

Epic Mythomemology – The Iliad

Book 1:

Achilles was fighting alongside Agamemnon, the King of Argos, during the Trojan war. After winning a battle each was given a war prize, a woman. Achilles was given Briseis, and Agamemnon was given Chryseis. However, the father of Chryseis, Chryses, who was also a priest of Apollo, wasn't ready to part with his daughter and came with a ransom for his daughter for King Agamemnon. Agamemnon refused the ransom in favor of keeping Chryseis and threatened the priest. Horrified and upset the priest (Chryses) calls upon Apollo and asks him to put a plague upon the Achaean armies, one of which Agamemnon leads. For nine days the armies were struck with a plague, on the tenth Achilles called a meeting to find the reason for the plague. Calchas, a prophet and follower of Apollo, being protected by Achilles, explains that Agamemnon refusing the ransom was the reason for the plague and he must return the girl and make a sacrifice of one hundred cows to Apollo in order to end the plague. Agamemnon decides to appease Apollo, but only if he can take away Achilles war prize, Briseis. Achilles doesn't believe that Agamemnon should gain Briseis, so the two begin to argue. Achilles decides that he and his men shall not fight in the war because of Agamemnon's actions. After Agamemnon takes Briseis away, Achilles cries and prays to his mother, Thetis, asking her to have Zeus grant the Achaean armies many losses. Zeus was not around to be asked though, but after twelve days, he returns and promises to Thetis that he will grant the Trojans many victories and the Achaeans many losses. During the twelve days of waiting, Achilles watches the war from afar, wishing to be battling.



This quote reveals the panic and anger Agamemnon has in reaction to being accused for causing the Plague by not returning Chryseis to her father.

*The god's enraged because Agamemnon spurned his priest,
he refused to free his daughter, he refused the ransom.
That's why the Archer sends us pains and he will send us more
and never drive this shameful destruction from the Argives,
not till we give back the girl with sparkling eyes
to her loving father-no price, no ransom paid –
and carry a sacred hundred bulls to Chryse town.
Then we can calm the god, and only then appease him."
So he declared and sat down. But among them rose
the fighting son of Atreus, lord of the far-flung kingdoms,
Agamemnon-furious, his dark heart filled to the brim,
blazing with anger now, his eyes like searing fire.
With a sudden, killing look he wheeled on Calchas first*

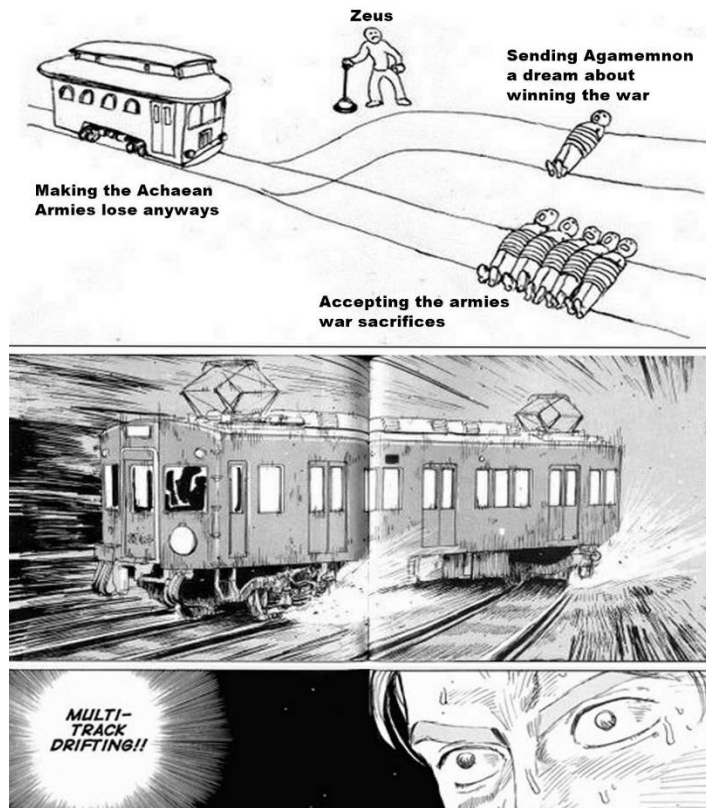
Iliad 1.11 ff

The Iliad, English Translation by Robert Fagles, Ph.D. New York, NY., Penguin Books USA.

Book 2:

Zeus sends Agamemnon a dream to trick him into attacking Troy when it will cause him losses. Agamemnon takes the dream for truth and tests the loyalty of the Achaeans, by seeing if they would retreat before the war was over. During the retreat, Athena is sent by Hera to urge them back to battle, and Odysseus leads the armies back. Everyone is willing to battle at that point except, Thersites, who mocks Achilles, Odysseus, and Agamemnon. Odysseus puts Thersites in his place and helps rally the courage of the soldiers once more using one of Calchas older prophecies about how they will win the war after ten years of fighting. Nestor, an older, wiser warrior advises Agamemnon to organize his men into groups in order to know which soldiers are best and most loyal. Agamemnon follows this advice, but wishes that he had Achilles at his side in order to make his anticipated, yet non-existent, victory swift. The armies sacrifice to the gods and prepare their weapons. Zeus, will not grant them the victory that they want, but he still takes the sacrifice from Agamemnon. Then they finally set off for battle. There were units from Boeotia, Phocis, Locris, Athens, among others that fought as Achaeans. Many great warriors and kings lead their people into battle alongside Agamemnon, but not Achilles. He and his people did not rally, or fight, instead they sat at their ships watching from the sidelines. On the other side, Hector, the leader of the Trojans, was warned by the goddess Iris to prepare for battle, and he rallies his men and the men of his many allies as well.

THE TROLLEY PROBLEM



This quote reveals how Zeus keeps his promise to Thetis and Achilles, while still benefitting from the sacrifices and respect given to him after sending Agamemnon a dream that leads him to believe he will win.

*And so Agamemnon prayed
but the son of Cronus would not bring his prayer to pass,
not yet ... the Father accepted the sacrifices. true,
but doubled the weight of thankless, ruthless war.*

Iliad 2.496 ff

The Iliad, English Translation by Robert Fagles, Ph.D. New York, NY., Penguin Books USA.

Book 3:

The Trojans attack at daybreak. Paris presents himself to Menelaus and Agamemnon to flaunt his armor during the battle, but gets scared by their urge to attack him and runs away. Menelaus is especially eager to attack because he was Helen's husband before the war began. Hector, Paris's brother sees him flee and scolds him for being a weak laughing stock. To make up for being a fool, Paris challenges Menelaus to a one-on-one duel for Helen and calls a truce. Hector stops the battle to inform both armies of the truce and challenge. Menelaus agrees on the condition that they sacrifice to Zeus first. Both sides hope that this will be an end to the war. Iris collects Helen for the competition, and as she comes out people comment on her beauty. She sits by Priam, the father of Paris and Hector and tells him the names and honorable deeds of the heroes that he inquires about, namely Agamemnon, Odysseus, and Ajax. However, Helen notices that her brothers, Castor and Polydeuces are not at the battle at all. Despite the sacrifices, Zeus refuses to answer the Achaeans call. Before the battle begins, Priam goes to take his leave, as he cannot bear to see Paris killed by Menelaus, unaware that Zeus will let Paris live. During the battle, Menelaus's spear goes nearly kills Paris, but when he goes after Paris with his sword it shatters in his hands. To finish Paris off, Menelaus resorts to strangling him through his helmet, but Zeus breaks the strap to keep Paris alive. Aphrodite intervenes in the battle and has both Paris and Helen go to the bedroom, only Helen resists and insults Aphrodite. Aphrodite threatens Helen and forces her into the bedroom where Paris is. Helen yells at him about his cowardice and makes it very clear that she wishes he were dead, and she was free of him. However, coaxed by Aphrodite, the couple goes to bed together. Outside, Agamemnon declares that Menelaus is the winner because Paris ran away and the Trojans must turn over Helen to them.



This quote reveals that Hector and Paris both feel that Paris is foolish and burdensome upon other people:

At one glance

Hector raked his brother with insults, stinging taunts:

*"Paris, appalling Paris! Our prince of beauty-
mad for women, you lure them all to ruin!*

Would to god you'd never been born, died unwed.

*That's all I'd ask. Better that way by far
than to have you strutting here, an outrage-
a mockery in the eyes of all our enemies. Why,
the long-haired Achaeans must be roaring with laughter
They thought you the bravest champion we could field.
and just because of the handsome luster on your limbs,
but you have no pith, no fighting strength inside you.*

*What?- is this the man who mustered the oarsmen once,
who braved the seas in his racing deep-sea ships,
trafficked with outlanders. carried off a woman
far from her distant shores. a great beauty
wed to a land of rugged spearmen?*

You ...

*curse to your father, your city and all your people.
a joy to our enemies. rank disgrace to yourself!
So, you can't stand up to the battling Menelaus?
You'd soon feel his force, that man you robbed
of his sumptuous. warm wife. No use to you then,
the fine lyre and these. these gifts of Aphrodite,
your long flowing locks and your striking looks,
not when you roll and couple with the dust.*

What cowards, the men of Troy- or years ago

*they'd have decked you out in a suit of rocky armor,
stoned you to death for all the wrongs you've done!"*

And Paris, magnificent as a god, replied.

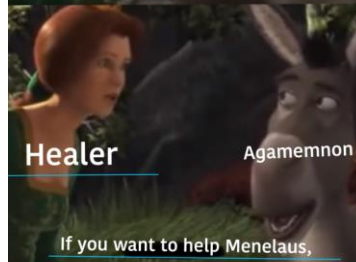
*"Ah Hector. you criticize me fairly. yes,
nothing unfair, beyond what I deserve.*

Iliad 3.41 ff

The Iliad, English Translation by Robert Fagles, Ph.D. New York, NY., Penguin Books
USA.

