Oedipus the King

SOPHOCLES

c. 497–406 BC

Oedipus the King

Οἰδίπους Τύραννος

Translated from the Greek with AI (Claude) and edited



FORAGE
forage.com

Oedipus the King · Sophocles (c. 497–406 BC)

Translated from the Greek with AI (Claude) and edited. Parallel-text edition, Forage, October 2026. forage.com/sophocles/oedipus-the-king

Greek text: Francis Storr (ed.), *Sophocles*, vol. 1: *Oedipus the King, Oedipus at Colonus, Antigone* (Loeb Classical Library; London: William Heinemann; New York: Macmillan, 1912); editor Francis Storr (1839–1919), via the Perseus Digital Library (github.com/PerseusDL/canonical-greekLit) (canonical-greekLit, tlg0011.tlg004.perseus-grc2), CC BY-SA 4.0. English: translated from the Greek with AI (Claude), then edited for accuracy and consistency. Not reviewed by a human specialist. Free to reuse under CC BY-SA 4.0. Margin numbers are line numbers.

The original text is in the public domain. This translation is free to share and adapt under the Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike 4.0 International license (CC BY-SA 4.0): creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0

Set in Source Serif 4, with Gentium Book Plus.

CONTENTS

Introduction vii

Oedipus the King 1

Prologue 1
Parodos 5
First Episode 7
First Stasimon 14
Second Episode 15
Second Stasimon 26
Third Episode 27
Third Stasimon 33
Fourth Episode 34
Fourth Stasimon 37
Exodos 38

INTRODUCTION

Thebes is dying of a plague, and its king, Oedipus—the clever outsider who once saved the city by answering the riddle of the Sphinx—promises to find the cause. The oracle at Delphi says the plague will end only when the killer of the previous king, Laius, is found and driven out. Oedipus throws himself into the hunt.

What follows is the most famous detective story ever written, in which the investigator is also the culprit. Each witness—the blind prophet Teiresias, Oedipus' wife Jocasta, a messenger from Corinth, an old shepherd—brings him closer to a truth everyone in the audience already knew: that he has killed his father and married his mother.

First staged in Athens around 429 BC, the play was Aristotle's model of the perfect tragedy, and it has shaped ideas of fate, guilt and self-knowledge ever since, from Freud's "Oedipus complex" to the modern crime novel.

Oedipus the King

Before the royal palace at Thebes, during a plague.
Oedipus hunts for the killer of Laius and discovers who he is.

PROLOGUE

Thebes is dying of plague, and Creon brings Apollo's order to drive out the killer of Laius.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1	**OEDIPUS** ὦ τέκνα, Κάδμου τοῦ πάλαι νέα τροφή, τίνας ποθ' ἕδρας τάσδε μοι θοάζετε ἱκτηρίοις κλάδοισιν ἐξεστεμμένοι; πόλις δ' ὁμοῦ μὲν θυμιαμάτων γέμει, ὁμοῦ δὲ παιάνων τε καὶ στεναγμάτων· ἀγὼ δικαιῶν 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, δείσαντες ἢ στέρξαντες; ὡς θέλοντος ἂν ἐμοῦ προσαρκεῖν πᾶν· δυσάλγητος γὰρ ἂν εἴην τοιάνδε μὴ οὐ κατοικτίρων ἕδραν.	**OEDIPUS** Children, newest brood of ancient Cadmus, why are you sitting here before me like this, wreathed with suppliants' branches? The whole city is full of incense, and full of hymns to the Healer and groans together. I didn't think it right, children, to hear about this from messengers, from other people, so I have come here myself: I, Oedipus, whose name everyone knows. Come, old man, tell me, since you're the one fit to speak for these people. What has brought you here? Fear, or something you long for? You can be sure I'd be willing to help in every way. I'd be a hard-hearted man if I felt no pity for a gathering like this.[1]
14	**PRIEST** ἀλλ' ὦ κρατύνων Οἰδίπους χώρας ἐμῆς, ὁρᾷς μὲν ἡμᾶς ἡλίκοι προσήμεθα βωμοῖσι τοῖς σοῖς· οἱ μὲν οὐδέπω μακρὰν πτέσθαι σθένοντες, οἱ δὲ σὺν γήρᾳ βαρεῖς, ἱερῆς, ἐγὼ μὲν Ζηνός, οἵδε τ' ἠθέων λεκτοί· τὸ δ' ἄλλο φῦλον ἐξεστεμμένον ἀγοραῖσι θακεῖ πρός τε Παλλάδος διπλοῖς ναοῖς, ἐπ' Ἰσμηνοῦ τε μαντείᾳ σποδῷ.	**PRIEST** Oedipus, ruler of my land, you see how young and how old we are who sit at your altars. Some aren't yet strong enough to fly far, and some are heavy with age. We are priests, and I am the priest of Zeus, and these were chosen from the young men. The rest of the people sit wreathed in the marketplaces, at the twin temples of Pallas, and by the prophetic embers of Ismenus.[2]
22	πόλις γάρ, ὥσπερ καὐτὸς εἰσορᾷς, ἄγαν ἤδη σαλεύει κἀνακουφίσαι κάρα βυθῶν ἔτ' οὐχ οἵα τε φοινίου σάλου, φθίνουσα μὲν κάλυξιν ἐγκάρποις χθονός, φθίνουσα δ' ἀγέλαις βουνόμοις τόκοισί τε ἀγόνοις γυναικῶν· ἐν δ' ὁ πυρφόρος θεὸς σκήψας ἐλαύνει, λοιμὸς ἔχθιστος, πόλιν, ὑφ' οὗ κενοῦται δῶμα Καδμεῖον, μέλας δ' Ἅιδης στεναγμοῖς καὶ γόοις πλουτίζεται. θεοῖσι μέν νυν οὐκ ἰσούμενόν σ' ἐγὼ οὐδ' οἵδε παῖδες ἑζόμεσθ' ἐφέστιοι, ἀνδρῶν δὲ πρῶτον ἔν τε συμφοραῖς βίου κρίνοντες ἔν τε δαιμόνων συναλλαγαῖς·	For the city, as you can see for yourself, is already pitching too violently, and can no longer lift its head above the depths of the bloody swell. It is wasting away in the fruit-bearing buds of the earth, wasting away in its grazing herds, and in its women's labors that bring no birth. And the fire-bearing god, most hateful plague, has swooped down and is driving through the city. He is emptying the house of Cadmus, while black Hades grows rich on groans and wailing. It isn't because we count you equal to the gods that I and these children sit here at your hearth. It's because we judge

1 Cadmus was the legendary founder of Thebes; its people are often called his descendants.
2 Ismenus is a river of Thebes; at Apollo's temple beside it, prophecies were read from the ashes of burnt offerings.

GREEK	ENGLISH
	you the first of men, both in the chances of life and in dealings with the gods.
ὅς γ' ἐξέλυσας ἄστυ Καδμεῖον μολὼν σκληρᾶς ἀοιδοῦ δασμὸν ὃν παρείχομεν, καὶ ταῦθ' ὑφ' ἡμῶν οὐδὲν ἐξειδὼς πλέον οὐδ' ἐκδιδαχθείς, ἀλλὰ προσθήκῃ θεοῦ λέγει νομίζει θ' ἡμὶν ὀρθῶσαι βίον· νῦν τ', ὦ κράτιστον πᾶσιν Οἰδίπου κάρα, ἱκετεύομέν σε πάντες οἵδε πρόστροποι ἀλκήν τιν' εὑρεῖν ἡμίν, εἴτε του θεῶν φήμην ἀκούσας εἴτ' ἀπ' ἀνδρὸς οἶσθά του· ὡς τοῖσιν ἐμπείροισι καὶ τὰς ξυμφορὰς ζώσας ὁρῶ μάλιστα τῶν βουλευμάτων. ἴθ', ὦ βροτῶν ἄριστ', ἀνόρθωσον πόλιν, ἴθ', εὐλαβήθηθ'· ὡς σὲ νῦν μὲν ἥδε γῆ σωτῆρα κλῄζει τῆς πάρος προθυμίας·	You were the one who came to the city of Cadmus and freed us from the tribute we were paying to the harsh singer. And you did it without learning anything more from us, without being taught. It was with a god's help, so people say and believe, that you set our lives upright. And now, Oedipus, mightiest in the eyes of all, all of us here turn to you as suppliants and beg you to find us some defense, whether you've heard a voice from one of the gods or know of help from some man. For I see that when men have experience, the outcomes of their counsels are the likeliest to live. Come, best of mortals, set the city upright again. Come, take care. For now this land calls you its savior for your zeal in the past.[3]
ἀρχῆς δὲ τῆς σῆς μηδαμῶς μεμνώμεθα στάντες τ' ἐς ὀρθὸν καὶ πεσόντες ὕστερον. ἀλλ' ἀσφαλείᾳ τήνδ' ἀνόρθωσον πόλιν· ὄρνιθι γὰρ καὶ τὴν τότ' αἰσίῳ τύχην παρέσχες ἡμῖν, καὶ τανῦν ἴσος γενοῦ. ὡς εἴπερ ἄρξεις τῆσδε γῆς, ὥσπερ κρατεῖς, ξὺν ἀνδράσιν κάλλιον ἢ κενῆς κρατεῖν· ὡς οὐδέν ἐστιν οὔτε πύργος οὔτε ναῦς ἔρημος ἀνδρῶν μὴ ξυνοικούντων ἔσω.	Let us never remember your reign as the time we were set upright and later fell. No, set this city upright on firm footing. With a bird of good omen you gave us good fortune then; be the same man now. If you're going to rule this land, as you do now, it's better to rule it with people in it than empty. A tower or a ship is nothing when it is empty, with no men living together inside.
OEDIPUS ὦ παῖδες οἰκτροί, γνωτὰ κοὐκ ἄγνωτά μοι προσήλθεθ' ἱμείροντες· εὖ γὰρ οἶδ' ὅτι νοσεῖτε πάντες, καὶ νοσοῦντες, ὡς ἐγὼ οὐκ ἔστιν ὑμῶν ὅστις ἐξ ἴσου νοσεῖ. τὸ μὲν γὰρ ὑμῶν ἄλγος εἰς ἕν' ἔρχεται μόνον καθ' αὑτὸν κοὐδέν' ἄλλον, ἡ δ' ἐμὴ ψυχὴ πόλιν τε κἀμὲ καὶ σ' ὁμοῦ στένει. ὥστ' οὐχ ὕπνῳ γ' εὕδοντά μ' ἐξεγείρετε, ἀλλ' ἴστε πολλὰ μέν με δακρύσαντα δή, πολλὰς δ' ὁδοὺς ἐλθόντα φροντίδος πλάνοις·	**OEDIPUS** My poor children, what you've come here longing for is known to me, not unknown. I know well that you are all sick. And sick as you are, there isn't one of you whose sickness is equal to mine. Your pain comes to each of you alone, to himself and to no one else. But my soul grieves for the city, for myself, and for you, all at once. So you aren't waking me from sleep. Know that I have wept many tears, and traveled many roads in the wanderings of my thoughts.
ἣν δ' εὖ σκοπῶν ηὕρισκον ἴασιν μόνην, ταύτην ἔπραξα· παῖδα γὰρ Μενοικέως Κρέοντ', ἐμαυτοῦ γαμβρόν, ἐς τὰ Πυθικὰ ἔπεμψα Φοίβου δώμαθ', ὡς πύθοιθ' ὅ τι δρῶν ἢ τί φωνῶν τήνδε ῥυσαίμην πόλιν. καί μ' ἦμαρ ἤδη ξυμμετρούμενον χρόνῳ λυπεῖ τί πράσσει· τοῦ γὰρ εἰκότος πέρα ἄπεστι πλείω τοῦ καθήκοντος χρόνου. ὅταν δ' ἵκηται, τηνικαῦτ' ἐγὼ κακὸς μὴ δρῶν ἂν εἴην πάνθ' ὅσ' ἂν δηλοῖ θεός.	The one remedy I could find after careful thought, I have put into action. I sent Creon, Menoeceus' son, my own brother-in-law, to Phoebus' Pythian house, to find out what I might do or say to save this city. And already, when I count the days, I'm troubled about how he's faring. He has been away longer than one would expect, past the proper time. But when he comes, I'd be a bad man if I didn't do everything the god reveals.[4]

3 The "harsh singer" is the Sphinx, a monster who killed every Theban who failed to answer her riddle, until Oedipus solved it.
4 Phoebus is Apollo, whose oracle was at Pytho (Delphi); "Pythian" refers to it.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
78	**PRIEST** ἀλλ᾽ εἰς καλὸν σύ τ᾽ εἶπας οἵδε τ᾽ ἀρτίως / Κρέοντα προσστείχοντα σημαίνουσί μοι.	**PRIEST** You speak just in time: these men have just signaled to me that Creon is approaching.
80	**OEDIPUS** ὦναξ Ἄπολλον, εἰ γὰρ ἐν τύχῃ γέ τῳ / σωτῆρι βαίη λαμπρὸς ὥσπερ ὄμματι	**OEDIPUS** Lord Apollo, if only he comes with some saving fortune, bright as his face is bright!
82	**PRIEST** ἀλλ᾽ εἰκάσαι μέν, ἡδύς· οὐ γὰρ ἂν κάρα / πολυστεφὴς ὧδ᾽ εἶρπε παγκάρπου δάφνης.	**PRIEST** As far as one can guess, his news is welcome. Otherwise he wouldn't be coming with his head crowned so thickly with berry-laden laurel.
84	**OEDIPUS** τάχ᾽ εἰσόμεσθα· ξύμμετρος γὰρ ὡς κλύειν. ἄναξ, ἐμὸν κήδευμα, παῖ Μενοικέως, τίν᾽ ἡμὶν ἥκεις τοῦ θεοῦ φήμην φέρων;	**OEDIPUS** We'll know soon. He's close enough to hear. My lord, my kinsman, son of Menoeceus, what word from the god have you brought us?
87	**CREON** ἐσθλήν· λέγω γὰρ καὶ τὰ δύσφορ᾽, εἰ τύχοι / κατ᾽ ὀρθὸν ἐξελθόντα, πάντ᾽ ἂν εὐτυχεῖν.	**CREON** Good news. I say that even what is hard to bear, if it happens to turn out right, will end well.
89	**OEDIPUS** ἔστιν δὲ ποῖον τοὔπος; οὔτε γὰρ θρασὺς / οὔτ᾽ οὖν προδείσας εἰμὶ τῷ γε νῦν λόγῳ.	**OEDIPUS** But what is the word? What you've said so far makes me neither bold nor afraid.
91	**CREON** εἰ τῶνδε χρῄζεις πλησιαζόντων κλύειν, / ἕτοιμος εἰπεῖν, εἴτε καὶ στείχειν ἔσω.	**CREON** If you want to hear it with these people close by, I'm ready to speak, or else to go inside.
93	**OEDIPUS** ἐς πάντας αὔδα· τῶνδε γὰρ πλέον φέρω / τὸ πένθος ἢ καὶ τῆς ἐμῆς ψυχῆς πέρι.	**OEDIPUS** Speak out to everyone. The grief I carry is more for them than for my own life.
95	**CREON** λέγοιμ᾽ ἂν οἷ᾽ ἤκουσα τοῦ θεοῦ πάρα. ἄνωγεν ἡμᾶς Φοῖβος ἐμφανῶς ἄναξ μίασμα χώρας, ὡς τεθραμμένον χθονὶ ἐν τῇδ᾽, ἐλαύνειν μηδ᾽ ἀνήκεστον τρέφειν.	**CREON** Then I'll tell you what I heard from the god. Lord Phoebus plainly commands us to drive out a pollution from the land, one that has been nurtured in this soil, and not to nurture it until it can't be cured.
99	**OEDIPUS** ποίῳ καθαρμῷ; τίς ὁ τρόπος τῆς ξυμφορᾶς;	**OEDIPUS** With what purification? What is the nature of the trouble?
100	**CREON** ἀνδρηλατοῦντας ἢ φόνῳ φόνον πάλιν / λύοντας, ὡς τόδ᾽ αἷμα χειμάζον πόλιν.	**CREON** By banishing a man, or by paying for blood with blood again, since it's this blood that brings the storm upon the city.
102	**OEDIPUS** ποίου γὰρ ἀνδρὸς τήνδε μηνύει τύχην;	**OEDIPUS** And whose fate is it that he reveals?
103	**CREON** ἦν ἡμίν, ὦναξ, Λάϊός ποθ᾽ ἡγεμὼν / γῆς τῆσδε, πρὶν σὲ τήνδ᾽ ἀπευθύνειν πόλιν.	**CREON** Once, before you came to steer this city, we had a leader of this land, Laius.
105	**OEDIPUS** ἔξοιδ᾽ ἀκούων· οὐ γὰρ εἰσεῖδόν γέ πω.	**OEDIPUS** I know that from hearing of him. I never set eyes on him.
106	**CREON** τούτου θανόντος νῦν ἐπιστέλλει σαφῶς / τοὺς αὐτοέντας χειρὶ τιμωρεῖν τινας.	**CREON** He was killed, and now the god plainly commands us to punish the men who killed him with their own hands, whoever they are.
108	**OEDIPUS** οἳ δ᾽ εἰσὶ ποῦ γῆς; ποῦ τόδ᾽ εὑρεθήσεται / ἴχνος παλαιᾶς δυστέκμαρτον αἰτίας;	**OEDIPUS** And where on earth are they? Where will this faint track of an old crime be found?
110		

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	CREON ἐν τῇδ’ ἔφασκε γῇ· τὸ δὲ ζητούμενον / ἁλωτόν, ἐκφεύγειν δὲ τἀμελούμενον.	**CREON** In this land, he said. What is sought can be caught; what is neglected escapes.
112	**OEDIPUS** πότερα δ’ ἐν οἴκοις ἢ ’ν ἀγροῖς ὁ Λάϊος / ἢ γῆς ἐπ’ ἄλλης τῷδε συμπίπτει φόνῳ;	**OEDIPUS** Was it at home, or in the country, or in some other land that Laius met this death?
114	**CREON** θεωρός, ὡς ἔφασκεν, ἐκδημῶν, πάλιν / πρὸς οἶκον οὐκέθ’ ἵκεθ’, ὡς ἀπεστάλη.	**CREON** He had gone abroad, so he said, to consult the oracle, and once he’d set out, he never came home again.
116	**OEDIPUS** οὐδ’ ἄγγελός τις οὐδὲ συμπράκτωρ ὁδοῦ / κατεῖδ’, ὅτου τις ἐκμαθὼν ἐχρήσατ’ ἄν;	**OEDIPUS** And no messenger, no fellow traveler saw it, someone whose story could have been put to use?
118	**CREON** θνῄσκουσι γάρ, πλὴν εἷς τις, ὃς φόβῳ, φυγὼν / ὧν εἶδε πλὴν ἓν οὐδὲν εἶχ’ εἰδὼς φράσαι.	**CREON** No, they were killed, all but one. He fled in fear, and of what he saw he could say only one thing for certain.
120	**OEDIPUS** τὸ ποῖον; ἓν γὰρ πόλλ’ ἂν ἐξεύροι μαθεῖν, / ἀρχὴν βραχεῖαν εἰ λάβοιμεν ἐλπίδος.	**OEDIPUS** What was that? One thing could lead us to learn many, if we could get a small beginning for hope.
122	**CREON** λῃστὰς ἔφασκε συντυχόντας οὐ μιᾷ / ῥώμῃ κτανεῖν νιν, ἀλλὰ σὺν πλήθει χερῶν.	**CREON** He said robbers met them and killed him, not with the strength of one man, but with many hands.
124	**OEDIPUS** πῶς οὖν ὁ λῃστής, εἴ τι μὴ ξὺν ἀργύρῳ / ἐπράσσετ’ ἐνθένδ’, ἐς τόδ’ ἂν τόλμης ἔβη;	**OEDIPUS** Then how could the robber have dared go so far, unless something was being paid for with silver from here?
126	**CREON** δοκοῦντα ταῦτ’ ἦν· Λαΐου δ’ ὀλωλότος / οὐδεὶς ἀρωγὸς ἐν κακοῖς ἐγίγνετο.	**CREON** That was suspected. But with Laius dead, no one rose to help us in our troubles.
128	**OEDIPUS** κακὸν δὲ ποῖον ἐμποδών, τυραννίδος / οὕτω πεσούσης, εἶργε τοῦτ’ ἐξειδέναι;	**OEDIPUS** And what trouble stood in your way, when royal power had fallen like that, to stop you from finding this out?
130	**CREON** ἡ ποικιλῳδὸς Σφὶγξ τὸ πρὸς ποσὶν σκοπεῖν / μεθέντας ἡμᾶς τἀφανῆ προσήγετο.	**CREON** The Sphinx with her intricate songs made us let go of what was hidden and look at what lay at our feet.
132	**OEDIPUS** ἀλλ’ ἐξ ὑπαρχῆς αὖθις αὖτ’ ἐγὼ φανῶ· / ἐπαξίως γὰρ Φοῖβος, ἀξίως δὲ σὺ / πρὸ τοῦ θανόντος τήνδ’ ἔθεσθ’ ἐπιστροφήν· / ὥστ’ ἐνδίκως ὄψεσθε κἀμὲ σύμμαχον / γῇ τῇδε τιμωροῦντα τῷ θεῷ θ’ ἅμα. / ὑπὲρ γὰρ οὐχὶ τῶν ἀπωτέρω φίλων, / ἀλλ’ αὐτὸς αὑτοῦ τοῦτ’ ἀποσκεδῶ μύσος.	**OEDIPUS** Then I’ll start again from the beginning and bring it to light. Phoebus has rightly, and you have rightly, turned this attention to the dead man. So you will see me too as an ally, as is just, avenging this land and the god as well. Not on behalf of some distant loved one, but for my own sake I will drive away this defilement myself.
139	ὅστις γὰρ ἦν ἐκεῖνον ὁ κτανών, τάχ’ ἂν / κἄμ’ ἂν τοιαύτῃ χειρὶ τιμωροῦνθ’ ἕλοι. / κείνῳ προσαρκῶν οὖν ἐμαυτὸν ὠφελῶ. / ἀλλ’ ὡς τάχιστα, παῖδες, ὑμεῖς μὲν βάθρων / ἵστασθε, τούσδ’ ἄραντες ἱκτῆρας κλάδους,	For whoever it was that killed him might soon want to lay that same hand on me too, as I seek vengeance. So in helping him I’m helping myself. Now, children, quickly: rise from the steps and take up these suppliant branches. Let someone

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	ἄλλος δὲ Κάδμου λαὸν ὧδ' ἀθροιζέτω, ὡς πᾶν ἐμοῦ δράσοντος· ἢ γὰρ εὐτυχεῖς σὺν τῷ θεῷ φανούμεθ' ἢ πεπτωκότες.	else gather the people of Cadmus here, for I will leave nothing undone. With the god's help we will be shown to be fortunate, or fallen.
147	**PRIEST** ὦ παῖδες, ἱστώμεσθα· τῶνδε γὰρ χάριν καὶ δεῦρ' ἔβημεν ὧν ὅδ' ἐξαγγέλλεται. Φοῖβος δ' ὁ πέμψας τάσδε μαντείας ἅμα σωτὴρ δ' ἵκοιτο καὶ νόσου παυστήριος.	**PRIEST** Children, let us rise. What he has just announced is what we came here for. And may Phoebus, who sent these oracles, come as our savior too, and put an end to the sickness.

PARODOS

The elders of Thebes pray to Athena, Artemis, Apollo and Dionysus to end the plague.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
151	**CHORUS** ὦ Διὸς ἀδυεπὲς φάτι, τίς ποτε τᾶς πολυχρύσου Πυθῶνος ἀγλαὰς ἔβας Θήβας; ἐκτέταμαι φοβερὰν φρένα, δείματι πάλλων, ἰήιε Δάλιε Παιάν, ἀμφὶ σοὶ ἀζόμενος τί μοι ἢ νέον ἢ περιτελλομέναις ὥραις πάλιν ἐξανύσεις χρέος. εἰπέ μοι, ὦ χρυσέας τέκνον Ἐλπίδος, ἄμβροτε Φάμα.	**CHORUS** Sweet-spoken word of Zeus, what are you, that have come from Pytho rich in gold to shining Thebes? I am stretched on the rack, my fearful heart shaking with dread, Healer of Delos, to whom we cry, in awe of you: what will you bring to pass for me, something new, or something that comes again with the circling seasons? Tell me, child of golden Hope, immortal Voice.[5]
160	πρῶτα σὲ κεκλόμενος, θύγατερ Διός, ἄμβροτ' Ἀθάνα γαιάοχόν τ' ἀδελφεὰν Ἄρτεμιν, ἃ κυκλόεντ' ἀγορᾶς θρόνον εὐκλέα θάσσει, καὶ Φοῖβον ἑκαβόλον, ἰὼ τρισσοὶ ἀλεξίμοροι προφάνητέ μοι, εἴ ποτε καὶ προτέρας ἄτας ὕπερ ὀρνυμένας πόλει ἠνύσατ' ἐκτοπίαν φλόγα πήματος, ἔλθετε καὶ νῦν.	First I call on you, daughter of Zeus, immortal Athena, and on your sister who guards our land, Artemis, who sits on her glorious throne in the circle of the marketplace, and on Phoebus, who shoots from afar: oh, you three who ward off death, appear to me! If ever before, when ruin came rushing on the city, you drove the flame of suffering out of our land, come now too.
169	ὦ πόποι, ἀνάριθμα γὰρ φέρω πήματα· νοσεῖ δέ μοι πρόπας στόλος, οὐδ' ἔνι φροντίδος ἔγχος ᾧ τις ἀλέξεται. οὔτε γὰρ ἔκγονα κλυτᾶς χθονὸς αὔξεται οὔτε τόκοισιν ἰηίων καμάτων ἀνέχουσι γυναῖκες· ἄλλον δ' ἂν ἄλλῳ προσίδοις ἅπερ εὔπτερον ὄρνιν κρεῖσσον ἀμαιμακέτου πυρὸς ὅρμενον ἀκτὰν πρὸς ἑσπέρου θεοῦ.	Oh, oh, numberless are the sorrows I bear. My whole people is sick, and thought has no weapon to ward it off. The children of our famous earth do not grow, and women do not rise from their crying labor with children born. One after another you can see them, like birds on swift wings,

5 The Healer (Paean) is Apollo, who was born on the island of Delos.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
		speeding faster than raging fire to the shore of the western god.
179	ὧν πόλις ἀνάριθμος ὄλλυται· νηλέα δὲ γένεθλα πρὸς πέδῳ θαναταφόρα κεῖται ἀνοίκτως· ἐν δ' ἄλοχοι πολιαί τ' ἔπι ματέρες ἀχὰν παραβώμιον ἄλλοθεν ἄλλαν λυγρῶν πόνων ἱκετῆρες ἐπιστενάχουσιν. παιὰν δὲ λάμπει στονόεσσά τε γῆρυς ὅμαυλος ὧν ὕπερ, ὦ χρυσέα θύγατερ Διός, εὐῶπα πέμψον ἀλκάν.	In their numberless deaths the city perishes. Its children lie unpitied on the ground, spreading death, with no one to mourn them. And wives, and gray-haired mothers with them, at the altars' edge, from every side, groan as suppliants for their bitter pains. The healing hymn blazes out, and with it the voice of lament. For all this, golden daughter of Zeus, send us help with a bright face.
190	Ἄρεά τε τὸν μαλερόν, ὃς νῦν ἄχαλκος ἀσπίδων φλέγει με περιβόατον, ἀντιάζω παλίσσυτον δράμημα νωτίσαι πάτρας ἔπουρον, εἴτ' ἐς μέγαν θάλαμον Ἀμφιτρίτας εἴτ' ἐς τὸν ἀπόξενον ὅρμων Θρῄκιον κλύδωνα· τελεῖν γὰρ εἴ τι νὺξ ἀφῇ, τοῦτ' ἐπ' ἦμαρ ἔρχεται· τόν, ὦ τᾶν πυρφόρων ἀστραπᾶν κράτη νέμων, ὦ Ζεῦ πάτερ, ὑπὸ σῷ φθίσον κεραυνῷ,	And Ares the raging, who now without bronze shields burns me as he comes amid cries, I pray he will turn his back and run from our homeland, swept by a fair wind, either to the great chamber of Amphitrite or to the Thracian waves where no harbor welcomes strangers. For if night leaves anything undone, day comes on to finish it. Him, you who wield the power of fire-bearing lightning, Father Zeus, destroy him beneath your thunderbolt.[6]
203	Λύκει' ἄναξ, τά τε σὰ χρυσοστρόφων ἀπ' ἀγκυλᾶν βέλεα θέλοιμ' ἂν ἀδάματ' ἐνδατεῖσθαι ἀρωγὰ προσταχθέντα τάς τε πυρφόρους Ἀρτέμιδος αἴγλας, ξὺν αἷς Λύκι' ὄρεα διᾴσσει· τὸν χρυσομίτραν τε κικλήσκω, τᾶσδ' ἐπώνυμον γᾶς, οἰνῶπα Βάκχον εὔιον, Μαινάδων ὁμόστολον, πελασθῆναι φλέγοντ' ἀγλαῶπι ⏑ ˘ ⏑ πεύκᾳ 'πὶ τὸν ἀπότιμον ἐν θεοῖς θεόν.	Lycean lord, I would have your arrows, unconquerable, from your gold-twisted bowstring, scattered among us, set before us to help, and the fire-bearing light of Artemis' torches, with which she darts across the Lycian hills. And I call on the god of the golden headband, who shares his name with this land, wine-flushed Bacchus, hailed with joyful cries, companion of the Maenads, to come near, blazing with a bright … torch, against the god dishonored among the gods.[7]

6 Ares, the god of war, here stands for the plague; Amphitrite is a sea goddess, and her "great chamber" is the open sea.
7 "Lycean" is a title of Apollo; Bacchus (Dionysus), son of the Theban princess Semele, was Thebes' own god.

