
When no good issue waiteth on the wise!
I knew it all too well, and then forgot,
Or else I had not on this journey come.

OEDIPUS.
What means this? How despondingly thou com'st!

TEIRESIAS.
Let me go home! for thus thy lot shalt thou,
And I mine own, bear easiest, if thou yield.

OEDIPUS.
No loyal words thou speak'st, nor true to Thebes
Who reared thee, holding back this oracle.

TEIRESIAS.
I see thy lips speak words that profit not:
And lest I too a like fault should commit —

OEDIPUS.
Now, by the Gods, unless thy reason fails,
Refuse us not, who all implore thy help.

TEIRESIAS.
Ah! Reason fails you all, but ne'er will I
Say what thou bidd'st, lest I thy troubles show.

OEDIPUS.
What mean'st thou, then? Thou know'st and wilt not tell,
But wilt betray us, and the state destroy?
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

ἐγὼ οὖν ἔμαυτόν οὐτε σ’ ἄλγυνώ. τί ταύτ’ ἄλλως ἐλέγχεις; οὐ γὰρ ἂν πῦθοι μου.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

οὖκ, ὥς κακῶν κάκιστε, καὶ γὰρ ἂν πέτρον φύσιν σὺ γ’ ὅργανείας, ἐξερεισ ποτέ, ἀλλ’ ὡς ἂν τεκνοῦ κατελεύτητος φανεί;

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

ὁργὴν ἐμέμψω τὴν ἐμὴν, τὴν σῆν δ’ ὁμοῦ ναίουσαν οὐ κατείδες, ἀλλ’ ἐμὲ ψέγεις.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

τίς γὰρ τοιαῦτ’ ἂν οὐκ ἂν ὅργιζοντ’ ἐπὶ κλών, ἄ νῦν σὺ τὴν ἀτιμάζεις πόλιν;

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

ἃξει γὰρ αὐτά, κἂν ἐγὼ σιγῆ στέγω.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

οὐκ ἂν πέρα φράσασιμ. πρὸς τάδ’, εἰ θέλεις, θυμοῦ δ’ ὁργῆς ἤτις ἀγρωτάτη.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

καὶ μὴν παρῆσον γ’ οὐδέν, ὡς ὁργῆς ἔχω, ἀπερ ἔσει. ἵπτη γὰρ δοκῶν ἐμοὶ καὶ ἐξαφυτεύσας τοῦργον, εἰργάσθαι θ’, ὅσον μὴ χερσὶ καίνων. εἰ δ’ ἐτύγχανε βλέπων, καὶ τοῦργον ἂν σοῦ τούτ’ ἔφην εἶναι μόνου.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

TEIRESIAS.
I will not pain myself nor thee. Why, then,
All vainly question? Thou shalt never know.

OEDIPUS.
Oh, basest of the base! (for thou would'st stir
A heart of stone) and wilt thou never tell,
But still abide relentless and unmoved?

TEIRESIAS.
My mood thou blamest, but thou dost not know
What dwelleth with thee while thou chidest me.

OEDIPUS.
And who would not feel anger, hearing words
Like those with which thou dost the state insult?

TEIRESIAS.
Well! come they will, though I should hold my peace.

OEDIPUS.
If come they must, thy duty is to speak.

TEIRESIAS.
I speak no more. So, if thou wilt, rage on,
With every mood of wrath most desperate.

OEDIPUS.
Yes; I will not refrain, so fierce my wrath,
From speaking all my thought. I think that thou
Did'st plot the deed, and do it, though the blow
Thy hands, it may be, dealt not. Had'st thou seen,
I would have said it was thy deed alone.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

άληθες; ἐννέπω δὲ τῷ κηρύγματι
φότερ προεῖπας ἐμμένειν, καθ' ἡμέρας
tῆς νῦν προσαυδᾶν μήτε τούσδε μήτ' ἐμέ,
ός ὤντι γῆς τῆς ἀνοσίας μιᾶς τοις.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

οὗτος ἀναίδως ἔξεκινήσας τόδε
tὸ ρήμα; καὶ ποὺ τούτο φεύξεσθαι δοκεῖς;

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

πέφευγα· τάληθες γὰρ ἵσχυον τρέφω.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

πρὸς τοῦ διδαχθεῖς; οὐ γὰρ ἐκ γε τῆς τέχνης.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

πρὸς σοῦ· σὺ γὰρ μὴ ἄκοντα προὔτρέψω λέγειν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ποῖον λόγον; λέγ' αὕτης, ὡς μᾶλλον μάθω.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

οὐχὶ ξυνήκας πρόσθεν; ἢ ἱπτερὰ λόγορ;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

οὐχὶ δόστε γ' ἐπιτείν γνωστόν· ἀλλ' αὕτης φράσον.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

φονέα σὲ φῆμι τάνδρος οὐ ζητεῖς κυρεῖν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἀλλ' οὐ τι χαίρων δίς γε τημονας ἐρεῖς.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

TEIRESIAS.
And has it come to this? I charge thee, hold
To thy late edict, and from this day forth
Speak not to me, nor yet to these, for thou,
Thou art the accursed plague-spot of the land.

OEDIPUS.
Art thou so shameless as to vent such words,
And dost thou think to 'scape scot-free for this?

TEIRESIAS.
I have escaped. The strength of truth is mine.

OEDIPUS.
Who prompted thee? This comes not from thine art.

TEIRESIAS.
'Twas thou. Thou mad'st me speak against my will.

OEDIPUS.
What say'st thou? Speak again, that I may know.

TEIRESIAS.
Did'st thou not know before? Or dost thou try me?

OEDIPUS.
I could not say I knew it. Speak again.

TEIRESIAS.
I say thou art the murderer whom thou seek'st.

OEDIPUS.
Thou shalt not twice revile, and go unharmed.
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

εἶπω τι δήτα κάλλ', ἦν ὀργίζη πλέον;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

όσον γε χρήζεις· ὧς μάθην εἰρήσεται.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

λεληθέναι σὲ φημι σὺν τοῖς φιλτάτοις
αἰσχυσθ' ὀμιλοῦντ', οὔδ' ὅραν ἦν εἰ κακοῦ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἡ καὶ γεγηθῶς ταῦτ' ἄει λέξειν δοκεῖς;

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

εἶπερ τι γ' ἔστι τῆς ἀληθείας σθένος.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἀλλ' ἔστι, πλὴν σοὶ· σοὶ δὲ τοῦτ' οὐκ ἔστ', ἐπεὶ ὑπὸ τυφλὸς τὰ τ' ὡτα τὸν τε νοῦν τὰ τ' ὀμματ' εἰ.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

οὐ δ' ἄθλιος γε ταῦτ' ὀνειδίζων, ἃ σοὶ
οὐδεὶς ὃς οὐχὶ τῶν ὀνειδεῖ τάχα.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

μιᾶς τρέφει πρὸς νυκτός, ὅστε μὴν ἐμὲ
μὴν ἄλλων, ὅστις φῶς ὄρα, βλάψαι ποτ' ἂν.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

οὖ γὰρ σε μοίρα πρὸς ἦ' ἐμοὶ πεσεῖν, ἐπεὶ
ἰκανὸς Ἀπόλλων, ὃ τὰῦτ' ἐκπράξαι μέλει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

Κρέοντος, ἥ σοῦ ταῦτα τάξευρήματα;
OEDIPUS THE KING.

TEIRESIAS.
And shall I tell thee more to stir thy rage?

OEDIPUS.
Say what thou pleasest. 'Twill be said in vain.

TEIRESIAS.
I say that thou, in vilest intercourse
With those that dearest are, dost blindly live,
Nor see'st the depth of evil thou hast reached.

OEDIPUS.
And dost thou think to say these things unscathed?

TEIRESIAS.
I doubt it not, such might there is in truth.

OEDIPUS.
That might is not for thee; thou can'st not claim it,
Blind in thine ears, thy reason, and thine eyes.

TEIRESIAS.
How wretched thou, thus hurling this reproach!
Such, all too soon, will all men hurl at thee.

OEDIPUS.
In one long night thou liv'st, and can'st not hurt,
Or me, or any man who sees the light.

TEIRESIAS.
'Tis not thy doom to owe thy fall to me;
Apollo is enough, be His the task.

OEDIPUS.
Are these devices Creon's, or thine own?
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

Κρέων δὲ σοι πὴμ᾽ οὐδέν, ἀλλ᾽ αὐτὸς σοὶ σοὶ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ὡς πλούτε καὶ τυραννὶ καὶ τέχνη τέχνης
ὑπερφέρονσα τῷ πολυζήλῳ βίῳ,
ὅσοι παρ᾽ ὑμῖν ὁ φόνος φυλάσσεται,
εἰ τὴσδὲ γ᾽ ἄρχης οὖνεχ', ὡς ἐμοὶ πόλεις
dωρητῶν, οὐκ αὐτητόν, εἰσεχείρετε,
ταύτης Κρέων ὁ πιστός, οὐκ ἄρχης φίλος,
λάθρα μ᾽ ὑπελθὼν ἐκβαλεῖν ὑμεῖρεται,
ὑφεῖς μάγον τοιόνδε μηχανορράφον,
δόλων ἀγυρτήν, ὅστις ἐν τοῖς κέρδεσιν
μόνον δέδορκε, τὴν τέχνην δ᾽ ἐφ᾽ τυφλὸς.
ἐπεί, φέρ᾽ εἰπέ, ποῦ σὺ μάντις εἰ σαφῆς ὁ
πῶς οὐχ, ὡς ἡ ῥαψοδὸς ἐνθὰδ᾽ ἴδων κύων,
ηύδας τι τοῖσδ᾽ ἀστοῖσῳ ἐκλυτήριον;
καίτοι τὸ γ᾽ αἰνιγμ᾽ οὖχ τοιποῖατο ἴδων
ἀνδρὸς διειπτεῖν, ἀλλὰ μαντελάς ἔδει.
ὁμον όυτ᾽ ἀπ᾽ οἰωνῶν σὺ προοψάνθης ἔχων
οὐτ᾽ ἐκ θεῶν τοῦ γνωτόν· ἀλλ᾽ ἔγὼ μολὼν,
ὁ μηδὲν εἰδὼς Οἰδίποις, ἔπαισά μν, ὑμῶν
κυρήσας οὔτ᾽ ἀπ᾽ οἰωνῶν μαθῶν ὅ
ἀν δὴ σὺ πειράς ἐκβαλεῖν, δοκῶς τρόνοις
παραστατήσειν τοῖς Κρεοτέιοις τέλας.
κλαιὼν δοκεῖσ ἡμοὶ καὶ σὺ χῶ συνδεῖς τάδε
ἀγηλατήσειν· εἰ δὲ μὴ δόκεις γέρων
ἐλναι, παθῶν ἐγνως ἀν οἶα περ ὕπονει.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

TEIRESIAS.
It is not Creon harms thee, but thyself.

OEDIPUS.

O wealth, and sovereignty, and noblest skill
Surpassing skill in life so envy-fraught,
How eat the ill-will dogging all your steps!
If for the sake of kingship, which the state
Hath given, unasked for, freely in mine hands,
Creon the faithful, found my friend throughout,
Now seeks with masked attack to drive me forth.
And hires this wizard, plotter of foul schemes,
A vagrant mountebank, whose sight is clear
For pay alone, but in his art stone-blind.
Is it not so? When wast thou true seer found?
Why, when the monster with her song was here,
Spak'st thou no word our countrymen to help?
And yet the riddle lay above the ken
Of common men, and called for prophet's skill.
And this thou show'dst thou had'st not, nor by bird,
Nor any God made known; but then I came,
I, Oedipus, who nothing know, and slew her,
With mine own counsel winning, all untaught
By flight of birds. And now thou would'st expel me,
And think'st to take thy stand by Creon's throne.
But, as I think, both thou and he that plans
With thee, will hunt this mischief to your cost;
And but that I must think of thee as old,
Thou had'st learnt wisdom, suffering what thou plann'st.
ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ημίν μὲν εἰκάζουσι καὶ τὰ τοῦ ἔπη
ἀργὴ λελέχθαι καὶ τὰ σ’, Ὑιδότου, δοκεῖ.
δεῖ δ’ ὦ τοιοῦτων, ἀλλ’ ὅπως τὰ τοῦ θεοῦ
μαντεῖ ἁριστα λύσομεν, τόδε σκοπέω.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

εἰ καὶ τυραννεῖς, ἔξισωτέον τὸ γοὺν
ἐσ’ ἀντιλέξαι· τοῖδε γὰρ κἀγὼ κρατῶ.
οὐ γὰρ τι σοι ἐξω δοῦλος, ἀλλὰ Δοξία.
ἀστ’ ὦ Κρέοντος προστάτου γεγράψομαι.
λέγω δ’, ἐπειδὴ καὶ τυφλὸν μ’ ἀνείδισας,
σὺ καὶ δέδορκας κοι βλέπεις ἵν’ εἰ κακοῦ,
οὐδ’ ἐνθα ναιεῖς, οὐδ’ ὅτων οἰκεῖς μέτα,
—ἀρ’ οἶσθ’ ἄφ’ ὄν εἰ;—καὶ λέληθας ἔχθρός ὁν
τοὺς σοίσιν αὐτοῦ νίρθε κατὶ γῆς ἄνω,
καὶ σ’ ἀμφιπλήξ μητρὸς τε καὶ τού σοῦ πατρὸς
ἐλ’ ποτ’ ἐκ γῆς τήσδε δεινόσεις ἄρα,
βλέποντα νῦν μὲν ὡρθ’, ἔπειτα δὲ σκότον.
βοήσε δε τῆς σῆς ποίος οὖκ ἔσται λιμόν,
ποίος Κιθαιρῶν οὐχὶ σύμφωνος τάχα,
ὅταν καταίσθῃ τὸν ὑμέναιον, ὃν δόμοις
ἀνορμον εἰςέπλευσας, εὐπλοίας τυχόν;
ἄλλων δὲ πλήθος οὖν ἐπαισθάνει κακῶν,
ἀ’ σ’ ἔξισώσει σοὶ τε καὶ τοῖς σοῖς τέκνοις.
πρὸς ταύτα καὶ Κρέοντα καὶ τούμον στόμα
προπηλάκισε. σοῦ γὰρ οὖν ἔστων βροτῶν
κάκων ὅστις ἐκτριβῆσταί ποτε.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

CHORUS.
Far as we dare to guess, we think his words,
And thine, O Oedipus, in wrath are said.
Not such as these we need, but this to see,
How best to solve the God's great oracles.

TEIRESIAS.
King though thou be, I claim an equal right
To make reply. That power, at least, is mine:
For I am not thy slave, but Loxias';
Nor shall I stand on Creon's patronage:
And this I say, since thou my blindness mock'st,
That thou, though seeing, failest to perceive
Thy evil plight, nor where thou liv'st, nor yet
With whom thou dwell'st. Know'st thou even this,
Whence thou art sprung? All ignorant thou sinn'st
Against thine own, beneath, and on the earth:
And soon a two-edged Curse from sire and mother,
With foot of fear, shall chase thee forth from us,
Now seeing all things clear, then all things dark.
And will not then each creek repeat thy wail,
Each valley of Cithaeron echoing ring,
When thou discern'st the marriage, fatal port,
To which thy prosp'rous voyage brought thy bark?
And other ills, in countless multitude,
Thou see'st not yet, shall make thy lot as one
With sire's and child's. Vent forth thy wrath then loud,
On Creon and my speech. There lives not man
Whose life shall waste more wretchedly than thine.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
η ταύτα δὴ ἀνέκτα πρὸς τούτου κλύειν;
οὐκ εἰς ὀλέθρον; οὐχὶ θάσσου; οὐ πάλιν
ἀψορροφος οἶκων τῶν ἀποστραφεῖς ἄπει;

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.
οὐδ’ ἰκόμην ἔγωγ’ ἄν, εἰ σὺ μὴ ’κάλεις.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
οὐ γάρ τι σ’ ἦδη μῶρα φωνήσουτ’, ἐπεὶ
σχολῇ σ’ ἄν οἰκοὺς τοῦς ἐμοὺς ἐστειλάμην.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.
ἡμεῖς τοιοῦτ’ ἐφυμεν, ὡς μὲν σοι δόκει,
μῶροι, γονεῦσι δ’, οἱ σ’ ἐφυσαν, ἔμφρονες.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ποίοισι; μεῖνον. τίς δέ μ’ ἐκφύει βροτῶν;

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.
ἡ δ’ ἠμέρα φύσει σε καὶ διαφθερεῖ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ὡς πάντ’ ἄγαν αἰνικτὰ κάσαφῃ λέγεις.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.
οῖκουν σὺ ταύτ’ άριστος εὐρίσκειν ἐφυς;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
τοιαῦτ’ ὁνείδις’, οἰς ἔμ’ εὐρήσεις μέγαν.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.
αὕτη γε μέντοι σ’ ἡ τύχη διώλεσεν.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

OEDIPUS.

Can this be longer borne! Away with thee! A curse light on thee! Wilt thou not depart? Wilt thou not turn and from this house go back?

TEIRESIAS.

I had not come, had'st thou not called me here.

OEDIPUS.

I knew not thou would'st speak so foolishly, Else I had hardly fetched thee to my house.

TEIRESIAS.

We then, so seems it thee, are fools from birth, But, unto those who gave thee birth, seem wise.

[Turns to go.

OEDIPUS.

What? Stay thy foot. What mortal gave me birth?

TEIRESIAS.

This day shall give thy birth, and work thy doom.

OEDIPUS.

What riddles dark and dim thou lov'st to speak.

TEIRESIAS.

Yes. But thy skill excels in solving such.

OEDIPUS.

Scoff thou at that in which thou'llt find me strong.

TEIRESIAS.

And yet this same success has worked thy fall.
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
άλλη εἰ πόλιν τήνο ἐξέσω', οὐ μοι μέλει.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.
ἀπειμ μοι νυνν· καὶ σὺ, παῖ, κόμιζέ με.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
κομίζετω δὴθ'· ὡς παρῶν σὺ γ' ἐμποδῶν ὦχλείς, συνείς τ' ἀν οὐκ ἀν ἀλγύναις πλέον.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.
ἐίπον ἀπειμ' ὃν οὖνεκ' ἤλθον, οὐ τό σὸν δείσας πρόσωπον· οὐ γὰρ ἐσθ' ὡποι μ' ὀλείς. λέγω δὲ σοι, τὸν ἄνδρα τούτον, ἵνα πάλαι ξητείς ἀπειλῶν κανακρύσσων φόνον τὸν Δαέων, οὗτος ἔστιν ἐνθάδε,

ξένος λόγφ μέτοικος, ἐίτα δ' ἐγγενής

φανήσεται Θηβαῖος, υἱὸς ἰαθήσεται

τῇ ξυμφορᾷ· τυφλὸς γὰρ ἐκ δεδορκότος καὶ πτωχὸς ἀντὶ πλουσίου ξένην ἐπι

σκήπτρῳ προδεικνὺς γαῖαν ἐμπορεύσεται.

φανήσεται δὲ παῖι τοῖς αὐτοῖς ξυμνῶν ἀδελφὸς αὐτὸς καὶ πατήρ, καθ' ἦς ἐφι γνώσικος νῦς καὶ πόσις, καὶ τοῦ πατρὸς ὁμόσπορος τε καὶ φονεύς. καὶ ταῦτ' ἱον εἶσο λογίζου· κἂν λάβῃς ἐφευρομένου,

φάσκειν ἐμ' ἢδη μαντικῇ μηδὲν φρονεῖν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

στρ. ἂ.

τὰς ὄντιν' ἄ θεσπισθεὶα Δελφὶς εἶπε πέτρα ἀρρητ' ἀρρήτων τελέσαντα φοινίαςι χερσίν;
OEDIPUS THE KING.

OEDIPUS.
I little care, if I have saved the state.

TEIRESIAS.
Well, then, I go. Do thou, boy, lead me on!

OEDIPUS.
Let him lead on. Most hateful art thou near; Thou can'st not pain me more when thou art gone.

TEIRESIAS.
I go, then, having said the things I came To say. No fear of thee compels me. Thine Is not the power to hurt me. And I say, This man whom thou dost seek with hue-and-cry, As murderer of Laius, he is here, In show an alien sojourner, but in truth A homeborn Theban. No delight to him Will that discovery bring. Blind, having seen, Poor, having rolled in wealth,—he, with a staff Feeling his way, to a strange land shall go! And to his sons shall he be seen at once Father and brother, and of her who bore him Husband and son, sharing his father's bed, His father's murd'rer. Go thou then within And brood o'er this, and, if thou find'st me fail, Say that my skill in prophecy is gone.

[OEDIPUS goes within; TEIRESIAS retires to the City.

CHORUS.

Strophe 1.

Who was it that the rock oracular
Of Delphi spake of, working
OIDIPOUS TYRANNOS.

όρα νῦν ἀελλάδων
ἵπτων σθεναρότερον
φυγὰ πόδα νωμᾶν.

