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THE

OEDIPUS TYRANNUS

OF

SOPHOCLES.

HARVARD UNIVERSITY,

SANDERS THEATRE,

MAY 17, 19, AND 20, 1881.

THE GREEK DEPARTMENT.
NOTE.

The translation is that of Professor Lewis Campbell, of the University of St. Andrews. It has been found to be necessary to introduce changes in verses 444, 624 and 625, and 1169 and 1170.

We are indebted for the use of the plates of the Greek Text to the courtesy of Mr. Edwin Ginn and Mr. D. C. Heath of Boston.
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.
THE

OEDIPUS TYRANNUS.

TEXT AND TRANSLATION.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΕ ΤΤΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΤΑ ΤΟΥ ΔΡΑΜΑΤΟΣ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΑ.

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ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

"Ω τέκνα, Κάδμου τοῦ πάλαι νέα τροφῆ, τίνας ποθ' ἔδρας τάσις μοι θοάζετε ἱκτηρίως κλάδοισιν ἐξεστεμένου; πόλεις δ' ὁμοῖ μὲν θυμιαμάτων γέμει, ὁμοὶ δὲ παιάνων τε καὶ στεναγμάτων· ἀγὼ δικαίων μη παρ' ἄγγέλων, τέκνα, ἄλλων ἀκόουειν αὐτὸς ὡδ' ἐξηλθούσα, ὁ πᾶσι κλεινὸς Οἰδίπους καλούμενος. ἄλλα, ὧ γεραιὲ, φράζ', ἐπεὶ πρέπτων ἔφυν πρὸ τῶν δὲ φωνεῖν, τίνι τρόπῳ καθέστατε, δείσαντες ἢ στέρξαντες; ὃς θέλοντος ἄν
KING OEDIPUS.

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, Oedipus.
Suppliants; Boy, attendant on Teiresias; Attendants on Oedipus, Jocasta, and Creon, two to each.

Scene. — Before the Royal Palace in Boeotian Thebes.

Oedipus.—Priest of Zeus.—Suppliants.

Oedipus.

Children, young care of Cadmus' ancient fold,
Why press ye so to kneel beside the gate,
With wool-tufts on each suppliant olive-bough,
Whilst o'er your city clouds of incense rise,
And mingled voice of paean and of wail?
Not choosing, O my sons, to know of this
By the ear from others, I myself am come,
Great Oedipus, of universal fame.
Thou, aged sir, whose look proclaims thee meet
To speak for these, say, what hath brought you here,
What terror, what desire? Fear not but I
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ἐμοὶ προσαρκεῖν πᾶν· δυσάλγητος γὰρ ἂν ἐην τοιάνδε μὴ οὗ κατοικτείρου ἐδραν.

ΙΕΡΕΤΕ.

ἀλλ’, ὦ κρατύνων Οἰδώπους χώρας ἐμῆς, ἵνα μὲν ἡμᾶς ἂλλος προσήμεθα
βιωμοῦσι τοῖς σοῖς, οἱ μὲν οὐδέπω μακρὰν πτέσθαι σθένουσι, οἱ δὲ σὺν γήρᾳ βαρεῖς,
ἰερῆς, ἐγὼ μὲν Ζηνός, οἱ δ’ ἐπ’ ἠθέων λεκτοὶ· τὸ δ’ ἄλλο φύλον ἔξεστεμένου
ἀγοραίαν θακεῖ, πρὸς τε Παλλάδος διπλοῖς ναοῖς, ἐπ’ Ἰσμηνοῦ τε μαντείας σποδῶ.
τόλμη γὰρ, ὡσπερ καύτος εἰσορᾶς, ἀγαν ἢδη σαλεύει κάνακουφίσαι κάρα
βιωθὸν ἐτ’ οὐχ οὐα τε φοινίου σάλου,
φθινοσά μὲν κάλυξιν ἑγκάρποις χθονός,
φθινοσά δ’ ἀγέλαις βουνόμοις, τόκους τε ἀγόνοις γυναικῶν· ἐν δ’ ὁ πυρφόρος θεὸς
σκῆψας ἐλαίνει, λοιμὸς ἐχθιστος, τόλμων,
ὑφ’ οὐ κενοῦται δῶμα Καδμείου· μέλας δ’ ‘Αἰδης στεναχμοῖς καὶ γόοις πλουτίζεται.
θεοῖτε μὲν νυν οὐκ ἱσοῦμενοι σ’ ἐγὼ
οὖν ὀδε παιδεὶς ἔξιμεσθ’ ἐφέστιοι,
ἄνδρῶν δὲ πρῶτον ἐν τε συμφοραῖς βίου
κρίνοντες ἐν τε δαιμόνων συναλλαγαῖς ·
δ’ τ’ ἔξελυσας, ἀπ’ τά Καδμείου μολὼν,
σκληρᾶς ἀοιδοῦ δασμὸν δι’ παρεῖχομεν·
καὶ ταῦθ’ υφ’ ἡμῶν οὐδὲν ἐξειδὼς πλέον
KING OEDIPUS.

Will use all power to succour you. My heart
Were hard to move, were it not stirred by you.

PRIEST.

Great ruler of my country, thou behold'st
What diverse ages hem thine altar round;
Some not yet able to fly far, and some
Burdened with many years, Heaven's ministers,
I, priest of Jove, — and these, a chosen band
From our fresh youth. Another troop, arrayed,
Like us, with fillets, crowd the market-place.
Others are kneeling at the twofold shrines
Of Pallas, and Ismenus' prophet-fire: —
Because our land, as thou perceiv'st, is tossed
Exceedingly, and cannot lift her head
From fierce engulfing by a murderous sea.
Earth's buds are wasted, and the grazing herds.
Pine, and our women have not strength to bear,
While fiery Pestilence, detested power,
Is fallen upon our city in his might,
Emptying the house of Cadmus, and dark Death
Hath full fruition of laments and groans.
We therefore and these children at thy hearth,
Not likening thee unto the gods, are set,
But holding thee of men pre-eminent
In human fortunes, and affairs divine;
Who, in thy coming to this Theban town,
Didst free us from the tribute we had paid
To that harsh songstress, nought advantaged
By aught we had to tell thee, or could teach,
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

οúde' εκδιδαχθείς, ἀλλὰ προσθήκη θεοῦ
λέγει νομίζει θ' ἡμῖν ὁρθῶσαι βίον·
νῦν τ', ὧ κράτιστον πᾶσιν Οἰδίπου κάρα,
ἰκετεύομεν σε πάντες οἴδε πρόστροτοι
ἀλκήν τιν εὐρεῖν ἡμῖν, εἴτε τον θεῶν
φήμην ἀκούσας εἶτ' ἀπ' ἄνδρος οἰσθά ποιν·
ὡς τοὺς ἐμπείροις καὶ τίς ξυμφοράς
ξώσας ὅρω μάλιστα τῶν βουλευμάτων.
θ', ὦ βροτῶν ἁριστ', ἀνόρθωσον πόλιν·
θ', εὔλαβήθηθος': ὅς σὲ νῦν μὲν ἤδη γῇ
σωτήρα κλήζει τῆς πάρος προθυμίας·
ἀρχής δὲ τῆς σῆς μηδαμῶς μεμωμέθα
στάντες τ' ἐσ ἄρθον καὶ πεσόντες ύστερον,
ἀλλ' ἀσφαλείᾳ τίνδ' ἀνόρθωσον πόλιν.
ὁρνθὶ γὰρ καὶ τὴν τὸτ' αἰσθὴ τύχην
παρέσχες ἡμῖν, καὶ ταύτ' ἵσος γενοῦ.
ὡς εὐπέρ ἄρξεις τήσδε γῆς, ὡςπερ κρατεῖς,
ἐνν ἄνδράσιν κάλλιον ἢ κενῆς κρατεῖν·
ὡς οὐδὲν ἐστιν οὕτε πύργος οὕτε ναῦς
ἐρημὸς ἄνδρῶν μη ἕνωκοιντων ἔσω.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ὁ παῖδες οἰκτροὶ, γνωτὰ κοὐκ ἀγνωτώ μοι
προστίθεθη' ἱμεῖροντε. εὖ γὰρ οἷον ὧτι
νοσείτε πάντες, καὶ νοσοῦντες, ὡς ἐγὼ
οὐκ ἐστιν ὑμῶν ὅστις ἐξ ἵσου νοσεί.
τὸ μὲν γὰρ ἡμῶν ἀλγος εἰς ἐν ἐρχεται
μόνον καθ' αὐτόν, κοῦδεν' ἄλλον, ἡ δ' ἐμὴ
But by the aid of some supernal mind
'Tis thought and said thou didst restore our life.
Now, then, O Oedipus of mighty fame,
We turn our suppliant faces unto thee,
Together praying thee to find for us
Some succour, if thou knowest, whether from man,
Or whispered to thee by some voice from Heaven.
Experienced counsel, we have seen and found,
Hath ever prosperous issue. Thou, then, come,
Noblest of mortals, give our city rest
From trouble; come, take thought, for to this hour
All here proclaim thee for thy former zeal
Their saviour. Let us not remember thee
As having risen underneath thy sway
To fair prosperity, and after fallen:
But be thy restoration without fail.
Be now, as then, auspicious in thine aid.
'Tis better for the sovereign of a land
To rule a people than a wilderness.
For what availeth ship, or fenced wall,
Untenanted of living men within?

Oedipus.

Alas, my children! Not unknown to me
Is the sad quest on which ye come. I know
Ye all are suffering. Yet not one of you
Can equal his calamity to mine.
Yours is the simple grief that visiteth
One single bosom. But my burdened soul
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ψυχή πόλιν τε κάμε καί σ’ ομοί στένει. οίστ’ ούχ ὑπνω γ’ εὐδοντά μ’ ἐξεγείρετε, ἄλλ’ ἵστε πολλὰ μὲν με δακρύσαντα δῇ, πολλάς δ’ ὀδοὺς ἐλθόντα φροντίδος πλάνοις. ἂν δ’ εῦ σκοπῶν εὐρισκόν ἰασίν μόνην, ταύτην ἐπραξάν παίδα γὰρ Μενοικέως Κρέοντ’, ἐμαυτοῦ γαμβρόν, ἐς τὰ Πυθικὰ ἐπεμψα Φοῖβον δόμαθ’, ὡς πῦθουθ’ ὅ τι δρῶν ἢ τί φωνῶν τήνδε ῥυσαίμην πόλιν. καὶ μ’ ἡμαρ ἦδη ἐξυμμετρούμενον χρόνῳ λυπεῖ τί πράσσει· τοῦ γὰρ εἰκότος πέρα ἀπεστὶ πλείον τοῦ καθήκους χρόνου. ὅταν δ’ ἵκηται, τηνικαῦτ’ ἐγὼ κακὸς μὴ δρῶν ἄν εἴην πάνθ’ ὅσ’ ἄν δηλοὶ θεὸς.

ΙΕΡΕΤΣ.

ἄλλ’ εἰς καλῶν σῦ τ’ ἔπασα οὕδε τ’ ἀρτίως Κρέοντα προσστείχοντα σημαίνουσί μοι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἀναξ’ Ἀπολλων, εἰ γὰρ ἐν τύχῃ γέ τοι σωτήρι βαίνε μαπρὸς ἄσπερ ὀμματί.

ΙΕΡΕΤΣ.

ἄλλ’ εἰκώσαι μὲν, ήδὺς· οὐ γὰρ ἄν κάρα πολυστεφῆς ὅδ’ ἐρπε ταγκάρπου δάφνης.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

tύχ’ εἰσόμεθα· ξύμμετρος ἡμοὶ ὡς κλῖεν. ἀναξ’, ἐμῶν κήδευμα, παῖ Μενοικέως, τίν’ ἡμᾶν ἥκεις τοῦ θεοῦ φήμην φέρων;
KING OEDIPUS.

Mourns for myself, my citizens, and thee.
And now ye rouse me not from the soft bed
Of slumber, but full many have been my tears,
Many the paths my voyaging thought hath tried.
Yet, searching every way, one only cure
I have found, and put to proof, by sending Creon,
Menoeceus' son, the brother of my queen,
To learn within Apollo's Pythian hall
What word or deed of mine may save this city.
And now as I compute the time, I am pained
To know his speed. The day for his return
Is more than come. He should be here ere now.
But when he shall arrive, base then were I
To fail in aught of all the god may show.

PRIEST.

Even now these young ones tell me he draws near,
In happy time to crown thy gracious word.

OEDIPUS.

Apollo! may his coming be as blest
With saving fortune as his looks are bright!

PRIEST.

Sure he comes joyfully, else had he ne'er
Worn that full garland of thick-berried bay.

OEDIPUS.

We have not long to doubt. He can hear now.—
Son of Menoeceus, brother of my queen,
What answer from Apollo dost thou bring?
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
εσθλην· λεγω γαρ και τα δοσφορ', ει τυχοι [Inro.]
κατ' ὀρθον ἐξελθοῦτα, πάντ' ἀν εὐτυχεῖν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ἔστιν δὲ ποιον τούτος; οὔτε γαρ θρασύς
οὔτ' οὖν προδείσας εἰμὶ τῷ γε νῦν λόγῳ.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
ei τῶνδε χρήζεις πλησιαζόντων κλύειν,
ἐτοιμος εἴπειν, εἴτε καὶ στείχειν ἔσω.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ἐς πάντας αὕδα. τῶνδε γὰρ πλέον φέρω
τὸ πένθος ἢ καὶ τῆς ἐμῆς ψυχῆς πέρι.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
λέγομι· ἀν οὐ' ἤκουσα τοῦ θεοῦ πάρα.
ἀνωγεν ήμᾶς Φοῖβος ἐμφανῶς ἀναξ
μίσσα μαχαρα, ὡς τεθραμμένον χθονὶ
ἐν τῷ, ἐλαύνειν, μηδ' ἀνήκεστον τρέφειν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ποίῳ καθαρμῷ; τίς ὁ τρόπος τῆς ἐμφορᾶς;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
ἀνδρηλατοῦντας, ἢ φόνῳ φόνου πάλιν
λύουτας, ὡς τόδ' αἶμα χειμάζον πόλιν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ποίου γὰρ ἀνδρὸς τὴνδε μηνύει τύχην;
KING OEDIPUS.

CREON.

[Enters at the spectators' left, coming from Delphi.]
Good: for my message is, that even our woes,
Borne right unto their issue, shall be well.

OEDIPUS.
What saith the oracle? Thy words so far
Hearten me not, nor hasten me to fear.

CREON.
Say, must I speak where these are standing by,
Or go within? I am ready either way.

OEDIPUS.
Let it be heard by all. My heart is sore,
Not for myself, but for the souls I see.

CREON.
My lips shall utter what the god hath said.
Sovereign Apollo clearly bids us drive
Forth of our country an accursed thing
(For such is fostered in this land, and stains
Our clime), and not to cherish it past cure.

OEDIPUS.
By what purgation of what dire mishap?

CREON.
By exile, or atoning blood with blood.
This murder is the storm that shakes our state.

OEDIPUS.
Of what man doth he intimate the fall?
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ηὺ ἡμῖν, ὀναξ, Δαίος ποθ' ἤγεμὼν
γῆς τήσδε, πρὸν σὲ τήνδ' ἀπευθύνειν πόλιν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ἐξειδ' ἄκουών· οὐ γὰρ εἰςεῖδον γε πώ.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

τούτου θανόντος νῦν ἐπιστέλλει σαφῶς
toûs αὐτοεύντας χειρὶ τιμωρεῖν τινας.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

οἱ δ' εἰσὶ ποῦ γῆς; ποῦ τὸδ' εὑρεθήσεται
ίχνος παλαιᾶς δυστέκμαρτον αἰτίας;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἐν τῷ ἔφασκε γῆ. τὸ δὲ ξητούμενον
ἀλωτὸν, ἐκφεύγει δὲ ταμελούμενον.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

πάτερα δ' ἐν οἴκοις, ἢ 'ν ἄγροις ὁ Δαίος,
ἡ γῆς ἐπ' ἄλλης τάδε συμπίπτει φῶς;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

θεωρῶς, ως ἔφασκεν, ἐκδημῶν, πάλιν
πρὸς οἰκον οὐκέθ' ἦκεθ', ὡς ἀπεστάλη.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

οὐδ' ἄγγελός τις οὐδὲ συµπράκτωρ όδοι
κατεῖδεν, οὐ τις ἐκμαθῶν ἐχρήσατ' ἃν;
KING OEDIPUS.

CREON.
My gracious lord, before thy fortunate reign,
King Laurus was the leader of our land.

OEDIPUS.
I know him by report. I never saw him.

CREON.
The god commandesth us to punish home
The undetected authors of his death.

OEDIPUS.
But they, where are they? where shall now be seen
The faded impress of this ancient guilt?

CREON.
He saith, 'tis in this land. And what is sought
Is found, while things uncared for glide away.

OEDIPUS.
But where did Laurus meet this violence?
At home, abroad, or in some foreign land?

CREON.
He left us, as he said, to visit Delphi;
But nevermore returned since he set forth.

OEDIPUS.
And was there none, no fellow-traveller,
To see, and tell the tale, and help our search?
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

θυήσκουσι γύρ, πλην εἰς τις, ὃς φόβῳ φυγὼν ἄν εἰδε πλην ἐν οὐδὲν εἰχ' εἰδώς φράσαι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

tο ποιον ἐν γὰρ πόλλ' ἂν ἔξευροι μαθεῖν, ἀρχὴν βραχεῖαν εἰ λαβομεν ἐπίδοσ.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

λῆστας ἔφασκε συντυχόντας οὐ μᾶρ ῥώμη κτανείν νυν, ἀλλὰ σὺν πλῆθει χερῶν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

πῶς οὖν ὁ λῆστας, εἰ τι μὴ ἐξιν ἀργύρῳ ἐπράσσετ' ἐνθενδ', ἐς τόδ' ἂν τόλμης ἔβη;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

dοκοῦντα ταῦτ' ἦν. Λαίον δ' ὀλωλότος οὐδείς ἀρωγός ἐν κακοὶς ἐγύγκετο.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

κακῶν δὲ ποιον ἐμποδὸν τυραννίδος οὔτω πεσοῦσης εἰργη ταῦτ' ἔξειδέναι;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἡ ποικιλοῖς Σφίγξ τὸ πρὸς τοὺς σκοπεῖν μεθέντας ἤμας τῷφανή προσήγετο.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ἀλλ' ἐξ ὑπαρχῆς αὐθις αὐτ' ἐγὼ φανὼ.

ἐπαξίως γὰρ Φοῖβος, ἀξίως δὲ σὺ πρὸς τοὺς τανάντος τήνδ' ἔθεσθ' ἐπιστροφήν.
KING OEDIPUS.

CREON.
No, they were slain: save one, who fled in fear, And only had one certain thing to tell.

OEDIPUS.
What was that thing? A little door of hope Once opened, may discover much to view.

CREON.
A random troop of robbers, so 'twas told, Destroyed him, not with one, but many a hand.

OEDIPUS.
How could the robber to such boldness rise, Were not his crime suborned with Theban gold?

CREON.
We thought of that. But Laius being dead, No helper found us in our miseries.

OEDIPUS.
What misery, when majesty was fallen, Could hold you back from searching to the end?

CREON.
A present trouble had engrossed our care. The riddling Sphinx compelled us to attend Her song, and not to think of things unseen.

OEDIPUS.
But I will track this evil to the spring And force it out to light. Full worthily Doth great Apollo, worthily dost thou Direct this sudden effort for the dead.
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

οὐστ' ἐνδίκως ὄψεσθε καὶ μὲ σύμμαχον,
γῆ τῇ δε τιμωροῦντα τῷ θεῷ θ' ἄμα.
ὑπὲρ γὰρ οὐχὶ τῶν ἀπωτέρω φίλων,
ἀλλ' αὐτὸς αὐτοῦ, τούτ' ἀποσκεδῶ μύσος.
όστις γὰρ ἦν ἐκεῖνον ὁ κτανὼν τάχι ἄν
καὶ ἰν τοιαύτη χειρὶ τιμωρεῖν θέλοι.
κεῖμο προσαρκῶν οὖν ἐμαυτὸν ὅφελῶ.
ἀλλ' ὡς τάχιστα, παῖδες, ὑμεῖς μὲν βάθροιν
ἐστασθε, τούσδ' ἀραντες ἱστήρας κλάδους,
ἀλλος δὲ Κάδμου λαὸν δὲ ἀθροιζέτω,
ὡς πᾶν ἐμοῦ δράσοντος. ἦ γὰρ εὐτυχεῖς
σὺν τῷ θεῷ φανούμεθ', ἡ πεπτωκότες.

[Exeunt Œdipus et Creon.

ΙΕΡΕΤΣ.

ὁ παῖδες, ἵστώμεσθα. τώνδε γὰρ χάριν
καὶ δεῦρ' ἔβημεν δὲν ὡδ' ἐξαγγέλλεται.
Φοῖβος δ' ὁ πέμψας τάσδε μαντείας ἄμα
σωτήρ θ' ἱκουτο καὶ νόσου παυστήρως.

[Exeunt supplices.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

στρ. ἢ.

ὁ Δίος ἠδυνετές Φάτι, τίς ποτὲ τὰς πολυχρύσου
[Introit. Πυθώνος ἀγλαῖς ἔβας
Θῆβας; ἐκτέταμαι, φοβερὰν φρένα δείματι πᾶλλων,
ιὴν Δάλιε Παιν.,
ἀμφὶ σοὶ αξίωμενος, τί μοι ἦ νέον ᾖ περιτελλομέναις
ἀραῖς πάλιν
ἐξανύσεις χρέως· εἰπὲ μοι, ὁ χρυσέας τέκνον Ἐλπίδος, ἀμ-
βροτε Φάμα.
KING OEDIPUS.

And ye shall see me justly your ally,
Aiding the cause of Phoebus and the land:
For I, in scattering this offence, will serve
No far-off friend, but mine own self no less:
The man who murdered Laius may choose
To make me too the victim of his rage:
So then, in shielding his affairs from wrong,
I vindicate myself. Now, children, rise
From yonder steps, and lift your suppliant boughs,
And let some other summon hitherwards
All Cadmus' people, and assure them, I
Will answer every need. This day shall see us
Blest with glad fortune through God's help, or fallen.

[OEDIPUS and CREON go within.]

PRIEST.

Rise then, my children. Even for this we came
Which of his own accord he promiseth:
Only may Phoebus, who hath sent this word,
Both saving health and sure relief afford.

[PRIEST and SUPPLIANTS retire to the City.]

CHORUS.

[Enters at the spectators' right, from the City.]

I. 1.

Kind voice of heaven, soft-breathing from the height
Of Pytho rich in gold to Thebê bright,
What wilt thou bring to-day?
Ah, Delian Paean, say!
My heart hangs on thy word with trembling awe:
What new-given law,
Or what returning in Time's circling round
Wilt thou unfold? Tell us, immortal sound,
Daughter of golden Hope, we pray, we pray!
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

· ἀντ. ἀ.

πρῶτοι σε κεκλήμενος, θύγατερ Διός, ἀμβροτ Ἀθήνα,
γαϊώχαν τ’ ἀδελφέαν
"Ἀρτέμιν, δ’ κυκλόεν’ ἀγορᾶς θρόνον εὐκλεά θάσσει,
καὶ Φοίβον ἐκαβόλον, ἵω,

τρισσοὶ ἀλεξίμοραι προφάνητε μοι, εἰ ποτὲ καὶ προ-
τέρας ἄτας ὑπὲρ ὁρυμένας πόλει ἴνυσατ’ ἐκτοπίαν φλόγα πήματος, ἔλθετε
καὶ νῦν. 165

στρ. β’.

ὁ πότοι, ἀνάρθιμα γὰρ φέρω
πήματα· νοσεὶ δέ μοι πρότας
στόλος, οὐδ’ εἰν φροντίδος ἔχχος

φ’ τις ἀλέξεται· οὕτε γὰρ ἐκγόνα
κλητὰς χθονὸς ἀξέσται, οὕτε τόκαιαν
ῃόν καμάτων ἀνέχουσι γυναῖκες·

ἀλλον δ’ ἂν ἄλλω προσίδοις, ἀπερ εὔπτερον ὅριν
κρέισσον ἀμαιμακέτου πυρὸς ὀρμενὸν
ἀκτὰν πρὸς ἐστέρον θεοῦ· 175

ἀντ. β’.

ἂν πόλις ἀνάρθιμος ἄλλωται·


υήλεα δὲ γένεθλα πρὸς πέδω
θανατάφρᾳ κεῖται ἀνάκτως·

ἐν δ’ ἄλοχοι πολιαὶ τ’ ἐπ’ ματέρες
ἀκτὰν παρὰ βώμων ἄλλοθεν ἄλλαι


λυγρῶν πάνων ἤκτηρες ἐπιστενάχονσιν.

παλαι δὲ λάμπει στονόεσσά τε γῆρος ὀμαυλος·
δὲν ὑπερ, ὃ χρυσέα θύγατερ Διός,

εὐώπα πέμψον ἀλκάν·
KING OEDIPUS

I. 2.
First, child of Jove, Pallas, to thee appealing,
Then to sweet Artemis, thy sister, kneeling,
   Who guardeth our fair land
   With blessing from her hand,
Throned o'er the circling mart that hears her praise,
And thou, whose rays
Pierce evils from afar, ho! come and save,
Ye mighty three! if e'er before ye drave
The threatening fires of woe from Thebè, come to-day!

II. 1.
For ah! the griefs I bear
Are endless; all I have is out of gear,
And not a weapon near
To fray this hated pest from hearth or hall,
Earth's blossoms blasted fall:
Nor can our women rise
From childbed after pangs and cries;
But flocking more and more
Unto the western shore,
Soul after soul is seen to wing her flight,
Swifter than quenchless flame, to the far realm of Night.

