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By seeing through “the spell that hypnotized our lives,” says the priest, Oedipus “restored our life” and, it is assumed, became king of Thebes (Oedipus Tyrannus 1). During the events of the play, he justifies his reign in the same manner. Upon hearing the woes of the Thebes, he responds “I know well the pain you suffer and understand what brings you here . . . No, I am not blind to it,” before laying out the plan he had already set into motion to end their pain (OT 4). When Creon returns, sent earlier by Oedipus, with word from Apollo that “A hidden sore is festering in our lands,” Oedipus vows “I shall not cease until I bring the truth to light” (OT 4,5). In this last quotation we have an indication not only of Oedipus’s zeal for discovery but also of a democratic sentiment regarding knowledge — in bringing something to light, one shares that thing with all who have eyes, or, in this case, the chorus of Theban citizens that waits in silence before Oedipus and Creon. This sentiment appears earlier as well, for when Creon gently suggests that he accompany Oedipus inside and away from the Thebans so that they may not hear the oracle, Oedipus responds “Say it before all of us. I sorrow more for them than for myself,” as if knowledge is owed and beneficial to those suffering (OT… For other uses, see Merope (Greek myth). This article needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed.Find sources: "Merope" wife of Polybus – news · newspapers · books · scholar · JSTOR (January 2022) (Learn how and when to remove this message) In Greek mythology, Merope (/ˈmɛrəpiː/; Ancient Greek: Μερόπη) was a Queen of Corinth, and wife of King Polybus. In some accounts, she was called Periboea.[1] In the most versions of the myth of Oedipus, Merope is generally considered a minor character as simply the wife of King Polybus, the queen of Corinth, adoptive mother to Oedipus, and the adoptive grandmother to Oedipus’ children.[2] After Oedipus is abandoned as an infant by his biological parents King Laius and Queen Jocasta of Thebes, Merope and Polybus raise Oedipus as their adoptive son. Eventually, when questioned by Oedipus, Merope and Polybus deny the adoption. As a result of this denial, Oedipus continues to believe that Merope and Polybus are his true biological parents. Later, when Oedipus receives a prophecy from the oracle in Delphi that he was destined to murder his father and marry his mother, he does not return to Corinth and thereby sets in motion the events that result in his murder of Laius and marriage of Jocasta. ^ Apollodorus, 3.5.7; Parthenius, Erotica Pathemata 27 ^ Sophocles, Oedipus Tyrannus 776, 990. Apollodorus, The Library with an English Translation by Sir James George Frazer, F.B.A., F.R.S. in 2 Volumes, Cambridge, MA, Harvard University Press; London, William Heinemann Ltd. 1921. ISBN 0-674-99135-4. Online version at the Perseus Digital Library. Greek text available from the same website. Parthenius, Love Romances translated by Sir Stephen Gaselee (1882-1943), S. Loeb Classical Library Volume 69. Cambridge, MA. Harvard University Press. 1916. Online version at the Topos Text Project. Parthenius, Erotici Scriptores Graeci, Vol. 1. Rudolf Hercher. in aedibus B. G. Teubneri. Leipzig. 1858. Greek text available at the Perseus Digital Library. Sophocles, The Oedipus Tyrannus of Sophocles edited with introduction and notes by Sir Richard Jebb. Cambridge. Cambridge University Press. 1893. Online version at the Perseus Digital Library. Sophocles, Sophocles. Vol 1: Oedipus the king. Oedipus at Colonus. Antigone. With an English translation by F. Storr. The Loeb classical library, 20. Francis Storr. London; New York. William Heinemann Ltd.; The Macmillan Company. 1912. Greek text available at the Perseus Digital Library. This article relating to a royal in Greek mythology is a stub. You can help Wikipedia by expanding it.vte Retrieved from " Before the play begins . . . By leaving his home in Corinth, Oedipus thinks he has escaped a terrible prophecy that says that he will kill his father and marry his mother. Oedipus has defeated the riddling Sphinx, saved the seven-gated city of Thebes, and married the queen Jocasta. (Her first husband, Laius, had been killed.) They have four children, Eteocles, Polynices, Antigone, and Ismene, and they rule in peace. But a mysterious plague has recently afflicted the city, bringing death to the people, livestock, and crops. Oedipus has sent Creon to Delphi to find out from the oracle there what to do. In the play . . . A priest and his followers ask Oedipus to find a way to save them from the plague. Creon returns and reports that they need to find the murderer of Laius, the former king. Oedipus swears he will find and punish the man. He summons Tiresias, the famous seer, to tell what he knows. At first Tiresias refuses to speak, but when pressed, he tells Oedipus that the murderer he seeks is Oedipus himself. The king and the chorus refuse to believe the prophet, and Oedipus accuses Tiresias and Creon of plots and corruption. Jocasta intervenes and tells Oedipus not to worry. Oedipus starts to asks questions about Laius’s death, and the circumstances begin to sound familiar. But a Messenger comes from Corinth to say that Oedipus’s father is dead, so he doesn’t need to worry about the prophecy. Oedipus asks about his mother, since there’s that other part of the prophecy, and the Messenger tells him he was adopted. Jocasta realizes the truth—that Oedipus is her son as well as her husband—and tells Oedipus to stop the interrogations. He doesn’t listen, and an eyewitness, the Herdsman who rescued him when he was an infant, confirms that he was Laius and Jocasta’s child, and that Oedipus killed Laius. A Servant reports the suicide of Jocasta, and Oedipus emerges from the house having blinded himself. He seeks exile and mourns with his daughters. Creon takes over. , the free encyclopedia that anyone can edit. 107,583 active editors 7,025,772 articles in English Sir William Gordon-Cumming (20 July 1848 – 20 May 1930) was a Scottish landowner, soldier and socialite. He was the central figure in the royal baccarat scandal of 1891. He joined the British Army in 1868 and saw service in South Africa, Egypt and the Sudan; he served with distinction and rose to the rank of lieutenant-colonel. An adventurer, he also hunted in the US and India. A friend of Edward, Prince of Wales, for over 20 years, in 1890 he attended a house party at Tranby Croft, where he took part in a game of baccarat at the behest of the prince. During the course of two nights' play he was accused of cheating, which he denied. After news of the affair leaked out, he sued five members of the party for slander; Edward was called as a witness. The case was a public spectacle in the UK and abroad, but the verdict went against Gordon-Cumming and he was ostracised from polite society. After the court case he married an American heiress, but their relationship was unhappy. (Full article...) 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Archive Start a new article Nominate an article Muhammadu Buhari Former president of Nigeria Muhammadu Buhari (pictured) dies at the age of 82. Clashes between Druze militias and the Syrian Armed Forces result in hundreds of deaths. The International Criminal Court issues arrest warrants for Taliban leaders Hibatullah Akhundzada and Abdul Hakim Haqqani over their alleged persecution of women in Afghanistan. Flooding in Central Texas, United States, leaves at least 140 people dead. Ongoing: Gaza war Russian invasion of Ukraine timeline Sudanese civil war timeline Recent deaths: Andrea Gibson Raymond Guiot Felix Baumgartner Fauja Singh Bradley John Murdoch Frank Barrie Nominate an article July 20 Forensic experts at the site of the Suruç bombing 1807 – French brothers Claude and Nicéphore Niépce received a patent for their Pyréolophore, one of the world's first internal combustion engines. 1951 – Abdullah I of Jordan was assassinated while visiting the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem. 1976 – The Viking 1 lander became the first spacecraft to successfully land on Mars and perform its mission. 1997 – USS Constitution, one of the United States Navy's original six frigates, sailed for the first time in 116 years after a full restoration. 2015 – A suicide attack (aftermath pictured) in Suruç, Turkey, for which Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) claimed responsibility, killed 34 people and injured 104 others. Alexander the Great (b. 356 BC)Amanda Clement (d. 1971)Bruce Lee (d. 1973)Gisele Bündchen (b. 1980) More anniversaries: July 19 July 20 July 21 Archive By email List of days of the year About C/2022 E3 (ZTF) is a non-periodic comet from the Oort cloud that was discovered by the Zwicky Transient Facility (ZTF) in 2022. With a comet nucleus of around 1 kilometre (0.6 mi) in diameter, C/2022 E3 rotates on its axis once every 8.5 to 8.7 hours. Its tails of dust and gas extended for millions of kilometers and, during January 2023, an anti-tail was also visible. The comet reached its most recent perihelion in January 2023, at a distance of 1.11 AU (166 million km; 103 million mi) from the sun, and the closest approach to Earth was a few weeks later, at a distance of 0.28 AU (42 million km; 26 million mi). The comet reached magnitude 5 and was visible with the naked eye under moonless dark skies. This photograph of C/2022 E3 was taken in January 2023 and released by the Italian National Institute for Astrophysics. Photograph credit: Alessandro Bianconi; National Institute for Astrophysics Recently featured: Passion fruit Basilica of St Paul, Rabat Clouded Apollo Archive More featured pictures Community portal – The central hub for editors, with resources, links, tasks, and announcements. Village pump – Forum for discussions about Wikipedia itself, including policies and technical issues. Site news – Sources of news about Wikipedia and the broader Wikimedia movement. Teahouse – Ask basic questions about using or editing Wikipedia. Help desk – Ask questions about using or editing Wikipedia. Reference desk – Ask research questions about encyclopedic topics. Content portals – A unique way to navigate the encyclopedia. Wikipedia is written by volunteer editors and hosted by the Wikimedia Foundation, a non-profit organization that also hosts a range of other volunteer projects: CommonsFree media repository MediaWikiWiki software development Meta-WikiWikimedia project coordination WikibooksFree textbooks and manuals WikidataFree knowledge base WikinewsFree-content news WikiquoteCollection of quotations WikisourceFree-content library WikispeciesDirectory of species WikiversityFree learning tools WikivoyageFree travel guide WiktionaryDictionary and thesaurus This Wikipedia is written in English. Many other Wikipedias are available; some of the largest are listed below. 