

## Similes of the *Iliad* Book 1 (A)

### SUMMARY

#### Short Clauses and Phrases:

- #1 (47) [Apollo ≈ night]
- #2 (104) [Agamemnon's eyes ≈ blazing fire]
- #3\* (249) [Nestor's voice ≈ honey]
- #4 (359) [Thetis ≈ mist]

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### SIMILES

- 1 (47) ἔκλαγξαν δ' ἄρ' οἴστοι ἐπ' ὤμων χωόμενοιο,  
αὐτοῦ κινηθέντος: ὁ δ' ἦϊε νυκτὶ ἐοικώς.

The arrows rattled on the shoulders of the angry [god Apollo] / as he moved, and **he** came **like the night**.

[Apollo ≈ night] Narrator

Cf. *Odyssey* Bk 11 #8 (606) ὁ δ' ἐρεμνῆ νυκτὶ ἐοικώς

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- 2 (104) ἦτοι ὃ γ' ὡς εἰπὼν κατ' ἄρ' ἔζετο: τοῖσι δ' ἀνέστη  
ἦρωσ Ἀτρεΐδης εὐρὺ κρείων Ἀγαμέμνων  
ἀχνύμενος: μένεος δὲ μέγα φρένες ἀμφιμέλαιναι  
πίμπλαντ', ὅσσε δέ οἱ πυρὶ λαμπετόωντι εἴκτην.

When [Calchas] had thus spoken, he sat down, and among them arose / the warrior, son of Atreus, wide-ruling Agamemnon, / deeply troubled. With rage his black heart was wholly / filled, and his **eyes** were **like blazing fire**.

[Agamemnon's eyes ≈ blazing fire] Narrator

NB: *Iliad* Bk 1 #2 (104) = *Odyssey* Bk 4 #6 (662)

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- 3\* (249) τοῦ καὶ ἀπὸ γλώσσης μέλιτος γλυκίων ῥέεν αὐδὴ

From whose tongue flowed **speech sweeter than honey**

[Nestor's voice ≈ honey] Narrator about Nestor

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- 4 (359) καρπαλίμως δ' ἀνέδου πολιῆς ἀλὸς ἠύτ' ὀμίχλη.

And speedily [**Thetis**] came forth from the grey sea **like a mist**.

[Thetis ≈ mist] Narrator

\* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

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For brief comments about these similes see D. Feeney 2014.

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## Similes of the *Iliad* Book 2 (B)

### SUMMARY

#### Scenes:

- #1 (87) [tribes of Argives ≈ tribes of bees]
- #2 (144) [aroused assembly ≈ long waves lashed by winds]
- #3 (147) [whole assembly stirred ≈ field of grain stirred by the wind]
- #5 (209) [clamor of army ≈ thunder of wave]
- #7\* (326) [we will take Troy after 9 years ≈ serpent devoured 9 sparrows]
- #9 (394) [shouting Argives ≈ crashing wave]
- #10 (455) [dazzling gleam of bronze ≈ glare of a consuming fire]
- #11 (459) [many tribes of Achaeans ≈ many tribes of birds]
- #13 (469) [numerous Achaeans ≈ numerous tribes of flies]
- #14 (474) [Achaean leaders ≈ goatherds]
- #15 (480) [Agamemnon to warriors ≈ bull to cattle]
- #19 (781) [earth groaning under the feet of the army ≈ earth groaning under Zeus's lashing]

#### Short Clauses and Phrases:

- #4 (190) [an Achaean leader NOT ≈ coward]
- #6 (289) [Argives ≈ little children and widows]
- #8\* (337) [Argives ≈ little boys]
- #12 (468) [numberless Achaeans ≈ leaves and flowers in season]
- #16 (754) [Titaessus river ≈ olive oil]
- #17 (764) [Eumelas' horses ≈ birds]
- #18 (780) [marching Achaean army ≈ fire]
- #20 (800) [Achaean army ≈ leaves or sand]
- #21 (872) [Nastes decked in gold ornaments ≈ a girl]

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... ἐπεσσεύοντο δὲ λαοί.  
 1 (87) ἤύτε ἔθνεα εἴσι μελισσῶν ἀδινᾶν  
 πέτρης ἐκ γλαφυρῆς αἰεὶ νέον ἐρχομένων,  
 βοτρυδὸν δὲ πέτονται ἐπ' ἄνθεσιν εἰαρινοῖσιν:  
 αἱ μὲν τ' ἔνθα ἄλις πεποτήγεται, αἱ δὲ τε ἔνθα:  
 ὥς τῶν ἔθνεα πολλὰ νεῶν ἄπο καὶ κλισιάων  
 ἡϊόνος προπάρριθε βαθείης ἐστιχῶντο  
 ἰλαδὸν εἰς ἀγορήν.

90

\* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

But the armies rushed forward, / **just like** thick **tribes of bees** / that come from some hollow rock ever anew / and fly in clusters over the spring flowers, / some darting en masse here, others there; / **even so** did **their** many **tribes** march in line from ships and huts / in squads before the broad shore / to the assembly.  
[tribes of Argives ≈ tribes of bees] Narrator

See Muellner 1990:66, Feeney 2014:190–194.

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2 (144) κινήθη δ' ἀγορῆ φῆ κύματα μακρὰ θαλάσσης  
πόντου Ἰκαρίοιο, τὰ μὲν τ' Εὐρός τε Νότος τε 145  
ὤρορ' ἐπαίξας πατρὸς Διὸς ἐκ νεφελῶν.

**The assembly** was stirred **like** the **long waves** of the sea, the Icarian sea, when east wind and south wind arise darting down from Father Zeus' clouds.

[aroused assembly ≈ long waves lashed by winds] Narrator

NB φῆ = ὤς

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3 (147) ὤς δ' ὅτε κινήσῃ Ζέφυρος βαθὺ λήϊον ἐλθὼν  
λάβρος ἐπαιγίζων, ἐπὶ τ' ἡμῦν ἀσταχέεσσιν,  
ὤς τῶν πᾶσ' ἀγορῆ κινήθη: τοὶ δ' ἀλαλητῶ  
νῆας ἔπ' ἐσσεύοντο, ποδῶν δ' ὑπένερθε κονίη 150  
ἴστατ' ἀειρομένη:

**As when** Zephyrus arrives / rushing rapidly, he **stirs** a deep **field of grain** and causes the ears of grain to droop, / **even so their whole assembly was stirred**; with a loud cry / they rushed towards the ships, and the dust from under their feet rose.

[whole assembly stirred ≈ field of grain stirred by the wind] Narrator

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4 (190) 'δαιμόνι' οὐ σε ἔοικε κακὸν ὤς δειδίσεσθαι. 190

'Dear sir, it is not right to threaten you **as if** you were a **coward**.'

[an Achaean leader NOT ≈ coward] Odysseus

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5 (209) ὤς ὃ γε κοιρανέων δῖεπε στρατόν: οἱ δ' ἀγορῆν δὲ  
αὐτίς ἐπεσσεύοντο νεῶν ἄπο καὶ κλισιάων  
ἤχη, ὤς ὅτε κύμα πολυφλοίσβοιο θαλάσσης 210  
αἰγιαλῷ μεγάλῳ βρέμεται, σμαραγεῖ δέ τε πόντος.

Thus masterfully did he range through **the army**, and they / rushed back to the place of assembly from their ships and huts / with a **clamor**, **as when a wave** of the loud-resounding sea / **thunders** on the long beach, and the sea roars.

[clamor of army ≈ thunder of wave] Narrator

\* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

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6 (289) ὥς τε γὰρ ἢ παῖδες νεαροὶ χήραί τε γυναῖκες  
ἀλλήλοισιν ὀδύρονται οἶκον δὲ νέεσθαι. 290

‘For **like little children or widowed women** / [the **Argives**] wail to one another in longing to return home.’

[Argives ≈ little children and widows] Odysseus

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ἐνθ’ ἐφάνη μέγα σῆμα: δράκων ἐπὶ νῶτα δαφεινὸς  
σμερδαλέος, τὸν ῥ’ αὐτὸς Ὀλύμπιος ἦκε φόως δέ,  
βωμοῦ ὑπαίξας πρὸς ῥα πλατάνιστον ὄρουσεν. 310

Then a great portent appeared: a serpent, blood-red on the back, / terrible, which the Olympian himself had sent forth to the light, / glided from beneath the altar and darted to the plane-tree.

7\* (326) ἡμῖν μὲν τόδ’ ἔφηνε τέρας μέγα μητίετα Ζεὺς  
ὄψιμον ὀψιτέλεστον, ὄου κλέος οὐ ποτ’ ὀλείται. 325  
ὥς οὗτος κατὰ τέκνα φάγε στρουθοῖο καὶ αὐτὴν  
ὀκτώ, ἀτὰρ μήτηρ ἐνάτη ἦν ἢ τέκε τέκνα,  
ὥς ἡμεῖς τοσσαῦτ’ ἔτεα πολεμίξομεν αὖθι,  
τῷ δεκάτῳ δὲ πόλιν αἰρήσομεν εὐρυάγυιαν.

‘To us Zeus the counsellor has showed **this great sign**, / late in coming, late in fulfillment, whose fame shall never perish. / **Just as this <serpent>** devoured the sparrow's little ones and [the mother] herself, / eight, and the mother that bore the children was **the ninth**, / **so shall we** make war here **for so many years**, / but in the tenth we take the broad-wayed city.’

[we will take Troy after 9 years ≈ serpent devoured 9 sparrows] Calchas

Cf. the bird omen in Book 12 #7 (219), also turned into a simile.

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8\* (337) ὦ πόποι ἦ δὴ παισὶν εἰκότες ἀγοράασθε  
νηπιάχοις οἷς οὐ τι μέλει πολεμήϊα ἔργα.’

‘Enough! You are holding assembly **like little boys** / that care not for deeds of war.’

[Argives ≈ little boys] Nestor to the Argives

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9 (394) ὡς ἔφατ’, Ἀργεῖοι δὲ μέγ’ ἴαχον ὥς ὅτε κύμα  
ἀκτῆ ἔφ’ ὑψηλῆ, ὅτε κινήσῃ Νότος ἐλθῶν,  
προβλήτι σκοπέλω: τὸν δ’ οὐ ποτε κύματα λείπει  
παντοίων ἀνέμων, ὅτ’ ἂν ἐνθ’ ἢ ἐνθα γένωνται. 395

\* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

So [Agamemnon] spoke, and the **Argives shouted** loudly **as when a wave / [crashes]** against a high headland, when the south wind comes and stirs / it against a jutting crag that is never left by the waves / of all the winds that come from this side or from that.

