

could tell for certain but one thing of all that he saw.

OE. And what was that? One thing might show the clue to many, could we get but a small beginning for hope.

CR. He said that robbers met and fell on them, not in one man's might, but with full many hands.

OE. How, then, unless there was some trafficking in bribes from here, should the robber have dared thus far?

CR. Such things were surmised; but, Laius once slain, amid our troubles no avenger arose.

OE. But, when royalty had fallen thus, what trouble in your path can have hindered a full search?

CR. The riddling Sphinx had made us let dark things go, and was inviting us to think of what lay at our doors.

ἦν expresses the vivid presence of the δόξα more strongly than ταῦτα ἐδόκει would have done: (cp. 274 τὰ δ' ἔστ' ἀρέσκονθ'): Her. 1. 146 ταῦτα δὲ ἦν γινόμενα ἐν Μιλήτῳ. 128 ἐμποδῶν sc. ὄν, with κακόν, not with εἶργε, 'what trouble (being) in your path.' Cp. 445 παρῶν...ἐμποδῶν | ὄχλεις. τυραννίδος. Soph. conceives the Theban throne as having been vacant from the death of Laius—who left no heir—till the election of Oed. The abstract τυραννίδος suits the train of thought on which Oed. has already entered,—viz. that the crime was the work of a Theban faction (124) who wished to destroy, not the king merely, but the kingship. Cp. Aesch. Cho. 973 ἴδεσθε χώρας τὴν διπλὴν τυραννίδα (Clytaemnestra and Aegisthus). 130 ποικιλῶδός, singing ποικίλα, *subtleties*, αἰνίγματα: cp. Plat. Symf. 182 A ὁ περὶ τὸν ἔρωτα νόμος ἐν μὲν ταῖς ἄλλαις πόλεσι νοῆσαι ῥάδιος· ἀπλῶς γὰρ ὄρισται· ὁ δ' ἐνθάδε καὶ ἐν Λακεδαίμονι ποικίλος. Her. 7. 1111 πρόμαντις δὲ ἡ χρέουσα, κατάπερ ἐν Δελφοῖσι, καὶ οὐδὲν ποικιλώτερον, 'the chief prophetess is she who gives the oracles, as at Delphi, and in no wise of darker speech.' 131 The constr. is προσήγετο ἡμᾶς, μεθέντας τὰ ἀφανῆ, σκοπεῖν τὸ πρὸς ποσί. προσήγετο, was drawing us (by her dread song), said with a certain irony, since προσάγεσθαι with infin. usually implies a *gentle* constraint (though, as a milit. term, ἀνάγκη προσηγάγοντο, *reduced* by force, Her. 6. 25): cp. Eur. Ion 659 χρόνῳ δὲ καιρὸν λαμβάνων προσάξομαι | δάμαρτ' εἰάν σε σκῆπτρα τᾶμ' ἔχειν χθονός. τὸ πρὸς ποσί (cp. ἐμποδῶν 128), the *instant*, *pressing* trouble, opp. to τὰ ἀφανῆ, obscure questions (as to the death of Laius) of no present or practical interest. Pind. Isthm. 7. 12 δεῖμα μὲν παροιχόμενον | καρτερὰν ἔπαυσε μέριμναν· τὸ δὲ πρὸς ποδὸς ἄρειον αἰεὶ σκοπεῖν | χρῆμα