

ADAPTED FROM THE EPIC POEM BY HOMER

THE ILLIAD



DIRECT EDITION

MARVEL
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RATED T+

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The Story So Far:

When **Helen**, queen of Sparta, fled across the sea to the city of Troy with its prince **Paris**, her husband **Menelaus** raised a large Achaean (Greek) force to bring her back. Troy (also called Ilium) was soon besieged by an army led by Menelaus' brother, **Agamemnon**. In the ninth year of the war, Agamemnon offended **Chryses**, a priest of Apollo, by refusing to restore to him his daughter, **Chryseis**, who had been captured in a raid. The priest prayed to **Apollo** to make the Achaeans suffer, and the god's heavenly arrows brought a deadly plague that killed many in their camp.

When the seer **Calchas** revealed the cause of the catastrophe, Agamemnon returned the girl—but insisted on having in her stead the fair **Briseis**, who was the prize of **Achilles**, the Achaeans' greatest warrior. Achilles, his pride stung, vowed not to fight again until the matter was redressed... and beseeched his mother, the goddess **Thetis**, for help.

Thetis persuaded **Zeus**, king of the gods, to favor the Achaeans in battle for a time. Zeus sent a False Dream to Agamemnon, assuring him that he could conquer Troy if he launched an assault. Thus, in the morning light, the two opposing armies marched bravely toward each other....

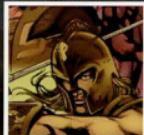
The Achaeans



Agamemnon
King of Mycenae



Menelaus
King of Sparta



Achilles
Mightiest Achaean Warrior



Odysseus
King of Ithaca



Ajax the Greater
Foremost Achaean Warrior
after Achilles



Diomedes
Youngest Achaean
Commander

The Trojans



Priam
King of Troy



Paris
Son of Priam



Hector
Greatest Warrior of Troy



Aeneas
Trojan Nobleman



Helen
Once Queen of Sparta -
now Helen of Troy

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AS WHEN THE SOUTH WIND SPREADS
A CURTAIN OF MIST UPON THE
MOUNTAIN TOPS-BAD FOR SHEPHERDS
BUT BETTER THAN NIGHT FOR THIEVES--

EVEN SO ROSE THE DUST
FROM UNDER THEIR FEET AS
THE TWO ARMIES MADE ALL
SPEED OVER THE PLAIN.

AND WHEN THEY
HAD COME NIGH
TO ONE ANOTHER--

--ONE WARRIOR
STRODE FORWARD
AS CHAMPION ON
THE TROJAN SIDE...

I, Paris,
challenge the
bravest of the
Achaeans to meet
me, man to man, in
deadly combat!

Glad are
these eyes
to catch sight
of you, at
last!

Now
I shall be
revenged!



Menelaus...?

Hah! Plunge
back, coward,
into the Trojan
throng!



Evil-hearted Paris—
dare you not face the
man whose wife
you stole?

Your rebuke
is just, Hector. I
will fight him for Helen
and all her wealth.

And let the victor bear home
the woman and her treasure...
but let the rest swear to
a solemn covenant
of peace!

Trojans and Achaeans—
hear the words of HECTOR,
brother of the one through
whom this quarrel has
come about!

Let Paris
and Menelaus
fight in the midst
of you.

Hear ME,
as well—for I,
Menelaus,
am the most
aggrieved.

Let him
who shall
die, DIE.

But let King
Priam first come
and swear to the
covenant...for his
sons are high-
handed and ill
to trust!

AND BOTH TROJANS
AND ACEANS WERE
GLAD WHEN THEY
HEARD THESE WORDS.



MEANWHILE, THOSE
TOO OLD TO FIGHT
SAT OR STOOD UPON
THE RAMPARTS ABOVE
THE SCARRED GATES...



BUT KING PRIAM BADE HER DRAW NIGH...



Sit here, my child, that you may see your former husband, kinsmen, and friends.

I lay blame on the gods, not you, for this terrible war.

Strange... I see not my brothers Castor and Pollux among the Achaeans.

