EURIPIDES AND THE TRAGEDY "ELENI"

Loulaki Markella – Maria G2

EURIPIDES AND HIS PLAYWRIGHTS

Euripides was a Greek tragedian of classic al Athens. Along with Aeschylus and Sopho cles, he is one of the three authors of Greek tragedy for whom any plays have survived in full. He was born on 23 September 480 BCE but some sources estimate that he was born earlier on 485 BCE.



HIS PLAYWRIGHTS

- Euripides was a well known poet, tragedian and dramatist. He wrote approximately 90 plays but 19 of them have survived through manuscripts. He may be the last tragic dramatist however he was the most influential. He competed many times at Athenian Dramatic Festivals and won 4 times in 411. He knew many famous philosophers of the 5th century including Socrates, Pythagoras and Anaxagoras. A few of the most famous tragedies are Medea, The Bacchae, Hippolytus and Alcistis.

ELENI

- The tragedy Eleni was played in 412 BCE. The myth says that in the historic town Sparta the king Menelaus had as a wife the most beautiful woman in the world named Eleni. The myth says that there was a competition between Athena, Hera and Aphrodite and there was a man named Paris who had the golden apple of contention and had to give it in one of the three goddesses. The three goddesses offered presents. Athena offered smartness and victory in al battles. Hera offered him authority, power and he would become the king of Asia and Europe.

ELENI

- Paris because he was young chose the present of Aphrodite. The same night he went and kidnapped Eleni and he took her with him in his kingdom. This event started the war. When the war ended after 10 years Menelaus and some of his soldiers were searching for someone to help them and then Menelaus saw the real Eleni because the one who had in the cave was just a sculpture made by Hera to punish them for not giving the apple to her.

SOURCES

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