**Homer’s Iliad Catalogue of Ships**

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| Boeotians | Peneleusx, Leitus, Arcesilausx, Prothoenorx, Cloniusx | 50 |
| Aspledon & Orchomenus | Ascalaphusx & Ialmenus (sons of Ares) | 30 |
| Phocians | Schediusx & Epistrophus | 40 |
| Locrians | Ajax the Lesser\* | 40 |
| Abantes (Euboea) | Elephenorx\* | 40 |
| Athenians | Menestheus\* | 50 |
| Salamis | Ajax the Greaterx\* | 12 |
| Argives | Diomedes\*, Sthenelus (son of Capaneus), Euryalus | 80 |
| Mycenaeans | Agamemnon\* | 100 |
| Spartans | Menelaus\* | 60 |
| Pylos | Nestor\* | 90 |
| Arcadians | Agapenor\* | 60 |
| Elis | Amphimachusx, Thalpius, Dioresx, Polyxenus | 40 |
| Dulichium | Meges | 40 |
| Cephallenians (Ithaca, Zacynthus…) | Odysseus\* | 12 |
| Aetolians | Thoas | 40 |
| Cretans | Idomeneus\* & Meriones\* | 80 |
| Rhodes | Tlepolemusx son of Heracles | 9 |
| Syme | Nireusx\* | 3 |
| Cos | Phidippus & Antiphus | 30 |
| Phthia (Myrmidons, Hellenes, & Achaeans) | Achillesx\* | 50 |
| Phylace | Protesilausx\*, Podarces | 40 |
| Pherae | Eumelus\* | 11 |
| Malians | Philoctetes\*, Medonx | 7 |
| Tricca | Podalirius & Machaon\* | 30 |
| Ormenius | Eurypylus\* | 40 |
| Lapiths | Polypoetes & Leonteus | 40 |
| Cyphus | Guneus | 22 |
| Magnesia | Prothous | 40 |
| **All Achaeans/Argives/Danaans** | **46 captains** | **1186 ships** |

x indicates death either during the war, or on the way home

**\*** indicates likeliness to come up in questions about the war, or appearance in other interesting stories

**\*Ajax the Lesser** son of Oileus from Locris was the second fastest runner among the Greeks (after Achilles), and the best spearman. He and Ajax the Greater became great friends and fought side by side. During the sack of Troy he dragged Cassandra from Athena’s shrine to rape her; Odysseus urged the Greeks to stone him to avoid the goddess’ wrath but Ajax clung to the sacred image he’d just desecrated and the Greeks didn’t touch him. However, Athena then sent a storm upon the Greek fleet, scattering them (which was why they took so long to get home); Ajax’s ship went down, but Poseidon saved him. Then, safe on a rocky crag, Ajax boasted that he needed no god to save his life, and Poseidon, angry, drowned him.

**\*Elephenor** had given Demophon and Acamas, the sons of Theseus, refuge in Boeotia when they fled the usurper Menestheus. He was killed at Troy by Agenor.

**\*Menestheus** had been given the kingdom of Athens by Castor and Polydeuces when they attacked it to retrieve Helen. Theseus had earlier kidnapped Helen, as part of a pact he and Pirithous had to marry daughters of Zeus; at the time he was off helping Pirithous fulfill his end of it (that is, he was stuck to a bench in the Underworld). When he was freed by Heracles and returned, Menestheus had turned popular sentiment against him and forced his sons to flee to Euboea, so Theseus left for Troezen. As one of Helen’s suitors, Menestheus gave the richest gifts; later during the Trojan War he defended the Greek ships from Glaucus and Sarpedon with the help of Telamonian Ajax and Teucer. He survived the war and settled on the island of Melos in the Cyclades afterward, ruling it after the death of its king Polyanax. Demophon and Acamas, who’d also gone to Troy, regained Athens.

