

## Lament in the Speech of the Iliadic Narrator

### Section 1: The “Masculinity” of the *Iliad*

“Many men (**not women**) enjoy descriptions of fighting for its own sake” (Kirk 1985: 66).

“Anthony Snodgrass, emeritus professor of classical archaeology at Cambridge University, said *The Odyssey* could have been written by a woman because it is about ‘a world at peace in general terms, with domesticity, fidelity ... endurance and determination rather than aggression.’ But he added: ‘**The idea of a woman writing *The Iliad* and not being bored out of her mind by the endless fighting and killings is a bit more far-fetched.**’” (Alberge 2006)

### Section 2: *Iliad* 22.482-83: Andromache laments Hector

Ἔκτορ ἐγὼ δύστηνος· ἦ ἄρα γεινόμεθ’ αἴση  
ἀμφοτέρω, **σὺ μὲν** ἐν Τροίῃ Πριάμου κατὰ δῶμα,  
**αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ** Θήβησιν ὑπὸ Πλάκῳ ὕληέσση  
ἐν δόμῳ Ἡετίωνος, ὃ μ’ ἔτρεφε τυτθὸν ἐοῦσαν  
δύσμορος αἰνόμορον· ὡς μὴ ὄφελλε τεκέσθαι.  
νῦν δὲ **σὺ μὲν** Αἴδαο δόμους ὑπὸ κεύθεσι γαίης  
ἔρχεαι, **αὐτὰρ ἐμὲ** στουγεῖσσι ἐνὶ πένθει λείπεις  
χήρην ἐν μεγάροισι·

Hector, **I** am wretched; we were both born to a single fate, **you** in Troy in the house of Priam, and **I** in Thebes under wooded Placus in the house of Eetion, who, ill-fated, reared me, doomed to a sad fate, when I was small. Would that he had never fathered me. But now **you** go to the house of Hades under the depths of the earth, and you leave **me** in hateful sorrow, a widow in your halls.

### Section 3: *Iliad* 22.435-36: Hecuba laments Hector

ἦ γὰρ καὶ σφι μάλα μέγα κῦδος **ἔησθα**  
**ζῶς ἐόν· νῦν** αὖ θάνατος καὶ μοῖρα κιχάνει

You **were** a very great glory for them **while you were living; now** death and fate have overtaken you”

### Section 4: *Iliad* 4.473-79: Simoeisus

ἐνθ’ ἔβαλ’ Ἀνθεμίωνος υἱὸν Τελαμώνιος Αἴας  
ἠῖθεον θαλερὸν Σιμοείσιον, ὃν **ποτε** μήτηρ  
Ἰδηθεν κατιούσα παρ’ ὄχθησιν Σιμόεντος  
γεῖναι, ἐπεὶ ῥα τοκεῦσιν ἄμ’ ἔσπετο μῆλα ιδέσθαι·  
τοῦνεκά μιν κάλεον Σιμοείσιον· οὐδὲ τοκεῦσι  
θρέπτρα φίλοις ἀπέδωκε, μινυνθάδιος δὲ οἱ αἰὼν  
ἔπλεθ’ ὑπ’ Αἴαντος μεγαθύμου δουρὶ δαμέντι.

Then Telamonian Ajax struck the son of Anthemion, a flourishing young man, Simoeisus, whom **once** his mother, coming down from Ida, gave birth to by the banks of the Simoeis, when she followed her parents to watch the flocks. Therefore they called him Simoeisus. But he did not pay back to his parents recompense for their rearing, and his life was short-lived, having been subdued by the spear of great-hearted Ajax.

Section 5: Iliad 5.49-54: Scamandrius

υἰὸν δὲ Στροφίοιο Σκαμάνδριον αἴμονα θήρης  
Ἀτρεΐδης Μενέλαος ἔλ' ἔγχεϊ ὄξυόεντι  
ἔσθλὸν θηρητῆρα· δίδαξε γὰρ Ἄρτεμις αὐτῇ  
βάλλειν ἄγρια πάντα, τὰ τε τρέφει οὖρῃσιν ὕλη·  
ἀλλ' οὐ οἱ **τότε** γε χραῖσμι' Ἄρτεμις ἰοχέαιρα,  
οὐδὲ ἐκηβολίαί ἦσιν **τὸ πρὶν** γε κέκαστο·

Menelaus the son of Atreus took with the sharp spear  
Scamandrius the son of Strophius, good at hunting.  
For Artemis herself taught him to shoot all wild  
beasts which the forest in the mountains rears. But  
Artemis who pours arrows did not **then** come to his  
aid, nor his skill at archery, at which **before** he had  
excelled.

