

Trojan War

The Trojan War was a legendary conflict in Greek mythology that took place around the twelfth or thirteenth century BC. The war was waged by the Achaeans (Greeks) against the city of Troy after Paris

of Troy took Helen from her husband Menelaus, king of Sparta. The war is one of the most important

events in Greek mythology, and it has been narrated through many works of Greek literature, most notably

Homer's *Iliad*. The core of the *Iliad* (Books II – XXIII) describes a period of four days and two nights in

the tenth year of the decade-long siege of Troy; the *Odyssey* describes the journey home of Odysseus, one

of the war's heroes. Other parts of the war are described in a cycle of epic poems, which have survived

through fragments. Episodes from the war provided material for Greek tragedy and other works of Greek

literature, and for Roman poets including Virgil and Ovid.

The ancient Greeks believed that Troy was located near the Dardanelles and that the Trojan War was a

historical event of the twelfth or thirteenth century BC. By the mid-nineteenth century AD, both the war

and the city were widely seen as non-historical, but in 1868, the German archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann met Frank Calvert, who convinced Schliemann that Troy was at what is now Hisarlık in modern-day Turkey.[1] On the basis of excavations conducted by Schliemann and others, this claim is now

accepted by most scholars.[2][3]

The historicity of the Trojan War remains an open question. Many scholars believe that there is a historical core to the tale, though this may simply mean that the Homeric stories are a fusion of various

tales of sieges and expeditions by Mycenaean Greeks during the Bronze Age. Those who believe that the

stories of the Trojan War are derived from a specific historical conflict usually date it to the twelfth or

eleventh century BC, often preferring the dates given by Eratosthenes, 1194–1184 BC, which roughly

correspond to archaeological evidence of a catastrophic burning of Troy VII,[4] and the Late Bronze Age

collapse.

Sources

The events of the Trojan War are found in many works of Greek literature and depicted in numerous works of Greek art. There is no single, authoritative text which tells the entire events of the war.

Instead,

the story is assembled from a variety of sources, some of which report contradictory versions of the events. The most important literary sources are the two epic poems traditionally credited to Homer, the

Iliad and the *Odyssey*, composed sometime between the ninth and sixth centuries BC.[5] Each poem narrates only a part of the war. The *Iliad* covers a short period in the last year of the siege of Troy, while

the *Odyssey* concerns Odysseus's return to his home island of Ithaca following the sack of Troy and

contains several flashbacks to particular episodes in the war.

Other parts of the Trojan War were told in the poems of the Epic Cycle, also known as the Cyclic Epics:

the Cypria, Aethiopis, Little Iliad, Iliou Persis, Nostoi, and Telegony. Though these poems survive only in

fragments, their content is known from a summary included in Proclus' Chrestomathy.[6] The authorship

of the Cyclic Epics is uncertain. It is generally thought that the poems were written down in the seventh

and sixth century BC, after the composition of the Homeric poems, though it is widely believed that they

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were based on earlier traditions.[7]

Both the Homeric epics and the Epic Cycle take origin from oral tradition. Even after the composition of

the Iliad, Odyssey, and the Cyclic Epics, the myths of the Trojan War were passed on orally in many genres of poetry and through non-poetic storytelling. Events and details of the story that are only found in

later authors may have been passed on through oral tradition and could be as old as the Homeric poems.

Visual art, such as vase painting, was another medium in which myths of the Trojan War circulated.

[8]

In later ages playwrights, historians, and other intellectuals would create works inspired by the Trojan

War. The three great tragedians of Athens, Aeschylus, Sophocles and Euripides, wrote a number of dramas that portray episodes from the Trojan War. Among Roman writers the most important is the first

century BC poet Virgil; in Book 2 of his Aeneid, Aeneas narrates the sack of Troy.

Legend

Traditionally, the Trojan War arose from a sequence of events beginning with a quarrel between the goddesses Hera,

Athena, and Aphrodite. Eris, the goddess of discord, was not invited to the wedding of Peleus and Thetis, and so arrived bearing a gift: a golden apple, inscribed "for the fairest". Each

of the goddesses claimed to be the "fairest", and the rightful owner of the apple. They submitted the judgment to a shepherd they encountered tending his flock. Each of the goddesses promised the young man a boon in return for his

The Golden Apple of Discord by

favour: power, wisdom, or love. The youth—in fact Paris, a Jacob Jordaens

Trojan prince who had been raised in the countryside—chose love, and awarded the apple to Aphrodite. As his reward,

Aphrodite caused Helen, the Queen of Sparta, and most beautiful of all women, to fall in love with Paris.

