



MYTHOPOUCH

RETELLING

THE ILIAD

Guides And Tables

Volume VII of seven - Appendix

A modern educational version for readers aged 15 and up

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APPENDIX

CHAPTER 30: PRONUNCIATION GUIDE TO GREEK NAMES

Greek names can look intimidating on the page, but they are far less fearsome once you know how to say them. In this guide, stressed syllables appear in capital letters. Most Greek names place the accent on one of the later syllables, giving them a musical lift that English speakers sometimes find surprising. Where a character has both a Greek name and an epithet or alternative name, both are included.

Name	Pronunciation	Role in the Iliad
Achaean	ah-KEE-ans	The collective name for the Greek

forces at Troy

Achilles	ah-KILL-eez	Greatest Greek warrior; son of
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Peleus and Thetis; protagonist

Adrestus	ah-DRES-tus	Trojan warrior killed by Patroclus
Aeneas	ee-NEE-as	Trojan prince; son of Aphrodite

and Anchises; second only to
Hector

Aethiopis	ee-thee-OH-pis	Lost epic about Achilles's death
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and the Amazons' arrival

Agamemnon	ag-ah-MEM-non	King of Mycenae; supreme
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commander of the Greek forces

Agelaus	ah-jeh-LAY-us	Trojan warrior
Agenor	ah-JEN-or	Trojan warrior; Apollo disguises

himself as Agenor to deceive
Achilles

Ajax the Great (Telamon)	AY-jaks	Strongest Greek warrior after
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Achilles; son of Telamon

Ajax the Lesser (Oileus)	AY-jaks	Swift Greek fighter; son of Oileus
Alcimedon	al-SIM-eh-don	Myrmidon warrior; charioteer
Alcmaon	al-KEE-mon	Greek warrior
Amphimachus	am-FIM-ah-kus	Greek warrior
Andromache	an-DROM-ah-kee	Wife of Hector; daughter of Eetion
Antenor	an-TEE-nor	Trojan elder; advises returning

Helen

Antilochus	an-TIL-oh-kus	Son of Nestor; dear friend of
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Achilles

Aphrodite	af-roh-DY-tee	Goddess of love; supports the
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Trojans

Apollo	ah-POL-oh	God of archery, music, plague, and
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prophecy; supports the Trojans

Arcesilaus	ar-ses-i-LAY-us	Greek warrior
Ares	AIr-eez	God of war; supports the Trojans
Argos	AR-gos	Major Greek city; home of

Diomedes

Artemis	AR-teh-mis	Goddess of the hunt; supports the
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Trojans

Asius	AS-ee-us	Trojan leader allied with Hector
Astyanax	ah-STY-ah-naks	Infant son of Hector and

Andromache

Athena	ah-THEE-nah	Goddess of wisdom and war;
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supports the Greeks

Automedon	aw-TOM-eh-don	Achilles's charioteer
Balius	BAL-ee-us	One of Achilles's immortal horses
Boreas	BOR-ee-as	North wind; summoned to fan

Patroclus's funeral pyre

Briseis	bree-SAY-is	Captive woman taken from Achilles
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by Agamemnon

Calchas	KAL-kas	Greek prophet; reveals Apollo's
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demand

Cassandra	kah-SAN-drah	Daughter of Priam; cursed with
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true prophecies no one believes

Cebriones	se-BRY-oh-neeZ	Hector's charioteer
Charis	KAR-is	Wife of Hephaestus
Chryseis	kry-SAY-is	Daughter of Chryses; captive of

Agamemnon

Chryses	KRY-sees	Priest of Apollo; begs for his
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daughter's return

Clonius	KLOH-nee-us	Greek warrior
Clytemnestra	kly-tem-NES-trah	Wife of Agamemnon; murders him

upon his return

Cypria	SIP-ree-ah	Lost epic about the origins of the
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Trojan War

Deiphobus	dee-IF-oh-bus	Trojan prince; brother of Hector
Diomedes	dye-oh-MEE-deez	King of Argos; fierce Greek warrior

favoured by Athena

Dione	dye-OH-nee	Mother of Aphrodite
Dolon	DOH-lon	Trojan spy sent into the Greek

camp

Echion	eh-KY-on	Greek warrior
Eris	AIr-is	Goddess of discord; starts the

Trojan War with a golden apple

Ethiopia	ee-THEE-oh-pee-ah	Land of the rising sun; home of
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Memnon

