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Comparison between Jocasta to her two Daughters Antigone and Ismene

Women in society play different roles to that of men. Women are psychologically structured to bring healthy offspring to the world by finding a mate. However, conservative thinking tells women to clean, take care of the family, and perform other domestic chores. Nevertheless, Sophocles defines the place of a woman through the various tragedies in the play. Even though women were influential, dignified, and respected individuals, they could not meddle in men's affairs. The mother and daughter combination of Jocasta and her two daughters Antigone and Ismene, portray different lives of women at the time of Greek tragedies. This paper will compare Jocasta to her two daughters Antigone and Antigone.

The political beliefs of Jocasta and her two daughters vary in terms of their personalities. Jocasta obeys and abides by the state's laws and always obeys her husband, whether Laius or Oedipus. Her dialect and manner epitomes the etiquette of a true aristocratic woman in Thebes. Jocasta can stay out of trouble because she never gets in a situation she should not be in. The character of Jocasta depicts the idea of a strong woman who stays behind the men because she only appears in the final scenes with a decisive but small role. In her first appearance, Jocasta attempts to plead for peace between Creon and Oedipus. She begs Oedipus not to chase Creon away.

In comparison to Jocasta, Ismene is submissive, timid, and hides behind men like her mother. Ismene complies with the civil laws hence being considered submissive. She is also compliant like her mother Jocasta because she feared the punishment, which was through stoning, and she did not want to die despite the law going against the gods' rules. Her submissiveness is shown through Sophocles in her statement, "We are only women, we cannot fight with men" (Sophocles 688). On the other hand, in comparison to her mother, Antigone is confident, unafraid, and aggressive until the point of her death. At her moment of death, Jocasta is bleak and rigid, the same as any person because "the sun no longer shines for her" (Sophocles 711). When she is sentenced to death by Creon together with her sister Ismene, she is willing to die with her sister despite Ismene's previous refusal to help her. Antigone, in contrast to her mother, is unafraid and a lawbreaker. She goes against the law by burying her brother Polyneices who was not supposed to be buried. She did this to please the gods and ensure her brother's spirit went to the right place. This shows she is unafraid of the death penalty by stoning. Additionally, Antigone shows her irrationality and boldness by speaking out against the king.

In sum, in comparison to her two daughters, Jocasta shares similarities with Ismene but differs significantly from Antigone. Ismene and her mother, Jocasta, are law-abiding and submissive women. Their law-abiding character ensures their survival but at the same time strips away their happiness. On the other hand, Antigone is strong, unafraid, and aggressive. She is stubborn,

tough, and goes against the law. The dynamics between these women provide an insight exhibited in the modern world on whether they should obey or go against rules set by men.

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