

# Illiad Extra Credit

Roman Kuhn

## Book 1 of the *Iliad*

The *Iliad* begins with the poet invoking a prayer to the muses to help tell the story of Achilles. The story takes place soon after the Achians have attacked a town. After the attack, they take two girls, Chryseis and Briseis. Agamemnon, commander of the army, chooses to take Chryseis and Achilles, the greatest Achilean warrior, chooses to take Briseis. However, the father of Chryseis, Chryses invokes Apollo to bring a plague upon the Acheans. A soothsayer reveals that this plague was due to Chryses and Apollo taking revenge on the Acheans. Agamemnon decides to give back Chryseis but demands for Achilles' Briseis. They argue but before Achilles draws his sword to kill Agamemnon, Athena comes down to calm him down. Agamemnon puts Chryseis on a ship to sail back with Odysseus. Chryses, happy his daughter has returned, lifts the plague. Achilles prays to his mother, Thetis the sea-nymph, to ask Zeus to punish the Acheans. Zeus listens to Thetis and relents to help the trojans. But because Hera favors the Greeks she becomes furious at Zeus. Hephaestus, her son, is successful from keeping the gods from fighting over mortals.



This quote reveals how Agamemnon seeks to take Achilles prize after his must be given back. It is the main point of conflict in this book.

Mighty Agamemnon then said in reply:

[130]

“Achilles, you’re a fine man, like a god.  
But don’t conceal what’s hidden in your heart.  
You’ll not deceive me or win me with your words.  
You intend to keep your prizes for yourself,  
while the army takes my trophy from me.  
That’s why you tell me to give Chryseis back.

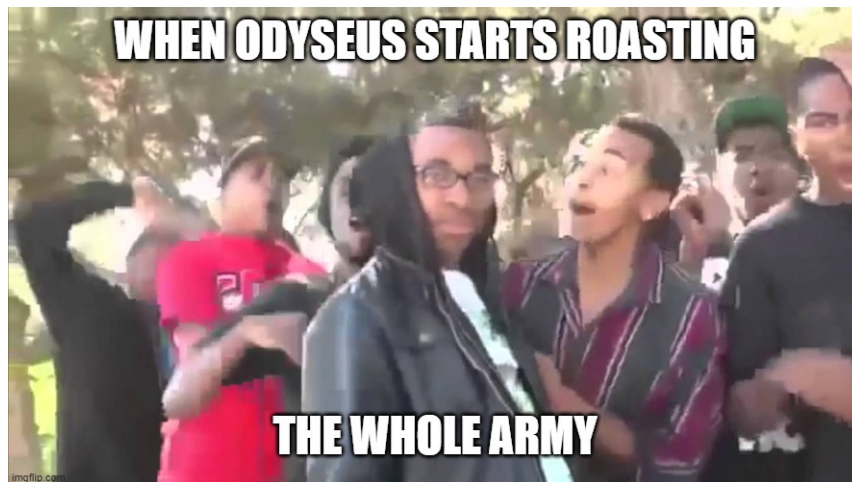
Let Achaeans give me another prize,  
equal in value, something I'll enjoy.  
If not, then I'll take a prize myself by force, 150  
something from you or Ajax or Odysseus.  
The man I visit is going to be enraged.  
But let's postpone discussion of all this. [140]  
Let's drag a black ship to the sacred sea,  
select a crew, load oxen on for sacrifice,  
and Chryseis, that fair-complexioned girl.  
Let's have as leader some wise counsellor—  
Idomeneus, Ajax, godlike Odysseus,  
or you, Peleus's son, most eminent of all,  
so with an offering we may appease 160  
the god who shoots from far away."

*Illiad* 1.130 ff

Translation by Ian Johnston, of Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC, Canada.  
<http://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/homer/iliad1.htm> accessed 4/25/2019

## Book 2 of the *Iliad*

Agamemnon is sent a false dream by Zeus where a figure, Nestor, convinces Agamemnon he can take Troy with a full frontal assault on the city walls. Deciding to test his men, Agamemnon feigns giving up. His men are quick to return to the ships. Seeing this, Hera alerts Athena, who inspires Odysseus to bring the men back by hurling both words of encouragement and insults. He reminds them of their promise to not give up in the assault. Agamemnon arranges his troops by city and family, as persuaded by Nestor. Here, Homer talks about the Greek army, making note of the great warriors Ajax and Achilles. He then talks about the Trojan army, led by Hector.



This quote reveals how Odysseus encouraged his men to keep fighting, an important moment in book 2.

Odysseus moved throughout the army, calming things.  
From ships and huts, soldiers rushed to reassemble,  
echoing like waves of the roaring sea crashing on shore,  
as Ocean thunders on. Men sat calmly in their places.  
But a single man kept on yelling out abuse—  
scurrilous Thersites, expert in various insults,  
vulgar terms for inappropriate attacks on kings,  
whatever he thought would make the Argives laugh.  
Of all the men who came to Troy, he was the ugliest—  
bow legged, one crippled foot, rounded shoulders  
curving in toward his chest. On top, his pointed head  
sprouted thin, scraggly tufts of hair. Achilles hated him,  
as did Odysseus, too, both subject to his taunts.  
But now Agamemnon was the target of his gibes.  
The Achaeans, despising Thersites in their hearts,  
were furious at him. But he kept shouting out,

[210]

250

[220]



aiming noisy insults right at Agamemnon:

*Illiad* 2.207 ff

Translation by Ian Johnston, of Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC, Canada.

<http://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/homer/iliad2html.html> accessed 4/25/2019

## Book 3 of the *Iliad*

The two armies meet. Paris offers to fight any man in one on one combat, however when Menelaus challenges him Paris cowards away. Hector insults Paris, telling him to man up. The two agree to a fight one on one to end the war. Helen goes to the city gates to watch the troops fight with Priam but leaves because she does not want to watch. During the duel, Menelaus nearly kills Paris but Aphrodite rescues him and brings Helen too. Agamemnon demands compensation, saying the duel was won.



This quote reveals how Melenaus and Paris fought while Helen watched, the main thing happening in this book.

As Menelaus said these words, he sprang forward,  
grabbing the horse hair crest on Paris's helmet,  
twisting him around. He began dragging Paris off,  
back in the direction of well-armed Achaeans.  
The fine leather strap stretched round Paris's soft neck,  
right below his chin, was strangling him to death.  
At that point Menelaus would have hauled back Paris  
and won unending fame, if Aphrodite, Zeus's daughter,  
had not had sharp eyes. Her force broke the ox-hide strap,  
leaving Menelaus clutching in his massive hands  
an empty helmet. Whipping it around, Menelaus  
hurled the helmet in among well-armed Achaeans.  
His loyal companions retrieved it. He charged back,

410

[370]

420

with his bronze spear, intent on killing Alexander.  
But Aphrodite had snatched Paris up—for a god  
an easy feat—concealed him in a heavy mist,  
and placed him in his own sweetly scented bedroom.

[380]

*Illiad* 3.410 ff

Translation by Ian Johnston, of Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC, Canada.  
<http://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/homer/iliad3html.html> accessed 4/25/2019

## Book 4 of the *Iliad*

While the mortals had reached somewhat of a truce, the Gods began fighting as well. While Zeus thinks the duel was won, Hera is unsatisfied. Zeus reluctantly sends Athena to get everyone to start fighting again. Athena has the archer Pandarus fire at Menelaus, but deflects the arrow so it won't kill him at the last second. Agamemnon then assembles the troops and motivates them into battle. Odysseus and Ajax kill many Trojans with the efforts to end the war having failed.



This quote shows after the Gods interfere how rallied up Agamemnon became.