Eumedes	yoo-MEE-deez	Father of Dolon
Euphorbus	yoo-FOR-bus	Trojan warrior who first wounds

Patroclus

Eurypylus	yoo-RIP-i-lus	Greek warrior wounded by Paris
Eurybates	yoo-RIB-ah-teez	Greek herald; messenger of

Agamemnon

Glaucus	GLAW-kus	Lycian warrior; friend of Sarpedon
Hades	HAY-deez	God of the underworld
Hephaestus	heh-FES-tus	God of fire and the forge; supports

the Greeks

Hera	HEER-ah	Queen of the gods; supports the
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Greeks

Hector	HEK-tor	Greatest Trojan warrior; son of
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Priam and Hecuba

Hecuba	HEK-yoo-bah	Queen of Troy; wife of Priam
Helen	HEL-en	Wife of Menelaus; cause of the war
Hermes	HER-meez	Messenger god; guides Priam to

Achilles's camp

Hippocoon	hip-oh-KOH-on	Greek warrior
Homer	HOH-mer	Blind poet; traditionally credited

with composing the Iliad

Idaeus	eye-DEE-us	Trojan herald; accompanies Priam
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to the Greek camp

Idomeneus	eye-DOM-eh-noos	King of Crete; Greek warrior
Iliad	IL-ee-ad	Epic poem by Homer about the

Trojan War

Iphigenia	if-ih-jeh-NY-ah	Daughter of Agamemnon; her sacrifice at Aulis belongs to later Trojan War tradition and is not narrated in the Iliad
Iris	EYE-ris	Messenger goddess; servant of the

gods

Laertes	lay-ER-teez	Father of Odysseus
Leto	LEE-toh	Mother of Apollo and Artemis
Little Iliad	-	Lost epic about the wooden horse

and Achilles's armour

Lycaon	LY-kay-on	Son of Priam; captured and killed
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by Achilles

Lycomedes	ly-koh-MEE-deez	King of Scyros; hid Achilles among
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his daughters

Machaon	mah-KAY-on	Greek healer; son of Asclepius
Meges	MEE-jeez	Greek warrior
Memnon	MEM-non	Ethiopian prince; killed by Achilles

Machaon	mah-KAY-on	Greek healer; son of Asclepius
Menelaus	men-eh-LAY-us	King of Sparta; husband of Helen
Menoetius	meh-NEE-shus	Father of Patroclus
Mentes	MEN-teez	King of the Taphians
Meriones	meh-RY-oh-neeZ	Cretan warrior; comrade of

Idomeneus

Myrmidons	MUR-mi-dons	Achilles's elite troops from Phthia
Nestor	NES-tor	King of Pylos; oldest and wisest

Greek counsellor

Niobe	NY-oh-bee	Queen whose children were killed
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by Apollo and Artemis

Nostoi	NOS-toy	Lost epic about the Greek heroes'
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returns home

Odysseus	oh-DIS-ee-us	King of Ithaca; cleverest of the
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Greeks

Orestes	oh-RES-teez	Son of Agamemnon; kills
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Clytemnestra to avenge his father

Palamedes	pal-ah-MEE-deez	Greek hero who exposed
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Odysseus's feigned madness

Pandarus	PAN-dah-rus	Trojan archer who breaks the truce
Patroclus	pah-TROH-klus	Achilles's closest companion
Peleus	PEL-ee-us	Mortal king; father of Achilles
Penelope	peh-NEL-oh-pee	Wife of Odysseus
Penthesilea	pen-thes-il-AY-ah	Queen of the Amazons; killed by

Achilles

Philoctetes	fil-ok-TEE-teez	Greatest Greek archer; abandoned
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on Lemnos

Phoenix	FEE-niks	Old tutor of Achilles; member of
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the Embassy

Podalirius	poh-dah-LIR-ee-us	Greek healer; brother of Machaon
Polydamas	pol-ee-DAM-as	Trojan warrior; wise counsellor to

Hector

Polyxena	pol-iks-EN-ah	Daughter of Priam; sacrificed at
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Achilles's grave

Poseidon	poh-SY-don	God of the sea; supports the
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Greeks

Priam	PRY-am	King of Troy; father of Hector and
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Paris

Prothoenor	proh-thoh-EE-nor	Greek warrior
Rhesus	REE-sus	Thracian king with magnificent

white horses

Sack of Ilium	-	Lost epic about the fall of Troy
Salamis	SAL-ah-mis	Island home of Ajax the Great
Sarpedon	sar-PEE-don	Lycian prince; son of Zeus; killed by

