

# Oedipus the King



English



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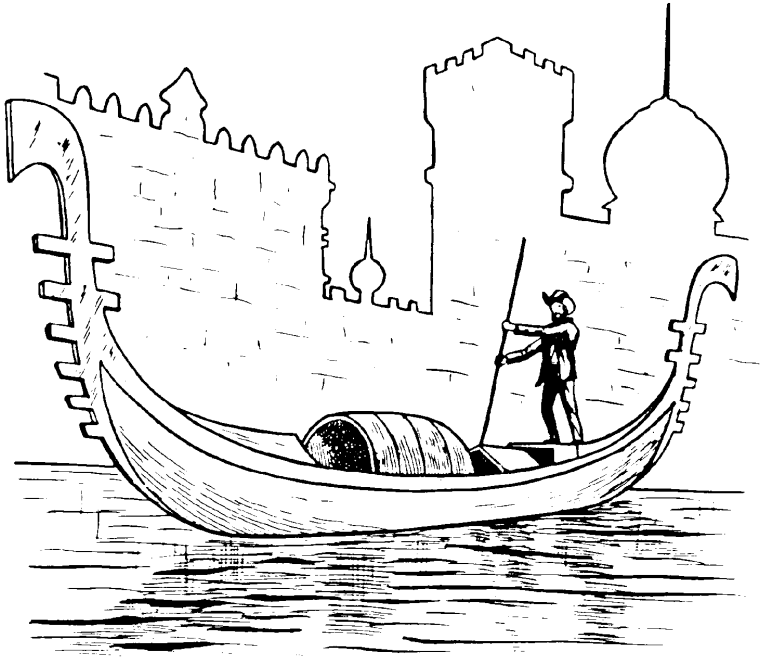
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In the original myth Oedipus the King, Oedipus defeats the Sphinx and answers the riddle which enabled him to become king. “What goes on four feet in the morning, two feet at noon, and three feet in the evening?” Oedipus, replies with “man”. Elaborating that man walks on four in the morning, which is man’s first part of life. And in adulthood, man walks on two then man walks with a cane thus he walks by three. He later discovers that he created his own fate and is blinded by his arrogance that leads to his suffering. He is assisted by three character who symbolise the three parts of the riddle in the original story. In the original, he answers the riddle and quickly becomes king. In this depiction, Oedipus, has the opportunity to gain self knowledge and become a better man and king. In this revision, Oedipus is already king, but goes through a journey seeking a companion to help him cure this mysterious plague.

Oedipus knew of a prophet who knew and saw all things. He travelled the gates of Thebes seeking the answers to the plague. "Oh, great wise one, how shall I rid the plague out of Thebes?" he asked.



The prophet replied, "Go out to the east of Thebes, there you will find the snake that tortures your farmers. The snake that roams the areas where the children play. The snake whose bite turns men mad. There you will meet three men."



**“Which three men will I meet on this journey?”**

**“One who walks on all fours in the morning. This man you should ignore. The next man walks on two during the day. This man you should ignore. One man walks on three at night. This man you shall ask for help. Follow these rules and the plague will be gone.”**

**Replied the prophet.**

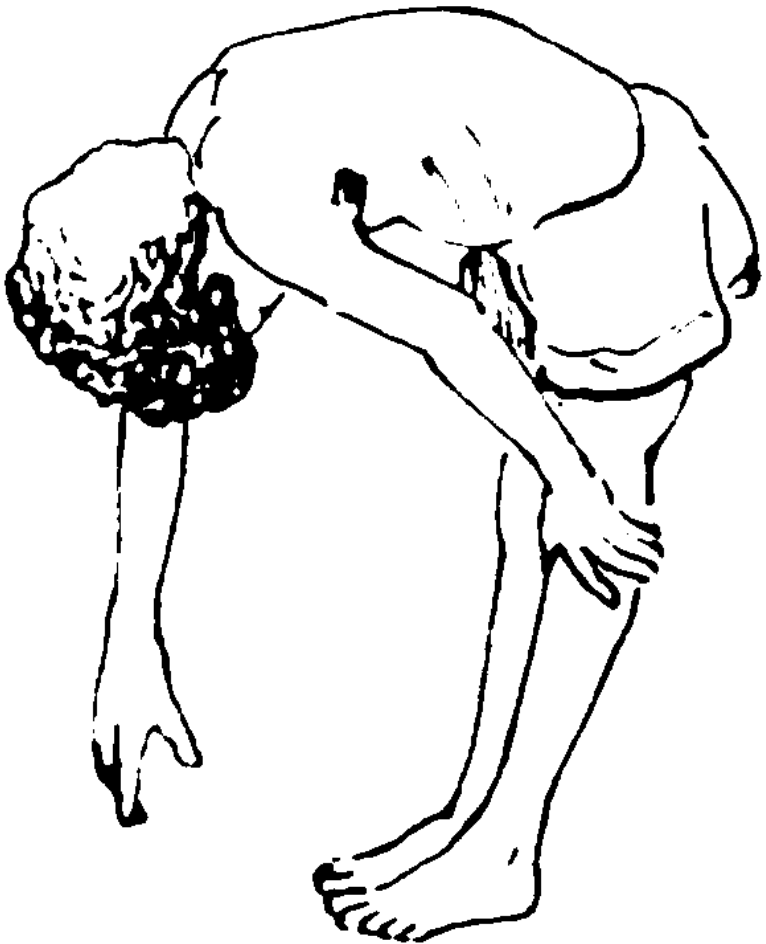
**"Come and turn around so I may see the face of my helper". And when the prophet did, Oedipus was appalled to see a man blind in sight. "How must one know what my solidier looks like when you have no eyes to see."**