1,000,000+ articles العربية Deutsch Español فارسی Français Italiano Nederlands 日本語 Polski Português Русский Svenska Українська Tiếng Việt 中文 250,000+ articles Bahasa Indonesia Bahasa Melayu Bân-lâm-gú Български Català Čeština Dansk Eesti Ελληνικά Esperanto Euskara עברית Հայերեն Magyar Norsk bokmål Română Simple English Slovenčina Srpski Srpskohrvatski Suomi Türkçe Oʻzbekcha 50,000+ articles Asturianu Azərbaycanca □□□□□ Bosanski کوردی Frysk Gaeilge Galego Hrvatski ქართული Kurdî Latviešu Lietuvių □□□□□□ Македонски □□□□□□□□□□ Norsk nynorsk □□□□□□ Shqip Slovenščina □□□ □□□□□□ اردو Retrieved from " 2This article needs additional citations for verification. Please help improve this article by adding citations to reliable sources. Unsourced material may be challenged and removed.Find sources: "1807" – news · newspapers · books · scholar · JSTOR (November 2015) (Learn how and when to remove this message) Calendar year Years Millennium 2nd millennium Centuries 18th century 19th century 20th century Decades 1780s 1790s 1800s 1810s 1820s Years 1804 1805 1806 1807 1808 1809 1810 vte February 7: Napoleon leads French troops into Russia in winter, and fights the Battle of Eylau. June 14: Napoleon triumphs over Russia's General Benningsen, at the Battle of Friedland. 1807 (MDCCCVII) was a common year starting on Thursday of the Gregorian calendar and a common year starting on Tuesday of the Julian calendar, the 1807th year of the Common Era (CE) and Anno Domini (AD) designations, the 807th year of the 2nd millennium, the 7th year of the 19th century, and the 8th year of the 1800s decade. As of the start of 1807, the Gregorian calendar was 12 days ahead of the Julian calendar, which remained in localized use until 1923. Calendar year 1807 by topic Humanities Archaeology Architecture Art Literature Poetry Music By country Australia Brazil Canada Denmark France Germany New Zealand Norway Russia South Africa Sweden United Kingdom United States Other topics Rail transport Science Sports Lists of leaders Sovereign states Sovereign state leaders Territorial governors Religious leaders Law Birth and death categories Births Deaths Establishments and disestablishments categories Establishments Disestablishments Works category Works vte 1807 in various calendarsGregorian calendar1807MDCCCVIIAb urbe condita2560Armenian calendar1256ԹՎ ՌՄԾԶAssyrian calendar6557Balinese saka calendar1728–1729Bengali calendar1213–1214Berber calendar2757British Regnal year47 Geo. 3 – 48 Geo. 3Buddhist calendar2351Burmese calendar1169Byzantine calendar7315–7316Chinese calendar丙寅年 (Fire Tiger)4504 or 4297 — to —丁卯年 (Fire Rabbit)4505 or 4298Coptic calendar1523–1524Discordian calendar2973Ethiopian calendar1799–1800Hebrew calendar5567–5568Hindu calendars - Vikram Samvat1863–1864 - Shaka Samvat1728–1729 - Kali Yuga4907–4908Holocene calendar11807Igbo calendar807–808Iranian calendar1185–1186Islamic calendar1221–1222Japanese calendarBunka 4(文化４年)Javanese calendar1733–1734Julian calendarGregorian minus 12 daysKorean calendar4140Minguo calendar105 before ROC民前105年Nanakshahi calendar339Thai solar calendar2349–2350Tibetan calendar□□□□□□□□□□□□□(male Fire-Tiger)1933 or 1552 or 780 — to —□□□□□□□□□□□□□(female Fire-Hare)1934 or 1553 or 781 Wikimedia Commons has media related to 1807. January 7 – The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland issues an Order in Council prohibiting British ships from trading with France or its allies.[1] January 20 – The Sierra Leone Company, faced with bankruptcy because of the imminent abolition of the slave trade in British colonies, petitions the British government for purchase and transfer of its property to the Crown; Parliament approves the transfer on July 29, and it takes effect on January 1, 1808.[2] February 3 – Napoleonic Wars and Anglo-Spanish War: Battle of Montevideo – The British Army captures Montevideo from the Spanish Empire, as part of the British invasions of the Río de la Plata. February 7 – Napoleon leads the forces of the French Empire in an invasion of the Russian Empire, and begins fighting at the Battle of Eylau against Russian and Prussian forces.[3] February 8 – Battle of Eylau: Napoleon fights a hard but inconclusive battle against the Russians under Bennigsen. February 10 – The Survey of the Coast (renamed the United States Coast Survey in 1836 and the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey in 1878) is established; work begins on August 3, 1816. February 17 – Henry Christopher is elected first President of the State of Haiti, ruling the northern part of the country. February 19 – Burr conspiracy: In Alabama, former Vice President of the United States Aaron Burr is tried for conspiracy, but acquitted. February 23 – The Slave Trade Act is passed in the House of Commons of the United Kingdom by an overwhelming majority.[4] March 2 – The United States Congress passes the Act Prohibiting Importation of Slaves "into any port or place within the jurisdiction of the United States ... from any foreign kingdom, place, or country" (to take effect January 1, 1808). March 25 The United Kingdom Slave Trade Act becomes law abolishing the slave trade in most of the British Empire[5] with effect from 1 May (slavery itself is abolished in British colonies in 1833). The Swansea and Mumbles Railway in South Wales, at this time known as the Oystermouth Railway, becomes the first passenger-carrying railway in the world. March 29 – H. W. Olbers discovers the asteroid Vesta. April 4–12 – Froberg mutiny: The British suppress a mutiny at Fort Ricasoli, Malta, by men of the irregularly-recruited Froberg Regiment. April 14 – African Institution holds its first meeting in London; it is intended to improve social conditions in Sierra Leone. May 22 – A grand jury indicts former Vice President of the United States Aaron Burr for treason.[6] May 24 – Siege of Danzig ends after 6 weeks with Prussian and Russian defenders capitulating to French forces. May 29 – Selim III, Ottoman Emperor since 1789, is deposed in favour of his nephew Mustafa IV. May 31 – Primitive Methodism originates in an All Day of Prayer at Mow Cop, in the north midlands of England.[7] June 9 – The Duke of Portland is chosen as Prime Minister after the United Kingdom general election. June 10 – The Battle of Heilsberg ends in a draw. June 14 – Battle of Friedland: Napoleon decisively defeats Bennigsen's Russian army. June 22 – Chesapeake–Leopard affair: British Royal Navy fourth rate HMS Leopard attacks and boards United States Navy frigate USS Chesapeake off Norfolk, Virginia, seeking deserters. This act of British aggression plays a role in the run-up to the War of 1812. July 5 – A disastrous British attack is mounted against Buenos Aires, during the second failed invasion of the Río de la Plata. July 7–9 – The Treaties of Tilsit are signed between France, Prussia and Russia. Napoleon and Russian Emperor Alexander I ally together against the British. The Prussians are forced to cede more than half their territory, which is formed into the Duchy of Warsaw in their former Polish lands, and the Kingdom of Westphalia in western Germany. The Free City of Danzig is also formed (established September 9 by Napoleon). July 13 – With the death of Henry Benedict Stuart, the last Stuart claimant to the throne of the United Kingdom, Jacobitism comes to an effective end. July 20 – Nicéphore Niépce is awarded a patent by Napoleon Bonaparte for the Pyréolophore, the world's first internal combustion engine, after it successfully powers a boat upstream on the river Saône in France. August 17 – The North River Steamboat, Robert Fulton's first American steamboat, leaves New York City for Albany on the Hudson River, inaugurating the first commercial steamboat service in the world. September 1 – Former U.S. Vice President Aaron Burr is acquitted of treason. He had been accused of plotting to annex parts of Louisiana and Mexico, to become part of an independent republic. September 2–7 – Battle of Copenhagen: The British Royal Navy bombards Copenhagen with fire bombs and phosphorus rockets, to prevent the Dano-Norwegian navy from surrendering to Napoleon; 30% of the city is destroyed, and 2,000 citizens are killed. September 7 – Robert Morrison, the first Protestant missionary to China, arrives in Guangzhou (Canton).[8] September 13 – Beethoven's Mass in C major, Op. 86, is premiered, commissioned by Nikolaus I, Prince Esterházy, and displeasing him.[9] September 27 – Napoleon purchases the Borghese art collection, including the Antinous Mondragone, and brings it to Paris.[10] October 9 – Prussian Reform Movement: Serfdom is abolished by the October edict. October 13 – The Geological Society of London is founded. October 30 – El Escorial Conspiracy: Ferdinand, Prince of Asturias is arrested for conspiring against his father Charles IV of Spain. November 24 – Battle of Abrantes, Portugal: The French under Jean-Andoche Junot take the town. November 29 – Portuguese Queen Maria I and the Court embark at Lisbon, bound for Brazil. Rio de Janeiro becomes the Portuguese capital. December 5–11 – Napoleonic Wars: Raid on Griessie – A British Royal Navy squadron attacks the Dutch port of Griessie on Java in the Dutch East Indies, eliminating the last Dutch naval force in the Pacific and concluding the Java campaign of 1806–1807.[11] December 17 – Napoleonic Wars: France issues the Milan Decree which confirms the Continental System (i.e. no European country is to trade with the United Kingdom). December 22 – The United States Congress passes the Embargo Act, a trade embargo on all foreign nations. Battle of Hingakaka between two factions of Māori people, the largest battle ever fought in New Zealand, and the last fought there without firearms.