Patroclus

Scamander	skuh-MAN-der	River near Troy; also its river god
Scyros	SKY-ros	Island connected with Achilles in later tradition; the hiding story is not narrated in the Iliad
Sinon	SY-non	Greek spy who convinced the

Trojans to accept the wooden

horse

Simois	SIM-oh-is	River near Troy
Sparta	SPAR-tah	City of Menelaus in Lacedaemon
Sthenelus	STHEN-eh-lus	Charioteer and comrade of

Diomedes

Talthybius	tal-THIB-ee-us	Greek herald; messenger of
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Agamemnon

Teucer	TOO-ser	Greek archer; half-brother of Ajax
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the Great

Thebes (in Mysia)	THEEBZ	City sacked by Achilles; home of
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Eetion

Chryse	KRY-see	Sacred place of Apollo; home of Chryses and Chryseis
Thetis	THET-is	Sea goddess; mother of Achilles
Thoas	THOH-as	Greek warrior; king of the

Aetolians

Thrasymedes	thras-i-MEE-deez	Son of Nestor
Troy	TROY	City in northwest Anatolia; also

called Ilium

Tyndareus	tin-DAY-rus	Father of Helen and Clytemnestra
Xanthus	ZAN-thus	One of Achilles's immortal horses;

also the name of the river

Scamander

Zephyrus	ZEF-ih-rus	West wind; summoned to fan
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Patroclus's funeral pyre

Zeus	ZOOS	King of the gods
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CHAPTER 31: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS BY CHAPTER

This chapter gathers discussion questions for all twenty-nine narrative chapters. They range from simple comprehension checks to analytical prompts and personal reflections. Use them in reading groups, classrooms, or simply as a way to deepen your engagement with the text.

CHAPTER 1: THE WRATH OF ACHILLES

Achilles faces a choice between killing Agamemnon and obeying Athena. What does his decision reveal about his character? Is he still acting out of rage, or has wisdom already begun to temper it?

Agamemnon claims he is "the foremost" of the Greeks and therefore deserves the greatest prize. Is his logic sound, or is it self-serving? How does a leader earn respect - through rank, or through action?

Thetis promises to ask Zeus to make the Trojans win. Do you think it is fair for the Greek soldiers, most of whom had nothing to do with the quarrel, to suffer for Agamemnon's actions?

CHAPTER 2: THE DREAM AND THE CATALOGUE

Zeus sends a false dream to Agamemnon promising victory. Why do the gods deceive mortals in the Iliad? What does this say about the relationship between humans and the divine in the poem?

Thersites speaks out against Agamemnon and is beaten for it. Is Thersites a truth-teller punished for honesty, or a troublemaker who gets what he deserves? How do societies today control dissent?

The Catalogue of Ships lists hundreds of names and places most readers have never heard of. Why did Homer include it? What effect does it have on your reading experience?

CHAPTER 3: PARIS AND MENELAUS

Paris proposes a duel to settle the war, then nearly dies and has to be rescued by Aphrodite. What does this tell us about his character? Can a coward also be a romantic hero?

Helen identifies the Greek heroes for Priam, speaking of them with something like nostalgia. How does she feel about Menelaus? About Paris? About her own role in the war?

Aphrodite forces Helen to return to Paris. How much free will does Helen actually have? To what extent are the mortals in the Iliad puppets of the gods?

CHAPTER 4: THE BREAKING OF THE TRUCE

Athena deliberately tricks Pandarus into shooting Menelaus, knowing it will restart the war. Why would a goddess who supports wisdom act so destructively?

The truce was solemnly sworn by both sides. Does breaking it have consequences beyond the immediate resumption of fighting? What does oath-breaking mean in the Iliad's world?

Agamemnon rallies the troops by praising some men and shaming others. Is this an effective leadership strategy? How do modern leaders motivate people under pressure?

CHAPTER 5: THE ARISTEIA OF DIOMEDES

Diomedes wounds two gods in a single day - Aphrodite and Ares. What does this extraordinary feat suggest about the boundary between mortal and divine in the Iliad?

Athena opens Diomedes's eyes so he can distinguish gods from mortals. Is this a gift or a burden? Would you want to see the world as Diomedes does?

Aphrodite rescues Paris and Aeneas, while Athena drives Diomedes's spear. Do the gods have favourites, or do they support principles? What determines which side a god takes?