Perhaps they will not show themselves, for the shame and disgrace I have brought upon them.



SHE KNEW NOT THAT BOTH THESE HEROES WERE ALREADY LYING UNDER THE EARTH IN THEIR OWN FAR LAND OF LACEDAEMON.



THEN, PRIAM RECEIVED WORD FROM HERALDS THAT HE MUST GO DOWN AND SWEAR TO A SACRED COVENANT BETWEEN THE TWO WARRING SIDES...

...AND HELEN WISHED THAT SHE HAD CHOSEN DEATH RATHER THAN COME HERE WITH THE KING'S SON.



WHEN TROY'S
RULER HAD
SEALED THE
COVENANT AND
DEPARTED...



AND THE LOT
OF PRIAM'S
SON FLEW OUT.



AND FIRST THE PRINCE
OF ILIUM HURLED HIS
FAR-SHADOWING SPEAR.



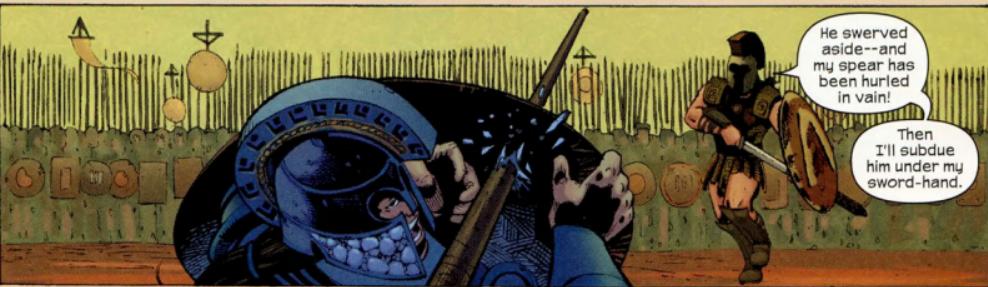
Hah!
My shield
turns its
point!



Now, Lord
Zeus, grant
me vengeance on
Paris, who has
wronged me--

--that, in
ages to come,
a man may shrink
from doing ill deeds
in the house
of his host!





He swerved aside--and
mu spear has
been hurled
in vain!

Then
I'll subdue
him under my
sword-hand.



Father Zeus--of
all the gods,
you are the most
despotic!

My sword
has broken
in my hand, and
I have not
killed him!

HNNHH



Then I will
drag him back
to Achaean
lines--



--by his own
well-wrought
helmet!

WITH HIS OWN CHIN-STRAP CHOINKING PARIS, MENELAUS WOULD HAVE HAULED HIM OFF TO HIS OWN GREAT GLORY...

...HAD NOT APHRODITE, GODDESS OF LOVE, BEEN QUICK...

...TO BREAK THE OXHIDE.









Apollo, lord of the
silver bow--guide
my hand--

--and when
I get home to
Zelea, I will offer a
hecatomb of firstling
lambs in your honor!

BUT ATHENA
STOOD BY
MENELAUS NOW...

...GUIDING THE ARROW
SO THAT IT ONLY GRAZED
HIS SKIN THROUGH
CUIRASS AND BELT.

Huhnnn...

THEN THE TROJANS
MOVED FORWARD
AGAINST THE ACHAENS,
RENEWING THE FIGHT...

AS AGAMEMNON
UPRAIDED HIS HOST...

Argives!
Would you wait till
the Trojans reach our
ships, before you
fight back?

They have
trampled on their
oaths, and their
mighty city must
be laid low!

Men of
Achaea--go
forward into
battle--

--and show
yourselves the
men you have always
been proud
to be!



THEN SHIELD
CLASHED WITH
SHIELD AND SPEAR
WITH SPEAR--

THERE WAS THE
DEATH-CRY OF
SLAIN AND TRIUMPH
OF SLAYERS--

--AND THE
EARTH RAN RED
WITH BLOOD.

BUT ACHILLES
ABODE AT HIS
SHIPS, AND NURSED
HIS ANGER...

