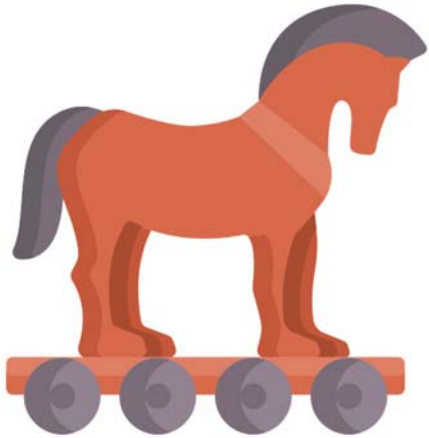


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## The Trojan Horse and the Fall of Troy



In the annals of ancient mythology, one of the most enduring and captivating stories is that of the Trojan War, a conflict that raged for ten long years between the city of Troy and the Greek coalition. The Trojan War, as described in Homer's epic poems, the "Iliad" and the "Odyssey," reached its climax with a clever stratagem known as the Trojan Horse.

The origins of the war can be traced back to a dispute among the gods, which eventually led to a prophecy that the Trojan prince Paris would bring about the downfall of Troy. To prevent this, Paris was sent to Sparta, where he fell in love with Helen, the wife of King Menelaus. Paris's abduction of Helen triggered the war as Menelaus, with his brother Agamemnon, gathered an army of Greek heroes to retrieve her.

Despite a decade of battles, Troy remained impregnable. It was during this dire time that the Greeks devised a cunning plan. Epeios, a master craftsman among the Greeks, constructed a colossal wooden horse, hollowed out to hide a select group of Greek warriors inside. This Trojan Horse was presented as a "gift" to the Trojans as a symbol of peace, while the Greek army secretly waited on the nearby island of Tenedos.

The Trojans, believing they had achieved victory and eager to celebrate, brought the wooden horse inside the city walls. That night, as the Trojans slept, the Greek warriors emerged from their concealment and opened the gates to the waiting Greek army. Troy was taken by surprise, and the city was sacked, ending the war and fulfilling the prophecy.

The story of the Trojan Horse and the Fall of Troy has endured through the ages, serving as a cautionary tale of the consequences of deception and the vulnerability of even the mightiest cities.