The judgement of Paris earned him the ire of both Hera and Athena, and when Helen left her husband,

Menelaus, the Spartan king, for Paris of Troy, Menelaus called upon all the kings and princes of Greece to

wage war upon Troy.

Menelaus' brother Agamemnon, king of Mycenae, led an expedition of Achaean troops to Troy and besieged the city for ten years because of Paris' insult. After the deaths of many heroes, including the Achaeans Achilles and Ajax, and the Trojans Hector and Paris, the city fell to the ruse of the Trojan Horse. The Achaeans slaughtered the Trojans, except for some of the women and children whom they kept or sold as slaves and desecrated the temples, thus earning the gods' wrath. Few of the Achaeans returned safely to their homes and many founded colonies in distant shores. The Romans later traced their origin to Aeneas, Aphrodite's son and one of the Trojans, who was said to have led the surviving Trojans to Italy.

The Burning of Troy (1759–1762), oil painting by Johann Georg Trautmann

The following summary of the Trojan War follows the order of events as given in Proclus' summary, along with the Iliad, Odyssey, and Aeneid, supplemented with details drawn from other authors.

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Origins of the war

Plan of Zeus

Polyxena Sarcophagus in Troy

Museum

According to Greek mythology, Zeus had become king of the gods by overthrowing his father Cronus; Cronus in turn had overthrown his father Uranus. Zeus was not faithful to his wife and sister Hera, and had many relationships from which many children were born. Since Zeus believed that there were too many people populating the earth, he envisioned Momus^[9] or Themis^[10] who was to use the Trojan War as a means to depopulate the Earth, especially of his demigod descendants.^[11]

These can be supported by Hesiod's account:

Now all the gods were divided through strife; for at that very time Zeus who thunders on high was meditating marvelous deeds, even to mingle storm and tempest over the boundless earth, and already he was hastening to make an utter end of the race of mortal men, declaring that he would destroy the lives of the demi-gods, that the children of the gods should not mate with wretched mortals, seeing their fate with their own eyes; but that the blessed gods henceforth even as aforetime should have their living and their habitations apart from men. But on those who were born of immortals and of mankind verily Zeus laid toil and sorrow upon sorrow.^[12]

Judgement of Paris

Zeus came to learn from either Themis^[13] or Prometheus, after Heracles had released him from the Caucasus,^[14] that, like his father Cronus, he would be overthrown by one of his sons. Another prophecy stated that a son of the sea-nymph Thetis, with whom Zeus fell in love after gazing upon her in the oceans off the Greek coast, would become greater than his father.^[15] For one or both of these reasons,^[16] either upon Zeus' orders^[17] or because she wished to please Hera, who had raised her, Thetis was betrothed to an elderly human king, Peleus, son of Aeacus.^[18]

All of the gods were invited to Peleus and Thetis' wedding and brought many gifts,[19] except Eris (the goddess of discord), who was stopped at the door by Hermes, on Zeus' order.[20] Insulted, she threw from the

The Judgement of Paris

door a gift of her own:[21] a golden apple (Ancient Greek: το μήλον της (1599) by Hendrick van

έριδος) on which was inscribed the word καλλίστη Kallistē ("To the Balen the Elder.

fairest").[22] The apple was claimed by Hera, Athena, and Aphrodite.

Gemäldegalerie, Berlin

They quarrelled bitterly over it, and none of the other gods would

venture an opinion favouring one, for fear of earning the enmity of the

other two. Eventually, Zeus ordered Hermes to lead the three goddesses to Paris, a prince of Troy, who,

unaware of his ancestry, was being raised as a shepherd on Mount Ida,[23] because of a prophecy that he

would be the downfall of Troy.[24] After bathing in the spring of Ida, the goddesses appeared to him

naked, either for the sake of winning or at Paris' request. Paris was unable to decide among them, so the

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goddesses resorted to bribes. Athena offered Paris wisdom, skill in battle, and the abilities of the greatest

warriors; Hera offered him political power and control of all of Asia; and Aphrodite offered him the love

of the most beautiful woman in the world, Helen of Sparta. Paris awarded the apple to Aphrodite, and,

after several adventures, returned to Troy, where he was recognised by his royal family.