...NOT SALLYING
FORTH TO FIGHT.

NOW PALLAS
ATHENA
DESCENDED
TO DIOMEDES,
SON OF TYDEUS.

HE WAS SORELY
EMBATTLED BY TWO
TROJAN BROTHERS
IN THEIR CHARIOTS--

--BUT SHE PUT
MIGHT AND
COURAGE INTO
HIS HEART.

AND WHEN
DIOMEDES
THREW HIS
SPEAR--

--IT SPED
NOT IN VAIN.

ONE BROTHER DARED
NOT BESTRIDE
THE OTHER'S CORPSE,
BUT TOOK TO FIGHT...

SEEING THE FATE
OF THE TWO SONS OF
DARES, THE TROJANS
WERE AFFRIGHTED...

ATHENA, THEREFORE,
Sought our Ares,
God of War, who
Raged up and down
the fray, mostly
aiding the Trojans...

Ares, Ares...bane of men,
bloodstained stormer
of cities...may we not now
leave the Trojans and
Achaeans to fight it
out for
themselves?

Let us
depart, and thus
avoid the anger
of Zeus.

SO SAYING, SHE
DREW ARES OUT
OF THE BATTLE.

UPON THIS, THE
ARGIVES DROVE
THE TROJANS BACK...

...AND EACH ONE
OF THEIR CHIEFTAINS
KILLED HIS MAN.

AGAMEMNON
SLEW MIGHTY
ODIUS, CAPTAIN
OF THE HALIZONI...

...WHILST MENELAUS,
ALREADY WHOLE AGAIN,
KILLED SCAMANDRIUS,
THE SON OF STROPHIUS.

YET, WHEN PANDARUS
SAW DIOMEDES DRIVING
THE TROJANS PELL-MELL
BEFORE HIM, HE AIMED
AN ARROW...

...AND SOON
THE ACHAEN'S
CUIRASS WAS
COVERED IN
BLOOD.

ARRRGGG

Come,
Trojans—the
bravest of the
Achaeans is
wounded!

If Apollo
is with me, he'll
not hold out
much longer!

Sthenelus--
draw this arrow
out of my
shoulder.

Athena, daughter of
aegis-bearing Zeus,
grant me to come within
a spear's throw of
that boaster who
arrowed me.

Diomedes,
I have made
your limbs supple
again.

Moreover,
I have withdrawn
the veil from your
eyes, so you may
know gods and
men apart.

If any other
god offers you
battle, do not fight him--
but if Aphrodite comes,
ward her with
your spear!

WHEN THE GODDESS HAD
GONE, DIOMEDES ONCE MORE
TOOK HIS PLACE AMONG THE
FOREMOST FIGHTERS,
THREE TIMES MORE FIERCE EVEN
THAN HE HAD BEEN BEFORE.

HE TOOK MANY
LIVES, AND LEFT
MANY TROJAN
FATHERS SORROWING
BITTERLY...

...FOR THEY NEVERMORE SAW
THEIR SONS COME HOME FROM
BATTLE ALIVE.





Great and mighty Diomedes--
my arrow failed to
lay you low--

So I will now try with my spear!



You have missed,
not hit!

You shall glut tough-shielded Ares
with your blood!



ATHENA GUIDED
THE SPEAR OF
DIOMEDES...



...AND PANDARUS
WAS REFT OF LIFE
AND STRENGTH.

You slew him,
Achaean--though
you will not
carry off his
body.

But--
that huge
stone--



It would take
two men to
lift it--

Yet you
bear it aloft
with ease,
unaided!

THE DARKNESS OF NIGHT
FELL UPON THE EYES OF
PRINCE AENEAS...



...AND HE WOULD
HAVE PERISHED
THEN AND THERE AT
DIOMEDES' HAND...

HAD NOT HIS
OLYMPIAN MOTHER
COVERED HIM WITH
HER OWN FAIR
GARMENT.



Aphrodite--
you are not one
of those goddesses
who can lord it among
men in battle
like Athena.