ἐνοπλος γὰρ ἐπ’ αὐτῶν ἐπενθρώσκει
πυρὶ καὶ στέροπαίς ὁ Δίος γενέτας.

δεινὰ δ’ ἂμ’ ἔπονται Κῆρες ἀναπλάκητοι.

ἀντ. ᾽α.

ἐλαμψε γὰρ τοῦ νυφόντος ἀρτίως φανεῖσα
φάμα Παρνασοῦ τὸν ἄδηλον ἄνδρα πάντ’ ἱχνεύειν.

φοιτά γὰρ ὑπ’ ἀγρίαν
ὕλαν ἀνά τ’ ἄντρα καὶ
πετραῖος ὁ ταύρος,

μέλεος μελέω ποτὶ χρηείων,
tὰ μεσόμφαλα γὰς ἀπονοσφίζουν
μαντεία· τὰ δ’ ἂεὶ ξύντα περιποτᾶται.

στρ. β’.

δεινὰ μὲν οὖν, δεινὰ ταράσσει σοφὸς οἰωνοθέτας
οὔτε δοκοῦντ’ οὔτ’ ἀποφάσκονθ’· τὸ τε λέξω δ’ ἀπορῶ.

πέτομαι δ’ ἐλπίσων οὔτ’ ἐνθύδ’ ὄρθων οὔτ’ ὕπισω.
tὶ γὰρ ἡ Δαβδακίδας
ἡ τὸν Πολύβου νεῖκος ἔκει’ οὔτε πάροιθεν ποτ’ ἐγώ’ οὔτε

ταῦτα πω 480

ἐμαθὼν, πρὸς ὅτου χρησάμενος δὴ βασάνῳ
ἐπὶ τὰν ἐπίδαμον
φάτων εἰμ’ Οἰδιπόδα Δαβδακίδας ἐπίκουρος ἄδηλων θανά-
tων. 485

ἀντ. β’.

ἀλλ’ ὁ μὲν οὖν Ζεὺς ὁ τ’ Ἀπόλλων ξυνετοὶ καὶ τὰ βροτῶν
OEDIPUS THE KING.

With bloody hands of all dread deeds most dread?
   Time is it now for him,
Swifter than fastest steed to bend his flight;
   For, in full armor clad,
   Upon him darts, with fire
And lightning flash, the radiant Son of Zeus,
   And with Him come in train
The dread and awful Powers,
The Destinies that fail not of their aim.

ANTISTROPH. I.

For from Parnassus' heights, enwreathed with snow,
   Gleaming, but now there shone
The oracle that bade us, one and all,
   Track the unnamed, unknown;
For, lo! he wanders through the forest wild;
   In caves and over rocks,
   As strays the mountain bull,
In dreary loneliness with dreary tread,
   Seeking in vain to shun
   Dread words from central shrine;
Yet they around him hover, full of life.

STROPH. II.

Fearfully, fearfully the augur moves me,
   Nor answering, ay nor no!
And what to say I know not, but float on,
   And hover still in hopes,
And fail to scan things present or to come.
   For not of old, nor now,
Learnt I what cause of strife at variance set
   The old Labdakid race
With him, the child and heir of Polybus,
   Nor can I test the tale,
And take my stand against the well-earned fame
   Of Oedipus, my lord,
As champions of the old Labdakid race,
   For deaths obscure and dark!

ANTISTROPH. II.

For Zeus and King Apollo, they are wise,
   And know the hearts of men:
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

eιδότες· ἄνδρών δ' ὅτι μάντις πλέον ἡ 'γω φέρεται,
κρίσις όυκ ἔστιν ἀληθῆς· σοφίας δ' ἄν σοφίαν
παραμείψειεν ἀντίρο.
ἀλλ' οὔποτ' ἐγών' ἂν, πρὶν ἱδομ' ὀρθὸν ἔπος, μεμφομένων
ἀν καταφαίην. 505

φανερὰ γὰρ ἐπ' αὐτῷ πτερόεσσ' ἦλθε κόρα
ποτὲ, καὶ σοφὸς ὄφθη

βασάνῳ θ' ἀδύνασί· τῷ ἀπ' ἐμᾶς φρενὸς οὔποτ' ὀφλῆσει
κακίαν. 510

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἀνδρες πολίται, δείν ἐπὶ πεπυσμένος [Introit.
κατηγορεῖν μου τὸν τύραννον Οἴδίπουν
πάρεμι' ἀτλητῶν. εἰ γὰρ ἐν ταῖς ξυμφοραῖς
taĩs vûn vomízei prós y' émuo pepoutheiēn

λόγοισιν εἰτ' ἐργοισιν εἰς βλάβην φέρον,
οὔτοι βλου μοι τοῦ μακραίωνος πόθος,

φέροντι τήνδε βάξιν. οὐ γὰρ εἰς ἀπλοῦν

ἡ ξημία μοι τοῦ λόγου τούτου φέρει,
ἀλλ' εἰς μέγιστον, εἰ κακὸς μὲν ἐν πόλει,

κακὸς δὲ πρὸς σου καὶ φίλων κεκλήσομαι.
XOPROS.

ἀλλ' ἦλθε μὲν ὅτι τούτο τούνειδος τὰχ' ἄν

ὀργῇ βιασθὲν μᾶλλον ἡ γνώμη φρενών.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

τοῦ πρὸς δ' ἐφάνθη ταῖς ἐμαῖς γνώμαις ὅτι

πεισθεῖς ὃ μάντις τοὺς λόγους ψευδεῖς λέγοι;

XOPROS.

ηὐδâτο μὲν τάδ', οἶδα δ' οὐ γνώμη τίν.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

But that a seer excelleth me in skill,
This is no judgment true;
And one man may another's wisdom pass,
By wisdom higher still.
I, for my part, before the word is plain,
Will ne'er assent in blame.
Full clear, the wingèd Maiden-monster came
Against him, and he proved,
By sharpest test, that he was wise indeed,
By all the land beloved,
And never, from my heart at least, shall come
Words that accuse of guilt.

CREON.

[Enters at the right from the City.]
I come, ye citizens, as having learnt
Our sovereign, Oedipus, accuses me
Of dreadful things I cannot bear to hear.
For if, in these calamities of ours,
He thinks he suffers wrongly at my hands,
In word or deed, aught tending to his hurt,
I set no value on a life prolonged,
While this reproach hangs on me; for its harm
Affects not slightly, but is direst shame,
If through the town my name as villain rings,
By thee and by my friends a villain called.

CHORUS.
But this reproach, it may be, came from wrath
All hasty, rather than from calm, clear mind.

CREON.
And who informed him that the seer, seduced
By my devices, spoke his lying words?

CHORUS.
The words were said, but with what mind I know not.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἐξ ὁμμάτων δὲ ὅρθῶν τε καὶ ὅρθης φρενὸς κατηγορεῖτο τοῦπίκλημα τούτο μου;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

οὐκ οἶδ' ᾧ γὰρ δρῶσ' οἱ κρατοῦντες οὐχ ὅρῳ.

αὐτὸς δ' ὅδ' ἦδη δωμάτων ἐξὼ περᾷ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΗΣ.

οὗτος σὺ, πῶς δεῦρ' ἤλθες; ἢ τοσοῦτ' ἔχεις τόλμησ πρόσωπον ὡστε τὰς ἐμὰς στέγας ἣκου, φονεύς ὅν τοῦδε τάνδρος ἐμφανῶς ληστής τ' ἑιμαργῆς τῆς ἐμῆς τυραννίδος;

φέρ' εἰπὲ πρὸς θεῶν, δειλίαν ἡ μωρίαν ἱδὼν τιν' ἐν ἐμοὶ ταῦτ' ἐβουλεύσω ποιεῖν;

ἡ τοῦργον ὡς οὐ γνωρίσομί σου τόδε δόλω προσέρπον κοῦκ ἀλεξοίμην μαθῶν;

ἀρ' οὐχὶ μῶρών ἔστι τοῦχειρήμα σου,

ἄνευ τε πλήθους καὶ φίλων τυραννίδα θηρᾶν, ὅ πλῆθες χρήμασίν θ' ἀλίσκεται;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

οἰσθ' ὡς ποίησον; ἀντὶ τῶν εἰρημένων ἵστ' ἀντάκουσον, κατὰ κρῖν' αὐτὸς μαθῶν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΗΣ.

λέγειν σὺ δεινός, μανθάνειν δ' ἐγώ κακὸς σοῦ· δυσμενὴ γὰρ καὶ βαρῶν σ' εὔρηκ' ἐμοί.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

τοῦτ' αὐτὸ νῦν μου πρῶτ' ἀκούσον ὡς ἑρῶ.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

CREON.
And was it with calm eyes, and judgment calm,
This charge was brought against my name and fame?

CHORUS.
I cannot say. To what our rulers do
I close my eyes. But here he comes himself.

OEDIPUS.

[Enters.]
Ho, there! is't thou? And does thy boldness soar
So shameless as to come beneath my roof,
When thou, 'tis clear, dost plot against my life,
And seek'st to rob me of my sovereignty?
Is it, by all the Gods, that thou hast seen
Or cowardice or folly in my soul,
That thou hast laid thy plans? Or thoughttest thou
That I should neither see thy sinuous wiles,
Nor, knowing, ward them off? This scheme of thine,
Is it not wild, backed nor by force nor friends,
To seek the power which force and wealth must grasp?

CREON.

Dost know what thou wilt do? For words of thine
Hear like words back, and as thou hearest, judge.

OEDIPUS.

Cunning of speech art thou. B. I am slow
Of thee to learn, whom I have found my foe.

CREON.

Of this, then, first, hear what I have to speak —
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΕ.

τούτ’ αὐτὸ μὴ μοι φράζ’, ἵπτως οὐκ εἶ κακὸς.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ei τοι νομίζεις κτῆμα τὴν αὐθαδίαν
eiναὶ τι τοῦ νοῦ χωρίς, οὐκ ὀρθῶς φρονεῖς.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΕ.

ei τοι νομίζεις ἄνδρα συγγενῆ κακῶς
dρῶν οὐχ υφέζειν τὴν δίκην, οὐκ εὖ φρονεῖς.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ξύμφημι σοι ταῦτ’ ἕνδικ’ εἰρήσθαι· τὸ δὲ
πάθημ’ ὁποῖον φῆς παθεῖν δίδασκε με.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΕ.

ἐπειθεῖς, ἢ οὐκ ἐπειθεῖς, ὡς χρείη μ’ ἐπὶ
tὸν σεμνὸμαντιν ἄνδρα πέμψασθαι τίνα;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

καὶ νῦν ἐβ’ αὐτὸς εἴμι τῷ βουλεύματι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΕ.

πόσον τιν’ ἥδη δῆθ’ ὁ Λαῖος χρόνον—

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

dεδρακε ποῖον ἔργον; οὐ γὰρ ἐνυσό.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΕ.

ἄφαντος ἔρρει θανασίμοις χειρόματι;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

μακροὶ παλαιοὶ τ’ ἀν μετρηθείεν χρόνοι.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

OEDIPUS.
But this, then, say not, that thou art not vile.

CREON.
If that thou thinkest self-willed pride avails,
Apart from judgment, know thou art not wise.

OEDIPUS.
If that thou think'st, thy kinsman injuring,
To do it unchastised, thou art not wise.

CREON.
In this, I grant, thou speakest right; but tell,
What form of injury hast thou to endure?

OEDIPUS.
Did'st thou, or did'st thou not, thy counsel give,
Some one to send to fetch this reverend seer?

CREON.
And even now by that advice I hold!

OEDIPUS.
How long a time has passed since Laius chanced —

CREON.
Chanced to do what? I understand not yet.

OEDIPUS.
Since he was smitten with the deadly blow?

CREON.
The years would measure out a long, long tale.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΕ.

τότ' οὖν ὁ μάντις οὗτος ἦν ἐν τῇ τέχνῃ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

σοφός γ' ὁμοίως καὶ ἵσον τιμώμενος.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΕ.

ἐμνήσθατ' οὖν ἐμοῦ τι τῷ τότ' ἐν χρόνῳ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

οὔκον ἐμοῦ γ' ἐστῶτος οὐδαμοῦ πέλας.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΕ.

ἀλλ' οὐκ ἔρευναν τοῦ θεανότος ἔσχετε;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

παρέσχομεν, πῶς δ' οὐχί; καὶ ηκούσαμεν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΕ.

πῶς οὖν τόθ' οὗτος ὁ σοφός οὔκ ἡδα τάδε;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

οὐκ ὁδ' ἐφ' οἷς γὰρ μὴ φρονῶ συγὰν φιλῶ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΕ.

τοσόνδε γ' οἷσθα καὶ λέγοις ἀν εὖ φρονῶν.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ποῖον τόθ'; εἰ γὰρ οὗδ' γ', οὐκ ἀρνήσομαι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΕ.

ὄθεινεκ', εἰ μὴ σοι ξύνηλθε, τὰς ἐμὰς

οὖκ ἂν ποτ' εἶπε Δαῖος διαφθορᾶς.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

OEDIPUS.
And was this seer then practising his art?

CREON.
Full wise as now, and equal in repute.

OEDIPUS.
Did he at that time say a word of me?

CREON.
Not one, while I, at any rate, was by.

OEDIPUS.
What? Held ye not your quest upon the dead?

CREON.
Of course we held it, but we nothing heard.

OEDIPUS.
How was it he, this wise one, spoke not then?

CREON.
I know not, and, not knowing, hold my peace.

OEDIPUS.
Thy deed thou know'st, and with clear mind could'st speak!

CREON.
What is't? I'll not deny it, if I know.

OEDIPUS.
Were he not leagued with thee he ne'er had talked
Of felon deed by me on Laïus done.
ΙΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

εἰ μὲν λέγει τάδ’, αὐτὸς οἶσθ᾽ · ἐγὼ δὲ σου μαθεῖν δικαίω ταῦθ’ ἀπερ κάμοι ὑ σο νῦν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ἐκμάνθαν · οὐ γὰρ δὴ φονεὺς ἀλώσομαι.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

τί δὴ; · ἀδελφὴν τὴν ἐμὴν γῆμας ἔχεις ἔστε.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ἀρνησίς οὐκ ἐνεστίν ὡν ἀνιστορεῖς.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἀρχεῖς δ’ ἐκεῖνῃ ταῦτα γῆς ἵσον νέμων ἐστε.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ἄν ἢ θέλουσα πάντ’ ἐμοῦ κομίζεται.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

οὐκαυν ἰσοῦμαι σφῶν ἐγὼ δυοῖν τρίτος ἐστε.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ἐνταῦθα γὰρ δὴ καὶ κακὸς φαίνει φίλος.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

οὐκ, εἰ διδοίης γ’ ὡς ἐγὼ σαυτῷ λόγον. σκέψαι δὲ τούτο πρῶτον, εἰ τιν’ ἄν δοκεῖς ἀρχεῖν ἐλέσθαι ξίνι φόβοισι μᾶλλον ἥ ἀπροστὸν εὐδοντ’, εἰ τά γ’ αὐθ’ ἔξει κράτη. ἐγὼ μὲν οὖν οὔτ’ αὐτὸς ἰμείρων ἐφυν
OEDIPUS THE KING.

CREON.
If he says this, thou know'st it. I of thee
Desire to learn, as thou hast learnt of me.

OEDIPUS.
Learn then; on me no guilt of blood shall rest.

CREON.
Well, then,—my sister? dost thou own her wife?

OEDIPUS.
I cannot meet this question with denial.

CREON.
Rul'st thou this land in equal right with her?

OEDIPUS.
Her every wish she doth from me receive.

CREON.
And am not I co-equal with you twain?

OEDIPUS.
Yes; and just here thou show'st thyself false friend.

CREON.
Not so, if thou would'st reason with thyself,
As I will reason. First reflect on this;
Supposest thou that one would rather choose
To reign with fears than sleep untroubled sleep,
His power being equal? I, for one, prize less
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

tύραννος εἶναι μάλλον ἢ τύραννα δρᾶν,
oὔτ' ἄλλος ὡστις σωφρονεῖν ἐπίσταται.

νῦν μὲν γὰρ ἐκ σοῦ πάντ' ἀνευ φόβου φέρω,
eἰ δ' αὐτὸς ἥρχον, πολλὰ κἂν ἄκων ἐδρων.

πῶς δῆτ' ἐμοὶ τυραννὸς ἥδιων ἔχειν
ἀρχῆς ἀλύπου καὶ δυναστείας ἔφυ;
οὕπω τοσοῦτον ἦπατημένος κυρῶ

ὁστ' ἄλλα χρήζειν ἢ τὰ σὺν κέρδει καλά.

νῦν πᾶσι χαίρω, νῦν με πᾶς ἀσπάζεται,

νῦν οἱ σέθεν χρήζουσι ἐκκαλούσι με:

τὸ γὰρ τυχεῖν αὐτοῖς πᾶν ἐνταῦθ' ἐνι.

πῶς δῆτ' ἐγώ κεῖν ἂν λάβομ' ἀφείς τάδε;


οὐκ ἂν γένοιτο νοὺς κακὸς καλῶς φρονῶν.

ἀλλ' οὔτ' ἐραστὴς τῆς τῆς γνώμης ἐφυν
οὔτ' ἂν μετ' ἄλλου δρῶντος ἂν τλαίην ποτε.

καὶ τῶν ἔλεγχον τούτο μὲν Πυθώδ' ἰὼν

πεύθου τὰ χρησθέντ', εἰ σαφῶς ἤγγειλά σοι:

τούτ' ἄλλ', ἔαν με τῷ τερασκότῳ λάβης

κοινῇ τὶ βουλεύσαντα, μὴ μ' ἀπλὴν κτάνης

ψήφῳ, διπλῇ δέ, τῇ τ' ἐμῇ καὶ σῇ, λαβών.

γνώμη δ' ἀδήλῳ μή με χωρίς αἰτῶ.

οὐ γὰρ δίκαιον οὔτε τοῦς κακοὺς μάτην

χρηστοὺς νομίζειν οὔτε τοὺς χρηστοὺς κακοὺς.

φίλον γὰρ ἐσθλὸν ἐκβαλεῖν ἵππον λέγω

καὶ τὸν παρ' αὐτὸ βλεπον, δὲν πλείστον φιλεῖ.

ἀλλ' ἐν χρόνῳ γνώσει τάδ' ἀσφαλῶς, ἐπεὶ

χρόνος δίκαιον ἄνδρα δείκνυσιν μόνος,

κακὸν δὲ κἂν ἐν ἡμέρᾳ γνοίης μιᾷ.

610 615
OEDIPUS THE KING.

The name of king than deeds of kingly power;
And so would all who learn in wisdom's school.
Now without fear I have what I desire,
At thy hand given. Did I rule, myself,
I might do much unwillingly. Why then
Should sovereignty exert a softer charm,
Than power and might uncheckered by a care?
I am not yet so cheated by myself
As to desire aught else but honest gain.
Now all men hail me, every one salutes,
Now they who seek thy favor court my smiles,
For on this hinge does all their fortune turn.
Why then should I leave this to hunt for that?
My mind, retaining reason, ne'er could act
The villain's part. I was not born to love
Such thoughts, nor join another in the act;
And as a proof of this, go thou thyself,
And ask at Pytho whether I brought back,
In very deed, the oracles I heard.
And if thou find me plotting with the seer,
In common concert, not by one decree,
But two, thine own and mine, put me to death.
But charge me not with crime on shadowy proof;
For neither is it just, in random thought,
The bad to count as good, nor good as bad;
For to thrust out a friend of noble heart
Is like the parting with the life we love.
And this in time thou'lt know, for time alone
Makes manifest the righteous. Of the vile
Thou may'st detect the vileness in a day.
ΧΟΡΟΣ.
καλῶς ἔλεγεν εὐλαβουμένῳ πεσεῖν,
ἀνάξ· φρονεῖν γὰρ οἱ ταχεῖς οὐκ ἄσφαλεῖς.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ὅταν ταχὺς τις οὐπιθυολεύων λάθρα
χωρῇ, ταχὺν δὲ κἀμὲ βουλεύειν τάλιν.
ei δ' ἡσυχάζων προσμενῷ, τὰ τούδε μὲν
πεπραγμέν' ἔσται, τὰμὰ δ' ἡμαρτημένα.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
tί δήτα χρήζεις; ἢ με γῆς ἔξω βαλεῖν;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ἡμιστὰ· θυόσκειν, οὐ φυγεῖν σε βούλομαι.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
ὅταν προδείξῃς οὐκ ἐστὶ τὸ φθονεῖν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ἃ σ σοὶ ῥπείξων οὐδὲ πιστεύσων λέγεις;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
oὐ γὰρ φρονοῦντά σ' εὖ βλέπων.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
τὸ γοῦν ἐμὸν.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
ἄλλ' ἐς ἱσον δεῖ κάμων.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ἄλλ' ἐφυς κακὸς.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

CHORUS.
To one who fears to fall, his words seem good;  
O king, swift counsels are not always safe.

