

- 3.1 *Zeus plans the Trojan war.* Some time later Alexander abducted Helene, in accordance with a plan of Zeus, as some say, to make his daughter famous for having brought Europe and Asia together in a war, or as others hold, to extol the race of the demigods.
- 3.2 *The Apple of Discord, and the abduction of Helene.* For one of these reasons Eris tossed an apple to Hera, Athena, and Aphrodite, in recognition of their beauty, and Zeus bade Hermes escort them to Alexander on Ide, to be judged by him. They offered Alexander gifts: Hera said if she were chosen fairest of all women, she would make him king of all men; Athena promised him victory in war; and Aphrodite promised him
- 3.3 Helene in marriage. So he chose Aphrodite, and sailed off to Sparta in ships built by Phereclus. He was the guest of Menelaus for nine days, but on the tenth Menelaus went to Crete to bury his maternal grandfather Catreus, and Alexander persuaded Helene to slip away with him. She left her nine-year-old daughter Hermione behind, but loaded most
- 3.4 of her treasure aboard, and set out with Alexander at night. Hera in-

flicted a great storm upon them, which forced them to put in at Sidon. Alexander also lingered for a long time at Phoenicia and Cyprus, to make sure he was not being pursued. When this fear was dissipated, he went on to Troy with Helene. Some say, however, that Helene, in accordance with the will of Zeus, was kidnaped by Hermes and taken to Egypt, where she was put in the safekeeping of the Egyptian king Proteus, and that Alexander proceeded to Troy with an image of Helene made from clouds.

Agamemnon calls for an expedition against Troy. As soon as Menelaus learned of the abduction, he went to Agamemnon at Mycenae, and asked him by conscripting Hellas to assemble an army to march against Troy. Agamemnon sent a herald to each of the kings, recalled the oaths which they had sworn, and advised them each to consider the safety of his own wife, asserting that the act showed contempt equally for all Hellas. Many were eager to march, and went to Odysseus on Ithaca.

Odysseus and Palamedes. But Odysseus, with no desire to join the expedition, pretended to be insane. It was Palamedes, the son of Nauplius, who proved that his insanity was contrived, for he followed Odysseus as he went through his madness act, and seizing Telemachus from the lap of Penelope, he drew his sword as if to slay him. After moving to protect the child, Odysseus admitted that his insanity was a pretense, and he joined the army.

But when Odysseus had taken a Phrygian captive, he forced him to write a letter of treason, to be from Priamus to Palamedes. He then secreted gold in Palamedes' tents, and dropped the letter in the campground. Agamemnon read it, found the gold, and handed Palamedes over to the allied forces to be stoned to death as a traitor.

Cinyras. Menelaus, with Odysseus and Talthylus, visited Cinyras in Cyprus to persuade him to fight with them. He made a gift of breastplates to Agamemnon (who had not come), and swore to send fifty ships. He sent only one, however, which was commanded by . . . the son of Mygdalion. The rest he made of clay, and launched into the sea.

The Oenotrophi. The daughters of Apollo's son Anius, whose names were Elais, Spermo, and Oeno, were called the Oenotrophi. Dionysus bestowed on them the function of producing oil, grain, and wine from the earth.

The catalogue of ships. The army assembled in Aulis. The members of the expedition against Troy were as follows: the Goetians sent ten chiefs and forty ships, the Phocians four chiefs and forty ships, the Orchomenians four chiefs and thirty ships. The Locrians sent Aias, son of Oileus, with forty ships; the Euboeans sent Elephenor, son of Chalcodon and Alcione, with forty ships; the Athenians sent

