

The Return of Agamemnon

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The Wounded Victory

After the Trojan War was over, king Agamemnon decided to return to his kingdom with the company of his son Orestes, his daughter Electra, and his second wife Cassandra, daughter of king Priam. The sailors mended the ships from the damage caused by the war and prepared to sail to the kingdom of Mycenae through the Aegean Sea. During their voyage a storm broke, so strong that it almost ripped the sails and capsized the ship. It soon subsided, and when the sea calmed down a beautiful young woman stood at the front of the king's ship. Suddenly, Electra looked at the young woman and screamed at the top of her voice, "This is my sister Iphigenia."

Orestes ran towards his sister and Agamemnon climbed the deck of the ship to find out what is happening. As Agamemnon opened his arms, his daughter threw herself at him, he says in a warm emotional voice. "My daughter Iphigenia, I sacrificed you for the sake of saving the Greek fleet at the beginning of the Trojan War. I am so ashamed of myself, but it was the order of the gods."

"But as you can see father I am very much alive for the Goddess Artemis redeemed me with a beautiful Gazelle. The gods were satisfied. Father, I come here for a more serious and important matter."

"The war ended after Achilles killed Hector, there is no more danger, and my men and I are going towards my kingdom," Agamemnon interjected.

“Gods, half Gods and mortals know these entire matters father; there is something more dangerous.”

“Iphigenia, what is the matter with you, tell me what is going on my daughter?” stated Agamemnon while trying to wipe the water off Iphigenia’s face.

“Aegisthus, with the help of my mother Clytemnestra, took over your kingdom and are now its rulers over the kingdom of Mycenae. As we speak they are conspiring to kill you along with my brother Orestes, my sister Electra, and your wife Cassandra. Aegisthus robbed your kingdom and seduced my mother to fall in love with him. She didn’t hesitate after she knew of your marriage to Cassandra. He convinced her you will not return alive from the war.

Agamemnon became vexed and replied, “How could that coward Aegisthus take over my kingdom and pronounce himself king over it, while I was in the war fighting for the honor of the Greek nations in Troy. I killed and maimed known heroes on the field of battle, achieving victory, in order to return to my kingdom. I have had dreams for my people, the people of Mycenae, that they would receive my crown of bay just like any other victor. Is this the reward I am to now receive? Is this the reward for me, the one who went to get Helen back, the one who alone led the Greek army?! Is this my reward when I sacrificed you, my own daughter, my own flesh and blood when the Gods asked?! Do any of them feel the bitterness of sacrificing his flesh and blood?! Did the god of the seas, Poseidon, know of my suffering during the war when I complied with his request and threw you in the deep seas?”

“Aegisthus never dreamt of being one of my soldiers, he never indulged the thought of marching under my command. He was a no body! He drank wine and could not even know when the sun rose or set. Aegisthus never dreamt of taking one step over the threshold of my palace, and now you tell me he is your mother’s lover!! How could this be, he of all people? He never threw a spear or held a sword in his life. He never rode a horse, he used to carry a lantern and ride a donkey to light the way for my procession.”

Iphigenia stated with tearful eyes, “Father, all you say is true, but it will not change the present situation of the kingdom of Mycenae. I come to tell you these facts, and I will return to the temple of the Goddess Artemis where I live. Before I came to you I heard the gods in the temple say that you can go to the kingdom of Saturn where they may help to get your kingdom back.”

Orestes walked towards his father, followed by Electra and Cassandra He said, “What should we do father? You taught me horsemanship and the arts of war. I still remember your insistence upon taking me to wars when I was only six years old. I am ready to fight by your side.” With his sword held high, he continued, “We have to fight to get our kingdom back.”

“I understand my son, but you are still young, and there are still many arts of war which I have not yet taught you.”

“You know how much I love you father,” Electra stated in her soft melodious voice. I did not wish to stay with my mother in Mycenae. I had preferred to come with you to the war, to give you a hand. I wanted to be the one who would dress you in the armor of war, the one to help you take it off when you came back from battle. I see in you an unbeatable hero. I was never afraid of captivity because I am your daughter, the daughter of Agamemnon. Ever since I was born I was aware of you and only you. I never lived or felt the motherhood of Clytemnestra. I will cling to you like your sword.”

Cassandra moved forward and stood between Electra and Orestes addressing Agamemnon. “My father, king Priam was your enemy and my brother Hector was killed in battle. You achieved victory when you attacked Troy. I told my people about a prophecy I had, and about all that is to happen in the war, but no one believed me until it was too late. Now I am your wife, knowing that I had turned down lots of kings and king’s sons. You are a great leader, you led the Greek army to victory and you were the greatest contributor to this victory. You alone deserve the crown of bay; statues should be built for you. Your people should line the roads to feast their eyes with your procession; they should stand in line to kiss your hand for what you did to them. You were the one who inspired poets to write their zealous poems that stirred the spirit of fighting in your soldiers. You were the one who maneuvered the war in whichever direction you wanted.”

“I appreciate and value your courage and bravery. My prophecy says Aegisthus and your wife Clytemnestra will kill us. But despite the prophecy, I agree with your daughter Iphigenia , we should go to the kingdom of Saturn and ask for help.”

Agamemnon stated indignantly, “And how do we reach the kingdom of Saturn?”

Iphigenia answered, “The god Apollo is the brother of goddess Artemis. He loves her dearly and won't deny her any request. With the rise of each new day Apollo saddles the four horses that pull his carriage and strides under the sun from the time it rises till the time it sets. I will ask Artemis for Apollo's permission to take you with him to the kingdom of Saturn, but now I must say goodbye father and leave.”

Apollo brought his four-horse carriage- two black horses and two white, symbolizing day and night. Agamemnon, his daughter, his wife and his son climbed the carriage. The horses raced the sun with Apollo playing beautiful melodies on his golden harp till they finally reached the kingdom of Saturn. Upon arrival, Agamemnon asked for an audience with the king.

Agamemnon and his family entered the court to find the king in the middle of a group of moons, nine on his right and nine on his left. Agamemnon bid greetings and the king directed him to the seat of honored guests.

Electra stood and said, “Oh great king, this is my father Agamemnon, leader of leaders of the Greek armies in the Trojan War for ten years. My father never surrendered, the only word he knew was victory, and never uttered another for the entire period of the war. He won the war but lost his kingdom, the kingdom of Mycenae. How is a man supposed to feel in victory? And how does he feel in loss? How can a man deal with the ecstasy of victory and the frustration of defeat? My father’s victory was the result of a war that lasted for ten years, and the destruction of the army of king Priam . The woman who stands before you now is his daughter, and she is my father’s wife.”

“But my father,” she continued, “was defeated when he lost his kingdom, and his cousin Aegisthus took over his throne. He tasted the joys of victory over huge armies, and experienced the bitterness of defeat before treachery and betrayal.”

Electra sat back in her place, and Agamemnon stood erect saying, “Oh great king of Saturn, when I heard news of the kidnapping of Queen Helen, I ordered the preparation of thousand of ships to carry a hundred thousand soldiers under my command. When we reached the gulf of Aulis, the tide was against us and we were trapped for days, with the ships unable to advance. Calchas, the fortuneteller, came and told me the virgin goddess Artemis, the goddess of hunting, was displeased with me. Someone told her that I am a better hunter than she is. That is why she ordered the wind to blow against the path of my ships. The fortuneteller also told me that to satisfy Artemis I must shed the blood of my own daughter Iphigenia.”

“I complied with the goddess’s request immediately and sent a messenger to summon my daughter under the false pretense that she was going to be wed to the Greek hero Achilles. And what was the result oh great king, I won the war but lost myself. Everyone in the Greek nations felt the ecstasy of victory, while I felt the bitterness of defeat inflaming all my senses. I thank the gods because my daughter Iphigenia still lives, she was the one who told me about what happened to my kingdom Mycenae , she also told me the gods wished me to come to you and ask for help to reclaim my kingdom.”

The king of Saturn was silent, his eyes started to roll over the moons on his right and his left. He was like a widespread eagle, the king stood up, so did everyone else, they remained standing till he gestured them to sit down, and said, “Welcome leader Agamemnon, we knew of the news of the Trojan War of the past ten years, even though you are a stranger, far from us. Despite the fact that your war does not concern us, nor affects our interests, nevertheless, we followed its progress. I am pleased of your victory, yet sad for the loss of your kingdom. While pleased, I am unable to actually share in the joy of victory, because I've not known victory for once in my life. I have never known it. I can surely share however with your bitterness, since I know like you how it feels to be robbed of one’s kingdom. I have eighteen moons orbiting in my skies, the men standing before you are the rulers of these moons. I feel the bitterness of your misfortune Agamemnon as I am living such a disappointment, for all my moons have broken away from my orbit and became separate kingdoms from me. My misfortune becomes all the stronger because my moons are singing the praises of the glory of another. The kingdom of Jupiter dominates them all, blinds their eyes, mesmerizes their sights and pollutes their minds.”

“You only have one Aegisthus who stabbed you in the back and betrayed you, what am I to say of eighteen Aegisthuses? We drink from the same cup oh great leader! Perhaps we can help each other...”

The King paused, looked off to the right, and continued, “I want you to be my messenger to those moons to bring them back to my orbit and unify my armies. Can you do it? If you succeed in this mission you will become the supreme commander of all my armies, and then and only then, will we march with you to help you reclaim your kingdom Mycenae. You will be provided with what you need of provisions, guards, guides, and ships to make your mission a success. Will you, can you do this Agamemnon?”

Agamemnon rose and said, “Thank you oh king, I will be your aide, I will not spare any effort to get your moons back to you.”

The meeting ended abruptly following Agamemnon’s declaration. While leaving the king’s council, Electra verbalized a worry.

“Father, do you think you can accomplish what the king of Saturn is asking of you?”

“I have no other choice my daughter, if I want to save my kingdom I have to accept his offer, even though I feel the war to save Queen Helen was much easier than this mission.”

Cassandra volunteers a strong feeling and insight. “I still fell ill at ease, and I do believe my prophecy will prevail. Leaving may only delay to our fate but it will not prevent it. I am certain of this.”

“It is our road, ”Agamemnon answered, “Everyone will travel with me, so be prepared.

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The Lion Hunter and The Fisherman.

As Agamemnon and his family reached the shore of the kingdom of Mimas at sunset, the head guard asked, “Who are you strangers?”

Electra answered, “This is my father Agamemnon; we have come to see the king of Mimas.”

“Well, follow me. I will lead you to the palace of the king.”

Everyone followed up to the horizon where the group could see what resembled a great castle, difficult to access. This was the king’s palace. There were towers on each corner with small windows to keep watch and for throwing arrows or spears on unsuspected enemies. As the party entered the palace gates and approached the entrance hall, the guard told them to maintain silence. As they drew closer they began to hear the sound of music playing.

Agamemnon turned to the group and whispered, “Could it be that the people inside are getting ready for war? This is the music for announcing the call to arms.” He was obviously interested. “I must say this is a good omen. It has been sometime since I heard the trumpets of war.”

Electra stated, “But father the music is soft and sweet, it resembles the melodies Apollo can play so beautifully on his harp when he is in the mood of entertaining himself, the music he played when he was sitting on the Delphin beach while watching the waves break over the sand.”

As the party got closer to the hall, Orestes said, “Look, the king himself is leading the band!”

Cassandra added, “Quiet, listen to what they are saying.”

But they heard a song that is far from delivering them to the dawn of victory, the words of the aria actually made victory to be as far away as doomsday itself.

“Oh dawn of victory
where are you?!
are you connected with Judgment Day?!”

Agamemnon sighed in a voice mixed with frustration. “Why is the dawn of victory so far? When I was leader of the Greek army, victory was within my reach, it was within my sight and grasp. I led a great army who fought for the honor of the Greek nations. I saw victory within the dawn of every new battle we fought with the enemies. I remember telling my soldiers, ‘If this today isn’t the dawn of victory it is surely the dawn of the free people.’ Every dawn was the dawn of the free to my soldiers until they witnessed the day of victory come. What happened to this kingdom? Why do you people think the dawn of victory is unreachable? Don’t you have a cause to fight for?!”

When the music band ended, the minister approached the king and whispered in his ear that there are strange guests asking for an audience. The king ordered his minister to take them to his boardroom and wait.

The party was taken aback to see the walls completely covered with mosaic panels representing loincloth hunting, ships with hoisted sails, and of warriors on castle tops. The king entered and everyone rose to their feet.

After the King pronounced his welcome and his guests were seated, Electra remained standing, and addressed the room. "This is my father Agamemnon. His name is known to every free fighter alive, his deeds known the world over. He fought in the war to free Queen Helen, who was kidnapped by the son of the Trojan king. It was a war for the honor of the Greek nation, for the honor and dignity of our nation. The path of each new dawn meant victory to him, and victory your majesty could only be achieved by free spirits. With the existence of free people, the dawn of victory is always close."

Electra fell silent when Agamemnon arose, inspired by his daughter. "Yes your majesty, this is my story, the story that has been spread and known by every free individual alive. But there is another story to tell, a story that should not be tolerated by any who are free. It makes one angry your majesty, to hear the claim of freedom and of heroic deeds from weaklings and lurkers who sit at home. Leisurely thinking they are carrying heroic deeds, they deceive not only themselves but others. The heroism of parasites exists only in their own imagination, while the warriors of true freedom fight on the war front."

He continued. "My cousin Aegisthus, that weakling, spread a rumor in my kingdom that I was killed and that I was not coming back. He took over the throne of Mycenae and collected around him a group of drunkards just like himself. These people know nothing of freedom and its costs, they are spineless leeches."

Everyone was silent as the king stood, carrying a golden dagger around his waist. He paused and calmly spoke, "We heard of your story warrior Agamemnon, but what is it you require from the kingdom of Mimas and of me?"

"I come to you for help, oh king. I want your men to join my brigade to assist me in reclaiming my kingdom."

