

OEDIPUS REX

A Spoof

Oedipus looked out of a window into the courtyard of his palace and saw the people of Thebes gathered there with some kind of problem. Oedipus was good at solving problems,¹ so he decided to help. He walked to the front door of his palace and tried to open the door (which was 30 feet tall).

"Hey!" he said. "I can't reach the handle!" Which was 15 feet up the door (The reason the door was so large was that the builder saw the door was to be built for Oedipus Rex , and he thought the door was for a dinosaur.)

"Jocasta! I need a knee!" Oedipus declared to his wife. She came over, picked him up, and threw him up to the handle. Oedipus was now hanging from the door handle, which was to scale with the rest of the door being the size of a watermelon.

"Is there a problem?" Jocasta called up to Oedipus.

"I can't turn the handle," Oedipus tried to with dignity, which was impossible because he was hanging from a door handle.

"Mmmmm," Jocasta thought. "I got it!" she said as she ran over to the wall and pushed the handicap automatic door opener. The door swung slowly open and the town's people got their first sight of their king as he lost his grip on the handle, fell, and rolled down his front steps (doing it all quite dignified it is said). He stood up, dusted himself off, and addressed his people.

"Hi!" he said. "Can I help you?"

The chorus answered for the town, singing to the tune of "Row, row, row your boat."

"There is misery and death, doom and destruction, accompanied by

¹Or so he thought. When he solved the riddle of the sphinx, (what creature goes on four feet in the morning, on two at noonday, on three in the evening?) it was because someone threw an apple core at him and hit the back of his head. When this happened he yelled out in annoyance, "Man!" which was the correct answer. So the town's people promptly made him king.

occasional poisoning, all-" Oedipus cut them off.

"Uh, thanks, I ... think," he said. "Why?"

The chorus broke into song again, but nobody listened because they're useless and are used only for comic relief when I can't think of anything else that's funny.

"There is a plague of bad cheese on the city sire," a merchant said.

"Bad cheese!" Oedipus was stunned. "Oh, no! Send my brother-in-law Crayon to the oracle to find how to end this horrible plague." Crayon was sent and was back in ten minutes.

"How'd you get back here so fast?" Oedipus asked.

"The oracle just opened a new branch down the street. They had an ATM too." Crayon beamed.

"What's an ATM?"

"Automated Tellya-what-to-do Machine. Works great too, here's what it said." Crayon handed Oedipus a folded piece of paper.

"It says....." Oedipus dramatically paused, then opened the folded piece of paper. "That we must find the murderer of King Laius and force him to teach kindergarten for ten years, and smile the entire time." The whole town grimaced at the thought.

"Now we must find the murderer," Oedipus declared. "and I know who will know. Send for Teiresias, the blind see-er!" said Oedipus.

"Blind see-er? That doesn't make sense," someone said.

Oedipus looked puzzled, "It's supposed to?"

Teiresias arrived shortly.

"How did you get here so fast? I didn't even send for you." Oedipus asked.

"I was at the McDonald's around the corner," he said. "We were watching you on C-SPAN."

"Oh," Oedipus said as if that explained everything, "To get down to business, who killed King Laius."

"Whoa man, don't go there," Teiresias said quickly.

"Tell me," Oedipus said.

"No."

"You sound like you know, but won't tell me. I bet you did it!" Oedipus said dumbly as he pointed at Teiresias.

"I'm blind. How could I kill the king and all but one of his servants, who is at the McDonald's. One more thing, you killed King Laius. But you have insulted me, so I will leave and not tell you anything." Teiresias turned to leave and hit a pillar. "Whoops, excuse me ma'am," he said, and he left.