

Name

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Subject

Date

Argumentative Essay: Oedipus Rex by Sophocles

The Oedipus plays have always been among the most important works of Greek theater, and many scholars consider this three-part drama Sophocles' masterpiece. In the first play, Oedipus Rex (or King Oedipus), King Laios tells his son about the terrible curse on his house because his daughter, the beautiful prophet Jocasta—married her father and "sired" two sons. In answer to Laios's question about whether he believes Jocasta's prophecy will come true, Oedipus replies that "a man should not wish to see what he cannot prevent." Later versions of the story end differently: sometimes with Oedipus's death or exile, others with his being imprisoned in Thebes or driven mad (Yeats). In the play Oedipus Rex by Sophocles, Oedipus is a king who has won battles and conquered many people. He thinks he can solve his problems by having sex with women, so one day, he asks questions about girls at a party and then kills their husbands and fathers. Oedipus tries to do good things, but he is killed because of how he treats others. The instances where Sophocles' tragedy, Oedipus Rex, speaks to the human condition and describes real-life/contemporary are when Oedipus Rex tries to find out who killed his father, tries to avoid his fate, and realizes that he married his mother.

The first instance where Sophocles' tragedy speaks to the human condition is when Oedipus Rex tries to find out who killed his father, Laius. This would be equivalent to someone trying to find out who murdered their father or another family member (Bernstein 270). In Oedipus Rex, the main character, Oedipus, is a Greek king who discovers his destiny and what

he has to do. He then tries to find out who killed his father; because of this, he goes through multiple situations from the beginning of the play until the end. The human condition is described in *Oedipus Rex* by how he tries to find who killed his father since there was a prophecy about him ridding Creusa, his mother, and marrying Jocasta (his mother-in-law). This shows that different aspects of people's lives always speak to you or influence your life.

The play speaks to the human condition when *Oedipus Rex* tries to avoid his fate. This would be equivalent to someone trying to avoid their destiny or something terrible they know will happen (GUO 46). The play also explains that "the other man" is not a mere character in a plot or a simple plot device. It is, in fact, another human being, one ultimately cast aside by the system. *Oedipus* has been wrongly persecuted for many years by a wrongfully accusing hero-villain (who then tries to right his wrong despite no one believing him) until finally, and he discovers the truth.

The third instance where Sophocles' tragedy speaks to the human condition is when *Oedipus Rex* realizes that he has married his mother. This would be equivalent to someone realizing they have done something terrible they can never undo. This play teaches us that we have all been there before and will face this same fate again. It also expresses how we can be friendlier to those around us, even when they are wrong. It is the story of a man named *Oedipus* who decides to avoid the plague by going blind (Bernstein 280). He looks for the source of this plague and ends up marrying his mother. This story describes the human condition very well because it is about power, greed, and sex.

In conclusion, in Sophocles's *Oedipus Rex*, tragedy centres on a tragic figure who did not have to be. *Oedipus Rex* is a classic example of this. It is a powerful metaphor for human nature and how he should have been punished for his great fault. A story poses many questions about

fate and what it means to be human. Mythology provides a lens through which we can see ourselves and our world. Moreover, they are not just stories – they are tools we can use to understand our place in the universe or even how it all began. From the Big Bang to snowflakes to the human body, myths are as accurate as science but have different questions.

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