FIRST EPISODE

Oedipus curses the unknown killer, and the prophet Teiresias names Oedipus himself.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
216	**OEDIPUS** αἰτεῖς· ἃ δ' αἰτεῖς, τἄμ' 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 ἴχνευον αὐτός, μὴ οὐκ ἔχων τι σύμβολον, νῦν δ' ὕστερος γὰρ ἀστὸς εἰς ἀστοὺς τελῶ, ὑμῖν προφωνῶ πᾶσι Καδμείοις τάδε· ὅστις ποθ' ὑμῶν Λάϊον τὸν Λαβδάκου κάτοιδεν ἀνδρὸς ἐκ τίνος διώλετο, τοῦτον κελεύω πάντα σημαίνειν ἐμοί·	**OEDIPUS** You pray. And what you pray for, if you are willing to hear and accept my words and do what the sickness demands, you may receive: defense and relief from your troubles. I will speak as a stranger to this story, and a stranger to the deed. I couldn't track it far on my own without some clue. But as it is, since I became a citizen among citizens only later, I proclaim this to all of you, people of Cadmus: whoever among you knows by what man Laius, son of Labdacus, was killed, I command him to reveal everything to me.
227	κεἰ μὲν φοβεῖται, τοὐπίκλημ' ὑπεξελεῖν αὐτὸν καθ' αὑτοῦ· πείσεται γὰρ ἄλλο μὲν ἀστεργὲς οὐδέν. γῆς δ' ἄπεισιν ἀσφαλής. εἰ δ' αὖ τις ἄλλον οἶδεν ἐξ ἄλλης χθονὸς τὸν αὐτόχειρα, μὴ σιωπάτω· τὸ γὰρ κέρδος τελῶ 'γὼ χἠ χάρις προσκείσεται. εἰ δ' αὖ σιωπήσεσθε, καί τις ἢ φίλου δείσας ἀπώσει τοὔπος ἢ χαὐτοῦ τόδε, ἃκ τῶνδε δράσω, ταῦτα χρὴ κλύειν ἐμοῦ.	And if he is afraid, let him remove the charge by speaking out against himself. He will suffer nothing else unpleasant; he will leave the land unharmed. Or if someone knows that the killer is another man, from another land, let him not keep silent. I will pay him the reward, and my gratitude will be his as well. But if you keep silent, and someone, fearing for a loved one or for himself, rejects my command, then you must hear from me what I will do.
236	τὸν ἄνδρ' ἀπαυδῶ τοῦτον, ὅστις ἐστί, γῆς τῆσδ', ἧς ἐγὼ κράτη τε καὶ θρόνους νέμω, μήτ' εἰσδέχεσθαι μήτε προσφωνεῖν τινα, μήτ' ἐν θεῶν εὐχαῖσι μήτε θύμασιν κοινὸν ποεῖσθαι, μήτε χέρνιβας νέμειν· ὠθεῖν δ' ἀπ' οἴκων πάντας, ὡς μιάσματος τοῦδ' ἡμὶν ὄντος, ὡς τὸ Πυθικὸν θεοῦ μαντεῖον ἐξέφηνεν ἀρτίως ἐμοί. ἐγὼ μὲν οὖν τοιόσδε τῷ τε δαίμονι τῷ τ' ἀνδρὶ τῷ θανόντι σύμμαχος πέλω·	As for this man, whoever he is, I forbid anyone in this land, where I hold power and the throne, to receive him or speak to him, or to make him a partner in prayers or sacrifices to the gods, or to share the holy water with him. All must drive him from their homes, since he is our pollution, as the god's Pythian oracle has just revealed to me. This, then, is the kind of ally I am to the god and to the dead man.
246	κατεύχομαι δὲ τὸν δεδρακότ', εἴτε τις εἷς ὢν λέληθεν εἴτε πλειόνων μέτα, κακὸν κακῶς νιν ἄμορον ἐκτρῖψαι βίον· ἐπεύχομαι δ', οἴκοισιν εἰ ξυνέστιος ἐν τοῖς ἐμοῖς γένοιτ' ἐμοῦ συνειδότος, παθεῖν ἅπερ τοῖσδ' ἀρτίως ἠρασάμην. ὑμῖν δὲ ταῦτα πάντ' ἐπισκήπτω τελεῖν, ὑπέρ τ' ἐμαυτοῦ τοῦ θεοῦ τε τῆσδέ τε γῆς ὧδ' ἀκάρπως κἀθέως ἐφθαρμένης.	And I pray that the one who did it, whether he has escaped notice alone or with others, may wear out his wretched life wretchedly, with no share of good. And I pray that if he should become a sharer of my hearth, in my own house, with my knowledge, I may suffer what I have just called down on them. I charge you to carry all this out, for my sake, and the god's, and for this land, wasting away like this, fruitless and forsaken by the gods.
255	οὐδ' εἰ γὰρ ἦν τὸ πρᾶγμα μὴ θεήλατον, ἀκάθαρτον ὑμᾶς εἰκὸς ἦν οὕτως ἐᾶν, ἀνδρός γ' ἀρίστου βασιλέως τ' ὀλωλότος, ἀλλ' ἐξερευνᾶν· νῦν δ' ἐπεὶ κυρῶ γ' ἐγὼ	Even if this matter weren't driven on by a god, it wasn't right for you to leave it unpurified like this, when a man so noble, your king, had died. You should have searched it out. But now, since I hap-

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	ἔχων μὲν ἀρχὰς ἃς ἐκεῖνος εἶχε πρίν, ἔχων δὲ λέκτρα καὶ γυναῖχ' ὁμόσπορον, κοινῶν τε παίδων κοίν' ἄν, εἰ κείνῳ γένος μὴ 'δυστύχησεν, ἦν ἂν ἐκπεφυκότα·	pen to hold the power he once held, and have his bed, and a wife we have both sown, and children of one mother would have bound us together, if his line had not met misfortune—
263	νῦν δ' ἐς τὸ κείνου κρᾶτ' ἐνήλαθ' ἡ τύχη· ἀνθ' ὧν ἐγὼ τάδ', ὡσπερεὶ τοὐμοῦ πατρός, ὑπερμαχοῦμαι κἀπὶ πᾶν ἀφίξομαι, ζητῶν τὸν αὐτόχειρα τοῦ φόνου λαβεῖν, τῷ Λαβδακείῳ παιδὶ Πολυδώρου τε καὶ τοῦ πρόσθε Κάδμου τοῦ πάλαι τ' Ἀγήνορος. καὶ ταῦτα τοῖς μὴ δρῶσιν εὔχομαι θεοὺς μήτ' ἄροτον αὐτοῖς γῆς ἀνιέναι τινὰ μήτ' οὖν γυναικῶν παῖδας, ἀλλὰ τῷ πότμῳ τῷ νῦν φθερεῖσθαι κἄτι τοῦδ' ἐχθίονι·	but as it is, fortune came leaping down on his head —for all these reasons I will fight for him as if he were my own father. I will go to any length searching to seize the man who killed him with his own hand, for the son of Labdacus, son of Polydorus, son of Cadmus before him, and of Agenor of old. And for those who don't do this, I pray that the gods send them up no harvest from the earth, and no children from their wives, but that they perish by the fate we suffer now, or one still more hateful.
273	ὑμῖν δὲ τοῖς ἄλλοισι Καδμείοις, ὅσοις τάδ' ἔστ' ἀρέσκονθ', ἥ τε σύμμαχος Δίκη χοἱ πάντες εὖ ξυνεῖεν εἰσαεὶ θεοί.	But to the rest of you, people of Cadmus, all who approve of this, may Justice our ally and all the gods be with you for good, forever.
276	**CHORUS** ὥσπερ μ' ἀραῖον ἔλαβες, ὦδ', ἄναξ, ἐρῶ. οὔτ' ἔκτανον γὰρ οὔτε τὸν κτανόντ' ἔχω δεῖξαι. τὸ δὲ ζήτημα τοῦ πέμψαντος ἦν Φοίβου τόδ' εἰπεῖν, ὅστις εἴργασταί ποτε.	**CHORUS** Since you have bound me under your curse, my lord, I will speak in the same spirit. I didn't kill him, and I can't point out who did. It was for Phoebus, who sent us on this search, to tell us who has done it.
280	**OEDIPUS** δίκαι' ἔλεξας· ἀλλ' ἀναγκάσαι θεοὺς / ἂν μὴ θέλωσιν οὐδ' ἂν εἷς δύναιτ' ἀνήρ.	**OEDIPUS** That's fair. But no man alive could force the gods to do what they don't want.
282	**CHORUS** τὰ δεύτερ' ἐκ τῶνδ' ἂν λέγοιμ' ἁμοὶ δοκεῖ.	**CHORUS** Then I'd tell you what seems to me the next best course.
283	**OEDIPUS** εἰ καὶ τρίτ' ἐστί, μὴ παρῇς τὸ μὴ οὐ φράσαι.	**OEDIPUS** And if there's a third, don't fail to tell me that too.
284	**CHORUS** ἄνακτ' ἄνακτι ταὔθ' ὁρῶντ' ἐπίσταμαι μάλιστα Φοίβῳ Τειρεσίαν, παρ' οὗ τις ἂν σκοπῶν τάδ', ὦναξ, ἐκμάθοι σαφέστατα.	**CHORUS** I know that the lord Teiresias sees most nearly what the lord Phoebus sees. Anyone looking into this could learn it from him most clearly.
287	**OEDIPUS** ἀλλ' οὐκ ἐν ἀργοῖς οὐδὲ τοῦτ' ἐπραξάμην. ἔπεμψα γὰρ Κρέοντος εἰπόντος διπλοῦς πομπούς· πάλαι δὲ μὴ παρῶν θαυμάζεται.	**OEDIPUS** I haven't left this undone either. On Creon's advice I sent two men to bring him. I've been wondering for some time why he isn't here.
290	**CHORUS** καὶ μὴν τά γ' ἄλλα κωφὰ καὶ παλαί' ἔπη.	**CHORUS** And then there are the other rumors, faint and old.
291	**OEDIPUS** τὰ ποῖα ταῦτα; πάντα γὰρ σκοπῶ λόγον.	**OEDIPUS** What are they? I'm looking into every story.
292	**CHORUS** θανεῖν ἐλέχθη πρός τινων ὁδοιπόρων.	**CHORUS** It was said he was killed by some travelers.
293	**OEDIPUS** ἤκουσα κἀγώ. τὸν δ' ἰδόντ' οὐδεὶς ὁρᾷ.	**OEDIPUS** I've heard that too. But no one sees the man who saw it.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
294	**CHORUS** ἀλλ’ εἴ τι μὲν δὴ δείματός γ’ ἔχει μέρος, / τὰς σὰς ἀκούων οὐ μενεῖ τοιάσδ’ ἀράς,	**CHORUS** Well, if he has any share of fear, he won’t stay once he hears curses like yours.
296	**OEDIPUS** ᾧ μή ’στι δρῶντι τάρβος, οὐδ’ ἔπος φοβεῖ.	**OEDIPUS** A man who has no fear of the deed won’t be frightened by a word.
297	**CHORUS** ἀλλ’ οὐξελέγξων αὐτὸν ἔστιν· οἵδε γὰρ τὸν θεῖον ἤδη μάντιν ὧδ’ ἄγουσιν, ᾧ τἀληθὲς ἐμπέφυκεν ἀνθρώπων μόνῳ.	**CHORUS** But here is the one who will expose him. They are bringing the godlike prophet now, the only man in whom the truth is inborn.
300	**OEDIPUS** ὦ πάντα νωμῶν Τειρεσία, διδακτά τε ἄρρητά τ’, οὐράνιά τε καὶ χθονοστιβῆ, πόλιν μέν, εἰ καὶ μὴ βλέπεις, φρονεῖς δ’ ὅμως οἵᾳ νόσῳ σύνεστιν· ἧς σὲ προστάτην σωτῆρά τ’, ὦναξ, μοῦνον ἐξευρίσκομεν. Φοῖβος γάρ, εἴ τι μὴ κλύεις τῶν ἀγγέλων, πέμψασιν ἡμῖν ἀντέπεμψεν, ἔκλυσιν μόνην ἂν ἐλθεῖν τοῦδε τοῦ νοσήματος, εἰ τοὺς κτανόντας Λάϊον μαθόντες εὖ κτείναιμεν ἢ γῆς φυγάδας ἐκπεμψαίμεθα.	**OEDIPUS** Teiresias, you who grasp everything, what can be taught and what cannot be spoken, things of heaven and things that walk the earth: even though you cannot see, you still understand what sickness lives with our city. Against it, my lord, we find you alone as our protector and savior. For Phoebus, if you haven’t heard it from the messengers, sent back an answer to us when we sent to him: the only release from this sickness would come if we found out for certain who killed Laius, and killed them or sent them out of the land as exiles.
310	σύ νυν φθονήσας μήτ’ ἀπ’ οἰωνῶν φάτιν μήτ’ εἴ τιν’ ἄλλην μαντικῆς ἔχεις ὁδόν, ῥῦσαι σεαυτὸν καὶ πόλιν, ῥῦσαι δ’ ἐμέ, ῥῦσαι δὲ πᾶν μίασμα τοῦ τεθνηκότος. ἐν σοὶ γὰρ ἐσμέν· ἄνδρα δ’ ὠφελεῖν ἀφ’ ὧν ἔχοι τε καὶ δύναιτο, κάλλιστος πόνων.	So don’t begrudge us any word from the birds, or any other path of prophecy you have. Save yourself and the city, save me, save us from all the pollution of the dead man. We are in your hands. For a man to help others with whatever he has and whatever he can is the finest of labors.
316	**TEIRESIAS** φεῦ φεῦ, φρονεῖν ὡς δεινὸν ἔνθα μὴ τέλη λύῃ φρονοῦντι· ταῦτα γὰρ καλῶς ἐγὼ εἰδὼς διώλεσ’· οὐ γὰρ ἂν δεῦρ’ ἱκόμην.	**TEIRESIAS** Ah, ah, how terrible it is to be wise when wisdom brings no profit to the wise! I knew this well, and let it slip from my mind. Otherwise I would never have come here.
319	**OEDIPUS** τί δ’ ἔστιν; ὡς ἄθυμος εἰσελήλυθας.	**OEDIPUS** What is it? How downhearted you are, coming in!
320	**TEIRESIAS** ἄφες μ’ ἐς οἴκους· ῥᾷστα γὰρ τὸ σόν τε σὺ / κἀγὼ διοίσω τοὐμόν, ἢν ἐμοὶ πίθῃ.	**TEIRESIAS** Let me go home. You will bear your lot most easily, and I mine, if you listen to me.
322	**OEDIPUS** οὔτ’ ἔννομ’ εἶπας οὔτε προσφιλῆ πόλει / τῇδ’, ἥ σ’ ἔθρεψε, τήνδ’ ἀποστερῶν φάτιν.	**OEDIPUS** What you say isn’t lawful, and it’s no kindness to this city that raised you, if you hold back this word.
324	**TEIRESIAS** ὁρῶ γὰρ οὐδὲ σοὶ τὸ σὸν φώνημ’ ἰὸν / πρὸς καιρόν· ὡς οὖν μηδ’ ἐγὼ ταὐτὸν πάθω—	**TEIRESIAS** Because I see that your own words aren’t going where they should. So, so that I won’t suffer the same—
326	**OEDIPUS** μὴ πρὸς θεῶν φρονῶν γ’ ἀποστραφῇς, ἐπεὶ / πάντες σε προσκυνοῦμεν οἵδ’ ἱκτήριοι.	**OEDIPUS** For the gods’ sake, if you know, don’t turn away, when all of us here kneel to you as suppliants.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
328	**TEIRESIAS** πάντες γὰρ οὐ φρονεῖτ'· ἐγὼ δ' οὐ μή ποτε / τἄμ', ὡς ἂν εἴπω μὴ τὰ σ', ἐκφήνω κακά.	**TEIRESIAS** Because none of you understands. I will never reveal my troubles, so as not to speak of yours.
330	**OEDIPUS** τί φής; ξυνειδὼς οὐ φράσεις, ἀλλ' ἐννοεῖς / ἡμᾶς προδοῦναι καὶ καταφθεῖραι πόλιν;	**OEDIPUS** What are you saying? You know, and you won't tell? You mean to betray us and destroy the city?
332	**TEIRESIAS** ἐγὼ οὔτ' ἐμαυτὸν οὔτε σ' ἀλγυνῶ. τί ταῦτ' / ἄλλως ἐλέγχεις; οὐ γὰρ ἂν πύθοιό μου.	**TEIRESIAS** I will not cause pain to myself or to you. Why do you question me in vain? You won't learn it from me.
334	**OEDIPUS** οὐκ, ὦ κακῶν κάκιστε, καὶ γὰρ ἂν πέτρου φύσιν σύ γ' ὀργάνειας, ἐξερεῖς ποτε, ἀλλ' ὧδ' ἄτεγκτος κἀτελεύτητος φανεῖ;	**OEDIPUS** You lowest of the low, you'd enrage a stone! Won't you ever speak out? Will you go on like this, unmoved, never coming to the point?
337	**TEIRESIAS** ὀργὴν ἐμέμψω τὴν ἐμήν, τὴν σὴν δ' ὁμοῦ / ναίουσαν οὐ κατεῖδες, ἀλλ' ἐμὲ ψέγεις.	**TEIRESIAS** You blame my temper, but you don't see the one that lives right there with you. Instead you find fault with me.
339	**OEDIPUS** τίς γὰρ τοιαῦτ' ἂν οὐκ ἂν ὀργίζοιτ' ἔπη / κλύων, ἃ νῦν σὺ τήνδ' ἀτιμάζεις πόλιν;	**OEDIPUS** Who wouldn't be angry, hearing words like these, with which you now dishonor this city?
341	**TEIRESIAS** ἥξει γὰρ αὐτά, κἂν ἐγὼ σιγῇ στέγω.	**TEIRESIAS** It will come of itself, even if I shroud it in silence.
342	**OEDIPUS** οὐκοῦν ἅ γ' ἥξει καὶ σὲ χρὴ λέγειν ἐμοί.	**OEDIPUS** Then what is coming, you ought to tell me.
343	**TEIRESIAS** οὐκ ἂν πέρα φράσαιμι. πρὸς τάδ', εἰ θέλεις, / θυμοῦ δι' ὀργῆς ἥτις ἀγριωτάτη.	**TEIRESIAS** I will say no more. So, if you like, rage away, with the wildest anger you have.
345	**OEDIPUS** καὶ μὴν παρήσω γ' οὐδέν, ὡς ὀργῆς ἔχω, ἅπερ ξυνίημ'· ἴσθι γὰρ δοκῶν ἐμοὶ καὶ ξυμφυτεῦσαι τοὔργον εἰργάσθαι θ', ὅσον μὴ χερσὶ καίνων· εἰ δ' ἐτύγχανες βλέπων, καὶ τοὔργον ἂν σοῦ τοῦτ', ἔφην εἶναι μόνου.	**OEDIPUS** All right, then. I'm so angry I'll leave out nothing of what I understand. Know that I think you helped plan the deed, and did it too, short of killing with your own hands. And if you had your sight, I'd say the deed was yours alone.
350	**TEIRESIAS** ἄληθες; ἐννέπω σὲ τῷ κηρύγματι ᾧπερ προεῖπας ἐμμένειν, κἀφ' ἡμέρας τῆς νῦν προσαυδᾶν μήτε τούσδε μήτ' ἐμέ, ὡς ὄντι γῆς τῆσδ' ἀνοσίῳ μιάστορι.	**TEIRESIAS** Really? I tell you to abide by the proclamation you made, and from this day on to speak neither to these people nor to me, since you are the unholy polluter of this land.
354	**OEDIPUS** οὕτως ἀναιδῶς ἐξεκίνησας τόδε / τὸ ῥῆμα; καὶ ποῦ τοῦτο φεύξεσθαι δοκεῖς;	**OEDIPUS** You dare start up a story like this, so shamelessly? And how do you think you'll get away with it?
356	**TEIRESIAS** πέφευγα· τἀληθὲς γὰρ ἰσχῦον τρέφω.	**TEIRESIAS** I have escaped. The truth I nurture is strong.
357	**OEDIPUS** πρὸς τοῦ διδαχθείς; οὐ γὰρ ἔκ γε τῆς τέχνης.	**OEDIPUS** Who taught you that? It wasn't your craft, certainly.
358		

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	TEIRESIAS πρὸς σοῦ· σὺ γάρ μ' ἄκοντα προυτρέψω λέγειν.	**TEIRESIAS** You did. You drove me to speak against my will.
359	**OEDIPUS** ποῖον λόγον; λέγ' αὖθις, ὡς μᾶλλον μάθω.	**OEDIPUS** Speak what? Say it again, so I can understand it better.
360	**TEIRESIAS** οὐχὶ ξυνῆκας πρόσθεν; ἢ 'κπειρᾷ λέγων;	**TEIRESIAS** Didn't you understand before? Or are you testing me, to make me talk?
361	**OEDIPUS** οὐχ ὥστε γ' εἰπεῖν γνωστόν· ἀλλ' αὖθις φράσον.	**OEDIPUS** Not so I could say I've grasped it. Tell me again.
362	**TEIRESIAS** φονέα σε φημὶ τἀνδρὸς οὗ ζητεῖς κυρεῖν.	**TEIRESIAS** I say you are the killer of the man whose killer you are seeking.
363	**OEDIPUS** ἀλλ' οὔ τι χαίρων δίς γε πημονὰς ἐρεῖς.	**OEDIPUS** You'll regret saying such vile things twice.
364	**TEIRESIAS** εἴπω τι δῆτα κἄλλ', ἵν' ὀργίζῃ πλέον;	**TEIRESIAS** Shall I tell you something more, then, to make you angrier still?
365	**OEDIPUS** ὅσον γε χρῄζεις· ὡς μάτην εἰρήσεται.	**OEDIPUS** As much as you like. It will be said for nothing.
366	**TEIRESIAS** λελῃθέναι σε φημὶ σὺν τοῖς φιλτάτοις / αἴσχισθ' ὁμιλοῦντ', οὐδ' ὁρᾶν ἵν' εἶ κακοῦ.	**TEIRESIAS** I say that without knowing it you are living in the most shameful intimacy with those closest to you, and you can't see how deep in evil you are.
368	**OEDIPUS** ἦ καὶ γεγηθὼς ταῦτ' ἀεὶ λέξειν δοκεῖς;	**OEDIPUS** Do you really think you'll go on saying these things and enjoy it?
369	**TEIRESIAS** εἴπερ τί γ' ἐστὶ τῆς ἀληθείας σθένος.	**TEIRESIAS** Yes, if the truth has any strength.
370	**OEDIPUS** ἀλλ' ἔστι, πλὴν σοί· σοὶ δὲ τοῦτ' οὐκ ἔστ' ἐπεὶ / τυφλὸς τά τ' ὦτα τόν τε νοῦν τά τ' ὄμματ' εἶ.	**OEDIPUS** It does, except for you. In you it has none, since you are blind in your ears, your mind, and your eyes.
372	**TEIRESIAS** σὺ δ' ἄθλιός γε ταῦτ' ὀνειδίζων, ἃ σοὶ / οὐδεὶς ὃς οὐχὶ τῶνδ' ὀνειδιεῖ τάχα.	**TEIRESIAS** And you're a poor wretch, throwing these insults at me, which everyone here will soon be throwing at you.
374	**OEDIPUS** μιᾶς τρέφει πρὸς νυκτός, ὥστε μήτ' ἐμὲ / μήτ' ἄλλον, ὅστις φῶς ὁρᾷ, βλάψαι ποτ' ἄν.	**OEDIPUS** You live in one unbroken night, so you could never harm me, or anyone else who sees the light.
376	**TEIRESIAS** οὐ γάρ σε μοῖρα πρός γ' ἐμοῦ πεσεῖν, ἐπεὶ / ἱκανὸς Ἀπόλλων, ᾧ τάδ' ἐκπρᾶξαι μέλει.	**TEIRESIAS** No, it isn't your fate to fall by my hand. Apollo is enough; it is his concern to bring this about.
378	**OEDIPUS** Κρέοντος ἢ σοῦ ταῦτα τἀξευρήματα;	**OEDIPUS** Are these Creon's inventions, or yours?
379	**TEIRESIAS** Κρέων δέ σοι πῆμ' οὐδέν, ἀλλ' αὐτὸς σὺ σοί.	**TEIRESIAS** Creon is no harm to you. You are your own.
380		