"But I have only a few men, hardly enough to protect my own kingdom. How could I give up the few I have to help reclaim yours?"

"But all of your men, as I can see, are carrying daggers and this means they are expected to be tough in battle. Is this not true? I see in their eyes the dawn of the free, I see in their faces the closeness of victory. I am willing to teach them all, because as you know I am quite familiar in the arts of war."

"I am sure you are aware Agamemnon, that Jupiter and his kingdom helped me claim the throne after my father became senile and hardly fit to rule the kingdom. I can't commit any deeds that will make that kingdom angry. I don't expect my men to do anything other than protect my own kingdom."

“I know the kingdom of Jupiter is behind the yellow conspiracy to dismantle the kingdoms of Saturn. But why don’t you rejoin the great kingdom of Saturn?” replied Agamemnon.

“My kingdom’s diameter is 196 kilometers; the distance between Saturn’s kingdom and us is 186 kilometers. So the rays of the strength of the kingdom of Jupiter cover all of the kingdom of Saturn and the kingdoms that belong to it. In short, we can’t fight Jupiter.”

“I see that you are a prisoner of your own palace, and you still hope to witness the dawn of victory!”

“This is exactly how I feel deep down in my soul, and I know we will never achieve victory or be witnesses to its dawn. My kingdom used to have so many moons orbiting inside it, but they are all either usurped or taken over by other kingdoms, and as you can see I don’t have the courage to reclaim them.”

“If you want your moons back, you should not be afraid of a challenge. You must have the spirit of fighting within yourself. I am ready to help you reclaim your moons, so that they will once again circle the orbits of your kingdom. If I do this great task, if I win for you and your kingdom, then will you help me in my fight to reclaim my kingdom? I see in your men a true determination, and strong vision, and a spirit of fighting for the birth of a victorious dawn. I can assure you that they are awaiting one word from you. Just give them one signal and they will rise like the waves of the sea, they will be unbeatable.

“I can only provide you with a fishing boat so that you can feed your family.”

“What are you saying!” blurted Electra at the top of her voice. “This is Agamemnon. This is the warrior who is used to beheading enemies on the battlefield. This is the one who used to hunt the heads of the cavalry while they were riding their horses and throw them to the ground. When Agamemnon gave a cry of war he spread panic and havoc among the enemy lines, filling their hearts with fear. This is the hero who never turned his back on his prey, a hunter of lions and wild animals. What is it you are offering oh king, are you asking him to stay here and take up fishing to bring us food? We left the shores of the golden Greek countries, and came to your kingdom to ask for help in our war. It is men we are after not a boat and fishing net!”

“Oh king I am a warrior,” said Agamemnon wiping sweat off his forehead. “I came here with many boats. I don’t need a fishing boat, in fact I will only take one boat for my family and myself and leave the rest of them for you to use for fishing.”

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The Club of Tummies and Thrones

Agamemnon left the Kingdom of Mimas in despair and outrage, his wife Cassandra, moved close to his side and tried to comfort him and sooth his pain, “Don’t be infuriated your majesty, be forbearing oh master of kings, you have to be patient, for we are still in the early stages of our quest, there is still a long and tedious road ahead of us. History recorded your name long ago in the pages of its glory, forget these weaklings and pay no attention to them.”

Orestes followed the example of his stepmother and tried to reassure his father: “Cassandra is absolutely right in what she says father, we do have a long way ahead; long ago you taught me the virtues of the philosophy of patience, and I realize now the wisdom of your teachings.”

Agamemnon embraced his son and ordered the captain of the ship to sail towards the kingdom of Pan. Upon his orders the captain instructed his crew to sail. The light and smooth wind helped the seamen to steer the wheels of the ship with great ease, and Agamemnon gave himself up to deep sleep.

By mid afternoon and after a smooth voyage the ship reached the shore of the kingdom of Pan. As the captain threwed the anchors in the deep blue sea, a group of coast guards approach. The head guard was curious about the visiting ship:

“Our guards have been watching your ship while still in the middle of the sea, what brings you to our kingdom, good people?”

Electra who is known to take the initiative informs the guard about their mission: “We have come to see the king.”

“And who might you be?”

Orestes takes pride in his father's identity: "This is my father Agamemnon, the king of all Greek kings; this is the hero who achieved great victories; the whole world sang his victories and heard of his wars."

The head guard is delightfully amazed: "I don't believe what I am hearing and seeing! Is the great king Agamemnon really in our kingdom, can I really be standing before the great hero, what great honor has been bestowed upon us, what good wind carries you to us, valiant hero! Come, I will lead you the way to the king's palace myself."

He orders his group to make way for the honorable procession. As the party reached the palace the head of the king's guard of honor is awaiting their reception: "You are the first guests to enter this palace, as you can see it has been recently constructed, and we have imported the best construction workers from around the neighboring kingdoms to complete its building. Please follow me; the king is presiding over his council."

As the guests approached, the king rose to greet them, inviting Agamemnon to sit by his side: "I can not wait to hear news of your war; I want to hear all the details. I am a great admirer of wars and fighting, in fact I do not seem to have enough of such news. I do not mind telling you every night one of my people tells me stories about the wars of the past. Tell me what it was like in your war."

Agamemnon starts his tale from beginning till the end, stating during the course that's why he has come to the kingdom of Pan to ask for their help to reclaim his kingdom of Mycenae.

“But the kingdom of Pan is very small; its diameter does not stretch more than ten kilometers,” the king replied. “Despite our closeness to the kingdom of Saturn, for the distance between us is only 134 kilometers, we were not thought of as a strong kingdom. However since we became allies of the kingdom of Jupiter we have been considered amongst the strong nations, we are no longer afraid of the neighboring kingdoms, in fact, the kingdom of Saturn itself does not count any more,” he added.

Agamemnon became more troubled and confused by the king's reaction: "There are 18 kingdoms orbiting the skies of Saturn, if you unite again you will become stronger still. It is very strange that you think only by allying yourself to the kingdom of Jupiter you become strong again."

The king tried to explain his situation to Agamemnon: "Sun rays pass over my kingdom at the blink of an eye; I can only be strong if I ally my Kingdom with the powerful."

Electra found it hard to accept the king's position: "Why do you think you can only become strong by forging an alliance with the kingdom of Jupiter?"

The king postulates his case even further by telling his visitors about the virtues of the kingdom of Jupiter and flaws of his kin: "The great kingdom of Saturn and all the other kingdoms within its orbit are my kin, but all I receive from them is trouble. My kingdom provides facilities to Jupiter's navy, we provide them with the liquid needed for the dynamite they use in their wars, every one is afraid of the Kingdom of Jupiter. And that's why every individual of my kingdom lives in prosperity."

The more the king justifies his case the more bewildered Cassandra became: "But your majesty, how can your people live in prosperity when you don't have power over yourselves?"

The king does not like the tone of this: “Who says we don’t have power over ourselves?! When my father was king he did not know how to behave well or think rationally. He preferred to be part of the kingdom of Saturn, he had close working relations with the rest of the kingdoms of Saturn and consulted with them on all matters of state; his allegiance to the king of Saturn stripped him of the power to rule his kingdom. But his behavior enraged the kingdom of Jupiter, who asked me to take over Pan for my superior mind and rational conduct, and let me tell you the king of Saturn never moved one finger. I even appointed the most famous of poets in Pan to quell those who opposed!”

Orestes found it strange to hear the king speak so badly of his father: “Ever since I was a young boy my father would take me to all his expeditions, he sought to teach me the arts of war and politics, he wanted to prepare me to rule our kingdom after him and judiciously trained me for such a task. I took part in the Trojan War; I learned how to fight wars for honor; my father taught me how to rock the earth for dignity, I don’t care much about living in prosperity without dignity.”

But the king thought very little of Orestes’ sentiments: “One of my sons used to have thoughts similar to yours, I expelled him from my council, and forbade him to be my successor; instead I elevated his younger brother, whose thoughts are similar to mine, and brought him closer to me.”

Electra experienced a different type of elation in her father’s kingdom: “I lived in my father’s kingdom in prosperity, I used to wait for his return impatiently whenever he left, I used to run towards him and throw myself in his arms, and ask him to tell me all what happened, I am a great admirer of everything he does, and of the victories he achieved. I joined the Trojan War, and it was through its daily details I experienced prosperity and living.”

Not wishing to steer away from the original cause of his visit to the kingdom of Pan, Agamemnon quickly interludes: “I come to your majesty to ask for help to reclaim my kingdom, not to discuss matters of allegiance and prosperity.”

But the king told Agamemnon flatly that he can be of no help to him, since has no army to offer. Nevertheless, Agamemnon took the trouble to explain to the king his proposal: “If your kingdom goes back to orbiting the skies of Saturn it will be easy for me to gather an army and create a nucleus from the scattered forces.”

The king found it difficult to believe what he has just heard, especially since he told his guests about the trouble that was brought upon him from the kingdoms of Saturn: “What is it you’re saying Agamemnon, you want me to get back to orbiting the skies of Saturn and be a follower of its king! It is not possible, I gave all these sacrifices and you ask me to go back to the starting point! You are asking for the impossible.”

Agamemnon hoped offering his sword and submission to the king might change his mind: “This is my sword your majesty, take it; my people and I will follow you to wherever you command. I wasn’t only the leader of the Greek armies, I was also their king, I am still their king, but I will gladly serve under you if you’ll take my sword.”

All Agamemnon’s family starts to supplicate with the king and Electra pleads with him, in a voice that echoed through the walls of the palace, to unsheathe his sword.

Orestes pleaded with the king to take his sword, and Cassandra tells him that all of them will join his command, and move by his orders.

The king falls silent for a moment, all their pleading and supplication falls on deaf ears: “I joined the club of “Tummies and Thrones” recently, and I don’t want to lose my membership,” he says somewhat embarrassingly.

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The Stolen Luster

Upon leaving the palace Agamemnon fell into despair. The captain asked him about their next destination. “ I do not know,” he said, “and I have no idea about what to do next.”

“Why not go to the nearest kingdom?” stated Cassandra.

“ That would be the kingdom of Atlas,” said the Captain.

“ It’s a rather small kingdom. Its diameter does not stretch more than fourteen kilometers,” added Orestes.

Agamemnon replied, “It is a small kingdom indeed, and not much larger than one of our small Greek islands scattered in the sea! It is not very far from the kingdom of Saturn either. Its distance is only 138 kilometers.” He paused to reflect, and then blurted, “Very well men, let’s go to the kingdom of Atlas.”

By sunset the party reaches the shore of Atlas, where they saw a number of small ships, with their crew ready to set sails. The head seaman asked. “Who are you people? Where did you come from, and what is it you want?”

“I am Agamemnon and I have come from the kingdom of Pan. We seek to meet with the king of the land.”

“Welcome to our kingdom! As you can see we have a full moon tonight and we are preparing to set sail to dive, you can join us if you are good at diving.”

Electra answered back, “Thank very much sir, but we have come here for a much more important matter, something that can only be settled by the king himself. We really seek an audience with his majesty.”

The head seaman guided them to the road that leads to the king’s palace. Agamemnon then asked the head guard to allow him and his party to see the king. They are told to wait. After a while the guard tells them the king is waiting for their entrance. Agamemnon and his companions enter the hall. The king, dressed in the military uniform of the leader of the oceans, is seated on his throne.

Electra stated, “This is my father Agamemnon, king of the Greek seas. He ordered the armor of fifty thousand ships to carry the Greek armies to Troy when he heard news that the Queen of Sparta had been kidnapped. My father could have easily gone there by himself, killed the man Paris the kidnapper, and return his sister-in-law to his brother. But he refused to do that, not because of fear or cowardice, but because he wanted to wage a war to deter anyone, regardless of his rank, from approaching the Greek kingdoms, its queens or young women. He wanted it to be a vicious war that will enable him to display the art of fighting. History spoke about great heroes who emerged as a result of Troy. It was a war for the gallant. History, your majesty, will only be written by the victorious. Only the strong and able will form its letters.”

The king replied, “Our sailors told us about your father’s war, they spoke of your heroic deeds when they came back from diving. Even though my kingdom is very small, and the moon light hardly reaches its sides, we still have a number of gallant heroes who resemble your father.”

Agamemnon stated, “I was not the only valiant soldier your majesty. All my soldiers were heroes, for the breath of the courageous enlivens each other. I see a brave man in you, your majesty, with that uniform you are wearing. The hearts of the bold are not afraid of anyone and are not hindered by anything. Each one of us carries his heart in the palm of his hand, his strength lies in his heart before his sword.”

The king, increasing in empathy, answered, “My heart is still saddened for the death of my father who was the victim of a yellow conspiracy carried out by the kingdom of Jupiter. The words of their commissioner are still ringing in my ears, after he learned of my father’s death after he left his council. I am still troubled by his words which give me nightmares during my sleep.”

Orestes interrupted, “What did he say about your father your majesty?”

The king sighed sorrowfully. “He said, ‘I haven’t seen the familiar shining luster in his eyes.’ Oh, it is true! They even robbed the luster from his own eyes! They stole it out of my father’s eyes, and who knows when will they snatch it out of mine too?!”

Electra stepped forward and said, “The shining luster of the eyes of the brave can not be stolen your majesty, because it breaks all the world’s barriers. The luster of their eyes dazzles even that of the enemy, and they become just like the fish of your sea after they have been caught. The brave are the whales of the seas and oceans. They fear no one and care for no one. The brave rides the moon and gives its light to whomever they want.”

Catching the inspiration of his daughter, Agamemnon added, “Yes, we are the ones who must decide whether to become great whales or small fish as food for the whales. My brave men were whales in the true sense of the word. But small fish like my cousin Aegisthus, never went to war. They stayed on the shores of Mycenae, only to catch fish that were already dead, dead to life and dead to anything worthy of the fight. When the whales are no longer visible the small fish practice their power over the weaklings of the earth.”

