

**Update Page for Class of 3/29/22**

Course materials and info page: <https://sacks-richard.com/iliad-at-du-materials>

**For our third class (that of 3/29)**, we'll continue our exploration of the first half of the Homeric *Iliad*, with the goal of working our way toward and through Achilles' next appearances in the poem (an extended appearance in book 9 and a very brief one in book 11). As per the schedule on the syllabus, please read through book 13; and again, here are some passages you might find it particularly productive/provocative to think about, though as always I hasten to add that any passage is fair game for our discussion:

- 1) What do you make of **Hektōr's long speech at the end of book 8 (8.497-541)**, delivered to the successfully advancing Trojan forces as night falls and they prepare to spend the night just outside the Greek encampment? Note in particular the speech's final sentence which begins (line 538): "For myself I wish..."
- 2) What do you make of **Achilles – whom we have not seen since line 430 of book 1 – over the course of the nearly 500-line book 9 sequence in which he appears (9.186-668)**? Some particular passages you might find it productive to consider:
  - 2A) **our first glimpse of Achilles in book 9** which comes at 9.186ff. when the Greek delegation arrives at his tent and finds him singing "of men's great deeds" (*klea* [*<kleos*] *andrōn*, 9.189).
  - 2B) **the sequence of Achilles' responses to the three pleas made to him:**
    - 9.308-429 (in response to Odysseus' speech of 9.225-306)
    - 9.607-619 (in response to Phoinix's speech of 9.434-605)
    - 9.644-655 (in response to Aias' speech of 9.624-642)
  - 2C) **the story of Melagros (9.529-599)** which Phoinix tells (characterizing the story as *klea andrōn*, 9.524) during the second half of his long speech to Achilles.
- 3) What do you make of **the latter part of book 11 (11.596-848) as the scene changes from the battlefield to Achilles' tent and the errand on which he sends Patroklos**? Again, here are some particular passages you might find it interesting to consider:
  - 3A) **the brief sequence in which Achilles appears (11.596-617)**, his only appearance between books 9 and 16.
  - 3B) **the extended scene at the tent of Nestōr (11.618-804)**, including Nestor's extremely long speech to Patroklos (11. 656-803), long even by Nestōr's standards.
  - 3C) **the scene between Patroklos and Eurypylos (11.809-848)** with which book 11 ends.
- 4) What do you make of **the opening scene of book 12 (12.1-34), focusing on the Greek wall**? Note that earlier in the poem, this wall was a subject of discussion among the gods at 7.443-464.
- 5) What do you make of **the scene with Sarpēdōn and Glaukos (12.290-330)**, which begins with the narrative's assertion: "not even then would illustrious Hektōr and the Trojans / have breached the wall's gates and long door bolt, had not Zeus / the counselor stirred up Sarpedon, his own son" (12.290-293)?
- 6) What do you make of **Hektōr's speech to Aias at the end of book 13 (13.824-832)**, the final speech before book 14 takes us away from the battlefield for over 350 lines.