Version One: Fitzgerald

**ANTIGONE:**

I dared.

It was not God’s proclamation. That final Justice

That rules the world below makes no such laws.

Your edict, King, was strong,

But all your strength is weakness itself against 5

The immortal unrecorded laws of God.

They are not merely now: they were, and shall be,

Operative for ever, beyond man utterly.

I knew I must die, even without your decree:

I am only mortal. And if I must die 10

Now, before it is my time to die,

Surely this is no hardship: can anyone

Living, as I live, with evil all about me,

Think Death less than a friend? This death of mine

Is of no importance; but if I had left my brother 15

Lying in death unburied, I should have suffered.

Now I do not.

You smile at me. Ah Creon,

Think me a fool, if you like; but it may well be

That a fool convicts me of folly.

Version 2: Thomas Translation

**Antigone:**

Because it wasn’t Zeus who pronounced these

things to me, nor did Justice, companion

of the gods below, establish such laws

for humanity. I would never think

your pronouncements had such strength that, being 5

mortal, they could override the unwritten,

ever-lasting prescriptions of the gods,

for those aren’t something recently made, but

live forever, and no one knows when they

first appeared. I did not intend to pay 10

the penalty to the gods for violating

these laws in fear of some man’s opinion,

for I know I will die. How could I not,

Even if you had not proclaimed it? But

if I die before my time, I say this 15

is an advantage. Anyone who lives a life of sorrow as I do, how could

they not count it a blessing to die?

Therefore, there is no pain for me in meeting

this fate, whereas if I were to endure

that one born from my mother die unburied, 20

that would cause me pain. As it is, I feel

nothing. If, however, I seem to you

to have acted foolishly, then perhaps

I owe my foolishness to a fool.

Version 3: Baur Translation

**Antigone:**

Yes, because I did not believe

that Zeus was the one who had proclaimed it;

neither did Justice,

or the gods of the dead whom Justice lives among.

The laws they have made for me are well marked out. 5

I didn’t suppose your decree had strength enough,

or you, who are human,

to violate the lawful traditions

the gods have not written merely, but made infallible.

These laws are not for now or for yesterday, 10

they are alive forever;

and no one knows when they were shown to us first.

I did not intend to pay, before the gods,

for breaking these laws

because of my fear of one man and his principles. 15

I was thoroughly aware I would die.

before you proclaimed it;

of course I would die, even if you hadn’t.

Since I will die, and early, I call this profit.

Anyone who lives the troubled life I do 20

must benefit from death.

No, I do not suffer from the fact of death.

But if I had let my own brother stay unburied

I would have suffered all the pain I do not feel now.

And if you decide what u did was foolish, 25

you may be fool enough to convict me too.