Cassandra could not help but add, “The hearts of the brave, your majesty, are alive with a power that extends and does not retreat, rising but will not be submerged. It is a power that elevates the soul to the highest skies, touching the rays of the sun and covering the eyes with it, it echoes. It bounces against the light of the moon and washes itself with it. It is a power that can only be felt by those who sail ships with spears drawn, with the sea tearing at their sails, and exchanges them for the stars to weave new ones that are befitting only them.”

Electra continued, “I see brave men in the kingdom of Atlas your majesty. I see in their eyes a luster that can not be easily stolen, a luster that will lead them to a road that is much safer than the road to the kingdom of Jupiter. I see in your men whales that can strike at the tyranny of all the men of Jupiter.”

Sensing the moment, Agamemnon pleaded, “I want you, your majesty to provide me with brave men who can join the rest of the courageous men of Saturn so that I can reclaim the kingdom of Mycenae.”

The king lifted his hands to signal a resistance to what he had heard. “I don’t wish for the luster of my eyes or that of my men to be stolen,” he said, “so that you can reclaim your kingdom Mycenae. Could you stay with me, to take rest from your worries? Just before your arrival I was preparing to set foot on a diving voyage to look for the mother of pearl. I extend an invitation to you this day, to come and join me on such a diving expedition. Who knows, may be you can find a pearl that will entertain you and help you to forget Mycenae.”

The King's reply produced a visible sense of disappointment for the entire group. Electra begrudgingly replied, "My father does not come here to look for mothers of pearl. We have walked away from great treasures of even pure gold. My father has never worn gold or jewelry, not in his whole life. He left such things to his servants and slaves. Sir, if you knew the father you would know that he preferred his armor to jewelry, he took pride in his shield, flirted with his sword, and played with the spear. Go on your majesty and look for your mother of pearls. Nothing will compensate us for the kingdom of Mycenae."

-5-

The Kingdom Of Tar

Agamemnon and his family return to the ship, he laid on his back watching the stars. Cassandra, ever watchful and sensitive of her husband's moods, inched towards him: "What might your majesty be thinking of?"

"The movement of the stars never ceases to amaze me; I wonder how they find their way in these vast skies. Have you noticed how they always stick to their path, and how they stay in the same orbit for such a long time? The system that rules their movement is marvelous, for they never collide with shooting stars either."

Cassandra goes a long with Agamemnon's contemplative mood: "The god Zeus could be responsible for that organized movement as he has complete control over these stars, and they can only obey his orders."

Agamemnon finds his wife's response both amusing and strange: "That could well be the case."

Upon seeing the smile on his father's face, Orestes thought it was a good opportunity to ask about their next destination. Agamemnon, who relied on his companions for information about the kingdoms of Saturn falls silent, while Electra made her move: "As we were leaving the palace of the king of Atlas, I heard people say that the kings of Calypso, Telesto and Tethys are gathered in the kingdom of Tethys."

That was enough for Agamemnon to order the ship's captain to set sail to the kingdom of Tethys, one of the bigger kingdoms with a diameter exceeding 530 kilometers.

Orestes, being the expert on all the kingdoms of Saturn, gave his father yet more details about the three kingdoms: “The three kingdoms are of the same distance from Saturn, which is 295 kilometers.

“But the kingdom of Calypso is the smallest of all three, for its diameter does not exceed thirteen kilometers and the diameter of Telesto is only fifteen kilometer,” Cassandra pitches in, in an effort to show Agamemnon she too is well informed about the kingdoms of Saturn.

This information inflames Agamemnon’s pride; for he himself does not know half the facts he was being told.

The ship sails the vast seas towards the kingdom of Tethys, as with the other kingdoms its coast guards stop the ship, thinking it is carrying pirates. As soon as it approached the shore shouting hovers from the distance: “You pirates seem to have lost your way and found yourselves in our kingdom. Pirates have already taken a number of trading ships and since then we have been patrolling the shores in the hope of finding the stolen vessels. Your fate has led you right into our hands,”

“This is nonsense! Do we look like pirates to you? The man who stands before you erect as a mountain, is the master of the Greek warriors. He is my father Agamemnon, and we have come to see the king for a very grave matter,” said Electra in a voice mixed with pride and rage.

The leader of the guard looks away from Electra and walks towards Agamemnon, he addresses the great hero in an apologetic manner, "Sir, please accept my apology; I've heard so much about your gallantry in the wars, and was so looking forward to feasting my eyes with your sight, could I be in a wonderful dream?"

"You're not dreaming, for this man you are looking at is the very person you were wishing to see. It is indeed my father; the one whose fame raced him to all the kingdoms," Orestes said proudly.

"How can I be of help to you?"

"We would like to meet with the king."

"You can do that immediately, I shall give word to the head of the king's trustees."

As soon as the head of the king's trustees learned of Agamemnon's identity he accompanied him along with his family to a spacious palace where they were told the king of Tethys has granted them audience. Upon entering the king's council Agamemnon made the first greetings: "May your days be happy ones oh great kings, I can not tell you how happy I am to be amongst you, I have heard so much about your bravery. I am very lucky to meet with great kings such as you. During my trip here, I heard the citizens of this kingdom praying for the gods to grant you prosperous and long lives. Your majesties I am Agamemnon, the supreme commander of the Greek armies."

When Agamemnon went silent Electra took the chance to explain her father's character to the presiding kings: "When my father fought the infamous Trojan War, he had no intention of widening the borders of the kingdom of Mycenae. He left it up to the people of Troy to decide their own destiny. Despite the fact many Trojans were willing to become part of Mycenae, my father refused, for he did not wish to usurp Troy and make it a part of his kingdom. My father cares about his kingdom and his people; he hates yellow conspiracies and treachery. We have come to you asking for your help in reclaiming our kingdom from the traitors, from the likes of Aegisthus, who does not have a speck of dignity. We came to you great kings because you are men of valor and dignity."

The king of Calypso had some idea about the cause of the Trojan War, but as was evident from his account he did not have his facts straight: "We heard about the elopement of Helen, Queen of Sparta, with Prince Paris, son of the Trojan king Priam."

Electra being the outspoken young woman of the party sets the record straight for Queen Helen never eloped with Prince Paris, "Queen Helen did not run away with him your majesty, she was deceived. Queen Hecuba, Prince Paris's mother, tried to send her back secretly to avoid the horrors of war, but everyone refused her advice and neglected her views."

The king of Telesto was not acquainted with all the details and he wanted to know more: "Why didn't Queen Hecuba welcome Helen?"

“She saw in her sleep that Queen Helen will cause the end of Troy. And that is exactly what happened; their end was on my father’s hands, Agamemnon.” Electra explained.

“Queen Helen must really be beautiful,” king of Thethys blurted out.

“Yes your majesty, she is a woman of great beauty. In fact she is one of the most beautiful women of her age,” Cassandra added.

This talk was enough to cause the king of Telesto to crack a remark that was not well received by his guests: “I wish I kidnapped her for myself instead of that Paris,” he said.

Agamemnon, who fought a war because of Queen Helen, thought ill of the humor: “Do not forget your majesty that you are talking about the wife of my brother, Menelaus, King of Sparta. We are kings and descendants of kings. My pride was wounded when I learned of her kidnapping. I sent for the leaders of my armies, and told them to assemble their men into a great force from all the Greek lands to bring back Queen Helen.”

“I did not mean to insult you Agamemnon, I was only indulging in light repartee,” the Telesto king said apologetically.

Agamemnon’s valor and pride was evident to all the kings, but it was the king of Calypso who enquired about Agamemnon’s need of help and assistance.

Agamemnon again explained the cause that prompted his visit to the kingdoms of Saturn: “I went to see the king of Saturn to ask for his help to reclaim my kingdom, Mycenae. But he told me he is losing control over the kingdoms orbiting his skies. He said the kingdom of Jupiter is behind all his troubles; its representatives travel to each of these kingdoms and persuade their monarchs to break away from orbiting Saturn, and join Jupiter. If all these kingdoms were to rejoin Saturn it will be easier for me to reclaim my kingdom. I address your pride and dignity, great kings to help me in my quest.”

Even though the three kings offered help to Agamemnon, they started making excuses for the status quo. “The kingdoms of Telesto and Calypso are small; Tethys is the biggest amongst us. We have become kings only because of Jupiter; this moon helped us to overthrow our older brothers, because they were incapable of ruling the kingdoms as efficiently as we do,” the king of Telesto explained.

“I saw the king of Mimas and the king of Pan who overthrew their fathers and became kings with the help of Jupiter. You have many things in common with them,” Agamemnon thought aloud.

The king of Calypso was curious to find out about the affairs of the Greek countries and wondered if these kinds of conspiracies take place there as well.

“Indeed they do,” Agamemnon gesticulates. “But these sort of conspiracies only take place amongst the gods and between them,” he stressed. “Take the case of Zeus and his two brothers Poseidon and Hades who overthrew their father, Cronus, and divided the monarchy between them. Zeus named himself the supreme god of all the Greek gods and goddesses, distanced both his brothers by naming Poseidon as the god of the sea, and Hades as the god of the underworld, the world of the dead.”

The king of Telesto is amused at this news; as a matter of fact, he is rather pleased, for this kind of trouble is only supposed to take place amongst mortals not gods.

“The gods must have loved us for the availability of tar in our kingdom, while the other kingdoms of Saturn had none,” the king of Calypso said gladly.

“Tar was always there in our kingdoms but we did not even know of it, until experts from Jupiter came and extracted it for us. They buy it now to cure their animals and horses from scabies. As you can see now we live in prosperity thanks to them,” the king of Tethys pitched in.

Tar was the least of Agamemnon concerns, “I come here looking for men who have dignity and pride your majesties; I did not come here looking for tar. I told you what happened to me and expect to stir your spirits.”

“My father is not looking for quiet and peace in the shades of tar, he is not looking for the dignity of a peaceful heart and a prosperous life, he is looking for the dignity that will cause the wells of tar to explode, a dignity that will rock the interior of the earth and force it to throw its lavas in the face of Jupiter's tyranny. When people hear about this dignity they will draw a hundred thousand swords without a question. We are looking for a dignity that will lead us to eternal glory,” Electra exploded.

But the kings of Telesto, Tethys and Calypso were not interested in fighting wars or gaining victories, they had no interest in preparing warriors and fighters, they are only interested in the good and peaceful life their kingdoms is leading, making it clear to their visitors that they have no fighters to spare.

“The soldiers of the kingdom of Jupiter protect us. I admit we made a mistake by overlooking the fact that we need to train fighters and charge their esteem. From Electra’s words she could become our consultant for military affairs. As time passes we could have a nucleus for an army. I have many luxurious palaces; you can choose any one you want.” The king of Thethys wanted to drive his point to Agamemnon and his family even further so he told them a story about a king he met a few years back that went through my brain like the waves of the sea, and in between told them they should stay in his Kingdom.

“A few years ago we were visited by a king; his story is a lot like yours. His father was killed and his kingdom taken away, just like your cousin Aegisthus took over your kingdom. This king's name was the Mised King, he came asking for help to reclaim his father’s kingdom, he asked us for soldiers, but we did not have any to give him. I told him to give up that quest but sadly he did not listen. I offered him a palace as a gift but he refused to accept. I learned much later he died in a faraway kingdom, now buried there, but no one knows where his grave is. Agamemnon, I don’t want your fate to be similar to that of the Mised King.”

The king of Calypso commits an even graver blunder by asking Electra to marry him and become his queen, reciting poetry for her,

Electra

I exist

In the pulse of your lungs

In the fire of your lips

In the flash of your eyes

I exist

In the thump of your steps

In the revelation of your prayers

In the whisper of secrets

Electra

With your love I anchor

And sail

I gave a portray

And an image

I collected your stature

And rained

I.....

When Electra heard the absurd words she flushed and snapped, “What is this nonsense you are saying king of Calypso? Do you think I am a slave? Do you think I am up for sale to the highest bidder! My father and I are looking for fighters with dignity. I heard from poets about pride, but it seems to me this is a myth your majesty. I would have liked to hear it, to touch my ears and tickle my feelings, I would have liked it to elevate me to challenge the sun and take pride in the Greek fighters. I would have liked to feel this dignity and pride even if it was false, to convince myself that I lived its moments and sat in its shadows.”

She continues: “My father Agamemnon did not come here to beg for a post, he would not do that even if you make him your king. We come here looking for fighters with valor. We've come here looking for kings who have the power to rule themselves; kings who enjoy a prosperous life, king of Telesto, under the shadow of their own thought.”

Angry to the point of insult, she steams: “As for you king of Tethys, we don't care much for your palaces; I see them as no more than a human rubbish heap. History has immortalized the Mised King because he did not listen to your advice, he became a symbol and a hero, and poets sang his praises for immortal eternity. And you king of Calypso, did you ask the permission of the kingdom of Jupiter before you asked for my hand in marriage? How dare you ask for such a thing without the blessing of your masters? I want a husband who is free, I want a husband who is proud, and it's definitely not you I am looking for.”

6

The Falcon And The Crows

Once again Agamemnon left the kingdom of Tethys feeling disheartened from what he heard and saw. Cassandra tried to ease her husband's disappointment. "Do not despair your majesty, there are still many kingdoms to visit, we can go and seek their help, we must have faith."

In her usual optimistic spirit Electra added, "Yes father, have faith, if you plant the seeds of optimism in your heart, they will eventually grow and we shall reap hope from their buds."

Since hope appeared to be the only salvation they had, all of the group encouraged Agamemnon. His young son Orestes tried to capture the moment by saying, "Just maybe we can find the flower of hope in the kingdom of Hyperion, let's travel there, it is not very far from here."

After such great words of support, Agamemnon had only to issue his command to the captain to immediately set sail to the kingdom of Hyperion. And so they did. The ship plowed the vast seas and the fury of its beating waves till it finally reaches the shores of Hyperion in late afternoon. The captain threw out his anchor but there was nobody to be seen. Agamemnon wondered why the roads were empty, especially at this time of day.

