

PHRONĒSIS - PRACTICAL WISDOM

Power Mapping

Athena is the goddess of strategic war, diplomacy, and civic order, she doesn't rush into battle; she plans. She understands hierarchies, influence, and timing. Power mapping, in Athena's hands, becomes an act of sacred discernment.

Power mapping is a modern shield; a way of protecting oneself and others by moving with insight and not just impulse.



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Power Mapping

Power mapping is a tool used in leadership, activism, organizational change, and strategy to:

Understand who holds power in a given system or situation.

Identify how influence flows (formally and informally).

Strategize who to engage, influence, or align with to effect change.

It's commonly used in advocacy, but it's equally useful for navigating any social or professional environment wisely.



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How Power Mapping works

1. Define Your Goal

Athena starts with clarity of purpose.

What change do you want to make?

What outcome are you trying to achieve (e.g., policy shift, support for a colleague, organizational awareness)?

"Strategy without a defined aim is just noise." —
Athena



How Power Mapping works

2. Identify Key Players

Make a list of people or roles in the system:

Decision-makers (those with formal power: execs, managers, HR, etc.)

Influencers (respected voices, culture-setters, even informal leaders)

Allies (those who might support your goal)

Opponents (those who might resist it)

Then, visually map them by:

Level of influence (high → low)

Stance on the issue (supportive, neutral, opposed)

This gives a clear picture of where energy should go and where unnecessary conflict can be avoided.



How Power Mapping works

3. Analyze Connections

Who listens to whom?

Are there alliances, tensions, histories?

Who are the bridge people who can translate or soften your message?

Athena would use this to form coalitions, choose the right messenger, or avoid acting alone when unnecessary.



How Power Mapping works

4. Strategize Actions

Based on the map, decide:

Who needs direct conversation?

Who needs gentle influence first?

Where can you plant seeds before taking bold steps?

This stage honors phronesis; wisdom in action. It protects the change-maker from burnout or retaliation by acting with precision.



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Athena does not seek power for ego, she seeks to wield it ethically, to uplift the city, the team, or the cause. Power mapping becomes a sacred act of wise navigation, especially for women or marginalized voices who may need to understand power to rise within it without replicating its harm.



Power Mapping Example

Scenario: Preventing the Trojan War Before It Begins

Athena sees tensions rising between Troy and the Greek city-states after Paris abducts Helen. She wants to prevent an all-out war, unlike some of the other gods who are encouraging it.

Objective: Prevent the Trojan War and preserve balance and order among mortals and gods.



Power Mapping Example

Name	Role	Power Level	Interest	Athena's Strategy
Zeus	King of the Gods	Very High	Neutral; prefers balance	Use logic and appeal to order
Hera	Queen of the Gods	High	Wants Troy punished	Hard to sway; consider indirect routes
Aphrodite	Goddess of Love	High	Protect Paris/Troy	Opposing side; monitor and outmaneuver
Paris	Trojan Prince	Medium	Keeps Helen; prideful	Persuade through dreams or omens
Helen	Mortal Queen	Low	Torn, but passive	Empower her to influence Menelaus
Menelaus	King of Sparta	Medium	Retrieve Helen	Negotiate truce, appeal to honor
Agamemnon	King of Mycenae	High	Wants war for glory	Weak point: pride — may need diversion
Odysseus	Clever Greek Hero	Medium	Prefers peace	Strong ally — enlist in diplomacy
Priam	King of Troy	High	Protect Troy	Approach via honor and long-term view
The Fates	Cosmic Entities	Absolute	Maintain destiny	May be immovable — consult but not confront

