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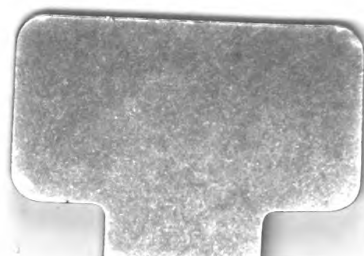


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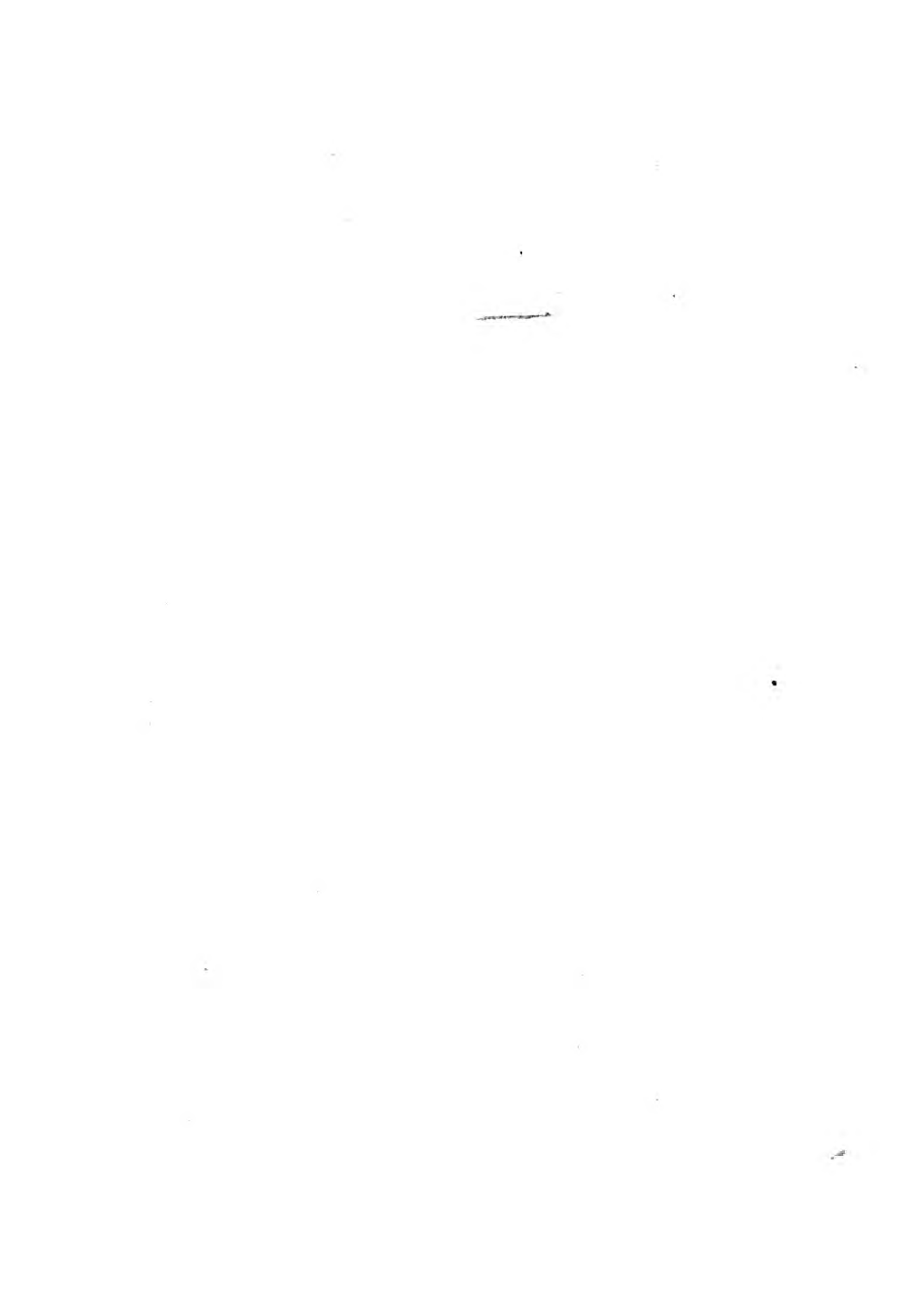
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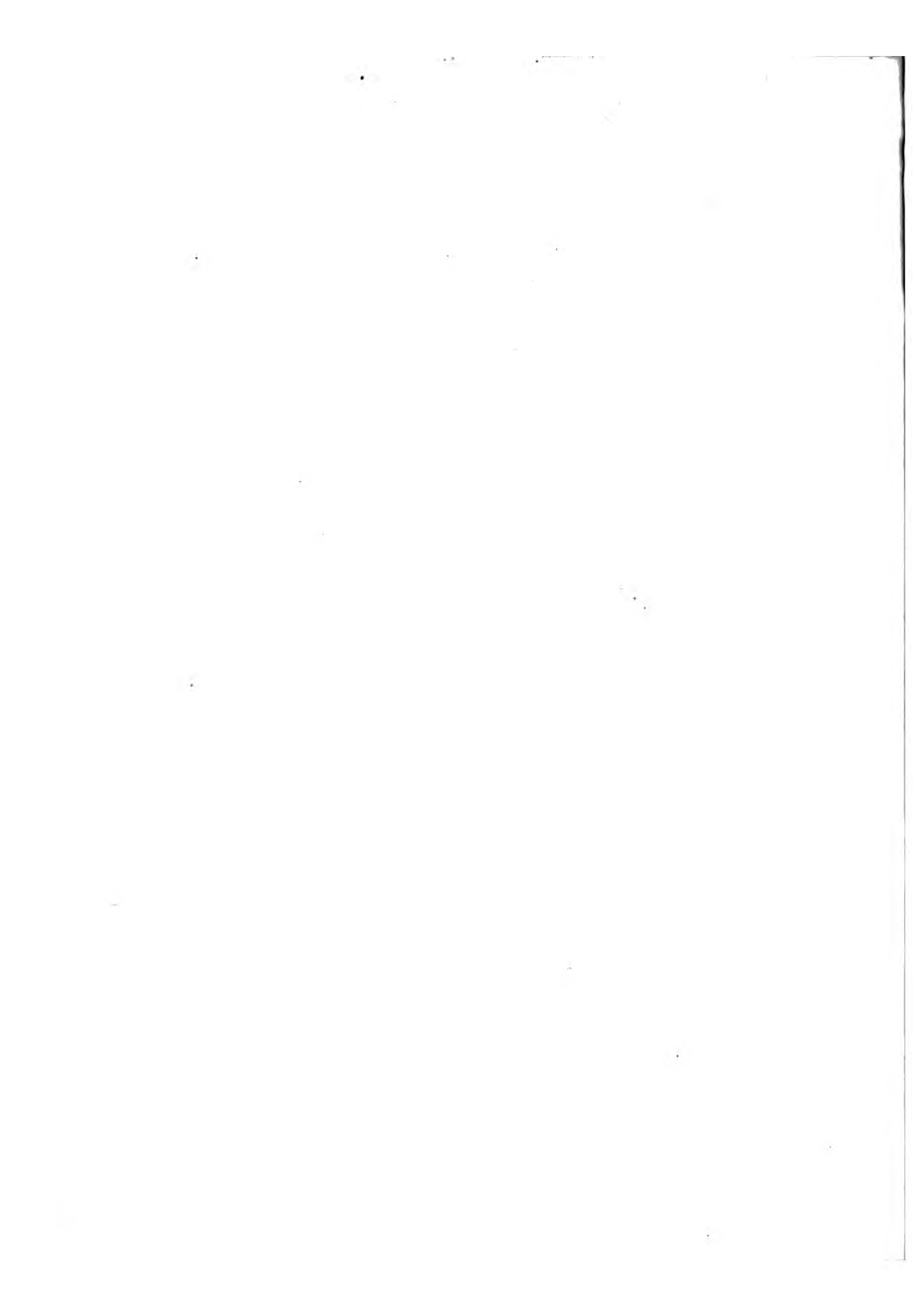
THE
ŒDIPUS
TYRANNUS
OF
SOPHOCLES.



2936
d. 114

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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.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ ΤΤΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΤΑ ΤΟΥ ΔΡΑΜΑΤΟΣ ΠΡΟΣΩΠΑ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ΙΕΡΕΥΣ.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ γερόντων Θηβαίων.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

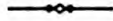
ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ Λατῶν.

ΕΞΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ὦ τέκνα, Κάδμου τοῦ πάλαι νέα τροφή, [Introit.
τίνας ποθ' ἔδρας τάσδε μοι θοάζετε
ἰκτηρίοις κλάδοισιν ἐξεστεμμένοι ;
πόλις δ' ὁμοῦ μὲν θυμιαμάτων γέμει,
ὁμοῦ δὲ παιάνων τε καὶ στεναγμάτων · 5
ἀγὼ δικαίων μὴ παρ' ἀγγέλων, τέκνα,
ἄλλων ἀκούειν αὐτὸς ὧδ' ἐλήλυθα,
ὁ πᾶσι κλεινὸς Οἰδίπους καλούμενος.
ἀλλ', ὦ γεραιέ, φράζ', ἐπεὶ πρέπων ἔφυς
πρὸ τῶνδε φωνεῖν, τίνι τρόπῳ καθέστατε, 10
δείσαντες ἢ στέρξαντες ; ὥς θέλοντος ἂν

KING OEDIPUS.



PERSONS REPRESENTED.

OEDIPUS, <i>King of Thebes.</i>	SERVANT of <i>Laius.</i>
JOCASTA, <i>his wife.</i>	
CREON, <i>her brother.</i>	MUTE PERSONS.
TEIRESIAS, <i>a blind seer.</i>	ANTIGONE, } <i>Youthful Daughters of</i>
PRIEST of <i>Zeus.</i>	ISMENE, } <i>Oedipus.</i>
CHORUS of <i>Theban old men.</i>	SUPPLIANTS; BOY, <i>attendant on Tei-</i>
MESSANGER from <i>Corinth.</i>	resias; ATTENDANTS on <i>Oedipus,</i>
MESSANGER from <i>within the Palace.</i>	Jocasta, and Creon, <i>two to each.</i>

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 pæan 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

έμοῦ προσαρκεῖν πᾶν· δυσάλητος γὰρ ἂν
εἶην τοιάνδε μὴ οὐ κατοικτεῖρων ἔδραν.

ΙΕΡΕΤΣ.

ἀλλ', ὦ κρατύνων Οἰδίπους χώρας ἐμῆς, ὄρᾳς μὲν ἡμᾶς ἡλίκοι προσήμεθα	15
βωμοῖσι τοῖς σοῖς, οἱ μὲν οὐδέπω μακρὰν πτέσθαι σθένοντες, οἱ δὲ σὺν γήρᾳ βαρεῖς, ιερῆς, ἐγὼ μὲν Ζηνός, οἱ δ' ἐπ' ἡθέων λεκτοί· τὸ δ' ἄλλο φύλον ἐξεστεμμένον	
ἀγοραῖσι θακεῖ, πρὸς τε Παλλάδος διπλοῖς ναοῖς, ἐπ' Ἴσμηνοῦ τε μαντεῖα σποδῶ.	20
πόλις γάρ, ὥσπερ καὐτὸς εἰσορᾷς, ἄγαν ἤδη σαλεύει κἀνακουφίσαι κάρᾳ βυθῶν ἔτ' οὐχ οἷα τε φοινίου σάλου, φθίνουσα μὲν κάλυξιν ἐγκάρποις χθονός,	25
φθίνουσα δ' ἀγέλαις βουνόμοις, τόκοισί τε ἀγόνοις γυναικῶν· ἐν δ' ὁ πυρφόρος θεὸς σκήψας ἐλαύνει, λοιμὸς ἔχθιστος, πόλιν, ὑφ' οὗ κενούται δῶμα Καδμεῖον· μέλας δ' Ἄιδης στεναγμοῖς καὶ γόοις πλουτίζεται.	30
θεοῖσι μὲν νυν οὐκ ἰσούμενόν σ' ἐγὼ οὐδ' οἶδε παῖδες ἐζόμεσθ' ἐφέστιοι, ἀνδρῶν δὲ πρῶτον ἔν τε συμφοραῖς βίου κρίνοντες ἔν τε δαιμόνων συναλλαγαῖς· ὅς τ' ἐξέλυσας, ἄστυ Καδμεῖον μολών,	35
σκληρᾶς ἀοιδοῦ δασμὸν ὃν παρείχομεν· καὶ ταῦθ' ὑφ' 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 advantagèd
By aught we had to tell thee, or could teach,

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

οὐδ' ἐκδιδαχθεῖς, ἀλλὰ προσθήκη θεοῦ
λέγει νομίζει θ' ἡμῖν ὀρθῶσαι βίον·
νῦν τ', ὦ κράτιστον πᾶσιν Οἰδίπου κάρα, 40
ἵκετεύομέν σε πάντες οἷδε πρόστροποι
ἀλκὴν τιν' εὐρεῖν ἡμῖν, εἴτε του θεῶν
φήμην ἀκούσας εἴτ' ἀπ' ἀνδρὸς οἴσθ' αἴ που·
ὥς τοῖσιν ἐμπείροισι καὶ τὰς ξυμφορὰς
ζώσας ὁρῶ μάλιστα τῶν βουλευμάτων. 45
ἴθ', ὦ βροτῶν ἄριστ', ἀνόρθωσον πόλιν·
ἴθ', εὐλαβήθηθ'· ὥς σὲ νῦν μὲν ἦδε γῇ
σωτήρηρα κλήζει τῆς πάρος προθυμίας·
ἀρχῆς δὲ τῆς σῆς μηδαμῶς μεμνώμεθα
στάντες τ' ἐς ὀρθὸν καὶ πεσόντες ὕστερον, 50
ἀλλ' ἀσφαλείᾳ τήνδ' ἀνόρθωσον πόλιν.
ὄρνιθι γὰρ καὶ τὴν τότ' αἰσίῳ τύχην
παρέσχες ἡμῖν, καὶ τανῦν ἴσος γενοῦ.
ὥς εἴπερ ἄρξεις τῇσδε γῆς, ὥσπερ κρατεῖς,
ξὺν ἀνδράσιν κάλλιον ἢ κενῆς κρατεῖν· 55
ὥς οὐδέν ἐστιν οὔτε πύργος οὔτε ναῦς
ἔρημος ἀνδρῶν μὴ ξυνοικούντων ἔσω.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ὦ παῖδες οἰκτροί, γνωτὰ κοῦκ ἄγνωτά μοι
προσήλθεθ' ἰμείροντες. εὖ γὰρ οἶδ' ὅτι
νοσεῖτε πάντες, καὶ νοσοῦντες, ὥς ἐγὼ 60
οὐκ ἔστιν ὑμῶν ὅστις ἐξ ἴσου νοσεῖ.
τὸ μὲν γὰρ ὑμῶν ἄλγος εἰς ἓν ἔρχεται
μόνον καθ' αὐτόν, κοῦδέν' ἄλλον, ἢ δ' ἐμὴ

KING OEDIPUS.

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

ψυχὴ πόλιν τε κἀμὲ καὶ σ' ὁμοῦ στένει.
 ὥστ' οὐχ ὕπνω γ' εὐδοντά μ' ἐξεγείρετε, 65
 ἀλλ' ἴστε πολλὰ μὲν με δακρύσαντα δῆ,
 πολλὰς δ' ὁδοὺς ἐλθόντα φροντίδος πλάνοις.
 ἦν δ' εὖ σκοπῶν εὕρισκον ἱασιν μόνην,
 ταύτην ἔπραξα· παῖδα γὰρ Μενοικέως
 Κρέοντ', ἐμαντοῦ γαμβρόν, ἐς τὰ Πυθικὰ 70
 ἔπεμψα Φοίβου δώμαθ', ὡς πύθοιθ' ὅ τι
 δρῶν ἢ τί φωνῶν τήνδε ῥυσαίμην πόλιν.
 καὶ μ' ἡμαρ ἤδη ξυμμετρούμενον χρόνῳ
 λυπεῖ τί πράσσει· τοῦ γὰρ εἰκότος πέρα
 ἄπεστι πλείω τοῦ καθήκοντος χρόνου. 75
 ὅταν δ' ἴκηται, τηνικαῦτ' ἐγὼ κακὸς
 μὴ δρῶν ἂν εἶην πάνθ' ὅσ' ἂν δηλοῖ θεός.

ΙΕΡΕΥΣ.

ἀλλ' εἰς καλὸν σύ τ' εἶπας οἶδε τ' ἀρτίως
 Κρέοντα προσστείχοντα σημαίνουσί μοι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ὦναξ Ἄπολλον, εἰ γὰρ ἐν τύχῃ γέ τω
 σωτῆρι βαίῃ λαμπρὸς ὥσπερ ὄμματι. 80

ΙΕΡΕΥΣ.

ἀλλ' εἰκάσαι μὲν, ἡδύς· οὐ γὰρ ἂν κára
 πολυστεφῆς ὦδ' εἶρπε παγκάρπου δάφνης.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τάχ' εἰσόμεσθα· ξύμμετρος γὰρ ὡς κλύειν.
 ἄναξ, ἐμὸν κήδευμα, παῖ Μενοικέως, 85
 τίν' ἡμῖν ἦκεις 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,
Menoceus' 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.

ἔσθλῆν· λέγω γὰρ καὶ τὰ δύσφορ', εἰ τύχοι [Introit.
κατ' ὀρθὸν ἐξελθόντα, πάντ' ἂν εὐτυχεῖν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἔστιν δὲ ποῖον τοῦτος ; οὔτε γὰρ θρασὺς
οὔτ' οὖν προδείσας εἰμὶ τῷ γε νῦν λόγῳ.

90

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

εἰ τῶνδε χρήξεις πλησιαζόντων κλύειν,
ἕτοιμος εἰπεῖν, εἴτε καὶ στείχειν ἔσω.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἔς πάντας αὔδα. τῶνδε γὰρ πλέον φέρω
τὸ πένθος ἢ καὶ τῆς ἐμῆς ψυχῆς πέρι.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

λέγοιμ' ἂν οἷ' ἤκουσα τοῦ θεοῦ πάρα.
ἄνωγεν ἡμᾶς Φοῖβος ἐμφανῶς ἄναξ
μίασμα χώρας, ὥς τεθραμμένον χθονὶ
ἐν τῇδ', ἐλαύνειν, μηδ' ἀνήκεστον τρέφειν.

95

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ποιῶ καθαρμῶ ; τίς ὁ τρόπος τῆς ξυμφορᾶς ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἀνδρηλατοῦντας, ἢ φόνῳ φόνον πάλιν
λύοντας, ὥς τόδ' αἶμα χειμάζον πόλιν.

100

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ποίου γὰρ ἀνδρὸς τήνδε 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.

