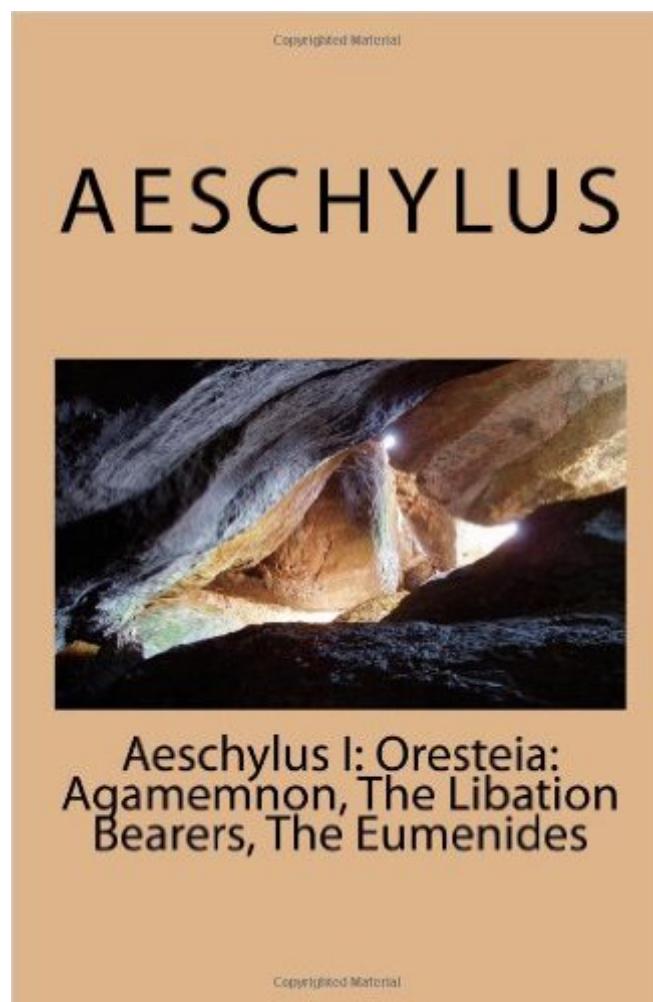


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Aeschylus I: Oresteia: Agamemnon, The Libation Bearers, The Eumenides



Synopsis

Aeschylus I: Oresteia, which includes Agamemnon, The Libation Bearers, and The Eumenides is a trilogy of Greek tragedies written by legendary Greek playwright Aeschylus. It is widely considered to be among the top Greek tragedies of all time. This great trilogy will surely attract a whole new generation of Aeschylus readers. For many, The Oresteia is required reading for various courses and curriculums. And for others who simply enjoy reading timeless pieces of classic literature, this gem by Aeschylus is highly recommended. Published by Classic Books America and beautifully produced, Aeschylus I: Oresteia, which includes Agamemnon, The Libation Bearers, and The Eumenides would make an ideal gift and it should be a part of everyone's personal library.

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Customer Reviews

There is no denying The Oresteia's greatness and profound importance; it is a foundational text not only in drama but in literature itself and remains a clear masterpiece after nearly 2,500 years. As the earliest known dramatist whose work survives, Aeschylus' influence is impossible to exaggerate, and this, the first extant Greek dramatic trilogy, is his greatest known achievement. The story itself is enough to captivate after all this time; the profound tragedy still stirs elements deep within us. This is in large part due to the characters, many of whom - from Orestes to Clytemnestra to Electra - have become archetypes. As far removed as they and their events seem from today, they are recognizably human with all-too-human flaws and frailties; we feel for their doomed lives because we see ourselves in them. With its string of intrafamily murders and constant high pitch emotions, the melodramatic plot initially seems to have nothing to do with our world; ditto for the gods, curses, and other such factors. However, the underlying themes are still very much with us - are indeed as

relevant as ever and likely always will be. We still struggle with issues like family strife, political succession, revenge ethics, crime and punishment, and the free will question. The Oresteia dramatizes these with unforgettable vividness and provokes at least as much thought as ever. These plays are essential reading for anyone with even the slightest interest in drama, history, or ancient Greece - indeed, literature itself. The real question is what translation to get. This Lattimore version was revolutionary in its day and long held the top spot, but time has not been kind to the half-century old edition. It still has its champions, but Robert Fagles' translation is undoubtedly the best for current readers.

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