"Dear brother, that oath I swore to was your death—  
letting you step forward to fight Trojans,

as Achaea's champion. For now the Trojans  
have shot you, walking roughshod on their oaths,  
that treaty they swore to in good faith. But still,  
the oath, lambs' blood, unmixed libations,  
handshakes, things in which we placed our trust—  
all these will not go in vain. For if Zeus,  
the Olympian, does not fulfill them now,  
later on he will. Trojans will pay much—  
with their heads, their wives, their children.  
I know in my mind and heart that day will come  
when holy Troy, Priam, and his people,  
fine spearmen, will be annihilated,  
when high-ruling Zeus, son of Cronos,  
who dwells in the sky, angry at their lies,  
will shake his dark aegis against them all.  
These things will be fulfilled. But, Menelaus,  
I'll be in dreadful pain on your account,  
if you die, if Fate now ends your life,  
if I return to Argos totally disgraced.  
For Achaeans immediately will think of home,  
leaving Priam and his Trojans here in triumph,  
abandoning Helen, an Argive woman.  
Your bones will lie rotting here in Trojan soil,  
recalling the work we failed to finish.  
Then some arrogant Trojan, leaping up  
onto the tomb of famous Menelaus,  
will shout:

[160]  
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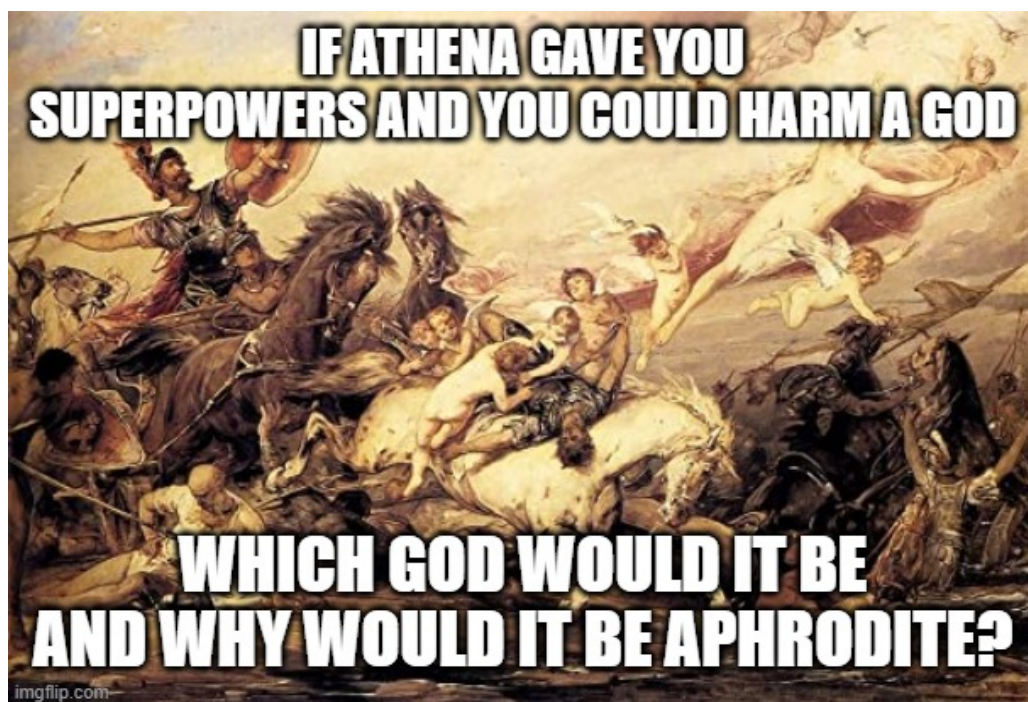
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*Illiad* 4.181 ff

Translation by Ian Johnston, of Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC, Canada.  
<http://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/homer/iliad4html.html> accessed 4/25/2019

## Book 5 of the *Iliad*

The Greek hero Diomedes is wounded by Pandarus. Diomedes receives the equivalent of superpowers after praying to Athena, but with this she issues a stern warning: not to fight anyone who is a God and who isn't Aphrodite. Diomedes tears through the battlefield, killing Pandarus and Aeneas. After this Diomedes wounds even Aphrodite, then Apollo, thus breaching the contract he made with Athena. As the Trojan heroes begin to overpower the Greeks, Hera and Athena ask for permission from Zeus to help the Greeks. He allows this. Athena then takes back the restrictions on Diomedes superpower, and in an epic moment, Diomedes fights Ares, wounding him. Zeus lets Ares know he deserved the injury and Athena and Hera leave the battle.



This quote shows that even Zeus tells Aphrodite that warfare is not her business. She is the main cause of this war and was targeted by Diomedes.

When they spoke, the father of gods and men smiled,  
called for golden Aphrodite, and then said to her:

"My child, this warfare is not your business.  
You should concern yourself with your own work—  
love, especially erotic love in marriage.  
Swift Ares and Athena will take care of this."

*Illiad* 5.507 ff

Translation by Ian Johnston, of Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC, Canada.

<http://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/homer/iliad5html.html> accessed 4/25/2019



## Book 6 of the *Iliad*

Because the Gods have left the battlefield, the Greeks begin to have the upperhand once more. Menelaus captures Adrestus, a Trojan, and considers taking ransom for his life but Agamemnon persuades him to kill him. Sensing the fall of the Trojans Nestor urges his men to push on while they are still winning. While this happens, Hector takes a soothsayer's advice and asks his mother to pray for mercy at Athena's temple. Hector then scolds his brother, Paris, for being cowardly and not fighting. Before returning to the fight, he visits his wife and child. He confronts his fate and leaves for the battle field.



This quote shows the ruthlessness of war in this book. It also shows an important moment in this book.

Adrestus pleaded. Menelaus's heart in his chest was moved.  
He was about to hand Adrestus to his attendant,



to take back captive to the fast Achaean ships.  
But then Agamemnon came running up to him,  
sharply criticizing Menelaus:

60

“Menelaus, you soft-hearted man,  
why are you sparing men’s lives like this?  
In your own home, Trojans treated you  
exceptionally well, did they not?  
So don’t let any one of them evade  
a terrible destruction at our hands—  
not even the young child still carried  
in his mother’s belly. Let no one escape.  
Let everyone in Troy be slaughtered,  
without pity, without leaving any trace.”

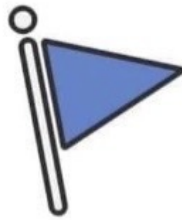
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*Illiad* 6.58 ff

Translation by Ian Johnston, of Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC, Canada.  
<http://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/homer/iliad6html.html> accessed 4/25/2019

## Book 7 of the *Iliad*

Hector and Paris return to the battle. As the battle ramps up, Apollo and Athena decide to stop the fighting and instead plan a duel. Hector challenges the Greeks to find someone strong enough to challenge him. Menelaus takes him up on that offer but is talked out of it by Agamenon. After a lottery to decide who will fight Hector, Ajax wins and him and Hector go at it. They fight, but the fight is called off around nightfall. The two sides agree for a day to bury their dead. The Greeks build up fortifications during the day of respite as the Gods watch.



# Marked Safe From FIGHTING HECTOR Today

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This quote shows how Hector and Ajax stopped fighting and made amends.

