Similes of the *Iliad* Book 9 (I)

**SUMMARY**

**Scenes:**
- #1 (4) [Achaean hearts torn ≈ sea stirred by winds]
- #2 (14) [weeping Agamemnon ≈ a fountain]
- #3 (323) [Achilles ≈ (a mother) bird]
- #5 (481) [Peleus > Phoenix ≈ loving father > a beloved son]

**Short Clauses and Phrases:**
- #4* (ὅσα/τόσα) (385) [Agamemnon’s gifts ≈ sand and dust]
- #6* (563) [the mother of Alcyone ≈ a halcyon bird]
- #7 (648) [Achilles ≈ an alien]

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1 (4) ὡς δ᾿ ἀνεμοὶ δύο πόντων ὀρίνετον ἱχθυόεντα
Βορέης καὶ Ζέφυρος, τῷ τε Θρήκηθεν ἄητον
ἐλθόντ’ ἔξαπίνης: ἀμυδὶς δὲ τε κύμα κελαινὸν
κορθύεται, πολλὸν δὲ παρὲξ ἄλα φύκος ἔχευεν:

2 (14) ἰζον δ᾿ εἰν ἄγορη τετιηότες: ἀν δ᾿ Ἀγαμέμνων
ἰστατο δάκρυ χέων ὡς τε κρήνη μελάνυδρος
ἡ τε κατ᾿ αἰγίλισις πέτρης δνοφερὸν χέει ύδωρ:

3 (323) ὡς δ᾿ ὅρνις ἀπτῆσι νεοσσοὶς προφέρησι
μάστακ’ ἐπεὶ κε λάβησι, κακῶς δ᾿ ἄρα οἱ πέλει αὐτῇ,

As two winds stir up the **teeming sea**, / Boreas and Zephyrus that blow from Thrace, / coming suddenly, and at the same time the dark wave / rears itself in crests and casts much sea weed out along the sea; / **so were** the **hearts of the Achaean**s torn within their chests.

[**Achaean hearts torn ≈ sea stirred by winds**] Narrator

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So they sat in the assembly, deeply troubled, and Agamemnon / stood up weeping **like a fountain of dark water** / that down over the face of a jutting rock pours its dusky water; / **thus** with deep groaning he spoke to the Argives.

[**weeping Agamemnon ≈ a fountain**] Narrator

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* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
As a bird brings in her bill to her unfledged chicks / whatever she may find, but it goes badly for herself, / so I was accustomed to watch through many a sleepless night, / and I spent bloody days in battle,/ fighting with warriors for their wives’ sake.

[Achilles ≈ (mother) bird] Achilles

See Dué and Ebbott 2012:2–3.

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4* (385) οὐδ’ εἰ μοι τόσα δοίη ὡσα ψάμαθός τε κόνις τε,  385
οὐδὲ κεν ὡς ἐτι θυμὸν ἐμὸν πείσει Ἀγαμέμνων.

‘Not even if he gave me as many gifts as the sand and dust, / not even so would Agamemnon persuade my heart.’

[Agamemnon’s gifts ≈ sand and dust] Achilles

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... ὃ δὲ με πρόφρων ὑπέδεκτο,  480
5 (481) καὶ μ’ ἐφίλησ’ ψὲ εἰ τε πατήρ ὅν παιδά φιλήσῃ
μούνον τηλύγετον πολλοίσιν ἐπὶ κτεάτεσσι.

And he <Peleus> received me <Phoenix> with a ready heart, / and cherished me as a father cherishes his well-beloved /only son, heir to great possessions.

[Peleus > Phoenix ≈ loving father > a beloved son] Phoenix

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τὴν δὲ τότ’ ἐν μεγάροισι πατήρ καὶ πότνια μήτηρ
Ἀλκυόνην καλεσκον ἐπώνυμον, οὖνεκ’ ἀρ’ αὐτῆς
6* (563) μήτηρ ἀλκυόνος πολυπενθέος οἶτον ἔχουσα
κλαίειν ὃ μιν ἐκάεργος ἀνήρπασε Φοίβος Ἀπόλλων.

Then in her halls, her father and lady mother called her / Alcyone by name because her / mother having the fate of [= ’like’] a much-grieving halcyon / wept because far-working Apollo had snatched her [child] away.

[the mother of Alcyone ≈ a halcyon bird] Phoenix

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μνήσομαι ὡς μ’ ἀσύφηλον ἐν Ἀργείοισιν ἔρεξεν
7 (648) Ἀτρείδης ὃς εἰ τιν’ ἀτίμητον μετανάστην.

‘I will remember how the son of Atreus has inflicted indignity upon me among the Argives, / as though I were some alien that had no rights.’

[Achilles ≈ an alien] Achilles

The translation of μετανάστης here is disputed. A range of vagabond, wanderer, refugee, vagrant and resident alien have been suggested. See Perry 2010:53n28.

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* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
Similar Rhetorical Figure

Divine Comparison:

603* ἵον γάρ σε θεῶ τίσουσιν Ἀχαιοί.

‘The Achaeans will honor you as a god.’
[you ≈ a god] Phoenix to Achilles.

Similes of the Iliad Book 10 (K)

SUMMARY

Scenes:
#1 (5) [Agamemnon ≈ Zeus]
#3 (183) [Achaeans to Trojans ≈ sheep dogs to a wild beast]
#5* (ὀδόσσον) (351) [distance to Dolon ≈ the range of mules plowing]
#6 (360) [Diomedes and Odysseus to Dolon ≈ hunting dogs to deer or hare]
#9 (485) [Diomedes to Thracian warriors ≈ lion to sheep or goats]

Short Clauses and Phrases:
#2 (154) [flash of bronze ≈ lightning]
#4 (297) [Diomedes and Odysseus ≈ (two) lions]
#7* (437) [horses ≈ whiter than snow]
#8 (437) [horses ≈ wind]
#10 (547) [horses ≈ sunbeams]

As when fair-haired Hera's husband <Zeus> flashes his lightning / and causes indescribable rain or hail / or snow when the snow flakes are sprinkled over the ground, / or again [as a sign that he will open] the wide jaws of hungry war, / so Agamemnon heaved many a deep sigh in his chest / from the depth of his heart, within him. [Agamemnon ≈ Zeus] Narrator

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
Their spears / were driven into the ground upright on the spikes of their butts, and the bronze flashed afar / like the lightning of father Zeus. The warrior / was sleeping with the skin of an ox spread under [him], / with a piece of fine carpet stretched under his head.
[flash of bronze ≈ lightning] Narrator

As dogs keep a troubled watch over their flocks in the enclosure, / and hear a fearless wild beast coming through the mountain forest towards them — / there is a great hue and cry / of men and dogs, and their sleep is perishes — / even so from the eyes [of the Achaeans] sweet sleep perished / as they kept the watches of the evil night, for they turned constantly towards the plain / whenever they might hear the Trojans coming.
[Achaeans to Trojans ≈ sheep dogs to a wild beast] Narrator

When they <Diomedes and Odysseus> had done praying to the daughter of great Zeus <Athena>, / they went like two lions by dark night / amid slaughter, corpses, armor, and black blood.
[they ≈ (two) lions] Narrator

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
But when [Dolon] was as far away as is the range of mules in plowing, / — for they are superior to oxen / at drawing a jointed plow through deep fallow land — / then the two <Diomedes and Odysseus> ran after him, and he stopped on hearing the sound. [they were away (implied: so far / tosson) ≈ as (hosson) the range of mules plowing] Narrator

The simile continues at 357: when they were just 'a spear-throw or even less' away (ἀλλ’ ὀτε δὴ ρ’ ἄπεσαν δουρηνεκές ἢ καὶ ἔλασσον).

As when two skilled, sharp-toothed dogs / press forward continuously after a deer or hare / through the wooded land and the prey runs forward shrieking, / so the son of Tydeus <Diomedes> and city sacking Odysseus / pursued him <Dolon> continuously and cut him off from his own people. [Diomedes and Odysseus to Dolon = hunting dogs to deer or hare] Narrator

As a lion comes upon an unguarded flock / of sheep or goats and springs on them with evil intent, / so the son of Tydeus <Diomedes> set upon the Thracian warriors / until he had killed twelve. [Diomedes to Thracian warriors ≈ lion to sheep or goats] Narrator

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
‘Come tell me, renowned Odysseus, great glory of the Achaians, / how did you two <Diomedes and Odysseus> get these horses <white horses stolen from Thracian king Rhesus>? Did you sneak into a crowd / of Trojans, or did some god meet you and give them to you? / They are quite like sunbeams.’ [horses = sunbeams] Nestor

* * *

Similar Rhetorical Figures

Divine Comparisons:

βῆ δ᾽ ἵμεν ἀνστήσων ὃν ἀδελφόν, ὃς μέγα πάντων
33* Ἀργείων ἠνασσε, θεὸς δ᾽ ὃς τίετο δήμῳ.

Then he went to rouse his brother, who ruled all the Argives mightily, and was honored in his district as though he <Agamemnon> were a god.

