

Dilbertus Procrastinus

Michael Yang (1997)¹

Perhaps one of the lesser known gods of Greek mythology was Dilbertus Procrastinus. He was an idle and lazy god who liked to saunter around Mount Olympus and do absolutely nothing. No one ever asked him to do anything. If somebody did, he would always put it off until the last minute. That is, assuming if he did it at all. Now, the question is why would a god put something off? Could a god not just wave his hands and say a magic word or two and his wishes would come true. Of course, it would work. However, Dilbertus was too lazy to do that.

The people of Greece found no point to worship Dilbertus. When they asked Dilbertus to help them, he never came. The other gods and goddesses looked down on him and were ashamed of being the same supernatural being he was. This was one of the reasons Dilbertus is not widely known. The other reasons why Dilbertus is not too widely known is because of his not too widely known exploits in the Trojan War.

When the Trojan War began, the gods and goddesses looked on with great interest. Back then, there was no television. The war was entertaining and fun to watch after the first year. Then it got a little dull after the second year. After the third year, everyone was bored to tears. All the Greeks and Trojans ever did was fight, fight, fight, and on occasion make a sacrifice to their favorite god. In this case, their favorite god was Zeus who could decide which side would win. However, even Zeus was getting bored so he decided it was time to end the Trojan War. He devised the Trojan Horse for the Trojans, who had sacrificed more sheep and men to him, to conquer the Greeks. He also wanted the Trojans to win so he could annoy Hera, his wife, and her everlasting anger against the Trojans. Zeus commanded the idle Dilbertus, "Deliver the Trojan Horse to the Trojans right away."

"If you say so," replied Dilbertus as he looked up from the newspaper he was reading. To himself he said, "I'll deliver the Trojan Horse right after I finish reading the sports section." Dilbertus, being the lazy supernatural being he was, put the Trojan Horse aside and forgot it as he read about the Spartan gladiators in the sports section of the newspaper.

One year passed and the Trojan War was still raging. Zeus asked Dilbertus, "Where is the Trojan Horse I asked you to deliver?"

Dilbertus yawned and replied, "Well, it's over there."

Zeus, who was mildly annoyed, asked, "Why?"

"Because I did not have time to deliver it to the Trojans," Dilbertus said in a careless manner.

"But I asked you to give it to the Trojans a year ago!" exclaimed Zeus, who was becoming annoyed as Aphrodite on a bad hair day.

"OK! OK! I'll deliver it this year," answered Dilbertus quickly.

"You will deliver is NOW!" Zeus boomed out. All of Mt. Olympus shook because of his great anger with Dilbertus. Thunder struck and lightning bolts flew everywhere. Zeus accidentally threw a lightning bolt at Medusa's enchanted mirror, which caused the lightning bolt to bounce back and hit himself. The great burst of energy sent Zeus into shock and into a deep coma. All of Mount Olympus was shocked by this and ran to find the best doctors to treat Zeus's condition. However, no doctor could revive Zeus. Not even Freud and his id, ego, and superego talks could bring Zeus out of it. In fact, it put him in a deeper coma.

Four years later, on a bright and sunny afternoon, Zeus awoke from his coma. The first order of business Zeus took care of was to ask Dilbertus, "Did you deliver the Trojan Horse?"

The skies suddenly turned dark and bad as Dilbertus answered meekly, "No."

Zeus, who was too exhausted and about ready to cry asked, "Dilbertus, for the last time, I beg of you. Please... please... for the love of God (Zeus loved this expression)... deliver the Trojan Horse."

Dilbertus responded easily, "Sure, but after I have lunch." Zeus broke down sobbing.

In modern English, the word "procrastinate" is based upon the not so widely known exploits of Dilbertus Procrastinus. His procrastination led to the prolonging of one war and Zeus's four year coma. Two years later, Dilbertus did deliver the Trojan Horse. Everyone was so surprised and excited that Dilbertus actually delivered the Trojan Horse, they did not realize that he gave it to the Greeks.

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