II. 2.
So countless deaths abound.
My city's sons unpitied lie around
O'er this plague-cumbered ground.
And wives, and matrons old, on every hand,
Along the altar-strand,
Groaning in saddest grief,
Pour supplication for relief.
Loud hymns are sounding clear;
And loud lament, as near.
Then, golden daughter of the heavenly sire,
Send fair-eyed succour to subdue this fire.
ΣΩΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

στρ. γ.

‘Αρεά τε τοῦ μαλερῶν, ὅσ νῦν ἄχαλκος ἀσπίδων
φλέγει με περιβάστος ἀντιαζών;
παλίσσων δράμημα νοτίσαι πάτρας
ἀπουρον, εἶτ' ἐς μέγαν θάλαμον Ἀμφιτρίτας,
εἰτ' ἐς τὸν ἀπάξευν ὄρμον Ὁρήκιον κλύδωνα·
tέλει γὰρ εἰ τι νῦξ ἀφῇ, τούτ' ἐπ' ἡμαρ ἔρχεται·
tόν, ὦ τάν πυρφόρων ἀστραπῶν κράτη νέμων,
ὦ Ζεῦ πάτερ, ὑπὸ σὺ φθίσον κεραυνῷ.

ἀντ. γ.

Δύκει' ἀναξ, τά τε σὰ χρυσοστρόφων ἀπ', ἀγκυλῶν
βέλεια θέλουμ' ἀν ἀδάματ' ἑνδατείσθαι
ἀρωγὰ προσταχθέντα, τάς τε πυρφόρους
'Αρτέμιδος αὖγιας, ξὺν αῖς Δύκις ὁρὴ διάσσει· [Introit ΟEd.

τὸν χρυσομίτραν τε κυκλῆσκο τᾶδ' ἐπώνυμον γᾶς,
οἰνῶτα Βάκχων εὕον, Μαινάδων ὀμόστολον
πελασθῆναι φλέγοντ' ἀγλαώπι σύμμαχον
πεύκα· τὶ τὸν ἀπότιμον ἐν θεοῖς θεόν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

αἴτεις· ἄδ' αἴτεις, τάμ' ἐὰν θέλῃς ἐπι
κλύων δέχεσθαι τῇ νόσῳ θ' ὑπνετεῖν,
ἄλκην λάβοις ἀν κάνακούφισιν κακῶν·
ἀγὸν ἔχους μὲν τοῦ λόγου τοῦτ' ἐξερώ,
ἔχους δὲ τοῦ πραχθέντος. οὐ γὰρ ἀν μακρὰν
ἐχνευον αὐτὸς, οὐκ ἔχων τι σύμβολον.

νῦν ὅ', υἱόντες γὰρ ἀστός εἰς ἀστόνς τελῶ,
ὑμῶν προφονώ πᾶσι Καθμείοις τάδε·
ὡς τοῖς ποθ' υμῶν Δαίων τὸν Δαβδάκου
KING OEDIPUS.

III. 1.
And swiftly speed afar,
Windborne on backward car,
This shieldless War-god with loud onset sweeping.
To oarless Thracian tide,
Or ocean chambers wide,
Where Amphitrite lone her couch is keeping.
Day ruins what night spares; O thou whose hand
Wields lightning, blast him with thy thundering brand.

III. 2.
Shower from the golden string
Thine arrows, Lycian King!
O Phoebè, let thy fiery lances fly
Resistless, as they rove [Oedipus enters.
Through Xanthus' mountain grove!
O Theban Bacchus of the lustrous eye,
With crown and torch and wavering Maenad throng
Blaze on the god disowned the gods among.

OEDIPUS.
Yea, ye shall find, according to your prayer,
Help and relief, if ye will heed my voice,
And answer the requirement of the plague.
Receive the word I give you, though a stranger
Both to the story and the deed. Not far
Could I have traced it, having naught by me
Pertaining to the matter. But to-day,
A citizen, though last upon the roll,
To all of you Cadmeians I speak this:
Whoe'er among you knows the murderer
ΟΙΔΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

κάτοικεν ἀνδρὸς ἐκ τῶν διώλετον, 225
τοῦτον κελεύω πάντα σημαίνειν ἐμοὶ·
καὶ μὲν φοβεῖται, τοῦτικλημ' ὑπεξελὼν
αὐτὸς καθ' αὐτοῦ. πεῖσται γὰρ ἄλλο μὲν
ἀστεργές οὐδέν, γῆς δ' ἀπεισών ἀσφαλῆς·
ei δ' αὐ της ἄλλου οἶδεν ἐξ ἄλλης χθονὸς
tὸν αὐτόχειρα, μὴ σιωπάτω· τὸ γὰρ
κέρδος τελῶ γὰρ χὴ χάρις προσκείστηκαί·
ei δ' αὐ σιωπήσασθε, καὶ τις ἡ φίλου
dεῖσας ἀπώσει τοῦτοι τὴ χαυτοῦ τόδε,
ἀκ τῶν δὲ δράσω, ταύτα χρὴ κλέειν ἐμοῦ.
230
tὸν ἀνδρὶ ἀπαυγὸ τοῦτον, ὅστις ἐστὶ, γῆς
tῆδε, ὃς ἔγὼ κράτη τε καὶ θρόνους νέμω,
μήτε ἐσδέχεσθαι μήτε προσφωνεῖν των,
μήτε ἐν θεῶν εὐχαίστε. μήτε θύμασίν
cοινὸν ποιεῖσθαι, μήτε χέρνοδος νέμειν·
ἀθεῖν δ' ἀπ' οίκων πάντας, ὅσ μιᾶςματας
tοῦ ἡμῖν ὄντος, ὡς τὸ Πυθικὸν θεοῦ
μαντείων ἐξέφυμεν ἀρτίως ἐμοί.
235
ἔγὼ μὲν οὖν τοιόῦτο τῷ τε δαίμονι
tῷ τ' ἀνδρὶ τῷ θανόντι σύμμαχος πέλαγος
cατεύχομαι δὲ τὸν δεδρακότ', εἶτε τις
eἰς ὧν λέληθεν εἶτε πλευώνων μέτα,
κακὼς κακὸς νῦν ἁμορον ἐκτριφθαί βίου
ἐπεύχομαι δ', οὐκοισιν εἰ ξυνεστίος
ἐν τοῖς ἐμοῖς. γένοιτ' ἐμοὶ συνειδάτος,
παθεῖν ἀπερ τοῦσ' ἀρτίως ἡρασάμην.
240
ὑμῖν δὲ ταύτα πάντ' ἐπισκήπτω τελείων,
Of Laius the son of Labdacus,
I bid him show the thing in full to me.
Himself, if he have any fear, withdrawing
The guilt on his own head; — he shall be vexed
No further, but go safely from the land.
Or if another from a foreign soil
Be known by any to have done this wrong,
Let him break silence. He shall have from me
Reward and lasting gratitude beside.
But if ye keep it close, and one refuse
To utter this, as fearing for a friend
Or for himself, then hear my final word.
I now forbid that man, whoe'er he be,
Throughout this land where I hold power and sway,
To be received or spoken with, or share
In vow or sacrifice or lustral rite:
But all shall drive him from their doors, for he
Is our pollution, as the Pythian shrine
Oracular hath late to me revealed.
So firm is mine alliance to the God
And your dead sovereign in this holy war.
Now on the murderer, whether he lurk
In lonely guilt, or have accomplices,
I syllable this curse: Let his crushed life
Wither forlorn in hopeless misery.
And, I pray heaven, should he or they be housed
With mine own knowledge in my home, that I
May suffer what I imprecate on them.
On all of you I lay this charge, to give
ΧΩΡΟΣ.

Ωσπερ μ' ἄρασιν ἔλαβες, ὥδ', ἀνάξ, ἔρω.
οὐτ' ἐκτανοῦν γὰρ οὔτε τὸν κτανόντ' ἔχω
δείξαι. θ' ἡ δης τοῦ πέμψαντος ἦν
Φοίβου τοῦ' ἐπίτειν, ὡστις εὑργασταῖ ποτε.
KING OEDIPUS.

Free course unto my words, for my behoof
And for the god, and for our land, that lies
A fruitless wilderness unblest of Heaven.
Sure, had this business not been thus enjoined
By oracle divine, it were not meet
Ye left pollution thus uncleansed, when one,
Your noblest and your sovereign, had been slain.
Even then you should have tracked it out. And now,
Since I am vested with his power, and share
His rights in the embraces of the queen,
And we had owned beside the further tie
Of common issue, had his seed been blest —
But Heaven was envious to him and his —
I, as contending for my own true sire,
Will do mine utmost, leaving nought untried,
To bring to light the author of the death
Of Larus the son of Labdacus,
Of Polydorus, and of Cadmus old,
And wise Agenor of the eldest time.
Lastly, to all who disobey in this,
May Heaven refuse the produce of the ground
And offspring from their wives, and may they pine
In such a plague as this, or yet more hateful.
But for the rest of you Cadmeian men,
Who love mine ordinance, may righteousness,
Strong to defend, and all the gods for aye
Watch over you for blessing in your land.

CHORUS.

Under the shadow of thy curse, my lord,
I will speak. I slew him not, nor can I show
The slayer. Phoebus, who hath given the word,
Should name the guilty.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
δίκαι' ἐλεφάς· ἄλλ' ἀναγκάζαι θεοῦς
ἀν μὴ θέλωσιν οὐδ' ἀν εἰς δύνατ' ἀνήρ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.
tὰ δεύτερ' ἐκ τῶν' ἀν λέγοιμ' ἄμοι δοκεῖ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
eἰ καὶ τρίτ' ἐστι, μὴ παρῆς τὸ μὴ οὐ φράσαι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.
ἀνακτ' ἀνακτὶ ταῦθ' ὀρῶντ' ἐπίσταμαι
μάλιστα Φοίβῳ Τειρεσίαν, παρ' οὗ τίς ἀν
σκοπῶν τάδ', ὅναξ', ἐκμάθοι σαφέστατα.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ἄλλ' οὐκ ἐν ἄργοις οὔδὲ τούτ' ἐπραξάμεν.
ἔπεμψα γὰρ Κρέοντος εἰπόντος διπλάοις
πομπούς· πάλαι δὲ μὴ παρὼν θαυμάξετα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.
καὶ μὴν τὰ γ' ἄλλα κωφὰ καὶ παλαί' ἔστη.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
tὰ ποία ταῦτα; πάντα γὰρ σκοπῶν λόγον.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.
θανεῖν ἐλέχθη πρὸς τινῶν ὀδοιπόρων.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ἦκουσα καλῶς· τὸν δ' ἰδόντ' οὐδεὶς ὀρᾶ.
KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.
Thy demand is just,
But man may not compel the sons of Heaven.

CHORUS.
I see a second course, and would suggest it.

OEDIPUS.
Were it a third, stint not to speak it forth.

CHORUS.
I know of one alone, who, being a king,
Sees with King Phoebus eye to eye, Teirésias.
From him, my lord, we might have certain rede.

OEDIPUS.
That doth not count amongst my deeds undone.
By Creon’s counsel I have sent twice o’er
To fetch him, and I muse at his delay.

CHORUS.
The rumour that remains is old and dim.

OEDIPUS.
What rumour? Let no tale be left unheard.

CHORUS.
’Twas said he perished by some wandering band.

OEDIPUS.
But the one witness is removed from ken.
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἀλλ' εἰ τι μὲν δὴ δειμάτων ἔχει μέρος,
τὰς σιὰς ἀκούὼν οὐ μενεὶ τοιάσθ' ἀρά.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΗΣ.

φ μη' στι δρῶντι τάρβος, οὐδ' ἔτος φοβεῖ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἀλλ' οὐξελέγχων αὐτὸν ἔστιν· οἴδε γὰρ
τὸν θείον ἡδί μάντιν ὁδ' ἄγουσιν, φ
τάληθές ἐμπέφυκεν ἀνθρώπων μόνῳ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΗΣ.

ὦ πάντα νομῶν Τειρεσία, διδακτά τε
ἀρρητά τ', οὐράνια τε καὶ χθονοστιβῆ, [Introit Tiresias.
πόλιν μέν, εἰ καὶ μη βλέπεις, φρονεῖς δ' ὁμος
οῖς νόσφι σύνεστιν· ἂς σὲ προστάτην
σωτηρά τ', ὀναξ, μοῦνον ἐξευρίσκομεν.
Φοῖβος γὰρ, εἰ καὶ μη κλίους τῶν ἀγγέλων,
pέμψασιν ἦμῖν ἀντέπεμψεν, ἐκλυσιν
μόνην ἀν ἐλθεῖν τούδε τοῦ νοσῆματος,
eἰ τοὺς κτανώτας Δάιων μαθῶντες εὑ
κτείναιμεν, ἢ γῆς φυγάδας ἐκπεμφαίμεθα.
αὐ δ' οὖν φθονήσας μῆτ' ἀπ' οἰλονόν φάτιν
μῆτ' εἰ των ἄλλην μαντικῆς ἔχεις ὁδόν,
ῥύσαι σεαντὸν καὶ πόλιν, ῥύσαι δ' ἐμε,
ῥύσαι δὲ πάν μίαμα τοῦ τεθυηκότος.
ἐν σοι γὰρ ἐσμὲν· ἀνδρὰ δ' ὠφελεῖν ἀφ' ἄν
ἔχου τε καὶ δύναστο κάλλιστο πόνων.
KING OEDIPUS.

CHORUS.

Well, if the guilty have a taste of fear,
He will not stay when he hath heard thy curse.

OEDIPUS.

Words will not frighten one who dares to do.

CHORUS.

Yet lives there, who hath power to convict him:
For hither, lo! they lead the holy seer,
Whose bosom is of truth the only home.

[Teiresias enters at the right, from the City.]

OEDIPUS.

O thou whose universal thought controls
All knowledge and all mystery, in heaven
And on the earth beneath, thy mind perceives,
Teirésias, though thine outward eye be dark,
The plague that holds our city, whose one guide
And saviour we can find in thee, O king.
Phoebus (although the messengers perchance
Have told thee this), upon our sending, sent
This answer back, that no release should come
From this disaster, till we sought and found
And slew the murderers of King Latus,
Or drove them exiles from our land. Thou, then,
Withhold not any word of augury
Or other divination which thou knowest,
But rescue Thèbê, and thyself, and me,
And purge this dire pollution of the dead.
We cast ourselves on thee: and beautiful
It is to use the power one hath for good.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.
φεύ φεύ, φρονεῖν ὡς δεινῶν ἔνθα μὴ τέλη
λύνη φρονοῦντε. ταῦτα γὰρ καλῶς ἐγὼ
εἰδὼς διώλεσ’· οὐ γὰρ ἂν δεῦρ’ ἵκόμην.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
τί δ’ ἔστιν; ὡς ἄθυμος εἰσελήλυθας.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.
ἀφεῖς μ’ ἔς οὐκοῦσ· ῥάστα γὰρ τὸ σὸν τε σὺ
κάγῳ διοίσω τούμον, ἢν ἐμοὶ πίθη.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
οὔτ’ ἐννομ’ εἴπας οὕτε προσφιλῇ πόλει
tῆδ’, ἢ σ’ ἔθρεψε, τῆνδ’ ἀποστερῶν φάτων.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.
ὁρῶ γὰρ οὔδὲ σοὶ τὸ σὸν φῶνημ’ ὡν
πρὸς καιρόν· ὡς οὖν μηδ’ ἐγὼ ταῦτῶν πάθω—

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
μὴ πρὸς θεόν φρονοῦν γ’ ἀποστραφῆς, ἐπεὶ
πάντες σε προσκυνοῦμεν οἷδ’ ἱκτήριοι.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.
πάντες γὰρ οὐ φρονεῖτ’. ἐγὼ δ’ οὐ μὴ ποτε
tὰμ’ ὡς ἂν εἴπω μὴ τί σ’ ἐκφήνω κακά.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
τι φής; ξυνείδως οὐ φράσεις, ἀλλ’ ἐννοεῖς
ήμαις προδοῦναι καὶ καταφθείραι πόλων;

[320, 325, 330]
KING OEDIPUS.

TEIRESIAS.
Ah! terrible is knowledge to the man
Whom knowledge profits not. This well I knew,
But had forgotten. Else had I ne'er come hither.

OEDIPUS.
Why dost thou come so gloomily to-day?

TEIRESIAS.
Let me go home. Thy part and mine will best
Be carried, if thou wilt obey this word.

OEDIPUS.
Rebellious and ungrateful! to deprive
The State that reared thee of thine utterance now.

TEIRESIAS.
Thy speech, I see, is crossing thine intent;
And I would screen me from the like mishap.

OEDIPUS.
Nay, if thou knowest, turn thee not away:
Lo, all these suppliants are entreat ing thee.

TEIRESIAS.
Yea, for ye all are blind. Never will I
Utter the sound that will reveal thine evil.

OEDIPUS.
What, art thou privy to the business then,
And wilt not tell, but hast a mind to be
Our traitor, and destroyer of the State?
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

ἐγὼ οὔτε ἐμαυτόν οὔτε σ’ ἀλγυνῦ. τί ταῦτ’ ἄλλως ἐλέγχεις; οὐ γὰρ ἂν πῦθοι μοι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

οὐκ, ὡς κακῶν κάκιστε, καὶ γὰρ ἂν πέτρον φύσιν σὺ γ’ ὄργανεις, ἐξερεῖσ ποτε, ἄλλ’ οὐδ’ ἀτεγκτὸς κατελεύτητος φανεῖ; 335

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

Ὀργῆν ἐμέμψον τὴν ἐμῆν, τὴν σ’ ὄμοι ναίονσαν οὐ κατεῖδες, ἄλλ’ ἐμὲ ψέγεις.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τίς γὰρ τοιαῦτ’ ἂν οὐκ ἂν ὄργαζοι’ ἐπὶ κλίσαι, ἄ νύν σὺ τίνῳ ἄτιμαξεῖς πόλιν; 340

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

ἥξει γὰρ αὐτά, καὶ ἐγὼ σιγῇ στέγω.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

οὐκοῦν ἂ γ’ ἥξει καὶ σε χρῆ λέγειν ἐμοί.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

οὐκ ἂν πέρα φράσαιμι. πρὸς τάδ’, εἰ θέλεις, θυμοὶ δι’ ὄργῆς ἦτις ἀγριωτάτη.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

καὶ μὴν παρῆσον γ’ οὔδ’εν, ὡς ὄργης ἔχω, ἀπερ ἐξενῖμ’. ἵσθι γὰρ δοκῶν ἐμοὶ καὶ ἐξιμφυτέσσαι τοῦργον. εἰργάσθαι θ’, ὥσον μὴ χερσὶ καίνων· εἰ δ’ ἐτύγχανες βλέπων, καὶ τοῦργον ἂν σοῦ τούτ’ ἐφην εἴναι μόνου. 345
KING OEDIPUS.

TEIRESIAS.
You press me to no purpose. I'll not pain Myself or thee. You will get nothing from me.

OEDIPUS.
O miscreant! what? Why, you would rouse, I ween, The passion of anger in a stone; wilt ne'er Give utterance, but in thy temper prove Still thus unsoftened and impracticable?

TEIRESIAS.
My temper is your theme. Your own must dwell Unnoticed in your bosom. Me you blame?

OEDIPUS.
Who could keep temper at such words as thou Hast used to scorn this city?

TEIRESIAS.
It will come:
Although I bury it in silence here.

OEDIPUS.
Must not the king be told of what will come?

TEIRESIAS.
No more from me. At this, and if thou wilt, Rage to the height of passionate vehemence.

OEDIPUS.
Ay, and my passion shall not spare to say All that I now perceive. I see in thee The abettor of the plot, and of the deed, All but the handiwork. If thou hadst eyes, Sole murderer had I declared thee too.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

άληθες; ἐννέατο δέ τῷ κηρύγματι
ἔστερ προεύσας ἐμμένειν, καὶ ἡμέρας
τῆς νῦν προσαυδάν μήτε τούσδε μήτ' ἐμέ,
ός ὁμιλον γῆς τῆς διονύσιον μιᾶς.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

οὕτως ἀναίδως ἐξεκίνησες τόδε
τὸ ῥήμα; καὶ ποῦ τούτο φεύγεσθαι δοκεῖς;

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

πέφευγα· τάληθές γὰρ ἰσχύον τρέφω.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

πρὸς τοῦ διδαχθείς; οὖ γὰρ ἐκ γε τῆς τέχνης.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

πρὸς σοῦ· σοῦ γὰρ μ' ἀκοντα προοτρέψῳ λέγειν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ποίον λόγον; λέγῃ αὕθις, ἄν πάλλου μάθω.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

οὐχὶ ξυμνήκας πρόσθεν; ἢ κατερά λόγῳ;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

οὐχ ὡστε γ' εἰπεῖν γνωστῶν· ἄλλῳ ἀὕθις φράσον.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

φονέα σε φημὶ τάνδρος οὗ ξητεῖς κυρεῖν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἄλλον οὖ τι χαίρων δίς γε τημονάς ἑρεῖς.
KING OEDIPUS.

TEIRESIAS.
Is't possible? I charge thee to abide
By that thou hast proclaimed; and from this hour
Speak not to any Theban or to me.
Thou art the foul polluter of the land.

OEDIPUS.
O shameless front! How canst thou move thy tongue
To such a tone, and think to 'scape for this?

TEIRESIAS.
The might of truth is scathless. I am free.

OEDIPUS.
Whence came the truth thou spak'st? Not from thine art.

TEIRESIAS.
From thee. Thou urged'st mine unwilling tongue.

OEDIPUS.
Say it again, that I may know the drift.

TEIRESIAS.
Was it so dark? Or dost thou tempt my voice?

OEDIPUS.
I cannot say 'twas clear. Speak it again.

TEIRESIAS.
I say thou art the regicide thou seekest.

OEDIPUS.
Again the word of pain! But thou shalt rue.
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

εἴπω τι δήτα κάλλι, ἵν' ὀργίζῃ πλέον;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ὁσον χρήζεις· ὡς μάτην εἰρήσεται.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

λεληθέναι σε φημι σύν τοῖς φιλτάτους
αἰσχυσθ' ὀμιλούντ', οὐδ' ὀράν ἵν' εἶ κακοῦ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἡ καὶ γεγηθὼς ταῦτ' ἀεὶ λέξειν δοκεῖς;

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

ἐὰν περ τι γ' ἔστι τῆς ἀληθείας σθένος.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἀλλ' ἔστι, πλὴν σοί· σοὶ δὲ τοῦτ' οὔκ ἔστ', ἐπεὶ
τυφλὸς τά τ' ὧτα τόν τε νοῦν τά τ' ομματ' εἶ.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

σὺ δ' ἀθλίος γε ταῦτ' ὑνειδίζων, ἄ σοι
οὐδεὶς ὃς ὑπὶ τῶν ὑνειδίζει τάχα.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

μᾶς τρέφει πρὸς νυκτός, ὥστε μήτ' ἐμὲ
μήτ' ἄλλουν, ὅστις φῶς ὀρᾶ, βλάψαι ποτ' ἄν.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

οῦ γὰρ σε μοῖρα πρὸς γ' ἐμοῦ πεσείν, ἐπεὶ
ἰκανὸς Ἀπόλλων, τούτ' εκπράξαι μέλει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

Κρέοντος, ἢ σοῦ ταύτα ταξευρήματα;
KING OEDIPUS.

TEIRESIAS.
Shall I speak something more, to feed thy wrath?

OEDIPUS.
All is but idleness. Say what thou wilt.

TEIRESIAS.
I tell thee thou art living unawares
In shameful commerce with thy nearest blood,
Not seeing the abyss wherein thou liest.

OEDIPUS.
Think you to triumph in offending still?

TEIRESIAS.
Yes, if the might of truth be anything.

OEDIPUS.
It is, for other men, but not for thee,
Blind as thou art in eye and ear and mind.

TEIRESIAS.
O miserable reproach, which all who now
Behold thee, soon shall thunder forth on thee!

OEDIPUS.
Nursed in unbroken night, thou canst not harm
Or me, or any man who seeth the day.

TEIRESIAS.
No, not from me proceeds thy fall; the god,
Who cares for this, is able to perform it.

OEDIPUS.
Came this device from Creon or thyself?
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

Κρέων δέ σοι πῆμ' οὐδέν, ἀλλ' αὐτὸς σὺ σοί.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ὁ πλούτε καὶ τυραννὶ καὶ τέχνη τέχνης
ὑπερφέρουσα τῷ πολυζήλῳ βίῳ,
ὅσος παρ' ὑμῖν ὁ φθανός φυλάσσεται,
εἰ τῇδε γ' ἀρχής οὖνεχ', ἢν ἔμοι πόλις
δῶρητον, οὐκ ἀθητῶν, εἰςεχείρισεν,
ταύτης Κρέων ὁ πιστὸς, οὔς ἀρχής φίλος,
λάθρα μ' ὑπελθὼν ἐκβαλεῖν ἰμείρεται,
ὕφεις μάγον τοιάνδε μηχανορράφουν,
δόλων ἀγύρτην, δόσις ἐν τοῖς κέρδεσιν
μόνον δέδόρκε, τῷ τέχνην δ' ἐφ' τυφλὸς.
ἐπεί, φέρ' εἰπέ, ποῦ σὺ μάντις εἰ σαφῇς;
πώς οὖχ, ὅθ' ἡ ῥαφιωθὸς ἐνθαῦτ' ἢν κύνω,
ηδᾶς τι τοίοῦ' ἀστοίσειν ἐκλυτήριον;
καίτοι τῷ γ' αἰνιγμ' οὖξ τοιποίντος ἢν
ἀνδρὸς διευτείν, ἀλλ' μαντελας ἐδει·
ἣν οὔτ' ἀπ' οἴωνοι σὺ προφάνης ἔχων
οὔτ' ἐκ θεῶν τοῦ γνωστόν· ἀλλ' ἐγὼ μολόν,
ὁ μηδὲν εἴδος Οἰδίπος, ἑπαυσά νυν,
γνωμὴ κυρήσας οὖθ' ἀπ' οἴωνοι μαθῶν·
ὅν δὴ σὺ πείρας ἐκβαλεῖν, δοκῶν θρόνους
παραστατήσειν τοῖς Κρεοτείοις πέλας.
κλαίων δοκεῖς μοι καὶ σὺ χῦ συνθεῖς τάδε
ἀγγελατήσειν· εἰ δὲ μὴ δοκεῖς γέρων
ἔναι, παθὼν ἐγὼς ἀν οία περ φρονεῖς.
KING OEDIPUS.

