

**Helen:**

Whether I speak well or badly, you probably  
Will not answer, considering me an enemy.  
And I, against what I think you will charge me with,  
I shall answer, opposing  
Most just accusations to yours.

First this woman bore the beginning of trouble  
By giving birth to Paris, and second the old man  
Destroyed Troy and me by not killing the baby,  
The painful image of a firebrand, then called Alexander.

Hear the rest of what happened.  
He judged this triple group of goddesses.  
The gift of Athena to Alexander was to destroy  
Greece by commanding a Trojan army.  
Hera held out rule over Asia  
And the boundaries of Europe, if she won.  
Aphrodite, wondering at my looks,  
Offered me, if she surpassed the goddesses  
In beauty. Consider what followed next.  
Aphrodite won. My marriage blessed Greece,  
So it is not ruled by barbarians,  
Neither through spear nor tyranny.  
Greece prospered by what destroyed me.  
Sold for my beauty, I am blamed  
By those who should crown my head.