

Oedipus the King by Sophocles A New Reading

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Abstract

The myth of "Oedipus" has a prominent place in world literature. Since the time of the Greeks, this myth has been read and interpreted in different ways; and in each reading, one finds something new undiscovered in the previous one. What is the secret of the immortality of this myth? Why is it celebrated by creative playwrights throughout the ages? How have they interpreted it in their works?

These questions and the like will not be understood or answered unless we study Sophocles, the most famous world-literature playwright and the most prominent Greek who read this myth thoroughly, added new dimensions to it, presented a different vision from those offered by preceding Greek playwrights, and later on influenced other playwrights who came after him.

Great literary texts have multiple readings and different levels of interpretation in order to attain in-depth analyses that uncover their secrets and implications and study their aesthetics and objectives. The play Oedipus the King by Sophocles is a great immortal literary text that deserves constant consideration for its partly uncovered and yet hidden secrets.

This study aims at offering a new reading of Oedipus the King that, like previous readings, will shed light on some latent aspects of the secrets of this literary work, thus offering a better interpretation that can be the foundation of new comparative studies and can put forward a deeper understanding of the impact of Sophocles on other writers who echoed his work

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For the paper in Arabic see pages (33-69).