**\*Ajax the Greater** son of Telamon from Salamis was taller by a head than the rest of the Greeks and the second strongest of them (after Achilles), and with Achilles off the battlefield was their main bulwark. He often fought with Ajax of Locris, and at other times his half-brother **Teucer**, an archer, would shoot in safety from behind his shield. Teucer would have killed Hector had not Zeus broken his bowstring. Ajax fought Hector to a draw and the two exchanged gifts – Hector got a belt, Ajax a sword. Ajax was one of the embassy sent to beg Achilles to return to the field (unsuccessfully), but left most of the talking to Odysseus and Phoenix. He defended Patroclus’ corpse and, later, carried Achilles’ body off the field, defended by Odysseus. An argument over who should get Achilles’ armor ensued, which Odysseus, due to his eloquence in front of the judges and possible bribery, won. This blow to his honor drove Ajax temporarily mad, and he went about in the night slaughtering a herd of sheep, believing them to be the judges. When in the morning he saw what he’d done he was even further ashamed, to the point of killing himself with Hector’s sword. Menelaus and Agamemnon, due to the suicide, didn’t want to let him be buried, but Teucer insisted and Odysseus backed him up. After Teucer returned home to Salamis, Telamon in grief for Ajax unjustly accused him of cowardice or complicity in the Greeks’ mistreatment of Ajax and exiled him; he went to Cyprus on the advice of the Delphic oracle, and married a daughter of the king Cinyras.

**\*Diomedes** was the son of Tydeus. He marched with the Epigoni to Thebes. Afterward he and Alcmeon, son of Amphiaraus, went to Tydeus’ homeland of Calydon to avenge Diomedes’ grandfather Oeneus on his usurping nephews. As Oeneus was too old to rule, he returned to Argos with Diomedes (where he died) after giving Calydon to Andraemon, his son in law. Diomedes went to Troy with two others of the Epigoni, Sthenelus (son of Capaneus) and Euryalus (son of Mecisteus), both of whom were subordinate to him (and Euryalus was co-guardian w/ him of the Argive heir, young Cyanippus). At Troy, despite having no divine blood, he kicked the most ass out of any of the heroes there. He fought gods (with Athena’s sanction – he was sensible enough to wait for permission), wounding Ares and Aphrodite and her son Aeneas; on the same day he killed Pandarus, breaker of the truce. He nearly fought Glaucus, the Lycian leader, to the death, but both realized that their grandfathers (Oeneus and Bellerophon) had been guest-friends. Honoring the ties of hospitality, they exchanged armor and agreed not to fight one another. Diomedes later saved Nestor when his horses were killed and with him pursued Hector, but was stopped by a thunderbolt thrown by Zeus. He and Odysseus were often companions, such as when they volunteered to spy out the camps of the Trojan allies – they caught the spy Dolon, who told them of the splendid horses of Rhesus, which they stole after killing both Rhesus and Dolon. Later in the war the two of them, along with Neoptolemus, went to bring Philoctetes back from Lesbos; still later, they snuck into Troy and stole the Palladium on the advice of Helenus, thereby assuring the city’s downfall. Diomedes returned from Troy to find that his wife had been seduced by Cometes, son of Sthenelus, at the instigation of Nauplius; he was promptly exiled from Argos and settled with his followers in Italy. There, due to Aphrodite’s grudge for the wound he’d dealt her, he was constantly beset with problems, and so wasn’t able to aid Turnus against Aeneas several years later.

**\*Agamemnon** was the elder of the Atreidae. Along with his brother Menelaus, he was raised away from Mycenae to avoid murder at the hands of his usurping uncle Thyestes. When the brothers were grown they attacked Mycenae with the aid of king Tyndareus of Sparta – who apparently was regretting his decision to marry his daughter Clytemnestra to Tantalus, son of Thyestes. Agamemnon expelled Thyestes, killed Tantalus and his infant son, and married Clytemnestra … so the bitterness in this marriage started early. It was not improved when, having mustered a fleet to fight for his brother’s property at Troy, he accidentally offended Artemis who sent contrary winds to the port of Aulis where the fleet was anchored; the seer Calchas told Agamemnon that appeasement required the sacrifice of his eldest daughter, and, choosing his role as general over that of father, tricked Clytemnestra into sending their daughter Iphigeneia by saying she was to marry Achilles. Depending on the version, Iphigeneia may or may not have been replaced by a deer by Artemis at the last second, but Clytemnestra never knew this, and she came to hate her husband. During the war she was only too open to Nauplius’ encouragement of infidelity, and took Aegisthus, son of Thyestes, as her lover. Meanwhile at Troy Agamemnon led the Greek forces in the siege; he did little of note besides gather spoils from sacking neighboring cities. This got the army in trouble when Agamemnon got grumpy about being forced to give up one of his prizes (Chryseis – daughter of Chryses, a priest of Apollo from the island of Chryse, who had offered to ransom his daughter, been rudely rejected, and then prayed to Apollo to curse the Greeks with a plague); the other chieftains figured one concubine wasn’t worth half their army dying, but Agamemnon decided to take away Achilles’ concubine (Briseis from Lyrnessus). This hissy fit set off the events of the Iliad, and Agamemnon was to regret it severely. When Achilles withdrew from the fight Agamemnon offered Briseis back along with a substantial bribe, but was unsuccessful. Eventually, after a long series of events in which Agamemnon did nothing spectacular, the Greeks won the war. Agamemnon, unlike most of the Greeks, returned home promptly, bringing with him the princess Cassandra as a concubine – and their children, Teledamus and Pelops. This did nothing to appease Clytemnestra. She and Aegisthus killed Agamemnon, the unfortunate Cassandra, and both children upon their arrival at Mycenae.