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Similes of the *Iliad* Book 11 (Λ)

SUMMARY

Scenes:

#1 (27) [serpents on Agamemnon’s shield ≈ rainbows]
#2 (οἶός) (62) [Hector in the ranks ≈ star amid the clouds]
#4 (67) [Trojans and Achaians ≈ reapers]
#6 (ἡμος/τῆμος) (86) [time the Danaans broke the enemy columns ≈ time for woodsman’s midday meal]
#7 (113) [Agamemnon’s attacks on Isos and Antiphos causing Trojans to flee ≈ lion attacks on fawns causing mother deer to flee]
#10 (155) [Trojans falling to Agamemnon’s attack ≈ thickets falling in a fire]
#11 (172) [Agamemnon in pursuit of Trojans singling out the last one for death ≈ lion in pursuit of cows singling out one for death]
#14 (269) [pangs of pain of Agamemnon ≈ labor pang of pain]
#15 (292) [Hector sics Trojans on Achaians ≈ hunter sics dogs on boars/lions]
#16 (297) [Hector ≈ windstorm]
#17 (305) [Hector > Greek chieftains ≈ Zephyrus > clouds]
#18 (324) [Odysseus and Diomedes against Trojans ≈ two wild boars amid dogs]
#21 (414) [Trojans set upon Odysseus ≈ dogs and youths set on boar]
#22 (474) [Trojans around Odysseus ≈ jackals around stag]
#24 (492) [Ajax chases and slaughters horses and men ≈ flooded river sweeps away oaks, pines and mud]
#26 (548) [Ajax retreats from Trojans ≈ lion retreats from peasants]
#27 (558) Trojans and allies pursue Ajax and strike his shield with spears ≈ boys chase and beat ass with clubs ]

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
Short Clauses and Phrases:

- #3 (66) [Hector’s armor ≈ lightning]
- #5 (72) [Trojans and Achaeans ≈ wolves]
- #8 (129) [Agamemnon ≈ lion]
- #9 (147) [head of Hippolochus ≈ round stone]
- #12 (237) [point of spear ≈ lead]
- #13 (239) [Agamemnon ≈ lion]
- #19 (383) [Trojans fear Diomedes ≈ goats fear a lion]
- #20 (389) [Paris ≈ woman or boy]
- #23 (485) [shield ≈ tower]
- #25 (546) [Ajax ≈ wild beast]
- #28 (596) [fight of Achaeans ≈ blazing fire]
- #29 (747) [Nestor ≈ whirlwind]

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κυάνεοι δὲ δράκοντες ὅρωρεχατο προτὶ δειρήν
trei̇s ekáterh' ἱρισαῖα ἐσικότες, ἃς τε Κρονίων
ἐν νέφεῖ στήριξε, τέρας μερόπων ἀνθρώπων.

[On the shield of Agamemnon] dark blue serpents reared themselves up towards the neck, / three on either side, like rainbows which the son of Cronus <Zeus> / has set in clouds as a sign for mortal men.
[serpents on Agamemnon’s shield ≈ rainbows] Narrator

***

"Εκτωρ δ’ ἐν πρῶτοισι φέρ’ ἀσπίδα πάντοσι’ ἐξὶν,
oi̇s δ’ ἐκ νεφέων ἀναφαίνεται οὐλίος ἀστήρ
παμφαίνων, τοτε δ’ αὐτικος ἔδω νέφεα σκιόντα,
ὡς 'Εκτωρ ὀτὲ μὲν τε μετὰ πρῶτοισι φάνεσκεν,
ἀλλοτε δ’ ἐν πυμάτοις κελεύων: πᾶς δ’ ἀρα χαλκῷ 65

3 (66) λάμφ’ ὡς τε στεροτῇ πατρὸς Διὸς αἰγιόχοιο.
4 (67) οἱ δ’, ὡς τ’ ἀμφίτηρες ἐναντὶοι ἀλλήλοιοιν
οὕμον ἐλαύνωσιν ἀνδρὸς μάκαρος κατ’ ἄρουραν
πυρῶν ἢ κριθῶν: τὰ δὲ δράγματα ταρφέα τίππει:
ὡς Τρώως καὶ Ἀχαῖοι ἐπ’ ἀλλήλοιοι θορόντες
δῆσουν, σύδ’ ἐτεροι μνώντι ὀλοοῦ φόβοιο. 70

5 (72) ίσας δ’ υσμίνη κεφαλὰς ἐχειν, οἱ δὲ λύκοι ὡς
θύνων.

Hector carried a well-balanced round shield in the front ranks, / and, like a destructive star that sometimes appears shining amid the clouds / then again is hidden in shadowy clouds, / thus Hector sometimes appeared in the front ranks / and sometimes in the rear ranks giving commands, and all in bronze / he gleamed like the lightning of aegis-

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
bearing father Zeus. / And now as opposite one another reapers / mow swathes of wheat or barley upon a rich man's land, / and the bundles fall thick before them, / so did the Trojans and Achaeans spring at / and cut down one another; neither side gives thought to destructive flight. / And the battle had equal heads, but they charged like wolves.

At the time of day when a woodsman prepares his midday meal / in mountain valleys — for he has tired his arms / cutting tall trees; he is tired out, / and an appetite for sweet food overcomes him — / at that time the Danaans, by their prowess, broke the phalanx of the enemy, / crying out to their companions in the ranks. / [time the Danaans broke the enemy columns = time for woodsman’s midday meal]

As a lion takes the fawns of a swift mother deer / and easily crushes them in his powerful jaws, / robbing them of their tender life while going back to his lair; / the deer can do nothing for them even though she is close by, / for she is in an agony of fear, / and darts swiftly through the thick woods and forest, / sweating, and racing from the powerful beast’s attack — / so none of the Trojans could ward off their Isos and Antiphos destruction, / for they were themselves fleeing in panic from the Argives. / [Agamemnon’s attacks on Isos and Antiphos causing Trojans to flee ≈ lion attacks on fawns causing mother deer to flee]

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
The son of Atreus <Agamemnon> sprang upon them like a lion, / and the pair <Peisandrus and Hippolochus> sought his pity from their chariot.

[Hagamemnon = lion] Narrator

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'Επόλοχος δ’ ἀπόρουσε, τὸν αὖ χαμαι ἔξενάριζε. 145
χείρας ἀπὸ ἔξει Τμήξας ἀπὸ τ’ αὐχένα κόψας,

9 (147) ὅλμον δ’ ὣς ἔσσευε κυλίνδεσθαι δι’ ὀμίλου.

Hippolochus jumped away, but Agamemnon killed him on the ground; / he cut off his arms with a sword and severed [the head] at the neck — / he sent it rolling in among the crowd as though it were a round stone.

[head of Hippolochus = round stone] Narrator

***

10 (155) ως δ’ οτε πῦρ ὀίδηλον ἐν ἀξύλῳ ἐμπέσῃ ὕλῃ, 155
πάντη τ’ εἰλυφών ἄνεμος φέρει, οἴ δ’ τε θάμνοι
πρόφυροι πίπτουσιν ἑπειγόμενοι πυρὸς ὀρμῆ:

ως ἀρ’ υπ’ Ἀτρείδη Ἀγαμέμνονι πίπτε κάρνα
Τρώων φευγόντων, …

As when destructive fire falls on a dense forest — / the eddying wind carries [the fire] in all directions and the thickets / to the root fall, struck by the blast of the flame — / so the heads of the fleeing Trojans fell before Agamemnon son of Atreus.

[Trojans falling to Agamemnon’s attack = thickets falling in a fire] Narrator

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11 (172) οἴ δ’ ἔτι καμί μέσσον πεδίον φοβέοντο βόες ὃς, 175
άς τε λέων ἐφόβησε μολὼν ἐν νυκτός ἀμολγό
πάσας: τῇ δὲ τ’ ἵππον ἀναφάνεται ἀἰτία ὀλεθρος:

τής δ’ ἔξ αὐχέν’ ἔαξε λαβὼν κρατεροῖν οὐδοῦς
πρῶτον, ἑπειτά δ’ θ’ αίμα καὶ ἑγκατα πάντα λαφύσει:

ὡς τοὺς Ἀτρείδης ἐφήσε κρείον Ἀγαμέμνων
αἰὲν ἀποκτεῖνων τὸν ὀπίστατον: οἴ δ’ ἐφέβοντο.

Meanwhile they <Trojans> kept on fleeing over the middle of the plain like cattle, / all of which a lion has put to flight coming in the dead of night; / utter destruction appears to one, / he breaks her neck taking it in his strong teeth / first and then gulps her blood and all her entrails / so King Agamemnon son of Atreus pursued them, / ever slaughtering the last one, as they fled.

[Agamemnon in pursuit of Trojans singling out the last one for death = lion in pursuit of cows singling out one for death] Narrator

***

οὐδ’ ἐτορείς ἡστήρα παναιολον, ἀλλ’ πολύ πρὶν

12 (237) ἀργύρῳ ἀντομένη μᾶλιθος ὃς ἑτράτες αἰχμῇ.

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
καὶ τὸ γε χειρὶ λαβὼν εὑρὺ κρείων Ἀγαμέμνων
13 (239) ἐλκ’ ἐπὶ οἱ μεμαὼς ὃς τε λίς,…

He did not pierce the gleaming belt, but far earlier / the point [of the spear] struck against the silver and was turned aside as though it had been lead. / Wide ruling Agamemnon took it with his hand, / and drew it towards him furiously like a lion.
#12 (237) point of spear ≈ lead
#13 (239) [Agamemnon ≈ lion] Narrator

14 (269) ὡς δ’ ὄτε ἀν ὧδίνουσαν ἐχὴ βέλος ὃζυ γυναῖκα δριμύ, τὸ τε προϊέσι οὐγοστόκοι Εἰλεἴθυιαι 270 Ἡρῆς θυγατέρες πικρὰς ὧδίνας ἔχουσαι, ὡς ὃζει ὃούναι δύον μένος Ἀτρείδαιο.

As when a sharp pang takes hold of a woman in labor — / a stinging [pang] which the Eileithuiai, goddesses of childbirth, / daughters of Hera and keepers of cruel pain, / send upon a woman when she is in labor — / so sharp pangs of pain set upon the might of the son of Atreus <Agamemnon>. [pangs of pain of Agamemnon ≈ labor pang of pain] Narrator

15 (292) ὡς δ’ ὄτε ποὺ τις θηρητήρ κύνας ἀργιόδοντας σεῦρ ἐπ’ ἀγροτέρῳ σύ καπρὼ ἢλ λέοντι, ὡς ἐπ’ Ἀχαιόσιν σεῦς Τρώας μεγαθύμους ἐκτωρ Πριαμίδης βροτολοιγὴς ἴσος Ἄρη. 295 αὐτὸς δ’ ἐν πρώτοις μέγα φρονέσω ἐβεβήκει, ἐν δ’ ἐπεσ’ ύμμίνῃ ύπεραέι ἴσος ἁέλλη, ἥ τε καθαλλομένη ἴσειδα πόντον ὄρινει.

