

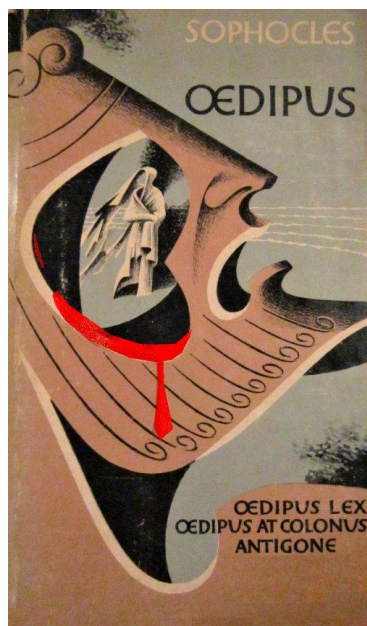
Ask Frau Dulent (Fragen Sie Frau Dulent):

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● History of Western Civilization: The Real story of Oedipus Lex

First the popular story you were led to believe: Oedipus got thrown out by his paranoid father, ended up killing him, marrying his mother and plucked his eyes out as penance upon finding out the truth.



Frau Dulent's takes this matter on:

Oedipus got off to a rough start, for sure. But inherent in oral histories is an element of morphing over time. To correct this: Here is the real story. Oedipus was not the son of a king, he was the son of a renowned professor who was so paranoid about his tenured position at the Lyceum in ***. So paranoid was he in fact that he listened to a prophecy by some travelling oracle which predicted that his son would eventually eclipse him at the Lyceum and make his accomplishments lay waste utterly. Thereupon the good professor, pointing with his staff (the one with the pine cone on top) at the newborn decreed to have him banished from his domains to avoid future competition from someone who may have learned enough to refute all the concepts he himself bought into over time and now repeated unquestioning with conviction. In spite of this Oedipus grew up to be a healthy, questioning, young scholar and by way of a series of coincidents ended up traveling the Greek realms from Lyceum to Lyceum in search for answers to all kinds

of questions that were vexing him. As predicted by the oracle he ended up at his fathers Lyceum where the inevitable occurred. His father still spouting the same old rubbish to secure his eventual pension realized his untenable position which distracted him to despair. While driving his chariot in this condition he met his demise in a road accident involving a chariot driven by Oedipus on the way to a lecture because he was so distracted by thoughts of being laughed out from behind his lecturne. Oedipus ended up consoling the widowed wife of his father (unbeknownst), initially as an academic curtesy, but doing this he ultimately discovered some of the comforts of life which had escaped him while in obsessive scholarly pursuit of truth; an unholy alliance ensued. Now you, dear reader, would logically assume that discovery of the underlying story of these convoluted family matters lead to Oedipus plucking his eyes out in penance – far from the truth! What really happened was that Oedipus continued for many happy years in intellectual pursuit and in his incestuous relationship with his mother until one day all his academic efforts culminated in a fundamental realization: All he had learned during all this time, he realized, turned out to be false, fundamentally and profoundly wrong! A mere superficial and rather crude trick of his perception. He had deceived his students, his world and worst of

all himself. His sensors had given him false and deceptive feedback confirming too easily what empirical answers he had packed into all manner of approximating formulae. Above all he had been led to believe what his eyes had so corruptingly confirmed what might be the truth. An academic life entirely wasted. "To see it, is to believe it" he had always thought when he looked at the stars, but upon realizing that what he then saw had perhaps vanished thousands of ages ago he opted to rip the offending organs out and revert to his mind's eye so that he could pursue the real truths of matter.