TEIRESIAS.

Not Creon, thou thyself art thine own bane.

OEDIPUS.

O wealth and sovereign power and skill o'er skill
Proudly prevailing in an envied life,
What boundless jealousies environ you!
If, for this rule, which to my hand the State
Committed unsolicited and free,
Creon, my first of friends, trusted and sure,
Would undermine and hurl me from my throne,
Insinuating such a mendicant
Patcher of wiles, this crafty wizard rogue,
Blind in his art, and seeing but for gain.
Tell me, when was thy divination sure?
How came it, when the minstrel hound was here,
This town had no deliverance through thy word?
Her riddle was not for the passer by
To solve, but needed the diviner's skill;
No sign whereof was manifest in thee
By augury or inspiration given.
But it was left for a chance visitant,
The simple Oedipus, to end her lay:
Me, who had no intelligence from birds,
But hit upon the secret through my wit;
Whom now you study to supplant, and think
To stand as a supporter of the throne
Of lordly Creon: — To your sorrow both
Thou and the hatcher of this scheme will drive
Pollution forth. Nought but the name of age
Protects thee now from tasting of thy fault.
ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ήμων μὲν εἰκάζονσι καὶ τὰ τοῦ ἐπη ὄργῃ λελέχθαι καὶ τὰ σ’, Οἰδίπον, δοκεῖ. δεῖ δ’ οὐ τοιούτων, ἀλλ’ ὅτες τὰ τοῦ θεοῦ μαντεῖ' ἄριστα λύσομεν, τόδε σκοπεῖν.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

εἰ καὶ τυραννεῖς, ἐξίσωτέον τὸ γοῦν ἵστ ἀντιλέξαι· τοῦδε γὰρ καγὼ κρατῶ. οὐ γὰρ τι σοὶ ξό δούλος, ἀλλὰ Λοξία· ὦστ’ οὐ Κρέοντος προστάτου γεγράψωμαι. λέγω δ’, ἐπειδὴ καὶ τυφλὸν μ’ ὀνείδισας, σὺ καὶ δεδορκας κού βλέπεις ἵν’ εἰ κακοῦ, οὐδ’ ἐνθα ναίεις, οὐδ’ ὅταν οἰκεῖς μέτα, —ἄρ’ οἴσθι ἄφ’ ὅν εἰ; —καὶ λέληθας ἔχθρός ὅν τοῖς σοῖς αὐτῶν νίρβεθ κατὶ γῆς ἄνω, καὶ σ’ ἀμφιπληξ μητρός τε καὶ τοῦ σοῦ πατρός ἐλὴ ποτ’ ἐκ γῆς τῆς δεινῶποις ἀρά, βλέποντα νῦν μὲν ὅρθ’, ἐπείτα δὲ σκότον. βοής δὲ τῆς σῆς ποίως οὐκ ἔσται λιμὴν, ποίως Κιλαίρων οὐχὶ σύμφωνος τάχα, ὅταν καταίσθῃ τὸν ὑμέναιον, ὅν δόμοις ἀνορμον εἰςἐπλευσας, εὐπλοίας τυχῶν; ἄλλων δὲ πλήθος οὐκ ἔπαισθάνει κακών, ἀ σ’ ἐξίσωσεῖ σοι τε καὶ τοῖς σοῖς τέκνοις. πρὸς ταύτα καὶ Κρέοντα καὶ τοῦμὸν στόμα προπτηλάκιζε. σοῦ γὰρ οὐκ ἔστιν βροτῶν κάκιον οὕτως ἐκτριβήσεται ποτε.
KING OEDIPUS.

CHORUS.

As far as we may guess, the prophet's words
And thine, O Oedipus, are spoken in wrath.
That is not what we need, but to discern
How best to solve the heavenly oracle.

TEIRESIAS.

Though thou art sovereign here, the right of speech
Is my prerogative no less. Not thee
I serve, but Joxias. He protects my life.
No need of Creon's arm to shelter me!
Now, then: my blindness is thy theme: — thou hast
Thine eyes, and seest not where thou art in ill,
What halls thou dost inhabit, or with whom.
Knowest not from whence thou art. Nay, to thy kin,
Buried in death and on the earth above,
Unwittingly art a most grievous foe.
And when thy father's and thy mother's curse
With fearful tread shall drive thee from this land,
On both sides lashing thee, thine eye so clear
Seeing but darkness in that day, — oh, then,
What harbourage will not receive thy cry,
What echo of Cithaeron will be mute,
When thou perceiv'st, what bride-song in thy hall
Wafted thy gallant bark with flattering gale
To anchor, — where? And other store of ill
Thou seest not, that shall equal thine estate
To thy true fortune and thy children's blood.
Then carp at noble Creon, and revile
My sacred utterance. No life on earth
More miserably shall be effaced, than thine.
OIDIPUS TYPANNOΣ.

OIDIPOTES.

η ταύτα δήτ' ἀνεκτὰ πρὸς τούτον ελύειν; οὐκ εἰς ὠλεθρον; οὐχὶ θάσσου; οὐ πάλιν ἀψορροφος οἴκων τῶν ἀποστραφεῖς ἀπει;... 430

TEIREXIAΣ.

οὐδ' ἰκόμην ἔγωγ' ἄν, εἰ σὺ μη' κάλεις.

OIDIPOTES.

οὐ γάρ τι σ' ἡδὴ μῶρα φωνήσοντ', ἔπει σχολή σ', ἀν οἴκους τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἑστειλάμην. 435

TEIREXIAΣ.

ἡμεῖς τοιοῦδ' ἔφυμεν, ὡς μὲν σοὶ δοκεῖ, μῶροι, γονεῖσι δ', οἵ σ' ἐφύσαν, ἐμφρονεῖ.

OIDIPOTES.

ποίοισι; μεῖνον. τίς δὲ μ' ἐκφύει βροτῶν; 440

TEIREXIAΣ.

ἡδ' ἡμέρα φύσει σε καὶ διαφθερεῖ.

OIDIPOTES.

ὡς πάντ' ἄγαν αἰνετὰ κάσαφη λέγεις.

TEIREXIAΣ.

οὐκουν σὺ ταύτ' ἄριστος εὐρύσκειν ἔφυς;

OIDIPOTES.

τοιαῦτ' ονείδισ' οἷς ἐμ' εὐρήσεις μέγαν.

TEIREXIAΣ.

αὕτη γε μέντοι σ' ἡ τύχη διώλεσεν.
KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.
Can I endure such words from him? Begone
Off to thy ruin and with speed! Away,
And take thy presence from our palace-halls.

TEIRESIAS.
Had you not sent for me, I ne'er had come.

OEDIPUS.
I knew not you would utter foolishness,
Else had I never brought you to my door.

TEIRESIAS.
To thee I am foolish, then; but to thy parents,
That gave thee life, I was wise.

OEDIPUS.
Hold, go not! who?
Who gave me being?

TEIRESIAS.
Thou shalt find this day
Thine origin and end.

OEDIPUS.
Why wilt thou still
Speak all in riddles and dark sentences?

TEIRESIAS.
Methought thou wast the man to find them out.

OEDIPUS.
Ay, taunt me with the gift that makes me great!

TEIRESIAS.
And yet this luck hath been thine overthrow.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ἀλλ’ εἰ πῶλιν τήν ἐξέσωσ’, οὐ μοι μέλει.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.
ἀπεμί τοίνυν· καὶ σύ, παι, κόμιξέ με.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
κομιξέτω δήθ’ ὄψ παρῶν σὺ γ’ ἐμποδῶν
ὡρίζεις, συνεις τ’ ἀν οὐκ ἀν ἄλγυναις πλέον.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.
εἶπον ἀπεμί ὃν οὖνεκ ἠλθον, οὐ τὸ σὸν
deίταις πρόσωπον· οὐ γὰρ ἔσθ’ ὅπου μ’ ὀλείς.
λέγω δὲ σοι, τὸν ἄνδρα τούτον, ἃν πάλαι
ζητεῖς ἀπειλῶν κανάκηρύσσων φῶν
τὸν Δαίειον, οὕτως ἔστιν ἐνθάδε,
ξένος λόγῳ μέτακος, εἶτα δ’ ἐγγενῆς
φανήσεται Θηβαῖος, οὐδ’ ἠθήνεται
tῇ ξυμφορᾷ· τυφλὸς γὰρ ἐκ δεδορκότος
καὶ πτωχὸς ἀντὶ πλουσίου ξένην ἔπτι
σκήπτρῳ προδεικνύσ γαῖαν ἐμπορεύσεται.
φανήσεται δὲ παισὶ τῶς αὐτοῦ ξυνὸν
ἀδελφὸς αὐτὸς καὶ πατήρ, καζ’ ὅς ἔσοχ
γυναικὸς υἱὸς καὶ πάσις, καὶ τοῦ πατρὸς
ὁμόστορός τε καὶ φονεύς. καὶ ταῦτ’ ἰὼν
εἴσω λογίζου· κᾶν λάβης ἐφευσμένον,
φάσκειν εἰμ’ ἢδη μαντικὴ μηδὲν φρονεῖν. [Exeunt.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τὼς ὄντι θ’ ἡθεστιπέτεια Δελφίς ἐπε τέτρα
ἀρρητ’ ἀρρήτων τελέσαντα φοινίαις χερσίν;
KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.

I care not, if I have preserved this city.

TEIRESIAS.

Then I will go. Come, boy, and guide me forth.

OEDIPUS.

Let him. For standing here you vex our eye, But being gone, our trouble goes with you.

TEIRESIAS.

Ere I depart, I will declare the word For which I came, not daunted by thy frown. Thou hast no power to ruin me. 'Tis this. The man you seek so earnestly, with threats And proclamation loud of Laius' blood, Is here, a sojourner supposed from far, But time shall prove him to the light of day A true-born Theban: nor will such event Bring him great joy; for, blind from having sight, And beggared from prosperity, with staff In stranger lands he shall feel forth his way; Shown living with the children of his loins, Their brother and their sire, and to the womb That bare him, husband-son, and to his father Murderer and joint-begetter. Now go in, Ponder my words; and if thou find'st them false, Then term my prophet-gift a senseless skill.

[OEDIPUS goes within; TEIRESIAS retires to the City.

CHORUS.

I. 1.

Whom hath the mystic stone Declared to have done Horrors unnameable with blood-stained hand?
οίδιπος τυράννος.

οὖν ἀειλλάδων
ἐπὶ τῶν σθεναρῶτερῶν
φυγᾶ πόδα νομάν.

ἐξοπλοὺς γὰρ ἐπ’ αὐτὸν ἐπενθρώσκει
πυρὶ καὶ στεροπάϊς ὁ Διὸς γενέταις.
δειαὶ δ’ ἄμ’ ἐπονται Κῆρες ἀναπλάκητοι.

ἀντ. ἄ.

ἐλαμψε γὰρ τοῦ νυφόεντος ἀρτίως φανεῖσα
φάμα Παρνασσοῦ τὸν ἀδηλὸν ἄνδρα πάντ’ ἀχνεύειν.

φοιτά γὰρ ἐπ’ ἄγριαν
ἐλαμέν ἀνὰ τ’ ἀντρα καὶ
πετραῖος ὁ ταύρος,
μέλεος μελεῶ τοῦ κηρεύον,
τὰ μεσομφαλα γὰς ἀπονοσφίξον
μαντεία: τὰ δ’ ἄεὶ ξώντα περιποτάται.

ἀντ. β.’

δειαὶ μὲν οὖν, δειαὶ ταράσσει σοφὸς οἰωνοθέτας
οὔτε δοκοῦτ’ οὔτ’ ἀποφάσκουθ’ ὁ τι λέξω δ’ ἀπορῶ.

πέτομαι δ’ ἔλπισιν οὔτ’ εὐθῶδ’ ὀρῶν οὔτ’ ὑπόσω.
τὸ γὰρ ἡ Δαβδακίδαις
ἡ τὸν Πολύθου νείκος ἐκεῖτ’ οὔτε πάροιδεν ποτ’ ἐγὼγ’ οὔτε
tαινίν τω 490

ἐμαθον, πρὸς ὅτου χρησάμενος δὴ βασάνω
ἐπὶ τὰν ἐπίδαμον
φαίνει εἰμ’ Οἰδιπόδα Δαβδακίδαις ἐπίκουρος ἀδήλων θανά-
tων.

ἀντ. β.’

ἄλλ’ ο μὲν οὖν Ζεὺς ὃ τ’ Ἀπόλλων ξυνετοὶ καὶ τὰ βρωτῶν
KING OEDIPUS.

With speed of storm-swift car
'Tis time he fled afar
With mighty footsteps hurrying from the land.
For, armed with lightning brand,
There leaps upon his track the son of Jove,
And close behind the unerring Destinies move.

I. 2.
Late from the snow-tipped height
This utterance sprang to light,
To hunt on every track the man unknown.
Through woodland caverns deep
And o'er the rocky steep
Like bull he ranges in the wilds alone,
With none to share his moan,
Shunning that prophet voice's central sound,
Which ever lives, and haunts him, hovering round.

II. 1.
My heart is stirred
With strange misgiving through the augur's word.
Nor yea, nor nay
My mind will say,
But flutters betwixt hope and fear,
Seeing nor the present nor the future clear.
What strife had grown
Betwixt the son of Polybus and these
The heirs of Labdacus, was never known
Or yet to me confessed
By any certain test,
That I could bring to quench the popular praise
Of Oedipus, or with conviction strong
To vindicate a dark mysterious wrong.

II. 2.
Zeus and his son
Know surely all that o'er the earth is done:
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

eιδότες· ἀνδρῶν δ' ὅτι μάντις πλέον ἦ γώ φέρεται,
κρίσις οὐκ ἔστω ἄληθής· σοφία δ' ἂν σοφίαν
παραμείψειεν ἀνήρ.
ἀλλ' οὕτω ἔγωγ' ἂν, πρὶν ἰδοὺ ὄρθων ἐπος, μεμφομένων
ἀν καταφαίην.

фанερὰ γὰρ ἐπ' αὐτῷ πτερόεσσ' ἦλθε κόρα
ποτέ, καὶ σοφὸς ὅφθη
βασίνῳ θ' ἀδύπολος· τῷ ἄπ' ἐμᾶς φρενὸς οὕτω ὀφλήσει
κακίαν.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
ἀνδρεὶς πολῖται, δεῦ' ἐπὶ πεπυσμένος
καθηγορεῖν μου τὸν τύραννον Οἰδίπουν
πάρειμ' ἀτλητῶν. εἰ γὰρ ἐν ταῖς ξυμφοράῖς
ταῖς μὲν νομίζει πρὸς ἢ ἐμοῦ πεπουθέναι
λόγους εἰτ' ἐργος εἰς βλάβην φέρον,
οὕτω βλεν μοι τοῦ μακραίων πόθος,
φέροντε τῆνδε βάξων. οὐ γὰρ εἰς ἄπλοιν
ἡ ξημία μοι τοῦ λόγου τούτου φέρει,
ἀλλ' ἐς μέγιστον, εἰ κακὸς μὲν ἐν πόλει,
κακὸς δὲ πρὸς σοῦ καὶ φίλων κεκλήσομαι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.
ἀλλ' ἦλθε μὲν ὅτι τούτῳ τοῦνείδος τάχ' ἂν
ὁργῇ βιασθὲν μᾶλλον ἢ γνώμη φρενῶν.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
tου πρὸς δ' ἐφάνθη ταῖς ἐμαῖς γνώμαις ὅτι
πεισθεῖς ὁ μάντις τοὺς λόγους ψευδεῖς λέγοι;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.
ηῦδάτο μὲν τάδ', οἶδα δ' οὐ γνώμη τίνε.
KING OEDIPUS.

But that the seer
Hath wisdom clear,
Or more endowment than the crowd,
Was never yet with evidence allowed.

A man by wit
May pass the bound another man hath won;
But never, till I see fulfilment fit,
Will I confirm the blame
They cast upon his name.

Wise he was found beneath the searching sun,
And kind to Thebæ, when the Sphinx came forth
And sang. My heart shall never doubt his worth.

CREON.

[Enters at the right, from the City.]
Citizens, hearing that great Oedipus,
Our sovereign, hath been launching at my head
Dire accusation, I stand here resolved
Not to endure it. In the late events
If he imagine he hath ta'en from me
Aught to his detriment by word or deed,
I am not careful to prolong my life
Beneath such imputation. For the harm
Of such a calumny importeth not
Some single business, but of all the chief,
That I be ill-reported in the State,
And hardly thought of by my friends and you.

CHORUS.

Perchance 'twas but the sudden flash of wrath,
Not the deliberate judgment of the soul.

CREON.

Who gave in evidence that the prophet spake
False prophecies at my suggestion?

CHORUS.

Such was the word, I know not how advised.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
εξ ομμάτων δ' ὀρθῶν τε καὶ ὀρθῆς φρενός κατηγορεῖτο τοιτικλημα τοῦτο μου;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.
οὐκ οἴδ'· ἀ γὰρ ὅρωσ' οἱ κρατοῦντες οὐχ ὁρῶ. αὐτὸς δ' ὃδ' ἦδη δομάτων ἐξω περᾶ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
oútoos su', poós dev prá hλáthes; th tosoúd' éxeis tólhmis prósowpon óste tás émws stégas ἵκου, φονεύς ἅν τούδε τάνδρος ἐμφανος λρς t' énarghs tís' émhs týranνídos; fép' eípε πρ' δεὺων, δειλίαν ἡ μωρίαν ἰδόν τιν' ἐν ἐμοί ταὐτ' ἐβουλεύον ποιεῖν; ἡ τούργον ὡς ὧν γνωρίσοιμι σου τόδε δόλῳ προσέρτον κοῦκ ἀλεξοίμην μαθῶν; ἄρ' οὐχὶ μωρόν ἐστι τοὐγχειρημά σου, άνευ τε πλήθους καὶ φίλων τύραννίδα θηράν, ὃ πλῆθει χρήμασίν θ' ἀλίσκεται;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
ois th' ως ποίησον; ἀντὶ τῶν εἰρημένων ἵσ' ἀντίκουσον, κάτα κρίν' αὐτὸς μαθῶν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
λέγειν σὺ δεινὸς, μανθάνειν δ' ἐγὼ κακὸς σου· δυσμενῆ γὰρ καὶ βαρῶν ἃ' εὖρης' ἐμοὶ.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
tovt' αὐτὸ νῦν μου πρῶτ' ἀκούσουν ὡς ἔρω.
KING OEDIPUS.

CREON.

And with a steady eye, and mind not frantic,
Was this dark obloquy denounced on me?

CHORUS.

I cannot say. To what my betters do
I am blind. But see, the King comes forth again.

OEDIPUS.

[Enters.]

Insolent, art thou here? Hadst thou the face
To bring thy boldness near my palace-roof,
Convicted of contriving 'gainst my life
And laying robber hands upon my state?
I prythee tell, did you perceive in me
A coward or a fool, when you planned this?
Was't that I would not notice your attempt
Craftily creeping on, or, when perceived,
Not ward it off? Is't not a silly scheme,
To think to compass without troops of friends
Power, that is only won by wealth and men?

CREON.

Wilt be advised? Hear but as much in turn
As thou hast spoken, and then thyself be judge.

OEDIPUS.

I know thy tongue, but I am slow to learn
From thee, whom I have found my grievous foe.

CREON.

First on this very point, hear me declare —
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

tούτ' αὐτὸ μή μοι φράζ', ὅπως οὐκ εἰ κακὸς.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

εἰ τοι νομίζεις κτῆμα τὴν αὐθαίρειαν
εἶναι τι τοῦ νυν χωρίς, οὐκ ὀρθῶς φρονεῖς.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

εἰ τοι νομίζεις ἄνδρα συγγενῆ κακῶς
δρῶν οὐκ ὕφεξειν τὴν δίκην, οὐκ εὗ φρονεῖς.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ξύμφημι σοι ταύτ' ἐνδικ' εἰρήσθαι· τὸ δὲ
πάθημ' ὅποιον φῆς παθεῖν δίδασκε με.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἐπειθεὶς, ἢ οὐκ ἐπειθεὶς, ὡς χρείῃ μ' ἐπὶ
tὸν σεμνόμαντον ἄνδρα πέμψασθαι τινα;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

καὶ νῦν ἔθ' αὐτὸς εἰμι τῷ βουλεύματι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

πόσον τιν' ἡδ' δὴθ' ὁ Δαίος χρόνον—

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

dέδρακε ποιον έργον; οὐ γὰρ ἐννοῶ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἄφαντος ἔρρει θανασίμω χειρώματι;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

μακροί παλαιοί τ' ἄν μετρηθείειν χρόνοι.
KING OEDIPUS.

Oedipus.

I will not hear that thou art not a villain.

Creon.

Yours is a shallow judgment, if you think
Pride without knowledge can be any gain.

Oedipus.

Yours is a shallow judgment, if you think
You can abuse your kinsman and be free.

Creon.

Right. I assent to that. But I would learn
The nature of this wrong of which you speak.

Oedipus.

Was it or was it not by your advice
I sent to bring the seeming-reverend seer?

Creon.

It was, and still I hold the counsel firm.

Oedipus.

How long is't now, I pray, since Lazarus—

Creon.

Performed what deed? I do not catch your drift.

Oedipus.

Vanished in ruin by a dire defeat?

Creon.

Were the time measured, it were long and old.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
τότ' οὖν ὁ μάντις οὔτος ἕν ἐν τῇ τέχνῃ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
σοφὸς ἡ ὁμοίως κἀξ ἵσου τιμώμενος.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ἐμνήσατ' οὖν ἐμοὺ τῷ τῷ τῷ ἐν χρόνῳ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
οὔκουν ἐμοὶ ἡ ἐστῶτος οὐδαμοῦ πέλας.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ἀλλ' οὔκ ἔρευναν τοῦ θανόντος ἐσχέτε;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
παρέσχομεν, πῶς δ' οὐχί; κοικ ἡκούσαμεν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
πῶς οὖν τόθ' οὔτος ὁ σοφὸς οὔκ ἡδα τίδε;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
οὔκ οἶδ'· ἐφ' οίς γὰρ μὴ φρονῶ σιγῶν φιλῶ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
τοσόνδε γ' οἶσθα καὶ λέγοις ἄν εἰ φρονῶν.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
ποιον τόθ'; εἰ γὰρ οἶδά γ', οὔκ ἀρνήσομαι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ὦθούνει', εἰ μὴ σοι ξυνήλθε, τὰς ἐμὰς
οὐκ ἄν ποτ' ἐπεὶ Δαίον διαφθοράς.
KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.
Well, did this prophet then profess his art?

CREON.
Wise then as now, nor less in reverence.

OEDIPUS.
And in that period did he mention me?

CREON.
Not in my hearing.

OEDIPUS.
But, I may presume,
Ye held an inquisition o'er the dead?

CREON.
Yes, we inquired, of course: and could not hear.

OEDIPUS.
How had this wise man then no word of this?

CREON.
I speak but what I know. I cannot say.

OEDIPUS.
Clear knowledge may allow you in one speech.

CREON.
In what? I will not gainsay, if I know.

OEDIPUS.
That, had you not been at his ear, he ne'er
Had sought to fasten Latus' death on me.
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
εἰ μὲν λέγει τῶδ', αὐτὸς οἷσθ' ἐγὼ δὲ σου μαθεῖν δικαίῳ ταῦθ' ἀπερ κάμου σὺ νῦν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ἐκμάνθαι' οὐ γὰρ δὴ φονεῖς ἀλώσομαι.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
τί δῆτ'; ἀδελφὴν τὴν ἐμὴν γῆμας ἔχεις;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ἀρνησίς οὐκ ἐνεστὶν ὅν ἀνιστορεῖς.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
ἀρχεῖς δ' ἐκείνη ταὐτὰ γῆς ἵσον νέμων;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ἀν ἦ θέλουσα πάντ' ἐμοῦ κομίζεται.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
οὐκον ισούμαι σφών ἐγὼ δυοῖν τρίτος;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ἔνταυθα γὰρ δὴ καὶ κακὸς φαίνει φίλος.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
οὐκ, εἰ διδοίχης γ' ὡς ἐγὼ σαυτῷ λόγον. ἀκέφαι δὲ τοῦτο πρῶτον, εἰ τιν' ἂν δοκεῖς ἀρχεῖν ἐλέσθαι ξὺν φόβοισι μᾶλλον ἦ ἀτρεστον εὔδοντ', εἰ τά γ' αὐθ' ἐξεῖ κράτη. ἐγὼ μὲν οὖν οὔτ' αὐτὸς ἰμεῖρον ἐφυν
KING OEDIPUS.

CREON.
You know if he said this. But I in turn
Would be the questioner, and ask thee this.—

OEDIPUS.
Ask on. No questioning can prove me guilty.

CREON.
Tell me. Hast thou my sister for thy queen?

OEDIPUS.
The fact is patent, and denial vain.

CREON.
And shar'st with her dominion of this realm?

OEDIPUS.
All she desires is given her by my will.

CREON.
Well, am not I third-partner with you twain?

OEDIPUS.
There is your villainy in breaking fealty.

