

History of the Fall of Troy

DARES OF PHRYGIA

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THE TROJAN WAR

Background on the Chronicle

False?

- Translated version of Prose by R.M. Frazer
 - Version of book is no longer in print and is the only English translation
- Allegedly a first-hand account of the Trojan War by Dares of Phrygia
 - Dares was a Trojan Priest of Hephaestus in the *Iliad*
- The Chronical/short prose was probably written in the early 6th century A.D., dating it to the time of the Romans
 - Importance of the use of Roman Gods instead of Greek Gods

Intro Letter

- Intro Letter which attributes the Latin Translation to Cornelius Nepos (a Roman Scholar from the 1st Century B.C.)
 - Likely a forgery
 - Found it while studying in Athens
 - “I was very delighted to obtain it and immediately made an exact translation into Latin, neither adding nor omitting anything, nor giving any personal touch.”
 - Wanted the readers to “judge for themselves whether Dares the Phrygian or Homer wrote the more truthfully.”
 - First-hand account from Dares vs “Homer who was born long after the War was over”

Pre-War

Quest and the Beginning of tensions between the Greeks and the Trojans

- King Pelias of the Peloponnese, was worried of Jason's (his nephew's) popularity amongst the people so he gave him a quest.
- This quest was to keep Jason from gaining the crown, by sending him after the "golden fleece of a ram" which was Colchis.
- "If Jason would bring it back, he would give him complete control of the kingdom" while also bringing glory back to Greece.

The Golden Fleece

Background/Importance

- The fleece was from the Golden-Winged Ram named Chrysomallos, who was a flying ram with a golden fleece that symbolized kingship, authority, and power.
- Pindar, Pythian Ode 4. 156 ff (trans. Conway) (Greek lyric C5th B.C.) : "[Pelias commands Iason (Jason) fetch the Golden Fleece :] 'You have it in your strength to undo the vengeful anger of the powers of earth below. To bring his spirit again Phrixos (Phrixus) commands us journey to Aietes (Aetes) hall, and fetch from thence the thick fleece of the ram, which saved him from the sea long ago, and from the impious darts of his step-mother [Ino].'"



Pre-war

Arrival in Phrygia and the Consequences of not following Xenia

- After King Laomedon (King of Troy and father of Priam) heard of the arrival of the Greeks under Jason's command, out of concern for his people, "sent word to the port for the Greeks to depart from his boundaries. If they refused to obey, he would forcibly drive them out."
- This contrast to Xenia, and the sending of Jason away without hospitality or shelter led to the need for vengeance to be taken against Laomedon for the way he treated them.
- After Jason and his people left Phrygia, they "set out for Colchis and stole the fleece and returned to their homeland."

Pre-War

The Vengeance of Hercules

- Hercules, insulted by how Laomedon had treated them (against the Greek Ethics) went to Sparta and got Castor and Pollux to aid him in taking “vengeance against Laomedon.”
- Got support from many of his allies and they set sail: Telamon of Salamis; Peleus of Pythia; Nestor of Pylos
- After King Laomedon heard the news of the Greek fleet, he commanded his calvary and meet them and the shore, but Hercules went ahead to Troy
- Hercules killed Laomedon and took his daughter Hesione giving her to Telamon as a war prize
 - Laomedon was Priam’s father
- Hercules’s vengeance created the beginning of Priam’s own vengeance, along with leading Alexander to the temple where he could. Whether true or not, the actions by Hercules led to a cascading of actions that would lead to the start of the Trojan War