Once Hector spoke,	290
he balanced his long-shadowed spear and hurled it.	
He hit Ajax's fearful seven-layered shield	
on the outer covering of bronze, its eighth layer.	
The tireless spear tore its way through six layers.	
But it stopped at the seventh. Then noble Ajax,	
in his turn, threw his long-shadowed spear at Hector.	
His spear hit the even circle of Hector's shield,	[250]
broke through the glittering shield, and forced its way	
through the breast plate and tunic covering his ribs.	
Hector twisted to one side, evading a black fate.	300
The two men then both pulled the long spears from their shields	
and charged each other, like flesh-eating lions	

or savage boars, whose strength is inexhaustible.  
 With his spear Hector struck the centre of Ajax's shield,  
 but the bronze did not break through—its point bent aside.  
 Then Ajax charged ahead and speared Hector's shield, [260]  
 breaking clean through and striking Hector as he lunged.  
 Its motion slashed at Hector's neck. Dark blood seeped out.  
 But Hector of the shining helmet did not stop the fight.  
 He stepped back, picked up in his powerful hand a rock 310  
 lying there on the plain, a huge black jagged stone.  
 With this he hit Ajax's seven-layered shield  
 on its central boss, making the bronze ring out.  
 Then Ajax, in his turn, seized a much bigger stone,  
 swung it round and threw it with tremendous force.  
 The rock, like a millstone, hit Hector's shield and smashed it. [270]  
 Strength drained from Hector's limbs. He was thrown on his back,  
 with his shield pressing him on top, weighing him down.  
 At once Apollo raised him up. Now they would have fought  
 hand to hand with swords, if heralds, those messengers 320  
 of gods and men, had not stepped in, one from Trojans,  
 one from bronze-clad Achaeans—two trusted men,  
 Talthylus and Idaios. They held out their staffs,  
 symbols of their herald's office, between the two.  
 Then herald Idaios, a wise and prudent man, spoke out:

"You dear lads, fight no more. End this combat.  
 Cloud-gatherer Zeus cares for you both. [280]  
 You're both fine fighters. We all know that.  
 But night already is approaching.  
 And it's good to be persuaded by the night." 330

*Illiad* 7.290 ff

Translation by Ian Johnston, of Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC, Canada.  
<http://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/homer/iliad7html.html> accessed 4/25/2019

## Book 8 of the *Iliad*

Zeus forbids other Gods from interfering in the mortals' war. After weighing the fate of the two sides in his scale, he recognizes that fate favors the Greeks. To even things out he evens things out by raining lightning upon the Greeks. Hector uses this opportunity to attack, almost killing Nestor. Hera, seeing the disaster, has Agamemnon rally the troops. They pray for mercy from Zeus and receive it. Hector kills a powerful archer and continues driving the Greeks back. Athena, Hera and Zeus, meet on Mount Olympus where he tells them that only Achilles can save the Greeks. The Trojans await the next day.



This quote shows how the Acheans were asking for help from the Gods after Zeus was raining lightning bolts on them.

Once more Olympian Zeus put force into the Trojans.  
They drove Achaeans back, right back to their deep trench,  
Hector at the front, proudly showing off his strength.  
Just as some hunting dog in a swift-footed chase

gets a grip on a wild boar or lion from the back,  
on the flank or rump, and watches that beast's every move, [340]  
that's how Hector harried the long-haired Achaeans,  
always killing off the stragglers as they fled.  
By the time Achaeans had rushed through the stakes,  
as they crossed the ditch, many had died at Trojan hands. 400  
At last they halted by the ships and stayed there,  
calling out to one another. Raising their hands,  
each man prayed fervently to all the gods.  
Hector drove his fine-maned horses back and forth,  
his eyes glaring like a Gorgon or man-killing Ares.

*Illiad* 8.335 ff

Translation by Ian Johnston, of Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC, Canada.  
<http://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/homer/iliad8html.html> accessed 4/25/2019

## Book 9 of the *Iliad*

The Greeks sit in their base with low morale. Agamemnon starts crying, saying the war was ultimately a failure and suggests they head back. Diomedes refuses and instead insists on fighting. Nestor also insists on fighting and suggests that Agamemnon should reconcile with Achilles. Agamemnon sees the value in this idea and rounds up some heroes to help. The heroes find Achilles with Patroclus. Achilles refuses their offer even after Phoenix begs him. Unsuccessful, the heroes return and the army wallows in sadness.



This quote shows how Agamemnon is sad and feels as though coming to Troy was a mistake.

Meanwhile, as the Trojans maintained their careful watch,  
Panic, chilling Fear's dread comrade, gripped Achaeans,  
their best men suffering unendurable anguish.  
Just like those times two winds blow in from Thrace—  
North Wind and West Wind suddenly spring up  
and lash the fish-filled seas—black waves at once rise up,  
then fling seaweed in piles along the shoreline—  
so spirits in Achaean chests were now cast down.  
Atreus' son, heart overwhelmed with painful sorrow,  
went to give out orders for clear-voiced heralds  
to summon all the warriors to assembly,

calling them one by one, not with a general shout.  
He himself, with his heralds, carried out the task.  
The counsellors sat heartsick. Agamemnon stood,  
his face shedding tears like a black water spring  
whose dark stream flows down a sheer rock precipice.  
With a sigh, Agamemnon addressed the Argives:

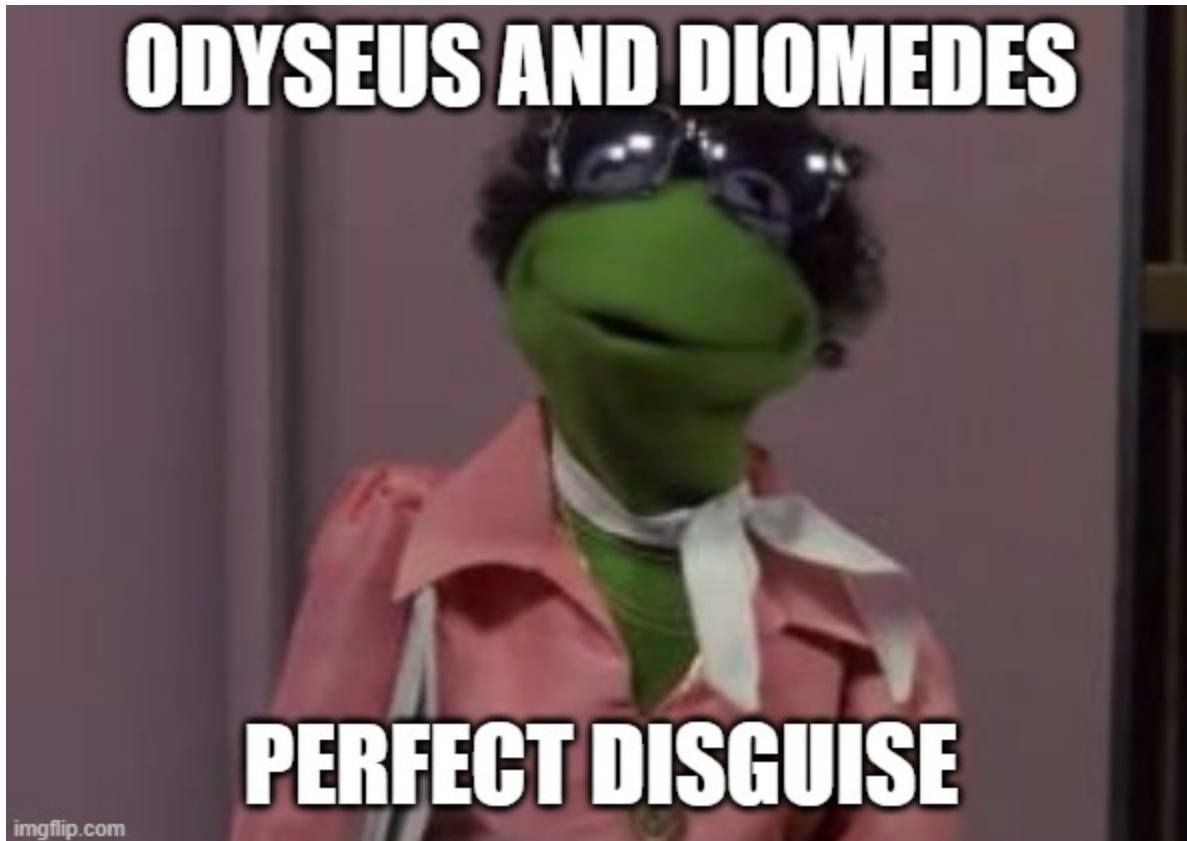
“My friends, leaders, Argive counsellors,  
Zeus, son of Cronos, has snared me badly  
in grievous folly. Deceptive god, 20  
he promised me—he nodded his assent—  
that I’d lay waste to well-built Ilion, [20]  
before I went back home. Now he tricks me  
He’s devised a cruel deceit for me,  
telling me to return to Argos in disgrace,  
after the deaths of so many warriors.  
That’s what now delights all-powerful Zeus,  
who has hurled down so many lofty towns,  
and who’ll still demolish many more—  
such is his power, irresistible. 30  
But come, let’s all follow what I propose—  
let’s sail back to our dear native land.  
For we’re never going to capture Troy.”