ἦν ἡμῖν, ὦναξ, Λαίῳς ποθ' ἡγεμῶν
γῆς τῆσδε, πρὶν σέ τήνδ' ἀπευθύνειν πόλιν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἔξοιδ' ἀκούων· οὐ γὰρ εἰσεῖδόν γέ πω.

105

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

τούτου θανόντος νῦν ἐπιστέλλει σαφῶς
τοὺς αὐτοέντας χειρὶ τιμωρεῖν τινας.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

οἱ δ' εἰσὶ ποῦ γῆς ; ποῦ τόδ' εὐρεθήσεται
ἵχνος παλαιᾶς δυστέκμαρτον αἰτίας ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἐν τῇδ' ἔφασκε γῇ. τὸ δὲ ζητούμενον
άλωτόν, ἐκφεύγει δὲ τὰ μελούμενον.

110

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

πότερα δ' ἐν οἴκοις, ἢ 'ν ἀγροῖς ὁ Λαίῳς,
ἢ γῆς ἐπ' ἄλλης τῷδε συμπίπτει φόνω ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

θεωρός, ὡς ἔφασκεν, ἐκδημῶν, πάλιν
πρὸς οἶκον οὐκέθ' ἵκεθ', ὡς ἀπεστάλη.

115

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

οὐδ' ἄγγελός τις οὐδὲ συμπράκτωρ ὁδοῦ
κατεῖδεν, οὗ τις ἐκμαθὼν ἐχρήσατ' ἄν ;

KING OEDIPUS.

CREON.

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

OEDIPUS.

I know him by report. I never saw him.

CREON.

The god commandeth 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 Læus 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.

θνήσκουσι γάρ, πλὴν εἰς τις, ὃς φόβῳ φυγὼν
ὧν εἶδε πλὴν ἐν οὐδὲν εἶχ' εἰδὼς φράσαι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τὸ ποῖον ; ἐν γὰρ πόλλ' ἂν ἐξεύροι μαθεῖν, 120
ἀρχὴν βραχείαν εἰ λάβοιμεν ἐλπίδος.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ληστὰς ἔφασκε συντυχόντας οὐ μιᾷ
ῥώμῃ κτανεῖν νιν, ἀλλὰ σὺν πλήθει χερῶν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

πῶς οὖν ὁ ληστής, εἴ τι μὴ ξὺν ἀργύρῳ
ἐπράσσειτ' ἐνθένδ', ἐς τόδ' ἂν τόλμης ἔβη ; 125

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

δοκοῦντα ταῦτ' ἦν · Λαΐου δ' ὀλωλότος
οὐδεὶς ἀρωγὸς ἐν κακοῖς ἐγίγνετο.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

κακὸν δὲ ποῖον ἐμποδὼν τυραννίδος
οὕτω πεσούσης εἶργε τοῦτ' ἐξειδέναι ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἡ ποικιλωδὸς Σφίγξ τὸ πρὸς ποσὶ σκοπεῖν 130
μεθέντας ἡμᾶς τὰφανῇ προσήγετο.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἀλλ' ἐξ ὑπαρχῆς αὐθις αὐτ' ἐγὼ φανῶ.
ἐπαξίως γὰρ Φοῖβος, ἀξίως δὲ σὺ
πρὸς τοῦ θανόντος τήνδ' ἔθεσθ' ἐπιστροφὴν ·

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 Larus 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

ὥστ' ἐνδίκως ὄψεσθε κάμῃ σύμμαχον, 135
 γῇ τῇδε τιμωροῦντα τῷ θεῷ θ' ἅμα.
 ὑπὲρ γὰρ οὐχὶ τῶν ἀπωτέρω φίλων,
 ἀλλ' αὐτὸς αὐτοῦ, τοῦτ' ἀποσκεδῶ μύσος.
 ὅστις γὰρ ἦν ἐκείνον ὁ κτανὼν τάχ' ἂν
 κάμ' ἂν τοιαύτῃ χειρὶ τιμωρεῖν θέλοι. 140
 κείνῳ προσαρκῶν οὖν ἑμαυτὸν ὠφελῶ.
 ἀλλ' ὡς τάχιστα, παῖδες, ὑμεῖς μὲν βάρβρων
 ἴστασθε, τοῦσδ' ἄραντες ἰκτῆρας κλάδους,
 ἄλλος δὲ Κάδμου λαὸν ὧδ' ἀθροίζετω,
 ὥς πᾶν ἐμοῦ δράσοντος. ἥ γὰρ εὐτυχεῖς 145
 σὺν τῷ θεῷ φανούμεθ', ἥ πεπτωκότες.

[*Exeunt* ŒDIPUS et CREON.

ΙΕΡΕΤΣ.

ὦ παῖδες, ἰστώμεσθα. τῶνδε γὰρ χάριν
 καὶ δεῦρ' ἔβημεν ὧν ὅδ' ἐξαγγέλλεται.
 Φοῖβος δ' ὁ πέμψας τάσδε μαντείας ἅμα
 σωτήρ θ' ἵκοιτο καὶ νόσου παυστήριος. 150

[*Exeunt supplices.*

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

στρ. α.

ὦ Διὸς ἄδυεπὲς Φάτι, τίς ποτε τᾶς πολυχρύσου [*Introit.*
 Πυθῶνος ἀγλαὰς ἔβας
 Θήβας; ἐκτέταμαι, φοβεράν φρένα δείματι πάλλων,
 ἱήϊε Δάλιε Παιάν,
 ἀμφὶ σοὶ ἀζόμενος, τί μοι ἦ νέον ἦ περιτελλομέναις
 ὥραις πάλιν 155
 ἐξανύσεις χρέος· εἰπέ μοι, ὦ χρυσεῆας τέκνον Ἑλπίδος, ἅμ-
 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 Laïus 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 Thebè bright,
What wilt thou bring to-day?
Ah, Delian Paeon, 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. α.

πρῶτά σε κεκλόμενος, θύγατερ Διός, ἄμβροτ' Ἀθήνα,
 γαιίοχόν τ' ἀδελφεῖον 160
 Ἄρτεμιν, ἃ κυκλόεντ' ἀγορᾷς θρόνον εὐκλέα θάσσει,
 καὶ Φοῖβον ἐκαβόλον, ἰώ,
 τρισσοὶ ἀλεξιμόροι προφάνητέ μοι, εἴ ποτε καὶ προ-
 τέρας ἄτας ὑπερ
 ὀρνυμένας πόλει ἡνύσατ' ἐκτοπίαν φλόγα πῆματος, ἔλθετε
 καὶ νῦν. 165

στρ. β'.

ὦ πόποι, ἀνάριθμα γὰρ φέρω
 πῆματα· νοσεῖ δέ μοι πρόπας
 στόλος, οὐδ' ἐνὶ φροντίδος ἔγχος 170
 ὧς τις ἀλέξεται· οὔτε γὰρ ἔκγονα
 κλυτὰς χθονὸς αὔξεται, οὔτε τόκοισιν
 ἱγῆων καμάτων ἀνέχουσι γυναῖκες·
 ἄλλον δ' ἂν ἄλλῃ προσίδοις, ἅπερ εὐπτερον ὄρνιν 175
 κρεῖσσον ἀμαιμακέτου πυρὸς ὄρμενον
 ἀκτὰν πρὸς ἐσπέρου θεοῦ·

ἀντ. β'.

ὦν πόλις ἀνάριθμος ὄλλυται·
 νηλέα δὲ γένεθλα πρὸς πέδῳ 180
 θαναταφόρα κείται ἀνοίκτως·
 ἐν δ' ἄλοχοι πολιαί τ' ἐπὶ ματέρες
 ἀκτὰν παρὰ βώμιον ἄλλοθεν ἄλλαι 185
 λυγρῶν πόνων ἰκτῆρες ἐπιστενάρχουσιν.
 παιὰν δὲ λάμπει στονόεσσά τε γῆρυς ὄμαυλος·
 ὦν ὑπερ, ὦ χρυσέα θύγατερ Διός,
 εὐῶπα 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.

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

στρ. γ.

Ἄρεά τε τὸν μαλερόν, ὃς νῦν ἄχαλκος ἀσπίδων 190
φλέγει με περιβόατος ἀντιάζων,
παλίσσυτον δράμημα νωτίσαι πάτρας
ἄπουρον, εἴτ' ἐς μέγαν θάλαμον Ἀμφιτρίτας, 195
εἴτ' ἐς τὸν ἀπόξενον ὄρμον Θρήκιον κλύδωνα·
τέλει γὰρ εἴ τι νύξ ἀφῆ, τοῦτ' ἐπ' ἡμαρ ἔρχεται·
τόν, ὃ τῶν πυρφόρων ἀστραπᾶν κράτη νέμων, 200
ὦ Ζεῦ πάτερ, ὑπὸ σῶ φθίσον κεραυνῶ.

ἀντ. γ.

Λύκει' ἄναξ, τά τε σὰ χρυσοστροφῶν ἀπ' ἀγκυλᾶν
βέλεα θέλοιμ' ἂν ἀδάματ' ἐνδατεῖσθαι 205
ἄρωγὰ προσταχθέντα, τᾶς τε πυρφόρους
Ἀρτέμιδος αἴγλας, ξὺν αἷς Λύκι' ὄρη διάσσει· [Introit CD.
τὸν χρυσομίτραν τε κικλήσκω τᾶσδ' ἐπώνυμον γᾶς, 210
οἰνώπα Βάκχον εὖιον, Μαινάδων ὁμόστολον
πελασθῆναι φλέγοντ' ἀγλαῶπι σύμμαχον
πεύκα' πρὶ τὸν ἀπότιμον ἐν θεοῖς θεόν. 215

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

αἰτεῖς· ἃ δ' αἰτεῖς, τᾶμ' ἐὰν θέλῃς ἔπη
κλύων δέχεσθαι τῇ νόσῳ θ' ὑπηρετεῖν,
ἀλκὴν λάβοις ἂν κἀνακούφισιν κακῶν·
ἀγὼ ξένος μὲν τοῦ λόγου τοῦδ' ἐξερῶ,
ξένος δὲ τοῦ πραχθέντος. οὐ γὰρ ἂν μακρὰν 220
ἔχνεον αὐτός, οὐκ ἔχων τι σύμβολον.
νῦν δ', ὕστερος γὰρ ἀστὸς εἰς ἀστοὺς τελῶ,
ὕμῃν προφωνῶ πᾶσι Καδμείοις τάδε·
ὅστις ποθ' ὑμῶν Λαῖον τὸν Λαβδάκου

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 Amphitritè 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

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

κάτοιδεν ἀνδρὸς ἐκ τίνος διώλετο, 225
 τοῦτον κελεύω πάντα σημαίνειν ἐμοί·
 κεί μὲν φοβεῖται, τοῦπίκλημ' ὑπεξελών
 αὐτὸς καθ' αὐτοῦ. πείσεται γὰρ ἄλλο μὲν
 ἀστεργές οὐδέν, γῆς δ' ἄπεισιν ἀσφαλής·
 εἰ δ' αὖ τις ἄλλον οἶδεν ἐξ ἄλλης χθονὸς 230
 τὸν αὐτόχειρα, μὴ σιωπάτω· τὸ γὰρ
 κέρδος τελῶ 'γὼ χῆ χάρις προσκείσεται.
 εἰ δ' αὖ σιωπήσεσθε, καί τις ἢ φίλου
 δείσας ἀπώσει τοῦπος ἢ χαυτοῦ τόδε,
 ἀκ τῶνδε δράσω, ταῦτα χρὴ κλύειν ἐμοῦ. 235
 τὸν ἄνδρ' ἀπαυδῶ τοῦτον, ὅστις ἐστί, γῆς
 τῆσδ', ἧς ἐγὼ κράτη τε καὶ θρόνους νέμω,
 μήτ' ἐσδέχεσθαι μήτε προσφωνεῖν τινα,
 μήτ' ἐν θεῶν εὐχαῖσι μήτε θύμασιν
 κοινὸν ποιεῖσθαι, μήτε χέρνιβος νέμειν· 240
 ὠθεῖν δ' ἀπ' οἴκων πάντας, ὡς μιάσματος
 τοῦδ' ἡμῖν ὄντος, ὡς τὸ Πυθικὸν θεοῦ
 μαντεῖον ἐξέφηνεν ἀρτίως ἐμοί.
 ἐγὼ μὲν οὖν τοιόσδε τῷ τε δαίμονι
 τῷ τ' ἀνδρὶ τῷ θανόντι σύμμαχος πέλω· 245
 κατεύχομαι δὲ τὸν δεδρακότ', εἴτε τις
 εἷς ὧν λέληθεν εἴτε πλειόνων μέτα,
 κακὸν κακῶς νιν ἄμορον ἐκτρίψαι βίον.
 ἐπεύχομαι δ', οἴκοισιν εἰ ξυνέστιος
 ἐν τοῖς ἐμοῖς γένοιτ' ἐμοῦ συνειδότος, 250
 παθεῖν ἅπερ τοῖσδ' ἀρτίως ἡρασάμην.
 ὑμῖν δὲ ταῦτα πάντ' ἐπισκῆπτω τελεῖν,

KING OEDIPUS.

Of Larus 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

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ὑπέρ τ' ἑμαυτοῦ, τοῦ θεοῦ τε, τῆσδ' ἐγὼ
 γῆς ὧδ' ἀκάρπως καὶ θέως ἐφθαρμένης.
 οὐδ' εἰ γὰρ ἦν τὸ πρᾶγμα μὴ θεήλατον, 255
 ἀκάθαρτον ὑμᾶς εἰκὸς ἦν οὕτως εἶναι,
 ἀνδρός γ' ἀρίστου βασιλέως τ' ὀλωλότος,
 ἀλλ' ἐξερευνᾶν· νῦν δ' ἐπεὶ κυρῶ γ' ἐγὼ
 ἔχων μὲν ἀρχάς, ἃς ἐκεῖνος εἶχε πρίν,
 ἔχων δὲ λέκτρα καὶ γυναῖχ' ὁμόσπορον, 260
 κοινῶν τε παίδων κοῖν' ἄν, εἰ κείνῳ γένος
 μὴ ὀδυστύχησεν, ἣν ἂν ἐκπεφυκότα,
 νῦν δ' ἐς τὸ κείνου κρᾶτ' ἐνήλαθ' ἡ τύχη·
 ἀνθ' ὧν ἐγὼ τάδ', ὥσπερ εἰ τοῦμοῦ πατρός,
 ὑπερμαχοῦμαι καὶ πᾶντ' ἀφίξομαι, 265
 ζητῶν τὸν αὐτόχειρα τοῦ φόνου λαβεῖν
 τῷ Λαβδακείῳ παιδὶ Πολυδώρου τε καὶ
 τοῦ πρόσθε Κάδμου τοῦ πάλαι τ' Ἀγήνορος·
 καὶ ταῦτα τοῖς μὴ δρῶσιν εὐχομαι θεοὺς
 μήτ' ἄροτον αὐτοῖς γῆς ἀνιέναι τινα 270
 μήτ' οὖν γυναικῶν παῖδας, ἀλλὰ τῷ πότμῳ
 τῷ νῦν φθερεῖσθαι καὶ τοῦδ' ἐχθίονι·
 ὑμῖν δὲ τοῖς ἄλλοισι Καδμείοις, ὅσοις
 τάδ' ἔστ' ἀρέσκουσθ', ἣ τε σύμμαχος Δίκη
 χοῖ πάντες εὖ ξυνείεν εἰσαεὶ θεοί. 275

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ὥσπερ μ' ἀραίον ἔλαβες, ὧδ', ἄναξ, ἐρῶ.
 οὐτ' ἔκτανον γὰρ οὔτε τὸν κτανόντ' ἔχω
 δεῖξαι. τὸ δὲ ζήτημα τοῦ πέμψαντος ἦν
 Φοίβου τόδ' εἰπεῖν, ὅστις εἴργασται 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.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

δίκαι' ἔλεξας· ἀλλ' ἀναγκάσαι θεοὺς
ἂν μὴ θέλωσιν οὐδ' ἂν εἰς δύναιτ' ἀνὴρ.

280

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τὰ δεύτερ' ἐκ τῶνδ' ἂν λέγοιμ' ἀμοὶ δοκεῖ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

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

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἄνακτ' ἄνακτι ταῦθ' ὀρώντ' ἐπίσταμαι
μάλιστα Φοίβῳ Τειρεσίαν, παρ' οὗ τις ἂν
σκοπῶν τάδ', ὦναξ, ἐκμάθοι σαφέστατα.

285

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐν ἀργοῖς οὐδὲ τοῦτ' ἐπραξάμην.
ἔπεμψα γὰρ Κρέοντος εἰπόντος διπλοῦς
πομπούς· πάλαι δὲ μὴ παρὼν θαυμάζεται.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

καὶ μὴν τά γ' ἄλλα κωφὰ καὶ παλαί' ἔπη.

290

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τὰ ποῖα ταῦτα ; πάντα γὰρ σκοπῶ λόγον.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

θανεῖν ἐλέχθη πρὸς τινων ὁδοιπόρων.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἤκουσα καὶ γὰρ· τὸν δ' ἰδόντ' οὐδεὶς ὀρᾷ.

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' εἴ τι μὲν δὴ δειμάτων ἔχει μέρος,
τὰς σὰς ἀκούων οὐ μενεῖ τοιάσδ' ἀράς.

295

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ὦ μή' στί δρῶντι τάρβος, οὐδ' ἔπος φοβεῖ.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἀλλ' οὐξ ἐλέγχων αὐτὸν ἔστιν· οἷδε γὰρ
τὸν θεῖον ἤδη μάντιν ὧδ' ἄγουσιν, ὦ
τάληθές ἐμπέφυκεν ἀνθρώπων μόνῳ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ὦ πάντα νωμῶν Τειρεσία, διδακτά τε 300
ἄρρητά τ', οὐράνιά τε καὶ χθονοστιβῇ, [*Introit TIRESIAS.*
πόλιν μὲν, εἰ καὶ μὴ βλέπεις, φρονεῖς δ' ὅμως
οἷα νόσῳ σύνεστιν· ἥς σὲ προστάτην
σωτήρ᾽ αὖ, ὦναξ, μῦνον ἐξευρίσκομεν.
Φοῖβος γάρ, εἰ καὶ μὴ κλύεις τῶν ἀγγέλων, 305
πέμψασιν ἡμῖν ἀντέπεμψεν, ἔκλυσιν
μόνην ἂν ἐλθεῖν τοῦδε τοῦ νοσήματος,
εἰ τοὺς κτανόντας Λαῖον μαθόντες εὖ
κτείναιμεν, ἢ γῆς φυγάδας ἐκπεμψαίμεθα.
σὺ δ' οὖν φθονήσας μήτ' ἀπ' οἰωνῶν φάτιν 310
μήτ' εἴ τι ν' ἄλλην μαντικῆς ἔχεις ὁδόν,
ῥῦσαι σεαυτὸν καὶ πόλιν, ῥῦσαι δ' ἐμέ,
ῥῦσαι δὲ πᾶν μῖασμα τοῦ τεθνηκότος.
ἐν σοὶ γὰρ ἐσμέν· ἄνδρα δ' ὠφελεῖν ἀφ' ὧν
ἔχοι τε καὶ δύναιτο κάλλιστος πόνων. 315

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 Laius,
Or drove them exiles from our land. Thou, then,
Withhold not any word of augury
Or other divination which thou knowest,
But rescue Thebè, 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.