Power Mapping Example

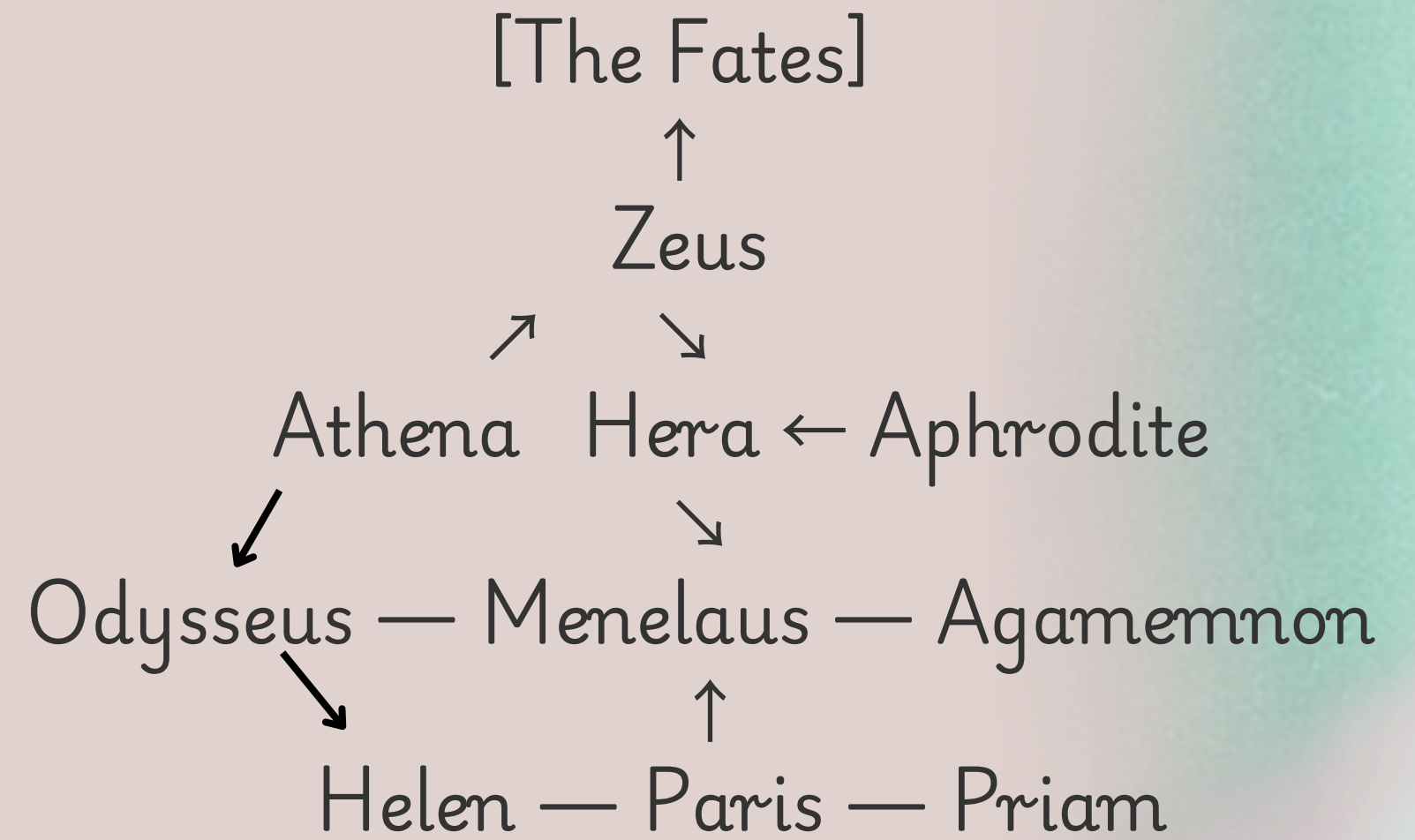
Tactics Athena Might Use

Alliances with rational mortals (Odysseus, Helen) to create a coalition for peace.

Subtle divine influence (e.g., dreams, omens, prophetic warnings) to shift decisions. Diplomatic interventions in councils of gods and mortals.

Strategic use of prophecy to show consequences of war (e.g., Achilles' death). Knowledge leverage: Athena might share knowledge of future losses to alter decisions.

Visual Power Map (Simplified)



(Athena sits at the center of diplomacy, linking rational actors and influencing outcomes subtly.)

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Power Mapping in your life

1. Create a literal map (drawn or digital) of the people, institutions, or forces involved in a current challenge. **Label each with:**
2. Power level (high, medium, low)
3. Stance (supportive, neutral, opposed)
4. Opportunity (what could shift?)
5. Close your eyes, invoke Athena and ask:
6. "Where does my influence truly lie?
Where is the wise point of intervention?"



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Power Mapping in your life

1. Where in my life do I need to map power more clearly?
2. Have I been avoiding power, misjudging it, or unconsciously submitting to it?
3. What would Athena want me to know about how to navigate this system?
4. Who do I need to ally with rather than confront head-on?

