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# Oedipus At Colonus Sophocles

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*The Theban Plays* Simon and Schuster

Oedipus presents ceaseless paradoxes that have fascinated readers for centuries. He is proud of his intellect, but he does not know himself and succumbs easily to self-deceptions. As a ruler he expresses the greatest good will toward his people, but as an exile he will do nothing to save them from their enemies. Faced with a damning prophecy, he tries to take destiny into his own hands and fails.

Realizing this, he struggles at the end of his life for a serenity that seems to elude him. In his last misery, he is said to illustrate the tragic lament that it is better not to be born, or, once born, better to die young than to live into old age. Such are the themes powerful thinkers take on in this volume—self-knowledge, self-deception, destiny, the value of a human life. There are depths to the Oedipus tragedies that only philosophers can plumb; readers who know the plays will be startled by what they find in this volume. There is nothing in literature to compare with the Oedipus plays of Sophocles that let us see the same basic myth through different lenses. The first play was the product of a poet in vibrant late middle age, the second of a man who was probably in his eighties, with the vision of a very old poet still at the height of his powers. In the volume's introduction, Paul Woodruff provides historical backdrop to Sophocles and the plays, and connections to the contributions by philosophers and classicists that follow.

Sophocles, the Oedipus Cycle: Oedipus Rex, Oedipus at Colonus, Antigone A&C Black This is the first study of Sophocles' Oedipus at Colonus which offers a lucid discussion of the main developments in the interpretative scholarship on the play, including among

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others an incisive analysis of its historical, social, mythical, intertextual, and performative contexts.

Sophocles Johns Hopkins University Press

In his final play, Sophocles returns to the ever-popular character of Oedipus, the blind outcast of Thebes, the ultimate symbol of human reversal, whose fall he had so memorably treated in the 'Oedipus Tyrannus'. In this play, Sophocles brings the aged Oedipus to Athens, where he seeks succour and finds refuge, despite the threatening arrival of his kinsman Creon, who tries to tempt and then force the old man back under Theban control. Oedipus' resistance shows a fierceness in no way dimmed by incapacity, but he also refuses to aid his repentant son, Polyneices, in his coming attack on Thebes, manifesting once more the passion and harshness which mark his character so thoroughly. His mysterious death at the end of the play, witnessed only by Theseus himself, seems the sole fitting end for such an exceptional and problematic figure,

transforming Oedipus into one of the 'powerful dead' whose beneficence towards Athens heralds a positive future for the city. This useful companion provides background, context, a synopsis and detailed analysis of the play.

### **Oedipus at Colonus**

Oxford University Press  
Sophocles I contains the plays "Antigone," translated by Elizabeth Wyckoff; "Oedipus the King," translated by David Grene; and "Oedipus at Colonus," translated by Robert Fitzgerald. Sixty years ago, the University of Chicago Press undertook a momentous project: a new translation of the Greek tragedies that would be the ultimate resource for teachers, students, and readers. They succeeded. Under the expert management of eminent classicists David Grene and Richmond Lattimore, those translations combined accuracy, poetic immediacy, and clarity of presentation to render the surviving masterpieces of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides in an English so lively and compelling that they remain the standard

translations. Today, Chicago is taking pains to ensure that our Greek tragedies remain the leading English-language versions throughout the twenty-first century. In this highly anticipated third edition, Mark Griffith and Glenn W. Most have carefully updated the translations to bring them even closer to the ancient Greek while retaining the vibrancy for which our English versions are famous. This edition also includes brand-new translations of Euripides' Medea, The Children of Heracles, Andromache, and Iphigenia among the Taurians, fragments of lost plays by Aeschylus, and the surviving portion of Sophocles's satyr-drama The Trackers. New introductions for each play offer essential information about its first production, plot, and reception in antiquity and beyond. In addition, each volume includes an introduction to the life and work of its tragedian, as well as notes addressing textual uncertainties and a glossary of names and places mentioned in the plays. In addition to the new content, the volumes

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have been reorganized both within and between volumes to reflect the most up-to-date scholarship on the order in which the plays were originally written. The result is a set of handsome paperbacks destined to introduce new generations of readers to these foundational works of Western drama, art, and life.