From afar he saw a grand palace that seemed like the king's residence. As Agamemnon's party walked towards it, they see a spacious hall with the king and his entourage seated in silence. The king and his group were chewing over and over the same dried leaves till they form into grass balls in their mouths. The leaves were occasionally replenished as delicate hands occasionally picked from the smalls bowels which maintained the chewing process.

The king invited Agamemnon to sit beside him and asked him to join the chewing festivities. Electra kept her post by the entrance, eyeing the congregation while the king offered Agamemnon a bundle of green leaves to start the chewing procedure and its subsequent lightheadedness and relaxation. Agamemnon gracefully declined.

While Agamemnon needed no introductions Electra felt she had to explain the status of her father to their hosts. "This is my father Agamemnon, the falcon of Greek falcons; this is the falcon that spread his wings to over all the Greek kingdoms. When the son of Priam, the Trojan king, kidnapped Queen Helen of Sparta, all Greek falcons rose to his help. He took them under his wings and led them to battle. They spread havoc and destruction on their enemies and left them for the hyenas and birds of prey. My father was a strong falcon and like all falcons your majesty, he does not chew on grass."

Agamemnon was so pleased with what his daughter said. He decided to capitalize on her words. Stepping forward he said, "My army was made of fighting falcons, when they spread their wings, they covered the rays of the sun, only the doves stayed in their nests. My falcons were strong and ferocious, that's why they only fought the strong and valiant, and left the weaklings to themselves.

After they destroyed the kingdom of Troy and just as I was getting ready to get back to my kingdom, Mycenae, I heard a crow used my absence to gain control over my kingdom. Because I am the only interested party in this matter, I preferred the battle to be mine and mine alone. I am trying to gather falcons from the different kingdoms of Saturn. I come to you, your majesty to provide me the falcons of your kingdom.”

The king squatted, spat out what he was chewing in a silver bowl that was placed beside him, and drank some water to dampen the dryness in his throat. He looked at Agamemnon. “The god Dionysos tested your Greek people with the curse of wine; he taught you how to make it and how to enjoy it. While we in the kingdom of Hyperion are tested with these green leaves, they wear out our bodies, and stupefy our minds. The leaves oppress our pockets, destroy our lands, and strip our farms of their goodness. They even dry up the udders of the animals and kill our crops. We have become addicted to the leaves, oh Greek falcon, and the eye sights of our falcons are no longer as sharp as they were. Their wings are no longer strong.”

The king and his entourage emerged out of their retreat of grass chewing while the sun set behind the high mountains and the night engulfed the city. Electra looked around in surprise, “The stars in your skies are different from those we are used to in our country!”

The king laughed out so loud so as to expose his yellowish stained teeth. “We falcons only live in the highest mountains. What you see are not stars, they are the houses of saddled falcons.”

“So the kingdom of Hyperion does have falcons after all,” Agamemnon thought to himself. “If given a little more details about my army of falcons, the king might change his mind and provide me with some of them at least,” he thought to himself.

“I assembled my falcons next to the shore of Delphi and they were ready before the crack of dawn. They were there in waiting to watch its golden disc rise before the birth of a new day; they were always wondering when we will sail to Troy. The roar of their voices went through trees and moved right, then left and center while the birds flew over their heads. They were true falcons; they were unlike any creature in this universe,” Agamemnon roared.

But it was to no avail for the king was of no help for he still insisted that his falcons were of no use either to him or to others. “I envy you Agamemnon for taking your falcons under your wings, and sailing with them through the Aegean Sea. I find it very difficult to gather my falcons. Each sees himself as unique unmatched by any other. They should be called untamed falcons. After a recent trip to the kingdom of Jupiter recently, they gave me falcons as a going away gift, which I refused. When they insisted, I took them because I decided that I actually needed them. They lived and bred in my kingdom, causing my own falcons to fly away. I do not see falcons any more, only quiet and peaceful doves, cooing now and then. The imported falcons have now become crows that only arouse my disgust and repugnance, flying over my kingdom which is only 143 kilometers wide.”

“It is up to you, your majesty to chase those uncouth crows away and exchange them for real falcons. Even though Hyperion is 1,481 kilometers from the kingdom of Saturn, its falcons have roamed all of the kingdoms from end to end teaching the alphabet, and showing them how to mould nature for a life befitting free falcons,” Electra snapped again.

“The falcons who taught the alphabet to those kingdoms are capable of protecting the skies of Hyperion,” Agamemnon pleaded to the king.

“May be they just need the fresh air of the mountains to bring life back into them and take them out of the shell of grass chewing. My father’s falcons only breathe the air of freedom. They can not be matched by any other your majesty.” Orestes added encouragingly.

But all these pleas fell on deaf ears, for the king was not interested in these words. For him they were mere utterings that account for nothing. “The free falcons have migrated from our kingdom. I can not rely on the remaining crows. I am in great pain, oh falcon of the Greek lands, because you ask me for a falcon when I can not find a single one around. What makes it worse is that I have never thought about that matter before.”

The youthful Orestes would not take no for an answer. Attempting to supplicate the king, he asked, “Do you have young falcons of maybe my age? We might train them to breathe the air of freedom again.”

“The crows I have will not allow such a request, oh little falcon,” the king replied in defeat.

“Why don’t you expel those crows your majesty, and Agamemnon will be ready to train an army of free falcons to cover the horizon of the kingdom of Jupiter? I am sure that your falcons are capable of that. They have a power in their eyes that will be enough to melt all the mountains around you. They have the power that will shake the life out of your crows,” blurted Cassandra to the king in effort to inspire.

“Forgive me, but I have to get back to my council to finish chewing the grass.” This was all the king could say since he had grown weary of this discussion and he now wanted the visiting party off his land.

“You will continue to chew on your misfortune your majesty. You will spend the rest of your life looking for bundles of grass, while I along with my real falcons, will drink the toast of the victorious dawn,” responded Cassandra in a sad tone.

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The Fake Rebels

When Agamemnon left the kingdom of Hyperion, his heart was wringing with pain, even though his family tries to charge his zeal, but nonetheless he could not overcome his anguish. Orestes is the first to speak to his father: “Father, leave your desperation aside and listen to me, we should go on to the kingdom of Dione, it is not far from here, it’s a large kingdom for its diameter is 560 kilometers, some good luck may become of it.”

Agamemnon who has no choice but to seek the help of other kingdoms issues his orders to the captain, who steers his ship towards the kingdom of Dione. After two long days of sailing they reach the shores of the kingdom, they find a huge crowd to receive them with everyone chanting:

**Our sword makes the blood flow
Our sword is incomparable to any other
Saddle your horses rebels
Mount the backs of Arabian horses
Welcome Agamemnon, hero of the rebels
Welcome to the one who does not accept humiliation
Welcome Electra, sister of rebels
Welcome the one who loves virtue**

Electra is so pleased by this joyous reception, she looks towards her father: “I am so glad father about this warm reception; we have not been met with such joy in all the kingdoms we have been to. With these ululations and songs, these people of men, women, old, young, even children must know about our quest, surely they gather here to meet us on shore. I am so happy I can barely hold back my tears.”

One of the welcoming people approaches the party with his sword drawn in his left hand, he wants to introduce the great hero to the crowd: “Rebels and free people, the rebel hero has arrived, Agamemnon and his daughter Electra are finally here.” He continues addressing Agamemnon: The smell of revolution has come with you, the waves of revolution has led you to us to breathe life in our kingdom. Its volcano has long died down oh great rebel, and you have come to awaken it. Lava is going to be thrown over the heads of the enemies of the rebellion; we feel the earth shaking from the enormity of the volcano that will sweep everyone through its roaring flames. Your coming here brings back the spirit of revolution into our souls; it brings back its flames lost for many years. We welcome you to our kingdom, because you are the hero of rebels.”

Everyone behind him in the crowd continues with the ululations and songs. It’s a time of jubilation and merriment.

Agamemnon climbs the small platform that must have been specially erected for his reception: “Rebels, heroes, and sons of the kingdom of Dione, how I would have liked the sons of my kingdom Mycenae to receive me with the welcome you have bestowed upon me, how I would have liked the rebels of my kingdom to have given me half your reception.

You have given a welcome that I may not merit. I was in turmoil when my wife's sister and my brother's wife was kidnapped, and I swore with honor of every rebel of the Greek nations never to put my sword back in its sheathe until I free Helen and destroy Troy, and this is exactly what I did. But you have to be careful, when least expected my cousin; Aegisthus betrayed me and took over my throne. I came here looking for rebels to help me reclaim the kingdom of Mycenae."

The atmosphere goes to Electra's head who does not miss an opportunity of sympathy or encouragement. She climbs the platform, stands next to her father and addresses the gathering crowd: "I am saddened for your loss; I feel with you because the fire of your revolution has been put out and turned into ashes. I see in your faces the flame that will burn and regain its luster. My father was a rebel, and rebels are always stabbed from the back. Why can't an honest rebel live? Why does every free fighter have to be assassinated? Why only the half brave and gallant stay alive? I expected to see the volcanoes of rebellion throw their lavas to reach the sun, I expected to see a fire that is so strong, that neither the kingdom of Jupiter nor those beyond it can put out its flames."

The crowd was so inflamed by Electra's remarks, they all wanted to deliver a response, while some cheered her for her eloquence and called her the sister of rebels, others complained to her that they can no longer distinguish between real revolutionaries and fake rebels. Many people in the crowd said they were sick and tired of the many factions of revolutionaries that exist nowadays, but were happy at the arrival of her father Agamemnon; they told their visitors that they are ready to fight under Agamemnon's command. The people of the kingdom of Dione can see the luster of true rebellion in the face of Agamemnon and his daughter, and they are looking forward to the honor of touching it.

One of the rebels, who was wearing his armor and carrying a spear in his left hand came forward, stood by Electra and Agamemnon, and addressed the cheering crowd: “Bravest rebel of all, Agamemnon, the revolution has many faces and many fronts. We are not sure which front we should fight first.”

Just before he finished his sentence a sudden quietness took hold in the midst of all the noise, the eyes jumped out of their sockets, the necks stretched high to see who was coming, the crowd broke out in unison: “With blood and soul we redeem the king of Dione.”

The king stood on a higher platform than that of Agamemnon, and addressed the by now mesmerized crowd, “Hero of all rebels, Agamemnon, fellow fighters, and honorable rebels, we all know that the kingdom of Jupiter was behind the usurpation of our beloved the Kingdom of Helen and gave it to people outside the Kingdom of Dione and the other kingdoms of Saturn. Even though the diameter of the kingdom of Helen does not exceed sixteen kilometers, and its distance from the kingdom of Saturn is only 377 kilometers, it touches the heart of every citizen in my kingdom and every citizen of the kingdoms of Saturn. Prince Paris stole Queen Helen, who is precious to your hearts, just like the kingdom of Jupiter stole our precious kingdom of Helen. That day you unsheathed your sword and your rebellious anger was not quenched till you brought Queen Helen back. We thank the gods that led you to us to help us to reclaim the kingdom of Helen.”

Electra explained to the king that fighting wars and winning them needs brave soldiers it can not be won single handedly: “When my father pulled his sword and declared war against the kingdom of Troy, and swore to burn it in vengeance for Helen, 100,000 rebels followed his example, they pulled their swords and pointed their spears without asking Agamemnon about the reason for his action?”

“They pulled their swords as if they were in the hand of one man. I remember they were singing with their loud rebellious voices as if one man was singing”:

**If only I owned the sky
If only I owned the sea
My sky will stay high
And my sea will stay free
The clouds will not cover my sky
The hurricanes will not shake my sea
To free Helen
Before the shining of lightening
And before the blowing hurricanes**

“But freeing Helen took ten years!” Someone shouts in the crowd.

“And how many years has it been since the usurpation of the kingdom of Helen? It is not with words that the revolution survives. There are a lot of male rebels who changed the face of the world and the fate of nations, they entered the gate of history through their deeds, their faith and honesty, and the best living example of those is Agamemnon and his actions,” Electra answered angrily.

“I come to your majesty to provide me with rebels to set the kingdom of Mycenae free,” Agamemnon tells the king.

“But as you can see Agamemnon, my rebels are busy fighting each other; I can no longer control them.”

One of the leading rebels finds it difficult to let go of such a good opportunity and pleads with Agamemnon to help them: “You freed Helen Agamemnon, and can you help us to reclaim our stolen kingdom of Helen. Our people have become immigrants spread in the different kingdoms of Saturn. We fought many wars against them, but we haven’t won any of those wars, for the kingdom of Jupiter is behind all our troubles.”

“But how can I help you to reclaim your stolen kingdom on my own? When I set out to my war I swore I will not return from it unless I gained victory or martyrdom. I was not interested in half solutions or near solutions. I see before me people who are shaken and defeated from the inside, they claim to be revolutionaries, but they are not even close to being revolutionists. They cry for the kingdom of Helen during the day, and at night they practice the motto that (the revolution starts in my bedroom).”

“What is this I am hearing Agamemnon? Are you aware of what you are saying,” one of the rebels asked in disbelief.

Electra stands up to their hosts and again sets the record straight, “Yes, mister revolutionist, my father knows exactly what he is saying. If there were real revolutionists here, the kingdom of Helen would not have stayed in captivity all these years. You people are asking an unarmed man to return your kingdom back to you! My father has already told you that he had 100,000 rebels behind him, none of them looked back; they were led by the spirit of the revolution, you are castrated revolutionaries.”

Agamemnon heard just about enough of those fake revolutionaries empty talk: “All of you are talking about the revolution, but I don’t feel there is a revolution here. I came here asking for revolutionaries but I can not find any in this kingdom. It seems the time of real revolutionaries has gone for ever. Get ready my daughter to leave so we can look for the last of the revolutionaries somewhere else.”

