

TROJAN WAR by Homer (“The Iliad”)

DAY 1 NOTES

ERIS (chaos) not invited to wedding of Peleus / Thetis. This was a “slap in the face”

ERIS crashed the wedding [*Wedding Crashers*] – and threw out a “golden apple” inscribed with **“TO THE FAIREST”** –

Three goddesses fight for the “golden apple”:

- **HERA** (wife of Zeus)
- **ATHENA** (wisdom)
- **APHRODITE** (love; beauty)

PARIS was selected to choose who was the “fairest”

Earlier prophecy had predicted that the birth of Paris would bring about the ruin of Troy. So at birth, Paris was taken to the hills and abandoned to die. He was however found by a shepherd. We will see....

Each goddess tried to “bribe” Paris:

HERA	POWER
ATHENA	WISDOM
APHRODITE	LOVE OF THE MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN IN THE WORLD

Paris chose **APHRODITE** to receive the “golden apple”

Paris took **HELEN** back to Troy, but there was a problem, Helen however was married to King **MENELAUS** of Sparta

King Menelaus wanted her back and got other Greek kings to join him in his attempt to go to Troy and get Helen back

There were two fighters that Menelaus would need to fight if he was to defeat Troy: **ODYSSEUS** and **ACHILLES**, but neither volunteered to help Menelaus get Helen back

Odysseus who was the wisest man in Greece – didn’t want to leave family to get an unfaithful wife and it was also predicted he would encounter troubles returning home from the war

Achilles, Greece’s best fighter – was hidden by Thetis, his mother – legend had it that if Achilles went to Troy he would die, but Greece had no chance of winning without Achilles

In time, both Odysseus and Achilles did agree to join the Greeks to fight the Trojans

After one early Greek victory, the Greek king, King **AGAMEMNON** (Menelaus’s brother) took Briseis, as “spoils of war, but she belonged to Achilles. This upset Achilles who **REFUSED TO FIGHT AGAINST THE TROJANS**

Thetis, Achilles mom, persuades Zeus into helping the Trojans to punish Agamemnon and the Greeks for insulting Achilles. With Achilles not fighting, the Greek army was on the verge of losing

In hopes of giving the Greek forces a morale boost, **PATROCLUS** talks Achilles into letting him wear his armor. The Greek soldiers think that Achilles is back in the fight and are inspired to fight, but it does not last long because Patroclus is killed by **HECTOR** and then the Greeks realized Patroclus was not Achilles

When Achilles finds out about the death of Patroclus he rejoins the war to seek **REVENGE** against Hector. Achilles kills Hector and Achilles drags his body around the city of Troy with his chariot.

The battle turns in favor of the Greeks until **PARIS** shoots Achilles in the **HEEL**.

This was the only vulnerable part of Achilles’ body. It was where his mom held him when she dipped him in the river **STYX**, which made him invincible

To try and end the war **ODYSSEUS** has an idea to build a large, hollow **WOODEN HORSE** and give it to the Trojans as a **PEACE OFFERING** and the Greek soldiers appear to board their ships to return home

LAOCOON, a priest in Troy, warns the Trojans not to accept the gift. “I fear the Greeks even when they bring gifts” and begs them not to take horse inside walls of Troy.

The Trojans ignore Laocoon’s advice and bring the *Wooden Horse* inside the gates of Troy. The Trojans begin celebrating, thinking they have won the war

After falling asleep, the Greek soldiers hiding in the horse, climb out, open the doors of Troy and let in the Greek soldiers who have returned. The Greeks then destroy the Trojans and the city of Troy. **GREEKS** win!!!