φεῦ φεῦ, φρονεῖν ὥς δεινὸν ἔνθα μὴ τέλη
λύη φρονούντι. ταῦτα γὰρ καλῶς ἐγὼ
εἰδὼς διώλεσ'· οὐ γὰρ ἂν δεῦρ' ἰκόμην.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τί δ' ἔστιν; ὥς ἄθυμος εἰσελήλυθας.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

ἄφες μ' ἐς οἴκους· ῥᾶστα γὰρ τὸ σὸν τε σὺ
κάγῳ διοίσω τοῦμόν, ἣν ἐμοὶ πίθη.

320

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οὔτ' ἔννομ' εἶπας οὔτε προσφιλὴ πόλει
τῇδ', ἣ σ' ἔθρεψε, τήνδ' ἀποστερῶν φάτιν.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

ὀρῶ γὰρ οὐδὲ σοὶ τὸ σὸν φώνημ' ἶον
πρὸς καιρόν· ὥς οὖν μηδ' ἐγὼ ταῦτόν πάθω —

325

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

μὴ πρὸς θεῶν φρονῶν γ' ἀποστραφῆς, ἐπεὶ
πάντες σε προσκυνούμεν οἷδ' ἰκτήριοι.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

πάντες γὰρ οὐ φρονεῖτ'. ἐγὼ δ' οὐ μή ποτε
τάμ' ὥς ἂν εἶπω μὴ τὰ σ' ἐκφῆνω κακά.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τί φῆς; ξυνειδὼς οὐ φράσεις, ἀλλ' ἐννοεῖς
ἡμᾶς προδοῦναι καὶ καταφθεῖραι πόλιν;

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 entreating 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 οὐτ' ἐμαντὸν οὔτε σ' ἀλγυνῶ. τί ταῦτ'
ἄλλως ἐλέγχεις ; οὐ γὰρ ἂν πύθοιό μου.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

οὐκ, ὦ κακῶν κάκιστε, καὶ γὰρ ἂν πέτρου
φύσιν σύ γ' ὀργάνειας, ἐξερεῖς ποτε,
ἀλλ' ὧδ' ἄτεγκτος κατελεύτητος φανεῖ ;

335

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

ὀργὴν ἐμέμφω τὴν ἐμήν, τὴν σὴν δ' ὁμοῦ
ναίουσαν οὐ κατείδες, ἀλλ' ἐμὲ ψέγεις.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

τίς γὰρ τοιαῦτ' ἂν οὐκ ἂν ὀργίζοιτ' ἔπη
κλύων, ἃ νῦν σὺ τήνδ' ἀτιμάζεις πόλιν ;

340

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

ἥξει γὰρ αὐτά, καὶ ἐγὼ σιγῇ στέγω.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

οὐκοῦν ἄ γ' ἥξει καὶ σὲ χρὴ λέγειν ἐμοί.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

οὐκ ἂν πέρα φράσαιμι. πρὸς τὰδ', εἰ θέλεις,
θυμοῦ δι' ὀργῆς ἥτις ἀγριωτάτη.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

καὶ μὴν παρήσω γ' οὐδέν, ὥς ὀργῆς ἔχω,
ἅπερ ξυνίημ'. ἴσθι γὰρ δοκῶν ἐμοὶ
καὶ ξυμφυτεῦσαι τοῦργον, εἰργάσθαι θ', ὅσον
μὴ χερσὶ καίνων· εἰ δ' ἐτύγχανες βλέπων,
καὶ τοῦργον ἂν σοῦ τοῦτ' ἔφην εἶναι 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.

ἄληθες ; ἐννέπω δὲ τῷ κηρύγματι 350
ᾧπερ προεῖπας ἐμμένειν, καὶ ἡμέρας
τῆς νῦν προσαιδᾶν μήτε τούσδε μήτ' ἐμέ,
ὥς ὄντι γῆς τῆσδ' ἀνοσίῳ μιάστορι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οὕτως ἀναιδῶς ἐξεκίνησας τόδε 355
τὸ ῥῆμα ; καὶ ποῦ τοῦτο φεύξεσθαι δοκεῖς ;

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

πέφευγα · τὰληθὲς γὰρ ἰσχύουν τρέφω.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

πρὸς τοῦ διδαχθεῖς ; οὐ γὰρ ἔκ γε τῆς τέχνης.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

πρὸς σοῦ · σὺ γάρ μ' ἄκοντα προὔτρεψω λέγειν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ποῖον λόγον ; λέγ' αὖθις, ὥς μᾶλλον μάθω.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

οὐχὶ ξυνῆκας πρόσθεν ; ἢ 'κπειρᾶ λόγῳ ; 360

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οὐχ ὥστε γ' εἰπεῖν γνωστόν · ἀλλ' αὖθις φράσον.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

φονέα σέ φημι τάνδρὸς οὐ ζητεῖς κυρεῖν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἀλλ' οὐ τι χαίρων δὶς γε πημονὰς ἐρεῖς.

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.

εἶπω τι δῆτα κάλλ', ἵν' ὀργίζῃ πλέον ;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ὅσον γε χρήξεις · ὥς μάτην εἰρήσεται.

365

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

λεληθέναι σέ φημι σὺν τοῖς φιλτάτοις
αἴσχισθ' ὁμιλοῦντ', οὐδ' ὁρᾶν ἵν' εἴ κακοῦ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἦ καὶ γεγηθὼς ταῦτ' ἀεὶ λέξειν δοκεῖς ;

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

εἶπερ τί γ' ἔστι τῆς ἀληθείας σθένος.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἀλλ' ἔστι, πλὴν σοί · σοὶ δὲ τοῦτ' οὐκ ἔστ', ἐπεὶ 370
τυφλὸς τά τ' ὦτα τὸν τε νοῦν τά τ' ὄμματ' εἶ.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

σὺ δ' ἄθλιός γε ταῦτ' ὀνειδίζων, ἂ σοὶ
οὐδεὶς ὃς οὐχὶ τῶνδ' ὀνειδιεῖ τάχα.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

μῖᾱς τρέφει πρὸς νυκτός, ὥστε μήτ' ἐμὲ
μήτ' ἄλλον, ὅστις φῶς ὁρᾷ, βλάψαι ποτ' ἄν.

375

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

οὐ γάρ σε μοῖρα πρὸς γ' ἐμοῦ πεσεῖν, ἐπεὶ
ἱκανὸς Ἀπόλλων, ᾧ τὰδ' ἐκπρᾶξαι μέλει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

Κρέοντος, ἥ σοῦ ταῦτα τάξευρήματα ;

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.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ὦ πλούτε καὶ τυραννὶ καὶ τέχνη τέχνης 380
 ὑπερφέρουσα τῷ πολυζήλῳ βίῳ,
 ὅσος παρ' ὑμῖν ὁ φθόνος φυλάσσεται,
 εἰ τῆσδέ γ' ἀρχῆς οὕνεχ', ἣν ἐμοὶ πόλις
 δωρητόν, οὐκ αἰτητόν, εἰσεχείρισεν,
 ταύτης Κρέων ὁ πιστός, οὐξ ἀρχῆς φίλος, 385
 λάθρα μ' ὑπελθὼν ἐκβαλεῖν ἰμείρεται,
 ὑφεῖς μάγον τοιόνδε μηχανορράφον,
 δόλιον ἀγύρτην, ὅστις ἐν τοῖς κέρδεσιν
 μόνον δέδορκε, τὴν τέχνην δ' ἔφυ τυφλός.
 ἐπεὶ, φέρ' εἰπέ, ποῦ σὺ μάντις εἰ σαφής; 390
 πῶς οὐχ, ὅθ' ἡ ῥαψῳδὸς ἐνθάδ' ἦν κύων,
 ἠῦδας τι τοῖσδ' ἀστοῖσιν ἐκλυτήριον;
 καίτοι τό γ' αἰνιγμ' οὐχὶ τοῦπιόντος ἦν
 ἀνδρὸς διειπεῖν, ἀλλὰ μαντείας ἔδει·
 ἦν οὔτ' ἀπ' οἰωνῶν σὺ προφάνης ἔχων 395
 οὔτ' ἐκ θεῶν του γνωτόν· ἀλλ' ἐγὼ μολῶν,
 ὁ μὴδὲν εἰδὼς Οἰδίπους, ἔπαυσά νιν,
 γνώμη κυρήσας οὐδ' ἀπ' οἰωνῶν μαθὼν·
 ὃν δὴ σὺ πειρᾶς ἐκβαλεῖν, δοκῶν θρόνους
 παραστατήσιν τοῖς Κρεοντείοις πέλας. 400
 κλαίων δοκεῖς μοι καὶ σὺ χῶ συνθεῖς τάδε
 ἀγηλατήσιν· εἰ δὲ μὴ δόκεις γέρων
 εἶναι, παθὼν ἔγνωσ' ἂν οἶά 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.

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἡμῖν μὲν εἰκάζουσι καὶ τὰ τοῦδ' ἔπη
 ὀργῇ λελέχθαι καὶ τὰ σ', Οἰδίπου, δοκεῖ. 495
 δεῖ δ' οὐ τοιούτων, ἀλλ' ὅπως τὰ τοῦ θεοῦ
 μαντεῖ' ἄριστα λύσομεν, τόδε σκοπεῖν.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

εἰ καὶ τυραννεῖς, ἐξισωτέον τὸ γοῦν
 ἴσ' ἀντιλέξαι· τοῦδε γὰρ κἀγὼ κρατῶ.
 οὐ γάρ τι σοὶ ζῶ δοῦλος, ἀλλὰ Λοξία· 410
 ὥστ' οὐ Κρέοντος προστάτου γεγράψομαι.
 λέγω δ', ἐπειδὴ καὶ τυφλὸν μ' ὠνείδισας,
 σὺ καὶ δέδορκας κοῦ βλέπεις ἴν' εἰ κακοῦ,
 οὐδ' ἔνθα ναίεις, οὐδ' ὅτων οἰκεῖς μέτα,
 — ἄρ' οἶσθ' ἀφ' ὧν εἰ ; — καὶ λέληθας ἐχθρὸς ὧν 415
 τοῖς σοῖσιν αὐτοῦ νέρθε κἀπὶ γῆς ἄνω,
 καί σ' ἀμφιπληξὶ μητρός τε καὶ τοῦ σοῦ πατρὸς
 ἐλᾶ ποτ' ἐκ γῆς τῆσδε δεινόπους ἀρά,
 βλέποντα νῦν μὲν ὄρθ', ἔπειτα δὲ σκότον.
 βοῆς δὲ τῆς σῆς ποῖος οὐκ ἔσται λιμήν, 420
 ποῖος Κιθαιρῶν οὐχὶ σύμφωνος τάχα,
 ὅταν καταίσθῃ τὸν ὑμέναιον, ὃν δόμοις
 ἄνορμον εἰσέπλευσας, εὐπλοίας τυχών ;
 ἄλλων δὲ πλήθος οὐκ ἐπαισθάνει κακῶν,
 ἃ σ' ἐξισώσει σοὶ τε καὶ τοῖς σοῖς τέκνοις. 425
 πρὸς ταῦτα καὶ Κρέοντα καὶ τοῦμόν στομα
 προπηλάκιζε. σοῦ γὰρ οὐκ ἔστιν βροτῶν
 κάκιον ὅστις ἐκτριβήσεταιί 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 Loxias. 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.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἢ ταῦτα δῆτ' ἀνεκτὰ πρὸς τούτου κλύειν ;
οὐκ εἰς ὄλεθρον ; οὐχὶ θάσσουν ; οὐ πάλιν
ἄψορρος οἴκων τῶνδ' ἀποστραφεὶς ἄπει ;

430

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

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

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οὐ γάρ τί σ' ἤδη μῶρα φωνήσουντ', ἐπεὶ
σχολῇ σ' ἂν οἴκους τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἐστειλάμην.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

ἡμεῖς τοιοῖδ' ἔφυμεν, ὥς μὲν σοὶ δοκεῖ,
μῶροι, γονεῦσι δ', οἳ σ' ἔφυσαν, ἔμφρονες.

435

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ποίοισι ; μείνον. τίς δέ μ' ἐκφύει βροτῶν ;

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

ἦδ' ἡμέρα φύσει σε καὶ διαφθερεῖ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ὥς πάντ' ἄγαν αἰνικτὰ κάσαφῇ λέγεις.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

οὔκουν σὺ ταῦτ' ἄριστος εὐρίσκειν ἔφυσ ;

440

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τοιαῦτ' ὀνειδίζ', οἷς ἔμ' εὐρήσεις μέγαν.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

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.

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἀλλ' εἰ πόλιν τήνδ' ἐξέσωσ', οὐ μοι μέλει.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

ἄπειμι τοῖνυν· καὶ σύ, παῖ, κόμιζε με.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

κομιζέτω δῆθ'· ὥς παρὼν σύ γ' ἐμποδὼν 445
ὀχλεῖς, συθείς τ' ἂν οὐκ ἂν ἀλγύναις πλέον.

ΤΕΙΡΕΣΙΑΣ.

εἰπὼν ἄπειμ' ὦν οὔνεκ' ἦλθον, οὐ τὸ σὸν
δείσας πρόσωπον· οὐ γὰρ ἔσθ' ὅπου μ' ὀλεῖς.
λέγω δέ σοι, τὸν ἄνδρα τοῦτον, ὃν πάλαι
ζητεῖς ἀπειλῶν κἀνακηρύσσω φόνον 450
τὸν Λαίτιον, οὗτός ἐστιν ἐνθάδε,
ξένος λόγῳ μέτοικος, εἴτα δ' ἐγγενὴς
φανήσεται Θηβαῖος, οὐδ' ἡσθήσεται
τῇ ξυμφορᾷ· τυφλὸς γὰρ ἐκ δεδορκότος
καὶ πτωχὸς ἀντὶ πλουσίου ξένην ἔπι 455
σκήπτρῳ προδεικνὺς γαῖαν ἐμπορεύσεται.
φανήσεται δὲ παισὶ τοῖς αὐτοῦ ξυνὼν
ἀδελφὸς αὐτὸς καὶ πατήρ, καὶ ἥς ἔφυ
γυναικὸς υἱὸς καὶ πόσις, καὶ τοῦ πατρὸς
ὁμόσπορός τε καὶ φονεύς. καὶ ταῦτ' ἰὼν 460
εἴσω λογίζου· κἂν λάβῃς ἐψευσμένον,
φάσκειν ἔμ' ἤδη μαντικῇ μηδὲν φρονεῖν. [Exeunt.]

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

στρ. α.

τίς ὄντιν' ἅ θεσπιέπεια Δελφὶς εἶπε πέτρα
ἄρρητ' ἄρρητων τελέσαντα φοινίαισι χερσίν; 465

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?

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ὦρα νιν ἀελλάδων
 ἵππων σθεναρώτερον
 φυγᾶ πόδα νωμᾶν.
 ἔνοπλος γὰρ ἐπ' αὐτὸν ἐπενθρώσκει
 πυρὶ καὶ στεροπαῖς ὁ Διὸς γενέτας · 470
 δειναὶ δ' αἶμ' ἔπονται Κῆρες ἀναπλάκητοι.

ἀντ. α.

ἔλαμψε γὰρ τοῦ νιφόεντος ἀρτίως φανείσα
 φάμα Παρνασοῦ τὸν ἄδηλον ἄνδρα πάντ' ἰχνεύειν. 475
 φοιτᾶ γὰρ ὑπ' ἀγρίαν
 ὕλαν ἀνά τ' ἄντρα καὶ
 πετραῖος ὁ ταῦρος,
 μέλεος μελέφ ποδὶ χηρεύων,
 τὰ μεσόμφαλα γᾶς ἀπονοσφίζων 480
 μαντεῖα · τὰ δ' αἰεὶ ζῶντα περιποτᾶται.

στρ. β'.

δεινὰ μὲν οὖν, δεινὰ ταρασσει σοφὸς οἰωνοθέτας
 οὔτε δοκοῦντ' οὔτ' ἀποφάσκουσθ' · ὅ τι λέξω δ' ἀπορῶ. 485
 πέτομαι δ' ἐλπίσιν οὔτ' ἐνθάδ' ὀρώων οὔτ' ὀπίσω.
 τί γὰρ ἢ Λαβδακίδαις
 ἢ τῷ Πολύβου νεῖκος ἔκειτ' οὔτε πάροιθέν ποτ' ἔγωγ' οὔτε
 τανῦν πω 490

ἔμαθον, πρὸς ὅτου χρησάμενος δὴ βασάνῳ
 ἐπὶ τὰν ἐπίδαμον
 φάτιν εἶμ' Οἰδιπόδα Λαβδακίδαις ἐπίκουρος ἀδήλων θανά-
 των. 495

ἀντ. β'.

ἀλλ' ὁ μὲν οὖν Ζεὺς ὅ τ' Ἀπόλλων ξυνετοὶ καὶ τὰ βροτῶν

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

εἰδότες· ἀνδρῶν δ' ὅτι μάντις πλέον ἢ ἡ γὰρ φέρεται, 500
 κρίσις οὐκ ἔστιν ἀληθής· σοφία δ' ἂν σοφίαν
 παραμείψειεν ἀνὴρ.
 ἀλλ' οὔ ποτ' ἔγωγ' ἄν, πρὶν ἰδοίμ' ὀρθὸν ἔπος, μεμφομένων
 ἂν καταφαίην. 505
 φανερά γὰρ ἐπ' αὐτῷ πτερόεσσ' ἦλθε κόρα
 ποτέ, καὶ σοφὸς ὤφθη
 βασάνῳ θ' ἀδύπολις· τῷ ἀπ' ἐμᾶς φρενὸς οὔ ποτ' ὀφλήσει
 κακίαν. 510

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἄνδρες πολῖται, δεῖν' ἔπη πεπυσμένος [Introit.
 κατηγορεῖν μου τὸν τύραννον Οἰδίπουν
 πάρεϊμ' ἀτλητῶν. εἰ γὰρ ἐν ταῖς ξυμφοραῖς 515
 ταῖς νῦν νομίζει πρὸς γ' ἐμοῦ πεπονθέναι
 λόγοισιν εἴτ' ἔργοισιν εἰς βλάβην φέρον,
 οὔτοι βίου μοι τοῦ μακραίωνος πόθος,
 φέροντι τήνδε βάξιν. οὐ γὰρ εἰς ἀπλοῦν
 ἢ ζημία μοι τοῦ λόγου τούτου φέρει, 520
 ἀλλ' ἐς μέγιστον, εἰ κακὸς μὲν ἐν πόλει,
 κακὸς δὲ πρὸς σοῦ καὶ φίλων κεκλήσομαι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἀλλ' ἦλθε μὲν δὴ τοῦτο τοῦνειδος τάχ' ἂν
 ὀργῇ βιασθὲν μάλλον ἢ γνώμῃ φρενῶν.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

τοῦ πρὸς δ' ἐφάνθη ταῖς ἐμαῖς γνώμαις ὅτι 525
 πεισθεὶς ὁ μάντις τοὺς λόγους ψευδεῖς λέγοι;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἡὺδᾶτο μὲν τάδ', οἶδα δ' οὐ γνώμῃ τίνι.

