

Abhi Suresh

Creating Classics

Prof. Giammei & Prof. Shirazi

4 March 2021

## Translation Portfolio

### Crafting Poems:

For my first translation piece, I have taken the concept of a blackout poem and turned it on its head. Normally, a blackout poem involves blacking out lines of text, and what you leave ends up being a new poem. Instead, I have picked out specific lines from the Oedipus text and crafted a “poem” around some of its central themes and symbols, including light, sight, and haughtiness. (This poem is just the literal lines from the text) After this, I wrote my own poem based upon the lines I singled out; and then translated my poem into Italian. At the end, I have also attached a painting with an explanation as to why it serves as my form of a conclusion for this translation piece.

Selected Lines from Oedipus, by Sophocles, The Quick Version

King, you yourself have seen our city reeling like a wreck already;  
it can scarcely lift its prow out of the depths, out of the bloody surf. (23-26)

This you did in virtue of no knowledge we could give you,  
in virtue of no teaching; it was god (37-39)

My spirit groans for city and myself and you at once. (63-65)

O holy lord Apollo, may his news be bright for us and bring us light and safety.

Upon the murderer I invoke this curse -- [...]   
may he wear out his life in misery to miserable doom! (246, 248-249)

I know that what the lord Teiresias sees is most often what the lord Apollo sees (285-286).

You'd rob us of this your gift of prophecy? (323-324)

I say you are the murderer of the king whose murderer you seek (364-365).

How needlessly your riddles darken everything (439).

He shall be proved father and brother both to his own children in his house;  
to her that gave him birth, a son and husband both;  
a fellow sower in his father's bed  
with that same father that he murdered (458 - 462).

If you think obstinacy without wisdom  
A valuable possession, you are wrong. (549-550)

I am not so deluded yet  
that I want other honors than those that come with profit (594-595).

I laid any plot together with the seer, kill me,  
I say, not only by your vote but by my own. (605-607)

I beg you, Oedipus, trust him in this,  
Spare him for the sake of his oath to god,  
For my sake, and the sake of those who stand here. (646-648)

May the sun god, king of gods, forbid! (660).  
Creon says that I'm the murder of Laius. (704)

It's plain -- it's plain -- who was it told you this? (755)

O dear Joscata, I am full of fears  
[...]I wish to see this shepherd (767, 769).

O Oedipus, god help you! God keep you from the knowledge of who you are! (1071-1072)

Shortest to hear and say -- glorious queen Joscata's dead (1234-1235).

Then, as she lay, / poor woman, on the ground, what happened after / was terrible to see  
(1266-1267).

Dark eyes, now in the days to come look on forbidden faces (1273) [...] with such imprecations  
he struck his eyes again and and yet again with the brooches. (1274-1275)

And the bleeding eyeballs gushed and stained his cheeks --  
no sluggish oozing drops but a black rain and blood hail poured down. (1278-1279)

(Enter the blinded Oedipus, from the palace.)

What evil spirit leaped upon your life to your ill luck -- A leap beyond man's strength!  
(1301-1302)

I shudder at the sight of you. (1306)

In such misfortunes, it's no wonder if double weighs the burden of your grief. (1320)

Why should I see whose vision showed me nothing sweet to see? (1335)

I cannot say your remedy was good; you would be better dead than blind and living. (1366)

But my two girls - so sad and pitiful - [...] O Creon, have a thought for them! (1461, 1464)

O my lord! O true noble Creon! (1469)

Do not seek to be master in everything, for the things you mastered did not follow you  
throughout your life. (1522)

You that live in my ancestral Thebes, behold this Oedipus -- him who knew the famous riddles  
and was a man most masterful; not a citizen who did not look with envy on his lot -- see him  
now and see the breakers of misfortune swallow him! (1525)

## Two Eyes Open, Nothing to Be Seen

The story of Oedipus Is one we've all heard  
But when we contemplate the question  
was it Oedipus' cursed fate or did he reap it onto himself?

Haughty and arrogant  
Oedpius first mistake lies in his running away  
Paosolini shows Oedpius' haught in his innocence  
running away for what he thinks is he own good,  
But sowing a new fate  
on the crossroads  
and bringing death to his own father.

Even if Oedpius didn't know his fate  
one can question his alliance to the gods -  
Shouldn't he have asked Apollo if this is right?  
If his actions would have consequences  
Only if he had the sight to see  
Checking for oversight

Oedpius couldn't abide by the wise words of those next to him  
only taking pleasure in declaring himself to be worthy  
Not seeing Teiresias trying to protect him  
Letting the blight and his lack of solution  
throw the city into darkness.