OEDIPUS.
But when a man is swift in wily schemes,  
Swift must I be to baffle plot with plot;  
And if I stand and wait, he wins the day,  
And all my state to rack and ruin goes.

CREON.
What seek'st thou, then? to drive me from the land?

OEDIPUS.
Not so. I seek thy death, not banishment.

CREON.
When thou show'st first what grudge I bear to thee.

OEDIPUS.
And say'st thou this defying, yielding not?

CREON.
I see your mind is gone.

OEDIPUS.
My right I mind.

CREON.
Mine has an equal claim.

OEDIPUS.
Nay, thou art vile.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
ei de xunhys mhdven;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.
arkteov y devos.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
outoi kakos y arxontos.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.
ω polis polis.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
kamo polwos metestin, oukhe sou monh.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.
pauasath', anaktes· kairolan de' umin orw
timde' ek domow steixousan 'Iokasthin, med' he
to vin parestos neikos ev thestai xreow.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.
ti thn aboulon, w talaitworoi, staisi

[Introi.
ylwsyn stpaasath'; ou'd' epaischyneste, ghs
ouw nosoushs, idia kivountes kaka;
ouc ei su t' oikous su te, Krenon, kata stegas,
cai mh to mhdei allhos eis megh' ouste;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
oumwe, dein mh' Oidipous o sos posis
drasai diakoi, dnoin apokrinas kakoi,
he ghs apowsa patridos, he keinai labon —

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.
zugphme· dhvonta gam vyn, w ginai, kakos
eilhfa toumdou sowma svin tekynh kakh.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

CREON.
And if thy mind is darkened —?

OEDIPUS.
Still obey!

CREON.
Nay, not a tyrant king.

OEDIPUS.
O country mine!

CREON.
That country, too, is mine, not thine alone.

CHORUS.
Cease, O my princes! In good time I see
Jocasta coming hither from the house;
And it were well with her to hush this brawl.

JOCASTA.
[Enters.]

Why, O ye wretched ones, this strife of tongues
Raise ye in your unwisdom, nor are shamed,
Our country suffering, private griefs to stir?
Come thou within; and thou, O Creon, go;
Bring not a trifling sore to mischief great!

CREON.
My sister! Oedipus thy husband claims
The right to do me one of two great wrongs,
To thrust me from my fatherland, or slay me.

OEDIPUS.
'Tis even so, for I have found him, wife,
Against my life his evil wiles devising.
ΣΩΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
μή νυν ὀναίμην, ἄλλ' ἀραῖος, εἲ σέ τι δέδρακ', ὀλοίμην, ὃν ἐπαιτιὰ με δράν.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.
ὡς πρὸς θεῶν πίστευσον, Οἰδίπους, τάδε,
μάλιστα μὲν τόνδ' ὁρκον αἴδεσθείς θεῶν,
ἐπείτα κάμε τούσδε θ' ὅι πιάρεισί σοι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

στρ.
πιθοῦ θελήσας φρονήσας τ', ἀναξ, λίσσομαι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

τί σοι θέλεις δή τ' εἰκάθω;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τὸν οὖτε πρὶν νῆπιον νῦν τ' ἐν ὄρκῳ μέγαν καταίδεσαι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

οἶδ' οὖν ἃ χρήκεις;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

οἶδα.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

φράξε δή· τί φῆς;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τὸν ἔναγη φίλον μήποτ' ἐν αἰτίᾳ
οὖν ἀφανεῖ λόγῳ σ' ἀτίμον βαλείν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

εὖ νυν ἐπίστω, ταῦθ' ὅταν ζητῆς, ἐμοὶ
ζητῶν ολεθροῦν ἥ φυγὴν ἐκ τήσδε γῆς.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

CREON.
May I ne'er prosper, but accursèd die,
If I have done the things he says I did!

JOCASTA.
Oh, by the Gods, believe him, Oedipus!
Respect his oath, which calls the Gods to hear;
And reverence me, and these who stand by thee.

CHORUS.
Hearken, my king! be calmer, I implore!

OEDIPUS.
What wilt thou that I yield?

CHORUS.
Oh, have respect
To one not weak before, who now is strong
In this his oath.

OEDIPUS.
And know'st thou what thou ask'st?

CHORUS.
I know right well.

OEDIPUS.
Say on, then, what thou wilt.

CHORUS.
Hurl not to shame, on grounds of mere mistrust,
The friend on whom no taint of evil hangs.

OEDIPUS.
Know then that, seeking this, thou seek'st, in truth,
To work my death, or else my banishment.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.
ου των πάντων θεών θεών πρόμον
"Αλιον· ἔπει ἄθεος ἄφιλος δ' τι πῦματον
ὀλοίμα, φρόνησιν εἰ τάνδ' ἔχω.
ἀλλά μοι δυσμόρφῳ γὰρ φθινὼς
τρύχει ψυχάν, τάδ' εἰ κακοίς κακὰ
προσάψει τοῖς πάλαι τὰ πρὸς σφόν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ο δ' οὖν ἵτω, καὶ χρή με παντελῶς θανεῖν,
ἡ γῆς ἀτίμων τήσδ' ἀπωσθήμην βία.
τὸ γὰρ σῶν, οὐ τὸ τούδ', ἐποικτείρω στόμα
ἐλεινόν· οὐτός δ', ἐνθ' ἄν ᾗ, στυγγῆσεται.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
στυγγὸς μὲν ἐκὼν δήλος εἰ, βαρὺς δ', ὅταν
θυμοῦ περάσχης. αἰ δὲ τοιαῦτα φύσεις
αὐταῖς δικαίως εἰσὶν ἀλγισταί φέρειν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
οὐκον μ' ἐδάσεις κάκτος εἰ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
πορεύσομαι,
σοῦ μὲν τυχῶν ἀγνῶτος, ἐν δὲ τοῦδ' ἰσος. [Εξη.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.
ἀν.
γύναι, τί μέλλεις κομίζειν δόμων τάνδ' ἐσω;

ΙΟΚΛΕΩΣ.
μαθοῦσά γ' ἢ τίς ἢ τύχη.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

CHORUS.
Nay, by the Sun-God, Helios, chief of Gods!
May I, too, die, of God and man accursed,
If I wish aught like this! But on my soul
Our wasting land dwells heavily; ills on ills
Still coming, new upon the heels of old.

OEDIPUS.
Let him depart then, even though I die,
Or from my country be thrust forth in shame:
Thy face, not his, I view with pitying eye;
For him, where'er he be, is nought but hate.

CREON.
Thou 'rt loth to yield, 'twould seem, and wilt be vexed
When this thy wrath is over: moods like thine
Are fitly to themselves most hard to bear.

OEDIPUS.
Wilt thou not go, and leave me?

CREON.
I will go,
By thee misjudged, but known as just by these.

[Retires to the City.

CHORUS.
Why, lady, art thou slow to lead him in?

JOCASTA.
I fain would learn how this sad chance arose.
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΧΟΡΟΣ.
δόκησις ἀγνῶς λόγων ἢλθε, δὰ κνει δὲ καὶ τὸ μὴ ῥήμικον.
ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.
ἀμφῶς ἀπ’ αὐτῶν;
ΧΟΡΟΣ.
ναίχ.ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.
καὶ τίς ἦν λόγος;
ΧΟΡΟΣ.
ἀλας ἔμουγ’, ἄλας, γὰς προπονοομένας,
φαίνεται ἐνθ’ ἔλεγξεν αὐτοῦ μένειν.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.
ὁρῆς ἦν ἥκεσι, ἄγαθος δὲ γνώμην ἀνήρ,
τούμον παριείς καὶ καταμβλύνων κέαρ;
ΧΟΡΟΣ.
ἀνάξ, εἴπον μὲν οὐχ ἀπαξ μόνον,
ἰσθι δὲ παραφρόνιμον, ἀπορον ἐπὶ φρόνιμα
πεφάνθαι μ’ ἄν, εἰ σε νοσφίζομαι,
ὅς τ’ ἔμαν γὰρ φίλαν εἰ πόνοις
σαλεύουσαν κατ’ ὀρθὸν οὐρίσας,
ταύτων τ’ εὐπομπὸς εἰ γένοιο.
ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.
πρὸς θεῶν διδάξον κάμ’, ἀνάξ, ὦτον ποτε
μὴν τοσῆνδε πράγματος στήσας ἔχεις.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.
ἐρώ. σὲ γὰρ τῶνδ’ εἰς πλέον, γύναι, σέβω.
Κρέοντος, οία μοι βεβούλευκὼς ἔχει.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

CHORUS.

Blind haste of speech there was, and wrong will sting.

JOCASTA.

From both of them?

CHORUS.

Yea, both.

JOCASTA. And what said each?

CHORUS.

Enough for me, enough, our land laid low,
It seems, to leave the quarrel where it stopped.

OEDIPUS.

See'st thou, thou good in counsel, what thou dost,
Slighting my cause, and toning down thy zeal?

CHORUS.

My chief, not once alone I spoke,
Unwise, unapt for wisdom should I seem,
Were I to turn from thee aside,
Who, when my country rocked in storm,
Did'st right her course. Ah! if thou can'st,
Steer her well onward now.

JOCASTA.

Tell me, my king, what cause of fell debate
Has bred this discord, and provoked thy soul.

OEDIPUS.

Thee will I tell, for thee I honor more
Than these. 'Twas Creon and his plots against me.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΙΟΚΑΣΘΗ.
λέγ', εἰ σαφῶς τὸ νεῖκος ἐγκαλῶν ἔρεις.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

φονέα μὲ φησι Δαίων καθεστάναι.

ΙΟΚΑΣΘΗ.

αὐτὸς ἐνειδῶς, ἥ μαθὼν ἄλλου πάρα;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

μάντιν μὲν οὖν κακοῦργον εἰσπέμψας, ἐπεὶ τὸ γ' εἰς ἑαυτὸν πᾶν ἐλευθεροὶ στόμα.

ΙΟΚΑΣΘΗ.

σὺ νυν ἄφεις σεαυτὸν δὲν λέγεις πέρι ἐμοῦ πάκοσον καὶ μάθ', οὖν εἴ τι σοι βρότειον οὐδέν μαντικῆς ἤχου τέχνης. φανὼ δέ σοι σημεῖα τῶν σύντομον.

χρησμὸς γὰρ ἦλθε Δαίω ποτ', οὐκ ἔραθ' Φοίβου γ' ἂν αὐτόν, τῶν δ' ὑπηρετῶν ἀπο, ως αὐτὸν ἤξει μοίρα πρὸς παιδὸς θανείν, ὅστις γένοιτ' ἐμοὶ τε κώκεινον πάρα.

καὶ τὸν μέν, ὁπερ' γ' ἤ φάτις, ἕνως ποτὲ λροτάλ φανεύουσ' εἰν τριπλαῖσ αἰμαξίτοις' παιδὸς δὲ βλάστασα οὐ διέσχον ἡμέραι τρεῖς, καὶ νῦν ἄρθρα κείνος ἐνζεύξας ποδοῖν ἔρρυψεν ἄλλων χερῶν εἰς ἀβατόν ὅρος.

κάνταυθ' Ἀπόλλων οὐ' ἐκείνον ἤμυστον φονέα θενέσθαι πατρὸς οὔτε Δαίων, τὸ δεινὸν οὐφοβεῖτο, πρὸς παιδὸς θανεῖν.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

JOCASTA.
Say then, if clearly thou can'st tell the strife.

OEDIPUS.
He says that I am Laïus' murderer.

JOCASTA.
Of his own knowledge, or by some one taught?

OEDIPUS.
A scoundrel seer suborning. For himself, 
He takes good care to free his lips from blame.

JOCASTA.
Leave now thyself, and all thy thoughts of this, 
And list to me, and learn how little skill 
In art prophetic mortal man may claim; 
And of this truth I'll give thee one short proof. 
There came to Laïus once an oracle 
(I say not that it came from Phoebus' self, 
But from his servants), that his fate was fixed 
By his son's hand to fall — his own and mine; 
And him, so rumor runs, a robber band 
Of aliens slay, where meet the three great roads. 
Nor did three days succeed the infant's birth, 
Before, by other hands, he cast him forth, 
Piercing his ankles, on a lonely hill. 
Here, then, Apollo failed to make the boy 
His father's murderer; nor by his son's hands, 
Doom that he dreaded, did our Laïus die;
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

τοιαύτα φήμαι μαντικαί διώρισαν,
δῶν εντρέπου σὺ μηδέν· δῶν γὰρ ἂν θεὸς
χρειαν ἐρευνᾷ ραδίως αὐτὸς φανεῖ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

οἰόν μὲ ἀκούσαντ' ἀρτίως ἔχει, γύναι,
ψυχής πλάνημα κάνακινησες φρενών.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ποιας μερίμνης τοῦθ᾿ ὑποστραφεῖς λέγεις;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ἐδοξεῖ ἀκούσαι σοῦ τόδ', ὡς ὁ Δάιος
κατασφαγείη πρὸς τριτλαὶς ἀμαξιτοῖς.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ηὐδὰτο γὰρ ταῦτ᾿ οὐδὲ πω λῆξαντ᾽ ἔχει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

καὶ ποῦ ἑσθ᾽ ὁ χώρος οὗτός σὺ τόδ' ἦν πάθος;

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

Φωκᾶς μὲν ἢ γὰρ κλῆσεται, σχιστῇ δ' ὁδός
ἐς ταῦτο Δελφῶν κατὸ Δαυίδας ἀγεῖ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

καὶ τίς χρόνος τοῖσδ' ἐστὶν οὐξεληλυθῶς;

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

σχεδὸν τι πρόσθεν ἢ σὺ τῆσδ᾽ ἔχων χθονὸς
ἀρχὴν ἐφαίνου τοῦτ᾽ ἐκηρύχθη πόλει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ὦ Ζεῦ, τί μου δρᾶσαι βεβούλευσαι πέρι;
OEDIPUS THE KING.

Such things divining oracles proclaimed;
Therefore regard them not. Whate'er the God
Desires to search He will himself declare.

OEDIPUS.
Ah, as but now I heard thee speak, my queen,
Strange whirl of soul and rush of thoughts o'ercome me.

JOCASTA.
What vexing care bespeaks this sudden change?

OEDIPUS.
I thought I heard thee say that Laius fell,
Smitten to death, where meet the three great roads.

JOCASTA.
So was it said, and still the rumors hold.

OEDIPUS.
Where was the spot in which this matter passed?

JOCASTA.
They call the country Phocis, and the roads
From Delphi and from Daulia there converge.

OEDIPUS.
And what the interval of time since then?

JOCASTA.
But just before thou camest to possess
And rule this land the tidings reached our city.

OEDIPUS.
Great Zeus! what fate hast thou decreed for me?
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΙΟΚΑΣΘΗ.

τί δ' ἐστὶ σοι τοῦτ', Οἰδίποις, ἐνθύμιοι;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

μήπω μ' ἐρώτα· τὸν δὲ Δάιον φύσιν
tίν' εἶχε φράξε, τίνα δ' ἀκμὴν ἤβης ἔχων.

ΙΟΚΑΣΘΗ.

μέγας, χνοάζων ἁρτὶ λευκανθές κάρα,
μορφὴς δὲ τῆς σῆς οὐκ ἀπεστάτει πολὺ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οἷμοι τάλας· έσικ' ἐρμαντὸν εἰς ἀρᾶς
dεινᾶς προβάλλων ἄρτιως οὐκ εἰδέναι.

ΙΟΚΑΣΘΗ.

πῶς φής; ὅκνω τοι πρὸς σ' ἀποσκοποῦσ', ἀναξ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

dεινῶς ἄθυμῳ μὴ βλέπων ο μάντις ἦ.
deίξεις δὲ μᾶλλον, ἥν ἐν ἐξείπθης ἐτι.

ΙΟΚΑΣΘΗ.

καὶ μὴν ὁκνῶ μέν, ἃ δ' ἄν ἔρη μαθοῦσ' ἔρω.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

πότερον ἐχώρει βαϊώς, ἢ πολλοὺς ἔχων
ἀνδρὰς λοχίτας, οἳ' ἀνήρ ἀρχηγέτης;

ΙΟΚΑΣΘΗ.

πέντ' ἦσαν οἱ ξύμπαντες, ἐν δ' αὐτοῖσιν ἦν
kήρυξ· ἀπήνη δ' ἦγε Δάιον μία.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

JOCASTA.
What thought is this, my Oedipus, of thine?

OEDIPUS.
Ask me not yet, but Laïus, — tell of him,
His build, his features, and his years of life.

JOCASTA.
Tall was he, and the white hairs snowed his head,
And in his form not much unlike to thee.

OEDIPUS.
Woe, woe is me! so seems it I have plunged
All blindly into curses terrible.

JOCASTA.
What sayest thou? I fear to look at thee.

OEDIPUS.
I tremble lest the seer has seen indeed:
But thou can'st clear it, answering yet once more.

JOCASTA.
And I too fear, yet what thou ask'st I'll tell.

OEDIPUS.
Went he in humble guise, or with a troop
Of spearmen, as becomes a man that rules?

JOCASTA.
Five were they altogether, and of them
One was a herald, and one chariot bore him.
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
αιδὲ, τάδ’ ἡδη διαφανῆ. τίς ἂν ποτε
ὁ τούςδε λέξας τοὺς λόγους ὑμῖν, γνώμαι;

ΙΟΚΑΣΘ.
οίκεῖς τίς, ὅσπερ ἰκετ’ ἐκσωθεῖς μόνος.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ἡ κἂν δόμουσιν τυγχάνει τανῦν παρῶν;

ΙΟΚΑΣΘ.
οὐ δὴ· ἢφ’ οὐ γὰρ κείθεν ἥλθε καὶ κράτη
σέ τ’ εἶδ’ ἔχοντα Δαίων τ’ ὀλωλότα,
ἐξεκέτευσε τῆς ἐμῆς χειρὸς θυγών
ἀγροὺς σφε πέμψαι καὶ ποιμνίων νομᾶς,
ὡς πλεῖστον εἴη τοῦδ’ ἀποπτοὺς ἄστεως.
κἀπεμψ’ ἐγὼ νῦν· ἄξιος γὰρ ὃς γ’ ἀνήρ
δοῦλος φέρειν ἢν τῆς δὲ καὶ μείζω χάριν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
πῶς ἂν μόλις δὴ τ’ ἡμῖν ἐν τάχει πάλιν;

ΙΟΚΑΣΘ.
πάρεστιν. ἀλλὰ πρὸς τί τοῦτ’ ἐφίσεσαι;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
δέδοικ’ ἐμαυτόν, ὃ γνώμαι, μὴ πόλλ’ ἅγαν
ἐιρημέν’ ἡ μοι, δι’ ἡ νῦν εἰσιδεῖν θέλω.

ΙΟΚΑΣΘ.
ἀλλ’ ἰδεῖται μὲν· ἄξια δὲ ποῦ μαθεῖν
καγὼ τά γ’ ἐν σοὶ δυσφόρως ἔχοντ’, ἀναξ.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

OEDIPUS.
Woe! woe! 'tis all too clear. And who was he
That told these tidings to thee, O my queen?

JOCASTA.
A servant who alone escaped with life.

OEDIPUS.
And does he chance to dwell among us now?

JOCASTA.
Not so; for from the time when he returned,
And found thee bearing sway, and Laius dead,
He, at my hand, a suppliant, implored
This boon, to send him to the distant fields
To feed his flocks, as far as possible
From this our city. And I sent him forth;
For though a slave, he might have claimed yet more.

OEDIPUS.
Ah! could we fetch him quickly back again!

JOCASTA.
That may well be. But why dost thou wish this?

OEDIPUS.
I fear, O queen, that words best left unsaid
Have passed these lips, and therefore wish to see him.