[shouting Argives ≈ crashing wave] Narrator

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10 (455) ἤύτε πῦρ αἶδηλον ἐπιφλέγει ἄσπετον ὕλην  
οὔρεος ἐν κορυφῆς, ἕκαθεν δέ τε φαίνεται αὐγή,  
ὡς τῶν ἐρχομένων ἀπὸ χαλκοῦ θεσπεσίοιο  
αἶγλη παμφανόωσα δι' αἰθέρος οὐρανὸν ἴκε.

**Even as a consuming fire** makes an immense forest blaze / on the peaks of a mountain, and from afar its **glare** is visible, / **even so**, as they marched forth, from their innumerable **bronze / the dazzling gleam** went up through the sky to the heavens.

[dazzling gleam of bronze ≈ glare of a consuming fire] Narrator

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11 (459) τῶν δ' ὡς τ' ὀρνίθων πετεηνῶν ἔθνεα πολλὰ  
χηνῶν ἢ γεράνων ἢ κύκνων δουλιχοδείρων 460  
Ἀσίῳ ἐν λειμῶνι Καῦστρίου ἀμφὶ ῥέεθρα  
ἐνθα καὶ ἐνθα ποτῶνται ἀγαλλόμενα περύγεσσι  
κλαγγηδὸν προκαθιζόντων, σμαραγεῖ δέ τε λειμῶν,  
ὡς τῶν ἔθνεα πολλὰ νεῶν ἀπο καὶ κλισιάων  
ἐς πεδίον προχέοντο Σκαμάνδριον. 465

And **as the many tribes of winged birds**, / geese or cranes or long-necked swans / on an Asian meadow by the streams of the Kayster, / flutter this way and that, glorying in their wings, / and alight with loud shrieks, and the meadow resounds; / **even so** the **many tribes <of Achaeans>** poured forth from ships and huts / onto the plain of Scamander.

[many tribes <of Achaeans> ≈ many tribes of birds] Narrator

See Muellner 1990:62.

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12 (468) ἔσταν δ' ἐν λειμῶνι Σκαμανδρίῳ ἀνθεμόεντι  
μυριοί, ὅσα τε φύλλα καὶ ἄνθεα γίγνεται ὥρη.

So [**the Achaeans**] took their stand in the flowery meadow of Scamander, / **numberless, as** are the **leaves and the flowers** in season.

[numberless Achaeans ≈ leaves and flowers in season] Narrator

See Muellner 1990:62.

Cf. *Odyssey* Bk 9 #1\* (51) ἦλθον ἔπειθ' ὅσα φύλλα καὶ ἄνθεα γίγνεται ὥρη

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13 (469) ἤύτε μυιάων ἀδινάων ἔθνεα πολλὰ

\* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

αἶ τε κατὰ σταθμὸν ποιμνήϊον ἠλάσκουσιν  
ὥρῃ ἐν εἰαρινῇ ὅτε τε γλάγος ἄγγεα δεύει,  
τόσσοι ἐπὶ Τρώεσσι κάρη κομόωντες Ἀχαιοὶ  
ἐν πεδίῳ ἴσαντο διαρραῖσαι μεμαῶτες.

470

**Even as numerous dense tribes of flies** / that swarm to and fro throughout the sheep fold / in the season of spring, when the milk splashes in the pails, / **even in such numbers** stood the long-haired **Achaean** / upon the plain against the Trojans, eager to destroy them.

[numerous Achaeans ≈ numerous tribes of flies] Narrator

Cf. 4.433–435 and 16.641–643 (on which see T. Neal 2006)

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14 (474) τοὺς δ' ὥς τ' αἰπόλια πλατέ' αἰγῶν αἰπόλοι ἄνδρες  
ῥεῖα διακρίνωσιν ἐπεὶ κε νομῶ μιγέωσιν,  
ὥς τοὺς ἠγεμόνες διεκόσμεον ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα  
ὕσμίνην δ' ἰέναι.

475

**And even as goatherds** separate easily the wide-scattered flocks of goats, / when they mingle in the pasture, / **so their leaders** marshalled them on this side and on that / to enter into the battle.

[Achaean leaders ≈ goatherds] Narrator

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15 (480) ἤύτε βουὺς ἀγέληφι μέγ' ἔξοχος ἔπλετο πάντων  
ταῦρος: ὃ γάρ τε βόεσσι μεταπρέπει ἀγρομένησι:  
τοῖον ἄρ' Ἀτρεΐδην θῆκε Ζεὺς ἡματι κείνῳ  
ἐκπρεπέ' ἐν πολλοῖσι καὶ ἔξοχον ἠρώεσσιν.

**Even as an ox** among the herd is pre-eminent among all, **a bull**, as he is conspicuous among the gathering cattle, **even so** Zeus made **the son of Atreus** on that day / conspicuous among many, and pre-eminent among the warriors.

[Agamemnon to warriors ≈ bull to cattle] Narrator

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16 (754) οὐδ' ὃ γε Πηνειῷ συμμίσγεται ἀργυροδίνῃ,  
ἀλλὰ τέ μιν καθύπερθεν ἐπιρρέει ἤύτ' ἔλαιον:  
ὄρκου γὰρ δεινοῦ Στυγὸς ὕδατός ἐστιν ἀπορρώξ.

755

Yet **he** <**the Titaessus river**> does not mingle with the silver eddies of Peneius, / but flows on over his waters **like olive oil**; / for he is a branch of the water of Styx, the dread river of oath.

[Titaessus river ≈ olive oil] Narrator

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17 (764) ἵπποι μὲν μέγ' ἄρισται ἔσαν Φηρητιάδαο,  
τὰς Εὐμηλος ἔλαυνε ποδώκεας ὄρνιθας ὥς.

\* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

ὄτριχας οἰέτεας σταφύλῃ ἐπὶ νῶτον εἴσας.

765

Of **horses** best by far were the mares of the son of Pheres, / those that Eumelas drove, swift **as birds**, with like hair, of the same age, equal in height to a hair.

[Eumelas' horses ≈ birds] Narrator

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18 (780) οἱ δ' ἄρ' ἴσαν ὡς εἶ τε πυρὶ χθῶν πᾶσα νέμοιτο.

So they <Achaean army> marched then **as if** all the land were swept with **fire**.

[marching Achaean army ≈ fire] Narrator

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19 (781) γαῖα δ' ὑπεστενάχιζε Διὶ ὡς τερπικεραύνῳ  
χωμένῳ ὅτε τ' ἀμφὶ Τυφωεῖ γαῖαν ἰμάσση  
εἰν Ἀρίμοις, ὅθι φασὶ Τυφωέος ἔμμεναι εὐνάς:  
ὡς ἄρα τῶν ὑπὸ ποσσὶ μέγα στεναχίζετο γαῖα  
ἐρχομένων.

785

And the **earth groaned** beneath them, **as beneath Zeus** who delights in the thunderbolt / in his wrath, when he **lashes** the **earth** about Typhoeus / in the country of the Arimi, where men say is the couch of Typhoeus. / **Even so the earth groaned** greatly beneath their feet as they went.

[earth groaning under the feet of the army ≈ earth groaning under Zeus' lashing] Narrator

See Lowell, 2011:17–63.

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20 (800) ἀλλ' οὐ πῶ τοιόνδε τοσόνδ' εἶ τε λαὸν ὄπῳπα:  
λίην γὰρ φύλλοισιν ἐοικότες ἢ ψαμάθοισιν  
ἔρχονται πεδίῳ μαχησόμενοι προτὶ ἄστυ.

800

'But never yet have I seen **an army so fine and so great**; / for they are **most like to leaves or sands**, / as they march over the plain to fight against the city.'

[Achaean army ≈ leaves or sand] Iris disguised as Polites

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21 (872) τῶν μὲν ἄρ' Ἀμφίμαχος καὶ Νάστης ἠγησάσθην,  
Νάστης Ἀμφίμαχός τε Νομίονος ἀγλαὰ τέκνα,  
ὃς καὶ χρυσὸν ἔχων πόλεμον δ' ἴεν ἤύτε κούρη  
νήπιος, οὐδέ τί οἱ τό γ' ἐπήρκεσε λυγρὸν ὄλεθρον,  
ἀλλ' ἐδάμη ὑπὸ χερσὶ ποδώκεος Αἰακίδαο  
ἐν ποταμῷ, χρυσὸν δ' Ἀχιλεὺς ἐκόμισσε δαίφρων.

870

875

Amphimachus and Nastes led them, **Nastes** and Amphimachus, the glorious sons of Nomion. / And he came to the war all decked with gold, **like a girl**, / fool that he was;

\* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

but his gold in no way prevented bitter destruction. / He was slain beneath the hands of the swift-footed son of Aeacus / in the river; and fiery-hearted Achilles took the gold.  
[Nastes decked in gold ornaments ≈ a girl] Narrator

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### Similar Rhetorical Figures

#### Transformations and Disguises:

##### The dream as Nestor:

20\* στῆ δ' ἄρ' ὑπὲρ κεφαλῆς Νηληϊῶ υἱὲ ἔοικώς  
Νέστορι, τόν ῥα μάλιστα γερόντων τί' Ἀγαμέμνων:  
τῷ μιν εἰσάμενος προσεφώνεε θεῖος ὄνειρος

[The Dream] stood over the head [of Agamemnon] **like** the son of Neleus / **Nestor**, whom above all elders Agamemnon held in honor / **likening himself to him** the divine dream spoke.

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57\* μάλιστα δὲ Νέστορι δῖω  
εἶδός τε μέγεθός τε φυὴν τ' ἄγχιστα ἔώκει:

And most of all **it was like divine Nestor** / in form and size and build.

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##### Athena as a herald:

280\* παρὰ δὲ γλαυκῶπις Ἀθήνη  
εἶδομένη κήρυκι σιωπᾶν λαὸν ἀνώγει

And by his side flashing-eyed **Athena** / **in the likeness of a herald** commanded the army to keep silent.