CREON.
Not so, if thou wouldst reason with thyself
As I now reason. First consider this:
Who would choose power accompanied with fears
Before safe slumbers with an equal sway?
'Tis not my nature, no, nor any man's
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

τύραννος εἶναι μᾶλλον ἡ τύραννα δρᾶν,
οὔτ' ἄλλος ὡστὶς σωφρονεὶς ἔπισταται.

νῦν μὲν γὰρ ἐκ σοῦ πάντ' ἀνευ φόβου φέρω,
εἰ δ' αὐτὸς ἤρχοι, πολλὰ κἂν ἄκων ἔδρων.

πῶς ἦτ' ἐμοὶ τυραννίς ἰδίων ἔχειν
ἀρχής ἀλώτου καὶ δυναστείας ἐφι;
οὔτω τοσοῦτον ἡπατημένοις κυρὸ
ἀστ' ἄλλα χρήσειν ἢ τὰ σὺν κέρδει καλά.

νῦν πᾶσι χαίρω, νῦν μὲ πᾶς ἀστάζωται,
νῦν οἱ σέθεν χρήσομετε ἐκκαλοῦσί με·

τὸ γὰρ τυχεῖν αὐτοῖς πᾶν ἐνταῦθ' ἔνι.

πῶς ἦτ' ἐγὼ κεῖν ἀν λάβοιμ' ἀφεῖς τάδε;
οὐκ ἂν γένοιτο νοῦς κακὸς καλὸς φρονῶν.

ἀλλ' οὔτ' ἔρασθ' τῆς τῆς γνώμης ἐφι
οὔτ' ἂν μετ' ἄλλου δρῶτος ἂν τλαῖν ποτὲ.
καὶ τῶν ἐλέγχον τοῦτο μὲν Πυθώδ' ἤων
πεύθου τὰ χρησθέντ', εἰ σαφῶς ἡγεῖλά σοι·

τούτ' ἄλλ', ἦν μὲ τῷ τερασκόπῳ λάβης
κοινῷ τῇ βουλεύσαντα, μῆ μ' ἀπλῇ κτάνης
ψήφῳ, ἀπεθανεῖ δέ, τῇ τ' ἐμῆ καὶ σῇ, λαβὼν.

γνώμη δ' ἀδήλῳ μῆ μὲ χαρίς αἰτίω.
οὐ γὰρ δίκαιον οὔτε τοὺς κακοὺς μάτην
χρηστοὺς νομίζειν οὔτε τοὺς χρηστοὺς κακοὺς.

φίλον γὰρ ἐσθλῶν ἐκβαλεῖν ἵσον λέγω
καὶ τὸν παρ' αὐτῷ βίοτον, ὅν πλεῖστον φιλεῖ.

ἀλλ' ἐν χρόνῳ γνώσει τάδ' ἄσφαλῶς, ἐπεὶ

χρόνος δίκαιον ἄνδρα δείκνυσιν μόνος,
κακὸν δὲ κἂν ἐν ἡμέρα γνώθης μιᾷ.
Whom modest wisdom rules, to love the place
Of domination rather than the power.
Now, without fear, I have my will from thee;
But were I king, I should do much unwillingly.
How then can I desire to be a king,
When I have rule and lordship undisturbed?
Delusion hath not gone so far with me
As to wish more than honour joined with gain.
Now all men count me happy, all embrace me;
Now he that needs thee calls me to his side,
For on this chance his fortune wholly turns.
How should I leave this substance for that show?
No man of sense can be a criminal.
Such wild ambition hath not my desires,
Nor could I bring myself to lend it aid.
If you would test me, go and ask again
If I brought Phoebus' answer truly back.
Nay, more, if you shall find me to have planned
Aught in collusion with the seer, destroy me,
Not with one vote, but two, mine own with thine.
But do not on a mere suspicion blame
My course of thine own will. To call good evil,
Or evil good, without clear cause, is sin.
And to cast off a worthy friend I call
No less a folly than to fling away
The life we love, that harbours in our breast.
The certainty of this will come with time;
For time alone can prove the righteous man.
One day suffices to proclaim the villain.
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΧΟΡΟΣ.
καλῶς ἔλεξεν εὐλαβομένῳ πεσεῖν,
ἀναξ· φρονεῖν γὰρ οἱ ταχεῖς οὐκ ἀσφαλεῖς.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ὅταν ταχὺς τις οὐπιθουλεύων λάβρα
χωρῆ, ταχὺν δεὶ καμὲ βουλεύειν πάλιν,
εἰ δὲ ἡνυχάξων προσμενῷ, τὰ τούδε μὲν
πεπραγμέν’ ἔσται, τάμα δ’ ἡμαρτημένα.

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

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ἠκιστα· θυήσκειν, οὐ φυγεῖν σε βούλομαι.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
ὅταν προδείξῃς οἰνὸν ἔστι τὸ φθονεῖν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ὡς οὐχ ὑπείξων οὐδὲ πιστεύσων λέγεις;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
οὐ γὰρ φρονοῦντά σ’ ἐν βλέπω.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
τὸ γοῦν ἐμόν.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
ἀλλ’ ἐξ ἴσου δεὶ καμὸν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ἀλλ’ ἐφὺς κακὸς.
KING OEDIPUS.

CHORUS.
Prudence bids hearken to such words, my lord,
For fear one fall. Swift is not sure in thought.

OEDIPUS.
When he who hath designs on me is swift
In his advance, I must bethink me swiftly.
Should I wait leisurely, his secret work
Is perfected, and mine hath missed success.

CREON.
What would you then? To thrust me from the land?

OEDIPUS.
Nay, death, not exile, is my wish for thee.

CREON.
When thou shalt show what is the grudge I bear thee.

OEDIPUS.
Meanest thou not to yield nor to obey me?

CREON.
Because I see you blind.

OEDIPUS.
Not to my need.

CREON.
Mine must be thought of too.

OEDIPUS.
You are a villain.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
εἰ δὲ ξυνίσχις μηδέν;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ἀρκτέον γ’ ὅμως.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
οὕτω κακῶς γ’ ἀρχοντός.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ὁ πόλεως πόλις.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
κάμοι πόλεως μέτεστιν, οὐχὶ σοὶ μόνῳ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.
παύσασθ’ ἀνακτε· καρπίαν δ’ ὑμῖν ὀρῶ
tήνῳ ἐκ δόμων στείχουσαν Ιοκάστην, μεθ’ ὃς
tὸ νῦν παρεστῶς νείκος εὗ θέσθαι χρεών.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.
τί τὴν ᾧβουλον, ὦ ταλαίπωροι, στάσων [Introit.
γιλώσος ἐπῆρασθ’; οὐδ’ ἐπαισχύνεσθε, γῆς
οὕτω νοσούσης, ἵδια κινούντες κακά;
οὔκ εἰ σὺ τ’ οἴκους σύ τε, Κρέον, κατὰ στέγας,
καὶ μὴ τὸ μηδέν ἄλγος εἰς μέγ’ οἴσετε;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
ομαίμε, δεινα μ’ Οἰδίπους ὁ σος πόσις
dράσαι δικαίοι, δυνόιν ἀποκρίνας κακοῖν,
ἡ γῆς ἀπέωσαι πατρίδος, ἢ κτεῖναι λαβῶν —

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ξύμφημη· ἀρόντα γάρ ὑμ. ὁ γύναι, κακῶς
εἶληφα τούμδιν σῶμα σύν τέχνῃ κακῆ.
KING OEDIPUS.

CREON.

Suppose you are all ignorance?

OEDIPUS. My power

Must be maintained even then.

CREON. Authority

Sorts not with error.

OEDIPUS.

O my citizens!

CREON.

I have a part in them as well as you.

CHORUS.

Cease, princes. Opportunely I behold
Jocasta coming toward you from the palace.
Her presence may attune your jarring minds.

JOCASTA.

[Enters.]

Unhappy that ye are, why have ye reared
Your wordy rancour 'mid the city's harms?
Have you no shame, to stir up private broils
In such a time as this? Get thee within!
And thou, too, Creon! nor enlarge your griefs
To make a mountain out of nothingness.

CREON.

Sister, thy husband Oedipus declares
One of two horrors he will work on me,
Banishment from my native soil, or death.

OEDIPUS.

Yes, for I caught him practising, my queen,
Against our person with malignant guile.
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
μή νυν ὅναίμην, ἀλλ' ἀραίος, εἰ σὲ τι δέδρακ', ὅλοίμην, ὃν ἐπαυτιᾶ με δρᾶν.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.
ὦ πρὸς θεῶν πίστευσον, Οἰδίπουσ, τάδε, μάλιστα μὲν τόνδ' ἄρκον αἴδεσθείς θεῶν, ἔπειτα κάμε τούσδε θ' ὦ πάρεισι σοι.

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

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.
τί σοι θέλεις δὴν εἴκάθω;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.
τὸν οὔτε πρὶν νῆπιον νῦν τ' ἐν ὄρκῳ μέγαν καταίδεσαι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.
οἰσθ' οὖν ἃ χρῆσεις;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.
οἶδα.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

φράξε δὴ· τί φής;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.
τὸν ἕναγη φίλον μῆποτ' ἐν αἰτία
σὺν ἀφανεὶ λόγῳ σ' άτιμον βαλεῖν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.
ἐν νυν ἐπίστως, ταῦθ' ὅταν ξητῆς, ἐμοὶ
ξητῶν ἀλεθροὺ ἡ φυγὴν ἐκ τῆςδε γῆς.
KING OEDIPUS.

CREON.
May comforts fail me and a withering curse
Destroy me, if I e'er tried aught of this.

JOCASTA.
I pray thee, husband, listen to his plea;
Chiefly respecting his appeal to Heaven,
But also me, and these who stand by thee.

CHORUS.
Incline to our request
Thy mind and will, O king!

OEDIPUS.
What would you I should yield unto your prayer?

CHORUS.
Respect one ever wise,
Whose oath protects him now.

OEDIPUS.
Know ye what thing ye ask?

I know.

OEDIPUS.
Then clearly tell.

CHORUS.
Thy friend, whose voice is hallowed by his oath,
Rob not of honour through a dim surmise.

OEDIPUS.
In asking that, you labour for my death
Or banishment. Of this be well assured.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.
οῦ τοῦ πάντων θεῶν θεὼν πρόμον
"Αλινν. ἐπεὶ ἄθεος ἀφίλος ὁ τι πύματον ὅλοίμαν, φράνησον εἰ τάνδ᾽ ἔχω.
ἀλλά μοι δυσμόρφῳ γὰρ φθινᾶς τρύχει ζυγχάν, τάδ᾽ εἰ κακοῖς κακᾶ προσάψει τοῖς πάλαι τὰ πρὸς σφῶν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.
ό δ᾽ οὐν ἔτω, κεῖ χρή με παντελῶς θανεῖν, Ἑ γῆς ἁτίμων τῆςδ᾽ ἀπωσθῆναι βία.
τό γὰρ σῶν, οὐ τὸ τοῦδ᾽, ἐποικτεῖρῳ στόμα ἐλεινῶ· οὐτος δ᾽, ἐνθ' ἄν ἦ, στυγησεται.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
στυγνὸς μὲν εἴκων δήλος εἰ, βαρὺς δ᾽, ὅταν θυμὸν περάσῃς. αἱ δὲ τοιαύται φύσεις αὐταῖς δικαίως εἰσὶν ἀλγισται φέρειν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.
οὐκον μ᾽ ἐάσεις κάκτος εἰ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
πορεύοσομαι,
σοῦ μὲν τυχῶν ἀγνώτος, ἐν δὲ τοῦδ᾽ ἰσος.

[Exit.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.
ἀντ.
γύναι, τι μέλλεις κομίζειν δόμων τόνδ᾽ ἔσω;

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

μαθούσα γ᾽ ἤτις ἤ τύχη.
KING OEDIPUS.

CHORUS.

No, by the Sun I swear,
Vaunt-courier of the host of heaven.
For may I die the last of deaths,
Unblest of God or friend,
If e'er such thought were mine.
But oh! this pining land
Afflicts my hapless soul,
To think that to her past and present woe
She must add this, that springs to her from you.

OEDIPUS.

Then let him range, though I must die outright,
Or be thrust forth with violence from the land.
Not for his voice but thine, which wrings my heart:
He, wheresoe'er he live, shall have my hate.

CREON.

You show yourself as sullen when you yield,
As unendurable in your fury's height.
Such natures justly give themselves most pain.

OEDIPUS.

Let me alone, then, and begone!

CREON.

I go,

Unchanged to these, though I have found thee blind.
[Retires to the City.

CHORUS.

Lady, why tarriest thou
To lead thy husband in?

JOCASTA.

I will, when ye have told me what hath passed.
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

dόκησις ἄγνως λόγων ἦλθε, δάκνει δὲ καὶ τὸ μὴ 'νδικον.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ἀμφοῖν ἀπ' αὐτοῖς;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ναίξ.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

καὶ τίς ἦν λόγος;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἀλίς ἐμοίγ', ἀλίς, γάς προπονουμένας,

φαίνεται ἐνθ' ἐληξεν αὐτοῦ μένεων.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ὁρᾶς ἐν ἰκείς, ἁγαθὸς δὲν γνώμην ἀνήρ,

τοῦμον παρίεις καὶ καταμβλύνων κέαρ;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἀναξ, ἐπον μὲν οὐχ ἀπαξ μόνον,

ισθι δὲ παραφρόνιμον, ἀπορον ἐπὶ φρόνιμα

πεφάνθαι μ' ἄν, εἰ σὲ νοσφίξομαι,

ἢ τ' ἐμὰν γὰν φίλαν ἐν πόνοις

σαλεύουσαν κατ' ὀρθὸν οὐρίσας,

τανῦν τ' εὔπομπος εἰ γένου.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

πρὸς θεῶν δίδαξον κἂν', ἀναξ, ὅτου ποτὲ

μὴν τοσόμεθε πράγματος στήσας ἔχεις.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ἐρῶ· σὲ γὰρ τῶνδ' ἐς πλέον, γνῶνι, σέβω·

Κρέοντος, οἷα μοι βεσθολέυκος ἔχει.
KING OEDIPUS.

CHORUS.
Words without knowledge voiced a vague surmise;
And accusations, though unfounded, sting.

JOCASTA.
Came this from both of them?

CHORUS.
From both alike.

JOCASTA.
And what was the dispute?

CHORUS.
Enough for me,
Ample enough it seemeth, when the land
Is vexed already, not to wake what sleeps.

OEDIPUS.
Observe where thou art landed, honest friend,
Slackening my wrath, and bating my desire!

CHORUS.
My prince, not once alone
I spake it, but again.
I should be clearly mad,
Unfurnished of all sense,
To loose my clasp from thee,
Who, when my land was sore distraught,
Didst speed her forth anew with favouring gale.
Now, too, if but thou may'st, be our good guide.

JOCASTA.
Let not thy queen be kept in ignorance
Why thou hast started such a power of wrath.

OEDIPUS.
I'll tell thee, lady, for I honour thee
More than these citizens. 'Twas Creon there,
And his inveterate treason against me.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

λέγει, εἰ σαφῶς τὸ νεῖκος ἐγκαλῶν ἔρεισ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΗΣ.

φονέα με φῆσι Δαίον καθεστάναι.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

αὐτὸς ξυνειδῶς, ἢ μαθῶν ἄλλου πάρα;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΗΣ.

μάντων μὲν οὖν κακοῦργον εἰστέμψας, ἐπεὶ τὸ γ' εἰς ἑαυτῶν πᾶν ἔλευθεροι στόμα.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

οὐ νυν ἄφεις σεαυτὸν ὃν λέγεις πέρι ἐμοῦ' πάκουσον καὶ μάθε' οὖνεκ' ἑστὶ σοι βρότειον οὐδὲν μαντικῆς ἔχων τέχνης. φανὼ δὲ σοι σημεία τῶν τε σύντομα. 705

χρησμὸς ἡδὲ ἦλθε Δαίῳ ποτ', οὐκ ἐρώθησα νῦν θεοῦ γ' ἀπ' αὐτόν, τῶν δ' ὑπηρετῶν ἄπο, ὥσ αὐτὸν ήξοι μοίρα πρὸς παιδὸς θανεῖν, ὡς τε γένοιτ' ἐμοῦ τε κάκεινον πάρα. 710

καὶ τῶν μὲν, ἀσπερ γ' ἡ φάτις, ξένοι ποτὲ λησταὶ φονεύουσ' ἐν τριπλαίς ἀμαξιτοῖς· παιδὸς δὲ βλάστασα οὐ διέσχον ἥμεραι τρεῖς, καὶ νῦν ἄρθρα κεῖνος ἐνεύξας ποδοῖν ἔρριψεν ἄλλους χερσίν εἰς ἅβατον ὄρος. κανταῦθ' Ἀπόλλων οὔτ' ἐκείνον ἠμείσεν 715

φονέα γενέσθαι πατρὸς οὔτε Δαίον, τὸ δεινὸν οὐφοβείτο, πρὸς παιδὸς θανεῖν.
KING OEDIPUS.

JOCASTA.

Accuse him: so you make the quarrel clear.

OEDIPUS.

He saith I am the murderer of the king.

JOCASTA.

Of his own knowledge, or from others' word?

OEDIPUS.

He keeps his own lips free: but hath suborned a knavish soothsayer to this wickedness.

JOCASTA.

List, now, to me, and set your heart at rest
On that you speak of, whilst I make you see
No mortal thing is touched by prophecy.
The proofs I show of this are brief and stern.
Word came to Laius once, I will not say
From Phoebus' self, but from his ministers,
That death should find him from his true-born son,
Who should of both of us be gender'd.
And him, so rumour saith, strange robbers slew
One morn, where two roads parted; but the child
Grew not three days, ere by my husband's hand
His feet were locked, and he was cast and left
By messengers on the waste mountain wold.
So Loxias neither brought upon the boy
His father's murder, nor on Laius
The thing he greatly feared, death by his son.
Τοιαύτα φήμαι μαντικαί διώρισαν,
διν ἐντρέπου σὺ μηδέν· διν γὰρ ἂν θεὸς
χρείαν ἔρευνα ῥάδιως αὐτὸς φανεῖ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.
οῖόν μ’ ἀκούσαν’ ἀρτίως ἔχει, γύναι,
ψυχής πλάνημα κανακίνησις φρενῶν.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.
ποίας μερίμνης τοῦθ’ ὑποστραφεῖς λέγεις;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.
ἐδοξ’ ἀκούσαι σοῦ τόδ’, ὡς ὁ Δαῖος
κατασφαγείη πρὸς τρπλαῖς ἀμαξιτοῖς.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.
ηὔδατο γὰρ ταύτ’ οὐδὲ πω λήξαντ’ ἔχει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.
καὶ ποῦ ’σθ’ ὁ χῶρος οὗτος σὺ τόδ’ ἢν πάθος;

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.
Φωκῆς μὲν ἢ γῆ κλήξεται, σχιστῇ δ’ ὄδος
ἐς ταύτῳ Δελφῶν κάτῳ Δαυλλᾶς ἄγει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.
καὶ τῆς χρόνους τοῖσοδ’ ἐστιν ὑφεξεληλυθῶς;

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.
σχεδόν τι πρόσθεν ἢ σὺ τῆςδ’ ἔχων χθονὸς
ἀρχὴν ἐφαίνου τοῦτ’ ἐκπρὐχθη πόλει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.
ὡ Ζεῦ, τί μοι δρᾶσαι βεβούλευσαι πέρι;
KING OEDIPUS.

Such issues came of prophesying words,
Therefore regard them not. God can himself
With ease bring forth what for his ends he needs.

OEDIPUS.

How my soul's depths are stirred on hearing thee,
My queen, what wildering fancies cloud my mind!

JOCASTA.

What care hath given this turn to thy discourse?

OEDIPUS.

Methought I heard thee say, King Laïus
Was at a crossway felled with slaughtering stroke.

JOCASTA.

Such was the tale that still hath currency.

OEDIPUS.

Where was the scene of this unhappiness?

JOCASTA.

Phocis the land is named: the parted ways
Lead from one point to Daulia and to Delphi.

OEDIPUS.

What time hath passed since this affair was known?

JOCASTA.

'Twas just ere you appeared with prospering speed
And took the kingdom, that these tidings came.

OEDIPUS.

What are your purposes against me, gods?
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.
τί δ' ἐστι σοι τούτ', Οἰδίποις, ἐνθύμιον;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
μήπω μ' ἑρώτα· τὸν δὲ Λαῖον φύσιν
τίν' ἔχει φραίζε, τίνα δ' ἀκμὴν ἥβης ἔχων.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.
μέγας, χρυσάκιν ἄρτι λευκανθεὶς κάρα,
μορφῆς δὲ τῆς σῆς οὐκ ἀπεστάτει πολύ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
οἴμοι τάλας· ἐσίν ἐμαντῶν εἰς ἁρᾶς
δεινῶς προβάλλων ἄρτιῶς οὐκ εἰδέναι.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.
τῶς φής; ὁκνῶ τοι πρὸς σ' ἀποσκοποῦσ', ἀναξ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
δεινῶς ἀθυμῶ μὴ βλέπων ὁ μάντις ἢ.
δείξεις δὲ μᾶλλον, ἢν ἐν ἐξείπης ἐτί.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.
καλ μὴν ὅκνῳ μὲν, ἃ δ' ἄν ἔρη μαθοῦσ' ἔρῳ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
πότερον ἑκάρι ταῖος, ἢ πολλῶς ἔχουν
ἀνδρὰς λοχίτας, οὗ ἀνὴρ ἀρχηγότης;

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.
πέντ' ἤσαν οἱ ξύμπαντες, ἐν δ' αὐτοῖσιν ἦν
κῆρυξ· ἀπίθνη δ' ἤγε Λαῖον μία.
KING OEDIPUS.

JOCASTA.

Why broods thy mind on such a thought, O king?

OEDIPUS.

Nay, ask me not. But tell me first, what height
Had Laurus, and what share of manly bloom?

JOCASTA.

Tall, with a head just silvered o'er with grey:
In shape and bearing much resembling thee.

OEDIPUS.

O heavy fate! 'Twould seem that even now
I flung myself unknowing on the curse.

JOCASTA.

How?
I shudder as I gaze on thee, O king.

OEDIPUS.

The dread appals me that the seer can see.
Tell one thing more to make it doubly clear.

JOCASTA.

I shrink to speak, but, when you ask, I will.

OEDIPUS.

Had he scant following, or, like a prince,
Full numbers of a richly armed train?

JOCASTA.

There were but five in all: a herald one:
And Laurus travelled in the only car.
ΜΟΙΔΙΟΥΣ

οίδαι, τάδ’ ἦδη διαφανῆ. τίς ἢν ποτὲ
ὁ τούσδε λέξας τοὺς λόγους ὑμῖν, γύναι;

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

οίκείσ τις, ὅσπερ ἐκπεθεῖς μόνος.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ἡ κἀν δόμοισι τυχχάνει ταῦτα παρῶν;

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

οὐ δήτ’· ἄφ’ οὐ γὰρ κεῖθεν ἠλθε καὶ κράτη
σὲ τ’ εἰδ’ ἔχοντα Δάιον τ’ ὀλωλότα,
ἐξικέτευσε τῆς ἐμῆς χειρὸς θυγῶν
ἀγροὺς σφε πέμψαι κατ’ ποιμνίων νομάς,
ὡς πλείστον εἰὶ τούδ’ ἀποτος ἀστεως.
κάπεμψ’ ἐγὼ νῦν· ἄξιος γὰρ ὡς γ’ ἄνηρ
doόλος φέρειν ήν τήσδε καὶ μεῖξῳ χάριν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

πῶς ἂν μόλις δῆθ’ ὑμῖν ἐν τάχει πάλιν;

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

πάρεστιν. ἀλλὰ πρὸς τ’ τοῦτ’ ἐφίεσαι;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

dedou’ ἐμαυτοῦ, ὁ γύναι, μὴ πάλλε ἄγαν
ἐδρημεῦν’ ἡ μοι, δι’ α’ νῦν εἰςδεῖν θέλω.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ἀλλ’ ἐξεταὶ μὲν· ἀξιὰ δὲ ποι μαθεῖν
κάγῳ τ’ γ’ ἐν σοι δυσφόρως ἔχουτ’, ἀναξ.
KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.

Woe! woe! 'Tis clear as daylight. Who was he
That brought you this intelligence, my queen?

JOCASTA.

A household slave, who living 'scaped alone.

OEDIPUS.

And may it be that he is now within?

JOCASTA.

No, truly. When he came from yonder scene,
And saw thee on the throne with Laius dead,
He touched my hand, and made his instant prayer
That I would send him to o'er-look the flocks
And rural pastures, so to live as far
As might be from the very thought of Thebes.
And he obtained from me his suit. No slave
Could better merit richest boon than he.

OEDIPUS.

Would he might come again immediately!

JOCASTA.

Doubtless he may. But why desire it thus?

OEDIPUS.

I fear me I have spoken far too much.
In words that make me wish to see him come.

JOCASTA.