Peleus and Thetis bore a son, whom they named Achilles. It

was foretold that he would either die of old age after an

uneventful life, or die young in a battlefield and gain

immortality through poetry.[25] Furthermore, when Achilles

was nine years old, Calchas had prophesied that Troy could

not again fall without his help.[26] A number of sources credit

Thetis with attempting to make Achilles immortal when he

was an infant. Some of these state that she held him over fire

every night to burn away his mortal parts and rubbed him

with ambrosia during the day, but Peleus discovered her

actions and stopped her.[27]

Thetis gives her son Achilles

weapons forged by Hephaestus

(detail of Attic black-figure hydria,

575–550 BC)

According to some versions of this story, Thetis had already

killed several sons in this manner, and Peleus' action therefore

saved his son's life.[28] Other sources state that Thetis bathed

Achilles in the Styx, the river that runs to the underworld,

making him invulnerable wherever he was touched by the

water.[29] Because she had held him by the heel, it was not

entirely immersed during the bathing and thus the heel

remained mortal and vulnerable to injury (hence the expression "Achilles' heel" for an isolated weakness). He grew up to be the greatest of all mortal warriors. After Calchas' prophecy, Thetis hid Achilles in Skyros at the court of King Lycomedes, where he was disguised as a girl.[30] At a crucial point in the war, she assists her son by providing weapons divinely forged by Hephaestus (see below).

Elopement of Paris and Helen
The most beautiful woman in the world was Helen, one of the daughters of Tyndareus, King of Sparta. Her mother was Leda, who had been either raped or seduced by Zeus in the form of a swan.[31] Accounts differ over which of Leda's four children, two pairs of twins, were fathered by Zeus and which by Tyndareus. However, Helen is usually credited as Zeus' daughter,[32] and sometimes Nemesis is credited as her mother.[33] Helen had scores of suitors, and her father was unwilling to choose one for fear the others would retaliate violently.

The Abduction of Helen (1530–1539)
by Francesco Primaticcio, with Aphrodite directing
Finally, one of the suitors, Odysseus of Ithaca, proposed a plan to solve the dilemma. In exchange for Tyndareus' support of his own suit towards Penelope,[34] he suggested that Tyndareus require all of Helen's suitors to promise that they would defend the marriage of Helen, regardless of whom he chose. The suitors duly swore the required

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oath on the severed pieces of a horse, although not without a certain amount of grumbling.[35] Tyndareus chose Menelaus. Menelaus was a political choice on her father's part. He had wealth and power. He had humbly not petitioned for her himself, but instead sent his brother Agamemnon on his behalf. He had promised Aphrodite a hecatomb, a sacrifice of 100 oxen, if he won Helen, but forgot about

it and earned her wrath.[36] Menelaus inherited Tyndareus' throne of Sparta with Helen as his queen when

her brothers, Castor and Pollux, became gods,[37] and when Agamemnon married Helen's sister Clytemnestra and took back the throne of Mycenae.[38] Paris, under the guise of a supposed diplomatic mission, went to Sparta to get Helen and bring her back to

Troy. Before Helen could look up to see him enter the palace, she was shot with an arrow from Eros,

otherwise known as Cupid, and fell in love with Paris when she saw him, as promised by Aphrodite. Menelaus had left for Crete[39] to bury his uncle, Catreus.[40]

According to one account, Hera, still jealous over the judgement of Paris, sent a storm.[39] The storm

caused the lovers to land in Egypt, where the gods replaced Helen with a likeness of her made of clouds,

Nephele.[41] The myth of Helen being switched is attributed to the sixth century BC Sicilian poet Stesichorus, while for Homer the Helen in Troy was one and the same. The ship then landed in Sidon.

