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Justified

“No man or woman born, coward or brave, can shun his destiny” — (Homer, The Iliad).

Destiny it was that brought war upon the Trojans and the Greeks. The Trojan War was waged against the city of Troy by the Achaeans because the Trojans stole Helen from her husband. In Greek mythology Paris of Troy took Helen of Sparta from Menelaus who was her mate. Helen was the daughter of Zeus which meant she had all the men praying at her. This terrible war lasted a near decade and cost the world many lives. The Trojan War brought economic, political and social setbacks to all parties involved.

The end of the Trojan War was a mere three years before the late collapse Bronze Age. Athens and Troy were affected in both, along with the rest Romans, were unable to get there olives during the war and the collapse. This meant that the elite class' dinner parties would have been less enjoyable meaning less of them, meaning less spending, meaning less economic circulation. This all contributed to the collapse because there was not enough money to help support the rebuilding of the societies. The uniqueness of their beautiful society collapsing was a tragedy, “Everything is more beautiful because we are doomed. You will never be more lovelier than you are now. We will never be here again” (Homer, The Iliad). Homer is showing how even in the collapse the city-states affected were still able to see beauty in the midst.

During the Trojan War, both Greece and Rome were republic states. The two governments consisted of a council/senate which governed the laws. When the people of the senate got together, “The place of assembly was buzzing like a hive of bees. For a long time, the

voices of the criers could not silence the tumult, nor induce the excited people to sit still on the benches” (Trojan War, 75-76). The busy senate of Greek reflects the chaos that occurred leading up to the Trojan Wars, which shows how they began a vicious cycle and had a difficult time getting out of it. People commonly are frightened to speak out about their opinions in fear of prosecution, “Hateful to me as the gates of Hades is that man who hides one thing in his heart and speaks another” (Homer, The Iliad). The senate personnel would not always speak their minds in fear of being disliked and judged by the others, so this meant that the vicious cycle of arguing about the war continued.

With our current world in shambles, much like the Greeks during the Trojan War, we are forming together to create leadership when it is needed most. Both our damned world and the Greek’s were and are experiencing large scale wars between two organizations. This overall is hurting the social structure as well as individual friendships. Homer shows hardships within relationships when arguing about politics, “You, you insolent brazen bitch—you really dare to shake that monstrous spear in Father’s face?” (Homer, The Iliad). Even families were being torn apart by the extreme political standpoints, much like in our current society. We have ranging opinions which drive stakes through our families and friendships.

The Trojan War set the peoples of its time back, but they did one day recover. This should give us hope for the future and show us that we can one day reunite and be humbled by our treachery. Much like the Greeks of the time, we will one day become triumphant even in our setbacks.