CHAPTER 6: HECTOR IN TROY

Andromache begs Hector to stay inside the walls, arguing that his duty is to his family. Hector replies that his duty is to Troy. Which argument is stronger? Can duty to country and duty to family ever be reconciled?

Astyanax cries at his father's helmet, and Hector removes it. What does this small moment reveal about Hector as a father? About the gap between a warrior's world and a child's?

The Trojan women pray to Athena, but the goddess does not grant their prayer. Why not? What does it mean when prayers go unanswered?

CHAPTER 7: AJAX STANDS ALONE

Hector and Ajax fight to a draw and exchange gifts afterward. How does this code of warrior honour compare to modern ideas of sportsmanship? Can enemies respect each other?

Nestor proposes building a defensive wall - a practical solution from the oldest warrior present. Why do the Greeks listen to him? What does Nestor represent in the poem?

Antenor suggests returning Helen; Paris refuses. If you were a Trojan citizen, how would you feel about Paris's decision? Should the city's survival come before one man's happiness?

CHAPTER 8: THE TIDE TURNS

Zeus weighs the fates of the two armies on his golden scales. What does this image suggest about how the Greeks understood destiny? Is fate predetermined, or can it be influenced?

Hera and Athena try to intervene, but Iris stops them on Zeus's orders. Why do the gods have hierarchy and politics just like mortals?

The Greeks retreat behind their newly built wall. How does the mood of this chapter differ from the battle chapters that came before? What does defeat feel like in the Iliad?

CHAPTER 9: THE EMBASSY TO ACHILLES

Odysseus, Phoenix, and Ajax each use a different argument to persuade Achilles. Which argument is the most effective, and why does Achilles still refuse?

Phoenix tells the story of Meleager, who also withdrew from battle in anger. Why does a parallel story fail where direct pleading also failed? What would it take to change Achilles's mind?

Achilles says he will fight only when Hector reaches his own ships. Is this pride, despair, or a calculated threat? What is really driving his refusal?

CHAPTER 10: DOLON AND THE NIGHT RAID

Diomedes and Odysseus capture Dolon, extract information, and then kill him despite his cooperation. Was killing him necessary? What does this say about how the Greeks viewed enemy combatants?

Dolon demands Achilles's horses as his reward before the mission. How does greed blind him to the danger he is in? Can you think of real-world parallels?

The night raid is one of the most suspenseful sequences in the poem. How does Homer create tension without the spectacle of open battle?

CHAPTER 11: THE BATTLE AT THE WALL

The Greek leaders fall one by one - Agamemnon, Diomedes, Odysseus, Eurypylus, Machaon - each wounded and removed from battle. How does the progressive collapse of leadership affect the army's morale?

Polydamas reads an omen and advises caution; Hector scorns him and attacks. When is it wise to trust omens and superstition? When is courage actually recklessness?

Hector breaks through the wall and reaches the ships. What does this moment mean for the Greeks? For the Trojans? For the narrative as a whole?

CHAPTER 12: PATROCLUS TO THE RESCUE

Patroclus first goes to Nestor on Achilles's errand, then meets the wounded Eurypylus on his return and stops to treat him. Why does Homer place the medical scene after Nestor's appeal? What does it tell us about Patroclus's character?

Nestor tells a long story about his youth. Why does he do this instead of simply making his request? How does storytelling function as persuasion in the Iliad?

Patroclus weeps and begs Achilles to let him fight in his armour. Is Patroclus being brave or foolish? What would you have done in his position?

CHAPTER 13: SARPEDON FALLS

Zeus weeps blood over the death of his son Sarpedon but does not prevent it. What does this tell us about fate and the limits of divine power in the Iliad?

Sarpedon delivers a famous speech about why they fight: for honour and glory. Do you agree with his reasoning? Why do people risk their lives for abstract ideals?

Patroclus forgets Achilles's warning and presses towards Troy's walls. Is this hubris, compassion, or something else? What drives him to overreach?

CHAPTER 14: PATROCLUS'S LAST HOUR

Patroclus kills twenty-seven men in a single charge before Apollo, Euphorbus, and Hector bring him down. Is this a hero's death or a cautionary tale about overconfidence?

Hector puts on Achilles's stolen armour. What does this act symbolise? How does wearing another man's identity change Hector?

Patroclus prophesies Hector's death with his last breath. How does knowing his own doom affect Hector's actions in the chapters that follow?