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	OEDIPUS ὦ πλοῦτε καὶ τυραννὶ καὶ τέχνη τέχνης 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, λάθρᾳ μ' ὑπελθὼν ἐκβαλεῖν ἱμείρεται, ὑφεὶς μάγον τοιόνδε μηχανορράφον, δόλιον ἀγύρτην, ὅστις ἐν τοῖς κέρδεσιν μόνον δέδορκε, τὴν τέχνην δ' ἔφυ τυφλός.	**OEDIPUS** Wealth, and kingship, and skill that outstrips every other skill in a life that others envy, how much jealousy you store up against yourselves! This power was put into my hands by the city as a gift; I never asked for it. And if for its sake Creon, the trusted one, my friend from the first, longs to creep up on me in secret and throw me out, he has set this wizard on me, this weaver of schemes, a crafty beggar-priest who has eyes only for profit and was born blind in his own art.
390	ἐπεί, φέρ' εἰπέ, ποῦ σὺ μάντις εἶ σαφής; πῶς οὐκ, ὅθ' ἡ ῥαψῳδὸς ἐνθάδ' ἦν κύων, ηὔδας τι τοῖσδ' ἀστοῖσιν ἐκλυτήριον; καίτοι τό γ' αἴνιγμ' οὐχὶ τοὐπιόντος ἦν ἀνδρὸς διειπεῖν, ἀλλὰ μαντείας ἔδει· ἣν οὔτ' ἀπ' οἰωνῶν σὺ προυφάνης ἔχων οὔτ' ἐκ θεῶν του γνωτόν· ἀλλ' ἐγὼ μολών, ὁ μηδὲν εἰδὼς Οἰδίπους, ἔπαυσά νιν, γνώμῃ κυρήσας οὐδ' ἀπ', οἰωνῶν μαθών·	Come on, tell me: where have you ever shown yourself a true seer? When the hound who chanted her riddles was here, why didn't you say something to set these citizens free? And the riddle wasn't for any passer-by to solve. It called for prophecy, and you were shown to have none, either from birds or from any god. But I came along, Oedipus who knew nothing, and I stopped her. I hit on the answer by my own wits, not by learning it from birds.
399	ὃν δὴ σὺ πειρᾷς ἐκβαλεῖν, δοκῶν θρόνοις παραστατήσειν τοῖς Κρεοντείοις πέλας. κλαίων δοκεῖς μοι καὶ σὺ χὠ συνθεὶς τάδε ἀγηλατήσειν· εἰ δὲ μὴ 'δόκεις γέρων εἶναι, παθὼν ἔγνως ἂν οἷά περ φρονεῖς.	And I'm the one you're trying to throw out, thinking you'll stand close beside Creon's throne. You'll be sorry, I think, you and the man who cooked this up, for trying to drive out the pollution. If you didn't look like an old man, you'd learn by suffering just what your thinking is worth.
404	**CHORUS** ἡμῖν μὲν εἰκάζουσι καὶ τὰ τοῦδ' ἔπη ὀργῇ λελέχθαι καὶ τά σ', Οἰδίπους, δοκεῖ, δεῖ δ' οὐ τοιούτων, ἀλλ' ὅπως τὰ τοῦ θεοῦ μαντεῖ' ἄριστα λύσομεν, τόδε σκοπεῖν.	**CHORUS** As far as we can guess, both his words and yours, Oedipus, were spoken in anger. That isn't what we need. We need to look at how we can best fulfill the god's oracle.
408	**TEIRESIAS** εἰ καὶ τυραννεῖς, ἐξισωτέον τὸ γοῦν ἴσ' ἀντιλέξαι· τοῦδε γὰρ κἀγὼ κρατῶ. οὐ γάρ τι σοὶ ζῶ δοῦλος, ἀλλὰ Λοξίᾳ· ὥστ' οὐ Κρέοντος προστάτου γεγράψομαι. λέγω δ', ἐπειδὴ καὶ τυφλόν μ' ὠνείδισας· σὺ καὶ δέδορκας κοὐ βλέπεις ἵν' εἶ κακοῦ, οὐδ' ἔνθα ναίεις, οὐδ' ὅτων οἰκεῖς μέτα. ἆρ' οἶσθ' ἀφ' ὧν εἶ; καὶ λέληθας ἐχθρὸς ὢν τοῖς σοῖσιν αὐτοῦ νέρθε κἀπὶ γῆς ἄνω, καί σ' ἀμφιπλὴξ μητρός τε καὶ τοῦ σοῦ πατρὸς ἐλᾷ ποτ' ἐκ γῆς τῆσδε δεινόπους ἀρά, βλέποντα νῦν μὲν ὀρθ', ἔπειτα δὲ σκότον.	**TEIRESIAS** You may be king, but I have an equal right to answer you, word for word. In that, I too have power. I don't live as your slave but as Loxias', so I won't be enrolled with Creon as my patron. And since you've taunted me with being blind, I'll say this. You have your sight, and you don't see the evil you're in, or where you live, or whom you live with. Do you even know where you come from? Without knowing it, you're an enemy to your own, those below the earth and those above it. And the double-striking curse of your mother and your father will come on its terrible feet and drive you one day out of this land. Now you see straight; then you'll see darkness.[8]
420	βοῆς δὲ τῆς σῆς ποῖος οὐκ ἔσται λιμήν, ποῖος Κιθαιρὼν οὐχὶ σύμφωνος τάχα,	What harbor won't ring with your cries? What part of Cithaeron won't soon be echoing them, when

8 Loxias is a title of Apollo. In Athens a resident foreigner had to be registered under a citizen patron.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	ὅταν καταίσθῃ τὸν ὑμέναιον, ὃν δόμοις ἄνορμον εἰσέπλευσας, εὐπλοίας τυχών; ἄλλων δὲ πλῆθος οὐκ ἐπαισθάνει κακῶν, ἃ σ' ἐξισώσει σοί τε καὶ τοῖς σοῖς τέκνοις. πρὸς ταῦτα καὶ Κρέοντα καὶ τοὐμὸν στόμα προπηλάκιζε· σοῦ γὰρ οὐκ ἔστιν βροτῶν κάκιον ὅστις ἐκτριβήσεταί ποτε.	you understand that wedding song, the marriage you sailed into in this house, a harbor that was no harbor, after so fair a voyage? And there's a crowd of other evils you don't perceive, which will make you level with yourself and with your children. So go on, throw mud at Creon and at what comes out of my mouth. No man alive will ever be crushed more wretchedly than you.[9]
429	**OEDIPUS** ἦ ταῦτα δῆτ' ἀνεκτὰ πρὸς τούτου κλύειν; οὐκ εἰς ὄλεθρον; οὐχὶ θᾶσσον; οὐ πάλιν ἄψορρος οἴκων τῶνδ' ἀποστραφεὶς ἄπει;	**OEDIPUS** Am I really supposed to stand here and hear this from him? Curse you! Get out, quickly! Won't you turn around and get away from this house?
432	**TEIRESIAS** οὐδ' ἱκόμην ἔγωγ' ἄν, εἰ σὺ μὴ 'κάλεις.	**TEIRESIAS** I would never have come at all if you hadn't called me.
433	**OEDIPUS** οὐ γάρ τί σ' ᾔδη μῶρα φωνήσοντ', ἐπεὶ / σχολῇ σ' ἂν οἴκους τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἐστειλάμην.	**OEDIPUS** I didn't know you'd talk such nonsense, or I'd have been in no hurry to fetch you to my house.
435	**TEIRESIAS** ἡμεῖς τοιοίδ' ἔφυμεν, ὡς μὲν σοὶ δοκεῖ, / μῶροι, γονεῦσι δ', οἵ σ' ἔφυσαν, ἔμφρονες.	**TEIRESIAS** That's what I am: a fool, as it seems to you, but sensible enough to the parents who gave you birth.
437	**OEDIPUS** ποίοισι; μεῖνον, τίς δέ μ' ἐκφύει βροτῶν;	**OEDIPUS** What parents? Wait! Who on earth is my father?
438	**TEIRESIAS** ἥδ' ἡμέρα φύσει σε καὶ διαφθερεῖ.	**TEIRESIAS** This day will give you birth, and destroy you.
439	**OEDIPUS** ὡς πάντ' ἄγαν αἰνικτὰ κἀσαφῆ λέγεις.	**OEDIPUS** Everything you say is riddles and darkness.
440	**TEIRESIAS** οὔκουν σὺ ταῦτ' ἄριστος εὑρίσκειν ἔφυς;	**TEIRESIAS** Well, aren't you the best man alive at solving riddles?
441	**OEDIPUS** τοιαῦτ' ὀνείδιζ', οἷς ἔμ' εὑρήσεις μέγαν.	**OEDIPUS** Go ahead, mock me for the very thing in which you'll find me great.
442	**TEIRESIAS** αὕτη γε μέντοι σ' ἡ τύχη διώλεσεν.	**TEIRESIAS** And yet that very luck has been your ruin.
443	**OEDIPUS** ἀλλ' εἰ πόλιν τήνδ' ἐξέσωσ', οὔ μοι μέλει.	**OEDIPUS** But if I saved this city, I don't care.
444	**TEIRESIAS** ἄπειμι τοίνυν· καὶ σύ, παῖ, κόμιζέ με.	**TEIRESIAS** Then I'll go. Boy, lead me away.
445	**OEDIPUS** κομιζέτω δῆθ'· ὡς παρὼν σύ γ' ἐμποδὼν / ὀχλεῖς, συθείς τ' ἂν οὐκ ἂν ἀλγύνοις πλέον.	**OEDIPUS** Yes, let him lead you. While you're here you're underfoot and a nuisance. Once you're gone, you won't trouble me anymore.
447	**TEIRESIAS** εἰπὼν ἄπειμ' ὧν οὕνεκ', ἦλθον, οὐ τὸ σὸν δείσας πρόσωπον· οὐ γὰρ ἔσθ' ὅπου μ' ὀλεῖς.	**TEIRESIAS** I'll go once I've said what I came to say. I'm not afraid of your face; there's no way you

9 Cithaeron is the mountain range near Thebes.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	λέγω δέ σοι· τὸν ἄνδρα τοῦτον, ὃν πάλαι ζητεῖς ἀπειλῶν κἀνακηρύσσων φόνον τὸν Λαΐειον, οὗτός ἐστιν ἐνθάδε, ξένος λόγῳ μέτοικος, εἶτα δ' ἐγγενὴς φανήσεται Θηβαῖος, οὐδ' ἡσθήσεται τῇ ξυμφορᾷ· τυφλὸς γὰρ ἐκ δεδορκότος καὶ πτωχὸς ἀντὶ πλουσίου ξένην ἔπι σκήπτρῳ προδεικνὺς γαῖαν ἐμπορεύσεται.	can destroy me. And I tell you this. The man you've long been hunting with threats and proclamations about the murder of Laius is here. He's called a foreigner living among us, but he'll be revealed as a native-born Theban, and he won't be glad of the discovery. Blind instead of seeing, a beggar instead of rich, he will make his way to a foreign land, feeling the ground ahead of him with a staff.
457	φανήσεται δὲ παισὶ τοῖς αὑτοῦ ξυνὼν ἀδελφὸς αὑτὸς καὶ πατήρ, κἀξ ἧς ἔφυ γυναικὸς υἱὸς καὶ πόσις, καὶ τοῦ πατρὸς ὁμόσπορός τε καὶ φονεύς. καὶ ταῦτ' ἰὼν εἴσω λογίζου· κἂν λάβῃς ἐψευσμένον, φάσκειν ἔμ' ἤδη μαντικῇ μηδὲν φρονεῖν.	He will be revealed as both brother and father to the children he lives with, as son and husband to the woman who bore him, and as the man who sowed where his father sowed, and killed him. Go inside and think it over. And if you find I've lied, then say I have no understanding of prophecy.

FIRST STASIMON

The chorus pictures the hunted killer but refuses to believe the charge against Oedipus.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
463	**CHORUS** τίς ὅντιν' ἀ θεσπιέπεια Δελφὶς εἶπε πέτρα ἄρρητ' ἀρρήτων τελέσαντα φοινίαισι χερσίν; ὥρα νιν ἀελλάδων ἵππων σθεναρώτερον φυγᾷ πόδα νωμᾶν. ἔνοπλος γὰρ ἐπ' αὐτὸν ἐπενθρῴσκει πυρὶ καὶ στεροπαῖς ὁ Διὸς γενέτας, δειναὶ δ' ἅμ' ἕπονται κῆρες ἀναπλάκητοι	**CHORUS** Who is the man the prophesying rock of Delphi spoke of, the man who did the most unspeakable of unspeakable things with blood-red hands? Now is his hour to ply his feet in flight, stronger than storm-swift horses. For armed against him the son of Zeus leaps with fire and lightning, and close behind him follow the dread death-spirits that never miss.
473	ἔλαμψε γὰρ τοῦ νιφόεντος ἀρτίως φανεῖσα φάμα Παρνασσοῦ τὸν ἄδηλον ἄνδρα πάντ' ἰχνεύειν. φοιτᾷ γὰρ ὑπ' ἀγρίαν ὕλαν ἀνά τ' ἄντρα καὶ πέτρας ἰσόταυρος μέλεος μελέῳ ποδὶ χηρεύων, τὰ μεσόμφαλα γᾶς ἀπονοσφίζων μαντεῖα· τὰ δ' ἀεὶ ζῶντα περιποτᾶται.	For just now the word has flashed from snowy Parnassus: everyone track down the hidden man! He roams under the wild woods, through caves and over rocks, like a bull, wretched, alone, on wretched feet, trying to keep far from him the oracles from the earth's central navel. But they live forever, and flutter round him.[10]
483	δεινὰ μὲν οὖν, δεινὰ ταράσσει σοφὸς οἰωνοθέτας οὔτε δοκοῦντ' οὔτ' ἀποφάσκονθ'· ὅ τι λέξω δ' ἀπορῶ. πέτομαι δ' ἐλπίσιν οὔτ', ἐνθάδ' ὁρῶν οὔτ' ὀπίσω. τί γὰρ ἢ Λαβδακίδαις	Terrible, terrible is the trouble the wise reader of birds stirs in me. I can't accept it, I can't deny it; I don't know what to say.

10 Parnassus is the mountain above Delphi, whose shrine was held to be the navel, the center, of the earth.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	ἢ τῷ Πολύβου νεῖκος ἔκειτ', οὔτε πάροιθέν ποτ' ἔγωγ' ἔμαθον, πρὸς ὅτου δὴ βασανίζων βασάνῳ ἐπὶ τὰν ἐπίδαμον φάτιν εἶμ' Οἰδιπόδα Λαβδακίδαις ἐπίκουρος ἀδήλων θανάτων.	I float on hopes, seeing neither what is here nor what lies behind. What quarrel lay between the Labdacids and the son of Polybus I have never learned, not before, not now, no proof to test it by, that I should go against the fame Oedipus has among the people, as an ally to the Labdacids for deaths no one has seen.[11]
496	ἀλλ' ὁ μὲν οὖν Ζεὺς ὅ τ' Ἀπόλλων ξυνετοὶ καὶ τὰ βροτῶν εἰδότες· ἀνδρῶν δ' ὅτι μάντις πλέον ἢ 'γὼ φέρεται, κρίσις οὔκ ἔστιν ἀλαθής· σοφίᾳ δ' ἄν σοφίαν παραμείψειεν ἀνήρ. ἀλλ' οὔποτ' ἔγωγ' ἄν, πρὶν ἴδοιμ' ὀρθὸν ἔπος, μεμφομένων ἂν καταφαίην. φανερὰ γὰρ ἐπ' αὐτῷ, πτερόεσσ' ἦλθε κόρα ποτέ, καὶ σοφὸς ὤφθη βασάνῳ θ' ἁδύπολις τῷ ἀπ' ἐμᾶς φρενὸς οὔποτ' ὀφλήσει κακίαν.	Zeus and Apollo, yes, have understanding and know the ways of mortals. But that among men a seer counts for more than I do, there's no true way to judge. One man may outstrip another's wisdom with his own. But never, until I see the word proved straight, would I side with those who blame him. For in plain sight the winged maiden came against him once, and he was seen to be wise; he stood the test, the city's joy. So in my mind he will never be found guilty of evil.

SECOND EPISODE

Oedipus accuses Creon of treason, and Jocasta's story of the three roads makes him fear he killed Laius.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
513	**CREON** ἄνδρες πολῖται, δείν' ἔπη πεπυσμένος κατηγορεῖν μου τὸν τύραννον Οἰδίπουν, πάρειμ' ἀτλητῶν. εἰ γὰρ ἐν ταῖς ξυμφοραῖς ταῖς νῦν νομίζει πρός γ' ἐμοῦ πεπονθέναι λόγοισιν εἴτ' ἔργοισιν εἰς βλάβην φέρον, οὔτοι βίου μοι τοῦ μακραίωνος πόθος, φέροντι τήνδε βάξιν. οὐ γὰρ εἰς ἁπλοῦν ἡ ζημία μοι τοῦ λόγου τούτου φέρει, ἀλλ' ἐς μέγιστον, εἰ κακὸς μὲν ἐν πόλει, κακὸς δὲ πρὸς σοῦ καὶ φίλων κεκλήσομαι.	**CREON** Fellow citizens, I've heard that King Oedipus is bringing terrible charges against me, and I'm here because I can't bear it. If he thinks that in our present troubles he has suffered anything from me, in word or in deed, that tends to do him harm, then I have no desire for a long life with this reputation hanging over me. The damage this charge does me is no simple matter. It's the greatest there is, if I'm to be called a traitor in the city, a traitor by you and by my friends.
523	**CHORUS** ἀλλ' ἦλθε μὲν δὴ τοῦτο τοὔνειδος τάχ' ἂν / ὀργῇ βιασθὲν μᾶλλον ἢ γνώμῃ φρενῶν.	**CHORUS** Well, that insult may have come out forced by anger, rather than from considered judgment.
525		

11 The Labdacids are the royal house of Laius, son of Labdacus; Polybus is the king of Corinth, known as Oedipus' father.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	CREON τοὔπος δ' ἐφάνθη, ταῖς ἐμαῖς γνώμαις ὅτι / πεισθεὶς ὁ μάντις τοὺς λόγους ψευδεῖς λέγοι;	**CREON** And did he openly say that the seer was won over by my advice to tell lies?
527	**CHORUS** ηὐδᾶτο μὲν τάδ', οἶδα δ' οὐ γνώμῃ τίνι.	**CHORUS** That was said. With what intention, I don't know.
528	**CREON** ἐξ ὀμμάτων δ' ὀρθῶν τε κἀξ ὀρθῆς φρενὸς / κατηγορεῖτο τοὐπίκλημα τοῦτό μου;	**CREON** And was this charge made against me with steady eyes and a steady mind?
530	**CHORUS** οὐκ οἶδ'· ἃ γὰρ δρῶσ', οἱ κρατοῦντες οὐχ ὁρῶ. / αὐτὸς δ' ὅδ' ἤδη δωμάτων ἔξω περᾷ.	**CHORUS** I don't know. I don't see what those in power do. But here he is himself, coming out of the house.
532	**OEDIPUS** οὗτος σύ, πῶς δεῦρ' ἦλθες; ἦ τοσόνδ' ἔχεις τόλμης πρόσωπον ὥστε τὰς ἐμὰς στέγας ἵκου, φονεὺς ὢν τοῦδε τἀνδρὸς ἐμφανῶς λῃστής τ' ἐναργὴς τῆς ἐμῆς τυραννίδος; φέρ' εἰπὲ πρὸς θεῶν, δειλίαν ἢ μωρίαν ἰδών τιν' ἔν μοι ταῦτ' ἐβουλεύσω ποεῖν; ἢ τοὔργον ὡς οὐ γνωριοῖμί σου τόδε δόλῳ προσέρπον ἢ οὐκ ἀλεξοίμην μαθών; ἆρ' οὐχὶ μῶρόν ἐστι τοὐγχείρημά σου, ἄνευ τε πλήθους καὶ φίλων τυραννίδα θηρᾶν, ὃ πλήθει χρήμασίν θ' ἁλίσκεται;	**OEDIPUS** You! How did you get here? Do you have such a brazen face that you've come to my house, when you're plainly the murderer of the man before you and clearly a thief of my throne? Come, tell me, by the gods: what cowardice or foolishness did you see in me, that you planned to do this? Did you think I wouldn't notice this plot of yours creeping up on me by stealth, or that I wouldn't defend myself once I found out? Isn't it foolish, this attempt of yours, to hunt for kingship without numbers and friends, when it's a prize that is caught with numbers and money?
543	**CREON** οἶσθ' ὡς πόησον; ἀντὶ τῶν εἰρημένων / ἴσ' ἀντάκουσον, κᾆτα κρῖν' αὐτὸς μαθών.	**CREON** Do you know what you should do? Hear an equal answer to what you've said, and then judge for yourself, once you know.
545	**OEDIPUS** λέγειν σὺ δεινός, μανθάνειν δ' ἐγὼ κακὸς / σοῦ· δυσμενῆ γὰρ καὶ βαρύν σ' ηὕρηκ' ἐμοί.	**OEDIPUS** You're clever at talking, but I'm a bad learner, from you. I've found you hostile and dangerous to me.
547	**CREON** τοῦτ' αὐτὸ νῦν μου πρῶτ' ἄκουσον ὡς ἐρῶ.	**CREON** On that very point, first hear me out.
548	**OEDIPUS** τοῦτ' αὐτὸ μή μοι φράζ', ὅπως οὐκ εἶ κακός.	**OEDIPUS** On that very point, don't tell me you're not a traitor.
549	**CREON** εἴ τοι νομίζεις κτῆμα τὴν αὐθαδίαν / εἶναί τι τοῦ νοῦ χωρίς, οὐκ ὀρθῶς φρονεῖς.	**CREON** If you think stubbornness without sense is something worth having, you're not thinking straight.
551	**OEDIPUS** εἴ τοι νομίζεις ἄνδρα συγγενῆ κακῶς / δρῶν οὐχ ὑφέξειν τὴν δίκην, οὐκ εὖ φρονεῖς.	**OEDIPUS** If you think you can wrong a kinsman and not pay the penalty, you're not thinking right.
553	**CREON** ξύμφημί σοι ταῦτ' ἔνδικ' εἰρῆσθαι· τὸ δὲ / πάθημ' ὁποῖον φῂς παθεῖν, δίδασκέ με.	**CREON** I agree that's justly said. But tell me what harm it is you say you've suffered.
555	**OEDIPUS** ἔπειθες ἢ οὐκ ἔπειθες, ὡς χρείη μ' ἐπὶ / τὸν σεμνόμαντιν ἄνδρα πέμψασθαί τινα;	**OEDIPUS** Did you or didn't you persuade me that I ought to send someone for that revered prophet?
557	**CREON** καὶ νῦν ἔθ' αὐτός εἰμι τῷ βουλεύματι.	**CREON** And I still hold the same view now.
558	**OEDIPUS** πόσον τιν' ἤδη δῆθ' ὁ Λάϊος χρόνον	**OEDIPUS** How long is it now since Laius—

	GREEK	ENGLISH
559	**CREON** δέδρακε ποῖον ἔργον; οὐ γὰρ ἐννοῶ.	**CREON** Did what? I don't follow.
560	**OEDIPUS** ἄφαντος ἔρρει θανασίμῳ χειρώματι;	**OEDIPUS** —vanished from sight, struck down by a deadly hand?
561	**CREON** μακροὶ παλαιοί τ' ἂν μετρηθεῖεν χρόνοι.	**CREON** You would count a long time back, years and years.
562	**OEDIPUS** τότ' οὖν ὁ μάντις οὗτος ἦν ἐν τῇ τέχνῃ;	**OEDIPUS** Was this seer practicing his art back then?
563	**CREON** σοφός γ' ὁμοίως κἀξ ἴσου τιμώμενος.	**CREON** Just as wise as now, and just as respected.
564	**OEDIPUS** ἐμνήσατ' οὖν ἐμοῦ τι τῷ τότ' ἐν χρόνῳ;	**OEDIPUS** Did he mention me at all at that time?
565	**CREON** οὔκουν ἐμοῦ γ' ἑστῶτος οὐδαμοῦ πέλας.	**CREON** Not, at any rate, when I was standing anywhere near.
566	**OEDIPUS** ἀλλ' οὐκ ἔρευναν τοῦ κτανόντος ἔσχετε;	**OEDIPUS** But didn't you hold an inquiry into the killer?
567	**CREON** παρέσχομεν, πῶς δ' οὐχί; κοὐκ ἠκούσαμεν.	**CREON** We did, of course we did, and heard nothing.
568	**OEDIPUS** πῶς οὖν τόθ' οὗτος ὁ σοφὸς οὐκ ηὔδα τάδε;	**OEDIPUS** Then why didn't this wise man say all this back then?
569	**CREON** οὐκ οἶδ'· ἐφ' οἷς γὰρ μὴ φρονῶ σιγᾶν φιλῶ.	**CREON** I don't know. Where I have no understanding, I prefer to keep quiet.
570	**OEDIPUS** τοσόνδε γ' οἶσθα καὶ λέγοις ἂν εὖ φρονῶν.	**OEDIPUS** This much you do know, and you'd say it if you had any sense.
571	**CREON** ποῖον τόδ'; εἰ γὰρ οἶδά γ', οὐκ ἀρνήσομαι.	**CREON** What's that? If I know it, I won't deny it.
572	**OEDIPUS** ὀθούνεκ', εἰ μὴ σοὶ ξυνῆλθε, τάσδ' ἐμὰς / οὐκ ἄν ποτ' εἶπε Λαΐου διαφθοράς.	**OEDIPUS** That if he hadn't put his head together with yours, he would never have called the killing of Laius mine.
574	**CREON** εἰ μὲν λέγει τάδ', αὐτὸς οἶσθ'· ἐγὼ δὲ σοῦ / μαθεῖν δικαιῶ ταὔθ' ἅπερ κἀμοῦ σὺ νῦν.	**CREON** Whether that's what he says, you know yourself. But I have the right to learn from you just as much as you've learned from me.
576	**OEDIPUS** ἐκμάνθαν'· οὐ γὰρ δὴ φονεὺς ἁλώσομαι.	**OEDIPUS** Ask away. I'll never be convicted as a murderer.
577	**CREON** τί δῆτ'; ἀδελφὴν τὴν ἐμὴν γήμας ἔχεις;	**CREON** Well then. You're married to my sister?
578	**OEDIPUS** ἄρνησις οὐκ ἔνεστιν ὧν ἀνιστορεῖς.	**OEDIPUS** There's no denying what you ask.
579	**CREON** ἄρχεις δ' ἐκείνῃ ταὐτὰ γῆς ἴσον νέμων;	**CREON** And you rule this land with her, giving her an equal share?
580	**OEDIPUS** ἃν ᾗ θέλουσα πάντ' ἐμοῦ κομίζεται.	**OEDIPUS** Whatever she wants, she gets from me.
581	**CREON** οὔκουν ἰσοῦμαι σφῷν ἐγὼ δυοῖν τρίτος;	

