

ADAPTED FROM THE EPIC POEM BY HOMER

# THE ILIAD

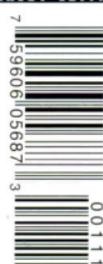


**MARVEL®**  
LIMITED SERIES

1 of 8

Roy Thomas  
Miguel Angel Sepulveda  
Sandu Florea  
Nathan Fairbairn

DIRECT EDITION



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# THE ILIAD

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# PROLOGUE:

AND A WOMAN  
WAS BORN...HELEN,  
DAUGHTER TO TYNDAREUS,  
KING OF SPARTA...  
AND A MARVEL TO MEN.

SHE IT WAS WHO BECAME  
AN INSTRUMENT OF THE  
PLAN OF ZEUS, LORD OF  
OLYMPUS, AND OF THEMIS,  
WHO IS JUSTICE.

THOSE GODS DESIRED  
TO RELIEVE THE  
OVERBURDENED GAEA--  
THE EARTH--OF A  
SURFEIT OF MANKIND.

THUS DID GRIM  
WAR AND DREAD  
BATTLE DESTROY A  
MULTITUDE OF MEN...

...WHEN IT HAD BROUGHT  
THEM IN SHIPS OVER THE  
GREAT SEA GULF TO  
TROY FOR RICH-HAIRED  
HELEN'S SAKE.



SUCH WAS HELEN'S BEAUTY AND WEALTH THAT, WHEN SHE CAME OF AGE, SHE WAS SOUGHT AS A BRIDE BY MANY SUITORS:

MENESTHEUS,  
REGENT OF  
ATHENS.

IDOMENEUS,  
KING OF  
CRETE.

AJAX, SON  
OF TELAMON,  
KING OF  
SALAMIS.

PATROCLUS,  
SON OF  
MENOETIUS,  
KING OF  
PHOCIS.

TEUCER,  
BEST ARCHER  
OF THE  
ACHAEANS.\*

DIOMEDES,  
KING OF  
SOUTHERN  
THRACE.

ODYSSEUS,  
KING OF  
ITHACA.

MENELAUS,  
BROTHER OF  
AGAMEMNON,  
KING OF  
MYCENAE.

HER FATHER,  
TYNDAREUS,  
FEARED  
ROUISING DISPLEASURE  
IN THOSE SUITORS  
WHO WOULD NOT BE  
CHOSEN AS HER MATE.

IT WAS WILY ODYSSEUS  
WHO SUGGESTED THAT  
SPARTA'S SOVEREIGN  
BIND ALL THE PRINCES  
BY AN IRON OATH.

AND SO THEY SWORE,  
EACH OF THEM TO  
TAKE THE CAUSE OF  
THE MAN SHE HAD  
IF ANY SHOULD VIOLATE  
HIS RIGHTS.

\*GREEKS.

WARRIOR MENELAUS  
WON THE HAND OF  
HELEN, FOR HE GAVE  
THE GREATEST GIFTS.

UPON THE DEATH OF  
TYNDARUS, HELEN BECAME  
SPARTA'S QUEEN--AND  
THUS, MENELAUS, ITS KING.

BUT APHRODITE, GODDESS  
OF LOVE, HAD PROMISED  
TO PARIS, SON OF TROY'S  
MONARCH, THAT HE SHOULD  
POSSESS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL  
BRIDE IN ALL THE WORLD.

AT HER BIDDING,  
HE SAILED FOR  
SPARTA...

THERE HE WAS  
GREETED BY  
MENELAUS...

...AND  
HELEN.

AFTER ALL HAD FEASTED,  
MENELAUS SET SAIL FOR  
CRETE, ORDERING HELEN  
TO FURNISH THEIR GUESTS  
WITH ALL THEY REQUIRED,  
UNTIL THEY DEPARTED.

BUT APHRODITE BROUGHT HELEN AND PARIS TOGETHER...

...AND, AFTER THEIR UNION, THEY PUT A VERY GREAT TREASURE ON BOARD AND SAILED AWAY BY NIGHT.

MENELAUS IMPLORED HIS BROTHER, KING AGAMEMNON, TO LEAD AN EXPEDITION AGAINST TROY, WHICH WAS ALSO CALLED ILIUM.

