

ANTIGONE

A Dramatic Reading

by
Sophocles



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Sophocles
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From the play.

The scene is at Thebes, in front of the Palace. Enter Antigone and Ismene.

- ANTIGONE: Ismene, mine own sister, dearest one,
Hast thou not heard our chieftain's new decree?
- ISMENE: No word Antigone, have I heard,
Since we were reft at once of brothers twain,
On one sad day.
- ANTIGONE: Ismene, I have sent for thee
That thou may'st hear how Creon treats our brothers twain,
One with the rites of burial, one with shame.
Eteocles, with rites of burial
Creon has honoured; but, for Polyneikes,
Unwept, unsepulchred, a prey to birds,
His corpse must lie. So Creon hath decreed.
Who disobeys, by stoning he must die.
Thus, then, stands thy case.
Show now if thou art worthy of they birth!
Wilt thou take part with me in risk and toil?
Wilt thou with me give burial to our dead?
- ISMENE: O sister, we two are left alone;
We cannot strive with men; this and far worse
We must obey. From those that are departed
I pray forgiveness,--but obey our lords.
- ANTIGONE: Now would I not, though thou should'st will it, share
The deed with thee. I, I will bury him;
And good it were, in doing this, to die.

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