Well, so he shall. But 'tis my right to know
What in thy state goes heavily, my king.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

καὶ μὴ στερηθῆς γ’ ἐς τοσοῦτον ἐπιτίθων ἐμοῦ βεβάτος. τῷ γὰρ ἄν καὶ μελζοι
λέξαι μ’ ἄν ἢ σοὶ διὰ τύχης τοιαύτα’ ἰών; ἐμοὶ πατὴρ μὲν Πόλυβος ἦν Κορίνθιος,
μήτηρ δὲ Μερόπη Δωρίσ. ἡγόμην δ’ ἄνὴρ ἀστῶν μέγιστος τῶν ἐκεί, πρῶ μοι τύχη
τοιάδ’ ἐπέστη, θαυμάζω μὲν ἀξία,
σπουδὴς γε μέντοι τῆς ἐμῆς οὐκ ἀξία.
ἀνὴρ γὰρ ἐν δείπνοις μ’ ὑπερπλησθεὶς μέθη καλεὶ παρ’ οἷον πλαστὸς ὡς εἰην πατρί.
καγὼ βαρυνθεὶς τήν μὲν οὐσαν ἡμέραν μόλις κατέσχον, θάτερα δ’ ἵνα πέλας
μητρὸς πατρός τ’ ἡλεγχον· οἱ δὲ δυσφόρως τουλείδος ἠγον τῷ μεθέντι τῶν λόγων.
καγὼ τὰ μὲν κεῖναν ἐτερπόμην, ὅμως δ’ ἐκνιξὺ μ’ αἰὲ τοῦθ’· ύφειρτε γὰρ πολύ.
λάθρα δὲ μητρὸς καὶ πατρὸς πορεύομαι
Πυθώδε, καὶ μ’ ὁ Φοῖβος ὃν μὲν ἰκόμην
άτιμον ἔξεπενευχεν, ἀλλὰ δ’ ἀθλια
καὶ δεινὰ καὶ δύστημα προσφάνη λέγων,
ὡς μητρὶ μὲν χρεία με μικῆναι, γένος δ’
ἀτλητὸν ἀνθρώποις δηλῶσοι’ ὀρᾷν,
φονεὶς δ’ ἐσοίμην τοῦ φυτεύσαντος πατρός.
καγὼ τ’ πακούσας ταῦτα τῆν Κορυνθίαν
ἀστροις τὸ λοιπὸν ἐκμετρούμενος χθόνα
ἐφευγον, ἐνθα μήποτ’ ὁφοίμην κακῶν
χρησμῶν ὄνειδὴ τῶν ἐμῶν τελοῦμενα.
KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.

And thou shalt have it, when my thoughts have risen
To such a flight of wild expectancy.
To whom more worthy can I loose my heart
In travelling through such a perilous strait?
My father was Corinthian Polybus,
And Meropè of Doris was my mother.
My life was held the noblest in esteem
Through all Achaia, till a chance appeared,
Deserving admiration, but, though strange,
Not worthy of the earnest heed I gave it.
For at a feasting once, over the wine,
One who had drunk his fill, called out to me,
"Hail, spurious foundling of thy foster-sire!"
I that one day the passion at my heart
Hardly controlled, but, on the morrow morn,
Went near and proved my parents, who were fierce
In wrath at him whose lips had broached this word.
For their part I was satisfied, but still
This vexed me, for the rumour would not die.
Unknown to both my parents then I went
To Pytho, where, as touching my desire,
Phoebus repulsed me; but brake forth instead
With other oracles of misery
And horrible misfortune, how that I
Must know my mother's shame, and manifest
A birth intolerable to human view,
And do to death the giver of my life.
I fled forth at the word, and, measuring now
Corinthia's region by the stars alone,
Went roaming, where I never might behold
Those shameful prophecies fulfilled on me.
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

στείχων δ' ἱκνούμαι τούσδε τοὺς χῶρους οἱ οΐς
σὺ τὸν τύραννόν τοῦτον ἀλλυσθαί λέγεις.
καὶ σοι, γύναι, τάληθες ἐξερῶ. τρυπήσ
ὁτ' ἡ κελεύθου τήσδ' ὀδοιπορῶν πέλας,
ἐνταῦθά μοι κηρὺς τε κατ' πωλικής
ἀνήρ ἀπήνης ἐμβεβός, οἴον σύ φῆς,
ξυννυτίαζον· καὶ όδου μ' ὃ ἰ ἤγεμὼν
αὐτὸς θ' ὁ πρέσβυς πρὸς βίαν ἦλαυνέτην.
καγὼ τὸν ἐκτρέποντα, τὸν τροχηλάτην,
paiō δ' ὄργής· καὶ μ' ὁ πρέσβυς ὁς ὅρψ,
ἄχου παραστείχουντα τηρήσας μέσον
κάρα διπλοῖς κέντροις μοι καθίκετο.
οὐ μὴν ἴσην γ' ἔτισεν; ἀλλὰ συντόμως
σκήπτρῳ τυπεῖες ἐκ τήσδε χειρὸς ὑπτίος
μέσης ἀπήνης εὐθὺς ἐκκυκλίνεται·
κτέιων δὲ τοὺς ἐξυπαντας. εἰ δὲ τῷ ἔνερ
τοῦτο προσήκει Δαίρ τι συγγενεῖς,
tis τούδε γ' ἀνδρός ἐστιν ἀθλιώτερος ὑπτίος
τίς ἕχροδαιμῶν μᾶλλον ἂν γενοῖτ' ἀνήρ;
ὁ μὴ ἵνων ἐξετάκαμη μηδ' ἀστῶν τινα
δόμους δέχεσθαι, μηδὲ προςφωνεῖν τινα,
οὐδεὶν δ' ἀπ' οίκων. καὶ τάδ' οὔτις ἄλλος ἦν
ἡ γὰρ π' ἐμαυτῷ τάσον ὅρις ὁ προστιθείς.
λέχη δὲ τοῦ θανόντος ἐν χεροῖν ἐμαίν
χραίνω, δ' ἀνπερ ὁλετ'. ἀρ' ἐφίν κακὸς;
ἀρ' οὐχὶ πᾶς ἀναγνος, εἰ με χρή φυγεὶν,
καὶ μοι φυγόντι μήστι τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἰδεῖν
μηδ' ἐμβατεύειν πατρίδος, ἕ γάμοις με δεῖ.
KING OEDIPUS.

So faring on, I reached the spot, where thou
Narratest the destruction of this king.
And, O my wife, I will hide nothing from thee.
When I drew near the cross-road that you speak of,
A herald, and a man upon a car,
Like your description, there encountered me.
And he that held the reins, and he himself,
The greybeard, sought to force me from the path.
Then in mine angry mood, I sharply struck
The driver-man that turned me from the way;
Which when the elder saw, he watched for me
As I passed by, and from the vehicle
Smote full upon my head with the fork'd goad;
But paid no equal price, for, with a blow
From this right hand, smit by my staff, he fell.
Instantly rolled from out the car supine.
I slew them every one. Now if there be
Aught of connexion or relationship
Betwixt yon stranger and King Latus,
What wretch on earth was e'er so lost as I?
Whom have the Heavens so followed with their hate?
No house of Theban or of stranger here
Must any more receive me, none henceforth
Must speak to me, but drive me from the door!
I, I have laid this curse on mine own head!
Ay, and this arm that slew him now enfolds
His queen. O cruel stain! Am I not vile?
Polluted utterly! Yea, I must flee,
And, lost to Thebê, nevermore behold
My friends, nor tread my country, lest I meet
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

μητρὸς ζυγήναι καὶ πατέρα κατακτανεύν
Πόλυβον, ὁς ἐξέφυσε καξέθρεψε με; ᾧρ' οὐκ ἀπ' ὁμοῦ ταύτα δαιμονός τις ἂν
κρίνων ἐπ' ἀνδρὶ τῷ ' ἀν ὀρθοίη λόγον;
μὴ δῆτα, μὴ δὴτ', ὅθεν ὄγνον σέβας,
不能为空 忏忏 某人 他 儿子 年轻人 动作 他 他们 你 你 他
κηλίδ' ἐμαυτῷ συμφορᾶς ἀφυγμένην.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἢμῖν μέν, ὑναζ, ταῦτ' ὅκνηρ'· ἔως δ' ἄν οὖν
πρὸς τοῦ παρόντος ἐκμάθης, ἔχ' ἐλπίδα.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

καὶ μὴν τοσοῦτόν γ' ἔστι μοι τῆς ἐλπίδος,
τὸν ἀνδρὰ τὸν βοτῆρα προσμείναι μόνον.

ΙΟΚΑΣΘΗ.

πεφασμένον δὲ τὸς ποὴ' ἡ προθυμία;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἐγὼ δίδαξον σ'; ἢν γὰρ εὑρεθῇ λέγων
σοὶ ταῦτ', ἔγωγ' ἄν ἐκπεφευγοίην τύθος.

ΙΟΚΑΣΘΗ.

ποῖον δὲ μοι περισσὸν ἥκουσας λόγον;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ληστὰς έφασκες αὐτὸν ἀνδρὰς ἐννέπειν
ὡς νῦν κατακτείναιν. ἐι μὲν οὖν ἔτι
λέξει τὸν αὐτὸν ἀριθμὸν, οὐκ ἐγὼ ἐκάνον.
KING OEDIPUS.

In marriage mine own mother, and bring low
The head that gave me life and reared me up,
My father, Polybus. Ah! right were he
Who should declare some god of cruel mood
Hath sent this trouble on my soul. Ye powers,
Worshipped in holiness, ne'er may I see
That day, but perish from the sight of men,
Ere such a brand be printed on my name!

CHORUS.

We share thy fears, O king: yet lose not hope,
Till thou hast heard the man who saw the deed.

OEDIPUS.

Yea, that is all I still have left of hope,
To bide the coming of the shepherd-man.

JOCASTA.

What eager thought attends his presence here?

OEDIPUS.

I'll tell thee. Should his speech accord with thine,
My life stands clear from this calamity.

JOCASTA.

What word of mine agreed not with the scene?

OEDIPUS.

You said he spake of robbers in a band
As having slain him. Now if he shall still
Persist in the same number, I am free.
ΟΥ γὰρ γένοιτ’ ἂν εἰς· γε τοῖς πολλοῖς ἵσος·
ei δ’ ἀνδρ’ ἐν’ οἰόξωνον αὐξήσει, σαφῶς
tοῦτ’ ἐστὶν ἣδη τούργον εἰς ἐμὲ ρέτον.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ἀλλ’ ὡς φανεῖν γε τοῦτος ὦδ’ ἐπίστασον,
κοῦκ ἐστίν αὐτῷ τοῦτό γ’ ἐκβαλεῖν πάλιν·
πόλις γὰρ ἤκουσ’, οὐκ ἐγὼ μόνῃ, τάδε.
ei δ’ οὖν τι κάκτρεποιτο τοῦ πρόσθεν λόγου,
οὕτοι ποτ’ ἀναξ’ τὸν γε Δαίον φόνον
φανεῖ δικαίως ὀρθῶν, ἢν γε Δοξίας
διεῖπτε χρῆναι παιδὸς εξ’ ἐμοῦ θανεῖν,
καίτοι μν’ οὐ κεῖνος γ’ ὁ δύστηνος ποτε
κατέκται’, ἀλλ’ αὐτὸς πύροιθεν ὀλετο.
ἀστ’ οὐχὶ μαντείας γ’ ἂν οὔτε τῆδ’ ἐγὼ
βλέψαιμ’ ἂν οὖνεκ’ οὔτε τῆδ’ ἂν ύστερον.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

καλῶς νομίζεις. ἀλλ’ ὡμοὶ τὸν ἐργάτην
πέμψον τινὰ στελοῦντα μηδ’ τοῦτ’ ἀφῆς.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

πέμψω ταχύνασ’ ἀλλ’ ἱομεν ἐς δόμους.
οὐδὲν γὰρ ἂν πράξαιμ’ ἂν δόν οὐ σοί φίλον,

[Exeunt Jocasta et Oedipus.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

εἰ μοι ἐξινείη φέροντι μοῖρα τὰν ἐὐσεβτὸν ἀγνειὰν λόγων
ἔργων τε πάντων, δόν νόμοι πρόκεινται

ιῆποδες, οὐρανία.
KING OEDIPUS.

One man and many cannot be the same.
But if he tell of one lone traveller,
Then, unavoidably, this guilt is mine.

JOCASTA.

So 'twas given out by him, be sure of that.
He cannot take it back. Not only I
But all the people heard him speak it so.
And should he swerve in aught from his first tale,
He ne'er will show the murder of the king
Rightly accordant with the oracle.
For Phoebus said expressly he should die
By him whom I brought forth. But that poor babe
Ne'er slew his sire, but perished long before.
And for my part, for word of prophecy
I ne'er will look this way nor that again.

OEDIPUS.

Wisely resolved. But still send one to fetch
The labouring man, and be not slack in this.

JOCASTA.

I will, and quickly too. Go we within,
I will do nought but what may pleasure thee.

[JOCASTA and OEDIPUS go within.

CHORUS.

I. 1.

Deep in my life, by fate impressed,
Let holiness of word and action rest
And sinless thought, by those Eternal Laws
Controll'd, whose being Heaven alone did cause,
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

αϊθέρι τεκνωθέντες, ὡν ὁ Ολυμπός
πατὴρ μόνος, οὐδὲ νῦν θνατὰ φύσις ἄνερων
ἐτικτεν, οὐδὲ μή ποτε λάθα κατακοιμᾶσθι·
μέγας ἐν τούτως θεός, οὐδὲ γηράσκει.

ἀντ. ἀ.

ὑβρίς φυτεύει τύραννον· ὑβρίς, εἰ πολλῶν ὑπερπλησθῇ
μάταν,

ἀ τοὶ ’πίκαιρα μηδὲ συμφέροντα,
ἀκρότατοι εἰσαναβᾶσι·
ἀπότομον ἀρουσεν εἰς ἀνάγκαν,
ἐνθ’ οὐ ποδὶ χρησίμῳ χρήται.

τὸ καλῶς δ’ ἔχον
πόλει πάλαισμα μήποτε λύσαι θεῶν αὐτοῦμαι.
θεῶν οὐ λήξω ποτὲ προστάταιν ἔσχων.

οτρ. β).

εἰ δέ τις ὑπέροππα χερσίν
ἡ λόγῳ πορεύεται,
Δίκαιος ἀφόβητος οὐδὲ
dαιμόνων ἐδη σέβων,
κακί νυν ἔλοιπο μοῖρα,
δυσπότομον χαρόν χλιδᾶς,

εἰ μή τὸ κέρδος κερδανεὶ δικαίως
καὶ τῶν ἀσέπτων ἔρξεται,

ἡ τῶν ἁδέκτων ἔξεται ματάξων.

τῖς ἐτι ποτ’ ἐν τοῖσδ’ ἀνὴρ θυμῶν βέλη
ἐξεται ψυχάς ἁμύνειν;
εἰ γὰρ αἱ τοιαίδε πράξεις τίμιαι,

τί δεὶ με χορεύειν;
KING OEDIPUS.

Nor have they drawn their birth
From mortal sires of Earth,
But tread the loftiest Ether, whence they came.
Ne'er shall oblivion tame
Their wakeful spirit; mighty is the power
Of God in these, nor knows the enfeebling hour.

I. 2.

From full-blown pride the tyrant springs.
Pride, when 'tis feasted over-much on things
Timeless and all unmeet, to topmost height
Soars madly, and then sinks to sudden night,
Midst foot-perplexing shocks
Of adamantine rocks,
Prepared for stumbling mortals by dark fate.
But to uphold the State
With help of God let men not cease to strive.
I'll own God my protector while I live.

II. 1.

Who walks disdainfully with hand or tongue,
Not fearing acts of wrong,
Nor reverencing each temple's holy shrine?
A horrid fate be thine,
For thine abandoned greed,
Who seekest gain beyond thy rightful meed,
Nor sparest things divine,
And in thy madness touchest things accurst.
Who, when such crimes have burst,
Can look for shelter from the wrathful shower?
If such a spirit be in power,
And gilded with preferment still advance,
What means my service in the sacred dance?
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΗΟΥΣ

Αντ. β′.

ούκετι τον ἄθικτον εἰμι
gὰς ἐπ᾽ ὀμφαλὸν σέβον,
oὐδ᾽ ἐσ τὸν Ἀβαῖσι ναὸν,
oὐδε τὰν Ὀλυμπίαν,
eἰ μὴ τόδε χειρόςεικα
πάσιν ἀρµόσει βροτοῖς.

ἀλλ᾽, ώ κρατύνων, εἴπερ ὅρθ᾽ ἄκουεις,
Zeύν, πάντ᾽ ἀνάσσων, μὴ λάθοι
σε τὰς τέ σαν ἀθώνατον αἱ̣ὲν ἀρχαν.

φθίνοντα γὰρ Πυθόχρηστα Λαῖον
θέσφατ᾽ ἐξαροῦσιν ἔδη,
κοῦδαμοῦ τιμαῖς Ἀπόλλων ἐμφανῆς·
έρρει δὲ τὰ θεία.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

χάρας ἄνακτες, δόξα μοι παρεστάθη
ναὸς ἰκέσθαι δαμόνων, τάδ᾽ ἐν χερῶν
στέφῃ λαβοῦση κατιθυμιάματα.

ὑψοῦ γὰρ ἄρει βυμὸν Οἰδίποις ἄγαν
λύταιοι παντοῖοισιν· ὀὐδ᾽ ὅπως ἀνὴρ
ἐὼν τὰ καὶ πάλαι τοῖς τεκµαίρεται,
ἀλλ᾽ ἐστὶ τοῦ λέγοντος, εἰ φύσοις λέγη.

ὅτ᾽ ὅουν παραινοῦσ᾽ ὀὔδεν ἐσ πλέον ποιῶ,
πρὸς σ᾽, ὥ Δύκει Ἀπόλλων, ἄγχιστος γὰρ ει,
ἰκέτως ἀφυγμα τοῦσδε σὺν κατεύθυμισιν,
ὅτις λύσιν τῶν ἡμῖν ἐναγη τόρρης·
ὡς νῦν ὁκνούμεν πάντες ἐκπεπληγμένου
κείνον βλέποντες ὡς κυβερνήτην νεῶς.
KING OEDIPUS.

II. 2.

No more I'll worship at earth's central seat,
Nor Abae's altar greet,
Nor bow before Olympia's brilliant lord,

Unless for every mind
This word fulfilment find,

The event and prophecy in clear accord.

If rightly we invoke
Thy name, immortal ruler, mightiest Jove,
Let not these courses prove
Unvisited by thine eternal stroke.

All heavenly sanctities are broke:
The oracles to Laos given of old
Vanish in scorn, and Phoebus' fear is cold.

JOCASTA.

[Enters.]

Princes of Thebes, it came into my mind
To stand before the holy altars here
With frankincense and garlands. For the king,
Betossed with fantasy, still runs his soul
On wildest seas, nor, like a man whose thoughts
Keep measure, tries things present by the past.
Each tongue possesses him that harps on fear.
Then, since my comforts do no good at all,
To thee, for thou art nearest, Lycian god,
I bring my supplication with full hand,
To bid thee find for us some pure release.
For seeing him, our captain, in distress,
Like shipmen, we are all amazed with dread.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἀρ' ἄν παρ' ὑμᾶν, ὃ ξένοι, μᾶθοιμ' ὅπου

τῷ τοῦ τυράννου δόματι' ἐστὶν Οἰδίπου;

μάλιστα δ' αὐτὸν εἰπάτ', εἰ κάτιοθ' ὅπου.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

στέγαι μὲν αἶδε, καῦτος ἐνδού, ὃ ξένε·

γινὴ δὲ μήτηρ ἦδε τῶν κείνου τέκνων.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἀλλ' ὄλβια τε καὶ ξὺν ὄλβίως αἰὲ

γένουτ', ἐκείνου γ' οὔσα παντελῆς δάμαρ.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

αὐτῶς δὲ καὶ σὺ γ', ὃ ξέν· ἄξιος γὰρ εἰ

τῆς εὐπερίας οὐνεκ'. ἀλλὰ φράζ' ὅτου

χρήσων ἀφίξαι χῶ τι σημῆναι θέλων.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἀγαθὰ δόμως τε καὶ πόσει τῷ σῷ, γύναι.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

τὰ ποιὰ ταῦτα; παρὰ τίνος δ' ἀφηγμένος;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἐκ τῆς Κορίνθου. τὸ δ' ἐπος οὐξερῶ τάχα,

ἡδοιο μὲν, πῶς δ' οὐκ ἂν, ἀσχάλλοις δ' ἵσως.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

τί δ' ἔστι; ποιαν δύναμιν ὦδ' ἐχει διπλήν;
KING OEDIPUS.

FIRST MESSENGER.

[Enters at the left, coming from Corinth.]

Can you inform me, strangers, where to find
The mansions of the sovereign Oedipus?
Or better, where he may himself be seen?

CHORUS.

These are the roofs you seek, and he, our lord,
Is there within: and, stranger, thou behold'st
The proud queen-mother of his princely race.

FIRST MESSENGER.

Happy, and with the happy may she live,
High-blest copartner of his royal state.

JOCASTA.

Be thou, too, blest, kind sir! Thy gracious tongue
Deserves no less. But tell me, what desire
You urge, or what intelligence you bring?

FIRST MESSENGER.

Good tidings for thy house and husband, queen.

JOCASTA.

What are they? who hath sent you to our hall?

FIRST MESSENGER.

From Corinth came I, and will quickly tell
What sure will please you, though perchance 'twill grieve.

JOCASTA.

What news can strike us with this twofold power?
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

τύραννον αὐτὸν οὐτιχώριοι χθονὸς
tῆς Ἰσθμίας στῆσουσιν, ὡς ἤυδατ' ἐκεῖ.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

τί δ'; οὐχ ὁ πρέσβυς Πόλυμος ἐγκρατὴς ἔτι;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

οὐ δὴ, ἐπεὶ νῦν θάνατος ἐν τάφοις ἔχει.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

πῶς εἴπας; ἢ τέθυηκε Πόλυμος, ὡ γέρον;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

εἰ μὴ λέγω τάληθες, ἄξιόν θανεῖν.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ὡς πρόσπολ', οὐχὶ δεσπότης τάδ' ὡς τάχος
μολούσα λέξεις; ὡς θεῶν μαντεύματα,

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ὁ φίλτατον γυναικὸς Ἰοκάστης κάρα,

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ἀκονε τάνδρος τούδε, καὶ σκόπει κλύων
τὰ σέμν' ἤν ἤκει τοῦ θεοῦ μαντεύματα.
KING OEDIPUS.

FIRST MESSENGER.
'Twas rumoured that the natives of the land
Of Corinth were about to make him king.

JOCASTA.
What? Is old Polybus not still in power?

FIRST MESSENGER.
The power of death confines him in the grave.

JOCASTA.
Hold there. How say you? Polybus in his grave?

FIRST MESSENGER.
May I die for him if I speak not true.

JOCASTA.
Quick, Cloë, run and tell this to my lord.
Voices of prophecy! where are ye now?
Long time hath Oedipus with trembling fear
Avoided Polybus, lest he should slay him,
Who now lies slain by fortune, not by him.

OEDIPUS.
[Enters.]
Jocasta, my dear queen, why didst thou send
To bring me hither from our palace-halls?

JOCASTA.
List to that man, and, when you hear him, judge
The ending of the dreadful prophecy.
OIDIPΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

OIDΙΠΟΤΕΣ.
οὗτος δὲ τὶς ποτ' ἔστὶ καὶ τί μοι λέγει;

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.
ἐκ τῆς Κορίνθου, πατέρα τοῦ σὸν ἀγγέλων ὡς οὐκέτι οὐτα Πόλυβου, ἀλλ' ὅλωλότα.

OIDΙΠΟΤΕΣ.
tί φής, ξέν; αὐτός μοι αὖ σημῆνας γενοῦ.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.
eῖ τούτο πρῶτον δεῖ μ' ὁπαγείλαι σαφῶς, εὶ ἵσθ' ἐκεῖνον θανάσιμον βεβηκότα.

OIDΙΠΟΤΕΣ.
pότερα δόλοισιν, ἥ νόσου ξυναλλαγῆ;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.
σμικρὰ παλαιὰ σώματ' εἰνάξει ῥοπή.

OIDΙΠΟΤΕΣ.
nόσοις ὁ τλήμων, ὡς ἔοικεν, ἐφθινο.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.
καὶ τῷ μακρῷ ἑς συμμετρούμενος χρόνῳ.

OIDΙΠΟΤΕΣ.
φεῦ φεῦ, τὶ δῆτ' ἂν, ὦ γύναι, σκοποῖτο τὸς τὴν Πυθόμαντ' ἔστιαν, ἥ τοὺς ἄνω κλάζοντας ὑμεῖς, ὃν ύψηγητῶν ἐγὼ κτανεῖν ἔμελλον πατέρα τὸν ἑμόν; ὃ δὲ θανὼν
KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.

Who is the man, and what his message here?

JOCASTA.

He comes from Corinth, to announce to thee
That Polybus, thy father, is no more.

OEDIPUS.

What, stranger? Let me hear it from thy mouth.

FIRST MESSENGER.

If my first duty is to make this clear,
Be without doubt that he is dead and gone.

OEDIPUS.

By sickness coming o'er him, or by guile?

FIRST MESSENGER.

Light force subdues to rest the aged frame.

OEDIPUS.

It seems he died of sickness then, poor soul!

FIRST MESSENGER.

By sickness and the number of his years.

OEDIPUS.

Ah! my Jocasta, who again will heed
The Pythian hearth oracular, and birds
Screaming in air, blind guides! that would have given
My father's murder to mine hand; but he
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

κεύθει κάτω δὴ γῆς· ἐγὼ δ' οὖν ἐνθάδε ἄγνωστος ἔγχους, εἰ τι μὴ τῶμο τόδε κατέφθιθ᾽· οὕτω δ' ἄν θανῶν εἰπ' ἔμοι. τὰ δὲ οὖν παρόντα συλλαβῶν θεσπίσματα κεῖται παρ᾽ Ἄιδη Πόλυβος ἄξι᾽ οὖνενός.

ΙΟΚΑΣΘΗ.

οὐκοῦν ἔγω σοι ταύτα προύλεγον πάλαι;

ΟΙΩΠΟΤΣ.

ηῦδας· ἔγω δὲ τῷ φόβῳ παρηγόμην.

ΙΟΚΑΣΘΗ.

μὴ νῦν εὗ ταύτων μηδὲν ἐς θυμὸν βάλης.

ΟΙΩΠΟΤΣ.