Nor will
you bear Aeneas
safe out of
this fight!



Wounded and
spouting ichor,*
you must leave your
son for Apollo
to catch!

*THE BLOOD
OF THE GODS.



Daughter of Zeus,
leave war and battle
alone!

If you meddle
with fighting, you will
get what will make you
shudder at the very
name of war.

Dear brother--
protect me, for
I am wounded, for
a mortal--

--Diomedes,
who would now
fight even with
father Zeus!

Stand aside, Apollo--
for I mean to kill Aeneas
and strip him of
his armor!

Take heed, son
of Tydeus, and
draw off.

Think not to
match yourself
against
gods...



...for men
that walk the
earth cannot hold
their own with the
immortals.

AND APOLLO TOOK AENEAS
TO SACRED PEGASUS, WHERE
HIS TEMPLE STOOD...THAT HE
MIGHT BE MADE WHOLE AGAIN.

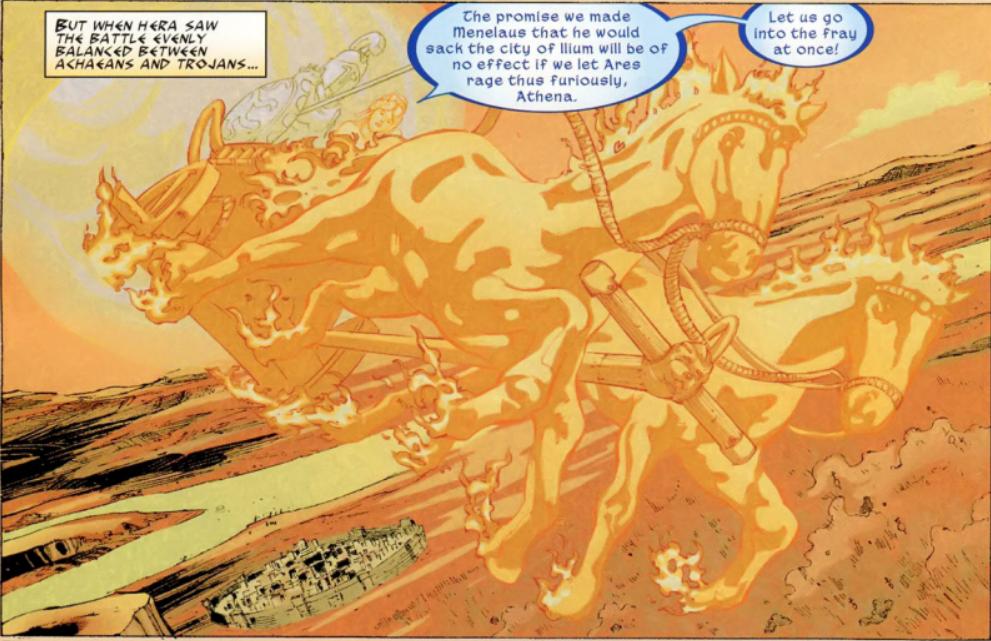
THEN THE ARCHER GOD SENT
ARES BACK TO THE FRAY TO
EMBOLDEN THE TROJANS--AND
THOSE WHO FOUGHT BESIDE THEM.

Hector, you used to say that you
and your brothers could hold
your city alone.

Yet we, the
allies of Ilium, now
bear the brunt of
the battle.

I will rouse
my people,
Sarpedon...





LOOK WHO'S TALKING!

ENTOURAGE WRITER AND MOON KNIGHT SCRIBE MIKE BENSON

MARVEL: Moon Knight has had quite the interesting return to the Marvel U. Can you catch us up to what he's been up to before your first issue?

MIKE BENSON: Charlie Huston's first arc "The Bottom" brought Moon Knight back from the abyss. When the arc opened, Marc Spector was a shattered man addicted to painkillers, wallowing in self-pity and self-doubt, who'd pushed away everyone who loved him - Marlene, Frenchie, Ray. Then some arrogant knuckleheads called the Committee decided to poke the sleeping lion with a stick, woke him up, and got bit. Just like that Moon Knight was back.