*Illiad* 9.0 ff

Translation by Ian Johnston, of Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC, Canada.  
<http://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/homer/iliad9html.html> accessed 4/25/2019

## Book 10 of the *Iliad*

Everyone wakes up the next morning. Planning their next course of action, they decide to infiltrate with a spy. Diomedes and Odysseus set off to the Trojan camp. While this is happening, the Trojans have their own plan. Hector picks Dolon to scout out the Greeks, promising him his chariot when they fall. Dolon comes into contact with Odysseus and Diomedes. They interrogate him then kill him. The two spies proceed to a camp where they kill many soldiers and their king. They steal their chariot and horses and ride back to the Greek camp.



This quote shows how Diomedes and Odysseus put on disguises.

Nestor spoke. The others were quiet, saying nothing.  
Then Diomedes, expert in war cries, spoke up:

260

"Nestor, my heart and my proud spirit prompt me  
to infiltrate the hostile Trojans' camp,  
which stands close by. But another man  
should come with me. Things would go much better.  
We'd have more confidence. When two set out,

[220]



one may see something good before the other.  
A man alone might notice it, but his mind  
is less perceptive, less resourceful, than two.”

*Illiad* 10.259 ff

Translation by Ian Johnston, of Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC, Canada.  
<http://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/homer/iliad10html.html> accessed 4/25/2019

## Book 11 of the *Iliad*

The morning after, the Greeks are sent into a frenzy after Zeus rains blood upon them. After suffering major losses, they begin to turn the tides. Hector is informed by an informant of Zeus to wait until Agamemnon is wounded to strike. Agamemnon is wounded in battle, but kills his adversary. Hector sees his opportunity and seizes it, leading the charge against the Greeks. However, he is struck by a spear thrown by Diomedes, forcing Hector to retreat. During the fighting, Diomedes is taken out of commission by an arrow shot by Paris. Hector rejoins the fighting, while Patroclus and Achilles inspect an injured man on a chariot. The man, Machaon, begs Patroclus, Achilles' companion, to persuade Achilles to fight, or at the very least, wear his armor to scare the enemy. Patroclus agrees to this.

Mom, can we have **ACHILLES** ?

No. There is **ACHILLES** At Home

At home...

**PATROCLUS IN  
ACHILLES ARMOR**

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This quote shows how Patroclus was in Achilles armor.

That's what the old man said. But you forget.  
Even now, if you'd speak to fierce Achilles,  
you might persuade him. Who knows? Some god

[790]

might help you shift his spirit with your words.  
A friend's persuasion is an excellent thing.  
But if his heart knows of some prophecy  
that he's avoiding, something from Zeus  
his mother's mentioned to him, then at least 920  
let him send you to war, in command  
of other Myrmidons—it may well be  
you'll prove a saving light to the Danaans.  
Let him also give you his fine armour  
to carry into battle, so Trojans may confuse  
the two of you and thus refrain from fighting. [800]  
Achaean's warrior sons are tired out.  
They might gain a breathing space, something rare  
in warfare. Your troops are fresh. They might drive  
Trojans worn out with fighting to the city, 930  
far from our ships and huts."

*Illiad* 11.790 ff

Translation by Ian Johnston, of Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC, Canada.  
<http://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/homer/iliad6html.html> accessed 4/25/2019

## Book 12 of the *Iliad*

The Greek's base will not hold for much longer, as it is set to be obliterated by the Gods when Troy falls. Although they build a trench to stop chariots from advancing, Hector simply orders the men to get out of their chariots and continue the siege on foot. Polydamas, a young commander, sees a serpent drop from an eagle in the sky. Although Polydamas interprets this as bad fortune, Hector refuses to give up the siege. The Greeks struggle to hold off the Trojans. The Trojans breach their defenses and the Greeks retreat.



This quote shows how the defense the Achaeans built ultimately will not stop the siege brought on by Hector.

What Polydamas had just proposed pleased Hector.

[80]

With his weapons, he jumped from his chariot to the ground.

The other Trojans did not hesitate. Seeing him do that, they leapt quickly from their chariots and left them there.

Each man told his charioteer to keep the horses

in good order by the ditch. The men broke up in groups and organized themselves to form five companies, with each one following its own leadership.	90
Some went with Hector and worthy Polydamas. They were the best and most numerous, especially keen to breach the wall and fight on at the hollow ships.	[90]
Cebriones went with them as third commander. Paris led the second group, along with Agenor and Alcatous. Helenus and godlike Deiphobus, two sons of Priam, led the third contingent, with a third commander, warlike Asius, son of Hyrtacus, whose huge horses had carried him all the way from Arisbe by the Selleïs river.	100
The fourth group of warriors was headed by Aeneas, Anchises' brave son, with Archelochus and Acamas, two sons of Antenor, well skilled in all the elements of war. The famous allies Sarpedon led. He'd chosen to command with him Glaucus and warlike Asteropaeus, for they seemed clearly the best of all the others, after himself, for among them all he was pre-eminent.	[100]
These men linked themselves with sturdy bull's hide shields, then in their eagerness made straight for the Danaans. They thought no one could stop them, as they charged the ships.	110

*Illiad* 12.80 ff

Translation by Ian Johnston, of Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC, Canada.  
<http://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/homer/iliad12html.html> accessed 4/25/2019

## Book 13 of the *Iliad*

When Zeus leaves the site of the battle, Poseidon steps in. He comes to Little Ajax and Great Ajax in the form of Calchas and speaks words of encouragement to them. After restoring the spirits of the Greeks, they now attempt to fight back against Hector and the Trojans. Hector accidentally kills a grandson of Poseidon, making Poseidon furious. In his rage Poseidon gives powers to Idomeneus who attacks the Trojans. Polydamas convinces Hector to regroup his forces, but later finds out many of them are dead. An eagle appears on Ajax's right after he insults Hector, signifying good fortune for the Greeks.



This quote shows how Ajax the greater and Ajax the lesser were encouraged by Poseidon's words of encouragement.

At that point, Trojans, like some fire or windstorm,  
marched behind Hector, son of Priam, in a mass,  
shouting and screaming with excitement, hoping  
to seize Achaean ships and kill the best men there.  
But Poseidon, who encircles and shakes the earth,  
roused the Argives, once he moved up from the sea.  
Taking on the shape and tireless voice of Calchas,  
he first spoke to the Ajaxes, both keen to fight.(1)

[40]

“You Ajaxes, you must save Achaean troops. 50  
 Think of your fighting power, not cold flight.  
 In other places, I don’t fear the Trojans,  
 whose powerful arms have brought hordes of them [50]  
 across our wall. For well-armed Achaeans  
 will check them all. But I fear them here,  
 where we may experience disaster,  
 because of Hector, who leads their charge.  
 He’s like a man possessed, a blazing fire,  
 as if he were a son of mighty Zeus.  
 But perhaps some god will inspire the hearts 60  
 in both your chests, so you two can stand firm.  
 You could get other men to do the same.  
 Hector may be keen, but you could push him  
 back from our swift ships, even if Zeus himself  
 is driving him ahead.”