Stopping for a moment  
If he had taken the time  
no one would come after the man who defeated the Sphinx -  
Not even fate itself.

(He refuses to agree; we know it's not Creon)

He refuses to agree

He refuses to accept

He refuses to see

He refuses to be

what fate will again tell him through the messenger.

Spite and disgust bring about Joscata's demise

She probably couldn't even believe that fate had twisted itself

Oedpius stabs his eyes with her brooches

"Dark black rain and bloody hail pour down"

there was never any light in his eyes,

only darkness.

Sudden wisdom doesn't

equate to a lifetime of learning,

a lifetime of experience.

Oedpius tries to revere Creon, the new leader  
and ensure his daughters have a fate of their own

What fate already determined

Oedpius cursed again

reaping exile and darkness.

Irregardless of power, position, and standing

control and arrogance

blinded Oedpius.

**Versione di Italiano: Apre occhi due, Niente ha visto**

La storia di Oedipus è un ha sentito  
Ma, quando contempliamo il domande  
il fato maledetto di Oedipus o lui raccoglie su sì?

Sprezzanti e arroganti  
Oedipus errore di primo essere sdraiato nel via corsa  
Pasolini mostra Oedipus sprezzante nella innocenza  
scappa corsa per cosa pensa ha buono,  
Ma semina al destino nuovo  
sugli incroci  
e porta morire al papà.

Ancora se Oedipus non sa il destino  
può domande lui alleanza al dio  
non deve lui chiesto Apollo se questo è giusto  
se lui azioni vuole avere conseguenze  
controllo per svista.

Oedipus non può abitare di parole saggi di quei prossimo a lui  
solo il prendere nel dichiara sì essere degno  
Non vede Teiresias prova proteggere lui (Oedipus)  
Permettere la rovina e carenza di soluzione  
lancia la città nella oscurità.

Per momento fermare  
Se lui ha preso il tempo  
nessuno vuole cacciare l'uomo chi sconfitta la Spinge -  
Non ancora destino sì.

(Lui rifiuta accettare; conosciamo non è Creon.)

Lui rifiuta accettare

Lui rifiuta accettare

Lui rifiuta vedere

Lui rifiuta essere

cosa di nuovo destino deve per il messaggero.

Dispetto e disgusto portano morte di Joscata

Lei probabilmente può ancora credere che il destino distorto se stesso

Oedipus accoltella gli occhi con spille di Jacosta

“Pioggia nero buio e grandine sanguinante versare giù”

Questo è stato mai del luce negli occhi,

solo oscurità.

Improvviso saggezza non fa

Equiparare all'esistenza di istruzione,

l'esistenza di esperienza .

Oedipus prova a riverire Creon, il leader nuovo

e garantire le figlie una vita e destino di questi le

Cosa destino ha avuto deciso

Oedipus maledice

raccogliere esilio e oscurità.

Ciò nonostante di potenza, posizione, e reputazione

controllo e arroganza

cieco Oedipus.





This is a painting of a lighthouse by Thomas Doughty, known as a “Desert Rock Lighthouse”. I choose this painting as a medium to conclude my poem and this translation piece about Oedpius, as it connects to the light and the darkness. The function of a lighthouse is to help guide sailors or pilots at sea safely back to land, or at the very least, put them on a correct pathway, during the night. Quite literally, it illuminates the pitch black night to provide knowledge and light for the captain at hand (he will know he’s going the right way). Additionally, lighthouses are often thought of as mysterious and symbolize characteristics and traits such as individuality, strength, and even death. Similarly, Oedpius sets out on his own journey to prohibit the fulfillment of the prophecy, but his ego and arrogance, combined with his strength, result in him killing King Laius, and unknowingly fulfilling it. Oedipus always thought that he was going in the right direction - the light was able to guide him, attesting to the power of the Gods, but what he didn’t know, was that the light was guiding him to darkness (the fulfillment of the prophecy).

Moreover, similar to the show *The Lighthouse*, Oedipus tries, and fails, to keep his sanity once he’s arrived on the island of truth. He refuses to accept what Teiresias sees, and what the messenger tells him, and combats the disgust and recoil that crawls into his soul. After seeing his beloved wife (and mom) dead, Oedpius chooses to blind himself, reaping darkness forever and

leaving him to confront his arrogance, lack of wisdom, and ego-fueled rage that brought him to this life.