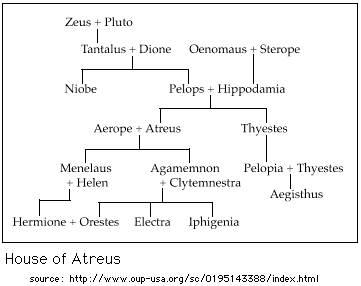
Quang Huynh

The House of Atreus



* The House of Atreus is a family who was known for being punished by the gods.
* The family is doomed because it all started with Tantalus. He killed his son, Pelops. This angered the gods, and he was sent to the underworld for eternity. He cut his son up, boiled him, and cooked Pelops as a sacrifice to the Gods. Tantalus did this to test the god’s omniscience.
* Another example of the gods punishing the family would be Niobe. Niobe was very proud of her fourteen children. She criticized Leto for only having two children. Leto didn’t exactly like this, sending Apollo and Artemis to shoot down Niobe’s children. Zeus would turn Niobe into a weeping statue as she cried for her slain children.
* Menelaus is the king of Sparta and is a child of Atreus. He’s married to Helen and the abduction of his wife led to the Trojan War. Due to the curse in their family, Menelaus gets exiled from Mycenae.
* Agamemnon is the great-grandson of Tantalus and returns home after winning the Trojan War. He gets greeted by his wife, Clytemnestra, who has been planning to kill her husband. This might be due to vengeance for her murdered daughter. Agamemnon sacrificed her daughter by killing her through tricking her. He gets killed by Clytemnestra and Aegisthus while bathing.
* Orestes is the son of Agamemnon. Orestes avenges his father by killing his mother and her lover, Aegisthus. Orestes is taken to trial with Athena and Apollo. At the end, the votes are tied. He walks off and officially ends the family curse because he is declared not guilty during the trial.
* Electra is the daughter of Agamemnon and helped Orestes kill their mother. Electra protected Orestes when Agamemnon was killed.
* Pelops was the son of Tantalus who was sacrificed and turned into food. He was offered to the gods as a meal. But the gods didn’t like this offer and is revived by the gods.
* They’re important to the Odyssey since some of the family members were around when the Odyssey occurred and had an impact.

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