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##### Iris as Polites:

791\* ἀγχοῦ δ' ἵσταμένη προσέφη πόδας ὠκέα Ἴρις: 790  
εἶσατο δὲ φθογγὴν υἱὲ Πριάμοιο Πολίτη,  
ὃς Τρώων σκοπὸς ἴζε ποδωκείησι πεποιθώς  
τύμβῳ ἐπ' ἀκροτάτῳ Αἰσυήταο γέροντος,  
δέγμενος ὀππότε ναῦφιν ἀφορμηθεῖεν Ἀχαιοί:  
τῷ μιν εἰσαμένη προσέφη πόδας ὠκέα Ἴρις: 795

And swift-footed **Iris** stood near and spoke to them; / and **she made her voice like that** of Polites, son of Priam, / who used to sit as a sentinel of the Trojans, trusting in his fleetness of foot, / on the topmost part of the barrow of aged Aesyetes, / waiting until the Achaeans should sally forth from their ships. **Likening herself to him** swift-footed Iris spoke to [Priam].

[Iris ≈ Polites (in voice)]

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\* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A



## Divine Comparisons:

Ὀδυσῆα Διὶ μῆτιν ἀτάλαντον (169\*), 'god-like Odysseus' (335\*), Ὀδυσῆα  
Διὶ μῆτιν ἀτάλαντον (407\*).

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478 μετὰ δὲ κρείων Ἀγαμέμνων  
ὄμματα καὶ κεφαλὴν ἴκελος Διὶ τερπικεραύνῳ,  
Ἄρει δὲ ζώνην, στέρνον δὲ Ποσειδάωνι.

Lord **Agamemnon** among them / **his eyes and head like Zeus** who hurls the thunderbolt, / **his waist like Ares** and **his chest like Poseidon**.  
[Agamemnon ≈ Zeus (eyes and head), Ares (waist), Poseidon (chest)] Narrator

Lee counts this as a simile.

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## Similes of the *Iliad* Book 3 (Γ)

### SUMMARY

#### Scenes:

- #2 (3) [shrieking Trojans ≈ shrieking cranes]
- #3 (10) [dense dust ≈ fog]
- #6 (23) [Menelaus to Paris ≈ lion to stag or goat]
- #7 (33) [Alexander (Paris) seeing Menelaus ≈ a man who sees a snake]
- #8 (60) [Hector's heart ≈ axe]
- #9 (151) [speakers (leaders of the Trojans) ≈ cicadas]
- #11 (197) [Odysseus > men ≈ ram > ewes]

#### Short Clauses and Phrases:

- #1 (2) [shrieking Trojans ≈ birds]
- #4\* (11) [fog ≈ night]
- #5\* (12) (*hosson/tosson*) [visibility distance ≈ stone's throw distance]
- #10 (196) [Odysseus ≈ lead ram]
- #12\* (219) [Odysseus ≈ an ignorant man]
- #13 (222) [Odysseus' words ≈ snow-flakes]
- #14 (449) [Menelaus ≈ wild animal]
- #15\* (454) [Paris/Alexander ≈ black death]

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1 (2) αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ κόσμηθεν ἄμ' ἡγεμόνεσσιν ἕκαστοι,  
Τρῶες μὲν κλαγγῇ τ' ἐνοπή τ' ἴσαν ὄρνιθες ὥς

\* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

2 (3) ἤύτε περ κλαγγὴ γεράνων πέλει οὐρανόθι πρό:  
 αἶ τ' ἐπεὶ οὖν χειμῶνα φύγον καὶ ἀθέσφατον ὄμβρον  
 κλαγγῆ ταί γε πέτονται ἐπ' ὤκεανοῖο ῥοάων 5  
 ἀνδράσι Πυγμαίοισι φόνον καὶ κῆρα φέρουσαι:  
 ἤεριοι δ' ἄρα ταί γε κακὴν ἔριδα προφέρονται.

But when they each were arrayed with their commanders, **the Trojans** with a **shriek** and a battle cry advanced **like birds / just as the shriek of cranes** goes forth to heaven / when they flee winter and indescribable rain / and fly with a shriek over the streams of Ocean / bringing slaughter and death on Pygmy men; high in the air they bring evil strife.

#1 (2) [shrieking Trojans ≈ birds]

#2 (3) [shrieking Trojans ≈ shrieking cranes] Narrator

See Muellner 1990 passim.

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3 (10) εὐτ' ὄρεος κορυφῆσι Νότος κατέχευεν ὀμίχλην 10  
 4\* (11) ποιμέσιν οὐ τι φίλην, κλέπτῃ δέ τε νυκτὸς ἀμείνω,  
 5\* (12) τόσσόν τις τ' ἐπιλεύσσει ὅσον τ' ἐπὶ λᾶαν ἴησιν:  
 ὥς ἄρα τῶν ὑπὸ ποσσὶ κονίσαλος ὄρνυτ' ἀελλῆς  
 ἐρχομένων: μάλα δ' ὦκα διέπρησον πεδίοιο.

**As when** the South Wind spreads a **fog** upon the mountain tops, / not at all dear to shepherds but **better than night for a thief**, / and one can see (so far) **as far as he can throw a stone**, / **even so** rose the **dense dust** of the storm / of those advancing; and very quickly they crossed the plain.

#3 (10) [dense dust ≈ fog]

#4\* (11) [fog ≈ night]

#5\* (12) [visibility distance ≈ stone's throw distance] Narrator

See the reference to Nannini 2003 at end of this chapter.

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6 (23) τὸν δ' ὡς οὖν ἐνόησεν ἀρηίφιλος Μενέλαος  
 ἐρχόμενον προπάροιθεν ὀμίλου μακρὰ βιβάντα,  
 ὥς τε λέων ἐχάρη μεγάλῳ ἐπὶ σώματι κύρσας  
 εὐρών ἢ ἔλαφον κεραὸν ἢ ἄγριον αἶγα 25  
 πεινάων: μάλα γάρ τε κατεσθίει, εἶ περ ἂν αὐτὸν  
 σεύωνται ταχέες τε κύνες θαλεροὶ τ' αἰζηοί:  
 ὥς ἐχάρη Μενέλαος Ἀλέξανδρον θεοειδέα  
 ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἰδών: φάτο γὰρ τίσεσθαι ἀλείτην:

When Menelaus dear to Ares noticed him / coming forth before the ranks with long strides, / **as a lion** is glad that lights on a large carcass / and finds a horned stag or wild goat / while being hungry and he indeed devours it, even though / swift dogs and

\* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

energetic youths might set upon him, / **even thus** was **Menelaus** glad when his eyes caught sight of god-like Alexander, / for he thought that now he would be revenged on a sinner.

[Menelaus to Paris ≈ lion to stag or goat] Narrator

See M. Clarke 1995:146–147.

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7 (33)            ὡς δ' ὅτε τίς τε δράκοντα ἰδὼν παλίνορσος ἀπέστη  
οὔρεος ἐν βήσσης, ὑπὸ τε τρόμος ἔλλαβε γυῖα,  
ἂψ δ' ἀνεχώρησεν, ὦχρός τέ μιν εἶλε παρειάς,            35  
ὡς αὖτις καθ' ὄμιλον ἔδου Τρώων ἀγερώχων  
δεΐσας Ἀτρέος υἱὸν Ἀλέξανδρος θεοειδής.

**As when a man seeing a snake** springs back and stands away / in mountain glades, and trembling seizes his limbs beneath him / and he retreats and pallor comes over his cheeks, / **even so** did god-like **Alexander** plunge back into the throng of lordly Trojans, / terror-stricken at [the **sight of**] **the son Atreus**.

[Alexander (Paris) seeing Menelaus ≈ a man who sees a snake] Narrator

Sed S. R. van der Mije 2011:372–373.

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8 (60)            αἰεὶ τοι κραδίη πέλεκυς ὡς ἐστὶν ἀτειρῆς  
ὅς τ' εἶσιν διὰ δουρὸς ὑπ' ἀνέρος ὅς ρά τε τέχνη  
νήϊον ἐκτάμνησιν, ὀφέλλει δ' ἀνδρὸς ἐρωήν:  
ὡς σοὶ ἐνὶ στήθεσιν ἀτάρβητος νόος ἐστί:

'Your <Hector's> heart is always unyielding **like an axe** / that is driven through a beam by a man who skillfully / hews out a ship's timber, and it increases the man's force; / **even so** is the **heart** in your breast undaunted.'

[Hector's heart ≈ axe] Alexander (Paris)

Note: The two tenors, κραδίη and νόος, are synonyms as used here.

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9 (151)            γήραϊ δὴ πολέμοιο πεπαυμένοι, ἀλλ' ἀγορηταὶ            150  
ἐσθλοὶ, τεττίγεσσι ἐοικότες οἳ τε καθ' ὕλην  
δενδρῶ ἐφεζόμενοι ὅπα λειριόεσσαν ἰεῖσι:  
τοιοὶ ἄρα Τρώων ἡγήτορες ἦντ' ἐπὶ πύργῳ.

Because of old age having ceased from war, but excellent **speakers**, / **like cicadas** that in a forest / sitting upon a tree pour out their lily-like voice; / **even so** the **leaders of the Trojans** sat upon the tower.

[speakers (leaders of the Trojans) ≈ cicadas] Narrator

See W. B. Stanford 1969.

\* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

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- 10 (196) αὐτὸς δὲ κτίλος ὡς ἐπιπωλεῖται σίχας ἀνδρῶν:  
11 (197) ἀρνειῶ μιν ἔγωγε εἶσκω πηγεισιμάλλω,  
ὅς τ' οἴων μέγα πῶϋ διέρχεται ἀργεννάων.

'But **he <Odysseus>** goes himself around **like the lead ram** through the ranks of **men**. / I compare him to **a ram**, a ram of thick fleece, that goes through a great flock of white **ewes**.'

#10 (196) [Odysseus ≈ lead ram]

#11 (197) [Odysseus > men ≈ ram > ewes] Priam

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- 12\* (219) ἀλλ' ὅτε δὴ πολύμητις ἀναίξειεν Ὀδυσσεὺς  
στάσκειν, ὑπαὶ δὲ ἴδεσκε κατὰ χθονὸς ὄμματα πήξας,  
σκήπτρον δ' οὔτ' ὀπίσω οὔτε προπρηνὲς ἐνώμα,  
ἀλλ' ἀστεμφὲς ἔχεσκεν αἰδρεῖ φωτὶ ἐοικῶς:  
φαίης κε ζάκοτόν τέ τιν' ἔμμεναι ἄφρονά τ' αὐτῶς. 200  
13 (222) ἀλλ' ὅτε δὴ ὅπα τε μεγάλην ἐκ στήθεος εἶη  
καὶ ἔπεα νιφάδεσσιν ἐοικότα χειμερίησιν,  
οὐκ ἂν ἔπειτ' Ὀδυσσῆϊ γ' ἐρίσσειε βροτὸς ἄλλος:

'But whenever wily **Odysseus** would arise, / he would stand and look down with his eyes fixed on the ground. / He would move the staff neither forward nor backward, / but he would hold the staff stiffly **like an ignorant man**. / You would say he was a surly man or a fool. / But when [he uttered] his great voice from his chest / and **words like winter snow-flakes**, / then no other mortal man could contend with Odysseus.'