JOCASTA.
Well, he shall come. But some small claim have I,
O king, to learn what touches thee with woe.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΕ.
κο" μή στερηθῆς γ' ἐς τοσοῦτον ἐξπίθων ἐμοῦ' βεβάτοσ. τῷ γὰρ ἂν καὶ μεῖζον λέξαιμ' ἄν ἥ σοι διὰ τῆς τοῖς τοιᾶσδ' ἰῶν; ἐμοὶ πατὴρ μὲν Πολυβὸς ἦν Κορίνθιοι, μήτηρ δὲ Μερόπῃ Δωρίς. ἤγομην δ' ἀνὴρ ἀστῶν μέγιστος τῶν ἔκει, πρὶν μοι τῆς τοιῶν' ἐπέστη, θαυμάσαι μὲν ἀξία, σπουδὴς γε μὲν τῆς ἐμῆς οὐκ ἀξία. ἀνὴρ γὰρ ἐν δεῖπνους μ' ὑπερπλησθεὶς μέθη καλεῖ παρ' ὦν πλαστὸς ὡς εἰην πατρί. καγὼ βαρυνθεὶς τὴν μὲν οὐσαν ἡμέραν μόλις κατέσχον, θάτερα δ' ἰῶν πέλας μητρὸς πατρὸς τ' ἥλεγχον· οἱ δὲ δυσφόρως τοῦνείδος ἤγον τὸ μεθέντο τοῦ λόγον.
καγὼ τὰ μὲν κείνοιν ἔτερπόμην, ὅμως δ' ἐκυιεζέ μ' ἀεὶ τοῦθ'· ὑφείρπε γὰρ πολύν. λάθρα δὲ μητρὸς καὶ πατρὸς πορεύομαι Πυθώδε, καὶ μ' ὁ Φοῖβος ὄν μὲν ἴκόμην ἀτιμον ἐξέπεμψεν, ἀλλα δ' ἄθλια καὶ δεινὰ καὶ δύσημα προνάφι λέγων, ὡς μητρὶ μὲν χρείη με μεχθήναι, τείνος δ' ἀτλητον ἄνθρωπως δηλώσοιμ' ὀρᾶν, φονεὺς δ' ἐσοίμην τοῦ φυτεύσαντος πατρός. καγὼ' πακοῦσας ταῦτα τὴν Κορινθίαν ἄστριος τὸ λαοῖν ἐκμετρούμενος χθόνα ἔφευγον, ἐνθα μήποτ' ὁψοίμην κακῶν χρησμῶν ὄνειδη τῶν ἐμῶν τελοῦμενα.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

OEDIPUS.
Thou shalt not fail to learn it, now that I
Have gone so far in bodings. Whom should I
More than to thee tell all the passing chance?
I had a father, Polybus of Corinth,
And Merope of Doris was my mother,
And I was held in honor by the rest
Who dwelt there, till this accident befell,
Worthy of wonder, of the heat unworthy
It roused within me. Thus it chanced: A man
At supper, in his cups, with wine o'ertaken,
Reviles me as a spurious changeling boy;
And I, sore vexed, hardly for that day
Restrained myself. And when the morrow came
I went and charged my father and my mother
With what I thus had heard. They heaped reproach
On him who stirred the matter, and I soothed
My soul with what they told me; yet it teased,
Still vexing more and more; and so I went,
Unknown to them, to Pytho, and the God
Sent me forth shamed, unanswered in my quest;
And other things He spake, dread, dire, and dark,
That I should join in wedlock with my mother,
Beget a brood that men should loathe to look at,
Be murderer of the father that begot me.
And, hearing this, I straight from Corinth fled,
The stars thenceforth the land-marks of my way,
And fled where never more mine eyes might see
The shame of those dire oracles fulfilled;
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

στείχων δ' ἵκνονμαι τοὺς δὲ τοὺς χώρους ἐν οἷς
σὺ τὸν τύραννον τούτον ὀλύσθαι λέγεις.
καὶ σοι, γυναῖ, τάληθες ἐξερή. τριπλῆς
ὁτ' ἦ κελεύθον τῆς δ' ὀδοιπορῶν τέλας,
ἐνταῦθα μοι κήρυξ τε κατ' πολικής
ἀνὴρ ἀπίθης ἐμβεβαίω, οὗν σὺ φής,
ξυνητίαζον· καὶ ὁδοὺ μ' ὁ θ' ἵγκημον
αὐτοῦ θ' ὁ πρέσβυς πρὸς βίαν ἡλαυνέτην.
κἀγὼ τὸν ἐκτρέποντα, τὸν προχηλάτην,
παιώ δὲ ὅργης· καὶ μ' ὁ πρέσβυς ὡς ὅρξ,
ὅχου παραστείχοντα τηρήσας μέσον
καίρα δυπλοῖς κέντροιν μου καθίκετο.
οὐ μὴν ἵπτην γ' ἐτίσειν, ἀλλὰ συντόμως
σκίπτωρα τυπεῖς ἐκ τῆς δε χειρὸς ὑπτιός
μέσης ἀπίθης εὐθὺς ἐκκυλίνδεται·
κτείνω δὲ τοὺς ἐμπαντας. εἰ δ' ἐκ τοῦ ἐγνο
τοῦτο προσήκει Δαῖρ τι συγγενεῖς,
τὶς τοῦδε γ' ἀνδρός ἐστιν ἀθλιότερος;
τὶς ἐχθροδαιμόν μᾶλλον ἄν γενούταν ἀνὴρ;
ὁ μὴ ἐκεῖνον ἔξεστι μηδ' ἀστῶν τινα
δόμοις δεχεσθαι, μηδὲ προσφωνὲν τινα,
ἀθέων δ' ἀπ' οὗκοιν. καὶ τάδ' οὕτως ἄλλος ἢν
ἡ γ' ἀπ' ἕμαντο τάσδ' ὀρᾶς ὁ προστιθεῖς.
λέχη δὲ τοῦ θανόντος ἐν χεροῖν ἐμαῖν
χραίνω, δ' ὄντερ ὄλετ'. ἀρ' ἐφυν κακός;
ἀρ' οὐχὶ πᾶς ἀναγνως, εἰ με χρῆ φυγεῖν,
καὶ μοι φυγόντε μήπε τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἢκεῖν
μηδ' ἐμβατεύειν πατρίδοις, ἡ γάμους με δεὶ
OEDIPUS THE KING.

And as I went I reached the spot where he,
This king, thou tell'st me, met the fatal blow.
And now, O lady, I will tell the truth.
Wending my steps that way where three roads meet,
There met me first a herald, and a man
Like him thou told'st of, riding on his car,
Drawn by young colts. With rough and hasty force
They drove me from the road, — the driver first,
And that old man himself; and then in rage
I strike the driver, who had turned me back.
And when the old man sees it, watching me
As by the chariot-side I passed, he struck
My forehead with a double-pointed goad.
But we were more than quits, for in a trice
With this right hand I struck him with my staff,
And he rolls backward from his chariot's seat.
And then I slay them all. And if it chance
That Laius and this stranger are akin,
What man more wretched than this man who speaks?
What man more harassed by the vexing Gods?
He whom none now, or alien, or of Thebes,
May welcome to their house, or speak to him,
But thrust him forth an exile. And was I,
None other, who against myself proclaimed
These curses. And the bed of him that died
I with my hands, by which he fell, defile.
Am I not born to evil, all unclean?
If I must flee, yet still in flight my doom
Is never more to see the friends I love,
Nor tread my country's soil; or else to bear
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

μητρὸς ξυγήναι καὶ πατέρα κατακτανεῖν Πόλυβον, ὃς ἐξέφευρε καζέθρεψεν μὲ;
ἀρ’ οὐκ ἀπ’ ὁμοῦ ταύτα δαιμονὸς τις ἄν
κρίνων ἐπ’ ἀνδρὶ τῷ θεῷ ὁρθοὶ λόγον;
μῇ δῆτα, μῇ δῆτ’, ὁ θεὸς ἀγνὸν σέβας,
ἴδοιμι ταύτην ἡμέραν, ἀλλ’ ἐκ βροτῶν
βαινήν ἀφαντὸς πρόσθεν ἢ τοιῶν’ ἴδεῖν
κηλίδ’ ἐμαυτῷ συμφορᾶς ἀφυμένην.

ΧΩΡΟΣ.

ἡμῖν μὲν, ὠναξ, ταῦτ’ ὑκνήρ’ ἔως δ’ ἀν οὖν
πρὸς τοῦ παρόντος ἐκμάθης, ἔχ’ ἐλπίδα.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

καὶ μὴν τοσοῦτον γ’ ἐστὶ μοι τῆς ἐλπίδος,
τὸν ἀνδρα τὸν βοτῆρα προσμεῖναι μῦνον.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

πεφασμένου δὲ τῆς ποθ’ ἡ προθυμία;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἔγὼ διδάξω σ’ ἂν γὰρ εἰρεθῇ λέγων
σοι ταῦτ’, ἔγωγ’ ἀν ἐκπεφευγοίην πάθος.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ποίον δὲ μου περισσοῦ ἢκουσάς λόγον;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ληστὰς ἐφασκεῖς αὐτῶν ἀνδρῶν ἐννέπειν
ὡς νῦν κατακτεῖναιεν. εἰ μὲν οὖν ἔτι
λέξει τὸν αὐτῶν ἀριθμόν, οὐκ ἐγὼ ʿκτανοῦν’
OEDIPUS THE KING.

The guilt of incest, and my father slay,
Yea, Polybus, who begat and brought me up.
Would not a man say right who said that here
Some cruel God was pressing hard on me?
Not that, not that, at least, thou Presence, pure
And awful, of the Gods; may I ne'er look
On such a day as that, but far away
Depart unseen from all the haunts of men,
Before such great pollution comes on me.

CHORUS.

We, too, O king, are grieved, yet hope thou on,
Till thou hast asked the man who then was by.

OEDIPUS.

And this indeed is all the hope I have,
Waiting until that shepherd-slave appear.

JOCASTA.

And when he comes, what ground for hope is there?

OEDIPUS.

I'll tell thee. Should he now repeat the tale
Thou told'st me, I, at least, stand free from guilt.

JOCASTA.

What special word was that thou heard'st from me?

OEDIPUS.

Thou said'st he told that robbers slew his lord,
And should he give their number as the same
Now as before, it was not I who slew him,
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

οὐ γὰρ γένουτ' ἂν εἰς γε τοῖς πολλοῖς ἴσος·
εἰ δ' ἀνδρ' ἐν οἰόξωνον αὐτήσει, σαφῶς
tοῦτ' ἐστίν ἥδη τούργον εἰς ἐμὲ ῥέτον.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ἀλλ' ώς φανέν γε τοῦτος ὦδ' ἐπίστασο,
κοὺκ ἐστίν αὐτῷ τοῦτό γ' ἐκβαλεῖν πάλιν.
πόλις γὰρ ἥκουσ', οὐκ ἐγὼ μόνη, τάδε.
eἰ δ' οὖν τι κάκτρεποιτο τοῦ πρόσθεν λόγου,
οὐνοί ποτ', ὅναξ, τὸν γε Δαῖον φόνον
φανεὶ δικαίως ὄρθον, ὃν γε Λοξίας
dιεῖπε χρῆμα παιδὸς ἕξ ἐμοῦ θανεὶν.

καῖτοι νῦν οὐ κεῖνος γ' ὁ δύστηνος ποτε
κατέκταν', ἀλλ' αὐτὸς πάροιδεν ὀλετο.

οὐτ' οὐχὶ μαντείας γ' ἂν οἴντε τὴδ' ἐγὼ
βλέψαμι ἂν οὖνεκ' οἴντε τὴδ' ἂν ὑστερον.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

καλῶς νομίζεις. ἀλλ' ὅμως τὸν ἐργάτην
πέμψον τινά στελοῦντα μηδὲ τούτ' ἄφης.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

πέμψω ταχύνασ'. ἀλλ' ἰώμεν ἐς δόμους.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

οτρ. ἄ.

ἐ μοι ξυνείη φέροντε μοῦρα τὰν εὐθέττου ἅγιεαν λόγων
ἐργαν τε πάντων, ὃν νόμοι πρόκεινται

ὑφίποδες, οὐρανία

[Exeunt Jocasta et Edipus.]
OEDIPUS THE KING.

For one man could not be the same as many.
But if he speak of one man, all alone,
Then, all too plain, the deed cleaves fast to me.

JOCASTA.

But know, the thing was said, and clearly said,
And now he cannot from his word draw back.
Not I alone, but the whole city, heard it;
And should he now retract his former tale,
Not then, my husband, will he rightly show
The death of Laius, who, as Loxias told,
By my son's hands should die; and yet, poor boy,
He killed him not, but perished long ago.
So I, at least, for all their oracles,
Will never more cast glance or here or there.

OEDIPUS.

Thou reasonest well. Yet send a messenger
To fetch that peasant. Be not slack in this.

JOCASTA.

I will make haste. But let us now go in;
I would do nothing that displease thee.

[JOCASTA AND OEDIPUS GO WITHIN

CHORUS.

STROPH. I.

O that 'twere mine to keep
An awful purity,
In words and deeds whose laws on high are set
Through heaven's clear ether spread,
Whose birth Olympus boasts,
Their one, their only sire,
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

αἰθέρι τεκνωθέντες, ἀν Ὀλυμπος
πατὴρ μόνος, οὐδὲ νῦν θνατὰ φύσις ἄνερων
ἔτυκτεν, οὐδὲ μή ποτε λάθα κατακομάσῃ·
μέγας ἐν τούτοις θεός, οὗδε γηράσκει.

ἀντ. ἀ.

βρις φυτεύει τύραννον. βρις, εἰ πολλῶν ὑπερπληθῆ
μάταν,

ἀ μή 'πίκαιρα μηδὲ συμφέροντα,
ακρότατον εἰσαναβᾶσ'
ἀπότομον ὁρουσεν εἰς ἀνάγκαν,
ἐνθ' οὐ ποτὲ χρησίμῳ χρήται. τὸ καλὸς δ' ἔχων
πόλει πάλαισμα μήποτε λύσαι θεῶν αἰτοῦμαι.
θεῶν οὐ λήξω ποτὲ προστάταν ἐσχὼν.

στρ. β'.

εἰ δὲ τις ὑπέροπτα χερσίν
ἡ λόγῳ πορεύεται,
Δίκας ἄφοβητος οὖδὲ
δαμώνων ἑδη σέβων,
κακά νυν ἔλοιπο μοῖρα,
δυσπότου χάριν χαλίδας,
· εἰ μή τὸ κέρδος κερδανεὶ δικαίως
καὶ τῶν ἀσέπτων ἔρξεται,
ἡ τῶν ἀθίκτων ἔδεια ματάξων.
· τίς ἐγι ποτ' ἐν τοίοδ' ἀνὴρ θυμῶν βέλη
eὐξεταὶ ψυχᾶς ἀμώνειν;
εἰ γὰρ αἱ τοιάδε πράξεις τίμαι,
τί δεῖ με χορεῖν;
OEDIPUS THE KING.

Whom man's frail flesh begat not,
Nor in forgetfulness
Shall lull to sleep of death;
In them our God is great,
In them he grows not old for evermore.

ANTISTROPH. I.

But pride begets the mood
Of wanton, tyrant power;
Pride filled with many thoughts, yet filled in vain,
Untimely, ill-advised,
Sealing the topmost height,
Falls to the abyss of woe,
Where step that profiteth
It seeks in vain to take.
I ask our God to stay
The labors never more
That work our country's good;
I will not cease to call on God for aid.

STROPH. II.

But if there be who walketh haughtily,
In action or in speech,
Whom Righteousness herself has ceased to awe,
Who shrines of Gods reveres not,
An evil fate be his
(Fit meed for all his evil boastfulness);
Unless he gain his gains more righteously,
And draweth back from deeds of sacrilege,
Nor lays rash hand upon the holy things,
By man inviolable:
Who now, if such things be,
Will boast that he can guard
His soul from darts of wrath?
If deeds like these are held in high repute,
What profit is't for me
To raise my choral strain?
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ἀντ. β'.

οὐκέτι τὸν ἀδικτὸν εἶμι
γὰς ἐπὶ ὁμφαλὸν σέβομεν,
οὐδὲ ἐς τὸν Ἀβραὰμ ναὸν,
οὐδὲ τὰν Ὀλυμπίαν,
εἰ μὴ τάδε χειρόδεικτα
πάσιν ἀρμόσει βροτοῖς.

ἀλλ', ὃ κρατύνων, εἴσπερ ὅρθ' ἀκούεις,
Ζεὺ, τῶν τ' ἀνάσσων, μὴ λάθοι
σὲ τῶν τε σαν ἀθάνατον αἰεν ἁρχάν.

φθίνοντα γὰρ Πυθόχρηστα Λαὸν
θέσφατ' ἐξαιροῦσιν ἦδη,
κοῦδαμοι τιμαῖς Ἄπολλων ἐμφανῆς·
ἔρρει δὲ τὰ θεία.

ΙΟΚΛΑΣΙΗ.

χώρας ἄνακτες, δόξα μοι παρεστάθη

ιαυοῦς ἱκέσθαι δαίμονων, τάδ' ἐν χεροῖν
στήφη λαβοῦσῃ κατιθυμᾶματα.

ὑψοὺ γὰρ αἱρεὶ θυμῶν Ὀιδίπους ἁγαν
λύπαισι παντούασιν· οὐδ' ὅποι' ἀνὴρ
ἐὼν τὰ κανὼν τοὺς πάλαι τεκμαίρεται,
ἀλλ' ἐστι τοῦ λέγοντος, εἰ φάβους λέγη.

ὅτ' ὅυν παραινοῦσα οὐδὲν ἐσ πλέον ποιῶ,
πρὸς σ', ὁ Δάκει' Ἄπολλων, ἄγχιστος γὰρ εἰ,

ἰκέτως ἀφίγμαι τοῖς σὺν κατεύγμασιν,

ὅσποις λύσιν τῶν ἕμιν εὐαγὴ πόρης·

ὡς νῦν ὑκνοῦμεν πάντες ἐκπεπληγμένοι
κεῖνον βλέποντες ὡς κυβερνήτην νεώς.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

ANTISTROPH. II.

No longer will I go in pilgrim's guise,  
    To yon all holy place,  
Earth's central shrine, nor Abae's temple old,  
    Nor to Olympia's fane,  
Unless these things shall stand  
In sight all men, tokens clear from God.  
But, O thou sovereign Ruler! if that name,  
O Zeus, belongs to thee, who reign'st o'er all,  
Let not this trespass hide itself from thee,  
    Or thine undying sway;  
For now they set at nought  
The worn-out oracles,  
    That Laius heard of old,  
And king Apollo's wounded worship flags,  
And all to wreck is gone  
The homage due to God.

JOCASTA.

[Enters, followed by Attendants.]

Princes of this our land, across my soul  
There comes the thought to go from shrine to shrine  
Of all the Gods, these garlands in my hand,  
And waving incense; for our Oedipus  
Vexes his soul too wildly with all woes,  
And speaks not as a man should speak who scans  
New issues by experience of the old,  
But hangs on every breath that tells of fear.  
And since I find that my advice avails not,  
To thee, Lycian King, Apollo, first  
I come, — for thou art nearest, — suppliant  
With these devotions, trusting thou wilt work  
Some way of healing for us, free from guilt;  
For now we shudder, all of us, seeing him,  
The good ship's pilot, stricken down with fear.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἐρ' ἄν παρ' ὑμῶν, ὦ ξένοι, μάθοιμ' ὑπο
τὰ τοῦ τυράννου δῶματ' ἐστὶν Οἰδίπου;
μάλιστα δ' αὐτὸν εἰσπατ', εἰ κάτιοθ' ὑπο.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

στέγαι μὲν αἴδε, καυτὸς ἑυδον, ὦ ξένε.
γυνὴ δὲ μήτηρ ἤδε τῶν κεῖνον τέκνων.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἀλλ' ὀλβία τε καὶ ξύν ὀλβίους αἰὲ
γένοιτ', ἐκείνου γ' οὐσα παντελῆς δάμαρ.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ἀβτος δὲ καὶ σὺ γ', ὦ ξέν', ἄξιος γὰρ εἰ
τῆς εὐπετείας οὐνει'. ἀλλὰ φράζ' ὅτου
χρῆζων ἀφίξαι χῶ τι σημήναι θέλων.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἀγαθὰ δόμοις τε καὶ πόσει τῷ σῷ, γύναι.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

τὰ ποία ταῦτα; παρὰ τίνος δ' ἀφιγμένος;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἐκ τῆς Κορίνθου. τὸ δ' ἔτος οὐξερῶ τάχα,
ἡδοιο μέν, πῶς δ' οὐκ ἄν, ἀσχάλλοις δ' ἴσως.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

τί δ' ἐστί; ποιαν δύναμιν ὅδ' ἔχει διπλήν;
OEDIPUS THE KING.

FIRST MESSENGER.

[Enters at the left, coming from Corinth.]
May I inquire of you, O strangers, where
To find the house of Oedipus the king,
And above all, where he is, if ye know?

CHORUS.

This is the house, and he, good sir, within;
And here stands she, the mother of his children.

FIRST MESSENGER.

Good fortune be with her and all her kin,
Being, as she is, his true and honored wife.

JOCASTA.

Like fortune be with thee, my friend. Thy speech,
So kind, deserves no less. But tell me why
Thou comest, what thou hast to ask or tell.

FIRST MESSENGER.

Good news to thee, and to thy husband, lady.

JOCASTA.

What is it, then? and who has sent thee here?

FIRST MESSENGER.

I come from Corinth, and the news I'll tell
May give thee joy. How else? Yet thou may'st grieve.

JOCASTA.