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 Thebè, 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.

ἐξ ὀμμάτων δ' ὀρθῶν τε καὶ ὀρθῆς φρενὸς
κατηγορεῖτο τοῦ πικλῆμα τοῦτό μου ;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

οὐκ οἶδ' · ἅ γὰρ δρῶσ' οἱ κρατοῦντες οὐχ ὀρώ. 530
αὐτὸς δ' ὅδ' ἤδη δωμάτων ἔξω περᾶ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οὗτος σύ, πῶς δεῦρ' ἦλθες ; ἦ τοσόνδ' ἔχεις [Introit.
τόλμης πρόσωπον ὥστε τὰς ἐμὰς στέγας
ἴκου, φονεὺς ὧν τοῦδε τὰνδρὸς ἐμφανῶς
ληστής τ' ἐναργῆς τῆς ἐμῆς τυραννίδος ; 535
φέρ' εἰπὲ πρὸς θεῶν, δειλίαν ἢ μωρίαν
ιδῶν τιν' ἐν ἐμοὶ ταῦτ' ἐβουλεύσω ποιεῖν ;
ἢ τοῦργον ὥς οὐ γνωρίσοιμί σου τόδε
δόλῳ προσέρπον κούκ ἀλεξοίμην μαθῶν ;
ἄρ' οὐχὶ μῶρόν ἐστι τοῦ γχείρημά σου, 540
ἄνευ τε πλήθους καὶ φίλων τυραννίδα
θηρᾶν, ὃ πλήθει χρήμασιν θ' ἀλίσκεται ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

οἶσθ' ὥς ποιήσον ; ἀντὶ τῶν εἰρημένων
ἴσ' ἀντάκουσον, κατὰ κρίν' αὐτὸς μαθῶν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

λέγειν σὺ δεινός, μαυθύνειν δ' ἐγὼ κακὸς 545
σοῦ · δυσμενῇ γὰρ καὶ βαρύν σ' εὗρηκ' ἐμοί.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

τοῦτ' αὐτὸ νῦν μου πρῶτ' ἄκουσον ὥς ἐρῶ.

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 pr'ythee 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 —

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τούτ' αὐτὸ μή μοι φράζ', ὅπως οὐκ εἶ κακός.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

εἴ τοι νομίζεις κτῆμα τὴν αὐθαδίαν
εἶναί τι τοῦ νοῦ χωρίς, οὐκ ὀρθῶς φρονεῖς.

550

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

εἴ τοι νομίζεις ἄνδρα συγγενῇ κακῶς
δρῶν οὐχ ὑφέξειν τὴν δίκην, οὐκ εὖ φρονεῖς.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ξύμφημί σοι ταῦτ' ἔνδικ' εἰρῆσθαι· τὸ δὲ
πάθῃμ' ὅποῖον φῆς παθεῖν δίδασκέ με.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἔπειθες, ἢ οὐκ ἔπειθες, ὥς χρεῖή μ' ἐπὶ
τὸν σεμνόμαντιν ἄνδρα πέμψασθαί τινα;

555

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

καὶ νῦν ἔθ' αὐτός εἰμι τῷ βουλευμάτι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

πόσον τιν' ἤδη δῆθ' ὁ Λαίιος χρόνον —

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

δέδρακε ποῖον ἔργον; οὐ γὰρ ἐννοῶ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἄφαντος ἔρρει θανάσιμῳ χειρώματι;

560

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

μακροὶ παλαιοί τ' ἂν μετρηθεῖεν 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 Læus —

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.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τότ' οὖν ὁ μάντις οὗτος ἦν ἐν τῇ τέχνῃ ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

σοφός γ' ὁμοίως καὶ ἴσου τιμώμενος.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἐμνήσατ' οὖν ἐμοῦ τι τῷ τότ' ἐν χρόνῳ ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

οὔκουν ἐμοῦ γ' ἐστῶτος οὐδαμοῦ πέλας.

565

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἀλλ' οὐκ ἔρευναν τοῦ θανόντος ἔσχετε ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

παρέσχομεν, πῶς δ' οὐχί ; κοῦκ ἠκούσαμεν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

πῶς οὖν τόθ' οὗτος ὁ σοφὸς οὐκ ἤυδα τάδε ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

οὐκ οἶδ' · ἐφ' οἷς γὰρ μὴ φρονῶ σιγᾶν φιλῶ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τοσόνδε γ' οἶσθα καὶ λέγοις ἂν εὖ φρονῶν.

570

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ποῖον τόδ' ; εἰ γὰρ οἶδά γ', οὐκ ἀρνήσομαι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ὀθούνεκ', εἰ μὴ σοὶ ξυνῆλθε, τὰς ἐμὰς
οὐκ ἂν ποτ' εἶπε Λαΐου 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 Laius' death on me.

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

εἰ μὲν λέγει τάδ', αὐτὸς οἶσθ' · ἐγὼ δέ σου
μαθεῖν δικαίῳ ταῦθ' ἅπερ κάμου σὺ νῦν.

575

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἐκμάνθαν' · οὐ γὰρ δὴ φονεὺς ἀλώσομαι.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

τί δῆτ' ; ἀδελφὴν τὴν ἐμὴν γήμας ἔχεις ;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἄρνησις οὐκ ἔνεστιν ὧν ἀνιστορεῖς.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἄρχεις δ' ἐκείνη ταῦτ' αἰ γῆς ἴσον νέμων ;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἂν ᾗ θέλουσα πάντ' ἐμοῦ κομίζεται.

580

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

οὐκ οὐν ἴσοῦμαι σφῶν ἐγὼ δυοῖν τρίτος ;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἐνταῦθα γὰρ δὴ καὶ κακὸς φαίνει φίλος.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

οὐκ, εἰ διδοίης γ' ὥς ἐγὼ σ' αὐτῷ λόγον.
σκέψαι δὲ τοῦτο πρῶτον, εἴ τιν' ἂν δοκεῖς
ἄρχειν ἐλέσθαι ξὺν φόβοισι μᾶλλον ἢ
ἄτρεστον εὖδοντ', εἰ τὰ γ' αὖθ' ἔξει κράτη.
ἐγὼ μὲν οὖν οὐτ' αὐτὸς ἰμείρων ἔφην

585

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 μάλλον ἢ τύραννα δρᾶν,
 οὐτ' ἄλλος ὅστις σωφρονεῖν ἐπίσταται.
 νῦν μὲν γὰρ ἐκ σοῦ πάντ' ἄνευ φόβου φέρω, 590
 εἰ δ' αὐτὸς ἦρχον, πολλὰ καὶ ἄκων ἔδρων.
 πῶς δῆτ' ἐμοὶ τυραννὶς ἡδίων ἔχειν
 ἀρχῆς ἀλύπου καὶ δυναστείας ἔφν;
 οὐπω τοσούτον ἡπατημένος κυρῶ
 ὥστ' ἄλλα χρήζειν ἢ τὰ σὺν κέρδει καλά. 595
 νῦν πᾶσι χαίρω, νῦν με πᾶς ἀσπάζεται,
 νῦν οἱ σέθεν χρήζοντες ἐκκαλοῦσί με·
 τὸ γὰρ τυχεῖν αὐτοῖσι πᾶν ἐνταῦθ' ἐνι.
 πῶς δῆτ' ἐγὼ κεῖν' ἂν λάβοιμ' ἀφείς τάδε;
 οὐκ ἂν γένοιτο νοῦς κακὸς καλῶς φρονῶν. 600
 ἀλλ' οὐτ' ἐραστῆς τῇσδε τῆς γνώμης ἔφυν
 οὐτ' ἂν μετ' ἄλλου δρῶντος ἂν τλαίην ποτέ.
 καὶ τῶνδ' ἔλεγχον τοῦτο μὲν Πυθῶδ' ἰὼν
 πεύθου τὰ χρησθέντ', εἰ σαφῶς ἠγγειλά σοι·
 τοῦτ' ἄλλ', εἴαν με τῷ τερασκόπῳ λάβης 605
 κοινῇ τι βουλευσάντα, μή μ' ἀπλῇ κτάνης
 ψήφῳ, διπλῇ δέ, τῇ τ' ἐμῇ καὶ σῇ, λαβών.
 γνώμη δ' ἀδήλῳ μή με χωρὶς αἰτιῶ.
 οὐ γὰρ δίκαιον οὔτε τοὺς κακοὺς μάτην
 χρηστοὺς νομίζειν οὔτε τοὺς χρηστοὺς κακοὺς. 610
 φίλον γὰρ ἐσθλὸν ἐκβαλεῖν ἴσον λέγω
 καὶ τὸν παρ' αὐτῷ βίοτον, ὃν πλείστον φιλεῖ.
 ἀλλ' ἐν χρόνῳ γνώσει τάδ' ἀσφαλῶς, ἐπεὶ
 χρόνος δίκαιον ἄνδρα δείκνυσιν ὁμόνος,
 κακὸν δὲ καὶ ἐν ἡμέρᾳ γνοίης μίᾳ. 615

KING OEDIPUS.

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 εὐλαβουμένῳ πεσεῖν,
ἄναξ· φρονεῖν γὰρ οἱ ταχεῖς οὐκ ἀσφαλεῖς.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ὅταν ταχύς τις οὐπιβουλεύων λάθρα
χωρῇ, ταχὺν δεῖ καμὲ βουλεύειν πάλιν.
εἰ δ' ἡσυχάζων προσμενῶ, τὰ τοῦδε μὲν
πεπραγμέν' ἔσται, τὰ μὰ δ' ἡμαρτημένα.

620

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

τί δῆτα χρήζεις; ἦ με γῆς ἔξω βαλεῖν;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἥκιστα· θνήσκειν, οὐ φυγεῖν σε βούλομαι.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ὅταν προδείξης οἶόν ἐστι τὸ φθονεῖν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ὥς οὐχ ὑπείξων οὐδὲ πιστεύσων λέγεις;

625

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

οὐ γὰρ φρονοῦντά σ' εὖ βλέπω.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τὸ γοῦν ἐμόν.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἀλλ' ἐξ ἴσου δεῖ καμόν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἀλλ' ἔφυσ κακός.

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 ξυνίης μηδέν ;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἀρκτέον γ' ὅμως.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

οὔτοι κακῶς γ' ἄρχοντος.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ὦ πόλις πόλις.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

κάμοι πόλεως μέτεστιν, οὐχὶ σοὶ μόνῳ.

630

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

παύσασθ', ἄνακτες· καιρίαν δ' ὑμῖν ὀρώ
τήνδ' ἐκ δόμων στείχουσιν Ἰοκάστην, μεθ' ἧς
τὸ νῦν παρεστὸς νέικος εὖ θέσθαι χρεών.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

τί τὴν ἄβουλον, ὦ ταλαίπωροι, στάσιν [Introit.
γλώσσης ἐπήρασθ' ; οὐδ' ἐπαισχύνεσθε, γῆς 635
οὔτω νοσοῦσης, ἴδια κινούμεντες κακά ;
οὐκ εἰ σύ τ' οἴκους σύ τε, Κρέον, κατὰ στέγας,
καὶ μὴ τὸ μηδὲν ἄλγος εἰς μέγ' οἴσετε ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ῥμαιμε, δεινά μ' Οἰδίπους ὁ σὸς πόσις
δρᾶσαι δικαιοῖ, δυοῖν ἀποκρίνας κακοῖν, 640
ἢ γῆς ἀπῶσαι πατρίδος, ἢ κτεῖναι λαβὼν —

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ξύμφημι· δρῶντα γάρ νιν, ὦ γύναι, κακῶς
εἴληφα τοῦμόν σῶμα σὺν τέχνῃ κακῇ.

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 ὀναίμην, ἀλλ' ἀραίος, εἴ σέ τι
δέδρακ', ὀλοίμην, ὧν ἐπαιτιᾷ με δρᾶν.

645

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ὦ πρὸς θεῶν πίστευσον, Οἰδίπους, τάδε,
μάλιστα μὲν τόνδ' ὄρκον αἰδεσθεὶς θεῶν,
ἔπειτα καμὲ τούσδε θ' οὐ παρέισί σοι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

στρ.

πιθοῦ θελήσας φρονήσας τ', ἄναξ, λίσσομαι.

650

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τί σοι θέλεις δῆτ' εἰκάθω ;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τὸν οὔτε πρὶν νήπιον νῦν τ' ἐν ὄρκῳ μέγαν καταίδεσαι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

οἶσθ' οὖν ἂν χρήζεις ;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

οἶδα.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

φράζε δὴ· τί φῆς ; 655

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τὸν ἐναγῇ φίλον μήποτ' ἐν αἰτίᾳ
σὺν ἀφανεί λόγῳ σ' ἄτιμον βαλεῖν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

εὖ νυν ἐπίστω, ταῦθ' ὅταν ζητῆς, ἐμοὶ
ζητῶν ὄλεθρον ἢ 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?

CHORUS.

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.

οὐ τὸν πάντων θεῶν θεὸν πρόμον 660
"Αλιον· ἐπεὶ ἄθεος ἄφίλος ὅ τι πύματον
ὀλοίμαν, φρόνησιν εἰ τάνδ' ἔχω.
ἀλλὰ μοι δυσμόρφ γὰ φθινὰς 665
τρύχει ψυχάν, τὰδ' εἰ κακοῖς κακὰ
προσάψει τοῖς πάλαι τὰ πρὸς σφῶν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ὁ δ' οὖν ἵτω, κεῖ χρή με παντελῶς θανεῖν,
ἧ γῆς ἄτιμον τῆσδ' ἀπωσθῆναι βία. 670
τὸ γὰρ σόν, οὐ τὸ τοῦδ', ἐποικτεῖρω στόμα
ἐλεινόν· οὗτος δ', ἔνθ' ἂν ᾗ, στυγήσεται.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

στυγνὸς μὲν εἶκων δῆλος εἶ, βαρὺς δ', ὅταν
θυμοῦ περάσῃς. αἱ δὲ τοιαῦται φύσεις 675
αὐταῖς δικαίως εἰσὶν ἄλγισται φέρειν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οὔκουν μ' ἐάσεις κακτὸς εἶ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

πορεύσομαι,
σοῦ μὲν τυχῶν ἀγνώτος, ἐν δὲ τοῖσδ' ἴσος. [Exit.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἀντ.

γύναι, τί μέλλεις κομίζειν δόμων τόνδ' ἔσω;

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

μαθοῦσά γ' ἥτις ἡ τύχη. 680

4 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.

δόκησις ἀγνώς λόγων ἦλθε, δάκνει δὲ καὶ τὸ μὴ ὕδικον.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ἀμφοῖν ἀπ' αὐτοῖν ;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ναίχι.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

καὶ τίς ἦν λόγος ;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἄλῃς ἔμοιγ', ἄλῃς, γὰρ προπονουμένας,
φαίνεται ἔνθ' ἔληξεν αὐτοῦ μένειν.

685

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ὄρῃς ἔν' ἤκεις, ἀγαθὸς ὢν γνώμην ἀνὴρ,
τοῦμὸν παριεῖς καὶ καταμβλύνων κέαρ ;

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἄναξ, εἶπον μὲν οὐχ ἄπαξ μόνον,
ἴσθι δὲ παραφρόνιμον, ἄπορον ἐπὶ φρόνιμα
πεφάνθαι μ' ἄν, εἴ σε νοσφίζομαι,
ὅς τ' ἐμὰν γὰρ φίλαν ἐν πόνοις
σαλεύουσιν κατ' ὀρθὸν οὕρισας,
τανῦν τ' εὐπομπὸς εἰ γένοιο.

690

695

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

πρὸς θεῶν δίδαξον καὶ μ', ἄναξ, ὅτου ποτὲ
μῆνιν τοσὴνδε πράγματος στήσας ἔχεις.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ἐρῶ· σὲ γὰρ τῶνδ' ἐς πλεόν, γύναι, σέβω·
Κρέοντος, οἷά μοι βεβουλευκὼς ἔχει.

700

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,
Amplly 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.

λέγ', εἰ σαφῶς τὸ νείκος ἐγκαλῶν ἐρεῖς.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

φονέα μέ φησι Λαῖου καθεστάναι.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

αὐτὸς ξυνειδώς, ἢ μαθὼν ἄλλου πάρα ;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

μάντιν μὲν οὖν κακούργον εἰσπέμψας, ἐπεὶ 705
τό γ' εἰς ἑαυτὸν πᾶν ἐλευθεροῖ στόμα.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

σύ νυν ἀφείς σεαυτὸν ὧν λέγεις πέρι
ἐμοῦ ἴπικουσον καὶ μάθ' οὔνεκ' ἐστί σοι
βρότειον οὐδὲν μαντικῆς ἔχον τέχνης.
φανῶ δέ σοι σημεῖα τῶνδε σύντομα. 710
χρησμὸς γὰρ ἦλθε Λαίῳ ποτ', οὐκ ἐρῶ
Φοίβου γ' ἀπ' αὐτοῦ, τῶν δ' ὑπηρετῶν ἄπο,
ὥς αὐτὸν ἦξοι μοῖρα πρὸς παιδὸς θανεῖν,
ὅστις γένοιτ' ἐμοῦ τε κακείνου πάρα.
καὶ τὸν μὲν, ὥσπερ γ' ἡ φάτις, ξένοι ποτὲ 715
λησταὶ φονεύουσ' ἐν τριπλαῖς ἀμαξιτοῖς·
παιδὸς δὲ βλάστας οὐ διέσχον ἡμέραι
τρεῖς, καὶ νιν ἄρθρα κείνος ἐνζεύξας ποδοῖν
ἔρριψεν ἄλλων χερσὶν εἰς ἄβατον ὄρος.
κάνταυθ' Ἀπόλλων οὔτ' ἐκείνον ἥνυσεν 720
φονέα γενέσθαι πατρὸς οὔτε Λαῖον,
τὸ δεινὸν οὐφοβεῖτο, 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 Larus 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 genderèd.
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 Larus
The thing he greatly feared, death by his son.

