

The Oresteia Agamemnon The Libation Bearers The Eumenides Penguin Classics

Aeschylus was the first of the three ancient Greek tragedians whose plays can still be read or performed. The others being Sophocles and Euripides. He is often described as the father of tragedy. Our knowledge of the genre begins with his work and our understanding of earlier tragedies is largely based on inferences from his surviving plays. Only seven of his estimated seventy to ninety plays have survived into modern times. Fragments of some other plays have survived in quotes and more continue to be discovered on Egyptian papyrus, often giving us surprising insights into his work.

classic trilogy by great tragedian deals with the bloody history of the house of atreus grand in style rich in diction and dramatic dialogue the plays embody aeschylus concerns with the destiny and fate of both individuals and the state all played out under the watchful eye of the gods

one of the founding documents of western culture and the only surviving ancient greek trilogy the oresteia of aeschylus is one of the great tragedies of all time the three plays of the oresteia portray the bloody events that follow the victorious return of king agamemnon from the trojan war at the start of which he had sacrificed his daughter iphigeneia to secure divine favor after iphi geneia s mother clytemnestra kills her husband in revenge she in turn is murdered by their son orestes with his sister electra s encouragement orestes is pursued by the furies and put on trial his fate decided by the goddess athena far more than the story of murder and ven geance in the royal house of atreus the oresteia serves as a dramatic parable of the evolution of justice and civilization that is still powerful after 2 500 years the trilogy is presented here in george thomson s classic translation renowned for its fidelity to the rhythms and richness of the original greek

hugh lloyd jones s classic translation of aeschylus s tragic cycle the oresteia now available in the bloomsbury revelations series

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the house of atreus presents a profound exploration of vengeance justice and the cyclical nature of human suffering through aeschylus s masterful trilogy agamemnon the libation bearers and the furies written in a compelling poetic style these tragedies utilize rich imagery and nuanced dialogue immersing readers in the morally complex world of the atreides family set against the backdrop of post trojan war greece aeschylus weaves intricate themes of fate and divine retribution inviting contemplation of the ancient world s tragic dimensions and the inexorable consequences of human actions aeschylus often hailed as the father of tragedy lived in a time of great sociopolitical change profoundly shaping his dramatic works his own experiences as a soldier during the persian wars likely influenced his views on heroism and the weight of guilt rooted in mythological traditions and informed by a strong sense of the divine aeschylus s writing embodies the human struggle against fate while simultaneously reflecting the moral imperatives of his time readers seeking a deep engagement with the foundations of western literature will find the house of atreus an essential exploration of tragedy and morality aeschylus s profound insights into the human condition deliver timeless reflections that resonate through the ages making this trilogy not only a landmark of ancient drama but also a poignant commentary on the complexities of human relationships

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the oresteia consists of the three tragedies agamemnon the libation bearers and the eumenides this trilogy of plays written a number of years b c e dramatizes one of the earliest most culturally significant myths of ancient greek civilization how a series of revenge power motivated murders in the family of king agamemnon of mycenae eventually leads to the establishment of democratic justice one of the few surviving complete examples of classical greek drama the trilogy is populated by archetypal characters whose actions explore themes relating to the nature and purpose of revenge and the relationship between humanity and spirituality the gods aeschylus was the earliest of the great greek tragedians and the principal creator of greek drama he is called the father of tragedy

this collection includes three full length plays agamemnon the libation bearers and the eumenides collectively known as the oresteia in agamemnon the title character having sacrificed his daughter iphigenia to win the battle of troy returns to argos his wife clytaemnestra murders him while her lover aegisthus who will soon assume the throne looks on in the libation bearers agamemnon s daughter electra mourns her father s death her brother orestes returns to argos to kill their mother and stepfather now king and avenge their father s death in the eumenides orestes trying to escape the vengeance of the furies is rescued by the gods and ordered to stand trial in a democratic court in athens he is acquitted and the furies are transformed and civilized to end the cycle of violence the oresteia is the granddaddy of domestic violence drama and that s hardly greek to us the 2 500 year old aeschylean trilogy on which sonny kills mom and her love who made sword meat of dad is as american as apple pie aulette whose own works include walk the dog willie rundown and the obie winning stops and virgins seems an odd collaborator for aeschylus but he is in fact an old hand at diddling with old greeks he has adapted both sophocles s ajax and aeschylus s the persians for peter sellars he also adapted georg buchner s danton s death for robert wilson carolyn clay phoenix boston i very like very much the truncated colloquial that you ve worked out it s better than ezra pound managed and it s just right for the purpose you have to provide a fast moving text for the stage letter from james laughlin new directions aulette s script glistens with old strokes highlighting rather than detracting from aeschylus ed siegel the boston globe

aeschylus famed tragedies agamemnon the libation bearers and the eumenides comprise the oresteia which uses the story of a family curse and a long history of murder and revenge to raise haunting questions about the nature and the price of justice

from the penn greek drama series this volume offers translations by david slavitt of the great trilogy of the house of atreus telling of agamemnon s murder at the hands of his wife clytemnestra and her lover aegisthus and of electra s rebelliousness and orestes s ultimate revenge

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