- Menestheus with fifty ships; the Salaminians sent Telamonian Aias with twelve ships. Tydeus' son Diomedes and his group represented the Argives, with eighty ships; the Mycenaean Agamemnon, son of Atreus and Aerope, took one hundred ships; Lacedaemonian Menelaus, also son of Atreus and Aerope, took sixty ships. The Pylians sent Nestor, son of Neleus and Chloris, with forty ships; the Arcadians sent Agapenor with seven ships; the Eleians sent Amphimachus and his group with forty ships; the Dulichians sent Meges, son of Phyleus, with forty ships; the Cephallenes sent Odysseus, son of Laertes and Anticleia, with twelve ships; the Aetolians sent Thoas, son of Andraemon and Gorge, with forty ships. Deucalion's son Idomeneus represented the Cretans with forty ships; Tlepolemus, son of Heracles and Astyoche, represented the Rhodians with nine ships; Symaeon Nireus, son of Charopus, took three ships; and Thessalus' sons Pheidippus and Antiphus represented the Coans with thirty ships. The Myrmidons sent Achilles, son of Peleus and Thetis, with fifty ships. Protesilaus, son of Iphiclus, came from Phylace with forty ships. The Pheraeans sent Admetus' son Eumelus with eleven ships; the Olizones sent Philoctetes, son of Poeas, with seven ships; the Aenianes sent Guneus, son of Ocytus, with twenty-two ships. Representing the Triccaeanes were Podaleirius <and Machaon, sons of Asclepius> with thirty ships; and from the Ormenians came <Euaemon's son> Eurypylyus with forty ships. The Gyrtonians sent Polypoetes, son of Peirithous, with thirty ships; and the Magnetes sent Prothous, son of Tenthredon, with forty ships. There were in all one thousand and thirteen ships, forty-three chiefs, and thirty military commands.
- 3.15 *The omen at Aulis.* While they were in Aulis, and after a sacrifice had been made to Apollo, a serpent rushed out from the altar to a nearby plane tree, in which there was a bird's nest. It devoured the eight sparrows in the nest (nine with the mother), and then turned into stone. Calchas interpreted this as a sign in accordance with the will of Zeus, and estimated from it that Troy was fated to be captured in ten years' time. Agamemnon himself was commander-in-chief of the armies, and fifteen-year-old Achilles was admiral of the fleet.
- 3.17 *The expedition to Mysia.* Ignorant of where Troy was by sea, they sailed to Mysia and started to sack it, thinking it was Troy. But Heracles' son Telephus, king of the Mysians, when he saw his land being despoiled, armed the Mysians and pursued the Hellenes in a body to their ships, killing many, including Polyneices' son Thersander, who had resisted. When Achilles rushed at Telephus, however, he did not tarry, and as he was chased he got caught by a tangle of vines and wounded

by a spear in his thigh. When the Hellenes sailed away from Mysia, and, after being scattered by a heavy storm, they all returned to their own lands. Thus, because the Hellenes turned back at that time, it is said that the war went on for twenty years. For it was in the second year after the abduction of Helene that the Hellenes prepared to march, but eight years went by after their retreat from Mysia to Hellas before they once again headed back to Argos to sail to Aulis.

They regather at Argos. When they had gathered again in Argos after the aforementioned eight years, they were mightily confused about the voyage, for they had no leader who could chart the course to Troy. Meanwhile, Telephus, whose wound had not healed, was told by Apollo that it would heal when the man who wounded him became his doctor; so, dressed in rags he made his way to Argos from Mysia, and begged the help of Achilles, promising to show him the sea route to Troy. Achilles treated him by scraping off the rust from his Pelian spear of ash. And so, when he was healed, he showed them the route, and Calchas, through the use of his own mantic powers, vouched for the reliability of his presentation.

Iphigeneia. But after leaving Argos and sailing for the second time to Aulis, weather held the fleet in port. Calchas announced that they would not be able to sail unless the most beautiful of Agamemnon's daughters was offered as a sacrificial victim to Artemis; for the goddess was angry at Agamemnon because, after shooting a deer, he had boasted that "not even Artemis" could have shot so well, and because Atreus had not sacrificed to her his golden lamb. So Agamemnon sent Odysseus and Talthybius to Clytaemnestra and asked for Iphigeneia, saying that he had promised to give her in marriage to Achilles as payment for his military service. When his wife had sent Iphigeneia, Agamemnon placed her on the altar and was about to sacrifice her when Artemis spirited her off to the Taurians, where she set her up as her own priestess; she put a deer on the altar in the girl's place. Also, according to some, she made Iphigeneia immortal.

Tenedos. They sailed from Aulis and put in at Tenedos. The king there was Tenes, son of Cycnus and Procleia (though some say Apollo was the father). He lived there after being banished by his father. For Cycnus and Laomedon's daughter Procleia had both Tenes and a daughter named Hemithea; but Cycnus then married Philonome, daughter of Tragasus. She developed a lust for Tenes, but when she could not prevail upon him, she falsely accused him in front of Cycnus of rape, and even produced as a witness a flute-player named Eumolpus. Cycnus believed the story, and put Tenes along with his sister on an ark, which he

pushed out to sea. The ark drifted ashore on the island of Leucophrys, where Tenes climbed out, settled down, and called the place Tenedos after himself. Cycnus later found out the truth, stoned the flute-player, and buried his wife alive.

3.26 So as the Hellenes sailed toward Tenedos, Tenes saw them coming and tried to ward them off with rocks, but Achilles plunged a sword into his chest and killed him, even though Thetis warned him not to. For he himself would be slain by Apollo, if he should slay Tenes.

