

Brothers in the Night: Agamemnon and Menelaus in Book 10 of the *Iliad*  
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In this paper I consider the handling of Agamemnon and Menelaus and their relationship in Book 10 of the *Iliad*; in particular I argue that the narrative situation of Book 10 creates a more intimate atmosphere that sheds light on aspects of their relationship on evidence elsewhere in the *Iliad*. My argument will focus on the concern Agamemnon shows, both privately and publicly, for his brother's behavior, reputation and survival. This is seen first in his private advice to Menelaus to summon the Achaean heroes with all due politeness and without a show of arrogance (67-71); in his private conversation with Nestor, in which he addresses the latter's criticism of Menelaus with a candid acknowledgment that his younger brother often fails to take the initiative (120-27); and in the circle of Achaean champions, where he publicly, but obliquely, urges Diomedes *not* to choose Menelaus as companion-in-arms (234-39), suggesting that he select on basis of excellence (τὸν ἄριστον, 236) rather than relative nobility or rank (βασιλεύπερος, 239). In all these scenes Agamemnon shows a concern for managing two aspects of Menelaus's public profile: One the one hand, he is figure-head of the Achaean coalition since the war is being fought on his behalf (cf. 27-28); on the other hand, he is a lesser hero who must take a back seat in leadership of the expedition and prosecution of the war itself. The way in which Agamemnon handles this task differently in private and public situations will shed light on heretofore puzzling scenes, where I suggest that Agamemnon shows the same concerns, but manages them more obliquely due to the presence of wider internal audiences. In particular I will discuss the scene in Book 4 in which Agamemnon laments Menelaus's injury at the hands of Pandaros (155-82); the scene in Book 6 in which he urges Menelaus to dispatch a Trojan suppliant, Adrestos (55-60); and the scene in Book 7 in which he excuses Menelaus from joining in single combat with Hector (109-19). In Book 4, Agamemnon exploits Menelaus's injury to deliver a general exhortation to the Achaean army; so now in Book 10 Menelaus must respectfully summon Achaean heroes on his own behalf. In Book 6, Menelaus was inclined to spare Adrestos until Agamemnon's intervention, just as in Book 10 the latter acknowledges to Nestor that his brother lacks personal resolve. And in Book 7, Agamemnon excuses Menelaus from fighting Hector, just as in Book 10 he indirectly encourages Diomedes not to select Menelaus as his companion-in-arms. These parallels show that the relationship between the brothers in Book 10 and elsewhere in the *Iliad* derives from a unitary conception, and that if Book 10 is not an authentic part of the *Iliad*, we may at least add this to the evidence for its very close relationship to that text.