

Achilles and king arthur's downfall essay



**ASSIGN
BUSTER**

You're one of the most admired people of your land. People want to be like you and look up to you. You have all these great characteristics that make people adore you. But what happens when these great characteristics lead to your downfall? It happened both to Achilles and King Arthur. Decisions between fate and free will, their ambitions to be the best, and their admiral personas mount up and finally crash down on them.

Your fate has already been decided for you, but what if you could change it? Would you choose to or keep the fate? Achilles was "doomed to a short life, [you] having so little time" (496). That being his fate, he didn't know if he should just return to battle and get killed soon or continue living his low key, long, happy, quiet life. Though that sounded great, Achilles wanted to be remembered, so he continues to live out his fate; a short life with glory. His fate killing him in the end.

King Arthur was fated to be the king. He pulled the sword out of the rock, which chose his fate for him. Once king, he uses his free will to choose whomever he wants at his Round Table. Fate leads to him choosing the wrong people. The table "breaks" and King Arthur loses control of his kingdom.

Many soldiers gave up or died during the many battles. Lancelot and Guinevere still would've fallen in love. The fate of him becoming king leads to his downfall; losing all faith in himself. Achilles and King Arthur were both very, very ambitious men. In the end, their ambition catches up with them leading to the downfall of two great leaders. Achilles wanted to be the best, leading to him being quite hubris. He thought he could handle everything

and come out on top, but instead it led him to hiding away in his shelter and questioning himself. " His descent was like nightfall" (538).

This leads him to going on a huge rampage killing Hector brutally. " I only wish my fury would compel me? to cut away your flesh and eat it raw for what you've done" (598). He finally gives everything up to Zeus. King Arthur had huge compassion for doing what was right.

As king, he wanted to improve everyone's lives, wanted everyone to love him and think of him as the best king in a non-hubristic way. Him wanting to be the best leads to him losing all control of everything around him. Knights lose faith in him and he loses faith in himself. Everything in the kingdom goes downhill. Everyone wants to be adored, right? Achilles and King Arthur were very much adored by their people. Achilles was considered to be a hero.

He was extremely handsome and the best in the Achaean Army. " Even mighty Atrides can see how mad he was to disgrace Achilles, the best of the Achaeans" (95). Everyone looked up to him and wanted to be like him. This getting to his head, he became very hubristic. He amped himself up to thinking he was immortal but that was proven very wrong. He was taken down.

King Arthur was one of the best kings of Camelot. The citizens loved him, his knights respected him and his wife adored him. All hell breaks loose when Mordred appears. King Arthur becomes very less adored. His wife cheats on him; the knights at the Round Table are defeated.

He loses all faith in himself because he doubts himself, knowing he's not the best king like the citizens once thought of him to be. Sometimes your great characteristics, the ones you are so proud of having, can lead you to a self-destructive downfall. Both Achilles and King Arthur were victims of this.

These men were well adored, had great ambition and had to make some hard decisions between fate and free will.

All of this ends up creating their downfall.