

VOICES

He is coming

He is approaching

He is near

He is arrived

He is here

*Enter Tiresias.*

TIRESIAS

Ruler

Forgive my sudden appearance

I have disturbed you?

CREON

Tiresias

(Look over here)

(This way)

What brings you here?

TIRESIAS

Ruler

I have watched

(I use the term watched loosely)

(My watching is not like your watching)

Events unfold

And begin to fall apart

This morning

I observed the flight of a bird

Normally docile

Now possessed

Its programme corrupted

I had no choice but to sacrifice it

You can see the result

*He holds out a drone with wires pouring out of it—as if it had been disemboweled.*

(I use the term see loosely)

(Your seeing is not like my seeing)

I read its entrails

And discovered at its heart

An infection

Deep

A deep level  
Infection a symptom  
Virus  
A plague  
Deep in the heart  
Spread across all programmes  
All hearts  
And the origin  
I sought out the origin  
Ruler  
A command  
A command  
The origin  
A command  
Entered  
By you  
Do you see?  
You have eyes  
But do you see?

CREON  
Friend  
Slow down  
Your sudden presence  
(Do not think I am wary of your presence)  
(I appreciate your presence)  
(Even if your presence often brings bad news)  
Startles me  
You speak of sacrifices  
A virus  
Corruption  
But there is no corruption here  
All is well  
Return to your home  
(If the shack you live in can be called a home)  
Breathe  
Take the air  
And do not concern yourself with the city's business  
Whatever command I have entered  
I have entered  
My intentions are good  
And my reasoning correct

TIRESIAS

Nevertheless

A virus infects us

A patch must be found

And quickly

CREON

What patch do you propose?

TIRESIAS

You must reverse the command

CREON

Which one?

I have issued many commands

TIRESIAS

There is a sound

Connected to it

Shall I play it for you?

*Tiresias raises his hands.*

TIRESIAS

Shall I play it for you?

CREON

Play

*Polyneices' screams echo through the room.*

CREON

Stop

*The sound continues.*

CREON

I said

Stop

*Tiresias lowers his hands.*

*The screams stop.*

TIRESIAS

A soul is

Not at peace

Its cries

Loop

Cause reverberations

Resoundings

Mutations

This command has corrupted

All commands that have followed

*Beat.*

CREON

Friend

Who has paid you to appear to me?

TIRESIAS

I am not paid

CREON

Then who has bribed you?

Promised you more sacrifices

A better home

A bath?

TIRESIAS

You must act quickly

Time is a diminishing value

It will soon run out

CREON

You are disingenuous

You have not come here to warn me

But to act as an agent of some faction

Has my son sent you?

Or his friends?

Or perhaps even my wife?

TIRESIAS

Listen

ARCHIVISTS

Listen

Listen

Listen

TIRESIAS

I come as a guardian of the city

A caretaker

My concern is for the city

And its health alone

You have unleashed a sickness

That will harm us all

Unless you reverse your command

Evil will replicate

Compound

Why would I travel to you

Unless I were concerned?

CREON

Power

Love of power

(Not poor eyesight)

Blinds you

You enjoy the sound of your own voice

Spectral pronouncements

A certain sense of atmosphere

It must be lonely for you

On the outskirts of the city

Pretending to read the inner workings of our system

Or offering to interpret the flight of birds

For a fee

When the truth is

You see nothing

And have no insight

TIRESIAS

Be careful ruler

A command approaches

If I speak it

It cannot be undone

CREON

Your words

Have no power  
I am the ruler  
The highest authorisations  
Rest with me  
I speak a command  
And it is entered  
You are foolish  
To threaten me

TIRESIAS  
Do you mock me?  
Do you question my insight?  
Then so be it  
Because the soul you hang around your neck  
Was not put to rest  
The virus forms a new command  
Is forming  
Is formed  
Do not think that I have entered it  
It has self-generated  
Corruption always creates its own evil  
I speak it now

Before the day is done  
Your child will die  
Your wife will die  
You will be brought low  
A broken man

The command is  
Entered

*A crashing noise.*

*Polyneices' cries reverberate.*

*Over and over.*

*Again and again.*

ARCHIVISTS  
It is entered  
It is entered

It is entered

TIRESIAS

You know it to be so

*Beat.*

CREON

I do

*Beat.*

CREON

I feel it

The architecture of the world has shifted

I feel a corruption within me

I feel it spread

I am infected

The world is infected

ARCHIVISTS

We are infected

CREON

I am its root and origin

I must undo

Rewind

Delete

ARCHIVISTS

We are infected

We are infected

Infected

Infected

Infected

Virus detected

*Creon rips the hard drive from his neck.*

*The lights flicker.*

CREON

Quickly

Give me a scanner  
I command  
Give me a scanner  
He must be put to rest

*He is handed a scanner.*

*He scans the hard drive.*

CREON  
Deactivate  
Terminate  
Enter the command

*The world becomes increasingly unstable.*

*The lights go haywire.*

TIRESIAS  
Time has run out  
It is too late

CREON  
Enter  
The command  
Enter  
Enter

TIRESIAS  
The loop cannot be stopped  
Time has run out

CREON  
Enter  
The  
Enter  
The

TIRESIAS  
The loop cannot be stopped  
Time has run out  
Run out  
Cannot be



Run out  
Run o  
Run  
Stop  
Run  
Run  
St  
R  
St  
R  
St  
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*Movements become increasingly small, repetitive.*

*Polyneices' scream reaches a high pitch, playing over and over so rapidly as to destroy a universe.*

*The world appears frozen, caught in a loop of its own making.*

*A great pause.*

*But finally, after a moment.*

ARCHIVISTS  
The command is  
Entered