As when a hunter sics his white-toothed dogs / on a wild boar or lion, / so Hector, son of Priam, equal to man-destroying Ares, / siced the proud Trojans on the Achaeans. / He himself full of hope plunged in among the first, / and fell on the fight like a gale-force windstorm that swoops down and lashes the violet-hued sea.
#15 (292) [Hector sics Trojans on Achaeans ≈ hunter sics dogs on boars or lions] Narrator
#16 (297) [Hector ≈ windstorm] Narrator

17 (305) τοὺς ἀρ’ ὡς γ’ ἠγεμόνας Δαναών ἐλεν, αὐτὰρ ἐπείτα πληθῶν, ὡς ὅποτε νέφεα Ζέφυρος στυφελίξῃ 305 ἀργεστάθαν Νότοι βαθεῖ λαίλαπ τύππων: πολλόν δὲ τρόφι κύμα κυλίνδεται, ύφος δ’ ἄχνη σκίνυται ἐξ ἀνέμου πολυπλάγκτου ἰῳς: ὡς ἀρα πυκνά καρηθα’ ύφ’ ἐκτορ δάμινατο λαῶν.

Hector slew the chieftains of the Danaans, / and then the multitude. As when the Zephyrus buffets the clouds / of the white south wind and beats them down with its

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
fierce tempest; / the huge waves of the sea roll afar, / and the spray is scattered aloft by the gusting wind / so the numerous heads of the army were overcome by Hector. [Hector > Greek chieftains ≈ Zephyrus > clouds] Narrator
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18 (324)  τῷ δ’ ἀν’ ὄμιλον ἰόντε κυδοίμεον, ὡς ὅτε κάπρῳ ἐν κυσί θηρευτῆς μέγα φρονέοντε πέσητον: 325

The two <Odysseus and Diomedes> went on spreading confusion through the crowd, as when two wild boars / furiously fall on the hunting dogs. [Odysseus and Diomedes against Trojans ≈ two wild boars amid dogs] Narrator
***
oūτῳ κεν καὶ Τρώες ἀνέπνευσαν κακότητος,
19 (383)  οἳ τὲ σε πεφρίκασι λέονθ’ ὡς μηκάδες αἴγες.

‘For thus the Trojans would have had a rest from evil; / they fear you <Diomedes> as bleating goats [fear] a lion.’ [Trojans fear Diomedes ≈ goats fear a lion] Paris
***
vūν δὲ μ’ ἐπιγράψας ταρσὸν ποδὸς εὐχει αὐτῶς.
20 (389)  οὐκ ἀλέγω, ὡς εἶ με γυνὴ βάλοι ἣ παῖς ἄφρων.

‘Now, you <Paris> boast in this way having grazed the sole of my foot. / I <Diomedes> care no more than if a woman or some silly boy had hit me.’ [Paris ≈ woman or boy] Diomedes
***
21 (414)  ὡς δ’ ὅτε κάπριον ἁμφὶ κύνες θαλεροὶ τ’ αἰζητὶ σεύωνται, δ’ δὲ τ’ εἰσὶ βαθείης ἐκ ξυλόχοιο
θήγων λευκὸν ὄδοντα μετὰ γναμπτῆσι γένυσαιν, ἁμφὶ δὲ τ’ ἁίσσονται, ὑπαὶ δὲ τ’ κόμπως ὀδόντων γίγνεται, οἳ δὲ μένουσιν ἄφρα δεινόν περ ἐόντα, ὡς ρα τότ’ ἁμφ’ Ὀδυσσῆα Δὶ ἄνθ’ ἐξεῦσωντο
Τρώες:.... 420

As when dogs and vigorous youths set upon a wild boar / that goes from a deep thicket sharpening his white tusks with his curving lower jaws, / and they attack him from every side, and so there is the gnashing of tusks, / but for all his fierceness they still hold their ground, / so furiously the Trojans then set upon Odysseus, dear to Zeus. [Trojans set upon Odysseus ≈ dogs and youths set on boar] Narrator
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...ἀμφὶ δ’ ἄρ’ αὐτὸν
22 (474)  Τρώες ἐπονθ’ ὡς εἶ τε δαφοῖνοί θῶς ὀρεσφιν ἁμφ’ ἐλαφὸν κεραῦν βεβλημένον, δὲν τ’ ἐβαλ’ ἀνήρ
ἰὼ ἀπὸ νευρῆς: τὸν μὲν τ’ ἠλιξε πόδεσσι
φεύγων, ὄφ’ αἶμα λιαρὸν καί γούνατ’ ὀρὼρῃ:

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
The Trojans had gathered around him <Odysseus> like carnivorous mountain jackals / around some horned stag, wounded when a man hit it / with an arrow from a bow string — the stag escaped him on foot / so long as its blood was warm and knees have strength to move, / but when the swift arrow overcame it, / the flesh-eating jackals devour it / in a shady glade in the mountains. Then a daimon led on a hungry lion; / the jackals fled in terror, and the lion devours [the prey] — / even so the many and brave Trojans gathered around fierce-hearted, crafty Odysseus, but the warrior / attacking warded off the destructive day with his spear. / Ajax then came near carrying his shield before him like a tower, / and stood close by; the Trojans fled in all directions.

#22 (474) [Trojans around Odysseus = jackals around stag]
#23 (485) [shield = tower] Narrator

***

24 (492) ώς δ’ ὣπότε πλῆθων ποταμὸς πεδίον δε κάτεισι
χειμάρρους κατ’ ὄρεσιν ὁπαζόμενος Δίος ὁμβριφ,
πολλὰς δὲ δρύς ἀζαλέας, πολλὰς δὲ τε πεύκας
ἐσφέρεται, πολλὸν δὲ τ’ ἀφυσετὸν εἰς ἄλα βάλλει,
圬ς ἔρεπε κλονέον πεδίον τότε φαίδιμος Αἰας,
δαίζων ἵππους τε καὶ ἀνέρας.

As when a flooding river comes rushing on to the plain, / winter-swollen from the mountains, swollen with the rain of Zeus; / it sweeps away many dry oaks and many pines, / and it throws much mud into the sea / so glorious Ajax pursued driving [them] over the plain, / slaughtering both horses and men.

[Ajax chases and slaughters horses and men = flooded river sweeps away oaks, pines and mud] Narrator

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Zeus δὲ πατὴρ Αἰανθ’ ὑψίζυγος ἐν φόβον ὄραε:
stile δὲ ταφών, ὅπιθεν δὲ σάκος βάλεν ἐπταβόειον,
τρέσσε δὲ παπτήνας ἐφ’ ὀμίλου θηρί ἐοικὼς
ἐντρωπαλιζόμενος ὁλίγον γόνυ γουνὸς ἀμείβων.

26 (548) ὥς δ’ αἰθωνα λέοντα βοών ἀπὸ μεσσαύλου
ἐξεσεύματο κύνες τε καὶ ἀνέρες ἀγρουσίται,
οἰ τέ μιν οὐκ εἰωσὶ βοών ἐκ πίαρ ἐλέθςαι
πάνυνχοι ἐγρήσοντες: ὃ δὲ κρειών ἐρατίζων

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
Then father Zeus from his high throne roused Ajax to flight, / so that he stood there dazed and threw his shield of seven ox-hides over his back / looking fearfully at the throng [of his foes] **as though he were a wild beast**, / and he turned about, shifting [back] slowly from leg to leg. / **As peasants** with their dogs chase / a tawny **lion** from their stockyard, / and prevent his carrying off the fattest of their herd, / watching all night long — the lion, hungry for meat, / presses forward, but he is unsuccessful, for the darts / from many a strong hand fall thick around him, / with burning brands that scare him for all his fury, / and when morning comes he goes away troubled at heart — / **so Ajax** then troubled at heart and / quite against his will retreated before the **Trojans**, fearing for the ships of the Achaeans. / Or **as when** some lazy **ass** forces his way into a field in spite of boys / and many clubs are broken about his back / when he enters the field wasting the tall crop — the **boys** / **beat** him with **clubs** but their strength is child-like, / still when he has had his fill of fodder they barely drive him from the field — / **so then the bold Trojans** and their numerous **allies** / **pursue** great Ajax, son of Telamon, / ever **hitting the middle of his shield** with their **spears**.

#25 (546) [Ajax ≈ wild beast]
#26 (548) [Ajax retreats from Trojans ≈ lion retreats from peasants]
#27 (558) [Trojans and allies pursue Ajax and strike his shield with spears ≈ boys chase and beat ass with clubs] Narrator

*****

28 (596) **ως ο’ι μὲν μάρναντο δέμας πυρὸς αἰθωμένουι: Νέστορα δ’ ἐκ πολέμου φέρον Νηλήϊαι ἤπαι ἠδρώσαι.**

Thus then they <Achaeans> fought **like a blazing fire**. / Meanwhile the sweating mares of Neleus were bearing Nestor out of the fight

[fight of Achaeans = blazing fire] Narrator

*****

29 (747) **αὐτάρ ἐγὼν ἐπόρουσα κελαίνῃ λαίλαπι ἴσος,**

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
πεντήκοντα δ´ ἕλον δίφρους.

‘And I <Nestor> swept down on them <Epeans> like a black whirlwind / and took fifty chariots…’

[Nestor ≈ whirlwind] Nestor

* * *

Similar Rhetorical Figures

Divine Comparisons:

58* Αἰνείαν θ’, ὃς Τρωσὶ θεός ὃς τίετο δήμῳ, Aeneas, who was honored in Troy by the people as a god.

