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EPIC OR TROJAN CYCLE

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ABSTRACT

This article examines the epic cycle, which is a collection of ancient Greek epic poems. The poems are related to the history of the Trojan War, so this collection is also called the Trojan cycle. The article gives a brief description of each poem.

KEYWORDS

Epic cycle, Trojan cycle, in dactylic hexameter, Trojan War, from eight poems, "Cyprin", "Iliad", "Ethiopida", about the victories of Achilles, "The Destruction of Ilion, or the Lesser Iliad", "Returns", "Odyssey", "Telegony", "Batrachomyomachy", War of the Mice and Frogs, in the form of fragments, by the most ancient, Homer.

INTRODUCTION

The epic cycle or Trojan cycle was a collection of ancient Greek epic poems written in dactylic hexameter and related to the story of the Trojan War.

The city of Troy (or Ilion) really existed. It was located on the Asia Minor coast south of the Dardanelles. Troy existed at the end of the 3rd millennium BC. and really

died from a fire, which is confirmed by excavations by archaeologist Henry Schliemann.

The Trojan War is dated by historians to 1180 BC. The Greeks probably returned with nothing, but, as often happens in epic poems, the rhapsodists "corrected" the historical truth, attributing the victory to their

compatriots. The Trojan cycle consists of eight poems, two of which are attributed to Homer.

1. “Cypria” - describes the beginning and course of the Trojan War. At the wedding feast of the Thessalian king Peleus and the sea goddess Thetis, the goddess of discord Eris threw an apple with the inscription “to the most beautiful.” Zeus sent Hera, Athena and Aphrodite, who claimed him, to the shepherd Paris, who awarded him to Aphrodite for promising to marry him to the most beautiful woman. She reveals to him that he is the son of the Trojan king Priam, returns him to Troy, helps him on his journey to Sparta, to King Menelaus, and in the kidnapping of his wife Helen the Beautiful. Insulted, Menelaus turned to his brother Agamemnon, the supreme leader of the Greeks. (The Greeks were also called Danaans, Achaeans, Hellenes). All the Greek kings gathered - Odysseus, the king of Ithaca, two Ajaxes - the king of Salamis and Ajax of Locris, Achilles, the son of Thetis and Peleus, the king of Argos Diomedes, the king of Euboea Palamedes, the king of Crete Idomeneo and many others. All the kings and their troops (100 thousand warriors) gathered in the harbor of Aulis, but the gods did not send a fair wind. They had to sacrifice Agamemnon’s eldest daughter, Iphigenia. The Greeks reached Troy and besieged it. The siege lasted 10 years.

2. The Iliad – attributed to Homer. The events of the ninth year of the Trojan War are described (nine days out of two months).

3. “Ethiopida” - tells about the victories of Achilles over the allies of the Trojans - the Amazons, led by Queen Penthesilea and the Ethiopian king Memnon. The same poem describes the death of Achilles from the arrow of Paris, which was directed by Apollo. Achilles' golden armor was contested by Odysseus and Ajax. Agamemnon and Menelaus changed the lot of Ajax and gave the armor to Odysseus. The offended Ajax decided to destroy the Greeks, but at night, when he armed himself with a sword and headed towards the tents of Agamemnon and Menelaus, the gods sent madness to him and he began to destroy herds of cows and sheep. In the morning, having come to his senses, he decided to atone for his shame by death and threw himself on his sword.

“The Destruction of Ilion, or the Lesser Iliad” - tells about the capture of Troy. The cunning Odysseus proposed building a huge wooden horse. The best Greek armed warriors hid in it. The Greeks burned their camp, boarded ships and sailed away, leaving their horse on the shore. The captured Greek Sinon, at the instigation of Odysseus, told the Trojans that the horse would make Troy impregnable and they decided to bring it into the city. The priest of Apollo Laocoön dissuaded them, saying what became a catchphrase: “Fear the Danaans, even those who bring gifts.” He even threw a spear into the belly of the horse so that the Trojans could hear the clanking of the Greek weapons, but Athena sent two snakes that strangled

Laocoon and his two sons. The Trojan princess Cassandra also predicted the death of Troy because of a horse, but the Trojans did not believe her either. In order to bring the horse into the city, the Trojans destroyed the fortress wall at the gate. When the happy Trojans fell asleep, the Greeks got out of the horse, set it on fire and attacked the Trojans. Seeing the glow, the Greeks swam out from behind the island where they were hiding and attacked Troy, breaking through a hole in the wall. For three days the Greeks plundered the city and, finally, loading treasures and captured Trojan women onto ships, they headed to their native shores. Of all the Trojans, only Aphrodite's son Aeneas was saved, who carried his father Anchises and son Ascanius in his arms.

5. "Returns" – The Greeks returned with rich booty. Many returned without complications, but Menelaus wandered for 7 years, got into storms, and waited for a fair wind on the island of Pharos for 20 days. The younger Ajax died, punished by Poseidon for his arrogance. Agamemnon also had a hard time getting there, but upon arriving home, he was killed by his wife Clytemnestra.

6. "Odyssey" - this poem is also attributed to Homer, it forms part of the "Returns", dedicated to the 10-year wanderings of Odysseus before arriving in his native Ithaca.

7. "Telegony". – The son of Odysseus and Circe (Circe), Telegonus, goes to look for his father, arrives in Ithaca and, not recognizing him, kills him. Telegonus and Penelope take the body of Odysseus to Kirke, but she cannot resurrect him, but she grants immortality to Telegonus and Penelope.

8. "Batrachomyomachy" (War of the Mice and Frogs). – A direct parody of the heroic epic (VI-V centuries BC). The heroics of the epic, the Olympic gods, traditional techniques of the epic style (starting with the obligatory appeal to the Muse in the introduction), sublime pathos and plot are parodied. The frog king Vzduomorda, carrying the little mouse Krokhobor across the stream, was frightened by a water snake, dived and drowned the little mouse, who turned out to be from the royal family. A great war begins. At the same time, a council of the gods is taking place on Olympus. Athena refuses to help both sides. The mice win, but Zeus sends crayfish to help them. The mice are running. Thus ends the "great one-day war."

There are 2 types of epic:

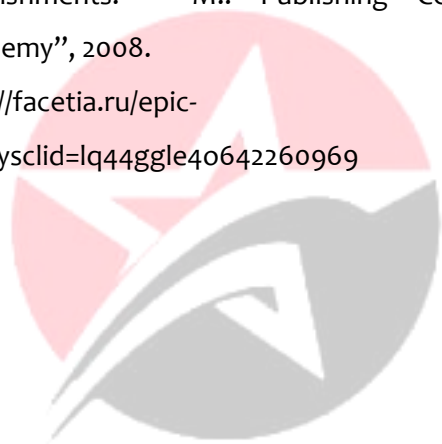
– heroic – tells about the glorious past, about gods and heroes ("Iliad" and "Odyssey" by Homer).

– didactic (from the Greek "didaktikos" - "instructive", "instructive") - tells about how to live and work correctly ("Works and Days" by Hesiod).

The oldest surviving monuments of Greek literature are two great poems, the Iliad and the Odyssey, the author of which Homer was considered by antiquity.

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