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

τοιαῦτα φῆμαι μαντικαὶ διώρισαν,
ὧν ἐντρέπου σὺ μηδέν· ὧν γὰρ ἂν θεὸς
χρεῖαν ἐρευνᾷ ῥαδίως αὐτὸς φανεῖ.

725

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

οἶόν μ' ἀκούσαντ' ἀρτίως ἔχει, γύναι,
ψυχῆς πλάνημα κἀνακίνησις φρενῶν.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ποίας μερίμνης τοῦθ' ὑποστραφεῖς λέγεις ;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἔδοξ' ἀκούσαι σοῦ τόδ', ὥς ὁ Δαῖος
κατασφαγείη πρὸς τριπλαῖς ἀμαξιτοῖς.

730

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ἠὺδ' αὖτο γὰρ ταῦτ' οὐδέ πω λήξαντ' ἔχει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

καὶ ποῦ 'σθ' ὁ χῶρος οὗτος οὗ τόδ' ἦν πάθος ;

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

Φωκὶς μὲν ἡ γῆ κλήζεται, σχιστὴ δ' ὁδὸς
εἰς ταῦτ' Ἀελφῶν καὶ πρὸς Δαυλίας ἄγει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

καὶ τίς χρόνος τοῖσδ' ἐστὶν οὕτως ἐληλυθώς ;

735

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

σχεδόν τι πρόσθεν ἢ σὺ τῆσδ' ἔχων χθονὸς
ἀρχὴν ἐφαίνου τοῦτ' ἐκηρύχθη πόλει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ὦ Ζεῦ, τί μου 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 Larus
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' ἐστί σοι τοῦτ', Οἰδίπους, ἐνθύμιον ;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

μήπω μ' ἐρώτα· τὸν δὲ Λαῖον φύσιν
τίν' εἶχε φράζε, τίνα δ' ἀκμὴν ἤβης ἔχων.

740

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

μέγας, χνοάζων ἄρτι λευκανθὲς κάρα,
μορφῆς δὲ τῆς σῆς οὐκ ἀπεστάτει πολύ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οἴμοι τάλας· ἔοικ' ἐμαυτὸν εἰς ἀράς
δεινὰς προβάλλον ἀρτίως οὐκ εἰδέναι.

745

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

πῶς φῆς ; ὁκνῶ τοι πρὸς σ' ἀποσκοποῦσ', ἄναξ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

δεινῶς ἀθυμῶ μὴ βλέπων ὁ μάντις ἦ.
δείξεις δὲ μᾶλλον, ἣν ἐν ἐξείπῃς ἔτι.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

καὶ μὴν ὁκνῶ μέν, ἀ δ' ἂν ἔρη μαθοῦσ' ἐρῶ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

πότερον ἐχώρει βαιός, ἢ πολλοὺς ἔχων
ἄνδρας λοχίτας, οἳ' ἀνὴρ ἀρχηγέτης ;

750

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

πέντ' ἦσαν οἱ ξύμπαντες, ἐν δ' αὐτοῖσιν ἦν
κῆρυξ· ἀπήνη δ' ἦγε 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 Lærus, 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 Lærus travelled in the only car.

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

αἰαί, τὰδ' ἤδη διαφανῇ. τίς ἦν ποτε
ὁ τούσδε λέξας τοὺς λόγους ὑμῖν, γύναι ;

755

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

οἰκεύς τις, ὅσπερ ἔκετ' ἐκσωθεὶς μόνος.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἦ καὶν δόμοισι τυγχάνει τανῦν παρών ;

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

οὐ δῆτ'· ἀφ' οὗ γὰρ κείθεν ἦλθε καὶ κράτη
σέ τ' εἶδ' ἔχοντα Λαϊόν τ' ὀλωλότα,
ἐξικέτευσε τῆς ἐμῆς χειρὸς θιγὼν
ἀγρούς σφεπέμψαι καπὶ ποιμνίων νομάς,
ὥς πλείστον εἴη τοῦδ' ἄποπτος ἄστεως.
καῖπεμψ' ἐγὼ νιν· ἄξιος γὰρ ὥς γ' ἀνὴρ
δοῦλος φέρειν ἦν τῇσδε καὶ μείζω χάριν.

760

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

πῶς ἂν μόλοι δῆθ' ἡμῖν ἐν τάχει πάλιν ;

765

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

πάρεστιν. ἀλλὰ πρὸς τί τοῦτ' ἐφίεσαι ;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

δέδοικ' ἐμαυτόν, ὦ γύναι, μὴ πόλλ' ἄγαν
εἰρημέν' ἦ μοι, δι' ἃ νιν εἰσιδεῖν θέλω.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ἀλλ' ἵξεται μέν· ἀξία δέ που μαθεῖν
καγὼ τά γ' ἐν σοὶ δυσφόρως ἔχοντ', ἀναξ.

770

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.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

κοῦ μὴ στερηθῆς γ' ἐς τοσοῦτον ἐλπίδων
 ἐμοῦ βεβῶτος. τῷ γὰρ ἂν καὶ μείζονι
 λέξαιμ' ἂν ἢ σοὶ διὰ τύχης τοιαῦδ' ἰών;
 ἐμοὶ πατὴρ μὲν Πόλυβος ἦν Κορίνθιος,
 μήτηρ δὲ Μερόπη Δωρίς. ἡγόμην δ' ἀνὴρ 775
 ἀστῶν μέγιστος τῶν ἐκεῖ, πρὶν μοι τύχη
 τοιάδ' ἐπέστη, θαυμάσαι μὲν ἀξία,
 σπουδῆς γε μέντοι τῆς ἐμῆς οὐκ ἀξία.
 ἀνὴρ γὰρ ἐν δεῖπνοις μ' ὑπερπλησθεὶς μέθη
 καλεῖ παρ' οἴνῳ πλαστὸς ὥς εἶην πατρί. 780
 καὶ γὰρ βαρυνθεὶς τὴν μὲν οὔσαν ἡμέραν
 μόλις κατέσχον, θάτερα δ' ἰὼν πέλας
 μητρὸς πατρός τ' ἤλεγχον· οἱ δὲ δυσφόρως
 τοῦνειδος ἦγον τῷ μεθέντι τὸν λόγον.
 καὶ γὰρ τὰ μὲν κείνοιν ἐτερπόμεν, ὅμως δ' 785
 ἔκνιζέ μ' αἰεὶ τοῦθ'· ὑφείρπε γὰρ πολὺ.
 λάθρα δὲ μητρὸς καὶ πατρὸς πορεύομαι
 Πυθῳδε, καὶ μ' ὁ Φοῖβος ὦν μὲν ἰκόμην
 ἄτιμον ἐξέπεμψεν, ἄλλα δ' ἄθλια
 καὶ δεινὰ καὶ δύστηνα προυφάνη λέγων, 790
 ὥς μητρὶ μὲν χρεῖή με μιχθῆναι, γένος δ'
 ἄτλητον ἀνθρώποισι δηλώσοιμ' ὅρᾱν,
 φονεὺς δ' ἐσοίμην τοῦ φυτεύσαντος πατρός.
 καὶ γὰρ ἴπακούσας ταῦτα τὴν Κορινθίαν
 ἄστροις τὸ λοιπὸν ἐκμετρούμενος χθόνα 795
 ἔφευγον, ἔνθα μήποτ' ὀψοίμην κακῶν
 χρησμῶν ὀνειδὴ τῶν ἐμῶν τελούμενα.

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' ἰκνῶμαι τούσδε τοὺς χώρους ἐν οἷς
 σὺ τὸν τύραννον τοῦτον ὄλλυσθαι λέγεις.
 καί σοι, γύναι, τάληθές ἐξερώ. τριπλῆς 800
 ὅτ' ἢ κελεύθου τῆσδ' ὁδοιπορῶν πέλας,
 ἐνταῦθά μοι κῆρυξ τε κἀπὶ πωλικῆς
 ἀνὴρ ἀπήνης ἐμβεβώς, οἶον σὺ φῆς,
 ξυνηντίαζον· κἀξ ὁδοῦ μ' ὅ θ' ἠγεμῶν
 αὐτός θ' ὁ πρέσβυς πρὸς βίαν ἤλαυνέτην. 805
 κἀγὼ τὸν ἐκτρέποντα, τὸν τροχηλῆτην,
 παίω δι' ὀργῆς· καί μ' ὁ πρέσβυς ὡς ὀρᾷ,
 ὄχου παραστείχοντα τηρήσας μέσον
 κῆρα διπλοῖς κέντροισί μου καθίκετο.
 οὐ μὲν ἴσῃν γ' ἔτισεν, ἀλλὰ συντόμως 810
 σκῆπτρῳ τυπεῖς ἐκ τῆσδε χειρὸς ὕπτιος
 μέσης ἀπήνης εὐθὺς ἐκκυλίνδεται·
 κτείνω δὲ τοὺς ξύμπαντας. εἰ δὲ τῷ ξένῳ
 τούτῳ προσήκει Λαίῳ τι συγγενές,
 τίς τοῦδέ γ' ἀνδρὸς ἔστιν ἀθλιώτερος ; 815
 τίς ἐχθροδαίμων μᾶλλον ἂν γένοιτ' ἀνὴρ ;
 ᾧ μὴ ξένων ἔξεστι μῆδ' ἀστῶν τινα
 δόμοις δέχεσθαι, μῆδὲ προσφωνεῖν τινα,
 ὠθεῖν δ' ἀπ' οἴκων. καὶ τάδ' οὔτις ἄλλος ἦν
 ἢ γὼ π' ἐμαυτῷ τάσδ' ἀρὰς ὁ προστιθείς. 820
 λέχη δὲ τοῦ θανόντος ἐν χεροῖν ἐμαῖν
 χραίνω, δι' ὧν περ ὤλετ'. ἄρ' ἔφυν κακός ;
 ἄρ' οὐχὶ πᾶς ἀναγνος, εἴ με χρὴ φυγεῖν,
 καί μοι φυγόντι μῆστι τοὺς ἐμούς ἰδεῖν
 μῆδ' ἐμβατεύειν πατρίδος, ἢ γάμοις με δεῖ 825

THEATRE'S SIGNATURE

James
No. of SEAT)

65

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 Læus,
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 Thebè, nevermore behold
My friends, nor tread my country, lest I meet

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

μητρὸς ζυγῆναι καὶ πατέρα κατακτανεῖν
Πόλυβον, ὃς ἐξέφυσε καὶ ἐθρεψέ με ;
ἄρ' οὐκ ἀπ' ὧμοῦ ταῦτα δαίμονός τις ἂν
κρίνων ἐπ' ἀνδρὶ τῷδ' ἂν ὀρθοίῃ λόγον ;
μὴ δῆτα, μὴ δῆτ', ὦ θεῶν ἀγνὸν σέβας,
ἴδοιμι ταύτην ἡμέραν, ἀλλ' ἐκ βροτῶν
βαίην ἄφαντος πρόσθεν ἢ τοιάνδ' ἰδεῖν
κηλὶδ' ἐμαυτῷ συμφορᾶς ἀφιγμένην.

830

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἡμῖν μὲν, ὦναξ, ταῦτ' ὀκνήρ'· ἕως δ' ἂν οὖν
πρὸς τοῦ παρόντος ἐκμάθῃς, ἔχ' ἐλπίδα.

835

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

καὶ μὴν τοσοῦτόν γ' ἐστὶ μοι τῆς ἐλπίδος,
τὸν ἄνδρα τὸν βοτῆρα προσμεῖναι μόνον.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

πεφασμένου δὲ τίς ποθ' ἢ προθυμία ;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἐγὼ διδάξω σ'· ἦν γὰρ εὐρεθῇ λέγων
σοὶ ταῦτ', ἔγωγ' ἂν ἐκπεφευγοίην πάθος.

840

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ποῖον δέ μου περισσὸν ἤκουσας λόγον ;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ληστὰς ἔφασκες αὐτὸν ἄνδρας ἐννέπειν
ὥς νιν κατακτείναιεν. εἰ μὲν οὖν ἔτι
λέξει τὸν αὐτὸν ἀριθμόν, οὐκ ἐγὼ ἔκτανον·

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.

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

οὐ γὰρ γένοιτ' ἂν εἷς γε τοῖς πολλοῖς ἴσος· 845
εἰ δ' ἄνδρ' ἔν' οἰόζωνον ἀνδήσει, σαφῶς
τοῦτ' ἐστὶν ἤδη τοῦργον εἰς ἐμὲ ῥέπον.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ἀλλ' ὥς φανέν γε τοῦπος ᾧδ' ἐπίστασο,
κούκ ἔστιν αὐτῷ τοῦτό γ' ἐκβαλεῖν πάλιν·
πόλις γὰρ ἤκουσ', οὐκ ἐγὼ μόνη, τάδε. 850
εἰ δ' οὖν τι κάκτρέποιτο τοῦ πρόσθεν λόγου,
οὔτοι ποτ', ὦναξ, τόν γε Λαῖου φόνον
φανεῖ δικαίως ὀρθόν, ὃν γε Λοξίας
διείπε χρῆναι παιδὸς ἐξ ἐμοῦ θανεῖν.
καίτοι νιν οὐ κείνός γ' ὁ δύστηνός ποτε 855
κατέκταν', ἀλλ' αὐτὸς πύροιθεν ὤλετο.
ὥστ' οὐχὶ μαντείας γ' ἂν οὔτε τῇδ' ἐγὼ
βλέψαιμ' ἂν οὔνεκ' οὔτε τῇδ' ἂν ὕστερον.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

καλῶς νομίζεις. ἀλλ' ὅμως τὸν ἐργάτην
πέμψον τινὰ στελοῦντα μηδὲ τοῦτ' ἀφῆς. 860

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

πέμψω ταχύνας· ἀλλ' ἴωμεν ἐς δόμους.
οὐδὲν γὰρ ἂν πράξαιμ' ἂν ὦν οὐ σοὶ φίλον.

[Exeunt JOCASTA et ŒDIPUS.]

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

στρ. 4.

εἴ μοι ξυνείη φέροντι μοῖρα τὰν εὔσεπτον ἀγνείαν λόγων
ἔργων τε πάντων, ὧν νόμοι πρόκεινται 865
ὑψίποδες, 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.

αἰθέρι τεκνωθέντες, ὦν Ὀλυμπος
 πατήρ μόνος, οὐδέ νιν θνατὰ φύσις ἀνέρων
 ἔτικτεν, οὐδέ μή ποτε λάθα κατακοιμάση·
 μέγας ἐν τούτοις θεός, οὐδέ γηράσκει.

870

ἀντ. α.

ὔβρις φυτεύει τύραννον· ὔβρις, εἰ πολλῶν ὑπερπλησθῇ
 μάταν,
 ἂ μὴ ᾽πίκαιρα μηδὲ συμφέροντα,
 ἀκρότατον εἰσαναβᾶσ'
 ἀπότομον ὥρουσεν εἰς ἀνάγκαν,
 ἔνθ' οὐ ποδὶ χρησίμῳ χρήται. τὸ καλῶς δ' ἔχον
 πόλει πάλαισμα μήποτε λύσαι θεὸν αἰτοῦμαι.
 θεὸν οὐ λήξω ποτὲ προστάταν ἴσχων.

875

880

στρ. β'.

εἰ δέ τις ὑπέροπτα χερσὶν
 ἢ λόγῳ πορεύεται,
 Δίκας ἀφόβητος οὐδέ
 δαιμόνων ἔδη σέβων,
 κακά νιν ἔλοιτο μοῖρα,
 δυσπότημον χάριν χλιδᾶς,
 εἰ μὴ τὸ κέρδος κερδανεῖ δικαίως
 καὶ τῶν ἀσέπτων ἔρξεται,
 ἢ τῶν ἀθίκτων ἔξεται ματάζων.
 τίς ἔτι ποτ' ἐν τοῖσδ' ἀνὴρ θυμῶν βέλη
 εὔξεται ψυχᾶς ἀμύνειν;
 εἰ γὰρ αἱ τοιαῖδε πράξεις τίμιαί,
 τί δεῖ με χορεύειν;

885

890

895

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?

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ἀντ. β'.

οὐκέτι τὸν ἄθικτον εἶμι
γᾶς ἐπ' ὀμφαλὸν σέβων,
οὐδ' ἐς τὸν Ἀβαῖσι ναόν,
οὐδὲ τὰν Ὀλυμπίαν,
εἰ μὴ τάδε χειρόδεικτα
πᾶσιν ἀρμόσει βροτοῖς.

900

ἀλλ', ὦ κρατύνων, εἵπερ ὄρθ' ἀκούεις,
Ζεῦ, πάντ' ἀνάσσω, μὴ λάθοι
σε τάν τε σὰν ἀθάνατον αἰὲν ἀρχάν.

905

φθίνοντα γὰρ Πυθόχρηστα Λαῖου
θέσφατ' ἐξαιροῦσιν ἤδη,
κούδαμοῦ τιμαῖς Ἀπόλλων ἐμφανής·
ἔρρει δὲ τὰ θεῖα.

910

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

χώρας ἄνακτες, δόξα μοι παρεστάθη
ναοὺς ἰκέσθαι δαιμόνων, τάδ' ἐν χεροῖν
στέφη λαβούσῃ κάπιθυμιάματα.
ὑψοῦ γὰρ αἶρει θυμὸν Οἰδίπους ἄγαν
λύπαισι παντοίαισιν· οὐδ' ὅποι' ἀνὴρ
ἔννους τὰ καινὰ τοῖς πάλαι τεκμαίρεται,
ἀλλ' ἔστι τοῦ λέγοντος, εἰ φόβους λέγῃ.
ὅτ' οὖν παραινοῦς οὐδὲν ἐς πλεον ποιῶ,
πρὸς σ', ὦ Λύκει' Ἀπολλων, ἄγχιστος γὰρ εἶ,
ἰκέτις ἀφίγμαι τοῖσδε σὺν κατεύγμασιν,
ὅπως λύσιν τιν' ἡμῖν εὐαγὴ πόρης·
ὥς νῦν ὀκνοῦμεν πάντες ἐκπεπληγμένον
κείμενον βλέποντες ὡς κυβερνήτην νεώς.

[Introit.]

915

920

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 Laus 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.

ἄρ' ἂν παρ' ὑμῶν, ὦ ξένοι, μάθοιμ' ὅπου
τὰ τοῦ τυράννου δώματ' ἐστὶν Οἰδίπου;
μάλιστα δ' αὐτὸν εἶπατ', εἰ κάτισθ' ὅπου.

[Introit.

925

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

στέγαι μὲν αἶδε, καὐτὸς ἔνδον, ὦ ξένε·
γυνὴ δὲ μήτηρ ἦδε τῶν κείνου τέκνων.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἀλλ' ὀλβία τε καὶ ξὺν ὀλβίοις αἰεὶ
γένοιτ', ἐκείνου γ' οὔσα παντελὴς δάμαρ.