Cf. Book 10 line 33, Book 11 line 58, Book 13 line 218, and Book 16 line 605.

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60* τρεῖς τ´ Ἄντηνορίδας . . . ἐπείκελον ἀθανάτοις.

And the three sons of Antenor [were honored] like the immortals.

***

295 Ἐκτῶρ Πριαμίδης βροτολοιγῷ ἱσος Ἄρη: Hector . . . equal to Ares.

Lee counts this as a simile.

***

604 ὅ δε κλισίθεναν ἄκούσας ἐκμολεν ἱσος Ἄρη, κακοῦ δ´ ἀρα οἱ πέλεν ἀρχή.

And he <Patroclus> heard and came out of the tent like Ares, and this for him was the beginning of evil.

Lee counts this as a simile.

***

638 γυνὴ ἐϊκυία θεήσιν a woman like the goddesses

Metaphoric Simile:

72 ἱσάς δ´ ψημίνη κεφάλας ἔχεν

The battle had equal heads.

[evenness of battle (implied comparison) ≈ equal heads] Narrator

797* αἱ κέν τι φῶς Δαναόισι γένη.

‘Then let him <Zeus> send you <Patroclus>, and let the rest of the Myrmidons follow, that you may become a light for the Danaans.’

[effect of Patroclus on battle (implied comparison) ≈ light] Nestor

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
Cf. Book 16 line 39 and line 95; Book 17 line 615

* * *

Similes of the *Iliad* Book 12 (M)

**SUMMARY**

**Scenes:**

#2 (41) [Hector to Argives ≈ a wild boar or lion to dogs and huntsmen]
#3 (132) [Polypoetes and Leonteus ≈ oaks]
#4 (146) [Polypoetes and Leonteus ≈ wild boars]
#5 (156) [stones ≈ snow-flakes]
#6 (167) [Polypoetes and Leonteus ≈ wasps or bees]
#7* (219) [Trojans ≈ high-flying eagle that did not complete its mission]
#8 (278) [stones flew thick ≈ snow falls thick]
#10 (299) [Sarpedon ≈ a mountain lion]
#13 (421) [the Lycians and Danaans fight ≈ two men struggle around boundary stones]
#14 (433) [Lycians and Danaans fought evenly ≈ a careful spinner woman holding a balance]
#15 (451) [Hector lifting a heavy stone ≈ a shepherd carrying the fleece of a ram in one hand]

**Short Clauses and Phrases:**

#1 (40) [Hector ≈ windstorm]
#9 (293) [Sarpedon against Argives ≈ a lion against cattle]
#11 (375) [Lycians ≈ a dark whirlwind]
#12 (385) [Epicles falling from the high tower ≈ a diver]
#16 (463) [Hector’s face ≈ night]

* * *

Ἀργεῖοι δὲ Διός μάστιγι δαμέντες νησιν ἐπὶ γλαφυρὴν ἐξεμένοι ῥαχανώντων ὡς ἑκτόρα δειδίτες, κρατερὸν μήστωρα φόβοιο: αὐτῶν δὲ γ᾽ ὡς τὸ πρόσθεν ἐμάρνατο ἱσος ἀέλλη: 40

ὡς δ᾽ ὅτ᾽ ἂν ἐν τε κύνεσσι καὶ ἀνδράσι θηρευτήσι κάρπιος ἀρτίόν λέων στρέφεται σθένεϊ: 45

ὅππῃ ἐκτωρ τὰς ἐποτρύνων διαβαινέμεν.

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
And the Argives, conquered by the whip of Zeus, / penned by their hollow ships were held in check / fearing Hector, the mighty deviser of rout, / but he, as before, fought like a windstorm. / And as when, among dogs and huntsmen, / a wild boar or a lion turns, exulting in his strength, / and these like a wall, arraying themselves / stand against him, and hurl thick / javelins from their hands; yet his noble heart is not at all / fearful or frightened, though his courage gets him killed; / and he turns on the thick ranks of men testing them; / and wherever he charges, there the ranks of men give way; / thus Hector going through the throng sought out his comrades / urging [them] to cross the trench.

#1 (40) [Hector ≈ windstorm]
#2 (41) [Hector to Argives ≈ a wild boar or lion to dogs and huntsmen] Narrator

NB the adverbial simile πυργηδόν (43: like a wall).

***

3 (132)

τῷ μὲν ἄρα προπάροιθε πυλάων ύψηλάων
ἔστοσαν ὡς ὅτε τε δρύες οὐρεσιν ύψικάρηνοι,
αἱ ὄνεμον μίμνουσι καὶ ὑπετὸν ἣματα πάντα
ῥίζῃσιν μεγάλῃς διηνεκέσσαβ' ἀραμυία:
ὁς ἄρα τῷ χείρεσι πεποιθότες ἢδὲ βήψι
μίμνον ἐπερχόμενον μέγαν Ἀσιον οὐδὲ φέβοντο.

These two <Polypoetes and Leonteus> before the high gate(s) / stood firm as (when) oaks of lofty crest in the mountains, / that stay the wind and rain day by day, / firm fixed with roots great and long; / thus these two, trusting in their arms and strength, / waited for great Asius coming on and did not flee.

[Polypoetes and Leonteus ≈ oaks] Narrator

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4 (146)

αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ δὴ τεῖχος ἐπεσσωμένους ἐνόησαν
Τρόας, ἀτὰρ Δαναῶν γένετο ἱαχὴ τε φόβος τε,
ἐκ δὲ τῷ ἄξιοντε πυλάων πρόσθε μαχέσθην
ἀγροτέροισι σύφεσιν ἐσοκότε, τῷ τ᾽ ἐν ὅρεσιν
ἀνδρῶν ἢδὲ κυνῶν δέχαται κολοσσυρτόν ἱόντα,
δοξιμὼ τ᾽ ἀίσοντε περὶ σφίσιν ἀγνυτον ὕλην
προμνήν ἐκτάμνοντες, ὕπαι δὲ τὸ κόμπος ὧδόντων
γίνεται εἰς ὃ κε τίς τε βαλὼν ἐκ θυμον ἔληται:
ὁς τῶν κόμπει χαλκὸς ἐπὶ στήθεσι φαινός
ἀντὶν πάλλομένων: μᾶλα γὰρ κρατερὸς ἐμάχοντο
λαοῖσιν καθύπερθε πεποιθότες ἢδὲ βήψιν.

But when [the Achaecans] saw the Trojans rushing upon the wall, / while there was shouting and panic from the Danaans, / the two <Polypoetes and Leonteus> rushing from the gate(s) fought in front / like wild boars which in the mountains / receive the tumultuous throng of men and dogs coming [against them], / and charging from both

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
sides they crush the trees about them, / cutting them at the root, and there arises a clatter of tusks, / until one throwing [a spear] takes their life away: / so the bright bronze clattered about their chests / as they were struck facing [their enemy], for very strongly they fought, / trusting in their army above them and in their own strength. [Polypoetes and Leonteus ≈ wild boars] Narrator

And [the stones] fell earthward like snow-flakes, / that a stormy wind, driving shadowy clouds, / pours thick upon the bounteous earth; / so the missiles flowed from the hands both of Achaians / and also Trojans; and helmets rang harshly / and bossed shields as they were hit with large stones. [stones ≈ snow-flakes] Narrator

‘But they <the Achaians> as wasps of nimble waist or bees / make their nests in a rugged path, / and leave not their hollow home, but remaining / ward off human hunters from around their young; / thus these men are not willing, even though only two, / to give ground from the gate(s) before they either kill or are killed.’ [Polypoetes and Leonteus ≈ wasps or bees] Asius

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
'For thus, I think, it will turn out, if in truth / this bird has come upon the Trojans, as they were eager to cross over, / a high-flying eagle, skirting the army on the left, / bearing in his talons a blood-red, monstrous snake, / still living, yet he let it fall before he reached his own nest, / and did not complete [his mission], to bring [it home and] give it to his little ones. / Thus shall we, even if we break the gates and the wall of the Achaeans / by our great might, and the Achaeans give way, / come back over the same roads from the ships in disarray; / for we shall leave behind many of the Trojans, whom the Achaeans / will kill with the bronze in defense of their ships.’

[Trojans ≈ high-flying eagle that did not complete its mission] Polydamus

An omen (ὁδ’ ὄρνις) of an eagle (αιετός, 200–201), called a portent of Zeus (Διὸς τέρας) at 209, is described just above in 201–209; the Trojan Polydamus tries to interpret it here as a simile (217–229) with the Trojans as the high-flying eagle that returns to its nest after an unsuccessful bout with a snake.

***

8 (278) τῶν δ’, ὡς τε νιφάδες χιόνος πίπτωσι θαμειαὶ
ηματι χειμεριῶν, ὅτε τ’ ὀρετο μητίετα Ζεὺς
νιφέμεν ανθρώπωσι πιθανοκόμενος τὰ ἁ κήλα:
κοιμήσας δ’ ἄνεμους χέει ἐμπεδον, ὥφρα καλύψη
ὑψηλῶν ὅρεων κορυφᾶς καὶ πρώσονας ἀκροῦς
καὶ πεδία λωτοῦτα καὶ ἀνθφών πίονα ἔργα,
καὶ τ’ ἐφ’ ἀλὸς ποληὴς κέχυται λιμέσιν τε καὶ ἀκταῖς,
κύμα δὲ μιν προσπλάξον ἐρύκεται: ἀλλὰ τε πάντα
eἰλυται καθύπερθ’, ὥτ’ ἐπιβρίση Διὸς ὁμβρός:
ὡς τῶν ἀμφοτέρωσι λίθοι πωτῶνο θαμειαῖ,
αἱ μὲν ἄρ’ ἐς Τρώας, αἱ δ’ ἐκ Τρώων ἐς Ἀχαίους,
βαλλομένων: τὸ δ’ τεῖχος ὑπὲρ πάν δούπος ὁμόρει.