#12\* (219) [Odysseus ≈ an ignorant man]

#13 (222) [Odysseus' words ≈ snow-flakes] Priam

See Held 1995.

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- 14 (449) Ἀτρείδης δ' ἀν' ὄμιλον ἐφοίτα θηρὶ ἐοικῶς  
εἶ που ἐσαθρήσειεν Ἀλέξανδρον θεοειδέα. 450

The **son of Atreus <Menelaus>** strode among the throng **like a wild animal** / [to see] if he might somewhere catch sight of god-like Alexander.

[Menelaus ≈ wild animal] Narrator

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- 15\* (454) ἴσον γάρ σφιν πᾶσιν ἀπήχθετο κηρὶ μελαίνῃ.

[Paris/Alexander] was hated by all **equal to black death**.

[Paris/Alexander ≈ black death] Narrator

\* \* \*

\* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

## Similar Rhetorical Figures

### Transformations and Disguises:

#### Iris ≈ Laodice:

122\* Ἴρις δ' αὖθ' Ἑλένη λευκωλένῳ ἄγγελος ἦλθεν  
εἰδομένη γαλόῳ Ἀντηνορίδαο δάμαρτι,  
τὴν Ἀντηνορίδης εἶχε κρείων Ἑλικάων  
Λαοδίκην Πριάμοιο θυγατρῶν εἶδος ἀρίστην.

But **Iris** went as a messenger to white-armed Helen, / **in the likeness of her husband's sister**, the wife of Antenor's son, / whom Antenor's son lord Helicaon had [for a wife], / Laodice, the fairest of Priam's daughters.

#### Aphrodite ≈ an old woman:

386\* γρηῖ δέ μιν εἰκυῖα παλαιγενεῖι προσέειπεν  
εἰροκόμῳ, ἣ οἱ Λακεδαίμονι ναιετώσῃ  
ἥσκειν εἴρια καλά, μάλιστα δέ μιν φιλέεσκε:  
τῇ μιν εἰσαμένη προσεφώνεε δὴ Ἀφροδίτη:

In the **likeness of an old woman, a wool-comber**, she spoke to her <Helen> / who used to card the fair wool for her when she lived in Lacedaimon / and whom she especially loved / **in her likeness goddess Aphrodite spoke to her.**

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### Divine Comparisons:

158\* αἰνῶς ἀθανάτησι θεῆς εἰς ὤπα ἔοικεν: 158

'**She** is dreadfully **like immortal goddesses** in the face.'  
[Helen ≈ goddesses] Trojan elders speaking about Helen

230 Ἴδομενεὺς δ' ἐτέρωθεν ἐνὶ Κρήτεσσι θεὸς ὥς  
ἔστηκ', ἀμφὶ δέ μιν Κρητῶν ἀγοὶ ἠγερέθονται.

**Idomeneus** on the other side amid the Cretans stood **like a god**, / and about him were gathered the leaders of the Cretans.  
[Idomeneus ≈ a god] Helen

Lee listed counted this as a simile (along with twelve other places where the phrase appears in the *Iliad*).

\* \* \*

Nannini 2003:Chapter One 7–47 examines similes with an 'external observer/spectator'. N. contends that such similes are a unique feature of the *Iliad*, where they typically take

\* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

the form of pastoral comparisons in which the figure of the shepherd/goatherd cannot be identified with a character in the simile's direct context. This figure is 'external' to the simile in the sense that it 'inserts itself between tenor and vehicle'. In the analyses of Iliadic similes that follow, N. demonstrates that the shepherds in all cases assume a role of 'observer', to which she assigns a number of different communicative functions: controlling the audience's *pathos*, distantiating of the audience from the heroic world, comment on the action of the main narrative, metapoetic comment etc.

For example, the presence of the shepherd and the thief in *Iliad* Book 3 lines 10 – 12 cannot be equated with a point of view in the main narrative. The cloud of dust thrown up by the advancing army (tenor) corresponds to the fog on the mountains (vehicle) — but what about the thief who profits from the weather and the shepherd who watches with apprehension? Their singularity makes them a locus for authorial comment on the narrative's main action: shepherd and thief illustrate 'the continuous alternation between winners and losers in the natural course of events'.

<http://bmc.brynmawr.edu/2004/2004-12-02.html#t3>

\* \* \*

### Similes of the *Iliad* Book 4 (Δ)

#### SUMMARY

##### Scenes:

- #1 (75) [Athena ≈ gleaming star]
- #2 (130) [Athena kept arrow from Menelaus ≈ a mother keeps fly from child]
- #3 (141) [Menelaus' thighs stained with blood ≈ ivory stained with scarlet]
- #4 (243) [Argives ≈ fawns]
- #6 (275) [Achaean phalanxes ≈ a cloud blacker than pitch]
- #8 (422) [battalions of Danaans ≈ waves of the sea]
- #9 (433) [clamor of the Trojans ≈ bleating of ewes]
- #10 (452) [shouting and toil of Trojans and Greeks ≈ thunder of rivers in winter]
- #13 (482) [fallen Simoeisios ≈ felled poplar tree]

##### Short Clauses and Phrases:

- #5 (253) [Idomeneus ≈ wild boar]
- #7\* (277) [a dark cloud ≈ blacker than pitch]
- #11 (462) [Echepolus ≈ falling tower]
- #12 (471) [Trojans and Achaeans ≈ wolves]

\* \* \*

- 1 (75) οἶον δ' ἀστέρα ἦκε Κρόνου παῖς ἀγκυλομήτεω  
 ἢ ναύτησι τέρας ἤε στρατῶ εὐρέϊ λαῶν  
 λαμπρόν: τοῦ δέ τε πολλοὶ ἀπὸ σπινθήρες ἴενται:  
 τῷ ἐῖκυϊ ἦϊξεν ἐπὶ χθόνα Παλλὰς Ἀθήνη.  
 καὶ δ' ἔθορ' ἐς μέσσον: θάμβος δ' ἔχεν εἰσορόωντας  
 Τρῳάς θ' ἵπποδάμους καὶ εὐκνήμιδας Ἀχαιοῦς.

80

\* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

**Just as** the son of crooked-counselling Cronus sends **a star / to be a portent** either for seamen or for a wide army of warriors, / **a gleaming star**, and from it many sparks fly; / **like this** Pallas **Athena** darted to earth, / and down she leaped into their midst; and amazement came on those that saw, / both on horse-taming Trojans and well-greaved Achaeans.

[Athena ≈ gleaming star] Narrator

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2 (130) ἦ δὲ τόσον μὲν ἔεργεν ἀπὸ χροὸς ὡς ὅτε μήτηρ 130  
παιδὸς ἔεργη μυῖαν ὅθ' ἠδέϊ λέξεται ὕπνῳ.

**She <Athena> kept [an arrow] just** away from the flesh, **as when a mother / keeps away a fly** from her child when he lies in sweet slumber.

[Athena kept arrow from Menelaus ≈ a mother keeps fly from child] Narrator

See Dué and Ebbott 2012:8–9.

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3 (141) ὡς δ' ὅτε τίς τ' ἐλέφαντα γυνὴ φοίνικι μίηνι 145  
Μηονίς ἢ ἐ Κάειρα παρήϊον ἔμμεναι ἵππων:  
κεῖται δ' ἐν θαλάμῳ, πολέες τέ μιν ἠρήσαντο  
ἵππηες φορέειν: βασιλῆϊ δὲ κεῖται ἄγαλμα,  
ἀμφοτέρων κόσμος θ' ἵππῳ ἐλατήρι τε κύδος:  
τοιοῖ τοι Μενέλαε μίανθην αἵματι μηροῖ  
εὐφυέες κνήμαί τε ἰδὲ σφυρὰ κάλ' ὑπένερθε.

**As when a woman stains ivory with scarlet**, / some woman of Maeonia or Caria, to be a cheek-piece for horses, / and it lies in a treasure-chamber, and many horsemen pray / to wear it; but it lies there as a king's treasure, / both an ornament for his horse and to its driver a glory; / **such**, Menelaus, were your shapely **thighs stained with blood**, / and your legs and your fair ankles beneath.

[Menelaus' thighs stained with blood ≈ ivory stained with scarlet] Narrator

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4 (243) τίφθ' οὕτως ἔστητε τεθηπότες ἢ ὅτε νεβροί, 245  
αἶ τ' ἐπεὶ οὖν ἔκαμον πολέος πεδίοιο θέουσαι  
ἔστᾶσ', οὐδ' ἄρα τίς σφι μετὰ φρεσὶ γίγνεται ἀλκή:  
ὡς ὑμεῖς ἔστητε τεθηπότες οὐδὲ μάχεσθε.

'Why is it that you stand so dazed, **like fawns** / that, when they have grown weary with running over a wide plain, / stand still, and in their hearts is no valor? / Thus **you** stand dazed and do not fight.'

[Argives ≈ fawns] Agamemnon

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5 (253) Ἴδομενεὺς μὲν ἐνὶ προμάχοις συὶ εἵκελος ἀλκήν.

**Idomeneus** [was] amid the foremost fighters **like a wild boar in valor**.

[Idomeneus ≈ wild boar] Narrator

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- 6 (275) ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἀπὸ σκοπιῆς εἶδεν νέφος αἰπόλος ἀνήρ  
ἐρχόμενον κατὰ πόντον ὑπὸ Ζεφύροιο ἰωῆς:  
7\* (277) τῷ δέ τ' ἄνευθεν ἐόντι μελάντερον ἤύτε πίσσα  
φαίνεται' ἰὸν κατὰ πόντον, ἄγει δέ τε λαίλαπα πολλήν,  
ρίγησέν τε ἰδὼν, ὑπὸ τε σπέος ἤλασε μῆλα;  
τοῖαι ἄμ' Αἰάντεσσι διοτρεφέων αἰζηῶν 280  
δήϊον ἐς πόλεμον πυκινὰ κίνυντο φάλαγγες  
κυάνεαι, σάκεσίν τε καὶ ἔγχεσι πεφρικυῖαι.

