

**Creon** And this is true?

**Antigone** (*quietly*) Yes.

**Creon** You admit it?

**Antigone** Yes.

**Creon** There was a law passed which forbade this burial. (*He unlocks her handcuffs.*) You clearly hadn't heard.

**Antigone** Of course I'd heard. All Thebes had heard.

**Creon** So you *deliberately* broke the law?

**Antigone** What law? Not God's law. Not the laws of nature. Polyneices was my brother. And even if he'd not been that, he was a man. And everything that I believe in, family, religion and tradition - yes, and decency - demanded I should bury him. That is the law, oh, maybe not some politician's law who's here today and gone tomorrow, but the law of God.

And, yes, I knew the penalty was death. But no-one is immortal. We all must die some day. And if I'd let my brother's body rot unburied, how could I have lived with that?

So, Creon - if anyone's mistaken here, it's you. And maybe not today, and maybe not tomorrow, but there will come a time when you will understand.

**Creon** I always knew you were naive. Idealistic. But I never thought in all the years I brought you up as if you were my daughters, you and Ismene, that you'd turn against me quite so openly. She was involved too, was she? (**Antigone** *says nothing*)

Look at you! First you break the law - not *my* law, no, your country's law, Thebes' law - and then this insolence.

And don't think, just because you're family, I'll bend the laws for you. You, more than anyone, should feel revulsion at the thought of Polyneices. Have you forgotten that he killed your brother Eteocles?

**Antigone** Polyneices was my brother, too.

**Creon** Polyneices was a traitor. Don't you see how burying him insults his brother's memory?

**Antigone** They both are equal in my eyes, and in the eyes of God, and His law says both must be buried.

**Creon** Antigone, alive or dead, a traitor's still a traitor.

**Antigone** And you call me naive. Creon, can you not forgive?

**Creon** You are not only sanctimonious, you're a fool, Antigone. But you'll soon have all the time you wish to practice your forgiveness - if the dead *can* forgive.

*Enter Ismene. She has heard of Antigone's arrest.*

**Ismene** Antigone? Creon, what's this all about?

**Creon** So, you've come to join her? You admit you helped her, then - or will you maybe show some sense, deny all knowledge?

**Ismene** I deny nothing

**Antigone** Ismene, no!

**Ismene** I knew what she was going to do.

**Antigone** You tried to stop me, though!

**Ismene** Only because I knew that this would happen. And now it has, we'll face the consequences. Together.

**Antigone** Ismene, this isn't your affair. Don't try to share my death - it's enough that I should die.

**Ismene** And what of me *then*? How can I live with *that*?

**Antigone** Ask Creon. He has all the answers.

**Ismene** This won't help, Antigone.

**Antigone** I'm beyond help now. You chose, Ismene. You chose. And you can't change your mind.

**Ismene** It's not too late. Surely it can't be too late...

**Antigone** It *is* too late. It's always was. Ismene, I've not really been alive since father died, and mother... My spirit died with them. And now our brothers. I don't belong here any more. You do. You're different. Put all this behind you. Pray for us.

**Creon** *(claps ironically)* A most touching performance.

**Ismene** Creon, have you no compassion?

**Creon** She's always played the martyr. I thought you had more sense.

**Ismene** But - what of your son? What of Haemon? He and Antigone are engaged.

**Creon** He'll easily find some-one else. Girls like Antigone are two a penny.

**Ismene** How can you be so... I've never seen two people so in love.

**Creon** He can't love her. He's worth far more than that.

*The next words act as a segue into the next choreographed passage, which is about **Antigone** and **Haemon**.*

**Antigone** Haemon! Haemon, too!

**Aide** Think of the implications, sir. The people are expecting a royal wedding.

**Creon** ... which will be cancelled by her death.

**Aide** And that's your final word.

**Creon** Yes. Let's get things moving. Speed's of the essence. Delay will only add more difficulties.

***Creon** and his **Aide** exeunt. **Ismene** exits. *The lights are tight on Antigone. She is repeating the name "Haemon". As if she has summoned him, **Haemon** appears behind her, and whispers into her ear**

**Haemon** Antigone? My love? My life?