**\*Menelaus** was the younger of the Atreidae; he married Helen, by either Tyndareus’ choice or her own, after Agamemnon regained Mycenae, and became king of Sparta. (The marriage was conditional, however, upon the rest of Helen’s numerous suitors vowing to support whoever was chosen in defense of Helen). After several years Menelaus welcomed into his house as a guest the Trojan prince Paris Alexander; but after nine days he was called away to the funeral of the Cretan king Catreus, his maternal grandfather. When he returned he found Paris, Helen, and a large chunk of his treasure gone. He and Agamemnon mustered an army of Helen’s old suitors to get her back – but first he and Odysseus went to Troy to ask politely. Antenor, a wise old advisor, argued for returning Helen peacefully, but Paris would not hear of it; and so the war began. In the Iliad Menelaus and Paris agree to fight in single combat in order to end the war; but when Paris was wounded Aphrodite whisked him away to safety. Athena then induced Pandarus, a Trojan ally, to shoot Menelaus and break the truce. Otherwise Menelaus did little to distinguish himself at Troy. Menelaus and Odysseus spared Antenor during the sack, in gratitude for his support before the war; Menelaus also spared Helen, though he’d meant to kill her, when he found her in the house of Deiphobus (whom she’d been forced to marry after Paris’ death) – she’d set her new husband up for easy slaying. The couple’s journey home was difficult, though; in the storm sent by Athena they lost 45 out of 50 ships, and were driven off course. They bounced from Crete to Libya to Phoenicia to Cyprus to Egypt, where they were stranded; there the nymph Eidothea pitied them and told them to capture her father, the sea god Proteus, as he sunbathed with the seals – no easy feat, as Proteus could change his shape – and he would tell them how to get home. This he did; disguising himself and his men with seal skins, he snuck up on Proteus and seized him, not letting go when he changed into a lion, a snake, a leopard, a boar, water, and a tree. Proteus finally gave up and told Menelaus how to get home, as well as the fates of his brother and several other Greek chieftains. According to another version Menelaus arrived in Egypt to find his real wife there, spirited away by Aphrodite – a phantom had been causing all the bloodshed at Troy. Helen was about to be forced into marriage by prince Theoclymenus (son of King Proteus), but Menelaus saved her and returned with her to Sparta. In either version, Menelaus actually resumed rule of his realm without any trouble, unlike many of his fellows from the war.

**\*Nestor** son of Neleus – was a venerable king of Pylos who ruled his city for three generations. Nestor’s eleven brothers were killed by Heracles when he sacked their city, while he was away in Gerenia. Heracles gave Messenia (the region around Pylos) back to Nestor because he hadn’t helped his brothers try to steal the cattle he’d just stolen from the monster Geryon. Nestor as a young man was an accomplished warrior; he killed the Eleian leader Itymoneus and brought home his many and large flocks of cattle. Then the Eleians invaded his land; he took away his son’s horses to prevent him from going out and getting killed in the fight, and defeated the invaders by himself on foot. He participated in the Calydonian boar hunt and possibly the voyage of the Argonauts. He married Eurydice or possibly Anaxibia and had two daughters and seven sons (of whom Thrasymedes and Antilochus – the latter of whom died by Memnon’s hand – accompanied him to Troy). During the war he was universally respected for his old age and wisdom, although he did once incorrectly interpret a dream Agamemnon had. This can be excused because the dream was sent purposely to make the Greeks attack Troy without Achilles so that they would suffer heavily for his absence. Nestor, and his surviving forces returned to Pylos without incident after the war; he later hosted Telemachus when he came looking for his father, and sent him on to Sparta with his son Peisistratus.

**\*Agapenor** was king of the Arcadian city of Tegea. He appears outside the Trojan saga as having bought Arsinoe, the first wife of Alcmeon, from her brothers as a slave after she protested the execution of her husband for attempting to sneak away with the necklace and robe of Harmonia which he had given her. Agapenor never returned to Arsinoe after the war, having been washed ashore on Cyprus and staying there to found Paphos.