TOGETHER, THEY GATHERED THE RULERS OF HELLAS, REMINDING THEM OF THEIR SACRED OATH.

THE PRIEST CALCHAS FORETOLD THAT THEY COULD NEVER BRING DOWN TROY'S TOWERS WITHOUT THE AID OF THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS OF ALL ACHAean WARRIORs.

AND SO ACHILLES, SEVENTH SON OF PELEUS, KING OF THE MYRMIDONS, WAS PERSUDED TO JOIN THEIR FORCE--IN SPITE OF THE WISHES OF HIS MOTHER, THE GODDESS THETIS.

IN DUE TIME, A THOUSAND ACHAean SHIPS SET SAIL FROM AULIS.

GREECE.

PRIAM, KING OF TROY, THOUGH ANGERED BY PARIS' DISHONORABLE ACTIONS, WELCOMED HELEN TO THEIR CITY...AS DID QUEEN HECUBA.

GIVING ORDERS TO REPULSE THE ACHAEANS IF THEY SHOULD ATTACK, PRIAM RELIED ABOVE ALL UPON TROY'S TWO MOST FORMIDABLE DEFENDERS:

AENEAS, SON OF A MORTAL AND THE GODDESS APHRODITE...

...AND PRIAM'S OWN SON HECTOR, MIGHTIEST OF ILIUM'S WARRIOR.

NOR WAS TROY WITHOUT ALLIES ABROAD, WHO SENT SOLDIERS TO GUARD HER HIGH, WINDY RAMPARTS.

WHEN THE TROJANS REBUFFED THE ACHAEANS' DEMANDS FOR THE SURRENDER OF HELEN AND HER TREASURE--WAR ENSUED.

NINE YEARS THE SIEGE ENDURED AS THE ACHAEANS GARNERED SUPPLIES BY RAIDING NEARBY ISLANDS AND CITIES.

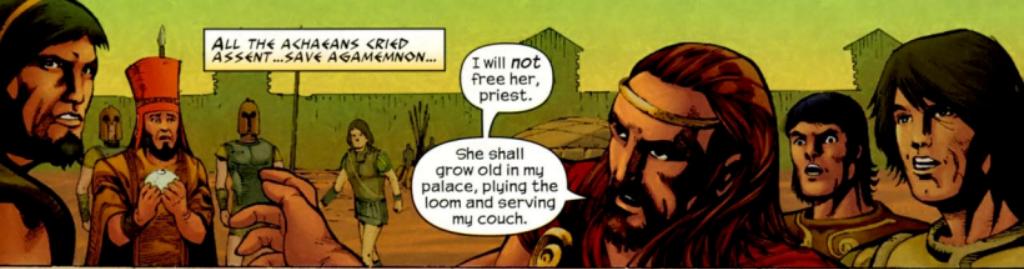
AND, AT THE FALL OF THESE, HOLY CITY OF EETON, A MAIDEN CALLED CHRYSSEIS WAS CAPTURED.



# THE ILIAD

BY HOMER





HE CAME DOWN,  
WRATHFUL,  
FROM OLYMPUS.

FIRST DID HE  
ASSAILED THE  
MULES AND  
THE HOUNDS....

...BUT SOON, HE AIMED AT  
MEN HIS PIERCING PART.

FOR NINE DAYS,  
THE PYRES OF THE  
ACHAEAN DEAD  
BURNED CONTINUALLY  
IN MULTITUDE.

ON THE TENTH,  
HERA, WIFE OF  
ZEUS, MOVED  
ACHILLES TO CALL  
AN ASSEMBLY...

Agamemnon, we  
must inquire of  
some soothsayer  
why Apollo is  
so wroth.

Perhaps the god will  
accept a sacrifice,  
and remove  
this pestilence  
from us.





Why should any Achaeian ever again fight for you?

Not because of Trojan spearmen did I come here, for they never wronged me--

--but to gain vengeance for Menelaus--and for you.

Now will I depart to Phthia with my ships, rather than gather gold and substance for you.

Flee, if you will. I'll not beg you to stay.

But since Apollo takes Chryseis from me, I shall take your prize--the girl Briseis--

--so you may see how far greater I am than you.

ACHILLES' HEART WAS DIVIDED--WHETHER TO SLAY AGAMEMNON, OR CURB HIS ANGER--

AND, AS HE DREW HIS MIGHTY SWORD FROM ITS SCABBARD--

Who dares--?