**As when** from some lookout place a goatherd sees **a cloud** / coming over the face of the sea before the blast of Zephyrus, / and to him being far off it seems **blacker than pitch** / as it passes over the deep, and it brings a mighty whirlwind; / and he shudders at sight of it, and drives his flocks beneath a cave; / **such** were the **phalanxes** of Zeus-nourished men / moving by the side of the Ajaxes / dark and closely packed, into furious battle, bristling with shields and spears.

#6 (275) [Achaean phalanxes ≈ a cloud blacker than pitch]

#7\* (277) [a dark cloud ≈ blacker than pitch] Narrator

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- 8 (422) ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἐν αἰγιαλῷ πολυηχέϊ κύμα θαλάσσης  
ὄρνυτ' ἐπασσύτερον Ζεφύρου ὑπο κινήσαντος:  
πόντῳ μὲν τε πρῶτα κορύσσεται, αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα 425  
χέρσῳ ῥηγνύμενον μέγαρα βρέμει, ἀμφὶ δέ τ' ἄκρας  
κυρτὸν ἐὸν κορυφοῦται, ἀποπτύει δ' ἄλός ἄχνην:  
ὥς τότε ἐπασσύτεραι Δαναῶν κίνυντο φάλαγγες  
νωλεμέως πόλεμον δέ.

**As when** on a beach resounding [with surf] **waves of the sea** / rise, one after another, before the driving Zephyrus; / out on the deep at the first [each wave] is gathered in a crest, but thereafter / when broken upon the land it thunders aloud, and round about the headlands / it swells and rears its head, and spews forth the sea's foam: / **so** then did **the battalions of the Danaans** move, / one after another, without cease, into battle.

[battalions of Danaans ≈ waves of the sea] Narrator

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- 9 (433) Τρῶες δ', ὥς τ' οἶες πολυπάμονος ἀνδρὸς ἐν αὐλῇ  
μυρίαὶ ἐστήκασιν ἀμελγόμεναι γάλα λευκὸν 435  
ἀζηχῆς μεμακυῖαι ἀκούουσαι ὄπα ἀρνῶν,  
ὥς Τρῶων ἀλαλητὸς ἀνά στρατὸν εὐρὺν ὀρώρει:  
οὐ γὰρ πάντων ἦεν ὁμὸς θρόος οὐδ' ἴα γῆρυς,  
ἀλλὰ γλῶσσα μέμικτο, πολὺκλητοὶ δ' ἔσαν ἄνδρες.

\* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A



But the Trojans, just **as ewes** in the farm-yard of a man of great wealth / stand in throngs past counting to be milked of their white milk, / and **bleat** without ceasing as they hear the voices of their lambs: / **so** arose **the clamor of the Trojans** throughout the wide host; / for they had not all like speech or one language, / but their tongues were mingled, and they were men summoned from many lands.

[clamor of the Trojans ≈ bleating of ewes] Narrator

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10 (452)      ὡς δ' ὅτε χεῖμαρροι ποταμοὶ κατ' ὄρεσφι ρέοντες  
                 ἐς μισγάγκειαν συμβάλλετον ὄβριμον ὕδωρ  
                 κρουνῶν ἐκ μεγάλων κοίλης ἔντοσθε χαράδρης,  
                 τῶν δέ τε τηλόσε δοῦπον ἐν οὔρεσιν ἔκλυε ποιμήν:      455  
                 ὡς τῶν μισγομένων γένετο ἰαχή τε πόνος τε.

**As when rivers in winter**, flowing down the mountains / to a place where two valleys meet, join the mighty floods / from their great springs in a deep gorge, / and far off in the mountains the shepherd hears **the thunder thereof**; / **so** from the joining of these [in battle] came **shouting and toil**.

[shouting and toil of Trojans and Greeks ≈ thunder of rivers in winter]

Narrator

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                 τόν ρ' ἔβαλε πρῶτος κόρυθος φάλον ἵπποδασεΐης,  
                 ἐν δὲ μετώπῳ πῆξε, πέρησε δ' ἄρ' ὀστέον εἴσω      460  
                 αἰχμὴ χαλκείῃ: τὸν δὲ σκότος ὅσσε κάλυψεν,  
11 (462)      ἤριπε δ' ὡς ὅτε πύργος ἐνὶ κρατερῇ ὑσμίνῃ.

[Antilochus] first struck him <Echepolus> upon the horn of his helmet with crest of horse-hair, / and drove [the spear] into his forehead, and into the bone passed / the point of bronze; and darkness enfolded his eyes, / and **he fell as when a tower <falls>** in a mighty conflict.

[Echepolus ≈ falling tower] Narrator

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12 (471)      ὡς τὸν μὲν λίπε θυμός, ἐπ' αὐτῷ δ' ἔργον ἐτύχθη  
                 ἀργαλέον Τρώων καὶ Ἀχαιῶν: οἱ δὲ λύκοι ὡς  
                 ἀλλήλοις ἐπόρουσαν, ἀνήρ δ' ἄνδρ' ἐδνοπάλιζεν.

So his spirit left him, and over his body the onerous work / of Trojans and Achaeans continued. **Like wolves** / **they** leaped on one another, and man attacked man.

[Trojans and Achaeans ≈ wolves] Narrator

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                 πρῶτον γάρ μιν ἰόντα βάλε στήθος παρὰ μαζὸν      480  
                 δεξιόν: ἀντικρὺ δὲ δι' ὤμου χάλκεον ἔγχος  
13 (482)      ἦλθεν: ὁ δ' ἐν κονίησι χαμαὶ πέσεν αἰγείρος ὡς  
                 ἢ ρά τ' ἐν εἰαμενῇ ἔλεος μεγάλοιο πεφύκει

\* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

λείη, ἀτάρ τέ οἱ ὄζοι ἐπ' ἀκροτάτῃ πεφύασι:  
τὴν μὲν θ' ἀρματοπηγὸς ἀνὴρ αἶθωνι σιδήρῳ  
ἐξέταμ', ὄφρα ἴτυν κάμψῃ περικαλλεῖ δίφρῳ:  
ἢ μὲν τ' ἀζομένη κεῖται ποταμοῖο παρ' ὄχθας.

485

For [Telemonian Ajax] first struck him <Simoeisios> on the right breast beside the nipple as he advanced; / and clean through his shoulder went the spear of bronze, / and **he fell** to the ground in the dust **like a poplar tree** / that has grown up in the bottom land of a great marsh, / smooth, but at the very top of it branches grow: / a chariot builder has cut down this [tree] with the gleaming iron / that he might bend a wheel rim for a beautiful chariot, / and it lies drying by a river's banks.

[fallen Simoeisios ≈ felled poplar tree] Narrator

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### Similar Rhetorical Figure

#### Transformations and Disguise:

86\* ἦ δ' ἀνδρὶ ἰκέλη Τρώων κατεδύσεθ' ὄμιλον  
Λαοδόκῳ Ἀντηνορίδῃ κρατερῷ αἰχμητῇ,  
Πάνδαρον ἀντίθεον διζημένη εἴ που ἐφεύροι.

But she <**Athena**> entered the throng of the Trojans **in the guise of a man**, / **Laodocus**, son of Antenor, a valiant spearman, / seeking if she could find **god-like Pandarus**.

\* \* \*

### Similes of the *Iliad* Book 5 (E)

#### SUMMARY

##### Scenes:

- #1 (5) [flame from Diomedes' helmet and shield ≈ star of harvest time]
- #2 (87) [son of Tydeus ≈ flooding river in winter]
- #3 (136) [fury of Diomedes against Trojans ≈ fury of wounded lion against sheep]
- #4 (161) [Diomedes against Echemmon & Chromius ≈ lion against heifer or cow]
- #8 (499) [Achaean growing white ≈ chaff growing white]
- #9 (522) [Danaans ≈ motionless clouds]
- #10 (554) [Diocles' twin sons subdued by Aeneas ≈ two lions subdued by axe men]
- #12 (597) [Diomedes ≈ man startled by a swift river]
- #13 (ὄσσον/τόσσον) (770) [springing distance of horses of the gods ≈ distance a man sees into a haze]
- #16 (ὄσσόν) (860) [Ares' bellow ≈ the cry of 9000–10,000 men in battle]
- #17 (οἴη/τοῖος) (864) [Ares ≈ black mist]

\* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

#18 (902) [blood of Ares' wound ≈ milk curdled by fig juice]

**Short Clauses and Phrases:**

#5 (299) [Aeneas ≈ lion]

#6 (476) [Hector's sisters' husbands and his brothers ≈ dogs around a lion]

#7 (487) [Hector and Trojans ≈ someone snared in flax]

#11 (560) [Diocles' twin sons, Crethon and Orsilochus ≈ fir-trees]

#14 (778) [Athena and Hera ≈ timorous doves]

#15 (782) [Argives around Diomedes ≈ carnivorous lions and wild boars]

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1 (5)                    δαίε οἱ ἐκ κόρυθος τε καὶ ἀσπίδος ἀκάματον πῦρ  
                          ἀστέρ' ὀπωρινῶ ἐναλίγκιον, ὅς τε μάλιστα  
                          λαμπρὸν παμφαίνησι λελουμένος ὠκεανοῖο:

She <Athena> kindled from his <Diomedes'> helmet and shield an **unwearying flame**, /  
**like the star** of harvest time that shines bright above all others / when it has bathed in  
the stream of Ocean.

[flame from Diomedes' helmet and shield ≈ star of harvest time] Narrator

\*\*\*

2 (87)                    θῦνε γὰρ ἄμ πεδίον ποταμῶ πλήθοντι εὐοικῶς  
                          χειμάρρῳ, ὅς τ' ὦκα ρέων ἐκέδασσε γεφύρας:  
                          τὸν δ' οὔτ' ἄρ τε γέφυραι ἐεργμέναι ἰσχανώσιν,  
                          οὔτ' ἄρα ἔρκεα ἴσχει ἀλωάων ἐριθηλέων    90  
                          ἐλθόντ' ἑξαπίνης ὅτ' ἐπιβρίση Διὸς ὄμβρος:  
                          πολλὰ δ' ὑπ' αὐτοῦ ἔργα κατήριπε κάλ' αἰζηῶν:  
                          ὥς ὑπὸ Τυδείδῃ πυκινὰ κλονέοντο φάλαγγες  
                          Τρώων, οὐδ' ἄρα μιν μίμνον πολέες περ ἑόντες.