καὶ πῶς τὸ μητρὸς λέκτρον οὐκ ὁκνεῖν με δεῖ;

ΙΟΚΑΣΘΗ.

τὰ δ' ἂν φοβοῦντ᾽ ἀνθρωπος, ὅ τὰ τῆς τύχης κρατεῖ, πρόνοια δ' ἐστὶν οὖνενός σαφῆς; εἰκῆ κράτιστον ξην, ὅπως δύναιτό τις. σὺ δ' εἰς τὰ μητρὸς μὴ φοβοῦ νυμφεύματα· πολλοὶ γὰρ ἣδη κὰν ὁνείρασιν βροτῶν μητρὶ ἐξευνάσθησαν. ἀλλὰ ταῦθ᾽ ὅτε παρ᾽ οὖνεν ἔστι, ῥάστα τὸν βίον φέρει.

ΟΙΩΠΟΤΣ.

καλῶς ἀπαντᾷ ταῦτ᾽ ἂν ἐξεἰρητῷ σοι, εἰ μὴ 'κυρεί ξῆς' ἡ τεκόουσα· νῦν δ' ἔπει ξῆν, πᾶσ᾽ ἀνάγκη, κεῖ καλῶς λέγεις, ὁκνεῖν.
KING OEDIPUS.

Hides underground in death, while I stand here
Harmless and weaponless: unless, perchance,
My absence killed him, so he may have died
Through me. But be that as it may, the grave,
That covers Polybus from sight, hath closed
One voice of prophecy, worth nothing now.

JOCASTA.

Did I not tell you so, long since?

OEDIPUS. You did.

But I was drawn to error by my fear.

JOCASTA.

Now cast it altogether out of mind.

OEDIPUS.

Must I not fear my mother's marriage-bed?

JOCASTA.

Why should man fear? seeing his course is ruled
By fortune, and he nothing can foreknow?
'Tis wise to live at will as best one may.
Then fear not thou thy mother's nuptial.
Many a man ere now in dreams hath lain
With her who bare him. He hath easiest life
Who with such omens troubleth not his mind.

OEDIPUS.

All this would be well spoken, were not she
Alive that gave me birth. But since she lives,
Though you speak well, yet have I cause for fear.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

καὶ μὴν μέγας γ’ ὀφθαλμὸς οἱ πατρὸς τάφοι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

μέγας, ξυνίημ’ ἀλλὰ τῆς ζώσης φόβος.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ποίας δὲ καὶ γυναικὸς ἐκφοβεῖσθ’ ὑπερ;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

Μερόπης, γεραιέ, Πόλυβος ἦς φοίκει μέτα.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

τι ἰ’ ἔστ’ ἐκεῖνης ὑμῖν ἐς φόβον φέρουν;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

θεύλατον μάντευμα δεινόν, ὡ ξένε.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἡ ῥητόν; ἡ οὐχὶ θεμιτὸν ἅλλον εἴδεναι;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

μάλιστα γ’ ἐπε γάρ με Δοξίας ποτὲ

χρῆμα: μυγήναι μητρὶ τῆματοῦ, τὸ τε

πατρῶν αἷμα χερσὶ ταῖς ἐμαῖς ἐλεῖν.

ὡς οὖνεχ’ ἡ Κόρινθος ἐξ ἐμοῦ πάλαι

μακρὰν ἀποκεῖτ’ εὐτυχῶς μὲν, ἀλλ’ ὄμως

τὰ τῶν τεκόντων ὄμμαθ’ ἦδιστον βλέπειν.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἡ γὰρ τάδ’ ὄκνων κεῖθεν ἡ σο’ ἀπόπτολις:
KING OEDIPUS.

JOCASTA.
Your father's burial might enlighten you.

OEDIPUS.
It doth. But I am darkened by a life.

FIRST MESSENGER.
What lady is the subject of your fears?

OEDIPUS.
Merope, aged friend, who lived with Polybus.

FIRST MESSENGER.
What touching her inclineth you to fear?

OEDIPUS.
A heaven-sent oracle of dreadful note.

FIRST MESSENGER.
May it be 'told, or must no stranger know?

OEDIPUS.
Surely it may. Word came from Loxias once
That I must know my mother's shame, and shed
With these my hands mine own true father's blood.
Wherefore long since my home hath been removed
Far from Corinthia: not unhappily;
But still our parents' eyes are sweet to see.

FIRST MESSENGER.
Did fear of this make you so long an exile?
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
πατρὸς τε χρήζων μὴ φονεύς εἶναι, γέρον.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.
τι δῆτ' ἐγὼ οὐχὶ τούδε τοῦ φόβου σ', ἀναξ, ἐπείπερ εὖνοις ἥλθον, ἐξελυσάμην;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
καὶ μὴν χάριν γ' ἄν ἄξιαν λάβοις ἐμοῦ.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.
καὶ μὴν μᾶλλον τοῦτ' ἀφικόμην, ὅπως σοῦ πρὸς δόμους ἐλθόντος εὗ πράξαι μί τι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ἀλλ' οὕτος εἰμὶ τοῖς φυτεύσασιν γ' ὡμοῦ.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.
ὁ παῖ, καλῶς εἰ δῆλος οὐκ εἰδὼς τί δρᾶσ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
πῶς, ὁ γεραίε; πρὸς θεῶν δίδασκέ με.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.
εἰ τῶν δε φεύγεις οὐνεκ' εἰς οἴκους μολεῖν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ταρβῶ γε μὴ μοι Φοῖβος ἐξέλθῃ σαφῆς.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.
ἡ μὴ μίασμα τῶν φυτευσάντων λάβης;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
τοῦτ' αὐτό, πρέσβυ, τοῦτό μ' εἰσαει φοβεῖ.
KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.
Horror of this and parricide, old friend.

FIRST MESSENGER.
Since friendly was my coming, I would fain
Free thee from this anxiety, my king.

OEDIPUS.
Our gratitude would well reward thy love.

FIRST MESSENGER.
Hope of reward from thee in thy return
Was the chief motive of my coming hither.

OEDIPUS.
Return? Not to my parents' dwelling-place.

FIRST MESSENGER.
Son, 'tis too clear, you know not what you do.

OEDIPUS.
Why, aged sir? For Heaven's sake teach me this.

FIRST MESSENGER.
If for these reasons you avoid your home.

OEDIPUS.
The fear torments me, Phoebus may prove true.

FIRST MESSENGER.
Lest from your parents you receive a stain?

OEDIPUS.
That is the life-long torture of my soul.
OIDIPOUS TYRANNOS.

AGGELOS.
ἀρ’ οἶσθα δῆτα πρὸς δίκης οὐδὲν τρέμων;

OIDIPOTES.
πῶς δ’ οὐχί, παῖς γ’ εἰ τῶνδε γεννητῶν ἐφυν;

AGGELOS.
όθονει ἦν σοι Πόλυβος οὐδὲν ἐν γένει.

OIDIPOTES.
πῶς εἶπας; οὐ γὰρ Πόλυβος ἐξέφυγεν με;

AGGELOS.
οὐ μᾶλλον οὐδὲν τοῦδε τάνδρος, ἀλλ’ ᾿ἰσον.

OIDIPOTES.
καὶ πῶς ὁ φύσας ἐξ ᾿ἰσου τῷ μηδενί;

AGGELOS.
ἀλλ’ οὐ σ’ ἑγείνατ’ οὔτ’ ἐκεῖνος οὔτ’ ἐγώ.

OIDIPOTES.
ἀλλ’ ἀντὶ τοῦ δὴ παῖδα μ’ ἄνομόξετο;

AGGELOS.
διῶρον ποτ’, ᾿ισθι, τῶν ἐμῶν χειρῶν λαβῶν.

OIDIPOTES.
καθ’ ὁδ’ ἀπ’ ἀλλης χειρὸς ἐστερξεν μέγα;

AGGELOS.
ἡ γὰρ πρὶν αὐτῶν ἐξέπευσ’ ἀπαιδία.
KING OEDIPUS.

FIRST MESSENGER.
Will you be certified your fears are groundless?

OEDIPUS.
How groundless, if I am my parents' child?

FIRST MESSENGER.
Because with Polybus thou hadst-no-kin.

OEDIPUS.
Why? Was not he the author of my life?

FIRST MESSENGER.
As much as I am, and no more than I.

OEDIPUS.
How can my father be no more to me
Than who is nothing?

FIRST MESSENGER.
In begetting thee
Nor I nor he had any part at all.

OEDIPUS.
Why then did he declare me for his son?

FIRST MESSENGER.
Because he took thee once a gift from me.

OEDIPUS.
Was all that love unto a foundling shown?

FIRST MESSENGER.
Heirless affection so inclined his heart.
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

σὺ δ’ ἐμπολύσας, ἥ τεκόν μ’ αὐτῷ δίδως;

ΑΡΓΕΛΟΣ.

eὑρὼν ναπαίας ἐν Κιθαιρώνος πτυχαῖς.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἀδιπτόρεις δὲ πρός τί τούσδε τοὺς τόπους;

ΑΡΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἐνταῦθ’ ἄρελοις ποίμνιοις ἐπεστάτων.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ποιμὴν γὰρ ἦσθα κατ’ θητέλα πλάνης;

ΑΡΓΕΛΟΣ.

σοῦ δ’, ὁ τέκνον, σωτήρ γε τῷ τότ’ ἐν χρόνῳ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τι δ’ ἄλγος ἵσχουτ’ ἐν κακοῖς με λαμβάνεις;

ΑΡΓΕΛΟΣ.

ποδῶν ἀν ἄρθρα μαρτυρήσεις τὰ σά.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

οἴμαι, τι τούτ’ ἄρχαιον ἐννέπεις κακόν;

ΑΡΓΕΛΟΣ.

λῦσ σ’ ἤχοντα διατόρους ποδοῦν ἄκρας.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

dεινὸν γ’ ὀνείδος σπαργάνων ἀνειλόμην.
KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.
You gave me to him then? your own, or bought?

FIRST MESSENGER.
Found in Cithaeron's hollowy wilderness.

OEDIPUS.
What led your travelling footstep to that ground?

FIRST MESSENGER.
The flocks I tended grazed the mountain there.

OEDIPUS.
A shepherd wast thou, and a wandering hind?

FIRST MESSENGER.
Whatever else, my son, thy saviour then.

OEDIPUS.
From what disaster that you saw me rue?

FIRST MESSENGER.
Thine instep bears memorial of that pain.

OEDIPUS.
Oh! what old evil will thy words disclose?

FIRST MESSENGER.
Your feet were pierced till I unfastened them.

OEDIPUS.
Sad outrage in the bands of infancy!
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ὦστ' ὁνομάζοντι ἐκ τύχης ταῦτης ὡς εἰ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ὁ πρὸς θεῶν, πρὸς μητρός, ἥ πατρός, φράσον.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

οὐκ οἶδ' ὁ δοὺς δὲ ταῦτ' ἐμοὶ λῶν φρονεῖ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἡ γὰρ παρ' ἄλλου μ' ἔλαβες οὖδ' αὐτὸς τυχῶν;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

οὐκ, ἀλλὰ ποιμὴν ἄλλος ἐκδιδὼσέ μοι.

1040

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τὶς οὗτος; ἡ κάτοικθα δηλώσαι λόγῳ;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

τῶν Δαίων ἐπὶ ποις ἀνομάζετο.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἡ τοῦ τυράννου τήσει γῆς πάλαι ποτὲ;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

μάλιστα: τούτον τάνδρος οὗτος ἦν βοτήρ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἡ καὕτ' ἐτὶ ξένων οὗτος, ὥστ' ἰδεῖν ἐμέ;

1045

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ὑμεῖς γ' ἄριστ' εἰδεῖν ἀν οὐπιθώρου.
KING OEDIPUS.

FIRST MESSENGER.
From this adventure thou hast ta'en thy name.

OEDIPUS.
Ah! tell me, did my father do this thing,
Or wasn't my mother?

FIRST MESSENGER.
That I dare not say.
He knoweth best who gave thee to my hand.

OEDIPUS.
Another gave me, then? You did not find me?

FIRST MESSENGER.
Another herdsman passed thee on to me.

OEDIPUS.
Can you describe him? Tell us what you know.

FIRST MESSENGER.
He was called one of Laius' people, sure.

OEDIPUS.
Of Laius once the sovereign of this land?

FIRST MESSENGER.
Yea, surely, he was the shepherd of his flock.

OEDIPUS.
And is he still alive for me to see?

FIRST MESSENGER.
You Thebans are most likely to know that.
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἐστὶν τις ὑμῶν τῶν παρεστῶτων πέλας,
ὅστις κάτοικε τὸν βοτήρ', ὃν ἐννεπεί,
εἰτ' οὖν ἐπ' ἄγρῳ ἐστε καῦθαδ' εἰσιδῶν;
σημήναθ', ὥς ὁ καίρος εὐρήθαι τάδε.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

οἶμαι μὲν οὐδέν ἄλλον ἢ τὸν ἐξ ἄγρῳ,
ὁν κάμάτενες πρόσθεν εἰσιδεῖν· ἀτὰρ
ηδ' ἢν τάδ' οὐχ ἦκιστ' ἀν 'Ιοκάστη λέγοι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

γύναι, νοεῖς ἐκεῖνον, ἄνωτ' ἀρτίως
μολεῖν εφιέμεσθα; τόυτ' οὖτος λέγει;

ΙΟΚΑΣΘ.

τί δ' ἄνωτ' εἴπε; μηδέν ἐντραπῆς. τὰ δὲ
ῥηθέντα βούλου μηδὲ μεμψθαι μάτην.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

οὐκ ἂν γένουτο τοῦθ', ὅπως ἐγὼ λαβῶν
σημεία τοιαῦτ' οὐ φανῶ τούμον γένος.

ΙΟΚΑΣΘ.

μὴ πρὸς θεῶν, ἐπερ τι τοῦ σαντοῦ βίου
κῆδει, ματέως τοῦθ'. ἀλίς νοσοῦσ' ἐγώ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

θάρσει. σὺ μὲν γὰρ οὖθ' ἐὰν τρίτης ἐγὼ
μητρὸς φανῶ τρίδουλος, ἐκφανεὶ κακῆ.
KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.
Say, any one of you in presence here,
If you can tell me of the swain he speaks of,
In town or country having known of him?
The time for this discovery is full come.

CHORUS.
Methinks it is no other than the peasant
Whom thou didst seek before to see: but this
Could best be told by Queen Jocasta there.

OEDIPUS.
We lately urged that one should come, my queen.
Know you, is this of whom he speaks the same?

JOCASTA.
What matter who? Regard not, nor desire
Even vainly to remember aught he saith.

OEDIPUS.
When I have found such tokens of my birth,
I must disclose it.

JOCASTA.
As you love your life,
By Heaven I beg you, search no further here.
The sickness in my bosom is enough.

OEDIPUS.
Nay, never fear. Were I proved thrice a slave
And waif of bondwomen, you still are noble.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΙΟΚΑΣΘΗ.

όμως πιθοῦ μοι, λήσσομαι· μὴ δρά τάδε.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

οὐκ ἂν πιθοῦμην μὴ οὐ τάδ’ ἐκμαθεῖν σαφῶς.

ΙΟΚΑΣΘΗ.

καὶ μὴν φρονοῦσά ὦ εὖ τὰ λῶστά σοι λέγω.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τὰ λῶστα τοὺν ταῦτα μ’ ἀληθὺς πάλαι.

ΙΟΚΑΣΘΗ.

ὁ δύσποτος’, εἶθε μὴποτε γνοῖς δι’ εἰ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἄξει τις ἐλθὼν δεῦρο τὸν βοτήρα μοι; ταῦτην δ’ ἐὰτε πλουσίῳ χαίρειν γένει.

ΙΟΚΑΣΘΗ.

ιὸν ιοῦ, δύστην· τούτο γάρ σ’ ἔχω μόνον προσεπείν, ἄλλο δ’ οὕτωθ’ ὑπερον. [Exit.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τί ποτε βέβηκεν, Οἰδίποις, ὦ π’ ἀγρίας ἄξασα λύπης ἡ γυνή; δεῦοιχ’ ὅπως μὴ’ κ τῆς σεωπῆς τῇ δ’ ἀναρρήξει κακά.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ὅποια χρῆξει ῥηγνύτως· τούμὼν δ’ ἐγώ, κεῖ σμικρόν ἐστι, σπέρμ’ ἰδεῖν βουλήσομαι.
KING OEDIPUS.

JOCASTA.
Yet hearken, I implore you: do not so.

OEDIPUS.
I cannot hear you. I must know this out.

JOCASTA.
With clear perception I advise the best.

OEDIPUS.
This "best" of yours is ever mine annoy.

JOCASTA.
Wretched one, never may you know your birth.

OEDIPUS.
Will some one go and bring the herdsman hither? Leave her to revel in her lordly line.

JOCASTA.
O horrible! O lost one! This alone
I speak to thee, and no word more for ever. [Rushes within.

CHORUS.
Oedipus, wherefore is Jocasta gone,
Driven madly by wild grief? I needs must fear
Lest from this silence she make sorrows spring.

OEDIPUS.
Let her! Yet I will choose to know my birth
Though from an humble seed. Her woman's pride
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

αὕτη δ’ ἵσως, φρονεῖ ήγάρ ὃς γυνὴ μέγα,
tὴν δυσγένειαν τὴν ἐμὴν αἰσχύνεται. 1080

ἐγὼ δ’ ἔμαυτόν παίδα τῆς Τύχης νέμων
τῆς εὐ διδούσης οὐκ ἀτιμασθήσομαι.
tῆς γὰρ πέφυκα μητρός· οἱ δὲ συγγενεῖς
μήρες με μικρὸν καὶ μέγαν διώρισαν.
tοιώδες δ’ ἐκφον οὐκ ἄν ἐξέλθοιμ’ ἐτὶ
ποτ’ ἄλλος, ὡστε μη’ κραθεῖν τοῦμὸν γένος. 1085

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

στρ.

εὖ περ ἐγὼ μάντις εἰμὶ καὶ κατὰ γνώμαν ἵδρις,
οὗ τὸν Ὀλυμπὸν ἄπειρον, ὁ Κιθαῖρων,
οὐκ ἔση τὰν αὐριον πανσέληνον, μὴ οὐ σὲ γε
καὶ πατριώταν Ολιδίπου
καὶ τροφὸν καὶ ματέρα αὔξειν,
καὶ χορεύεσθαι πρὸς ἡμῶν, ὡς ἐπίθερα φέροντα τοὺς ἐμοῖς
τυράννοις. 1090

Ἰηῆς Ψάλτε, σοὶ δὲ
tαύτ’ ἀρέστ’ εἰη.

ἀντ.

τίς σε, τέκνω, τίς σ’ ἐτίκτη τὰν μακραιόνων κορᾶν,
Πάνοις ὄρεσιβάτα πατρὸς πελασθείσ’, 1100

ἡ σὲ γ’ εὐνάτειρά τις Λοξίου; τῶ γὰρ πλάκες
ἀγρόνομοι πᾶσαι φιλαῖ·
eἶθ’ ὁ Κυλλάνας ἀνάσσον,
eἶθ’ ὁ Βακχείος θεὸς ναῖων ἐπ’ ἀκρῶν ὀρέων εὐφημα δέξατ’
ἐκ τοῦ 1105
KING OEDIPUS.

Is shamed, it may be, by my lowliness.
But I, whilst I account myself the son
Of prospering fortune, ne'er will be disgraced.
For she is my true mother: and the months
Coheirs with me of the same father. Time
Have marked my lowness and mine exaltation.
So born, so nurtured, I can fear no change,
That I need shrink to delve this to the root.

CHORUS.

I. 1.
If I wield a prophet's might,
Or have sense to search aright,
Cithaeron, when to-night the moon rides high,
Loud thy praise shall be confessed,
How upon thy rugged breast,
Thou, mighty mother, nursedst tenderly
Great Oedipus, and gav'st his being room
Within thy spacious home.
Yea, we will dance and sing
Thy glory for thy friendship to our king.
Phoebus, unto thee we cry,
Be this pleasing in thine eye!

I. 2.
Who, my child, hath given thee birth
Of the long-lived nymphs of earth?
Say, was she clasped by mountain-roving Faun,
Or beguiled she one sweet hour
With Apollo in her bower,
Who loves to trace the wide uncultured lawn?
Or was the ruler of Cyllenë's height
The author of thy light?
Or did the Bacchic god,
Who makes the top of Helicon to nod,
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

Νυμφᾶς Ἑλικωνίδων, αἷς
πλεῖότα συμπαίξει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

εἴ χρῆ τι καὶ μὴ συναλλάξαντα τω, 1110
πρέσβεις, σταθμᾶσθαι, τὸν βοτήρ' ὅραν δοκῶ,
ἀντερ πάλαι ἔστημεν. ἐν τε γὰρ μακρῷ
γῆρᾳ ξυνάδει τῶδε τάνυδρι σύμμετρος,
ἀλλωσ τε τοὺς ἄγοντας ὀστερ ὄικετας
ἐγνωκ' ἐμαντοῦ· τῇ δ' ἐπιστήμῃ σὺ μοι
προύχοις τάχ' ἂν που, τὸν βοτήρ' ἱδῶν πώρος.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἐγνωκα γὰρ, σάφ' ἵσθι· Δαῖου γὰρ ἢν
εἴπερ τις ἄλλος πιστὸς ὡς νομεύς αὖν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

σὲ πρῶτ' ἐρωτῶ, τὸν Κορίνθιον ξένου,
ἡ τότε φράζεις;

ἈΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

tούτου, ὁπερ εἰσορᾶς. 1120

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οὗτος σύ, πρέσβει, δεῦρο μοι φῶνει βλέπων [Introit
ἀν' ἁν σ' ἐρωτῶ. Δαῖου ποτ' Ἡσθα σύ; pastor Λαί. 1121

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

ἡ δούλος σὺν ὁνητός, ἀλλ' οἴκοι τραφεῖς.
KING OEDIPUS.

Take thee for a foundling care
From his playmates that are there?

OEDIPUS.

If haply I, who never saw his face,
Thebans, may guess, methinks I see the hind,
Whose coming we have longed for. Both his age,
Agreeing with the other's wintry locks,
Chimes with my supposition, and the garb
Of his conductors is well known to me
As that of my own people. But thyself
In perfect knowledge art my better here,
Whose eyes have seen the herdsman in the past.

CHORUS.

I know him well, believe me. Laurus
Had no more faithful shepherd than this man.

OEDIPUS.

Corinthian friend, I first appeal to you:
Was't he you spake of?

FIRST MESSENGER.

'Twas the man you see.

[SERVANT enters at the right, from afield.]

OEDIPUS.

Turn thine eyes hither, aged friend, and tell
What I shall ask thee. Wast thou Laurus' slave?

SERVANT.

I was, not bought, but bred within the house.
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἐργον μεριμνῶν ποίον ἢ βίον τίνα;

ΘΕΡΑΙΩΝ.

ποίμναις τὰ πλεῖστα τοῦ βίου συνεπόμεν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

χώροις μάλιστα πρὸς τίς ξύναυλος ὄν;

ΘΕΡΑΙΩΝ.

ἡμ μὲν Κιθαρίδον, ἡμ δὲ πρόσχωρος τόπος.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τὸν ἄνδρα τόνδ᾽ οὐν οἶσθα τῆδε ποι μαθῶν;

ΘΕΡΑΙΩΝ.

τί χρῆμα δρῶντα; ποίον ἄνδρα καὶ λέγεις;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τόνδ᾽ ὡς πάρεστιν ἡ ξυνηλλάξας τί πώ;

ΘΕΡΑΙΩΝ.

οὐχ ὡστε γ' εἴπειν ἐν τάχει μνήμης ὑπο.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

καῦδεν γε θαύμα, δέσποτ', ἀλλ' εγὼ σαφῶς ἀγνώτ' ἀναμνήσω νυν. εὖ γὰρ οἶδ' ὅτι κάτωδεν ἦμος τὸν Κιθαρίδον τοῦτον ὁ μὲν διπλοῖσι ποιμνίους, ἐγὼ δ' ἐνὶ ἐπιλησίαξον τῇδε τὰνδρὶ τρεῖς ὀλον ἐξ ἥρος εἰς ἀρκτοῦρον ἐκμήνους χρόνους.
KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.

What charge or occupation was thy care?

SERVANT.

Most of my time was spent in shepherding.

OEDIPUS.

And where didst thou inhabit with thy flock?

SERVANT.

'Twas now Cithaeron, now the neighbouring tract.

OEDIPUS.

And hadst thou there acquaintance of this man?

SERVANT.

Following what service? Who is he you mean?

OEDIPUS.

He who stands here. Say, hast thou met with him?

SERVANT.

I cannot bring him all at once to mind.

FIRST MESSENGER.

No marvel, good my lord. But I will clearly
Wake to remembrance his long slumbering sense.
For well I wot he knoweth of the time
When he with his two flocks and I with one
Beside him grazed Cithaeron's pasture wide
Good six months' space of three successive years,
From spring to rising of Arcturus; then
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

χειμώνας δ' ἣδη τάμα τ' εἰς ἐπαυλ' ἐγὼ ἤλαυνον οὕτος τ' εἰς τὰ Δαιόν σταθμά. λέγω τι τούτων, ἢ οὐ λέγω πεπραγμένον;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

λέγεις ἀληθῆ, καίτερ ἐκ μακροῦ χρόνου.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

φέρ' εἰπὲ νῦν, τὸτ' οἶδα παιδώ μοι τινα δούς, ὅσ ἐμαυτῷ θρέμμα θρεψαίμην ἐγώ;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

τί δ' ἐστὶ — πρὸς τί τούτο τούτοις ἱστορεῖς;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

αὐ' ἐστίν, ὃ τᾶν, κείνος ὃς τὸτ' ἦν νέος.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

οὐκ εἰς ἀλέθρον; οὐ σιωπῆσας ἐσέι;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἀ, μὴ κόλαζε, πρέσβυ, τόνδ', ἐπεὶ τὰ σὰ δεῖται κολαστοῦ μᾶλλον ἢ τὰ τούδ' ἐπη.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

τί δ', ὡ φέρωστε δεσποτῶν, ἀμαρτάνω;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

οὐκ ἐννέας τὸν παῖδ' ὅν οὕτος ἱστορεῖ.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

λέγει γάρ εἰδὼς οὐδέν, ἀλλ' ἄλλως πονεῖ.
KING OEDIPUS.