[12] In 1807 or 1808 is fought the Battle of Moremonui, first of the Musket Wars. Robert E. Lee January 13 – Napoleon Bonaparte Buford, American general, railroad executive (d. 1883) January 19 – Robert E. Lee, American Confederate general (d. 1870) January 28 – Robert McClure, Irish-born Arctic explorer (d. 1873) February 10 – Lajos Batthyány, 1st Prime Minister of Hungary (d. 1849) February 27 – Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, American poet (d. 1882)[13] March 1 – Wilford Woodruff, American religious leader (d. 1898) March 14 – Josephine of Leuchtenberg, Queen of Sweden and Norway (d. 1876) April 2 – William F. Packer, American politician (d. 1870) April 3 – Jane Digby, English adventurer (d. 1881) April 20 – John Milton, Governor of Florida (d. 1865) April 26 – Charles Auguste Frossard, French general (d. 1875) May 28 – Louis Agassiz, Swiss-born zoologist and geologist (d. 1873) June 6 – Adrien-François Servais, Belgian musician (d. 1866) June 16 – John Westcott, American surveyor and politician (d. 1888) Giuseppe Garibaldi July 4 – Giuseppe Garibaldi, Italian patriot (d. 1882) August 11 – David Rice Atchison, American politician (d. 1886) August 15 – Jules Grévy, 4th President of France (d. 1891) August 18 – Charles Francis Adams Sr., American historical editor, politician and diplomat (d. 1886) September 2 – Fredrika Runeberg, Finnish writer (d. 1879)[14] September 7 – Henry Sewell, 1st Premier of New Zealand (d. 1879) September 16 – John Lenthall, American naval architect and shipbuilder (d. 1882) October 8 – Harriet Taylor, English philosophical writer (d. 1858)[15] October 26 – Barbu Catargiu, 1st Prime Minister of Romania (d. 1862) October 29 – Anđeo Kraljević, Herzegovinian Catholic bishop (d. 1879) October 30 – Christopher Wordsworth, Bishop of Lincoln (d. 1885) November 16 – Eduard von Fransecky, Prussian general (d. 1890) December 8 – Friedrich Traugott Kützing, German pharmacist, botanist and phycologist (d. 1893) December 17 – John Greenleaf Whittier, American Quaker poet and abolitionist (d. 1892) Pasquale Paoli February 1 – Sir Thomas Troubridge, 1st Baronet, British admiral (b. c. 1758) February 5 – Pasquale Paoli, Corsican patriot, military leader (b. 1725) February 27 – Louise du Pierry, French astronomer (b.1746) March 10 – Jean Thurel, French soldier (b. 1698) April 4 – Jérôme Lalande, French astronomer (b. 1732) April 10 – Duchess Anna Amalia of Brunswick-Wolfenbüttel, regent of Weimar and Eisenach (b. 1739) May 10 – Jean-Baptiste Donatien de Vimeur, comte de Rochambeau, French soldier (b. 1725) May 13 – Eliphalet Dyer, American statesman, judge (b. 1721) May 17 – John Gunby, Maryland soldier in the American Revolutionary War (b. 1745) May 18 – John Douglas, Scottish Anglican bishop, man of letters (b. 1721) June 9 – Andrew Sterett, American naval officer (b. 1778) Angelica Kauffman July 13 – Henry Benedict Stuart, Italian-born cardinal, Jacobite claimant to the British throne (b. 1725) July 19 – Uriah Tracy, American politician and congressman from Connecticut, 1793 until 1807 (b. 1755) September 14 – George Townshend, 1st Marquess Townshend, British field marshal (b. 1724) October 22 – Jean-François Houbigant, French perfumer (b. 1752) November 2 – Louis Auguste Le Tonnelier de Breteuil, Prime Minister of King Louis XVI of France (b. 1730) November 5 – Angelica Kauffman, Swiss painter (b. 1741) November 8 Darejan Dadiani, Georgian queen consort (b. 1738) Pierre-Alexandre-Laurent Forfait, French engineer, hydrographer, politician, and Minister of the Navy (1799–1801) (b. 1752) November 23 – Jean-François Rewbell, French politician (b. 1747) November 26 – Oliver Ellsworth, American founding father and 3rd Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court (b. 1745) December 19 – Friedrich Melchior, Baron von Grimm, German writer (b. 1723) December 21 – John Newton, English cleric, hymnist (b. 1725) December 29 – Diogo de Carvalho e Sampayo, Portuguese diplomat, scientist (b. 1750) ^ William S. Dudley, ed. The Naval War of 1812: A Documentary History (Naval Historical Center, 1985) p34 ^ Stephen Tomkins, The Clapham Sect: How Wilberforce's Circle Transformed Britain (Lion Books, 2012) p200 ^ William Hodgson, The Life of Napoleon Bonaparte, Once Emperor of the French, who Died in Exile, at St. Helena, After a Captivity of Six Years' Duration (Orlando Hodgson, 1841) p384 ^ "William Wilberforce (1759–1833)". Retrieved January 18, 2021. ^ "Abolition of the Slave Trade 1807". BBC. Archived from the original on October 11, 2007. Retrieved September 11, 2007. ^ "The Aaron Burr Treason Trial" (PDF). ^ Farndale, W. E. (1950). The Secret of Mow Cop: a new appraisal of the origins of Primitive Methodism. London: Epworth Press. ^ "Sketch of the Canton Protestant Mission", by Rev. John Chalmers, in The Chinese Recorder and Missionary Journal, Volume 7 (American Presbyterian Mission Press, 1876) p174 ^ Marston, Nicholas (2006). Beethoven: Mass in C major, Op. 86 (PDF) (CD). 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"Mill [née Hardy; other married name Taylor], Harriet". Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (online ed.). Oxford University Press. doi:10.1093/ref:odnb/38051. (Subscription or UK public library membership required.) Retrieved from " 3Second-largest asteroid of the main asteroid belt This article is about the asteroid. For the Roman goddess, see Vesta (mythology). For other uses, see Vesta (disambiguation). 4 VestaTrue color image of Vesta taken by Dawn. The massive Rheasilvia Crater dominates Vesta's south pole.DiscoveryDiscovered byHeinrich Wilhelm OlbersDiscovery date29 March 1807DesignationsMPC designation(4) VestaPronunciation/ˈvɛstə/[1]Named afterVestaMinor planet categoryMain belt (Vesta family)AdjectivesVestanVestian[a]Symbol (historically astronomical, now astrological)Orbital characteristics[6]Epoch 13 September 2023(JD 2453300.5)Aphelion2.57 AU (384 million km)Perihelion2.15 AU (322 million km)Semi-major axis2.36 AU (353 million km)Eccentricity0.0894Orbital period (sidereal)3.63 yr (1325.86 d)Average orbital speed19.34 km/sMean anomaly169.4°Inclination7.1422° to ecliptic5.58° to invariable plane[7]Longitude of ascending node103.71°Time of perihelion26 December 2021[8]Argument of perihelion151.66°SatellitesNoneEarth MOID1.14 AU (171 million km)Proper orbital elements[9]Proper semi-major axis2.36151 AUProper eccentricity0.098758Proper inclination6.39234°Proper mean motion99.1888 deg / yrProper orbital period3.62944 yr(1325.654 d)Precession of perihelion36.8729 (2343 years) arcsec / yrPrecession of the ascending node−39.5979 (2182 years) arcsec / yrPhysical characteristicsDimensions572.6 km × 557.2 km × 446.4 km[10]Mean diameter525.4±0.2 km[10]Flattening0.2204Surface area(8.66±0.2)×105 km2[b][11]Volume7.4970×107 km3[10]Mass(2.590271±0.000058)×1020 kg[12]Mean density3.456±0.035 g/cm3[10]Equatorial surface gravity0.22 m/s2 (0.022 g0)Equatorial escape velocity0.36 km/sSynodic rotation period0.2226 d (5.342 h)[6][13]Equatorial rotation velocity93.1 m/s[c]Axial tilt29°North pole right ascension20h 32m[d]North pole declination48°[d]Geometric albedo0.423[15]Temperaturemin: 75 K (−198 °C)max: 250 K (−23 °C)[16]Spectral typeV[6][17]Apparent magnitude5.1[18] to 8.48Absolute magnitude (H)3.20[6][15]Angular diameter0.70″ to 0.22″ Vesta (minor-planet designation: 4 Vesta) is one of the largest objects in the asteroid belt, with a mean diameter of 525 kilometres (326 mi).[10] It was discovered by the German astronomer Heinrich Wilhelm Matthias Olbers on 29 March 1807[6] and is named after Vesta, the virgin goddess of home and hearth from Roman mythology.[19] Vesta is thought to be the second-largest asteroid, both by mass and by volume, after the dwarf planet Ceres.[20][21][22] Measurements give it a nominal volume only slightly larger than that of Pallas (about 5% greater), but it is 25% to 30% more massive. It constitutes an estimated 9% of the mass of the asteroid belt.[23] Vesta is the only known remaining rocky protoplanet of the kind that formed the terrestrial planets.[24] Numerous fragments of Vesta were ejected by collisions one and two billion years ago that left two enormous craters occupying much of Vesta's southern hemisphere.[25][26] Debris from these events has fallen to Earth as howardite–eucrite–diogenite (HED) meteorites, which have been a rich source of information about Vesta.[27][28][29] Vesta is the brightest asteroid visible from Earth. It is regularly as bright as magnitude 5.1,[18] at which times it is faintly visible to the naked eye. Its maximum distance from the Sun is slightly greater than the minimum distance of Ceres from the Sun,[e] although its orbit lies entirely within that of Ceres.[30] NASA's Dawn spacecraft entered orbit around Vesta on 16 July 2011 for a one-year exploration and left the orbit of Vesta on 5 September 2012[31] en route to its final destination, Ceres. Researchers continue to examine data collected by Dawn for additional insights into the formation and history of Vesta.[32][33] Vesta, Ceres, and the Moon with sizes shown to scale Heinrich Olbers discovered Pallas in 1802, the year after the discovery of Ceres. He proposed that the two objects were the remnants of a destroyed planet. He sent a letter with his proposal to the British astronomer William Herschel, suggesting that a search near the locations where the orbits of Ceres and Pallas intersected might reveal more fragments. These orbital intersections were located in the constellations of Cetus and Virgo.[34] Olbers commenced his search in 1802, and on 29 March 1807 he discovered Vesta in the constellation Virgo—a coincidence, because Ceres, Pallas, and Vesta are not fragments of a larger body. Because the asteroid Juno had been discovered in 1804, this made Vesta the fourth object to be identified in the region that is now known as the asteroid belt. The discovery was announced in a letter addressed to German astronomer Johann H. Schröter dated 31 March.[35] Because Olbers already had credit for discovering a planet (Pallas; at the time, the asteroids were considered to be planets), he gave the honor of naming his new discovery to German mathematician Carl Friedrich Gauss, whose orbital calculations had enabled astronomers to confirm the existence of Ceres, the first asteroid, and who had computed the orbit of the new planet in the remarkably short time of 10 hours.[36][37] Gauss decided on the Roman virgin goddess of home and hearth, Vesta.[38] Vesta was the fourth asteroid to be discovered, hence the number 4 in its formal designation. The name Vesta, or national variants thereof, is in international use with two exceptions: Greece and China. In Greek, the name adopted was the Hellenic equivalent of Vesta, Hestia (4 Εστία); in English, that name is used for 46 Hestia (Greeks use the name "Hestia" for both, with the minor-planet numbers used for disambiguation). In Chinese, Vesta is called the 'hearth-god(dess) star', 灶神星 Zàoshénxīng, naming the asteroid for Vesta's role, similar to the Chinese names of Uranus, Neptune, and Pluto.