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War And Diplomacy

On leaving the kingdom of Dione, Agamemnon promises to find revolutionaries in one of the other kingdoms of Saturn. Electra has a pretty good idea about her father's thoughts, "the time for revolutionaries could not have ended, I can smell them somewhere, but I still need to know where they are."

Being a young man of resolve Orestes hopes to find the sought after revolutionaries in the coming years "maybe I can find them when I grow older. In the meantime why don't we go to the kingdom of Pandora, father, it is not far from here. If we leave now we might reach it by sun set."

Agamemnon ordered the captain to sail towards the kingdom of Pandora. They reach it by the time the sun's golden disc was touching the blue sea, but they were not allowed to anchor their ship till the next morning. Electra approached the head guard and tells him that king Agamemnon is on board the ship and he wishes to see the king about a private matter that could not be delayed or postponed. She asks him to deliver a message to his chief, who upon learning about the identity of Agamemnon, comes immediately to them and leads them to the king's palace.

The king orders his guards not to delay Agamemnon any moment than necessary, and received him with great hospitality: “We welcome you in our kingdom valiant hero; we heard so much about your great deeds and the victories you gained over your enemies and adversaries. The news of your victories, the fall of Troy and the return of Queen Helen have a great echo in Pandora.”

Electra could not hide her excitement and immediately set out to tell the king about her father’s conquests, and principles: “My father has proved himself through his victories over king Priam. The issue was not about the kidnapping of my aunt Queen Helen alone, it went much deeper than that; its dimensions surpassed that of a simple kidnapping. When my father led the Greek armies into Troy his motto was “Helen first”, and to bring her to my uncle he sacrificed everything he owned including his kingdom. Because of this motto his cousin Aegisthus seized the opportunity of his absence and took over his kingdom.”

Agamemnon could not agree more with his beloved daughter, “this was indeed my only motto; freeing Helen from her capturers was the first amongst my priorities. If my motto had been different, say, Mycenae first, I might have been able to keep my throne, but you see I stayed away from my kingdom for ten years. It is true I won the war and brought a crushing defeat over Troy, I lost my kingdom. What legislation allows that? Helen goes back to my brother Menelaus, but where do I go? I am a king without a kingdom, and a victor with no crowns of bay. I was insulted and degraded. I come to you your majesty asking for help, I come to you to provide me with valiant soldiers to join my command and help me to reclaim my stolen throne.”

The king shows great admiration for Agamemnon's deeds, and makes no effort to hide his appreciation for the motto 'Helen First', "even though the kingdom of Pandora is small, for its diameter does not exceed 46 kilometers, , and its distance from the kingdom of Saturn is only 142 kilometers. We have followed your philosophy, which says the people should rule themselves; we raised the motto Pandora first. We have representatives of the people, valiant soldier, and I will refer your case to them and they will be the ones to accept your request or reject it."

Agamemnon is so pleased at the way the kingdom of Pandora is being ruled, for he has not encountered a council of the people in any of the kingdoms he has visited so far. "This is very good of you your majesty, I am all for the people ruling themselves, for we hold the same motto as you do," he said.

Agamemnon and his companions are led to the council of the people where they are given a warm welcome, indeed the representatives could not stop the applause long after they arrived. After the standing ovation dies down the head of the council rises from his seat and addresses his guests: "We are very happy for your presence among us great hero Agamemnon. The news of your victories gives us great pleasure. You Agamemnon have become not only a symbol for the leadership of battles, but also a symbol for diplomacy. The representatives of the people of the kingdom of Pandora have come to admire and esteem the diplomacy of patience. We believe that diplomacy is no less important than war; you managed the crisis of the kidnapping of Queen Helen with a great capacity, for diplomacy is an art and you mastered that art well."

The representatives all wanted to address the great visitor and communicate their thoughts; they all took turns in speaking their minds. One of them commented Agamemnon on his victory over Troy, “the news of your war have become the talk of every citizen of this kingdom, the people of my kingdom said they saw your picture on the face of the moon, others said they saw you riding with the setting sun on your horse with your sword drawn, you were crushing your enemies and throwing their remains on the walls of Troy.”

“Valiant hero Agamemnon, we heard about your visit to the kingdom of Dione, and we know what they have told you about the stolen kingdom of Helen, I left the kingdom of Helen in spite of myself when I was still a young lad. As you can see age has carved its marks upon my face, and I am still far away from my land. You on the other hand retrieved your Helen, but who will bring back my Helen to me?!,” another one told him bitterly.

Other representatives congratulated him on his skill in negotiations, and wondered why could not he negotiate with his cousin: “We have many great things in common between us, as the head of our council says, the art of managing negotiations and the art of managing battles are two faces of the same coin, and you mastered playing with these arts, I wonder why did you not negotiate with your cousin Aegisthus?”

The representatives’ speeches made Electra feel ill at ease, for her father never negotiated with the enemy and wanted to drive this point to the council of the people: “The king of Priam offered to return Queen Helen, but my father refused his offer. It was not a case of a kidnapped queen. It was a case of a nation, the case of a symbol that has been violated. According to my father the Greek flag was taken, and transferred to another kingdom. How can a kingdom live without a flag or a symbol?”

“My father fought a war with his brave soldiers to reclaim that flag, a war that brought him out as the strong one, because of that he negotiated with his sword drawn in front of him, not hidden away in his tent. He wanted a war to reclaim a flying flag that can not be humiliated or violated; it was a flag that was meant to stay high on its mast. People similar to Aegisthus are used to hiding under the shadow of any old flag. How would you feel gentlemen if you lost your flag? How can my father negotiate with the one responsible for the stealing of the flag of Mycenae? The mere thought of negotiating is a stipulation that the aggressor has a right in this flag, or at least a small part of it. Only the valiant stays under the flying flags. We come to you looking for brave and valiant soldiers not for negotiators. The weaker party is the one who asks for negotiations and my father was never weak.”

After Electra finished her impressive speech a representative told the rest of the council Agamemnon’s case should be looked into. “It seems to me that Agamemnon has a right and a case; I see that his case resembles that of our beloved Helen, I suggest we provide him with soldiers from our kingdom.”

But that suggestion was easier said than done, especially since the kingdom of Pandora preferred to take the long path of negotiation and deliberation, indeed another representative reminded the council of the obstacles that stand in the way. “I want to remind you gentlemen that we can not provide Agamemnon with brave men from our kingdom, for there is a treaty between us and the kingdom of Jupiter concerning this matter. We must have their agreement first, and from my experience in these issues I would say it will require long and hard negotiations to convince them, and these could take years and years.”

The head of the council stands and strikes his gavel on the scale of justice so hard that the hands of the scale flow with it, when he received the attention of all those present he delivered his final statement: “What has just been said is absolutely true, we can not provide you with our soldiers Agamemnon until we acquire the agreement of the kingdom of Jupiter.”

Electra felt dizzy at these crucifying words, she stood before the council and pulled out her father’s sword with tearful eyes; there the language of speech was lost. Orestes who was saddened by his sister’s appearance stood by her and told the council what he thought of them, “If this crowd had one brave soldier Electra would not need to pull the sword.”

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Horses Without Riders

Agamemnon went back to the ship with a swollen heart, while Electra felt rather dizzy from their unfortunate experience. Cassandra pleaded with Electra to forget what happened and move on, “I was not really surprised by what happened; lets all accept things just as they are and move on to the kingdom of Phoebe, who knows it, could be much better over there.”

Agamemnon who was anxious to leave this kingdom gave his orders to leave towards Phoebe.

Just before the ship reaches the shores of the kingdom, the coast guards order Agamemnon’s vessel to stop in the middle of the sea. As the guards get closer to the ship, the captain has no choice but to abide by their orders, so he brings down the sails bringing the ship to a halt. Upon climbing its deck the head guard enquires about the identity of the people on board: “Who are you strangers and where are going?”

Without wishing to delay their quest any longer Electra tells the guard about her father, “this ship is carrying Agamemnon, the King of the Greek, and we wish to see the king of Phoebe for a very important matter.”

The head guard becomes deeply excited upon hearing her words, and could barely contain himself: “You must be joking fair lady, is it possible that the knight of all knights, Agamemnon, is on board this ship?! I want to feast my eyes on him.”

Agamemnon climbs to the deck of the ship and waves his hand at the head guard: “I am Agamemnon, and I do wish to meet with the king.”

“Follow me ashore dear king and I will tell my commanders of your arrival.”

The crew anchors ship, and the guards accompany Agamemnon to the king’s palace. The king was surrounded by his advisors and his army leaders. Electra once again makes the introduction: “Your majesty, this is my father Agamemnon, the knight of Greek knights; this is the knight who led the Greek fighters in their war against the soldiers of Troy. This is the king of Mycenae whose cry was echoed and answered by the cry of the knights in all the Greek lands; upon hearing that cry they rose racing the winds to pull out death from under the hoofs of their horses. Those knights wore the clouds for their dress and brought down rain in their victory, their cries made howling and roaring thunder; their cries spread havoc and horror among the citizens of the kingdom of Troy.”

Agamemnon felt he had to elaborate on his daughter’s introduction: “Your majesty I fought a war that was registered in history and it will remain so for all eternity, my knights fought a war that will not be repeated, and I wish the knights who come after them will learn lessons from them. I wish today’s leaders will learn the art of war and how to manage their knights from them. Rain flowed with the luster of my knights’ swords in the battle field, that luster was exchanged between them; their flags were the color of blood that bled from their inner hearts. Their hearts were those of lions, who are neither afraid nor inhibited, their hearts loved death that is mixed with the courage of honorable knights who embraced the clouds while they flew over their saddled horses.”

“Because he was never a fighter and a knight, my cousin Aegisthus stayed behind in my kingdom. It is needless to say that he has never saddled a horse in his whole life, he did not even know the neighing of one, he only knew of the barking of dogs and meowing of cats, and he seems to have been an expert in treachery, for he took over my kingdom, and robbed me of bringing the time of my knights back, so I came to your majesty looking for knights to revive that time. How I wish I can bring the good old times back!”

Agamemnon’s deeds needed no introduction, for the king was well acquainted with them: “Welcome leading knight, your victories in the Trojan War are admired and appreciated by knights all over the world. Every knight in my kingdom wishes to have been a party to your war that only immortalized brave knights. For brave knights wherever they are, wish to fight a great battle. They all wish to fight one battle and come out victorious or martyrs, so that poems will immortalize their deeds and memories in heroic epics.”

The commander of the king’s army, who could barely stand straight from the medals that decorated his uniform asked permission to speak: “We, great knight, are the ones who taught people how to make swords; we trained knights in the art of fighting whether it was an attack or a tactical retreat. We sir, are the ones who distributed the instructions of hunting the enemy in the battlefield, we sir are the best example of those who prepare brave knights for the day of battle. If our knights participated in your war it would not have taken ten years. We have special ways of attacking the enemy and dominating the field. That is not to mention of course the vast number of Arabian horses we have at our disposal.”

The assembly listens with interest as the army commander describes his skills and that of his army. Amongst the murmurs of admiration a knight whispers to Electra that the commander is lying; “it is true we fought great many wars but we lost them all, and he claims that he has won! And the sign of his victory is that he still holds his post as commander of the army.”

Electra is mystified by the knight’s declaration and wonders about the logic that rules this kingdom, “He lost all those wars and he is till commander of the army?! What kind of army does he command anyway?”

“The kingdom of Jupiter is behind all those you see before you, the more wars they lose the more medals they win, and he tells us, “losing a battle does not mean losing the war, wars have their ups and downs, one day you win the other you lose,” the knight confides to Electra.

“And what about you? Are you with the kingdom of Jupiter as well; is it the one who is backing you up?” Electra enquires in disbelief.

“No, we are with the kingdoms of Phoebe, and Saturn, and with all the knights who are sitting in prisons of those Kingdoms,” the knight answered haughtily.

Electra was so angry at the knight's declaration she could barely contain herself, "and since when have prisons become a place for knights?"

The words escaped from Electra in a very loud voice, she delivered her statement in a tone that reached those upfront, the commander of the army looks towards her arrogantly, "what are you saying young woman?"

Electra could no longer contain her rage and thought that it was the right moment to teach those people some facts about the knights who are fit to win wars. "I was very pleased to learn of your knowledge about our war and the news of my father's victories, but we have never heard about a single victory of yours. My father himself lit the road for his knights and now he stands before you without medals or scepters. His knights spread the aura of victory with the blowing wind; they never knew what prison meant. Their prison was made of a dark night that kept them away from embracing the dawn; they were happy and contented when they saddled their horses at the break of each new dawn."

"I did not start the fire of war to be decorated with medals, I lit that fire for the honor of my knights, who lit the torch of their honor by victory, and they walked a path that not anyone dares to trudge. I used to collect the dust off their weapons to make a statue and place it at the entrance of my kingdom. I wanted to write on that monument, 'the time of knights stay, and the time of the vagabonds whither away.'" Agamemnon tells the king and his entourage.

The king could not believe Agamemnon and his daughter would dare categorize him and his army, “and in your opinion what might our time be described as?”

Electra’s rage dies down a little, and she tries to compose herself as she addresses the king. “We did not come here your majesty to tell you what time you belong to. History will have its word on you. We came here to ask for your knights, knights that will be unbeatable, knights that race the winds regardless of their direction. And Phoebe is full of knights, as we learnt before we came to your kingdom.”

The army commander went back to stress the fact that they have a great number of Arabian horses at their disposal which they can have if they want.

Agamemnon was lost for words at such an outrageous proposal. “And what use are your horse to me without knights? I need knights. Horses can not make knights. Can it be true?!!! Is the time of knights really over?!!! Is it true that it will not return any day soon?!!!”

The army commander could not care less about the time of knights. “I don’t know if the time of knights have gone or not, and I don’t know if it is coming back or not?”

Electra who has been raised by a knight and trained as one tries to knock some sense into the army commander’s skull. “The time of knights never goes for good. Their time, commander, is like a silent earthquake, you never know when the earth will shudder under the hoofs of their orphan horses. Their time is like a still volcano, you never know when it will throw its lavas in the faces of the vagabonds. Their time is coming like a roaring hurricane that takes everything that stands in its way.”

