

The Role of Fate in Sophocles' "Oedipus Rex"

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Introduction

Sophocles' play *Oedipus Rex* deals with the tragedy of Oedipus and one understands that his tragedy was predetermined by fate. The Greeks believed in the power of oracles, prophesies, predestination and myths, and were very much preoccupied with good and evil. Sophocles makes use of all these elements in the *Oedipus Rex* and the fact that the audience is aware of the myth of Oedipus foreshadows his fate in the beginning of the play.

The oracle predicts that Oedipus would be killing his own father and marrying his own mother. Since then, Oedipus tries to escape the inevitable fate that awaits him. The greatest irony of the play is that all his efforts to evade the destiny bring him closer to it and the play shows how futile is Oedipus' human efforts to escape his destiny.

Main body

Oedipus' personal traits of pride, honor, hubris, anger, annoyance and his incessant quest to know the truth bring him closer to his tragic fate. It was Oedipus' hubris or his inability to control his hot temper that leads to the murder of Laius the king. The play opens with an unnatural plague that falls as a curse on the people of Thebes. Oedipus' self is so much determined and resolved to find out the actual reason for the plague; he shows heroic courage and honor to fight for the cause of the nation and his people. When Tiresias tells him that he is the actual polluter, he becomes annoyed and angry.

He plainly states "I know I am right" (p. 43) and goes in pursuit of the truth to prove himself innocent. But later when the messenger from Corinth states that "Polypus is no kin" (Sophocles, p. 35) of his, his self becomes all the more confused. Being courageous and adamant he doesn't stop his pursuit; he is, instead, more determined to find the mystery of his birth. This is evident when he states "I must pursue this trial to the end....I can't leave the truth unknown" (Sophocles, p. 55). His self is so resolute and

Oedipus Essays On Fate

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CliffsNotes on Shakespeare's Hamlet Carla Lynn Stockton,2011-05-18 The original CliffsNotes study guides offer expert commentary on major themes plots characters literary devices and historical background The latest generation of titles in this series also feature glossaries and visual elements that complement the classic familiar format Something may be rotten in the state of Denmark but your grades will be sweet when you rely on CliffsNotes on Hamlet as you digest Shakespeare's tragic masterpiece In this play Hamlet explores the meaning of life death eternity relationships hypocrisy truth the existence of God and almost anything else that concerns mankind Character studies shed new light on Prince Hamlet his father King Hamlet the malevolent Claudius the troubled Ophelia and the rest of the cast You'll also explore the life and times of William Shakespeare and unlock the play's themes and literary devices Count on CliffsNotes on Hamlet for detailed summaries and commentaries on every scene to help you appreciate the complexity of the play Other features that help you study include Character analyses of major players A character map that graphically illustrates the relationships among the characters Critical essays A review section that tests your knowledge Classic literature or modern day treasure you'll understand it all with expert information and insight from CliffsNotes study guides

Romantic Drama Gerald Ernest Paul Gillespie,1994 It does not treat Romanticism as a limited period dominated by some construed singular master ethos or dialectic rather it follows the literary patterns and dynamics of Romanticism as a flow of interactive currents across geocultural frontiers

Seductions of Fate G. Basterra,2004-02-24 If the tragic interpretation of experience is still so current despite its disastrous ethical consequences it is because it shapes our subjectivity Instead of contradicting the ideals of autonomy and freedom a modern subjectivity based on self victimization in effect enables them By embracing subjection to an alienating other the Law Power the autonomous subject protects its sameness from the disruption of real people Seductions of Fate stages a dialogue between this tragic agent of political emancipation and the unconditional ethical demands it seeks to evade

Essays by Divers Hands Royal Society of Literature (Great Britain),1907 **The Freedom Book** W. Russell Ogden Ph.D.,2011-07-25 Freedom is America's highest value We are the land of the free and the home of the brave The stars and stripes of our flag wave Freedom over our embassies around the world Immigrants risk their lives to gain freedom in America The Statue of Liberty welcomes them to our shores Our laws are designed to protect physical and political freedom for all citizens equally Spiritual freedom is the Christians highest value This is the basis of all the freedoms we enjoy The Freedom Book traces the history of freedom how God gave us freedom at creation how it was impaired by the fall in Eden and how Jesus Christ restored it through his death on the cross and resurrection to eternal life

Not all truth is liberating but the truth of Gods word is liberating Jesus said If you abide in my word you are truly my disciples and you will know the truth and this truth will set you free John 8 31 32 This book can guide you on the path to true freedom

Tragic Agency in Classical Drama from Aeschylus to Voltaire Paul Hammond, 2021-10-18 Are we free agents This perennial question is addressed by tragedy when it dramatizes the struggle of individuals with supernatural forces or maps the inner conflict of a mind divided against itself The first part of this book follows the adaptations of four myths as they migrate from classical Greek tragedy to Seneca and on to seventeenth century France the stories of Agamemnon Oedipus Medea and Phaedra Detailed linguistic analysis charts the playwrights contrasting assumptions about agency and autonomy In the second part six plays by Corneille and Racine are discussed to show how the problem of agency and free will is explored in scenarios which show protagonists who are in thrall to their past to their rulers or to their own ideals

The Infanticidal Logic of Evolution and Culture A. Samuel Kimball, 2007 This book argues that because existence costs the two words are cognates any living thing must economize shift more of its energy costs onto the world including other living things than its competitors are able to that to economize is therefore to engage in exchanges that are sacrificial at their core and that such economization is infanticidal in its ultimate implications A Samuel Kimball is Associate Professor of English at the University of North Florida

The Ancient Concept of Progress and Other Essays on Greek Literature and Belief Eric Robertson Dodds, 1985 This provocative collection of essays written by the influential Greek scholar E R Dodds between 1929 and 1971 represents the wide range of his literary and philosophical interests Insightful and learned the essays combine profound scholarship with the lucid humanity of a teacher aware of the special value of Greek studies in the modern world

The Yale Literary Magazine , 1909

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