

AGAMEMNON

72PT.

9PT. Excerpted from Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

10PT. Agamemnon (Greek: “very resolute”) is one of the most distinguished heroes of Greek mythology. He is the son of King Atreus of Mycenæ and Queen Ærope, and brother of Menelaus . Because of the ancientness of the sources, it is not clear whether Agamemnon is an historical figure, or purely a mythological one.

12PT. Agamemnon’s father Atreus was murdered by Ægisthus, who took possession of the throne of Mycenæ and ruled jointly with his father Thyestes . During this period Agamemnon and his brother, Menelaus, took refuge with Tyndareus, king of Sparta. There they respectively married Tyndareus’ daughters Clytemnestra and Helen.

14 PT. Agamemnon and Clytemnestra had five children: four daughters, Iphigeneia, Electra, Chrysothemis, and Iphianissa and one son, Orestes.

16PT. Menelaus succeeded Tyndareus in Sparta, while Agamemnon, with his brother’s assistance, drove out Ægisthus and Thyestes to recover his father’s kingdom. He extended his dominion by conquest and became the most powerful prince in Greece.

18PT. However, Agamemnon’s family history, dating back to legendary king Pelops, had been marred by pederastic rape, murder, incest, and treachery. The Greeks believed this violent past

brought misfortune upon the entire House of Atreus.



9PT. The so-called ‘Mask of Agamemnon’. Discovered by Heinrich Schliemann in 1876 at Mycenæ. Whether it represents an individual, and who, remain unknown.