

1. Reading Comprehension

Read the following passage. Then present your interpretation of its connotation in the context of the whole story it belongs to in a passage of about 4–6 sentences in length:

“Look now in turn at us two, left here all alone—
our death will be the worst by far, if we defy
the law, and go beyond the power and vote of kings.
We must remember, first, that we two are by nature
women and not fit to fight with men; second,
that we are ruled by others stronger than ourselves,
and so must bow to this and even greater griefs.
So I for one shall beg those underneath the earth
to pardon me, since I am overpowered by force;
I shall obey those who are in authority,
for deeds that are excessive make no sense at all.”

— From *Antigone* by Sophocles, in the given textbook, p. 726.

2. Writing

Write an essay of about 1,200–1,500 words to argue for the following topic:

Magic in the story of “Ma Ha” from *Outstanding Figures in the Vietnamese Zen Community* (*Thiền uyển tập anh*).