Paris, fearful of getting caught, spent some time there and then sailed to Troy.[42]

Paris' abduction of Helen had several precedents. Io was taken from Mycenae, Europa was taken from Phoenicia, Jason took Medea from Colchis,[43] and the Trojan princess Hesione had been taken by Heracles, who gave her to Telamon of Salamis.[44] According to Herodotus, Paris was emboldened by these examples to steal himself a wife from Greece, and expected no retribution, since there had been none in the other cases.[45]

Gathering of
Achaean forces
and the first
expedition

A map of Homeric Greece

According to Homer, Menelaus and his ally, Odysseus, travelled to Troy, where they unsuccessfully sought

to recover Helen by diplomatic means.[46]

Menelaus then asked Agamemnon to help him enforce the oath of Helen's suitors, which was to defend

her marriage, regardless of which suitor was chosen. Agamemnon agreed, and sent emissaries to all the

Achaean kings and princes to call them to observe their oath and retrieve Helen.[47]

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Odysseus and Achilles

Odysseus (Ulysses) discovers

Achilles dressed as a woman and
hiding among the princesses at the
royal court of Skyros. A late Roman
mosaic from La Olmeda, Spain,
fourth–fifth centuries AD

Since Menelaus's wedding, Odysseus had married Penelope and fathered a son, Telemachus. In order to avoid the war, he feigned madness and sowed his fields with salt. Palamedes outwitted him by placing Telemachus, then an infant, in front of the plough's path. Odysseus turned aside, unwilling to kill his son, so revealing his sanity and forcing him to join the war.[39][48]

According to Homer, however, Odysseus supported the military adventure from the beginning, and travelled the

region with Pylos' king, Nestor, to recruit forces.[49]

At Skyros, Achilles had an affair with the king's daughter

Deidamia, resulting in a child, Neoptolemus.[50] Odysseus, Telamonian Ajax, and Achilles' tutor Phoenix

went to retrieve Achilles. Achilles' mother disguised him as a woman so that he would not have to go to

war, but, according to one story, they blew a horn, and Achilles revealed himself by seizing a spear to fight

intruders, rather than fleeing.[26] According to another story, they disguised themselves as merchants

bearing trinkets and weaponry, and Achilles was marked out from the other women for admiring weaponry instead of clothes and jewellery.[51]

Pausanias said that, according to Homer, Achilles did not hide in Skyros, but rather conquered the island,

as part of the Trojan War.[52]

First gathering at Aulis

The Achaean forces first gathered at Aulis. All the suitors sent their forces except King Cinyras of Cyprus. Though he sent breastplates to Agamemnon and promised to send 50 ships, he sent only one real ship, led by the son of Mygdalion, and 49 ships made of clay.[53] Idomeneus was willing to lead the Cretan contingent in Mycenae's war against Troy, but only as a co-commander, which he was granted.[54] The last commander to arrive was Achilles, who was then 15 years old.

Following a sacrifice to Apollo, a snake slithered from the altar to a sparrow's nest in a plane tree nearby. It ate the mother and her nine chicks, then was turned to stone. Calchas interpreted this as a sign that Troy would fall in the tenth year of the war.[55]

The Discovery of Achilles among the Daughters of Lycomedes (1664) by

Jan de Bray

Telephus

When the Achaeans left for the war, they did not know the way, and accidentally landed in Mysia, ruled

by King Telephus, son of Heracles, who had led a contingent of Arcadians to settle there.[56] In the battle,

Achilles wounded Telephus,[57] who had killed Thersander.[58] Because the wound would not heal,

Telephus asked an oracle, "What will happen to the wound?" The oracle responded, "he that wounded

shall heal". The Achaean fleet then set sail and was scattered by a storm. Achilles landed in Skyros and

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married Deidamia. A new gathering was set again in Aulis.[39]

Telephus went to Aulis, and either pretended to be a beggar, asking Agamemnon to help heal his wound,

[59] or kidnapped Orestes and held him for ransom, demanding the wound be healed.[60] Achilles refused,

claiming to have no medical knowledge. Odysseus reasoned that the spear that had inflicted the wound must be able to heal it. Pieces of the spear were scraped off onto the wound, and Telephus was healed.[61]

Telephus then showed the Achaeans the route to Troy.[59]

Some scholars have regarded the expedition against Telephus and its resolution as a derivative reworking

of elements from the main story of the Trojan War, but it has also been seen as fitting the story-pattern of

the "preliminary adventure" that anticipates events and themes from the main narrative, and therefore as

likely to be "early and integral".[62]

Second gathering

Eight years after the storm had scattered them,

[63] the fleet of more than a thousand ships

was gathered again. When they had all

reached Aulis, the winds ceased. The prophet

Calchas stated that the goddess Artemis was

punishing Agamemnon for killing either a

sacred deer or a deer in a sacred grove, and

boasting that he was a better hunter than she.

[39] The only way to appease Artemis, he said,

was to sacrifice Iphigenia, who was either the

daughter of Agamemnon and Clytemnestra,

[64] or of Helen and Theseus entrusted to

Clytemnestra when Helen married Menelaus.