	GREEK	ENGLISH
		CREON And aren't I the third, equal to the two of you?
582	**OEDIPUS** ἐνταῦθα γὰρ δὴ καὶ κακὸς φαίνει φίλος.	**OEDIPUS** Yes, and that's exactly where you show yourself a false friend.
583	**CREON** οὔκ, εἰ διδοίης γ' ὡς ἐγὼ σαυτῷ λόγον. σκέψαι δὲ τοῦτο πρῶτον, εἴ τιν' ἂν δοκεῖς ἄρχειν ἑλέσθαι ξὺν φόβοισι μᾶλλον ἢ ἄτρεστον εὕδοντ', εἰ τά γ' αὔθ' ἕξει κράτη. ἐγὼ μὲν οὖν οὔτ' αὐτὸς ἱμείρων ἔφυν τύραννος εἶναι μᾶλλον ἢ τύραννα δρᾶν, οὔτ' ἄλλος ὅστις σωφρονεῖν ἐπίσταται. νῦν μὲν γὰρ ἐκ σοῦ πάντ' ἄνευ φόβου φέρω, εἰ δ' αὐτὸς ἦρχον, πολλὰ κἂν ἄκων ἔδρων.	**CREON** Not if you reasoned it through with yourself as I do. Consider this first: do you think anyone would choose to rule amid fears rather than sleep untroubled, if he were going to have the same power either way? I, for one, was not born longing to be king rather than to act like a king, and neither is anyone else who knows how to be sensible. As it is, I get everything from you without any fear. If I ruled myself, I'd be doing many things against my will.
592	πῶς δῆτ' ἐμοὶ τυραννὶς ἡδίων ἔχειν ἀρχῆς ἀλύπου καὶ δυναστείας ἔφυ; οὔπω τοσοῦτον ἠπατημένος κυρῶ ὥστ' ἄλλα χρῄζειν ἢ τὰ σὺν κέρδει καλά. νῦν πᾶσι χαίρω, νῦν με πᾶς ἀσπάζεται, νῦν οἱ σέθεν χρῄζοντες ἐκκαλοῦσί με· τὸ γὰρ τυχεῖν αὐτοῖσι πᾶν ἐνταῦθ' ἔνι. πῶς δῆτ' ἐγὼ κεῖν' ἂν λάβοιμ' ἀφεὶς τάδε; οὐκ ἂν γένοιτο νοῦς κακὸς καλῶς φρονῶν.	How then could kingship be sweeter for me to have than painless rule and power? I'm not yet so deluded that I'd want anything but honors that bring profit with them. Now I'm welcome everywhere, now everyone greets me, now those who want something from you call me aside, since everything they hope for depends on that. How then could I let go of all this and grab at that? A mind that thinks well would never turn traitor.
601	ἀλλ' οὔτ' ἐραστὴς τῆσδε τῆς γνώμης ἔφυν οὔτ' ἂν μετ' ἄλλου δρῶντος ἂν τλαίην ποτέ. καὶ τῶνδ' ἔλεγχον τοῦτο μὲν Πυθώδ' ἰὼν πεύθου τὰ χρησθέντ' εἰ σαφῶς ἤγγειλά σοι· τοῦτ' ἄλλ', ἐάν με τῷ τερασκόπῳ λάβῃς κοινῇ τι βουλεύσαντα, μή μ' ἁπλῇ κτάνῃς ψήφῳ, διπλῇ δέ, τῇ τ' ἐμῇ καὶ σῇ, λαβών· γνώμῃ δ' ἀδήλῳ μή με χωρὶς αἰτιῶ.	No, I'm no lover of that idea, and I'd never stand for it if someone else acted on it. And as proof of this, first go to Pytho and ask whether I reported the oracle to you accurately. Next, if you catch me plotting anything with the reader of portents, don't put me to death by a single vote but by a double one, mine and yours, once you've caught me. But don't accuse me on your own, on an unproven guess.
609	οὐ γὰρ δίκαιον οὔτε τοὺς κακοὺς μάτην χρηστοὺς νομίζειν οὔτε τοὺς χρηστοὺς κακούς. φίλον γὰρ ἐσθλὸν ἐκβαλεῖν ἴσον λέγω καὶ τὸν παρ' αὑτῷ βίοτον, ὃν πλεῖστον, φιλεῖ. ἀλλ' ἐν χρόνῳ γνώσει τάδ' ἀσφαλῶς, ἐπεὶ χρόνος δίκαιον ἄνδρα δείκνυσιν μόνος· κακὸν δὲ κἂν ἐν ἡμέρᾳ γνοίης μιᾷ.	It isn't just to think bad men good at random, or good men bad. To throw away a good friend, I say, is like throwing away your own life, which you love more than anything. But in time you'll know this for certain, since time alone reveals a just man; a bad one you could recognize in a single day.
616	**CHORUS** καλῶς ἔλεξεν εὐλαβουμένῳ πεσεῖν, / ἄναξ· φρονεῖν γὰρ οἱ ταχεῖς οὐκ ἀσφαλεῖς.	**CHORUS** He has spoken well for anyone careful not to fall. Those who are quick to decide are not safe.
618	**OEDIPUS** ὅταν ταχύς τις οὐπιβουλεύων λάθρᾳ χωρῇ, ταχὺν δεῖ κἀμὲ βουλεύειν πάλιν· εἰ δ' ἡσυχάζων προσμενῶ, τὰ τοῦδε μὲν πεπραγμέν' ἔσται, τἀμὰ δ' ἡμαρτημένα.	**OEDIPUS** When the man plotting against me in secret moves quickly, I have to be quick with my own plans. If I wait and do nothing, his plans will be accomplished, and mine will have failed.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
622	**CREON** τί δῆτα χρῄζεις; ἢ με γῆς ἔξω βαλεῖν;	**CREON** What do you want, then? To throw me out of the country?
623	**OEDIPUS** ἥκιστα· θνῄσκειν, οὐ φυγεῖν σε βούλομαι. / ὡς ἂν προδείξῃς οἷόν ἐστι τὸ φθονεῖν.	**OEDIPUS** Not at all. I want you dead, not exiled, so that you can show the world what envy comes to.
625	**CREON** ὡς οὐχ ὑπείξων οὐδὲ πιστεύσων λέγεις;	**CREON** You talk like a man who won't give way or believe me.
626	οὐ γὰρ φρονοῦντά σ' εὖ βλέπω.	Because I can see you're not thinking straight.
	OEDIPUS τὸ γοῦν ἐμόν.	**OEDIPUS** About my own interests, I am.
627	**CREON** ἀλλ' ἐξ ἴσου δεῖ κἀμόν.	**CREON** But you should be about mine as well.
	OEDIPUS ἀλλ' ἔφυς κακός.	**OEDIPUS** But you were born a traitor.
628	**CREON** εἰ δὲ ξυνίης μηδέν;	**CREON** And what if you understand nothing?
	OEDIPUS ἀρκτέον γ' ὅμως.	**OEDIPUS** Even so, I must rule.
629	**CREON** οὔτοι κακῶς γ' ἄρχοντος.	**CREON** Not if you rule badly.
	OEDIPUS ὦ πόλις πόλις.	**OEDIPUS** City, my city!
630	**CREON** κἀμοὶ πόλεως μέτεστιν, οὐχί σοι μόνῳ.	**CREON** I have a share in this city too, not just you.
631	**CHORUS** παύσασθ', ἄνακτες· καιρίαν δ' ὑμῖν ὁρῶ τήνδ' ἐκ δόμων στείχουσαν Ἰοκάστην, μεθ' ἧς τὸ νῦν παρεστὸς νεῖκος εὖ θέσθαι χρεών.	**CHORUS** Stop, both of you. I see Jocasta coming out of the house just in time, and with her help you should settle this quarrel that's broken out.
634	**JOCASTA** τί τὴν ἄβουλον, ὦ ταλαίπωροι, στάσιν γλώσσης ἐπήρασθ' οὐδ' ἐπαισχύνεσθε γῆς οὕτω νοσούσης ἴδια κινοῦντες κακά; οὐκ εἶ σύ τ' οἴκους σύ τε, Κρέων, κατὰ στέγας, καὶ μὴ τὸ μηδὲν ἄλγος εἰς μέγ' οἴσετε;	**JOCASTA** You wretched men, why have you started this senseless war of words? Aren't you ashamed to be stirring up private quarrels while the land is so sick? You go inside, and you, Creon, go home, and don't blow up a grievance that's nothing into something huge.
639	**CREON** ὅμαιμε, δεινά μ' Οἰδίπους ὁ σὸς πόσις δρᾶσαι δικαιοῖ δυοῖν ἀποκρίνας κακοῖν ἢ γῆς ἀπῶσαι πατρίδος ἢ κτεῖναι λαβών.	**CREON** Sister, your husband Oedipus thinks it right to do terrible things to me. He's chosen between two evils: to drive me out of my homeland, or to seize me and kill me.
642	**OEDIPUS** ξύμφημι· δρῶντα γάρ νιν, ὦ γύναι, κακῶς / εἴληφα τοὐμὸν σῶμα σὺν τέχνῃ κακῇ.	**OEDIPUS** I agree. Wife, I caught him plotting harm against my person with his wicked craft.
644	**CREON** μή νυν ὀναίμην, ἀλλ' ἀραῖος, εἴ σέ τι / δέδρακ', ὀλοίμην, ὧν ἐπαιτιᾷ με δρᾶν.	**CREON** May I never prosper; may I die accursed, if I've done to you any of what you accuse me of doing.
646	**JOCASTA** ὦ πρὸς θεῶν πίστευσον, Οἰδίπους, τάδε, μάλιστα μὲν τόνδ' ὅρκον αἰδεσθεὶς θεῶν, ἔπειτα κἀμὲ τούσδε θ' οἳ πάρεισί σοι.	**JOCASTA** Please, by the gods, believe him, Oedipus! Above all out of respect for this oath he's sworn by the gods, and then for my sake, and for these men here with you.
649		

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	CHORUS πιθοῦ θελήσας φρονήσας τ', ἄναξ, λίσσομαι.	**CHORUS** Be persuaded, willingly, wisely, / my lord, I beg you.
650	**OEDIPUS** τί σοι θέλεις δῆτ' εἰκάθω;	**OEDIPUS** What do you want me to give way on?
651	**CHORUS** τὸν οὔτε πρὶν νήπιον νῦν τ' ἐν ὅρκῳ μέγαν καταίδεσαι.	**CHORUS** Respect the man who was no fool before, / and now is made great by his oath.
652	**OEDIPUS** οἶσθ' οὖν ἃ χρῄζεις;	**OEDIPUS** Do you know what you're asking?
653	**CHORUS** οἶδα.	**CHORUS** I do.
654	**OEDIPUS** φράζε δὴ τί φής.	**OEDIPUS** Then tell me what you mean.
655	**CHORUS** τὸν ἐναγῆ φίλον μήποτ' ἐν αἰτίᾳ / σὺν ἀφανεῖ λόγῳ σ' ἄτιμον βαλεῖν.	**CHORUS** Never cast your friend, who has sworn himself under a curse, into disgrace on an unproven charge.
657	**OEDIPUS** εὖ νυν ἐπίστω, ταῦθ' ὅταν ζητῇς, ἐμοὶ / ζητῶν ὄλεθρον ἢ φυγὴν ἐκ τῆσδε γῆς.	**OEDIPUS** Then know this well: when you ask for this, you're asking for my death, or my exile from this land.
660	**CHORUS** οὐ τὸν πάντων θεῶν θεὸν πρόμον Ἅλιον· ἐπεὶ ἄθεος ἄφιλος ὅ τι πύματον ὀλοίμαν, φρόνησιν εἰ τάνδ' ἔχω. ἀλλά μοι δυσμόρῳ γᾶ φθινὰς τρύχει ψυχάν, τάδ' εἰ κακοῖς κακὰ προσάψει τοῖς πάλαι τὰ πρὸς σφῷν.	**CHORUS** No, by the foremost god of all the gods, the Sun! Godless, friendless, may I die the worst death there is, if that is my thought. But the dying land wears away my unhappy soul, if to its old troubles are joined new troubles from you two.
668	**OEDIPUS** ὁ δ' οὖν ἴτω, κεἰ χρή με παντελῶς θανεῖν ἢ γῆς ἄτιμον τῆσδ' ἀπωσθῆναι βίᾳ. τὸ γὰρ σόν, οὐ τὸ τοῦδ', ἐποικτίρω στόμα ἐλεινόν· οὗτος δ' ἔνθ' ἂν ᾖ στυγήσεται.	**OEDIPUS** Then let him go, even if it means I must die outright, or be thrust out of this land in disgrace by force. It's your words that move me to pity, they're so pitiful, not his. Wherever he is, he'll be hated.
673	**CREON** στυγνὸς μὲν εἴκων δῆλος εἶ, βαρὺς δ', ὅταν θυμοῦ περάσῃς· αἱ δὲ τοιαῦται φύσεις αὑταῖς δικαίως εἰσὶν ἄλγισται φέρειν.	**CREON** You're plainly sullen when you give way, and harsh when your anger goes too far. Natures like yours are, rightly, the hardest for themselves to bear.
676	**OEDIPUS** οὔκουν μ' ἐάσεις κἀκτὸς εἶ;	**OEDIPUS** Won't you leave me alone and get out?
677	**CREON** πορεύσομαι, / σοῦ μὲν τυχὼν ἀγνῶτος, ἐν δὲ τοῖσδ' ἴσος.	**CREON** I'm going. You never knew me, but in these men's eyes I'm the same as ever.
679	**CHORUS** γύναι, τί μέλλεις κομίζειν δόμων τόνδ' ἔσω;	**CHORUS** Lady, why do you wait / to take him into the house?
680	**JOCASTA** μαθοῦσά γ' ἥτις ἡ τύχη.	**JOCASTA** When I've learned what has happened.
681		

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	CHORUS δόκησις ἀγνὼς λόγων ἦλθε, δάπτει δὲ καὶ τὸ μὴ ’ν’δικον.	**CHORUS** A suspicion came from words no one could vouch for, / and even what is unjust can bite.
682	**JOCASTA** ἀμφοῖν ἀπ’ αὐτοῖν;	**JOCASTA** From both sides?
683	**CHORUS** ναίχι.	**CHORUS** Yes.
684	**JOCASTA** καὶ τίς ἦν λόγος;	**JOCASTA** And what was said?
685	**CHORUS** ἄλις ἔμοιγ’, ἄλις, γᾶς προπονουμένας, / φαίνεται ἔνθ’ ἔληξεν αὐτοῦ μένειν.	**CHORUS** Enough, for me, enough, with the land already in pain. Let it stay where it stopped.
687	**OEDIPUS** ὁρᾷς ἵν’ ἥκεις, ἀγαθὸς ὢν γνώμην ἀνήρ, / τοὐμὸν παριεὶς καὶ καταμβλύνων κέαρ;	**OEDIPUS** Do you see where you’ve ended up, for all your good judgment, letting my cause drop and blunting the edge of my heart?
690	**CHORUS** ὦναξ, εἶπον μὲν οὐχ ἅπαξ μόνον, ἴσθι δὲ παραφρόνιμον, ἄπορον ἐπὶ φρόνιμα πεφάνθαι μ’ ἄν, εἴ σ’ ἐνοσφιζόμαν, ὅς τ’ ἐμὰν γᾶν φίλαν ἐν πόνοις ἀλύουσαν κατ’ ὀρθὸν οὔρισας, τανῦν τ’ εὔπομπος, ἂν γένοιο.	**CHORUS** I’ve said it, and not just once: know that I’d be shown out of my mind, lost to all good sense, if I turned away from you, you who set my beloved land on a straight course when it was wandering in its troubles. Now, if you can, be our good guide again.
697	**JOCASTA** πρὸς θεῶν δίδαξον κἄμ’, ἄναξ, ὅτου ποτὲ / μῆνιν τοσήνδε πράγματος στήσας ἔχεις.	**JOCASTA** By the gods, tell me too: what is it that has stirred up such anger in you?
700	**OEDIPUS** ἐρῶ· σὲ γὰρ τῶνδ’ ἐς πλέον, γύναι, σέβω· / Κρέοντος, οἷά μοι βεβουλευκὼς ἔχει.	**OEDIPUS** I’ll tell you, wife, since I respect you more than these men. It’s Creon, and the plots he’s laid against me.
702	**JOCASTA** λέγ’, εἰ σαφῶς τὸ νεῖκος ἐγκαλῶν ἐρεῖς.	**JOCASTA** Go on, if you can state the charge clearly and say what started the quarrel.
703	**OEDIPUS** φονέα με φησὶ Λαΐου καθεστάναι.	**OEDIPUS** He says I’m the murderer of Laius.
704	**JOCASTA** αὐτὸς ξυνειδὼς ἢ μαθὼν ἄλλου πάρα;	**JOCASTA** Does he claim to know it himself, or did he learn it from someone else?
705	**OEDIPUS** μάντιν μὲν οὖν κακοῦργον εἰσπέμψας, ἐπεὶ / τό γ’ εἰς ἑαυτὸν πᾶν ἐλευθεροῖ στόμα.	**OEDIPUS** No, he sent in a scoundrel of a seer, and that way he keeps his own mouth entirely clear.
707	**JOCASTA** σύ νυν ἀφεὶς σεαυτὸν ὧν λέγεις πέρι ἐμοῦ ’πάκουσον, καὶ μάθ’ οὕνεκ’ ἐστί σοι βρότειον οὐδὲν μαντικῆς ἔχον τέχνης. φανῶ δέ σοι σημεῖα τῶνδε σύντομα. χρησμὸς γὰρ ἦλθε Λαΐῳ ποτ’, οὐκ ἐρῶ Φοίβου γ’ ἄπ’ αὐτοῦ, τῶν δ’ ὑπηρετῶν ἄπο, ὡς αὐτὸν ἕξοι μοῖρα πρὸς παιδὸς θανεῖν, ὅστις γένοιτ’ ἐμοῦ τε κἀκείνου πάρα.	**JOCASTA** Then let yourself off all you’re talking about and listen to me. Learn that no mortal has any share in the art of prophecy. I’ll give you a brief proof of it. An oracle came to Laius once, I won’t say from Phoebus himself, but from his servants, saying that it would be his fate to die at the hands of a son, who would be born to him and me.
715	καὶ τὸν μέν, ὥσπερ γ’ ἡ φάτις, ξένοι ποτὲ λῃσταὶ φονεύουσ’ ἐν τριπλαῖς ἁμαξιτοῖς·	And yet, as the story goes, foreign robbers killed him one day at a place where three roads meet. As

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	παιδὸς δὲ βλάστας οὐ διέσχον ἡμέραι τρεῖς, καί νιν ἄρθρα κεῖνος ἐνζεύξας ποδοῖν ἔρριψεν ἄλλων χερσὶν ἄβατον εἰς ὄρος. κἀνταῦθ' Ἀπόλλων οὔτ' ἐκεῖνον ἤνυσεν φονέα γενέσθαι πατρὸς οὔτε Λάϊον τὸ δεινὸν οὐφοβεῖτο πρὸς παιδὸς θανεῖν.	for the child, not three days had passed after his birth when Laius pinned his ankles together and had him thrown, by other men's hands, onto a trackless mountain. So in this case Apollo didn't make the boy his father's killer, or make Laius suffer the terrible thing he feared, death at his son's hands.
723	τοιαῦτα φῆμαι μαντικαὶ διώρισαν, ὧν ἐντρέπου σὺ μηδέν· ὧν γὰρ ἂν θεὸς χρείαν ἐρευνᾷ, ῥᾳδίως αὐτὸς φανεῖ.	That's what prophetic voices laid down, and you shouldn't pay them any attention. Whatever the god sees a need to search out, he will easily bring to light himself.
726	**OEDIPUS** οἷόν μ' ἀκούσαντ' ἀρτίως ἔχει, γύναι, / ψυχῆς πλάνημα κἀνακίνησις φρενῶν.	**OEDIPUS** Wife, since I heard you just now, what a wandering of my soul has seized me, what a churning of my mind!
728	**JOCASTA** ποίας μερίμνης τοῦθ' ὑποστραφεὶς λέγεις;	**JOCASTA** What worry has turned you round, to make you say this?
729	**OEDIPUS** ἔδοξ' ἀκοῦσαι σοῦ τόδ', ὡς ὁ Λάϊος / κατασφαγείη πρὸς τριπλαῖς ἁμαξιτοῖς.	**OEDIPUS** I thought I heard you say that Laius was cut down where three roads meet.
731	**JOCASTA** ηὐδᾶτο γὰρ ταῦτ' οὐδέ πω λήξαντ' ἔχει.	**JOCASTA** That was what was said, and the story hasn't died away yet.
732	**OEDIPUS** καὶ ποῦ 'σθ' ὁ χῶρος οὗτος οὗ τόδ' ἦν πάθος;	**OEDIPUS** And where is this place where it happened?
733	**JOCASTA** Φωκὶς μὲν ἡ γῆ κλῄζεται, σχιστὴ δ' ὁδὸς / ἐς ταὐτὸ Δελφῶν κἀπὸ Δαυλίας ἄγει.	**JOCASTA** The country is called Phocis, and the road forks there: the ways from Delphi and from Daulia meet at the same spot.[12]
735	**OEDIPUS** καὶ τίς χρόνος τοῖσδ' ἐστὶν οὐξεληλυθώς;	**OEDIPUS** And how much time has passed since then?
736	**JOCASTA** σχεδόν τι πρόσθεν ἢ σὺ τῆσδ' ἔχων χθονὸς / ἀρχὴν ἐφαίνου, τοῦτ' ἐκηρύχθη πόλει.	**JOCASTA** It was announced to the city just a little before you appeared and took power over this land.
738	**OEDIPUS** ὦ Ζεῦ, τί μου δρᾶσαι βεβούλευσαι πέρι;	**OEDIPUS** Zeus, what have you planned to do with me?
739	**JOCASTA** τί δ' ἐστί σοι τοῦτ', Οἰδίπους, ἐνθύμιον;	**JOCASTA** Oedipus, why does this weigh on your mind?
740	**OEDIPUS** μήπω μ' ἐρώτα· τὸν δὲ Λάϊον φύσιν / τίν' ἦλθε φράζε, τίνα δ' ἀκμὴν ἥβης ἔχων.	**OEDIPUS** Don't ask me yet. Tell me about Laius: what did he look like, and how old was he?
742	**JOCASTA** μέγας, χνοάζων ἄρτι λευκανθὲς κάρα, / μορφῆς δὲ τῆς σῆς οὐκ ἀπεστάτει πολύ.	**JOCASTA** Tall, his hair just beginning to be flecked with white, and in build not so very different from you.

