

Student Essay

Creon is the Tragic Hero of Antigone by Sophocles

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Creon is the Tragic Hero of Antigone

Creon in most aspects appears to be the main character of the Greek play, Antigone. He fits the description of a tragic hero. The curse begins with the fact that he is a relative of Oedipus. Creon is the king of Thebes which makes him of high esteem. He is stubborn and believes that all should obey his commands even when it comes to family matters. "No one values friendship more than I; but we must remember that friends made a the risk of wrecking our ship are not real friends at all" (Sophocles, Antigone lines 32-35). That flaw caused him to suffer the death of over half of his family. Creon's bad judgments lead to three suicides. His niece Antigone tries to help Creon realize his faults even while awaiting her death sentence, but he refuses to listen. "You will remember what things I suffer, and at what men's hand because I would not transgress the laws of heaven."(Sophocles, Antigone lines 78-80). When Creon causes the death of his son, his wife takes her life. "...and her last breath was a curse for their father, the murdered of her sons."(Sophocles, Antigone lines 115-116). Then Creon realized he has brought the pain and suffering upon himself. "I have been rash and foolish. I have killed my son and wife."(Sophocles, Antigone lines 134-135). The Choragos sums up the lesson learned by Creon. "There is no happiness where there is no wisdom; No wisdom but in submission to the gods. Big words are always punished, and proud men in old age learn to be wise. Creon in the end learned from his stubbornness. This makes him the prime example of a tragic hero.