**\*Odysseus** has a whole epic written about him, which I have no intention of summarizing here. Before the events of the Odyssey, and the Iliad, Odysseus made a name for himself as the very very very clever son of Laertes and Anticleia (the cleverness was in his blood – his maternal grandfather was Autolycus, son of Hermes and a famous thief, and his mother may or may not have had an affair with Sisyphus). He at one point befriended Iphitus, who thought so highly of him that he gave him his father Eurytus’ bow as a gift – Eurytus was a famous archer who had taught Heracles to shoot, and Odysseus never used this precious gift in combat. It later plays a key role in the Odyssey. Odysseus did woo Helen, but soon gave up (giving her father Tyndareus the tip about making her suitors swear to protect her) and was given her cousin Penelope, daughter of Icarius. When the call to arms for all of Helen’s suitors came, Odysseus tried to weasel out. He pretended to be insane, plowing his fields out of season and sowing them with salt. Palamedes, son of Nauplius, revealed the ploy by placing Odysseus’ infant son Telemachus in front of the plow – Odysseus of course stopped so as not to run him over, and, sane and very disgruntled, was dragged along to Troy. He roped Achilles, who was then disguised as a girl in the court of king Lycomedes of Scyros, into the war on behalf of the Greeks; he revealed his identity by presenting the ladies of the court with jewels, dresses, and a sword and shield, and then sounding trumpets which signaled invasion – Achilles went straight for the weapons. Before the war. Odysseus accompanied Menelaus to Troy to try to negotiate. On the journey to Troy, it was Odysseus who persuaded the fleet to abandon Philoctetes on Lemnos. At Troy, he avenged himself on Palamedes by falsely accusing him and getting him stoned to death. He also snuck into the Trojan camp with Diomedes, on the advice of Nestor; they captured the Trojan spy Dolon, who spilled his guts to save his life (pointlessly, as it turned out. Odysseus was never big on mercy). The two heroes then killed the Thracian king Rhesus and stole his valuable horses. They paired up again to steal the Palladium from Troy, on the advice of the captured Trojan seer Helenus; while in the city Helen recognized him, but instead of giving him away she helped him, which when the city was sacked caused him to put in a good word for her with Menelaus. Odysseus, along with Telamonian Ajax, saved Achilles’ body from the battlefield, and subsequently was awarded the hero’s splendid armor by a (possibly bribed) jury of his peers. Ajax killed himself over this incident, and Odysseus persuaded the army to grant him a proper funeral. After the events of the Iliad Odysseus was sent to bring Neoptolemus, Achilles’ son, to Troy; he, Neoptolemus, and Diomedes were then sent to retrieve Philoctetes from Lemnos. He most famously was inspired by Athena to create the wooden horse. During the sack he and Menelaus hung a panther-skin over the doorway of Antenor, an old man who had argued early on to return Helen to the Greeks. Otherwise Odysseus killed mercilessly, insisting on throwing Hector’s infant son Astyanax off the battlements, in order to destroy the Trojan male line. He also advocated killing Ajax of Locris when the latter raped Cassandra and violated Athena’s shrine; he was overruled, resulting in the massive storm which scattered the Greek fleet. The ancient Greeks adored Odysseus, but because of his backstabbing ways and his actions at Troy the Romans seldom referred to him as anything but “cruel” or “deceitful.”

**\*Idomeneus** son of Deucalion son of Minos was king of Crete; **Meriones** was his nephew and charioteer. Idomeneus distinguished himself as a brave fighter during the war, offering to duel Hector and fiercely defending the Greek ships when the Trojans came down to burn them. He and Meriones were separated on the journey home – the latter washed up on Sicily while the former arrived safe and sound in Crete. There he found that his wife Meda had cheated on him and that her lover, Leucus, had killed her and usurped the throne. He expelled Idomeneus, who eventually settled in Calabria (on the “heel” of Italy).

**\*Nireus** is noteworthy solely because, after Achilles, he was the most beautiful of the Greeks.

**\*Achilles** has his own very lengthy, very detailed study guide! For detailed information on him, please refer to that.

**\*Protesilaus** son of Iphiclus led the ships from Phylace and surrounding areas. When the rest of the fleet balked at the prophecy that the first to come ashore at Troy would be the first to die, he volunteered to sacrifice himself. He landed first and killed several Trojans before Hector killed him. His brother Podarces took over his command and his young wife, Laodice, committed suicide after his shade came briefly from the underworld to comfort her.