CHAPTER 15: THE NEWS

Achilles collapses in grief when he hears of Patroclus's death. How does this grief differ from his earlier anger at Agamemnon? Is grief a transformation of rage, or its opposite?

Achilles chooses glory and vengeance, accepting that his own death follows Hector's. Would you make the same choice? What would it take for you to accept death willingly?

The captive women, including Briseis, wail with Achilles. What does this shared grief across the boundary of captor and captive suggest about human solidarity in suffering?

CHAPTER 16: THE SHIELD OF ACHILLES

The shield depicts two cities - one at peace, one at war. Why does Homer contrast them? What is he saying about the possibilities of human society?

Hephaestus includes scenes of farming, dancing, and law courts alongside battlefields. What does this say about what a complete human life looks like?

The shield is the most famous ekphrasis (extended description of an object) in Western literature. Why do you think it has had such lasting influence?

CHAPTER 17: THE BODY OF PATROCLUS

The Greeks and Trojans fight over Patroclus's body as if the corpse itself had power. Why is recovering the dead so important in the Iliad? What does it mean to treat the dead with honour?

Achilles shows himself unarmed, crowned with divine fire, and the Trojans flee in terror. Is this a heroic moment or a terrifying one? Where is the line between hero and monster?

Iris urges Achilles to appear even without armour. Why do the gods take such an active role in this battle? What would have happened without their intervention?

CHAPTER 18: ACHILLES RETURNS

Agamemnon blames Ate (Folly) for his actions. Is this a genuine apology or an evasion of responsibility? Can a person be driven to bad decisions by forces beyond their control?

Briseis sees Patroclus's body and delivers her lament. Why is her voice important here? What does she reveal about Patroclus that no one else could?

Xanthus the horse prophesies Achilles's death. How do animals function in the Iliad? What does it mean when even horses know the future?

CHAPTER 19: THE RIVER RUNS RED

Achilles kills Lycaon, who begs for mercy and reminds Achilles they once shared a meal. Is this the act of a man consumed by grief or a man who has lost his humanity entirely?

The river Scamander itself rises against Achilles. What does it mean when nature rebels against a human being? What has Achilles done to deserve this?

Hephaestus burns the river with divine fire. Is this overkill, or is the situation so extreme that only divine intervention can resolve it?

CHAPTER 20: THE GODS THEMSELVES FIGHT

The gods brawl like rowdy children - Athena defeats Ares, Hera beats Artemis, Poseidon challenges Apollo. Why does Homer include this divine comedy amid such human tragedy?

Apollo refuses to fight Poseidon on the grounds that they are brothers. Is this genuine principle, or is he simply avoiding conflict? What does this say about divine ethics?

Hermes declines to fight Leto, saying he is not foolish enough to strike the consort of Zeus. Is this wisdom or cowardice? How do people navigate power dynamics in your own experience?

CHAPTER 21: THE DEATH OF HECTOR

Athena deceives Hector by appearing as his brother Deiphobus. Is this a fair tactic in war? Are there limits to what is acceptable even in combat?

Hector proposes a covenant about treating the dead with respect; Achilles refuses. What has changed in Achilles since he fought honourably against Hector earlier in the poem?

Andromache's lament is one of the most moving passages in literature. Why does Homer give her the last word on Hector's death? What does her grief represent that Achilles's rage does not?

CHAPTER 22: THE FUNERAL OF PATROCLUS

Achilles drags Hector's body around Patroclus's tomb daily. Is this the behaviour of a grieving friend or a disturbed mind? How do we grieve those we love?

The funeral games include quarrels over prizes, just like the original quarrel that started the poem. Has anything really changed? Is the cycle of conflict inevitable?

Achilles sacrifices twelve Trojan captives on Patroclus's pyre. The poem presents this critically. How should we judge historical figures who commit atrocities? Can great people do terrible things?

CHAPTER 23: TWELVE DAYS OF DESECRATION

Apollo protects Hector's body from corruption. Why does the god care about a dead man's corpse? What does bodily integrity mean in the Iliad's world?

The gods debate in council, and Hera argues against returning Hector's body. Is she being cruel, or does she have a legitimate grievance? Can justice and mercy conflict?

Zeus overrules the other gods and decides Priam shall ransom his son. What does this tell us about Zeus's role in the poem? Is he a just ruler or a capricious one?

