

□ The gods and goddesses that the Greek people believe in make up the Greek mythology studied today.

These divine characters represent a family living on Mount Olympus who intervene frequently in the lives of the human characters in Greek plays. They are omnipresent, for they are always observing man's actions and working through human nature. The gods are a higher power, and provide explanations for otherwise unexplainable events. The gods help humans in trouble and give them guidance about the future. The Olympians influence men on earth both psychologically and physically. In Homer's epic poem, *The Iliad*, the intervention of such divine powers as Athena, Apollo, and Zeus play significant roles in the lives of the characters and the events of the Greek-Trojan War. □ Athena plays a very influential role in the Greek-Trojan War. She is the most constant divine supporter of the Greeks and divine enemy of the Trojans. Athena's function is to be a goddess of pro-Greek warfare. She came to the aid of the Greeks many times throughout the war. For instance, Athena came down from the sky to stop Achilles from attacking Agamemnon (Willcock). Andre Michalopoulos confirms this action by quoting what Athena says to Achilles: □ I came from heaven to stay thine anger, if perchance thou wilt □ hearken to me, being sent forth of the white-armed goddess Hera, that □ loveth you twain alike and careth for you. Go to now, cease from strife, □ and let not thine hand draw the sword.(65) □ Achilles listens to Athena's request, and therefore he returns his sword to its sheath, and withdraws from battle. Athena also assists Achilles in his battle with Hektor. Malcolm Willcock quotes, "After deceiving Hektor into fighting Achilles, she comes to his aid by returning his sword to him" (244). This intervention is the greatest assist of a divine power to a human being in *The Iliad*. □

Athena also plays an influential role in the battles of Diomedes. Martin Mueller reveals, "Athena is closest to Diomedes. " She is with him at the beginning and end of his aristeia and she addresses him without disguise" (136). Athena also urges Diomedes to fight Aphrodite. With this command, she removes the cloud from his eyes which made him able to see the gods. Furthermore, as Robert Graves states, "She put fresh strength into his legs and arms," which allowed him to sustain in battle with Aphrodite (104). Athena instructs Diomedes not to attack any other gods; but, Diomedes does not take her advice, and fights against Apollo and other gods, which causes Diomedes to retreat until he is saved by being reunited with Athena. This powerful goddess assisted Diomedes greatly as she does the other characters in *The Iliad*. □ Another Greek warrior who is helped by Athena was Pandaros. Athena encourages him to break the truce with Menelaos, but, as Willcock states, "This does not lessen his own responsibility for his treachery - He is a fool to be persuaded" (46). Then, she switches to Menelaos' side, to prevent any serious harm from the arrow that was shot. Athena protects these warriors as she protects the other Greeks. She usually protects the characters who were natural winners. Athena supports those who have the potential to be successful and therefore she assists many of the Greek heroes (Willcock). □

In addition to Athena, Apollo also plays an influential role in the Greek-Trojan War. Apollo is the most important divine supporter of the Trojans. Willcock tells us, "He is the archer god who strikes from afar, the god of disease and healing" (4). Apollo's first intervention occurs after Agamemnon had taken Apollo's priest daughter as a war prize. Apollo sends a nine day pestilence upon the Greeks. "Pack animals were his first target, and dogs, / but soldiers, too, soon felt transfixing pain from his hard shots and pyres burned night and day" (*Iliad* I. 23-24). Apollo also intervenes in the Greek-Trojan War to assist the human characters. One of the warriors Apollo assists is Pandaros. In fact, Apollo is the one who gave Pandaros his bow after he broke the truce with Menelaos by shooting an arrow at him. But, this passage does not truly refer to the actual action of Apollo handing Pandaros his bow, but rather that, as Seth Schein believes, "Pandaros was a specifically good archer" (57). Because he is a good archer, it is believed that Pandaros is blessed by the god of archery. □ Agenor, Hektor's half brother, is another Trojan warrior that Apollo aids. Agenor is debating on whether or not to run into the city of Troy to save the Trojan people, because if he does he probably will be caught and killed by Achilles. Finally, he decides to run into the city and stand and face Achilles. He hit Achilles with a spear cast, and Achilles begins to fight back. But, before Achilles could do anything, Apollo intervenes by taking the form of Agenor, and removing him from the battle. Then, runs away to lure Achilles apart from the rest of the Trojans. Mark Edwards believes "Because of Apollo's intervention, both Agenor and the Trojans are saved from Achilles' wrath (290). □ □ An additional god that intervenes in the Greek-Trojan War is Zeus. Zeus is not only the most powerful god in *The Iliad*, but he also plays the most influential role of any of the other gods. As Willcock states, "Zeus is the supreme god without whose will nothing important happens in the world below" (14). This will, or plan, of Zeus is central to the plot of *The Iliad* and plays a decisive role in the main events of the play. Perhaps the reason Zeus is such an influential god is because he intervenes in both the affairs of the Greeks and the Trojans. He is a neutral god, who is a "tandem dispenser of good and evil" throughout the play (Mueller 147). Zeus' neutrality is expressed by Willcock, as he states "Zeus, king of the gods, is impartial but knows that Troy is in doom" (283). Zeus remains neutral throughout the play by coming to the aid of both the Greeks and the Trojans whenever he deems it necessary.

