

Notes on Quiz #2: The Bronze Age and Homer

1. In heroic Greek society, marriage patterns between powerful families included
 - a. matrilocal marriage (a roving warrior marries a princess and settles in her kingdom)
 - b. patrilocal marriage (a suitor brings a bride back to his lands and family)
 - c. all mature women being expected to marry in order to ensure the city's future defense
 - d. all of the above

In the patrilocal pattern, a suitor brings back a bride to his own house, and this bridges the families of the husband and the bride's father. Variant: Marriage by capture (e.g., Briseis). In the matrilocal pattern, a roving warrior marries a princess and settles down in her kingdom. Variant: Marriage by contest, in which the kingdom is a prize for the right suitor. Either way, marriage was expected of both genders in this warrior society, in order to produce future warriors.

2. The queen who, enraged by her husband sacrificing their daughter, cast him aside and married his cousin instead was
 - a. Iphigenia
 - b. Helen
 - c. Clytaemnestra
 - d. Mary Tudor

When Agamemnon sacrificed their daughter Iphigenia to the gods, Clytaemnestra was incensed. After Agamemnon left for the Trojan War, leaving a herald to watch over his wife, Clytaemnestra repudiated her marriage to Agamemnon and married his cousin, Aegisthus.

3. In Greek art, the exclusively female Amazons were often depicted as
 - a. fighting against centaurs, who were originally thought of as exclusively male
 - b. ugly, representing their unfeminine nature
 - c. having a secret king
 - d. makers and sellers of books

There are a number of depictions of Amazons fighting centaurs, contrasting the centaurs' masculine qualities (violent and lusty) with those of the Amazon women (strong but chaste).

4. Women were a larger proportion of which group in heroic Greek society?
 - a. Landholders
 - b. Slaves
 - c. Actors
 - d. Stonemasons

Ready access to slave women resulted in part from the practice, when taking a city, of ransoming or killing the landholding men but enslaving the women of that class.

5. When Nausicaa meets Odysseus, she does all of the following EXCEPT:

- a. Accompanies him boldly into town and into her father's presence
- b. Admires his beauty once he's had a bath
- c. Chastises her handmaidens for running away from him
- d. Tells him he should ignore her father and try to win over her mother instead

Nausicaa cannot accompany Odysseus into the city, as she knows that doing so will affect her reputation as a maiden and future wife among the men and women of the town.

Optional Extra Credit

EC. According to Pomeroy, why might the matrilineal pattern of marriage be better for the bride?

Though the bride seldom had the choice of husbands in either pattern, the matrilineal scenario allowed the bride to remain within her support system of friends and family members.