What is the news that has this twofold power?
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΑΙΓΕΛΟΣ.
τύραννον αὐτὸν οὐπιχόριοι χθονὸς
τῆς Ἰσθμίας στήσουσιν, ὡς ἦδατ᾽ ἐκεῖ.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.
τί δ′; οὐχ οἱ πρέσβεις Πόλυβος ἑγκρατὴς ἦτι;

ΑΙΓΕΛΟΣ.
οὐ δὴ, ἐπεὶ νῦν θάνατος ἐν τάφοις ἔχει.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.
πῶς εἶπας; ἥ τέθνηκε Πόλυβος, δὲ γέρων;

ΑΙΓΕΛΟΣ.
e μὴ λέγω τάληθές, ἀξίω θανεῖν.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.
ὁ πρόσπολ', οὐχὶ δεσπότης τάδ' ὡς τάχος
μολούσα λέξεις; ὁ θεῶν μαντεύματα,
ἐν ἐστὲ· τοῦτον Οἰδίπον τάλαι τρέμων
tὸν ἄνδρ' ἐφευγε μὴ κτάνοι, καὶ νῦν ὅπε
πρὸς τῆς τύχης ὁλωλεν οὐδὲ τοῦδ' ὑπο.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.
ὁ φίλτατον γυναικὸς Ἰοκάστης κάρα, [Introit.]
tὶ μ' ἐξεπέμψω δεύρο τώνδε δωμάτων;

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.
ἀκοοῦ τάνδρος τοῦδε, καὶ σκοπεῖ κλύων
τὰ σέμν᾽ ὃν ἤκει τοῦ θεοῦ μαντεύματα.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

FIRST MESSENGER.
The citizens that on the Isthmus dwell
Will make him sovereign. So the rumor ran.

JOCASTA.
What! Does old Polybus hold his own no more?

FIRST MESSENGER.
Nay, nay. Death holds him in his sepulchre.

JOCASTA.
What say'st thou? Polybus, thy king, is dead?

FIRST MESSENGER.
If I speak false, I bid you take my life.

JOCASTA.
Go, maiden, at thy topmost speed, and tell
Thy master this. Now, oracles of Gods,
Where are ye now? Long since my Oedipus
Fled, fearing lest his hand should slay the man;
And now he dies by fate, and not by him.

OEDIPUS.
[Enters.]

Mine own Jocasta, why, O dearest one,
Why hast thou sent to fetch me from the house?

JOCASTA.
List this man's tale, and, when thou hearest, see
The plight of those the God's dread oracles.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
οὔτος δὲ τίς ποτ’ ἐστὶ καὶ τί μοι λέγει;
ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.
ἐκ τῆς Κορίνθου, πατέρα τὸν σὸν ἄγγελῶν
ὡς οὐκέτ’ ὄντα Πόλυβον, ἀλλ’ ὀλσόλοτα.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
τί φής, ἐγὼ; αὐτὸς μοι σὺ σημήνας γενοῦ.
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.
ei τοῦτο πρῶτου δεῖ μ’ ἀπαγγείλαι σαφῶς,
eῦ ἵσθ’ ἐκεῖνον θανάσιμον βεβηκότα.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
pότερα δολοσιν, ἢ νόσου ἤπειραλλαγῇ;
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.
σμικρὰ παλαιὰ σῶματ’ εὐνικεῖ ῥοπῆ.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
nόσου ὁ τιλήμων, ὡς ζωικεν, ἐφθιτο.
ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.
καὶ τὸ μακρῷ γε συμμετρούμενος χρόνῳ.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
φεῦ φεῦ, τί δήτ’ ἀν, ὡ γὰρ, σκοποῖτο τὶς
τὴν Πυθέομαντιν ἔστιν, ἢ τοὺς ἄνω
κλάξοντας ὄρνες, ὡν ψηφηγητῶν ἐγὼ
κτανεῖν ἐμελλον πατέρα τὸν ἐμόν; ὁ δὲ θανὼν
OEDIPUS THE KING.

OEDIPUS.
Who then is this, and what has he to tell?

JOCASTA.
He comes from Corinth, and he brings thee word
That Polybus, thy father, lives no more.

OEDIPUS.
What say'st thou, friend? Tell me thy tale thyself.

FIRST MESSENGER.
If I must needs report the story clear,
Know well that he has gone the way of death.

OEDIPUS.
Was it by plot, or chance of some disease?

FIRST MESSENGER.
An old man's frame a little stroke lays low.

OEDIPUS.
By some disease, 'twould seem, he met his death?

FIRST MESSENGER.
Yes, that, and partly worn by lingering age.

OEDIPUS.
Ha! ha! Why now, my queen, should we regard
The Pythian hearth oracular, or birds
In mid-air crying? By their auguries,
I was to slay my father. And he dies,
And the grave hides him; and I find myself
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

κεύθει κάτω δὴ γῆς· ἐγὼ δ’ ὃδ’ ἐνθάδε ἀφανιστὸς ἔχχοις, εἰ τι μὴ τῶμφο πόθῳ κατέφθιθ’· οὔτω δ’ ἂν θανῶς εἰη ἥξ ἐμοῦ. τὰ δ’ οὖν παρόντα συλλαβῶν θεσπίσματα κεῖται παρ’ Ἀιδή Πόλυβος ἀξί οὐδενός.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

οὐκον ἔγω σοι ταῦτα προύλεγον πάλαι;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΕ.

ηὔδας· ἐγὼ δὲ τῷ φόβῳ παρηγόμην.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

μὴ νῦν ἔτ’ αὐτῶν μηδὲν ἐς θυμοῦ βάλης.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΕ.

καὶ πῶς τὸ μητρὸς λέκτρον οὐκ ὀκνεῖν με δεῖ;

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

τί δ’ ἂν φοβοῦτ’ ἀνθρωπος, φ’ τὰ τῆς τύχης κρατεῖ, πρόνοια δ’ ἔστιν οὔδενος σαφῆς; εἰκῇ κράτιστον ξῆν, ὅπως δύναι τοι. σὺ δ’ εἰς τὰ μητρὸς μὴ φοβοῦ νυμφεῖματα· πολλοὶ γὰρ ἤδη καὶ δυναίτως βροτῶν μητρὶ ξυνευνάσθησαν. ἀλλὰ ταῦθ’ ἄτρο παρ’ οὔδεν ἔστι, ῥάστα τὸν βίον φέρει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΕ.

καλῶς ἀπαντα ταῦτ’ ἂν ἔξειρητό οὐ,

εἰ μὴ ’κύρει ξῖσσ’ ἡ τεκοῦσα· νῦν δ’ ἐπεὶ ἥξ, πάσ’ ἀνάγκη, κεῖ καλῶς λέγεις, ὀκνεῖν.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

Handling no sword; — unless for love of me
He pined away, and so I caused his death.
So Polybus is gone, and bears with him,
In Hades ’whelmed, those worthless oracles.

JOCASTA.
Did I not tell thee this long time ago?

OEDIPUS.
Thou did’st, but I was led away by fears.

JOCASTA.
Dismiss them, then, forever from thy thoughts!

OEDIPUS.
And yet that “incest”; must I not fear that?

JOCASTA.
Why should we fear, when chance rules everything,
And foresight of the future there is none;
’Tis best to live at random, as one can.
But thou, fear not that marriage with thy mother:
Many ere now have dreamt of things like this,
But who cares least about them bears life best.

OEDIPUS.
Right well thou speakest all things, save that she
Still lives that bore me, and I can but fear,
Seeing that she lives, although thou speakest well.
OIDIPOUS TURANNOS.

IOKASTH.

kai μην μέγας ἡ ὀφθαλμός οἱ πατρὸς τάφων.

OIDIPOSTH.

μέγας, ξυνίημ' ἀλλὰ τῆς ζώσης φόβος.

AGGELOS.

ποίας δὲ καὶ γυναικὸς ἑκοβείσθ' ὑπὲρ;

OIDIPOSTH.

Μερόπης, γεραιέ, Πόλυβος ἦς φίκει μέτα. 900

AGGELOS.

tί δ' ἐστ' ἐκείνης ὑμᾶς ἐς φόβον φέρον;

OIDIPOSTH.

θεύλατον μάντευμα δεινόν, ὃ ξένε.

AGGELOS.

ἡ ῥητὸν; ἡ οὐχὶ θεμιτὸν ἄλλον εἰδέναι;

 OIDIPOSTH.

μάλιστά γ' ἐίπε γάρ με Δοξίας ποτὲ
χρῆναι μιγῆναι μητρὶ τῇματοῦ, τὸ τε
πατρίδον ἁίμα χερσὶ ταῖς ἐμαῖς ἔλειν.
ὦν οὐνεχ' ἡ Κόρινθος ἔξ ἐμοῦ πάλαι
μακρὰν ἀποκείτ' εὔτυχῶς μέν, ἄλλ' ὄμωσ
τὰ τῶν τεκόντων ὄμμαθ' ὧδιστον βλέπειν.

AGGELOS.

ἡ γὰρ τάδ' ὀκνῶν κείθεν ἥσθ' ἀπόπτολις; 1000
OEDIPUS THE KING.

JOCASTA.
And yet great light comes from thy father's grave.

OEDIPUS.
Great light I own; yet while she lives I fear.

FIRST MESSENGER.
Who is this woman about whom ye fear?

OEDIPUS.
'Tis Merope, old sir, who lived with Polybus.

FIRST MESSENGER.
And what leads you to think of her with fear?

OEDIPUS.
A fearful oracle, my friend, from God.

FIRST MESSENGER.
Can't tell it? or must others ask in vain?

OEDIPUS.
Most readily: for Loxias said of old
That I should with my mother wed, and then
With mine own hands should spill my father's blood.
And therefore Corinth long ago I left,
And journeyed far, right prosperously I own;—
And yet 'tis sweet to see one's parents' face.

FIRST MESSENGER.
And did this fear thy steps to exile lead?
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
πατρός τε χρήζων μη φουεύς εἶναι, γέρου.

ΑΙΓΓΕΛΟΣ.
τι δήτ' ἐγὼ οὐχὶ τοῦτο τοῦ φόβου σ', ἀναξ,
ἐπείπερ εὖνοις ἦλθον, ἐξελυσάμην;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
καὶ μην χάριν γ' ἄν ἐξίαν λάβοις ἐμοῦ.

ΑΙΓΓΕΛΟΣ.
καὶ μην μᾶλιστα τοῦτ' ἄφικόμην, ὡς
σοῦ πρὸς δόμους ἐλθόντος εὖ πράξαμι τι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ἀλλ' οὖποτ' εἰμι τοῖς φυτεύσασιν γ' ὁμοῦ.

ΑΙΓΓΕΛΟΣ.
ὡ παῖ, καλῶς εἰ δήλος οὐκ εἰδώς τι δρᾶς.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
πῶς, ὡ γεραιε; πρὸς θεῶν δίδασκε με.

ΑΙΓΓΕΛΟΣ.
εἰ τῶνδε φεύγεις οὖνεκ' εἰς οἶκους μολεῖν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ταρβῶ γε μη μοι Φοίβος ἔξελθη σαφῆς.

ΑΙΓΓΕΛΟΣ.
ἡ μη μίασμα τῶν φυτευσάμων λάβησ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
τοῦτ' αὐτό, πρέσβυ, τούτῳ μ' εἰσαι φοβεῖ.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

OEDIPUS.
I did not wish to take my father's life.

FIRST MESSENGER.
Why, then, O king, did I, with good-will come,
Not free thee from this fear that haunts thy soul?

OEDIPUS.
Yes, and for this thou shalt have worthy thanks.

FIRST MESSENGER.
For this, indeed, I chiefly came to thee;
That I on thy return might prosper well.

OEDIPUS.
And yet I will not with a parent meet.

FIRST MESSENGER.
'Tis clear, my son, thou know'st not what thou dost.

OEDIPUS.
What is't? By all the Gods, old man, speak out.

FIRST MESSENGER.
If 'tis for them thou fearest to return —

OEDIPUS.
I fear lest Phoebus prove himself too true.

FIRST MESSENGER.
Is it lest thou should'st stain thy soul through them?

OEDIPUS.
This self-same fear, old man, forever haunts me.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.
ἀρ’ οἴσθα δήτα πρὸς δίκης οὐδὲν τρέμων;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΗΣ.
πῶς δ’ οὖχι, παῖς γ’ εἰ τῶν δε γεννητῶν ἔφυν;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.
ὁθοίνεκ’ ἢν σοι Πόλυβος οὐδὲν ἐν γένει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΗΣ.
πῶς εἶπας; οὐ γὰρ Πόλυβος ἔξεφυσεί με;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.
οὐ μᾶλλον οὐδὲν τοῦδε τἀνδρός, ἀλλ’ ἵσον.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΗΣ.
καὶ πῶς ὁ φύσας ἔξ ἴσου τῷ μηδενί;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.
ἀλλ’ οὗ σ’ ἔγεινατ’ οὔτ’ ἐκεῖνος οὔτ’ ἔγω.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΗΣ.
ἀλλ’ ἀντὶ τοῦ δὴ παιδὰ μ’ ὤνομάξετο;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.
δῶρον ποτ’, ἵσθι, τῶν ἐμῶν χειρῶν λαβὼν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΗΣ.
καθ’ ὁδ’ ἀπ’ ἀλλής χειρὸς ἐστερξεν μέγα;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.
ἡ γὰρ πρὶν αὐτὸν ἐξέπευεν’ ἀπαίδια.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

FIRST MESSENGER.
And know'st thou not there is no cause for fear?

OEDIPUS.
Is there no cause if I was born their son?

FIRST MESSENGER.
None is there. Polybus was nought to thee.

OEDIPUS.
What say'st thou? Did not Polybus beget me?

FIRST MESSENGER.
No more than he thou speak'st to; just as much.

OEDIPUS.
How could a father's claim become as nought?

FIRST MESSENGER.
Well, neither he begat thee nor did I.

OEDIPUS.
Why then did he acknowledge me as his?

FIRST MESSENGER.
He at my hands received thee as a gift.

OEDIPUS.
And could he love another's child so much?

FIRST MESSENGER.
Yes; for his former childlessness wrought on him.
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

OIDIPOTES.
σὺ δ’ ἐμπολήσας, ἥ τεκὼν μ’ αὐτῷ δίδωσ; 1025

AGGELOS.
eὐρῶν ναπαίας ἐν Κιθαιρώνος πτυχαῖς.

OIDIPOTES.
ὁδοιπόρεις δὲ πρὸς τί τούσδε τοὺς τόπους;

AGGELOS.
ἐνταῦθ’ ὀρείους ποιμνίους ἐπεστάτουν.

OIDIPOTES.
ποιμὴν γὰρ ἦσθα κατ’ θετεῖα πλάνης;

AGGELOS.
σοῦ δ’, ὁ τέκνον, σωτὴρ γε τῷ τότ’ ἐν χρόνῳ. 1030

OIDIPOTES.
tί δ’ ἄλγος ίσχοντ’ ἐν κακοῖς με λαμβάνεις;

AGGELOS.
pοδῶν ἃν ἄρθρα μαρτυρήσεις τὰ σὰ.

OIDIPOTES.
oμοι, τί τούτ’ ἄρχαίον ἐννέπεις κακὸν;

AGGELOS.
λύω σ’ ἔχοντα διατόρους ποδοῦν ἄκμας.

OIDIPOTES.
δεινὸν γ’ ὄνειδος σπαργάνων ἀνειλόμην. 1035
OEDIPUS THE KING.

OEDIPUS.
And gav'st thou me as foundling or as bought?

FIRST MESSENGER.
I found thee in Cithaeron's shrub-grown hollow.

OEDIPUS.
And for what cause did'st travel thitherwards?

FIRST MESSENGER.
I had the charge to tend the mountain flocks.

OEDIPUS.
Wast thou a shepherd, then, and seeking hire?

FIRST MESSENGER.
E'en so, my son, and so I saved thee then.

OEDIPUS.
What evil plight then did'st thou find me in?

FIRST MESSENGER.
The sinews of thy feet would tell that tale.

OEDIPUS.
Ah, me! why speak'st thou of that ancient wrong?

FIRST MESSENGER.
I freed thee when thy insteps both were pierced.

OEDIPUS.
A foul disgrace I had in swaddling clothes.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΑΙΓΕΛΩΣ.
δοστ' ἀνομασθῆς ἐκ τῆς ταύτης ἡ ἐ. e. o

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.
ω πρὸς θεῶν, πρὸς μητρός, ἡ πατρός, φράσουν.

ΑΙΓΕΛΩΣ.
οὐκ οἶδ᾽· ὁ δοῦσ δὲ ταύτ᾽ ἐμοῦ λύφων φρονεῖ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.
ἡ γὰρ παρ᾽ ἄλλου μ' ἔλαβες οὐδ᾽ αὐτὸς τυχόν;

ΑΙΓΕΛΩΣ.
οὐκ, ἀλλὰ ποιμίν ἄλλος ἐκδίδωσι μοι. 1040

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.
τίς οὗτος; ἡ κάτοικθα δηλώσαι λόγῳ;

ΑΙΓΕΛΩΣ.
τῶν Δαῦν δήποτε τις ἀνομάξειτο.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.
ἡ τοῦ υπάντου τήσδε γῆς πάλαι ποτὲ;

ΑΙΓΕΛΩΣ.
μάλιστα· τούτου τάνδρος οὗτος ἦν βοτήρ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.
ἡ καστ' ἐτι ζῶν οὗτος, ὡστ' ιδεῖν ἐμέ; 1045

ΑΙΓΕΛΩΣ.
ήμεισ γ᾽ ἄριστ' εἰδεῖτ' ἀν ὁπτιχώριον.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

FIRST MESSENGER.
Thus from this chance there came the name thou bearest.

OEDIPUS.
Who gave the name, my father or my mother?

FIRST MESSENGER.
I know not. He who gave thee better knows.

OEDIPUS.
Did'st thou then take me from another's hand,
Not finding me thyself?

FIRST MESSENGER.
Not I, indeed;
Another shepherd made a gift of thee.

OEDIPUS.
Who was he? Know'st thou how to point him out?

FIRST MESSENGER.
They called him one of those that Laius owned.

OEDIPUS.
Mean'st thou the former sovereign of this land?

FIRST MESSENGER.
E'en so. He fed the flocks of him thou nam'st.

OEDIPUS.
And is he living still that I might see him?

FIRST MESSENGER.
You, his own countrymen, should know that best.
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἔστιν τις ὑμῶν τῶν παρεστώτων πέλας,
όστις κάποιες τοῦ βοτήρ', ὃν ἐννέπει,
εἰτ' οὖν ἐπ' ἀγρῶν εἶτε κώμαδ' εἰσιδών;
σημέραθ', ὥς ὁ καιρὸς εὑρήσαταί τάδε.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

οἶμαι μὲν οὖν δέν ἄλλον ἢ τὸν ἐξ ἀγρῶν,
ὅν καρμάτευες πρὸς θεῖον εἰσιδέων. ἀτάρ
ηδ' ἂν τάδ' οὖχ ἥκιστ' ἂν Ἰοκάστη λέγου.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

γῆναι, νοεῖς ἐκεῖνου, ἄντων ἀρτίως
μολεῖν εφιέμεσθα; τόδ' οὐτός λέγει;

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

τι δ' ἄντων εἴπε; μηδὲν ἐντραπῆς· τὰ δὲ
ῥηθέντα βούλου μηδὲ μεμνῆσθαι μάτην.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

οὐκ ἂν γένοιτο τοῦθ', ὅτως ἐγὼ λαβῶν
σημεία τοιαύτ' οὐ φανὼ τούμῳ γένος.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

μὴ πρὸς θεῶν, εἴπερ τι τοῦ σαυτοῦ βίον
κήδει, ματεύσῃς τοῦθ'· ἄλως νοσοῦσ' ἐγώ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

θάρσει. ὅτι μὲν γὰρ οὐδ' ἐὰν τρίτης ἐγὼ
μητρὸς φανῷ τρίδουλος, ἐκφανεῖ κακή.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

OEDIPUS.
Is there of you who stand and listen here
One who has known the shepherd that he tells of,
Or seeing him upon the hills or here?
If so, declare it; 'tis full time to know.

CHORUS.
I think that this is he whom from the fields
But now thou soughtest. But Jocasta here
Could tell thee this with surer word than I.

OEDIPUS.
Think'st thou, my queen, the man whom late we sent for
Is one with him of whom this stranger speaks?

JOCASTA.
Whom did he speak of? Care not thou for it,
Nor even wish to keep his words in mind.

OEDIPUS.
I cannot fail, once getting on the scent,
To track at last the secret of my birth.

JOCASTA.
Ah, by the Gods, if that thou valuest life
Inquire no more. My misery is enough.

OEDIPUS.
Take heart; though I should prove thrice base-born slave,
Born of thrice base-born mother, thou art still
Free from all stain.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΙΟΚΑΣΘ.
δὴ μως πιθοῦ μοι, λάςσομαι· μὴ δρὰ τάδε.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
οὐκ ἂν πιθοίμην μὴ οὐ τάδ’ ἐκμαθεὶν σαφῶς.

ΙΟΚΑΣΘ.
καὶ μὴν φρονοῦσά γ’ εὔ τ’ αὖστά σοι λέγω.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
τ’ αὖστα τοῖνυν ταυτά μ’ ἀλγύνει πάλαι.