930

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

αὐτῶς δὲ καὶ σύ γ', ὦ ξέν'· ἄξιος γὰρ εἶ
τῆς εὐεπείας οὔνεκ'. ἀλλὰ φράζ' ὅτου
χρήζων ἀφίξει χῶ τι σημήναι θέλων.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἀγαθὰ δόμοις τε καὶ πόσει τῷ σῷ, γύναι.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

τὰ ποῖα ταῦτα; παρὰ τίνος δ' ἀφιγμένος;

935

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἐκ τῆς Κορίνθου. τὸ δ' ἔπος οὔξερῳ τάχα,
ἦδοιο μὲν, πῶς δ' οὐκ ἄν, ἀσχάλλοις δ' ἴσως.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

τί δ' ἔστι; ποῖαν δύναμιν ὧδ' ἔχει διπλῆν;

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 οὐπιχώριοι χθονὸς
τῆς Ἰσθμίας στήσουσιν, ὡς ηὐδᾶτ' ἐκεῖ.

940

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

τί δ' ; οὐχ ὁ πρέσβυς Πόλυβος ἐγκρατὴς ἔτι ;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

οὐ δῆτ' , ἐπεὶ νιν θάνατος ἐν τάφοις ἔχει.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

πῶς εἶπας ; ἢ τέθνηκε Πόλυβος, ὦ γέρον ;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

εἰ μὴ λέγω τὰληθές, ἀξιῶ θανεῖν.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ὦ πρόσπολ' , οὐχὶ δεσπότη τὰδ' ὡς τάχος
μολοῦσα λέξεις ; ὦ θεῶν μαντεύματα,
ἴν' ἐστέ· τοῦτον Οἰδίπους πάλαι τρέμων
τὸν ἄνδρ' ἔφευγε μὴ κτάνοι, καὶ νῦν ὅδε
πρὸς τῆς τύχης ὄλωλεν οὐδὲ τοῦδ' ὕπο.

945

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

ὦ φίλτατον γυναικὸς Ἰοκάστης κάρα, [Introit.
τί μ' ἐξεπέμψω δεῦρο τῶνδε δωμάτων ;

950

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ἄκουε τάνδρὸς τοῦδε, καὶ σκόπει κλύων
τὰ σέμν' ἴν' ἥκει 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.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οὗτος δὲ τίς ποτ' ἐστὶ καὶ τί μοι λέγει;

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ἐκ τῆς Κορίνθου, πατέρα τὸν σὸν ἀγγελῶν
ὥς οὐκέτ' ὄντα Πόλυβον, ἀλλ' ὀλωλότα.

955

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τί φῆς, ξέν'; αὐτός μοι σὺ σημήνας γενοῦ.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

εἰ τοῦτο πρῶτον δεῖ μ' ἀπαγγεῖλαι σαφῶς,
εὖ ἴσθ' ἐκείνουν θανάσιμον βεβηκότα.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

πότερα δόλοισιν, ἢ νόσου ξυναλλαγῇ;

960

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

σμικρὰ παλαιὰ σώματ' εὐνάζει ροπή.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

νόσοις ὁ τλήμων, ὥς ἔοικεν, ἔφθιτο.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

καὶ τῷ μακρῷ γε συμμετρούμενος χρόνῳ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

φεῦ φεῦ, τί δῆτ' ἄν, ὦ γύναι, σκοποῖτό τις
τὴν Πυθόμαντιν ἐστίαν, ἢ τοὺς ἄνω
κλάζοντας ὄρνις, ὧν ὑφηγητῶν ἐγὼ
κτανεῖν ἔμελλον πατέρα τὸν ἐμόν; ὁ δὲ θανὼν

965

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 δι' γῆς· ἐγὼ δ' ὅδ' ἐνθάδε
ἄψαυστος ἔγχους, εἴ τι μὴ τῷ μῶ πόθῳ
κατέφθιθ'· οὕτω δ' ἂν θανὼν εἴη 'ξ ἐμοῦ.
τὰ δ' οὖν παρόντα συλλαβὼν θεσπίσματα
κείται παρ' Αἰδῆ Πόλυβος ἄξι' οὐδενός.

970

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

οὔκουν ἐγὼ σοι ταῦτα προύλεγον πάλαι;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἡὔδας· ἐγὼ δὲ τῷ φόβῳ παρηγόμην.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

μὴ νῦν ἔτ' αὐτῶν μηδὲν ἐς θυμὸν βάλης.

975

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

καὶ πῶς τὸ μητρὸς λέκτρον οὐκ ὀκνεῖν με δεῖ;

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

τί δ' ἂν φοβοίτ' ἄνθρωπος, ᾧ τὰ τῆς τύχης
κρατεῖ, πρόνοια δ' ἐστὶν οὐδενὸς σαφής;
εἰκὴ κράτιστον ζῆν, ὅπως δύναίτο τις.
σὺ δ' εἰς τὰ μητρὸς μὴ φοβοῦ νυμφεύματα·
πολλοὶ γὰρ ἤδη καὶ ὀνείρασιν βροτῶν
μητρὶ ξυνευνάσθησαν. ἀλλὰ ταῦθ' ὅτῳ
παρ' οὐδέν ἐστι, ῥᾶστα τὸν βίον φέρει.

980

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

καλῶς ἅπαντα ταῦτ' ἂν ἐξείρητό σοι,
εἰ μὴ 'κύρει ζῶσ' ἢ τεκοῦσα· νῦν δ' ἐπεὶ
ζῇ, πᾶσ' ἀνάγκῃ, κεῖ καλῶς λέγεις, ὀκνεῖν.

985

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.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

μέγας, ξυνήμ'· ἀλλὰ τῆς ζώσης φόβος.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ποίας δὲ καὶ γυναικὸς ἐκφοβείσθ' ὕπερ;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

Μερόπης, γεραιέ, Πόλυβος ἥς ᾧκει μέτα.

990

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

τί δ' ἔστ' ἐκείνης ὑμῖν ἐς φόβον φέρον;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

θεήλατον μάντευμα δεινόν, ᾧ ξένε.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἦ ῥητόν; ἦ οὐχὶ θεμιτὸν ἄλλον εἰδέναι;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

μάλιστά γ'· εἶπε γάρ με Λοξίας ποτὲ
χρῆναι μιγῆναι μητρὶ τήμαυτοῦ, τό τε
πατρῶον αἶμα χερσὶ ταῖς ἐμαῖς ἐλεῖν.

995

ὦν οὔνεχ' ἡ Κόρινθος ἐξ ἐμοῦ πάλαι
μακρὰν ἀπὸ κείτ'· εὐτυχῶς μὲν, ἀλλ' ὅμως
τὰ τῶν τεκόντων ὄμμαθ' ἥδιστον βλέπειν.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἦ γὰρ τάδ' ὀκνῶν κείθεν ἦσθ' ἀπόπτολις;

1000

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.

πατρός τε χρήζων μὴ φονεὺς εἶναι, γέρον.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

τί δῆτ' ἐγὼ οὐχὶ τοῦδε τοῦ φόβου σ', ἄναξ,
ἐπείπερ εὐνους ἦλθον, ἐξελυσάμην;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

καὶ μὴν χάριν γ' ἂν ἀξίαν λάβοις ἐμοῦ.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

καὶ μὴν μάλιστα τοῦτ' ἀφικόμην, ὅπως
σοῦ πρὸς δόμους ἐλθόντος εὖ πράξαιμί τι.

1005

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἀλλ' οὔποτ' εἶμι τοῖς φυτεύσασίν γ' ὁμοῦ.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ὦ παῖ, καλῶς εἰ δῆλος οὐκ εἰδὼς τί δρᾷς.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

πῶς, ὦ γεραιέ; πρὸς θεῶν δίδασκέ με.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

εἰ τῶνδε φεύγεις οὔνεκ' εἰς οἴκους μολεῖν.

1010

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ταρβῶ γε μή μοι Φοῖβος ἐξέλθῃ σαφής.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἦ μὴ μίασμα τῶν φυτευσάντων λάβῃς;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τοῦτ' αὐτό, πρέσβυ, τοῦτό μ' εἰσαεὶ 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.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἄρ' οἴσθα δῆτα πρὸς δίκης οὐδὲν τρέμων;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

πῶς δ' οὐχί, παῖς γ' εἰ τῶνδε γεννητῶν ἔφυν; 1015

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ὀθούνεκ' ἦν σοι Πόλυβος οὐδὲν ἐν γένει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

πῶς εἶπας; οὐ γὰρ Πόλυβος ἐξέφυσέ με;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

οὐ μᾶλλον οὐδὲν τοῦδε τάνδρός, ἀλλ' ἴσον.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

καὶ πῶς ὁ φύσας ἐξ ἴσου τῷ μηδενί;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἀλλ' οὐ σ' ἐγείνατ' οὐτ' ἐκείνος οὐτ' ἐγώ. 1020

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἀλλ' ἀντὶ τοῦ δὴ παῖδά μ' ὠνομάζετο;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

δῶρόν ποτ', ἴσθι, τῶν ἐμῶν χειρῶν λαβών.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

καθ' ὧδ' ἀπ' ἄλλης χειρὸς ἔστερξεν μέγα;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἢ γὰρ πρὶν αὐτὸν ἐξέπεισ' 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' ἐμπολήσας, ἥ τεκῶν μ' αὐτῷ δίδως; 1025

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

εὐρὼν ναπαίαις ἐν Κιθαιρῶνος πτυχαῖς.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ὥδοιπόρεις δὲ πρὸς τί τούσδε τοὺς τόπους;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ἐνταῦθ' ὀρείοις ποιμνίοις ἐπεστάτουν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ποιμὴν γὰρ ᾗσθα κάπῃ θητεία πλάνης;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

σοῦ δ', ὦ τέκνον, σωτήρ γε τῷ τότ' ἐν χρόνῳ. 1030

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τί δ' ἄλγος ἴσχοντ' ἐν κακοῖς με λαμβάνεις;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ποδῶν ἂν ἄρθρα μαρτυρήσειεν τὰ σά.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

οἶμοι, τί τοῦτ' ἀρχαῖον ἐννέπεις κακόν;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

λύω σ' ἔχοντα διατόρους ποδοῖν ἀκμάς.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

δεινόν γ' ὄνειδος σπαργάνων ἀνελόμην. 1035

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.

ὥστ' ὠνομάσθης ἐκ τύχης ταύτης ὃς εἶ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ὦ πρὸς θεῶν, πρὸς μητρός, ἢ πατρός, φράσον.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

οὐκ οἶδ'· ὁ δούς δὲ ταύτ' ἐμοῦ λῶον φρονεῖ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἦ γὰρ παρ' ἄλλου μ' ἔλαβες οὐδ' αὐτὸς τυχών;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

οὐκ, ἀλλὰ ποιμήν ἄλλος ἐκδίδωσί μοι.

1040

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τίς οὗτος; ἢ κάτοισθα δηλῶσαι λόγῳ;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

τῶν Λαΐου δήπου τις ὠνομάζετο.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἦ τοῦ τυράννου τῆσδε γῆς πάλαι ποτέ;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

μάλιστα· τούτου τάνδρὸς οὗτος ἦν βοτήρ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἦ καστ' ἔτι ζῶν οὗτος, ὥστ' ἰδεῖν ἐμέ;

1045

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ὕμεις γ' ἄριστ' εἰδεῖτ' ἂν οὐπιχώριοι.

KING OEDIPUS.

FIRST MESSENGER.

From this adventure thou hast ta'en thy name.

OEDIPUS.

Ah! tell me, did my father do this thing,
Or was'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 Larus' people, sure.

OEDIPUS.

Of Larus 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.

ἔστιν τις ὑμῶν τῶν παρεστώτων πέλας,
ὅστις κάτοιδε τὸν βοτῆρ', ὃν ἐννέπει,
εἴτ' οὖν ἐπ' ἀγρῶν εἴτε κἀνθάδ' εἰσιδών;
σημήναθ', ὥς ὁ καιρὸς εὐρήσθαι τάδε.

1050

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

οἶμαι μὲν οὐδέν' ἄλλον ἢ τὸν ἐξ ἀγρῶν,
ὃν κἀμάτενες πρόσθεν εἰσιδεῖν· ἀτὰρ
ἥδ' ἂν τὰδ' οὐχ ἥκιστ' ἂν Ἰοκάστη λέγοι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

γύναι, νοεῖς ἐκείνον, ὄντιν' ἀρτίως
μολεῖν ἐφίεμεσθα; τόνδ' οὗτος λέγει;

1055

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

τί δ' ὄντιν' εἶπε; μηδὲν ἐντραπῆς. τὰ δὲ
ῥηθέντα βούλου μηδὲ μεμνήσθαι μάτην.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

οὐκ ἂν γένοιτο τοῦθ', ὅπως ἐγὼ λαβὼν
σημεῖα τοιαῦτ' οὐ φανῶ τούμῃ γένος.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

μὴ πρὸς θεῶν, εἴπερ τι τοῦ σαυτοῦ βίου
κῆδει, ματεύσης τοῦθ'· ἄλις νοσοῦς' ἐγώ.

1060

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

θάρσει. σὺ μὲν γὰρ οὐδ' εἰς τρίτης ἐγὼ
μητρὸς φανῶ τρίδουλος, ἐκφανεῖ κακῇ.

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.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ὅμως πιθοῦ μοι, λίσσομαι· μὴ δρᾶ τάδε.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οὐκ ἂν πιθοίμην μὴ οὐ τάδ' ἐκμαθεῖν σαφῶς. 1065

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

καὶ μὴν φρονούσά γ' εὖ τὰ λῶστά σοι λέγω.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τὰ λῶστα τοίνυν ταῦτά μ' ἀλγύνει πάλαι.

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ὦ δύσποτμ', εἴθε μήποτε γνοίης ὅς εἰ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἄξει τις ἐλθὼν δεῦρο τὸν βοτῆρά μοι;
ταύτην δ' ἔατε πλουσίῳ χαίρειν γένει. 1070

ΙΟΚΑΣΤΗ.

ἰοῦ ἰοῦ, δύστηνε· τοῦτο γάρ σ' ἔχω
μόνον προσειπεῖν, ἄλλο δ' οὐποθ' ὕστερον. [Exit.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

τί ποτε βέβηκεν, Οἰδίπους, ὑπ' ἀγρίας
ἄξασα λύπης ἢ γυνή; δέδοιχ' ὅπως
μὴ 'κ τῆς σιωπῆς τῆσδ' ἀναρρήξει κακά. 1075

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ὅποια χρήζει ῥηγνύτω· τοῦμόν 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' ἴσως, φρονεῖ γὰρ ὡς γυνὴ μέγα,
τὴν δυσγένειαν τὴν ἐμὴν αἰσχύνεται.
ἐγὼ δ' ἐμαυτὸν παῖδα τῆς Τύχης νέμων 1080
τῆς εὖ διδούσης οὐκ ἀτιμασθήσομαι.
τῆς γὰρ πέφυκα μητρός· οἱ δὲ συγγενεῖς
μῆνές με μικρὸν καὶ μέγαν διώρισαν.
τοιόσδε δ' ἐκφῦς οὐκ ἂν ἐξέλθοιμ' ἔτι
ποτ' ἄλλος, ὥστε μὴ ἔκμαθεῖν τοῦμὸν γένος. 1085

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

στρ.

εἴπερ ἐγὼ μάντις εἰμὶ καὶ κατὰ γνώμαν ἴδρις,
οὐ τὸν Ὀλυμπον ἀπείρων, ὦ Κιθαιρών,
οὐκ ἔσῃ τὰν αὔριον πανσέληνον, μὴ οὐ σέ γε 1090
καὶ πατριώταν Οἰδίπου
καὶ τροφὸν καὶ ματέρ' αὔξειν,
καὶ χορεύεσθαι πρὸς ἡμῶν, ὡς ἐπήρα φέροντα τοῖς ἐμοῖς
τυράννοις. 1095
ἰήϊε Φοῖβε, σοὶ δὲ
ταῦτ' ἀρέστ' εἴη.

ἀντ.

τίς σε, τέκνον, τίς σ' ἔτικτε τῶν μακραιώνων κορᾶν,
Πανὸς ὀρεσσιβάτα πατρὸς πελασθεῖς', 1100
ἢ σέ γ' εὐνάτειρά τις Λοξίου; τῷ γὰρ πλάκες
ἀγρόνομοι πᾶσαι φίλαι·
εἴθ' ὁ Κυλλήνας ἀνάσσων,
εἴθ' ὁ Βακχεῖος θεὸς ναίων ἐπ' ἄκρων ὀρέων εὖρημα δέξατ'
ἔκ του 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 Cyllenè's height
The author of thy light?
Or did the Bacchic god,
Who makes the top of Helicon to nod,

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

Νυμφᾶν Ἑλικωνίδων, αἷς
πλείστα συμπαίξει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

εἰ χρή τι κάμῃ μὴ συναλλάξαντά πω, 1110
πρέσβεις, σταθμάσθαι, τὸν βοτῆρ' ὁρᾶν δοκῶ,
ὄνπερ πάλαι ζητοῦμεν. ἔν τε γὰρ μακρῷ
γῆρα ξυνάδει τῷδε τάνδρ'ι σύμμετρος,
ἄλλως τε τοὺς ἄγοντας ὥσπερ οἰκέτας
ἔγνωκ' ἑμαυτοῦ· τῇ δ' ἐπιστήμῃ σύ μου 1115
προύχοις τάχ' ἂν που, τὸν βοτῆρ' ἰδὼν πάρος.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἔγνωκα γάρ, σάφ' ἴσθι· Λαῖου γὰρ ἦν
εἵπερ τις ἄλλος πιστὸς ὡς νομεὺς ἀνὴρ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

σὲ πρῶτ' ἐρωτῶ, τὸν Κορίνθιον ξένον,
ἦ τόνδε φράζεις;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

τοῦτον, ὄνπερ εἰσορᾷς. 1120

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οὗτος σύ, πρέσβυ, δεῦρό μοι φώνει βλέπων [Introit
ὅς' ἂν σ' ἐρωτῶ. Λαῖου ποτ' ἦσθα σύ; pastor LAII.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

ἦ δούλος οὐκ ὠνητός, 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. Laïus
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 Laïus' slave?

SERVANT.