Book 4:

After watching the duel from above, the gods are holding a council meeting. As Zeus stands there, he decides to pick on Hera and so claims that Aphrodite is better at supporting her warriors than Hera is and so the Trojans may win the war. Hera retaliates by saying that none of the gods will ever praise Zeus, which Zeus takes great offense to and remarks by saying that he is at least strong, and can level whichever cities he wants, including the ones that Hera favors. Upset, Hera tries to make up with Zeus to avoid his anger. With this, Zeus orders Athena to have a Trojan warrior break the truce. Athena chooses the son of Lycaon, an archer, to shoot at Menelaus in order to end the truce. However, when the arrow flies she prevents it from mortally wounding Menelaus as she wants the Achaeans to win the war. Once Agamemnon realizes his brother has been shot, he is disgusted with the Trojans, and his fighting spirit is renewed. They call for a healer to help Menelaus with his wound. Then Agamemnon rallies all of the units for battle. The two armies meet and begin to battle. Odysseus' right-hand man is killed and he goes into a blind fury killing Trojans right and left. Apollo encourages the Trojans while Athena cheers on the Achaeans. Both sides experience great losses that battle.



This quote reveals how Agamemnon assumes the worst when he realizes his brother has been struck with an arrow and overreacts to the situation before gathering the soldiers for battle:

*The lord of men Agamemnon shuddered, frightened
to see the dark blood gushing from the wound.
And veteran Menelaus cringed himself but saw
the lashing-cords and barbs outside the gash
and his courage flooded back inside his chest.
Nevertheless, King Agamemnon, groaning heavily,
grasped Menelaus' hand and spoke out for the men
as friends around him groaned as well: "Dear brother -
that truce I sealed in blood was death for you,
setting you out alone . . .
exposed before our lines to fight the Trojans -
Look how the men of Troy have laid you low,
trampling down our solemn, binding truce!
But they will never go for nothing, the oaths,
the blood of the lambs, the unmixed wine we poured,
the firm clasp of the right hand we trusted.
Never-
even if Zeus's wrath does not strike home at once,
he'll strike in his own good time with greater fury.
Transgressors will pay the price, a tremendous price,
with their own heads, their wives and all their children.
Yes, for in my heart and soul I know this well:
the day will come when sacred Troy must die,
Priam must die and all his people with him,
Priam who hurls the strong ash spear!
The son of Cronus,*

*Zeus. throned aloft in the heavens where he lives.
Zeus himself will brandish over their heads
his black storm-shield, enraged at their deceit.
Nothing can stop it now. All this will come to pass.
But I will suffer terrible grief for you, Menelaus.
if you die now, if you fill out your destiny now -
and I go back to parching Argos in disgrace.
For the men will turn their minds toward home at once,
and we must leave Priam and all the men of Troy
a trophy to glory over, Helen, queen of Argos ...
But the plowland here will rot your bones,
my brother, as you lie dead in Troy, your mission left unfinished.
Then some Trojan will glory, swaggering, arrogant,
leaping down on the grave of famous Menelaus:
'Let Agamemnon wreak his anger so on all his foes!
Just as he led his armies here for nothing, failure.
Now home he's gone to the dear land of his fathers,
his warships empty, leaving behind the hero Menelaus
moldering in his wake!'
So some Trojan will trumpet-
let the great earth gape and take me down that day!"*

*But the red-hatred Menelaus tried to calm him:
"Courage. Don't alarm the men, not for a moment.
The point's not lodged in a mortal spot, you see?
My glittering war-belt stopped the shot in front,
my loin-piece and the plated guard below it,
gear the bronzesmiths hammered out for me."*

*And marshal Agamemnon took his lead:
"Pray god you're right, dear brother Menelaus!
But the wound- a healer will treat it. apply drugs
and put a stop to the black waves of pain."*

*Agamemnon turned to the sacred herald:
"Quick, Talthybius. Call Machaon here,
the son of Asclepius, that unfailing healer,
to see to Menelaus, Atreus' fighting son.
An archer's hit him, a good hand at the bow,
some Trojan or some Lycian-all glory to him,
a heavy blow to us."*

*The herald obeyed at once.
He ran through ranks of Achaeans armed in bronze,
searching for brave Machaon. Find him he did,
standing by, flanked by the bands of shielded men
who'd trooped with him from the stallion-land of Tricca.
He halted beside him there and let his message fly:
"Quickly, son of Asclepius, King Agamemnon calls!
Now see to Menelaus, Achaea's fighting captain.
An archer's hit him, a good hand at the bow,
some Trojan or some Lycian-all glory to him,
a heavy blow to us!"
So the herald shouted,
stirring Machaon's spirit. Back the two men ran
through crowds of troops in Achaea's vast encampment.
And gaining the place where red-haired Menelaus*

*nursed his wound and a growing ring of warlords
pressed around him, striding into their midst
the godsent healer reached the captain's side
and quickly drew the shaft from his buckled belt -
he pulled it clear, the sharp barbs broke back.
He loosed the glittering belt and slipped it off
and the loin-piece and the plated guard below it,
gear the bronzesmiths made. When he saw the wound
where the tearing arrow hit, he sucked out the blood
and deftly applied the healing salves that Chiron,
friend of Asclepius, gave his father long ago.*

*And all the while they worked over Menelaus
whose cry could marshal armies. on the Trojans came,
columns armed for assault, and again the Argives
donned their gear and roused their lust for war.*

*King Agamemnon's hour. You would not find him asleep.
not cringing a moment, hanging back from the struggle -
he pressed for battle now where men win glory.*

Iliad 4.168 ff

The Iliad, English Translation by Robert Fagles, Ph.D. New York, NY., Penguin Books
USA.

Book 5:

Diomedes is given power by Athena to fight courageously and skillfully in the war. After killing a few soldiers, Diomedes seems to lose control of himself as he attacks people from both sides of the war. However, he regains his attention by a visit from Athena, who then gives him

the ability to tell who is man versus god. She tells him not to attack any of the gods unless it is Aphrodite. Diomedes accepts the terms and goes back to killing the Trojans, only now he is being pursued by Aeneas, the son of Aphrodite. After a failed attack on Diomedes, Aeneas is crippled and has to be taken to be healed, so Aphrodite comes to collect her son from the battlefield. With Aeneas in her arms, Diomedes shoots an arrow at her and cuts her wrist. Terrified, she flees the battlefield and Apollo finishes bringing Aeneas to be healed. On Apollo's way back to the battle, he meets with Ares and encourages him to lend his strength to the Trojans and to beware of Diomedes. Ares goes to the Trojans and tells Hector to act as a better leader or else risk losing the war. With their fighting spirit renewed, the Trojans begin to fight harder, killing and injuring many great Achaeans in the process. Curious as to why Diomedes does nothing, Athena visits him once again. He replies that so long as Ares is leading the Trojans, he may not attack as Aphrodite was the only God he was allowed to harm. Given permission from Zeus, Athena teams up with Diomedes to attack Ares with a spear, causing him immense pain. Zeus has Ares healed, and then all of the gods leave the battlefield.



This scene reveals how Athena wants to respect the divisions between man and god in war, except to take out her personal enemies:

"Now take heart, Diomedes, fight it out with the Trojans!

Deep in your chest I've put your father's strength.

He never quaked, that Tydeus, that great horseman-

what force the famous shieldsman used to wield!

Look, I've lifted the mist from off your eyes

that's blurred them up to now-

so you can tell a god from man on sight.

So now if a god comes up to test your mettle,

you must not fight the immortal powers head-on,

all but one of the deathless gods, that is-

if Aphrodite daughter of Zeus slips into battle,

she's the one to stab with your sharp bronze spear!"

Iliad 5.136 ff

The Iliad, English Translation by Robert Fagles, Ph.D. New York, NY., Penguin Books USA.

Book 6:

The battle presses on without the presence of the gods. Menelaus nearly spares someone but is reminded that all Trojans are the enemy and to spare no one by Agamemnon. The Achaeans are pushing the Trojans back, almost to the point of retreat when Helenus, a seer, advises Hector to go back into the city and sacrifice to Athena to have her take the power away from Diomedes. On the battlefield, Diomedes is about to attack Glaucus, when Glaucus reveals that their families are on friendly terms with one another. The two of them, exchange armor and promise not to hurt each other on the field of battle. In Troy, the women approach Hector for news from the war, but he gives none. Then he goes to the palace and informs his mother on how to sacrifice to Athena, while he searches for Paris. Hector's mother follows through with the sacrifice, but Athena does not listen to their prayer to weaken Diomedes. Upon reaching Paris' room, Hector scolds him once again, this time about the fact that he lets the war rage on and

instead of fighting, stays in bed with his wife. Paris believes that this is fair criticism and decides that he will go back to battle. Hector leaves him to prepare, and after being approached by Helen, goes to visit his own wife and son. However, his family is not at home, they are at the walls of the city. Hector meets them there and Andromache, Hector's wife, tells him of her concern for her safety. Hector does his best to reassure her, but as his wife and child head home, she worries once again. As he watches them walk away, Paris comes by on a horse and reminds him that they have a war to get back to. The brothers leave the city.



This quote shows how once again Hector has to scold Paris in order to focus on the war instead of focusing on his own wants:

Seeing Paris,

Hector raked his brother with insults, stinging taunts:

"What on earth are you doing? Oh how wrong it is,

this anger you keep smoldering in your heart!

Look, your people dying around the city, the steep walls,

dying in arms-and all for you, the battle cries

and the fighting flaring up around the citadel.

You'd be the first to lash out at another-anywhere-

you saw hanging back from this, this hateful war.

Up with you-

before all Troy is torched to a cinder here and now!"

*And Paris, magnificent as a god, replied,
"Ah Hector, you criticize me fairly, yes,
nothing unfair, beyond what I deserve. And so
I will try to tell you something. Please bear with me,
hear me out. It's not so much from anger or outrage
at our people that I keep to my rooms so long.
I only wanted to plunge myself in grief.
But just now my wife was bringing me round,
her winning words urging me back to battle.*

Iliad 6.382 ff

The Iliad, English Translation by Robert Fagles, Ph.D. New York, NY., Penguin Books
USA.