ΙΟΚΑΣΘ.
δ’ δύσποτμ’, εἴθε μήποτε γνοίης δ’ εἰ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ἀξεῖ τις ὑλῆν δεύρο τὸν βοτήρα μοι;
ταῦτην δ’ εάτε πλουσίω χαίρειν γένει.

ΙΟΚΑΣΘ.
ιο’ ιοῦ, δύσπηνε· τούτο γὰρ σ’ ἔχω
μόνων προσειπέων, ἀλλο δ’ οὔποθ’ ὑπερεν. [Exit.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.
τ’ ποτὲ βέβηκεν, Οἰδίπος, ὑπ’ ἀγρίας
ἀξάσα λύπης ἡ γυνῆ; δέδοιχ’ ὅπως
μὴ ’ κ τῆς σιωπῆς τής’ ἀναρρήξει κακά.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ὀποία χρήξει ῥηγνύτω· τούμουν δ’ ἐγώ,
κεὶ σμικρὸν ἔστι, σπέρμ’ ἰδεῖν βουλήσομαι.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

JOCASTA.
Yet, I implore thee, pause!
Yield to my counsels, do not do this deed.

OEDIPUS.
I may not yield, nor fail to search it out.

JOCASTA.
And yet best counsels give I, for thy good.

OEDIPUS.
What thou call'st best has long been grief to me.

JOCASTA.
May'st thou ne'er know, ill-starred one, who thou art!

OEDIPUS.
Will some one bring that shepherd to me here?
Leave her to glory in her high descent.

JOCASTA.
Woe! woe! ill-fated one! my last word this,
This only, and no more for evermore. [Rushes within.

CHORUS.
Why has thy queen, O Oedipus, gone forth
In her wild sorrow rushing? Much I fear
Lest from such silence evil deeds burst out.

OEDIPUS.
Burst out what will; I seek to know my birth,
Low though it be, and she perhaps is shamed
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

αὕτη δ' ἵσως, φρονεῖ γὰρ ὡς ηνυὴ μέγα, τὴν δυσγένειαν τὴν ἔμην' αἰσχύνεται.

ἔγω δ' ἐμαυτὸν παίδα τῆς Τύχης νέμων
τῆς εὖ διδούσης οὖν ἀτιμασθήσομαι.

τῆς γὰρ τέφυκα μητρὸς· οἱ δὲ συγγενεῖς
μηνὲς με μικρὸν καὶ μέγαν διώρισαν.

τοιόσοδε δ' ἐκφύος οὖν ἄν ἐξέλθωμ' ἐτὶ
ποτ' ἄλλος, ὥστε μη' κμαθεῖν τούμον γένος.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

στρ.

εἴπερ ἐγὼ μάντις εἰμὶ καὶ κατὰ γνώμαν ἵδρυ,
οὗ τὸν Ὀλυμπὸν ἀπείρου, ὥς Κιθαρών,
οὐκ ἔση τὰν αὐριαν πανσέληνον, μὴ οὐ σὲ γε

καὶ πατρώταν Οἰδίπου
καὶ τρόφον καὶ ματέρ' ἀνξείων,
καὶ χορεύεσθαι πρὸς ἦμον, ὅσ ἐπίθερα φέροντα τοῖς ἐμοῖς
τυράννοις.

ὕπε Φοῖβε, σοι δὲ
tαυτ' ἀρέστ' εἰη.

ἀντ.

τὶς σε, τέκνων, τίς σ' ἔτικτε τὰν μακραιῶνον κορᾶν,
Πανὸς ὀρεσσιβάτα πατρὸς πελασθείᾳ,

ἡ σὲ γ' εὐνάτειρά τις Δοξίου; τῷ γὰρ πλάκες
ἀγρονομοὶ πᾶσαι φίλαι·

εἴθ' ὁ Κυλλάνας ἀνάσσων,
εἴθ' ὁ Βακχείος θεὸς ναίων ἐπ' ἀκρῶν ὀρέων εὐφημα δέξατ'

ἐκ τοῦ
OEDIPUS THE KING.

(For, like a woman, she is proud of heart)
At thoughts of my low birth; but I, who count
Myself the child of Fortune, feel no shame;
My mother she, and she has prospered me.
And so the months that span my life have made me
Both low and high; but whatsoe'er I be,
Such as I am I am, and needs must on
To fathom all the secret of my birth.

CHORUS.

If the seer's gift be mine,
Or skill in counsel wise,
Thou, O Cithaeron, by Olympus high,
When next our full moon comes,
Shalt fail not to resound
With cry that greets thee, fellow-citizen,
Mother and nurse of Oedipus;
And we will on thee weave our choral dance,
As bringing to our princes glad good news.
Hail, hail! O Phoebus, grant that what we do
May meet thy favoring smile.

ANTISTROPH.

Who was it bore thee, child,
Of Nymphs whose years are long,
Or drawing near the mighty Father, Pan,
Who wanders o'er the hills,
Or Loxias' paramour,
Who loves the high lawns of the pasturing flocks?
Or was it He who rules
Cyllene's height; or did the Bacchic god,
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

Νυμφαί 'Ελικωνίδων, αῖς
πλεῖστα συμπαίξει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ei χρή τε κάμε μὴ συναλλάξαντά πώ,
πρέσβεις, σταθμᾶσθαι, τὸν βοτήρ' ὄραν δοκῶ,
δνπερ πάλαι ξητούμεν. ἐν τε γαρ μακρῷ
γῆρῳ ξυνάδει τὸδε τάνδρι σύμμετρος,
ἀλλᾶς τε τοὺς ἁγοντας ὁσπερ οἰκέτας
ἐγνωκ' ἐμαυτοῦ. τῇ δ' ἐπιστήμῃ σύ μου
προύχοις τάχ' ἄν που, τὸν βοτήρ' ἰδῶν πάρος.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.
ἐγνωκα γάρ, σάφ' ἵσθι. Λαίου γὰρ ἦν
εἴπερ τις ἄλλος πιστὸς ὁς νομεὺς ἀνήρ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
σὲ πρῶτ' ἐρωτῶ, τὸν Κορίνθιον ξένον,
ἡ τόνδε φράξεις;

ΑΙΓΕΛΟΣ.
. τούτον, δνπερ ἐισορᾶς.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
οὕτος σὺ, πρέσβυ, δεῦρό μοι φῶνει βλέπων [Introit
ὁδ' ἄν σ' ἐρωτῶ. Λαίου ποτ' ἴσθα σύ; pastor Laii.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.
ἡ δούλος σῦ ἀνητός, ἀλλ' οἴκου τραφεῖς.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

Whose dwelling is upon the mountain peaks,
Receive thee, gift of Heliconian nymphs,
With whom he loves to sport?

OEDIPUS.

If I must needs conjecture, who as yet
Ne'er met the man, I think I see the shepherd,
Whom this long while we sought for. In his age
He this man matches. And I see besides,
My servants bring him. Thou perchance can'st speak
From former knowledge yet more certainly.

CHORUS.

I know him, king, be sure; for this man stood,
If any, known as Laïus' herdsman true.

SHEPHERD enters at the right, from afield.

OEDIPUS.

Thee first I ask, Corinthian stranger, say;
Is this the man?

FIRST MESSENGER.

The very man thou seek'st.

OEDIPUS.

Ho there! old man. Come hither, look on me,
And tell me all. Did Laïus own thee once?

SHEPHERD.

His slave I was, not bought, but reared at home.
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἐργον μεριμνῶν ποίον ἡ βίων τίνα;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

ποίμναις τὰ πλείστα τοῦ βίου συνεπόμην.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

χώρους μάλιστα πρὸς τίς ἦν τίνι ύπαυγος ὄν;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

ἡ μὲν Κιθαιρών, ἢν δὲ πρόσχωρος τόπος.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τὸν ἄνδρα τόνδ' οὖν οἶσθα τῇδε ποιεῖν μαθὼν;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

τὰ χρήμα δρῶτα; ποίον ἄνδρα καὶ λέγεις;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τόνδ' ὃς θάρεστιν· ἡ ἐξυπνήλαξας τί πόνω; ἡ μὲν διπλοία ποιμνίας, ἕγαμ' ἀνεχόμεν τοῦ τόπου τὸν Κιθαιρώνος τόπον

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

οὐχ ὡστε γ' ἐπεὶς ἐν τάχει μνήμης ὑπό.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

καύδευν γε θαύμα, δέσποτ'· ἀλλ' ἐγώ σαφῶς
ἀγνώτ' ἀναμνήσω νυν. ἐὰν γὰρ οἶδ' ὃτι
κάτωθιν ἦμος τὸν Κιθαιρώνος τόπον
ὁ μὲν διπλοία ποιμνίας, ἐγὼ δ' ἐν
ἐπιλησίαζον τῷδε τάνδρι τρεῖς ὀλοὺς
ἐξ ἦρος εἰς ἀρκτοῦρον ἐκμήνους χρόνους.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

OEDIPUS.

What was thy work, or what thy mode of life?

SHEPHERD.

Near all my life I followed with the flock.

OEDIPUS.

And in what regions did'st thou chiefly dwell?

SHEPHERD.

Now 'twas Cithaeron, now on neighboring fields.

OEDIPUS.

Know'st thou this man? Did'st ever see him there?

SHEPHERD.

What did he do? Of what man speakest thou?

OEDIPUS.

This man now present. Did ye ever meet?

SHEPHERD.

I cannot say off-hand from memory.

FIRST MESSENGER.

No wonder that, my lord. But I'll remind him
Right well of things forgotten. Well I know
He needs must know when on Cithaeron's fields,
He with a double flock, and I with one,
I was his neighbor during three half years,
From springtide till Arcturus rose; and I
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

χειμώνα δ’ ἦρθη ταύτα τ’ εἰς ἑπαυλ’ ἐγὼ ἡμαύνον οὕτως τ’ εἰς τὰ Δαίους σταθμά.
λέγω τι τούτων, ἢ ὦ λέγω πεπραγμένον;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.
λέγεις ἀληθῆ, καὶ περ ἐκ μακροῦ χρόνου.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.
φέρ’ εἰπὲ νῦν, τότ’ οἴσθα παιδά μοὶ τινα
doύς, ως ἐμαυτῷ θρέμμα θραπάμην ἐγώ;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.
ti δ’ ἐστὶ— πρὸς τι τούτο τούπος ἱστορεῖς;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.
δ’ ἐστὶν, ὃ τᾶν, κεῖνος δι’ τὸτ’ ἂν νέος.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.
οὐκ εἰς ὀλεθρον; οὐ σιωπήσας ἔσει;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.
ἀ, μὴ κόλαξῃ, πρέσβυ, τόνδ’, ἐπεὶ τὰ σὰ
deῖται κολαστῷ μᾶλλον ἢ τὰ τοῦδ’ ἔπη.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.
ti δ’, ὦ φερίστε δεσποτῶν, ἄμαρτάνω;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.
οὐκ ἐννέατοι τὸν παῖδ’ ὅν οὕτος ἱστορεῖ.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.
λέγει γαρ εἰδὼς οὐδεν, ἀλλ’ ἄλλως πονεῖ.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

In winter to mine own fold drove my flocks,
And he to those of Laius. [70 SHERIFF.] Answer me,
Speak I, or speak I not, the thing that was?

SHEPHERD.
Thou speak' st the truth, although long years have passed.

FIRST MESSENGER.
Come, then, say on. Dost know thou gav' st me once
A boy, that I might rear him as my child?

SHEPHERD.
What means this? Wherefore askest thou of that?

FIRST MESSENGER.
Here stands he, fellow! that same tiny boy.

SHEPHERD.
A curse befall thee! Wilt not hold thy tongue?

OEDIPUS.
Rebuke him not, old man; thy words need more
The language of rebuker than do his.

SHEPHERD.
Say, good my lord, what fault do I commit?

OEDIPUS.
This, that thou tell' st not of the child he asks for.

SHEPHERD.
Yes, for he nothing knows, and wastes his pains.
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
σὺ πρὸς χάριν μὲν οὐκ ἐρεῖς, κλαίων δ' ἐρεῖς.

ΘΕΡΑΙΩΝ.
μὴ δῆτα, πρὸς θεῶν, τὸν γέροντα μ' αἰκίσῃ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
οὐχ ὡς τάχος τις τοῦδ' ἀποστρέψει χέρας;

ΘΕΡΑΙΩΝ.
δύστηνος, ἀντὶ τοῦ; τί προσχρῆσαι μαθεῖν;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
τὸν παιδ' ἔδωκας τῷδ' ὅν οὕτος ἱστορεῖ;

ΘΕΡΑΙΩΝ.
ἔδωκ'. ὀλέσθαι δ' ὀφελοῦν τῷδ' ἡμέρᾳ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ἀλλ' εἰς τῶδ' ἤξεις μὴ λέγων γε τούνδικον.

ΘΕΡΑΙΩΝ.
πολλῷ γε μᾶλλον, ἂν φράσω, διόλυμαι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ἀνὴρ δὸ, ὡς ἐοικεὶν, ἐς τριβάς ἐλά.

ΘΕΡΑΙΩΝ.
οὐ δὴ ἔγωγ', ἀλλ' εἴπον ὡς δοῖην πάλαι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
πόθεν λαβῶν; ὁικεῖον, ἦ' ἄλλου τινῶς;
OEDIPUS THE KING.

OEDIPUS.
For favor thou speak'st not, but shalt for pain —

SHEPHERD.
By all the Gods, hurt not an old man weak.

OEDIPUS.
Will no one bind his hands behind his back?

SHEPHERD.
Oh, wretched me! And what then wilt thou learn?

OEDIPUS.
Gav'st thou this man the boy of whom he asks?

SHEPHERD.
I gave him. Would that I that day had died.

OEDIPUS.
Soon thou wilt come to that if thou speak'st wrong.

SHEPHERD.
Nay, much more shall I perish if I speak.

OEDIPUS.
This fellow, as it seems, would tire us out.

SHEPHERD.
Not so. I said long since I gave it him.

OEDIPUS.
Whence came it? Was the child thine own or not?
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

ἐμὸν μὲν οὐκ ἔγωγ', ἐδεξάμην δὲ τοῦ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τίνος πολιτῶν τῶνδε κἀκε ποίας στέγης;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

μὴ πρὸς θεῶν, μὴ, δέσποθ', ἰστὸρει πλέον.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ὁλωλας, εἰ σε ταῦτ' ἐρήσομαι πάλιν.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

τῶν Δαλοῦ τοῖνυν τις ἢν γεννημάτων.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἡ δοῦλος, ἢ κείνου τις ἐγγενῆς γεγώς;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

οἶμοι, πρὸς αὐτῷ γ' εἰμὶ τῷ δεινῷ λέγειν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

κἀγωγ' ἀκοῦειν· ἀλλ' ὦμοι ἀκουστέοιν.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

κείνου γε τοι δὴ παῖς ἐκληζέθ'. ἢ δ' ἐσω κἀλλιστ' ἂν εἴποι σῇ γυνῇ τῶδ' ὡς ἔχει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἡ γὰρ δίδωσιν ἢδε σοι;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

μᾶλιστ', ἀναξ.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

SHEPHERD.
Mine own 'twas not, from some one else I had it.

OEDIPUS.
Which of our people, or from out what home?

SHEPHERD.
Oh, by the Gods, my master, ask no more!

OEDIPUS.
Thou diest if I question this again.

SHEPHERD.
Some one it was of Laïus' household born.

OEDIPUS.
Was it a slave, or some one kin to him?

SHEPHERD.
Ah me, I stand upon the very brink
Where most I dread to speak.

OEDIPUS.
And I to hear:
And yet I needs must hear it, come what may.

SHEPHERD.
The boy was said to be his son; but she,
Thy queen within, could tell the whole truth best.

OEDIPUS.
What! was it she who gave it?

SHEPHERD.
Yea, O king!
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

όσ πρὸς τὴ χρείας;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

όσ ἀναλώσαμι νῦ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τεκόουσα τλήμων;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

θεσφάτων ἡ ὅκνῳ κακῶν. 1175

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

πολῶν;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

κτενεὶν νῦν τοὺς τεκόντας ἢν λόγος.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

πῶς δὴ ἀφήκας τῷ γέροντι τῶδε σὺ;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

κατοικτίσας, ὡς δέσποθ', ὡς ἄλλην χθόνα
dοκῶν ἀπολέσειν, αὐτὸς ἑυθὺν ἤν. ὣ δὲ
κάκ' ἐσ μέγιστ' ἔσωσεν. εἰ γὰρ οὕτως εἰ
ἀν φησιν οὕτως, ἵσθι δύσποτος γεγόσ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἰοῦ ἵοῦ· τὰ πάντ' ἀν ἐξήκοι σαφῆ.

ὁ φῶς, τελευταῖον σε προσβλέψαμι νῦν,
δόστις πέφασμαι φῶς τ' ἀφ' ὅν οὐ χρῆν, ἔκων οἷς τ
οὐ χρῆν ὀμιλῶν, οὖς τε μ' οὐκ ἔδει κτανῶν. 1183

[Exeunt.]
OEDIPUS THE KING.

OEDIPUS.

And to what end?

SHEPHERD.

To make away with it.

OEDIPUS.

And could a mother —?

SHEPHERD.

Auguries dark she feared.

OEDIPUS.

What were they?

SHEPHERD.

E'en that he his sire should kill.

OEDIPUS.

Why then did'st thou to this old man resign him?

SHEPHERD.

I pitied him, O master, and I thought
That he would bear him to another land,
Whence he himself had come. But him he saved
For direst evil. For if thou be he
Whom this man speaks of, thou art evil-starred.

OEDIPUS.

Woe! woe! woe! woe! all cometh clear at last.
O light, may this my last glance be on thee,
Who now am seen owing my birth to those
To whom I ought not, and with whom I ought not
In wedlock living, whom I ought not slaying.

[OEDIPUS rushes within; the FIRST MESSENGER
retires to the left, the SHEPHERD to the right.]
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

στρ. ά.

ἰδό γενεὰλ βροτῶν,
ὡς ύμᾶς ἵσα καὶ τὸ μηθὲν ἕωςας ἐναριθμῶ.
τίς γαρ, τίς ἀνήρ πλέον
τὰς εὐδαιμονίας φέρει . . .

ἡ τοσοῦτον ὅσον δοκεῖν
καὶ δόξαντ' ἀποκλίναι;
τὸ σὸν τοῦ παραδεχεῖν ἔχον,
τὸν σὸν δαίμονα, τὸν σὸν, ὁ τλάμων Οἰδίπόδα, βροτῶν
οὐδὲν μακρίξω . . .

ἀντ. ά.

ἢστις καθ' ἐπερβολὰν
τοξεύσας ἐκράτησας τοῦ πάντ' εὐδαιμονος ὅλβον,
ὁ Ζεὺς, κατὰ μὲν φθίσας
τὰν γαμφώνυχα παρθένον
χοησμοῦν· θανάτων δ' ἐμᾶ
χώρα τύργος ἀνέστας·
ἐξ οὗ καὶ βασιλεὺς καλεὶ
ἐμὸς, καὶ τὰ μέγιστ' ἐτιμάθης, ταῖς μεγάλαισιν ἐν
Θήβαισιν ἀνάσσων.

στρ. β'.

tαῦτα δ' ἀκούειν τίς ἄθλιωτερος;
τίς ἄταις ἐν ἀγρίαις, τίς ἐν πόνοις
ἐξύνοικος ἄλλαγα βλοῦ;

ἰδὸ κλειόν Οἰδίπου κάρα,
ὡ μέγας λιμὴν
αὐτὸς ἦρκεσεν
παιδί καὶ πατρὶ θαλαμηπόλω φεσεῖν,
OEDIPUS THE KING.

CHORUS.

STROPH. I.
Ah, race of mortal men,
How as a thing of nought
I count ye, though ye live;
For who is there of men
That more of blessing knows,
Than just a little while
To seem to prosper well,
And, having seemed, to fall?
With thee as pattern given,
Thy destiny, e'en thine,
Ill-fated Oedipus,
I count nought human blest.

ANTISTROPH. I.
For he, with wondrous skill,
Taking his aim, did hit
Success, in all things blest;
And did, O Zeus! destroy
The Virgin with claws bent,
And sayings wild and dark;
And against many deaths
A tower and strong defence
Did for my country rise:
And so thou king art named,
With highest glory crowned,
Ruling in mighty Thebes.

STROPH. II.
And now, who lives than thou more miserable?
Who equals thee in wild woes manifold,
In shifting turns of life?
Ah, noble one, our Oedipus!
For whom the same wide harbor
Sufficed for sire and son,
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

πώς ποτε πώς ποθ' αἱ πατρὸι αἱ ἀλκες φέρειν,
τάλας, 1210

σὺν ἐδυνάσθησαν ἐς τοσόντε;

ἀντ. β'.

ἐφευρὲ σ' ἀκονθ' ὁ πάνθ' ὁρῶν χρόνος,
δικἀξεὶ τὸν ἀγαμὸν γάμον πάλαι,
tεκνοῦντα καὶ τεκνούμενον.

