

A2 Greek Unseen Verse (Sophocles) Past Paper: 2006 (A messenger informs Jocasta of the truth about Oedipus)



Translate the following passage into English. Please write your translation on alternate lines.

A messenger brings important news to a Chorus of Thebans and to Jocasta, wife of King Oedipus.

JO: Elders of Thebes, I have decided to go to make offerings at the shrines of the gods, for Oedipus is much disturbed at the prophecies concerning his father. So I pray to Apollo for aid, as we are all afraid, seeing our king in fear thus.

Αγ. ἄρ' ἂν παρ' ὑμῶν, ὦ ξένοι, μάθοιμ' ὅπου
τὰ τοῦ τυράννου δώματ' ἐστὶν Οἰδίπου;

Χο. στέγαι μὲν αἶδε, καὐτὸς ἔνδον, ὦ ξένε· 3
γυνὴ δὲ μήτηρ θ' ἦδε τῶν κείνου τέκνων. 4

Αγ. ἀλλ' ὀλβία τε καὶ ξὺν ὀλβίοις αἰεὶ
γένοιτ', ἐκείνου γ' οὔσα παντελής¹ δάμαρ.

Ιο. αὐτῶς δὲ καὶ σύ γ', ὦ ξέν'. ἄξιός γάρ εἰ
τῆς εὐεπείας οὔνεκ'². ἀλλὰ φράζ' ὅτου
χρήζων ἀφίξαι χῶτι³ σημήναι θέλων.

Αγ. ἀγαθὰ δόμοις τε καὶ πόσει τῷ σῶ, γύναι.

Ιο. τὰ ποῖα ταῦτα; παρὰ τίνος δ' ἀφιγμένος;

Αγ. ἐκ τῆς Κορίνθου. τὸ δ' ἔπος οὐξερῶ⁴ – τάχ' ἂν
ἦδοιο μὲν, πῶς δ' οὐκ ἂν; ἀσχάλλω⁵ δ' ἴσως.

Ιο. πῶς εἶπας; ἢ τέθνηκεν Οἰδίπου πατήρ;

Αγ. τέθνηκε, καὶ νιν θάνατος ἐν τάφοις ἔχει.

SOPHOCLES, King Oedipus 924ff. (adapted)

¹παντελής adj.

excellent

²οὔνεκα following gen.

because of

³χῶτι

= καὶ ὅ τι

⁴οὐξερῶ

= ὁ ἐξερῶ

⁵ἀσχάλλω

I am distressed about



[42]



Write out and scan lines 3 and 4 of the above passage.

[3]