[f] Upon its discovery, Vesta was, like Ceres, Pallas, and Juno before it, classified as a planet and given a planetary symbol. The symbol represented the altar of Vesta with its sacred fire and was designed by Gauss.[39][40] In Gauss's conception, now obsolete, this was drawn . His form is in the pipeline for Unicode 17.0 as U+1F777 .[41][42][g] The asteroid symbols were gradually retired from astronomical use after 1852, but the symbols for the first four asteroids were resurrected for astrology in the 1970s. The abbreviated modern astrological variant of the Vesta symbol is (U+26B6 ⚶).[41][h] After the discovery of Vesta, no further objects were discovered for 38 years, and during this time the Solar System was thought to have eleven planets.[47] However, in 1845, new asteroids started being discovered at a rapid pace, and by 1851 there were fifteen, each with its own symbol, in addition to the eight major planets (Neptune had been discovered in 1846). It soon became clear that it would be impractical to continue inventing new planetary symbols indefinitely, and some of the existing ones proved difficult to draw quickly. That year, the problem was addressed by Benjamin Apthorp Gould, who suggested numbering asteroids in their order of discovery, and placing this number in a disk (circle) as the generic symbol of an asteroid. Thus, the fourth asteroid, Vesta, acquired the generic symbol ④. This was soon coupled with the name into an official number–name designation, ④ Vesta, as the number of minor planets increased. By 1858, the circle had been simplified to parentheses, (4) Vesta, which were easier to typeset. Other punctuation, such as 4) Vesta and 4, Vesta, was also briefly used, but had more or less completely died out by 1949.[48] SPHERE image is shown on the left, with a synthetic view derived from Dawn images shown on the right for comparison.[49] Photometric observations of Vesta were made at the Harvard College Observatory in 1880–1882 and at the Observatoire de Toulouse in 1909. These and other observations allowed the rotation rate of Vesta to be determined by the 1950s. However, the early estimates of the rotation rate came into question because the light curve included variations in both shape and albedo.[50] Early estimates of the diameter of Vesta ranged from 383 kilometres (238 mi) in 1825, to 444 km (276 mi). E.C. Pickering produced an estimated diameter of 513 ± 17 km (319 ± 11 mi) in 1879, which is close to the modern value for the mean diameter, but the subsequent estimates ranged from a low of 390 km (242 mi) up to a high of 602 km (374 mi) during the next century. The measured estimates were based on photometry. In 1989, speckle interferometry was used to measure a dimension that varied between 498 and 548 km (309 and 341 mi) during the rotational period.[51] In 1991, an occultation of the star SAO 93228 by Vesta was observed from multiple locations in the eastern United States and Canada. Based on observations from 14 different sites, the best fit to the data was an elliptical profile with dimensions of about 550 km × 462 km (342 mi × 287 mi).[52] Dawn confirmed this measurement.[i] These measurements will help determine the thermal history, size of the core, role of water in asteroid evolution and what meteorites found on Earth come from these bodies, with the ultimate goal of understanding the conditions and processes present at the solar system's earliest epoch and the role of water content and size in planetary evolution.[53] Vesta became the first asteroid to have its mass determined. Every 18 years, the asteroid 197 Arete approaches within 0.04 AU of Vesta. In 1966, based upon observations of Vesta's gravitational perturbations of Arete, Hans G. Hertz estimated the mass of Vesta at (1.20±0.08)×10−10 M☉ (solar masses).[54] More refined estimates followed, and in 2001 the perturbations of 17 Thetis were used to calculate the mass of Vesta to be (1.31±0.02)×10−10 M☉.[55] Dawn determined it to be 1.3029×10−10 M☉. Vesta orbits the Sun between Mars and Jupiter, within the asteroid belt, with a period of 3.6 Earth years,[6] specifically in the inner asteroid belt, interior to the Kirkwood gap at 2.50 AU. Its orbit is moderately inclined (i = 7.1°, compared to 7° for Mercury and 17° for Pluto) and moderately eccentric (e = 0.09, about the same as for Mars).[6] True orbital resonances between asteroids are considered unlikely. Because of their small masses relative to their large separations, such relationships should be very rare.[56] Nevertheless, Vesta is able to capture other asteroids into temporary 1:1 resonant orbital relationships (for periods up to 2 million years or more) and about forty such objects have been identified.[57] Decameter-sized objects detected in the vicinity of Vesta by Dawn may be such quasi-satellites rather than proper satellites.[57] Olbers Regio (dark area) defines the prime meridian in the IAU coordinate system. It is shown here in a Hubble shot of Vesta, because it is not visible in the more detailed Dawn images.Claudia crater (indicated by the arrow at the bottom of the closeup image at right) defines the prime meridian in the Dawn/NASA coordinate system. Vesta's rotation is relatively fast for an asteroid (5.342 h) and prograde, with the north pole pointing in the direction of right ascension 20 h 32 min, declination +48° (in the constellation Cygnus) with an uncertainty of about 10°. This gives an axial tilt of 29°.[58] Two longitudinal coordinate systems are used for Vesta, with prime meridians separated by 150°. The IAU established a coordinate system in 1997 based on Hubble photos, with the prime meridian running through the center of Olbers Regio, a dark feature 200 km across. When Dawn arrived at Vesta, mission scientists found that the location of the pole assumed by the IAU was off by 10°, so that the IAU coordinate system drifted across the surface of Vesta at 0.06° per year, and also that Olbers Regio was not discernible from up close, and so was not adequate to define the prime meridian with the precision they needed. They corrected the pole, but also established a new prime meridian 4° from the center of Claudia, a sharply defined crater 700 metres across, which they say results in a more logical set of mapping quadrangles.[59] All NASA publications, including images and maps of Vesta, use the Claudian meridian, which is unacceptable to the IAU. The IAU Working Group on Cartographic Coordinates and Rotational Elements recommended a coordinate system, correcting the pole but rotating the Claudian longitude by 150° to coincide with Olbers Regio.[60] It was accepted by the IAU, although it disrupts the maps prepared by the Dawn team, which had been positioned so they would not bisect any major surface features.[59][61] Relative sizes of the four largest asteroids. Vesta is second from left. This graph was using the legacy Graph extension, which is no longer supported. It needs to be converted to the new Chart extension.The mass of 4 Vesta (blue) compared to other large asteroids: 1 Ceres, 2 Pallas, 10 Hygiea, 704 Interamnia, 15 Eunomia and the remainder of the Main Belt. The unit of mass is ×1018 kg. Other objects in the Solar system with well-defined masses within a factor of 2 of Vesta's mass are Varda, Gǃkúnǁʼhòmdímà, and Salacia (245, 136, and 492×1018 kg, respectively). No moons are in this range: the closest, Tethys (Saturn III) and Enceladus (Saturn II), are over twice and less than half of Vesta's mass. Vesta is the second most massive body in the asteroid belt, although it is only 28% as massive as Ceres, the most massive body.[62][23] Vesta is, however, the most massive body that formed in the asteroid belt, as Ceres is believed to have formed between Jupiter and Saturn. Vesta's density is lower than those of the four terrestrial planets but is higher than those of most asteroids, as well as all of the moons in the Solar System except Io. Vesta's surface area is about the same as the land area of Pakistan, Venezuela, Tanzania, or Nigeria; slightly under 900,000 km2 (350,000 sq mi; 90 million ha; 220 million acres). It has an only partially differentiated interior.[63] Vesta is only slightly larger (525.4±0.2 km[10]) than 2 Pallas (512±3 km) in mean diameter,[64] but is about 25% more massive. Vesta's shape is close to a gravitationally relaxed oblate spheroid,[58] but the large concavity and protrusion at the southern pole (see 'Surface features' below) combined with a mass less than 5×1020 kg precluded Vesta from automatically being considered a dwarf planet under International Astronomical Union (IAU) Resolution XXVI 5.[65] A 2012 analysis of Vesta's shape[66] and gravity field using data gathered by the Dawn spacecraft has shown that Vesta is currently not in hydrostatic equilibrium.[10][67] Temperatures on the surface have been estimated to lie between about −20 °C (253 K) with the Sun overhead, dropping to about −190 °C (83.1 K) at the winter pole. Typical daytime and nighttime temperatures are −60 °C (213 K) and −130 °C (143 K), respectively. This estimate is for 6 May 1996, very close to perihelion, although details vary somewhat with the seasons.[16] Further information: List of geological features on Vesta Before the arrival of the Dawn spacecraft, some Vestan surface features had already been resolved using the Hubble Space Telescope and ground-based telescopes (e.g., the Keck Observatory).[68] The arrival of Dawn in July 2011 revealed the complex surface of Vesta in detail.[69] Geologic map of Vesta (Mollweide projection).[70] The most ancient and heavily cratered regions are brown; areas modified by the Veneneia and Rheasilvia impacts are purple (the Saturnalia Fossae Formation, in the north)[71] and light cyan (the Divalia Fossae Formation, equatorial),[70] respectively; the Rheasilvia impact basin interior (in the south) is dark blue, and neighboring areas of Rheasilvia ejecta (including an area within Veneneia) are light purple-blue;[72][73] areas modified by more recent impacts or mass wasting are yellow/orange or green, respectively. Main articles: Rheasilvia and Veneneia Northern (left) and southern (right) hemispheres. The "Snowman" craters are at the top of the left image; Rheasilvia and Veneneia (green and blue) dominate the right. Parallel troughs are seen in both. Colors of the two hemispheres are not to scale,[j] and the equatorial region is not shown. South pole of Vesta, showing the extent of Rheasilvia crater. The most prominent of these surface features are two enormous impact basins, the 500-kilometre-wide (311 mi) Rheasilvia, centered near the south pole; and the 400-kilometre-wide (249 mi) Veneneia. The Rheasilvia impact basin is younger and overlies the Veneneia.