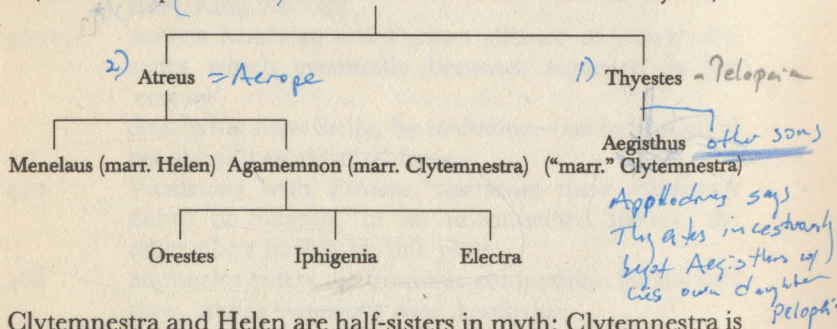


Hermes gave Atreus golden ram & dominion
 so as to settle feud of brothers vying for rule
 of Mycenae. Thyestes seduced Aerope and obtained
 Herby the golden-fleeced ram. Zeus + Heris helped
 Atreus recover rule. Atreus offered ostensible reconciliation

Family Trees of the Principal Characters of the Oresteia

The *Atreidae*, 'the sons of Atreus', are the royal house of Argos. Aeschylus has made their ancestry vague, with all three of Tantalus (*Ag.* 1469), Pelops (*Ag.* 1600, *LB* 503), and Pleisthenes (*Ag.* 1569, 1602) giving their name to the remoter family-line. Myth names Pelops consistently as the son of Tantalus but only sometimes as the father of Atreus; Pleisthenes is either ancestor of Atreus or his son. The family-tree in the *Oresteia* is:

(Tantalus/Pelops/Pleisthenes as ancestors of the brothers Atreus and Thyestes)



Clytemnestra and Helen are half-sisters in myth: Clytemnestra is the daughter of Tyndareus (*Ag.* 83) and of Leda (*Ag.* 914), both of them mortals; Helen is the daughter of Leda and Zeus.

The *Priamidae*, 'the sons of Priam', are the royal house of Troy. Their name stands also for the Trojans generally. In the *Oresteia* the only family names which occur are:

