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Stuck in the Middle With You: Quintus of Smyrna's Reception of Homer

1. Homer's Achilles & Patroclus

<p>τοῖσι δὲ Πηλεΐδης ἀδινούῃ ἐξήρχε γόοιο χεῖρας ἐπ' ἀνδροφόνους θέμενος στήθεσσιν ἑταίρου· χαῖρέ μοι ὦ Πάτροκλε καὶ εἰν Αἴδαο δόμοισι· πάντα γὰρ ἤδη τοι τελέω τὰ πάροιθεν ὑπέστην Ἔκτορα δεῦρ' ἐρύσας δώσειν κυσὶν ὠμὰ δάσασθαι, δώδεκα δὲ προπάροιθε πυρῆς ἀποδειροτομήσειν Τρώων ἀγλαὰ τέκνα σέθεν κταμένοιο χολωθεῖς. (<i>Il.</i> 23.17-23)</p>	<p>For them the son of Peleus began an endless lament, Putting his murderous hands on his comrade's chest. "I greet you, Patroclus, even in Hades' house, Because I'm fulfilling everything that I promised before To you--that, having dragged Hector here, I will give him to Dogs to eat raw, and that in front of your pyre I will cut the Throats of twelve glorious Trojan children in anger at your Death."¹</p>
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2. Scholarship: Libanius' Achilles & Patroclus (progymnasma 11 section 3)²

<p>Τίνας ἂν εἶποι λόγους Ἀχιλλεὺς ἐπὶ Πατρόκλῳ κειμένῳ;</p>	
<p>section 1: (a) Achilles' failed expectation that Patroclus would return alive and (b) Patroclus helped the Achaeans to his own detriment</p>	<p>(a) Achilles: <i>Il.</i> 16.247 (b) Achilles: <i>Il.</i> 18.12-13</p>
<p>section 2: (a) Patroclus supported Achilles against Agamemnon and (b) Patroclus' decision to come to Troy</p>	<p>(a) narrator: <i>Il.</i> 1.304-307 (b) ~Nestor: <i>Il.</i> 11.765-6</p>
<p>section 3: (a) Patroclus' use of Achilles armor and (b) Patroclus' defense of the Achaeans against fire</p>	<p>(a) Achilles: <i>Il.</i> 16.64 (b) narrator: <i>Il.</i> 16.293</p>
<p>section 4: Achilles' dread at visiting Patroclus' father</p>	<p>no parallel in Homer</p>
<p>section 5: Achilles' and Patroclus' future common burial site</p>	<p>Patroclus: <i>Il.</i> 23.83-92</p>
<p>section 6: Achilles' vow to kill Hector and to drag his corpse</p>	<p>narrator: <i>Il.</i> 23.396-403</p>
<p>section 7: Achilles' desire to find new equipment but not borrow from Ajax</p>	<p>no parallels in Homeric epics</p>
<p>section 8: Achilles asking Thetis to approach Hephaestus for new equipment</p>	<p>Thetis: <i>Il.</i> 18.135-6</p>

¹ Translations are my own unless otherwise noted.

² Greek: Foerster 1915.

3. Performance: the *Homeristai*'s Achilles & Patroclus

3a. The Homeric Achilles Dreams of Patroclus

<p>εὔδεις, αὐτὰρ ἐμεῖο λελασμένος ἔπλευ Ἀχιλλεῦ. οὐ μὲν μεν ζώντος ἀκήδεις, ἀλλὰ θανόντος· θάπτέ με ὅτι τάχιστα πύλας Αἴδαο περήσω. τῆλέ με εἵργουσι ψυχαὶ εἶδωλα καμόντων, οὐδέ με πω μίσησθαι ὑπὲρ ποταμοῖο ἔδωσιν, ἀλλ' αὐτως ἀλάλημαι ἂν' εὐρυπυλῆς Ἄϊδος δῶ. καὶ μοι δὸς τὴν χεῖρ'· ὀλοφύρομαι, οὐ γὰρ ἔτ' αὐτὶς νίσομαι ἐξ Ἀἴδαο, ἐπὴν με πυρὸς λελάχητε. οὐ μὲν γὰρ ζωοὶ γε φίλων ἀπάνευθεν ἐταίρων βουλάς ἐξόμενοι βουλευόμεν, ἀλλ' ἐμὲ μὲν κῆρ ἀμφέχανε στυγερή, ἣ περ λάχε γιγνόμενόν περ· καὶ δὲ σοὶ αὐτῶ μοῖρα, θεοῖς ἐπιείκελ' Ἀχιλλεῦ, τείχει ὑπο Τρώων εὐηφενέων ἀπολέσθαι. ἄλλο δέ τοι ἔρέω καὶ ἐφήσομαι αἶ κε πίθηαι· μὴ ἐμὰ σῶν ἀπάνευθε τιθήμεναι ὅστε' Ἀχιλλεῦ, ἀλλ' ὁμοῦ ὡς ἐτράφημεν ἐν ὑμετέροισι δόμοισιν, εὗτέ με τυτθὸν ἐόντα Μενοίτιος ἐξ Ὀπόεντος ἤγαγεν ὑμέτερόνδ' ἀνδροκτασίης ὑπο λυγρῆς, ἥματι τῶ ὅτε παῖδα κατέκτανον Ἀμφιδάμαντος νήπιος οὐκ ἐθέλων ἀμφ' ἀστραγάλοισι χολωθεῖς· ἔνθά με δεξάμενος ἐν δώμασιν ἵπποτα Πηλεὺς ἔτραφέ τ' ἐνδυκέως καὶ σὸν θεράποντ' ὀνόμηνεν· ὡς δὲ καὶ ὅστέα νῶϊν ὀμῆ σορὸς ἀμφικαλύπτοι χρῦσεος ἀμφιφορεύς, τόν τοι πόρε πότνια μήτηρ. (<i>Il.</i> 23.69-92)</p>	<p>“You sleep and have forgotten me, Achilles. Not while I lived did you forget me, but now that I am dead! Bury me as quickly as you can and let me pass inside the gates of Hades. The spirits keep me away--phantoms of men worn out with toils--and they do not yet allow me to mingle with them beyond the river, but in vain I wander through the wide-gated house of Hades. Give me your hand, I beg you, for never more again will I return out of Hades, once you have given me my share of fire. Never more in life will we sit apart from our dear comrades and take counsel together, but loathsome fate has gaped around me, the fate that was appointed to me from my birth. For you yourself also, godlike Achilles, it is fate to die beneath the wall of the wealthy Trojans. Another thing I will tell you and charge you, if you will listen. Do not lay my bones apart from yours, Achilles, but let them lie together, just as we were raised in your house when Menoetius brought me, still a child, from Opoeis to your country because of grievous murder on the day I killed Amphidamus' son—fool that I was, though unwilling—angered over dice. Then the horseman Peleus received me in his house and raised me kindly and named me your attendant; so too let one coffer enfold our bones, a golden coffer with two handles, the one your royal mother gave you.”³</p>
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3b. *Homeristai* Script