The king asks his guests about the form of the time of knights, but Electra answers his question with great interest and elaboration paying no attention to his sarcastic tone. “Their time will come when I decorate my mouth with the ululations of glory when I see them. Their time will come when they shade the rays of the sun from my hair. Their time will come when the locks of their prisons are broken. Their time will come when they raise blood stained flags. Their time will come when I hear their songs:

**If I owned a sky
If I owned a sea**

.....

“I came here your majesty to form the nucleus of a knights’ unit. I will be honored to serve under your rule and become one of your knights. I am prepared to gather their dispersed armies and form the time that is befitting to them. Give me some of your knights and I will fill the earth with them and release them on their stallions. When I am finished with them they will raise their flags and challenge Jupiter, they will wander Saturn proudly. I collected my knights before, and today I want to collect them from your land, the great kingdom of Phoebe, and together with these knights I will free my Mycenae,” Agamemnon pleads his case to the king.

“I heard our army chief say that we have a great number of horses; you can take whatever you need from our stocks,” the king says in a dismissing gesture.

Despite all he has been through Agamemnon stays insistent, “I want knights swimming on their saddles. I want knights who are able to pull death out of their lands. What use are horses without knights? What use is a lead without a bridle? What is a spur without a saddle? All I ask you your majesty are a small number of knights, is this hard to fulfill?!”

The army commander comes up with the stupidest remark Electra has ever heard, “we are afraid that the sunshine will change the color of our knights.”

“The color of a knight’s skin can not be altered. His color is the color of prophets. His color is not corrupted by mud. His color is like the color of the gods. The sun is even abashed by it. His color will light the way for the others. His color will cause the springs to burst open so that people can wash in them,” Electra informs him.

At the end of the exhausting discourse the king tells Agamemnon about the real impediment his kingdom is facing. “Listen Agamemnon, we are not allowed to fight battles outside the diameter of the kingdom of Phoebe which is only 110 kilometers, we are not allowed to go beyond these boundaries. Our distance from the kingdom of Saturn which is 12,952 kilometers will encourage the forces of evil to attack us if the boundaries of battle were taken outside our circle. We will not be able to combat these forces.

I don't even know where they get their weapons from? They fight any of the Saturn kingdoms who try to surface above warm waters. We can not swim against that current."

The king' words were the final straw that broke the camels back, they left Electra in despair. "I greet the spirit of bitter reality that you have your majesty. But I want you to know that knights do not know the word impossible, they always turn it into reality. They carry their souls on the palm of their hands and when the forces of evil attack them they become stronger, they hand over the flags to those who stand behind them. You find them like a waterfall, irresistible and roaring. You will find them, your majesty, like rivers that never dry and feed all your shores. You will be the winner, and swimming in the warm waters will be at your disposal."

Agamemnon tries to comfort and console the bitter king and rise up with his spirits. "The knights' flags will always be raised high up in the clouds. They have the distinct color of the veins it never falls down; it will always be renewed and handed down to the next generation. The hearts of knights do not fear the forces of evil, for every knight is worth a thousand of the enemy soldiers. They love the kissing of spears; they talk to their shields when they lie down on them at night."

The commander of the army asks Agamemnon and his companions to leave the kingdom of Phoebe politely. “You will go Agamemnon but we will stay here in our kingdom. What benefit will we reap after you reclaim your kingdom and we lose ours? You should think about the politics that gave you the chance to win the Trojan War. You should realize that politics was behind your victory, not the courage of your knights.”

By this time Agamemnon’s heart was filling with anger, “no sir, politics did not destroy Troy. It was the roars of my knights in the battlefield that brought down the kingdom’s walls and its inaccessible castle. My knight’s cries were like daggers that stabbed at the hearts of the enemy. The soft words of politics don’t shake the pillars of castles, only the weak resort to politics.”

Electra could not agree more with her father and she was not afraid of telling that to the decorated commander. “My father’s knights did not know what politics was, they were real knights. They did not fight for the medals, or for a political victory. They fought for the honor of soldiers. They fought for an honor that does not recognize neither negotiations, nor politics nor truce. An honor they raise on the tongues of their spears, an honor that rises above all else, and placed above and beyond everything else; this honor lights the way for others, it moves forward and does not fall back.” The she looked towards her father and told him that they are not about to find the honor of knighthood in this kingdom, for it clearly does not exist amongst its people.

Slavery Does Not Make Victory

After such a despairing encounter Agamemnon runs towards his ship, which serves as his shelter, he and his crew sail in the middle of the sea aimlessly. From afar he catches a glimpse of a lighthouse; he looks over towards Orestes, who has extensive knowledge of the kingdoms of Saturn and asks whether this is the lighthouse of the kingdom of Titan. When Orestes answers him affirmatively he orders the captain to sail towards it. They reach shore at the break of dawn, where they are met by the coast guards; the leader of the guards stops the travelers to enquire about their identity.

“This is my husband, Agamemnon, king of Mycenae, and we have come here to meet with the great king of Titan,” Cassandra answers the guard.

The leader of the guard is proud of their security and surveillance system, for they spotted the ship from afar and were waiting for its arrival. “We know about the movements of all the birds that fly over Titan, we monitor their flights and know where they go and land. We give great care to security matters.”

Orestes and the rest of the group are pleased to hear these facts, “this is wonderful, commander, it seems the kingdom of Titan is one of the strong kingdoms.”

“Yes it is, its diameter is 2,575 kilometers. And in spite of its vast terrain we have full control over all of its regions.” The guard informs them in a matter of fact fashion.

Electra wanted to move quickly to the matter at hand, she praises the kingdom's security system and reintroduces her father. "I praise your colossal efforts to maintain security; this is my father Agamemnon, and he wishes to see the king of Titan."

The leader seems to have all the time in the world, "we will take you to the guests' palace, and I will make an appointment for you to meet with the king later."

Agamemnon and his companions are led to the king's palace through spacious corridors. These were lined with a numerous number of servants who were holding branches of palm trees which they moved right and left to create a cool breeze. At the end of the reception area they found themselves in a vast hall. The hall was furnished with spacious chairs, the king's throne was situated at the far end of the room, the visitors were struck by the splendor of room. The king was seated on the throne while his entourage sat at his feet. Agamemnon moved towards the king and greeted him.

"Your majesty, Prince Paris committed a foolish deed when he kidnapped Queen Helen; and what do you think was the outcome of his action? Troy has been destroyed and Queen Helen taken back to Sparta. While I was busy in the war, the weaklings, from the slaves and drunkards, sneaked to my kingdom and convinced my wife to hand the rule of country over to them, they deluded her and told her that I will not return alive from the war, and the curse of the gods will be inflicted upon me, they convinced her my end will be similar to that of the hero of our war, Achilles when he was hit by an arrow that injured his ankle."

“The honor of fighting in battles, your majesty, can only be acquired by the elite from the honorable soldiers of the sons of Greece. My father did not give that honor to slaves or the insolent. My father believes that slavery does not make soldiers,” Electra cut in.

The king seemed to be in agreement with Electra and her father. “I am with your opinion great warrior, slavery does not make soldiers. I never gave the honor of fighting battles to slaves in my kingdom, for they are used only to cut stones and move them to build great symmetries. ”

Agamemnon commended the king on his wisdom, and emphasized his stand about allowing slaves to fight in wars. “I have fought battles with honor, and I did not allow slaves to fight beside me even though they begged me and insisted repeatedly that I should give them the opportunity to prove themselves. All they were asking for was one chance to prove their skills in throwing spears, striking with swords, and throwing arrows. But I refused to give them that honor. I preferred to die with honorable fighters rather than gain victory with fighting slaves. The honor of fighting a war does not belong to them. But they can have what is beneath it.”

These remarks earned Agamemnon the king’s respect and liking, “I do like your principles Agamemnon, for they bear great resemblance to mine, how I may be of help?”

Electra explained to the king the nature of their quest, and informed him about its progress: “We requested honorable fighters from the kingdom of Saturn, but their king asked for my father’s help in bringing back the rest of his kingdoms to orbit his skies.”

“The king of Saturn told us that Jupiter is behind all what is happening to his kingdoms; he said it is the one that interferes with its orbits,” Cassandra continued.

The kingdom of Titan is not that far away from both the kingdoms of Saturn and Jupiter, but Jupiter seems to have the greatest effect on it. “My kingdom is far away from Saturn by 1,222 kilometers. Our distance from Jupiter is even greater than that. The kingdom of Jupiter has intercepted the sun rays from reaching my kingdom in the past years, because of that we could not plant or reap wheat. It still gives us a little bit of these rays between now and then, but we can hardly make ends meet,” the king told his guests.

That was more than Agamemnon and his family expected, to interfere with the political affairs of a kingdom but to meddle with their daily life was quite another. “Why does the kingdom of Jupiter interfere with the affairs of the kingdoms of Saturn to that extent, and interdict their daily food?” Cassandra said in disbelief.

“It is because Saturn and all the kingdoms that orbit its skies are situated in the middle of the planet. Who ever gain control over these kingdoms controls all the planets and galaxies?” the king explained.

For Agamemnon nothing could stand in the face of strong wills, “nothing stands before the will of honorable fighters. I have come to you your majesty to ask for fighters from your kingdom and use them to reclaim the kingdom of Mycenae. I am ready to be a soldier under your command to fight the kingdom of Jupiter.”

The king was not interested in fighting the wrong battle, for his biggest concern was to secure food for his kingdom. “Fighting the kingdom of Jupiter is no longer among my interests. What interests me now is to find food for my people. We still suffer from irregular wheat supply. There is no need to start getting ready to fight the kingdom of Jupiter. Fighting needs a prophet who can gather the scattered soldiers and rise with their resolution. Why do I waste my time in a lost and predetermined battle?”

Electra finds the king’s response unbelievable because fighting a war needs some good and brave men. “Why does the honor of fighting need a prophet? Why do you decide the outcome of a battle before it has even started? Why do you use the battle for the food of one day? The next battle could be used for birth control? Is it because this is the wishes of the kingdom of Jupiter! The heads of honorable fighters touch only the clouds. Their shining luster is not equaled by any other. Honorable fighters are the best of the elite. Why don’t you be a part of these elite your majesty?”

“Yes your majesty, why don’t you be that prophet? If the unification of the lines of honorable fighters is in need of a prophet, be their prophet, and you will find them before you filling the land of Titan, and that of the other kingdoms of Saturn, they will cover its orbit but they will not veil the rays of the sun,” Agamemnon tells the king encouragingly.

“My father fought with an army of honorable fighters, and he never needed a prophet to gather that army. As soon as Helen screamed for the help of honorable fighters they rose from every direction hurried to her help. Honorable fighters do not need a prophet, they need a cause! And your freedom from the hegemony of the kingdom of Jupiter is a cause in itself! And what greater issue is there apart from yours,” Electra said in attempt to raise the king’s spirits.

The king of Titan stood in front of his throne and pointed his scepter towards Agamemnon, “I have decided to give you 5,000 slaves to join your army on one condition that you start feeding them as of this moment. I will order the delay of the building of symmetries till further notice.”

Agamemnon was taken aback at such an outrageous proposal, “my mouth has gone dry and voice has gone hoarse, I already told you your majesty that I will not lead an army of slaves. I rather die before I succumb to your request.”

“Leave him be father, the gifts of kings reveal their origins,” Electra said pulling at father’s hand.

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An Army Of Women

Desperation began to creep into Agamemnon's heart, while Cassandra moved close to her husband's side without uttering a word. Electra came closer to both of them and started talking about the Trojan War. She reminded her father of those unforgettable days, and talked about the glorious end of that war. Orestes joined them and he too started talking about his childhood and how he was different from the other children of his age.

Electra looked towards her brother and said, "You should be honored to be the son of Agamemnon."

Orestes replied, "I am very proud of my father, we will reclaim the kingdom of Mycenae with our swords, and my sword will always melt in yours. Why don't we go to the kingdom of Encyladus, it is not very far from here. Let's try our luck there."

Agamemnon issued his orders to the captain to sail towards Encyladus.

The traveling party reached the shores of Encyladus, where they were met by the head of the coast committee, who started by a request. "Identify yourselves strangers."

"This is my father Agamemnon," stated Electra, who had moved toward the them. "He is the man who changed the face of history by his victories in the Trojan War and we have come here to seek an audience with the king to discuss matters of interest to my father."

The leader of the committee responded, “I have heard of your conquests your majesty. I will lead you myself to the king of the land.” Everyone walked behind the leader of the committee.

While they were walking, Electra looks towards her father and said, “Look father all the guards are women!”

Agamemnon replied, “I have noticed that, my daughter, and I must admit that I find this quite strange; of all the kingdoms we visited we haven’t seen a national guard made up of women.”

“ I am so happy to see girls of my gender guarding the king,” stated Cassandra.

When they reached the palace doors, they were told the king was waiting for them in his tent. A group of female guards accompanied them to the king’s residence. To get to the tent they walked through narrow paths finally finding themselves at the entrance of a big tent lined with twenty girls on each side holding spears that formed an arch bridge. Along with all the visitors of the king, Agamemnon’s group walked under the arch of spears. The king arose from his throne and shook Agamemnon’s hand warmly, seating him by his side.

“I am so glad you have come to our kingdom,” said the King, “for as you know Agamemnon, Encyladus and Mycenae have strong ties and relations.”

Agamemnon answered, “I was encouraged to come here, your majesty, because of those deep and strong relations and that's why I come here to today. I have been busy with the Trojan War to free my wife's brother Queen Helen from her captors. My cousin Aegisthus who is inflicted with the disease of arrogance stayed behind; his arrogance got the better of him when he named himself king over Mycenae. I have come to you, asking for help to reclaim my kingdom.”

