

Cycle of a Tragic Hero

1. Heroic Characteristics:

- *Belief in freewill*; he has the faith and courage to accept the outcomes of his choices.
- *Supreme pride*; he feels superior to man and equal to gods giving him unique powers.
- *Capacity for suffering*; he has strength to endure pain, and feels guilt and guiltlessness.
- *Sense of commitment*; his dedication lets his process follow its chosen direction.
- *Vigorous protest*; he does not accept his fate meekly; he cries out against the gods, his weakness, the world.
- *Transfiguration*; he learns from his suffering: he is refined, ennobled, softened; he becomes wise and humane; he has a deeper understanding of the human condition and his place in the universe.
- *Impact*; his deeper understandings extend to other characters and the audience.
- *Accomplishments*; his deeds are the reasons people put faith in him to help them.
- *Hubris*; his arrogance, excessive pride and self-confidence, leads him to ignore the gods.

2. Tragic Flaw: (harmatia)

- A shortcoming in an otherwise admirable character that contributes to his ruin (often his hubris).

3. Reversal: (peripateia)

- An ironic reversal that occurs when a hero's actions cause the opposite of what was intended.

4. Discovery:

- A discovery by the hero that will change his fortune.

5. Suffering:

- Physical suffering by the hero because of his discovery.

6. Catharsis:

- The purification from pollution (miasma) that the hero and audience receive; the soul is cleansed of the fear and pity caused by the reversal, discovery, and suffering.

7. Restoration: (sophrosyne)

- An uplifted state of harmony gained when the rational faculties control the desires and emotions of the hero and audience.