*Plays of Sophocles: Oedipus the King; Oedipus at Colonus; Antigone* Signet Book

The Plays of Sophocles are the Theban plays written by Sophocles which consist of three plays: Oedipus the King (also called by its Latin title Oedipus Rex), Oedipus at Colonus and Antigone. All three plays concern the fate of Thebes during and after the reign of King

Oedipus. This volume contains the three plays. The translation of Plays of Sophocles by Francis Storr was first published in 1912.

[The Oedipus Plays of Sophocles](#) Oxford University Press, USA

The latest title to join the acclaimed Greek Tragedy in New Translations series, Sophocles' Oedipus at Colonus tells the story of the last day in the life of Oedipus. It was written at the end of the fifth century BCE in Athens, in the final years of the "Golden Age" of Athenian culture, and in the last year of Sophocles' own life. At the center of the

play is the mysterious transformation of Oedipus from an old and blind beggar, totally dependent on his daughters, to the man who rises from his seat and, without help, leads everyone to the place where he is destined to die. In the background of this transformation stands the grove of the Furies, the sacred place of the implacable goddesses who pursue the violators of blood relationships. Although Oedipus, who killed his father and married his mother, is an obvious target of the Furies' vengeance, he enters their grove at the beginning of the play, sure that it is the resting place Apollo has predicted for him. The reversals and paradoxes in the play speak to the struggle that Oedipus' life and the action of the play bring vividly before us: how do we as humans, subject to constant change, find stable ground on which to stand and define our moral lives? Sophocles offers his play as a witness to the remarkable human capacity to persevere in this struggle.

[Tragic Narrative](#) Walter de Gruyter

The doomed king of Thebes brings shame on his family in this iconic three-play cycle of ancient Greek literature, a foundational work of Western drama. Oedipus Rex: As a young man, Oedipus was told of a prophecy that he would kill his father and marry his mother. Fleeing his home to escape his destiny, he becomes the king of Thebes by marrying

the former king's widow. But now Thebes is cursed until Oedipus discovers who killed his predecessor—a mystery that will lead him to his own doom. Oedipus at Colonus: Blind and exiled from his own country, Oedipus takes up residence in Colonus while his two sons battle for the throne of Thebes. An oracle has pronounced that the location of their disgraced father's final resting place will determine which of them will win. But an old enemy has his own plans for the burial. Antigone: The war is over and Thebes's ruler, Creon, decrees that the body of Polynices—Oedipus's son—is not to be buried. But Antigone, the late warrior's sister, answers to a higher authority. When she breaks the law to bury her brother with proper rites, her act of civil disobedience will unleash great upheaval.

[Sophocles' Oedipus at Colonus: Commentary](#) CreateSpace

This elegant and uncommonly readable translation will make these seminal Greek tragedies accessible to a new generation of readers.

**The Theban Plays** Theatre Communications Group

How is this book unique? Font adjustments & biography included Unabridged (100% Original content) Illustrated About Oedipus at Colonus by Sophocles Oedipus at Colonus by Sophocles was first performed around 429 BC. Originally, to the ancient Greeks, the title was simply Oedipus, as it is referred to by Aristotle in the Poetics. It is thought to have been renamed

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Oedipus Tyrannus to distinguish it from Oedipus at Colonus. In antiquity, the term "tyrant" referred to a ruler, but it did not necessarily have a negative connotation. Of his three Theban plays that have survived, and that deal with the story of Oedipus, Oedipus Rex was the second to be written. However, in terms of the chronology of events that the plays describe, it comes first, followed by Oedipus at Colonus and then Antigone. Prior to the start of Oedipus Rex, Oedipus has become the king of Thebes while unwittingly fulfilling a prophecy that he would kill his father, Laius (the previous king), and marry his mother, Jocasta (whom Oedipus took as his queen after solving the riddle of the Sphinx). The action of Sophocles' play concerns Oedipus' search for the murderer of Laius in order to end a plague ravaging Thebes, unaware that the killer he is looking for is none other than himself. At the end of the play, after the truth finally comes to light, Jocasta hangs herself while Oedipus, horrified at his patricide and incest, proceeds to gouge out his own eyes in despair. Oedipus Rex is regarded by many scholars as the masterpiece of ancient Greek tragedy. In his *Poetics*, Aristotle refers several times to the play in order to exemplify aspects of the genre. Many parts or elements of the myth of Oedipus take place before the opening scene of the play. They may be described or referred to in the text. In his youth, Laius was a guest of King Pelops of Elis, and became the tutor of Chrysippus, youngest of the king's sons, in chariot racing. He then violated the sacred laws