[65]

Agamemnon refused, and the other

commanders threatened to make Palamedes

commander of the expedition.[66] According

A map of the Troäd (Troas) in modern-day Turkey

to some versions, Agamemnon relented and

performed the sacrifice, but others claim that

he sacrificed a deer in her place, or that at the last moment, Artemis took pity on the girl, and took her to

be a maiden in one of her temples, substituting a lamb.[39] Hesiod says that Iphigenia became the goddess

Hecate.[67]

The Achaean forces are described in detail in the Catalogue of Ships, in the second book of the Iliad.

They consisted of 28 contingents from mainland Greece, the Peloponnese, the Dodecanese islands, Crete,

and Ithaca, comprising 1186 pentekonteres, ships with 50 rowers. Thucydides says[68] that

according to

tradition there were about 1200 ships, and that the Boeotian ships had 120 men, while Philoctetes' ships

only had the fifty rowers, these probably being maximum and minimum. These numbers would mean a

total force of 70,000 to 130,000 men. Another catalogue of ships is given by the Bibliotheca that differs

somewhat but agrees in numbers. Some scholars have claimed that Homer's catalogue is an original

Bronze Age document, possibly the Achaean commander's order of operations.[69][70][71] Others believe it

was a fabrication of Homer.

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The second book of the Iliad also lists the Trojan allies, consisting of the Trojans themselves, led by Hector, and various allies listed as Dardanians led by Aeneas, Zeleians, Adrasteians, Percotians, Pelasgians, Thracians, Ciconian spearmen, Paionian archers, Halizones, Mysians, Phrygians, Maeonians,

Miletians, Lycians led by Sarpedon and Carians. Nothing is said of the Trojan language; the Carians are

specifically said to be barbarian-speaking, and the allied contingents are said to have spoken many languages, requiring orders to be translated by their individual commanders.[72] The Trojans and Achaeans in the Iliad share the same religion, same culture and the enemy heroes speak to each other in

the same language, though this could be dramatic effect.

Nine years of war

Philoctetes

Philoctetes was Heracles' friend, and because he lit Heracles's funeral pyre when no one else would, he received Heracles' bow and arrows.

[73] He sailed with seven ships full of men to the Trojan War, where he was planning on fighting for the Achaeans. They stopped either at Chryse Island for supplies,[74] or in Tenedos, along with the rest of the fleet.[75] Then Philoctetes was bitten by a snake. The wound festered and had a foul smell; on Odysseus's advice, the Atreidae ordered Philoctetes to stay on Lemnos.[39]

Medon took control of Philoctetes's men. While landing on Tenedos, Achilles killed king Tenes, son of Apollo, despite a warning by his mother that if he did so he would be killed himself by Apollo.[76] From Tenedos, Agamemnon sent an embassy to the Priam king of Troy composed of Menelaus and Odysseus, asking for Helen's return. The embassy was refused.[77]

Philoctetes on Lemnos, with Heracles' bow and quiver (Attic red-figure lekythos, 420 BC)

Philoctetes stayed on Lemnos for ten years, which was a deserted island according to Sophocles' tragedy

Philoctetes, but according to earlier tradition was populated by Minyans.[78]

Arrival

Calchas had prophesied that the first Achaean to walk on land after stepping off a ship would be the first

to die.[79] Thus even the leading Greeks hesitated to land. Finally, Protesilaus, leader of the Phylaceans,

landed first.[80] Odysseus had tricked him, in throwing his own shield down to land on, so that while he

was first to leap off his ship, he was not the first to land on Trojan soil. Hector killed Protesilaus in single

combat, though the Trojans conceded the beach. In the second wave of attacks, Achilles killed Cycnus,

son of Poseidon. The Trojans then fled to the safety of the walls of their city.[81]

The walls served as sturdy fortifications for defence against the Greeks. The build of the walls was so impressive that legend held that they had been built by Poseidon and Apollo during a year of forced service to Trojan King Laomedon.[82] Protesilaus had killed many Trojans but was killed by Hector in most versions of the story,[83] though others list Aeneas, Achates, or Ephorbus as his slayer.[84] The Achaeans buried him as a god on the Thracian peninsula, across the Troäd.[85] After Protesilaus' death, his brother, Podarces, took command of his troops.

