

Monologue Choice #1 (Kreon)

Let all-seeing Zeus be my witness:
I would not wait silently, watching ruin 185
rather than deliverance advance on the city.
I could never consider any man my friend
who is an enemy of the state, knowing that
this ship keeps us safe and only by sailing
it straight can we determine our friends. 190
I will strengthen this state with such laws.
Therefore, I have proclaimed to the people
related laws concerning the sons of Oedipus.
Eteokles, who died fighting for this city,
who bested everyone with his spear, 195
we buried and performed all holy rites
offered to the noble dead below.
But Polynices, his own brother,
who returned from exile seeking to incinerate
his fatherland and the gods of his family, 200
who wished to consume kindred blood,
to lead Thebans into slavery –
it has been proclaimed throughout the city
that no one honor him with burial or mourning,
but leave him unburied, a corpse devoured 205
by birds and dogs, foul to see.
Such is my judgment. Never in my hands
will the evil surpass the just in honor.
But whoever thinks well of the state
will be honored by me dead or alive. 210