The next arc, "Midnight Sun," saw Moon Knight restored to a portion of his former glory, even as his relationship with his God, Khonshu, got a bit testier. His former sidekick, "Midnight" came back with a score to settle, and got his just desserts. And Moon Knight took in the full view of the new landscape of the Marvel Universe, now dominated by Tony Stark's Initiative, and did the last thing anyone would have expected him to do: He got himself registered.

Which leaves Moon Knight where we are now. In "God and Country," Moon Knight is a card-carrying super hero, dispensing rough justice to those who deserve it.

Marlene and Frenchie are back in Marc Spector's life, even if they're an uneasy fit. And things are about to get very interesting.



MARVEL: Is it safe to say he won't be getting suddenly sane any time in the near future?

MIKE BENSON: That's a pretty safe assumption.



MARVEL: Taskmaster seems to have quite a few fans in the Marvel U; will he be showing up?

MIKE BENSON: I wouldn't rule it out for the near future.

MARVEL: Moon Knight spent a lot of time isolated over the past year. Will we be seeing any familiar faces show up?

MIKE BENSON: Funny you should ask. We have one of Moon Knight's old nemeses coming back into the picture. Not to mention Jack Russell.

MARVEL: Which personality do you think is the strongest? Most dangerous? Most fun to write?

MIKE BENSON: Probably Spector followed by Lockey. I've only touched on Marc's alter egos but plan on doing more with them in the near future. Most dangerous would also be Spector. Marc is a bit of a social misfit, someone without a sense of humor.

As far as most fun to write, that's a hard call. They each serve a purpose and because I primarily use the Spector personality, the other two are refreshing when I focus on them.

MARVEL: How did you come to join up with Charlie Huston? How do you two work together?

MIKE BENSON: Axel Alonso brought me on to the book after I wrote a Punisher Max ANNUAL for him. He knew I was a fan of the character and I loved what Charlie Huston was doing with Moon Knight so when the opportunity came about, I jumped at it.

Charlie and I get together for a meal, catch up and then talk plot. Than I take what we discussed and piece it together. A lot of things change but the essence is there. Charlie's been a total pleasure to work with. It's been a blast.

MARVEL: It has to be asked: If Moon Knight was Vincent Chase, who would be in his ENTOURAGE?

MIKE BENSON: Deadpool, Bullseye and Doop from X-Force.

'Nuff Said!

WHILE ACHILLES FOUGHT, THE TROJANS DARED NOT SHOW THEMSELVES OUTSIDE THEIR GATES...

BUT NOW THEY SALLY FAR FROM THE CITY AND FIGHT EVEN AT YOUR SHIPS!

WITH THESE WORDS, SHE PUT HEART AND SOUL INTO ALL THE ARGIVES...

...WHILE ATHENA SPRANG TO DIOMEDES' SIDE.

Are you afraid and out of heart-- and thus no true son of Tydeus?

I know you, goddess.

I am only following your own command.

You told me not to fight any of the blessed gods but Aphrodite...

...and Ares is now lording it in the field.

Fear neither Ares nor any other immortal now...for I will befriend you...

...and I shall take the whips and reins of your chariot.

I have brought the helmet of Hades...

...that the war god may not see he may beise you.

He told Hera and myself that he would help the Argives...

But now he is with the Trojans, and has forgotten the Argives.

Aim straight at
Ares...and fear
not that raging
madman...

...that villain
incarnate, first on
one side, then on
the other!

ARES!
I COME FOR
YOU!!

Diomedes!

Your life
is a prize fit
for a war god
to take!

Now,
Athena--

Guide my
spear!

ARES ROARED AS
LOUDLY AS TEN
THOUSAND MEN IN THE
THICK OF A FIGHT--

--AND THE ACHAEOUS
AND TROJANS WERE
STRUCK WITH PANIC, SO
TERRIBLE WAS HIS CRY!

