

The iliad

Business



The Iliad is a story comprised of a long poem, telling the battle of Troy. Troy was a city founded between the 5th and 10th century BC. But, in the 11th century BC, the rash prince of Troy, Paris, fell in love with the most beautiful woman on Earth, the Greek Queen, Helen. The only problem was that Helen was already married to the Greek King, Menelaus. Paris took Helen back to Troy with him. Convinced that his dear Helen was kidnapped, Menelaus followed the lovers to Troy, but he was not alone.

He took his whole army of 1000 ships, carrying thousands of Greek soldiers, with whom he waged war on Troy. This started an epic war that lasted ten years, though Homer only recorded the last one. This was the year when the war came to a spectacular close. The Greek army was apparently far superior to the Trojans, but it could not get inside the giant walls that surrounded the city. So Odysseus, son of Athena (Goddess of battle strategy) and Greek soldier, thought of an ingenious solution! He built a giant wooden horse, then ordered the Greeks to pack up their tents and set sail.

They left the wooden horse in clear sight on the beach. The Trojans believed that the Greeks had finally given up and gone home. They dragged the horse inside the city walls, and, rather stupidly, left it unguarded. But, lo and behold, several Greek soldiers were hiding inside the hollow horse all along! They crept out of the horse and raised the gate, letting in the thousands of Greek soldiers waiting on the beach. This was because the ships had just sailed out of Trojan sight and not back to Greece.

During the night they had sailed back to the Trojan beach to await the raising of the gate. Without the protection of their great walls, the Trojan army was slaughtered and the city burnt to the ground. Homer's story contains everything from the Hero's names, to their battle cry, to their armour.