[74] The Dawn science team named the younger, more prominent crater Rheasilvia, after the mother of Romulus and Remus and a mythical vestal virgin.[75] Its width is 95% of the mean diameter of Vesta. The crater is about 19 km (12 mi) deep. A central peak rises 23 km (14 mi) above the lowest measured part of the crater floor and the highest measured part of the crater rim is 31 km (19 mi) above the crater floor low point. It is estimated that the impact responsible excavated about 1% of the volume of Vesta, and it is likely that the Vesta family and V-type asteroids are the products of this collision. If this is the case, then the fact that 10 km (6 mi) fragments have survived bombardment until the present indicates that the crater is at most only about 1 billion years old.[76] It would also be the site of origin of the HED meteorites. All the known V-type asteroids taken together account for only about 6% of the ejected volume, with the rest presumably either in small fragments, ejected by approaching the 3:1 Kirkwood gap, or perturbed away by the Yarkovsky effect or radiation pressure. Spectroscopic analyses of the Hubble images have shown that this crater has penetrated deep through several distinct layers of the crust, and possibly into the mantle, as indicated by spectral signatures of olivine.[58] Subsequent analysis of data from the Dawn mission provided much greater detail on Rheasilvia's structure and composition, confirming it as one of the largest impact structures known relative to its parent body size.[74] The impact clearly modified the pre-existing very large, Veneneia structure, indicating Rheasilvia's younger age.[74] Rheasilvia's size makes Vesta's southern topography unique, creating a flattened southern hemisphere and contributing significantly to the asteroid's overall oblate shape.[69] Rheasilvia's ~22 km (14 mi) central peak stands as one of the tallest mountains identified in the Solar System.[74] Its base width of roughly 180 km (110 mi) and complex morphology distinguishes it from the simpler central peaks seen in smaller craters.[77] Numerical modeling indicates that such a large central structure within a ~505 km (314 mi) diameter basin requires formation on a differentiated body with significant gravity. Scaling laws for craters on smaller asteroids fail to predict such a feature; instead, impact dynamics involving transient crater collapse and rebound of the underlying material (potentially upper mantle) are needed to explain its formation.[77] Hydrocode simulations suggest the impactor responsible was likely 60–70 km (37–43 mi) across, impacting at roughly 5.4 km/s.[78] Models of impact angle (around 30-45 degrees from vertical) better match the detailed morphology of the basin and its prominent peak.[77] Crater density measurements on Rheasilvia's relatively unmodified floor materials and surrounding ejecta deposits, calibrated using standard lunar chronology functions adapted for Vesta's location, place the impact event at approximately 1 billion years ago.[79][70] This age makes Rheasilvia a relatively young feature on a protoplanetary body formed early in Solar System history. The estimated excavation of ~1% of Vesta's volume[74] provides a direct link to the Vesta family of asteroids (Vestoids) and the HED meteorites. Since Vesta's spectral signature matches that of the Vestoids and HEDs, this strongly indicates they are fragments ejected from Vesta most likely during the Rheasilvia impact.[27][79] The Dawn mission's VIR instrument helped to confirm the basin's deep excavation and compositional diversity. VIR mapping revealed spectral variations across the basin consistent with the mixing of different crustal layers expected in the HED meteorites. Signatures matching eucrites (shallow crustal basalts) and diogenites (deeper crustal orthopyroxenites) were identified, which usually correlate with specific morphological features like crater walls or slump blocks.[80][27] The confirmed signature of olivine-rich material, which were first hinted at by Hubble observations is strongest on the flanks of the central peak and in specific patches along the basin rim and walls, suggesting it is not uniformly distributed but rather exposed in distinct outcrops.[81][80] As the dominant mineral expected in Vesta's mantle beneath the HED-like crust,[10] the presence of olivine indicates the Rheasilvia impact penetrated Vesta's entire crust (~20–40 km (12–25 mi) thick in the region) and excavated material from the upper mantle.[81] Furthermore, the global stresses resulting from this massive impact are considered the likely trigger for the formation of the large trough systems, like Divalia Fossa, that encircle Vesta's equatorial regions.[82][69] The crater Aelia Feralia Planitia, an old, degraded impact basin or impact basin complex near Vesta's equator (green and blue). It is 270 km (168 mi) across and predates Rheasilvia (green at bottom) Several old, degraded craters approach Rheasilvia and Veneneia in size, although none are quite so large. They include Feralia Planitia, shown at right, which is 270 km (168 mi) across.[83] More-recent, sharper craters range up to 158 km (98 mi) Varronilla and 196 km (122 mi) Postumia.[84] Dust fills up some craters, creating so-called dust ponds. They are a phenomenon where pockets of dust are seen in celestial bodies without a significant atmosphere. These are smooth deposits of dust accumulated in depressions on the surface of the body (like craters), contrasting from the Rocky terrain around them.[85] On the surface of Vesta, we have identified both type 1 (formed from impact melt) and type 2 (electrostatically made) dust ponds within 0˚–30°N/S, that is, Equatorial region. 10 craters have been identified with such formations.[86] The "snowman craters" are a group of three adjacent craters in Vesta's northern hemisphere. Their official names, from largest to smallest (west to east), are Marcia, Calpurnia, and Minucia. Marcia is the youngest and cross-cuts Calpurnia. Minucia is the oldest.[70] "Snowman" craters by Dawn from 5,200 km (3,200 mi) in 2011Detailed image of the "Snowman" craters The majority of the equatorial region of Vesta is sculpted by a series of parallel troughs designated Divalia Fossae; its longest trough is 10–20 kilometres (6.2–12.4 mi) wide and 465 kilometres (289 mi) long. Despite the fact that Vesta is a one-seventh the size of the Moon, Divalia Fossae dwarfs the Grand Canyon. A second series, inclined to the equator, is found further north. This northern trough system is named Saturnalia Fossae, with its largest trough being roughly 40 km (25 mi) wide and over 370 km (230 mi) long. These troughs are thought to be large-scale graben resulting from the impacts that created Rheasilvia and Veneneia craters, respectively. They are some of the longest chasms in the Solar System, nearly as long as Ithaca Chasma on Tethys. The troughs may be graben that formed after another asteroid collided with Vesta, a process that can happen only in a body that is differentiated,[82] which Vesta may not fully be. Alternatively, it is proposed that the troughs may be radial sculptures created by secondary cratering from Rheasilvia.[87] A section of Divalia Fossae, with parallel troughs to the north and southA computer-generated view of a portion of Divalia Fossae Compositional information from the visible and infrared spectrometer (VIR), gamma-ray and neutron detector (GRaND), and framing camera (FC), all indicate that the majority of the surface composition of Vesta is consistent with the composition of the howardite, eucrite, and diogenite meteorites.[88][89][90] The Rheasilvia region is richest in diogenite, consistent with the Rheasilvia-forming impact excavating material from deeper within Vesta. The presence of olivine within the Rheasilvia region would also be consistent with excavation of mantle material. However, olivine has only been detected in localized regions of the northern hemisphere, not within Rheasilvia.[32] The origin of this olivine is currently unclear. Though olivine was expected by astronomers to have originated from Vesta's mantle prior to the arrival of the Dawn orbiter, the lack of olivine within the Rheasilvia and Veneneia impact basins complicates this view. Both impact basins excavated Vestian material down to 60–100 km, far deeper than the expected thickness of ~30–40 km for Vesta's crust. Vesta's crust may be far thicker than expected or the violent impact events that created Rheasilvia and Veneneia may have mixed material enough to obscure olivine from observations. Alternatively, Dawn observations of olivine could instead be due to delivery by olivine-rich impactors, unrelated to Vesta's internal structure.[91] Pitted terrain has been observed in four craters on Vesta: Marcia, Cornelia, Numisia and Licinia.[92] The formation of the pitted terrain is proposed to be degassing of impact-heated volatile-bearing material. Along with the pitted terrain, curvilinear gullies are found in Marcia and Cornelia craters. The curvilinear gullies end in lobate deposits, which are sometimes covered by pitted terrain, and are proposed to form by the transient flow of liquid water after buried deposits of ice were melted by the heat of the impacts.[71] Hydrated materials have also been detected, many of which are associated with areas of dark material.[93] Consequently, dark material is thought to be largely composed of carbonaceous chondrite, which was deposited on the surface by impacts. Carbonaceous chondrites are comparatively rich in mineralogically bound OH.[90] Cut-away schematic of Vestan core, mantle, and crust Eucrite meteorite A large collection of potential samples from Vesta is accessible to scientists, in the form of over 1200 HED meteorites (Vestan achondrites), giving insight into Vesta's geologic history and structure. NASA Infrared Telescope Facility (NASA IRTF) studies of asteroid (237442) 1999 TA10 suggest that it originated from deeper within Vesta than the HED meteorites.