CHAPTER 24: PRIAM'S JOURNEY

Hermes disguises himself as a young Myrmidon to guide Priam. Why does he not reveal himself immediately? What does the disguise add to the scene?

Priam drives through enemy territory in the dead of night. What does this journey represent? What would you risk for someone you love?

Hermes puts the Greek sentries to sleep. Is this divine assistance or divine interference? Should Priam have made the journey alone?

CHAPTER 25: THE MEETING OF ENEMIES

Priam kisses the hands that killed his son. What kind of courage does this require? Is it braver to kill or to forgive?

Achilles weeps - for Peleus, for Patroclus, for Priam. Why does weeping transform him? What is it about shared grief that dissolves hatred?

The shared meal (xenia) between enemies is one of the most famous scenes in literature. Why does breaking bread together have such symbolic power across cultures?

CHAPTER 26: THE RETURN OF HECTOR

Cassandra sees Priam returning and cries out, but no one believes her. Why are truth-tellers so often ignored? Have you experienced this in your own life?

The three laments - Andromache's, Hecuba's, and Helen's - each capture a different side of Hector. Which lament moved you most, and why?

The funeral takes eleven days, with feasting and mourning. How does this ritual help the community process grief? What rituals does your culture have for death?

CHAPTER 27: THE TAMING OF ACHILLES

The Iliad opens with wrath and closes with compassion. Has Achilles truly changed, or has he simply exhausted his capacity for rage?

The poem ends not with the fall of Troy or Achilles's death, but with Hector's funeral. Do you agree with Homer's choice? Why might the funeral of an enemy be more fitting than the triumph of the Greek army?

Achilles discovers that compassion, not strength, is the highest form of heroism. Is this a message that still resonates today?

CHAPTER 28: THE TROJAN WAR IN CONTEXT

The Iliad covers roughly fifty-one days out of a ten-year war. Why do you think Homer chose this narrow window? What does concentrating on a small slice allow him to explore?

Many heroes in the Epic Cycle die not in glorious battle but through betrayal, madness, or ambush. What does this suggest about the Greeks' attitude towards war and its supposed glory?

The oath of Tyndareus bound dozens of men to defend Helen's marriage. When does a promise become a trap?

CHAPTER 29: AFTERWORD

The afterword argues that compassion is not weakness and mercy is not surrender. Do you agree? Can you think of a moment when showing compassion required more courage than using force?

The Iliad has influenced storytelling for three thousand years. What modern books, films, or games do you see Homer's DNA in?

The author says that great art "transcends every barrier of time and culture." Do you agree? Can you think of a work of art from a very different time or place that still spoke to you?

CHAPTER 32: CHARACTER REFERENCE TABLES

The following tables provide quick-reference guides to the major figures in the Iliad. Use them to refresh your memory, settle disputes about parentage, or simply marvel at how many names Homer managed to fit into one poem.

TABLE 1: GREEK HEROES

Name	City / Region	Parentage	Key Trait	Fate in the Epic
Achilles	Phthia (Myrmidons)	Peleus (mortal) +	Greatest warrior;	Killed by Paris and
Thetis (goddess)	swift-footed;	Apollo after		
consumed by rage	Hector's death			

and grief

Agamemnon	Mycenae	Atreus (mortal) +	Supreme	Murdered by
Aerope	commander; proud	Clytemnestra upon		
and insecure	his return home			
Ajax the Great	Salamis	Telamon (mortal) +	Strongest warrior	Commits suicide
(Telamon)	Periboea	after Achilles;	after losing the	
straightforward	contest for			
and honourable	Achilles's armour			
Ajax the Lesser	Locris	Oileus (mortal)	Swift and bold;	Survives the war
(Oileus)	lesser in stature	but angers Athena		
than his namesake	and drowns at sea			
Antilochus	Pylos	Nestor (mortal) +	Brave and devoted;	Killed by Memnon

Agamemnon	Mycenae	Atreus (mortal) +	Supreme	Murdered by
Eurydice	youngest of the	defending his		
princes	father			
Automedon	Phthia (Myrmidons)	Diores (mortal)	Achilles's	Survives; fights at
charioteer; loyal	the funeral games			

and capable

Calchas	-	Thestor (mortal)	Prophet; advisor to	Survives; his
the Greeks	prophecies guide			

the army

Diomedes	Argos	Tydeus (mortal) +	Fierce fighter;	Survives the war;
Deipyle	wounds two gods in	returns to rule		
one day	Argos			
Epeius	-	Panopeus (mortal)	Unskilled in battle;	Survives; credited
builds the wooden	with constructing			
horse	the Trojan Horse			
Eurypylus	Thessaly	Euaemon (mortal)	Greek warrior;	Healed by
wounded in battle	Patroclus; survives			

the war

Idomeneus	Crete	Deucalion (mortal)	Cretan king; bold	Survives; returns to
spearman	Crete			
Machaon	Thessaly	Asclepius (divine) +	Healer; son of the	Wounded by Paris;
Epione	god of medicine	healed under		