of hospitality by abducting and raping Chrysippus, who according to some versions, killed himself in shame. This murder cast a doom over Laius, his son Oedipus, and all of his other descendants. However, most scholars are in agreement that the seduction or rape of Chrysippus was a late addition to the Theban myth. A son is born to King Laius and Queen Jocasta of Thebes. After Laius learns from an oracle that "he is doomed/To perish by the hand of his own son", he tightly binds the feet of the infant together with a pin and orders Jocasta to kill the infant. Hesitant to do so, she orders a servant to commit the act for her. Instead, the servant takes the baby to a mountain top to die from exposure. A shepherd rescues the infant and names him Oedipus (or "swollen feet"). (The servant directly hands the infant to the shepherd in most versions.) The shepherd carries the baby with him to Corinth, where Oedipus is taken in and raised in the court of the childless King Polybus of Corinth as if he were his own. *Late Sophocles* Courier Corporation Sophocles I contains the plays "Antigone," translated by Elizabeth Wyckoff; "Oedipus the King," translated by David Grene; and "Oedipus at Colonus," translated by Robert Fitzgerald. Sixty years ago, the University of Chicago Press undertook a momentous project: a new translation of the Greek tragedies that would be the

ultimate resource for teachers, students, and readers. They succeeded. Under the expert management of eminent classicists David Grene and Richmond Lattimore, those translations combined accuracy, poetic immediacy, and clarity of presentation to render the surviving masterpieces of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides in an English so lively and compelling that they remain the standard translations. Today, Chicago is taking pains to ensure that our Greek tragedies remain the leading English-language versions throughout the twenty-first century. In this highly anticipated third edition, Mark Griffith and Glenn W. Most have carefully updated the translations to bring them even closer to the ancient Greek while retaining the vibrancy for which our English versions are famous. This edition also includes brand-new translations of Euripides' *Medea*, *The Children of Heracles*, *Andromache*, and *Iphigenia among the Taurians*, fragments of lost plays by Aeschylus, and the surviving portion of Sophocles's satyr-drama *The Trackers*. New introductions for each play offer essential information

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Sophocles: Oedipus at Colonus  
Vintage

The timeless Theban tragedies of Sophocles—Oedipus the Tyrant, Oedipus at Colonus, and Antigone—have fascinated and moved audiences and readers across the ages with their haunting plots and their unforgettable heroes and heroines. Now, following the best texts faithfully, and translating the key moral, religious, and political terminology of the plays accurately and consistently, Peter J. Ahrensdorf and Thomas L. Pangle allow contemporary readers to study the most literally exact reproductions of precisely what Sophocles wrote, rendered

in readily comprehensible English. These translations enable readers to engage the Theban plays of Sophocles in their full, authentic complexity, and to study with precision the plays' profound and enduring human questions. In the preface, notes to the plays, and introductions, Ahrensdorf and Pangle supply critical historical, mythic, and linguistic background information, and highlight the moral, religious, political, philosophic, and psychological questions at the heart of each of the plays. Even readers unfamiliar with Greek drama will find what they need to experience, reflect on, and enjoy these towering works of classical literature.

*The Three Theban Plays* Spark Publishing Group

"Sophocles stands as one of the greatest dramatists of all time, influencing a vast array of artists and thinkers over the centuries. Disturbing and unrelenting, his tragedies portray what Matthew Arnold referred to as the turbid ebb and flow of human misery, allowing the audience to stand on the verge of the abyss and confront the waste and disorder of human existence. The heroic myths reinterpreted in the plays explore the extremes of human emotion. Yet their unflinching engagement with heart-rending suffering does not descend into unbridled chaos or despair because of the way it is transformed into highly crafted poetry, and movement. There is, as Taplin writes, no blinking, no evasion, no palliative ... and yet ... out of apparently meaningless suffering comes meaning and form. This original and distinctive verse translation of four of

Sophocles plays conveys the vitality of his poetry and the vigour of the plays as performed showpieces, encouraging the reader to relish the sound of the spoken verse and the potential for song within the lyrics. Each play is accompanied by an introduction and substantial notes on points of fact and interpretation, drawing on the translators many years of lecturing on Sophocles at the University of Oxford. Oedipus the King, often regarded as the archetypal tragedy, follows Oedipus, the man of sorrow, who has unwittingly chosen to enact his prophesied course by murdering his father and marrying his mother. Aias (or Ajax) tells the story of the warrior whose larger-than-life greatness brings him to harrowing humiliation and then to honourable burial. Philoctetes sees a once-noble hero, nursing his resentment during ten years in marooned isolation, eventually restored to glory at Troy. Oedipus at Colonus depicts the blind Oedipus towards the end of his life wandering as a beggar, but rewarded finally with revenge and a sublime death."--