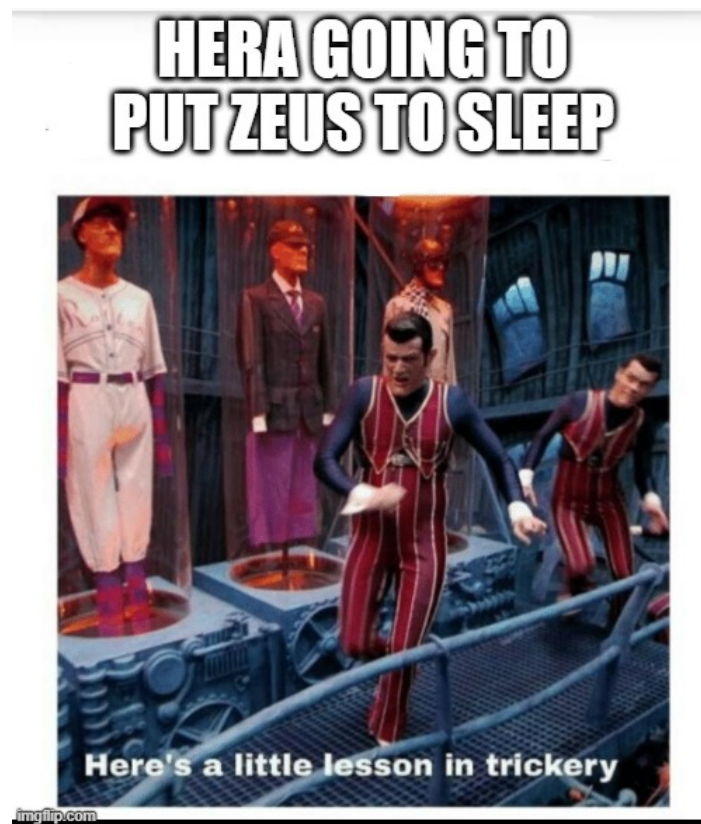
Poseidon finished speaking.  
 Then, the shaker and encircler of the earth  
 touched both men with his staff, infusing them [60]  
 with power, strengthening their legs and upper arms.  
 Then Poseidon left. Just as a swift-winged hawk  
 takes off while hovering above some high sheer rock, 70  
 swooping down over the plain to hunt another bird—  
 that how Earthshaker Poseidon went off then.  
 Swift Ajax, son of Oileus, was the first  
 to recognize the god. At once he spoke to Ajax,  
 son of Telamon:

*Illiad* 13.39 ff

Translation by Ian Johnston, of Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC, Canada.  
<http://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/homer/iliad13html.html> accessed 4/25/2019

## Book 14 of the *Iliad*

The Achaeans survey the field to assess how many men they lost. Agamemnon considered giving up, to which Odysseus dismisses as cowardly. Meanwhile, Diomedes rallies the truth. Posiedon gives strength to the Greeks. Meanwhile, Hera conspires to distract Zeus so she can aid the Achaeans. She visits Aphrodite and tricks her into giving her a breast band imbued with love. After obtaining this she offers one of her daughter's hand in marriage to the embodiment of sleep, in exchange for putting Zeus to sleep. The two go to Zeus on Mount Ida, and after Zeus has intercourse with Hera, he falls asleep. With Zeus asleep, Hera and Poseidon are now able to help the Greeks. They charge the trojans and during the onslaught Hector is knocked to the ground with a boulder by Ajax. The Trojans suffer heavy losses with Hector gone and begin retreating.



This quote shows how Hera sought to put Zeus to sleep for an opportunity to intervene with the mortals.

As this was happening, on a peak of Mount Olympus  
Hera of the golden throne was standing watching.  
She recognized her brother-in-law at once,  
as he kept busy in the war where men win glory,  
for he was her brother and her husband's, too.



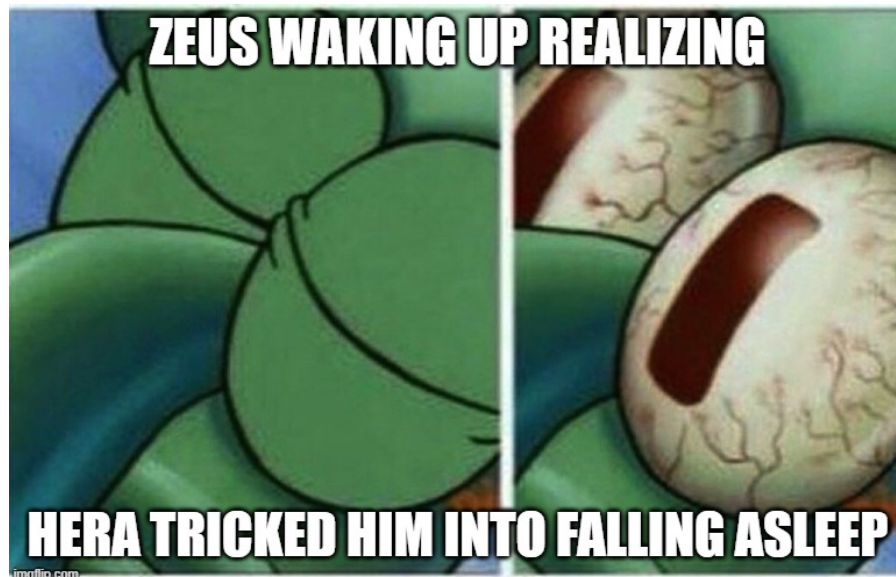
Hera's heart was pleased. She looked across at Zeus,  
 sitting on the highest peak on top of Ida,  
 with its many fountains. Hatred filled her heart.  
 So ox-eyed queen Hera then began considering  
 how she might deceive the mind of aegis-bearing Zeus. [160]  
 In her heart the best course of action seemed to be  
 to make herself look most attractive, go to Ida,  
 then see if Zeus would want to lie down with her,  
 embrace her, and make love. Then she could pour out  
 on his eyelids and his crafty mind a deep warm sleep. 200  
 She went off to her bedroom, which Hephaestus,  
 her dear son, had made for her, with close-fitting doors  
 set against their posts, secured with a secret lock,  
 which no other god could open. She went in there,  
 then closed the shining doors. First, with ambrosia [170]  
 she washed from her lovely body all the stains,  
 then rubbed her skin with fragrant oil, divinely sweet,  
 made specially for her. If this perfume were merely stirred  
 inside Zeus's bronze-floored house, its scent would then diffuse  
 throughout heaven and earth. She used this perfume 210  
 all over her fair body, then arranged her hair.  
 With her own hands she combed her shining locks in braids,  
 a stunning style for an immortal goddess.  
 Then she wrapped around herself a heavenly robe,  
 which Athena made for her from silky fabric,  
 adorning it with gorgeous embroidery.  
 She pinned the robe around her breast with golden brooches. [180]  
 On her waist she put a belt with a hundred tassels.  
 Hera then fixed earrings in her pierced ear lobes,  
 each with three gemstones, an enchanting glitter. 220  
 Next the queen of goddesses placed on her head  
 a fine new dazzling shawl, white as the sun.  
 She then slipped lovely sandals over her sleek feet.

*Illiad* 14.186 ff

Translation by Ian Johnston, of Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC, Canada.  
<http://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/homer/iliad14html.html> accessed 4/25/2019

## Book 15 of the *Iliad*

Zeus awakens to the destruction that has been caused by Hera and Poseidon. Hera attempts to place the blame on Poseidon, but Zeus actually does not care. He lets Hera know that he intends to help the Trojans again and that Troy will still fall after Hector kills Patroclus. Poseidon leaves the site of the battle after being asked by Iris while Apollo finds Hector and helps him lead a charge against the Greeks. The fighting continues and Ajax and Hector square off once again. An archer, Teucer, kills many Trojans until Zeus snaps his bow when he takes aim at Hector. Hector pushes the Greeks far back into their camp, near their ships.



This quote shows the ruthlessness of war in this book. It also shows an important moment in this book.

