THE HISTORICAL MEANING OF THE WAR OF TROY

1. THE MYTHOLOGICAL ASPECT OF THE WAR OF TROY

In ancient Greece, when the twelve Gods lived on Olympus Mountain, the father of Gods and humans, Dias decided to marry the king of city of Fthias, Pilea to Thetis, daughter of Nireas.

Thetis was a water fairy.

Thetis and Peleas

Their marriage took place at the city of Pillion and Dias didn't invite Eris, the goddess of argument.

Eris, the goddess of argument.

Eris made herself invisible, joined the wedding and left on the table an apple with the notice: «to the prettiest».

Three goddesses, Ira, Athens and Aphrodite began to argue and the next day went to Dias to ask him who was the most beautiful of all.

He told them that they should go to Ides Mountain and consult Paris on the question.

The Three goddesses went to Ides Mountain and began to promise Paris a lot of things if he chose one of them. Athens promised to make him the wisest man in every war he took part.

Aphrodite promised to find for him the most beautiful woman in the world. Ira promised to make him the greatest king of the world.
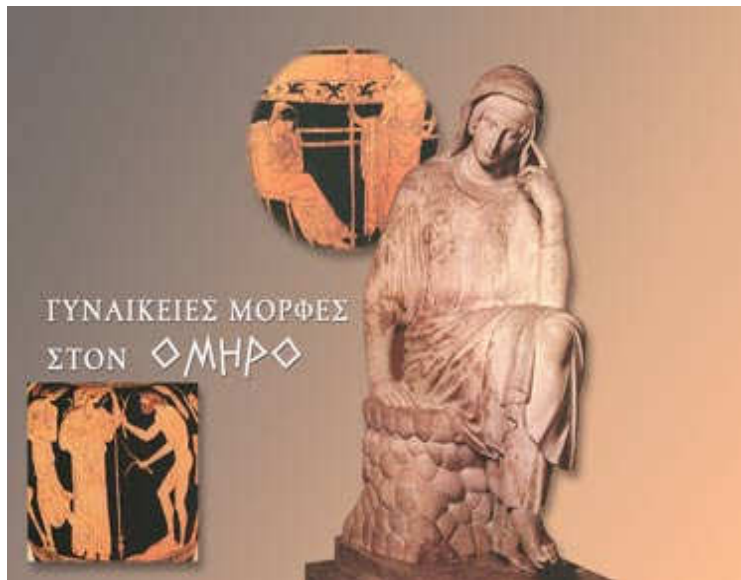

The judgment of Paris, Museum of Capitol, Rome

Paris decided to give the apple to Aphrodite because he was sure that she would give him the best gift of all.

Paris and the apple, Herman Wilhelm Bissen, Copenhagen

Aphrodite informed him that the prettiest woman of the world was Helen, the wife of Menelaus, the king of Sparta's.

Beautiful Helen

Paris visited Sparta and he stayed at Menelaus home. He fell in love with Helen and they both decided to run away from Sparta, go to Troy and live together.

The stealing of Helen

That was the cause of the beginning of the war of Troy.

2. THE PERSONS AND THE SYMBOLIZING IN THE WAR OF TROY

In ancient Greece the philosophers tried to explain the creation of the world.

They tried to find and explain the cause of this creation.

Some of them believed that the world had been created by the wind, some of them supposed that the fire was the cause of the creation of the world and finally others said that the world had been created by water.

Mitrodoros, one of the most famous philosophers said that Helen was in the center of

the war of Troy because she symbolized the earth, which they believed was the center of the known and unknown world.

Paris who stole Helen from her husband Menelaus symbolized the wind, because the wind surrounded the earth all around. The wind embraced the earth all around. Agamemnon who was the general and the leader of the army symbolized the «ether». They believed that «ether» gave fire to the stars and the sun and helped them get in flame.

Agamemnon, the king of Mykines

Achilles symbolized the sun and Hector symbolized the moon.

