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## Essay # 2

Oedipus, The King of Thebes plays a protagonist in the play Oedipus Rex, which I have chosen to analyze in this paper. Oedipus who runs away from his native Greek home, in which he was raised to believe. He was also raised to believe that he was the natural son of Polybus, the King of Corinth, who adopted him from Corinthian herdsman who found him in the wilderness. That person who laid Oedipus upon a hillside in the wilderness, was a servant instructed by Lauis and Jacasta, king and queen among the great city of Thebes, to take the baby to the wilderness to incarcerate. The servant could not bear killing the innocent child, so he handed it over to the Corinthian herdsman.

The mediator of good and evil as he perceives himself, Oedipus yet doesn't know who his biological parents are. Until, one day he over heard a oracle mention to him an unthinkable prophecy, which was someday that he would kill his real father and then marry his real mother. In which, is the purpose for him running away from his adopted family in Corinth, because he believes that his real father is King Polybus. Scene Three Line 81-83 " Apollo said through this prophet that I was the man who should marry his own mother, shed is fathers blood with his own hands."

As for all the other people in the Great city of Thebes perceived Oedipus in a slightly different aspect . Some could of believed that he was a great king and even a good man after everything happened, others could of saw him having consequences of

fate and conflict. On the most part, all the characters could agree that he was guilty and his pride was a downfall as they vilified him. As Oedipus was a long his travel him came to an intersection where three roads meet, there he got into an argument with a group of travelers, Oedipus ended up killing all of the travelers except for one man who survived and ran off into the woodlands. Among one of the travelers he killed was his biological father, Laius, The King of Thebes.

Each scene adds another piece of the puzzle, the ironic cycle of the oracular prophecies starts to fall into place when Oedipus starts a mission to attempt to save the Great City of Thebes. From the Predications of a fearful female monster, The sphinx, whom Oedipus had to face and answer the riddle of winged lion women, the riddle asked, “What goes first on four legs, then on two, and then on three?” Oedipus simply replied “man” and that was the answer to the riddle to destroy her. As quickly as populace of the city of Thebes became aware of who solved the riddle, they all were pleased to grant Oedipus there new King of Thebes. Then the new king meets and falls in love and then marries his own mother, Jocasta. Neither one of them, King or Queen realized what they had done, Jocasta did not realize that Oedipus was the infant they gave to the servant and that they ordered to have killed, nor does Oedipus know that he just fulfilled the prophecy unknowingly.

A horrific plague had set upon the town of Thebes, King Oedipus was asked to curb the disease by the people, Creon asked Apollo what they must do and what brought it to Thebes. The man who murdered King Laius years ago was now known to live in Thebes. The plague was also said that it would haunt the people in Thebes as long as the killer was exposed and exiled from the city.

Oedipus later finds out that all the oracular prophecies are correct. Jacasta, Oedipus wife or mother over hears the messengers news, and rushes to her room barred and bolted the doors and hung herself, as quickly as Oedipus could get to her and past the doors Jacasta was already dead. He then cuts his mother down and detached the broaches from her clothes and stabs his own eyes out. Oedipus was lead out of Corinth into exile by Creon who later became King of his house. Oedipus says, "No more shall you behold the evils I have suffered and done. Be dark from now on, since you saw before, What you should not , and knew not What you should!" The outrageous Theban plague at last came to an end. Which concludes Oedipus Rex by Sophocles 1 (?496 BCE-?406 BCE) the best tragedian of all time and the most famous ancient Greek dramatist of his time.