Trojans, in full retreat, passed the wall and ditch,  
with many slaughtered by Danaans. Then they stopped,  
regrouping by their chariots, pale with fear, terrified.  
At that point Zeus, lying on the peaks of Ida  
alongside Hera of the golden throne, woke up.  
He stood up quickly, looked at Trojans and Achaeans,  
saw Trojans running off with Argives driving them  
from the back, among them god Poseidon.  
He saw Hector lying on the plain, his companions  
sitting round him. Hector was gagging painfully,  
dazed and vomiting blood. The warrior who struck him  
was not the weakest of Achaeans. Watching him,  
the father of gods and men pitied Hector.  
Looking at Hera with a fearful scowl, Zeus said:

“You’re impossible to deal with, Hera,  
 devising such deceitful tricks to get  
 lord Hector from the fight and make the army  
 run away. But I think you may be the first  
 to get rewarded for your wretched scheme,  
 when I flog you with my whip. Don’t you recall 20  
 the time I strung you up on high, putting  
 two anvils on your feet, tying your wrists  
 with unbreakable gold rope? You hung there, [20]  
 in the air among the clouds. Other gods,  
 all through Olympus, were very anxious,  
 but just stood there, unable to untie you.  
 If I’d caught one trying, I’d have grabbed him,  
 tossed him from the threshold so he hit ground,  
 his strength all gone. But even with all that,  
 I couldn’t ease the constant pain I felt 30  
 for god-like Hercules. You and North Wind  
 drove him with storm blasts over restless seas.  
 Your evil scheming later carried him  
 to well-settled Cos. I rescued him from there  
 and brought him back to horse-breeding Argos, [30]  
 but only after he’d endured too much.  
 I’ll remind you of these things once more,  
 so you’ll stop your malicious trickery,  
 so you’ll see the advantages you get  
 from this seduction, this couch where you lay 40  
 to have sex with me, when you came from the gods  
 intending to deceive me.”

*Illiad* 15.0 ff

Translation by Ian Johnston, of Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC, Canada.  
<http://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/homer/iliad15html.html> accessed 4/25/2019

## Book 16 of the *Iliad*

Patroclus begs Achilles to either fight or lend his armor to Patroclus. Achilles agrees to lend his armor but only under the condition that Patroclus will only fight long enough to drive the Trojans away from the ships. Achilles makes a prayer to Zeus asking him to keep Patroclus safe. The sight of what the men think is Achilles changes the battle, as the Trojans begin to retreat. Patroclus begins killing all Trojans in his sight. Hera keeps Zeus from interfering in the fight, but Zeus still decides to kill Patroclus for slaying his offspring, Sarpedon. After Hector begins retreating, Patroclus pursues the Trojans further, breaking the promise he made to Achilles. Apollo sneaks up behind Patroclus while he is fighting for the Cebriones's armor. Hector kills Patroclus and Patroclus tells of Hector's imminent death.



This quote shows how Patroclus agreed to stay near the ships and not venture too far out.

“Zeus, king, lord of Dodona, Pelasgian,  
you who live far off, ruling cold Dodona,  
around whom live the Selli, your prophets,  
with unwashed feet, who sleep upon the ground,  
you heard me when I prayed to you before.  
You gave me honour then by striking hard  
at the Achaean army. So grant me now  
what I still desire. I intend to stay  
beside this group of ships, but I’m sending out  
my comrade and my many Myrmidons.

280

[240]

Send glory with him, all-seeing Zeus.  
Strengthen the heart inside his chest, so Hector  
sees if Patroclus can fight on alone 290  
or if his hands are always conquering  
only when I'm with him in the raging war,  
in the centre of the havoc Ares brings.  
But when he's pushed the fight and battle noise  
back from the ships, let him return to me,  
here at my hollow ships, without a scratch,  
with all his weapons and companions,  
men who battle in the killing zone."

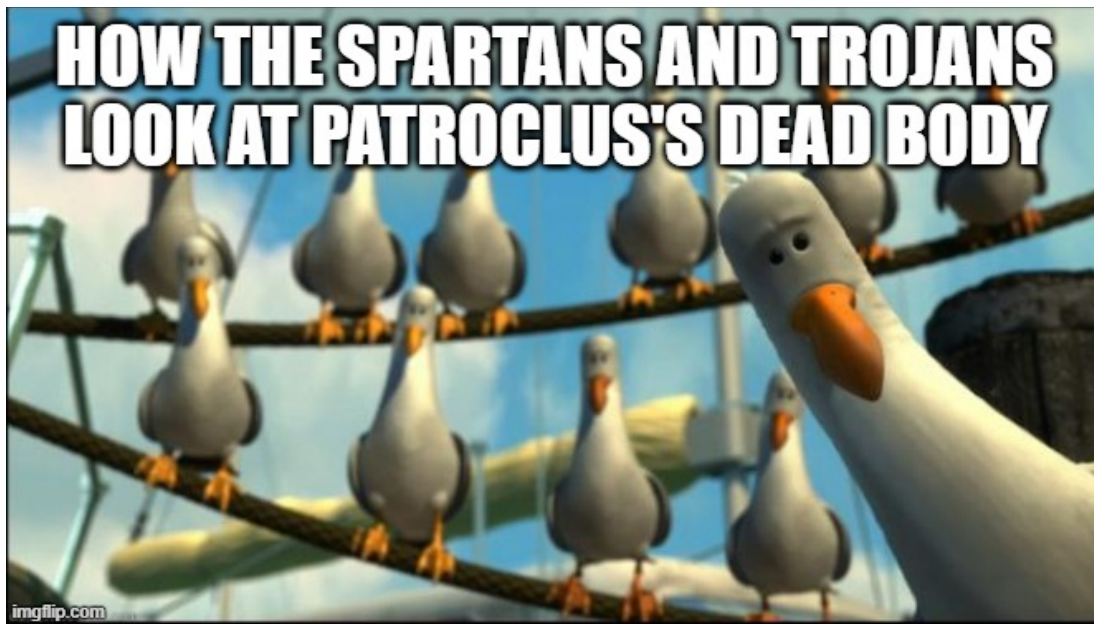
So Achilles prayed.  
Counsellor Zeus heard his prayer. He granted part of it, [250]  
part he denied. Father Zeus agreed that Patroclus 300  
should drive the battle fighting from the ships,  
but not that he would come back safely from the war.  
Once Achilles had made his libation and prayed  
to Father Zeus, he went back into his hut,  
put the goblet in the chest, came out, and stood there,  
before his hut, still wishing in his heart  
to see the fatal clash of Trojans and Achaeans.

*Illiad* 16.278 ff

Translation by Ian Johnston, of Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC, Canada.  
<http://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/homer/iliad16html.html> accessed 4/25/2019

## Book 17 of the *Iliad*

Both sides fight for Patroclus's body. The Trojan who first attacked Patroclus, Euphorbus, is killed by Menelaus, which triggers Hector to come and fight, but he is subsequently attacked by Ajax, but not before Hector can put on Achilles armor. Hector offers rewards for any Trojan who can take Patroclus's body. Zeus grants Hector temporary superpowers. Despite all of the fighting no side is able to claim Patroclus's body. While Athena gives strength to Menelaus in the form of Phoenix, Apollo lends encouragement to Hector. Achilles is still unaware of the death of his friend. Zeus continues to help the Trojans but allows Menelaus and Meriones the time to retrieve Patroclus's body.



This quote shows how the two groups fight over Patroclus's dead body.

In that battle, warlike Menelaus, son of Atreus,  
noticed that the Trojans had just killed Patroclus.  
Dressed in gleaming armour, he strode through the ranks  
of those fighting in the front, then made a stand  
over the corpse, like a mother beside her calf,  
looking over her first born, with no experience  
of giving birth till then. In just that way,  
fair-haired Menelaus stood above Patroclus.  
In front of him he held his spear and a round shield,  
eager to kill anyone who might come at him.  
But Euphorbus, son of Panthous, with his ash spear,  
also knew that brave Patroclus had been killed.  
Moving up close to the dead body, he spoke out,  
addressing warlike Menelaus:

10

[10]

“Divinely raised Menelaus, son of Atreus,  
leader of men—go back. Leave this corpse.  
Abandon these battle trophies. No Trojan  
and no famous ally hit Patroclus  
before I struck him with my spear  
in that murderous fight. So let the Trojans  
give me the honour and the fame. If not,  
I’ll steal your sweet life with one spear throw.”

20

*Illiad* 17.0 ff

Translation by Ian Johnston, of Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC, Canada.  
<http://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/homer/iliad17html.html> accessed 4/25/2019

## Book 18 of the *Iliad*

Achilles is unable to control his emotions when he receives word of Patroclus's death. He cries so hard that his mother, a water-nymph, comes to see what is wrong. After hearing the tragedy she will have Hephaestus make a new set of armor for him. Achilles understands that him choosing the warrior life will result in him dying young but he accepts this. Iris tells Achilles that he should make an appearance on the battlefield. His appearance and cry sends the Trojans retreating. That night each camp plans their strategy moving forward. Hector dismisses Polydamas's idea of retreating now that Achilles has returned. The Achaeans mourn the death of Patroclus. Hephaestus forges new armor for Achilles.