Athena--daughter of Zeus!

Have you come to behold Agamemnon lose his life for his insolence?

Hera, who loves you both, sent me to stay your anger--if you will listen.

Strike the son of Atreus with words, not with sword--and, in the fullness of time, all that you want shall come to you.



He who  
hears the  
gods heard  
by them.

Still, to  
**Agamemnon** I  
will speak, and will  
vow by this gold-  
bustudded scepter  
on which such oaths  
are sworn...



You who are  
heavy with wine--  
with face of dog  
and heart of  
deer--

I will give up the girl you  
crave--but from this day  
I will fight no more for  
your cause.

And when  
your men fall dying  
by the murderous  
hand of Hector--



--you will  
regret the  
hour you offered  
insult to the  
bravest of the  
Achaeans!

THEN ROSE NESTOR,  
OLD WARRIOR-KING  
OF PYLAS, WISE  
IN COUNSEL....

You are  
younger both  
than I, who have  
seen two generations  
of mortal men  
perish.



The Trojans would  
rejoice to hear of this  
strife between  
you.

Agamemnon, do not  
seize Achilles'  
prize--

And Achilles, think  
not to strive with  
a king, to whom Zeus  
gives power  
over men.

BUT HIS WORDS  
FELL UPON  
EARS THAT DID  
NOT HEAR.



THE NEXT DAY, AGAMEMNON'S MESSENGERS WENT  
MOST RELUCTANTLY TO THE SHIPS OF ACHILLES  
AND HIS MYRMIDONS FROM THESSALY....

Come near, for you  
are not guilty in  
my sight.



Patroclus, fetch  
Briseis of the fair  
cheeks.

She  
is here,  
cousin.

SO THE MESSENGERS DEPARTED...

AND WITH THEM  
WENT THE GIRL,  
ALL UNWILLING.

THEN ACHILLES  
WENT APART FROM  
HIS COMRADES  
ALONG THE BEACH...

AND HE WEPT  
IN ANGUISH.

Mother--  
since thou didst  
bear me to so brief a  
span of life, at least  
Zeus should have  
granted me  
honor!

Instead,  
Agamemnon has  
shamed me--taking  
away the prize that  
was mine!



My  
child...  
What sorrow  
has entered  
into your  
heart?



Why should  
I tell it to  
thee that knowest  
all, Thetis, my  
mother?

Beseech  
Zeus by any  
deed or word  
whereby thou didst  
ever gladden  
his heart.

Often thou  
hast told how  
thou alone of the  
immortals didst save  
him, when all the other  
Olympians would have  
chained him...

"Thou didst summon Briareus of the hundred arms..."

"And the blessed gods feared him, and bound not Zeus!"

"Bring this to his remembrance, and pray him aid the Trojans."

"Let many an Achaean perish, till Agamemnon rues his blindness!"

Alas, my son, that you should be at once short of life and long of sorrow!

Carry among your ships for twelve days, till Zeus returns from a far journey...

...and I doubt not that I will persuade him.

MEANWHILE, ODYSSEUS RESTORED TO CHRYSES HIS BELOVED DAUGHTER...

God of the silver bow... even as thou didst me honor, and didst mightily afflict the Achaeans...

...remove now from them the loathly pestilence!

AND THE PRIEST PERFORMED THE HOLY HECATOMB HE BROUGHT.

AND APOLLO DID HEAR HIM, AND DID HEED.

FOR TWELVE DAYS, SULLEN ACHILLES REMAINED AT HIS SHIPS, WITH PATROCLUS AT HIS SIDE.

BUT EVER HE YEARNED FOR THE WAR-CRY AND FOR BATTLE.



THAT NIGHT, WHILE  
GODS AND ARMED  
WARRIORS SLEPT, ONLY  
ZEUS WAS WAKEFUL...

AND HE  
CALLED TO  
HIM A FALSE  
DREAM...

Baneful  
Dream, go to  
Agamemnon.

Bid him  
call the Argives  
to arms with all  
speed, for now he  
may take the city  
of Troy.



A MID THE DAWN,  
AGAMEMNON  
ADDRESSED THE  
ASSEMBLED HOST...

My friends--  
the great Zeus  
had promised me  
that I should  
sack Troy.