“Yes,” stated Electra, “We went to the king of Saturn at the beginning of our quest asking for his assistance, but we found him in an unenviable state. All his kingdoms moved away from his orbit, they left his council, and are no longer a part of his kingdom. He asked my father to help him gather them back and then he will help us reclaim our kingdom. When my father saw the misfortunes of the king of Saturn, he was no longer troubled by his own, and decided to render him victorious and help him, just like he helped his brother in the past. And to be truthful your majesty, my father traveled to some of the kingdoms of Saturn but he did not succeed with them. They are drugged of the power and authority of Jupiter.

The king turned and addressed Agamemnon, “Don't be disheartened by them, I am a man of war just like yourself and I do understand what your going through. I sympathize with your suffering. The diameter of my kingdom is only 260 kilometers, and we are 238 kilometers away from Saturn. I hate Jupiter, I can not forget the day they bombed my tent from just outside the orbit of my kingdom and burned it while my daughter was asleep in it. I can not forget that incident; I wish to take revenge on them. The sight of the burned body of my daughter does not leave my mind, and every time I remember her my heart bleeds with pain.”

“ I am so happy your majesty to hear this news,” replied Electra, “my father was busy in the Trojan War during that incident. Had he learned about this incident, and had you asked for his help he would not have spared a labor to help you.”

Agamemnon stated, “I would like you to provide me with warriors from your kingdom, I need to gather an army of one hundred thousands to fight under my command and lead to them to the big victory.

The king answered, “But, and maybe you don’t know that Agamemnon, I don’t have an army of men, for all my soldiers are women, I am a king who likes to be distinctive in everything. I am the only king who lives in a tent, I am the only king who has a camel at his doorstep, and I drink the milk of that camel in the morning and in the evening. I feel sorry for you Greek people because you have no camels in your lands.”

“ I don’t mind women joining my army,” Agamemnon replied. “I am used to that. A group of fighting Amazonian women fought with me in the Trojan War. The enemy was stopped in its tracks when they yelled the cry of war. The Amazonian Queen Hippolyta stirred the spirit of fighting among them. When the battle reached its peak, those who thought they were heroes ran away, leaving their weapons behind. My daughter Electra was always with Queen Hippolyta , and she will be responsible for these women now.”

The king said, “We are still in the process of training our soldiers, and this could take as long as ten years.”

Electra replied in amazement, “Ten years is a very long time your majesty and I do not know why you are backing away from your promise. You said that all your fighters are made up of women and my father is quite prepared to let them join his army.”

The king answered, “I did not promise you people anything, and I can not give you any of my soldiers for the time being, they are my striking force, and I trust no one but them to guard and protect me.”

Orestes addressed the King. “When you felt that my father was serious, your majesty, panic began to creep in your veins, because you are afraid of the kingdom of Jupiter.”

“ I am not afraid of Jupiter or from Saturn for that matter,” said the King. I have a great kingdom that does not fear either enemies or allies. I have the richest kingdom among the kingdoms of Saturn. Everyone is running after my friendship, kissing my hands and kneeling under my feet, they beg me to bestow some of my kingdom’s wealth upon them.”

Cassandra added, “I married Agamemnon not just for his heroism, but also for his honor in keeping his word. I was not one of his prisoners, as some might imagine. He sacrificed his kingdom for his honorable word, and you seem to wish to extend and renew relations between the kingdoms of Mycenae and Encyladus . Only great kings build strong bridges that will stay till the end of time. If you are used to drinking the milk of camels, Agamemnon is used to drinking the milk of lionesses. Agamemnon is not begging you; he fought the Trojan War for ten long years for the sake of honor and pride. What did you do to avenge the sadness in your heart?!”

The king replied, “I gathered all the poets of the kingdom of Encyladus along with all its orators and ordered them to ridicule Jupiter, you will see marble columns on every street corner in my kingdom containing poems that mock and ridicule that kingdom, on top of each column there is a flame that burns all night so that their mockery can be read day and night. I have lots of oil, and I will continue to light all the roads of my kingdom and build more marble columns that are filled with mockery. I will write your poems of ridicule on the columns of your choice.”

“ We do not want to ridicule anyone your majesty,” stated Agamemnon. “I want deeds not words. History only immortalizes the deeds of great kings. Be a king who does things and declare your disobedience to Jupiter and get back to orbit the skies of Saturn, because your kingdom belongs there and it is where your pride and honor are.

The king answered, “I do not fear Saturn or the other kingdoms that orbit its skies. I do not belong to them Agamemnon, I told them time and again that I belong to the kingdom of Jupiter.”

Agamemnon stated, “I really don’t care your majesty, if you wish to join Jupiter or any other kingdom, all I want from your is some help to reclaim the pride of the kingdom of Mycenae.”

The king replied, “Listen the son of Greece, you are a people who love wisdom, philosophy, poetry and science, I will give you a book that color the fields of Mycenae, in it you will find answers to all your problems.”

Agamemnon answered him angrily, “I can diagnose all my problems and find solutions. I need fighters; I have no need for books. I long to hear the clink of swords and the neighing of horses; it has been some time since I saw the shining spears of gallant soldiers. I do not need to hear empty words. What makes you think you are distinctive? Is it because you have an army of women! Where are the men of Encyladus ? Where is their pride? Where is their dignity?”

“You insult me Agamemnon,” replied the King angrily.

Electra answered, “This is not an insult, oh King of Encyladus , this is the bitter truth and you need to hear it. You need to listen to this truth from a warrior not from a beggar who kisses your hands and kneels at your feet! My father embraced every martyr in the battle field and kissed his forehead in respect and appreciation for his pride. All his life he has never ridiculed enemies but cursed cowards.”

Orestes moved forward to Electra's side and said, "The Trojan War was of no interest to my father's kingdom Mycenae, my uncle's kingdom Sparta was the interested party, but my father did not abandon them. He did not tell them that he belonged to the kingdom of Macedonia. On the contrary he ordered the preparation of one 100,000 warriors to attack Troy. It was pride that led him to take this action your majesty, king of Encyladus."

Cassandra continued, "Yes, it was pride your majesty, and pride can not be bought from the slave market."

The king answered in tyrannical anger, "Get out of my kingdom; get them out of the great kingdom of Encyladus."

Electra, echoing the sentiment of her people, stated, "And who told you that we would want to stay in a kingdom that lacks pride and dignity!!!"

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The Stolen Camels

Agamemnon was engulfed with desperation as he left the kingdom of Encyladus while Electra walks alongside her father with tearful eyes but it was Cassandra that made the first move to break the ice.

"Do not be disheartened your majesty, you are still the master of all warriors and the best one to lead heroes on the battlefield. You are the one who led that huge army to the Trojan walls and gained victory."

Still trying to put on a brave face but be affectionate Cassandra continues, "I used to see myself as one of your prisoners, but you treated me like a queen. I must admit I did not love you at first, but I adore you now, because I saw the character of true kings in you. When I saw the pain you suffered from the so called kings we have seen, I wished I was a maid at your beck and call; I wish to wash your feet with my tears. My fate is connected to yours. And I will stay by your side even if you were abandoned by all your friends and relatives."

"Yes, yes", Electra shouts, "I wish I have heard those words from my mother Clytemnestra. My mother, who has been deceived by that damned Aegisthus, when he told her my father lost his war, lost his army and was killed on the battle field."

Agamemnon by now seeking to show how low Aegisthus is, stresses the only father that man ever knew was king Atreus who married his niece, princess Pelopia, the daughter of king Thyestes. "When Aegisthus grew up and knew of the story he killed king Atreus and willingly became a son to king Thyestes."

"Did King Atreus know that Princess Pelopia was his niece," Orestes breaks in surprise wonderment.

"No son, he did not," Agamemnon replies in a moment of reflection broken by Cassandra. "Aegisthus shares the illness of vanity with the other kings orbiting the Kingdom of Saturn," he says boldly.

"I don't know how this illness can be cured, or indeed if there is a medicament for it? Is there a cure? Or does the cure only lie at the edge of the sword," asks Electra.

"I wish I had the answer to your question Electra! but I don't," Agamemnon added.

"But may be we can find the answer with the remaining kings of the other Kingdoms orbiting around Saturn, you know, the ones we haven't seen yet," Orestes pitches in. "Come on lets get rid of the ghost of desperation and travel to the kingdom of Iapetus; it's quite large for its diameter stretches to 730 kilometers, and its distance from Saturn is 3,561 kilometers."

Feeling somewhat cheerful by this upbeat tone, Agamemnon says that he thanks the gods that his family is accompanying him and orders the captain to sail to the kingdom of Iapetus.

On the shores of the Kingdom, the ship's anchor is flung into the depth of the sea; there were a small number of guards scattered here and there but no one cared to greet the incoming party or question who they were. Electra moves towards one of them and takes the initiative.

"We are strangers here, coming from far away lands, and we would like to meet with the king. Can you take us to his palace," she says.

Without so much of a word, one pointed with his hand finger the road that led to the palace. The party walked the path when the door keeper bellowed:

"Who are you and what do you want."

"We want to see the king for a grave matter," Electra snapped in a short but firm manner."

Without further ado, the door keeper told the party to wait here while he announces their presence.

After a while, everyone enters a grand hall, the king is seated conferring with his army commanders, he is wearing military uniform, it seemed that he has just come back from battle. He stands and welcomes the party.

Again Electra appoints herself as speaker. "This is my father, Agamemnon, the maker of Greek glory to maintain an eternal Greek pride for he set Queen Helen free from captivity through his sword. He embarked on this quest after all the Greek cities and villages rose to his help and fought for 10 years to free the queen and send her back to Sparta. Just before my father set back towards his kingdom, he heard his cousin Aegisthus led a rebellion with some of his drinking companions and took over his throne."

"Yes your majesty, those debased men led the rebellion," Agamemnon stressed the point. "What makes me leviad is these people are the lowest of the low in my kingdom, not to be counted amongst my men and never took part in the war of liberation and all the time I was fighting I gave no thought or attention to them; indeed they were a bunch of nobodies not counted in the affairs of the kingdom. They now have become the rulers of my kingdom but they have no right to rule! I hate yellow conspiracies and hate to think those imbeciles are now sitting on my throne ruling my country.

The king of Iapetus sympathizes and himself explained that he had been leading a liberation war for more than 10 years and that his misfortune seemed to be like Agamemnon's. "Although I am fighting this war, I feel as if I had not moved one iota for I am surrounded by imbeciles who stir rebellions against our rule. Every time I eliminate one of them another comes upand another, and another..... They multiply like mushrooms. I do not know where these decaying people come from, but I do know they are sucking up all my energy and draining all my capacities.

Wishing to play up on this point and to link it with the party's objectives Electra takes the moment: "Decay only breeds decay your majesty. We must rid ourselves of all the places that generate their growth and multiplication and that's why we have come to you to provide us with liberators to uproot all the decaying nobodies from Mycenae."

Wishing to play somewhat of a balancing act, the king says: "I do know for a fact Jupiter is behind the spreading decay in my kingdom. I have a large kingdom, and it is not easy to control with the presence of people who are fed and kept in secret by the kingdom of Jupiter, and this helps them to multiply in the dark, but mind you we have liberators who used to carry the torches of liberty to spread the seeds of freedom and provide a suitable environment for them to grow and develop, now they have turned their efforts to free the kingdom from the decaying mushrooms but despite all this am still at the beginning of the cleansing war."

"I can help you your majesty, just provide me with the liberators and I can uproot the decay that has been inflicted upon my kingdom, I want to burn this decay and eradicate it from its roots. I hate the decay and I hate all those who are born with it."

"Indeed, I would like to help and provide you with some of my men," the king says to Agamemnon, " today I suffer from the scarcity of liberators plus not long ago, Jupiter sent fleets of locusts to my kingdom, a new kind we are not familiar with, we could not fight it, and it ruined all the plants and the water and ate everything else as well."

"I suffer too great liberator, from the growing number of weaklings in my kingdom, they have no problem in collaborating with the kingdom of Jupiter," the king laments. "Every one aspires to be king. Do not think you are the only one who suffers from the presence of Aegisthus, where ever you go you will find many Aegisthuses."

The gate keeper interjects wryly: "Your majesty we should provide him with Humbata men, their number has grown out of all proportion over the past few years, and it is a very good opportunity to get rid of them."

Upon hearing this Electra fly's off the handle. "What do you mean gatekeeper you want to provide us with Humbata men! Do you think we are selling stolen camels? Father lets leave, I suddenly feel dizzy; I can not bear what I have just heard and seen in this kingdom. Our goal will not be realized here father, lets just leave."

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Hunger Does Not Generate Loyalty

Agamemnon's ship sailed the wide sea with no particular destination in view. There were still a few kingdoms the travelers haven't been to, so Orestes suggested they should go either to the kingdom of Janus, which was rather small for its diameter was no more than 89 kilometers, or to the kingdom of Epimetheus which was 57 kilometers, both of those kingdoms were 151 kilometer away from Saturn. Or they can go to the kingdom of Prometheus, if Agamemnon wanted, which is 46 kilometers in diameter, and 139 kilometers away from Saturn. Since all three kingdoms are very close to each other they can choose any of them as their next destination.

As the group were deep in conversation they noticed a number of small boats that were sailing in their direction, but the closer Agamemnon's ship got to these boats the further they tried to drift, but the waves did not help them and pulled them right towards it. Agamemnon and his companions were puzzled by the behavior of the people aboard these boats. "Who are you men?" Agamemnon asked wearily.

The people on board the small boats were terrified by the ship and its occupants, one of them pleaded with Agamemnon, "please sir do not hurt us, we do not want to return to our land."

Agamemnon had no intention of hurting anybody, the man's pleas troubled him even more, "what is the matter with you men? And who are you?"

“We are running away from the kingdom of Prometheus,” one of the occupants shouted over the sound of the waves.

“And why would you want to flee from your home?”

