

Homer Iliad

[I.366-586] Agamemnon sends two heralds to collect the girl. Achilles, after ordering his best friend Patroclus to convey Briseis into their custody, retreats to the isolated seashore, weeps, and summons his mother, the immortal sea-nymph Thetis and begs her to have Zeus cause trouble for the Greeks until he is shown proper respect. Odysseus leads the expedition to return the daughter of Chryses and Apollo halts the plague.

[II] Zeus deceives Agamemnon with a dream that promises victory. Agamemnon calls the Greek leaders and proposes to test the soldiers by saying that they are going home. When the soldiers run for the ships, only Odysseus is able to rally them and shame them into staying. Odysseus beats the vilest Greek soldier, Thersites when he urges his fellow Greeks to go home. The troops assemble and the narrator lists all of the contingents in "the CATALOG OF THE SHIPS". The Trojans arm to meet the Greeks, and Homer names their warriors and troops as well.

[III.1-145] The armies meet. Paris proposes a duel with Menelaus. Priam is summoned to consecrate the truce.

[III.208-365] Helen describes several of the Greek leaders to Priam who marvels at their size. Helen concludes her observations by wondering about the whereabouts of her twin brothers, Castor and Pollux, who, the narrator informs us, have died during her absence.

[IV] At a council of the gods on Olympus, Zeus considers bringing the Trojan War to an end and sparing the city of Troy. Hera angrily objects, and Zeus sends Athena to break the truce. Athena persuades Pandaros, a Trojan, to shoot an arrow at Menelaus. Menelaos is wounded, the truce is broken and, as Agamemnon rallies the troops, fighting erupts.

[V] Diomedes's *aristeia* [notable exploits on the battlefield] dominate this section. After he wounds Aphrodite, Ares, the god of war, intervenes to help the Trojans. The goddesses, Hera and Athena, join in on the Greek side.

[VI.1-439] Diomedes and Glaukos, an ally of the Trojans, meet, but do not fight because they discover they are "Guest-Friends": their grandfathers had visited each other and exchanged gifts. Hektor returns to Troy to ask the Trojan women to make a sacrifice to Athena to win her pity. He visits Helen and scolds his brother, Paris, for abandoning the battlefield.

[VII] Hektor proposes a duel with one of the Greeks. Ajax is chosen by lot but the duel ends in a draw as night falls. Both sides agree to a truce to bury the dead, and the Greeks fortify their camp.

[VIII] The battle resumes. Zeus orders the gods to stay out, and the Trojans gain the advantage. Hera and Athena try to help the Greeks, but are stopped by Zeus who foretells Patroklos's death and Achilles's return to the war. At nightfall, Hektor persuades

the Trojans to camp outside of the city in the hope of decisively defeating the Greeks the next day.

[IX] The Greek leaders hold an assembly. □ Agamemnon proposes to go home, but Diomedes and Nestor dissuade him. □ The aged king, Nestor, convinces him to return Briseis to Achilles and offer him gifts in reconciliation. □ Odysseus, Ajax and Phoenix, Achilles's tutor, visit Achilles's tent but Achilles rejects their appeals.

[X] Diomedes and Odysseus volunteer to spy on the Trojan camp. □ They meet Dolon, a Trojan spy, and kill him, after he gives them information. □ They sneak into the Trojan camp, brutally murder Rhesus and twelve of his warriors, allies of the Trojans, and lead off their horses as spoils.

[XI] *The Longest Day Begins...* When battle resumes, several prominent Greek warriors are wounded and must leave the fighting. □ Achilles watches and sends Patroklos to find out who was wounded. □ Nestor urges him to persuade Achilles to return to battle or at least let Patroklos and his men fight for the Greeks.

[XII-XV] Hektor and the Trojans storm the fortifications surrounding the Greek camp. □ The sea-god, Poseidon, rallies the Greeks, and Telamonian Ajax and Ajax Oileus defend the Greek ships. □ The wounded Greek warriors go back to the fighting. □ Hera seduces her husband, Zeus, to distract him and allow Poseidon to continue helping the Greeks. □ As the Greeks rally, Hektor is wounded. □ Zeus wakes up and threatens the other gods, forcing them to stop helping the Greeks. □ Then, Zeus outlines the future course of the battle and sends Apollo to revive Hektor. □ Hektor returns to the battle, drives the Greeks back to their ships, and tries to set the ships on fire.

[XVI] Following Nestor's advice, Patroklos persuades Achilles to let him wear his armor and lead their troops, the Myrmidons, into battle. □ Achilles warns him to return once he has driven the Trojans from the ships. □ The Trojans are routed, and Patroklos kills one of their great allies, Sarpedon, a mortal son of Zeus. □ Zeus is persuaded by Hera not to intervene to save his son. □ Patroklos ignores Achilles' warning and is killed by Hektor with Apollo's help.

[XVII] The two sides battle over Patroklos' corpse, after Hektor strips it of Achilles's armor. Menelaus excels and saves the corpse.

[XVIII.276-557] Hector rejects the sensible advice to retreat behind the walls of Troy. Achilles refuses to bury Patroklos and vows to kill and defile Hektor. Thetis arrives at Hephaestus's home and begs him to forge armor for Achilles.

[XIX] Achilles calls an assembly, abandons his quarrel with Agamemnon and announces his return to battle. □ Agamemnon blames Zeus for their quarrel, presents gifts to Achilles and returns Briseis to him. □ They mourn for Patroklos, and Achilles, who refuses to eat, is fed by the gods. □ Before he enters the battle, Achilles' horses prophesy his death.

[XX] Zeus urges the gods to join in the day's fighting to prevent Achilles from storming Troy "against destiny". □ Achilles leads the Greeks, and fights the Trojan hero, Aeneas, who is saved by the gods.

[XXI.1-335] Achilles brutally slaughters many Trojans including Lycaon, whose pleas for mercy are refused.

[XXI.495-700] The Trojans are routed and flee to the city, seeking protection within its walls.

[XXIII.131-995] Achilles hosts splendid funeral games in Patroklos' honor and distributes prizes to the competitors in the different athletic events.