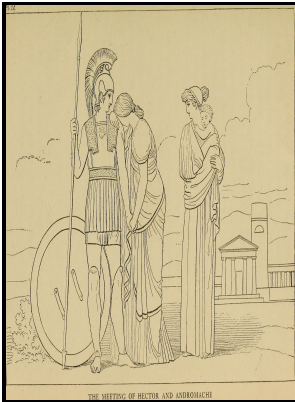


Homer, Iliad, book XXIV

Cambridge University Press, 1982. - Homer (c.750 BC)



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The Iliad of Homer (Pope)/Book 24

Then, at the same time, I am winging Iris down to greathearted Priam, commanding the king to ransom his dear son, to go to Achaea's ships, bearing gifts to Achilles, gifts to melt his rage. How does it relate to the rest of the poem and its principal themes? If any of such should behold thee through the swift black night, forthwith he might haply tell it to Agamemnon shepherd of the host, and thus would there be delay in giving back the dead. While deeper sorrows groan from each full heart, And nature speaks at every pause of art.

Homer, Iliad, Book 24, line 1

If I am doomed to die by the ships of the bronze-clad Greeks, then so be it. As saffron-robed lit the wide earth, they reached the ford of eddying, that noble river begotten by immortal, and Hermes left them for high Olympus.

Homer's Iliad: Book XXIV

Now, yes, you've ransomed your dear son—for a king's ransom.

Homer: Iliad Book XXIV / Edition 1 by Homer

Is it not enough that Zeus has brought me sorrow; taking from me the best of sons? They placed the ashes, wrapped in a purple robe, inside a golden urn, and laid the urn in a hollow grave, covering it with large close-set stones.

homer iliad 24

Have ye no griefs at home, to fix ye there: Am I the only object of despair? He tries to show why Book XXIV is a proper conclusion to the Iliad. Pity me in my own right, remember your own father! Hermes comment about Priam reminding him of his father emphasizes again that Priam is a father, with a father's great love for his dead son. What is the point of the story of Meleager? Nevertheless will I tell thee wherefore I called thee hither.

Homer, Iliad, Book 24, line 1

Then you'd have real delay in ransoming the body. Deny to consort, mother, son, and sire, The last sad honours of a funeral fire? Then speedily the son of Oileus forged to the front, and close after him sped goodly Odysseus; close as is the weaving-rod to the breast of a fair-girdled woman, when she deftly draweth it in her hands, pulling the spool past the warp, and holdeth the rod nigh to her breast; even so close behind ran Odysseus, and his feet trod in the footsteps of Aias or ever the dust had settled therein, and down upon his head beat the breath of goodly Odysseus, as he ran ever swiftly on; and all the Achaeans shouted to further him as he struggled for victory, and called to him as he strained to the utmost. My altar never lacked for sacrifice, for a share of all his meat and drink, the offerings that are our privilege.

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