



## WAR OF WISES IN THE ILIAD

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### **Abstract:**

*Homer, a Greek poet with his friend has contributed a great masterpiece, to this world in a poetic approach. This poetic approach has revealed a great war between two great ancient nations. This war was not only between two people of two nations but also gods of two different faiths. As Homer was Greek, he wrote Illiad on behalf of Greek people and he praised Greek God Zeus as a humble and loving God. The current paper speaks about the love of Helen and Paris the younger brother of Prince of Troy Hector and her shift in love from Paris to his wealth. This false love has led to a great war which resulted in the loss of a great warrior Achilles.*

**Key Words:** Greek, Troy, War, love

### **Introduction:**

It is a Greek poem written by Homer. Homer was a blind person born between 12<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> century B.C. in Asia. As he was blind from birth, he was very eager to see the real world and always wanted to see its beauty. But unfortunately, that was impossible for him at that time.

Since childhood, he had great visions to become a great author of literature in Greek language. As time passed, he met a person who became his best friend. Although his name was always a mystery for historians, Homer used to tell all his ambitions, desires and visions to his friend and his friend recorded his words.

As Homer goes on with his visions, he created a great myth of Greek gods with humans, especially giving place to “Zeus”, the king of gods. He gave it a name, “Iliad”, which means in Greek, bad dream or unexpected event. This myth, which his friend penned down, was about a great war between Greek gods and Trojans, which lasted for 10 years straight. War caused a great loss to Greeks with death of great warriors like “Achilles” and “Ulysses”. At the same time, Trojans had also lost their prince Hector killed by Achilles. Younger brother of Hector, Paris took revenge on Achilles and killed him at the end of the great Trojan war.

This myth is filled with revenge, honor and Pride all started by a beautiful woman named Helen. She was fiancé of Greek king Menelaus but she was deeply in love with prince of Troy, Paris. At her wedding day with thee king, she ran away with her lover prince



and got married thereafter. Menelaus came across the truth about his fiancé. A great king's pride was hurt. The king took about 1000 battle ships with his younger brother's army having warriors like Ajax, Achilles, Ulysses on their side to take on the city of Troy.

The king of Troy, Priam, with his eldest son, Hector, fought this war for over nine years. With everyone lost their lives on battlefields and complete destruction of Trojan temples and city by Greeks, only Ulysses and Paris were left. Some Greeks survived with Ulysses. As per the myth, god of Troy cursed Ulysses that he will lose his immortality. While returning to home, he didn't die but became a very old man.

Homer has produced two great literary work, Iliad (War between Greeks and Troy) and Odyssey ((Ulysses returning to his home after war)

Homer's work shows the reader how pride and anger can lead to a great destruction and even Greek gods were not able to cope up. The desires for the worldly things such as kingdoms and woman only lead to dissatisfaction and ultimately destruction of oneself and cause trouble to others. If only one is able to leave all of the wishes and learn how to handle the emotions, can clear his/her way to happiness.

#### **Trojan War: --**

"Thetis" was Goddess of rivers in Greece. She had a great blessing that whoever born to her, he/she will be immortal & powerful than his father. The king of Gods Zeus fell in love with her. But the priest told about the blessing which Thetis was made holy with. After taking the knowledge of such thing, Zeus left the thought of marrying her as he does not want anyone, even his son, to be more powerful than him.

Later, Thetis kept a "Swayamvara", for selecting her groom. A Greek king, named Peleus, won her in that ritual. After a few months, she gave birth to a male boy, his name was renowned in Greece as "Achilles", meaning victory in Greek language. Achilles became prince of Greece. His father Peleus was a great warrior and mother was having magical powers to change climate and control rivers.

When Agamemnon and Menelaus invited Achilles to their war with Trojans, he was very delighted to fight the war for them, but mother feared that her only son would die in the war. Achilles came to his mother, Thetis, for permission to join the war, she openly rejected his proposal and opposed his choice. She also warned him not to participate in Trojan war as he may die there.

But Achilles was adamant to fight in war, and he didn't listen to his mother's word. He went to the war with Ulysses. Achilles was a great warrior, but was filled with great lust and desires. After entering into Troy, while fighting with them, he saw a beautiful girl running away from war and entering into one of the Trojan temples of god Apollo. He left the war and went inside the temple premises and destroyed the idols of God Apollo and found the beauty hidden and crying. He took her to his tent, there he asked her name. She told that she is princess of Troy and the only daughter of king Priam. Her name was Briseis. He promised to her that he will not kill anyone of their family member. But things didn't went as expected. Prince of Troy Hector killed the younger cousin brother of Achilles, Patroclus. Achilles took revenge and killed Hector in return.



King Priam asked priests about how to kill Achilles. They prayed Apollo who came in the dreams of king and projected the way of killing Achilles by Priam portrayed as throwing arrow in Achilles's heel. Priests interpreted the dream, while all this was going on, Paris listened to this and did same in Warfield. His sister kept telling her brother to spare Achilles but in vain. He threw an arrow at Achilles's heel and he dies there. After Achilles passed away, Paris took Brises to another nation. This ended a great saga of the warriors of Greek and trojan kingdoms.

### **Conclusion:**

For the war to end like this, we can learn that the greed and lust of humans or even gods can lead to mass destruction not from the outside, but from the inside. The war started with because of a lady and ended due to a lady. Helen, who ran away with prince of Troy, had given a just reason for the Greeks to get infuriated. And in the end, Brises, the priestess of Apollo, ended this with her blessing. Both sides suffered with a huge loss and there was nothing to gain. Another thing to notice, which we can relate to, is that unity is the key to success. Without unity there is no wins. Trojans who disguised as Greek soldier, were killing Greeks by putting fire in their camp, while rest of the Greek battalion watching them dying. The Greeks who were fighting in themselves for Brises, forgot about war resulted in their defeat. How so ever may be the army is and equipment equipped, if there is no unity, there is no win. There is lot more to take lessons from this great saga passed on to generations by Homer.

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