ιῶ, Δαίειον ὡ τέκνον,
eἴθε σ', εἴθε σε
μήποτ' εἴδόμαν.
dύρομαι γὰρ ὡς περίαλλ' ἰακχίων
ἐκ στομάτων. τὸ δ' ὀρθὸν εἰπέιν, ἀνέπνευσα τ' ἐκ

σέθεν 1220

καὶ κατεκοίμησα τοὺμὸν ὄμμα.

ΕΦΑΙΤΕΛΟΣ.

ὁ γῆς μέγιστα τῆς ἀεὶ τιμώμενοι,

[Introit.]
oi ἔργον ἀκούσεσθ', οἷα δ' εἰσόψεσθ', ὅσον δ' ἀρείσθε πένθος, εἴπερ ἐγγενῶς ἐτι

τῶν Δαβδακείων ἐντρέπεσθε δωμάτων.
oμαι γὰρ οὐτ' ἀν 'Ἰστρον οὔτε Φάσιν ἀν

νύσσαι καθαρμῷ τήν ἐκ τὴν στέγην, ὡσα

κεύθει, τὰ δ' αὐτίκ' εἰς τὸ φῶς φανεί κακὰ

ἐκόντα κοῦκ ἀκοντα. τῶν δὲ πηνομῶν
μᾶλιστα λυποῦσ' αἰ φανῶσ' αὐθαῖρετοι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

λεῖπει μὲν οὖν ἄ προσθεν ἔδεμεν τὸ μὴ οὗ

βαρύστον' εἶναι' πρὸς δ' ἐκείνοισιν τι φής ;
OEDIPUS THE KING.

In marriage rites to enter:
Ah how, ah, wretched one,
How could thy father's bed
Receive thee, and so long,
Even till now, be dumb?

ANTISTROPH. II.

Time, who sees all things, he hath found thee out,
Against thy will, and long ago condemned
The wedlock none may wed,
    Begetter and begotten.
    Ah, child of Laius! would
I ne'er had seen thy face!
I mourn with wailing lips,
    Mourn sore exceedingly.
'Tis simplest truth to say,
By thee from death I rose,
By thee in death I sleep.

SECOND MESSENGER.

[Enters from the Palace.]

Ye chieftains, honored most in this our land,
What deeds ye now will hear of, what will see,
How great a wailing will ye raise, if still
Ye truly love the house of Labdacus!
For sure I think that neither Istrus' stream
Nor Phasis' floods could purify this house,
Such horrors does it hold. But soon 'twill show
Evils self-chosen, not without free choice:
These self-sought sorrows ever pain men most.

CHORUS.

The ills we knew before lacked nothing meet
For plaint and moaning. Now, what add'st thou more?
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΕΞΑΙΓΝΕΑΟΣ.

ό μὲν τάχιστος τῶν λόγων εἶπείν τε καὶ
μαθεῖν, τεθνηκε θείον Ἰοκάστης κάρα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ὁ δυστάλαινα, πρὸς τίνος ποτ’ αἰτίας ;

ΕΞΑΙΓΝΕΑΟΣ.

αὕτη πρὸς αὑτῆς· τῶν δὲ πραχθέντων τὰ μὲν
ἀλγίατ’ ἀπεστιν· ἡ γὰρ ὅψις οὐ πάρα.

ὅμως δ’, ὅσον γε κἂν ἐμὸι μυήμης ἐν,
πεῦσε τὰ κεῖνα ἀθλίας παθῆματα.

ὅπως γὰρ ῥογὴ χρωμένη παρῆλθ’ ἔσω
θυρόνος, ἵετ’ εὐθύν πρὸς τὰ νυμφικὰ
λέχη, κόμην σπῶσ’ ἀμφιδεξίους ἄκμαῖς.

πύλαι δ’ ὅπως εἰσῆλθ’ ἐπιρράξασ’ ἔσω
καλεῖ τὸν ἥδη Δάιον πᾶλαι νεκρόν,

μνήμην παλαιῶν σπερμάτων ἔχουσ’, ύφ’ ὃν
θάνοι μὲν αὐτός, τὴν δὲ τέκτουσαν λίποι
tοίς οἷσιν αὐτοῦ δύστεκνοι παιδουργίαν.

γρατὸ δ’ εὐνᾶς, ἐνθα δύστηνος διπλοῦς
ἐξ’ ἀνδρὸς ἄνδρα καὶ τέκν’ ἐκ τέκνων τέκνοι.

χῶπως μὲν ἐκ τῶν ὄνκετ’ οὗ’ ἀπόλλυται

βοών γὰρ εἰσέπαισεν Οἰδίποις, ύφ’ οὗ
οὐκ ἦν τὸ κεῖνης ἐκθέασας ταῖς κακοῖς,

ἀλλ’ εἰς ἐκείνουν περιστολούντ’ ἐλεύσομεν.

φωτά γὰρ ἡμᾶς ἔγχος ἔκαιτῶν πορεῖν,

γυναῖκα τ’ οὐ γυναῖκα, μητρόπου δ’ ὅπου
κίξοι διπλῆν ἀρουραν οὐ τε καὶ τέκνων.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

SECOND MESSENGER.
Quickest for me to speak, and thee to learn;
Our sacred queen Jocasta,—she is dead.

CHORUS.
Ah, crushed with many sorrows! How and why?

SECOND MESSENGER.
Herself she slew. The worst of all that passed
I must omit, for none were there to see.
Yet, far as memory suffers me to speak,
That sorrow-stricken woman's end I'll tell;
For when to passion yielding, on she passed
Within the porch, straight to the couch she rushed,
Her bridal bed, with both hands tore her hair,
And as she entered, dashing through the doors,
Calls on her Laïus, dead long years ago,
Remembering that embrace of long ago,
Which brought him death, and left to her who bore,
With his own son a hateful motherhood.
And o'er her bed she wailed, where she had borne
Spouse to her spouse, and children to her child;
And how she perished after this I know not,
For Oedipus struck in with woeful cry,
And we no longer looked upon her fate,
But gazed on him as to and fro he rushed.
For so he raves, and asks us for a sword,
Wherewith to smite the wife that wife was none,
The womb polluted with accursèd births,
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

λωσόντι δ' αὐτῷ δαιμόνων δείκνυαι τις
οὖθεὶς γὰρ ἄνδρων, οἱ παρῆμεν ἐγγύθεν.
ἀεινῶν δ' ἀύσας ὡς υφηγητοῦ τινος
πῶλαις διπλαίς ἐνήλιατ’, ἐκ δὲ πυθμένων
ἐκλινε κοίλα κλῆθρα κάμπττει στέγη.
οὐ δ' ἴν κρεμαστὴν τὴν γηναίκ’ ἐσείδομεν,
πλεκταίσιν αἰώραισιν ἐμπεπληγμένην.
ο δ' ὡς ὁρᾷ νυν, δεινὰ βρυχηθεὶς τῶλας,
χαλὰ κρεμαστὴν ἀρτάνην. ἐπεὶ δὲ γῆ
ἐκεῖτο τλῆμον, δεινὰ δ' ἤν τανθεῦδ' ὀράν.
ἀποσπάσας γὰρ εἰμάτων χρυσηλάτους
περόνας ἀπ’ αὐτῆς, αἰσίων ἔξεστέλλετο,
ἀρας ἐπαισεν ἁρβα τῶν αὐτοῦ κύκλων,
αὐδόν τοιαύθ’, ὀθοῦνει’ οὐκ ὠφοιντὸ νυν
οὔθ’ οἱ ἔπασχεν οὔθ’ ὅποι’ ἐδρα πακά,
ἀλλ’ ἐν σκότῳ το λοιπὸν οὔς μὲν οὐκ ἔδει
ὠφοιαθ’, οὖς δ’ ἔχρηζεν οὐ γνωσοιοτα.
τοιαύθ’ ἐφυμμὸν πολλάκις τε κούχ ἀταξ
ἡρασ’ ἐπαίρων βλέφαρα. φοίνια δ’ ὁμοῦ
γῆγη λενεί ἐπεγγον, οὐδ’ ἀνέεσαν
φόνου μυδώσας σταγόνας, ἀλλ’ ὁμοῦ μέλας
όμβρος χαλύζης αἰματοὺς ἐτέγγετο.
ταξ’ ἐκ δυοῖν ἔρρωγεν, οὐ μόνον πακά,
ἀλλ’ ἄνδρι καὶ γυναικὶ συμμιγῆ κακά.
ὁ πρὶν παλαίδος δ' ὀλβος ἦν πάροιθε μὲν
ὁλβος δικαίος: νῦν δὲ τῇδε θήμερα
ὑπεναγόμοι, ἀτη, θύνατος, αἰσχύνη, κακῶν
οὐ’ ἔστ’ πάντων ὁνόματ', οὐδὲν ἔστ' ἀπόν.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

Himself, his children, — so, as thus he raves,
Some spirit shows her to him (none of us
Who stood hard by had done so): with a shout
Most terrible, as some one led him on,
Through the two gates he leapt, and from the wards
He slid the hollow bolt, and rushes in;
And there we saw his wife had hung herself,
By twisted cords suspended. When her form
He saw, poor wretch, with one wild, fearful cry
The twisted rope he loosens, and she fell,
Ill-starred one, on the ground. Then came a sight
Most fearful. Tearing from her robe the clasps,
All chased with gold, with which she decked herself,
He with them struck the pupils of his eyes,
With words like these: "Because they had not seen
What ills he suffered and what ills he did,
They in the dark should look, in time to come,
On those whom they ought never to have seen
Nor know the dear ones whom he fain had known."
With such like wails, not once or twice alone,
Raising his eyes, he smote them, and the balls,
All bleeding, stained his cheek, nor poured they forth
Gore drops slow trickling, but the purple shower
Fell fast and full, a pelting storm of blood.
Such were the ills that sprang from both of them,
Not on one only, wife and husband both.
His ancient fortune, which he held of old,
Was truly fortune; but for this day's doom
Wailing and woe, and death and shame, all forms
That man can name of evil, none have failed.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.
νῦν δέ ἔσοθ' ὁ τλῆμων ἐν τινὶ σχολῇ κακοῦ;

ΕΞΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.
βοᾷ διοίγειν κλῆθρα καὶ δηλοῦν τινα
τοῖς πάσι Καδμείοισι τὸν πατρωτόνον,
τὸν μητρὸς — αὐτῶν ἀνόσι' οὐδὲ ῥητά μοι,
ὦς ἐκ χθονὸς ρύψων ἐαυτόν, οὗτ' ἔτε
μενῶν δόμων ἄραιος, ὡς ἤριστο.
ῥώμης γε μεντοί καὶ προηγητοῦ τινος
deitai· τὸ γὰρ νόσημα μείξων ἢ φέρειν.
deixei δὲ καὶ σοί. κλῆθρα γὰρ πυλῶν τάδε
dioýgetai· θέαμα δ' εἰσόψει τάχα
toiwτon oı̂on καὶ στυγηύντ' ἐποικίσαι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.
ὦ δεινὸν ἵδειν πάθος ἀνθρώποις, [Introit ÕEd.
ὦ δεινότατον πάντων ὃς ἐγὼ
προσέκυρο' ἡδη. τίς σ', ὃ τλῆμον,
προσέβη μανία; τίς ὁ πηδήσας
μείξων δαίμων τῶν μακίστων
πρὸς σῇ δυσδαίμων μοίρα;
φεῦ φεῦ, δῦσταν' ἀλλ' οὖν ἐσιδεῖν
dύναμαι σε, θέλων πόλλ' ἀνεφέςθαι,
pollὰ πυθέσθαι, pollὰ δ' ἀθρῆσαι
toı̂an φρίκην παρέχεις μοί.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.
ἀιαὶ ἀιαὶ, δῦστανος ἐγὼ,
ποὶ γὰς φέρομαι τλάμων; πὰ μοι
OEDIPUS THE KING.

CHORUS.
What rest from suffering hath the poor wretch now?

SECOND MESSENGER.
He calls to us to ope the bolts, and show
To all in Thebes his father's murderer,
His mother's — Foul and fearful were the words
He spoke; I dare not speak them. Then he said
That he would cast himself adrift, nor stay
At home accursèd, as himself had cursed.
Some stay he surely needs, or guiding hand,
For greater is the ill than he can bear,
And this he soon will show thee, for the bolts
Of the two gates are opening, and thou'lt see
A sight to touch c'en hatred's self with pity.

_The doors of the Palace are thrown open, and Oedipus is seen within._

CHORUS.
Oh, fearful sight for men to look upon!
Most fearful of all woes
I hitherto have known! What madness strange
Has come on thee, thou wretched one?
What Power with one fell swoop,
ills heaping upon ills,
Than greatest greater yet,
Has marked thee for its prey?
Woe! woe! thou doomed one, wishing much to ask,
And much to learn, and much to gaze into,
I cannot look on thee,
So horrible the sight!

OEDIPUS.
Ah, woe! ah, woe! ah, woe!
Woe for my misery!
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

φθογγά δι' ἀλας πέταται φοράδην; 1310
ἰὼ δαίμον, ἵν' ἐξῆλλον.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἐς δεινὸν, οὐδ' ἀκουστῶν, οὐδ' ἐπόψιμον.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

στρ. ἀ.

ἰὼ σκότου
νέφος ἐμὸν ἀπότροπον, ἐπιπλόμενου ἀφατον,
ἀδάματον τε καὶ δυσούριστον ὅν.
οίμοι,
οίμοι μάλ' αὐθίς· οἴων εἰσέδυ μ' ἀμα
κέντρων τε τῶν' οἰστρημα καὶ μνήμη κακῶν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

καὶ θαύμα γ' οὐδὲν ἐν τοσοῖςδε πήμασιν
διπλὰ σε πενθεῖν καὶ διπλὰ φέρειν κακά. 1330

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἀντ. ἀ.

ἰὼ φίλος,
σὺ μὲν ἐμὸς ἐπίτοπος ἔτι μόνιμος· ἔτι γὰρ
ὑπομένεις με τῶν τυφλῶν κηδεύων.
φεῦ φεῦ.

οὐ γάρ με λήθεις, ἀλλ' γηγνώσκω σαφῶς,
καὶ περ σκοτεινός, τὴν γε σὴν αὐθὴν ὅμως. 1335

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἂ δεινὰ δράσας, πῶς ἔτλης τοιαῦτα σὰς
ὀψεῖς μαρὰναι; τὸς σ' ἐπήρε δαίμονον;
OEDIPUS THE KING.

Where am I wandering in my utter woe?
Where floats my voice in air?

Dread Power, with crushing might
Thou leaped'st on my head.

CHORUS.

Yea, with dread doom nor sight nor speech may bear.

OEDIPUS.

O cloud of darkness, causing one to shrink,
That onward sweeps with dread ineffable,
Resistless, borne along by evil blast,

Woe, woe, and woe again!

How through me darts the throbs these clasps have caused,
And memory of my ills.

CHORUS.

And who can wonder that in such dire woes
Thou mournest doubly, bearing twofold ills.

OEDIPUS.

Ah, friend,
Thou only keepest by me, faithful found,
Nor dost the blind one slight.

Woe, woe,
For thou escap'st me not; I clearly know,
Though all is dark, at least that voice of thine.

CHORUS.

O man of fearful deeds, how could'st thou bear
Thine eyes to outrage? What Power stirred thee to it?
"Διόλλων τάδ’ ἦν, Ἀπόλλων, φίλοι, ὁ κακά κακά τελῶν ἐμὰ τάδ’ ἐμὰ πάθεα. ἔπαισε δ’ αὐτόχειρ νυν οὔτες, ἄλλ’ ἐγὼ τλάμων. τί γὰρ ἔδει μ’ ὅραν, ὅτε γ’ ὀρῶντι μηδὲν ἦν ἰδεῖν γλυκύ;"  

ΧΟΡΟΣ.  

ἦν ταῦθ’ ὅπωσπερ καὶ σὺ φής.  

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.  

τί δὴ ἐμοὶ βλεπτόν, ἡ στερκτόν, ἡ προσήγορον ἐτ’ ἐστ’ ἀκούειν ἰδονά, φίλοι; ἀπάγητ’ ἐκτόπιον ὦτι τάχιστα με, ἀπάγητ’, ὅ φίλοι, τὸν μέγ’ ὀλέθριον, τὸν καταρατότατον, ἐτ’ ἰδ’ καὶ θεοὶς ἐχθρότατον βροτῶν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.  

δεῖλαί τοῦ νοῦ τῆς τε συμφορᾶς ἵσουν, ὡς σ’ ἠθέλησα μὴδ’ ἀναγρώναι ποτ’ ἄν.  

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.  

Ἀντ. β’.  

ὁλοθ’ ὁστὶς ἦν ὃς ἁγρίας πέδας νομάδ’ ἐπιποδίας ἔλαβέ μ’ ὑπ’ τε φόνου ἐρντο κάνεσσωσέν, οὐδέν εἰς χάριν πράσσων, τότε γὰρ ἄνθρωπον οὐκ ἦν φίλοισιν οὐδ’ ἐμοὶ τοσόνδ’ ἄχος.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

OEDIPUS.
Apollo, oh, my friends, the God, Apollo,
Who worketh out all these, my bitter woes;
Yet no man's hand but mine has smitten them.
What need for me to see,
When nothing's left that's sweet to look upon?

CHORUS.
Too truly dost thou speak the thing that is.

OEDIPUS.
Yea, what remains to see,
Or what to love, or hear,
With any touch of joy?
Lead me away, my friends, with utmost speed
Lead me away, the foul polluted one,
Of all men most accursed,
Most hateful to the Gods.

CHORUS.
Ah, wretched one, alike in soul and doom,
I fain could wish that I had never known thee.

OEDIPUS.
Ill fate be his who from the fetters freed
The child upon the hills,
And rescued me from death,
And saved me, — thankless boon!
Ah! had I died but then,
Nor to my friends nor me had been such woe.
Θέλοντι κάμοι τούτ' ἀν ἦν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
οὖκ οὖν πατρός γ' ἂν φωνεῖς ἤλθον, οὐδὲ νυμφίος
βροτοίς ἐκλήθην ὃν ἐφυν ἄπο.

νῦν δ' ἁθέος μὲν εἰμ', ἀνοσίων δὲ παῖς,
ὤμογενής δ' ἁφ' ὃν αὐτὸς ἐφυν τάλας.
ei δὲ τι πρεσβύτερον ἐτε κακοῦ κακόν,
τούτ' ἀλαχ' Οἰδίπους.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
οὖκ οὖν ὅπως σε φῶ βεβουλεύσθαι καλῶς,
κρείσσων γὰρ ἤσθα μηκέτ' ὃν ἦ ζῶν τυφλός.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ός μὲν τάδ' οὖχ ὃδ' ἦστ' ἀριστ' εἰργασμένα,
μὴ μ' ἐκδίδασκε, μηδὲ συμβούλευ' ἐτε.

ἐγὼ γὰρ οὖν οἶδ' ὄμμασιν ποίοις βλέπων
πατέρα ποτ' ἂν προσείδον εἰς Ἀιδού μολὼν,
οὐδ' αὐ τάλαιναν μητέρ', οὖν ἐμοί δυοῖν
ἔργ' ἐστι κρείσσων ἀγχόνης εἰργασμένα.

ἄλλ' ἡ τέκνων δήτ' ὦνοι ἦν ἐφίμερος,
βλαστοῦν' ὅπως ἔβλαστε, προσπεσκεῖν ἐμοί;

οὐ δήτα τοῖς γ' ἐμοῖσιν ὄφθαλμοις ποτε·
οὐδ' ἄστυ γ', οὐδὲ πύργος, οὐδὲ δαιμόνων :
ἀγάλμαθ' ἰρά, τῶν ὁ παντλήμων ἐγὼ
κάλλιστ' ἀνὴρ εἰς ἐν γε ταῖς Θηβαῖς τραφεῖς
ἀπεστῆρησ' ἐμαυτόν, αὐτὸς ἐννέπων
OEDIPUS THE KING.

CHORUS.

I, too, could fain wish that.

OEDIPUS.

Yes; then I had not been
My father's murderer;
Nor had men pointed to me as the man
Wedded with her who bore him.
But now all godless, born of impious stock,
In incest joined with her who gave me birth; —
Yea, if there be an evil worse than all,
It falls on Oedipus!

CHORUS.

I may not say that thou art well-advised,
For better wert thou dead than living blind.

OEDIPUS.

