

The Story of the Trojan War

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Angelica Kauffman. *Venus Persuades Helen to Fall in Love with Paris*. Oil on canvas, 102 x 127.5 cm. The Hermitage, St. Petersburg, Russia.



Gathering of the Greek Army

Odysseus attempted to escape having to go to fight in Troy "...for the sake of a faithless woman" by pretending to be mad. When the messenger arrived, he was sowing his fields with salt. When the messenger placed his infant son, Telemachus, in front of the plow, however, Odysseus turned the plow aside; this proved he was actually sane.



Achilles Hides Among the Women

Achilles mother, the sea nymph Thetis, knew he was fated to die if he went to Troy. To try and spare her son that fate, she dressed him as a maiden and sent him to live amongst the women of the Court of Lycomedes. Odysseus was able to trick Achilles into revealing his identity by giving him a gift of a weapon.



Sacrifice of Iphigenia

After the army had gathered at Aulis, unfavorable winds kept them trapped there, unable to sail to Troy. The prophet Calcas decreed that the winds would only abate when Agamemnon sacrificed his daughter Iphigenia to the goddess Artemis. He agreed, his daughter was slain, and the Greeks sailed on to Troy.



**"The Sacrifice of Iphigenia" by the Dutch master Jan Steen
For Sale at the European Fine Art Fair - Priced at \$12.3 Million**

Achilles and Agamemnon Clash

Achilles and Agamemnon come into conflict over Agamemnon's taking of Achilles' slave girl, Briseis, as compensation for having to give his captive Chryseis back to her father in order to turn back the wrath of the god Apollo. This led to the "wrath of Achilles."



To be continued...