

The Trojan Horse

Y5

Diary Entry

Greek Diary Entry by the King of Sparta

I knew we would eventually be successful! Our Greek Army were the most highly-trained, innovative warriors around and, after ten years of trying, we finally broke through the Trojans' defences and won the Trojan War once and for all! As the old saying goes, those half-witted men should have been wary of 'Greeks bearing gifts'!

As King of the (now ancient) city-state Sparta, I had a reputation to uphold. However, when my wife, the beautiful Helen, was kidnapped by the Prince of Troy, I called upon my fellow city-states to aid me in getting her back and exacting my revenge! How dare he steal what is mine! Who did he think he was?

The next day, once I had mustered a large army, I sent a thousand Greek ships to Troy, intent on retrieving my darling wife. Yet, when our forces arrived, we were dismayed to find that the high walls that surrounded the city were, at points, almost twenty feet high! How were we supposed to scale walls of such height? Was all hope lost? Those dastardly Trojans, who were now our sworn enemies, had the advantage of height and protection. From these lofty heights, they were able to rain down deadly arrows on my allies and me. Our attack was hopeless. I was desperate! What was I to do?



Incensed, it became apparent that I needed help so I turned to my wise generals, advisors and other leaders for ideas.

Ten years later, we finally had a break-through! Although we had been unable to penetrate the walls of Troy, we had not given up and continued to attack the high walls to no avail. At last, Odysseus, who is a renowned Greek general, suggested a cunning trick that he stated would definitely work! Was victory finally going to be ours? Was I foolish to accept his advice?

Odysseus' plan, which was inspired by the tradition of leaving a peace offering behind to admit defeat, was excellent! Immediately, I ordered for my Greek workmen to build huge and heavy, yet beautiful, wooden horse and then leave it outside of the gates of Troy! Inside the hollow structure, there would be thirty men waiting, ready to strike once they were permitted entry to the walled city. Odysseus guaranteed me success. I ensured that my artists, who were the best in the country, were tasked with designing, creating and building the giant horse because I prided myself on producing the most beautiful of objects.

Once it had been constructed, I ordered the entire Greek army to pretend to leave and sail away, leaving the horse behind so that the Trojans would



open their gates and allow it to enter. But would the half-witted Trojans fall for our ingenious plan? Would I finally be reunited with my wife?

As soon as my Greek ships were out of sight, the people of Troy rushed outside, cheering their victory! Quickly, they dragged the heavy horse inside the city gates and put it on display, which is just what the Greek general thought they would do – he had relied on the fact that the Trojans would gloat at their win!

Later that night, whilst the unknowing Trojan people were asleep, the soldiers that were hiding inside of the wooden horse climbed out, sneaked across the city and opened the gates from the inside. Odysseus' plan had worked! We had fooled our enemy! Relieved that we had finally penetrated their defences, I ordered my waiting army, who had secretly sailed back to Troy, to enter Troy and destroy it. Victory was mine!