Section 6: Iliad 16.570-80: Epeigeus

βλήτο γὰρ οὐ τι κάκιστος ἀνὴρ μετὰ Μυρμιδόνεσσιν  
υἱὸς Ἀγακλῆος μεγαθύμου διὸς Ἐπειγεύς,  
ὃς ῥ' ἐν Βουδεΐῳ εὖ ναιομένῳ ἦνασσε  
**τὸ πρὶν**· ἀτὰρ **τότε** γ' ἐσθλὸν ἀνεψιὸν ἐξεναρίζας  
ἐς Πηλῆν' ἰκέτευσσε καὶ ἐς Θέτιν ἀργυρόπεζαν·  
οἱ δ' ἄμ' Ἀχιλλῆϊ ῥήξηνορι πέμπον ἔπεσθαι  
Ἴλιον εἰς εὐπωλον, ἵνα Τρώεσσι μάχοιτο.  
τόν ῥα **τόθ'** ἀπτόμενον νέκυος βάλε φαίδιμος Ἴκτωρ  
χερμαδίῳ κεφαλῆν·

A man was struck, in no way the worst among the  
Myrmidons, the son of great-hearted Agacles, brilliant  
Epeigeus, who **formerly** ruled in well-peopled  
Boudeium. But **then**, having slain his good cousin, he  
came as a suppliant to Peleus and to silver-footed  
Thetis. They sent him to follow Achilles breaker of  
men to Troy rich in foals, so that he might fight the  
Trojans. **There/then** shining Hector struck him on the  
head with a boulder while he was grasping the corpse.

Section 7: Iliad 6.21-29: Aesepus and Pedasus

βῆ δὲ μετ' Αἴσηπον καὶ Πήδασον, οὓς **ποτε** νύμφη  
νηῖς Ἀβαρβαρέη τέκ' ἀμύμονι Βουκολίῳνι.  
Βουκολίων δ' ἦν υἱὸς ἀγαθοῦ Λαομέδοντος  
πρεσβύτατος γενεῆ, σκότιον δὲ ἐγείνατο μήτηρ·  
ποιμαίνων δ' ἐπ' ὄεσσι μίγη φιλότῃ καὶ εὐνῇ,  
ἧ δ' ὑποκυσαμένη διδυμάονε γείνατο παῖδε.  
καὶ μὲν τῶν ὑπέλυσε μένος καὶ φαίδιμα γυῖα  
Μηκιστηϊάδης καὶ ἀπ' ὤμων τεύχε' ἐσύλα.

He went after Aesepus and Pedasus, whom **once** the  
naiad nymph Abarbaree bore to blameless Boucolion.  
Boucolion was the son of noble Laomedon, the eldest  
by birth, but his mother bore him in secret.  
Shepherding among the flocks he mingled in love and  
bed, and she, having conceived, bore twin sons. And  
the son of Mekisteus loosed their might and their  
shining limbs and stripped the armor from their  
shoulders.

Section 8: Iliad 13.427-35: Alcahous

ἔνθ' Αἰσυήταο διοτρεφέος φίλον υἰὸν  
ἦρω' Ἀλκάθοον, γαμβρὸς δ' ἦν Ἀγχίσαιο,  
πρεσβυτάτην δ' ὥποιε θυγατρῶν Ἴπποδάμειαν  
τὴν περὶ κῆρι φίλησε πατῆρ καὶ πότνια μήτηρ  
ἐν μεγάρῳ· πᾶσαν γὰρ ὀμηλικὴν ἐκέκαστο  
κάλλει καὶ ἔργοισιν ἰδὲ φρεσὶ· τοῦνεκα καὶ μιν  
γῆμιν ἀνὴρ ὄριστος ἐνὶ Τροίῃ εὐρείῃ·  
τόν **τόθ'** ὑπ' Ἰδομενεῆϊ Ποσειδάων ἐδάμασσε

Then the **dear son of Aesyetes**, the hero Alcahous—  
and he was the **son-in-law of Anchises**, and he married  
the eldest of his daughters, **Hippodameia**, whom her  
father and queenly mother loved exceedingly in their  
hall. For she excelled all her own age in beauty and  
handiwork and wits. Therefore the best man in broad  
Troy married her—him **then** Poseidon subdued at the  
hands of Idomeneus.

