

Role Of Women In Epics

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Women have always been viewed as less than compared to the male species. We've endured many hardships because of our gender and to this day we still experience discrimination. Not only are we viewed this way but also as sexual objects. This explains why women aren't taken as seriously as men are because of the attraction a male has towards a woman. In this essay, I will be evaluating and analyzing the role of women throughout the era before Christ was born. The stories, "The Epic Of Gilgamesh" and "The Iliad" both reflect on how important women were and just how equally as powerful they are as men.

In the Iliad, The trojan war started because of the kidnaping of a woman. Before this took place, there was an award to be given to the most beautiful women in all the land, the Golden Apple Award. From this, I could interpret that women were seen as beauty prizes and were known mostly for their looks or how beautiful they were. Beauty was all that mattered to women during this time as well. The validation of being beautiful was important to Aphrodite, the goddess of love. She wanted to win this award so badly she bribed one of the judges and told him that she would give him the most beautiful woman there was during that time, which was Helen. Hearing this, the judge crowned her with the award, all so he could be given a woman who he had no personal knowledge about. But because she was the most beautiful woman in the world, he wanted her.

This is a perfect example of how women were viewed and just how important they were to some. Because Helen was kidnapped, a war took place to get her back. This shows how much power women have unknowingly. Men may have physical strength and power, but women have these things as well internally. This is also a representation of how much control women have over men and what lengths men would go for them.

In the Epic of Gilgamesh, women represented wisdom, power and also temptation. Enkidu was an animal living in the wild. That is until he met the beautiful Shamhat. She was a prostitute who tried to sleep with Enkidu and make the other animals abandon him. She lures him from the wild animal life into the human world. After being seduced by this woman, Enkidu was no longer accepted by the animals of the forest anymore. This eventually led to him meeting Gilgamesh because he is taken in by his family and was now considered Gilgamesh's brother.

A woman's influence on a man can be detrimental. Men can and will do crazy things when a woman is involved. This statement has been proven true based on these stories. The roles of these women helped establish the plot of these stories and were the causes of many wars and life changing events. It is because of these women, there are stories like "The Epic of Gilgamesh" and "The Iliad".