

Oedipus the King was the ruler of Thebes. Along with being the king, Oedipus was also a victim of a terrible prophecy. The purpose of this paper is to discuss Oedipus as seen as the king, the husband, and the murderer.

As the King of Thebes, Oedipus tried to find out who killed Laius. He believed that finding this would end the plague in his country, since the god Apollo told Creon that the murderer lived there and was causing the plague. Besides finding the murderer to end the plague Oedipus believed it would make him look like a hero and also protect himself as the king. He ordered that if anyone knew who the murderer was to let him know and the murderer would be exiled. He told his people that no one would talk to this man, and not allowed to offer him shelter in their homes. That was how Oedipus showed he was the King of Thebes.

Another way that Oedipus is shown is as a husband. He is married to the Queen of Thebes, Jocasta. Oedipus believes in his wife and listens to what she says. This is probably because he alone is not the ruler he shares it with Jocasta, and also with Creon. Oedipus the husband listens to his wife when she is telling him how crazy he is being. Since Oedipus believes Creon is conspiring against him and wants to exile him out of the country. Along with Oedipus being a husband of Jocasta, he is also seen as a loving father to Antigone and Ismene. This is especially seen in the closing of the play when he is with his daughters and asking Creon to promise to take care of them.

The last way that Oedipus is seen is as the murderer himself. He finds out from messengers, shepherds, and the blind man that he was the son of Laius and that he did take

place in the prophecy. Oedipus knew about the prophecy and did all he could to get away from who he believed was his father, so he would not allow the prophecy to come true. At the end of the play he is seen poking his pupils with pins to blind himself from his terrible deed, and wishing that he was killed as he was supposed to be as a child. Oedipus the murderer is sending himself away for he was the murderer. Oedipus exiled himself to the mountains where he was supposed to be killed.

Oedipus was seen in many ways such ways as the king^①, the husband^②, and the murderer^③. Oedipus was a good man in all the different ways he was. He tried to not allow for the prophecy to come true. But with all he tried to do, it was all turned around and come true any way.