

A Man Called Tiresias

A man called Tiresias! A prophet!
Young as a blade of grass.
Old as the molten core.
Stepped to earth as a man.
Then was transformed to a woman.

Of man and of woman,
What have you come to know?
Speak to us, Tiresias.

*Oh, young men and young women,
I, Tiresias,
Speak to you only in these words:
Keep close.
Keep close to each other.
Keep close.*

A man called Tiresias!
A prophet whose eyes were blinded.
How could he see to speak?
He only saw more clearly.
Turned from the past.
And saw the future!

Of days past and future days,
What have you come to know?
Speak to us, Tiresias.

*Oh, you children of the future,
I, Tiresias,
Speak to you only in these words:
Hold on.
Hold on together.
Hold on.*

Marisha Chamberlain

Tiresias, the most famous prophet of ancient Greek mythology, is probably best known today for his part in the story of Oedipus, King of Thebes. As a result of displeasing the gods he was struck blind and changed into a woman for seven years, then back to a man. He was also given the gift of seven lifespans. These experiences gave him extraordinary depth of perception from all perspectives, and though his prophecies were often very brief and sometimes enigmatic, they were never wrong. As usual with prophetic figures, it was (and still is) up to the people consulting the prophet to figure out what he meant and how to translate the prophetic words into action.

duration: c. 5:00