And as flakes of snow fall thick / on a winter's day, when Zeus, the counsellor, is moved / to snow, making clear to men these arrows of his, / lulling the winds he pours [the flakes] continually, until he has covered / the peaks of the lofty mountains and the high headlands / and the grassy plains, and the rich farms of men; / and over harbors and shores of the grey sea [the snow] is poured, / but the wave beating against it keeps it off; and all other things are wrapped from above, when the storm of Zeus drives it on: thus from both sides the stones flew thick, / some upon the Trojans, and some from the Trojans upon the Achaeans, / throwing [at one another]; and over all the wall the din arose.

[stones flew thick ≈ snow falls thick] Narrator

***

οὐδ’ ἂν πω τότε γε Τρώες καὶ φαίδιμος ἑκτωρ
τεῖχος ἐφρήζαντο πύλας καὶ μακρὸν όχή,
εἰ μῆ ἄρ’ υἱὸν ἑὸν Σαρπιδόνα μητίετα Ζεὺς
oriously ἔπ’ Ἀργείοισι λέονθ’ ὡς βουσίν ἐλίξειν.

9 (293)

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
Yet not even then the Trojans and glorious Hector / would have broken the gates of the wall and the long bar, / had not Zeus the counsellor roused his own son, Sarpedon, / against the Argives, as a lion against sleek cattle.

[Sarpedon against Argives ≈ a lion against cattle] Narrator

***

10 (299) 

τὴν ἄρ’ ὅ γε πρόσθε σχόμενος δῦο δούρε τινάσσων 

βῆ ῥ’ ἵμεν ὡς τε λέων ὅρεσίτροφος, ὡς τ’ ἐπιδειυχ 

δηρὸν ἔς κρεῖων, κέλεται δὲ ἐ θυμὸς ἀγήνωρ 

μήλων πειρήσοντα καὶ ἐς τυκινὸν δόμον ἐλθεῖν: 

εἰ περ γάρ χ’ ἐὕρησι παρ’ αὐτόφι βῶτορας ἀνδρας 

σὺν κυσί καὶ δούρεσσι φυλάσσοντας περὶ μῆλα, 

οὐ δὰ τ’ ἀπειρήτος μέμονε σταθμὼ δέεσθαι, 

ἀλλ’ ὃ γ’ ἵρ’ ἢ Ἴρμαξε μετάλμενος, ἠὲ καὶ αὐτὸς 

ἔβλητ’ ἐν πρώτοις θοῖς ἀπὸ χεῖρος ἀκοντι: 

ὡς ῥα τότ’ ἀντίθεν Σαρπηδόνα θυμός ἀνήκε 

teίχος ἐπαίζει διὰ τε ῥήξασθαι ἐπάλειες.

Holding this <his shield> before him [and] brandishing two spears, / [Sarpedon] went his way like a mountain-nurtured lion that for a long time / lacked meat, and his proud spirit compels him / to go even into the close-built fold to make an attack upon the flocks. / For even if he finds at that very spot herdsman / with dogs and spears keeping guard over the flocks, / yet he is not impelled to be driven from the pen without trying, / but either he leaps amid [the flock and] seizes one, or is himself / struck among the first by a javelin from a swift hand: / thus his spirit then urged god-like Sarpedon / to rush upon the wall, and break-down the battlements. 

[Sarpedon ≈ a mountain lion] Narrator

***

11 (375) 

οἱ δ’ ἐπ’ ἐπάλειες βαίνον ἐρεμῆν λαίλαπι ἵσοι 

οὐδὲ κέ μιν ῥέα 

χείρεσσ’ ἀμφοτέρης ἔχοι ἀνήρ οὐδὲ μάλ’ ἡβῶν, 

οἴο νῦν βροτοι εἰσ’: ὃ δ’ ἀρ’ ὑψόθεν ἐμβαλ’ ἀείρας, 

θλάσσε δὲ τετράφαλον κυνέην, σὺν δ’ ὀστῖ’ ἄραξε 

πάντ’ ἁμίδις κεφαλῆς: ὃ δ’ ἀρ’ ἄρνευτῆρι ἔοικὼς 

κάππεσ’ ἀφ’ ὑψηλοῦ πῦργου, λίπε δ’ ὀστέα θυμός.

Now when [Ajax and Teucer] reached the tower of great-souled Menestheus / going within the wall, and came to the hard-pressed men, / the [Lycians] were going upon the battlements like a dark whirlwind, / . . . Not easily / with both hands could a man hold it <a huge jagged rock>, not even a young one / such as mortals now are, but he <Ajax>

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
lifted it on high and hurled it, / and he shattered the four-horned helmet, and crushed together all the bones / of the head [of Epicles]; and he fell like a diver / from the high tower, and his spirit left his bones.

#11 (375) [Lycians ≈ a dark whirlwind]
#12 (385) [Epicles falling from the high tower ≈ a diver] Narrator

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13 (421) ἀλλ᾽ ὡς τ᾽ ἀμφ᾽ οὐροισὶ δὺ ἀνέρε δηριάσθενον μέτρ᾽ ἐν χεραίν ἔχοντες ἐπιξύνῳ ἐν ἀρούρῃ, ὡ τ᾽ ὀλίγῳ ἐνὶ χώρῳ ἔριζητον περὶ ἱσις; ὡς ἀρα τοὺς διέργον ἐπάλξεις; οἱ δ᾽ ὑπὲρ αὐτέων δήσουν ἀλλήλων ἁμφὶ στήθεσι βοείας ἀσπίδας εὐκύκλους λαισήλα τε περόεντα. 425

But as two men dispute around boundary-stones / in a common field, having measuring-rods in their hands, / and in a narrow space contend each for his equal share; / thus the battlements held these apart [the Lycians and Danaans], and over them / they struck about one another's chests the ox-hide / round shields and fluttering targets.

[the Lycians and Danaans fight ≈ two men struggle around boundary stones] Narrator

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14 (433) ἀλλ᾽ οὐδ᾽ ὡς ἐδύναντο φόβον ποιῆσαι Ἀχαιῶν, ἀλλ᾽ ἐχον ὡς τε τάλαντα γυνὴ χερνήτης ἀληθῆς, ἢ τε σταθμὸν ἔχουσα καὶ εἴρισον ἁμφίς ἀνέλκει ἰασίζουσα, ἵνα παιδίν ἄεικα μισθὸν ἄρηται: ὡς μὲν τῶν ἐπὶ ἱσα μάχη τέτατο πτόλεμὸς τε, πρὶν γ᾽ ὅτε δὴ Ζεὺς κύδος ὑπέρτερον Ὁκτόρ δώκε Πριμίδη, ὃς πρόωτος ἐςφλάτο τείχος Ἀχαιῶν. 435

But not even so could they bring about a rout of the Achaeans, / but they held [their ground] as a careful woman spinner [holds] a balance / and she raises the weight and the wool in either scale, / making them equal, that she may win a meager wage for her children; / so evenly their war and battle was strained, until when Zeus gave the highest glory to Hector, / son of Priam, who first scaled the wall of the Achaeans.

[Lycians and Danaans fought evenly ≈ a careful spinner woman holding a balance] Narrator

***

15 (451) τὸν οἱ ἐλαφρῶν ἔθηκε Κρόνου πάϊς ἀγκυλομήτεω. 450

                ὡς δ᾽ ὅτε ποιῆσ᾽ ῥέεις φέρεις πόκων ἁρσενος οἶδ᾽ χειρὶ λαβὼν ἐτέρη, ὀλίγον τὲ μιν ἄχθος ἐπείγει, ὡς ἑκτῷ ἵδις σανίδων φέρε λᾶν ἀείρας, αἶ ῃ πῦλας εἶρυντο πῦκα στιβάρῳς ἄραριας.

The son of crooked-counselling Cronus made it <a stone> light for him. And as when a shepherd easily carries the fleece of a ram alone, / taking it in one hand, and little

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
does the weight burden him; / thus Hector lifting up the stone carried it straight against the doors / that guarded the close and strongly fitted gates. [Hector lifting a heavy stone ≈ a shepherd carrying the fleece of a ram in one hand]

Narrator

*δ* δ᾽ ἄρ᾽ ἔσθορε φαιδίμος Ὅκτωρ
16 (463) νυκτὶ θηή ἀτάλαντος ὑπώπια: λάμπε δὲ χαλκῷ
σμερδαλέω, τὸν ἔστο περὶ χροῖ, δοιά δὲ χερσὶ
δούρ᾽ ἔχεν: οὗ κέν τίς μιν ἐρύκακεν ἀντιβολήσας
465 νόσφι θεῶν ὃτ᾽ ἐσάλτο πύλας: πυρὶ δ᾽ ὀσσε δεδήι.

And glorious Hector leaped within, his face like sudden night; and he shone in terrible bronze / with which he was clothed about his body, and in his hands / he held two spears. None that met him could have held him back, / none apart from the gods, when once he leaped within the gates; and his eyes blazed with fire. [Hector’s face ≈ night] Narrator

* * *

Similar Rhetorical Figures

Divine Comparisons:

130 τὸν δὲ Λεοντῆα βροτολοιγῷ ίσον Ἄρη.

Leontes, peer of Ares the bane of men.

Lee counts this as a simile.

* * *

176* ἄλλοι δ᾽ ἀμφ᾽ ἄλλησι μάχην ἐμάχοντο πύλησιν:
ἀργαλέον δὲ μὲ ταῦτα θεὸν ὡς πάντ᾽ ἀγορεύσαι:
πάντη γὰρ περὶ τεῖχος ὀρώρει θεσπιδαές πῦρ
λάῖνον.

But others were fighting in battle about the other gates, / and it would be difficult for me, as though I were a god, to tell the tale of all these things, / for everywhere about the wall of stone rose the divinely-kindled (fiercely blazing) fire.

