

WEEK THREE:
The Original Enemies – Greeks and Trojans II

Tuesday: Trojan Institutions:

For Tuesday, we will read a few selections from the *Iliad* that allow us to view the Trojans relate to each other as families (Hector and his wife Andromache, Hector and his brother Paris, etc.) and in assemblies, much like we saw the Greeks do in the first book of the epic. Book 6 is probably my favorite part of the *Iliad*. The Trojans are struggling against the fierce Diomedes (as we read last week). Helenus (a priest) advises Hector to return to Troy and ask for the women of the city to make sacrifices on behalf of the army. As he makes his way back, we get the brief interlude between Glaucus and Diomedes, which is a prime example of how *xenia* and the heroic code overlap in the Homeric world. Hector, now within the city, meets first with his mother, then Helen (and Paris, who has been hiding out in Troy since Aphrodite whisked him away to safety during his duel with Menelaus), and finally with his wife Andromache and their infant son Astyanax.

We will read two sections of Book 7. At the opening of the book, we see Hector issue a challenge to force one of the Greek heroes to face him in single combat (monomachy). Consider the offer that Hector makes to the Greeks and keep that in mind as we read the end of the epic for our next meeting. For the second selection, we will turn to the meetings of the Trojan and Greek armies that occur after Hector's duel with Ajax.

Finally, we will turn to Book 18, which follows the death of Patroclus at Hector's hand. Achilles finally returns to the battlefield and forces the Trojans to flee the field. As Polydamas advises retreat, Hector insists that they attack the Greek camp again. The narrator then turns to a somber Achilles lamenting Patroclus' death and forecasting his own.

Assignment:

- Homer, *Iliad* **6 all** (=Rieu trans. pp. 99-113); *II. 7, lines 43-91* (=Rieu trans. pp. 115-116) and *II. 7, lines 346-420* (=Rieu trans. pp. 123-125); and *II. 18, lines 243-355* (=Rieu trans. pp. 326-just at the top of 329)
- I would suggest that you get a head start on Thursday's assignment if you can.

Reading Questions:

- After the Greeks' success, how do the Trojans expect to turn the tide back in their favor?
- What does the Glaucus and Diomedes episode do for the epic in its position in the middle of Book 6? What lessons are we meant to draw from it?
- What do Hector and each of the women of his family that he meets discuss? How does he respond to each and why?
- How does the behavior of Hecabe, Helen, and Andromache compare? What are they each most concerned with and how do they react to the trouble on the battlefield?
- Given Hector's opinion of the events soon to come, why does he say he will return to the battlefield? How does this compare with his prayer to Zeus on behalf of Astyanax?
- In the assemblies of Books 7 and 18, how do each of the armies function and what kinds of speeches lead to their decisions?

- In these various assemblies and in their behaviors, how do Priam and Agamemnon compare as leaders of their respective forces?
- In these selections, we see both Hector and Achilles discuss their forthcoming deaths. How have they each responded to their impending demise? How does it influence their interactions with other characters?

Thursday: Treating with the Enemy I:

For Thursday, we will read in their entirety Books 22 and 24. These should, by now, need little in the way of introduction. Book 22 sees Achilles and Hector face off in their final duel. Pay attention to the gods' role in this fight and the words exchanged between Hector and Achilles before the duel and at its close. We then see the reactions of Hector's family in Troy. Note especially how Andromache responds and the consequences of this duel for her and Astyanax.

After the epic climax in Book 22, Achilles returns to the Greek camp with Hector's body and the Greeks hold a funeral and games in honor of Patroclus. Achilles, however, still cannot find peace and rest after avenging and then honoring his friend. After some encouragement from the gods, Priam and Achilles meet and share their thoughts on life, death, and fate. Pay close attention to Achilles' explanation of the "Two Jars of Zeus" and what it means for mortals and even heroes. He also shares the story of Niobe as the two eat. After they agree to a truce, Priam drives the body of Hector back home, where he is mourned by the Trojans.

Assignment:

- Homer, *Iliad* 22 all (=Rieu trans. pp. 380-94); *Il.* 24 all (=Rieu trans. pp. 420-42);
- **RESPONSE PAPER 2 DUE**

Reading Questions:

- How do the words exchanged between Hector and Achilles before and at the decisive moment in the final duel fit their characterizations up to this point in the epic? What does Hector ask for and how does Achilles respond?
- How do Hector's parents respond to his death?
- What does Andromache say and do when news of her husband's death reaches her? What does his death mean for her and their son?
- How does the end of the epic (namely all of Book 24) compare to the beginning? Consider each of the scenes in these initial and final books and compare how each of the major figures behaves in each.
- Has (and if so, How?) Achilles changed in his outlook on life, death, and the heroic code over the course of the epic?
- How do the inset narratives of the Jars of Zeus and Niobe color Achilles' meeting with Priam? What sort of lessons should we draw from these tales?
- How is Hector lamented upon the return of his body to the city? How have Andromache and Helen responded to his death?
- In all the parts of the *Iliad* that we read, how do Hector and Achilles compare in their actions and speeches?
- Who is *the* hero of the epic? Who do you want to root for as you read the *Iliad*? With which side do you identify more easily?

People, Terms, Events and Concepts, to know from Week Three:

Menelaus	Apollo	Thetis
Adrastus	Athena	Iris
Helenus	monomachy/duel	Hermes
Andromache	Polydamas	The “two jars of Zeus”
Priam	Patroclus	Niobe
Hecabe	Zeus	Helen
Astyanax	Deiphobus	Glaucus + Diomedes