3.27 Philoctetes wounded. As they were sacrificing to Apollo, a water-snake crept out from the altar and bit Philoctetes. The wound refused to heal and became so foul-smelling that the army could not endure the stink, so Agamemnon had Odysseus set Philoctetes ashore on Lemnos along with the bow of Heracles, which he kept with him. He stayed alive there in the wilderness by shooting down birds.

3.28 Odysseus and Menelaus arrive in Troy. They left Tenedos and sailed on for Troy, sending Odysseus and Menelaus ahead to demand the return of Helene and her treasure. But after the Trojan assembly was convened, they not only would not return Helene but even voted to execute these two. Now Antenor saved their lives, but even so the Hellenes were infuriated by the contempt of these foreigners, and sailed against them with full military strength.

Protesilaus. Thetis warned Achilles not to be the first to disembark from the ships, because the first to land was going to be the first to die. 3.30 So the first of the Hellenes to disembark was Protesilaus, and after he had slain not a few barbarians he was killed by Hector. His wife Laodameia continued to love him even after his death: she fashioned an image very similar to Protesilaus and had intercourse with it. The gods felt pity for her, and Hermes led Protesilaus up from Hades' realm. When Laodameia saw him, in joy she thought it was her husband returning from Troy, but as he was led back below again, she killed herself.

3.31 The first battles. With Protesilaus dead, Achilles landed with the Myrmidons. He killed Cycnus by throwing a stone at his head. When the barbarians saw the corpse, they fled into the polis, but the Hellenes jumped from their ships and filled the field with bodies. They shut the Trojans in, besieged them, and secured their own ships on the beach.

3.32 When the barbarians failed to show any confidence, Achilles ambushed Troilus in the temple of Apollo Thymbraeus and slew him, and he captured Lycaon during a nocturnal foray to the polis. He also ravaged the country with certain of the best warriors, and went to Ide after the cattle of Aeneias. Aeneias escaped, but Achilles slew his herdsmen and

Priamus' son Mestor, and made off with the herd. He also took Lesbos 3.33 and Phocaea; then Colophon, Smyrna, Clazomenae, and Cyme; and after these Aegialus and Tenos; then in succession Adramytium and Side; then Endion, Linaeum, and Colone. He also captured the Thebes of Hypoplacia, Lymessus, also Antandros and many others.

Trojan allies. When nine years had gone by, Trojan allies appeared. 3.34 From the neighboring cities came the Dardanian leaders, Anchises' son Aeneias and with him Archelochus and Acamas, sons of Antenor and Theano; from the Thracians came Acamas, son of Eusorus; from the Cicones Euphemos, son of Troezenus; from the Paones Pyraechmes; from the Paphlagonians Pylaemenes, son of Bilsates. From Zelia came 3.35 Pandarus, son of Lycaon; from Adrasteia came Adrastus and Amphius, sons of Merops; from Arisbe came Hyrtacus' son Asius; from Larissa came Hippothous, son of Pelasgus; from Mysia Chromius and Ennomus, sons of Arsinous; from the Alizones Odius and Epistrophus, sons of Mecisteus; from the Phrygians came Aretaon's sons Phorcys and Ascanius; from the Maeones Mesthles and Antiphus, sons of Talaemenes; from the Cares Nomion's sons Nastes and Amphimachus; and from the Lycians Sarpedon, son of Zeus, and Glaucus, son of Hippolochus.

The events of the Iliad. But Achilles stayed back from the war, wrath- 4.1 ful because of Briseis . . . the daughter of the priest Chryses. Consequently the barbarians gathered courage and went forth from their polis. Alexander fought a duel with Menelaus, but as he was being beaten, Aphrodite spirited him away. Then Pandarus broke the truce by hitting Menelaus with an arrow.

Diomedes, as he was having his day, wounded Aphrodite, who was 4.2 helping Aeneias. Then Diomedes met Glaucus, recalled their fathers' friendship and exchanged arms. And as Hector challenged the best man to a duel, many volunteered, but Aias was chosen by lot and fought with distinction. When night approached, heralds separated them.

