

Name

Professor

Course

Date

Greek mythology/ Ares

Ares was in classical antiquity, the god of war, understanding this activity as unleashed and uncontrolled violence. In Greek Mythology several symbols represent Ares such as the sword, helmet, chariot, flaming torch, spear, and shield (Hard 56). Ares is an important figure in Greek Mythology for he was a war strategist and uses physical and violent ways in his military strategies. The Greeks were not very devoted followers of this god, who was hardly worshiped in some sanctuaries. The Romans, however, assimilated the god Ares with his war divinity, Mars, a very popular god who was in the essence of the Roman character and who even participated in the legend of the founding of Rome as the father of Romulus and Remus (Hard 102). Ares is a renowned figure that represented as a strong, tall and terrifying warrior, always armed and ready for battle, a lover of brawls and the shedding of blood.

Little is known about the birth and childhood of this god of war. Most ancient authors cite him as the son of Zeus and Hera, one of the few legitimate fruits of this marriage (Greek Gods & Goddesses). In some tradition lies the birthplace of Ares far from Greece, in the land of Thrace, where the barbarians would have developed a rich cult to this god. It is probable that the Thracians, warlike and indomitable people, rendered a preferential cult to some warlike divinity, the reason why the Greeks would have attributed to this earth to have been the cradle of this god

(Deacy 285). Some authors, led by these data, have stated that the origin of the Greek Ares would have been in Thrace and that the Greeks would have limited themselves to copying it from their northern neighbors, this being the cause that their cult was poorly developed in Hellas.

The main relation that involved the god Ares had as a companion to the goddess Aphrodite. Although she was initially married to the god Hephaestus, disgusted by her husband's ugliness, the goddess of love soon looked upon the most handsome god of war, Ares. Thus Aphrodite and Ares began an adulterous relationship of which no other god knew. However, the deception did not last long. Helios, god of the sun, who from the height of the firmament contemplates all the activities of gods and mortals, discovered the infidelity of Aphrodite and ran to the forge of Hephaestus to reveal to the god the deceit (Deacy 287). This one, irritated, decided to create a deception to humiliate his wife and her lover.

In his forge, he wove an unbroken silver net (Greek Gods & Goddesses). At a time when Ares and Aphrodite were copulating in the bed, Hephaestus surprised them and threw the magical net upon them. The artifact trapped the lovers. Hephaestus, to humble them and make clear the betrayal of his wife, called all the gods to look at their interwoven naked bodies. Aphrodite, embarrassed, begged her husband to release her, promising to break her relationship with Ares (Hard 96). Hephaestus, softened by the pleas of his wife, decided to remove the net and end the torture he had subjected the two lovers.

Conclusion

During the Trojan War, Ares proved his impetuous and irrational character, attributes that marry perfectly with the gratuitous and unreflective destruction that this divinity sponsored. Although at first, he chose an alliance with the Greeks; his love with Aphrodite led him to

change sides to support the Trojan cause. In this role, Ares did not hesitate to confront in person the Achaean heroes, although Zeus had forbidden the gods to participate in the combats to avoid the great death that its power could cause. In the absence of Achilles, only Diomedes, king of Argos was able to face the god of war. Helped by Athena, his protector, Diomedes managed to wound Ares with the tip of his spear, forcing the god to retreat to Olympus to heal from his wounds. Ares serves as a great example for many Greeks.

Works Cited

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