

# The Judgment of Princeton

## The Judgment of Paris

The Judgment of Paris is the Greek Myth that explains the start of the Trojan War.

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## Judgment of Paris

- The Judgment of Paris was a contest between the goddesses Aphrodite, Hera and Athena.
- The winner gained a golden apple, the contest was whoever the "fairest" (most beautiful).
- At the wedding of the mortal hero, Peleus, to the sea goddess, Thetis all the gods are invited except for Eris, the goddess of discord.

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- Eris, "Goddess" of the Feud and is asked to leave. In her anger she throws a golden apple into the crowd of goddesses with the words, "To the Fairest" on it.
- Also known as the Apple of Discord
- The three goddesses that took possession of the apple were Aphrodite, Hera and Athena



## The Judgment

- Zeus, the king of the gods, was asked to moderate the competition.
- In order to avoid conflict, Zeus commanded Hermes, the god of roads, and travel to guide the three goddesses to Mt. Ida where Paris Alexander was commanded by Zeus to be the judge.
- He was the son of King Priam of Troy.
- Paris was a shepherd on Mount Ida.
- He was cast out of Troy as a baby because of a prophesy warning that he would be the downfall of Troy.

## The Judgment

- The three goddesses arrived at Mt. Ida.
- All three offered gifts to entice Paris to choose between them.
- Athena promised Paris the ability to win any battle.
- Aphrodite promised Paris the most beautiful woman in the world.
- Hera promised Paris the most powerful kingdom in the world.



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- Paris chose Aphrodite as the fairest goddess.
- This choice led to the Trojan War.
- The goddesses and Helen were married to become the cause of the Trojan War.



## Significance of Story in Classical Antiquity

- The repercussions of Paris abducting Helen shaped the stories that were told about the Trojan War.
- Stories like The Odyssey and the Iliad often being used as a part of society.
- When something monumental like war happens there are hundreds of stories told, some of which get written down and we can read these stories today.
- It gives an explanation to why the Trojan War happened.

## Relevance to "The Odyssey"

- The Judgment of Paris is what starts the Trojan War.
- Odysseus wouldn't be on his journey if he didn't have to go fight.
- Odysseus was originally one of Helen's suitors, he came up with the idea to make the Greeks swear to defend Helen.



## Bibliography

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- Also known as the Apple of Discord
- The three goddesses that took possession of the apple were Aphrodite, Hera and Athena



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## The Judgment

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- In order to avoid conflict, Zeus commanded Hera, the god of maids and travel to guide the three goddesses to Mt. Ida where Paris Alexander was commanded by Zeus to be the judge.
- He was the son of King Priam of Troy
- Paris was a shepherd on Mount Ida
- He was ran out of Troy as a baby because of a prophecy saying that he would be the downfall of Troy

### The Judgment

- The three goddesses entered at Mount Ida
- All three goddesses gave an oath to the shepherd, saying:
  - If you choose Hera, then he would rule the world as the most powerful ruler in the world
  - If you choose Athena, then she would have the strongest warriors, and have many all-subduing soldiers, and the judge that Paris would name them, the most beautiful woman in the world.
  - Paris chose Aphrodite, after asking her to be his bride.



### Repercussions

- Paris and Athena were angry at the "Queen" because Paris was the winner of the contest. They stole Helen from her husband, Menelaus.
- When Menelaus and his wife returned to the city of Sparta, Paris was the ruler of Mycenae and Laconia.



### Significance of Story in Classical Literature

- The repercussions of Paris picking Helen shaped the stories that were told about the Trojan War
- Stories like The Odyssey and countless others revolve around the war
- Story telling was an important part of society
- When something occurred it was a way to pass down the knowledge of what happened. There are hundreds of stories that are a part of what got women down and we can read these stories today.
- It gave an explanation for why the Trojan War happened

