

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
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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