The death of Achilles

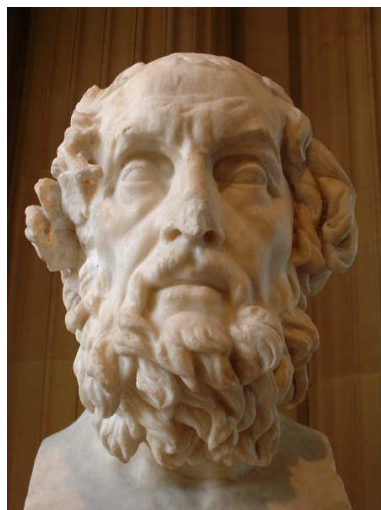Achilles killed Hector because the moon goes away when the sun appears.
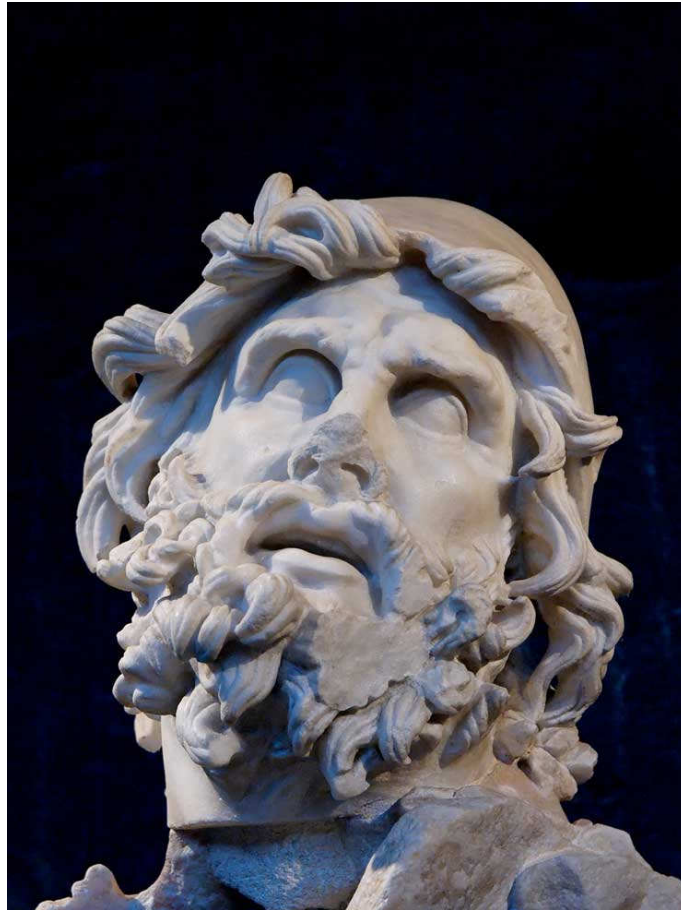

Achilles and Hector

3. HOMER

When the war of Troy was over the Achaeans went back to their country, Greece. For a few centuries there were «ancient singers», called «aidi», who song Achaean's great achievements in the war.

One of them, the greatest of all, Homer, probably was born in Smyrna, and lived in Chios, between 850 and 750 b.c., 300 years after the end of the war of Troy.

Homer

He described the war of Troy, and the comeback of Odysseus in Ithaca.

Odysseus

The genius poet «sings» a poem, called Iliad, in which he describes the war in Troy. He synthesized Iliad, about 800 b.c.

There is a doubt about which is the real writer of Iliad and the story of Odyssey. They don't

believe that Homer is the writer of both. Other

scientists believed that Homer wrote down Iliad

when he was rather immature and the story of

Odyssey when he was very old.

This is the «Homeric matter» and it's still

unsolved.

4. THE HISTORICAL MEANING OF THE

WAR OF TROY

Troy cited in a very good geographical

position, which made her the queen of the

Hellespont Sea. The Hellespont Sea was the

meeting point for all the ships scheduled to travel

to Marmaras Sea, to Bosporus, to Dardanelle and to

the Black Sea.

Black Sea and the cities situated near this sea
used to have wealth producing coasts and handled
the import and export commercial in the hall area.
The shipping was also great and they earned a lot
of money.

The map of the ancient Greece and the city of Troy

Achaeans used to travel to the East, to Cyprus
and to Mikra Asia, because they wanted to increase
their commercial activities. They desired to make

import and export commercial with many countries because they wanted to earn more money. In this area the only barrier for their activities was the city of Troy, called Ilion. So they decided to make a war against Troy.
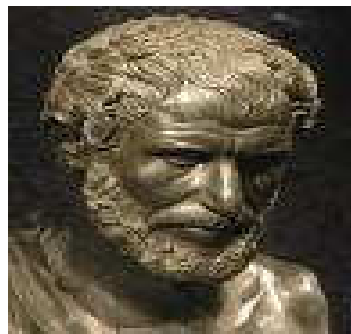

The map of Troy

The other cause of this war was the spoils which the Achaean would earn from the war and would be to their countries.

Priamos, the king of Troy

The wise Eratosthenes from Alexandria of Egypt said that the Achaeans had the final victory against the city of Troy in 1.183 b.c. but other historians said that the correct date is 1.280 b.c.

Philosopher Eratosthenes

The war against Troy was the last of a number of big and long lasting campaigns of the ancient Greek army.

Archaeologists and especially Herrick Sliman made excavations in a place called «Hill of Hisarlic» and discovered many cities, the one cited upon the ruins of the other.

Herrick Sliman

They supposed that one of them is the city of Troy, the city of king Priamos.

The ruins of the city of Troy.

Ancient Treasure

BIBLIOGRAPHIC REFERENCES

- Flaceliere Robert, The history of Ancient Greek literature, Editions: Papadimas, 1984.

- History of Greek Nation, B, Athens Edition, 1978, p.154.

- http://www.google.gr

- http://www.wikipedia.gr