For **he** stormed across the plain **like a river** in winter at the full, / that with its swift flood  
sweeps away the embankments; / the close-fenced embankments do not hold it back, /  
neither do the fences of the fruitful vineyards stay / its sudden coming when the rain of  
Zeus drives it on; / and before it in multitudes the fair works of men fall in ruin. / Even so  
before the son of Tydeus the thick phalanxes of the Trojans were driven in rout, / and  
they did not withstand him despite being so many.

[son of Tydeus ≈ flooding river in winter] Narrator

\*\*\*

3 (136)                    δῆ τότε μιν τρὶς τόσσον ἔλεν μένος ὥς τε λέοντα  
                          ὄν ρά τε ποιμὴν ἀγρῶ ἐπ' εἰροπόκοις οἴεσσι  
                          χραύσει μὲν τ' αὐλῆς ὑπεράλμενον οὐδὲ δαμάσει:  
                          τοῦ μὲν τε σθένος ὤρσεν, ἔπειτα δέ τ' οὐ προσαμύνει,  
                          ἀλλὰ κατὰ σταθμοὺς δῦεται, τὰ δ' ἐρήμα φοβεῖται:                                        140  
                          αἱ μὲν τ' ἀγχιστῖναι ἐπ' ἀλλήλησι κέχυνται,

\* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

αὐτὰρ ὃ ἐμμεμαῶς βαθέης ἐξάλλεται αὐλῆς:  
ὥς μεμαῶς Τρώεσσι μίγη κρατερὸς Διομήδης.

Now indeed **fury** three times as great took him, **even as** [it takes] **a lion** / that a shepherd in the field, guarding his fleecy sheep, / has wounded as he leaped over the wall of the sheep-fold, but has not subdued; / he has roused his might, but thereafter makes no more defense, / but [the lion] went among the farm buildings, and the deserted flock is driven in rout, / and the sheep heaped up, very near each other, / but the lion eagerly leaps out of the high fold; / even so mighty Diomedes eagerly engaged the Trojans.

[fury of Diomedes against Trojans ≈ fury of wounded lion against sheep] Narrator

\*\*\*

4 (161) ὥς δὲ λέων ἐν βουσί θορῶν ἐξ αὐχένα ἄξει  
πόρτιος ἢ ἐ βοῶς ξύλοχον κάτα βοσκομενάων,  
ὥς τοὺς ἀμφοτέρους ἐξ ἵππων Τυδέος υἱὸς  
βῆσε κακῶς ἀέκοντας, ἔπειτα δὲ τεύχε' ἐσύλα:

Even **as a lion** leaps among the cattle and breaks the neck / of a heifer or a cow as they graze in a woodland pasture, / so the **son of Tydeus** threw both <Echemmon and Chromius> / violently [and] unwillingly from their chariot, then stripped their armor.

[Diomedes against Echemmon and Chromius ≈ lion against heifer or cow] Narrator

\*\*\*

5 (299) ἀμφὶ δ' ἄρ' αὐτῷ βαῖνε λέων ὥς ἀλκὶ πεποιθῶς.

Over him <Pandarus>, [**Aeneas**] **strode like a lion** confident in his strength.

[Aeneas ≈ lion] Narrator

\*\*\*

6 (476) ἀλλὰ καταπώσσουσι κύνες ὥς ἀμφὶ λέοντα.

'But they cower **like dogs** around a **lion**.'

[Hector's sisters' husbands and his brothers ≈ dogs around a lion] Sarpedon

\*\*\*

7 (487) μή πως ὥς ἀψῖσι λίνου ἀλόντε πανάγρου  
ἀνδράσι δυσμενέεσσιν ἔλωρ καὶ κύρμα γένησθε:

'Beware that you <**Hector and the other Trojans**>, **as if caught** in the meshes of all-ensnaring flax, / become a **prey and spoil** for your enemy.'

[Hector and Trojans ≈ someone snared in flax] Sarpedon

\*\*\*

8 (499) ὥς δ' ἄνεμος ἄχνας φορέει ἱερὰς κατ' ἀλῶας  
ἀνδρῶν λικμώντων, ὅτε τε ξανθὴ Δημήτηρ  
κρίνη ἐπειγομένων ἀνέμων καρπὸν τε καὶ ἄχνας,  
αἱ δ' ὑπολευκαίνονται ἀχυρμαί: ὥς τότε Ἀχαιοὶ  
λευκοὶ ὑπερθε γέγοντο κονισάλῳ, ὃν ῥα δι' αὐτῶν

500

οὐρανὸν ἐς πολύχαλκον ἐπέπληγον πόδες ἵππων  
ἄψ ἐπιμισγομένων: ὑπὸ δ' ἔστρεφον ἠνιοχῆες.

505

And **even as** the **wind** carries chaff about the sacred threshing-floors / of men that are winnowing, when fair-haired Demeter / amid the driving blasts of wind separates the grain from the chaff, / and the **heaps of chaff grow white**; **even so** then the **Achaean**s / **grew white** beneath the cloud of dust that through them / the hooves of their horses beat up to the brazen heaven, / as the fight was joined again; and the charioteers wheeled round.

[Achaean growing white ≈ chaff growing white] Narrator

\*\*\*

9 (522) ἄλλ' ἔμενον νεφέλῃσιν ἐοικότες ἄς τε Κρονίων  
νηνεμῆς ἔστησεν ἐπ' ἀκροπόλοισιν ὄρεσσι  
ἀτρέμας, ὄφρ' εὐῶησι μένος Βορέας καὶ ἄλλων  
ζαχρειῶν ἀνέμων, οἳ τε νέφεα σκιόεντα  
πνοιῆσιν λιγυρῆσι διασκιδῶσιν ἀέντες:  
ὡς Δαναοὶ Τρώας μένον ἔμπεδον οὐδὲ φέβοντο.

525

Yet these stood their ground **like clouds** that the son of Cronus / in still weather sets on the mountain-tops / **motionless**, when the might of Boreas sleeps and of the other / furious winds that blow with shrill blasts / and scatter this way and that the shadowy clouds; / even so the **Danaans** withstood the Trojans steadily, and did not flee.

[Danaans ≈ motionless clouds] Narrator

\*\*\*

10 (554) οἷω τῷ γε λέοντε δῦω ὄρεος κορυφῆσιν  
ἐτραφέτην ὑπὸ μητρὶ βαθείης τάρφεσιν ὕλης:  
τὸ μὲν ἄρ' ἀρπάζοντε βόας καὶ ἴφια μῆλα  
σταθμοὺς ἀνθρώπων κεραΐζετον, ὄφρα καὶ αὐτῷ  
ἀνδρῶν ἐν παλάμησι κατέκταθεν ὀξεῖ χαλκῷ:  
τοῖω τῷ χεῖρεσσι ὑπ' Αἰνείαιο δαμέντε  
11 (560) καππεσέτην, ἐλάτησιν ἐοικότες ὑψηλῆσι.

555

560

**As two lions** on the mountain tops / are reared by their mother in the thickets of a deep wood; / and the two snatch cattle and fat sheep / and make havoc of the farmsteads of men, until they themselves / are killed at the hands of men with the sharp bronze; / **even so these two** <Diocles' twin sons, **Crethon and Orsilochus**> were subdued by the hands of Aeneas and fell, **like tall fir trees**.

#10 (554) [Diocles' twin sons subdued by Aeneas ≈ two lions subdued by axe men]

#11 (560) [Diocles' twin sons, Crethon and Orsilochus ≈ fir-trees] Narrator

\*\*\*

12 (597) τὸν δὲ ἰδὼν ῥίγησε βοὴν ἀγαθὸς Διομήδης:  
ὡς δ' ὄτ' ἀνὴρ ἀπάλαμνος ἰὼν πολέος πεδίοιο  
στήη ἐπ' ὠκυρόω ποταμῷ ἄλα δὲ προρέοντι

\* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

ἀφρῶ μορμύροντα ἰδών, ἀνά τ' ἔδραμ' ὀπίσσω,  
ὥς τότε Τυδεΐδης ἀνεχάζετο.

600

At sight of him Diomedes, good at the war-cry shuddered; / and even **as when a man** in passing over a great plain / halts in dismay at a swift-streaming river that flows on to the sea, / and seeing it seething with foam starts backward, / **even so** now did the **son of Tydeus** give ground.

[Diomedes ≈ man startled by a swift river] Narrator

\*\*\*

13 (770) ὅσον δ' ἠεροειδὲς ἀνὴρ ἴδεν ὀφθαλμοῖσιν  
ἦμενος ἐν σκοπιῇ, λεύσσων ἐπὶ οἴνοπα πόντον,  
τόσον ἐπιθρώσκουσι θεῶν ὑψηχέες ἵπποι.

**As far as a man sees** with his eyes into the haze / as he sits on a look-out place and gazes over the wine-dark sea, / **even so far** do the loud-neighing **horses** of the gods **spring**.

[springing distance of horses of gods ≈ distance a man sees into a haze] Narrator

\*\*\*

14 (778) αἰὲ δὲ βάτην τρήρωσι πελειάσιν ἴθμαθ' ὁμοῖαι.  
ἀνδράσιν Ἀργείοισιν ἀλεξέμεναι μεμαυῖαι:  
ἀλλ' ὅτε δὴ ῥ' ἴκανον ὅθι πλείστοι καὶ ἄριστοι  
ἔστασαν ἀμφὶ βίην Διομήδεος ἵπποδάμοιο  
15 (782) εἰλόμενοι λείουσιν ἐοικότες ὠμοφάγοισιν  
ἢ συσὶ κάπροισιν, τῶν τε σθένος οὐκ ἀλαπαδόν.

Then **the two <Hera and Athena>** went their way with steps **like** those of **timorous doves**, eager to assist the Argives. / But when **they** were come where the most and the bravest <Argives> / stood close crowding about mighty Diomedes, tamer of horses, / **like carnivorous lions or / wild boars**, whose strength is not weak.

#14 (778) [Hera and Athena ≈ timorous doves]

#15 (782) [Argives around Diomedes ≈ carnivorous lions and wild boars] Narrator

\*\*\*

...ὃ δ' ἔβραχε χάλκεος Ἄρης  
16 (860) ὅσσόν τ' ἐννεάχιλοι ἐπίαχον ἢ δεκάχιλοι  
ἀνέρες ἐν πολέμῳ ἔριδα ξυνάγοντες Ἄρης.

860

Then brazen **Ares bellowed** / as loud as **nine thousand men or ten thousand** / cry in battle, when they join in the strife of Ares.

