

Notable commentators have already remarked on the long speech of Nestor in the Iliad 11.655-803 with a considerable diversity of opinion. Whether the “long-winded” speech is “generally recognized as an interpolation,”<sup>1</sup> a “symptom of senility,”<sup>2</sup> or “the effective speech of an effective speaker,”<sup>3</sup> apparently depends largely on who is reading the story and how they are doing so. This paper will once again revisit Nestor’s speech, but for the purpose of connecting it with the verbal repetitions in speeches (16.23-29 // 11.658-664 and 16.35-46 // 11.794.803) from the mouth of Patroclus. While this paper will follow many of the aspects of Minchin’s narrative approach to the text, instead of focusing on Nestor’s original speech, it will follow more closely Patroclus’ response and argue that, from within the story of the Iliad, Patroclus’ repetitions of Nestor’s speech not only affirm that Nestor’s long speech has fully persuaded Patroclus, but they also bring the reader to an appreciation for a code of conduct among the Greeks that is very different than Achilles’. Ultimately, Nestor’s speech is persuasive because he and Patroclus share a common understanding that Achilles did not.

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<sup>1</sup> W. Leaf, *A Companion to the Iliad for English Readers* (London 1892) 213.

<sup>2</sup> B. Hainsworth, *The Iliad: A Commentary, Vol. III: Books 9-12* (New York 1993) 295.

<sup>3</sup> E. Minchin, “Speaker and Listener, Text and Context: Some Notes on the Encounter of Nestor and Patroklos in ‘Iliad’ 11” *The Classical World* 84.4 (1991) 274.