The Hellenes built a wall and ditch in front of their anchorage, and 4.3 after a battle had taken place on the plain, the Trojans chased the Hellenes behind this wall. The Hellenes sent Odysseus, Phoenix, and Aias as envoys to Achilles to enjoin him to fight with them, promising him Briseis and other gifts. And during the night they sent out Odysseus and 4.4 Diomedes as scouts. These two slew Dolon, son of Eumelus, and Rhesus the Thracian (who had arrived the preceding day as a Trojan ally, and because he was not yet in battle had made his camp further off from the Trojan force and apart from Hector); they also slew the twelve men who were sleeping near him, and led his horses to the ships. In the day- 4.5

light a mighty battle was fought, wherein Agamemnon, Diomedes, Odysseus, Eurypylus, and Machaon were wounded, and the Hellenes were routed. Hector broke through the wall and pushed in, and, as Aias fell back, Hector set fire to the ships.

- 4.6 When Achilles saw the ship of Protesilaus burning, he sent Patroclus forth in his personal armor and with his own horses, to lead the Myrmidons. The Trojans, upon seeing him, assumed he was Achilles and turned in flight. Patroclus pursued them right up to their wall, and slew many, including Sarpedon, son of Zeus; but he was himself killed by
- 4.7 Hector, after Euphorbus had wounded him. There was heavy fighting over the corpse, but Aias by dint of great heroism was just able to rescue it.
Achilles then set aside his wrath and was given Briseis back. He put on a full suit of armor brought him from Hephaestus and went out to war, driving the Trojans in a body to the Scamander, where he destroyed many, including Asteropaeus, the son of the river Axius' son Pelegon.
- 4.8 In fury the river rose up against him. But Hephaestus chased the river with a great flame and dried up its stream, while Achilles slew Hector as they fought alone. He tied Hector's ankles to his chariot, and returned to the ships, dragging him along behind. When he had buried Patroclus, he held games in his honor, in which Diomedes won with the horses, Epius at boxing, and Aias and Odysseus at wrestling. After the games Priamus came to Achilles, ransomed Hector's body and buried it.
- 5.1 Penthesileia. Penthesileia, the daughter of Otrere and Ares, who had accidentally killed Hippolyte and been purified by Priamus, slew many in battle, including Machaon; but later she was herself killed by Achilles, who fell in love with the Amazon after she died, and slew Thersites for rebuking him.
- 5.2 Hippolyte, also known as Glauce and Melanippe, was the mother of Hippolytus. As the marriage of Theseus was being celebrated, she showed up with arms together with her Amazons, and told Theseus she was going to murder the whole gathering. In the ensuing battle she died, either involuntarily killed by her ally Penthesileia, or by Theseus, or because the men with Theseus, as soon as they noted the arrival of the Amazons, quickly bolted the doors, caught her inside and killed her.
- 5.3 The death of Achilles. Memnon, son of Tithonus and Eos, brought a large force of Ethiopians to Troy to battle the Hellenes, and slew many of them, including Antilochus. He was himself killed by Achilles. And after Achilles had given chase to the Trojans as well, he was hit in the
- 5.4 ankle with an arrow by Alexander and Apollo at the Scaean gates. Although there was a battle over the corpse, Aias killed Glaucus, sent the

arms of Achilles to the ships, and carried his body through the midst of the enemy while being assailed by spears, as Odysseus battled the attackers.

The army took the death of Achilles very hard. They buried him [on the island of Leuce] with Patroclus, mixing together the two men's bones. (It is said that after his death Achilles went to live with Medeia on the islands of the blest.) Games were then held in his honor, in which Eumelus won with the horses, Diomedes in the foot race, Aias with the discus, Teucer with the bow.

Aias and the arms of Achilles. Achilles' arms were set up as a reward for the best man, and Aias and Odysseus entered the competition. When Odysseus was chosen, Aias, unsteadied by his mortification, plotted an attack on the army by night. Athena inflicted insanity upon him and caused him to turn with his sword upon the cattle; in his madness he slaughtered both the cattle and their herdsmen, supposing them to be Achaeans. Later he regained his senses and killed himself as well.

Agamemnon prohibited his cremation, and alone of all those who died at Ilium Aias lies in a coffin. His tomb is at Rhoeteium.

Philoctetes is brought to Troy. As the Hellenes grew dispirited by a war that had now been going on for ten years, Calchas prophesied that they would not be able to sack Troy unless they had the bow and arrows of Heracles fighting with them. When he heard this, Odysseus went with Diomedes to Philoctetes on Lemnos, and after getting control of the bow and arrows through trickery, he talked Philoctetes into sailing to Troy. Once there he was healed by Podaleirius, and shot Alexander with the bow.