[94] Vesta is thought to consist of a metallic iron–nickel core, variously estimated to be 90 km (56 mi)[63] to 220 km (140 mi)[10] in diameter, an overlying rocky olivine mantle, with a surface crust of similar composition to HED meteorites. From the first appearance of calcium–aluminium-rich inclusions (the first solid matter in the Solar System, forming about 4.567 billion years ago), a likely time line is as follows:[95][96][97][98][99] Timeline of the evolution of Vesta 2–3 million years Accretion completed 4–5 million years Complete or almost complete melting due to radioactive decay of 26Al, leading to separation of the metal core 6–7 million years Progressive crystallization of a convecting molten mantle. Convection stopped when about 80% of the material had crystallized Extrusion of the remaining molten material to form the crust, either as basaltic lavas in progressive eruptions, or possibly forming a short-lived magma ocean. The deeper layers of the crust crystallize to form plutonic rocks, whereas older basalts are metamorphosed due to the pressure of newer surface layers. Slow cooling of the interior Vesta is the only known intact asteroid that has been resurfaced in this manner. Because of this, some scientists refer to Vesta as a protoplanet.[100] Composition of the Vestan crust (by depth)[101] A lithified regolith, the source of howardites and brecciated eucrites. Basaltic lava flows, a source of non-cumulate eucrites. Plutonic rocks consisting of pyroxene, pigeonite and plagioclase, the source of cumulate eucrites. Plutonic rocks rich in orthopyroxene with large grain sizes, the source of diogenites. On the basis of the sizes of V-type asteroids (thought to be pieces of Vesta's crust ejected during large impacts), and the depth of Rheasilvia crater (see below), the crust is thought to be roughly 10 kilometres (6 mi) thick.[102] Findings from the Dawn spacecraft have found evidence that the troughs that wrap around Vesta could be graben formed by impact-induced faulting (see Troughs section above), meaning that Vesta has more complex geology than other asteroids. The impacts that created the Rheasilvia and Veneneia craters occurred when Vesta was no longer warm and plastic enough to return to an equilibrium shape, distorting its once rounded shape and prohibiting it from being classified as a dwarf planet today.[citation needed] Vesta's surface is covered by regolith distinct from that found on the Moon or asteroids such as Itokawa. This is because space weathering acts differently. Vesta's surface shows no significant trace of nanophase iron because the impact speeds on Vesta are too low to make rock melting and vaporization an appreciable process. Instead, regolith evolution is dominated by brecciation and subsequent mixing of bright and dark components.[103] The dark component is probably due to the infall of carbonaceous material, whereas the bright component is the original Vesta basaltic soil.[104] Some small Solar System bodies are suspected to be fragments of Vesta caused by impacts. The Vestian asteroids and HED meteorites are examples. The V-type asteroid 1929 Kollaa has been determined to have a composition akin to cumulate eucrite meteorites, indicating its origin deep within Vesta's crust.[28] Vesta is currently one of only eight identified Solar System bodies of which we have physical samples, coming from a number of meteorites suspected to be Vestan fragments. It is estimated that 1 out of 16 meteorites originated from Vesta.[105] The other identified Solar System samples are from Earth itself, meteorites from Mars, meteorites from the Moon, and samples returned from the Moon, the comet Wild 2, and the asteroids 25143 Itokawa, 162173 Ryugu, and 101955 Bennu.[29][k] Animation of Dawn's trajectory from 27 September 2007 to 5 October 2018 Dawn · Earth · Mars · 4 Vesta · 1 Ceres First image of asteroids (Ceres and Vesta) taken from Mars. The image was made by the Curiosity rover on 20 April 2014. Animation of Dawn's trajectory around 4 Vesta from 15 July 2011 to 10 September 2012 Dawn · 4 Vesta In 1981, a proposal for an asteroid mission was submitted to the European Space Agency (ESA). Named the Asteroidal Gravity Optical and Radar Analysis (AGORA), this spacecraft was to launch some time in 1990–1994 and perform two flybys of large asteroids. The preferred target for this mission was Vesta. AGORA would reach the asteroid belt either by a gravitational slingshot trajectory past Mars or by means of a small ion engine. However, the proposal was refused by the ESA. A joint NASA–ESA asteroid mission was then drawn up for a Multiple Asteroid Orbiter with Solar Electric Propulsion (MAOSEP), with one of the mission profiles including an orbit of Vesta. NASA indicated they were not interested in an asteroid mission. Instead, the ESA set up a technological study of a spacecraft with an ion drive. Other missions to the asteroid belt were proposed in the 1980s by France, Germany, Italy and the United States, but none were approved.[106] Exploration of Vesta by fly-by and impacting penetrator was the second main target of the first plan of the multi-aimed Soviet Vesta mission, developed in cooperation with European countries for realisation in 1991–1994 but canceled due to the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Artist's conception of Dawn orbiting Vesta In the early 1990s, NASA initiated the Discovery Program, which was intended to be a series of low-cost scientific missions. In 1996, the program's study team recommended a mission to explore the asteroid belt using a spacecraft with an ion engine as a high priority. Funding for this program remained problematic for several years, but by 2004 the Dawn vehicle had passed its critical design review[107] and construction proceeded.[citation needed] It launched on 27 September 2007 as the first space mission to Vesta. On 3 May 2011, Dawn acquired its first targeting image 1.2 million kilometres (0.75×10^6 mi) from Vesta.[108] On 16 July 2011, NASA confirmed that it received telemetry from Dawn indicating that the spacecraft successfully entered Vesta's orbit.[109] It was scheduled to orbit Vesta for one year, until July 2012.[110] Dawn's arrival coincided with late summer in the southern hemisphere of Vesta, with the large crater at Vesta's south pole (Rheasilvia) in sunlight. Because a season on Vesta lasts eleven months, the northern hemisphere, including anticipated compression fractures opposite the crater, would become visible to Dawn's cameras before it left orbit.[111] Dawn left orbit around Vesta on 4 September 2012 11:26 p.m. PDT to travel to Ceres.[112] NASA/DLR released imagery and summary information from a survey orbit, two high-altitude orbits (60–70 m/pixel) and a low-altitude mapping orbit (20 m/pixel), including digital terrain models, videos and atlases.[113][114][115][116][117][118] Scientists also used Dawn to calculate Vesta's precise mass and gravity field. The subsequent determination of the J2 component yielded a core diameter estimate of about 220 km (140 mi) assuming a crustal density similar to that of the HED.[113] Dawn data can be accessed by the public at the UCLA website.[119] Albedo and spectral maps of 4 Vesta, as determined from Hubble Space Telescope images from November 1994 Elevation map of 4 Vesta, as determined from Hubble Space Telescope images of May 1996 Elevation diagram of 4 Vesta (as determined from Hubble Space Telescope images of May 1996) viewed from the south-east, showing Rheasilvia crater at the south pole and Feralia Planitia near the equator Vesta seen by the Hubble Space Telescope in May 2007 The 2006 IAU draft proposal on the definition of a planet listed Vesta as a candidate.[120] Vesta is shown fourth from the left along the bottom row. Vesta comes into view as the Dawn spacecraft approaches and enters orbit: Vesta from 100,000 km(1 July 2011) Vesta from 41,000 km(9 July 2011) In orbit at 16,000 km(17 July 2011) In orbit from 10,500 km(18 July 2011) The northern hemisphere from 5,200 km(23 July 2011) In orbit from 5,200 km(24 July 2011) In orbit from 3,700 km(31 July 2011) Full rotation(1 August 2011) Composite greyscale image Cratered terrain with hills and ridges(6 August 2011) Densely cratered terrain near terminator(6 August 2011) Vestan craters in various states of degradation, with troughs at bottom(6 August 2011) Hill shaded central mound at the south pole of Vesta(2 February 2015) Detailed images retrieved during the high-altitude (60–70 m/pixel) and low-altitude (~20 m/pixel) mapping orbits are available on the Dawn Mission website of JPL/NASA.[121] Annotated image from Earth's surface in June 2007 with (4) Vesta Its size and unusually bright surface make Vesta the brightest asteroid, and it is occasionally visible to the naked eye from dark skies (without light pollution). In May and June 2007, Vesta reached a peak magnitude of +5.4, the brightest since 1989.[122] At that time, opposition and perihelion were only a few weeks apart.[123] It was brighter still at its 22 June 2018 opposition, reaching a magnitude of +5.3.[124] Less favorable oppositions during late autumn 2008 in the Northern Hemisphere still had Vesta at a magnitude of from +6.5 to +7.3.[125] Even when in conjunction with the Sun, Vesta will have a magnitude around +8.5; thus from a pollution-free sky it can be observed with binoculars even at elongations much smaller than near opposition.[125] In 2010, Vesta reached opposition in the constellation of Leo on the night of 17–18 February, at about magnitude 6.1,[126] a brightness that makes it visible in binocular range but generally not for the naked eye. Under perfect dark sky conditions where all light pollution is absent it might be visible to an experienced observer without the use of a telescope or binoculars. Vesta came to opposition again on 5 August 2011, in the constellation of Capricornus at about magnitude 5.6.[126][127] Vesta was at opposition again on 9 December 2012.[128] According to Sky and Telescope magazine, this year Vesta came within about 6 degrees of 1 Ceres during the winter of 2012 and spring 2013.[129] Vesta orbits the Sun in 3.63 years and Ceres in 4.6 years, so every 17.4 years Vesta overtakes Ceres (the previous overtaking was in April 1996).[129] On 1 December 2012, Vesta had a magnitude of 6.6, but it had decreased to 8.4 by 1 May 2013.[129] Conjunction of Ceres and Vesta near the star Gamma Virginis on 5 July 2014 in the Constellation of Virgo. Ceres and Vesta came within one degree of each other in the night sky in July 2014.[129] 3103 Eger 3551 Verenia 3908 Nyx 4055 Magellan Asteroids in fiction Diogenite Eucrite List of former planets Howardite Vesta family (vestoids) List of tallest mountains in the Solar System ^ Marc Rayman of the JPL Dawn team used "Vestian" (analogous to the Greek cognate Hestian) a few times in 2010 and early 2011 in his Dawn Journal, and the Planetary Society continued to use that form for a few more years.