[Ares' bellow ≈ the cry of 9000–10,000 men in battle] Narrator

\*\*\*

17 (864) οἷη δ' ἐκ νεφέων ἐρεβεννὴ φαίνεται ἀἴη  
καύματος ἐξ ἀνέμοιο δυσαέος ὀρνυμένοιο,  
τοῖος Τυδεΐδῃ Διομήδῃ χάλκεος Ἄρης  
φαίνεθ' ὁμοῦ νεφέεσσιν ἰὼν εἰς οὐρανὸν εὐρύν.

865

\* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

**As a black mist** appears from the clouds / when after heat a blustering wind arises, even so to Diomedes, son of Tydeus, brazen **Ares** / appeared, as he went amid the clouds to broad heaven.

[Ares ≈ black mist] Narrator

\*\*\*

καρπαλίμως δ' ἴκανε θεῶν ἔδος αἰπὺν Ὀλυμπον,  
παρ δὲ Διὶ Κρονίωνι καθέζετο θυμὸν ἀχεύων,  
δεῖξεν δ' ἄμβροτον αἶμα καταρρέον ἐξ ὤτειλῆς, 870

18 (902) ὡς δ' ὅτ' ὀπὸς γάλα λευκὸν ἐπειγόμενος συνέπηξεν  
ὑγρὸν ἔόν, μάλα δ' ὦκα περιτρέφεται κυκώωντι,  
ὡς ἄρα καρπαλίμως ἴησατο θοῦρον Ἄρηα.

Speedily he came to the abode of the gods, steep Olympus, / and sat down by the side of Zeus, son of Cronus, troubled at heart, / and showed the immortal **blood** flowing from the wound.

As when the **juice of the fig** speedily causes the white **milk** / that is liquid to **grow thick**, but is quickly curdled as a man stirs it, / **so** [Paiëon] speedily healed furious Ares. [blood of Ares' wound ≈ milk curdled by fig juice] Narrator

See Willcock 1976 for discussion of how flow of blood from Ares' wound was stopped.

\* \* \*

### Similar Rhetorical Figures

#### Transformations and Disguises:

450\* αὐτὰρ ὃ εἶδῶλον τεύξ' ἀργυρότοξος Ἀπόλλων  
αὐτῷ τ' Αἰνεΐα ἴκελον καὶ τεύχεσι τοῖον,  
ἀμφὶ δ' ἄρ' εἰδῶλῳ Τρῶες καὶ δῖοι Ἀχαιοὶ

Silver-bowed **Apollo** fashioned **an image / like Aeneas himself** and with armor like his / and around the image the Trojans and noble Achaeans [fought].

\*\*\*

461-2\* Τρωὰς δὲ στίχας οὐλος Ἄρης ὄτρυνε μετελθὼν  
εἰδόμενος Ἀκάμαντι θοῶ ἡγήτορι Θρηκῶν:

Destructive **Ares** entering the Trojan ranks urged them on **in the likeness of swift Acamas**, leader of the Thracians.

\*\*\*

604\* καὶ νῦν οἱ πάρα κείνος Ἄρης βροτῷ ἀνδρὶ ἐοικώς.

'even now **Ares** is by his side **in the likeness of a mortal man.**'

\* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

\*\*\*

785\* ἔνθα στᾶσ' ἦϋσε θεὰ λευκώλενος Ἥρη  
Στέντορι εἰσαμένη μεγαλήτορι χαλκεοφώνω.

Standing there the white-armed goddess **Hera** shouted / **in the likeness of great-hearted Stentor** of the brazen voice.

### Divine Comparisons:

438 ἀλλ' ὅτε δὴ τὸ τέταρτον ἐπέσσυτο δαίμονι ἴσος.

But when for the fourth time [**he**] rushed upon him **like a god**.  
[Diomedes ≈ god] Narrator (phrase repeated at 459)

Lee counts this as a simile.

cf. αὐτὰρ ἔπειτ' αὐτῷ μοι ἐπέσσυτο δαίμονι ἴσος. 459

'[Diomedes] then rushed at me myself **like a god**.' Apollo

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\* \* \*

## Similes of the *Iliad* Book 6 (Z)

### SUMMARY

#### Scenes:

- #1 (οἴη/τοίη) (146) [lineage of men ≈ lineage of leaves]
- #6 (506) [Paris ≈ horse]

#### Short Clauses and Phrases:

- #2 (295) [Sidonian robe ≈ a star]
- #3\* (389) [Andromache ≈ a raging woman]
- #4 (401) [Hector's son ≈ fair star]
- #5 (443) [Hector ≈ coward]
- #7 (513) [Paris in armor ≈ shining sun]

\* \* \*

1 (146) τὸν δ' αὖθ' Ἴππολόχοιο προσηύδα φαίδιμος υἱός:  
 'Τυδείδη μεγάθυμε τί ἢ γενεὴν ἐρεεῖνεις; 145  
οἴη περ φύλλων γενεῇ τοίη δὲ καὶ ἀνδρῶν.  
 φύλλα τὰ μὲν τ' ἄνεμος χαμάδις χέει, ἄλλα δὲ θ' ὕλη  
 τηλεθώσα φύει, ἔαρος δ' ἐπιγίγνεται ὥρη:

\* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A



ὡς ἀνδρῶν γενεῇ ἢ μὲν φύει ἢ δ' ἀπολήγει.

Then the glorious son of Hippolochus spoke to him: / 'Great-souled son of Tydeus, why do you inquire about my **lineage**? / **Just as** is the **lineage of leaves, such** [is that] also **of men**. / As for the leaves, the wind scatters some upon the earth, but the forest, / as it blooms, puts forth others when the season of spring arrives; / **thus the lineage of men: one [generation]** springs up and **another** passes away.'  
[lineage of men ≈ lineage of leaves] Glaucus

“φύλλων: a pun on φύλα, ‘tribes’, which is close in meaning to γενεῇ = ‘race’; . . . Punning language is a feature of wisdom literature . . . Here it encourages a shift in meaning from γενεῇ = ‘family’ to γενεῇ = ‘race’.” (Graziosi-Haubold 2010:117)

For an argument that this is not a simile see Pelliccia 2002.

\*\*\*

τῶν ἔν' ἀειραμένη Ἐκάβη φέρε δῶρον Ἀθήνη,  
ὃς κάλλιστος ἔην ποικίλμασιν ἠδὲ μέγιστος,  
2 (295) ἀστὴρ δ' ὡς ἀπέλαμπεν: ἔκειτο δὲ νείατος ἄλλων.

Of these Hecuba took **one <a Sidonian robe>**, and carried it as an offering for Athena, / the **one** that was fairest in its embroidery and largest, / and **shone like a star**, and lay under all others.

[Sidonian robe ≈ a star] Narrator

“Star similes are frequent in the *Iliad* and are often ominous (e.g. 11.61-55 and 22.25-32; . . .). . . . The simile adds to the sense of foreboding.” (Graziosi-Haubold 2010:117)

\*\*\*

ἢ μὲν δὴ πρὸς τεῖχος ἐπειγομένη ἀφικάνει  
3\* (389) μαινομένη ἐϊκυῖα: φέρει δ' ἅμα παῖδα τιθήνη.

'**She <Andromache>** has gone to the wall in haste / **like a raging woman** and a nurse is carrying the child.'

[Andromache ≈ a raging woman] A housekeeper to Hector

“‘looking like a madwoman’; . . . Later, at 22.460, the poet describes Andromache leaving the house and running ‘like a maenad’. . . . “One difference between the two descriptions is that the poet offers a precise likeness, whereas the housekeeper gives her subjective impression of Andromache’s behavior.” (Graziosi-Haubold 2010: 188)

\*\*\*

ἢ οἱ ἔπειτ' ἦντησ', ἅμα δ' ἀμφίπολος κίεν αὐτῇ  
παῖδ' ἐπὶ κόλπῳ ἔχουσ' ἀταλάφρονα νήπιον αὐτως  
4 (401) Ἐκτορίδην ἀγαπητὸν ἀλίγκιον ἀστέρι καλῶ, 400

\* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

She then met him, and a handmaid came with her / bearing in her bosom the tender boy, a mere baby, / the well-loved **son of Hector** <Astyanax>, **like a fair star**.  
[Hector's son ≈ fair star] Narrator

τὴν δ' αὖτε προσέειπε μέγας κορυθαίολος Ἴκτωρ: 440  
ἦ καὶ ἐμοὶ τάδε πάντα μέλει γύναι: ἀλλὰ μάλ' αἰνῶς  
αἰδέομαι Τρῶας καὶ Τρωάδας ἐλκεσιπέπλους,  
5 (443) αἶ κε κακὸς ὥς νόσφιν ἀλυσκάζω πολέμοιο:

Then great Hector of the flashing helm spoke to her: / 'Lady, I too take thought of all this, but I am dreadfully / ashamed before the Trojans and the Trojans' wives with trailing robes, / if **like a coward** [standing] apart I shun battle.'  
[Hector ≈ coward] Hector

\*\*\*

6 (506) ὥς δ' ὅτε τις στατὸς ἵππος ἀκοστήσας ἐπὶ φάτνῃ  
δεσμὸν ἀπορρήξας θεῖη πεδίοιο κροαίνων  
εἰθῶς λούεσθαι ἐϋρρεῖος ποταμοῖο  
κυδιόνων: ὑψοῦ δὲ κάρη ἔχει, ἀμφὶ δὲ χαίται  
ῶμοις αἰσσοῦνται: ὁ δ' ἀγλαίηφι πεποιθῶς 510  
ρίμφα ἐ γούνα φέρει μετὰ τ' ἦθεα καὶ νομὸν ἵππων:  
7 (513) ὥς υἱὸς Πριάμοιο Πάρις κατὰ Περγάμου ἄκρης  
τεύχεσι παμφαίνων ὥς τ' ἠλέκτωρ ἐβεβήκει  
καγχαλόων, ταχέες δὲ πόδες φέρον:

**As when a horse** in his stall that has had his fill at the manger / breaks free of his tether and runs stamping over the plain, / accustomed to bathe in the fair-flowing river, / and exults; he holds his head high, and about his shoulders his mane / streams back, and as he trusts in his splendor, / his knees nimbly bear him to the haunts and pastures of horses; / **so Paris**, son of Priam, strode down from high Pergamos, / **all gleaming** in his armor **like the shining [sun]**, / laughing aloud, and his swift feet carried him on.