□ Zeus assists the Greeks during the war in many ways. One of the ways in which he comes to the aid of the Greeks is by sending an omen. Agamemnon prays to Zeus that his army might not perish. In response to his prayer, Zeus sends an eagle as a sign that he had granted his wish. This prayer is demonstrated as John Scott says: □ □ □ Just at the moment when the Trojans seemed on the point of victory an □ eagle appeared on the left with a live snake in its talons. The snake kept □ striking at the neck and breast of its captor until the eagle was forced to □ drop it and fly away, while the snake fell and squirmed within the ranks of □ the Trojans.(215) □ □ Because of this affirmation, the Greeks rejoice and rally. The Trojans decide that this is the a sign from Zeus to end the battle, even though it seemed i

It was going to be a success for the Trojans. In addition to Agamemnon's prayer, Zeus receives a prayer from Thetis. Thetis, the mother of Achilles, prays to Zeus: "Father Zeus, if ever before in word or action I did you favor among immortals, now grant what I ask for. Now give honor to my son in short - I lived beyond all other mortals. So long put strength in the Trojans, until the Achaeans give my son his rights and his honor is increased among them." (Iliad 256-64) Zeus decides to grant Thetis' wish and help the Trojan army. This action is an answer to Thetis' prayer because she wanted the Trojans to start winning battles to get back at the Achaeans and Agamemnon for dishonoring Achilles by taking his war prize. Therefore, Thetis is granted the wish that she wanted through the mighty power of Zeus. Answering the prayers of the Greeks such as Achilles and Thetis is just one of the ways in which Zeus helps the Greeks. Although Zeus is essentially a neutral god sometimes he shows favoritism to one side or the other. In many instances, he aids and intervenes in the Greek-Trojan war in favor of the Greeks. Not only did Zeus assist the Greeks in the Greek-Trojan War, but he also aids the Trojans. For instance, Zeus is tempted by Hera before the battle that destroys the city of Troy. In return for this destruction, Hera would give Zeus the cities that she loved the most - Argos, Sparta, and Mycena. Edwards confirms this temptation as he states: "Before the battle really begins there is a prelude in which Zeus speaks of his love for Troy and Hera offers to sacrifice her own favorite cities in return for Troy's destruction; the traditional reasons for her hatred - the judgement of Paris and Zeus' love for the Trojan boy Ganymede are left unmentioned, perhaps to make her anger more irrational." (128) Zeus' decision to avoid destroying the city of Troy immensely aggravates Hera. His decision also shows that he was protecting the city of Troy, thus helping the Trojans in the Greek-Trojan War. Zeus assists the Trojans in another instance by directly intervening in a battle. Mueller says, "After a general account of indecisive fighting, the turning point in the second day's battle comes when Zeus intervened on the side of the Trojans (103). Zeus aids the Trojans by sending down a lightning bolt to make Diomedes, the Greek warrior, retreat. Because of Diomedes' retreat, Hector is able to push the Achaeans back on their ships that are now threatened with fire. Zeus gives the Trojans another victory later in the war when the Greeks and the Trojans begin fighting over Patroklos' body, a battle arises between the two enemies. At this time, Zeus intervenes in the battle and once again comes to the Trojans' aid. Mueller states, "At length Zeus gives victory to the Trojans, and in a passage richly studded with similes the poet describes the retreat of the Achaeans, with Meriones and Menelaos carrying the body while the two Aiantes provide cover" (107). Zeus plays an important part in the victories of the Trojans.

He "inspires terror into the Greeks" (Willcock 98) and enables the Trojans to overcome the Greeks many times throughout the Greek-Trojan War. The Greek-Trojan War in The Iliad is not only a war between human characters, but it is also a battle between divine characters. While the Olympians' immortality separates them from man and leaves them free from death and suffering, their power brings them closer to humans because it is constantly being used to either aid or hamper man's progress. These gods are central to the poem because they are actually responsible for the war's beginnings, and every event that occurs has been affected by a god in some way. The gods have the power to control the outcome of the events on earth because man can be persuaded so easily. Therefore, the divine intervention in the war is frequent and significant to the war's outcome. The power of the gods such as Athena, Apollo, and Zeus is crucial to the events in The Iliad, for the Greek-Trojan War is a battle between not only the heroic human warriors, but also the mighty divine gods.