An unusual use of the ‘divine comparison’ (175–178) to refer to the Narrator speaking in the first person.

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* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
Similes of the *Iliad* Book 13 (N)

**SUMMARY**

**Scenes:**

#3 (62) [Poseidon ≈ a swift hawk]

#4 (102) [Trojans before Achaeans ≈ deer panic-stricken by jackals, panthers, wolves]

#5 (137) [Hector ≈ a boulder]

#6 (178) [the Trojan Imbrius ≈ an ash tree that is cut down]

#7 (198) [the Ajaxes with Imbrius ≈ two lions snatching a goat from dogs]

#8 (242) [gleam of Idomeneus’ his bronze armor ≈ lightning]

#11 (334) [the battle ≈ storms and dust]

#12 (389) [Asius falling ≈ an oak or poplar or tall pine]

#15 (471) [Idomeneus ≈ a bull bound with ropes]

#16 (492) [army follows Aeneas ≈ sheep follow a ram]

#18 (564) [part of the spear ≈ a charred stake]

#21 (654) [Harpalion wounded by Meriones’ arrow ≈ a worm on the earth]

#22 (673) [Greeks and Trojans fighting ≈ blazing fire]

#23 (688) [Hector ≈ a flame]

#24 (703) [the two Ajaxes fighting side by side ≈ two oxen at the plough]

#26 (795) [Trojans ≈ the blast of dire winds]

**Short Clauses and Phrases:**

#1 (39) [Trojans ≈ a flame or squall]

#2 (53) [Hector ≈ a flame]

#9 (292) [Idomeneus and Merioness NOT ≈ children]

#10 (330) [idomeneus ≈ a flame]

#13 (437) [Alcathous ≈ a pillar or tree]

#14 (470) [Idomeneus NOT ≈ a darling child]

#17 (531) [Meriones ≈ a vulture]

#18 (564) [part of the spear ≈ a charred stake]

#21 (654) [Harpalion wounded by Meriones’ arrow ≈ a worm on the earth]

#22 (673) [Greeks and Trojans fighting ≈ blazing fire]

#23 (688) [Hector ≈ a flame]

#25 (754) [Hector ≈ a snowy mountain]

#27* (819) [horses swifter ≈ than falcons]

* * *

1 (39) Τρώες δὲ φλογὶ ἵσοι ἀσκείς ἡ ἀνέλη Ἕκτορι Πριαμιδῆ ἀμοτον μεμαῶτες ἔποντο ἄβρομοι αὐίσχοι.

But the Trojans, all together, like a flame or a squall / were eagerly following after Hector, son of Priam, incessantly / clamoring with loud shouts.

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
[Trojans ≈ a flame or squall] Narrator

2 (53) ἤ' ρ' ὁ γ' ὁ λυσσώδης φλογὶ εἰκελὸς ἠγεμονεύει 'Ἐκτωρ, ὦς Διὸς εὐχετ' ἐρισθενέος πάῖς εἶναι.

'But here indeed I am dreadfully fearful that we may suffer something, / where that madman Hector is leading [them] on like a flame, / who boasts that he is a son of mighty Zeus.'

[ Hector ≈ a flame] Poseidon as Calchas

3 (62) αὐτὸς δ' ὡς τ' ίρηξ ὥκυπτερος ὦρτο πέτεσθαι, ὃς ρά τ' ἀπ' αἰγίλιπος πέτρης περιμήκεος ἄρθεις ὄμμη πεδίοιο διώκειν ὠρνευν ἀλλο, ὢς ἀπὸ τῶν ἦξε Ποσειδάων ἑνοσίχθων.

And <Poseidon>, himself, as a hawk, swift of flight, leaps up to fly, / who raising himself up from a high precipitous rock, / darts over the plain to chase some other bird; / thus from them darted Poseidon, the Shaker of Earth.

[Poseidon ≈ a swift hawk] Narrative

4 (102) ὡ πότιοι ἢ μέγα θαῦμα τόδ' ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ὄρωμαι δεινόν, ὦ οὐ ποτ' ἔγνως τελευτήσεθα ἐφασκόν, Τρώας ἐρ' ἡμετέρας ιέναι νέας, οἱ τὸ πάρος περ φυλακινῆς ἐλάφοισιν ἑοίκεσαν, αἳ τε καθ' ἕλην ἠθόν παρδαλίων τε λύκων τ' ἥξα πέλονται αὐτώς ἡλάσκουσαι ἀνάλκιδες, οὐδ' ἐπὶ χάρμη: ὡς Τρώες τὸ πρὶν γε μένος καὶ χειρὰς Ἀχαιῶν μίμειν ὕπ' ἐθέλεσκον ἑναντίον, οὐδ' ἤβαιόν.

'Well now, surely this is a great marvel I see with my eyes / a dread thing which I thought would never come to pass: / the Trojans are going against our ships, who before this / were like panic-stricken deer, who in the forest / become the prey of jackals and panthers and wolves / scurrying vainly [as] cowards, nor is there any fight in them. / So the Trojans in the past at least did not wish to remain opposite the might and hands of the Achaean / not in the least.'

[Trojans before Achaeans ≈ deer panic-stricken by jackals, panthers, wolves] Poseidon

5 (137) Τρώες δὲ προύπτυσαν ἄνολλες, ἦρξε δ' ἄρ' 'Ἐκτωρ ἀντικρῦ μεμωᾶς, ὦλοοϊτροχος ὡς ἀπὸ πέτρης, ὁν τε κατὰ στεφάνης ποταμός χειμάρρος ὦσῃ ῥῆξας ἀσπέτω ὀμβρυ ἀναίδεος ἔχματα πέτρης: ὥψι δ' ἀναθρόφωκον πέτεται, κτυπέει δὲ θ' ὑπ' αὐτοῦ ὕλη: δ' δ' ἀσφαλέως θέει ἐμπέδον, εἰδὸς ἴκηται

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
Then the Trojans drove forward all in one body and Hector led them, / pressing ever forward, like a boulder from a ledge / that a river swollen by winter rains pushes down a cliff, / when it has burst with an indescribable flood the foundations of the ruthless ledge; / leaping high it flies, and the woods resound beneath /, and it rushes on steadfastly until it reaches / the level plain, but then it rolls no more for all its momentum; / thus Hector for a time threatened to make his way easily as far as the sea / through the huts and ships of the Achaeans, / slaying [as he went].

[Hector ≈ a boulder] Narrator

NB further along in this passage (at line 152) the one-word adverbial simile πυργηδὸν (like a wall) in Hector’s speech: οὐ τοι δηρὸν ἐμὲ σχῆσουσιν Ἀχαιοί / καὶ μάλα πυργηδὸν σφέας αὐτοὺς ἀρτύναντες (‘No longer shall the Achaeans hold me back, even though they have arrayed themselves like a wall’).

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7 (198) ὡς τε δὖ’ ἀγὰ λέοντε κυνῶν ὑπὸ καρχαροδόντων ἀρτάξαντε φέρητον ἀνὰ ῥωπηία πυκνὰ ψεῦτο ὑπὲρ γαῖς μετὰ γαμφηλήσιν ἔχοντε, ὡς ρὰ τὸν ψεῦτο ἔχοντε δύω Αἰάντε κορυστὰ τεύχεα συλήτην: κεφαλὴν δ’ ἀπαλῆς ἀπὸ δειρῆς κόψεν Ὄιλιάδης κεχολωμένου Ἀμφιμάχου, ἤκε δὲ μιν σφαιρηδὸν ἐλιξάμενος δἰ’ ὀμίλου: Ὅκτορι δὲ προπάροιβε ποδῶν πέσεν ἐν κονίησι. 205

And like two lions that have snatched away a goat from sharp-toothed dogs, / carry it through the thick brush, / holding it in their jaws high above the ground, thus the

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
two warrior Ajaxes holding [Imbrius] on high, / stripped him of his armor; and the son of Oïleus cut the head from the tender neck, / being angry for [the slaying of] Amphimachus, / and with a swing he sent it rolling through the throng like a ball; and it fell in the dust before the feet of Hector.

[the Ajaxes with Imbrius ≈ two lions snatching a goat from dogs] Narrator

Cf. Book 11 #9 (147) ὅλμον δ᾽ ὡς ἔσσευε κυλίνδεσθαι δι᾽ ὀμίλου where Agamemnon sends Hippolochus’ head (or body) rolling like a round stone. The description here contains the adverbal simile ὑφαίρηδὸν = like a ball.

\[\begin{align*}
\text{Ἰδομενεὺς} & \: δ᾽ \: ὤτε \: δὴ \: κλισίην \: εὕτυκτον \: ἴκανε  \\
& \: δύσετο \: τεύχεα \: καλὰ \: περὶ \: χροῖ, \: γέντο \: δὲ \: δοῦρε,
\end{align*}\]

8 (242) βῆ δ᾽ ἵμεν ἀστεροτη ἐναλίγκιος, ἣν τε Κρονίων χειρὶ λαβὼν ἐτίναξεν ἀπ᾽ αἰγλήντος Ὀλύμπου δεικνύσε σήμα βροτοῖσιν: ἀρίζηλοι δὲ οἱ αὐγαί: ὡς τοῦ χαλκὸς ἔλαμπε περὶ στήθεσσι θέοντος. 245

And Idomeneus, when he came to his well-built hut, / put his fine armor on his body, and grasped [two] spears, / and went on his way like lightning that the son of Cronus /taking in his hand brandishes from gleaming Olympus, / showing a sign to mortals, and the rays brightly flash; / thus the bronze shone about his chest as he ran.

[gleam of Idomeneus’ bronze armor ≈ lightning] Narrator

\[\begin{align*}
\text{ἄλλ᾽} & \: ἄγε \: μηκέτι \: ταῦτα \: λεγώμεθα \nuππύτιοι ὡς \: ἐσταότες, \: μὴ \: ποῦ \: τις \: ύπερφιάλως \: νεμεσή. 
\end{align*}\]

‘But come, no longer let us talk thus like children, / standing [here] lest someone perhaps may feel resentment excessively.’

