

treasures in the West." It is thus reduced to the mythical phrases which said, "The light, or the Dawn, is stolen from the heaven. The dark beings have carried her far away. The children of the Sun are gone to bring her back; but the journey is long and weary. They do battle with the robbers who will not yield up their prize. For ten long hours the fight lasts on. Then the Sun bursts out in his splendour; the dark dwelling of the thieves falls down, and the light which they had hidden away comes forth in all its former beauty." The story of Helen is thus a counterpart of the story of Phrixos and Hellê. In either case a treasure is stolen; and the chieftains gather together to go in search of it. In both there is the long and perilous voyage, the protracted conflict, the recovery of the treasure, and the return of the chieftains to their home in the West. In the earliest form assumed by the myth, Agamemnon and his allies are the children of the Sun, who arm themselves to rescue the Dawn from the grasp of the thief who has taken her away; and Paris (XLII.) with his allies represents the dark power of night which blots out the light from the sky. The phrases into which the myth thus resolves itself are found in the oldest Vedic hymns. The Panis (Paris) steal the cows of Indra, who sends Saramâ (Helen) to find them and bring them back. The Panis seek to seduce Saramâ from her allegiance to Indra, and to retain her in their dark lurking place. For awhile she yields to the temptation; but afterwards she returns to tell Indra where his cattle (the tinted clouds of morning) are hidden away. Here, then, we have the germ which was expanded into the story of the seduction of Helen by Paris, of the long search of her kinsfolk, and of her return to her glowing Western home, "pardoned and glorified." But the expanded myth shows also the blending of several ideas. The great conflict of the Iliad is the battle of the powers of light and darkness, and Paris represents the night fighting with the children of the day. But the great storehouse of mythical speech furnished a thousand phrases applicable to any of the fated actors who play their part in the great drama; and