[2] The word had been used elsewhere, e.g. in Tsiolkovsky (1960) The call of the cosmos. However, otherwise the shorter form "Vestan" has been used by JPL.[3] Most modern print sources also use "Vestan".[4][5]Note that the related word "Vestalian" refers to people or things associated with Vesta, such as the vestal virgins, not to Vesta herself. ^ Calculated using the known dimensions assuming an ellipsoid. ^ Calculated using (1) the known rotation period (5.342 h)[6] and (2) the equatorial radius Req (285 km)[10] of the best-fit biaxial ellipsoid to Asteroid 4 Vesta. ^ a b topocentric coordinates computed for the selected location: Greenwich, United Kingdom[14] ^ On 10 February 2009, during Ceres perihelion, Ceres was closer to the Sun than Vesta, because Vesta has an aphelion distance greater than Ceres's perihelion distance. (10 February 2009: Vesta 2.56 AU; Ceres 2.54 AU) ^ 維斯塔 wéisītǎ is the closest Chinese approximation of the Latin pronunciation westa. ^ Some sources contemporaneous to Gauss invented more elaborate forms, such as and .[43][44] A simplification of the latter from c. 1930, ,[45] never caught on. ^ This symbol can be seen in the top of the most elaborate of the earlier forms, . It dates from 1973, at the beginning of astrological interest in asteroids.[46] ^ The data returned will include, for both asteroids, full surface imagery, full surface spectrometric mapping, elemental abundances, topographic profiles, gravity fields, and mapping of remnant magnetism, if any.[53] ^ that is, blue in the north does not mean the same thing as blue in the south. ^ Note that 6 Hebe may be the parent body for H chondrites, one of the most common meteorite types.

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For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. The main character, King Oedipus, ruler of Thebes, opens the play with a soliloquy, a speech in which an actor appears to speak aloud to the audience while alone. Oedipus is worrying about Thebes, which is being ravaged by a deadly plague. Oedipus mentions a prophecy that also worries him. This prophecy—which he received before he came to Thebes—states that he will kill his father and marry his mother. As a result, Oedipus fled his homeland, Corinth, ruled by his father Polybus. At first, Oedipus was relieved, optimistic that he had avoided his predicted fate. However, Oedipus now wonders if his avoidance of the prophecy has caused the plague in Thebes.After describing the gruesome effects of the plague, Oedipus expresses his extreme guilt about being spared from the effects of the plague. As he expresses his wish that the plague leave even if it means that it infects his parents and their kingdom, Oedipus's wife, Jocasta, enters. Only hearing the end of his soliloquy, she chastises him for his laments and for not acting as a king should. She argues that a king should be confident and bold, especially if his 0 ratings0% found this document useful (0 votes)244 views6 pagesThis document provides a summary of the plot of Oedipus the King by Sophocles in three parts. It describes how Oedipus discovers through a series of revelations that he has unknowingly fulfi…AI-enhanced title and descriptionSaveSave Oedipus the King. Summary For Later0%0% found this document useful, undefined0 ratings0% found this document useful (0 votes)244 views6 pagesThis document provides a summary of the plot of Oedipus the King by Sophocles in three parts. It describes how Oedipus discovers through a series of revelations that he has unknowingly fulfilled the prophecy that he would kill his father and marry his mother, having murdered King Laius and married the widowed queen Jocasta without realizing they were his parents. When the truth is revealed, Jocasta commits suicide and the blinded Oedipus curses himself for his unwitting actions.0 ratings0% found this document useful (0 votes)244 views6 pagesThis document provides a summary of the plot of Oedipus the King by Sophocles in three parts. It describes how Oedipus discovers through a series of revelations that he has unknowingly fulfi…AI-enhanced title and description Introduction | Synopsis | Analysis | Resources"Oedipus the King" (Gr: "Oidipous Tyrannos"; Lat: "Oedipus Rex") is a tragedy by the ancient Greek playwright Sophocles, first performed in about 429 BCE. It was the second of Sophocles' three Theban plays to be produced, but it comes first in the internal chronology (followed by "Oedipus at Colonus" and then "Antigone").It follows the story of King Oedipus of Thebes as he discovers that he has unwittingly killed his own father, Laius, and married his own mother, Jocasta. Over the centuries, it has come to be regarded by many as the Greek tragedy par excellence and certainly as the summit of Sophocles' achievements.To briefly recap on the background to the play:Shortly after Oedipus' birth, his father, King Laius of Thebes, learned from an oracle that he, Laius, was doomed to perish by the hand of his own son, and so ordered his wife Jocasta to kill the infant.However, neither she nor her servant could bring themselves to kill him and he was abandoned to elements. There he was found and brought up by a shepherd, before being taken in and raised in the court of the childless King Polybus of Corinth as if he were his own son.Stung by rumours that he was not the biological son of the king, Oedipus consulted an oracle which foretold that he would marry his own mother and kill his own father. Desperate to avoid this foretold fate, and believing Polybus and Merope to be his true parents, Oedipus left Corinth. On the road to Thebes, he met Laius, his real father, and, unaware of each other's true identities, they quarrelled and Oedipus' pride led him to murder Laius, fulfilling part of the oracle's prophecy. Later, he solved the riddle of the Sphinx and his reward for freeing the kingdom of Thebes from the Sphinx's curse was the hand of Queen Jocasta (actually his biological mother) and the crown of the city of Thebes. The prophecy was thus fulfilled, although none of the main characters were aware of it at this point.As the play opens, a priest and the Chorus of Theban elders are calling on King Oedipus to aid them with the plague which has been sent by Apollo to ravage the city. Oedipus has already sent Creon, his brother-in-law, to consult the oracle at Delphi on the matter, and when Creon returns at that very moment, he reports that the plague will only end when the murderer of their former king, Laius, is caught and brought to justice. Oedipus vows to find the murderer and curses him for the plague that he has caused.Oedipus also summons the blind prophet Tiresias, who claims to know the answers to Oedipus' questions, but refuses to speak, lamenting his ability to see the truth when the truth brings nothing but pain. He advises Oedipus to abandon his search but, when the enraged Oedipus accuses Tiresias of complicity in the murder, Tiresias is provoked into telling the king the truth, that he himself is the murderer. Oedipus dismisses this as nonsense, accusing the prophet of being corrupted by the ambitious Creon in an attempt to undermine him, and Tiresias leaves, putting forth one last riddle: that the murderer of Laius will turn out to be both father and brother to his own children, and the son of his own wife.Oedipus demands that Creon be executed, convinced that he is conspiring against him, and only the intervention of the Chorus persuades him to let Creon live. Oedipus' wife Jocasta tells him he should take no notice of prophets and oracles anyway because, many years ago, she and Laius received an oracle which never came true. This prophecy said that Laius would be killed by his own son but, as everyone knows, Laius was actually killed by bandits at a crossroads on the way to Delphi. The mention of crossroads causes Oedipus to give pause and he suddenly becomes worried that Tiresias' accusations may actually have been true.When a messenger from Corinth arrives with news of the death of King Polybus, Oedipus shocks everyone with his apparent happiness at the news, as he sees this as proof that he can never kill his father, although he still fears that he may somehow commit incest with his mother. The messenger, eager to ease Oedipus' mind, tells him not to worry because Queen Merope of Corinth was not in fact his real mother anyway.The messenger turns out to be the very shepherd who had looked after an abandoned child, which he later took to Corinth and gave up to King Polybus for adoption. He is also the very same shepherd who witnessed the murder of Laius. By now, Jocasta is beginning to realize the truth, and desperately begs Oedipus to stop asking questions. But Oedipus presses the shepherd, threatening him with torture or execution, until it finally emerges that the child he gave away was Laius' own son, and that Jocasta had given the baby to the shepherd to secretly be exposed upon the mountainside, in fear of the prophecy that Jocasta said had never come true: that the child would kill its father.With all now finally revealed, Oedipus curses himself and his tragic destiny and stumbles off, as the Chorus laments how even a great man can be felled by fate. A servant enters and explains that Jocasta, when she had begun to suspect the truth, had ran to the palace bedroom and hanged herself there. Oedipus enters, deliriously calling for a sword so that he might kill himself and raging through the house until he comes upon Jocasta's body. In final despair, Oedipus takes two long gold pins from her dress, and plunges them into his own eyes.Now blind, Oedipus begs to be exiled as soon as possible, and asks Creon to look after his two daughters, Antigone and Ismene, lamenting that they should have been born into such a cursed family. Creon counsels that Oedipus should be kept in the palace until oracles can be consulted regarding what is best to be done, and the play ends as the Chorus wails: 'Count no man happy till he dies, free of pain at last'.The play follows one chapter (the most dramatic one) in the life of Oedipus, King of Thebes, who lived about a generation before the events of the Trojan War, namely his gradual realization that he has killed his own father, Laius, and committed incest with his own mother, Jocasta. It assumes a certain amount of background knowledge of his story, which Greek audiences would have known well, although much of