<p>b. ...ιδεπυλ.....η.ε..ροκ ψυχή ἐφειστήκει γοοῶσά τε μυρομένη τε Πηλείδην...ουσα κατατ 5 ὀσσάκι δ' ὀρμήσειε πυλάων ...σελθειν θυρέων μ αρου τοσσάκι μιν προπάροιθεν ἀποστρέψασκε παραφθὰς Πάτροκλος καὶ ...ρος ... “μνήσαι πατρὸς σεῖο, θεοῖς ἐπιείκελ' Ἀχιλλεῦ 10 μηδὲ Θέτιν χήρην λείψης πρὶν τι κακὸν παθεῖν· ῥεχθὲν δέ τε νήπιος ἔγνω μή τις ἀπ' ἀθανάτων ριαμ ἐμβήη· μάλα τούς γε φιλεῖ ἐκάεργος Ἀπόλλων</p>	<p>[untranslatable line] shade lamenting and weeping stood beside (=Il. 23.106) the son of Peleus... and as many times as he stirred from gates... ...of doors... Patroclus would anticipate and turn away from him. (=Il. 22.197) [untranslatable line] “Keep in mind your father, godlike Achilles, (=Il. 24.486) And do not leave Thetis bereft... before suffering some evil. A fool recognizes a thing once it has been done. (=Il. 17.32 & 20.198) Lest any immortal... Enter. Far-shooting Apollo loves them very much (=Il. 16.94)</p>
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³ Translation by Murray 1924 with modifications.

4. Quintus' Patroclus

a. ἀλλ' ἄμφω περὶ σῆμα Μενoitιάδαο κέχυντο μνησάμενοι ἐτάριοι, γόος δ' ἔχεν ἄλλυδις ἄλλον (PH 1.378-9) ⁴	κλαίοντες δ' ἐτάριοι ἐνήεος (Il. 23.152) ⁵ μνησάμενοι δὴ ἔπειτα φίλους ἔκλαιον ἐταίρους (Od. 12.309) ⁶ μῆσαι δ' ἐτάριοι φίλοιο (Od. 22.208)
b. ὀπόσον ἄμφ' ἐτάριοι πάρος Πατρόκλιο δαμέντος (PH 1.721)	as much as before around the grave of dead Patroclus (narrator)
c. Ἐκτορα γὰρ Πατρόκλιο, σὲ δ' Ἀντιλόχοιο χολῶθεις τίσομαι· (PH 2.447-8)	“I will take vengeance on you in anger for Antilochus, Just as I did on Hector for Patroclus.” (Achilles)
d. οἷόν τ' ἄμφ' ἐτάριοι δαΐκταμένου Πατρόκλιο (PH 3.538)	as [he was about] his comrade Patroclus, killed in battle (narrator)
e. πρόσθε βίη μεγάλου Πατρόκλιο ἦλασεν ἐκ Τρώων Σαρπηδόνα δῖον ὀλέσσας (PH 4.289-90)	[a prize that] before mighty, great Patroclus took from the Trojans after killing shining Sarpedon (narrator)
f. περὶ σῆμα δαΐκταμένου Πατρόκλιο (PH 5.315)	“around the grave of Patroclus killed in battle” (Odysseus)
g. χωόμενος Πατρόκλιο δεδοπότης· (PH 7.697)	“angry for the fallen Patroclus “(Agamemnon)

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⁴ Greek: Vian 1963-9.

⁵ Greek: Allen 1931.

⁶ Greek: von der Mühl 1962.