Helenus is captured. After Alexander's death, Helenus and Deiphobus wrangled over Helene's hand. Deiphobus was chosen, so Helenus abandoned Troy and went to live on Ide. But when Calchas reported that Helenus knew the oracles that kept the polis from being taken, Odysseus ambushed him and led him to the camp. There under compulsion Helenus told how Ilium might be taken: first, if the bones of Pelops were brought into their midst; second, if Neoptolemus were to fight as their ally; and third, if the palladium from Zeus were stolen, for as long as it was in Troy the polis could not be sacked.

When they heard this, the Hellenes had the bones of Pelops brought to them, and they sent Odysseus and Phoenix to Scyros, where they prevailed on Lycomedes to let Neoptolemus join them. When he reached the camp, Odysseus gladly gave him his father's arms, and Neoptolemus destroyed many of the Trojans. Later Telephus' son Eurypylus arrived as a Trojan ally with a great force of Mysians, but though

he fought bravely, Neoptolemus slew him. Then Odysseus with Diomedes went at night to the polis, and while Diomedes waited obediently, Odysseus mutilated himself, put on rags, and, as a beggar, entered the polis unrecognized. But Helene knew him, and helped him steal the palladium, after which he killed many of the guards, and carried it back to the ships with Diomedes in tow.

- 5.14 The wooden horse. Still later, Odysseus thought up the idea of building a wooden horse, and presented it to Epeius, who was a master builder. Epeius cut down wood on Ide and built a horse that was hollow inside and could be opened on the flanks. Odysseus persuaded fifty of the noblest warriors to climb inside (the author of the *Little Iliad* says there were three thousand!), and told the rest to burn their tents at nightfall and put to sea, lying in wait off Tenedos until the next night had come, and then to sail back. They obeyed, and loaded the horse with the warriors, put Odysseus in charge, and carved on the horse an inscription that declared: "The Hellenes present this thank-offering to Athena for their homecoming." Then they burned their tents and sailed out in the night to lie in wait off Tenedos. They left Sinon behind, who was to light a signal fire for them.
- 5.15
- 5.16 At daybreak the Trojans looked out upon the empty camp of the Hellenes and assumed that they had fled. With great rejoicing they dragged the horse to a position beside the palace of Priamus, where they discussed what they should do with it. Casandra told them that there was an armed force inside, as did the soothsayer Laocoon. Some wanted to burn it up, others to throw it over a cliff. But most agreed that it should be preserved as a divine offering, and so they turned their attention to sacrifices and banquets. Apollo sent them a sign, in the form of two serpents who swam through the sea from the islands nearby and devoured the sons of Laocoon.
- 5.18
- 5.19 Troy is sacked. When night came on and sleep held everyone in its grip, the Hellenes from Tenedos sailed near, and Sinon touched off the beacon-fire for them at the tomb of Achilles. Meanwhile Helene walked round the horse, calling to the nobles in voices imitative of each one's wife. When Anticlus wanted to reply, Odysseus clamped his mouth
- 5.20 shut. Then, when they believed their enemies had gone to bed, they opened the horse and climbed out with their weapons. The first man out, Portheus' son Echion, died by jumping down, but the rest slid down a rope to the walls and opened the gates to let in those who had sailed from Tenedos. They proceeded with their arms into the polis, entering the houses and murdering the inhabitants in their beds. Neoptolemus slew Priamus as he was fleeing to the altar of Zeus Her-
- 5.21

ceius. As Antenor's son Glaucus was rushing toward his house, Odysseus and Menelaus recognized him and, coming up with their weapons, saved his life for him. Aeneias picked up his father Anchises and escaped, the Hellenes letting him go because of his holiness. Menelaus 5.22 slew Deiphobus and led Helene to the ships. The sons of Theseus, Demophon and camas (for they say these two came later on to Troy), also recovered Theseus' mother Aethra. Locrian Aias, when he saw Casandra clinging to the wooden statue of Athena, raped her: for this reason the wooden image gazes up to the sky.

After murdering the Trojans, they set fire to the polis and divided up 5.23 the spoils. Then, after sacrificing to all the gods, they threw Astyanax from the ramparts and sacrificed Polyxene on the tomb of Achilles. As 5.24 a special honor Agkamemnon received Casandra, Neoptolemus received Andromache, and Odysseus received Hecabe. Some say, however, that Helenos took Hecabe, and crossed over with her to the Cherronesus, where she turned into a bitch, and that he buried her at a place now called the Tomb of Cyon. Laodice, the most beautiful of Priamus' 5.25 daughters, was hidden by the earth in a chasm, as everyone looked on. As the Hellenes were about to sail off after ravishing Troy, they were held back by Calchas, who told them that Athena was enraged at them because of the impious act of Aias. They were on the verge of slaying Aias when he ran to an altar, so they let him live.

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