

# TROJAN HORSE OF CANAKKALE



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**O**n the seafont of Canakkale (an ancient city of Troy), in north-west Turkey, stands The Trojan Horse, a tourist attraction that I recently visited on November 1, 2019. The Trojan Horse is part of the story of the Trojan War between the Achaeans (Greeks) and the Trojans, as narrated by ancient Greek poet Homer in his two epic poems, The Iliad and The Odyssey.

After a fruitless 10-year siege, the Greeks constructed a huge hollow wooden horse (the horse being the emblem of Troy), hid an elite force inside and pretended to sail away. The Trojans pulled the horse into their city as a victory trophy. That night the Greek warriors crept out of the horse and opened the gates for the rest of the Greek army to enter

and destroy the city of Troy, thus ending the war.

Today, a Trojan Horse metaphorically refers to tricky subversion introduced from the outside; it is also the name of a malicious online programme that tricks users into downloading it so to damage the programming or to steal personal information.

Though the Canakkale Trojan Horse is made of iron struts and fibreglass, it looks as if it is made of scraps of wood from Greek ships and there are ropes wrapped around the legs. It is 11.4m tall, weighs 9,979 kg and has been on display in Canakkale, next to Moorabbin Park, since September 15, 2004. It was a gift from Brad Pitt who played the leading role of the Greek warrior Achilles in the 2004 movie, Troy. ■