The Student/Teacher Motif in Sophocles’ *Oedipus at Colonus*

1. | διδάσκω | ἐκδιδάσκω | Combined |
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2. | παιδέω | μανθάνω | πυθόμασι |
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3. O: στέργειν γὰρ αἱ πάθη μεῖναι λείψω πάνω οὔτε ἡμᾶς ἐκδιδάσκει καὶ τὸ γενναῖον τρίτον. *(OC 7-8)*

4. O: ἡχεῖς διδάξατι δὴ μ’ ὑποὶ καθέσταμεν; *(OC 23)*

5. Ch: θεὸι νῦν καθαροῖς τὸνδέ δαιμόνιον, ἑρ’ ἄς τὸ πρῶτον ἱκου καὶ κατέστησας πέδον. Ὡ: τρόποις ποιός; ὡ κένοι, διδάσκετε. *(OC 466-68)*


7. O: . . . ἐστὶ μοι τὸ λουτᾶμον ὁδέν ἄλλο πλῆν εἰπεῖν α’ χρῆζο, χω λόγος διοίκηται. Θε: τοῦτ’ αὐτὸ νῦν δίδασκε’, ὅπως ἐν ἐκμάθω. *(OC 573-75)*

8. Θε: δίδασκε’. ᾗνεν γνώμης γὰρ ὤμοι με χρῆ ψέγειν. *(OC 594-95)*


3. *Oedipus:* My sufferings, and the time that has long been my companion, and thirdly my nobility teach me to be content.*

4. *Oedipus:* Can you teach me where it is we are?

5. *Chorus:* Perform now a purification for these deities, to whom you first came and whose ground you have trodden. *Oedipus:* In what fashion, strangers? Teach me.

6. *Theseus:* I wish to ask you, ill-fated Oedipus, what request of the city and of me you have come to make, you and your unfortunate companion. Teach me.

7. *Oedipus:* There is nothing left for me but to say what I desire, and the words are at an end. *Theseus:* Teach me that very thing, so that I can learn it all.

8. *Oedipus:* When I have told you all, reprove me, but now refrain. *Theseus:* Teach me, for I ought not to rebuke you without having judged the matter.

9. *Theseus:* What are you most afraid of? *Oedipus:* Men will come . . . *Theseus:* But these men [the Chorus] will attend to them. *Oedipus:* Take care that when you leave me . . . *Theseus:* Do not teach me what I ought to do.

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*All translations of the *OC* are taken from Lloyd-Jones 1998 with minor modifications.*
10. O.: ἐπεὶ διδάσκον, Εἰ τι θέσατον πατρὶ χρησμοὶ οὐκέτι ὀστε παῖδον θανεῖν, πᾶς ἐν δικαίως τοῦ ὀνειδίζοις ἐμοί, ὡς οὔτε βλάστα τω γενελίδιοι πατρός, οὐ μητρὸς εἶχον, ἄλλ’ ἀγέννητος τότ’ ἦ; (OC 969-73)

10. Oedipus: Teach me: if a prophecy came to my father from an oracle that he should die at his children’s hands, how could you justly make that reproach to me, whom no father had begotten, no mother conceived, but who was still unborn?

11. Τι: λόγος δ’ ὡς ἐμπέπτωκεν ἀρτίως ἐμοὶ στείχοντο δεύρο, συμβαλούν γνώμην, ἐπεὶ σμικρός μὲν εἰπέν, δέξος δὲ θαυμάσαι. πράγματ’ ἀτίξειν οὐδὲν ἄνθρωπον χρείων. Ο: τι δ’ ἔστι, τέκνον Αἰγέως, διδάσκε με, ὡς μη εἰδότ’ αὐτῶν μηδὲν ὕπ’ αὐτῷ πυνθάνην. (OC 1150-54)

11. Theseus: But contribute your opinion regarding a request that has lately come to my ears on my way here, a thing one can relate briefly, but one that occasions surprise; a human being should take no matter lightly.

Oedipus: What is it, son of Aegeus? Teach it to me, since I know nothing of what you ask about.

12. Τι: χῦ τι χρὴ ποιὲν λέγε. Ο: ἐγὼ διδάξω, τέκνον Αἰγέως ἃ σοι γῆρος ἄλυσα τῆς κείστει πόλει. (OC 1517-19)

12. Theseus: Tell me what I must do.

Oedipus: I will teach you, son of Aegeus, what things are laid up for your city, invulnerable to passing time.

13. O: τά μὲν τουαῦτ’ οὖν εἰδότ’ ἐκδιδάσκομεν. (OC 1539)

13. Oedipus: These things that I am thoroughly teaching you, you know already.

14. λέγω τήν τε πάσαν πόλιν τῆς Ἑλλάδος παίδευσιν εἶναι (Thuc. 2.41.1)

14. I say that the whole city is an education for Greece.

Select Bibliography

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