

A2 Greek Unseen Verse (Sophocles) Past Paper: 2006 (Thebans bring news to Jocasta about her husband 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
γένουτ', ἐκείνου γ' οὔσα παντελής¹ δάμαρ.
- Ιο. αὐτῶς δὲ καὶ σύ γ', ὦ ξέν', ἄξιός γάρ εἰ
τῆς εὐεπείας οὔνεκ'.² ἀλλὰ φράζ' ὅτου
χρήζων ἀφίξει 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 οὔξερῶ⁴ – τάχ' ἂν
ἦδοιο μὲν, πῶς δ' οὐκ ἂν; ἀσχάλλοις⁵ δ' ἴσως.
- Ιο. πῶς εἶπας; ἢ τέθνηκεν Οἰδίπου πατήρ;
- Αγ. τέθνηκε, καὶ νιν θάνατος ἐν τάφοις ἔχει.

SOPHOCLES, King Oedipus 924ff. (adapted)

¹ παντελής adj.

excellent

² οὔνεκα following gen.

because of

³ χῶτι

= καὶ ὅ τι

⁴ οὔξερῶ

= ὃ ἐξερῶ

⁵ ἀσχάλλω

I am distressed about

[42]

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

[3]