For the bleak winter-time I drove my charge
To their own folds, he his to Laüs' stalls.
Is this the truth, or do I stray from fact?

SERVANT.
The time is far remote. But all is true.

FIRST MESSENGER.
Well, dost remember having given me then
A child, that I might foster him for mine?

SERVANT.
What means this question? Let me know thy drift.

FIRST MESSENGER.
Friend, yonder is the infant whom we knew.

SERVANT.
Confusion seize thee, and thine evil tongue!

OEDIPUS.
Check not his speech, I pray thee, for thy words
Call more than his for chastisement, old sir.

SERVANT.
What, mighty sovereign, is mine error here?

OEDIPUS.
Not answering about the child he asks of.

SERVANT.
He knows not what he saith. His end is vain.
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
σὺ πρὸς χάριν μὲν οὐκ ἔρεις, κλαιῶν δ′ ἔρεις.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.
μὴ δὴτα, πρὸς θεῶν, τὸν γέροντά μ᾽ αἰκίσῃ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
οὐχ ὡς τάχος τις τοῦδ᾽ ἀποστρέψει χέρας;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.
δύστηνος, ἀντί τοῦ; τί προσχρήξων μαθεῖν;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
τὸν παῖδ᾽ ἐδωκας τῷδ᾽ ὃν οὕτως ἴστορεῖ;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.
ἐδωκε· ὀλέσθαι δ᾽ ὄφελον τῇδ᾽ ἡμέρα.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ἀλλ᾽ εἰς τὸδ᾽ ἤζεις μὴ λέγων γε τοῦνδικον.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.
πολλῷ γε μᾶλλον, ἢν φράσω, διόλλυμαι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ἀνὴρ ὃδ᾽, ὃς ἐουκεν, ἐς τριβᾶς ἐλα.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.
οὐ δὴτ ἐγγογι, ἀλλ᾽ εἶπον ὡς δολὴν πάλαι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
πάθεν λαβὼν; οἰκεῖου, ἥ ἐλλον τυνὸς;
KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.
Thou wilt not speak to please us, but the lash
Will make thee speak.

SERVANT.
By all that's merciful,
Scourge not this aged frame!

OEDIPUS.
Pinion him straight!

SERVANT.
Unhappy! wherefore? what is't you would know?

OEDIPUS.
Gave you the child he asks of to this man?

SERVANT.
I gave it him. Would I had died that hour!

OEDIPUS.
Speak rightly, or your wish will soon come true.

SERVANT.
My ruin comes the sooner, if I speak.

OEDIPUS.
You mean to keep us in suspense, I see.

SERVANT.
Not I. I said long since, "I gave the child."

OEDIPUS.
Whence? Was't your own, or from another's home?
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.
ἐμον μὲν οὐκ ἔγωγ’, ἐδεξάμην δὲ τον.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
tίνος πολιτῶν τῶνδε κὰκ πολιας στέγης;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.
μὴ πρὸς θεῶν, μή, δέσποθ’, ἰστόρει πλέον.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ἄλωλας, εἰ σε ταῦτ’ ἐρήσομαι πάλιν.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.
tῶν Δαίων τοινν τις ἢ γεννημάτων.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ἡ δοῦλος, ἡ κεῖνου τις ἐγγενῆς γεγός;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.
oιμοι, πρὸς αὐτῷ γ’ εἴμι τῷ δεινῷ λέγειν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
κἀγωγ’ ἀκούειν· ἀλλ’ ὀμοι ἀκουστέον.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.
κεῖνον γε τοι δὴ παῖς ἐκληξεθ’. ἡ δ’ ἐσο κάλλιστ’ ἀν εἶποι σῇ γυνῃ τάδ’ ὡς ἔχει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
ἡ γὰρ δίδωσιν ἥδε σοι;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.
μάλιστ’, ἀναξ.
KING OEDIPUS.

SERVANT.
'Twas not mine own, another gave it me.

OEDIPUS.
What Theban gave it from what house in Thebes?

SERVANT.
O, I implore thee, master, ask no more!

OEDIPUS.
You perish, if I have to ask again.

SERVANT.
The child was of the stock of Laius.

OEDIPUS.
Slave-born, or rightly of the royal line?

SERVANT.
My lips will hardly speak the awful truth.

OEDIPUS.
My ears refuse to hear, yet hear they must.

SERVANT.
He was given out for Laius' son: but she, Thy queen, within the palace, best can tell.

OEDIPUS.
How? Did she give it thee?

SERVANT. My lord, she did.
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

όσ πρὸς τῇ χρείας;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

όσ ἀναλώσαμι νῦν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τεκοῦσα τλήμων;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

θεσφάτων ὢ ὅκυρ χακὼν. 1175

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ποιῶν;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

κτενεῖν νῦν τοὺς τεκόντας ἢν λόγος.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

πῶς δῆτ' ἀφήκας τῷ γέροντι τῆδε σὺ;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

κατουκτίσας, ὦ δέσποτ', ὥσ ἄλλην χθόνα
dοκῶν ἀποίσειν, αὐτὸς ἐνθεν ἢν· ὦ δὲ
cάκ' ἐσ μέγας τ' ἑσωσεν. εἰ γὰρ οὗτος εἰ
dὲν φησιν οὗτος, ἵσθι δύσποτος γεγώς. 1180

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ιοῦ ιοῦ· τὰ πάντ' ἄν ἐξῆκοι σαφῆ.

ὅ φῶς, τελευταίον σε προσβλέψαμι νῦν,

όστις πέφασμαι φῶς τ' ἀφ' ὦν ὦ χρῆν, ξύν ὦς τ' οὔτ' χρῆν ὄμιλὼν, ὦς τέ μ' οὔκ ἐδει κτανών. 1185

[Exeunt.]
KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.
With what commission?

SERVANT.
I was to destroy him.

OEDIPUS.
And could a mother's heart be steeled to this?

SERVANT.
By fear of evil prophecies.

OEDIPUS.
What were they?

SERVANT.
'Twas said the child should be his father's death.

OEDIPUS.
What then possessed thee to give up the child
To this old man?

SERVANT.
Pity, my sovereign lord!

Supposing he would take him far away
Unto the land whence he was come. But he
Preserved him to great sorrow. For if thou
Art whom he gives thee out, be well assured
Thou bear'st a heavy doom.

OEDIPUS.
O horrible!

Horrible! All is known, as sunlight clear!
O may I nevermore behold the day,
Since proved accursed, in my parentage,
In those I live with, and in those I slew.

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

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

οτρ. ά.

ιώ γενεαὶ βροτῶν,
ός ὑπάς ἵσα καὶ τὸ μηδὲν ἡκάσας ἐναριθμῶ.
τὶς γὰρ, τὶς ἀνὴρ πλέον
τὰς εὐδαιμονίας φέρει
ἡ θεοῦτοι ὃσον δοκεῖν
καὶ δόξαντ' ἀποκλίναι;
τὸ σὸν τοι παράδειγμ' ἐχών,
τὸν σὸν δαίμονα, τὸν σὸν, ὃ τλάμων Οἰδίποδα, βροτῶν 1195
οὐδὲν μακαρίζω.

ἀντ. ά.

Ulus καθ' ὑπερβολὰν
τοξεύσας ἐκράτησας τοῦ πάντ' εὐδαιμονος ὄλβον,
ὁ Ζεὺς, κατὰ μὲν φθίσας
τὰν γαμφώνυνχα παρθένον
χρησμὸν· θανάτων δ' ἐμὰ
χώρα πύργος ἀνέστας·
ἐξ οὗ καὶ βασιλείς καλεῖ
ἐμός, καὶ τὰ μέγιστ' ἐπιμάθης, ταῖς μεγάλαισιν ἐν
Θήβαισιν ἀνάσσων.

οτρ. β'.

ταῦν δ' ἀκούειν τὸς ἀθλιώτερος;
τὶς ἀταῖς ἐν ἁγρίαις, τὶς ἐν πόνοις 1200
ξύνοικος ἄλλαγὰ βίου;
ἱὼ κλεινὸν Οἰδίπον κάρα,
ὁ μέγας λιμὴν
αὐτὸς ἤρκεσεν
παιδὶ καὶ πατρὶ θαλαμητῶλφ πεσεῖν,
KING OEDIPUS.

CHORUS.

O tribes of living men,
How nothing-worth I count you while ye stand!
For who of all the train
Draws more of happiness into his hand
Than to seem bright, and, seeming, fade in gloom?
O Oedipus, in thine all-hapless doom
Too clearly 'tis expressed
Nought in mortality is blest.
Thou, that with peerless might did hit
The centre, and destroy by wit
The taloned songstress, as a tower
Saving my land from death's dark power,
And winning for thyself the name
Of Thebæ's king, and noblest fame
And fulness of triumphal bliss.
But now whose story mournfuller is?
Who so in life's vicissitude
Hath fellowship with fortune rude,
Checkless calamity and boundless pain?

O Oedipus renowned,
Who in one haven found
Room both for son and sire
To haunt with nuptial fire,
ΣΩΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

πῶς ποτε πῶς ποθ’ αἱ πατρῖδαί σ’ ἄλοκες φέρειν,
tάλας, 1210

σὺν ἑδυνάσθησαν ἐς τοσόνδε;

ἀντ. β’.

ἐφευρέ σ’ ἄκονθ’ ὁ πάωθ’ ὅρῶν χρόνος,
dικάζει τόν ἁγάμον γάμον πάλαι,
tεκνοῦντα καὶ τεκνοῦμενον. 1215

ιό, Δαίευν ὁ τέκνον,
εἴθε σ’, εἴθε σε
μήποτ’ εἰδόμαν.

δύρομαι γὰρ ὡς περιάλλα λακχίων
ἐκ στομάτων. τὸ δ’ ὅρθων εἰπεῖν, ἀνέπνευσά τ’ ἐκ
σέθεν 1220
καὶ κατεκοίμησα τοῦμὸν ὠμα.

ΕΞΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ὁ γῆς μέγιστα τῆς ἀεὶ τιμόμενοι, [Introit.
οἱ ἔργοι ἀκούσθθ’; οἱ δ’ εἰσόψθθ’; δ’ σου δ’
ἀρείσθε τένθας, εἴπερ ἐγγενῶς ἔτι 1225
τῶν Δαβδακείων ἐντρέπεσθε δωμάτων.
ομαι γὰρ οὐ τ’ Ἦσχων ὄντ’ ἴστρον ὄντε Φᾶσιν ἄν
νύσαι καθαρμῷ τήν τένθα τὴν στέγην, ὡσα
κεῦθε, τὰ δ’ αὐτίκ’ εἰς τὸ φῶς φανεῖ κακὰ
ἐκῶντα κοῦκ ἄκοντα. τῶν δὲ πημοῦνων
μάλιστα λυποῦσ’ αἰ φανῶσ’ αὐθαίρετοι. 1230

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

λείπει μὲν οὐδ’ ἂ πρόσθεν ἑδεμεν τὸ μῆ οὐ
βαρύστον εῖναι· πρὸς δ’ ἐκείνοισιν τ’ φής ;
KING OEDIPUS.

Ah! how couldst thou so long remain
The furrower of thy father's field,
Borne patiently and unrevealed?

Crimes from thyself concealed
All-searching Time hath opened to the day,
And shown thee with clear ray,
Long while in hideous bond, spouse, father, child.
O Laius' fatal son,
Would I had ne'er thee known!
My heart cries loud for thee
In tones of agony,
And frenzied exclamation wild.

For, to speak sooth, thou didst renew my life,
And gavest mine eye sweet respite after strife.

SECOND MESSENGER.

[Enters from the Palace.]

O ye whom Thebè still hath chosen in chief
To honour, what a spectacle of woe
Awaits your eyes, your ears; what piercing grief
Your hearts must suffer, if as kinsmen should
Ye still regard the house of Laius!
Not Phasis, nor the Danube's rolling flood
Can ever wash away the stains, and purge
This mansion of the horror that it hides.
And more it soon shall give to light, not now
Unconsciously determined. Of all ill,
Self-chosen sorrows are the worst to bear.

CHORUS.

What hast thou new to add? the weight of grief,
From that we know burdens the heart enough.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΕΞΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ο μὲν τάχιστος, τῶν λόγων εἶπεῖν τε καὶ μαθεῖν, τέθνηκε θείον Ἰοκάστῃς κάρα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ὁ δυστάλαων, πρὸς τῖνος ποτ' αἰτίας ;

ΕΞΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

αὐτῇ πρὸς αὐτῆς· τῶν δὲ πραξθέντων τὰ μὲν ἀλγιστ' ἀπεστίν· ἡ γὰρ ὤψις οὐ πάρα.

όμοι δ', οὐκοῦν γε καὶ ἐμοὶ μνήμης ἐνι, πεύσει τὰ κεῖνα ἀθλίας παθήματα.

ὡς γὰρ ὀργῇ χρωμένη παρῆλθ' ἔσω θυράνως, ἵπτ' εὐθὺ πρὸς τὰ νυμφικὰ λέχη, κόμην σπώο' ἀμφιδεξίους ἀκμαίς.

τύλας δ' ὡς εἰσῆλθ' ἐπιρράξας' ἔσω καλεῖ τὸν ἦδη Δαίων πάλαι νεκρόν,

μνήμην παλαιών σπερμάτων ἔχουσ', ὅφ' οὖν θάνοι μὲν αὐτός, τὴν δὲ τίκτουσαν λίποι τοῖς οὐσίν αὐτοῦ δύστεκνων παιδουργίαν.

γοάτο δ' εἰνάς, ἐνθα δύστηνοι διπλοῦσ

ἐξ ἀνδρὸς ἀνδρα καὶ τέκν' ἐκ τέκνων τέκοι. 1245

χῶπως μὲν ἐκ τῶν οὐκέτ' οἶδ' ἀπόλλυται·

βοῶν γὰρ εἰσέπαιεν Οἰδίπους, ὅφ' οὗ

οὐκ ἦν τὸ κεῖνα ἐκθέασασθαι κακοῦ,

ἀλλ' εἰς ἐκεῖνον περιπολοῦντ' ἐλεύσομεν.

φοιτᾶ γὰρ ἡμᾶς ἐγχος ἐξαιτῶν πορείων,

γυναίκα τ' οὐ γυναίκα, μητρόφαν δ' ὡς

κίχοι διπλῆν ἄρουραν οὖ τε καὶ τέκνων.
KING OEDIPUS.

SECOND MESSENGER.
Soon spoken and soon heard is the chief sum.
Jocasta's royal head is sunk in death.

CHORUS.
The hapless queen! What was the fatal cause?

SECOND MESSENGER.
Her own determination. Those who saw
Felt more of pain that ever can be told.
Yet to the summit of my memory's power
The wretched lady's passion you shall hear.
When she had passed in her rash mood within
The vestibule, straight to the bridal bed
She rushes, tearing with both hands her hair.
Then having entered, pulling fast the door,
She called aloud on Laius, long dead,
With living memory of that far-off joy,
From which he died, and left the mother-queen
To breed a hideous offspring for his son.
And loudly o'er the bed she mourned, where she,
All hapless, had brought forth a twofold brood,
Husband from husband, children from a child.
We could not know the moment of her death,
Which followed soon, for Oedipus with cries
Burst in, and would not let us see her end,
But drew all eyes as he careered the hall,
Demanding arms, and where to find his wife,—
No, not his wife, but fatal mother-croft,
Cropped doubly with himself and his own seed.
λυσάωντι δ' αὐτῷ δαμάσων δείκνυσι τις·
οὔδεις γὰρ ἄνδρῶν, οἱ παρῆμεν ἔγγυθεν.
δεινὸν δ' ἀύσας ὡς ὑφηγητοῦ τινος
πύλαις διπλαῖς ἐνῆλαι', ἐκ δὲ πυθμένων
ἐκλινε κοῖλα κλῆθρα καμπίπτει στέγη.
οὗ δὴ κρεμαστὴν τὴν γυναῖκ' ἐσείδομεν,
πλεκτάισιν αἰώρασιν ἐμπεπληγμένην.
ὁ δ' ὡς ὅρα νῦν, δεῖνα βρυχηθεὶς τάλας,
χαλά κρεμαστὴν ἀρτινην. ἐπεὶ δὲ γῆ
ἐκείνῳ τλήμων, δεῖνα δ' ἤν τάνθεν' ὅραν.
ἀποσπάσας γὰρ εἰμάτων χρυσηλάτους
περόνας ὧπ' αὐτῆς, αἱσιν ἐξεστέλλετο,
ἀρας ἐπαισεν ἄρθρα τῶν αὐτοῦ κύκλων,
αὐδῶν τοιαῦθεν, ὅθονεκ' οὐκ ὁφοιντὸ νῦν
οὐθ' οΐ' ἐπασχεν οὐθ' ὅποι' ἐδρα κακα,
ἀλλ' ἐν σκότῳ τό λαοτὸν οὔς μὲν οὐκ ἔδει
ὁψοιαθ', οἷς δ' ἐχρηχεῖν οὐ γνωσσιατο.
τοιαὐτ' ἐφυμών πολλάκις τε κο'χ ἄπαξ
ἄρασσ' ἐπαύρων βλέφαρα. φῶιναι δ' ὁμοί
γλῆναι γενεῖ ἐτεγγοῦν, οὐδ' ἄνεσαν
φόνον μυδώσας σταγόνας, ἄλλ' ὁμοί μέλας
ὄμβρος χαλάξης αἰματοῦ ἐτέγγετο.
τάδ' ἐκ δυσιν ἐρρωγεῖν, οὐ μόνον κακα,
ἄλλ' ἄνδρα καὶ γυναικὶ συμμυγῇ κακα.
ὁ πρὶν παλαιός δ' ὄλβος ἤν πύροιθε μὲν
ὄλβος δικαίως· νῦν δ' τῆδε θήμερα
στεναγμός, ἀτη, θάνατος, αἰσχύνη, κακῶν
ὅς ἐστὶ πάνων ὁνόματ', οὐδέν ἔστι ἀπόν.
KING OEDIPUS.

And in his rage some demon pointed him
The way, — for 'twas no man of us at hand.
And with a fearful shout, as following
Some leader, he assailed the folding doors.
Then hollowing inwards from the mortised bolts
The yielding boards, he breaks into the room;
Where high suspended we beheld the queen,
In twisted cordage violently swung.
And he with terrible outcry when he saw,
Poor king! undid the hanging noose. But when
She lay upon the ground, 'twas terrible
To see what followed. For he tore away
The brooch-pins that had fastened her attire,
And, lifting, smote his eyeballs to the root,
Saying, Henceforth they should not see the evil
Suffered or done by him in the past time,
But evermore in darkness now should scan
The features he ought never to have seen,
And not-discern the souls he longed to know.
Chanting this strain, not once but oftentimes
He dashed the points into his eyes; and soon
The bleeding pupils moistened all his beard,
Nor stinted the dark flood, but all at once
The ruddy hail poured forth with plenteous shower.
Thus from two springs, from man and wife together,
Burst the joint evil that is now o'erflowing.
And the old happiness in that past day
Was truly happy, but the present hour
Hath groaning, death, disaster, shame, all ill
Without exemption, that hath e'er been named.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

νῦν δ' ἔσθι ὁ τλήμων ἐν τινὶ σχολῇ κακοῦ;

ΕΞΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

βοᾷ διοίγεως κλήθρα καὶ δηλοῦν τινα
toῖς πάσιν Καδμείουσι τὸν πατροκτόνον,
tὸν μητρὸς—αὐδῶν ἀνόσι, αὐδὲ ῥητὰ μοι,
ὡς ἐκ χθονὸς ρήψων ἕαυτόν, οὐδ' ἔτι
μενῶν δόμωις ἅραιος, ὡς ἡράσατο.

ρόμης γε μέντοι καὶ προηγητοῦ τινῶς
dεῖται· τὸ γὰρ νόσημα μείζων ἢ φέρειν.

δείξοι δὲ καὶ σοὶ. κλήθρα γὰρ πυλῶν τάδε
dιοίγεται· θέαμα δ' εἰσόγει τάχα
tοιοῦτον οἶον καὶ στυγνῶν ἐποικίσασα.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ὁ δὲ εἶναι ἱδεῖν πάθος ἀνθρώπωσις,
ὁ δεινότατον πάντων ὡς ἐγὼ
προσέκυρος ἦδη· τὸς σ' ὁ τλήμων,
pροσέβη μανία; τὸς ὁ πηδήσας
μείζων δαίμων τῶν μακίστων
πρὸς σ' δυσδαίμονι μοῖρα;

φεῖν φεῦ, δύσταν· ἀλλ' οὐδ' ἐσιδεῦν
δύναμαι σε, θέλων πόλλ' ἀνερέσθαι,
pολλὰ πυθέσθαι, πολλὰ δ' ἀθρήσαι·
tοιάν φρίκην παρέχεις μοι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

αιαὶ αἰαί, δύστανος ἐγώ,
ποὶ γὰς φέρομαι τλάμων; πᾶ μοι
CHORUS.

And finds the sufferer now some pause of woe?

SECOND MESSENGER.

He cries to ope the portal and display
To all the men of Thebè him who slew
His father, who unto his mother did
What I dare not repeat, and fain would fling
His person from the land, nor calmly bide
The shock of his own curse in his own hall.
His case craves succour and some guiding hand:
For such a load of misery who can bear?
Thyself shalt judge: for, lo, the palace-gate
Is opening, and thou wilt quickly see
A hateful sight, yet one thou needs must pity.

CHORUS.

O horror of the world! [OEDIPUS enters.
Too great for mortal eye!
Terrible beyond all my life hath known!
What madness, O poor head!
Assailed thee? Who in heaven
Hath leap’d against thy hapless lot
With boundings out of measure fierce and huge?
Ah! wretched one, I cannot look on thee:
No, though I long to search, to ask, to learn.
Thine aspect is too horrible. I cannot!

OEDIPUS.

Oh! miserable am I.
Where am I borne? Ah woe!
ΦΘΟΛΚΕΟΥΣ

φθογγά δι' ἄλας πέταται φοράδην;
ἰὼ δαίμον, ἵν' ἔξηλλον.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.
ἐς δεινόν, οὐδ' ἀκουστόν, οὐδ' ἐπόψιμον.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΕ.
στρ. ἀ.

ἰὼ σκότου
νέφος ἐμὸν ἀπότροπον, ἐπιπλόμενον ἄφατον,
ἀδάματον τε καὶ δυσσύριστον ὁν.
οἶμοι,
οἶμοι μᾶλ' αὖθις· οἶνον εἰσέδυ μ' ἄμα
κέντρων τε τῶν ὀστρημά καὶ μνήμη ἦκατῶν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.
καὶ θαυμά γ' οὖθεν ἐν τοσοῖσδε πτήμασιν
διπλὰ σε πενθεῖν καὶ διπλὰ φέρειν κακά.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΕ.
ἀντ. ἀ.

ἰὼ φίλοις,
σὺ μὲν ἐμὸς ἐπίπολος ἐτι μόνιμος· ἔτι γὰρ
ὑπομένεις με τὸν τυφλὸν κηδεύων.
φεῦ φεῦ.

οὐ γὰρ με λήθεις, ἀλλὰ γηγυνώσκω σαφῶς,
καίπερ σκοτεινῶς, τὴν γε σὴν αὐθὸν ὦμως.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.
ὡ δεινὰ δράσας, πῶς ἐτπλης τοιαῦτα σάς
ὄψεις μαράναι; τίς σ' ἐπῆρε δαίμόνων;
KING OEDIPUS.

Where do these accents flow,
   Tossed waveringly?
O Genius! whither hath thy fury soar'd?

CHORUS.

To a pitch too dread for speech, by sight abhorr'd.

OEDIPUS.

O cloud of dark, on me
Sent loweringly!
Hideous, unutterable,
Invincible!
Too surely wafted on.
Ah me! Again I moan.
These piercing wounds with agonizing smart
Sharpen the pang of memory at mine heart.

CHORUS.

No marvel, if in this assault of woe
Thy miseries with redoubled fulness flow.

OEDIPUS.

Friend of the years that were,
O constant kind!
Still dost thou tend the blind,
Unwearied in thy care!
Ah! 'tis thy voice, I know thee by that tone;
Dark though I be, thou dost not lurk unknown.

CHORUS.

Agent of horror! whence hadst thou the force
To waste those orbs? what power impelled thy course?
OIDEPOUS TYRANNOS.

OIDEPOUS.

στρ. β'.

'Απόλλων τάδ' ἢν, 'Απόλλων, φίλοι,
ο κακὰ κακὰ τελῶν ἐμὰ τάδ' ἐμὰ πάθεα.

ἐπαισε δ' αὐτόχειρ νυν οὔτις, ἀλλ' ἐγὼ τλάμων.

τι γὰρ ἐδει μ' ὀρᾶν,

ότε γ' ὀρῶτι μηδὲν ἦν ἰδεῖν γλυκύ;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἡν ταῦθ' ὅπωσπερ καὶ σὺ φής.

OIDEPOUS.

