The meeting of Priam and Achilles is a meeting that if not under the circumstances of grief should have been one of hatred and tension. Priam was the father to the man that killed Achilles best friend, and Achilles had slain the last of the heroic sons of Priam. These were men who were mortal enemies, and both men had so much blood of the others people on their hands. Instead of hatred, the meeting contained a mutual sense of empathy. However it is arguable whether it was mutual, sure Achilles felt empathy for Priam but perhaps priams empathy was a form of manipulation. Achilles could have easily killed priam, and he understood that so priam brought up topics that Achilles could relate to. That understanding that they had both lost someone dear to them caused them to openly weep together, something that was not socially acceptable of men during that time period.

Other than the loss of two men dear to them there was another important conversational component to the meeting. Achilles relationship with his father, and how that affected the interactions with the father of hector. The fathers of Hector, and Achilles were both in the same position. This position was that there was no one present to care for them “in their old age”. In the instance of Achilles. His absence caused his father potential harm. During the time period that the Illiad was written there were no nursing homes and no one to care for old people. Therefore it was the job of the children to care for their parents. However with Achilles at war, his father had no one to care for him. During the conversation this fact caused Achilles must distress, and guild causing a sense of empathy for priam. Priam, after the death of hector was in the same situation. There was no one to care for him, and withouts sons both of these men, these dedicated fathers that rose their children to be heroes would die a miserable, lonely death. This lead to an understanding of the grief of Priam on Achilles part.

The Iliad shows us how enemies can get along and how idiotic the reasons for fighting are. This war was caused merely by greed, not by any differences. Under other circumstance these two men could’ve been friends, but when faced with war they had nothing to offer each other but hate. The Iliad teaches us what war can do to people. Another example of the effects of war in the Iliad is the Argives and Chryses the priest of Apollo. Chryses was so desperate to get his daughter back that we was willing to kill thousands of people. Agamemnon was so desperate to keep his prize that he was willing to let his men die and let chryses suffer. Then there differences were set apart when Agamemnon gave chryses daughter back. They had a feast and prayed together, they shared a table. They laughed and they all had a good time. War brings out the humanistic side of things and exercises every side of the emotion.