

**KREON**

Shall even men of such an age be taught  
wisdom by a man of such an age?

**HAEMON**

About nothing unjust. If I am young, one must  
not look at years more than facts.

**KREON**

Respecting rebels is a fact?

730

**HAEMON**

I would urge no one to respect the wicked.

**KREON**

But hasn't she been seized by just such a disease?

**HAEMON**

All the people of Thebes deny it.

**KREON**

Will the public tell me what I must command?

**HAEMON**

Don't you see that you're talking like an adolescent?

735

**KREON**

Must someone other than myself tell me how to rule this land?

**HAEMON**

The public is not the same as one man.

**KREON**

Is the state not considered the ruler's?

**HAEMON**

You would rule a desert well alone.

**KREON**

He, it seems, allies with the woman.

740

**HAEMON**

Only if *you* are the woman – my concern is for you.

**KREON**

By accusing your father, you scoundrel?

**HAEMON**

Yes, because I see you erring against justice.

**KREON**

I err in respecting my own authority?

**HAEMON**

You don't respect it, trampling on the gods' honors.

745

**KREON**

Foul creature, inferior to a woman.

**HAEMON**

At least you won't catch me subject to something shameful.

**KREON**

Yet all your words are for her.

**HAEMON**

And for you and me and the gods below.

**KREON**

She won't be alive for you to marry.

750

**HAEMON**

Then she will die and in dying destroy another.

**KREON**

What! Does your daring proceed to threats?

**HAEMON**

What threat to speak against empty judgments?

**KREON**

You'll regret lecturing me, as you're empty of sense yourself.

**HAEMON**

If you weren't my father, I would say that you lack good sense. 755

**KREON**

You woman's slave, don't cajole me.

**HAEMON**

Do you wish to speak, but never listen?

**KREON**

What! By Olympos, listen here: you will not  
abuse me with reproaches and rejoice.

Bring that hated thing, so that right now, before his eyes 760  
and in his presence, she can die beside her bridegroom.

**HAEMON**

No! Not in front of me, never think that!

She will not be killed beside me

and you will never set eyes on my face.

Rave on, live with whatever kin are still willing. 765

*Haemon exits BP.*

**CHORUS**

Your son, King, stormed out in anger.

A young heart grieves hard.