THE TROJAN HORSE

**1. Where did the myth/legend originate?**

The story of the Trojan Horse originates from ancient Greek mythology, specifically related to the *Trojan War*. This war, believed to have occurred around the 12th or 13th century BCE, is famously described in works like *The Iliad* by Homer and later in *The Aeneid* by Virgil. The specific tale of the Trojan Horse is part of the epic cycle about the war between the Greeks (Achaeans) and the city of Troy.

**2. What is the main storyline of this myth/legens?**

The story centers on the clever strategy used by the Greeks to enter the well-fortified city of Troy. After a ten-year stalemate in the Trojan War, the Greek forces constructed a massive wooden horse and hid a select group of soldiers inside it. Pretending to abandon the war, they left the horse as a "gift" for the Trojans. Thinking it a peace offering, the Trojans brought the horse into their city. That night, the hidden Greek soldiers emerged from the horse, opened the gates for the rest of their army, and destroyed the city, effectively ending the war in favor of the Greeks.

**3. What are its main themes?**

**Deception and Strategy:** The story emphasizes the role of cunning, strategy, and the risks of underestimating one’s enemy.

**Trust and Betrayal:** It also underscores the dangers of misplaced trust. The Trojans were deceived by the Greeks' gift, resulting in the fall of their city.

**Hubris and Consequences:** The Trojans' overconfidence and failure to heed warnings ultimately led to their downfall.

**4. Is this myth/legend unique, or does it share similarities with other myths/legends you know?**

The Trojan Horse legend shares similarities with other cultural stories involving deception and strategy to overcome powerful enemies. For instance:

**· The Wooden Cow in Indian Mythology**: In the Mahabharata, there’s a story in which warriors hide inside a wooden structure (in this case, a cow) as part of a battle strategy.

**· Siege Legends**: Many cultures have tales involving cunning strategies in sieges, like the biblical story of the Fall of Jericho, which involved using unconventional methods to penetrate a fortified city.

**· Gift Themes**: The theme of an appealing but deadly "gift" appears across mythologies, such as Pandora's Box in Greek mythology, where a seemingly beautiful gift leads to devastating consequences.

**5. Have you seen any films/documentaries, or read anu books about the myth/legend?**