But now, he  
bids us go ingloriously  
back to Argos--after this  
valiant company has battled  
in vain against men  
fewer in number than  
themselves.

Nine years  
are we  
here...

Our ships'  
timbers have  
rotted...

Our wives and  
children wait  
anxiously for our  
return.

Now,  
therefore, let us  
sail back to Achaea--  
for we shall NEVER  
TAKE TROY!

--BUT AGAINST  
HIS OWN WILL,  
AND THE WILL  
OF FATE!

THE WARRIORS SWAYED  
LIKE THE HIGH WAVES OF  
THE IKARION SEA, AND  
CHEERED EACH OTHER  
ON TO LAUNCH THE SHIPS  
INTO THE SEA.

SO EAGER WERE  
THEY TO RETURN  
HOME--

--THAT THEIR  
GLAD CRIES  
RANG EVEN TO  
THE HEAVENS!

Athena--shall the  
Argives flee over  
the sea's broad  
back?

Shall they  
leave to the  
Trojans Helen  
of Argos\*\*--for  
whose sake many  
an Achaean  
has perished  
so far from  
his native land?

#GREECE

Go thou  
amid the host  
of mail-clad  
Achaeans!

With thy  
words, refrain every  
man from drawing their  
ships down to the  
salt sea!



AMONG THE HULLS,  
SHE FOUND ODYSSEUS,  
WHO HAD NOT YET  
LAID A HAND UPON  
HIS VESSEL....



BUT ONE COMMON SOLDIER  
STILL WAGGED HIS UNBRIDLED  
TONGUE, DESPITE THE ARGIVES'  
DISGUST WITH HIM...

What more does  
King Agamemnon  
want?

More gold--or  
another wench to  
know in love?

You soft Fools--  
ye women of  
Achaea and men  
no more--

Let us depart,  
and leave  
Agamemnon  
alone here in  
Troy-land!

Let him discover  
whether we were  
any service to  
him or no!

It is not  
seemly for  
our captain  
to--

KRAAKK

AAARRR

Thersites--  
there is no viler  
creature come before  
Troy with the sons  
of Hellas!

If I find you  
raving again, I will strip  
you naked and whip you  
blubbering back to  
the ships!

Y-yes,  
Odysseus...

Ithaca's  
lord did us a  
service when  
he stopped this  
fellow's mouth  
from prating  
further!

I do not marvel that Achaeans should be restive!

Still, we would be shamed to go home with empty ships after so long a stay.

Surely you all remember how, nine summers ago as our ships gathered at Aulis, a fearful serpent emerged from beneath the altar.

It devoured a brood of eight young sparrows nesting on a high bough--and their mother made a ninth morsel!

Zeus made of this a portent--a sign--

For he turned the snake to stone before our very eyes!



THE MEN OF ILIUM  
WERE HOLDING  
ASSEMBLY, OLD  
AND YOUNG...

Hector...  
Priam...you talk  
idly, as in time of  
peace, whilst war  
is at hand.

The Argive army, thick  
as sands of the sea, is  
even now crossing the  
plain to attack  
the city.

AND THEY KNEW  
THEY HAD BEEN  
WHISPERED TO BY  
A GODDESS.

We have many allies  
who have come within  
the walls of Troy,  
speaking many  
tongues.

Let each chief  
give orders to  
his own people,  
and lead them  
forth to  
battle!

AND SOON, TROY'S  
GATES WERE THROWN  
OPEN WIDE, AND ITS  
HOST ISSUED FORTH,  
FOOTMEN AND HORSEMEN--

--WITH THE  
TUMULT OF  
A MIGHTY  
MULTITUDE!

THE TROJANS AND  
THEIR ALLIES ADVANCED  
WITH CLAMOR AND  
SHOUTING--LIKE A FLIGHT  
OF WILD FOWL THAT  
SCREAM OVERHEAD--

--WHILE THE ACHAEOANS  
MARCHED TO MEET THEM  
IN SILENCE, BREATHING  
COURAGE, AND MINDED TO  
STAND BY ONE ANOTHER.



AND ALL THE  
WHILE, ACHILLES  
SAT BROODING  
AT HIS SHIPS...

...AND NURSED  
HIS ANGER.

NEXT:  
BATTLE-AND  
BETRAYAL