Book 7:

Hector and Paris return to battle, fighting skillfully, and makes the battle turn in the Trojan's favor. This catches Athena's attention, but stopped from her descent to the battle by Apollo, the two decide to have Hector challenge a great Achaean warrior and pause the fighting for the day. Given this message, Hector challenges the Achaeans to send their best to duel him. At first, no one takes him up on his duel, but after a speech by Nestor nine men volunteer. To decide which one will fight, they draw lots. Great Ajax wins the lot drawing, and so prepares for battle. While fighting the two assault each other with their spears, shields, and rocks. They are about to begin fighting with swords when they are called to stop by a messenger, who was given a message from Zeus. The message asks that they stop for the day, and so they do, preparing to fight again the next day. During the night, each army wants to take the next day to burn their dead. Additionally, the Trojans want to see if the Achaeans will end the war in exchange for Paris' riches, but not Helen. The Achaeans refuse, but still, take the next day to burn their dead. As they cremate the dead, the Achaeans begin to build a wall, angering Poseidon as they do so. At the end of the second day of peace, both armies pour out libations to Zeus, but he plots disaster for them both.

Achaean soldiers responding
to Hector's challenge before
Nestor's speech



This quote reveals how hesitant the soldiers were to take up Hector's challenge, and have to be encouraged before Ajax and others step up:

But now,

seeing the best of all Achaeans fill your ranks,

let one whose nerve impels him to fight with me

come striding from your lines, a lone champion

pitted against Prince Hector. Here are the terms

that I set forth-let Zeus look down, my witness!

If that man takes my life with his sharp bronze blade,

he will strip my gear and haul it back to his ships.

But give my body to friends to carry home again,

so Trojan men and Trojan women can do me honor

with fitting rites of fire once I am dead.

But if I kill him and Apollo grants me glory,

I'll strip his gear and haul it back to sacred Troy

and hang it high on the deadly Archer's temple walls.

But not his body: I'll hand it back to the decked ships,

so the long-haired Achaeans can give him full rites

and heap his barrow high by the broad Hellespont.

And someday one will say, one of the men to come,

*steering his oar-swept ship across the wine-dark sea,
'There's the mound of a man who died in the old days,
one of the brave whom glorious Hector killed:
So they will say, someday, and my fame will never die:'
A hushed silence went through all the Achaean ranks,
ashamed to refuse, afraid to take his challenge ...
But at long last Menelaus leapt up and spoke,
lashing out at them, groaning, heartsick: "Oh no-
your threats, your bluster-women, not men of Achaea!
What disgrace it will be-shame, cringing shame
if not one Danaan now steps up to battle Hector.
You can all turn to earth and water-rot away!
Look at each of you, sitting there, lifeless,
lust for glory gone.*

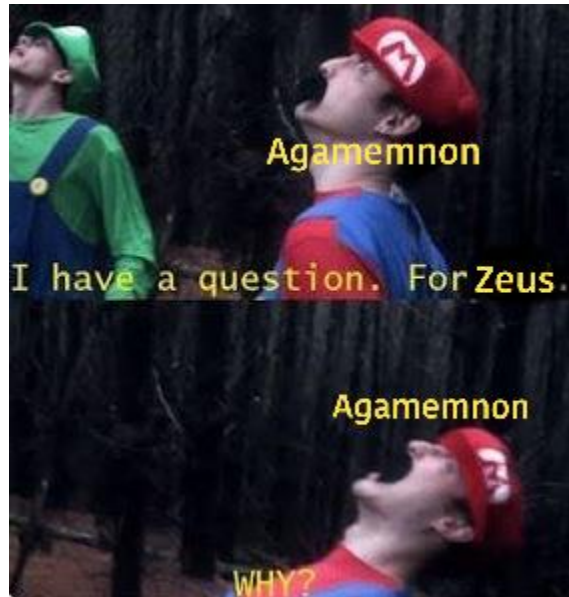
Iliad 7.83 ff

The Iliad, English Translation by Robert Fagles, Ph.D. New York, NY., Penguin Books
USA.

Book 8:

Zeus calls together all of the gods to tell them not to interfere with the battles or else they will be disgraced. Then Zeus goes to Mount Ida and watches the battle for himself, weighing the fates of the armies on his scale. Seeing that the Achaeans have a worse fate, he begins hurling thunderbolts at them. The Achaeans scramble to retreat, but Nestor's chariot is out of control. Diomedes goes to help Nestor out, but once Nestor is in the chariot, Diomedes wants to pursue Hector. Each time he tries though, Zeus sends a bolt down around him. Hector is overjoyed and wants to set the Achaean ships on fire. Hera asks Poseidon to do something, but he refuses to. Then she sends words to Agamemnon to encourage her men and making Zeus pity the men as well. Zeus sends the Achaeans an eagle carrying a fawn to make sure they knew they were safe. With this, the battle shifted back to the favor of the Achaeans. However, after a small advance and skillful fighting from Teucer, the Trojans begin to corner them once more. Hera desperately wants to help and so recruits Athena to help her. Athena agrees, but when the two go to help,

Zeus scares them away with his threats. Shortly after this, Zeus calls a small meeting where he mocks Hera and Athena and reveals that he will continue to harm the Achaeans until Achilles rejoins the battle. Night falls, and the battle ends for the day. Hector commands his men to light fires to make sure that the Achaeans do not try to escape. He and his men stay close to the battlefield, they want to attack as soon as possible.



These lines reveal that the Achaeans are unaware of the cause of Zeus' unfair treatment and that they are struggling in battle:

Agamemnon's cry went piercing through the army:

*"Shame! Disgrace! You Argives, you degraded-
splendid in battle dress, pure sham!*

*Where have the fighting taunts all gone? That time
you vaunted you were the finest force on earth-
all that empty bluster you let fly at Lemnos,
gorging yourselves on longhorn cattle meat
and drunk to the full on brimming bowls of wine,
bragging how each man could stand up to a hundred,
no, two hundred Trojan fighters in pitched battle.
Now our whole army is no match for one, for Hector-*

he'll gut our ships with blazing fire at any moment!
Father Zeus, when did you ever strike a mighty king
with such mad blindness-then tear away his glory?
Not once,
I swear, did I pass some handsome shrine of yours,
sailing my oar-swept ship on our fatal voyage here,
but on each I burned the fat and thighs of oxen,
longing to raze Troy's sturdy walls to the roots.
So, Father, at least fulfill this prayer for me:
let the men escape with their lives if nothing else-
don't let these Trojans mow us down in droves!"

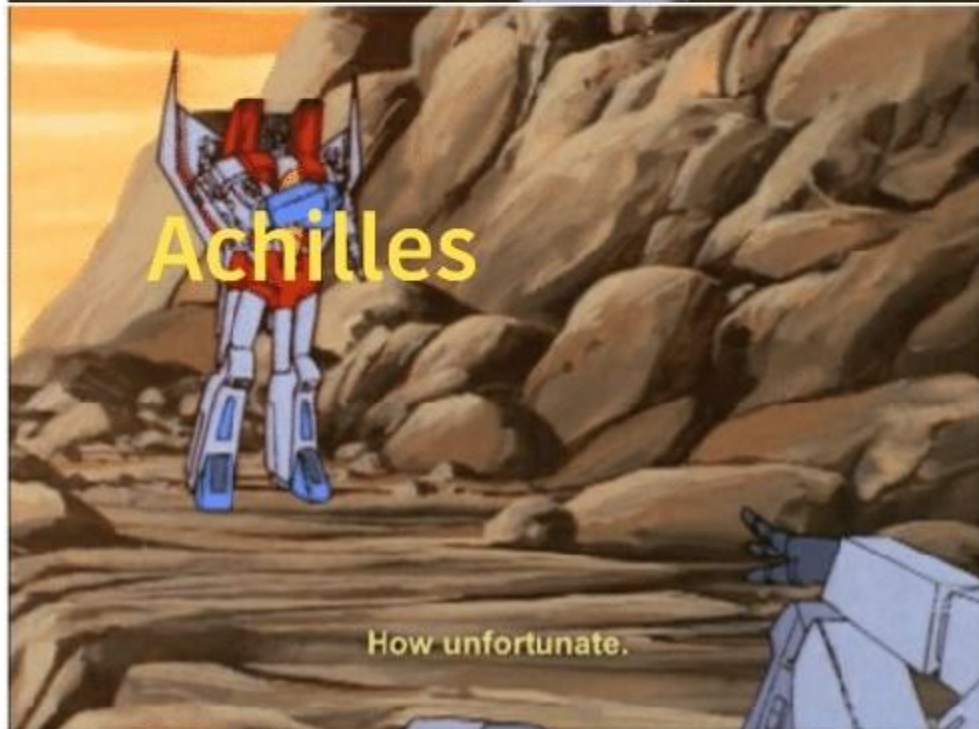
Iliad 8.259 ff

The Iliad, English Translation by Robert Fagles, Ph.D. New York, NY., Penguin Books
USA.

Book 9:

In the Achaean camp, the people panic and lose hope, even Agamemnon becomes desperate and talks of retreating. Diomedes is furious and refuses to leave. Nestor agrees with Diomedes and says that the men should take their evening meal. Agamemnon has a feast with his officers, and there Nestor suggests that Agamemnon should apologize and seek the help of Achilles. Agamemnon agrees to ask Achilles and give him many great treasures in return including an unfoiled Briseis. Nestor appoints Phoenix, Ajax, Odysseus, Odysseus, and Eurybates to send this message to Achilles. When they reach Achilles, he welcomes them in and gives them a wonderful meal. During the meal, Odysseus toasts to Achilles and asks for his help with their situation, telling him of the gifts that Agamemnon says he will give. Achilles cannot be convinced, he is still upset about Agamemnon taking Briseis away. He tells the men that he was planning on leaving the next morning, and encourages them to leave as well. Achilles shares that his mother told him that he will die gloriously if he stays, but live a long, inglorious life if he leaves. He claims to have chosen the inglorious life. Phoenix is incredibly upset that this is the life Achilles is choosing, especially since Achilles is like a son to him. Then Phoenix tells a tale of a similar situation, the tale of Meleagros, who refused to do work even after being offered gifts. When Meleagros does his work at the last second, he seeks reward but it is not given to him. However, Achilles is not moved by this. He sends the other messengers away, letting

Phoenix stay the night so that he can decide whether or not to leave. They protest, but he says he will not return until things are absolutely hopeless. Agamemnon meets with the messengers, awaiting their news, but is horrified with the news. Diomedes advises him to go to sleep for the night.