----- gods goddesses that Greek people believe make Greek mythology studied today these divine characters represent family living Mount Olympus intervene frequently lives human characters Greek plays they omnipresent they always observe man's actions working through human nature gods' higher power provide explanations otherwise unexplainable events gods help humans trouble give them guidance about future Olympians influence earth both psychologically physically Homer's epic poem Iliad intervention such divine powers Athena Apollo Zeus play significant roles lives characters events Trojan Athena plays very influential role Trojan most constant divine supporter Greeks enemy Trojans Athena function goddess warfare came Greeks many times throughout instance came down from stop Achilles from attacking Agamemnon Willcock and Michalopoulos confirm this action quoting what says Achilles came from heaven stay thine anger perchance though wilt hearken being sent forth white armed goddess Hera that loveth twain alike careth cease strife thine hand draw sword Achilles listens request therefore returns sword sheath withdraws battle also assists Achilles battle with Hector Malcolm Willcock quotes after deceiving Hector into fighting comes returning sword this intervention greatest assist power human being Iliad also plays influential role battles Diomedes Martin Mueller reveals closest Diomedes with beginning Aristeia addresses without disguise also urges Diomedes fight Aphrodite with this command removes cloud eyes which made able furthermore Robert Graves states fresh strength into legs arms which allowed sustain battle Aphrodite instructs attack other does take advice fights against Apollo other which causes retreat until saved being reunited powerful goddess assists greatly does other Iliad another warrior helped Pandaros encourages break truce Menelaos Willcock states does lessen responsibility treachery fool persuaded then switches Menelaos side prevent serious harm arrow that shot protects these warriors protects Greeks usually protects were natural winners supports those have potential successful therefore assists many heroes addition Apollo influential role Trojan most important supporter Trojans tells Archer strikes afar disease healing first intervention occurs after Agamemnon taken priest daughter prize sends nine pestilence upon pack animals were first target dogs soldiers soon felt transfixing pain hard shots Pyrrhus burned night intervenes assist warriors assists Pandaros fact gave Pandaros after broke truce Menelaos shooting arrow passage truly refer actual action handing rather Seth Schein believes specifically good Archer because good Archer believed blessed archery Agenor Hector half brother another warrior aids Agenor debating whether into city Troy save people because probably will caught killed finally

lly decides city stand face spear cast begins fight back before could anything intervenes taking for  
m agenor removing then runs away lure apart rest trojans mark edwards believes because both saved wr  
ath additional intervenes zeus zeus only most powerful influential states supreme without whose will  
nothing important happens world below will plan central plot decisive main events play perhaps reas  
on such both affairs neutral tandom dispenser good evil throughout play mueller neutrality expressed  
king impartial knows troy doom remains neutral throughout coming whenever deems necessary during ma  
ny ways ways comes sending omen agamemnon prays army might perish response prayer sends eagle sign g  
ranted wish prayer demonstrated john scott says just moment when seemed point victory eagle appeared  
left live snake talons snake kept striking neck breast captor until eagle forced drop away while sn  
ake fell squirmed within ranks affirmation rejoice rally decide sign even though seemed going succes  
s addition agamemnons prayer receives thetis thetis mother prays father ever before word action favo  
r among immortals grant what give honor short lived beyond mortals long strength until achaians give  
rights honor increased among them decides grant thetis wish help army answer wanted start winning b  
attles back acheans dishonoring taking prize therefore granted wish wanted through mighty power answe  
ring prayers such just ways helps although essentially neutral sometimes shows favoritism side insta  
nces aides favor only assist aides instance tempted hera before destroys city troy return destructio  
n hera would cities loved argos sparta mycena edwards confirms temptation really begins there prelude  
e speaks love offers sacrifice favorite cities return destruction traditional reasons hatred judgeme  
nt paris zues love ganymede left unmentioned perhaps make anger more irrational decision avoid destr  
ucting immensely aggravates decision shows protecting thus helping another instance directly interven  
ing mueller says general account indecisive fighting turning point second comes when intervened side  
aids sending down lightening bolt make warrior retreat retreat able push acheans back their ships t  
hreatened fire gives victory later when begin fighting over patroklos body arises between enemies ti  
me once again length gives victory passage richly studied similies poet describes acheans meriones c  
arrying body while aiantes provide cover important part victories inspires terror enables overcome t  
imes only between between while olympians immortality separates them leaves free death suffering the  
re brings closer humans constantly used either hamper mans progress these central poem they actually  
responsible beginnings every event occurs been affected some have control outcome earth persuaded e  
asily frequent significant outcome crucial heroic warriors mighty dineEssay, essays, term paper, term  
paper, term papers, term papers, book reports, study, college, thesis, dissertation, test answers, f  
ree research, book research, study help, download essay, download term papers