the background is also explained as the action unfolds.The basis of the myth is recounted to some extent in Homer's "The Odyssey", and more detailed accounts would have appeared in the chronicles of Thebes known as the Theban Cycle, although these have since been lost to us."Oedipus the King" is structured as a prologue and five episodes, each introduced by a choral ode. Each of the incidents in the play is part of a tightly constructed cause-and-effect chain, assembled together as an investigation of the past, and the play is considered a marvel of plot structure. Part of the tremendous sense of inevitability and fate in the play stems from the fact that all the irrational things have already occurred and are therefore unalterable.The main themes of the play are: fate and free will (the inevitability of oracular predictions is a theme that often occurs in Greek tragedies); the conflict between the individual and the state (similar to that in Sophocles' "Antigone"); people's willingness to ignore painful truths (both Oedipus and Jocasta clutch at unlikely details in order to avoiding facing up to the inceasingly apparent truth); and sight and blindness (the irony that the blind seer Tiresius can actually "see" more clearly than the supposedly clear-eyed Oedipus, who is in reality blind to the truth about his origins and his inadvertent crimes).Sophocles makes good use of dramatic irony in "Oedipus the King". For example: the people of Thebes come to Oedipus at the start of the play, asking him to rid the city of the plague, when in reality, it is he who is the cause; Oedipus curses the murderer of Laius out of a deep anger at not being able to find him, actually cursing himself in he process; he insults Tiresius' blindness when he is the one who actually lacks vision, and will soon himself be blind; and he rejoices in the news of the death of King Polybus of Corinth, when this new information is what actually brings the tragic prophecy to light.[rating_form id="1″] By Dr Oliver Tearle (Loughborough University) The plot of Sophocles' great tragedy Oedipus the King (sometimes known as Oedipus Rex or Oedipus Tyrannos) has long been admired. In his Poetics, Aristotle held it up as the exemplary Greek tragedy. Samuel Taylor Coleridge called it one of the three perfect plots in all of literature (the other two being Ben Jonson's The Alchemist and Henry Fielding's Tom Jones). Oedipus the King might also be called the first detective story in Western literature. Yet how well do we know Sophocles' play? And what does a closer analysis of its plot features and themes reveal? Michael Patterson, in The Oxford Guide to Plays (Oxford Quick Reference), calls Oedipus the King 'a model of analytic plot structure'. So it's worth briefly recounting the plot of Sophocles' play in a short summary. Summary The city of Thebes is in the grip of a terrible plague. The city's king, Oedipus, sends Creon to consult the Delphic oracle, who announces that if the city rids itself of a murderer, the plague will disappear. The murderer in question is the unknown killer of the city's previous king, Laius. Oedipus adopts a sort of detective role, and endeavours to sniff out the murderer. He himself is plagued by another prophecy: that he would one day kill his father and marry his mother. He thinks he's managed to thwart the prophecy by leaving home – and his parents – back in Corinth. On his way from Corinth to Thebes, he had an altercation with a man on the road: neither party would back down to let the other past, and Oedipus ended up killing the man in perhaps Western literature's first instance of road rage. Then Oedipus learns that his 'father' back in Corinth was not his biological parent: he was adopted after his 'real' parents left him for dead on a hillside, and he was rescued by a kindly shepherd who rescued him, took the child in, and raised him as his own. (The name Oedipus is Greek for 'swollen foot', from the chains put through the infant's feet when it was left on the mountain.) Tiresias the seer then reveals that the man Oedipus killed on the road was Laius – the former king of Thebes and (shock horror! Twist!) Oedipus' biological father. Laius' widow, Jocasta, is Oedipus' own mother – and the woman Oedipus had married upon his arrival in Thebes. When this terrible truth is revealed, Jocasta hangs herself, and Oedipus puts out his own eyes and leaves Thebes, going into self-imposed exile so he can free the Thebans from the plague. Analysis This much constitutes a brief recap or summary of the plot of Oedipus the King. How we should interpret and analyse its use of prophecy and Oedipus' own culpability, however, remains a less clear-cut matter. Is Oedipus to blame for what happens to him? Or is he simply a pawn of the gods and fates, to be used according to their whim? The answer should probably be 'a bit of both'. Prophecies are bound up with fate, with things being predetermined. But there are obviously different ways of making them come true. In the David Gemmell novel, Stormrider: (The Rigante Book 4), the villain Winter Kay is told that he will be killed by 'the one with the golden eye'. Thinking this refers to a particular man (who has one green and one golden eye), Winter Kay sets about trying to assassinate this imagined nemesis, and fails at every turn. Eventually, the nemesis can take no more and raises an army against Winter Kay. One of his soldiers, bearing a golden badge that resembles an eye in shape, is the one who kills Winter Kay in battle. In his dying moments, the hapless villain realises that, in seeking to avert the prophecy, he had, in fact, helped it to come true. This is similar to the story of Oedipus the King. Oedipus heard the prophecy that he would one day murder his father and marry his mother, and so fled from his presumed parents so as to avoid fulfilling the prophecy. Such an act seems noble and it was jolly bad luck that fate had decreed that Oedipus would turn out to be a foundling and his real parents were still out there for him to bump into. But what is clever about Sophocles' dramatising of the myth is the way he introduces little details which reveal Oedipus' character. The clues were already there that Oedipus was actually adopted: when he received the prophecy from the oracle, a drunk told him as much. But because the man was drunk, Oedipus didn't believe him. But, as the Latin phrase has it, in vino veritas. Then, it is Oedipus' hubris, his pride, that contributes to the altercation on the road between him and Laius, the man who turns out to be his real father: if Oedipus was less stubborn, he would have played the bigger man and stepped aside to let Laius pass. What does all this mean, when we stop and analyse it in terms of the interplay between fate and personal actions in Oedipus the King? It means that Sophocles was aware of something which governs all our lives. Call it 'karma' if you will, or fate, but it works even if we remove the supernatural framework into which the action of Oedipus the King is placed. Our actions have consequences, but that doesn't mean that a particular action will lead to a particular consequence: it means that one action might cause something quite different to happen, which will nevertheless be linked in some way to our lives. A thief steals your wallet and you never see him, or your wallet, again. Did the criminal get away with it? Maybe. Or maybe his habit of taking an intrusive interest in other people's wallets will lead him, somewhere down the line, to getting what the ancient Greeks didn't call 'his comeuppance'. He wasn't punished for pilfering your possessions, but he will nevertheless receive his just deserts. Oedipus kills Laius because he is a stubborn and angry man; in his anger and pride, he allows himself to forget the prophecy (or to believe himself safe if he kills this man who definitely isn't his father, no way), and to kill another man. That one event will set in motion a chain of events that will see him married to his mother, the city over which he rules in the grip of plague, and – ultimately – Oedipus blinded and his wife/mother hanged. Or perhaps that's to impose a modern reading onto a classical text which Sophocles himself would not recognise. Yet works of art are always opening themselves up to new readings which see them reflecting our changing and evolving moral beliefs, and that is perhaps why Oedipus the King remains a great play to read, watch, analyse, and discuss. There remains something unsettling about its plot structure and its ambiguous meaning, and that is what lends it its power. The author of this article, Dr Oliver Tearle, is a literary critic and lecturer in English at Loughborough University. He is the author of, among others, The Secret Library: A Book-Lovers' Journey Through Curiosities of History and The Great War, The Waste Land and the Modernist Long Poem. Subscribe to get the latest posts sent to your email. This Study Guide consists of approximately 61 pages of chapter summaries, quotes, character analysis, themes, and more - everything you need to sharpen your knowledge of Oedipus the King. This Study Guide consists of approximately 61 pages of chapter summaries, quotes, character analysis, themes, and more - everything you need to sharpen your knowledge of Oedipus the King. This section contains 1,092 words (approx. 3 pages at 400 words per page) Oedipus Rex begins outside King Oedipus's palace, where despondent beggars and a priest have gathered and brought branches and wreaths of olive leaves. Oedipus enters and asks the people ofThebes why they pray and lament, since apparently they have come together to petition him with an unknown request. The Priest speaks on their behalf, and Oedipus assures them that he will help them. The Priest reports that Thebes has been beset with horrible calamities famine, fires, and plague have all caused widespread suffering and death among their families and animals, and their crops have all been destroyed. He beseeches Oedipus, whom he praises for having solved the riddle of the Sphinx (an action which justified his succession to King Laws, as Jocasta's husband and as king) to cure the city of its woes. Oedipus expresses his profound sympathy and announces that he sent Creon, the Queen's brother... (read more) This section contains 1,092 words (approx. 3 pages at 400 words per page) Copyrights Oedipus the King from Gale. ©2005-2006 Thomson Gale, a part of the Thomson Corporation. All rights reserved.

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