#6 (506) [Paris ≈ horse]

#7 (513) [Paris in armor ≈ shining sun] Narrator

Graziosi-Haubold 2010:226 point out the identity of simile #6 with that in *Iliad* 15 (*Iliad* Book 6 lines 506–511 = *Iliad* Book 15 lines 263–268) and call attention (228) to the “entirely dactylic, ‘galloping’ line [511]” with which this description of the horse climaxes. For detailed discussion they cite Fränkel 1921:77–78, Kirk 1990:226 and Fagan 2001.

\* \* \*

\* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A



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4 (235) τὸν δ' αὖτε προσέειπε μέγας κορυθαίολος Ἴκτωρ:  
Ἄϊαν διογενὲς Τελαμώνιε κοίρανε λαῶν  
μή τί μευ ἤύτε παιδὸς ἀφαιροῦ πειρήτιζε  
ἢ ἐ γυναικός, ἢ οὐκ οἶδεν πολεμήϊα ἔργα.  
αὐτὰρ ἐγὼν εὖ οἶδα μάχας τ' ἀνδροκτασίας τε: 235

Great Hector of the flashing helm then made answer to him: / 'Ajax, sprung from Zeus, son of Telamon, captain of the army, / in no way make trial of **me as of some puny boy / or a woman** that does not know warfare. / No, I know well battles and killing of men.'  
[Hector NOT ≈ a puny boy or a woman who does not know warfare] Narrator

\*\*\*

5 (256) τὼ δ' ἐκπασσαμένω δολίχ' ἔγχεα χερσὶν ἅμ' ἅμφω  
σύν ῥ' ἔπεσον λείουσιν ἐοικότες ὠμοφάγοισιν  
ἢ συσὶ κάπροισιν, τῶν τε σθένος οὐκ ἀλαπαδνόν.

Then **the two <Hector and Ajax>** both at one moment drew out their long spears with their hands, / and fell together, **like carnivorous lions or / wild boars**, whose strength is not weak.  
[Hector and Ajax ≈ carnivorous lions or wild boars] Narrator

\* \* \*

### Similar Rhetorical Figures

#### Transformations and Disguises:

7:59\* καδ δ' ἄρ' Ἀθηναίη τε καὶ ἀργυρότοξος Ἀπόλλων  
ἐξέσθην ὄρνεσιν ἐοικότες αἰγυπιοῖσι  
φηγῶ ἐφ' ὑψηλῇ πατρὸς Διὸς αἰγιόχοιο 60  
ἀνδράσι τερπόμενοι.

And **Athena and Apollo** of the silver bow / **in the likeness of vultures** / sat upon the lofty oak of father Zeus the aegis-bearer, / rejoicing in the warriors.  
[Athena and Apollo ≈ vultures] Narrator

\*\*\*

#### Divine Comparison:

7:208 σεύατ' ἔπειθ' οἶός τε πελώριος ἔρχεται Ἄρης,  
ὅς τ' εἶσιν πόλεμον δὲ μετ' ἀνέρας οὖς τε Κρονίων

\* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

θυμοβόρου ἔριδος μένει ξυνέηκε μάχεσθαι.  
τοῖος ἄρ' Αἴας ὦρτο πελώριος ἔρκος Ἀχαιῶν  
μειδιῶν βλοσυροῖσι προσώπασι.

210

Then he sped **as huge Ares** goes forth / when he enters into battle amid warriors whom the son of Cronus / has brought together to contend in the fury of soul-devouring strife. / **Even so** sprang forth **huge Ajax**, the bulwark of the Achaeans, / with a smile on his grim face.

[huge Ajax ≈ huge Ares] Narrator

Lee counts this as a simile.

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### Similetic Epithet/Adjectives:

228\* θυμολέοντα Achilles lion-hearted

270\* εἶσω δ' ἀσπίδ' ἔαξε βαλὼν μυλοειδέϊ πέτρῳ,

throwing a rock that was like a millstone (millstone in form)

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### Similes of the *Iliad* Book 8 (Θ)

#### SUMMARY

#### Scenes:

#1\* (ὄσον/τόσσον) (16) [Zeus to other gods ≈ Hades to Tartarus ≈ heaven to earth]

#5 (306) [Gorgythion's helmeted head ≈ fruit-laden, rain-drenched poppy]

#6 (338) [Hector presses Achaeans ≈ dog pursues boar or lion]

#7 (555) [Trojan fires ≈ stars]

#### Short Clauses and Phrases:

#2 (94) [Odysseus ≈ coward]

#3 (131) [Trojans ≈ lambs]

#4 (271) [Teucer ≈ child]

\* \* \*

1\* (16) ἦ μιν ἐλὼν ρίψω ἐς Τάρταρον ἠερόεντα  
τῆλε μάλ', ἦχι βάθιστον ὑπὸ χθονός ἐστι βέρεθρον,  
ἔνθα σιδήρειαί τε πύλαι καὶ χάλκεος οὐδός,  
τόσσον ἔνερθ' Αἴδεω ὄσον οὐρανός ἐστ' ἀπὸ γαίης  
γνώσεται ἔπειθ' ὄσον εἰμι θεῶν κάρτιστος ἀπάντων.

15

...

\* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

'Or taking him <a disobedient god> I will throw him into dark **Tartarus** / quite far, where the deepest pit under the earth is / and where the gates are iron and the floor is bronze, / **as far beneath Hades as heaven is above the earth**. / You will know by how much I am the most powerful of all the gods. / ... / By so much, I am superior to gods and superior to men.'

[Zeus to other gods ≈ Hades to Tartarus ≈ heaven to earth] Zeus threatening the other gods

There are two comparisons. The first one in line 16 is a simple factual comparison (Tartarus is as far [τόσσον] beneath Hades as [ὅσον] heaven is above earth). The second comparison is a simile comparing the Hades-Tartarus and heaven-earth distances to the superiority of Zeus relative to the other gods.

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2 (94) σμερδαλέον δ' ἐβόησεν ἐποτρύνων Ὀδυσῆα:  
διογενὲς Λαερτιάδη πολυμήχαν' Ὀδυσσεύ  
πῆ φεύγεις μετὰ νῶτα βαλὼν κακὸς ὡς ἐν ὀμίλῳ;

And [Diomedes] shouted with a terrible shout, urging on Odysseus: / 'Zeus-born son of Laertes, **Odysseus** of many wiles, / whither do you flee with your back turned, **like a coward** in the throng?'

[Odysseus ≈ coward] Diomedes

\*\*\*

3 (131) καί νύ κε σήκασθεν κατὰ Ἴλιον ἥύτε ἄρνες.

And they would have been penned in Ilium **like lambs**.

[Trojans ≈ lambs] Narrator

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4 (271) αὐτὰρ ὃ αὖτις ἰὼν παῖς ὡς ὑπὸ μητέρα δύσκεν  
εἰς Αἴανθ': ὃ δέ μιν σάκεϊ κρύπτασκε φαεινῶ.

And **he <Teucer>** would go back, **as a child** runs behind his mother, / to Ajax, and Ajax was hiding him with his shining shield.

[Teucer ≈ child] Narrator

See Dué and Ebbott 2012:7–8.

\*\*\*

5 (306) μήκων δ' ὡς ἐτέρωσε κάρη βάλεν, ἥ τ' ἐνὶ κήπῳ  
καρπῶ βριθομένη νοτίησί τε εἰαρινῆσιν,  
ὡς ἐτέρωσ' ἤμυσε κάρη πῆληκι βαρυθέν.

And [Gorgythion] bowed his **head** to one side **like a poppy** that in a garden / is **laden with its fruit and the rains** of spring; / **so** he bowed to one side his head, **weighed down by his helmet**.

[Gorgythion's helmeted head ≈ fruit-laden, rain-drenched poppy] Narrator

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6 (338)      ὡς δ' ὅτε τίς τε κύων συὸς ἀγρίου ἢ ἐλέοντος  
ἄππηται κατόπισθε ποσὶν ταχέεσσι διώκων  
ἰσχία τε γλουτούς τε, ἐλισσόμενόν τε δοκεύει,      340  
ὡς Ἴεκτωρ ὤπαζε κάρη κομόωντας Ἀχαιοῦς,  
αἰὲν ἀποκτείνων τὸν ὀπίστατον: οἱ δὲ φέβοντο.

And **even as when a dog** pursues with swift feet after a wild boar or a lion, / and snatches at him from behind / either at flank or buttock, and watches for him as he wheels; / **even so Hector** pressed upon the long-haired Achaeans, / ever killing the ones in the rear; and they were driven in rout.

[Hector presses Achaeans ≈ dog pursues boar or lion] Narrator

\*\*\*

7 (555)      ὡς δ' ὅτ' ἐν οὐρανῷ ἄστρα φαεινὴν ἀμφὶ σελήνην  
φαίνεται ἄριπρεπέα, ὅτε τ' ἔπλετο νήνεμος αἰθήρ:  
ἔκ τ' ἔφανε πᾶσαι σκοπιαὶ καὶ πρόωνες ἄκροι  
καὶ νάπαι: οὐρανόθεν δ' ἄρ' ὑπερράγη ἄσπετος αἰθήρ,  
πάντα δὲ εἶδεται ἄστρα, γέγηθε δέ τε φρένα ποιμήν:  
τόσσα μεσηγὺ νεῶν ἠδὲ Ξάνθοιο ῥοάων      560  
Τρώων καιόντων πυρὰ φαίνετο Ἰλιόθι πρό.

**Even as when**, in heaven about the gleaming moon, **the stars** / shine clear, when the air is windless, / and there appear to view all the mountain peaks, high headlands, / and glades, and from heaven breaks open the infinite air, / and all stars are seen, and the shepherd has joy in his heart; / **even in such numbers**, between the ships and the streams of Xanthus, **the fires** shone that the Trojans kindled before Ilium.

[Trojan fires ≈ stars] Narrator

\* \* \*

### Similar Rhetorical Figure

#### Divine Comparisons:

305\*      καλὴ Καστιάνειρα δέμας εἴκυῖα θεῆσι.

Fair Castianeira, in form like the goddesses.

[Castianeira (Gorgythion's mother) ≈ goddesses] Narrator

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\* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

349\* Ἕκτωρ ...  
Γοργοῦς ὄμματ' ἔχων ἠδὲ βροτολοιγοῦ Ἄρηος.

**Hector** ... / having the eyes of a **Gorgon** and **Ares** bane of mortals.  
[Hector ≈ Gorgon and Ares in his eyes] Narrator

\* \* \*