

Antigone Hackett Classics Sophocles: A Timeless Exploration of Loyalty, Family, and Individual Conscience

In the annals of Greek tragedy, Sophocles' "Antigone" stands as a towering masterpiece that has captivated audiences for centuries. Published in 442 BC, this timeless work delves into the profound themes of loyalty, family, and individual conscience, offering a thought-provoking examination of the complex human experience.

The Hackett Classics Edition

The Hackett Classics edition of "Antigone" is a meticulously crafted version of Sophocles' tragedy, providing readers with an in-depth understanding of the play's historical, cultural, and linguistic nuances. This edition features:



Antigone (Hackett Classics) by Sophocles

★★★★☆ 4.6 out of 5

Language : English

File size : 327 KB

Text-to-Speech : Enabled

Screen Reader : Supported

Enhanced typesetting: Enabled

Word Wise : Enabled

Print length : 103 pages



- The original Greek text with facing English translation
- Extensive annotations and commentary by renowned classicists

- s and essays that illuminate the play's context and significance

Plot Summary

"Antigone" unfolds in the aftermath of a bloody civil war in Thebes, where the two sons of Oedipus, Eteocles and Polyneices, have killed each other in battle. King Creon, their uncle, declares that Eteocles, who defended the city, shall be buried with honor, while Polyneices, who fought against it, shall be left unburied and exposed to the elements.

Antigone, Polyneices' sister, defies Creon's edict, driven by her unwavering loyalty to her family and her belief in the divine laws of burial. She secretly buries her brother, an act that is punishable by death.

Major Themes

"Antigone" explores a myriad of complex themes, including:

- **Loyalty:** Antigone's unflinching devotion to her brother and her family is contrasted with Creon's loyalty to the state.
- **Family:** The play examines the bonds between siblings and the importance of familial duty.
- **Individual Conscience:** Antigone's actions are guided by her own moral compass, even when it conflicts with the law.
- **Divine Law:** Antigone believes that the divine laws of burial supersede any man-made laws.
- **Fate vs. Free Will:** The play raises questions about the extent to which human beings can shape their own destinies.

Characters

"Antigone" features a cast of memorable characters, each representing distinct perspectives and values:

- **Antigone:** A strong-willed and courageous woman, she is determined to follow her conscience, even at great personal cost.
- **Ismene:** Antigone's sister, she is more cautious and fearful, but ultimately supports her sister's decision.
- **Creon:** The King of Thebes, he is a proud and inflexible ruler who believes that the state's authority must be upheld.
- **Haemon:** Creon's son and Antigone's betrothed, he is torn between his love for Antigone and his loyalty to his father.
- **Tiresias:** A blind prophet, he warns Creon that his actions will bring disaster upon Thebes.

Significance and Impact

"Antigone" has had a profound impact on Western literature and thought. The play's exploration of the conflict between individual conscience and state authority has resonated with readers throughout history.

The play has been praised for its powerful characters, its gripping plot, and its timeless themes. It continues to be performed and studied today, inspiring audiences to reflect on the complexities of human morality and the importance of standing up for one's beliefs.

The Hackett Classics edition of Sophocles' "Antigone" is an invaluable resource for students, scholars, and general readers alike. This



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