This quote shows the pain that Achilles is put in after he receives the news that Patroclus is dead.

Antilochus finished speaking.  
A black cloud of grief swallowed up Achilles.  
With both hands he scooped up soot and dust and poured it  
on his head, covering his handsome face with dirt,



covering his sweet-smelling tunic with black ash. 30  
 He lay sprawling—his mighty warrior’s massive body  
 collapsed and stretched out in the dust. With his hands,  
 he tugged at his own hair, disfiguring himself.  
 The women slaves acquired as battle trophies  
 by Achilles and Patroclus, hearts overwhelmed  
 with anguish, began to scream aloud. They rushed outside  
 and beat their breasts around warlike Achilles. [30]  
 Then all the women’s legs gave way, and they fell down.  
 Across from them, Antilochus lamented,  
 eyes full of tears, as he held Achilles by the hand. 40  
 Achilles’ noble heart moaned aloud. Antilochus  
 feared he might hurt himself or slit his throat  
 with his own sword. Achilles gave a huge cry of grief.  
 His noble mother heard it from the ocean depths  
 where she was sitting by her ancient father.  
 She began to wail. Then around her gathered  
 all the divine daughters of Nereus deep in the sea—  
 Glauce, Thaleia, Cymodoce, Nesaea,  
 Speio, Thoe, ox-eyed Halië, Cymothoë, [40]  
 Actaia, Limnoreia, Melite, Iara, 50  
 Amphithoe, Agave, Doto, Proto,  
 Pherousa, Dynamene, Dexamene,  
 Amphinome, Callianeira, Doris, Panope,  
 lovely Galatea, Nemertes, Apseudes,  
 Callianassa. Also there were Clymene,  
 Ianeira, Ianassa, Maera, Orithyia,  
 Amatheia with her lovely hair, and others,  
 Nereus’ daughters living in the ocean depths.  
 They filled the glistening cave, beating their breasts. [50]  
 Thetis led them all in their laments:

*Illiad* 18.26 ff

Translation by Ian Johnston, of Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC, Canada.  
<http://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/homer/iliad18html.html> accessed 4/25/2019

## Book 19 of the *Iliad*

Achilles is given the armor that Hephaestus has forged for him by Thetis. Thetis promises to keep Patroclus's body from rotting. Achilles assembles his men and makes amends with Agamemnon. Agamemnon promises gifts and Briseis to Achilles. Although Achilles is ready to start fighting immediately, Odysseus convinces him to wait until everyone has eaten first. Achilles mourns and doesn't eat. Zeus pities Achilles and fills his belly with nectar and ambrosia, the food of the gods. Achilles insults his horses for allowing his dear friend to die. His horse reminds him it was not his fault but rather a god who made Patroclus die and Achilles too will die from a god. Achilles accepts this.



This quote shows how Achilles makes amends with Agamemnon.

"Son of Atreus, has it been good for us,  
for you and me, to continue squabbling  
in a heart-rending quarrel full of grief  
for both of us, over some girl? I wish  
she'd been killed by Artemis's arrow

right beside my ships, the day I got her  
as my prize, after we destroyed Lyrnessus.  
Fewer Achaeans would have sunk their teeth  
into this wide earth at enemy hands,  
if I'd not been so angry. That's really helped  
lord Hector and his Trojans. But Achaeans,  
will, I think, long recall this argument  
you and I have had. Still, though it hurts,  
we should let all this pass, repressing hearts  
within our chests—we must do that. So now,  
I end my anger. It's not appropriate  
for me to remain enraged for ever.  
But come, quickly urge long-haired Achaeans  
on to battle, so I may go out once again  
to face the Trojans and see if they still wish  
to spend the night beside our ships. I think  
many of them will be glad to get some rest,  
the ones who escape this deadly warfare  
and who evade my spear.”

[60]

80

[70]

*Illiad* 19.67 ff

Translation by Ian Johnston, of Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC, Canada.  
<http://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/homer/iliad19html.html> accessed 4/25/2019

## Book 20 of the *Iliad*

The Greeks and Trojans prepare for battle. Zeus has council with the rest of the gods, worried that the city of Troy will be destroyed before it is fated to do so. Zeus takes back his previous rule about not intervening on the mortals behalf. The gods go to the battle site and watch the fighting ensue. Encouraged by Apollo, Aeneas challenges Achilles but loses. Before he is killed by Achilles, however, Poseidon whisks him away. Later on in the fight, Hector also challenges Achilles, almost loses, but is saved by Apollo.



The quote below shows how Apollo stops Hector from fighting Achilles.

With these words,  
Hector raised his spear and threw it. But Athena,  
with the slightest puff of breath, blew it aside,  
away from glorious Achilles, turning it back  
to godlike Hector. It landed there beside his feet.  
Then, with a terrifying shout, Achilles charged,  
lusting to kill. But Apollo snatched up Hector,

[440]

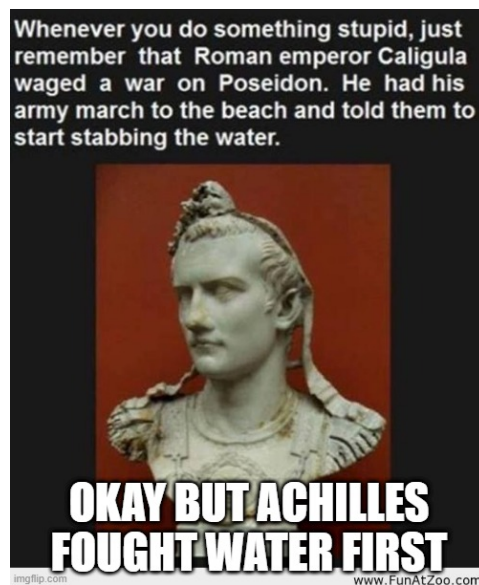
something a god can do with ease, then hid him  
in thick cloud. Swift-footed, godlike Achilles  
charged that cloud three times, striking hard each time  
with his bronze spear. When for the fourth time  
he came on like a god with a terrific shout,  
Achilles cried out these winged words to Hector:

*Illiad* 20.436 ff

Translation by Ian Johnston, of Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC, Canada.  
<http://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/homer/iliad20html.html> accessed 4/25/2019

## Book 21 of the *Iliad*

Achilles drives the Trojans back and pursues them into a riverbank. He kills a son of Priam, Lycaon. He begins killing many Trojans, throwing them all into the river. He throws so many dead bodies in the river that the river god asks him to stop throwing people in there. Achilles relents, but when the river god begins to favor the Trojans and help them Achilles attacks the river. They fight and Achilles almost dies and is only saved after the gods intervene. The gods begin arguing about the war. Athena fights Ares and Aphrodite. Poseidon fights Apollo but Apollo refuses, Artemis fights Hera. Priam opens the gates to allow the retreating Trojans to enter. Achilles goes after Priam but instead is challenged by Agenor, a Trojan prince. He fights with Agenor and then Apollo disguised as Agenor while the Trojans retreat.



This quote shows how Achilles fought with the river god.

Saying this, Scamander crested high against Achilles,  
then charged, seething with foam and blood and corpses.  
The dark wave of the heaven-fed river rose, towering  
above Achilles, about to overwhelm him.  
But Hera, afraid for Achilles, cried out, fearing  
the great, deep, swirling river would sweep him off.  
She called out to Hephaestus, her dear son:

390

[330]

“Rouse yourself,  
my crippled child. We think that you’re a match  
for swirling Xanthus in a fight. Come quickly.  
Help Achilles with a giant outburst

of your flames. I'll stir up some winds—  
West Wind's harsh sea blasts and white South Wind—  
to whip on your destructive fires, so they may burn  
dead Trojans and their weapons. You must go  
along the river banks, burning trees,  
attacking river Xanthus with your flames.  
Don't let him slow you down in any way,  
not with gentle words or making threats.  
Don't check your fury till I tell you to.  
I'll give you a shout. Then you can pull back  
your inexhaustible fire."

