

OEDIPUS	Who's this?	OEDIPUS	Happy to have you here. Well, you wanted us to meet them and now here we are meeting them. My gift to you.
TEIRESIAS	Oedipus – I know your voice.	OEDIPUS	People <i>listen</i> to them
TEIRESIAS	<i>blind, appears, somehow already in the room.</i>	OEDIPUS	<i>Some</i> people listen to them
OEDIPUS	(to CREON) Did you get me a stripper?	CREON	<i>Hundreds of thousands of people worldwide</i> listen to them
CREON	I'm sorry, I think you've come to the wrong place	TEIRESIAS	Oedipus –
TEIRESIAS	Oedipus, you can hear me – you are <i>here</i>	OEDIPUS	(to CREON) Well I'm not seeking voters <i>worldwide</i> – and this is <i>late</i> : I mean, I'm up for going back through the fights you lost, but we're really facing the wrong way if we're doing this <i>once the polls have closed</i> –
CREON	How did you get in here?	CREON	if we'd brought them on side, they have an <i>audience</i>
TEIRESIAS	The child brought me.	OEDIPUS	Having an audience is easy. Hard part's having something to say.
OEDIPUS	Everyone welcome.	TEIRESIAS	(to TEIRESIAS) Bad night for you if the polls tell the truth.
		TEIRESIAS	The polls mean nothing. It will be Creon.
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## Oedipus. Robert Icke

OEDIPUS	This is Oedipus. Creon's here too. But Creon isn't actually on the <i>ballot</i> for tonight's election	OEDIPUS	I don't want to make you angry
TEIRESIAS	I made no prediction about tonight's / election	TEIRESIAS	I'm not going to be angry – please. I'm listening. Go on. Continue.
OEDIPUS	You said it would / be Creon	TEIRESIAS	The sky is so huge, so frighteningly huge, so pitilessly blank, indifferent, and the wide flights of the birds – the life of the human being is a tiny track mark on the earth, a helpless scratch – and what there is in store for you is <i>cruel</i> . Blood on the glass.
TEIRESIAS	but not tonight.		
OEDIPUS	<i>looks up.</i>		
OEDIPUS	I didn't catch your name		Time turns, sets a backward course, starts for the start with <i>speed</i> : the fragile moments drop, unravelling, reversing, unwound, back to the beginning. My speech is out of time.
TEIRESIAS	Oedipus –	OEDIPUS	Sit down – <i>sit down</i>
	<i>TEIRESIAS is reaching for OEDIPUS' hand.</i>	TEIRESIAS	you don't understand – but I can't help you. I cannot help you. It's over.
	We are human, you and I nothing more. Nothing.	CREON	Is something coming to us?
OEDIPUS	Yes –	TEIRESIAS	The answer to that question is always yes.
	,	CREON	Tonight?
TEIRESIAS	but a whole world lies under your feet. A whole universe, somewhere: <i>here</i> , unseen and tonight it slips free –	TEIRESIAS	To speak further will only make him angry.
OEDIPUS	Yes (?)	OEDIPUS	I'm not going to / be angry
TEIRESIAS	I came to warn you. Not to help you. Powerless to help you: to see the disease in the cell is not to know the cure.	TEIRESIAS	He finds the answers. He hunts them to the end. To understand the details will not change a thing. <i>Get me out – get me out – get me out –</i>
OEDIPUS	[Enough.] If this is a joke, it's both funny and well-executed, but what we're going to do is this...	OEDIPUS	What happened to Laius? / What do you know?
TEIRESIAS	There is nothing to be done – it is <i>over</i> . Over all of it, some other, some <i>other</i> truth is coming, was always coming, it is all over	CREON	Oedipus, please –
OEDIPUS	What is all over? What disease?	TEIRESIAS	To understand is to see it yourself
TEIRESIAS	It starts with Laius – you are right to look a second time –	OEDIPUS	my God, the enigmas –
OEDIPUS	Laius' death, you mean?	TEIRESIAS	These are not enigmas. That you fail to understand it does not make it an enigma. You will be forced to see who you are
TEIRESIAS	It was not as we were told –	OEDIPUS	I know / who I am!
CREON	Oedipus, could we speak for a / moment	TEIRESIAS	you do not know what you have done, you do not know who you <i>are</i> , and here now there is nothing to be done.
OEDIPUS	Let him speak. Please – go on.		I've said too much. I want to <i>leave</i> –
TEIRESIAS	I'm frightened.		
	<i>TEIRESIAS seems emotional.</i>		

## Oedipus. Robert Icke

OEDIPUS You realise that, once tonight is over, there will be other ways for me to persuade you to speak.

TEIRESIAS It will be Creon.

OEDIPUS *starts to get angry now.*

OEDIPUS My wife's brother *does not have his name on the ballot*. He literally *cannot be elected*. So whose idea was this? Surprise guest. Little confidence boost at the last moment, try and get inside my head. Was that it?

I am trying to change things. I am trying to move us forwards.

TEIRESIAS to break every boundary is to break *every boundary*. The one that holds havoc from control. The one holding human from animal.

OEDIPUS It must be hard, I understand that, to accept that there's no money in new-age fear-mongering or fortune-teller cryptic crossword clues

Why did you come? Why come at all?

TEIRESIAS I came to / warn you

OEDIPUS You came because you want to psych me out. Fear beats hope every time: blind in your soul as well as your eyes / it must be deeply humiliating, these days, to have to claim you can see the future

TEIRESIAS Oedipus – I

TEIRESIAS I came to warn you, Oedipus.

OEDIPUS Then WARN ME. Come on. Let's go. Pre-dict. Three things you've seen that *actually* come true –

TEIRESIAS Three [predictions]?

Yes.

One. You find the truth of Laius' death – that you yourself are the killer you seek.

OEDIPUS Hilarious. And was I *sleeping* when I murdered Laius?

TEIRESIAS you're sleeping now.

Two. You bring the darkest shame on your parents – your father's killer – and your mother's lover.

OEDIPUS Say that again

Oedipus. Robert Icke