Persuade me not, nor counsel give to show
That what I did was not the best to do.
I know not with what eyes, in Hades dark,
To look on mine own father or my mother,
When I against them both, alas! have done
Deeds for which strangling were too light a doom.
My children's face, forsooth, was sweet to see,
Their birth being what it was; nay, nay, not so
To these mine eyes, nor yet this, nor tower,
Nor sacred shrines of Gods whence I, who stood
Most honored one in Thebes, myself have banished,
Θείον ἀπαντας τὸν ἀσεβῆς, τὸν ἐκ θεῶν
φανεντ' ἀναγινον καὶ γένους τοῦ Δαιῶν.
τοιμόνδ' ἐγὼ κηλίδα μηνύσας ἐμῆν
ὄρθων ἔμελλον ὡμασιν τούτοις ὅραν;
Ἡκιστὰ γ' ἀλλ' εἰ τῆς ἀκουσίθαις ἐστὶν
πηγῆς δε' ὅτων φραγμός, οὐκ ἄν ἐσχόμην
τὸ μὴ ποκλήσαι τούμον ἀθλίων δέμας,
]+' ἵν τυφλὸς τε καὶ κλύων μηθέως τὸ γάρ
τήν φροντίδ' ἔσω τῶν κακῶν οἰκεῖν γλυκύ.
ἴω Κιθαιρῶν, τί μ' ἐδέχον; τί μ' οὖν λαβὼν
ἐκεῖνας εὐθύς, ὡς ἐδείξα μήποτε
ἐμαυτὸν ἀνθρώποισιν ἐπέθεν ἣν γεγός;
ὁ Πόλυβε καὶ Κόρινθε καὶ τὰ πιτρία
λόγῳ παλαιῶ δώμαθ', οἰον ἄρα με
κἄλλοις κακῶν ὑπουλον ἐξεθρέψατε.
νῦν γάρ κακός τ' ὅν κἀκε κακῶν εὐφρίοκομαι.
ὁ τρεῖς κέλευθοι καὶ κεκρυμμένη νάπη
δρυμός τε καὶ στενωπός ἐν τριπλαίς ὁδοῖς,
ἀλ' τοιμόν αἱμα τῶν ἐμῶν χειρῶν ἀπὸ
ἐπίεσε πατρός, ἄρα μου μεμνησθέ τι,
οὐ' ἐργα δρόμας ὑμῖν ἔτα δεύρ' ἵνων
όποι ἐπρασσον ἄθικως; ὁ γάμοι γάμοι,
ἐφύσαθ' ἡμᾶς, καὶ φυτεύσατε πάλιν
ἀνείπτη ταυτον σπέρμα, κάπεδείξατε
πατέρας, ἀδελφοὺς, παῖδας, αἰμ' ἐμφύλιον,
νύμφας, γυναίκας, μητέρας τε, χαλόσα
αἰσχροτ' ἐν ἀνθρώπουσιν ἐργα γίγνεται.
ἀλλ'—οὐ γὰρ αὐδὰν ἔσθ' ἀ μηδὲ δράν καλὸν—
OEDIPUS THE KING.

Commanding all to thrust the godless forth,
Him whom the Gods do show accursed, the stock
Of Laïus old. And could I dare to look,
Such dire pollution fixing on myself,
And meet these face to face? Not so, not so.
Yea, if I could but stop the stream of sound,
And dam mine ears against it, I would do it,
Sealing my body vile, that I might live
Both blind and hearing nothing. Sweet 'twould be
To keep my soul beyond the reach of ills.
Why, O Cithaeron, did'st thou shelter me,
Nor kill me out of hand? I had not shown,
In that case, all men whence I drew my birth.
O Polybus, and Corinth, and the home
Of old called mine, how strange a growth ye reared,
All fair outside, all rotten at the core;
For vile I stand, descended from the vile.
Ye threefold roads and thickets half concealed,
The copse, the narrow pass where three ways meet,
Which at my hands did drink my father's blood,
Remember ye what deeds I did in you,
What, hither come, I did? — O marriage rites
That gave me birth, and, having borne me, gave
To me in turn an offspring, and ye showed
Fathers, and sons, and brothers, all in one,
Mothers, and wives, and daughters, hateful names,
All foulest deeds that men have ever done.
But, since, where deeds are evil, speech is wrong,
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ


ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἄλλ’ ὅπεν ἐπαιτεῖς ἐσ ὅδον πάρεσθ’ οδε Κρέων τὸ πράσσειν καὶ τὸ Βουλέων, ἐπεὶ χώρας λέειπται μοῦνοι ἀντί σοῦ φῦλαξ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

οἶμοι, τί δῆτα λέειμεν πρὸς τόνδ’ ἔτος; τίς μοι φανεῖται πίστις ἐνδικος; τὰ γὰρ πάρος πρὸς αὐτὸν πάντ’ ἐφεύρημαι κακὸς.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

οὐθ’ ὡς γελαστής, Οἰδίπος, ἐλήλυθα, ὡσ οὐνείδων τι τῶν πάρος κακῶν. ἄλλ’ εἰ τα θυητῶν μη κατασχύνεσθ’ ἐτι γένεθλα, τὴν γοῦν πάντα βάδκουσαν φλόγα αἰδείσθ’ ἀνακτος Ἡλίου, τοιῶν έγος ἀκάλυπτον οὕτω δεικνύναι, τὸ μῆτε γῆ μῆτ’ ὀμβροε ἰρὸς μῆτε φῶς προσδέξεται. ἄλλ’ ὡς τάχιστ’ ἐς οἶκον ἐσκομίζετε· τοῖς ἐν γένει γὰρ τάγηγενη μάλισθ’ ὀρᾶν μόνοις τ’ ἀκούειν εὐσέβῳς ἔχει κακά.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

With utmost speed, by all the Gods, or slay me,
Or drive me forth, or hide me in the sea,
Where never more your eyes may look on me.
Come, scorn ye not to touch a wretch like me,
But hearken; fear ye not; no soul save me
Can bear the burden of my countless ills.
But ye, if ye have lost your sense of shame
For mortal men, yet reverence the light
Of him, our King, the Sun-God, source of life,
Nor sight so foul expose unveiled to view,
Which neither earth, nor shower from heaven, nor light,
Can see and welcome. But with utmost speed
Convey me in; for nearest kin alone
Can meetly see and hear their kindred's ills.

CHORUS.
The man for what thou need'st is come in time,
Creon, to counsel, and to act, for now
He in thy stead is left our state's one guide.

OEDIPUS.
Ah, me! what language shall I hold to him,
What trust at his hands claim? In all the past
I showed myself to him most vile and base.

CREON.

[Enters from the City.]
I have not come, O Oedipus, to scorn,
Nor to reproach thee for thy former crimes.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

πρὸς θεῶν, ἐπείπερ ἐλπίδος μὲ ἀπέσπασας,
ἄριστος ἐλθὼν πρὸς κάκιστον ἀνδρὶ ἐμὲ,
πιθοῦ τί μοι· πρὸς σοῦ γὰρ, οὖν ἐμὸν, φράσω.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

καὶ τοῦ με χρείας ὡδε λυπαρεῖς τυχεῖν;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ῥόφων με γῆς ἐκ τῆς δ' ὅσον τάχισθ', ὅπου
θυντῶν φανοῦμαι μηδενὸς προσήγορος.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἐδρασ' ἄν εὖ τούτ' ἱσθ' ἄν, εἰ μὴ τοῦ θεοῦ
πρώτῳ ἵνα ἐχρηζόν εκμαθεῖν τι πρακτέον.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἀλλ' ἢ γ' ἐκεῖνον πᾶσ' ἐδηλώθη φάτις,
τὸν πατροφάντην, τὸν ἁσεβὴ μ' ἀπολλύναι.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

οὕτως ἐλέχθη ταῦθ'. δύμως δ', ἵν' ἐσταμεν
χρείας, ἀμεινον εκμαθεῖν τι δραστέον.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

οὕτως ἄρ' ἀνδρὸς ἀθλίου πεύσεσθ' ὑπερ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

καὶ γὰρ σὺ νῦν τὰν τῷ θεῷ πίστων φέροις.
OEDIPUS THE KING.

OEDIPUS.
Oh, by the Gods! since thou, beyond my hopes,  
Dost come all noble unto me all base,  
One favor grant. I seek thy good, not mine.

CREON.
And what request seek’st thou so wistfully?

OEDIPUS.
Cast me with all thy speed from out this land,  
Where nevermore a man may speak to me!

CREON.
Be sure, I would have done so, but I wished  
To learn what now the God will bid us do.

OEDIPUS.
The oracle was surely clear enough  
That I, the parricide, the pest, should die.

CREON.
So ran the words. But in our present need  
"Tis better to learn surely what to do.

OEDIPUS.
And will ye ask for one so vile as I?

CREON.
Yea, thou, too, now would’st trust the voice of God.
ΘΟΦΩΚΛΕΟΥΣ
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
καὶ σοὶ γ’ ἐπισκήπτω τε καὶ προτρέψομαι,
tῆς μὲν κατ’ οἴκους αὐτὸς δυν θέλεις τάφον
θοῦ. καὶ γὰρ ὀρθῶς τῶν γε σῶν τελείω ὑπὲρ
ἐμοῦ δὲ μήποτ’ ἄξιωθήτω τόδε
πατρὶδον ἀστιν ξόντος οἰκητοῦ τυχεῖν,
ἀλλ’ ἐὰν με ναίειν ὀρεσίν, ἑυθα κληίσται
οὐμός Κιθαιρών οὐτος, δυν μήτηρ τε μοι
πατὴρ τ’ ἐθέσθην ξώντε κύριον τάφον,
ἐν’ ἔξ’ ἐκείνων, ο’ μ’ ἀπωλλύτην, θάνω.
καίτοι τοσοῦτον γ’ οἶδα, μήπε μ’ ἀν νόσον
μήπ’ ἀλλο πέρσαι μηδέν· οὐ γὰρ ἂν ποτε
θυμίσκων ἐσώθην, μη’ π’ τ’ δεινό κακό.
ἀλλ’ ἡ μὲν ἡμῶν μοιρ’, ὅποιερ εἴσ’, ἵτω
παῖδων δὲ τῶν μὲν ἀρσένων μὴ μοι, Κρέον;
προσθή μέριμναν. ἀνδρείς εὐσίν, ὅστε μὴ
στάνσι ποτὲ σχεῖν, ἐνθ’ ἀν ὅσι, τοῦ βίου
ταῖν δ’ ἄθλαιν οἰκτραίν τε παρθένου ἐμαίν,
αἰν οὔποθ’ ἡμὶ χωρίς ἐστάθη βορᾶς
τράπεζ’ ἀνευ τοὐδ’ ἀνδρός, ἀλλ’ ὅσιν ἐγὼ
ψαύσμι, πάντων τόνδ’ ἀεὶ μετειχέτην.
αἰν μοι μέλεσθαι καὶ μάλιστα μεν χεροίν
ψαύσαι μ’ ἔασον κάτοκλαύσασθαι κακά.
ἰθ’ ὡναξ,
ἴθ’ ὃ γονῆ γεννάε. χερσ’ ταῖν θιγὼν
δοκεῖσκ’ ἔχειν σφᾶς, ἀστερ’ ἡμίκ’ ἐξῆλεπν.
tί φημί;
οὐ δὴ κλώ που πρὸς θεῶν τοῖν μοι φίλοιν
OEDIPUS THE KING.

OEDIPUS.
And this I charge thee, yea, and supplicate;  
For her within, provide what tomb thou wilt,  
For thine own most meetly thou wilt care;  
But never let this city of my fathers  
Be sentenced to receive me as its guest;  
But suffer me on you lone hills to dwell,  
On my Cithaeron, destined for my tomb,  
While still I lived, by mother and by sire,  
That I may die by those who sought to kill.  
And yet this much I know, that no disease  
Nor aught else could have killed me; ne'er from death  
Had I been saved but for some evil dread.  
As for our fate, let it go where it will;  
But for my children, of my boys, O Creon,  
Take thou no thought; as men they will not feel,  
Where'er they be, the lack of means to live.  
But for my two poor girls, all desolate,  
To whom my table never brought a meal  
Without my presence, but whate'er I touched  
They still partook of with me; — care for these;  
Yea, let me touch them with my hands, and weep.  
With them my sorrows. Grant it, O my prince,  
O born of noble nature!  
Could I but touch them with my hands, I feel  
Still I should have them mine, as when I saw.

Enter ANTIGONE and ISMENE, with Attendants.

What say I? What is this?  
Do I not hear, ye Gods, their dear, loved tones,
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

δακρυρροσύντοι, καὶ μὲ ἐποικτεῖρας Κρέων ἔπεμψέ μοι τὰ φίλτατ’ ἐγκόνοιν ἐμοῖν; λέγω τι;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

λέγεις· ἐγὼ γὰρ εἰμὶ ὁ πορούνας τάδε, γνῶς τὴν παροῦσαν τέρψιν, ἢ σ’ εἴχεν πάλαι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἀλλ’ εὐτυχοῖς, καὶ σε τῆς τῆς ὁδοῦ δαίμον ἀμειν ἔχεσθαι μὲ φθορὴς τὺχοι. 
οὶ τέκνα, πότ’ ἔστε; δεῦρ ἵτ’, ἐλθετε ως τὰς ἀδελφὰς τάσδε τὰς ἐμᾶς χέρας, 
αἱ τοῦ φυτουργοῦ πατρὸς ὑμῶν δδ’ ὀρῶν 
τὰ πρόσθε λαμπρὰ προξένησαν ὄμματα· 
ὅσ ὑμῖν, ὦ τέκν’, οὐθ’ ὀρῶν οὐθ’ ἰστορῶν 
πατήρ ἐφάνθην ἐνθεν αὐτός ἡρόθην.

καὶ σφῶ δακρύω — προσβλέπειν γὰρ οὐ σθένω — 
νοούμενος τὰ λοιπὰ τοῦ πικροῦ βίου, 
οἶν βῶναι σφῶ πρὸς ἀνθρώπων χρεῶν.

ποῖας γὰρ ἀστῶν ἦξετ’ εἰς ὄμιλίας, 
ποῖας δ’ ἐφορτάς, ἐνθεν οὐ κεκλαμέναι 
πρὸς οἶκων ἰέσεθ’ αὐτὶ τῆς θεωρίας;

ἀλλ’ ἦνικ’ ἂν ὅπρος ἑράμων ἦκητ’ ἀκμᾶς, 
τὸς οὗτος ἑσταί, τὸς παραρρύϕει, τέκνα, 
τοιοῦτ’ ὑπείδη λαμβάνων, ὧ τοῦ ἐμοῖς 
γονεύσαι ἑσταί σφῶν θ’ ὄμοι δηλήματα;

τὸ γὰρ κακῶν ἀπέστι; τὸν πατέρα πατήρ 
ὑμῶν ἐπέφυε· τὴν τεκοῦσαν ἡροσεν,
OEDIPUS THE KING.

Broken with sobs, and Creon, pitying me,
Hath sent the dearest of my children to me?
Is it not so?

CREON.
It is so. I am he who gives thee this,
Knowing the joy thou had'st in them of old.

OEDIPUS.
A blessing on thee! May the Powers on high
Guard thy path better than they guarded mine!
Where are ye, O my children! Come, oh, come
To these your brother's hands, that now have brought
Your father's once bright eyes to this fell pass,
Who, O my children, blind and knowing nought,
Became your father e'en by her who bore me.
I weep for you (for sight is mine no more),
Picturing in mind the sad and dreary life
Which waits you at men's hands in years to come;
For to what friendly gatherings will ye go,
Or solemn feasts, from whence, for all the joy
And pride, ye shall not home return in tears?
And when ye come to marriageable age,
Who is there, O my children, rash enough
To make his own the shame that then will fall,
Reproaches on my parents, and on yours?
What evil fails us here? Your father killed
His father, and was wed in incest foul
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ὁδεν περ αυτός ἐσπάρη, κακ τῶν ἱσων ἐκτησαθ', ὑμᾶς, δωπερ αυτός ἐξέφυν. τοιαῦτ' ὁνειδίεσθε. κἀτα τὸς γαμεῖ; οὐκ ἔστιν συδεῖς, ὦ τέκν', ἀλλὰ δηλαδὴ χέρσους φθαρὴναι καγάμους ὑμᾶς χρεών. ὡ παί Μενοικέως, ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ μόνος πατὴρ ταύταιν λέλειψαι, νῶ γὰρ, ὦ φυτεύσαμεν, ὁλῶλαμεν δὴ ὠντε, μὴ σφε περίδης πτωχὰς ἀνάδρους ἐγγενεῖς ἀλωμένας, μηδ' ἔξισωσης τάσδε τοῖς ἐμοῖς κακοῖς. ἀλλ' οἰκτισόν σφας, ἀδε τηλικάζοι ὀρῶν πάντων ἐρήμους, πλὴν ὅσον τὸ σὸν μέρος. ξύννευσον, ὦ γενναίε, σῇ ψάυσας χερί. σφόν δ', ὦ τέκν', εἰ μὲν εἰχέτην ἤδη φρένας, πολ' ἂν παρήμουν· νῦν δὲ τούτ' εὐχεσθέ μοι, ὦν καιρὸς ἢ ἐξήν, βίον δὲ λόφον ὑμᾶς κυρήσαι τοῦ φυτεύσαντος πατρὸς.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἀλις, ἐν ἔξικες δικρύων· ἀλλ' ἴθι στέγης ἔσω. 1515

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

πειστέον, κεῖ μηδὲν ἤδυ.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

πάντα γὰρ καιρὸ καλά.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

οἰσθ' ἐφ' οἷς οὖν εἶμι;
OEDIPUS THE KING.

With her who bore him, and you twain begat
Of her who gave him birth. Such shame as this
Will men lay on you, and who then will dare
To make you his in marriage? None, not one,
My children! but ye needs must waste away,
Unwedded, childless. Thou, Menoeceus' son,
Since thou alone art left a father to them
(For we their parents perish utterly),
Suffer them not to wander husbandless,
Nor let thy kindred beg their daily bread,
Nor make them sharers with me in my woe;
But look on them with pity, seeing them
At their age, but for thee, deprived of all.
O noble soul, I pray thee, touch my hand
In token of consent. And ye, my girls,
Had ye the minds to hearken, I would fain
Give ye much counsel. As it is, pray for me
To live where'er is meet; and for yourselves,
A brighter life than his ye call your sire.

CREON.

Enough of tears. Go thou within the house.

OEDIPUS.

I needs must yield, however hard it be.

CREON.

In their right season all things prosper best.

OEDIPUS.

Know'st thou my wish?
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

λέξεις, καὶ τὸ τ’ εἶσομαι κλύων.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

γῆς μ’ ἁπως πέμψις ἀποικον.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

τοῦ θεοῦ μ’ αἰτεῖς δόσιν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἀλλὰ θεοῖς γ’ ἔχθιστος ἦκο.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

τουγαροῦν τεῦξει τάχα.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

φῆς τὸδ’ οὖν;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἀ μὴ φρονῶ γὰρ οὐ φιλῶ λέγειν μάτην. 1520

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἀπαγέ νῦν μ’ ἐντεύθεν ἡδη.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

στείχε νῦν, τέκνων δ’ ἀφοῦ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

μηδαμῶς ταύτας γ’ ἔλη μου.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

πάντα μὴ βούλου κρατεῖν.
καὶ γὰρ ἀκράτησας οὐ σοι τῷ βίῳ ξυνέσπετο. [Exit.]
OEDIPUS THE KING.

CREON.
Speak, and I then shall know.

OEDIPUS.
That thou should'st send me far away from home.

CREON.
Thou askest what the Gods alone can give.

OEDIPUS.
As for the Gods, above all men they hate me

CREON.
And therefore it may chance thou gain'st thy wish.

OEDIPUS.
And dost thou promise?

CREON.
When I mean them not,
I am not wont to utter idle words.

OEDIPUS.
Lead me, then, hence.

CREON.
Go thou, but leave thy children.

OEDIPUS.
Ah, take them not from me!

CREON.
Thou must not think
To hold the sway in all things all thy life:
The sway thou had'st did not abide with thee.
ΛΥΣΗ ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

οι πάτρας Θήβης ἐνοικοὶ, λεύσσετ' Οἰδίπους ὃδε,
δε τὰ κλεῖν' αἰνίγματ' ἤδη καὶ κράτιστος ἦν ἀνήρ,
ὅσις οὐ ξήλωρ πολιτῶν καὶ τόχαις ἐπιβλέπουν,
εἰς ὅσον κλύδωνα δεινής συμφορᾶς ἐλήλυθεν.

ὡςτε, θυητὸν ὄντ', ἐκείνην τὴν τελευταίαν ἰδεῖν
ἡμέραν ἐπισκοποῦντα, μηδὲν ὁλβίζειν, πρὶν ἄν
τέρμα τοῦ βίου περάσῃ μηδὲν ἀλγείνον παθῶν.

[Exi Chorus.]
OEDIPUS THE KING.

CHORUS.

Ye men of Thebes, behold this Oedipus,
Who knew the famous riddle and was noblest,
Whose fortune who saw not with envious glances?
And, lo! in what a sea of direst trouble
He now is plunged. [All go within.] From hence the lesson
learn ye,
To reckon no man happy till ye witness
The closing day; until he pass the border
Which severs life from death, unscathed by sorrow.

[Retires to the City.]
Press-work by Rockwell & Churchill.
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