

and flee as far as the Isthmus of Corinth. Oenomaus at once gave chase, fully armed with weapons and horses given him by Ares. If he caught them, he killed the suitor, but if the suitor was not overtaken he could marry Hippodameia. In this manner he slew many suitors, some say twelve. He would cut off their heads, and tack them up on his house.

Along came Pelops to the wedding contest, and when Hippodameia 2.6 got a glimpse of his looks, she lost her heart over him. She persuaded Oenomaus' charioteer Myrtilus to help Pelops; so Myrtilus, who loved 2.7 her and was eager to do her a favor, left the nails out of the axle-boxes of the wheels. This caused Oenomaus to be defeated in the run, and to be caught up in the reins, dragged along, and killed (although, according to some accounts, he was finished off by Pelops). As he died, aware of Myrtilus' machination, he hurled a curse at him, with the hope that Pelops would destroy him.

So Pelops won Hippodameia, and as he traveled along, accompanied 2.8 by Myrtilus, he stopped briefly at some spot to get water for his bride, who was thirsty. While he was gone, Myrtilus tried to rape her. When Pelops learned this from her, he threw Myrtilus from the promontory of Geraestus into what is called the Myrtoan sea because of him. And as he was being hurled, Myrtilus leveled imprecations against the family of Pelops. Pelops went to the ocean, where he was purified by Hephaestus, 2.9 then returned to Pisa in Elis where he took over the kingship of Oenomaus, after overpowering the lands formerly called Apia and Pelasgiotis, which he named Peloponnesus after himself.

The sons of Pelops. The sons of Pelops were Pittheus, Atreus, Thyestes, and so on. Atreus' wife, Aerope, the daughter of Catreus, loved Thyestes. Now Atreus once told Artemis in a prayer that he would sacrifice his finest sheep to her, but they say that when a golden lamb appeared in his flocks, he was heedless of his vow. Instead, he throttled 2.11 the lamb and put it in a chest for safekeeping. But Aerope, who by now had been corrupted by Thyestes, gave the chest to him. For an oracle had told the Mycenaeans to choose a son of Pelops as their king, and they had summoned Atreus and Thyestes. As they deliberated about the kingship, Thyestes announced to the crowd that it should go to the man who possessed the lamb of gold. When Atreus concurred, Thyestes displayed the lamb, and became king. Zeus then sent Hermes to Atreus 2.12 and told him to get Thyestes to agree that Atreus should rule, if Helios should journey backward. Thyestes agreed, and Helios put his setting where he usually rose. This was divine proof of arrogance on the part of Thyestes, so Atreus assumed the rule and sent him into exile.

Later on, when he learned about the adulterous affair, Atreus sent a 2.13 herald and invited Thyestes to a reconciliation. When Thyestes arrived,

..... and immolated himself.

- 2.3 *Pelops.* After being butchered and cooked at the feast of the gods, Pelops was more blooming than ever, following his recall to life; and because of his unrivaled beauty he became Poseidon's lover. The god gave him a winged chariot, the axles of which stayed dry even when it was driven through the sea.
- 2.4 Oenomaus, the king of Pisa, had a daughter Hippodameia. Either he loved her himself, as some allege, or an oracle had told him that he would be killed by her husband: at any rate, no one received her in marriage, for the father could not persuade her to have sex with him, and her suitors were destroyed by him. He offered his daughter in marriage as follows: the suitor had to take Hippodameia on his own chariot

- deceived by his brother's friendly manner, Atreus butchered Aglaus, Callileon, and Orchomenus, Thyestes' sons by a Naiad nymph, even as they sat as suppliants at the altar of Zeus. He then cut them up, cooked them, and served all but the heads to Thyestes. When Thyestes had stuffed himself, Atreus showed him the boys' heads and then threw him
- 2.14 out of the country. In the course of seeking any conceivable way to get even with Atreus, Thyestes consulted an oracle, and was told that he must bear a son by sleeping with his own daughter. So he did that, and sired with his daughter Aegisthus, who, when he had grown up and learned that he was Thyestes' son, assassinated Atreus and restored his father to the sovereignty.
- 2.15 *Agamemnon and Menelaus.* "A nurse took Agamemnon with Menelaus to Polyphoides, ruler of Sicyon, who in turn sent them on to Aetolian Oeneus. Shortly thereafter Tyndareos brought them back again; and they, after taking an oath against Thyestes at the altar of Hera, chased him out. He fled to live in Cytheria. And they became Tyndareos' sons-in-law: Agamemnon took for his bedpartner Clytaemnestra, after slaying her husband, Thyestes' son Tantalus, and their newborn child; and Menelaus married Helene."
- 2.16 So Agamemnon ruled over the Mycenaeans, married to Tyndareos' daughter Clytaemnestra, whose first husband Tantalus, son of Thyestes, he had slain along with their child. Agamemnon's own children were a son, Orestes, and daughters named Chrysothemis, Electra, and Iphigenia. Menelaus, married to Helene, was king of Sparta, a gift to him from Tyndareos.
- 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 Talthybius, 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 Aulus. The members of the expedition against Troy were as follows: the Goeotians 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 Alcyone, 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; Symaean 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 Olizonians 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> Eurypylus with forty ships. The Gyronians 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.
- 3.16 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

