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Journal Response - 1

Agamemnon demands from Achilles his own lover (“prize?”) after Agamemnon was forced to give up his own “battle prize”, Chryseis, to appease the God Apollo who was devastating the Athenian’s. In my opinion, Agamemnon is ludicriously unreasonable and a highly insecure King. He seems to prize his materials and standing over others so much so that wise men, like Nestor, need to compliment and humble him before giving him any sane advice. Achilles seems to me to be unnecessarily attacked in this social dynamic and targeted just because of his initiative to set up the counsel meeting.

In contrast to Agamemnon’s hotheadedness, Achilles seems like he’s ready to kill anyone who crosses him (he nearly stabbed Agamemnon point-blank!) but his close companionship with the goddess Athena and his willingness to sacrifice his immediate desire to murder someone (who is rightfully being a total loser) to work with the Goddess’s advice and plans makes me feel like he is much more level-headed and a better protagonist. I think this puts Achilles, in both the argument and morally, on a higher and better fit level than Agamemnon.