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

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἔργον μεριμνῶν ποῖον ἢ βίον τίνα;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

ποίμναις τὰ πλείστα τοῦ βίου συνειπόμην. 1125

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

χώροις μάλιστα πρὸς τίσι ξύναυλος ὢν;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

ἦν μὲν Κιθαιρῶν, ἦν δὲ πρόσχωρος τόπος.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τὸν ἄνδρα τόνδ' οὖν οἶσθα τῇδέ που μαθών;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

τί χρήμα δρῶντα; ποῖον ἄνδρα καὶ λέγεις;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τόνδ' ὃς πάρεστιν· ἢ ξυνήλλαξας τί πω; 1130

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

οὐχ ὥστε γ' εἰπεῖν ἐν τάχει μνήμης ὕπο.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

κοῦδέν γε θαῦμα, δέσποτ'. ἀλλ' ἐγὼ σαφῶς
ἀγνῶτ' ἀναμνήσω νιν. εὖ γὰρ οἶδ' ὅτι
κάτοιδεν ἡμος τὸν Κιθαιρῶνος τόπον
ὁ μὲν διπλοῖσι ποιμνίοις, ἐγὼ δ' ἐνὶ
ἐπλησίαζον τῷδε τάνδρῃ τρεῖς ὅλους
ἐξ ἡρος εἰς ἀρκτοῦρον ἐκμήνους χρόνους· 1135

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.

χειμῶνα δ' ἤδη τὰμά τ' εἰς ἔπαυλ' ἐγὼ
ἤλαυνον οὗτός τ' εἰς τὰ Λαΐου σταθμά.
λέγω τι τούτων, ἢ οὐ λέγω πεπραγμένον;

1140

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

λέγεις ἀληθῆ, καίπερ ἐκ μακροῦ χρόνου.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

φέρ' εἰπὲ νῦν, τότ' οἶσθα παῖδά μοί τινα
δούς, ὥς ἐμαντῶ θρέμμα θρεψαίμην ἐγώ;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

τί δ' ἐστὶ — πρὸς τί τοῦτο τοῦπος ἱστορεῖς;

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ὅδ' ἐστίν, ὦ τᾶν, κείνος ὃς τότ' ἦν νέος.

1145

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

οὐκ εἰς ὄλεθρον; οὐ σιωπήσας ἔσει;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ᾶ, μὴ κόλαζε, πρέσβυ, τόνδ', ἐπεὶ τὰ σὰ
δεῖται κολαστοῦ μάλλον ἢ τὰ τοῦδ' ἔπη.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

τί δ', ὦ φέριστε δεσποτῶν, ἀμαρτάνω;

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οὐκ ἐννέπων τὸν παῖδ' ὃν οὗτος ἱστορεῖ.

1150

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

λέγει γὰρ εἰδὼς οὐδέν, ἀλλ' ἄλλως πονεῖ.

KING OEDIPUS.

For the bleak winter-time I drove my charge
To their own folds, he his to Larus' 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 ἔρεῖς, κλαίων δ' ἔρεῖς.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

μὴ δῆτα, πρὸς θεῶν, τὸν γέροντά μ' αἰκίσῃ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

οὐχ ὥς τάχος τις τοῦδ' ἀποστρέψει χέρας;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

δύστηνος, ἀντὶ τοῦ; τί προσχρῆζων μαθεῖν; 1155

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τὸν παῖδ' ἔδωκας τῷδ' ὃν οὗτος ἱστορεῖ;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

ἔδωκ'· ὀλέσθαι δ' ὄφελον τῇδ' ἡμέρᾳ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἀλλ' εἰς τόδ' ἥξεις μὴ λέγων γε τοῦνδικον.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

πολλῷ γε μάλλον, ἣν φράσω, διόλλυμαι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἀνὴρ ὅδ', ὥς ἔοικεν, ἐς τριβὰς ἐλᾷ. 1160

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

οὐ δῆτ' ἔγωγ', ἀλλ' εἶπον ὥς δοίην πάλαι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

πόθεν λαβών; οἰκεῖον, ἢ ἔξ ἄλλου τινός;

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.

ἐμὸν μὲν οὐκ ἔγωγ', ἐδεξάμην δέ του.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τίνος πολιτῶν τῶνδε κακ ποίας στέγης;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

μὴ πρὸς θεῶν, μή, δέσποθ', ἱστόρει πλέον.

1165

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ὄλωλας, εἴ σε ταῦτ' ἐρήσομαι πάλιν.

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

τῶν Λαΐου τοίνυν τις ἦν γενημάτων.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἦ δούλος, ἦ κείνου τις ἐγγενὴς γεγώς;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

οἴμοι, πρὸς αὐτῷ γ' εἰμὶ τῷ δεινῷ λέγειν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

κάγωγ' ἀκούειν· ἀλλ' ὅμως ἀκουστέον.

1170

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

κείνου γέ τοι δὴ παῖς ἐκλήζεθ'· ἡ δ' ἔσω
κάλλιστ' ἂν εἴποι σὴ γυνὴ τάδ' ὥς ἔχει.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἦ γὰρ δίδωσιν ἥδε σοι;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

μάλιστ', ἄναξ.

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 Larus.

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 Larus' 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.

ὥς πρὸς τί χρείας ;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

ὥς ἀναλώσαιμί νιν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

τεκούσα τλήμων ;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

θεσφάτων γ' ὅκνη κακῶν. 1175

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ποίων ;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

κτενεῖν νιν τοὺς τεκόντας ἦν λόγος.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

πῶς δῆτ' ἀφήκας τῷ γέροντι τῷδε σύ ;

ΘΕΡΑΠΩΝ.

κατοικτίσας, ὃ δέσποθ', ὡς ἄλλην χθόνα
δοκῶν ἀποίσειν, αὐτὸς ἔνθεν ἦν· ὁ δὲ
κάκ' ἐς μέγιστ' ἔσωσεν. εἰ γὰρ οὗτος εἶ 1180
ὃν φησιν οὗτος, ἴσθι δύσποτμος γεγώς.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἰοὺ ἰοῦ· τὰ πάντ' ἂν ἐξήκοι σαφῇ.
ὦ φῶς, τελευταῖόν σε προσβλέψαιμι νῦν,
ὅστις πέφασμαι φύς τ' ἀφ' ὧν οὐ χρῆν, ξὺν οἷς τ
οὐ χρῆν ὁμιλῶν, οὓς τέ μ' οὐκ ἔδει κτανῶν. 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 accursèd, 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.

στρ. α.

ἰὼ γενεαὶ βροτῶν,
ὥς ὑμᾶς ἴσα καὶ τὸ μηδὲν ζώσας ἐναριθμῶ.
τίς γάρ, τίς ἀνὴρ πλέον
τᾶς εὐδαιμονίας φέρει
ἢ τοσοῦτον ὅσον δοκεῖν
καὶ δόξαντ' ἀποκλίνει;
τὸ σὸν τοι παρὰδειγμ' ἔχων,
τὸν σὸν δαίμονα, τὸν σὸν, ὦ τλάμων Οἰδιπόδα, βροτῶν 1193
οὐδὲν μακαρίζω·

ἀντ. α.

ὅστις καθ' ὑπερβολὰν
τοξεύσας ἐκράτησας τοῦ πάντ' εὐδαίμονος ὄλβου,
ὦ Ζεῦ, κατὰ μὲν φθίσας
τὰν γαμφώνυχχα παρθένον
χρησμοφδόν· θανάτων δ' ἐμᾶ
χώρᾳ πύργος ἀνέστας·
ἐξ οὗ καὶ βασιλεὺς καλεῖ
ἐμός, καὶ τὰ μέγιστ' ἐτιμάθης, ταῖς μεγάλαισιν ἐν
Θήβαισιν ἀνάσσω.

στρ. β'.

τανῦν δ' ἀκούειν τίς ἀθλιώτερος;
τίς ἄταις ἐν ἀγρίαις, τίς ἐν πόνοις
ξύνοικος ἀλλαγᾶ βίου;
ἰὼ κλεινὸν Οἰδίπου κῆρα,
ὦ μέγας λιμὴν
αὐτὸς ἤρκεσεν
παιδὶ καὶ πατρὶ θαλαμηπόλῳ πεσεῖν,

1193

1200

1205

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 Thebè'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,

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

πῶς ποτε πῶς ποθ' αἰ πατρῷαί σ' ἄλοκες φέρειν,
 τύλας, 1210
 σίγ' ἐδυνίσθησαν ἐς τοσόνδε;

ἀντ. β'.

ἐφευρέ σ' ἄκονθ' ὁ πάνθ' ὀρώων χρόνος,
 δικάζει τὸν ἄγαμον γάμον πάλαι,
 τεκνοῦντα καὶ τεκνούμενον. 1215

ἰώ, Λαίρειον ὦ τέκνον,
 εἴθε σ', εἴθε σε
 μήποτ' εἰδόμαν.
 δύρομαι γὰρ ὥς περίαλλ' ἱακχίων
 ἐκ στομάτων. τὸ δ' ὀρθὸν εἰπεῖν, ἀνέπνευσά τ' ἐκ
 σέθεν 1220
 καὶ κατεκοίμησα τοῦμὸν ὄμμα.

ΕΞΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

ὦ γῆς μέγιστα τῆσδ' αἰετιμώμενοι, [Introit.
 οἳ ἔργ' ἀκούσεσθ', οἷα δ' εἰσόψεσθ', ὅσον δ'
 ἀρεῖσθε πένθος, εἴπερ ἐγγενῶς ἔτι 1225
 τῶν Λαβδακείων ἐντρέπεσθε δωμάτων.
 οἶμαι γὰρ οὔτ' ἂν Ἰστρον οὔτε Φᾶσιν ἂν
 νύψαι καθαρμῶ τήνδε τὴν στέγην, ὅσα
 κεύθει, τὰ δ' ἀντίκ' εἰς τὸ φῶς φανεῖ κακὰ
 ἐκόντα κοῦκ ἄκοντα. τῶν δὲ πημονῶν 1230
 μάλιστα λυποῦσ' αἰ φανῶσ' αὐθαίρετοι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

λείπει μὲν οὐδ' ἂν πρόσθεν ἤδεμεν τὸ μὴ οὐ
 βαρύστον εἶναι· πρὸς δ' ἐκείνοισιν τί φῆς;

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 Læus' 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 gav'st 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 Læus!
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.

ὁ μὲν τάχιστος τῶν λόγων εἰπεῖν τε καὶ
μαθεῖν, τέθνηκε θεῖον Ἰοκάστης κára.

1235

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ὦ δυστάλαινα, πρὸς τίνος ποτ' αἰτίας ;

ΕΞΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

αὐτὴ πρὸς αὐτῆς · τῶν δὲ πραχθέντων τὰ μὲν
ἄλγιστ' ἄπεστιν· ἢ γὰρ ὄψις οὐ πύρα.
ὅμως δ', ὅσον γε κὰν ἐμοὶ μνήμης ἔνι,
πεύσει τὰ κείνης ἀθλίας παθήματα.
ὅπως γὰρ ὀργῇ χρωμένη παρήλθ' ἔσω
θυρῶνος, ἴετ' εὐθὺ πρὸς τὰ νυμφικὰ
λέχη, κόμην σπῶσ' ἀμφιδεξίοις ἀκμαῖς.
πύλας δ' ὅπως εἰσῆλθ' ἐπιρράξας ἔσω
καλεῖ τὸν ἤδη Λαΐον πάλαι νεκρόν,
μνήμην παλαιῶν σπερμάτων ἔχουσ', ὑφ' ὧν
θάνοι μὲν αὐτός, τὴν δὲ τίκτουσαν λίποι
τοῖς οἴσιν αὐτοῦ δύστεκνον παιδουργίαν.
γοᾶτο δ' εὐνάς, ἔνθα δύστηνος διπλοῦς
ἐξ ἀνδρὸς ἄνδρα καὶ τέκν' ἐκ τέκνων τέκοι.
χῶπως μὲν ἐκ τῶνδ' οὐκέτ' οἶδ' ἀπόλλυται ·
βοῶν γὰρ εἰσέπαισεν Οἰδίπους, ὑφ' οὗ
οὐκ ἦν τὸ κείνης ἐκθεάσασθαι κακόν,
ἀλλ' εἰς ἐκείνον περιπολοῦντ' ἐλεύσσομεν.
φοιτᾷ γὰρ ἡμᾶς ἔγχος ἐξαιτῶν πορεῖν,
γυναῖκά τ' οὐ γυναῖκα, μητρώαν δ' ὅπου
κίχοι διπλὴν ἄρουραν οὗ τε καὶ τέκνων.

1240

1245

1250

1255

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 Læus, 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.

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

λυσσῶντι δ' αὐτῷ δαιμόνων δείκνυσί τις·
 οὐδείς γὰρ ἀνδρῶν, οἳ παρήμεν ἐγγύθεν.
 δεινὸν δ' αὔσας ὡς ὑφηγητοῦ τινος 1260
 πύλαις διπλαῖς ἐνήλατ', ἐκ δὲ πυθμένων
 ἔκλινε κοῖλα κλῆθρα κάμπιπτει στέγη.
 οὗ δὲ κρεμαστὴν τὴν γυναῖκ' ἐσείδομεν,
 πλεκταῖσιν αἰώραισιν ἐμπεπληγμένην.
 ὁ δ' ὡς ὄρᾳ νιν, δεινὰ βρυχηθεῖς τάλας, 1265
 χαλᾷ κρεμαστὴν ἀρτάνην. ἐπεὶ δὲ γῇ
 ἔκειτο τλήμων, δεινὰ δ' ἦν τάνθενδ' ὄραν.
 ἀποσπῶσας γὰρ εἰμάτων χρυσηλάτους
 περόνας ἀπ' αὐτῆς, αἷσιν ἐξεστέλλετο,
 ἄρας ἔπαισεν ἄρθρα τῶν αὐτοῦ κύκλων, 1270
 αὐδῶν τοιαῦθ', ὀθούνεκ' οὐκ ὄψοιντό νιν
 οὔθ' οἷ' ἔπασχεν οὔθ' ὅποῖ' ἔδρα κακά,
 ἀλλ' ἐν σκότῳ τὸ λοιπὸν οὓς μὲν οὐκ ἔδει
 ὀψοίαθ', οὓς δ' ἔχρηζεν οὐ γνωσοίατο.
 τοιαῦτ' ἐφυμνῶν πολλάκις τε κοῦχ ἄπαξ 1275
 ἦρασσ' ἐπαίρων βλέφαρα. φοίνια δ' ὁμοῦ
 γλῆναι γένει' ἔτεγγον, οὐδ' ἀνίεσαν
 φόνου μυδώσας σταγόνας, ἀλλ' ὁμοῦ μέλας
 ὄμβρος χαλᾶζης αἵματοῦς ἐτέγγετο.
 τάδ' ἐκ δυοῖν ἔρρωγεν, οὐ μόνου κακά, 1280
 ἀλλ' ἀνδρὶ καὶ γυναικὶ συμμιγῇ κακά.
 ὁ πρὶν παλαιὸς δ' ὄλβος ἦν πύροιθε μὲν
 ὄλβος δικαίως· νῦν δὲ τῇδε θῆμέρα
 στεναγμός, ἄτη, θάνατος, αἰσχύνη, κακῶν
 ὅσ' ἐστὶ πάντων ὀνόματ', οὐδέν' ἐστ' ἀπὸν. 1285

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' ἔσθ' ὁ τλήμων ἔν τινι σχολῇ κακοῦ;

ΕΞΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ.

βοᾷ διοίγειν κλῆθρα καὶ δηλοῦν τινα
τοῖς πᾶσι Καδμείοισι τὸν πατροκτόνον,
τὸν μητρὸς — αὐδῶν ἀνόσι' οὐδὲ ῥητά μοι,
ὥς ἐκ χθονὸς ῥίψων ἐαυτόν, οὐδ' ἔτι 1290
μενῶν δόμοις ἀραίως, ὥς ἡράσατο.
ῥώμης γε μέντοι καὶ προσηγητοῦ τινος
δεῖται· τὸ γὰρ νόσημα μείζον ἢ φέρειν.
δείξει δὲ καὶ σοί. κλῆθρα γὰρ πυλῶν τάδε
διοίγεται· θέαμα δ' εἰσόψει τύχα 1295
τοιούτου οἶον καὶ στυγούντ' ἐποικτίσαι.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ὦ δεινὸν ἰδεῖν πάθος ἀνθρώποις, [Introit CD.
ὦ δεινότατον πάντων ὅσ' ἐγὼ
προσέκυρσ' ἤδη. τίς σ', ὦ τλήμων,
προσέβη μανία; τίς ὁ πηδήσας 1300
μείζονα δαίμων τῶν μακίστων
πρὸς σῇ δυσδαίμονι μοίρᾳ;
φεῦ φεῦ, δύσταν'· ἀλλ' οὐδ' ἐσιδεῖν
δύναμαί σε, θέλων πόλλ' ἀνερέσθαι,
πολλὰ πυθέσθαι, πολλὰ δ' ἀθρῆσαι· 1305
τοίαν φρίκην παρέχεις μοι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

αἰαῖ αἰαῖ, δύστανος ἐγώ,
ποῖ γὰς φέρομαι τλάμων; πᾶ μοι

KING OEDIPUS.

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!

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

φθογγὰ δι' ἄλας πέταται φοράδην ; 1310
ἰὼ δαίμον, ἴν' ἐξήλλου.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἐς δεινόν, οὐδ' ἀκουστόν, οὐδ' ἐπόψιμον.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

στρ. α.

ἰὼ σκότου
νέφος ἐμὸν ἀπότροπον, ἐπιπλόμενον ἄφατον,
ἀδάματόν τε καὶ δυσούριστον ὄν. 1315
οἶμοι,
οἶμοι μάλ' αὖθις · οἶον εἰσέδου μ' ἄμα
κέντρων τε τῶνδ' οἷστρομα καὶ μνήμη κακῶν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

καὶ θαῦμά γ' οὐδὲν ἐν τοσοῖσδε πήμασιν
διπλᾶ σε πενθεῖν καὶ διπλᾶ φέρειν κακά. 1320

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ἀντ. α.

ἰὼ φίλος,
σὺ μὲν ἐμὸς ἐπίπολος ἔτι μόνιμος · ἔτι γὰρ
ὑπομένεις με τὸν τυφλὸν κηδεύων.
φεῦ φεῦ.
οὐ γάρ με λήθεις, ἀλλὰ γιγνώσκω σαφῶς, 1325
καίπερ σκοτεινός, τήν γε σὴν αὐδὴν ὅμως.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ὦ δεινὰ δράσας, πῶς ἔτλης τοιαῦτα σὰς
ὄψεις μαρᾶναι ; τίς σ' ἐπῆρε δαιμόνων ;

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?

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ ΤΥΡΑΝΝΟΣ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

στρ. β'.