12 Phocis is the region around Delphi; Daulia (Daulis) is a town in Phocis to the east of Delphi.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
744	**OEDIPUS** οἴμοι τάλας· ἔοικ' ἐμαυτὸν εἰς ἀρὰς / δεινὰς προβάλλων ἀρτίως οὐκ εἰδέναι.	**OEDIPUS** Oh, no, the misery! It seems I've just flung myself into terrible curses without knowing it.
746	**JOCASTA** πῶς φῄς; ὀκνῶ τοι πρός σ' ἀποσκοποῦσ', ἄναξ.	**JOCASTA** What do you mean? I tremble when I look at you.
747	**OEDIPUS** δεινῶς ἀθυμῶ μὴ βλέπων ὁ μάντις ᾖ· / δείξεις δὲ μᾶλλον, ἢν ἓν ἐξείπῃς ἔτι.	**OEDIPUS** I'm terribly afraid the seer can see. But you'll make it clearer if you tell me one thing more.
749	**JOCASTA** καὶ μὴν ὀκνῶ μέν, ἃ δ' ἂν ἔρῃ μαθοῦσ' ἐρῶ.	**JOCASTA** I'm afraid, I really am. But whatever you ask, if I know it, I'll tell you.
750	**OEDIPUS** πότερον ἐχώρει βαιὸς ἢ πολλοὺς ἔχων / ἄνδρας λοχίτας, οἷ' ἀνὴρ ἀρχηγέτης;	**OEDIPUS** Was he traveling light, or with a large band of armed men, as a ruler would?
752	**JOCASTA** πέντ' ἦσαν οἱ ξύμπαντες, ἐν δ' αὐτοῖσιν ἦν . / κῆρυξ· ἀπήνη δ' ἦγε Λάϊον μία.	**JOCASTA** There were five in all, and one of them was a herald. A single carriage carried Laius.
754	**OEDIPUS** αἰαῖ, τάδ' ἤδη διαφανῆ. τίς ἦν ποτε / ὁ τούσδε λέξας τοὺς λόγους ὑμῖν, γύναι;	**OEDIPUS** Oh, no! Now it's all too clear. Wife, who was it who told you all this?
756	**JOCASTA** οἰκεύς τις, ὅσπερ ἵκετ' ἐκσωθεὶς μόνος.	**JOCASTA** A household servant, the only one who got back alive.
757	**OEDIPUS** ἦ κἀν δόμοισι τυγχάνει τανῦν παρών;	**OEDIPUS** Is he in the house now, by any chance?
758	**JOCASTA** οὐ δῆτ'· ἀφ' οὗ γὰρ κεῖθεν ἦλθε καὶ κράτη σέ τ' εἶδ' ἔχοντα Λάϊόν τ' ὀλωλότα, ἐξικέτευσε τῆς ἐμῆς χειρὸς θιγὼν ἀγρούς σφε πέμψαι κἀπὶ ποιμνίων νομάς, ὡς πλεῖστον εἴη τοῦδ' ἄποπτος ἄστεως. κἄπεμψ' ἐγώ νιν· ἄξιος γὰρ οἷ' ἀνὴρ δοῦλος φέρειν ἦν τῆσδε καὶ μείζω χάριν.	**JOCASTA** No. When he came back from there and saw you in power and Laius dead, he took my hand and begged me to send him to the fields and the sheep pastures, so that he'd be as far as possible out of sight of this town. And I sent him. For a slave, he deserved a greater favor even than that.
765	**OEDIPUS** πῶς ἂν μόλοι δῆθ' ἡμὶν ἐν τάχει πάλιν;	**OEDIPUS** Could he be brought back to us quickly?
766	**JOCASTA** πάρεστιν· ἀλλὰ πρὸς τί τοῦτ' ἐφίεσαι;	**JOCASTA** He can be. But why do you want this?
767	**OEDIPUS** δέδοικ' ἐμαυτόν, ὦ γύναι, μὴ πόλλ' ἄγαν / εἰρημέν' ᾖ μοι δι' ἃ νιν εἰσιδεῖν θέλω.	**OEDIPUS** I'm afraid for myself, wife. I'm afraid I've said far too much already, and that's why I want to see him.
769	**JOCASTA** ἀλλ' ἵξεται μέν· ἀξία δέ που μαθεῖν / κἀγὼ τά γ' ἐν σοὶ δυσφόρως ἔχοντ', ἄναξ.	**JOCASTA** He'll come. But I think I too deserve to learn what weighs on you so heavily, my lord.
771	**OEDIPUS** κοὐ μὴ στερηθῇς γ', ἐς τοσοῦτον ἐλπίδων ἐμοῦ βεβῶτος. τῷ γὰρ ἂν καὶ μείζονι λέξαιμ' ἂν ἢ σοί, διὰ τύχης τοιᾶσδ' ἰών; ἐμοὶ πατὴρ μὲν Πόλυβος ἦν Κορίνθιος, μήτηρ δὲ Μερόπη Δωρίς. ἠγόμην δ' ἀνὴρ ἀστῶν μέγιστος τῶν ἐκεῖ, πρίν μοι τύχη	**OEDIPUS** And you won't be denied it, now that my fears have gone so far. Who is there that matters more than you, for me to tell, as I go through a fortune like this? My father was Polybus of Corinth, my mother Merope, a Dorian. I was held the greatest man among the citizens there, until some-

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	τοιάδ' ἐπέστη, θαυμάσαι μὲν ἀξία, σπουδῆς γε μέντοι τῆς ἐμῆς οὐκ ἀξία.	thing happened to me. It was worth wondering at, but it wasn't worth all the heat I gave it.
779	ἀνὴρ γὰρ ἐν δείπνοις μ' ὑπερπλησθεὶς μέθῃ καλεῖ παρ' οἴνῳ, πλαστὸς ὡς εἴην πατρί. κἀγὼ βαρυνθεὶς τὴν μὲν οὖσαν ἡμέραν μόλις κατέσχον, θἀτέρᾳ δ' ἰὼν πέλας μητρὸς πατρός τ' ἤλεγχον· οἱ δὲ δυσφόρως τοὔνειδος ἦγον τῷ μεθέντι τὸν λόγον. κἀγὼ τὰ μὲν κείνοιν ἐτερπόμην, ὅμως δ' ἔκνιζέ μ' ἀεὶ τοῦθ'· ὑφεῖρπε γὰρ πολύ.	At a banquet a man who'd had far too much to drink called me, over the wine, a fake, not my father's real son. It weighed on me. For the rest of that day I barely held myself in, but the next day I went to my mother and father and questioned them. They took the insult hard and were angry with the man who'd let the word slip. What they said pleased me, but still the thing kept gnawing at me, because the story kept creeping around.
787	λάθρᾳ δὲ μητρὸς καὶ πατρὸς πορεύομαι Πυθώδε, καί μ' ὁ Φοῖβος ὧν μὲν ἱκόμην ἄτιμον ἐξέπεμψεν, ἄλλα δ' ἄθλια καὶ δεινὰ καὶ δύστηνα προύφηνεν λέγων, ὡς μητρὶ μὲν χρείη με μιχθῆναι, γένος δ' ἄτλητον ἀνθρώποισι δηλώσοιμ' ὁρᾶν, φονεὺς δ' ἐσοίμην τοῦ φυτεύσαντος πατρός. κἀγὼ 'πακούσας ταῦτα τὴν Κορινθίαν, ἄστροις τὸ λοιπὸν ἐκμετρούμενος, χθόνα ἔφευγον, ἔνθα μήποτ' ὀψοίμην κακῶν χρησμῶν ὀνείδη τῶν ἐμῶν τελούμενα.	Without telling my mother and father, I set off for Pytho. And Phoebus sent me away without the answer I had come for. Instead he foretold other things, wretched and terrible and grim: that I was fated to lie with my mother, to show the world a brood that people could not bear to look on, and to be the murderer of the father who begot me. When I heard this, I fled the land of Corinth, measuring my way by the stars from then on, to somewhere I would never see the shame of my evil oracles come true.
798	στείχων δ' ἱκνοῦμαι τούσδε τοὺς χώρους, ἐν οἷς / σὺ τὸν τύραννον τοῦτον ὄλλυσθαι λέγεις.	On my way I came to the very region where you say this king was killed.
800	καί σοι, γύναι, τἀληθὲς ἐξερῶ. τριπλῆς ὅτ' ἦ κελεύθου τῆσδ' ὁδοιπορῶν πέλας, ἐνταῦθά μοι κῆρύξ τε κἀπὶ πωλικῆς ἀνὴρ ἀπήνης ἐμβεβώς, οἷον σὺ φῂς, ξυνηντίαζον· κἀξ ὁδοῦ μ' ὅ θ' ἡγεμὼν αὐτός θ' ὁ πρέσβυς πρὸς βίαν ἠλαυνέτην. κἀγὼ τὸν ἐκτρέποντα, τὸν τροχηλάτην, παίω δι' ὀργῆς· καί μ' ὁ πρέσβυς ὡς ὁρᾷ, ὄχου παραστείχοντα τηρήσας, μέσον κάρα διπλοῖς κέντροισί μου καθίκετο.	And I'll tell you the truth, wife. When I was walking near this place where three roads meet, there I met a herald, and a man riding in a carriage drawn by colts, just as you describe. The man in front and the old man himself tried to force me off the road. The one who was shoving me aside, the driver, I struck in my anger. And the old man, when he saw it, waited until I was passing the carriage and brought his double goad down on the middle of my head.
810	οὐ μὴν ἴσην γ' ἔτισεν, ἀλλὰ συντόμως σκήπτρῳ τυπεὶς ἐκ τῆσδε χειρὸς ὕπτιος μέσης ἀπήνης εὐθὺς ἐκκυλίνδεται· κτείνω δὲ τοὺς ξύμπαντας. εἰ δὲ τῷ ξένῳ τούτῳ προσήκει Λαΐου τι συγγενές, τίς τοῦδέ γ' ἀνδρός ἐστιν ἀθλιώτερος; τίς ἐχθροδαίμων μᾶλλον ἂν γένοιτ' ἀνήρ; ὃν μὴ ξένων ἔξεστι μηδ' ἀστῶν τινι δόμοις δέχεσθαι μηδὲ προσφωνεῖν τινα, ὠθεῖν δ' ἀπ' οἴκων. καὶ τάδ' οὔτις ἄλλος ἦν ἢ 'γὼ 'π' ἐμαυτῷ τάσδ' ἀρὰς ὁ προστιθείς.	He paid for it, though, and not in equal measure. In an instant, struck by the staff in this hand, he rolled right out of the carriage onto his back. And I killed them all. Now if this stranger had any tie of blood with Laius, who could be more wretched than the man you see here? What man could be more hated by the gods? No stranger and no citizen may take him into their home or speak a word to him; they must drive him from their doors. And it was no one else but I who laid these curses on myself.
821	λέχη δὲ τοῦ θανόντος ἐκ χεροῖν ἐμαῖν χραίνω, δι' ὧνπερ ὤλετ'· ἆρ' ἔφυν κακός; ἆρ' οὐχὶ πᾶς ἄναγνος; εἴ με χρὴ φυγεῖν,	And I defile the dead man's bed with these hands, the very hands he died by. Was I born evil? Am I not wholly unclean? I must go into exile, and in ex-

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	καί μοι φυγόντι μῆστι τοὺς ἐμοὺς ἰδεῖν μηδ' ἐμβατεύειν πατρίδος, ἢ γάμοις με δεῖ μητρὸς ζυγῆναι καὶ πατέρα κατακτανεῖν Πόλυβον, ὃς ἐξέφυσε κἀξέθρεψέ με. ἆρ' οὐκ ἀπ' ὠμοῦ ταῦτα δαίμονός τις ἂν κρίνων ἐπ' ἀνδρὶ τῷδ' ἂν ὀρθοίη λόγον;	ile I may not see my own people or set foot in my homeland—or else I must be yoked in marriage to my mother and kill my father, Polybus, who begot me and raised me. Wouldn't anyone who judged that all this came on me from some cruel power be right?
830	μὴ δῆτα, μὴ δῆτ', ὦ θεῶν ἁγνὸν σέβας, ἴδοιμι ταύτην ἡμέραν, ἀλλ' ἐκ βροτῶν βαίην ἄφαντος πρόσθεν ἢ τοιάνδ' ἰδεῖν κηλῖδ' ἐμαυτῷ συμφορᾶς ἀφιγμένην.	No, no, holy majesty of the gods, never let me see that day! Let me vanish from among mortals before I see a stain like that of disaster come upon me.
834	**CHORUS** ἡμῖν μέν, ὦναξ, ταῦτ' ὀκνήρ'· ἕως δ' ἂν οὗν / πρὸς τοῦ παρόντος ἐκμάθῃς, ἔχ' ἐλπίδα.	**CHORUS** This frightens us too, my lord. But until you've heard it from the man who was there, keep hoping.
836	**OEDIPUS** καὶ μὴν τοσοῦτόν γ' ἐστί μοι τῆς ἐλπίδος, / τὸν ἄνδρα τὸν βοτῆρα προσμεῖναι μόνον.	**OEDIPUS** Yes, this much hope I still have: to wait for the herdsman, and that alone.
838	**JOCASTA** πεφασμένου δὲ τίς ποθ' ἡ προθυμία;	**JOCASTA** And when he comes, what is it you're so eager for?
839	**OEDIPUS** ἐγὼ διδάξω σ'· ἢν γὰρ εὑρεθῇ λέγων / σοὶ ταὔτ', ἔγωγ' ἂν ἐκπεφευγοίην πάθος.	**OEDIPUS** I'll tell you. If he turns out to say the same as you, I'll have escaped disaster.
841	**JOCASTA** ποῖον δέ μου περισσὸν ἤκουσας λόγον;	**JOCASTA** What did you hear me say that matters so much?
842	**OEDIPUS** λῃστὰς ἔφασκες αὐτὸν ἄνδρας ἐννέπειν ὥς νιν κατακτείνειαν. εἰ μὲν οὖν ἔτι λέξει τὸν αὐτὸν ἀριθμόν, οὐκ ἐγὼ 'κτανον· οὐ γὰρ γένοιτ' ἂν εἷς γε τοῖς πολλοῖς ἴσος· εἰ δ' ἄνδρ' ἕν' οἰόζωνον αὐδήσει, σαφῶς τοῦτ' ἐστὶν ἤδη τοὔργον εἰς ἐμὲ ῥέπον.	**OEDIPUS** You said he told of robbers killing him. Now if he still speaks of the same number, I didn't kill him: one man can't be the same as many. But if he names one man traveling alone, then clearly the deed now tips toward me.
848	**JOCASTA** ἀλλ' ὡς φανέν γε τοὔπος ὧδ' ἐπίστασο, κοὐκ ἔστιν αὐτῷ τοῦτό γ' ἐκβαλεῖν πάλιν· πόλις γὰρ ἤκουσ', οὐκ ἐγὼ μόνη, τάδε. εἰ δ' οὖν τι κἀκτρέποιτο τοῦ πρόσθεν λόγου, οὔτοι ποτ', ὦναξ, σόν γε Λαΐου φόνον φανεῖ δικαίως ὀρθόν, ὅν γε Λοξίας διεῖπε χρῆναι παιδὸς ἐξ ἐμοῦ θανεῖν. καίτοι νιν οὐ κεῖνός γ' ὁ δύστηνός ποτε κατέκταν', ἀλλ' αὐτὸς πάροιθεν ὤλετο. ὥστ' οὐχὶ μαντείας γ' ἂν οὔτε τῇδ' ἐγὼ βλέψαιμ' ἂν εἵνεκ' οὔτε τῇδ' ἂν ὕστερον.	**JOCASTA** Well, be sure that this is how the story was told; he can't take it back now. The city heard it, not I alone. And even if he does veer a little from his earlier account, he'll never show that Laius' death at your hands squares with the prophecy. Loxias declared that Laius must die by my son. Yet that poor child never killed him; he died first himself. So as far as prophecy goes, from now on I wouldn't look this way or that.
859	**OEDIPUS** καλῶς νομίζεις· ἀλλ' ὅμως τὸν ἐργάτην / πέμψον τινὰ στελοῦντα μηδὲ τοῦτ' ἀφῇς.	**OEDIPUS** You're right. All the same, send someone to fetch the laborer. Don't let this go.
861	**JOCASTA** πέμψω ταχύνασ'· ἀλλ' ἴωμεν ἐς δόμους· / οὐδὲν γὰρ ἂν πράξαιμ' ἂν ὧν οὐ σοὶ φίλον.	**JOCASTA** I'll send at once. But let's go inside. I wouldn't do anything that isn't your wish.

SECOND STASIMON

The chorus prays for reverence, condemns arrogance, and fears the oracles are being ignored.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
863	**CHORUS** εἴ μοι ξυνείη φέροντι μοῖρα τὰν εὔσεπτον ἁγνείαν λόγων ἔργων τε πάντων, ὧν νόμοι πρόκεινται ὑψίποδες, οὐρανίαν δι' αἰθέρα τεκνωθέντες, ὧν Ὄλυμπος πατὴρ μόνος, οὐδέ νιν θνατὰ φύσις ἀνέρων ἔτικτεν οὐδὲ μή ποτε λάθα κατακοιμάσῃ· μέγας ἐν τούτοις θεὸς οὐδὲ γηράσκει.	**CHORUS** May fate be with me as I keep a reverent purity in all my words and all my deeds, for which laws stand set before us, laws that stride on high, begotten in the heavenly air, whose only father is Olympus; no mortal nature of men gave them birth, nor shall forgetfulness ever lull them to sleep. Great is the god in them, and he does not grow old.
873	ὕβρις φυτεύει τύραννον· ὕβρις, εἰ πολλῶν ὑπερπλησθῇ μάταν, ἃ μὴ 'πίκαιρα μηδὲ συμφέροντα, ἀκρότατον εἰσαναβᾶσ' αἶπος ἀπότομον ὤρουσεν εἰς ἀνάγκαν, ἔνθ' οὐ ποδὶ χρησίμῳ χρῆται. τὸ καλῶς δ' ἔχον πόλει πάλαισμα μήποτε λῦσαι θεὸν αἰτοῦμαι. θεὸν οὐ λήξω ποτὲ προστάταν ἴσχων.	Arrogance breeds the tyrant. Arrogance, if it is glutted in vain with much that is neither timely nor good for it, climbs to the topmost height and plunges down the sheer drop into doom, where its foot is no use to it. But the struggle that serves the city well I pray the god may never end. The god I will never cease to hold as my protector.
884	εἰ δέ τις ὑπέροπτα χερσὶν ἢ λόγῳ πορεύεται, δίκας ἀφόβητος οὐδὲ δαιμόνων ἕδη σέβων, κακά νιν ἕλοιτο μοῖρα, δυσπότμου χάριν χλιδᾶς, εἰ μὴ τὸ κέρδος κερδανεῖ δικαίως καὶ τῶν ἀσέπτων ἔρξεται ἢ τῶν ἀθίκτων θίξεται ματᾴζων. τίς ἔτι ποτ' ἐν τοῖσδ' ἀνὴρ θεῶν βέλη εὔξεται ψυχᾶς ἀμύνειν; εἰ γὰρ αἱ τοιαίδε πράξεις τίμιαι, τί δεῖ με χορεύειν;	But if anyone goes his way in contempt, in deed or word, with no fear of Justice, no reverence for the shrines of the gods, may an evil fate seize him for his ill-starred luxury, if he will not win his gains justly and keep from impious things, or lays hands in his folly on what must not be touched. When things are so, what man will ever boast again that he can ward off the gods' arrows from his soul? For if deeds like these are honored, why should I dance?
897	οὐκέτι τὸν ἄθικτον εἶμι γᾶς ἐπ' ὀμφαλὸν σέβων, οὐδ' ἐς τὸν Ἀβαῖσι ναὸν οὐδὲ τὰν Ὀλυμπίαν, εἰ μὴ τάδε χειρόδεικτα πᾶσιν ἁρμόσει βροτοῖς. ἀλλ', ὦ κρατύνων, εἴπερ ὄρθ' ἀκούεις, Ζεῦ, πάντ' ἀνάσσων, μὴ λάθοι σὲ τάν τε σὰν ἀθάνατον αἰὲν ἀρχάν. φθίνοντα γὰρ Λαΐου παλαίφατα	No longer will I go in reverence to the untouchable navel of the earth, nor to the temple at Abae, nor to Olympia, unless these oracles and these events come together so plainly that all mortals can point to them. But you who hold power, if you are rightly called

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	θέσφατ' ἐξαιροῦσιν ἤδη, κοὐδαμοῦ τιμαῖς Ἀπόλλων ἐμφανής· ἔρρει δὲ τὰ θεῖα.	so, Zeus, ruler of all, do not let this escape you and your undying, everlasting rule. For the old prophecies about Laius are fading; already people are setting them aside, and nowhere is Apollo shown honor. Things divine are perishing.[13]

THIRD EPISODE

A Corinthian brings news of Polybus' death and reveals that Oedipus was a foundling; Jocasta rushes away.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
911	**JOCASTA** χώρας ἄνακτες, δόξα μοι παρεστάθη ναοὺς ἱκέσθαι δαιμόνων, τάδ' ἐν χεροῖν στέφη λαβούσῃ κἀπιθυμιάματα. ὑψοῦ γὰρ αἴρει θυμὸν Οἰδίπους ἄγαν λύπαισι παντοίαισιν· οὐδ' ὁποῖ' ἀνὴρ ἔννους τὰ καινὰ τοῖς πάλαι τεκμαίρεται, ἀλλ' ἐστὶ τοῦ λέγοντος, εἰ φόβους λέγοι. ὅτ' οὖν παραινοῦσ' οὐδὲν ἐς πλέον ποιῶ, πρὸς σ', ὦ Λύκει' Ἄπολλον, ἄγχιστος γὰρ εἶ, ἱκέτις ἀφῖγμαι τοῖσδε σὺν κατεύγμασιν, ὅπως λύσιν τιν' ἡμὶν εὐαγῆ πόρῃς· ὡς νῦν ὀκνοῦμεν πάντες ἐκπεπληγμένον κεῖνον βλέποντες ὡς κυβερνήτην νεώς.	**JOCASTA** Lords of this land, the thought came to me to visit the temples of the gods, carrying in my hands these garlands and offerings of incense. For Oedipus is working his spirit up too high with all kinds of griefs. He doesn't judge the new by the old, as a man of sense would; he is at the mercy of whoever is speaking, as long as the speaker speaks of terrors. So since my advice does no good, I've come to you, Lycean Apollo, for you are nearest, as a suppliant with these prayers, so that you may grant us some release that brings no defilement. Right now we are all afraid, seeing him shaken, as sailors are when they see the helmsman of their ship shaken.
924	**MESSENGER** ἆρ' ἂν παρ' ὑμῶν, ὦ ξένοι, μάθοιμ' ὅπου τὰ τοῦ τυράννου δώματ' ἐστὶν Οἰδίπου; μάλιστα δ' αὐτὸν εἴπατ', εἰ κάτισθ' ὅπου.	**MESSENGER** Strangers, could you tell me where the house of King Oedipus is? Better still, tell me where he is himself, if you know.
927	**CHORUS** στέγαι μὲν αἵδε, καὐτὸς ἔνδον, ὦ ξένε· / γυνὴ δὲ μήτηρ ἥδε τῶν κείνου τέκνων.	**CHORUS** This is the house, stranger, and he himself is inside. And this lady is his wife and mother of his children.
929	**MESSENGER** ἀλλ' ὀλβία τε καὶ ξὺν ὀλβίοις ἀεὶ / γένοιτ', ἐκείνου γ' οὖσα παντελὴς δάμαρ.	**MESSENGER** Then may she be happy always, and among the happy, since she is his wife in every sense.
931	**JOCASTA** αὖτως δὲ καὶ σύ γ', ὦ ξέν'· ἄξιος γὰρ εἶ τῆς εὐεπείας εἵνεκ'· ἀλλὰ φράζ' ὅτου χρῄζων ἀφῖξαι χὤ τι σημῆναι θέλων.	**JOCASTA** And the same to you, stranger; your kind words deserve it. But tell me what you've come for and what news you mean to give.
934	**MESSENGER** ἀγαθὰ δόμοις τε καὶ πόσει τῷ σῷ, γύναι.	**MESSENGER** Good news for the house and for your husband, my lady.
935	**JOCASTA** τὰ ποῖα ταῦτα; παρὰ τίνος δ' ἀφιγμένος;	**JOCASTA** What news is that? And who has sent you?
936		

13 The navel of the earth is Delphi; Abae in Phocis had an oracle of Apollo, and Olympia an oracle of Zeus.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	MESSENGER ἐκ τῆς Κορίνθου· τὸ δ' ἔπος οὑξερῶ τάχα, / ἥδοιο μέν, πῶς δ' οὐκ ἄν, ἀσχάλλοις δ' ἴσως.	**MESSENGER** I come from Corinth. The news I'm about to tell will please you—how could it not?—though perhaps it will grieve you too.
938	**JOCASTA** τί δ' ἔστι; ποίαν δύναμιν ὦδ' ἔχει διπλῆν;	**JOCASTA** What is it? How can it have this double power?
939	**MESSENGER** τύραννον αὐτὸν οὐπιχώριοι χθονὸς / τῆς Ἰσθμίας στήσουσιν, ὡς ηὐδᾶτ' ἐκεῖ.	**MESSENGER** The people of the Isthmus are going to make him their king. That's what they were saying there.
941	**JOCASTA** τί δ'; οὐχ ὁ πρέσβυς Πόλυβος ἐγκρατὴς ἔτι;	**JOCASTA** What? Isn't old Polybus still in power?
942	**MESSENGER** οὐ δῆτ', ἐπεί νιν θάνατος ἐν τάφοις ἔχει.	**MESSENGER** No, not anymore. Death has him in the tomb.
943	**JOCASTA** πῶς εἶπας; ἦ τέθνηκε Πόλυβος, ὦ γέρον;	**JOCASTA** What did you say? Polybus is dead, old man?
944	**MESSENGER** εἰ μὴ λέγω τἀληθές, ἀξιῶ θανεῖν.	**MESSENGER** If I'm not telling the truth, I deserve to die.
945	**JOCASTA** ὦ πρόσπολ', οὐχὶ δεσπότῃ τάδ' ὡς τάχος μολοῦσα λέξεις; ὦ θεῶν μαντεύματα, ἵν' ἐστέ· τοῦτον Οἰδίπους πάλαι τρέμων τὸν ἄνδρ' ἔφευγε μὴ κτάνοι, καὶ νῦν ὅδε πρὸς τῆς τύχης ὄλωλεν οὐδὲ τοῦδ' ὕπο.	**JOCASTA** You there, go to your master as fast as you can and tell him this! Oracles of the gods, where are you now? This is the man Oedipus fled long ago, terrified that he would kill him, and now he has died by chance, not by his hand.
950	**OEDIPUS** ὦ φίλτατον γυναικὸς Ἰοκάστης κάρα, / τί μ' ἐξεπέμψω δεῦρο τῶνδε δωμάτων;	**OEDIPUS** Jocasta, my dearest wife, why have you sent for me to come out of the house?
952	**JOCASTA** ἄκουε τἀνδρὸς τοῦδε, καὶ σκόπει κλύων / τὰ σέμν' ἵν' ἥκει τοῦ θεοῦ μαντεύματα.	**JOCASTA** Listen to this man, and as you listen, see what the god's solemn oracles have come to.
954	**OEDIPUS** οὗτος δὲ τίς ποτ' ἐστὶ καὶ τί μοι λέγει;	**OEDIPUS** And who is he? What has he to tell me?
955	**JOCASTA** ἐκ τῆς Κορίνθου, πατέρα τὸν σὸν ἀγγελῶν / ὡς οὐκέτ' ὄντα Πόλυβον, ἀλλ' ὀλωλότα.	**JOCASTA** He's from Corinth, here to report that your father Polybus is no more. He's dead.
957	**OEDIPUS** τί φῄς, ξέν'; αὐτός μοι σὺ σημάντωρ γενοῦ.	**OEDIPUS** What are you saying, stranger? Tell me yourself.
958	**MESSENGER** εἰ τοῦτο πρῶτον δεῖ μ' ἀπαγγεῖλαι σαφῶς, / εὖ ἴσθ' ἐκεῖνον θανάσιμον βεβηκότα.	**MESSENGER** If this is what I must report first and plainly, be sure of it: he is dead and gone.
960	**OEDIPUS** πότερα δόλοισιν ἢ νόσου ξυναλλαγῇ;	**OEDIPUS** By treachery, or did some sickness come upon him?
961	**MESSENGER** σμικρὰ παλαιὰ σώματ' εὐνάζει ῥοπή.	**MESSENGER** A small tip of the scale puts old bodies to sleep.
962	**OEDIPUS** νόσοις ὁ τλήμων, ὡς ἔοικεν, ἔφθιτο.	**OEDIPUS** So the poor man died of sickness, it seems.
963	**MESSENGER** καὶ τῷ μακρῷ γε συμμετρούμενος χρόνῳ.	**MESSENGER** Yes, and of the long span of years that measured out his life.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
964	**OEDIPUS** φεῦ φεῦ, τί δῆτ' ἄν, ὦ γύναι, σκοποῖτό τι τὴν Πυθόμαντιν ἑστίαν ἢ τοὺς ἄνω κλάζοντας ὄρνεις, ὧν ὑφηγητῶν ἐγὼ κτενεῖν ἔμελλον πατέρα τὸν ἐμόν; ὁ δὲ θανὼν κεύθει κάτω δὴ γῆς. ἐγὼ δ' ὅδ' ἐνθάδε ἄψαυστος ἔγχους· εἴ τι μὴ τὼμῷ πόθῳ κατέφθιθ'· οὕτω δ' ἂν θανὼν εἴη 'ξ ἐμοῦ. τὰ δ' οὖν παρόντα συλλαβὼν θεσπίσματα κεῖται παρ' Ἅιδῃ Πόλυβος ἄξι' οὐδενός.	**OEDIPUS** Ah, ah! Why then, wife, should anyone look to the prophetic hearth at Pytho, or to the birds screaming overhead? By their guidance I was going to kill my father. But he is dead and lies hidden deep beneath the earth, and here I am, never having touched a weapon—unless he wasted away from missing me; in that sense he'd have died because of me. Anyway, Polybus has gathered up these oracles, just as they stand, and lies with them in Hades, worth nothing.
973	**JOCASTA** οὔκουν ἐγώ σοι ταῦτα προύλεγον πάλαι;	**JOCASTA** Didn't I tell you this long ago?
974	**OEDIPUS** ηὔδας· ἐγὼ δὲ τῷ φόβῳ παρηγόμην.	**OEDIPUS** You did. But fear led me astray.
975	**JOCASTA** μὴ νῦν ἔτ' αὐτῶν μηδὲν ἐς θυμὸν βάλῃς.	**JOCASTA** Then don't take any of it to heart anymore.
976	**OEDIPUS** καὶ πῶς τὸ μητρὸς οὐκ ὀκνεῖν λέχος με δεῖ;	**OEDIPUS** But how can I not dread my mother's bed?
977	**JOCASTA** τί δ' ἂν φοβοῖτ' ἄνθρωπος ᾧ τὰ τῆς τύχης κρατεῖ, πρόνοια δ' ἐστὶν οὐδενὸς σαφής; εἰκῇ κράτιστον ζῆν, ὅπως δύναιτό τις. σὺ δ' εἰς τὰ μητρὸς μὴ φοβοῦ νυμφεύματα· πολλοὶ γὰρ ἤδη κἀν ὀνείρασιν βροτῶν μητρὶ ξυνηυνάσθησαν. ἀλλὰ ταῦθ' ὅτῳ παρ' οὐδέν ἐστι, ῥᾷστα τὸν βίον φέρει.	**JOCASTA** What should a human being fear, when chance rules everything and there's no clear foresight about anything? It's best to live at random, as well as one can. And don't you be afraid of marrying your mother. Many men before now have slept with their mothers in dreams as well. But the one who counts these things as nothing bears his life most easily.
984	**OEDIPUS** καλῶς ἅπαντα ταῦτ' ἂν ἐξείρητό σοι, εἰ μὴ 'κύρει ζῶσ' ἡ τεκοῦσα· νῦν δ' ἐπεὶ ζῇ, πᾶσ' ἀνάγκη, κεἰ καλῶς λέγεις, ὀκνεῖν.	**OEDIPUS** All this would have been well said, if my mother weren't still alive. But since she lives, I have every reason to shrink from it, however well you speak.
987	**JOCASTA** καὶ μὴν μέγας γ' ὀφθαλμὸς οἱ πατρὸς τάφοι.	**JOCASTA** And yet your father's grave is a great light.
988	**OEDIPUS** μέγας, ξυνίημ'· ἀλλὰ τῆς ζώσης φόβος.	**OEDIPUS** Great, I understand. But I'm afraid of her, while she lives.
989	**MESSENGER** ποίας δὲ καὶ γυναικὸς ἐκφοβεῖσθ' ὕπερ;	**MESSENGER** And who is this woman you're so afraid of?
990	**OEDIPUS** Μερόπης, γεραιέ, Πόλυβος ἧς ᾤκει μέτα.	**OEDIPUS** Merope, old man, who lived with Polybus.
991	**MESSENGER** τί δ' ἔστ' ἐκείνης ὑμὶν ἐς φόβον φέρον;	**MESSENGER** And what is there about her that frightens you?
992	**OEDIPUS** θεήλατον μάντευμα δεινόν, ὦ ξένε.	**OEDIPUS** A terrible oracle, sent by a god, stranger.
993	**MESSENGER** ἦ ῥητόν; ἢ οὐχὶ θεμιτὸν ἄλλον εἰδέναι;	**MESSENGER** Can it be told? Or is it not right for anyone else to know?