**\*Eumelus** is the son of Admetus and Alcestis, and is only likely to be asked about as the winner of the chariot races at Achilles’ funeral games. He would have won at Patroclus’, since he had divine horses reared by Apollo, but Athena made the yoke break to spite Apollo (who was on the opposite side of the war).

**\*Philoctetes** son of Poeas is famous for being given Heracles’ bow and poisoned arrows by the dying hero. He later led the Malians part of the way to Troy – on the island of Tenedos or possibly Chryse he was bitten by a snake sent by Hera (who for some reason still hadn’t forgiven him for his friendship with Heracles, or for lighting his funeral pyre and making him immortal). The wound festered and stank and became so painful that his companions, persuaded by Odysseus, left him on Lemnos. This made him understandably uncooperative when Odysseus returned ten years later and announced that he had to bring Heracles’ bow and arrows to Troy in order for the Greeks to win the war. Odysseus used Neoptolemus to get Philoctetes to “lend” them his bow, but the young hero then wouldn’t follow through with the deception and persuaded Philoctetes – with possible help from the deified Heracles – to come along by promising to bring him home to Greece after the war. Philoctetes relented; he was healed at Troy by Machaon and Podalirius, and then avenged Achilles by shooting Paris (non-fatally, but the hydra poison ensured a slow and painful death). Homer claims Philoctetes made it home; others claim he wandered until he settled on the east coast of Italy.

**\*Podalirius & Machaon** were sons of Asclepius, the god of healing; they served as both captains and healers for the Greek army. One or the other of them healed Philoctetes; Machaon was eventually killed by either Eurypylus (the Trojan one) or Penthesileia. Nestor buried his remains at Gerenia.

**\*Eurypylus** who led the Thessalians to Troy did nothing particularly important during the war; but when Troy was sacked he took as part of his spoils a chest containing an image of Dionysus. This had been left by either Aeneas or Cassandra to be a curse to the Greek who found it; Eurypylus, upon seeing the icon, went mad. The oracle at Delphi told him his insanity would be cured in a country whose inhabitants made a strange sacrifice. Letting the winds guide his ship he landed on Aroe, interrupting the ritual hanging of a youth and maiden. The natives saw the image of Dionysus, which was mentioned in one of their prophecies, and stopped the sacrifice. Eurypylus was cured and instituted the worship of Dionysus, sans human sacrifice.

Other importants:

**Phoenix, Patroclus** *(Phthia)* – the former was Achilles old tutor, and the latter his squire and lover. Phoenix had been exiled from his homeland of Ormenium because he seduced his father’s concubine (on his jealous mother’s instigation). Peleus, king of Phthia, took him in and put him in charge of the young Achilles. He was part of the embassy sent to persuade Achilles to rejoin the fight; he failed, and thereafter stayed with Achilles. Patroclus and his father Menoetius also fled their homeland for Phthia when Patroclus accidentally killed a playmate; Peleus purified him of murder and put him in Achilles’ employ, and the two boys became very close. At Troy Patroclus chafed at sitting by while Greeks died, and finally, when the Trojans were nearly upon the ships, begged Achilles to be allowed to go into battle wearing his armor. Achilles relented, but made him promise not to pursue the attack – just to drive the Trojans away from the camp. Patroclus forgot this promise in the heat of battle, pursued the terrified Trojans to their very walls, and then was killed by a boastful Hector – upon which it was discovered that he was not, in fact, Achilles. Hector took Achilles’ armor but the Greeks saved his body; Achilles had Thetis embalm Patroclus’ corpse with ambrosia rather than bury it, and refused to eat until he avenged himself on the Trojans. He then sacrificed twelve Trojan captives on Patroclus’ funeral pyre and held magnificent games in his honor.

**Antilochus, Thrasymedes** *(Pylos)* – sons of Nestor who followed their father to Troy. Antilochus became Achilles’ new best friend after the death of Patroclus; when he died saving his father from the Ethiopian king Memnon Achilles went forth to avenge him, only to be shot fatally by Paris.