This quote reveals how although Achilles is aware of how much assistance the Achaeans need, he refuses them to prove his point that he will not be wronged:

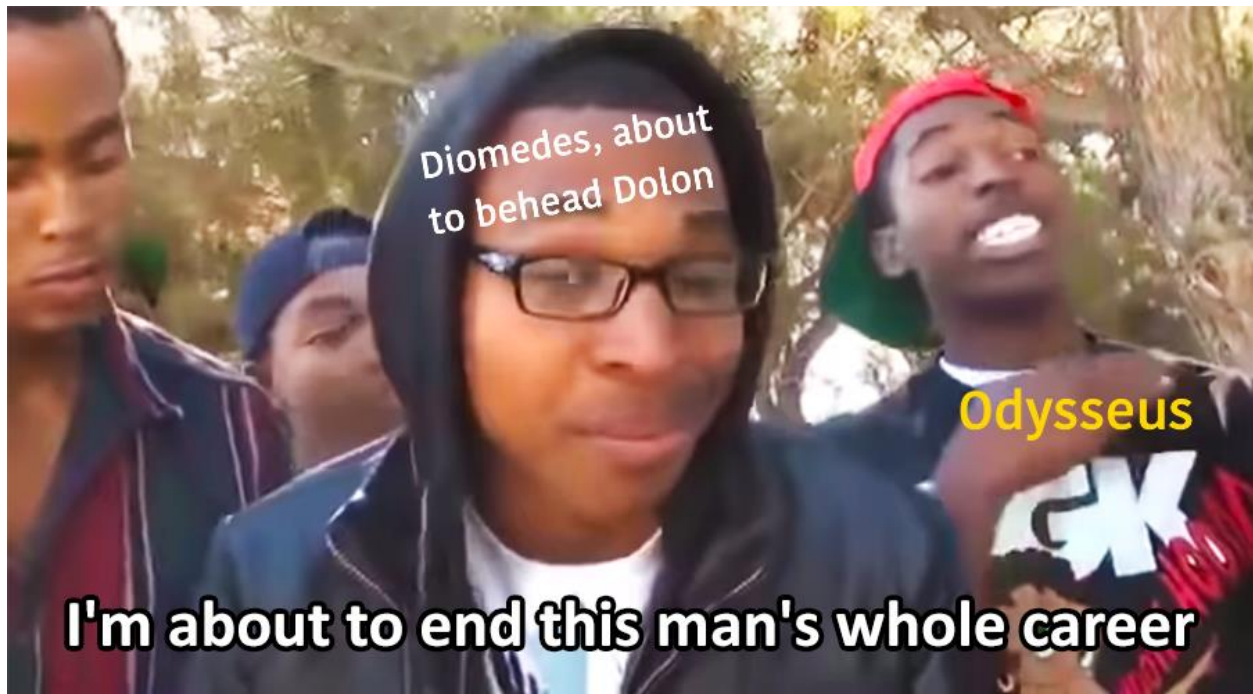
*The famous runner Achilles rose to his challenge:
"Royal son of Laertes. Odysseus, great tactician ...
I must say what I have to say straight out,
must tell you how I feel and how all this will end-
so you won't crowd around me, one after another,
coaxing like a murmuring clutch of doves.
I hate that man like the very Gates of Death
who says one thing but hides another in his heart.
I will say it outright. That seems best to me.
Will Agamemnon win me over? Not for all the world,
nor will all the rest of Achaea's armies.
No, what lasting thanks in the long run
for warring with our enemies, on and on, no end?
One and the same lot for the man who hangs back
and the man who battles hard. The same honor waits
for the coward and the brave. They both go down to Death,
the fighter who shirks, the one who works to exhaustion.
And what's laid up for me, what pittance? Nothing-
and after suffering hardships, year in, year out,
staking my life on the mortal risks of war.*

Iliad 9.372 ff

The Iliad, English Translation by Robert Fagles, Ph.D. New York, NY., Penguin Books
USA.

Book 10:

Agamemnon couldn't sleep because he was too nervous about the war, so he decides to seek the wisdom of Nestor. Menelaus was also restless, and he and Agamemnon meet outside in their armor. Agamemnon sends Menelaus to gather the army leaders, while he finds Nestor to talk about strategy. Once they are all gathered, Nestor suggests that someone go spy on the Trojans from the inside. Diomedes volunteers to go, and Odysseus is appointed to go with him. Athena sends them a Heron to tell them of her favor, and even though it is dark they hear its call and know. They pray to Athena, then set out on their way to Troy. On the other side, Hector sends Dolon to be a spy, promising him Achilles chariots in return. Dolon sets off, but Odysseus and Diomedes see him coming. They pretend to be dead and ambush him when he passes by. Terrified, Dolon tells Diomedes and Odysseus all that they want to hear, but as Dolon tries to arrange his ransom, Diomedes beheads him. Then the two use the information they got from Dolon to invade the Trojan camp. There they kill King Rhesos, steal his horses, and kill many soldiers. They are going to continue murdering Trojans when Athena alerts them to leave. However, they do not get away easily, Apollo sees what is happening, and wakes up the Trojans, having them chase Diomedes and Odysseus back to camp. Diomedes and Odysseus make a stop along the way to collect Dolon's armor from his body. The two make it back to camp safely, and then take baths and then pour out a libation to Athena.



This quote shows how pleased with gaining the knowledge that he wants, Diomedes plans to prevent Dolon from any future spying by killing him:

*There. Now will you take me to your ships
or leave me here-bound and gagged right here?-
till you can make your raid and test my story,
see if I've told the truth or I've been lying."
But rugged Diomedes gave him a grim look:
"Escape? Take my advice and wipe it from your mind,
good as your message is-you're in my hands now.
What if we set you free or you should slip away?
Back you'll slink to our fast ships tomorrow,
playing the spy again or fighting face-to-face.
But if I snuff your life out in my hands,
you'll never annoy our Argive lines again."*

Iliad 10.511 ff

The Iliad, English Translation by Robert Fagles, Ph.D. New York, NY., Penguin Books
USA.

Book 11:

The next day, Zeus encourages the Achaeans to fight valiantly by sending Strife to them. Agamemnon receives this sign happily and rallies his men. This seems to be going well when Zeus sends a bloody rain down on the Achaeans, causing an outbreak of fear. As the battle continues, Agamemnon is fighting particularly well, killing even those who beg for their lives. As the Achaean armies approach Troy's walls, Zeus sends a message to Hector telling him to be on the defensive until Agamemnon gets hurt, then the Trojans can strike. Luckily for the Trojans, their soldier Coon creates a gash in Agamemnon's arm, and the Achaeans begin to get pushed back. While advancing toward the Achaeans, Hector runs into Diomedes and Odysseus. Diomedes hits him right in the head, but Hector merely passes out. They continue to fight, but when Diomedes goes to grab some armor off of a dead man, Paris shoots him in the foot and he has to leave the battle. This leaves Odysseus surrounded by the Trojans, he handles this for a while, but once he is injured, he calls for help. Menelaus and Ajax come to cover for him while he leaves the battle. Paris takes another victim with his arrow, this time it is Machaon, the Achaean's healer, who is shot in the shoulder. Nestor goes to save him, but this encourages the Trojans, even more, leaving Ajax almost overwhelmed before some back up comes. Achilles

sees all this from afar and sends Patroclus to see if it was Machaon who was shot by Paris or someone else. Patroclus does this, confirming that it is Machaon, but as he goes to leave the Achaean camps to report, Nestor stops him asking for Achilles and his men to rejoin the battle. He suggests that if Achilles will not fight, Patroclus should take his armor and use it to strike fear into the Trojans. Thrilled by this idea, Patroclus leaves to return to Achilles, on his way back to camp, he runs into a wounded Achaean soldier and brings him along to heal his injuries.



This quote shows how although Paris is fighting in the battle, he does less heavy lifting than other soldiers and Hector:

*Hector amidst them now
engaged them with a vengeance. doing bloody work
with lances flung and a master's horsemanship.
destroying young battalions. Still the Achaeans
never would have yielded before the prince's charge
if Paris the lord of lovely fair-haired Helen
had not put a stop to Machaon's gallant fighting,
striking the healer squarely with an arrow
triple-flanged that gouged his right shoulder.
Achaeans breathing fury feared for Machaon now:
what if the tide turned and Trojans killed the healer?
Idomeneus suddenly called to Nestor, "Pride of Achaea!
Quick, mount your chariot. mount Machaon beside you-
lash your team to the warships, fast. full gallop!
A man who can cut out shafts and dress our wounds-
a good healer is worth a troop of other men."*

Iliad 11.592 ff

The Iliad, English Translation by Robert Fagles, Ph.D. New York, NY., Penguin Books
USA.

