

THE HOUSE OF TANTALUS

Zeus = Pluto (not his brother, but a nymph of the same name)

TANTALUS = Dione

Tantalus killed his son Pelops, and served his flesh to the gods to test their divinity. All except Demeter (who was grieving for her daughter, Persephone) realized the truth.

PELOPS = Hippodameia

Pelops had to beat his prospective father-in-law, Oinomaos, in a chariot race to win the bride. He bribed the charioteer, Myrtilos, to cause Oinomaos' death in the race, and then also killed Myrtilos.

Niobe

ATREUS = (1)Aerope (2)Pelopea

Aerope was raped by Thyestes (her brother-in-law) so Atreus banished Thyestes. Then later, pretending to desire a reconciliation, entertained him to a banquet where he served Thyestes with the flesh of his sons (a. and b.). Finally he imprisoned Thyestes.

THYESTES = (1)(wife) (2) Pelopea (his daughter)

Thyestes raped his sister-in-law, ate his own children (unwittingly), and produced a son (Aegisthus) by his daughter. He was later imprisoned by Atreus, but after Aegisthus killed Atreus, he became king of Argos for a short time, before being deposed by Agamemnon and Menelaus.

AGAMEMNON = CLYTEMNESTRA MENELAUS = Helen

Agamemnon killed his daughter, Iphigeneia, to obtain a favourable wind for the Trojan expedition. He brought back a mistress, Cassandra, from the war. He had slept with Cassandra, though the god Apollo had respected her virginity.

She became Aegisthus' mistress, murdered her husband Agamemnon and his mistress Cassandra.

Iphigeneia

Was sacrificed by her father to Artemis, to obtain a favourable wind for Troy

Electra

Smuggled the baby Orestes away to safety. Later plotted her mother's death.

ORESTES

Murdered his mother and his uncle Aegisthus.

a. (eaten) b. (eaten) Pelopea = Thyestes

AEGISTHUS

Adopted by Atreus. His mother Pelopea gave him a sword she had taken from the (unknown) man who raped her. Aegisthus was sent to murder Thyestes, but Thyestes recognised the sword and revealed his identity. Pelopea committed suicide, and Aegisthus killed Atreus. Later seduced Clytemnestra and plotted the deaths of Agamemnon and Cassandra.