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Achilles' campaigns

The Achaeans besieged Troy for nine years. This part of the war is the least developed among surviving sources, which prefer to talk about events in the last year of the war. After the initial landing the army was gathered in its entirety again only in the tenth year. Thucydides deduces that this was due to lack of money. They raided the Trojan allies and spent time farming the Thracian peninsula.[86] Troy was never completely besieged, thus it maintained communications with the interior of Asia Minor. Reinforcements continued to come until the very end. The Achaeans controlled only the entrance to the Dardanelles, and Troy and her allies controlled the shortest point at Abydos and Sestos and communicated with allies in Europe.[87]

Achilles and Ajax were the most active of the Achaeans, leading separate armies to raid lands of Trojan allies.

According to Homer, Achilles conquered 11 cities and 12 islands.[88] According to Apollodorus, he raided the land of Aeneas in the Troäd region and stole his cattle.[89] He also captured Lyrnessus, Pedasus, and many of the neighbouring cities, and killed Troilus; it was said that if he reached 20 years of age, Troy would not fall.

According to

Apollodorus,

Achilles' surrender of Briseis to

Agamemnon, from the House of the

Tragic Poet in Pompeii, fresco, first

century AD, now in the Naples

National Archaeological Museum

He also took Lesbos and Phocaea, then Colophon, and Smyrna, and Clazomenae, and Cyme; and afterwards Aegialus and Tenos, the so-called Hundred Cities; then, in order, Adramytium and Side; then Endium, and Linaeum, and Colone. He took also Hypoplacian Thebes and Lyrnessus, and further Antandrus, and many other cities.[90]

Kakrides comments that the list is wrong in that it extends too far into the south.[91] Other sources talk of

Achilles taking Pedasus, Monenia,[92] and Methymna (in Lesbos) with the help of Pisidice.[93]

Among the loot from these cities was Briseis, from Lyrnessus, who was awarded to him, and Chryseis,

from Hypoplacian Thebes, who was awarded to Agamemnon.[39] Achilles captured Lycaon, son of Priam,

[94] while he was cutting branches in his father's orchards. Patroclus sold him as a slave in Lemnos, [39]

where he was bought by Eetion of Imbros and brought back to Troy. Only 12 days later Achilles slew him,

after the death of Patroclus.[95]

Ajax and a game of petteia

Ajax, son of Telamon, laid waste the Thracian peninsula of which Polymestor, a son-in-law of Priam, was

king. Polymestor surrendered Polydorus, one of Priam's children, of whom he had custody. He then attacked the town of the Phrygian king Teleutas, killed him in single combat and carried off his daughter

Tecmessa.[96] Ajax also hunted the Trojan flocks, both on Mount Ida and in the countryside.

Numerous paintings on pottery have suggested a tale not mentioned in the literary traditions. At some

point in the war Achilles and Ajax were playing a board game (petteia).[97][98] They were absorbed in the

game and oblivious to the surrounding battle.[99] The Trojans attacked and reached the heroes, who were

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only saved by an intervention of Athena.[100]

Death of Palamedes

Odysseus was sent to Thrace to return with grain, but came back empty-handed. When scorned by Palamedes, Odysseus challenged him to do better. Palamedes set out and returned with a shipload of grain.[101]

Odysseus had never forgiven Palamedes for threatening the life of his son. In revenge, Odysseus conceived a plot[102]

where an incriminating letter was forged, from Priam to Palamedes,[103] and gold was planted in Palamedes' quarters.

The letter and gold were "discovered", and Agamemnon had Palamedes stoned to death for treason.

Achilles and Ajax engaged in a

game, c. 540–530 BC, Vatican

Museums

However, Pausanias, quoting the Cypria, says that Odysseus and Diomedes drowned Palamedes, while he

was fishing, and Dictys says that Odysseus and Diomedes lured Palamedes into a well, which they said

contained gold, then stoned him to death.[104]

Palamedes' father Nauplius sailed to the Troäd and asked for justice, but was refused. In revenge, Nauplius

travelled among the Achaean kingdoms and told the wives of the kings that they were bringing Trojan

concubines to dethrone them. Many of the Greek wives were persuaded to betray their husbands, most

significantly Agamemnon's wife, Clytemnestra, who was seduced by Aegisthus, son of Thyestes.

[105]

Mutiny

Near the end of the ninth year since the landing, the Achaean army, tired from the fighting and from the