Book 12:

Patroclus heals the soldier's wounds, but the battle carries on. The Achaeans are in a terrible position, they retreat behind their walls, in fear of Hector, who is fighting with great skill and speed. The Trojans stop at the wall, not sure how to cross the trench around it. Polydamas tells Hector that they won't be able to make it across the trench in their chariots, so the Trojans dismount. They are going to attempt to make the wall crash down on foot, except Aisus decides to go on his chariot, he doesn't make it through the wall though because it is being defended by two soldiers. The Trojans start to charge at the wall, and the Achaeans are desperate to save their

ships. Aisus complains to Zeus that the walls will not open or fall down. Zeus sends a sign to the Trojans, an eagle, carrying a bloody, but alive, snake. Polydamas takes this to mean they should stop the battle, but they carry on fighting according to Hector's will. The soldiers watching the wall had slowed the assault on the Achaeans until this point, however, Sarpedon, a Trojan warrior goes to charge the wall with Glaucus. The soldiers on the wall, get called down as back up to attack from the ground, but it doesn't do much. Sarpedon breaks into the wall with his bare hands, even though he gets shot with arrows on the way there. The Trojans cannot enter through the small space that he opens, but Hector throws a bolder and throws it at the gates of the wall. With the gate busted open, the Trojans start to enter, terrifying the hopeless Achaeans.



This quote reveals how desperately the Trojans were trying to get into the wall before Sarpedon makes a small hole in it:

*On the Trojans came, straight for the rock-tight wall,
raising rawhide shields and yelling their lungs out,
grouped under captain Asius. Iamenus and Orestes
and Asius' own son Adamas, Thoon and Oenomaus.
The Lapiths had just been rousing Argives packed
behind the rampart: "Close in a ring-defend the ships!"
But soon as the Lapiths saw the Trojans storm the wall,
and cries broke from the Argives lost in sudden panic,
then the two burst forth to fight before the gates
like wild boars, a pair of them up on the hilltops
bracing to take some breakneck rout of men and dogs
and the two go slanting in on the charge, shattering timber
round about them, shearing off the trunks at the roots
and a grinding, screeching clatter of tusks goes up
till a hunter spears them, tears their lives out-
so the clatter screeched from the gleaming bronze
that cased their chests as blows piled on blows.
Deadly going, fighting now for all they were worth,
staking all on their own strength and friends overhead
as they ripped off rocks from the rampart's sturdy ledge
and hurled them down, defending themselves, their shelters,
their fast ships-the rocks pelted the ground like snow
that a sudden squall in fury, driving the dark clouds,
heaps thick-and-fast on the earth that feeds us all.
So the missiles showering from their hands-Achaeans,
Trojans, helmets and bossed shields clashing, ringing*

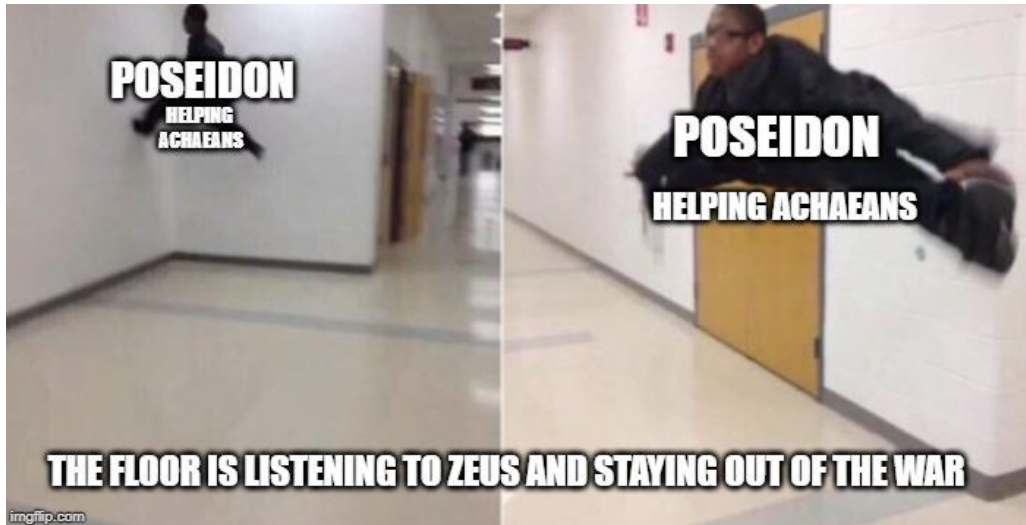
*shrilly under the blows of boulders big as millstones.
And now with a deep groan and pounding both thighs
Asius son of Hynacus cried in anguish, "Father Zeus-
so even you are an outright liar after all!
I never dreamed these heroic Argive ranks
could hold back our charge, our invincible arms.*

Iliad 12.161 ff

The Iliad, English Translation by Robert Fagles, Ph.D. New York, NY., Penguin Books
USA.

Book 13:

Zeus is pleased with the Trojans progress, and leaves the battle, not anticipating any interference from other gods. However, Poseidon comes to the aid of the Achaeans in the form of Calchas. He encourages Great and Little Ajax to fight with courage, they realize that they are being helped by a god, and while fighting encourage the other Achaeans. As the fighting continues, Poseidon's grandson gets killed, and Poseidon turns into the form of Thoas in order to fight alongside the Achaeans. Poseidon encourages Idomeneus, who in turn tries to encourage Meriones, who was returning to his tent to get a new spear. The fighting continues, and Idomeneus kills many warriors, including Aisus. This angers Deiphobus who kills Alcathous in response. The two are about to fight, but Deiphobus asks Aeneas for help, Idomeneus asks for back up, which in turn prompts Aeneas to ask for back up. The groups fight, and eventually, Deiphobus gets stabbed in the hand and has to leave the battle. Meanwhile, Menelaus has a run in with Helenus, they throw their spears at the same time, but the one that hits Menelaus does no damage. Helenus is stabbed through the hand. The battle continues and many people die. Hector continues fighting but is approached by Polydamas asking him to retreat and regroup the Trojans. As he does, he realizes many of his men are dead when he finds Paris, he calls him a coward. Paris encourages Hector and promises that he was fighting. The reinforced Trojan army goes to attack, but Ajax tells Hector that they only win because of Zeus' favor and that they will overcome the Trojans. An eagle flies overhead and the Achaeans cheer, taking this as a sign of favor. Hector declares that he will still be victorious, and the battle continues.



This quote shows how eager Poseidon is to take the first opportunity to help the Achaeans despite Zeus' past threats:

*But the mighty god of earthquakes was not blind.
He kept his watch, enthralled by the rush of battle,
aloft the summit of timbered Samos facing Thrace.
From there the entire Ida ridge swung clear in view,
the city of Priam clear and the warships of Achaea.
Climbing out of the breakers, there Poseidon sat
and pitied the Argives beaten down by Trojan troops
and his churning outrage rose against the Father.
Suddenly down from the mountain's rocky crags
Poseidon stormed with giant, lightning strides
and the looming peaks and tall timber quaked
beneath his immortal feet as the sea lord surged on.
Three great strides he took, on the fourth he reached his goal,
Aegae port where his famous halls are built in the green depths,
the shimmering golden halls of the god that stand forever.
Down Poseidon dove and yoked his bronze-hoofed horses
onto his battle-car, his pair that raced the wind*

*with their golden manes streaming on behind them,
and strapping the golden armor round his body,
seized his whip that coils lithe and gold
and boarded his chariot launching up and out,
skimming the waves. and over the swells they came.
dolphins leaving their lairs to sport across his wake,
leaping left and right-well they knew their lord.
And the sea heaved in joy, cleaving a path for him
and the team flew on in a blurring burst of speed.
the bronze axle under the war-car never flecked with foam,
the stallions vaulting, speeding Poseidon toward Achaea's fleet.*

Iliad 13.12 ff

The Iliad, English Translation by Robert Fagles, Ph.D. New York, NY., Penguin Books
USA.

Book 14:

Nestor finishes helping Machaon, and steps outside to see what is happening on the field. Outside of the tent, he sees the fallen wall and the destruction. He reports to Agamemnon on the status of the war, and finds him alongside Diomedes and Odysseus, all three of them injured. Nestor tells him what he sees going on at the moment, and Agamemnon loses hope. Diomedes and Odysseus remind him to stay strong, and that although they are injured they can still rally their soldiers. They go to encourage their men, and Poseidon comes to Agamemnon to have hope, a battle will go well for the Achaeans soon. Hera is pleased by Poseidon's actions and decides to keep Zeus distracted by taking him to bed. To make sure that Zeus wants to sleep with her, she gets dressed up and requests Aphrodite's breastband from her. However, Hera lies about the reason saying that she is on her way to stop the endless feuding between Oceanus and Tethys. Given the breastband, Hera goes on her way, visiting Sleep, begging him to put Zeus to sleep after she is done with him. At first, he refuses, but upon being offered a bride that he wants, he agrees to do it. With this, Hera goes to Mount Ida, and Zeus asks her where she is going. She tells him the same lie she told Aphrodite. Zeus tells her that saving their love can wait because they need to make love right now. Hera agrees after Zeus explains that he will cover the mountains in a mist to cover them up. Sleep knocks out Zeus then rushes to Poseidon to tell him

to hurry. Poseidon rallies the Achaean men, and Ajax and Hector fight. Hector gets pulled from battle, which encourages the Achaeans even more and terrifies the Trojans.

What is going through Zeus' mind when he sees Hera in Aphrodite's breastband



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This quote reveals how well Hera's plan worked, because the first thing Zeus does when he sees her is forget about the war and desire her:

*Zeus who gathers the breasting clouds. And at one glance
the lust came swirling over him, making his heart race,
fast as the first time-all unknown to their parents-
they rolled in bed, they locked and surged in love.
He rose before her now, he savored her name:
"Hera-where are you rushing?"*

*What wild desire brings you here from Olympus?
Where are the team and car you always ride?"
And filled with guile the noble Hera answered,
"I am off to the ends of the fruitful teeming earth
to visit Ocean, fountainhead of the gods, and Mother Tethys
who nourished me in their halls and reared me well ...
I go to visit them and dissolve their endless feud-
how long they have held back from each other now,
from making love, since anger struck their hearts,
My team stands at the foot of Ida with all her springs,
they wait to bear me over the good dry land and sea.
But now it is you, you I have come to visit, Zeus-
speeding here from the heights of Mount Olympus,
afraid you'll flare in anger against me later
if I should go in secret toward the halls
of the deep, flowing Ocean."
"Why hurry, Hera?"-
Zeus who gathers the breasting clouds replied,
"that is a journey you can make tomorrow. Now-
come, let's go to bed, let's lose ourselves in love!
Never has such a lust for goddess or mortal woman
flooded my pounding heart and overwhelmed me so.
Not even then, when I made love to Ixion's wife*

Iliad 14.354 ff

The Iliad, English Translation by Robert Fagles, Ph.D. New York, NY., Penguin Books
USA.

