

ARES

As we are informed by Homer, the brawler God had promised to his mother Hera and Athena to help the Greeks. But, seduced by the beauty of Aphrodite, he passed at a critical moment in the opposing faction. For some time, he stood by at the main hero of the Trojans, Hector, who decimated the Achaean warriors, since Achilles was missing from the battlefield. Hera was indignant with her son who, since childhood, only caused problems, ran to Zeus and asked permission to evict Ares from the battle, injuring him. He accepted, since he was not at all fond of his son. Immediately Hera sent Athena to arrange the matter as she knew. The wise goddess wore the Kynee, the cap of her uncle Hades, which made her invisible, and jumped at once from Olympus in the Trojan plain. Then she stood on the chariot of Diomedes that started battle with Ares, without knowing of course that he was against an Olympian god. Ares first threw his bronze spear against mortal warrior, but the unseen Athena repelled it with both her hands and it fell on the ground. Then Diomedes threw his spear and Athena directed it in the side of Ares. He fell wounded on the ground and screamed with a terrible voice that panicked Greeks and Trojans, for he was like ten thousand warriors shouting together. Then he flew to Mount Olympus shrouded in thick clouds and immediately went to the palace of Zeus. He showed him his wound and while weeping, he started complaining: "Father Zeus, you see the injustices take place, but you are not mad. All gods always do your will and obey your orders. But you can not see Athena who always makes her own. You never argue with her since you gave birth to her by yourself. And now, she puts a mortal to hit me with his spear and ridicule me!" The father of gods and men, furious with his son, responded with insulting words. "Are you not ashamed to come before me whining? Know that I hate you, because you always like wars, fights and quarrels. You are a stubborn head exactly like your mother Hera. Know that if your father was any other, he would have thrown you in Tartarus, even more below than the Titans." Although Zeus used insulting words, Ares was his son and he could not bear to see him hurt and crying. So Zeus instructed Paionian, doctor of the gods to heal his wound. But in the final battle of the Trojan War all the gods, with the permission of Zeus, ran fully armored in the battlefield. In the Greek camp joined Hera, Athena, Poseidon and the divine blacksmith Hephaestus. Beside the Trojans arrived dreadful Ares, master archer Artemis, long-haired Phoebus, Leto, the smiling Aphrodite and the river Xanthus. Ares, who was embittered with Athena, because she always embarrassed him in front of the Olympians, charged with the first opportunity towards her and started talking with bad words: "Shameless bitch, with your ego and insolence you have caused a lot of trouble to the gods!" Then he threw his spear at aegis of Athena that even the thunder of Zeus could not pierce. The goddess shook and took two or three steps backwards. Without losing her courage, grabbed a huge rock that people had set up for border and hurled it the bellicose god. The rock struck Ares on the neck, forcing him to bend on his knees and fall down. His huge body spread seven square kilometers as he fell on the ground. His knees bled and his hair was filled with soils. All the gods started to laugh when they saw the god of war lying on the ground, who once again was

ridiculed by Athena. Only Aphrodite ran to him, helped him get up and grabbing him by the hand raised him to Olympus.



APHRODITE

Very important also is the participation of Aphrodite in the most famous and renowned battles of antiquity. Particularly in the Trojan War, we can say that the goddess was the reason that the decade-long war started. It all started when Athena, Hera and Aphrodite claimed the title of most beautiful goddess. Zeus then appointed Paris, the prince of Troy, as judge who was tending his father's sheep on Mount Ida. In this peculiar beauty contest, Paris gave the title to the goddess of beauty and she in return gave him the most beautiful woman in the world, Helen, wife of King Menelaus of Sparta. Paris traveled with ships to Sparta and was hosted at the palace. Then Aphrodite conquered Helen with an overwhelming sexual desire for Paris. This resulted in the beautiful princess to follow, like hypnotized, her guest to Troy. The abduction of Helen was the cause for the outbreak of war. Aphrodite participated in the war always supporting the Trojans, since Paris, her official protégé, was Trojan. But Aeneas also was Trojan, the son she gained from her mate with Anchises. The goddess intervened at crucial moments. Most important was her involvement in the duel of Paris and Menelaus. The two sides had agreed that Helen would be delivered into the hands of the winner of the duel. The moment that Menelaus would be victorious, Aphrodite suddenly appeared into a cloud, grabbed Paris and took him to the Trojan palace. Additionally, conquering Helen again with sexual desire, threw her in his arms, although she actually wanted to return to her lawful husband.

Moreover, Aphrodite intervened many times in the battle to protect Aeneas, who was the bravest Trojan warrior after Hector. When the Greeks succeeded in conquering Ilium (Troy), he with the help of his mother goddess, took his family, several companions and with their ships went to Italy and founded Rome.



ATHENA

The martial goddess was active in the Trojan War, where she was protecting the camp of the Greeks, and that because she was outraged by the judgment of Paris regarding the most beautiful goddess. Her favorite warriors were Diomedes, Achilles and Odysseus. Athena stood by their side in all their difficult moments. Especially, when there was a high risk she resorted to miracles to save them. She made divine fire coming out of the Diomedes's helmet and covered the head of Achilles with a fiery cloud. Indeed, in the most difficult moments she transformed herself into a Trojan warrior and went to the concentrations of rival generals, giving them wrong advices. Nevertheless, when there were divisions and disagreements within the Greek camp, Athena always managed to prevent the worst from coming. She does not let Achilles slay Agamemnon although he had severely insulted him.