Nestor's care

Menelaus	Sparta	Atreus (mortal) +	Wronged husband	Survives; reconciles
Aerope	of Helen	with Helen and		

returns to Sparta

Meriones	Crete	Molus (mortal)	Idomeneus's	Survives the war
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comrade; skilled

spearman

Nestor	Pylos	Neleus (mortal) +	Oldest and wisest	Survives; returns to
Chloris	counsellor; fond of	Pylos to rule		

stories

Odysseus	Ithaca	Laertes (mortal) +	Cleverest of the	Survives; wanders
Anticleia	Greeks; master	ten years before		
strategist	reaching home			
Patroclus	Opus	Menoetius (mortal)	Gentle companion	Struck first by Apollo,
+ Sthenele	of Achilles; skilled	wounded by Euphorbus,		
healer	then killed by Hector			
Phoenix	-	Amyntor (mortal)	Old tutor of	Survives; remains
Achilles; member of	with Achilles			

the Embassy

Podalirius	Thessaly	Asclepius (divine) +	Healer; Machaon's	Survives the war
Epione	brother			
Sthenelus	Argos	Capaneus (mortal)	Charioteer and	Survives the war

comrade of

Diomedes

Teucer	Salamis	Telamon (mortal) +	Greatest Greek	Survives; fights at
Hesione	archer; half-brother	the funeral games		

of Ajax

Thrasymedes	Pylos	Nestor (mortal)	Son of Nestor;	Survives the war
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young warrior

TABLE 2: TROJAN HEROES

Name	Role	Parentage	Key Trait	Fate in the Epic
Aeneas	Trojan prince;	Anchises (mortal) +	Noble and pious;	Saved by Poseidon
leader of the	Aphrodite	destined to survive	and Aphrodite;	
Dardanians	(goddess)	escapes Troy's fall		
Cebriones	Hector's charioteer	Priam (mortal) + a	Illegitimate son of	Killed by Patroclus
concubine	Priam; skilled driver	with a stone		
Deiphobus	Trojan prince;	Priam (mortal) +	Brave fighter;	Killed during the
warrior	Hecuba	Hector's brother	fall of Troy	
Dolon	Trojan spy	Eumedes (mortal)	Greedy and foolish	Killed by Diomedes

and Odysseus

Glaucus	Lycian warrior;	Hippolochus	Noble; exchanges	Survives; fights on
Sarpedon's	(mortal)	armour with	after Sarpedon's	
comrade	Diomedes	death		

Glaucus	Lycian warrior;	Hippolochus	Noble; exchanges	Survives; fights on
Hector	Greatest Trojan	Priam (mortal) +	Noble, dutiful,	Killed by Achilles;
warrior	Hecuba	loving father and	body desecrated	
husband	then returned			
Helenus	Trojan prince; seer	Priam (mortal) +	Prophet; advises	Survives the war
Hecuba	Hector			
Lycaon	Trojan prince; son	Priam (mortal) +	Captured and	Killed by Achilles
of Priam	Laothoe	enslaved once	despite his pleas	

before; begs for

mercy

Pandarus	Trojan archer	Lycaon (mortal)	Foolish and easily	Killed by Diomedes
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manipulated

Paris (Alexandros)	Trojan prince;	Priam (mortal) +	Handsome but	Survives the Iliad;
abductor of Helen	Hecuba	weak; skilled archer	later kills Achilles	
Polydamas	Trojan warrior and	Panthous (mortal)	Prudent and wise;	Fate not stated in the
advisor	counsels caution	Iliad		
Rhesus	Thracian king	Eioneus (mortal)	King with	Killed by Diomedes
magnificent white	in a night raid			

horses

Sarpedon	Lycian prince	Zeus (god) +	Noble warrior; son	Killed by Patroclus;
Laodamia	of the king of gods	body carried home		

by Sleep and Death

TABLE 3: GODS AND THEIR SIDES

Name	Domain	Supports	Why They Chose That
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Side

