**OEDIPUS “We have to find the killer to cure the plague” scene** (2 Men)

Oedipus (E-DUH-PUSS)

Creon (CREE-ON)

OEDIPUS:

We shall know soon, for he is close enough to hear.

Lord, kinsman of my wife, child of Menoeceus,

what reply do you bring us from the god?

[Enter Creon from offstage.]

CREON:

A good one, for I say that even misfortunes,

if somehow put right, bring only good luck.

OEDIPUS:

What sort of reply is this? For what you say

gives me neither confidence nor fear.

CREON:

If you wish these people nearby to hear,

I am ready to speak, or should we go inside?

OEDIPUS:

Speak to everyone, for I consider their pain

more important even than that of my own soul.

CREON:

I shall say all I heard from the god.(105)

Phoebus clearly ordered us, my lord,

to drive out the pollution being fostered

in this very land, not to nurture it unhealed.

OEDIPUS:

With what cleansing and for what type of disaster?

CREON:

By driving a man into exile,

or undoing murder with murder again,

since this blood shakes our city like a storm.

OEDIPUS:

And who is the man whose fate he decrees?

CREON:

My lord, once Laius was our leader in this land,

before you came to govern this city.

OEDIPUS:

So I have heard, though I never saw him.

CREON:

He died, and the god now orders us clearly

to take violent vengeance on the murderers.

OEDIPUS:

Where on earth are they? Where will be found

this indistinct track of ancient guilt?

CREON:

In this very land, he said. What is sought

can be captured, but what is ignored escapes.

OEDIPUS:

Did Laius meet his bloody fate in his home

or estate or in some other land?

CREON:

He left home to consult an oracle, he said,

and never returned again, once he had set out.

OEDIPUS:

Did no messenger or fellow traveler see,

whom we might use to find something out?

CREON:

No, they died, except one, who, fleeing in fear

of those he saw had nothing to say but one thing.

OEDIPUS:

What? For one thing could lead us to learn many,

if from hope might come a small beginning.

CREON:

He said that bandits fell upon them and killed him,

not with one man’s strength, but the hands of many.

OEDIPUS:

How did a bandit come to dare so much,

unless he acted with money from here?

CREON:

This was suspected. But with Laius fallen,

we had no helper in our troubles.

OEDIPUS:

What kind of trouble, when your kingship had

fallen thus, made you see to this so poorly?

CREON:

The riddle-singing Sphinx compelled us to look

at what lay at hand, forgetting things unseen.

OEDIPUS:

Then I shall reveal these things anew,

for justly did Phoebus, and justly did you

assign me this case on behalf of the dead,

so that you will rightly see me as an ally,

avenging both this land and the god together.

For not on behalf of more distant friends,

but as if from myself I shall dispel the stain.

For whoever he was who killed that man(

would as soon kill me with that same violent hand.

(Exit Oedipus)