

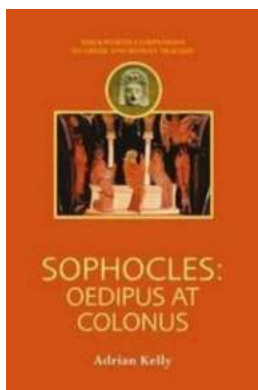
# An In-depth Look at Oedipus At Colonus: A Companion to Greek and Roman Tragedy

Are you a fan of Greek and Roman Tragedy? Then buckle up and get ready to dive into the exquisite world of Oedipus At Colonus. In this article, we will take you on a compelling journey through one of the most iconic plays of all time. Get ready to explore the captivating story, the rich characters, and the profound themes that make Oedipus At Colonus a timeless masterpiece.

## The Tragic Tale of Oedipus At Colonus

Oedipus At Colonus is a play written by the ancient Greek tragedian, Sophocles. It serves as the final chapter in the Oedipus trilogy, following Oedipus Rex and Antigone. The story revolves around Oedipus, the once-great king of Thebes, who has become a blind wanderer after discovering he unknowingly fulfilled a prophecy by killing his father and marrying his mother.

In Oedipus At Colonus, Oedipus finds himself seeking refuge in the sacred grove of the Furies, located near Athens. This ancient city becomes the backdrop for the tragic events that unfold. The play explores themes of fate, justice, and the consequences of both individual and societal actions.



## Sophocles: Oedipus at Colonus (Companions to Greek and Roman Tragedy)

by Adrian Kelly (1st Edition, Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 690 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting : Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled  
Print length : 178 pages



As Oedipus grapples with his past actions and the weight of his fate, he encounters multiple characters who play significant roles in the story. From his daughters, Ismene and Antigone, to the blind prophet Tiresias, each character adds depth and complexity to the narrative.

## **Characters of Oedipus At Colonus**

One of the standout characters in Oedipus At Colonus is Antigone, Oedipus' loyal and devoted daughter. Despite her father's tragic fate, Antigone remains steadfast and supports him until the very end. Her unwavering love and loyalty create a powerful emotional dynamic within the play.

Another noteworthy character is Theseus, the king of Athens. Theseus plays a pivotal role in providing Oedipus with sanctuary and acting as a moral compass throughout the story. His compassion and wisdom help shape the events that ultimately lead to a cathartic climax.

The blind prophet Tiresias brings a unique perspective to the play. As someone who can see beyond the physical realm, he serves as a guide for Oedipus, revealing crucial truths and acting as a voice of reason. Tiresias' presence highlights the eternal struggle between knowledge and ignorance.

## **Themes and Symbolism in Oedipus At Colonus**

Oedipus At Colonus delves deep into several thought-provoking themes that continue to resonate with audiences centuries after its creation.

**Fate and Free Will:** The play explores the delicate balance between the predetermined paths laid out by fate and the choices individuals make. Oedipus' tragic destiny is ultimately a result of both divine intervention and his own actions, illustrating the intricate interplay between fate and free will.

**Justice and Redemption:** Oedipus seeks redemption for his past crimes and desires justice for the wrongs committed against him. The concept of justice is explored through both personal and societal lenses, forcing audiences to question what constitutes true justice.

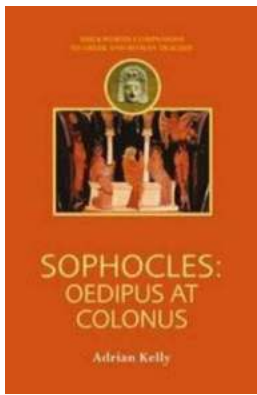
**Mortality and Transcendence:** The play delves into the complex nature of mortality and the possibility of transcending human limitations. Oedipus' transformation from a fallen king to a revered figure exemplifies the potential for individuals to rise above their circumstances and find a sense of immortality.

## **The Legacy of Oedipus At Colonus**

Oedipus At Colonus exemplifies the enduring power of Greek and Roman Tragedy. Its exploration of universal themes and its ability to evoke deep emotional responses continue to captivate audiences today. This play serves as a testament to the lasting impact of ancient Greek theatre on modern storytelling.

Whether you are a devoted fan of Greek Tragedy or just curious about exploring ancient dramas, Oedipus At Colonus will undoubtedly leave a lasting impression. Its profound insights into the human condition and its masterful storytelling make it a must-read for anyone seeking to engage with timeless literary works.

So, grab a copy of Oedipus At Colonus, prepare to immerse yourself in a world of tragedy, and discover why this play stands the test of time.



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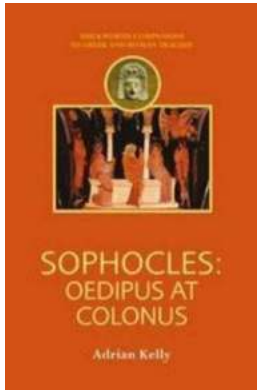
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In his final play, Sophocles returns to the ever-popular character of Oedipus, the blind outcast of Thebes, the ultimate symbol of human reversal, whose fall he had so memorably treated in the 'Oedipus Tyrannus'. In this play, Sophocles brings the 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.



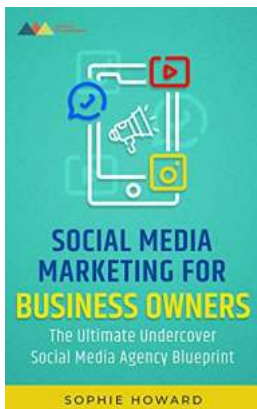
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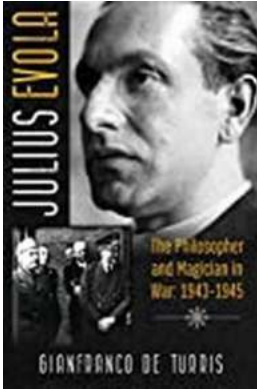
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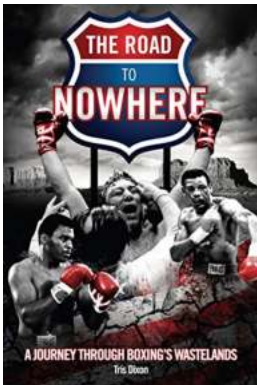
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