

THE BALLAD OF OEDIPUS

Well, once upon a time I visited the oracle of Delphi
I was seeking peace of mind, I was trying to find myself, I guess.
Instead I got a curse, and even more, what's worse,
I can't reverse this mess.

I headed out of town, I was feeling kind of down, you can imagine
I couldn't go back home, so I decided to go in a new direction
On the road there was a fork commanded by a jerk
Who gave me action.

The man was such an ass, he wouldn't let me pass
So I struck him down
He gave a mighty bleat and fell dead at my feet –
“Just my luck”, I groaned.
There's a dead dad in the middle of the road, there's a dead dad in the middle of the road
But he's not my dad – so sad.

Now the town of Thebes was jinxed by a perspicacious Sphinx, she was a joker
I asked her for the time, she answered with a rhyme, straight as a poker
I played her riddling game – that's how I got my fame
I really smoked her.

Thebes offered me the crown and Jocasta's wedding gown –
she became my wife.
Two daughters and two sons, we were the lucky ones.
I had a happy life.
But then there came a plague and the townsfolk they did beg
Me to dispel this vice.

And there's a dead dad in the middle of the road, there's a dead dad in the middle of the road
But he's not my dad – too bad,

The oracle declaimed that the one who was to blame was very close at hand
It said he was no other than the man who killed his father in this very land.
And then it all came out, and left me with no doubt
I was a guilty man.

Oh, there's a dead dad in the middle of the road, there's a dead dad in the middle of the road
Turns out he's my dad – my bad.

I think you know the rest, I plucked from dead Jocasta's breast
Her jewelled fastening pins
With them I took my sight and turned towards the night
To hide my shameful sins
I left from Thebes's gate to endure my awful fate
And to begin again.

Now, there is another play that tells of my later days.
I hope you'll take it in.
It has a better end – the Furies make amends
And Athens sings my praise.
But that's another song and this one's way too long,
So thank you all, my friends!

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