400

[340]

*Illiad* 21.390 ff

Translation by Ian Johnston, of Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC, Canada.  
<http://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/homer/iliad21html.html> accessed 4/25/2019



## Book 22 of the *Iliad*

Hector faces off against the Greeks after all the other Trojans have retreated inside Troy's walls. Priam begs Hector to come back inside but Hector, being overly prideful, decides to stand his ground and fight. Zeus considers helping Hector, but after testing the scales of fate, he realizes that it is time for Hector to die. After negotiations fail between Achilles and Hector, Hector flees. After running around Troy's walls, Athena tricks Hector into staying and fighting. Achilles, knowing the weak spots in his own armor, impales Hector with a lance. Hector asks Achilles to bring his body back to Troy, but Achilles says no. The other Greeks desecrate Hector's corpse. Achilles drags Hector's body behind the back of his chariot. The king, queen, and Hector's wife see this happening and are stricken with grief.



This quote shows how Hector was tricked by Athena into fighting Achilles.

Goddess Athena with her glittering eyes replied:

"Dear brother, my father, my noble mother,  
and my comrades begged me repeatedly  
to stay there. They all so fear Achilles.  
But here inside me my heart felt the pain  
of bitter anguish. Now, let's go straight for him.  
Let's fight and not hold back our spears,

[240]

300



so we can see if Achilles kills us both,  
then takes the bloodstained trophies to the ships,  
or whether you'll destroy him on your spear."

With these words, Athena seduced him forward.  
When they had approached each other, at close quarters,  
great Hector of the shining helmet spoke out first:

“I’ll no longer try to run away from you,  
 son of Peleus, as I did before, going  
 three times in flight around Priam’s great city.  
 I lacked the courage then to fight with you,  
 as you attacked. But my heart prompts me now  
 to stand against you face to face once more,  
 whether I kill you, or you kill me.  
 So come here. Let’s call on gods to witness,  
 for they’re the best ones to observe our pact,  
 to supervise what we two agree on.  
 If Zeus grants me the strength to take your life,  
 I’ll not abuse your corpse in any way.  
 I’ll strip your celebrated armour off,  
 Achilles, then give the body back again  
 to the Achaeans. And you’ll do the same.”

*Illiad* 22.238 ff

Translation by Ian Johnston, of Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC, Canada.  
<http://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/homer/iiliad22html.html> accessed 4/25/2019

## Book 23 of the *Iliad*

At the Achaean base, the Achaeans continue mourning the loss of Patroclus. Achilles eats and in his dream Patroclus visits him and asks Achilles to bury him so he can go to the underworld. The next day Achilles lights Patroclus funeral pyre. Achilles hosts athletic games in honor of Patroclus. Prizes are awarded which Diomedes wins. Achilles considers giving the prizes of second place to Patroclus, but this starts a big argument. After the argument everyone makes amends.



This quote shows how Achilles suggested honor Patroclus by giving him the second place prize.

“The best man brings up his sure-footed horses  
in last place. Come, let’s give him a prize,  
as seems fitting—the award for second place.  
Let Diomedes take the first-place prize.”

Achilles spoke. They all agreed with his suggestion.  
So now he would have given Eumelus the mare,

[540]

as Achaeans had agreed, but Antilochus,  
great-hearted Nestor's son, stood up to claim his right.  
Addressing Achilles, son of Peleus, he said:

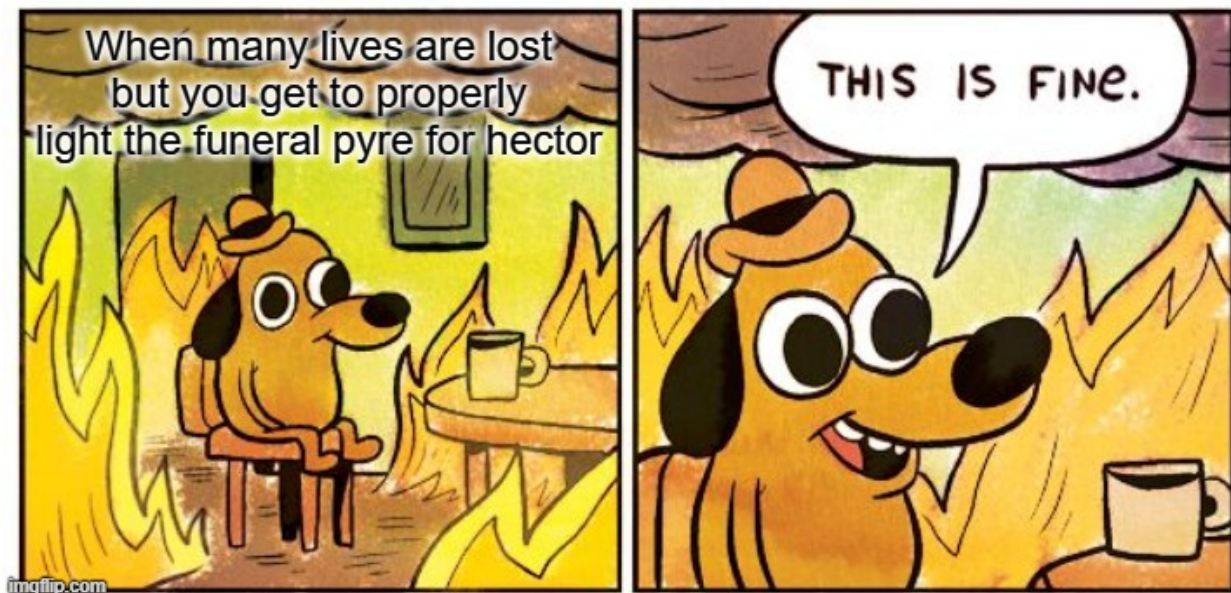
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*Illiad* 23.535 ff

Translation by Ian Johnston, of Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC, Canada.  
<http://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/homer/iliad23html.html> accessed 4/25/2019

## Book 24 of the *Iliad*

Achilles doesn't stop abusing Hector's dead body and mourning Patroclus. Apollo asks Zeus to let Hector's body be given back to the Trojans. Zeus asks Thetis, Achilles' mother to ask Achilles this. While queen Hecuba is scared that Achilles will kill Priam, Zeus reassures her. Priam begs for Hector's body back, begging Achilles to think of his own father. Achilles cries and agrees to give the corpse back. Priam sleeps in Achilles tent but Hermes warns him not to sleep with the enemy. Priam wakes and leaves the camp unnoticed with Hector's body. Everyone cries in grief seeing Hector's body. They cease fighting for 10 days, allowing the Trojans to give Hector's body a proper burning.



This quote shows how they light a pyre for hector.

Priam finished.

The people hitched up mules and oxen to their wagons and then gathered before the city with all speed. For nine days they brought in wood, an immense amount. When the tenth dawn came, they brought brave Hector out, then, all in tears, laid his corpse on top the funeral pyre. They set it alight. When rose-fingered Dawn came up, they gathered around that pyre of glorious Hector. Once they'd all assembled there together, first they doused the pyre with gleaming wine, every part that fire's strength had touched. His brothers and comrades collected Hector's ash-white bones, as they mourned him— heavy tears running down their cheeks—and placed them

970

[790]

in a golden urn, wrapped in soft purple cloth.  
They quickly set the urn down in a shallow grave,  
covered it with large stones set close together,  
then hurried to pile up the mound, posting sentries  
on every side, in case well-armed Achaeans  
attacked too soon. Once they'd piled up the mound,  
they went back in, gathered together for a splendid feast,  
all in due order, in Priam's house, king raised by Zeus.  
And thus they buried Hector, tamer of horses.

980

*Illiad* 24.963 ff

Translation by Ian Johnston, of Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo, BC, Canada.  
<http://johnstoniatexts.x10host.com/homer/iliad24html.html> accessed 4/25/2019