**Calchas** *(Megara)* – the Greeks’ resident soothsayer, who made the prophecies concerning the length of the siege, the necessity of Achilles’ presence at Troy, the sacrifice of Iphigeneia, the return of Chryseis to stop the plague Apollo had sent, and possibly helped Odysseus frame Palamedes. (He was trusted by all the Greeks in spite of his very apparent readiness to make prophecies according to “outside influences.”) He was fated to die when he met a more skilled prophet than himself; this occurred after the Trojan War, when he wandered about Asia Minor with several other Greeks. He encountered Mopsus, a famous seer, and challenged him by asking him the number of figs on a nearby wild fig tree. Mopsus’ prediction was ten thousand, plus one bushel, plus one. Someone must have actually counted them all, because the prediction was determined to be correct. Mopsus then challenged Calchas to guess the number of piglets a pregnant sow was carrying; Calchas guessed eight, but Mopsus asserted that there were nine, all of which were male and would be born the next day. This was indeed true; and Calchas, his ego utterly crushed, went into decline, soon dying of either a broken heart or sheer jealousy.

**Eurybates** *(Ithaca)* & **Talthybius** & **Odius –** heralds of the Greek fleet. Eurybates and Talthybius both reluctantly and ashamedly took Briseis from Achilles (who assured them that he bore them no grudge, but only their master Agamemnon); Eurybates and Odius accompanied the embassy sent to Achilles to bring him back into the fight. Talthybius seems to have been assigned the most reluctant, shameful tasks, among them taking Cassandra into slavery, taking the infant Astyanax from his mother Andromache, telling Hecabe that her daughter Polyxena was to be sacrificed to Achilles, and, some time before, fetching Iphigeneia from Mycenae to be killed.

**Thersites** – known as the ugliest of the Greeks, Thersites was bowlegged, stooped, lame in one foot, and had a misshapen head. He loudly impugned Agamemnon’s judgement before the entire fleet – and by most standards he was not at all without justification, but Odysseus made a big show of striking him for opposing the High King. (Apparently reviling leaders was a habit of Thersites; and this of course was verboten in the extremely hierarchical Greek army.) Later, Thersites laughed loudly at Achilles for falling in love with the slain Penthesileia, for which the angry hero struck him so hard across the face that he died instantly. Achilles had to purify himself of this murder on Lesbos with sacrifices to Apollo, Artemis, and Leto, but nobody actually mourned.

**Neoptolemus** – the son of Achilles by Deidameia, princess of Scyros; his named him Pyrrhus, after the pseudonym his father had used while disguised as a girl in Lycomedes’ court (Pyrrha), but he was renamed (“New Soldier”) because of the young age at which he and his father both had entered the war. Though he could not have been more than nine when Helenus made the prophecy about Troy not falling without his presence, he is introduced as a full-grown warrior as talented as his father. He was given Achilles’ god-made armor; persuaded Philoctetes to rejoin the army; and slaughtered Trojans ruthlessly. The Greeks adored him, at least during the war, and portrayed him as morally upright like his father (due to his conduct with Philoctetes). The Romans had a rather different opinion due to his actions during the sack of Troy – he killed Priam’s young son Polites right in front of him, killed Priam himself at Zeus’ altar, demanded Polyxena’s sacrifice to his father, and in some accounts personally flung Astyanax off the walls of Troy – and then took his mother Andromache as his concubine. His actions after the war also present him in a rather unflattering light; he settled in Epirus along with his Trojan slaves Andromache and Helenus, and then went to Sparta to marry Hermione – who was technically already married to her cousin Orestes, but had been promised to Neoptolemus by Menelaus, her father, to get him to join the war. Neoptolemus treated Orestes unpardonably, earning his hatred. While married to Neoptolemus Hermione herself was unpardonably cruel to Andromache, of which Neoptolemus disapproved; fearing his wrath, Hermione may or may not have had a hand in his murder. One version says he went to Delphi to demand redress for his father’s murder (since Apollo had guided Paris’ hand for the fatal shot), and there stole votive offerings and burned the temple. Another says he was merely making a pilgrimage. Either way, a crowd of angry Delphians incited by Orestes killed Neoptolemus at Apollo’s very altar, just as he had once killed Priam. This form of poetic justice was dubbed “the punishment of Neoptolemus.”

**Nauplius** & **Oeax –** the father and brother, respectively, of Palamedes. When Odysseus framed Palamedes and had him killed Nauplius and Oeax dedicated themselves to revenge against those who had unjustly convicted him; they both spent the ten years of the Trojan war insidiously embittering the Greek leaders’ wives against their husbands, convincing them to take lovers or to plot to kill their husbands when they returned. Ironically, Penelope, the wife of the backstabbing Odysseus, was unshakably faithful to her husband for about four times as long as it took Nauplius to erode the fidelity of everyone else’s wives.