“We are fleeing from hunger; we are roaming the lands looking for a loaf of bread to satisfy the hunger of our children.”

“Is there anyone who runs away from his homeland looking for a loaf of bread?”

“This is the truth sir, a great number of our fellow men risked their lives to run away, and many of them have died trying, that is why our boats are called “the death boats”. I beg you sir do not send us back to the kingdom of Prometheus. We would rather die than get back there.”

“Relax and do not be frightened men, I really do not know what you are talking about.”

Electra wanted to reassure the boat people of their good intentions and introduced her father to the men who were fleeing their homes. “The man standing before you is the master of all men, and the knight of all knights, this is my father Agamemnon the leader of the brave, this is the king of the Greek kings.”

The travelers were relieved to hear the good news. One of the men approached the party with a smile on his face, “we were so frightened when we saw your ship, we thought you were from the coast guards who do not care about the people in the boats, and it has been more than a year since we left the kingdom of Epimetheus.”

A year was not such a long time in the lives of those people, for a party from the kingdom of Janus has been trying to run away for more than five years.

Electra wanted to know more, and asked them if they were running from the same kingdom.

“The boats you see before you carry people from three neighboring kingdoms, but this happened by chance for there is no prior coordination between us. We met in the middle of the sea, but our aim is the same, we all want to leave our homelands,” one of the men answered her.

“And where are you running to?”

“We are going to the kingdom of Jupiter.”

“Why did you choose the kingdom of Jupiter?”

“They say it is the kingdom of dreams and the land of freedom and dignity, unlike our kingdom, Jupiter is the land of opportunity; it is the land for those who are rejected from their homelands, it is the home of the homeless.”

“Why do not you go to one of the kingdoms of Saturn?”

“The kingdoms of Saturn are no different from the kingdoms that we fled from, we want to go to a real home; a home where we can find dignity and pride; a home that will provide us with honor and a high rank; a home that will grant us self-esteem. We do not want homelands that are no more than a mirage, or homelands that are shaded by a summer cloud.”

Agamemnon was stunned to hear the tales of these men, for he thought these stories only took place in the Greek lands. “Your tale has far surpassed the tales of the Greek gods in my homeland. I was traveling towards the kingdoms you came from, and I want to hear the stories of these kingdoms before I reach them.”

Upon hearing Agamemnon’s remarks the boat people started narrating their misfortunes to Agamemnon and his companions.

“I tried to find work to support my small family. My heart was bleeding with pain when I looked at my child who was crying of hunger, while I could not provide him with a sip of milk to feed him on! How can I feed him the love of the land?,” one of them asked.

“I used to rummage the rubbish tip of a prince of my kingdom in the hope of finding a piece of bread to feed my blind father. How can I love my kingdom when I pluck undignified food from the leftovers of the golden pots of the others?” another put in.

“I begged to work in collecting the dung of the king’s horses for very little money in the hope of marrying the girl I loved and was engaged to for years. How can I forgive my kingdom while my dignity is smudged with dung? Where is your dignity when it is mixed with horses’ secretion, while the palace marble floors are clean and spotless?!,” a third complained.

“I used to pick flowers from the king’s farms to produce perfume exclusive to him, one day I picked a rose for my small daughter after one year absence in the farms. I was punished with whips that drew tattoos on my back. How can I be compassionate towards my kingdom?,” said a downcast man.

“I, Sir, used to bend my back so that the prince can lift his foot on my neck to mount his horse. How can I live in a kingdom that denies me self-esteem? How can I live among my fellow men with my head high?,” a young man said in a beaten voice.

“I ran away, Madame, in the hope of finding a decent job that will put food in the mouths of my orphaned children. I ran away from human monsters, I ran with my children so as not to be sold on the slave market for the highest bidder! I preferred to flee in the death boats in the hope of making a decent and honorable living,” an emaciated woman told the crowd.

“I was imprisoned as a young man, when I was released I was an old man; I was thrown in prison because I addressed a huge gathering and said a few words to one of the poets. My feeble memory can’t recall his name, any way the poetry said:

“My god asked: has this time forgotten you, has it been in harmony with your beliefs and messages?”

I said, no my god.

He said: then smash it and do not care”.

Orestes who was dumbfounded moved towards his father, “these tales, father, surpass our myths.”

Cassandra too thought these tales were closer to myth than reality. “I used to believe that nothing surpasses the Greek myths in imagination. But these tales have by all means surpassed all our legends and myths.”

Agamemnon looked towards the men and wondered why they did not do anything to change their situation and why did they not rebel against such conditions?

But these people did try to change the existing conditions, but it was no use because they were facing a much bigger power than their small kingdoms. “We did Sir, time and again, but every time our kingdoms sought the help of Jupiter’s soldiers they crushed our rebels and smashed their skulls. The soldiers of Jupiter are hard hearted, they have no mercy or compassion, they kill anyone who stands in their way, and do not differentiate between rebels and ordinary people; they use machines we have never seen before, they are called cannons, we have no energy to combat such machines. They only know one motto, ‘it is the one who has determination that lives and every body else dies.’”

Disappointment overshadowed Agamemnon and his companions, Electra looked towards her father, “how can we go to those kingdoms and ask for their help father? A person with an empty stomach can not think straight. And those who can not think will not be able to fight. It seems to me that the men of those kingdoms are just like the rest of the Saturn kingdoms, they are beaten from the inside, how can they fight?! Victory does not come from defeated people.”

Agamemnon could not agree more with his daughter, “Yes my daughter, war can not be won by the number of soldiers who fight it. War needs dignified and proud men; war needs men who belong to their land, because if you lose faith in your homeland you lose everything. How can we seek the help of men who have no homes? How will they fight with me to reclaim my kingdom Mycenae?! I want men who have faith in themselves before they have faith in the justness of my cause. I do not want a mercenary army; neither do I want to force them into joining my army. I want men who are so proud that their heads touch the clouds, and their chests are thrust forward to crumble the rocks of the mountains. I want men whose noses only breathe the air of pride and dignity. I want men who exhale pride and inhale glory. I want men who have honor and dignity.”

Suddenly the waves of the sea rose, covered the boats and turned them upside down, the wind was so strong that a hurricane followed it, and no one could predict what would happen. The men of the boats started screaming at the top of their voices but no one came to their rescue, and slowly their shouts died down. While the hurricane got stronger to strike the sails of Agamemnon’s ship, Cassandra said:

“It seems the god of the seas Poseidon is very angry, is there any way to please him?”

Agamemnon reminded his companions with price he had to pay to please Poseidon. “Yes, it does seem like it, does it not? I really have no idea how we can please him. All those who sail the seas worship him, and seek his pleasure. I was so engrossed in my problems that I forgot all about that, in the past I sacrificed Iphigenia for the goddess Artemis.”

The flooding waves began to rise even more, and every one clung to polls of the sails, while the waves lifted them upwards and threw them away. Agamemnon prayed for Poseidon to ease the power of the hurricane and give them his blessings and safety.

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Waiting For the Return of Agamemnon

The waves threw Agamemnon and his family ashore; they thanked the gods for their safety. Everyone walked on shore in dazed amazement because no one got in their way or even asked them where they came from, or where they were going to.

Electra's amazement grew even more when she saw soldiers on shore, "look father, there are soldiers everywhere, I wonder where the waves have thrown us?!"

Agamemnon did not know where they have been thrown to either. "I do not know where we are; let us ask one of the soldiers about this kingdom. And so he got close to one of them and asked him about the name of that kingdom."

The soldier was not deeply interested in the stranger's question and answered dismissively. "This is the kingdom of Rhea, one of the kingdoms of Saturn; it seems that you have sneaked through the border taking advantage of the instability of the kingdom."

Agamemnon thought he was talking with a soldier from the kingdom of Rhea, "thank the gods we are in the kingdom of Rhea, I have heard about the strength of its army, and I have come to ask for help from its king."

"There is no longer an army or a king here, stranger," the soldier told him.

Electra guessed from the soldier's tone that he is one of the soldiers of the kingdom of Jupiter.

“That is true; all the soldiers here belong to the kingdom of Jupiter. There is no longer a king. We are the rulers of the kingdom of Rhea,” the soldier replied.

Electra did not want to lose the opportunity of telling this young soldier who her father is, “this is my father Agamemnon, hero of all the heroes of the Trojan War.”

“I've never heard of neither of your father nor of his war. I heard much news about many heroes, and I came here to fight them, but they disappointed me, and I have not seen even one of them. I wish I could have fought one of them, for I trained hard and long for their combat, and when I came here I found neither real heroes nor fake ones. I told my superiors that I was not very happy with this war because there was no one to fight. We have gained control over this kingdom with no war at all. I do not know about the war your father fought. Was it really a war of heroes? Or is it like our war here!”

Electra who was very proud of her father's heroic deeds could not believe what this soldier was saying. “No.....it really was a war of great heroes. My father Agamemnon had the honor of leading a brave and gallant army. My father only fights with heroes and against heroes. Achilles was one of those valiant heroes, while Hector was the hero of the enemy. My father knelt next to the bodies of the heroes who fell in the battle field, because he sanctified all heroes, whether they were allies or enemies. I am really surprised that you have not heard about my father and about the heroic war he led!”

The soldier knew only of certain heroes and specific wars. “Our leaders say that there are no wars apart from the ones we are fighting now. They say there are no heroes apart from us. But I am nonetheless happy to have met you. Why don't you go to the governor of this kingdom? He might be able to give a helping hand in achieving your objective.”

Electra was eager to get help where available, “alright then take us to him.”

They reached the governor’s palace which was heavily guarded. At the entrance of the main hall the governor was waiting for them, he extended his hand to Agamemnon and shook it warmly.

“I am Bremyas, the governor of the kingdom of Rhea and representative of the kingdom of Jupiter. Welcome all of you. We have been watching all your movements; you don’t need any introductions Agamemnon, the news of your victories reached us continuously. I am proud of the way you destroyed Troy. How I wished it was my war!”

Electra was mystified by the politics of this kingdom, “I find it very strange, governor Bremyas that the news of my father’s victories reached you, and yet your soldiers know nothing about them.”

“This is true; we monitor the news of the rest of the planets and galaxies and arrange them according to their importance. Then we give this information to people of our choice, but mind you, we do not give all the information away, we only select the bits we want people to know about. So it is not necessary for our soldiers to know everything. They only need to know things that are related to their duties. I don’t want to scatter their thoughts with information that are irrelevant to them,” Bremyas answered.

“But how did you gain control over the kingdom of Rhea?”

“We followed the same method we used when we dismantled the kingdoms of Uranus. Uranus has fifteen kingdoms, and used to compete with us over the control of the kingdom of Saturn and the kingdoms that orbit in its skies; it competed with us over the control of other kingdoms as well. We dismantled those kingdoms from its orbit, and I might add that we have done so without a war to facilitate our control.”

Agamemnon was more bewildered than his daughter, “how did you achieve such an objective with no war?”

“We had our men in the kingdom of Uranus, and in all the kingdoms that belong to it. We did not ask for the impossible, on the contrary we were asking for the possible and the least possible. We appointed the worst persons with the least qualifications in sensitive and key posts, starting with the king and ending with the garbage collectors.”

Electra could not believe the logic of the governor. “How can unqualified people do their work let alone rule a kingdom?”

“This is what we did, after ten years ruin and corruption was rooted in all the kingdoms of Uranus, all those who thought they were unbeatable kings started to fall as if their thrones were made of spider webs. The kingdom of Jupiter always appeared to be the savoir and assistant, all the kings came to us with their heads bowed, and when they went back to their kingdoms they behaved like tigers over their poor people, while in fact they were paper tigers, they are like tied birds, they can fly all they want but they wont get very far because all their ropes are in our hands.”

“You have surpassed our supreme god Zeus in weaving conspiracies and globalizing the conspiracy theory, to be viewed as the greatest saviors and safest havens,” Electra responded in amazement.

Orestes, young as he is, could not help but comment of the devilish conduct of the kingdom of Jupiter. “During my travels with my father to the kingdoms of Saturn, I heard many people say you are the greatest Satan of all.”

“It is the deeds, not words that count, young fellow,” Bremyas told Orestes instructively.

From the governor’s words Cassandra knew the kingdom of Jupiter fully knew about Agamemnon’s kingdom. “You must have known about what happened in the kingdom of Mycenae. Suspicion started invading me that you might have been behind what happened to it. Aegisthus could be one of your tigers.”

“In fact no, we have no interests in the kingdom of Mycenae, but if you want help Agamemnon in reclaiming your kingdom we are more than ready to offer it to you, we are waiting for any signal to come to your help.” But Agamemnon was not interested in an alliance with the kingdom of Jupiter. “I am bound with the word of honor which I gave to the king of Saturn, I promised him to gather his scattered kingdoms and bring them back to his orbit. I admit I have failed in my mission, the issue of my kingdom and Aegis is mine only. Kings come and go, but people stay, and history is written, I do not need your help, for I have seen for myself the results of your help! I love the people of Mycenae the way I love my throne.”

Agamemnon got out of the palace and walked absent-mindedly. The god Apollo was waiting for him in his chariot while playing beautiful tunes on his harp, he addressed Agamemnon, “these are the tunes of hope, come on all of you, climb aboard.”

The party got close to the chariot and ready to ride. Electra's eyes filled with tears, a tear rolled down her cheek and fell on the ground, the tear became a lake that grew into a sea, and then an ocean. A great whale got out and swallowed Electra, who slid between its jaws and settled in its stomach. There she found many people, one of them rose and said:

"We have been waiting for you for a very long time Electra, this sword belongs to you."

Electra looked at the man in astonishment, "this is my father's sword, how did it come here?"

"May be you were hit by a storm that caused your father to lose his sword, so the whale swallowed it."

"But I can not understand the language written on it," Electra said as she was trying to read what was inscribed.

One of the people inside the whale told her that this is Arabic: It says, "I am the Arab Agamemnon, and I shall be back".

"I shall wait for my father's return."