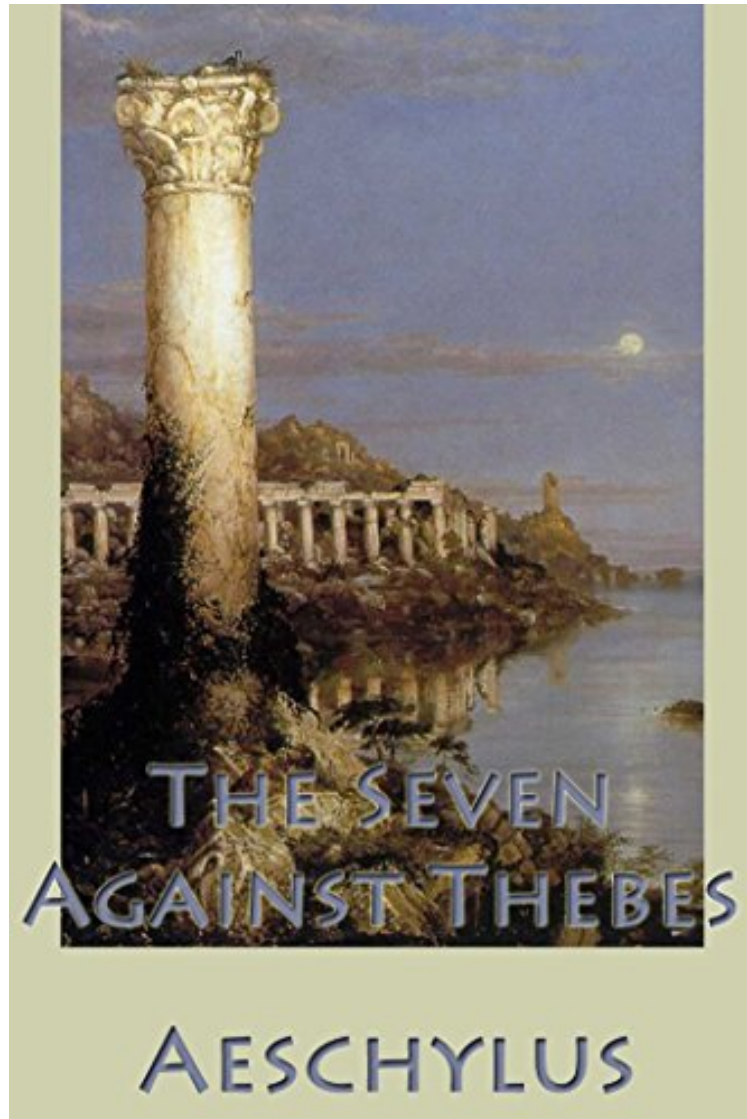


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The Seven Against Thebes

Aeschylus

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Aeschylus : The Seven Against Thebes before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised The Seven Against Thebes:

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Bickering While Thebes BurnsBy Iacobus de arenosoFine translation of this classic from the "old man" of extant Greek theatre.A meditation on the catastrophic effects a family squabble can have on a nation in peril.Recommended!0 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Not nearly as engaging as AntigoneBy MFANI am definitely not a frequent or critical reader of ancient Greek drama, but I read this work as background for Sophocles' ANTIGONE at the suggestion of the professor of a theater class I was taking. While ANTIGONE was interesting, engaging and contained many "dramatic" moments, I found Aeschylus' SEVEN

AGAINST THEBES to be quite dull and unengaging, by comparison, albeit useful for putting ANTIGONE in context.

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.

"These new dramatic releases provide us once again with that powerful and direct style of translation for which Professor Johnston has become known. Students reading these translations will have no doubt of the passion and issues raised by the plays." --Princeton Professor Emerita Elaine Fantham

About the Author Aeschylus, (525 BC/524 BC; 456 BC/455 BC) was a Greek playwright of the 6th century B.C. Known as the founder of tragedy, he was the earliest of three Greek tragedians whose plays survive, the others being Sophocles and Euripides. Many of Aeschylus' works were influenced by the Persian invasion of Greece, which took place during his lifetime. The war was so important to Greeks and to Aeschylus himself that, upon his death around 456 BC, his epitaph included a reference to his participation in the Greek victory at Marathon but not to his success as a playwright. Aeschylus was born in Eleusis, a town near Athens, around 525 BC. He grew up during the development of Athenian democracy and fought at the battle of Marathon in 490 BC, a high point of Greek culture, when the Greek army, predominantly Athenians, defeated a force of Persian invaders. Aeschylus wrote many plays (probably around ninety), only seven of which have survived. The Persians was first produced in 472 BC. It is the oldest surviving play in our traditions. Aeschylus died in Sicily in 455 BC. Some legends have it that the cause of death was a turtle dropped onto his head by a bird flying above him.