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Protesilaos, the king of Fylaki



EEEEK ALMYROU, 2023

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Many years ago, when gods and demi-gods lived, there was a man named Protesilaos. He was the king of Fylaki, a beautiful seaside place in central Greece.



Protesilaos was a handsome tall man, known for his bravery and sense of justice. According to Homer, he proposed to Beautiful Helen but he was not chosen. Instead, he was bound with oath to defend Beautiful Helen and her husband(Menelaos) whenever needed. That's why he took part in the Trojan war.



Beautiful Helen

Protesilaos was also the first Greek who was killed during the Trojan War confirming the Oracle Delphi: «*The first who would set foot on Troy, would die for the sake of Greece.*» In fact, Protesilaos chose to sacrifice himself.



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Protesilaos went to the Trojan War one day after his marriage. His wife was beautiful Laodameia, the daughter of Akastos, the king of Iolkos.

Laodamia didn't know that Protesilaos was killed. She was waiting for him to come back.





In the meantime, Protesilaos was dead “living” in Hades, the Underworld. He was suffering and weeping all day because he was missing his wife, Laodameia.

Protesilaos hadn’t drunk the magic water that would help him to forget his mortal life because of goddess Artemis (the goddess of marriage). The day he got married, he forgot to offer gifts to goddess Artemis, so Artemis wanted to take revenge, to make him suffer. She asked from Pluto, the god of Hades, not to give him the water of oblivion.

Years later, Pluto and his wife, Persephone, felt sorry for him. So, they decided to let Protesilaos, visit his wife, Laodameia, just for one day.



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The young couple, Protesilaos and Laodameia, were together for ONE unforgettable day. Protesilaos told her that he was killed the first day of the war and that he was dead. He also told her that he had to return to Hades.

Laodameia was devastated.



Desperate as she was , Laodameia thought to make her husband's effigy. It was made of wax. She was all day «living» with her husband's wax effigy.





Laodameia's father, Akastos, was very worried about her. He ordered to burn the wax effigy. Laodameia couldn't live without it. So, she threw herself into the fire and died.

Protesilaos and Laodameia lived together in Hades.