Zeus	King of the gods	Neutral (favours Trojans	Bound by fate; balances
briefly for Thetis)	divine politics; ultimately		

maintains cosmic order

Hera	Queen of the gods;	Greeks	Paris judged against her
marriage	in the beauty contest; she		

hates Troy

Athena	Wisdom and war	Greeks	Paris judged against her;
she favours Odysseus and Diomedes			
Poseidon	Sea and earthquakes	Greeks	Laomedon (Priam's
father) cheated him of payment for building Troy's walls			
Apollo	Archery, music, plague,	Trojans	Protects his priest
prophecy	Chryses; favours Hector		
and Paris; guides the arrow that kills Achilles			
Aphrodite	Love and beauty	Trojans	Paris chose her as the
fairest; she protects Paris and Aeneas			
Ares	War	Trojans	Aphrodite's lover;
generally supports the Trojan side			
Hephaestus	Fire and the forge	Greeks	Helps Thetis by forging Achilles's new armour and answers Hera's call against Scamander; in Iliad Book 18 his wife is Charis, not Aphrodite
Hermes	Messenger; travellers	Neutral	Serves Zeus as messenger
and guide; escorts Priam safely to and from Achilles's camp			
Artemis	Hunt and the moon	Trojans	Twin sister of Apollo;
supports the Trojan side			
Iris	Messenger goddess	Neutral	Serves all gods equally;
delivers divine messages			

Thetis	Sea goddess	Greeks (Achilles)	Mother of Achilles;
specifically)	advocates for her son		

with Zeus

TABLE 4: THE WOMEN

Name	Role	Key Moment	What She Represents
Andromache	Wife of Hector; mother of	Begs Hector to stay;	The cost of war on
Astyanax	delivers the most	families; love and loss;	
devastating lament in the	the fate of civilians		

poem

Briseis	Captive of Achilles; taken	Her lament over	The voice of captive
by Agamemnon	Patroclus's body; her	women; dignity in	
brief speech reveals her	suffering; the human cost		
humanity	of the warrior code		
Cassandra	Daughter of Priam;	Sees Priam returning	The curse of knowledge;
prophetess	with Hector's body; cries	the ignored voice of	
out but is not believed	truth; Troy's doomed		

insight

Chryseis	Daughter of Chryses;	Her return sparks the	The objectification of
captive of Agamemnon	quarrel between Achilles	women as prizes; the	
and Agamemnon	spark that ignites the		

poem's conflict

Hecuba	Queen of Troy; wife of	Her lament for Hector;	Maternal grief; the
Priam	begs Priam not to go to	devastation of a queen	
the Greek camp	reduced to beggary		
Helen	Wife of Menelaus; cause	Identifies Greek heroes	The complexity of blame;
of the war	for Priam; laments	beauty as burden; the	
Hector's death	woman who exists in the		

spaces between choices

Thetis	Sea goddess; mother of	Begs Zeus to honour	Divine motherhood; the
Achilles	Achilles; brings divine	agony of watching a	
armour from Hephaestus	mortal child die;		

immortal grief

The anger has passed. The fires have gone out. Troy still stands - for now. And somewhere on the plain of Ilium, a young man who was once the greatest warrior in the world sits quietly in his tent, thinking not of glory, but of his father, and of a father he once made weep.

ABOUT THIS RETELLING

This modern retelling of Homer's Iliad aims to make the greatest war story ever told accessible to readers aged fifteen and up. The original epic poem, composed around 750 BCE, tells the story of a few weeks in the tenth year of the Trojan War - focusing not on the fall of the city, but on the rage of one man, and the terrible price he pays for it.

Every narrative chapter includes pronunciation guides for Greek names, scholarly footnotes, mythology notes, and discussion questions - so that readers can not only enjoy the story but also understand its place in the history of human thought.

The Iliad is not just a story about war. It is a story about what war does to us - about grief, pride, love, mercy, and what it truly means to be a hero. It is as relevant today as it was three thousand years ago. Perhaps more so.

Further Reading

Homer, The Iliad (translated by Robert Fagles, Penguin Classics)

Homer, The Iliad (translated by Caroline Alexander, Ecco)

Stephen Fry, Mythos: The Greek Myths Retold

Edith Hamilton, Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes

Madeline Miller, The Song of Achilles

Pat Barker, The Silence of the Girls

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