Book 15:

When Zeus awakes he is furious with Hera for having Poseidon lead the Achaeans and seeing Hector in the miserable state from his battle and escape from Ajax. He threatens to beat her, but she stands up for herself, saying that she didn't encourage Poseidon to take action. Zeus tells her to bring him Iris and Apollo, to stop Poseidon and encourage Hector, respectively. He also lets her know that once Achilles rejoins the battle, that Troy will fall. With this, she goes back to Olympus to get Iris and Apollo but enrages Ares in the process by informing him that his son is dead. Athena prevents Ares from being reckless. Iris is sent to stop Poseidon, at first he doesn't want to give in and considers taking on Zeus. In the end, he decides it isn't worth it and leaves. Apollo goes to Hector and promises to give him a battle path. The battle begins to turn to favor towards the Trojans, but think they can handle the situation until Apollo strikes fear into their hearts. As the Trojans approach the wall intending to chase the Achaeans to their ships, Apollo breaks down the wall. The Achaeans are up against their ships when Patroclus notices from afar what is happening. He was healing the soldier, but he runs to tell Achilles immediately, thinking it might spur him into action. Meanwhile, Ajax attempts to hold back the Trojans and Teucer shoots his arrows. When he takes aim at Hector, Zeus breaks his bowstring. Noticing this, the Trojans are even more motivated, despite Ajax's efforts, Hector reaches one of the ships and calls for it to be set on fire. Ajax has to leave the ship behind, still fighting.



This quote shows how even though the Achaeans want to fight, they know when they cannot and are forced to retreat, especially when the enemy seems to be empowered by the gods:

But Hector, seeing Teucer's arrows in disarray,

let fly a resounding shout to all his units:

"Trojans! Lycians! Dardan fighters hand-to-hand!

Fight like men, my friends, call up your battle-fury-

*make for the hollow ships! I see with my own eyes
how Zeus has blocked their finest archer's arrows.
Easy to see what help Zeus lends to mortals,
either to those he gives surpassing glory
or those he saps and wastes, refuses to defend,
just as he wastes the Argives' power but backs us now.
So fight by the ships, all together. And that comrade
who meets his death and destiny, speared or stabbed,
let him die! He dies fighting for fatherland-
no dishonor there!*

Iliad 15.565 ff

The Iliad, English Translation by Robert Fagles, Ph.D. New York, NY., Penguin Books
USA.

Book 16:

Patroclus makes it to Achilles and explains that they are about to set the Achaean ships on fire, crying for the Achaean losses. Achilles tells Patroclus not to cry because it is shameful, and remarks that they have paid their price for hurting his honor. Since Achilles isn't planning on helping, Patroclus offers up Nestor's plan of having him put on Achilles armor to scare the Trojans. Achilles refuses, but then changes his mind, he can put on his armor and lead the soldiers so long as he only scares them away from the ships and doesn't pursue them further. Meanwhile, Ajax can no longer defend the first ship, and it gets set on fire. Patroclus is in Achilles armor now, and the two go to rally the fighting spirit of Achilles' men and explain the situation. When the soldiers and Patroclus leave, Achilles prays for them, but Zeus is determined to kill Patroclus. In the battle, Patroclus runs the Trojans away from the ships, killing each one that he encounters, including a son of Zeus, Sarpedon. This angers Glaucus, and he calls his soldiers to fight around the body of his friend. Zeus thinks about killing Patroclus and saving Sarpedon, but he decides to let Patroclus gain more glory before he takes him out. Seeing Patroclus fighting well, Hector and the Trojans retreat. Zeus sends in Apollo to grab the body of his son, encourage Hector, and stop Patroclus from entering the city. With the help of Apollo, the Trojans keep fighting though, and Hector and Patroclus battle each other. Apollo removes

Patroclus' armor, a soldier stabs him through the back, and Hector stabs him through the gut, killing him. As Patroclus dies he tells Hector that Achilles will come for him.



This quote shows how even though Achilles can battle, he is not motivated to battle by the Achaeans' need for him:

Enough.

Let bygones be bygones now. Done is done.

How on earth can a man rage on forever?

*Still, by god, I said I would not relax my anger,
not till the cries and carnage reached my own ships.*

*So you, you strap my splendid armor on your back,
you lead our battle-hungry Myrmidons into action*

Iliad 16.70 ff

The Iliad, English Translation by Robert Fagles, Ph.D. New York, NY., Penguin Books
USA.

Book 17:

Menelaus starts a fight over Patroclus' body, the Trojans try to take Achilles' armor. Menelaus stops the first person who tries to grab it, and as he tries to grab the armor of that man, Hector comes to stop him. Menelaus is overpowered by Hector but has Ajax come to try to recover Patroclus' body. Hector has already stolen the armor. Ajax defends the body of Patroclus. Glaucus is still upset over Sarpedon's death and wants to take the body. Hector puts on Achilles armor and returns to the battle. He is empowered by Zeus, who feels pity that he will soon die, and Hector agrees to share half of his war honor and winnings with whoever can take Patroclus' body away from Ajax. Menelaus and Ajax see the Trojans coming for the body and call for help. It isn't enough though, and the Trojans take the body. Angered by this turn of events, the Achaeans rally and chase the Trojans back to their wall. Apollo goes to Aeneas in the form of man and lets him know that Zeus is on their side. The fight over the body lasts a whole day. Achilles knows nothing of his friend's death. He assumes that he is safe, but near the battlefield, his horses weep for Patroclus. One of Achilles men goes to take them farther from the battle, near the ships and ends up in battle instead. Another one of his men goes to take the horses. Back at the struggle for the body, Athena descends in the form of a Phoenix. She encourages him to fight and grants him strength. Menelaus has someone leave to tell Achilles that Patroclus was killed. The Achaeans hope that he will come, but without armor, they don't know if it will be possible. The Achaeans recover Patroclus' body and go to return it to the camp, even with the Trojans chasing them down.



This quote shows how Hector feels that it is best to show off the glory he has gained from killing Patroclus immediately, by leaving the battle to put on Achilles armor:

*With that he loosed a shrill cry to his Trojans,
"Trojans! Lycians! Dardan fighters hand-to-hand-*

*now be men, my friends, call up your battle-fury!
I'll strap on the brave Achilles' armor, burnished armor
I stripped from strong Patroclus when I killed him!"*
*So he cried and his own bronze helmet flashed
as Hector veered away from the heavy fighting,
running after his men and caught them quickly.
They'd not gone far and he ran with eager strides
as they bore Achilles' famous arms toward Troy.
Standing far from the war and all its heartbreak
Hector exchanged his armor, handing his own gear
to his battle-hungry troops to return to holy Troy,
and donned the deathless arms of Peleus' son Achilles,
arms the gods of the sky once gave his loving father-
and Peleus passed them on to his son when he grew old
but the son would not grow old in his father's armor.*
Now,
*when Zeus who arrays the clouds saw Hector from afar,
strapping on the gear of Peleus' godlike son,
he shook his head and addressed his own deep heart:
"Poor soldier. Never a thought of death weighs down
your spirit now, yet death is right beside you ...
You don the deathless arms of a great fighter-
and all other fighters tremble before him, true,
but you, you killed his comrade, gentle, strong,
and against all rights you ripped the immortal armor
off his head and shoulders. So great power for the moment
I will grant you to compensate for all that is to come:
never again will you return from battle, Hector,*

*nor will Andromache take that famous armor.
Achilles' deathless armor, from your hands."
So he decreed
and the son of Cronus bowed his craggy dark brows.
Zeus fitted the armor tightly on Hector's body
and Ares surged in his heart with awesome force,
filling his limbs with power and fighting strength.
And on he strode amidst his illustrious Trojan allies-
calling out with wild cries, now flashing before them all
in the gleaming battle-gear of greathearted Achilles.*

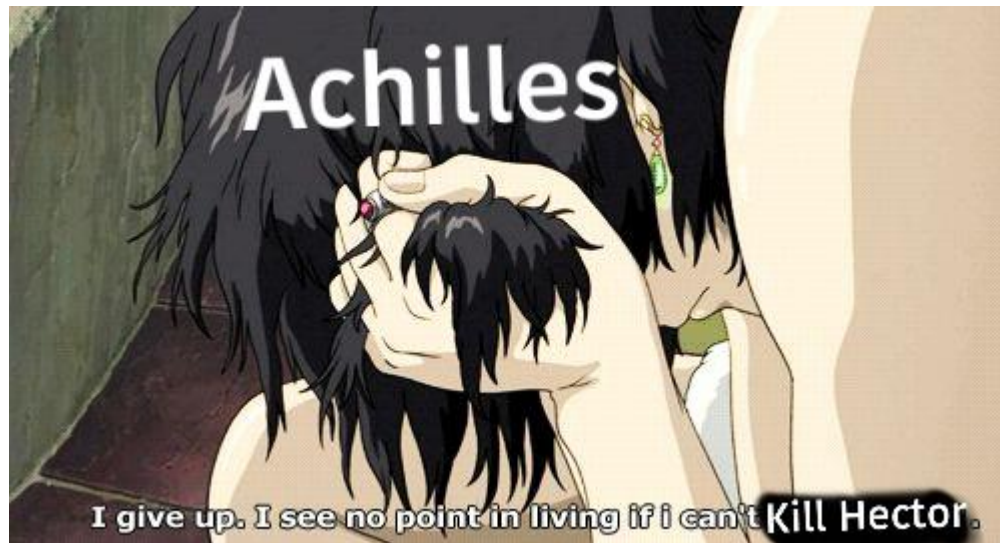
Iliad 17.210 ff

*The Iliad, English Translation by Robert Fagles, Ph.D. New York, NY., Penguin Books
USA.*

Book 18:

Antilochus, the messenger sent to tell Achilles that Patroclus is dead, finishes his mission. Achilles is heartbroken, he cries and mourns for his loss loudly. Thetis hears his cries and goes to comfort her son. He tells her, he has lost all purpose except to kill Hector. His mother tells him that he will die soon after he kills Hector, and to wait until the next day to attack because she will have to get him some new armor from Hephaestus. Back on the battlefield, the chase for Patroclus' body continues. Iris comes to Achilles and tells him to present himself on the battlefield in order to scare away the Trojans. He does this, although he has no armor. As he reaches the field, Athena puts a golden crown on his head, and Achilles yells three times. Each time, Athena echoes the noise, and the Trojans run away in fear. The battle ends for the day with Patroclus' body in Achaean possession. Achilles goes to it and mourns, vowing to kill Hector. Hector claims that he will fight Achilles. Meanwhile, Thetis is welcomed by Hephaestus. She helped him after he was thrown off Olympus by Hera, and is willing to help her, in any way he can. She explains that Achilles will die, but that he needs armor first. Hephaestus is sympathetic and gets to work on the armor. He first makes the shield of Achilles, with images of life in war,

peace, and the location of the land and oceans. He finishes making the rest of the armor as well and gives it to Thetis. Thetis takes the armor and goes on her way.



