



## Myth: The Judgment of Paris

According to the Ancient Greeks, around 1250 BC, toward the end of the Bronze Age in Greece, three goddesses were having an argument. The goddesses Aphrodite, Athena, and Hera were arguing about which one of them was the most beautiful. They agreed to choose a human man and let him decide. At random, the goddesses picked Paris, the youngest son of King Priam of Troy, to be their judge.

Each of the goddesses offered Paris a bribe to get him to pick her. Athena offered him wisdom. Hera offered him power. But Aphrodite offered him the most beautiful woman in the world, and Paris voted for her as “The Fairest” of the three goddesses.

In return Aphrodite helped Paris kidnap Helen, the most beautiful woman in the world, but also, the wife of the King Menelaus of Sparta. Paris took Helen back to Troy with him and married her, even though she was already married to Menelaus. This began the Trojan War as King Menelaus sought to win his wife back.