

Oath of Tyndareus: Father of Helen; all princes wanted to marry her; worried the losers would go to war with each other; Each suitor sword oath to defend whomever won her in marriage. Menelaos was wealthiest and he won her. The Achaeans go to war with Agamemnon and Menelaos because of this oath.

Judgement of Paris: Wedding; Golden Apple for “the fairest”; Zeus defers to most handsome man, Paris, to decide; Competition between Athena, Aphrodite and Juno; Aphrodite “wins” by awarding Paris the most beautiful woman, Helen. She happens to be married to Menelaos.

Context of Iliad: Tenth year of war; Prophecy to Achilles: Troy will not fall unless he fights; if he fights he will die fighting outside the walls but he will win great honor and glory. Or, if he goes home, he will live a long and peaceful life. This is why his “wrath” or anger against Agamemnon and refusal to fight is so significant.

Gods who favor Achaeans

Thetis, mother of Achilles; sea goddess and one of the Neriads; married human, Peleus

Athena; goddess of war and crafts; upset about Judgement of Paris

Juno: goddess of marriage; wife of Zeus; upset about Judgement of Paris

Hephaestus: god of forge and smiths and artists; married to Aphrodite

Achaean Heroes:

Achilles, greatest warrior but hot tempered

Patroclus, comrade of Achilles; fights in his armor and is killed by Hector

Agamemnon, greatest king, king of Mycenae, and brother of Menelaos

Menelaos, husband of Helen and King of Sparta

Odysseus, king of Ithaka and cleverest Greek and greatest orator

Nestor, oldest warrior; king of Pylos; Talks a lot and keeper of the past

Diomedes, King and second best warrior after Achilles; fights the gods and wounds Aphrodite

Ajax—big Ajax (Aias); son of Telamon; Commander of Salamis; Physically largest warrior with a massive shield

Ajax son of Oileus, commander of troop from Locris; good with bow and arrow

Zeus: Head of Gods but can't really control them. Agrees to Thetis' appeal to 'honor Achilles' but also sends Hermes to Achilles at end of Iliad to tell him to accept Priam's ransom of Hector. Stays out of fighting mostly.

Trojans:

King Priam

Hector, son of Priam

Paris, son of Priam and husband of Helen

Sarpedon, son of Zeus

Aeneas; Prince and warrior of Dardanians, allies of Trojans; son of Aphrodite and human, Anchises.

Adrestus: minor Trojan who is slain by Agamemnon

Dolon: foolish warrior who is tricked by Diomedes and Odysseus into giving intelligence before being slain.

Lycaon: Minor Trojan, brother of Hector by another mother; first ransomed and then slain by Achilles.

Aphrodite who favors Paris

Artemis and Apollo: Sister and Brother gods; Apollo's priest, Chryses, insulted by Greeks and Agamemnon

Ares, god of war and lover of Aphrodite

Women:

Chryseis, Daughter of Priest to Apollo, Chryses; slave girl of Agamemnon

Briseis, Slave girl of Achilles who is taken from him by Agamemnon

Helen of Troy, former wife of Menelaos; now wife of Paris but she blames Aphrodite

Andromache, wife of Hector; noble, loyal and loving wife and mother of Astyanax