[Idomeneus and Meriones NOT ≈ children] Meriones speaking to Idomeneus

\[\begin{align*}
10 & \: \text{oí} \: δ᾽ \: ὡς \: ἵδωμεν η ἴδον \: φλογί \: εἰκελον \: ἀλκήν αὐτὸν καὶ \: θεράποντα \: σὺν \: ἔντεσι \: δαϊδάλεοις, \: κεκλόμενοι \: καθ᾽ \: ὄμιλον \: ἐπ᾽ \: αὐτῷ \: πάντες \: ἐβήσαν: \: τῶν \: δ᾽ \: ὄμοιν \: ἱστατο \: νείκος \: ἐπὶ \: πρυμνῆς \: νέεσσι. \\
11 & \: \text{ὡς} \: δ᾽ \: ὠμός \: ἐπ᾽ \: λιγέων \: ἀνέμου \: σπέρχοισιν \: ἐνέλαθε \: ἥματι \: τῷ \: ὀτε \: τε \: πλείστη \: κόνις \: ἀμφὶ \: κελεύθους, \: οἳ \: τ᾽ \: ἀμυνίς \: κοινῆς \: μεγάλης \: ἱστάσιν \: ὀμίχλην, \: ὡς \: ἵδω \: τῶν \: ὄμοιον \: ἣλθε \: μάχῃ, \: μέμασαν \: δ᾽ \: ἐνὶ \: θυμῷ \: ἀλλήλους \: καθ᾽ \: ὄμιλον \: ἐναρέμεν \: ὀξεῖ \: χαλκῷ. \\
\end{align*}\]

Now when they <the Trojans> saw Idomeneus, equal to a flame in strength, / himself and his squire clad in richly made armor, / calling out to one to another in the throng they all went towards him; / and their conflict arose all together by the sterns of the ships. / And as when storms arise from shrill winds / on a day when dust lies thickest

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
on the roads, / and the [winds] raise up confusedly a great cloud of dust; / thus their battle came together, and they were eager in spirit / to slay one another with the sharp bronze in the tumult.

#10 (330) [Idomeneus ≈ a flame]
#11 (334) [the battle ≈ storms and dust] Narrator

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12 (389) ἡρπε δ’ ως ὅτε τις δρύς ἡρπεν ἡ ἄχροψ ἦ πίτυς βλωθρή, τὴν τ’ οὐρέσι τέκτωνες ἄνδρες ἐξέταμον πελέκεσσι νεήσει νήιον εἶναι:

390 ὡς ὁ πρόσθ’ ἵππων καὶ διφρού κεῖτο τανυσθεῖς βεβρυχῶς κόνιος δεδραγμένος αἰματοέσσης.

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And he fell as when some oak falls, or a poplar, or a tall pine that, in the mountains, shipbuilders / fell with whetted axes to be a ship's timber; / thus before his horses and chariot he <Asius> lay out-stretched, / moaning aloud and clutching at the bloody dust.

[Asius falling ≈ an oak or poplar or tall pine] Narrator

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13 (437) ἀλλ’ ὃς τε στήλην ἢ δένδρεον ϊψιπέτηλον ἀτρέμας ἐσταότα στήθος μέσον οὔτασε δουρὶ ἰρως Ἰδομενεύς.

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But like a pillar or a tree, high and leafy, / as he stood not moving, the warrior Idomeneus struck [Alcathous] with his spear in the middle of his chest.

[Alcathous ≈ a pillar or tree] Narrator

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14 (470) ἀλλ’ οὐκ Ἰδομενὴ φόβος λάβε τηλύστον οὔς,
15 (471) ἀλλ’ ἐμεν’ ως ὅτε τις σὺς οὐρεσιν ἀλκὶ πεποιθῶς, ὃς τε μένει κολοσσρτόν ἐπερχόμενον πολύν ἄνδρών χώρῳ ἐν οἰοπόλῳ, φρίσσει δὲ τε νῶτον ὑπερθεν: ὁφθαλμὶ δ’ ἀρα οἱ πυρὶ λάμπετον: αὐτάρ ὀδόντας θῆγε, ἀλέξαθαι μεμωρὶς κύνας ἰδέ καὶ ἄνδρας: 475 ὡς μένεν Ἰδομενεὺς δουρικλυτῶς, οὐδ’ ὑπεχώρει.

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But fear did not seize Idomeneus like some darling child, / but he remained like some boar in the mountains, trusting in his strength, / that waits for the great, tumultuous throng of men coming against him, / in a lonely place; and he bristles up his back / and his eyes shone with fire, and he whets his tusks, / eager to defend himself against both dogs and men. Thus Idomeneus, famed for his spear, waited and did not give ground.

#14 (470) [Idomeneus NOT ≈ a darling child]
#15 (471) [Idomeneus ≈ a boar] Narrator

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* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα 16 (492) λαοὶ ἐπονθ᾽, ώς εἰ τε μετὰ κτιλόν ἔσπετο μῆλα πῶμεν᾽ έκ βοτάνης: γὰνυταί ὀι ἄρα τε φρένα ποιμῆν: ὃς Αἰνεία θυμός ἑνὶ στήθεσι γεγήθει ὃς ἴδε λαῶν ἐθνος ἐπισπόμενον ἑοὶ αὐτῷ. 495

But then / the army followed as if they were sheep following a ram / when they go to drink after feeding; and the heart of the shepherd is glad / thus the heart of Aeneas was gladdened in his chest / when he saw the flock of his army follow him. [army follows Aeneas = sheep follow a ram] Narrator

And Meriones springing forth again like a vulture / drew out the mighty spear from the lower arm [of Deiphobus] / and shrank back into the throng of his comrades. [Meriones = a vulture] Narrator

καὶ τὸ μὲν αὐτοῦ μεῖν᾽ ώς τε σκύλος πυρίκαυστος ἐν σάκει Άντιλόχοιο, τὸ δ′ ἡμίσι πείτ᾽ ἐπὶ γαίης. 565

And one part of it <the spear> remained like a charred stake, / in the shield of Antilochus, and half lay on the ground. [part of the spear = a charred stake] Narrator

ἐνθά οἱ ἐγχος ἐπήξεν: ὃς ὁσπόμενος περὶ δουρὶ ἡσπαίρ᾽ ώς ὁτε βοῦς τὸν τ᾽ οὐρεσί βουκόλοι ἀνδρες ἰλλασιν οὐκ ἐθέλοντα βὴ δήσαντες ἀγούσιν: ώς ὃ τυπεις ἡσπαίρε μίνυνθα περ, οὐ τι μάλα δήν, οὑρά οἱ ἐκ χροδις ἐγχος ἀνεπάσατ᾽ ἐγγύθεν ἐλθὼν ἡρως Μηριόνης: τὸν δὲ σκότος ὅσε κάλυψε. 575

There [Meriones] planted his spear, and the other <Adamas>, leaning over the shaft / writhed like a bull that herdsmen in the mountains / have bound with twisted ropes and lead unwilling by force. Thus he, when hit, writhed a little while, but not for long, / until the warrior Meriones came near and drew the spear from his flesh; and darkness covered his eyes. [Adamas = a bull bound with ropes] Narrator

ἐνθά οἱ ἐγχος ἐπήξεν: ὃς ὁσπόμενος περὶ δουρὶ ἡσπαίρ᾽ ώς ὁτε βοῦς τὸν τ᾽ οὐρεσί βουκόλοι ἀνδρες ἰλλασιν οὐκ ἐθέλοντα βὴ δήσαντες ἀγούσιν: ώς ὃ τυπεις ἡσπαίρε μίνυνθα περ, οὐ τι μάλα δήν, οὑρά οἱ ἐκ χροδις ἐγχος ἀνεπάσατ᾽ ἐγγύθεν ἐλθὼν ἡρως Μηριόνης: τὸν δὲ σκότος ὅσε κάλυψε. 575

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
And as when from a broad winnowing shovel in a great threshing-floor / the dark-skinned beans or pulse leap / before the shrill wind and the might of the winnower, / thus from the corselet of glorious Menelaus / the bitter arrow glanced aside and flew far away.

[an arrow glances off Menelaus' corselet ≈ beans leap from a winnower’s shovel] Narrator

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21 (654) ἕξομενος δὲ κατ’ αὐθὶ φίλων ἐν χερσίν ἑταῖρων θυμὸν ἀποπνεῖσαι, ὡς τε σκώλης ἐπὶ γαῖῃ κεῖτο ταθείς: ἕκ δ’ αἴμα μέλαν ῥέε, δεῦε δὲ γαῖαν.

And sitting down where he was in the arms of his dear comrades / breathing out his life, [Harpalion] lay stretched out like a worm on the earth; / and his black blood flowed out and wet the ground.

[Harpalion wounded by Meriones’ arrow ≈ a worm on the earth] Narrator

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22 (673) ὥς οἴ μὲν μάρναντο δέμας πυρὸς αἰθομένοιο.

So they <the Greeks and Trojans> fought like a blazing fire.

[fighting ≈ a blazing fire] Narrator

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23 (688) ὅσιοι ἀπὸ σφείων φλογὶ ἐκελοῦν Ἐκτορα δἰον οἴ μὲν Ἀθηναίων προλελεγμένοι.

[The Greeks from various cities] were not able to thrust back from themselves divine Hector, [who was] like a flame,—even those who were picked men of the Athenians.