	GREEK	ENGLISH
994	**OEDIPUS** μάλιστά γ'· εἶπε γάρ με Λοξίας ποτὲ χρῆναι μιγῆναι μητρὶ τἠμαυτοῦ τό τε πατρῷον αἷμα χερσὶ ταῖς ἐμαῖς ἑλεῖν. ὧν οὕνεχ' ἡ Κόρινθος ἐξ ἐμοῦ πάλαι μακρὰν ἀπῳκεῖτ'· εὐτυχῶς μέν, ἀλλ' ὅμως τὰ τῶν τεκόντων ὄμμαθ' ἥδιστον βλέπειν.	**OEDIPUS** Of course it can. Loxias once said that I was fated to lie with my own mother and to shed my father's blood with my own hands. That's why I've lived far away from Corinth for a long time now. Happily, yes—but still, it's sweetest to look into your parents' eyes.
1000	**MESSENGER** ἦ γὰρ τάδ' ὀκνῶν κεῖθεν ἦσθ' ἀπόπτολις;	**MESSENGER** So that was the fear that made you an exile from there?
1001	**OEDIPUS** πατρός τε χρῄζων μὴ φονεὺς εἶναι, γέρον.	**OEDIPUS** That, and I didn't want to be my father's murderer, old man.
1002	**MESSENGER** τί δῆτ' ἐγὼ οὐχὶ τοῦδε τοῦ φόβου σ', ἄναξ, / ἐπείπερ εὔνους ἦλθον, ἐξελυσάμην;	**MESSENGER** Then why don't I free you from this fear, my lord, since I came here meaning you well?
1004	**OEDIPUS** καὶ μὴν χάριν γ' ἂν ἀξίαν λάβοις ἐμοῦ.	**OEDIPUS** You'd certainly get a fitting reward from me.
1005	**MESSENGER** καὶ μὴν μάλιστα τοῦτ' ἀφικόμην, ὅπως / σοῦ πρὸς δόμους ἐλθόντος εὖ πράξαιμί τι.	**MESSENGER** Well, that's the main reason I came: so that when you came home I'd do well out of it.
1007	**OEDIPUS** ἀλλ' οὔποτ' εἶμι τοῖς φυτεύσασίν γ' ὅμοῦ.	**OEDIPUS** But I'll never go where my parents are.
1008	**MESSENGER** ὦ παῖ, καλῶς εἶ δῆλος οὐκ εἰδὼς τί δρᾷς.	**MESSENGER** Son, it's quite clear you don't know what you're doing.
1009	**OEDIPUS** πῶς, ὦ γεραιέ; πρὸς θεῶν δίδασκέ με.	**OEDIPUS** How so, old man? For the gods' sake, tell me.
1010	**MESSENGER** εἰ τῶνδε φεύγεις οὕνεκ' εἰς οἴκους μολεῖν.	**MESSENGER** If that's why you're avoiding going home.
1011	**OEDIPUS** ταρβῶν γε μή μοι Φοῖβος ἐξέλθῃ σαφής.	**OEDIPUS** Yes—I'm afraid Phoebus may turn out to be right about me.
1012	**MESSENGER** ἦ μὴ μίασμα τῶν φυτευσάντων λάβῃς;	**MESSENGER** Afraid you'd take on pollution through your parents?
1013	**OEDIPUS** τοῦτ' αὐτό, πρέσβυ, τοῦτό μ' εἰσαεὶ φοβεῖ.	**OEDIPUS** That's it, old man, that's exactly what has always frightened me.
1014	**MESSENGER** ἆρ' οἶσθα δῆτα πρὸς δίκης οὐδὲν τρέμων;	**MESSENGER** Then don't you know you have no real reason to be afraid?
1015	**OEDIPUS** πῶς δ' οὐχί, παῖς γ' εἰ τῶνδε γεννητῶν ἔφυν;	**OEDIPUS** How could I not, if I was born the son of these parents?
1016	**MESSENGER** ὀθούνεκ' ἦν σοι Πόλυβος οὐδὲν ἐν γένει.	**MESSENGER** Because Polybus was no blood relation of yours.
1017	**OEDIPUS** πῶς εἶπας; οὐ γὰρ Πόλυβος ἐξέφυσέ με;	**OEDIPUS** What are you saying? Wasn't Polybus my father?
1018		

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	MESSENGER οὐ μᾶλλον οὐδὲν τοῦδε τἀνδρός, ἀλλ' ἴσον.	**MESSENGER** No more than this man here. Exactly as much.
1019	**OEDIPUS** καὶ πῶς ὁ φύσας ἐξ ἴσου τῷ μηδενί;	**OEDIPUS** How can my father be no more to me than a nobody?
1020	**MESSENGER** ἀλλ' οὔ σ' ἐγείνατ' οὔτ' ἐκεῖνος οὔτ' ἐγώ.	**MESSENGER** Well, he didn't father you, and neither did I.
1021	**OEDIPUS** ἀλλ' ἀντὶ τοῦ δὴ παῖδά μ' ὠνομάζετο;	**OEDIPUS** Then why did he call me his son?
1022	**MESSENGER** δῶρόν ποτ', ἴσθι, τῶν ἐμῶν χειρῶν λαβών.	**MESSENGER** He received you once as a gift, I tell you, from my own hands.
1023	**OEDIPUS** κᾆθ' ὧδ' ἀπ' ἄλλης χειρὸς ἔστερξεν μέγα;	**OEDIPUS** And he loved me so much, though I came from someone else's hands?
1024	**MESSENGER** ἡ γὰρ πρὶν αὐτὸν ἐξέπεισ' ἀπαιδία.	**MESSENGER** He had no children before that; that won him over.
1025	**OEDIPUS** σὺ δ' ἐμπολήσας ἢ τυχὼν μ' αὐτῷ δίδως;	**OEDIPUS** And you—had you bought me, or found me, when you gave me to him?
1026	**MESSENGER** εὑρὼν ναπαίαις ἐν Κιθαιρῶνος πτυχαῖς.	**MESSENGER** I found you in the wooded glens of Cithaeron.
1027	**OEDIPUS** ὠδοιπόρεις δὲ πρὸς τί τούσδε τοὺς τόπους;	**OEDIPUS** And why were you traveling in those parts?
1028	**MESSENGER** ἐνταῦθ' ὀρείοις ποιμνίοις ἐπεστάτουν.	**MESSENGER** I was looking after flocks on the mountain there.
1029	**OEDIPUS** ποιμὴν γὰρ ἦσθα κἀπὶ θητείᾳ πλάνης;	**OEDIPUS** So you were a shepherd, a wandering hired hand?
1030	**MESSENGER** σοῦ τ', ὦ τέκνον, σωτήρ γε τῷ τότ' ἐν χρόνῳ.	**MESSENGER** And your savior, my son, at that time.
1031	**OEDIPUS** τί δ' ἄλγος ἴσχοντ' ἀγκάλαις με λαμβάνεις;	**OEDIPUS** What pain was I in when you took me in your arms?
1032	**MESSENGER** ποδῶν ἂν ἄρθρα μαρτυρήσειεν τὰ σά·	**MESSENGER** The joints of your feet could bear witness to that.
1033	**OEDIPUS** οἴμοι, τί τοῦτ' ἀρχαῖον ἐννέπεις κακόν;	**OEDIPUS** Oh, no—why do you speak of that old trouble?
1034	**MESSENGER** λύω σ' ἔχοντα διατόρους ποδοῖν ἀκμάς.	**MESSENGER** I untied you. Your ankles had been pierced right through.
1035	**OEDIPUS** δεινόν γ' ὄνειδος σπαργάνων ἀνειλόμην.	**OEDIPUS** A dreadful shame I took with me from my swaddling clothes.
1036	**MESSENGER** ὥστ' ὠνομάσθης ἐκ τύχης ταύτης ὃς εἶ.	**MESSENGER** So that from this misfortune you were given the name you bear.[14]

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1037	**OEDIPUS** ὦ πρὸς θεῶν, πρὸς μητρὸς ἢ πατρός; φράσον.	**OEDIPUS** For the gods' sake—was that my mother's doing, or my father's? Tell me.
1038	**MESSENGER** οὐκ οἶδ'· ὁ δοὺς δὲ ταῦτ' ἐμοῦ λῷον φρονεῖ.	**MESSENGER** I don't know. The man who gave you to me knows more about that than I do.
1039	**OEDIPUS** ἦ γὰρ παρ' ἄλλου μ' ἔλαβες οὐδ' αὐτὸς τυχών;	**OEDIPUS** So you got me from someone else? You didn't find me yourself?
1040	**MESSENGER** οὔκ, ἀλλὰ ποιμὴν ἄλλος ἐκδίδωσί μοι.	**MESSENGER** No. Another shepherd handed you over to me.
1041	**OEDIPUS** τίς οὗτος; ἦ κάτοισθα δηλῶσαι λόγῳ;	**OEDIPUS** Who was he? Do you know enough to tell me?
1042	**MESSENGER** τῶν Λαΐου δήπου τις ὠνομάζετο.	**MESSENGER** He was said to be one of Laius' people, I think.
1043	**OEDIPUS** ἦ τοῦ τυράννου τῆσδε γῆς πάλαι ποτέ;	**OEDIPUS** The man who was king of this land long ago?
1044	**MESSENGER** μάλιστα· τούτου τἀνδρὸς οὗτος ἦν βοτήρ.	**MESSENGER** That's the one. He was that man's herdsman.
1045	**OEDIPUS** ἦ κἄστ' ἔτι ζῶν οὗτος, ὥστ' ἰδεῖν ἐμέ;	**OEDIPUS** Is he still alive, so that I can see him?
1046	**MESSENGER** ὑμεῖς γ' ἄριστ' εἰδεῖτ' ἂν οὐπιχώριοι.	**MESSENGER** You people from here would know that best.
1047	**OEDIPUS** ἔστιν τις ὑμῶν τῶν παρεστώτων πέλας, ὅστις κάτοιδε τὸν βοτῆρ' ὃν ἐννέπει, εἴτ' οὖν ἐπ' ἀγρῶν εἴτε κἀνθάδ' εἰσιδών; σημήναθ', ὡς ὁ καιρὸς ηὑρῆσθαι τάδε.	**OEDIPUS** Is there anyone among you standing here who knows the herdsman he's talking about, from having seen him either out in the fields or here? Speak up. It's time these things were found out.
1051	**CHORUS** οἶμαι μὲν οὐδέν' ἄλλον ἢ τὸν ἐξ ἀγρῶν, ὃν κἀμάτευες πρόσθεν εἰσιδεῖν· ἀτὰρ ἥδ' ἂν τάδ' οὐχ ἥκιστ' ἂν Ἰοκάστη λέγοι.	**CHORUS** I think it's none other than the man from the fields you were trying to see before. But Jocasta here could tell you that better than anyone.
1054	**OEDIPUS** γύναι, νοεῖς ἐκεῖνον, ὅντιν' ἀρτίως / μολεῖν ἐφιέμεσθα; τόνδ' οὗτος λέγει;	**OEDIPUS** Wife, do you know the man we sent for just now? Is he the one this man means?
1056	**JOCASTA** τί δ' ὅντιν' εἶπε; μηδὲν ἐντραπῇς· τὰ δὲ / ῥηθέντα βούλου μηδὲ μεμνῆσθαι μάτην.	**JOCASTA** Why ask whom he meant? Pay no attention. Don't even try to remember what was said. It's pointless.
1058	**OEDIPUS** οὐκ ἂν γένοιτο τοῦθ' ὅπως ἐγὼ λαβὼν / σημεῖα τοιαῦτ' οὐ φανῶ τοὐμὸν γένος.	**OEDIPUS** It can't be that, with clues like these in my hands, I won't bring my birth to light.
1060	**JOCASTA** μὴ πρὸς θεῶν, εἴπερ τι τοῦ σαυτοῦ βίου / κήδει, ματεύσῃς τοῦθ'· ἄλις νοσοῦσ' ἐγώ.	

14 The name Oedipus was heard as "swollen foot" (from oidein, "to swell," and pous, "foot"); it also echoes oida, "I know."

	GREEK	ENGLISH
		JOCASTA For the gods' sake, if you care at all for your own life, don't search into this. My suffering is enough.
1062	**OEDIPUS** θάρσει· σὺ μὲν γὰρ οὐδ' ἐὰν τρίτης ἐγὼ / μητρὸς φανῶ τρίδουλος, ἐκφανεῖ κακή.	**OEDIPUS** Don't worry. Even if I turn out to be a slave three times over, born of three generations of slave mothers, you won't be shown to be low-born.
1064	**JOCASTA** ὅμως πιθοῦ μοι, λίσσομαι· μὴ δρᾶ τάδε.	**JOCASTA** Even so, listen to me, I beg you. Don't do this.
1065	**OEDIPUS** οὐκ ἂν πιθοίμην μὴ οὐ τάδ' ἐκμαθεῖν σαφῶς.	**OEDIPUS** I won't be persuaded not to find out the truth of this.
1066	**JOCASTA** καὶ μὴν φρονοῦσά γ' εὖ τὰ λῷστά σοι λέγω.	**JOCASTA** But I mean you well. I'm telling you what's best for you.
1067	**OEDIPUS** τὰ λῷστα τοίνυν ταῦτά μ' ἀλγύνει πάλαι.	**OEDIPUS** Well, that "best" has been tormenting me for a long time now.
1068	**JOCASTA** ὦ δύσποτμ', εἴθε μήποτε γνοίης ὃς εἶ.	**JOCASTA** Doomed man—may you never learn who you are!
1069	**OEDIPUS** ἄξει τις ἐλθὼν δεῦρο τὸν βοτῆρά μοι; / ταύτην δ' ἐᾶτε πλουσίῳ χαίρειν γένει.	**OEDIPUS** Someone go and bring that herdsman here to me. As for her, let her enjoy her wealthy family.
1071	**JOCASTA** ἰοὺ ἰού, δύστηνε· τοῦτο γάρ σ' ἔχω / μόνον προσειπεῖν, ἄλλο δ' οὔποθ' ὕστερον.	**JOCASTA** Oh, oh, you wretched man! That's the only name I have left to call you, and never anything else again.
1073	**CHORUS** τί ποτε βέβηκεν, Οἰδίπους, ὑπ' ἀγρίας ἆξασα λύπης ἡ γυνή; δέδοιχ' ὅπως μὴ 'κ τῆς σιωπῆς τῆσδ' ἀναρρήξει κακά.	**CHORUS** Why has your wife gone, Oedipus, rushing off in such wild grief? I'm afraid that out of this silence some disaster will break forth.
1076	**OEDIPUS** ὁποῖα χρῄζει ῥηγνύτω· τοὐμὸν δ' ἐγώ, κεἰ σμικρόν ἐστι, σπέρμ' ἰδεῖν βουλήσομαι. αὕτη δ' ἴσως, φρονεῖ γὰρ ὡς γυνὴ μέγα, τὴν δυσγένειαν τὴν ἐμὴν αἰσχύνεται. ἐγὼ δ' ἐμαυτὸν παῖδα τῆς Τύχης νέμων τῆς εὖ διδούσης οὐκ ἀτιμασθήσομαι. τῆς γὰρ πέφυκα μητρός· οἱ δὲ συγγενεῖς μῆνές με μικρὸν καὶ μέγαν διώρισαν. τοιόσδε δ' ἐκφὺς οὐκ ἂν ἐξέλθοιμ' ἔτι ποτ' ἄλλος, ὥστε μὴ 'κμαθεῖν τοὐμὸν γένος.	**OEDIPUS** Let it break out, whatever it will! As for me, however humble my origins, I will want to see them. She, perhaps—she has a woman's pride—is ashamed of my low birth. But I count myself the son of Chance, who gives good things, and I will not be dishonored. She is the mother I was born from, and the months, my kin, have marked me out small and great. Born of such a mother, I could never turn out to be someone else and leave my birth unknown.

THIRD STASIMON

The chorus happily guesses that Oedipus was born on Mount Cithaeron to some god.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1086	**CHORUS** εἴπερ ἐγὼ μάντις εἰμὶ καὶ κατὰ γνώμαν ἴδρις, οὐ τὸν Ὄλυμπον ἀπείρων, ὦ Κιθαιρών,	**CHORUS** If I am a prophet and wise in judgment,

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	οὐκ ἔσει τὰν αὔριον πανσέληνον, μὴ οὐ σέ γε καὶ πατριώταν Οἰδίπουν καὶ τροφὸν καὶ ματέρ' αὔξειν, καὶ χορεύεσθαι πρὸς ἡμῶν, ὡς ἐπὶ ἦρα φέροντα τοῖς ἐμοῖς τυράννοις. ἰήϊε Φοῖβε, σοὶ δὲ ταῦτ' ἀρέστ' εἴη.	by Olympus, Cithaeron, you will not fail to know, at tomorrow's full moon, that we exalt you as Oedipus' countryman, his nurse and his mother, and honor you with our dances for bringing favors to my kings. Phoebus, to whom we cry, may this be pleasing to you.
1098	τίς σε, τέκνον, τίς σ' ἔτικτε τᾶν μακραιώνων ἄρα Πανὸς ὀρεσσιβάτα πατρὸς πελασθεῖσ'; ἢ σέ γ' εὐνάτειρά τις Λοξίου; τῷ γὰρ πλάκες ἀγρόνομοι πᾶσαι φίλαι· εἴθ' ὁ Κυλλάνας ἀνάσσων, εἴθ' ὁ Βακχεῖος θεὸς ναίων ἐπ' ἄκρων ὀρέων σ' εὕρημα δέξατ' ἔκ του Νυμφᾶν Ἑλικωνίδων, αἷς πλεῖστα συμπαίζει.	Who bore you, child, which of the long-lived nymphs, who lay with Pan, the father who roams the moun- tains? Or was it some bride of Loxias? For all the upland pastures are dear to him. Or was it the lord of Cyllene, or the Bacchic god who dwells on the mountain peaks who took you as a lucky find from one of the nymphs of Helicon, the playmates he loves best?[15]

FOURTH EPISODE

Under threat, Laius' old shepherd admits the baby was Laius' son, and Oedipus understands.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1110	**OEDIPUS** εἰ χρή τι κἀμὲ μὴ συναλλάξαντά πω, πρέσβεις, σταθμᾶσθαι, τὸν βοτῆρ' ὁρᾶν δοκῶ, ὅνπερ πάλαι ζητοῦμεν· ἔν τε γὰρ μακρῷ γήρᾳ ξυνᾴδει τῷδε τἀνδρὶ σύμμετρος, ἄλλως τε τοὺς ἄγοντας ὥσπερ οἰκέτας ἔγνωκ' ἐμαυτοῦ· τῇ δ' ἐπιστήμῃ σύ μου προύχοις τάχ' ἄν που, τὸν βοτῆρ' ἰδὼν πάρος.	**OEDIPUS** Elders, if I may make a guess too, though I've never had any dealings with the man, I think I see the herdsman we've been looking for all this while. His great age matches this man's here, and besides, I recognize the men bringing him as servants of my own. But you may know better than I do, since you've seen the herdsman before.
1117	**CHORUS** ἔγνωκα γάρ, σάφ' ἴσθι· Λαΐου γὰρ ἦν / εἴπερ τις ἄλλος πιστὸς ὡς νομεὺς ἀνήρ.	**CHORUS** Yes, I know him, be sure of that. He was Laius' man, as trustworthy a herdsman as any he had.
1119	**OEDIPUS** σὲ πρῶτ' ἐρωτῶ, τὸν Κορίνθιον ξένον, ἦ τόνδε φράζεις;	**OEDIPUS** You first, our stranger from Corinth: is this the man you mean?
1120	**MESSENGER** τοῦτον, ὅνπερ εἰσορᾷς.	**MESSENGER** That's him, the one you're looking at.
1121	**OEDIPUS** οὗτος σύ, πρέσβυ, δεῦρό μοι φώνει βλέπων / ὅσ' ἄν σ' ἐρωτῶ. Λαΐου ποτ' ἦσθα σύ;	**OEDIPUS** You there, old man, look at me and an- swer whatever I ask. Did you once belong to Laius?

15 The lord of Cyllene, a mountain in Arcadia, is Hermes; the Bacchic god is Dionysus.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1123	**SHEPHERD** ἦ δοῦλος οὐκ ὠνητός, ἀλλ' οἴκοι τραφείς.	**SHEPHERD** I did. I was a slave, not bought, but raised in the house.
1124	**OEDIPUS** ἔργον μεριμνῶν ποῖον ἢ βίον τινά;	**OEDIPUS** What work did you do? How did you make your living?
1125	**SHEPHERD** ποίμναις τὰ πλεῖστα τοῦ βίου συνειπόμην.	**SHEPHERD** For most of my life I followed the flocks.
1126	**OEDIPUS** χώροις μάλιστα πρὸς τίσι ξύναυλος ὤν;	**OEDIPUS** And where did you mostly keep them?
1127	**SHEPHERD** ἦν μὲν Κιθαιρών, ἦν δὲ πρόσχωρος τόπος.	**SHEPHERD** There was Cithaeron, and there was the country round about.
1128	**OEDIPUS** τὸν ἄνδρα τόνδ' οὖν οἶσθα τῆδέ που μαθών;	**OEDIPUS** Then do you know this man here? Did you come across him somewhere there?
1129	**SHEPHERD** τί χρῆμα δρῶντα; ποῖον ἄνδρα καὶ λέγεις;	**SHEPHERD** Doing what? What man do you mean?
1130	**OEDIPUS** τόνδ' ὃς πάρεστιν· ἢ ξυναλλάξας τί πω;	**OEDIPUS** This one, here. Have you ever had any dealings with him?
1131	**SHEPHERD** οὐχ ὥστε γ' εἰπεῖν ἐν τάχει μνήμης ἄπο.	**SHEPHERD** Not so I could say right off, from memory.
1132	**MESSENGER** κοὐδέν γε θαῦμα, δέσποτ'· ἀλλ' ἐγὼ σαφῶς ἀγνῶτ' ἀναμνήσω νιν. εὖ γὰρ οἶδ' ὅτι κάτοιδεν, ἦμος τῷ Κιθαιρῶνος τόπῳ, ὁ μὲν διπλοῖσι ποιμνίοις, ἐγὼ δ' ἑνί, ἐπλησίαζον τῷδε τἀνδρὶ τρεῖς ὅλους ἐξ ἦρος εἰς ἀρκτοῦρον ἑκμήνους χρόνους· χειμῶνα δ' ἤδη τἀμά τ' εἰς ἔπαυλ' ἐγὼ ἤλαυνον οὗτός τ' εἰς τὰ Λαΐου σταθμά. λέγω τι τούτων ἢ οὐ λέγω πεπραγμένον;	**MESSENGER** And no wonder, master. But I'll remind him clearly of what he's forgotten. I'm sure he remembers the time on Cithaeron, he with two flocks and I with one, when I was his neighbor for three whole seasons, six months each, from spring until Arcturus. Then, when winter came, I'd drive mine home to my folds and he'd drive his to Laius' steadings. Am I telling it as it happened, or not?[16]
1141	**SHEPHERD** λέγεις ἀληθῆ, καίπερ ἐκ μακροῦ χρόνου.	**SHEPHERD** It's the truth, though it was long ago.
1142	**MESSENGER** φέρ' εἰπὲ νῦν, τότ' οἶσθα παῖδά μοί τινα / δούς, ὡς ἐμαυτῷ θρέμμα θρεψαίμην ἐγώ;	**MESSENGER** Well then, tell me now: do you remember giving me a baby back then, to raise as my own?
1144	**SHEPHERD** τί δ' ἔστι; πρὸς τί τοῦτο τοὔπος ἱστορεῖς;	**SHEPHERD** What is this? Why are you asking me that?
1145	**MESSENGER** ὅδ' ἐστίν, ὦ τᾶν, κεῖνος ὃς τότ' ἦν νέος.	**MESSENGER** This man here, my friend, is the one who was that baby.
1146	**SHEPHERD** οὐκ εἰς ὄλεθρον; οὐ σιωπήσας ἔσει;	**SHEPHERD** Curse you! Won't you hold your tongue?
1147	**OEDIPUS** ἆ, μὴ κόλαζε, πρέσβυ, τόνδ', ἐπεὶ τὰ σὰ / δεῖται κολαστοῦ μᾶλλον ἢ τὰ τοῦδ' ἔπη.	**OEDIPUS** Ah, don't scold him, old man. It's your words that need scolding, more than his.

