





HEAR US, ATHENA. SHED YOUR GLORY ON NESTOR AND HIS SONS AND ON ALL PYLIANS. GRANT THAT MENELAUS AND I ACCOMPLISH HERE THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH WE'VE COME.



ATHENA, HEAR OUR PRAYERS. GRANT THAT THE ACHAEANS RECOVER WHAT HAS BEEN SO UNJUSTLY TORN AWAY. LET OUR ENEMIES FEEL THE WEIGHT OF YOUR ANGER.



NOW, GUESTS, SIT NEAR AND JOIN OUR FEAST. WHEN WE'RE FINISHED EATING, I'LL HEAR YOUR ERRAND.



SOON.

IT BEGAN, GRACIOUS NESTOR MORE THAN A YEAR AGO WHEN ROYAL MENELAUS WELCOMED INTO HIS HOME THAT TROJAN PRINCE NAMED PARIS.

BUT PARIS BETRAYED MY BROTHER'S HOSPITALITY BY LOOTING HIS PALACE AND CARRYING AWAY HIS WIFE, HELEN, THAT GENTLE QUEEN FAMOUS FOR HER BEAUTY.



PRIAM, KING OF TROY, OFFERS NO EXCUSE FOR HIS SON'S CRIME AND NO RECOMPENSE FOR MENELAUS'S LOSS. THE GODS THEMSELVES CRY OUT AT THIS INJUSTICE.



A GREAT ARMY OF ACHAEANS IS ASSEMBLING AT THE BAY OF AULIS IN BOEOTIA--HUNDREDS OF SHIPS BEARING THOUSANDS OF MEN, A GREATER ARMY THAN ANY ACHAEAN HAS SEEN BEFORE.

AS HIGH KING OF THE ACHAEANS, I CALLED THIS ARMY TOGETHER-- AS HIGH KING I WILL LEAD IT AGAINST MIGHTY TROY.



NEWS OF THIS MATTER HAS REACHED PYLOS. BUT WHY DO SO MANY PRINCES AND KINGS OF THE ACHAEANS JOIN YOU IN WHAT SOUNDS LIKE ONE MAN'S QUARREL?

AN OATH COMPELS THEM...

"...AN OATH
THEY ALL SWORE
MORE THAN A
DOZEN YEARS
AGO-- WHEN
TYNDAREUS
OF SPARTA
SOUGHT A
HUSBAND
FOR HIS
DAUGHTER
HELEN.

"THE RIVALRY FOR HELEN WAS FIERCE,
MORE THAN FORTY KINGS AND PRINCES
FROM THROUGHOUT THE MAINLAND
AND THE ISLANDS SENT RICH GIFTS
TO TYNDAREUS AND HIS SONS.

"KASTOR AND POLYDEUKES WERE
SWAYED FIRST BY ONE SUITOR THEN
ANOTHER, BUT TYNDAREUS DELAYED
HIS CHOICE. HE FEARED THAT THE
LOSERS WOULD RISE AGAINST THE
WINNER IN A TIDE OF VIOLENCE...

"...UNTIL
ODYSSEUS
OF ITHAKA
--WHO HAD
LITTLE HOPE
OF WINNING
HELEN-- GAVE
TYNDAREUS
THE SOLUTION!

"LET ALL THE SUITORS SWEAR THAT IF ANYONE
SHOULD THREATEN HELEN'S FUTURE HUSBAND
FOR HER SAKE OR TAKE HER BY FORCE, THE REST
WOULD PURSUE THE OFFENDER AND PUNISH HIM.

"EACH SUITOR HOPED TO
OBTAIN HELEN--EACH
ONE SWORE THE OATH."