



Antigone (Greek Tragedy in New Translations)

By Sophocles

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Based on the conviction that only translators who write poetry themselves can properly recreate the celebrated and timeless tragedies of Aeschylus, Sophocles, and Euripides, the Greek Tragedy in New Translations series offers new translations that go beyond the literal meaning of the Greek in order to evoke the poetry of the originals. The series seeks to recover the entire extant corpus of Greek tragedy, quite as though the ancient tragedians wrote in the English of our own time. Under the editorship of Peter Burian and Alan Shapiro, each of these volumes includes a critical introduction, commentary on the text, full stage directions, and a glossary of the mythical and geographical references in the plays.

This finely-tuned translation of Sophocles' Antigone by Richard Emil Braun, both a distinguished poet and a professional scholar-critic, offers, in lean, sinewy verse and lyrics of unusual intensity, an interpretation informed by exemplary scholarship and critical insight. Braun presents an Antigone not marred by excessive sentimentality or pietistic attitudes.

His translation underscores the extraordinary structural symmetry and beauty of Sophocles' design by focusing on the balanced and harmonious view of tragically opposed wills that makes the play so moving. Unlike the traditionally gentle and pious protagonist opposed to a brutal and villainous Creon, Braun's Antigone emerges as a true Sophoclean heroine--with all the harshness and even hubris, as well as pathos and beauty, that Sophoclean heroism requires. Braun also reveals a Creon as stubbornly "principled" as Antigone, instead of simply the arrogant tyrant of conventional interpretations.

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Editorial Review

Review

"An exceptionally compelling translation that captures the feel of the original. The introduction and the end material add several useful dimensions. Highly recommended!"--George Perreault, Gonzaga University

"Braun's translation is as steely as the Greek and his introduction cuts through to the heart of the play."--J.P. Sullivan, University of California, Santa Barbara

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"The translation is very readable....Notes are very helpful."--Brad Wright, Cornell University

"The translation, introduction, notes, appendix, and glossary should attract the intelligent reader. The translation itself is accurate and of high quality."--Patricia P. Watsen, University of South Carolina

Language Notes

Text: English, Greek (translation)

About the Author

About the Translator:

Richard Emil Braun is Professor of Classics at the University of Alberta in Edmonton. He has published several volumes of poetry and translations, including *Children Passing*, *The Foreclosure*, and Persius' *Satires*.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Deborah Ellefson:

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