16 Arcturus rises just before dawn in mid-September, marking the end of the summer grazing season.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1149	**SHEPHERD** τί δ', ὦ φέριστε δεσποτῶν, ἁμαρτάνω;	**SHEPHERD** But what am I doing wrong, best of masters?
1150	**OEDIPUS** οὐκ ἐννέπων τὸν παῖδ' ὃν οὗτος ἱστορεῖ.	**OEDIPUS** Not telling us about the child he's asking about.
1151	**SHEPHERD** λέγει γὰρ εἰδὼς οὐδέν, ἀλλ' ἄλλως πονεῖ.	**SHEPHERD** He's talking without knowing anything. He's wasting his breath.
1152	**OEDIPUS** σὺ πρὸς χάριν μὲν οὐκ ἐρεῖς, κλαίων δ' ἐρεῖς.	**OEDIPUS** If you won't talk to oblige me, you'll talk in pain.
1153	**SHEPHERD** μὴ δῆτα, πρὸς θεῶν, τὸν γέροντά μ' αἰκίσῃ.	**SHEPHERD** No, for the gods' sake, don't hurt an old man!
1154	**OEDIPUS** οὐχ ὡς τάχος τις τοῦδ' ἀποστρέψει χέρας;	**OEDIPUS** Someone twist his arms behind him, now!
1155	**SHEPHERD** δύστηνος, ἀντὶ τοῦ; τί προσχρῄζων μαθεῖν;	**SHEPHERD** Oh, poor me, what for? What more do you want to know?
1156	**OEDIPUS** τὸν παῖδ' ἔδωκας τῷδ' ὃν οὗτος ἱστορεῖ;	**OEDIPUS** Did you give him the child he's asking about?
1157	**SHEPHERD** ἔδωκ'· ὀλέσθαι δ' ὤφελον τῇδ' ἡμέρᾳ.	**SHEPHERD** I did. I wish I had died that day.
1158	**OEDIPUS** ἀλλ' εἰς τόδ' ἥξεις μὴ λέγων γε τοὔνδικον.	**OEDIPUS** You'll come to that, if you don't tell the truth.
1159	**SHEPHERD** πολλῷ γε μᾶλλον, ἢν φράσω, διόλλυμαι.	**SHEPHERD** And if I do tell it, I'm far more surely destroyed.
1160	**OEDIPUS** ἀνὴρ ὅδ', ὡς ἔοικεν, ἐς τριβὰς ἐλᾷ.	**OEDIPUS** This man, it seems, is playing for time.
1161	**SHEPHERD** οὐ δῆτ' ἔγωγ', ἀλλ' εἶπον, ὡς δοίην, πάλαι.	**SHEPHERD** No, not me! I said a moment ago that I gave it.
1162	**OEDIPUS** πόθεν λαβών; οἰκεῖον ἢ 'ξ ἄλλου τινός;	**OEDIPUS** Where did you get it? Was it your own, or someone else's?
1163	**SHEPHERD** ἐμὸν μὲν οὐκ ἔγωγ', ἐδεξάμην δέ του.	**SHEPHERD** Not mine, no. I got it from someone.
1164	**OEDIPUS** τίνος πολιτῶν τῶνδε κἀκ ποίας στέγης;	**OEDIPUS** From which of these citizens? From what house?
1165	**SHEPHERD** μὴ πρὸς θεῶν, μή, δέσποθ', ἱστόρει πλέον.	**SHEPHERD** No, for the gods' sake, master, no, don't ask anymore!
1166	**OEDIPUS** ὄλωλας, εἴ σε ταῦτ' ἐρήσομαι πάλιν.	**OEDIPUS** You're a dead man if I have to ask you this again.
1167	**SHEPHERD** τῶν Λαΐου τοίνυν τις ἦν γεννημάτων.	**SHEPHERD** Well, then: it was one of those born in the house of Laius.
1168	**OEDIPUS** ἢ δοῦλος ἢ κείνου τις ἐγγενὴς γεγώς;	**OEDIPUS** A slave? Or someone of his own blood?

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1169	**SHEPHERD** οἴμοι, πρὸς αὐτῷ γ' εἰμὶ τῷ δεινῷ λέγειν.	**SHEPHERD** Oh, no. Here I am at the very edge of the horror, and I have to say it.
1170	**OEDIPUS** κἄγωγ' ἀκούειν· ἀλλ' ὅμως ἀκουστέον.	**OEDIPUS** And I have to hear it. But hear it I must.
1171	**SHEPHERD** κείνου γέ τοι δὴ παῖς ἐκλῄζεθ'· ἡ δ' ἔσω / κάλλιστ' ἂν εἴποι σὴ γυνὴ τάδ' ὡς ἔχει.	**SHEPHERD** It was called his son, then. But the woman inside, your wife, could tell you best how things stand.
1173	**OEDIPUS** ἦ γὰρ δίδωσιν ἥδε σοι;	**OEDIPUS** She gave it to you?
	SHEPHERD μάλιστ', ἄναξ.	**SHEPHERD** She did, my lord.
1174	**OEDIPUS** ὡς πρὸς τί χρείας;	**OEDIPUS** For what purpose?
	SHEPHERD ὡς ἀναλώσαιμί νιν.	**SHEPHERD** For me to do away with it.
1175	**OEDIPUS** τεκοῦσα τλήμων;	**OEDIPUS** Its own mother? The wretch!
	SHEPHERD θεσφάτων γ' ὄκνῳ κακῶν.	**SHEPHERD** Yes, out of fear of evil prophecies.
1176	**OEDIPUS** ποίων;	**OEDIPUS** What prophecies?
	SHEPHERD κτενεῖν νιν τοὺς τεκόντας ἦν λόγος.	**SHEPHERD** The word was that it would kill its parents.
1177	**OEDIPUS** πῶς δῆτ' ἀφῆκας τῷ γέροντι τῷδε σύ;	**OEDIPUS** Then why did you let it go to this old man?
1178	**SHEPHERD** κατοικτίσας, ὦ δέσποθ', ὡς ἄλλην χθόνα δοκῶν ἀποίσειν, αὐτὸς ἔνθεν ἦν· ὁ δὲ κάκ' εἰς μέγιστ' ἔσωσεν. εἰ γὰρ οὗτος εἶ ὅν φησιν οὗτος, ἴσθι δύσποτμος γεγώς.	**SHEPHERD** Out of pity, master. I thought he'd take it away to another country, where he came from himself. But he saved it, for the greatest evils. Because if you are the man he says you are, know that you were born to misery.
1182	**OEDIPUS** ἰοὺ ἰού· τὰ πάντ' ἂν ἐξήκοι σαφῆ. ὦ φῶς, τελευταῖόν σε προσβλέψαιμι νῦν, ὅστις πέφασμαι φύς τ' ἀφ' ὧν οὐ χρῆν, ξὺν οἷς τ' οὐ χρῆν ὁμιλῶν, οὕς τέ μ' οὐκ ἔδει κτανών.	**OEDIPUS** Oh, oh! It's all come out, all of it, clear. Light, let me look on you now for the last time: I who stand revealed as born from those I should not have been born from, living with those I should not have lived with, and killing those I should never have killed.

FOURTH STASIMON

The chorus mourns Oedipus' fall as proof that human happiness is nothing.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1186	**CHORUS** ἰὼ γενεαὶ βροτῶν, ὡς ὑμᾶς ἴσα καὶ τὸ μηδὲν ζώσας ἐναριθμῶ. τίς γάρ, τίς ἀνὴρ πλέον τᾶς εὐδαιμονίας φέρει ἢ τοσοῦτον ὅσον δοκεῖν καὶ δόξαντ' ἀποκλῖναι; τὸν σόν τοι παράδειγμ' ἔχων,	**CHORUS** Ah, generations of men, how I count your lives as equal to nothing at all! For who, what man carries off more happiness than just enough to seem happy, and, having seemed, to sink away?

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	τὸν σὸν δαίμονα, τὸν σόν, ὦ τλᾶμον Οἰδιπόδα, βροτῶν οὐδὲν μακαρίζω·	With yours as my example, your fate, yours, unhappy Oedipus, I call no mortal blessed.
1196	ὅστις καθ' ὑπερβολὰν τοξεύσας ἐκράτησε τοῦ πάντ' εὐδαίμονος ὄλβου, ὦ Ζεῦ, κατὰ μὲν φθίσας τὰν γαμψώνυχα παρθένον χρησμῳδόν, θανάτων δ' ἐμᾷ χώρᾳ πύργος ἀνέστα· ἐξ οὗ καὶ βασιλεὺς καλεῖ ἐμὸς καὶ τὰ μέγιστ' ἐτιμάθης, ταῖς μεγάλαισιν ἐν Θήβαισιν ἀνάσσων.	You, who shot your arrow beyond all others and won the prize of wealth and happiness complete— Zeus!—you who destroyed the maiden with the hooked talons, singer of oracles, and rose up for my land as a tower against death. Since then you have been called my king, and honored above all, ruling in great Thebes.
1204	τανῦν δ' ἀκούειν τίς ἀθλιώτερος; τίς ἄταις ἀγρίαις, τίς ἐν πόνοις ξύνοικος ἀλλαγᾷ βίου; ἰὼ κλεινὸν Οἰδίπου κάρα, ἦ στέγας λιμὴν αὐτὸς ἤρκεσεν παιδὶ καὶ πατρὶ θαλαμηπόλῳ πεσεῖν; πῶς ποτε πῶς ποθ' αἱ πατρῷαί σ' ἄλοκες φέρειν, τάλας, σῖγ' ἐδυνάθησαν ἐς τοσόνδε;	But now, whose story is more pitiful to hear? Who lives with wilder ruin, with deeper pain, his whole life overturned? Ah, Oedipus, famous one, for whom one great harbor was enough to receive both son and father as bridegroom! How, how could the furrows your father sowed bear you, poor man, in silence for so long?
1212	ἐφηῦρέ σ' ἄκονθ' ὁ πάνθ' ὁρῶν χρόνος, δικάζει τ' ἄγαμον γάμον πάλαι τεκνοῦντα καὶ τεκνούμενον. ἰώ, Λαΐειον ὦ τέκνον, εἴθε σ' εἴθε σε μήποτ' εἰδόμαν. δύρομαι γὰρ ὥσπερ ἰάλεμον χέων ἐκ στομάτων. τὸ δ' ὀρθὸν εἰπεῖν, ἀνέπνευσά τ' ἐκ σέθεν καὶ κατεκοίμασα τοὐμὸν ὄμμα.	Time, which sees all things, has found you out against your will, and passes judgment on the marriage that is no marriage, where for so long begetter and begotten were one. Ah, child of Laius, I wish, I wish I had never seen you. I grieve like one pouring a dirge from his lips. But to tell the truth, it was you who gave me breath again, and you who laid my eyes to sleep.

EXODOS

Jocasta hangs herself; Oedipus blinds himself, says goodbye to his daughters, and is led inside.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
1223	**SECOND MESSENGER** ὦ γῆς μέγιστα τῆσδ' ἀεὶ τιμώμενοι, οἷ', ἔργ' ἀκούσεσθ', οἷα δ' εἰσόψεσθ', ὅσον δ'	**SECOND MESSENGER** You who are always held in highest honor in this land, what deeds you will hear of, what things you will see, how great a grief

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	ἀρεῖσθε πένθος, εἴπερ ἐγγενῶς ἔτι τῶν Λαβδακείων ἐντρέπεσθε δωμάτων. οἶμαι γὰρ οὔτ' ἂν Ἴστρον οὔτε Φᾶσιν ἂν νίψαι καθαρμῷ τήνδε τὴν στέγην, ὅσα κεύθει, τὰ δ' αὐτίκ' εἰς τὸ φῶς φανεῖ κακὰ ἑκόντα κοὐκ ἄκοντα. τῶν δὲ πημονῶν μάλιστα λυποῦσ' αἳ φανῶσ' αὐθαίρετοι.	you will take up, if you still care, as true kinsmen should, for the house of Labdacus! I don't think the Danube or the Phasis could wash this house clean, so much does it hide; and soon it will bring evils to the light, evils willed, not unwilled. And of all sufferings, those hurt most that prove to be self-chosen.[17]
1232	**CHORUS** λείπει μὲν οὐδ' ἃ πρόσθεν εἴδομεν τὸ μὴ οὐ / βαρύστον' εἶναι· πρὸς δ' ἐκείνοισιν τί φῄς;	**CHORUS** What we knew already lacked nothing to make it grievous. What do you have to tell beyond that?
1234	**SECOND MESSENGER** ὁ μὲν τάχιστος τῶν λόγων εἰπεῖν τε καὶ / μαθεῖν, τέθνηκε θεῖον Ἰοκάστης κάρα.	**SECOND MESSENGER** The quickest thing to say and to hear: our royal lady Jocasta is dead.
1236	**CHORUS** ὦ δυστάλαινα, πρὸς τίνος ποτ' αἰτίας;	**CHORUS** Poor, unhappy woman! What was the cause?
1237	**SECOND MESSENGER** αὐτὴ πρὸς αὑτῆς. τῶν δὲ πραχθέντων τὰ μὲν ἄλγιστ' ἄπεστιν· ἡ γὰρ ὄψις οὐ πάρα. ὅμως δ', ὅσον γε κἀν ἐμοὶ μνήμης ἔνι, πεύσει τὰ κείνης ἀθλίας παθήματα. ὅπως γὰρ ὀργῇ χρωμένη παρῆλθ' ἔσω θυρῶνος, ἵετ' εὐθὺ πρὸς τὰ νυμφικὰ λέχη, κόμην σπῶσ' ἀμφιδεξίοις ἀκμαῖς. πύλας δ', ὅπως εἰσῆλθ', ἐπιρράξασ' ἔσω καλεῖ τὸν ἤδη Λάϊον πάλαι νεκρόν, μνήμην παλαιῶν σπερμάτων ἔχουσ', ὑφ' ὧν θάνοι μὲν αὐτός, τὴν δὲ τίκτουσαν λίποι τοῖς οἷσιν αὐτοῦ δύστεκνον παιδουργίαν.	**SECOND MESSENGER** She did it herself. The most painful part of what happened you were spared, since you weren't there to see it. Still, as far as my memory serves, you'll learn what that wretched woman suffered. When she came inside the doorway in her passion, she rushed straight to her bridal bed, tearing her hair with the fingers of both hands. Once in, she slammed the doors shut and called on Laius, long since dead, remembering the seed they had sown long ago, by which he himself would die and leave her, the mother, to bear ill-starred children to his own son.
1249	γοᾶτο δ' εὐνάς, ἔνθα δύστηνος διπλοῦς ἐξ ἀνδρὸς ἄνδρα καὶ τέκν' ἐκ τέκνων τέκοι. χὤπως μὲν ἐκ τῶνδ' οὐκέτ' οἶδ' ἀπόλλυται· βοῶν γὰρ εἰσέπαισεν Οἰδίπους, ὑφ' οὗ οὐκ ἦν τὸ κείνης ἐκθεάσασθαι κακόν, ἀλλ' εἰς ἐκεῖνον περιπολοῦντ' ἐλεύσσομεν. φοιτᾷ γὰρ ἡμᾶς ἔγχος ἐξαιτῶν πορεῖν, γυναῖκά τ' οὐ γυναῖκα, μητρῴαν δ' ὅπου κίχοι διπλῆν ἄρουραν οὗ τε καὶ τέκνων.	She wailed over the bed where, in her misery, she had borne a double brood: a husband by her husband, and children by her child. How she died after that I don't know. For Oedipus burst in, shouting, and because of him we couldn't watch her end; we were all looking at him as he ranged about. He went from one of us to another, demanding a sword, and asking where he could find his wife, no wife, but a mother's field that had borne twice, himself and his children.
1258	λυσσῶντι δ' αὐτῷ δαιμόνων δείκνυσί τις· οὐδεὶς γὰρ ἀνδρῶν, οἳ παρῆμεν ἐγγύθεν. δεινὸν δ' ἀύσας ὡς ὑφηγητοῦ τινος πύλαις διπλαῖς ἐνήλατ', ἐκ δὲ πυθμένων ἔκλινε κοῖλα κλῆθρα κἀμπίπτει στέγῃ. οὗ δὴ κρεμαστὴν τὴν γυναῖκ' ἐσείδομεν, πλεκταῖσιν αἰώραισιν ἐμπεπλεγμένην.	And as he raged, some power showed him the way, for it was none of us men standing close by. With a terrible cry, as if someone were leading him, he hurled himself at the double doors, bent the bolts back out of their sockets, and burst into the room. There we saw the woman hanging, caught in a twisted noose. When he saw her, the poor man

17 The Phasis, flowing from the Caucasus into the Black Sea, was, like the Danube, one of the great rivers at the edge of the Greek world.

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	ὁ δ' ὡς ὁρᾷ νιν, δεινὰ βρυχηθεὶς τάλας χαλᾷ κρεμαστὴν ἀρτάνην. ἐπεὶ δὲ γῇ ἔκειτο τλήμων, δεινὰ δ' ἦν τἀνθένδ' ὁρᾶν.	gave a terrible bellow and loosened the hanging rope. And when the poor woman lay on the ground, what came next was terrible to see.
1268	ἀποσπάσας γὰρ εἱμάτων χρυσηλάτους περόνας ἀπ' αὐτῆς, αἷσιν ἐξεστέλλετο, ἄρας ἔπαισεν ἄρθρα τῶν αὑτοῦ κύκλων, αὐδῶν τοιαῦθ', ὁθούνεκ' οὐκ ὄψοιντό νιν οὔθ' οἷ' ἔπασχεν οὔθ' ὁποῖ' ἔδρα κακά, ἀλλ' ἐν σκότῳ τὸ λοιπὸν οὓς μὲν οὐκ ἔδει ὀψοίαθ', οὓς δ' ἔχρῃζεν οὐ γνωσοίατο. τοιαῦτ' ἐφυμνῶν πολλάκις τε κοὐχ ἅπαξ ἤρασσ' ἐπαίρων βλέφαρα. φοίνιαι δ' ὁμοῦ γλῆναι γένει' ἔτελλον, οὐδ' ἀνίεσαν φόνου μυδώσας σταγόνας, ἀλλ' ὁμοῦ μέλας ὄμβρος χαλάζης αἱματοῦς ἐτέγγετο.	He tore from her clothes the golden brooches she had dressed herself with, lifted them high, and struck the sockets of his own eyes, crying out words like these: that they would not see him, nor the evils he was suffering, nor the evils he was doing; that from now on they would see in darkness those they should never have seen, and fail to know those he longed to know. Chanting this again and again, not once only, he kept raising his eyelids and striking. And the bloody eyeballs wet his beard, not letting fall a few slow drops of gore: all at once a dark shower, a hail of blood, came pouring down.
1279	τάδ' ἐκ δυοῖν ἔρρωγεν, οὐ μόνου κάτα, ἀλλ' ἀνδρὶ καὶ γυναικὶ συμμιγῆ κακά. ὁ πρὶν παλαιὸς δ' ὄλβος ἦν πάροιθε μὲν ὄλβος δικαίως· νῦν δὲ τῇδε θἠμέρᾳ στεναγμός, ἄτη, θάνατος, αἰσχύνη, κακῶν ὅσ' ἐστὶ πάντων ὀνόματ', οὐδέν ἐστ' ἀπόν.	These evils have broken out from two, not from one alone; they are evils mingled for husband and wife together. The happiness they had of old was rightly called happiness, before. But now, on this one day, groaning, ruin, death, disgrace: of all the evils there are names for, not one is missing.
1285	**CHORUS** νῦν δ' ἔσθ' ὁ τλήμων ἐν τίνι σχολῇ κακοῦ;	**CHORUS** And now, has the poor man any respite from his pain?
1286	**SECOND MESSENGER** βοᾷ διοίγειν κλῆθρα καὶ δηλοῦν τινα τοῖς πᾶσι Καδμείοισι τὸν πατροκτόνον, τὸν μητέρ'—αὐδῶν ἀνόσι' οὐδὲ ῥητά μοι, ὡς ἐκ χθονὸς ῥίψων ἑαυτὸν οὐδ' ἔτι μενῶν δόμοις ἀραῖος, ὡς ἠράσατο. ῥώμης γε μέντοι καὶ προηγητοῦ τινος δεῖται· τὸ γὰρ νόσημα μεῖζον ἢ φέρειν. δείξει δὲ καὶ σοί· κλῆθρα γὰρ πυλῶν τάδε διοίγεται· θέαμα δ' εἰσόψει τάχα τοιοῦτον οἷον καὶ στυγοῦντ' ἐποικτίσαι.	**SECOND MESSENGER** He's shouting for someone to open the bolts and show all the people of Cadmus the man who killed his father, the man whose mother—he's saying unholy things, things I can't repeat—and that he'll cast himself out of the land and not stay in the house under his own curse, the curse he laid. But he needs strength, and someone to guide him; his sickness is more than he can bear. He'll show you too. The bolts of the doors are opening. Soon you'll see a sight that even one who loathed him would pity.
1297	**CHORUS** ὦ δεινὸν ἰδεῖν πάθος ἀνθρώποις, ὦ δεινότατον πάντων ὅσ' ἐγὼ προσέκυρσ' ἤδη. τίς σ', ὦ τλῆμον, προσέβη μανία; τίς ὁ πηδήσας μείζονα δαίμων τῶν μακίστων πρὸς σῇ δυσδαίμονι μοίρᾳ; φεῦ φεῦ, δύσταν'· ἀλλ' οὐδ' ἐσιδεῖν δύναμαί σε, θέλων πόλλ' ἀνερέσθαι, πολλὰ πυθέσθαι, πολλὰ δ' ἀθρῆσαι· τοίαν φρίκην παρέχεις μοι.	**CHORUS** What terrible suffering for men to see, the most terrible of all I have ever come upon! What madness, poor man, came over you? What power leapt, with a leap beyond the longest, upon your ill-fated life? Ah, ah, unhappy man! I cannot even look at you, though I long to ask so much, to learn so much,

	GREEK	ENGLISH
		to see so much: such a shudder you send through me.
1308	**OEDIPUS** αἰαῖ αἰαῖ, δύστανος ἐγώ, ποῖ γᾶς φέρομαι τλάμων; πᾷ μοι φθογγὰ διαπωτᾶται φοράδην; ἰὼ δαῖμον, ἵν' ἐξήλλου.	**OEDIPUS** Ah, ah! Ah, ah! How wretched I am! Where on earth am I carried, in my misery? Where does my voice go flying, borne away? Oh, my fate, how far you have leapt!
1312	**CHORUS** ἐς δεινὸν οὐδ' ἀκουστὸν οὐδ' ἐπόψιμον.	**CHORUS** Into something terrible, not to be heard of, not to be looked on.
1313	**OEDIPUS** ἰὼ σκότου νέφος ἐμὸν ἀπότροπον, ἐπιπλόμενον ἄφατον, ἀδάματόν τε καὶ δυσούριστον ὄν. οἴμοι, οἴμοι μάλ' αὖθις· οἷον εἰσέδυ μ' ἅμα κέντρων τε τῶνδ' οἴστρημα καὶ μνήμη κακῶν.	**OEDIPUS** Ah, cloud of darkness, mine, abhorrent, sweeping over me, unspeakable, unconquerable, driven by a wind I can't escape! Oh, no, oh, no, again! How they pierce me together, the stab of these goads and the memory of evil!
1319	**CHORUS** καὶ θαῦμά γ' οὐδὲν ἐν τοσοῖσδε πήμασιν / διπλᾶ σε πενθεῖν καὶ διπλᾶ φορεῖν κακά.	**CHORUS** And it's no wonder, amid so many sufferings, that you mourn twice over and bear evils twice over.
1321	**OEDIPUS** ἰὼ φίλος, σὺ μὲν ἐμὸς ἐπίπολος ἔτι μόνιμος· ἔτι γὰρ ὑπομένεις με τὸν τυφλὸν κηδεύων. φεῦ φεῦ. οὐ γάρ με λήθεις, ἀλλὰ γιγνώσκω σαφῶς, καίπερ σκοτεινός, τήν γε σὴν αὐδὴν ὅμως.	**OEDIPUS** Ah, my friend, you are still my steadfast attendant; you still stay by me, caring for the blind man. Ah, ah. You can't hide from me: dark as I am, I know your voice all the same, and clearly.
1327	**CHORUS** ὦ δεινὰ δράσας, πῶς ἔτλης τοιαῦτα σὰς / ὄψεις μαρᾶναι; τίς σ' ἐπῆρε δαιμόνων;	**CHORUS** You've done terrible things! How could you bring yourself to put out your eyes like this? What god drove you to it?
1329	**OEDIPUS** Ἀπόλλων τάδ' ἦν, Ἀπόλλων, φίλοι, ὁ κακὰ κακὰ τελῶν ἐμὰ τάδ' ἐμὰ πάθεα. ἔπαισε δ' αὐτόχειρ νιν οὔτις, ἀλλ' ἐγὼ τλάμων. τί γὰρ ἔδει μ' ὁρᾶν, ὅτῳ γ' ὁρῶντι μηδὲν ἦν ἰδεῖν γλυκύ;	**OEDIPUS** It was Apollo, my friends, Apollo, who brought to pass these evils, these evils of mine, these sufferings of mine. But the hand that struck them was no one's but mine, wretch that I am. Why should I see, when there was nothing sweet for me to see?
1336	**CHORUS** ἦν τᾇδ' ὅπωσπερ καὶ σύ φῄς.	**CHORUS** It was so, / just as you say.
1337	**OEDIPUS** τί δῆτ' ἐμοὶ βλεπτὸν ἢ στερκτὸν ἢ προσήγορον ἔτ' ἔστ' ἀκούειν ἡδονᾷ φίλοι; ἀπάγετ' ἐκτόπιον ὅ τι τάχιστά με, ἀπάγετ', ὦ φίλοι, τὸν μέγ' ὀλέθριον	**OEDIPUS** What, then, is left for me to see, or love, or speak to, or hear with any pleasure, my friends? Lead me away from this place as fast as you can, lead me away, my friends, the utterly ruined,