This quote shows how much the loss of Patroclus has affected Achilles and shifted his goals from maintaining honor to avenging Patroclus:

*And groaning deeply the matchless runner answered,
"O dear mother, true! All those burning desires
Olympian Zeus has brought to pass for me-
but what joy to me now? My dear comrade's dead-
Patroclus-the man I loved beyond all other comrades,
loved as my own life-I've lost him-Hector's killed him,
stripped the gigantic armor off his back, a marvel to behold-
my burnished gear! Radiant gifts the gods presented Peleus
that day they drove you into a mortal's marriage bed ...
I wish you'd lingered deep with the deathless sea-nymphs,
lived at ease, and Peleus carried home a mortal bride.
But now, as it is, sorrows, unending sorrows must surge
within your heart as well-for your own son's death.
Never again will you embrace him striding home.*

*My spirit rebels-I've lost the will to live,
to take my stand in the world of men-unless,
before all else, Hector's battered down by my spear
and gasps away his life, the blood-price for Patroclus,
Menoetius' gallant son he's killed and stripped!"*

Iliad 18.90 ff

*The Iliad, English Translation by Robert Fagles, Ph.D. New York, NY., Penguin Books
USA.*

Book 19:

Thetis brings Achilles his armor. She finds him mourning next to the body of Patroclus. He thanks her for the armor, and says that he will go to war, although he wishes that the body of Patroclus wouldn't deteriorate. She promises to keep the body away from any harm by putting ambrosia and nectar on his nose. After this Achilles leaves to go makeup with Agamemnon. Agamemnon accepts his apology and recognizes that he wasn't in the right mind when he took away Briseis. He claims that he was blinded by Ruin, one of Zeus' daughters, and overs to give Achilles everything that he offered earlier. Achilles tells Agamemnon to do what he sees fit. He craves battle more than anything, but Odysseus stops him by telling him that the rest of the armies crave breakfast. Agamemnon has the gifts sent to Achilles tent, and then they sacrifice to Zeus and begin their meal. Back at Achilles tent, Briseis mourns for Patroclus, remembering how kind he was, and how he would help her get married to Achilles. Achilles cannot eat, he is too upset to do so, so Athena comes and puts ambrosia and nectar in his stomach so that he doesn't collapse on the battlefield. After the other soldiers eat, they prepare to go to battle. As Achilles goes to his horses, he scolds them for letting Patroclus die. They promise to do better, although Apollo killed Patroclus and they couldn't do anything. They also remind him of his death. Achilles gets upset but goes off to begin the battle.



This quote shows how others have to help Achilles take care of himself so that he can revenge Patroclus successfully:

*But Odysseus fine at tactics answered firmly,
"Not so quickly, brave as you are, godlike Achilles.
Achaean's troops are hungry: don't drive them against Troy
to fight the Trojans. It's no quick skirmish shaping,
once the massed formations of men begin to clash
with a god breathing fury in both sides at once.
No, command them now to take their food and wine
by the fast ships-a soldier's strength and nerve.
No fighter can battle all day long, cut-and-thrust
till the sun goes down, if he is starved for food.*

Iliad 19.185 ff

*The Iliad, English Translation by Robert Fagles, Ph.D. New York, NY., Penguin Books
USA.*

Book 20:

Zeus calls a meeting with the other gods, he tells them that he is worried that in his rage Achilles will take Troy too soon. He also allows the gods to get involved again. The battle begins and Achilles goes searching for Hector to kill him. Aeneas sees Achilles first though and is encouraged by Apollo to attack, saying that Aeneas has a stronger family line. Poseidon, Hera, and Athena watch the battle from the sides, although they are routing for the Achaeans. Achilles warns Aeneas not to battle him, but it's for nothing, Aeneas insists on battling. They throw spears at each other, but when Achilles is about to throw a rock at Aeneas when Poseidon saves him. He does so by covering Achilles' eyes with mist and bringing Aeneas away, warning him not to attack until after Achilles has been killed. Achilles, with his eyes now cleared from the mist, goes back to trying to find Hector. In battle, Achilles kills Polydorus, which enrages Hector. Both upset, they start to attack one another. The gods do intervene though, Athena from preventing Achilles from getting hurt, and Apollo removing Hector from the battle. Achilles continues slaughtering the Trojans though, as he looks for Hector once again.



This quote shows how given the freedom to intervene, the gods will do what ever pleases or feels right to them regardless of what side they are on:

*So god went up against god. But blazing Achilles
strained to engage Prince Hector, plunge in battle
with him beyond all others-Achilles yearning now
to glut with Hector's blood, his, no other,
Ares who hacks at men behind his rawhide shield.
But Aeneas it was whom Phoebus, urger of armies,
filled with power now and drove against Achilles.
Phoebus, masking his voice like Priam's son Lycaon,
like him to the life the son of Zeus called out,
"Captain of Trojan councils-where have they gone,
those threats you made in your cups before the kings?
Boasting you'd face Achilles man-to-man in battle!"
But Aeneas turned and gave the god an answer:
"Son of Priam, why press me to go against Achilles?
It's much against my will-his fury is overwhelming*

Iliad 20.90 ff

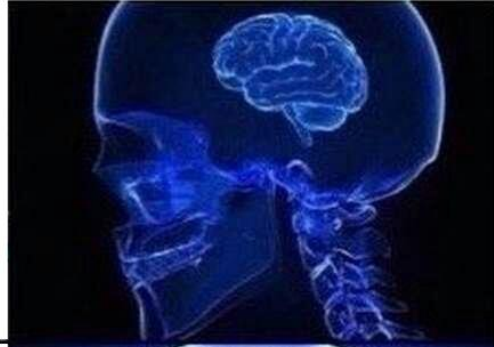
*The Iliad, English Translation by Robert Fagles, Ph.D. New York, NY., Penguin Books
USA.*

Book 21

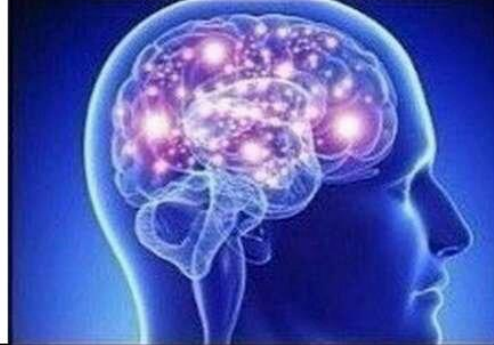
Achilles backs the Trojans into the Xanthus river. Half of the army goes towards the city, and the other half tries to cross the river to escape him. Achilles kills as many of them as he can get his hands on, including Lycaon. Lycaon was put into slavery by Achilles before, he has only been free twelve days when they meet on the battlefield. He begs for his life, but it is useless, Achilles kills him. When he is finished, Achilles tosses his body into the river so that the body

will flow to the sea and never be buried. Xanthus, the river, begins to get upset but does nothing. However, as the number of dead puts in its waters grow, Xanthus calls out to Apollo to protect the Trojans. Hearing this, Achilles attacks the river. The river attempts to drown Achilles, but Poseidon and Athena reassure him that he will survive long enough to kill Hector. Things seem grim for Achilles at the moment though because Xanthus calls for help his brother, Simois. Seeing this Hera calls in the help of Hephaestus, who makes the rivers boil into submission using his fire. The gods have joined the battle at this point. Ares goes after Athena, and after beating him up, Athena goes after Aphrodite. Poseidon decides to challenge Apollo, but Apollo refuses to take him on in battle. Artemis calls him a coward, but when Hera goes after her by hitting her in the ear, she too leaves the battle. The gods decide to leave the battle but Achilles carries on fighting causing terrifying destruction. Priam tries to let his soldiers back into Troy, and thanks to Agenor guarding them, Achilles doesn't storm the city. Achilles fights Agenor, who was inspired by Apollo, and after nearly getting hurt, Apollo switches places with Agenor, taking his form in the process. Then Apollo runs away, distracting Achilles so that the Trojans can enter their walls.

