

A2 Greek Unseen Verse (Sophocles) Past Paper: AQA 2001 (Oedipus' death)

Oedipus has met a miraculous death, disappearing beneath the earth. One of a group of Athenian servants tells us of events immediately after his disappearance, which was witnessed only by their lord and master, Theseus, who has told the servants to leave.

ΑΓΓΕΛΟΣ

ὡς δ' ἀπήλθομεν,

χρόνῳ βραχεῖ στραφέντες, ἐξαπείδομεν
 τὸν ἄνδρα τὸν μὲν οὐδαμοῦ παρόντ' ἔτι,
 ἄνακτα δ' αὐτὸν ὀμμάτων ἐπίσκιον
 χεῖρ' ἀντέχοντα κρατός, ὡς δεινοῦ τινος 5
 φόβου φανέντος οὐδ' ἀνασχετῶ βλέπειν.
 ἔπειτα μέντοι βαιὸν οὐδὲ σὺν χρόνῳ
 ὀρώμεν αὐτὸν γῆν τε προσκυνοῦνθ' ἅμα
 καὶ τὸν θεῶν Ἵολυμπον ἐν ταύτῳ λόγῳ.
 μόρῳ δ' ὁποῖω κείνος ὄλετ', οὐδ' ἂν εἰς 10
 θνητῶν φράσειε, πλὴν τὸ Θησεύς κάρα.
 ἀνὴρ γὰρ οὐ στενακτός οὐδὲ σὺν νόσοις
 ἀλγεινὸς ἐξεπέμπετ', ἀλλ' εἴ τις βροτῶν
 θαυμαστός. εἰ δὲ μὴ δοκῶ φρονῶν λέγειν,
 οὐκ ἂν παρείμην οἴσι μὴ δοκῶ φρονεῖν. 15

SOPHOCLES, *Oedipus at Colonus*, 1647-1666 (with omissions)

ἀνασχετός ἀντέχειν (+genitive)	tolerable, endurable to hold in front of
βαιὸν	soon
ἐξαφορᾶν ἐπίσκιος (+genitive)	to see from a distance as a shade for, shading
Θησεύς (genitive Θησεύς)	Theseus (king of Athens and witness of Oedipus' death)
κράς (genitive κρατός) ὄ	head, face
Ἵολυμπος	Olympus (home of the gods)
παρίεσθαι προσκυνεῖν	to try to persuade to kneel down and worship

