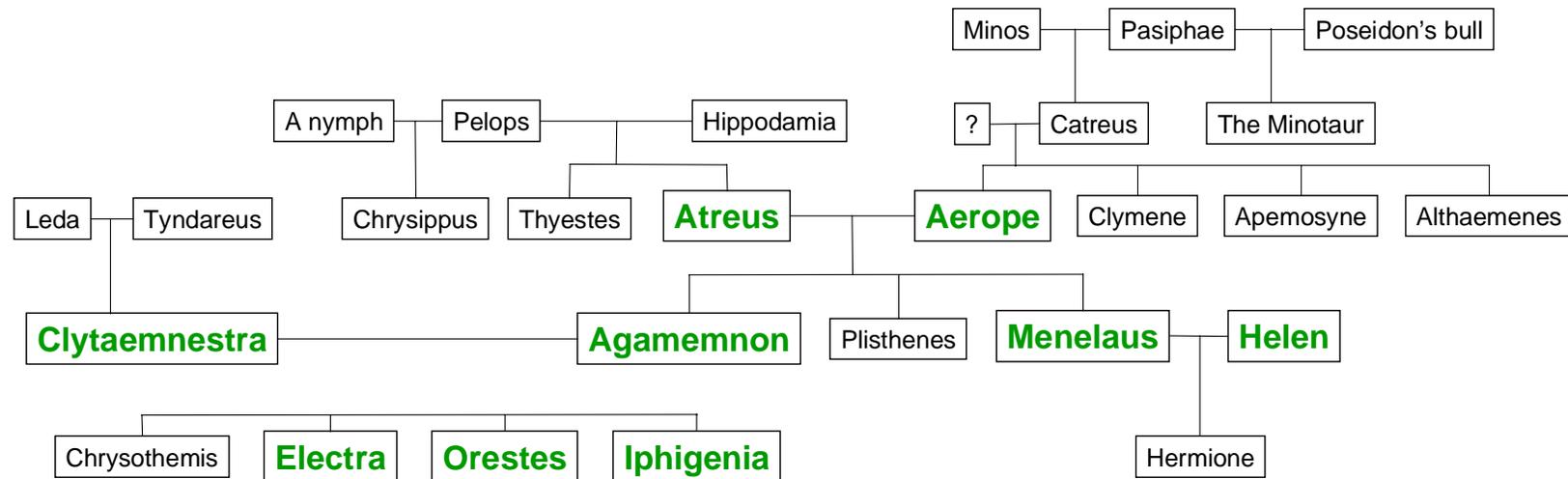


# The Cursed House of Atreus



## Notes:

- **Atreus** slays the sons of Plisthenes and serves their flesh to him at a banquet. This is the source of the curse upon his house.
- Paris's abduction of **Helen** begins the Trojan War. The curse upon **Atreus's** line is a constant source of problems to the Greeks during the War.
- The Greek fleet, under the command of **Agamemnon** and about to sail for Troy, cannot embark because of an ill wind. **Agamemnon** sacrifices **Iphigenia** to cause the wind to cease.
- After the conclusion of the Trojan War, **Agamemnon** returns to Sparta with Cassandra, daughter of Priam, king of Troy, as his mistress. **Clytaemnestra**, who has taken Aegisthus for a lover, is either consumed with jealousy before Cassandra or is still angry at the sacrifice of **Iphigenia**. She and Aegisthus slay **Agamemnon** and Cassandra.
- **Orestes** slays **Clytaemnestra** and Aegisthus. He is then pursued by the Furies for his matricide. Orestes pleads to Apollo for protection.
- **Orestes** is granted a trial, in which the Furies serve as prosecutors and the Athenian citizens (and Athena) serve as judges. The vote is split evenly, and Athena declares that a tie is a ruling for the defendant, at which point the curse is considered to have dissipated.