Ἀπόλλων τάδ' ἦν, Ἀπόλλων, φίλοι,
ὁ κακὰ κακὰ τελῶν ἐμὰ τάδ' ἐμὰ πάθεα. 1330
ἔπαισε δ' αὐτόχειρ νιν οὔτις, ἀλλ' ἐγὼ τλάμων.
τί γὰρ ἔδει μ' ὀρᾶν,
ὅτ' ὄρῳσι μὴδὲν ἦν ἰδεῖν γλυκύ; 1335

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἦν ταῦθ' ὅπως περ καὶ σὺ φῆς.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

τί δ' ἦτ' ἐμοὶ βλεπτόν, ἢ στερκτόν, ἢ προσήγορον
ἔτ' ἔστ' ἀκούειν ἰδονᾶ, φίλοι;
ἀπάγετ' ἐκτόπιον ὅτι τάχιστα με, 1340
ἀπάγετ', ὦ φίλοι, τὸν μέγ' ὀλέθριον,
τὸν καταρατότατον, ἔτι δὲ καὶ θεοῖς 1345
ἐχθρότατον βροτῶν.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

δείλαιε τοῦ νοῦ τῆς τε συμφορᾶς ἴσον,
ὥς σ' ἠθέλησα μῆδ' ἀναγνώναί ποτ' ἄν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἀντ. β'.

ὅλοιθ' ὅστις ἦν ὃς ἀγρίας πέδας
νομάδ' ἐπιποδίας ἔλαβέ μ' ἀπὸ τε φόνου 1350
ἔρυτο κἀνέσωσεν, οὐδὲν εἰς χάριν πράσσω.
τότε γὰρ ἂν θανὼν
οὐκ ἦν φίλοισιν οὐδ' ἐμοὶ τοσόνδ' ἄχος. 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 abhorr'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.

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

θέλοντι κάμοι τοῦτ' ἂν ᾔην.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

οὐκ οἶδ' ὅπως γ' ἂν φονεὺς ᾔλθον, οὐδὲ νυμφίος
βροτοῖς ἐκλήθην ὧν ἔφυν ἄπο.

νῦν δ' ἄθεος μέν εἰμ', ἀνοσίων δὲ παῖς, 1360

όμογενῆς δ' ἀφ' ὧν αὐτὸς ἔφυν τάλας.

εἰ δέ τι πρεσβύτερον ἔτι κακοῦ κακόν, 1365

τοῦτ' ἔλαχ' Οἰδίπους.

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

οὐκ οἶδ' ὅπως σε φῶ βεβουλεῦσθαι καλῶς.
κρείσσων γὰρ ἦσθα μηκέτ' ὧν ἡ ζῶν τυφλός.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

ὥς μὲν τάδ' οὐχ ὧδ' ἔστ' ἄριστ' εἰργασμένα,
μή μ' ἐκδίδασκε, μηδὲ συμβούλευ' ἔτι. 1370

ἐγὼ γὰρ οὐκ οἶδ' ὅμμασιν ποίοις βλέπων
πατέρα ποτ' ἂν προσεῖδον εἰς Ἄιδου μολών,
οὐδ' αὖ τάλαιναν μητέρ', οἷν ἐμοὶ δυοῖν
ἔργ' ἐστὶ κρείσσον' ἀγχόνης εἰργασμένα.

ἀλλ' ἢ τέκνων δῆτ' ὄψις ἦν ἐφίμερος, 1375

βλαστοῦσ' ὅπως ἔβλαστε, προσλεύσσειν ἐμοί;

οὐ δῆτα τοῖς γ' ἐμοῖσιν ὀφθαλμοῖς ποτε·

οὐδ' ἄστν γ', οὐδὲ πύργος, οὐδὲ δαιμόνων

ἀγάλμαθ' ἰρά, τῶν ὁ παντλήμων ἐγὼ

κάλλιστ' ἀνὴρ εἰς ἓν γε ταῖς Θήβαις τραφεὶς 1380

ἀπεστέρησ' ἐμαυτόν, αὐτὸς ἐννέπων

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.

ὦθεϊν ἅπαντας τὸν ἀσεβῆ, τὸν ἐκ θεῶν
 φανέντ' ἀναγνον καὶ γένους τοῦ Λαΐου.
 τοιάνδ' ἐγὼ κηλίδα μηνύσας ἐμὴν
 ὀρθοῖς ἔμελλον ὄμμασιν τούτους ὁρᾶν; 1385
 ἥκιστά γ'· ἀλλ' εἰ τῆς ἀκουούσης ἔτ' ἦν
 πηγῆς δι' ὧτων φραγμός, οὐκ ἂν ἐσχόμην
 τὸ μῆποκλῆσαι τοῦμὸν ἄθλιον δέμας,
 ἵν' ἦν τυφλός τε καὶ κλύων μηδέν· τὸ γὰρ
 τὴν φροντίδ' ἔξω τῶν κακῶν οἰκεῖν γλυκύ. 1390
 ἰὼ Κιθαιρών, τί μ' ἐδέχου; τί μ' οὐ λαβὼν
 ἔκτεινας εὐθύς, ὥς ἔδειξα μήποτε
 ἑμαυτὸν ἀνθρώποισιν ἔνθεν ἦν γεγώς;
 ὦ Πόλυβε καὶ Κόρινθε καὶ τὰ πάτρια
 λόγῳ παλαιὰ δώμαθ', οἶον ἄρά με 1395
 κάλλος κακῶν ὑπουλον ἐξεθρέψατε.
 νῦν γὰρ κακός τ' ὢν κακῶν εὐρίσκομαι.
 ὦ τρεῖς κέλευθοι καὶ κεκρυμμένη νάπη
 δρυμός τε καὶ στενωπὸς ἐν τριπλαῖς ὁδοῖς,
 αἱ τοῦμὸν αἶμα τῶν ἐμῶν χειρῶν ἄπο 1400
 ἐπίετε πατρός, ἄρά μου μέμνησθέ τι,
 οἷ' ἔργα δράσας ὑμῖν εἴτα δεῦρ' ἰὼν
 ὅποῖ' ἔπρασσον αὐθις; ὦ γάμοι γάμοι,
 ἐφύσαθ' ἡμᾶς, καὶ φυτεύσαντες πάλιν
 ἀνείτε ταῦτ' ὃν σπέρμα, κάπεδείξατε 1405
 πατέρας, ἀδελφούς, παῖδας, αἶμ' ἐμφύλιον,
 νύμφας, γυναῖκας, μητέρας τε, χῶπόσα
 αἴσχιστ' ἐν ἀνθρώποισιν ἔργα γίγνεται.
 ἀλλ' — οὐ γὰρ αὐδᾶν ἔσθ' ἃ μηδὲ δρᾶν καλόν —

KING OEDIPUS.

Proclaiming to drive off from every door
Whom Heaven had marked for impious and impure,
Nay worse, of Læus 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.
Cithæron! 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, filming 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 glen,
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 μέ που 1410
καλύψατ', ἢ φονεύσατ', ἢ θαλάσσιον
ἐκρίψατ', ἔνθα μήποτ' εἰσόψεσθ' ἔτι.
ἴτ', ἀξιώσατ' ἀνδρὸς ἀθλίου θιγεῖν.
πίθεσθε, μὴ δείσητε. τὰμὰ γὰρ κακὰ
οὐδεὶς οἶός τε πλην ἐμοῦ φέρειν βροτῶν. 1415

ΧΟΡΟΣ.

ἀλλ' ὦν ἐπαιτεῖς ἐς δέον πάρεσθ' ὅδε
Κρέων τὸ πράσσειν καὶ τὸ βουλεύειν, ἐπεὶ
χώρας λέλειπται μῶνος ἀντὶ σοῦ φύλαξ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΣ.

οἴμοι, τί δῆτα λέξομεν πρὸς τόνδ' ἔπος ;
τίς μοι φανείται πίστις ἐνδικος ; τὰ γὰρ 1420
πάρος πρὸς αὐτὸν πάντ' ἐφεύρημαι κακός.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

οὔθ' ὥς γελαστής, Οἰδίπους, ἐλήλυθα, [Introit.
οὔθ' ὥς ὄνειδιῶν τι τῶν πάρος κακῶν.
ἀλλ' εἰ τὰ θνητῶν μὴ κατασχύνεσθ' ἔτι
γένεθλα, τὴν γοῦν πάντα βόσκουσιν φλόγα 1425
αἰδεῖσθ' ἄνακτος Ἑλίου, τοιόνδ' ἄγος
ἀκάλυπτον οὔτω δεικνύναι, τὸ μήτε γῇ
μήτ' ὄμβρος ἱρὸς μήτε φῶς προσδέξεται.
ἀλλ' ὥς τάχιστ' ἐς οἶκον ἐσκομίζετε·
τοῖς ἐν γένει γὰρ τὰγγεινὴ μάλισθ' ὁρᾶν 1430
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 ἐλπίδος μ' ἀπέσπασας,
ἄριστος ἐλθὼν πρὸς κάκιστον ἄνδρ' ἐμέ,
πιθοῦ τί μοι· πρὸς σοῦ γάρ, οὐδ' ἐμοῦ, φράσω.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

καὶ τοῦ με χρείας ὧδε λιπαρεῖς τυχεῖν;

1435

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ρίψόν με γῆς ἐκ τῆσδ' ὅσον τάχισθ', ὅπου
θνητῶν φανοῦμαι μηδενὸς προσήγορος.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἔδρας' ἂν εὖ τοῦτ' ἴσθ' ἄν, εἰ μὴ τοῦ θεοῦ
πρώτιστ' ἔχρηζον ἐκμαθεῖν τί πρακτέον.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἀλλ' ἢ γ' ἐκείνου πᾶσ' ἐδηλώθη φάτις,
τὸν πατροφόντην, τὸν ἀσεβῆ μ' ἀπολλύναι.

1440

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

οὕτως ἐλέχθη ταῦθ'· ὅμως δ', ἵν' ἕσταμεν
χρείας, ἄμεινον ἐκμαθεῖν τί δραστέον.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

οὕτως ἄρ' ἀνδρὸς ἀθλίου πεύσεσθ' ὕπερ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

καὶ γὰρ σὺ νῦν τᾶν τῷ θεῷ πίστιν φέροις.

1445

KING OEDIPUS. .

OEDIPUS.

By Heaven, since thou hast wrenched me from my fear,
So nobly meeting my unworthiness,
I pray thee hear me for thine own behoof.

CREON.

What boon dost thou desire so earnestly?

OEDIPUS.

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

CREON.

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

OEDIPUS.

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

CREON.

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

OEDIPUS.

And will ye ask him for a wretch like me?

CREON.

Yes. For even thou methinks wilt now believe.

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

καὶ σοί γ' ἐπισκῆπτω τε καὶ προτρέψομαι,
 τῆς μὲν κατ' οἴκους αὐτὸς ὃν θέλεις τάφον
 τοῦ· καὶ γὰρ ὀρθῶς τῶν γε σῶν τελεῖς ὕπερ·
 ἐμοῦ δὲ μήποτ' ἀξιωθήτω τόδε
 πατρῶον ἄστυ ζῶντος οἴκητοῦ τυχεῖν, 1450
 ἀλλ' ἔα με ναίειν ὄρεσιν, ἔνθα κλήζεται
 οὐμὸς Κιθαιρῶν οὗτος, ὃν μήτηρ τέ μοι
 πατήρ τ' ἐθέσθην ζῶντε κύριον τάφον,
 ἔν' ἐξ ἐκείνων, οἳ μ' ἀπωλλύτην, θάνω.
 καίτοι τοσοῦτόν γ' οἶδα, μήτε μ' ἂν νόσον 1455
 μήτ' ἄλλο πέρσαι μηδέν· οὐ γὰρ ἂν ποτε
 θνήσκων ἐσώθην, μὴ πὶ τῷ δεινῷ κακῷ.
 ἀλλ' ἢ μὲν ἡμῶν μοῖρ', ὅποιπερ εἶσ', ἴτω·
 παίδων δὲ τῶν μὲν ἀρσένων μὴ μοι, Κρέον,
 προσθῇ μέριμναν· ἄνδρες εἰσὶν, ὥστε μὴ 1460
 σπάνιν ποτὲ σχεῖν, ἔνθ' ἂν ᾧσι, τοῦ βίου·
 ταῖν δ' ἀθλίαιν οἰκτραῖν τε παρθένοιν ἐμαῖν,
 αἶν οὐποθ' ἡμῇ χωρὶς ἐστάθη βορᾶς
 τράπεζ' ἄνευ τοῦδ' ἀνδρός, ἀλλ' ὅσων ἐγὼ
 ψαύοιμι, πάντων τῶνδ' αἰεὶ μετειχέτην· 1465
 αἶν μοι μέλεσθαι· καὶ μάλιστα μὲν χεροῖν
 ψαῦσαί μ' ἔασον ἀποκλαύσασθαι κακά.
 ἴθ' ὦναξ,
 ἴθ' ὦ γονὴ γενναῖε. χερσὶ τὰν θιγῶν
 δοκοῖμ' ἔχειν σφᾶς, ὥσπερ ἡνίκ' ἐβλεπόν.
 τί φημί;
 οὐ δὲ κλύω που πρὸς θεῶν τοῖν μοι φίλοι

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.

δακρυρροούντοιν, καί μ' ἐποικτείρας Κρέων
ἔπεμψέ μοι τὰ φίλτατ' ἐκγόνοιον ἐμοῖν ;
λέγω τι ;

1475

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

λέγεις · ἐγὼ γάρ εἰμ' ὁ πορσύνας τάδε,
γνούς τὴν παροῦσαν τέρψιν, ἣ σ' εἶχεν πάλαι.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἀλλ' εὐτυχοίης, καί σε τῆσδε τῆς ὁδοῦ
δαίμων ἄμεινον ἢ 'μὲ φρουρήσας τύχοι.
ὦ τέκνα, ποῦ ποτ' ἐστέ ; δεῦρ' ἴτ', ἔλθετε
ὥς τὰς ἀδελφὰς τάσδε τὰς ἐμὰς χέρας,
αἱ τοῦ φυτουργοῦ πατὴρ ὑμῖν ὧδ' ὄραν
τὰ πρόσθε λαμπρὰ προυξένησαν ὄμματα ·
ὃς ὑμῖν, ὦ τέκν', οὐθ' ὀρών οὐθ' ἱστορῶν
πατὴρ ἐφάνθη ἔνθεν αὐτὸς ἠρόθην.

1480

1485

καὶ σφὼ δακρύω — προσβλέπειν γὰρ οὐ σθένω —
νοούμενος τὰ λοιπὰ τοῦ πικροῦ βίου,
οἶον βιῶναι σφὼ πρὸς ἀνθρώπων χρεών.
ποίας γὰρ ἀστῶν ἤξετ' εἰς ὀμιλίας,
ποίας δ' ἐορτάς, ἔνθεν οὐ κεκλαυμένα
πρὸς οἶκον ἵξεσθ' ἀντὶ τῆς θεωρίας ;
ἀλλ' ἡνίκ' ἂν δὴ πρὸς γάμων ἤκητ' ἀκμάς,
τίς οὗτος ἔσται, τίς παραρρίψει, τέκνα,
τοιαῦτ' ὀνειδίη λαμβάνων, ἃ τοῖς ἐμοῖς
γονεῦσιν ἔσται σφῶν θ' ὁμοῦ δηλήματα ;
τί γὰρ κακῶν ἄπεστι ; τὸν πατέρα πατὴρ
ὑμῶν ἔπεφνε · τὴν τεκοῦσαν ἤροσεν,

1490

1495

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,

ΣΟΦΟΚΛΕΟΥΣ

ὄθεν περ αὐτὸς ἐσπάρη, κακ τῶν ἴσων
 ἐκτήσαθ' ὑμᾶς, ὦν περ αὐτὸς ἐξέφυ.
 τοιαῦτ' ὀνειδιεῖσθε. κατὰ τίς γαμειῖ ; 1500
 οὐκ ἔστιν οὐδεὶς, ὦ τέκν', ἀλλὰ δηλαδὴ
 χέρσους φθαρῆναι καγάμους ὑμᾶς χρεῶν.
 ὦ παῖ Μενοικέως, ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ μόνος πατὴρ
 ταύταιν λέλειψαι, νῶ γὰρ, ὦ 'φυτεύσαμεν,
 ὀλώλαμεν δὴ ὄντε, μή σφε περιίδης 1505
 πτωχὰς ἀνάνδρους ἐγγενεῖς ἀλωμένας,
 μηδ' ἐξισώσης τάσδε τοῖς ἐμοῖς κακοῖς.
 ἀλλ' οἴκτισόν σφας, ὦδε τηλικάσδ' ὀρώων
 πάντων ἐρήμους, πλὴν ὅσον τὸ σὸν μέρος.
 ξύννευσον, ὦ γενναῖε, σῇ ψαύσας χερί. 1510
 σφῶν δ', ὦ τέκν', εἰ μὲν εἰχέτην ἤδη φρένας,
 πόλλ' ἂν παρήνουν· νῦν δὲ τοῦτ' εὐχέσθ' ἐμοι,
 οὗ καιρὸς ἀεὶ ζῆν, βίου δὲ λῶονος
 ὑμᾶς κυρῆσαι τοῦ φυτεύσαντος πατρός.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἄλλης, ἔν' ἐξήκεις δακρύων· ἀλλ' ἴθι στέγης ἔσω. 1515

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

πειστέον, κεί μὴδὲν ἴδύ.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

πάντα γὰρ καιρῷ καλά.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΤΣ.

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 τότε᾽ εἶσομαι κλύων.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

γῆς μὲ ὅπως πέμψεις ἄποικον.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

τοῦ θεοῦ μὲ αἰτεῖς δόσιν.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἀλλὰ θεοῖς γὰρ ἔχθιστος ἦκω.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

τοιγαροῦν τεύξει τάχα.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

φῆς τάδ' οὖν ;

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

ἂ μὴ φρονῶ γὰρ οὐ φιλῶ λέγειν μάτην. 1520

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

ἄπαγέ νῦν μὲ ἐντεῦθεν ἤδη.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

στεῖχέ νυν, τέκνων δ' ἀφοῦ.

ΟΙΔΙΠΟΥΣ.

μηδαμῶς ταύτας γὰρ ἔλη μου.

ΚΡΕΩΝ.

πάντα μὴ βούλου κρατεῖν·

καὶ γὰρ ἀκράτησας οὐ σοι τῷ βίῳ ξυνέσπετο. [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.

OEDIPUS.

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.

ὦ πάτρας Θήβης ἔνοικοι, λεύσσετ', Οἰδίπους ὅδε,
ὃς τὰ κλείν' αἰνίγματ' ἤδη καὶ κράτιστος ἦν ἀνὴρ, 1525
ὅστις οὐ ζήλω πολιτῶν καὶ τύχαις ἐπιβλέπων,
εἰς ὅσον κλύδωνα δεινῆς συμφορᾶς ἐλήλυθεν.
ὥστε, θνητὸν ὄντ', ἐκείνην τὴν τελευταίαν ἰδεῖν
ἡμέραν ἐπισκοποῦντα, μηδέν' ὀλβίζειν, πρὶν ἂν
τέρμα τοῦ βίου περάσῃ μηδὲν ἀλγεινὸν παθών. 1530

[Exi 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.]