**"I may appear blind but I can hear the steps of the man at night with three feet. You must listen to me. If not,**

Filled with anger, Oedipus quickly left and went to the caves east of Thebes seeking the snake. Along his journey, he was approached by the one who walks on fours who was full of youth and vigour. Not wanting to take this journey alone, Oedipus cried out, "Oh, surely you must know how to defeat the snake that tortures the farmers. The snakes that roams the areas where the children play. The snake whose bite turns men mad. Come along with me to hunt this snake."



The man who walks on fours followed Oedipus. As they continued to walk the path that the prophet describes, the companion would ask every few steps, "Are we there yet?". And every time Oedipus would reply. "No, just a few more days." The one who walks on four, grew impatient, and soon left Oedipus continued his journey and rested until day.



Day approach, and Oedipus passed by the man who walked by two who was both mature and sure of himself. Seeking a companion along his journey, Oedipus approach the young man who walked by two and said "Oh surely you must know how to defeat the snake that tortures the farmers. The snake that roams the areas where the children play. The snake whose bites turn men mad. Come along with me to hunt this snake."



The man who walked on two followed Oedipus until they reached the sinking dunes. The young man instead wanted to take another route, "This way is fast through the woods. I am sure we will get there faster." And instead of following the prophet's advice, Oedipus followed that man who walked by two into the forest.



They continued through the forest, and round and round they went. Oedipus grew upset with the man who walked by two, "Oh, we have passed this same spot three times already. I thought you knew the way." The young man replied, "I know this is the route, but you are free to go on your way. I will not keep you." And Oedipus did. He was upset that so much time was wasted and troubled by the loss of another partner he rested until nightfall.

Nightfall approached, and Oedipus was awakened by the man who walked by three who was old with wise eyes. "I heard you have been looking to defeat the snake that tortures the farmers. The snake that roams the areas where the children play. The snake whose bite turns men mad. Come along with me to hunt this snake."

**Afraid of losing another companion along his journey and knowing that both the man who walked by two and four could not make the journey, Oedipus rejected his help and continued his journey.**

**Finally, Oedipus arrived by the caves east of Thebes where the snake lived. For three long days and three long nights, Oedipus was still unable to kill the snake. When tired with defeat, the snake slowly crawled to Oedipus and bit his leg. Soon after he went mad and took his eyes out. Hearing the steps of man approaching, he cried out, "Oh surely you must know how to defeat the snake that tortures the farmers. The snake that roams the areas where the children play. The snake whose bite turns men mad. Come along with me to hunt this snake."**



The old man who walked on three replied, “Yes, yes I do.” And Oedipus and his new companion continued the journey to the east of Thebes. The man who walked on three was patient unlike the man who walked on four. The man who walked on three was wise and a rational thinker, that when the path to caves diverged, the old man lead Oedipus direct to the caves with no detour.





Once arriving at the cave, Oedipus realised that he was now at the gate of his own kingdom. As he entered, he realised that he was blinded by his own actions. He was the one that grew impatient with the farmer's yield. He was the one, why the scared the children from playing on the streets. And he was the one that made men go mad from his unfair trials. Through the journey with the man who walked on three, he learned to have patience with the farmers and allow the crops to yield on their own time. He learned to be rational in thought when making decision in the court. And he learned that with age comes wisdom.





