

NAKSHALBARI COLLEGE
DEPT. OF ENGLISH

TOPIC- AGAMEMNON

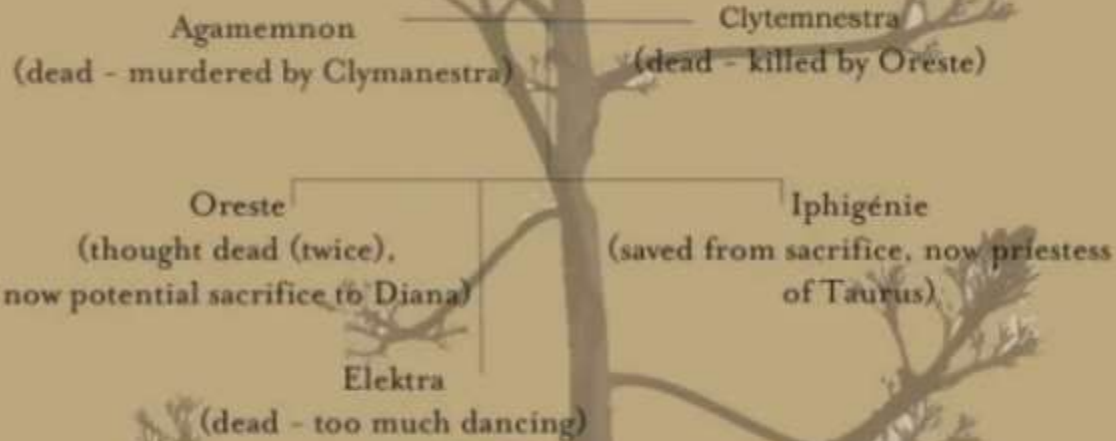
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Agamemnon

Death and Revenge

Family Tree



The Agamemnon Family Tree (abridged)

Family History

Agamemnon's family history had been tarnished by [rape](#), [murder](#), [incest](#), and treachery, consequences of the heinous crime perpetrated by his ancestor, [Tantalus](#), and then of a curse placed upon [Pelops](#), son of Tantalus, by [Myrtilus](#), whom he had murdered. Thus misfortune hounded successive generations of the [House of Atreus](#), until atoned by [Orestes](#) in a court of justice held jointly by humans and gods.

Early Life

[Atreus](#), Agamemnon's father, murdered the children of twin brother [Thyestes](#) and fed them to Thyestes after discovering Thyestes' adultery with his wife Aerope. Thyestes fathered [Aegisthus](#) with his own daughter, [Pelopia](#), and this son vowed gruesome revenge on Atreus' children. Aegisthus successfully murdered Atreus and restored his father to the throne. Aegisthus took possession of the throne of Mycenae and jointly ruled with Thyestes. During this period Agamemnon and his brother, [Menelaus](#), took refuge with [Tyndareus](#), King of [Sparta](#). There they respectively married Tyndareus' daughters [Clytemnestra](#) and Helen. Agamemnon and Clytemnestra had four children: one son, [Orestes](#), and three daughters, [Iphigenia](#), [Electra](#) and [Chrysothemis](#). Menelaus succeeded Tyndareus in Sparta, while Agamemnon, with his brother's assistance, drove out Aegisthus and Thyestes to recover his father's kingdom. He extended his dominion by conquest and became the most powerful prince in Greece.



**What was he
known for?**

**He was the leader of the
Greeks in the Trojan War,**

**He is one of the central
figures in the *Iliad*,
Homer's epic poem about
the war.**

Trojan war !!



Trojan war !!



Trojan war

Trojan war !!

Trojan war

Agamemnon gathered the reluctant Greek forces to sail for [Troy](#). Preparing to depart from [Aulis](#), which was a port in [Boeotia](#), Agamemnon's army incurred the wrath of the goddess [Artemis](#). There are several reasons throughout myth for such wrath: in [Aeschylus'](#) play [Agamemnon](#), Artemis is angry for the young men who will die at Troy, whereas in [Sophocles'](#) [Electra](#), Agamemnon has slain an animal sacred to Artemis, and subsequently boasted that he was Artemis' equal in hunting. Misfortunes, including a [plague](#) and a lack of wind, prevented the army from sailing. Finally, the prophet [Calchas](#) announced that the wrath of the goddess could only be propitiated by the sacrifice of Agamemnon's daughter [Iphigenia](#). Classical dramatisations differ on how willing either father or daughter were to this fate, some include such trickery as claiming she was to be married to [Achilles](#), but Agamemnon did eventually sacrifice Iphigenia. Her death appeased Artemis, and the Greek army set out for Troy.

What Was Agamemnon's Role in the Trojan War?

Agamemnon was the commander-in-chief of the Greeks during the Trojan War. During the fighting, Agamemnon killed [Antiphus](#) and 15 other Trojan soldiers. The *Iliad* tells the story about the quarrel between Agamemnon and Achilles in the final year of the war. Agamemnon took an attractive slave, [Briseis](#), one of the spoils of war, from Achilles. Achilles, the greatest warrior of the age, withdrew from battle in revenge and nearly cost the Greek armies the war.

Agamemnon's Death Story

- ♥ While Agamemnon was fighting the Trojans, his wife was plotting to kill him in revenge for the sacrifice of their daughter, Iphigenia
- ♥ Agamemnon was warned by Cassandra, who had the power to tell the future, that his wife would kill him, but he did not believe it.
- ♥ His wife, Clytemnestra, welcomed him home with a bath to purify himself.
- ♥ When she wrapped him in a garment after his bath, he could not move his arms.
- ♥ Her lover, Aegisthus, stabbed Agamemnon and Clytemnestra killed Cassandra.
- ♥ Agamemnon's son, Orestes, eventually avenged the murder by killing both Clytemnestra and Aegisthus with the help of his sister, Electra.



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