Letting the
Trojans escape



Fighting Trojans
And leaving the bodies
On land



Fighting Trojans and
throwing bodies in River



Fighting the River
so you can throw
Trojans on it



This quote reveals that Achilles is willing to challenge anyone who gets in his way, as he is blinded by his goal of killing Hector:

*And the breakneck runner only paused to answer,
"So be it, Scamander sprung of Zeus-as you command.
But I, I won't stop killing these overweening Trojans.*

*not till I've packed them in their walls and tested Hector,
strength against strength-he kills me or I kill him!"*

*Down on the Trojan front he swept like something superhuman
and now from his deep whirls the river roared to Phoebus,
"Disgrace-god of the silver bow and born of Zeus!
You throw to the winds the will of Cronus' son-
time and again Zeus gave you strict commands:
Stand by the Trojan ranks and save their lives
till the sun goes down at last and darkness shrouds
the plowlands ripe with grain!"*

*When he heard that
Achilles the famous spearman, leaping down from the bluff,
plunged in the river's heart and the river charged against him.
churning, surging, all his rapids rising in white fury
and drove the mass of corpses choking tight his channel,
the ruck Achilles killed-Scamander heaved them up
and bellowing like a bull the river flung them out
on the dry land but saved the living, hiding them down
the fresh clear pools of his thundering whirling current
but thrashing over Achilles' shoulders raised a killer-wave—
the tremendous thrust of it slammed against his shield
and he staggered, lost his footing, his arms flung out
for a tall strong elm, he clung but out it came by the roots,
toppling down, ripping away the whole cliff. blocking the stream
with a tangled snarl of branches crashing into it full length
to dam the river bank to bank-Bursting up from a whirlpool
Achilles dashed for the plain, his feet flying in terror
but the great god would not let up, hurling against him,*

*Scamander looming into a murderous breaker, dark, over him,
dead set on stopping the brilliant Achilles' rampage here
and thrusting disaster off the struggling Trojan force—*

Iliad 21.250 ff

The Iliad, English Translation by Robert Fagles, Ph.D. New York, NY., Penguin Books
USA.

Book 22:

After Apollo reveals himself to Achilles, Achilles runs furiously to the gates of Troy. Standing outside waiting for him is Hector. Priam, watching from inside the city walls, begs Hector come inside the walls. Hector says that he will fight instead ashamed that he did not make better choices for his army when they needed him to. However, when Hector sees Achilles, he starts to run away. Achilles chases him around the walls of the city three times. As they continue going around, Zeus almost lets Hector escape, but Athena tells him not to. She goes down to the two heroes, she encourages Achilles, then goes to Hector in the form of his dead brother, Deiphobus. She tells Hector that together they can beat Achilles, so Hector turns to fight. Before the battle begins, he attempts to make a deal with Achilles, saying that if he kills Achilles, he will give him a proper burial. Achilles never takes him up on the deal, he throws his spear instead. Hector believes that he will be alright and throws his spear in return. It hits Achilles shield, meanwhile, Athena has handed Achilles back his own spear. Hector goes to get another spear from Deiphobus, but he isn't there, and Hector realizes he has been tricked by the gods. Hector continues to fight, however, and Achilles stabs him in the neck. Hector begins to die and asks for a proper burial in Troy. Achilles tells him that he will feed his body to dogs instead. Other Achaeans come to see and stab Hector's body. Achilles was about to storm Troy when he remembers he has to bury Patroclus. So instead of leaving the body to be taken, he ties Hector's body to his chariot and drags it across the ground on his way back to camp. Hector's mother, father, and wife all run to the walls in mourning, seeking Hector but unable to get him.



This quote shows how terrified Hector is of being caught by Achilles, and also the endurance that Achilles has in his pursuit of Hector:

*so Achilles flew at him, breakneck on in fury
with Hector fleeing along the walls of Troy,
fast as his legs would go. On and on they raced,
passing the lookout point, passing the wild fig tree
tossed by the wind, always out from under the ramparts
down the wagon trail they careered until they reached
the clear running springs where whirling Scamander
rises up from its double wellsprings bubbling strong-
and one runs hot and the steam goes up around it,
drifting thick as if fire burned at its tore
but the other even in summer gushes cold
as hail or freezing snow or water chilled to ice . . .
And here, dose to the springs, lie washing-pools
scooped out in the hollow rocks and broad and smooth*

*where the wives of Tray and all their lovely daughters
would wash their glistening robes in the old days,
the days of peace before the sons of Achaea came ...
Past these they raced, one escaping, one in pursuit
and the one who fled was great but the one pursuing
greater, even greater-their pace mounting in speed
since both men strove, not for a sacrificial beast
or oxhide trophy, prizes runners fight for, no,
they raced for the life of Hector breaker of horses.
Like powerful stallions sweeping round the post for trophies,
galloping full stretch with some fine prize at stake,
a tripod, say, or woman offered up at funeral games
for some brave hero fallen-so the two of them
whirled three times around the city of Priam,*

Iliad 22.171 ff

*The Iliad, English Translation by Robert Fagles, Ph.D. New York, NY., Penguin Books
USA.*

Book 23:

Back at the Achaean camp, Achilles promises to sacrifice twelve Trojan prisoners when Patroclus is buried and defiles Hector's body more by throwing it in the dirt. The men eat, and then Achilles goes to the sea to rest. He refuses to wash off the blood of Hector until Patroclus is buried. When Achilles goes to sleep Patroclus' ghost comes to him and tells him to burn his body, but to put his ashes in an urn that the two will share. Achilles attempts to hold the ghost, but he cannot. The next day, Achilles lights a pyre for his friend, sacrificing the animals and prisoners. The pyre doesn't light though and Achilles has to request to get it going from the gods. The pyre lasts all night, and the next day they put the ashes away. When they go to bury it though, they leave a small pile of dirt on top, because they will have to dig up the urn for Achilles' death very soon. Then Achilles plans some athletic events in honor of Patroclus. The first event is a chariot race, and Achilles lays out the prizes. Nestor gives the racers some words

of advice and the race begins. It is a very close race, but Diomedes is the winner. Achilles distributes the prizes according to how they raced, giving the best horseman a better prize than his position in the race dictated. The next event that happens is boxing. A man named Epeus wins without any real or difficult challenges. The third event is wrestling. Ajax the Greater and Odysseus go head to head, but neither one can beat the other, so they split their prize. The next one is the race, Ajax the lesser was about to win when Athena made him trip in dung. Odysseus wins. The fifth event was an armored battle, Diomedes and Ajax the Greater go head to head, but Diomedes is declared the winner by Achilles. Then there is an iron throwing competition. After that is archery, Teucer gets second to Meriones for forgetting to pray to Apollo. Last is spear throwing, Achilles gives this one to Agamemnon right away, for being the best at this task.



This quote shows how the Achaeans use the games as a part of mourning, but also as it helps ease the pain by focusing on prizes:

*In tears they gathered their gentle comrade's white bones,
all in a golden urn, sealed with a double fold of fat,
and stowed the urn in his shelter, covered well
with a light linen shroud, then laid his barrow out.
Around the pyre they planted a ring of stone revetments
piled the loose earth high in a mound above the ring
and once they'd heaped the barrow turned to leave.
But Achilles held the armies on the spot.
He had them sit in a great and growing circle-
now for funeral games-and brought from his ships
the trophies for the contests: cauldrons and tripods,
stallions, mules and cattle with massive heads,*

women sashed and lovely, and gleaming gray iron.

First.

for the fastest charioteers he set out glittering prizes:

Iliad 23.289 ff

*The Iliad, English Translation by Robert Fagles, Ph.D. New York, NY., Penguin Books
USA.*

Book 24:

Even after the funeral games though, Achilles still is upset about losing Patroclus. He keeps Hector's body tied to his chariot to drag around Patroclus' tomb three times a day. Apollo protects the corpse from damage though, and the gods feel bad about this treatment. They want Hermes to go steal the body, however, Athena, Hera, and Poseidon insist that Achilles keep it in order to shame the Trojans. Apollo justifies his position since Hector always honored the gods. Zeus, in the end, takes Apollo's side and has Thetis tell Achilles to give Hector's body to Priam. He also has Iris tell Priam to offer Achilles a ransom for Hector's body. When Thetis visits him, she sees he is still mourning, but he agrees to turn over the body. Priam agrees to give a ransom. He calls his other sons useless compared to Hector. Priam's wife thinks that the ransom is pointless because Achilles will not turn over the body but to ensure that he will be safe, asks Zeus for a sign. Zeus sends an eagle overhead and, Priam goes on his way. Hermes comes in the form of a stranger to help him on his travels, Hermes tells him that Hector's body is being preserved. When Priam arrives, he asks Achilles to think of the mourning of his own father. Touched, Achilles sits down with him to talk, but Priam wants to get to the body of his son. Achilles warns Priam not to anger him. Achilles has Hector's body cleaned and dressed, while he shares a meal with Priam. After the meal, Priam wants to return home to sleep and asks Achilles to call a truce so he can mourn for Hector. They decide to pause the fighting for twelve days. Hermes leads Priam with Hector part of the way to Troy. Once inside the walls, Andromache, Priam's wife, and even Helen cry at the body of Hector. They bury the body and mourn for the next twelve days.

Achilles realizing that Hector's Family has to mourn too



This quote reveals that Achilles' hate and rage is softened by Priam's visit to pick up Hector's body:

*"Remember your own father, great godlike Achilles-
as old as I am, past the threshold of deadly old age!
No doubt the countrymen round about him plague him now,
with no one there to defend him, beat away disaster.
No one-but at least he hears you're still alive
and his old heart rejoices, hopes rising, day by day,
to see his beloved son come sailing home from Troy.
But I-dear god, my life so cursed by fate ...
I fathered hero sons in the wide realm of Troy
and now not a single one is left, I tell you.
Fifty sons I had when the sons of Achaea came*

*nineteen born to me from a single mother's womb
and the rest by other women in the palace. Many,
most of them violent Ares cut the knees from under.
But one, one was left me, to guard my walls, my people-
the one you killed the other day, defending his fatherland,
my Hector! It's all for him I've come to the ships now,
to win him back from you-I bring a priceless ransom.
Revere the gods, Achilles! Pity me in my own right,
remember your own father! I deserve more pity ...
I have endured what no one on earth has ever done before-
I put to my lips the hands of the man who killed my son."
Those words stirred within Achilles a deep desire
to grieve for his own father. Taking the old man's hand
he gently moved him back.*

Iliad 24.570 ff

*The Iliad, English Translation by Robert Fagles, Ph.D. New York, NY., Penguin Books
USA.*