**The Theban Plays** Oxford University Press on Demand  
Sophocles, *The Oedipus Cycle: Oedipus Rex, Oedipus at Colonus, Antigone*, written by legendary author Sophocles, is widely considered to be among the greatest classic texts of all time. These great classics will surely attract a whole new generation of readers. For many, Sophocles, *The Oedipus Cycle: Oedipus Rex, Oedipus at Colonus, Antigone* is required reading for various

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courses and curriculums. And for others who simply enjoy reading timeless pieces of classic literature, these gems by Sophocles are highly recommended. Published by Classic Books International and beautifully produced, Sophocles, *The Oedipus Cycle: Oedipus Rex, Oedipus at Colonus, Antigone* would make an ideal gift and it should be a part of everyone's personal library.

### *Oedipus Trilog* The Theban Plays

English translations of three of Sophocles' Oidipous Cycle: King Oidipous, Oidipous at Colonus, and Antigone. Focus Classical Library provides close translations with notes and essays to provide access to understanding Greek culture.

*Plays of Sophocles* University of Michigan Press

Without resorting to the jargon often employed by contemporary critics, this book covers all major aspects and questions raised by the play. The text contains a thorough examination of the contrast between Athens and its dramatic opposite, Thebes, a contrast best represented by the comparison between each city's primary representative, Theseus or Creon. Wilson offers a radical rereading of the Oedipus riddle and concludes with a substantial discussion of the play's (and playwright's)

role in providing a political and moral education for the troubled Athenian polis in the last decade of the tumultuous fifth century. Joseph P. Wilson is Associate Professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at the University of Scranton.

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### The Hero and the City Penguin

Created by Harvard students for students everywhere, SparkNotes books contain complete plot summaries and analyses, key facts about the featured work, analysis of the major characters,

suggested essay topics, themes, motifs, and symbols, and explanations of important quotations.

### **The Oedipus Plays of Sophocles** CreateSpace

The Plays of Sophocles, Dutch translation. Includes: Oedipus the Kind (aka Oedipus Rex), Antigone, Oedipus at Colonus.

Oedipus Trilogy Walter de Gruyter

King Oedipus/Oedipus at Colonus/Antigone Three towering works of Greek tragedy depicting the inexorable downfall of a doomed royal dynasty The legends surrounding the house of Thebes inspired Sophocles to create this powerful trilogy about humanity's struggle against fate. King Oedipus is the devastating portrayal of a ruler who brings pestilence to Thebes for crimes he does not realize he has committed and then inflicts a brutal punishment upon himself. Oedipus at Colonus provides a fitting conclusion to the life of the aged and blinded king, while Antigone depicts the fall of the next generation, through the conflict between a young woman ruled by her conscience and a king too confident of his own authority. Translated with an

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Introduction by E. F.

WATLING

Sophocles I National

Geographic Books

Pairing 'King Oedipus' and  
'Oedipus at Colonus' creates a  
single play unified by the arc  
of the hero's tragic fate.

**The Oedipus Cycle** Dover  
Publications

Oedipus at Colonus -  
Sophocles - The Plays of  
Sophocles - Translation by F.  
Storr - Oedipus at Colonus is  
one of the three Theban plays  
of the Athenian tragedian  
Sophocles. It was written  
shortly before Sophocles' death  
in 406 BC and produced by his  
grandson (also called  
Sophocles) at the Festival of  
Dionysus in 401 BC. In the  
timeline of the plays, the  
events of Oedipus at Colonus  
occur after Oedipus the King  
and before Antigone; however,  
it was the last of Sophocles'  
three Theban plays to be  
written. The play describes the  
end of Oedipus' tragic life.  
Legends differ as to the site of  
Oedipus' death; Sophocles set  
the place at Colonus, a village  
near Athens and also  
Sophocles' own birthplace,  
where the blinded Oedipus has  
come with his daughters  
Antigone and Ismene as  
suppliants of the Erinyes and  
of Theseus, the king of Athens.