

EPISODE FIFTEEN

The palace.

HAEMON

Father

You may be interested to know

Might be interested to learn

What people

The people

Are saying

A selection from the channels

There's a hashtag

It's trending

#FreeAnt

Which isn't very good

I'll admit

I'll admit #FreeAnt isn't very good

But father

Have you considered?

Might you consider that fifty-seven percent

That's fifty-and-seven percent

Of the population has used

#FreeAnt

In the last twelve hours?

CREON

Son

Your concern

It does you credit

Shows you care

But what have I said?

You worry too much about people

The people

Too concerned about what they think

Too attentive to their whims

They need leadership

Rules

Clarity

The people

They don't know right and wrong

They only know

Cat videos

HAEMON

Nevertheless father

Might you consider

(For appearance's sake)

(I'm concerned about you for appearance's sake)

Relaxing

Bending

Bending ever so slightly

Fifty-seven percent father

The will of the people cannot be ignored

Except at great peril

CREON

I will not be held hostage by

The will of the people

The only will I consider is

My own

It strikes me that

Perhaps

You agree

With the will of the people?

Perhaps you agree

A traitor

A disturber of the peace

This girl

Should go free?

Let me ask you

(For appearance's sake)

(Because I know you are concerned about me for appearance's sake)

How would that look

To give in

To bend

Should I bend every time the people are unhappy?

Every time their

Whims

Desires

Fancies

Strike them?

They change their minds more often than

A cat changes lives

Respect

My son

They must respect me
And part of respect is
Fear

HAEMON

Fear?
If I may
May I offer a suggestion?
More an observation
It is not the people who should fear
The ruler
But rather the ruler who should fear
The people
Fear their judgment
Their censure
No
Let me rephrase
Why do we speak of fear
When we should speak of love?
The people should love the ruler
And the ruler the people
And part of love is listening
Hearing
Considering their opinion
And father
Their opinion
Is toward freedom

CREON

Ah
I see
You have given yourself away
I knew you would
Given yourself away by talk of
Love
I see to what aim your argument tends
You wish to argue the people's argument because
They love her
And so do you

HAEMON

I am not ashamed to say so

CREON

A word of advice

A suggestion

May I offer a suggestion?

A father to his son

There comes a point in each man's life

And with you it is approaching

It draws closer

It is here

When a man must choose

Love or

Power

They are inversely proportional

(If you remember from school)

(Not long ago you were in school)

The more of one

The less of the other

It is clear to me

It has become clear

Blindingly clear

That your love for this woman

This girl

Has given her power over you

And you are here

Standing in front of me

Son to his own father

Weak

Sick

Crawling

Begging like a girl

For the love of a girl

Love

Has played a trick on you

It has stripped you of your power

HAEMON

It is true I am in love

But love is not a weakness

It is a strength

You say you have chosen

Power over love

But let me tell you father

Let me give you a word of advice

It is possible
To be in love with power

CREON
Now you go too far
It is not a son's place to challenge his father
But to obey
The natural world has an order
Rulers over cities
Husbands over wives
Fathers over sons

HAEMON
Fathers should learn
Not to prattle
Your advice is out of date
Obsolete
In need of upgrade
You must listen
And by listening
Change
You must free her

CREON
I will not

HAEMON
You would turn my bride into a corpse

CREON
She never was going to be much of a bride

HAEMON
You will not speak of her that way

CREON
A ruler will speak as he pleases

HAEMON
Only a tyrant would think he has that right

CREON
And only a boy would make idle threats

HAEMON

I will turn the people against you

CREON

The people only respond to power

HAEMON

You do not deserve to rule this city

CREON

What I don't deserve is having to stand here listening to you

HAEMON

Let her go

CREON

No

HAEMON

Then I will go and never return

CREON

Sons have often said such words

To their fathers

But when you need cash

A roof over your head

Someone to pay for

Lattes

And designer eyewear

You will return

Sons always return to their fathers

And if they do not

They become them

HAEMON

I swear to you

I shall not see your face again while I am living

Enter the

Command

From the darkness, the Archivists.

ARCHIVISTS

The command is

Entered

CREON

And I swear to you

A curse

On all you do

Enter the

Command

HAEMON

Goodbye father

I shall not see you again

Exit Haemon.

ARCHIVISTS

The command is

Entered