Section 9: Iliad 5.152-58: The sons of Phaenops

βῆ δὲ μετὰ Ξάνθον τε Θόωνά τε Φαίνοπος υἱε  
ἄμφω τηλυγέτω· ὃ δὲ τείρετο γήραϊ λυγρῶ,  
υἶόν δ' οὐ τέκετ' ἄλλον ἐπὶ κτεάτεσσι λιπέσθαι.  
ἔνθ' ὃ γε τοὺς ἐνάριζε, φίλον δ' ἐξαίνυτο θυμὸν  
ἀμφοτέρω, πατέρι δὲ γόον καὶ κήδεα λυγρὰ  
λεῖπ', ἐπεὶ οὐ ζῶντε μάχης ἐκνοστήσαντε  
δέξατο· χηρωσταὶ δὲ διὰ κτήσιν δατέοντο.

He went after Xanthus and Thoon, both cherished sons of Phaenops. He was worn down by baneful old age, nor did he beget another son to leave in charge of his possessions. There he killed them, and he took away their spirit from both of them, and he left sorrow and baneful cares for their father, **since he did not receive them having returned home living from battle.** And distant kinsmen divided his property.

Section 10: Iliad 18.58-60: Thetis' lament for Achilles

νηυσὶν ἐπιπροέηκα κορωνίσιν Ἴλιον εἶσω  
Τρωσὶ μαχησόμενον· τὸν δ' οὐχ ὑποδέξομαι αὐτίς  
οἴκαδε νοστήσαντα δόμον Πηληϊῶν εἶσω.

I sent him forth in the curved ships to Ilium to fight the Trojans. But **I will not welcome him having returned home** to the house of Peleus.

Section 11: Iliad 19.297-99: Briseis' lament for Patroclus

ἀλλὰ μ' ἔφασκες Ἀχιλλῆος θείοιο  
κουριδίην ἄλοχον θήσειν, ἄξειν τ' ἐνὶ νηυσὶν  
ἔς Φθίην, δαίσειν δὲ γάμον μετὰ Μυρμιδόνεσσι.  
τὼ σ' ἄμοτον κλαίω τεθνηῶτα μείλιχον αἰεὶ.

You kept saying that you would make me the wedded wife of godlike Achilles, and bring me in the ships to Phthia, and give me a marriage-feast among the Myrmidons. Therefore I cry for you in your death unceasingly, you who were always kind.

Section 12: Iliad 5.148-51: The sons of Eurydamas

ὃ δ' Ἄβαντα μετόχετο καὶ Πολύειδον  
υἱέας Εὐρυδάμαντος ὄνειροπόλοιο γέροντος·  
τοῖς οὐκ ἐρχομένοις ὃ γέρον ἐκρίνατ' ὄνειρους,  
ἀλλὰ σφεας κρατερὸς Διομήδης ἐξενάριξε·

Then he went in pursuit of Abas and Polyidus, the sons of the old man Eurydamas the dream-interpreter; **as they went forth** the old man interpreted for them no dreams, but strong Diomedes killed them.

Section 13: Iliad 22.154-56: Before the sons of the Achaeans came

ὅθι εἵματα σιγαλόεντα  
πλύνεσκον Τρώων ἄλοχοι καλάι τε θύγατρες  
τὸ πρὶν ἐπ' εἰρήνης πρὶν ἔλθειν υἱὰς Ἀχαιῶν.

Where the wives and beautiful daughters of the Trojans used to wash shining garments **formerly** in peacetime, **before** the sons of the Achaeans came.

Section 14: Iliad 22.402-4: Hecuba mourns Hector's corpse

κάρη δ' ἅπαν ἐν κονίησι  
κεῖτο πάρος χαρίεν· τότε δὲ Ζεὺς δυσμενέεσσι  
δῶκεν ἀεικίσσασθαι ἔη ἐν πατρίδι γαίῃ.  
ὥς τοῦ μὲν κεκόνιτο κάρη ἅπαν· ἦ δὲ νυ μήτηρ  
τίλλε κόμην, ἀπὸ δὲ λιπαρὴν ἔρριψε καλύπτρην  
τηλόσε, κώκυσεν δὲ μάλα μέγα παῖδ' ἐσιδοῦσα·

His whole head, lay in the dust, **formerly** beautiful. But **then** Zeus gave him to enemies to be dishonored in his own ancestral land. Thus **his** whole head was made dusty. But **his mother** tore her hair, and she threw far away her shining veil, and wailed very loudly beholding her son.

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