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	τὸν καταρατότατον, ἔτι δὲ καὶ θεοῖς ἐχθρότατον βροτῶν.	the most accursed, the mortal most hated by the gods.
1346	**CHORUS** δείλαιε τοῦ νοῦ τῆς τε συμφορᾶς ἴσον, / ὡς σ' ἠθέλησα μηδέ γ' ἂν γνῶναί ποτε.	**CHORUS** Poor man, as pitiful for knowing it as for what has befallen you, how I wish I had never even known you.
1349	**OEDIPUS** ὄλοιθ' ὅστις ἦν, ὃς ἀγρίας πέδας μονάδ' ἐπιποδίας ἔλυσ' μ' ἀπό τε φόνου ἔρυτο κἀνέσωσεν, οὐδὲν εἰς χάριν πράσσων. τότε γὰρ ἂν θανὼν οὐκ ἦ φίλοισιν οὐδ' ἐμοὶ τοσόνδ' ἄχος.	**OEDIPUS** Death take whoever he was who freed me from the cruel shackle on my feet, left there alone, and snatched me from death and saved me— no kindness that he did me. For if I had died then, I would not be such grief to those I love, or to myself.
1356	**CHORUS** θέλοντι κἀμοὶ τοῦτ' ἂν ἦν.	**CHORUS** I too / would have wished it so.
1357	**OEDIPUS** οὔκουν πατρός γ' ἂν φονεὺς ἦλθον οὐδὲ νυμφίος βροτοῖς ἐκλήθην ὧν ἔφυν ἄπο. νῦν δ' ἄθεος μέν εἰμ', ἀνοσίων δὲ παῖς, ὁμολεχὴς δ' ἀφ' ὧν αὐτὸς ἔφυν τάλας. εἰ δέ τι πρεσβύτερον ἔτι κακοῦ κακόν, τοῦτ' ἔλαχ' Οἰδίπους.	**OEDIPUS** Then I would not have come to be my father's killer, nor been called by mortals the bridegroom of the one who bore me. Now I am godforsaken, the son of unholy parents, sharing a bed, wretch that I am, with the one I was born from. And if there is an evil greater still than evil, that is the portion of Oedipus.
1367	**CHORUS** οὐκ οἶδ' ὅπως σε φῶ βεβουλεῦσθαι καλῶς· / κρείσσων γὰρ ἦσθα μηκέτ' ὢν ἢ ζῶν τυφλός.	**CHORUS** I don't know how I can say you've chosen well. You would be better off dead than living blind.
1369	**OEDIPUS** ὡς μὲν τάδ' οὐχ ὧδ' ἔστ' ἄριστ' εἰργασμένα, μή μ' ἐκδίδασκε, μηδὲ συμβούλευ' ἔτι. ἐγὼ γὰρ οὐκ οἶδ' ὄμμασιν ποίοις βλέπων πατέρα ποτ' ἂν προσεῖδον εἰς Ἅιδου μολὼν οὐδ' αὖ τάλαιναν μητέρ', οἵν ἐμοὶ δυοῖν ἔργ' ἐστὶ κρείσσον' ἀγχόνης εἰργασμένα. ἀλλ' ἡ τέκνων δῆτ' ὄψις ἦν ἐφίμερος, βλαστοῦσ' ὅπως ἔβλαστε, προσλεύσσειν ἐμοί; οὐ δῆτα τοῖς γ' ἐμοῖσιν ὀφθαλμοῖς ποτε·	**OEDIPUS** Don't tell me that what I've done was not done for the best, and don't give me anymore advice. I don't know with what eyes I could have looked at my father when I went down to Hades, or at my poor mother either—the two of them, against whom I've done things too great for hanging to pay for. Or was the sight of my children something I could long to look at, sprung as they were sprung? Never, not with these eyes of mine.
1378	οὐδ' ἄστυ γ' οὐδὲ πύργος οὐδὲ δαιμόνων ἀγάλματ' ἱερά, τῶν ὁ παντλήμων ἐγὼ κάλλιστ' ἀνὴρ εἷς ἔν γε ταῖς Θήβαις τραφεὶς ἀπεστέρησ' ἐμαυτόν, αὐτὸς ἐννέπων ὠθεῖν ἅπαντας τὸν ἀσεβῆ, τὸν ἐκ θεῶν φανέντ' ἄναγνον καὶ γένους τοῦ Λαΐου. τοιάνδ' ἐγὼ κηλῖδα μηνύσας ἐμὴν ὀρθοῖς ἔμελλον ὄμμασιν τούτους ὁρᾶν; ἥκιστά γ'· ἀλλ' εἰ τῆς ἀκουούσης ἔτ' ἦν πηγῆς δι' ὤτων φραγμός, οὐκ ἂν ἐσχόμην τὸ μὴ ἀποκλῆσαι τοὐμὸν ἄθλιον δέμας,	Nor the city, nor its walls, nor the sacred images of the gods. I, the most wretched of men, who was raised in Thebes in finer state than any other man, robbed myself of them when I myself proclaimed that everyone should drive out the impious one, the one the gods have shown to be unclean, and of the line of Laius. Having exposed such a stain as mine, was I going to look these people straight in the eye? Hardly! No: if there were any way to dam the spring of hearing in my ears, I would not have

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	ἵν’ ἦ τυφλός τε καὶ κλύων μηδέν· τὸ γὰρ τὴν φροντίδ’ ἔξω τῶν κακῶν οἰκεῖν γλυκύ.	held back from shutting up my wretched body, so I’d be blind and hear nothing. It’s sweet for the mind to live outside its sorrows.
1391	ἰὼ Κιθαιρών, τί μ’ ἐδέχου; τί μ’ οὐ λαβὼν ἔκτεινας εὐθύς, ὡς ἔδειξα μήποτε ἐμαυτὸν ἀνθρώποισιν ἔνθεν ἦ γεγώς; ὦ Πόλυβε καὶ Κόρινθε καὶ τὰ πάτρια λόγῳ παλαιὰ δώμαθ’, οἷον ἆρά με κάλλος κακῶν ὕπουλον ἐξεθρέψατε· νῦν γὰρ κακός τ’ ὢν κἀκ κακῶν εὑρίσκομαι.	Ah, Cithaeron, why did you take me in? Why didn’t you take me and kill me at once, so that I would never have shown mankind where I came from? Polybus, and Corinth, and the house I called my ancestral home, what a beauty you raised in me, festering underneath with evils! For now I am found to be evil, and born of evil.
1398	ὦ τρεῖς κέλευθοι καὶ κεκρυμμένη νάπη δρυμός τε καὶ στενωπὸς ἐν τριπλαῖς ὁδοῖς, αἳ τοὐμὸν αἷμα τῶν ἐμῶν χειρῶν ἄπο ἐπίετε πατρός, ἆρά μου μέμνησθ’ ἔτι οἷ’ ἔργα δράσας ὑμὶν εἶτα δεῦρ’ ἰὼν ὁποῖ’ ἔπρασσον αὖθις; ὦ γάμοι γάμοι, ἐφύσαθ’ ἡμᾶς, καὶ φυτεύσαντες πάλιν ἀνεῖτε ταὐτοῦ σπέρμα, κἀπεδείξατε πατέρας, ἀδελφούς, παῖδας, αἷμ’ ἐμφύλιον, νύμφας, γυναῖκας μητέρας τε, χὠπόσα αἴσχιστ’ ἐν ἀνθρώποισιν ἔργα γίγνεται.	You three roads, you hidden glen, you thicket and narrow pass where three ways meet, you who drank my own blood, my father’s, spilled by my hands: do you still remember me, the things I did in your sight, and then what I did again when I came here? Marriage, marriage, you gave me birth, and having planted me you raised up the same seed again, and brought to light fathers, brothers, sons, blood of one kin, brides, wives, and mothers, and all the most shameful acts there are among mankind.
1409	ἀλλ’ οὐ γὰρ αὐδᾶν ἔσθ’ ἃ μηδὲ δρᾶν καλόν, ὅπως τάχιστα πρὸς θεῶν ἔξω μέ που καλύψατ’ ἢ φονεύσατ’ ἢ θαλάσσιον ἐκρίψατ’, ἔνθα μήποτ’ εἰσόψεσθ’ ἔτι. ἴτ’, ἀξιώσατ’ ἀνδρὸς ἀθλίου θιγεῖν. πίθεσθε, μὴ δείσητε· τἀμὰ γὰρ κακὰ οὐδεὶς οἷός τε πλὴν ἐμοῦ φέρειν βροτῶν.	But since one shouldn’t speak of what it’s shameful even to do: quickly, for the gods’ sake, hide me somewhere outside the land, or kill me, or throw me into the sea, where you’ll never see me again. Come, bring yourselves to touch a wretched man. Do as I say, don’t be afraid. My evils no mortal can carry but me.
1416	CHORUS ἀλλ’ ὧν ἐπαιτεῖς εἰς δέον πάρεσθ’ ὅδε Κρέων τὸ πράσσειν καὶ τὸ βουλεύειν, ἐπεὶ χώρας λέλειπται μοῦνος ἀντὶ σοῦ φύλαξ.	CHORUS But here is Creon, just in time to do what you ask or to decide on it, since he alone is left to guard the land in your place.
1419	OEDIPUS οἴμοι, τί δῆτα λέξομεν πρὸς τόνδ’ ἔπος; τίς μοι φανεῖται πίστις ἔνδικος; τὰ γὰρ πάρος πρὸς αὐτὸν πάντ’ ἐφεύρημαι κακός.	OEDIPUS Oh, no. What can I say to him? What claim to his trust can I rightly show? In everything before, I’ve been found to have wronged him.
1422	CREON οὐχ ὡς γελαστής, Οἰδίπους, ἐλήλυθα, οὐδ’ ὡς ὀνειδιῶν τι τῶν πάρος κακῶν. ἀλλ’ εἰ τὰ θνητῶν μὴ καταισχύνεσθ’ ἔτι γένεθλα, τὴν γοῦν πάντα βόσκουσαν φλόγα αἰδεῖσθ’ ἄνακτος Ἡλίου, τοιόνδ’ ἄγος ἀκάλυπτον οὕτω δεικνύναι, τὸ μήτε γῆ μήτ’ ὄμβρος ἱερὸς μήτε φῶς προσδέξεται. ἀλλ’ ὡς τάχιστ’ ἐς οἶκον ἐσκομίζετε· τοῖς ἐν γένει γὰρ τἀγγενῆ μάλισθ’ ὁρᾶν μόνοις τ’ ἀκούειν εὐσεβῶς ἔχει κακά.	CREON I haven’t come to mock you, Oedipus, or to reproach you for any of the wrongs of the past. But you there: if you no longer feel shame before the race of mortals, at least have reverence for the all-nourishing flame of our lord the Sun, and don’t display so openly a pollution like this, which neither earth nor holy rain nor light will welcome. Take him into the house as quickly as you can. It is most reverent for kin alone to see and hear the sufferings of kin.
1432		OEDIPUS For the gods’ sake, since you’ve over-turned what I expected, coming as the best of men

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	OEDIPUS πρὸς θεῶν, ἐπείπερ ἐλπίδος μ' ἀπέσπασας, ἄριστος ἐλθὼν πρὸς κάκιστον ἄνδρ' ἐμέ, πιθοῦ τί μοι· πρὸς σοῦ γὰρ οὐδ' ἐμοῦ φράσω.	to me, the worst, do one thing for me. I'll ask it for your good, not mine.
1435	**CREON** καὶ τοῦ με χρείας ὧδε λιπαρεῖς τυχεῖν;	**CREON** And what is it you beg so hard to get from me?
1436	**OEDIPUS** ῥῖψόν με γῆς ἐκ τῆσδ' ὅσον τάχισθ', ὅπου / θνητῶν φανοῦμαι μηδενὸς προσήγορος.	**OEDIPUS** Cast me out of this land as fast as you can, to some place where no mortal will speak to me.
1438	**CREON** ἔδρασ' ἂν εὖ τοῦτ' ἴσθ' ἄν, εἰ μὴ τοῦ θεοῦ / πρώτιστ' ἔχρῃζον ἐκμαθεῖν τί πρακτέαν.	**CREON** I would have done that, you can be sure, if I hadn't wanted first of all to find out from the god what must be done.
1440	**OEDIPUS** ἀλλ' ἥ γ' ἐκείνου πᾶσ' ἐδηλώθη φάτις, / τὸν πατροφόντην, τὸν ἀσεβῆ μ' ἀπολλύναι.	**OEDIPUS** But his word was made perfectly plain: destroy the father-killer, the impious one. Me.
1442	**CREON** οὕτως ἐλέχθη ταῦθ'· ὅμως δ' ἵν' ἔσταμεν / χρείας, ἄμεινον ἐκμαθεῖν τι δραστέον.	**CREON** That is what was said. Still, with things where they stand now, it's better to find out what must be done.
1444	**OEDIPUS** οὕτως ἄρ' ἀνδρὸς ἀθλίου πεύσεσθ' ὕπερ;	**OEDIPUS** So you'll ask about a wretched man like me?
1445	**CREON** καὶ γὰρ σὺ νῦν τᾶν τῷ θεῷ πίστιν φέροις.	**CREON** Yes. Now even you would put your trust in the god.
1446	**OEDIPUS** καὶ σοί γ' ἐπισκήπτω τε καὶ προστέψομαι, τῆς μὲν κατ' οἴκους αὐτὸς ὃν θέλεις τάφον θοῦ· καὶ γὰρ ὀρθῶς τῶν γε σῶν τελεῖς ὕπερ· ἐμοῦ δὲ μήποτ' ἀξιωθήτω τόδε πατρῷον ἄστυ ζῶντος οἰκητοῦ τυχεῖν, ἀλλ' ἔα με ναίειν ὄρεσιν, ἔνθα κλῄζεται οὐμὸς Κιθαιρὼν οὗτος, ὃν μήτηρ τέ μοι πατήρ τ' ἐθέσθην ζῶντε κύριον τάφον, ἵν' ἐξ ἐκείνων, οἵ μ' ἀπωλλύτην, θάνω.	**OEDIPUS** Then I lay this charge on you, and I'll beg it of you. For her who lies in the house, give her whatever burial you wish yourself; it's right for you to perform the rites for your own. But as for me, never let this city of my fathers be condemned to have me living in it. Let me live in the mountains, where my Cithaeron is, as they call it, the one my mother and father, while they lived, appointed as my proper grave, so that I may die by their will, since they tried to kill me.
1455	καίτοι τοσοῦτόν γ' οἶδα, μήτε μ' ἂν νόσον μήτ' ἄλλο πέρσαι μηδέν· οὐ γὰρ ἄν ποτε θνῄσκων ἐσώθην, μὴ 'πί τῳ δεινῷ κακῷ. ἀλλ' ἡ μὲν ἡμῶν μοῖρ', ὁποιπερ εἶσ', ἴτω· παίδων δὲ τῶν μὲν ἀρσένων μή μοι, Κρέων, προσθῇ μέριμναν· ἄνδρες εἰσίν, ὥστε μὴ σπάνιν ποτὲ σχεῖν, ἔνθ' ἂν ὦσι, τοῦ βίου·	And yet I know this much: neither sickness nor anything else will destroy me. I would never have been saved when I was dying, unless it were for some terrible evil. But let my fate go wherever it's going. As for my children, Creon, don't trouble yourself about my sons. They are men; wherever they are, they'll never lack a living.
1462	ταῖν δ' ἀθλίαιν οἰκτραῖν τε παρθένοιν ἐμαῖν, αἳν οὔποθ' ἡμὴ χωρὶς ἐστάθη βορᾶς τράπεζ' ἄνευ τοῦδ' ἀνδρός, ἀλλ' ὅσων ἐγὼ ψαύοιμι, πάντων τῶνδ' ἀεὶ μετειχέτην· αἵν μοι μέλεσθαι· καὶ μάλιστα μὲν χεροῖν ψαῦσαί μ' ἔασον κἀποκλαύσασθαι κακά. ἴθ' ὦναξ,	But my two poor, pitiful girls, who never had a table set for their meals apart from me, but always shared everything I touched: take care of them for me. And above all, let me touch them with my hands and weep over our sorrows. Please, my lord, please, you who are noble born! If I could

	GREEK	ENGLISH
	ἴθ' ὦ γονῇ γενναῖε· χερσί τἂν θιγὼν δοκοῖμ' ἔχειν σφᾶς, ὥσπερ ἡνίκ' ἔβλεπον.	touch them with my hands, I'd feel I had them, as I did when I could see.
1471	τί φημί; οὐ δὴ κλύω που πρὸς θεῶν τοῖν μοι φίλοιν δακρυρροούντοιν, καί μ' ἐποικτίρας Κρέων ἔπεμψέ μοι τὰ φίλτατ' ἐκγόνοιν ἐμοῖν; λέγω τι;	What's that? For the gods' sake, don't I hear my two dear ones crying? Has Creon taken pity on me and sent me my children, my dearest? Am I right?
1476	CREON λέγεις· ἐγὼ γὰρ εἰμ' ὁ πορσύνας τάδε, / γνοὺς τὴν παροῦσαν τέρψιν, ἥ σ' εἶχεν πάλαι.	CREON You are. I'm the one who arranged it. I knew the joy you'd take in them now, the joy you've felt so long.
1478	OEDIPUS ἀλλ' εὐτυχοίης, καί σε τῆσδε τῆς ὁδοῦ δαίμων ἄμεινον ἢ 'μὲ φρουρήσας τύχοι. ὦ τέκνα, ποῦ ποτ' ἐστέ; δεῦρ' ἴτ', ἔλθετε ὡς τὰς ἀδελφὰς τάσδε τὰς ἐμὰς χέρας, αἳ τοῦ φυτουργοῦ πατρὸς ὑμὶν ὦδ' ὁρᾶν τὰ πρόσθε λαμπρὰ προυξένησαν ὄμματα· ὃς ὑμίν, ὦ τέκν', οὔθ' ὁρῶν οὔθ' ἱστορῶν πατὴρ ἐφάνθην ἔνθεν αὐτὸς ἠρόθην. καὶ σφὼ δακρύω· προσβλέπειν γὰρ οὐ σθένω·	OEDIPUS Then may you prosper, and for this journey may some power watch over you better than it did over me! Children, where are you? Come here, come to these hands of mine, your brother's hands, which have brought your father's once-bright eyes to see like this: your father, children, who, seeing nothing, knowing nothing, became your father in the field where he himself was sown. I weep for you both, since I can't look at you,
1487	νοούμενος τὰ λοιπὰ τοῦ πικροῦ βίου, οἷον βιῶναι σφὼ πρὸς ἀνθρώπων χρεών. ποίας γὰρ ἀστῶν ἥξετ' εἰς ὁμιλίας, ποίας δ' ἑορτάς, ἔνθεν οὐ κεκλαυμέναι πρὸς οἶκον ἵξεσθ' ἀντὶ τῆς θεωρίας; ἀλλ' ἡνίκ' ἂν δὴ πρὸς γάμων ἥκητ' ἀκμάς, τίς οὗτος ἔσται, τίς παραρρίψει, τέκνα, τοιαῦτ' ὀνείδη λαμβάνων, ἃ ταῖς ἐμαῖς γοναῖσιν ἔσται σφῷν θ' ὁμοῦ δηλήματα; τί γὰρ κακῶν ἄπεστι; τὸν πατέρα πατὴρ ὑμῶν ἔπεφνε· τὴν τεκοῦσαν ἤροσεν, ὅθεν περ αὐτὸς ἐσπάρη, κἀκ τῶν ἴσων ἐκτήσαθ' ὑμᾶς, ὥνπερ αὐτὸς ἐξέφυ.	when I think of the bitter life that's left for you, the life the world will force you to live. What gatherings of the citizens will you go to, what festivals, without coming home in tears instead of enjoying the spectacle? And when you reach the ripe age for marriage, who will he be, children, who will take the risk of accepting such reproaches, which will be a curse on my line and on you two alike? What evil is missing? Your father killed his father. He plowed the woman who bore him, where he himself was sown, and he got you from the same source from which he himself came.
1500	τοιαῦτ' ὀνειδιεῖσθε· κᾆτα τίς γαμεῖ; οὐκ ἔστιν οὐδείς, ὦ τέκν', ἀλλὰ δηλαδὴ χέρσους φθαρῆναι κἀγάμους ὑμᾶς χρεών. ὦ παῖ Μενοικέως, ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ μόνος πατὴρ ταύταιν λέλειψαι, νὼ γάρ, ὧ 'φυτεύσαμεν, ὀλώλαμεν δύ' ὄντε, μή σφε περιίδῃς πτωχὰς ἀνάνδρους ἐκγενεῖς ἀλωμένας, μηδ' ἐξισώσῃς τάσδε τοῖς ἐμοῖς κακοῖς. ἀλλ' οἴκτισόν σφας, ὧδε τηλικάσδ' ὁρῶν πάντων ἐρήμους, πλὴν ὅσον τὸ σὸν μέρος.	That's how you'll be taunted. And then who will marry you? There's no one, children. No, it's plain that you must wither away barren and unmarried. Son of Menoeceus, since you're the only father left to these two—for we who gave them life are both destroyed—don't stand by and watch them wander as beggars without husbands, your own kin, and don't bring them down to the level of my evils. Pity them, seeing them so young, stripped of everything except what you can be to them.
1510	ξύννευσον, ὦ γενναῖε, σῇ ψαύσας χερί. σφῷν δ', ὦ τέκν', εἰ μὲν εἰχέτην ἤδη φρένας, πόλλ' ἂν παρῄνουν· νῦν δὲ τοῦτ' εὔχεσθέ μοι, οὗ καιρὸς ἐᾷ ζῆν, τοῦ βίου δὲ λῴονος ὑμᾶς κυρῆσαι τοῦ φυτεύσαντος πατρός.	Promise me, noble man, with the touch of your hand. And to you two, children, if you were old enough to understand, I'd give much advice. As it is, make this your prayer for me: that you may live

	GREEK	ENGLISH
		wherever the moment allows, and find a better life than the father who gave you life.
1515	**CREON** ἅλις ἵν' ἐξήκεις δακρύων· ἀλλ' ἴθι στέγης ἔσω.	**CREON** You've gone far enough with your weeping. Now go inside the house.
1516	**OEDIPUS** πειστέον, κεἰ μηδὲν ἡδύ.	**OEDIPUS** I must obey, even if it's not sweet.
	CREON πάντα γὰρ καιρῷ καλά.	**CREON** Everything is good in its proper time.
1517	**OEDIPUS** οἶσθ' ἐφ' οἷς οὖν εἶμι;	**OEDIPUS** Do you know on what terms I'll go, then?
	CREON λέξεις, καὶ τότ' εἴσομαι κλύων.	**CREON** You'll tell me, and then I'll know, once I've heard.
1518	**OEDIPUS** γῆς μ' ὅπως πέμψεις ἄποικον.	**OEDIPUS** That you'll send me away from this land to live in exile.
	CREON τοῦ θεοῦ μ' αἰτεῖς δόσιν.	**CREON** You're asking me for what only the god can give.
1519	**OEDIPUS** ἀλλὰ θεοῖς γ' ἔχθιστος ἥκω.	**OEDIPUS** But I've come to be the man the gods hate most.
	CREON τοιγαροῦν τεύξει τάχα.	**CREON** Then you'll get your wish soon enough.
1520	**OEDIPUS** φῂς τάδ' οὖν;	**OEDIPUS** You mean it, then?
	CREON ἃ μὴ φρονῶ γὰρ οὐ φιλῶ λέγειν μάτην.	**CREON** I don't like to say what I don't mean, just for the sake of it.
1521	**OEDIPUS** ἄπαγέ νύν μ' ἐντεῦθεν ἤδη.	**OEDIPUS** Then lead me away from here, now.
	CREON στεῖχέ νυν, τέκνων δ' ἀφοῦ.	**CREON** Come along, then, but let go of the children.
1522	**OEDIPUS** μηδαμῶς ταύτας γ' ἕλῃ μου.	**OEDIPUS** No, don't take them from me!
	CREON πάντα μὴ βούλου κρατεῖν· / καὶ γὰρ ἀκράτησας οὗ σοι τῷ βίῳ ξυνέσπετο.	**CREON** Don't try to be master in everything. Even the mastery you had did not stay with you through your life.
1524	**CHORUS** ὦ πάτρας Θήβης ἔνοικοι, λεύσσετ', Οἰδίπους ὅδε, ὃς τὰ κλεὶν' αἰνίγματ' ᾔδει καὶ κράτιστος ἦν ἀνήρ, οὗ τίς οὐ ζήλῳ πολιτῶν ἦν τύχαις ἐπιβλέπων, εἰς ὅσον κλύδωνα δεινῆς συμφορᾶς ἐλήλυθεν. ὥστε θνητὸν ὄντα κείνην τὴν τελευταίαν ἰδεῖν ἡμέραν ἐπισκοποῦντα μηδέν' ὀλβίζειν, πρὶν ἂν τέρμα τοῦ βίου περάσῃ μηδὲν ἀλγεινὸν παθών.	**CHORUS** People of Thebes, our native land, look: this is Oedipus, who knew the answer to the famous riddle and was the most powerful of men, whose fortunes every citizen looked on with envy. See into what a sea of terrible disaster he has come! So, being mortal, one should keep watch for that final day and call no one happy until he has crossed the boundary of life without suffering pain.