τι ὀητ' ἐμοὶ βλεπτόν, ἡ στερετόν, ἡ προσῆγορον

ἐτ' ἐστ' ἀκούειν ἰδονά, φίλοι;

ἀπύγετ' ἐκτόπιον ὅτι τάχιστά με,

ὑπάγετ'. ὁ φίλοι, τὸν μέγ' ὁλέθριον, τὸν καταρατότατον, ἔτι δὲ καὶ θεοὶς ἐχθρότατον βροτῶν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

deίλαιε τοῦ νοῦ τῆς τε συμφορᾶς ἵσον,

ὡς σ' ἡθέλησα μὴδ' ἀναγνώναι ποτ' ἃν.

OIDEPOUS.

ἀντ. β'.

δλοιθ' οὔσις ἦν ὡς ἀγρίας πέδας

νομάδ' ἐπιποδίας ἐλαβέ μ' ἀπό τε φόνου

ἐρυτο κάνεσωσέν, οὐδὲν εἰς χάριν πράσσων.

τότε γὰρ ἄν θανῶν

οὐκ ἦν φίλοισιν οὐδ' ἐμοὶ τοσόνθ' ἄχος.

1330

1336

1340

1345

1350

1355
KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.

Apollo’s was the power, Apollo wrought my woe:
But mine, and no man’s else, the hand that struck the blow.
Why, friends, should I have sight,
When nought could meet my vision with delight?

CHORUS.

Ay, thou say’st truly there!

OEDIPUS.

What could I see, what hear,
That e’er again could move
My heart with love, or sweetly soothe mine ear?
Friends, with what speed ye may
Lead me from hence away,
Me the accursèd thing,
Ruined and ruining.
Ay, and o’er all on Earth by Heaven abhor’d.

CHORUS.

Not least unhappy for thy depth of heart!
Would I had never known thee who thou art!

OEDIPUS.

Perish, who ’midst the wild from cruel fettering band
Took me and saved from death, vain kindness, idly plann’d!
Had I but perished then,
Nor I, nor those I loved, had known this pain.
ΧΟΡΟΣ.
θέλοντι κάμοι τούτ' ἄν ἢν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.
οὐκον πατρὸς γ' ἄν φωνεῖς ἥλθον, οὐδὲ νυμφίος
βρωτοῖς ἐκκήθης ἄν ἔφυν ἄπτο.
νῦν δ' ἀθεός μὲν εἰμ', ἀνοσίων δὲ παῖς,
ὅμογενής δ' ἀφ' ἄν αὐτὸς ἔφυν τάλας.
eἰ δὲ τι πρεσβύτερου ἔτι κακοῦ κακόν,
tοῦτ' ἔλαχ' Οἰδίπουσ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.
oūκ οὐδ' ὅτως σε φῶ βεβουλεύσθαι καλῶς.
κρείσσων γὰρ ἡσθα μηκέτ' ἄν ἢ ξῶν τυφλός.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.
ὡς μὲν τάδ' οὐχ ὡδ' ἐστ' ἀριστ' εἰργασμένα,
μὴ μ' ἐκδίδασκε, μηδὲ συμβούλευ' ἐτι.
ἐγὼ γὰρ οὐκ οὐδ' ὀμμασιν ποῖοις βλέπων
πατέρα ποτ' ἄν προσείδον εἰς' Ἀἴδου μολὼν,
οὐδ' αὖ τάλαιαν μητέρ', οὖν ἔμοι δυοῖν
ἐργ' ἐστὶ κρείσσων ἀγχώνης εἰργασμένα.
ἀλλ' ἣ τέκνων δῆτ' ὑψιν ἢν ἐφίμερος,
βλαστοῦς' ὅπως ἐβλαστε, προσλεύσεσιν ἐμοί';
oὐ δήτα τοῖς γ' ἐμοίσιν ὀφθαλμοῖς ποτε·
oὐδ' ἄστυ γ', οὐδὲ πύργος, οὐδὲ δαμόνων
ἀγάλμαθ' ἵπτ' τῶν ὁ παντλήμον ἐγὼ
κάλλιστ' ἀνήρ εἰς ἐν γε ταῖς Θῆβαις τραφεῖς
ἀπεστήρησ' ἐμαυτόν, αὐτὸς ἐννέπτων.
KING OEDIPUS.

CHORUS.
I join thee in that prayer.

OEDIPUS.
Then I had ne'er been shown
My father's slayer, nor known
My mother's bridal in the face of men.
Now, heaven-abandonèd,
Of crime and horror bred,
I have shared a father's bed.
What woe ranks highest in ill? my life hath found that word.

CHORUS.
I know not how to call thee wise in this,
Better be out of life than blindly live.

OEDIPUS.
That this last act hath not been for the best
Censure me not, nor counsel me again.
For how, if I had eyes, could I have looked
In Hades on my father's countenance,
Or my all-hapless mother, when, toward both,
Crimes worse than capital are on my head?
Ah! but my children were a sight of joy,
Offspring of such a union! were they so?
Never, to eyes of mine! nor town, nor tower,
Nor holy fanes o' the gods, which I myself,
O misery, have sundered from myself,
I, dowered with fairest life of Theban men,
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ωθείων ἀπαντᾷς τὸν ἀσεβῆ, τὸν ἐκ θεῶν
φανέτρ' ἄναγνω καὶ γένους τοῦ Δαίου,
tοιαύτα' ἐγὼ κηλίδα μηνύσας ἔμην
ὁρθοῖς ἐμέλλουν ὄμματιν τούτους ὅραν;
ηκιστά γ'· ἀλλ' εἰ τῆς ἄκουσίνης ετ' ἢν
πηγής δ' ὄτων φραγμός, οὐκ ἂν ἐσχόμην
τὸ μὴποκλῆσαι τοῦμον ἄθλιον δέμας,
ἐν' ἢν τυφλός τε καὶ κλύον μηθὲν' τὸ γὰρ
τὴν φρουτίδ' ἔξω τῶν κακῶν οἰκεῖν γλυκύ.
ἰὼ Κθαίρον, τι μ' ἐδέχομαι; τι μ' οὐ λαβὼν
ἐκεῖνας εὐθύς, ὅσ ἐδειξα μῆτοτε
ἐμαυτὸν ἀνθρώπωσιν ἔθεν ἢν γεγώς;
ὁ Πόλυβε καὶ Κόρωνε καὶ τὰ πάτρια
λόγῳ παλαια δομαθ', οἷον ἄρα με
κάλλος κακῶν ὑπούλων ἐξεθρέψατε.

(νῦν γὰρ κακός τ' ἰν κάκ κακῶν εὐρίσκομαι.)
ὁ τρεῖς κέλευθι καὶ κεκρυμμένη νάτη
δρυμὸς τε καὶ στενωπὸς ἐν τριπλαῖς όδοῖς,
α' τοῦμον αἴμα τῶν ἔμων χειρῶν ἄπω
ἐπίστε πατρός, ἀρά μου μέμνησθέ τι,
ο' ἔργα δράσας ὡμιν εἶτα δεῦρ ἰὼν
ὅποι ἐπράσασον αὖθις; ὁ γάμου γάμοι,
ἐφύσαθ' ἡμᾶς, καὶ φυτεύσαντες πάλιν
ἀνεῖτε ταῦτ' σπέρμα, κα' πεδείσατε
πατέρας, ἀδελφοὺς, παῖδας, αἱρ' ἐμφύλιον,
νύμφας, γυναῖκας, μητέρας τε, χοίροσα
ἀισχυστ' ἐν ἀνθρώπωσιν ἐργα φίγνεται.
ἀλλ' — οὖ γὰρ αὐτάν ἔσθ' ἀ μηδὲ δράν καλόν —
Proclaiming to drive off from every door
Whom Heaven had marked for impious and impure,
Nay worse, of Laius born! And was I then,
By mine own process branded thus, to look
On Theban faces with unaltered mien?
Nay verily; but had there been a way
To stop the hearing fountain through the ear,
I had not faltered, but had closed and barred
Each gate of this poor body; deaf and blind!
So thought might sweetly dwell at rest from harm.
Cithaeron! Why didst take me to thy breast,
Not slaying me then and there? So had I not
Told to the world the horror of my birth.
O foster-home of Corinth and her king,
How bright the life ye cherished, filmg o'er
What foulness far beneath! For I am vile,
And vile have been my parents. So 'tis proved.
O cross-road in the covert of the glcn,
O thicket in the gorge where three ways met,
Bedewed by these my hands with mine own blood,
From whence I sprang—have you forgotten me?
Or doth some memory haunt you of the deeds
I did before you, and then came and wrought
Fresh horrors here? O doubly cursèd womb!
That gendered me, and then again sent forth
New offsets from the seed so genderèd:
Mazing the world with dire confusion
Of father, brother, son, bride, mother, wife,
Murder of parents, and all shames that are.
But for that in respect of hideous deeds
Silence is commendable, I beg you now
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ὅπως τάχιστα πρὸς θεῶν ἔξω μὲ ποι καλύψατ', ἡ φωνεύσατ', ἡ θαλάσσιοιν ἐκρύψατ', ἑνθα μῆποτ' εἰσόψεσθ' ἔτι. ἵτ', ἀξιώσατ' ἀνδρός ἄθλιον θυγεῖν. πίθεσθε, μὴ δείσητε, τάμα γὰρ κακὰ οὖνείς οἶός τε πλὴρ ἐμοῦ φέρειν βροτῶν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἀλλ' ὃν ἐπαίτεις ἐς δέον πάρεσθ' Ὑδε Κρέων τὸ πράσσειν καὶ τὸ βουλεύειν, ἐπεὶ χώρας λελειπται μοῦνος ἀντὶ σοῦ φύλαξ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

οἴμοι, τί δῆτα λέγομεν πρὸς τῶν ἐπός; τίς μοι φανεῖται πίστις ἐνδίκος; τὰ γὰρ πάρος πρὸς αὐτοῦ πάντ' ἐφεύρημαι κακός.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

οὔθ' ὡς γελαστῆς, Οἰδίπος, ἐλήλυθα, οὔθ' ὡς ὀνειδῶν τι τῶν πάρος κακῶν. ἀλλ' εἰ τὰ θυητῶν μὴ κατασχύνεσθ' ἔτι γένεθλα, τὴν γοῦν πάντα βόσκουσαν φλόγα αὐδεισθ' ἀνακτὸς Ἡλίου, τοιώνδ' ἄγος ἀκάλυπτον οὕτω δεικνύοι, τὸ μήτε γῆ μῆτ' ὄμβρος ἱρὸς μήτε φῶς προσδέξεται. ἀλλ' ὃς τάχιστ' ἐς οἶκον ἐσκομίζετε· τοῖς ἐν γένει γὰρ τάγγενη μάλισθ' ὅταν μόνοις τ' ἀκούειν εὐσεβῶς ἔχει κακά.
KING OEDIPUS.

To hurl me forth at once from human view.  
Slay me outright, or fling me far to sea,  
Where ye may never look on me again.  
Come, lend your hand unto my misery.  
Comply, and fear not, for my strain of woe  
Is incommunicable to all but me.

CHORUS.

With timely presence to fulfil thy word  
With act and counsel, Creon comes, who now  
Is regent o'er our city in thy room.

OEDIPUS.

Alas, what shall I say to him?  What plea  
Will hold for my defence?  My wickedness  
Towards him in all the past is clearly seen.

CREON.

[Enters from the city.]

I come not, Oedipus, to mock thy woes,  
Or to reproach thee for thine evils past.  
But ye, if all respect of mortal eye  
Be dead, let awe of the universal flame  
Of life's great nourisher, our lord the Sun,  
Forbid your holding thus unveiled to view  
This huge abomination, which nor Earth  
Nor sacred Element, nor light of Heaven  
Can once endure.  Convey him in with speed.  
Religion bids that kindred eyes and ears  
Alone should witness kindred crime and woe.
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.
πρὸς θεῶν, ἐπείπερ ἠλπίδος μ' ἀπέσπασας,
ἀριστος ἐλθὼν πρὸς κάκιστον ἀνδρὶ ἐμὲ,
πιθοὺ τι μοι· πρὸς σοῦ γὰρ, οὐδ' ἐμοῦ, φράσω.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
καὶ τοῦ με χρείας ὅδε λιπαρεῖς τυχεῖν;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.
ῥύφων με γῆς ἐκ τῆς ὅσον τάχισθ', ὅπου
θυμώνων φανούμαι μηδενὸς προσήγορος.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
ἐδρασ' ἄν εὐ τοῦτ ἵσθ' ἄν, εἰ μὴ τοῦ θεοῦ
πρώτιστ' ἔχρηζον ἐκμαθεῖν τί πρακτεῖν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.
ἀλλ' ἐγὼ ἐκεῖνον πᾶσ' ἐθηλώθη φάτις,
τῶν πατροφοντήν, τῶν ἀσεβὴ μ' ἀπολλύναι.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
οὗτος ἐλέχθη ταῦθ'· ὡμοὶ δ', ἤν ἐσταμεν
χρείας, ἀμεινον ἐκμαθεῖν τί δραστεῖν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.
οὗτος ἀρ' ἀνδρὸς ἀθλίου πεύςεσθ' ὑπερ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.
καὶ γὰρ σοù νῦν τὰν τῷ θεῷ πίστιν φέροις.
By Heaven, since thou hast wrenched me from my fear,
So nobly meeting my unworthiness,
I pray thee hear me for thine own behoof.

What boon dost thou desire so earnestly?

Fling me with utmost swiftness from the land,
Where I may never speak with mortal more.

Doubt not I would have done so, but the god
Must first be questioned for our guidance here.

Sure unequivocal was his behest,
The parricide, the impious, should be slain.

So it was spoken: but, in such a time,
We needs must be advised more perfectly.

And will ye ask him for a wretch like me?

Yes. For even thou methinks wilt now believe.
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.
καὶ σοί γ' ἐπισκήπτω τε καὶ προτρέψομαι,
tής μὲν κατ' οἴκους αὐτὸς δὴν θέλεις τάφον
θοῦ· καὶ γὰρ ὀρθῶς τῶν γε σῶν τελεῖς ὑπὲρ·
ἔμοι δὲ μὴτοι' ἄξιωθήτω τόδε
πατρῷον ἄστιν ζῶντος οἰκητοῦ τυχεῖν,
ἀλλ' ἐα με ναιεῖν ὅρεσιν, ἐνθα κλῆξται
οὐμοὶ Κιθαιρῶν ὁτός, δὴν· ἁμην τέ μοι
πατήρ τ' ἐθέασθην ζῶντε κύριον τάφον,
ἃν ἐξ ἐκεῖνων, οἳ μ' ἀπωλλύνην, θάνω.
καίτοι τοσούτοι γ' οἴδα, μήτε μ' ἂν νόσον
μήτ' ἀλλο πέρσαι μηδέν· οὐ γὰρ ἂν ποτὲ
θυσίσκουν ἔσώθην, μὴ 'πί τῷ δεινῷ κακῷ.
ἀλλ' ἥ μὲν ἡμῶν μοῖρ', ὅποιπερ εἰς', ὅτω·
παῖδων δὲ τῶν μὲν ἄρσεών μή μοι, Κρέον,
προσθέ μέριμναν· ἄνδρες εἰσίν, ἀστε μή
στάνυν ποτὲ σχεῖν, ἐνθ' ἄν ὅσι, τοῦ βίου
ταῖν δ' ἀδίαν οἰκτραίν τε παρθένοιν ἐμαῖν,
αἰν οὔποθ' ἕμη χωρίς ἑσταθή βορᾶς
tράπεζ' ἀνευ τοῦδ' ἄνδρός, ἀλλ' ὅσων ἐγὼ
ψαύομι, πάντως τὸν ἄει μετευχέτην·
αἰν μοι μέλεσθαι· καὶ μάλιστα μὲν χεροῖν
ψαύσαι μ' ἐασον κάποκλαύσασθαι κακά.
Ἤθ' ἰναξι,
Ἤθ' ὧ γονῆ γενναίε. χερσί τὰν θυγών
δοκοἶμ' ἔχειν σφᾶς, ὃσπερ ἢμίκ' ἔβλεπον.
τί φημί;
οὐ δὴ κλών που πρὸς θεοῦ τοῖν μοι φίλουν
KING OEDIPUS.

OEDIPUS.

Not only so. But I will charge thee too, With urgent exhortation, to perform The funeral rite for her who lies within — She is thy kinswoman — howe'er thou wilt. But never let this city of my sires Claim me for living habitant, but there Leave me to range the mountains, where my nurse Cithaeron, echoeth with my name, Cithaeron, Which both my parents destined for my grave. So my true murderers will be my death. Yet one thing I can tell. Mine end will come Not by disease nor human casualty. I had not lived when at the point to die, But for some terrible doom. Then let my fate Run out its full career. But for my children Thou, Creon, shalt provide. As for my sons, I pray thee burden not thyself with them. They ne'er will lack subsistence — they are men. But my poor maidens, hapless and forlorn, Who never had a meal apart from mine, But ever shared my table, yea, for them Take heedful care; and grant me, if but once, Yea, I beseech thee, with these hands to feel, Thou noble heart! the forms I love so well, And weep with them our common misery. Oh, if my arms were round them, I might seem To have them, as of old, when I could see. What? Am I fooled once more, or do I hear
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

δακρυρροούντων, καὶ μ’ ἐποικτείρας Κρέων ἐπεμψὲ μοι τὰ φίλτατ’ ἐκγόνων ἐμοῖν; λέγω τι; 1475

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

λέγεις· ἐγὼ γὰρ εἰμ’ ὁ πορεύνας τάδε, γνώς τὴν παροῦσαν τέρψιν, ἢ’ σ’ εἴχεν πάλαι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἀλλ’ εὐτυχοίς, καὶ σε τῆς τῆς ὄδου δαίμων ἁμείνον ἢ’ μὲ φρονὴσας τύχοι. ὡ τέκνα, πού ποτ’ ἑστέ; δεῦρ’ ἵτ’, ἔλθετε ώς τὰς ἀδελφὰς τάσις τὰς ἐμὰς χέρας, ἀλ’ τοῦ φυτοργοῦ πατρὸς ὅμων ὁδ’ ὁρὰν τὰ πρόσθε λαμπρὰ προφένησαν ὅμματα· ὅς ὅμων, ὡ τέκνα’, οὕθ’ ὕμων οὕθ’ ἱστορὸν πατὴρ ἐφάνθην ἐνθὲν αὐτὸς ἤρόθην. 1480

καὶ σφὼ δακρύω— προσβλέπειν γὰρ οὐ σθένω— νοούμενος τὰ λαυτὰ τοῦ πυκροῦ βίου, ὄνοι βιώναι σφὼ πρὸς ἀνθρώπων χρεῶν. ποιάς γὰρ ἀστῶν ἦξετ’ εἰς ὀμιλίας, ποιάς δ’ ἐφετᾶς, ἐνθὲν οὐ κεκλαμέναι πρὸς οἰκον ἦξεσθ’ ἀντὶ τῆς θεωρίας; ἀλλ’ ἦν’ ἀν δὴ πρὸς γάμων ἡκη’ ἀκμᾶς, τὸς οὗτος ἔσται, τὸς παραρρίθει, τέκνα, τοιαῦτ’ ὄνειδη λαμμάνων, ἃ τοῖς ἔμοις γονεύσων ἔσται σφὼν θ’ ὅμοι δηλήμματα; τὶ γὰρ κακῶν ἀπέστι; τὸν πατέρα πατὴρ ὅμων ἔπεφυε· τὴν τεκοῦσαν ἤροσεν.
KING OEDIPUS.

My dear ones weeping? And hath Creon sent, Pitying my sorrows, mine own children to me That most I love? Can this be truth I utter?

CREON.

Yea. I have done it. For I knew the joy Thou still hast felt in this, thy comfort now.

[Enter Antigone and Ismene with Attendants.]

OEDIPUS.

Fair be thy fortune, then, and, for this speed, God guard thee better than he watched o'er me. Where are ye, O my children? Come, draw near To these my hands of brother blood with you, Hands that have thus provided for your gaze The once bright lustre of your father's eyes, Of mine, who, ignorant and unaware, Became your father at that fount of life, My children, where I quickened! Oh! for you I weep, not seeing you, when I take thought Of all the bitter passages of fate That yet await you amongst men. For where Can ye find fellowship, what civic throng, What feast, can ye resort to, but instead Of seeing aught, ye will come weeping home? And when ye reach the marriageable bloom, My daughters, who will be the man to cast His lot with the unfortunate, and take All those reproaches on his name, which fall So heavily on my parents and on you? What evil is not here? Your father slew His father, and then eared the mother-field,
ΖΩΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

όθεν περ αυτὸς ἐσπάρη, κάκ τῶν ίσων ἐκτησάθ' ύμᾶς, ὁμπερ αὐτὸς ἐξέφυ.
τοιαῦτ' ὀνείδεικτε. κἀτα τέσ γαμεῖ; 1500
οὐκ ἔστιν οὐδείς, ὃ τέκν', ἀλλὰ δὴλαδὴ
χέρσους φθαρῆναι καγάμους ύμᾶς χρεών.
ὅ παί Μενοικέως, ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ μόνος πατὴρ
tαύτων λέειναι, νῦ γὰρ, ὃ 'φυτεύσαιεν,
ὁλωάμεν δὴ ὄντε, μὴ σφε περιέπεν
πτωχὰς ἀναίδρους ἐγγενεῖς ἀλλωμένας,
μηδ' ἐξισώσῃς τάσσε τοὺς ἐμῶς κακοῖς.
ἀλλ' οὐκτισόν σφας, ὅπε τηλικάσθ' ὀρῶν
πάντων ἐρήμους, πλὴν ὅσον τὸ σὸν μέρος.
ξύνευσον, ὃ γενοίες, σῇ ψαύσας χερι.
1510
σφῶν δ', ὃ τέκν', εἰ μὲν εἰχέτην ἥδη φρένας,
pόλλ' ἄν παρῆμουν· νῦν δὲ τούτ' εὐχαρὲθ' μοι,
οδ καίρος ἂεὶ ξῆν, βίον δὲ λύσοις
ὑμᾶς κυρῆσαι τοῦ φυτεύσαντος πατρός.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἄλις, ὃ ἐξήκεις δακρύων· ἀλλ' ἰθί στέγης ἐσώ. 1515

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

πειστέον, κεῖ μηδὲν ἤδυ.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

πάντα γὰρ καίρῳ καλά.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

οἶσθ' ἐφ' οἷς οὖν εἶμι;
KING OEDIPUS.

Where he himself was sown, and got you from The source of his own birth. Such taunts will fly. And who will marry you? No man, my daughters; But ye must wither childless and unwed. Son of Menoeceus, who alone art left As father to them twain: for we, their parents, Who gave them birth, are utterly undone: Suffer them not, being your kinswomen, To wander desolate and poor, nor make Their lot perforce the counterpart of mine. But have compassion on their youth, thus left Forlorn of all protection save from thee. Noble one, seal this promise with thy hand. For you, my children, were ye of an age To ponder speech, I would have counselled you Full carefully. Now I would have you pray To dwell where 'tis convenient, that your life May find more blessing than your father knew.

CREON.
Thou hast had enough of weeping. Close thee in thy chamber walls.

OEDIPUS.
I must yield, though sore against me.

CREON.
Yes, for strong occasion calls.

OEDIPUS.
Know'st thou on what terms I yield it?
ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

λέξεις, καὶ τῷ εἶσομαι κλῦων.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

γῆς μ’, ὡς πέμψεις ἀποικον.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

τοῦ θεοῦ μ’ αἰτεῖς δόσιν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἀλλὰ θεοῖς γ’ ἔχθιστος ἦκω.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

τουγαροῦν τείξει τάχα.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

φῆς τάδ’ οὖν;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἀ μὴ φρονῶ γὰρ οὐ φιλῶ λέγειν μάνην. 1520

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἀπαγέ νῦν μ’ ἐντεύθεν ἥδη.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

στείχει νυν, τέκνων δ’ ἀφοῦ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

μηδαμῶς ταῦτας γ’ ἔλη μου.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

πάντα μὴ βούλοι κρατεῖν:
καὶ γὰρ ἀκράτησας οὐ σοι τῷ βίῳ ἐξυνέσπετο. [Exeunt.
KING OEDIPUS.

CREON.
Tell me, let me hear and know.

OEDIPUS.
That you send me from the country.

CREON.
God alone can let thee go.

OEDIPUS.
But the gods long since abhor me.

CREON.
This the sooner thou wilt gain.

Then consent.

CREON.
'Tis not my wont to venture promises in vain

OEDIPUS.
Lead me now within the palace.

CREON.
Come, but let thy children be

OEDIPUS.
Tear not these from my embraces!

CREON.
Think not all things are for thee.
Even the good thou once obtainedst hath not held thy life in fee.

[All go within.]
ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ὁ πατρας Θήβης ἐνοικοί, λεύσσετ', Οἰδίπος οὗδε, ὃς τὰ κλεῖν' ἀνύγματ' ἦδη καὶ κράτιστος ἦν ἄνήρ, ὡστε οὐ ξύλων πολιτῶν καὶ τύχαις ἐπιβλέπων, εἰς ὅσον κλύδωνα δειώς συμφορᾶς ἔληλυθεν.

ὥστε, θυστοῦ ὅντ', ἐκείνην τὴν τελευταίαν ἰδεῖν ἡμέραν ἐπισκοποῦντα, μηδὲν ὀλβίζειν, πρὶν ἂν τέρμα τοῦ βίου περάσῃ μηδὲν ἀλγείοιν παθῶν.

[Exit Chorus.]
KING OEDIPUS.

CHORUS.

Ye who dwell in Thebes our city, fix on Oedipus your eyes, Who resolved the dark enigma, noblest liver and most wise. Glorious, like a sun he mounted, envied of the popular throng; Now he sinks in seas of anguish, quenched the stormy waves among. Therefore I await the final hour, to ancient wisdom known, Ere I call one mortal happy. Never shall that thought be shown, Till he end his earthly being, scathless of a sigh or groan. [Retires to the City.]