

Oedipus Tyrannus Notes

What lead to the sleeping with the mom?

- Too inquisitive?
- No prophecies, it wouldn't have happened/they freaked out about it/don't screw with fate

- Mindset is a self-fulfilling prophecy
- Asking a soothsayer forms a path for you to follow/don't piss off the soothsayer

Oedipus

- Strong sense of duty
- Cares for his people-"his children"
- Enforces how important it is to find the murderer
- Not as God-like as Odysseus/he rushes into things
- The chorus serves as a "theatre" from above
- Overtaken with pride, leads to him feeling unstoppable
- What caused his anger?
 - The pride?
 - More likely
 - The prophecy?
- Wishful thinking on the prophecy?
 - He had no idea that he had done it
 - Was told that a band of people had done it
- Feels forced into power
 - Wants to be the hero
 - Went about it all wrong?
 - Wanted to be the guy who found the killer for the fame of it
- Went crazy upon realization
- Does he view this as punishment?
 - Does it fit the crime?
 - Either banishment or death seem like decent punishments
 - Does lose everything (power, daughters, sight)
 - Afraid for his daughters, and their lives
- Overwhelmingly rushed, led to a bit of crazy

Is there a sense of pity?

- It is an unfortunate situation
- He didn't do anything that horrendous on purpose
- Outside sources affect his life
- The parents threw him out to die;
- Left for the good of the nation

Irony

- The blind guy can see the future
- We know what's going to happen, but it's still widely read
- The ending is a climax
- Would it be more effective if the ending was unknown?
 - There's way too much foreshadowing to not know

Reaction

- A little excessive?
- Mom wanted to just drop it, so the truth wouldn't be official
- Thebes would still be bad
- Should've told everyone; would have had more respect for him

How old is Jocasta?

Creon believes Oedipus is impure/disease ridden

- But, then again, Creon's kind of a dick
- Tends to throw things into Oedipus' face

Not much Divine intervention

- No Athena coming to alter the course of life or anything
- Different method of storytelling

The Choruses

- The Songs are an added narration
- Simplify some of the more convoluted things in the play