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## *The Judgment of Paris*

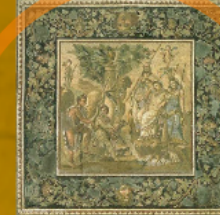
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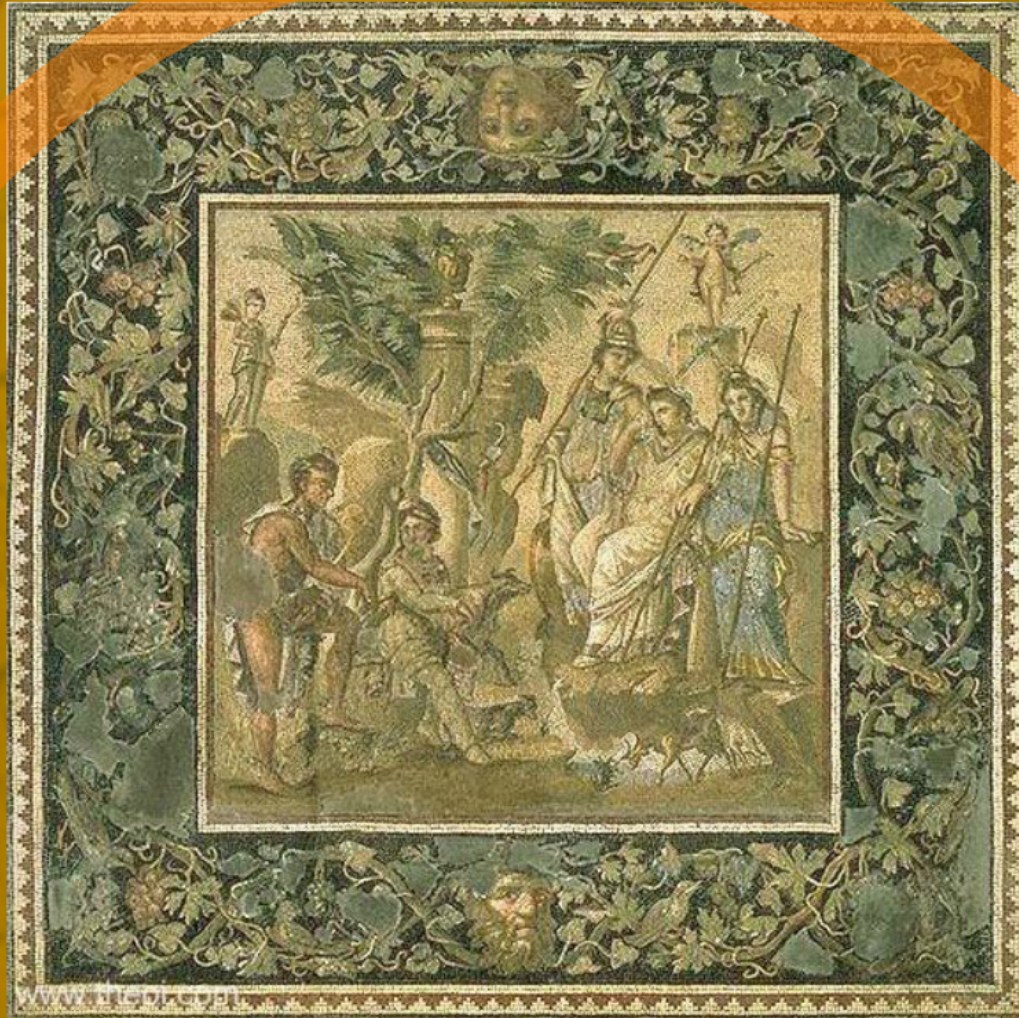
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Musée du Louvre, Paris, France  
Floor Mosaic  
Early AD  
Imperial Roman

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## Aphrodite

- The Greek goddess of love and beauty
- Born from sea foam
- Married to Hephaestus the Greek god of fire and metalworking
- Had an affair with Ares the Greek god of war
- Depicted as a beautiful woman
- Symbols: dove, apple, scallop shell and mirror



## Athena

- The Greek goddess of wise counsel, war and other crafts
- Her birth from the head of Zeus, fully grown and armed for battle
- Symbols: Helmet, serpent, shield, owl, olive branch
- Leads Odysseus home in "The Odyssey" and is his protector



## Thecasesolutions.com Hera

- The queen of the gods
- Married to Zeus, king of the gods
- The patron of marriage
- Plays major role in the hero, Hercules's life



Museum of Art, RISD, Providence, RI  
Attic red figure lekythos  
c. 500-475 B.C.

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Museo Archeologico Nazionale di Napoli, Naples, Italy  
Fresco, Imperial Roman  
C1st AD



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**Hera**

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