

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF AN ADOPTED BOY: 'KING OEDIPUS'

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Sophocles' 'King Oedipus' is one of the most discussed plays in antiquity as well as in modern times. Aristotle cites the said play as the role model for the most effective tragedy according to his observations.¹ Most scholars agree that Aristotle's discussion on tragedy in his 'Poetics' was based on the study of the success of the Classical Dramas.

The success in tragedy mostly rests on the 'tragic emotions' evoked in the audience, the total effect and arousal of fear and pity in the spectator.² The tragic character being a man of some eminence a noble character moving from prosperity to the reverse due to some flaw in his own character and thereby meeting an underserving end.³ Incidents and actions involving the dearest and the nearest according to Aristotle heightens the impact.⁴ It is calamity and reversal of fortune that disturb the spectator's illusion of stability and tranquility.⁵

As mentioned earlier many discussions and arguments on the subject matter as well as of the technique of 'King Oedipus' have taken place. But my concern in this paper is to concentrate on a totally humanistic theme, Oedipus as the adopted boy. The intention, is to examine the mentality of a man in the quest of his true identity when doubt was thrown on who he actually was. 'King Oedipus's' problems are amplified in the grandeur of the great classical play of Sophocles.

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මෙහි ප්‍රථම පිටුව: 5 වැනියෙන්, 2008, මහජන මධ්‍යමාධ්‍ය පර්යේෂණ මධ්‍යස්ථානයේ.