[Hector ≈ a flame] Narrator

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24 (703) ἀλλ’ ὥς τ’ ἐν νειῷ βὸς οἴνοπε πηκτὸν ἄροτρον ἴσον θυμὸν ἔχοντε τιταίνετο: ἀμφὶ δ’ ἀρὰ σφι πρυμνοῦσιν κεράσσαι πολὺς ἀνακηκίει ἱδρὼς: τῷ μὲν τε ζυγὸν οἶον ἐὔξον ἀμφὶς ἐξρέγει ἰεμένῳ κατὰ ὅλικα: τέμει δὲ τε τέλουν ἀροῦρης: ὥς τῷ παρβεβαώτε μάλ’ ἕστασαν ἀλλήλοιον.

But as in fallow land two wine-dark oxen strain at the jointed plough, / having an equal spirit and around / the lower parts of their horns much sweat gushes out, / the polished yoke alone holds the two apart / as they go along the furrow, and it [the plough] cuts the headland of the field; thus did the two <Ajaxes> take their stand going alongside each other.

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
[the two Ajaxes fighting side by side ≈ two oxen at the plough] Narrator

25 (754) ἰ ῥα, καὶ ὀρμήθη ὀρεὶ νιφέντι ἐσικὼς
κεκλήγων, διὰ δὲ Τρῶων πέτετ’ Ἧδ’ ἐπικούρων. 755

So he [Hector] spoke, and set forth like a snowy mountain, / with loud shouting, and he flew through the Trojans and allies.
[Hector ≈ a snowy mountain] Narrator

See Bradley 1967 for a possible explanation of this seemingly odd simile.

26 (795) οἱ δ’ ἵσαν ἄργαλέων ἀνέμων ἀτάλαντοι ἄλλη,
ἡ ρά θ’ ὑπὸ βροντῆς πατρὸς Διὸς εἰσὶ πέδον δέ,
θεσπεσὶ δ’ ὀμάδῳ ἀλλ’ μίσγεται, ἐν δὲ τε πολλά
κύματα παφλάζοντα πολυφλοίσβοι θαλάσσης
κυρτὰ φαληριόωντα, πρὸ μὲν τ’ ἄλλ’, αὐτάρ ἐπ’ ἄλλα:
ὡς Τρῶες πρὸ μὲν ἄλλοι ἁρηρότες, αὐτὰρ ἐπ’ ἄλλοι,
χάλκῳ μαρμαίροντες ἀμ’ ἡγεμόνεσιν ἔποντο.

And they <Trojans> came on like the blast of dire winds / that rush upon the earth beneath the thunder of father Zeus, / and with wondrous din mingle with the salt-sea, and in [its track] are many / surging waves of the loud-resounding sea, / high-arched and white with foam, some in front and others after them; / thus the Trojans, in close array, some in front and others after them, / flashing with bronze, followed together with their leaders.
[Trojans ≈ the blast of dire winds] Narrator

27* (819) ἀρήσῃ Διὶ πατρὶ καὶ ἄλλοις ἂθανάτοισι
θάσσονας ἱρήκων ἔμεναι καλλίτριχας ἵππους

‘You will pray to father Zeus and other immortals / that your fair-maned horses be swifter than falcons.’
[horses swifter ≈ than falcons] Ajax to Hector

Similar Rhetorical Figures

Transformations and Disguises:

45* άλλα Ποσειδάων γαῖης οὐναίαυα
Ἀργείους ὀτρυνε βαθείς ἐξ ἄλος ἐλθών
εἰσάμενος Κάλχαντι δέμας καὶ ἀτειρέα φωνήν. 45

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
But Poseidon, the Enfolder and Shaker of Earth, / began to urge on the Argives, coming from the deep sea, / being like Calchas, in form and untiring voice. [Poseidon ≈ Calchas] Narrator

69* μάντεϊ εἰδόμενος

[Poseidon] in the likeness of the seer

216* εἰσάμενος φθογγὴν Ἀνδραίμονος ὑἱῷ Θόαντι

likening his voice to that of Andraemon’s son Thoas

357* λάθρῃ δ’ αἰεν ἐγειρε κατὰ στρατὸν ἀνδρὶ ἐοικὼς

Poseidon secretly always stirred on the Greeks throughout the army in the likeness of a man.

Divine Comparisons:

218* θεός δ’ ὦς τίτο δήμῳ
[Thoas] was honored by the people like a god

295* Μηριόνης δὲ θοῦ ἀτάλαντος Ἀρηὶ Meriones peer of swift Ares (repeated at 328 and 528)

298 οἶος δὲ βροτολογὸς Ἀρης πόλεμον δὲ μέτεισι, τῷ δὲ Φόβος φίλος υἱὸς ἀμα κρατερὸς καὶ ἀταρβής ἐσπετο, ὡς τ’ ἐφόβησε ταλάφρονα περ πολεμιστήν: τῷ μὲν ἄρ’ ἐκ Θρήκης Ἐφύρους μέτα θωρήσεσθον, ἦ γέ μετὰ Φλεγύας μεγαλήτορας: οὐδ’ ἄρα τῷ γε ἐκλυνον ἀμφοτέρως, ἔτεροις δὲ κύδος ἐδωκαν: τοῖοι Μηριόνης τε καὶ ᾽Ιδομενεύς ἀγοὶ ἀνδρῶν ἥδεν ἐς πόλεμον κεκορυθμένοι αἰθοπι χαλκ. 300

300 And just as man-destroying Ares goes out to war, / and with him follows Rout, his son, equally valiant and fearless, / who routs a warrior, no matter how steady, / these two arm themselves and go out from Thrace to join the Ephryi / or the great-hearted Phlegyes, yet they / do not listen to both sides, but give glory to one or the other; / in such a manner did Meriones and Idomeneus, leaders of men, go out to war, helmeted in flaming bronze. [Meriones and Idomeneus go forth to war ≈ Ares and Rout] Narrator

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
Lee counts this as a simile.

802 "Εκτῷρ . . . ἰσος 'ΑρηÏ  Hector . . . the peer of Ares

Lee counts this as a simile.

Metaphor:

474 ὀφθαλμῶ δ' ἀρα οἱ πυρί λάμπετον

[A boar’s] eyes shone with fire
[appearance of boar’s eye (implied comparison) ≈ fire] Narrator

Similetic Adverbs:

152* πυργηδὸν  ‘like a wall’
204* σφαιρηδὸν  ‘like a ball’

Similes of the Iliad Book 14 (Ξ)

SUMMARY

Scenes:

#1 (16) [Nestor pondered ≈ the sea heaving]
#2 (Ὄσσον/τόσσην) (148) [Poseidon’s shout ≈ (as loud as) 9000 or 10,000 warriors]
#9 (414) [Hector ≈ an oak falling]

Short Clauses and Phrases:

#3 (185) [Hera’s veil white ≈ the sun]
#4 (386) [Poseidon’s sword ≈ lightning]
#5 (Ὄσση/τόσσον) (394) [the cry of the Trojans and Achaeans ≈ (was louder than) waves of the sea]
#6* (Ὄσση/τόσσος) (396) [the cry of the Trojans and Achaeans ≈ (was louder than) a blazing fire]
#7* (Ὄσση/τόσσον) (398) [the cry of the Trojans and Achaeans ≈ (was louder than) the shrieking wind]
#8 (413) [Hector ≈ a top whirling]
#10 (499) [Ilioneus’ head with the spear in his eye ≈ a poppy]

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
And as the great sea heaves with a soundless swell, / foreboding swift paths of shrill winds, / vaguely, [its waves] do not roll forward to this side or to that / until some fair wind comes down from Zeus, / thus the old man <Nestor> pondered, divided in his mind / this way and that, / whether he should hasten into the throng of the Danaans of swift steeds, / or go after Agamemnon, son of Atreus, shepherd of the people.

[Nestor pondered ≈ the sea heaving] Narrator

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So saying, he <Poseidon> shouted mightily, as he sped over the plain. / Loud as nine thousand warriors, or ten thousand, cry / in battle joining in the strife of Ares, / so [mighty] a shout did the lord, the Shaker of Earth, send forth from his chest; /and in the heart of each man of the Achaeans he put great strength, / to war and fight unceasingly.

[Poseidon’s shout ≈ (as loud as) 9000 or 10,000 warriors] Narrator

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And, with a veil over all, the bright goddess <Hera> hid herself, / a fair veil, newly made, and it was white as the sun; and beneath her shining feet she bound her fine sandals.

[Hera’s veil white ≈ the sun] Narrator

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* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
But when they had clad their bodies in gleaming bronze, / they set out, and Poseidon, the Shaker of Earth, led them, / bearing in his strong hand a frightening, long-pointed sword, / like lightning, and it is not right that [any mortal] should be confront this / in dreadful war, but fear holds men in check.

[Poseidon’s sword ≈ lightning] Narrator

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έκλυσθη δὲ θάλασσα ποτὶ κλισίας τε νέας τε Ἀργείων: οἳ δὲ ξύνισαν μεγάλῳ ἀλαλητῷ.

5 (394) οὔτε θαλάσσης κύων τόσον βοῶα ποτὶ χέρσον

ποντόθεν ὄρνυμενον πνοῆ Βορέω ἀλεγεινή: 395

6* (396) οὔτε πυρὸς τόσον γε ποτὶ βρόμος αἰθομένῳ

οὐρεός ἐν βήσησι, ὅτε τ᾽ ὅρετο καίμεν ύλην:

7* (398) οὔτ’ ἄνεμος τόσον γε περὶ δρυσίν ύψικόμοις

ἡπεῖ, ὡς τα μάλιστα μέγα βρέμεται χαλεπαινῶν,

όσθε ἄρα Τρώων καὶ Ἀχαιῶν ἐπλέτο φωνή

δεινὸν ἀὕσαντων, ὦτ᾽ ἐπὶ ἀλλήλοισιν ὀρουσαν.

And the sea surged up to the huts and ships / of the Argives, and they clashed with a mighty shout. / Not so loudly bellows the wave of the sea upon the shore, / driven up from the sea by the dread blast of Boreas, / nor so loud is the roar of blazing fire / in the glades of a mountain when it springs up to burn the forest, / nor does the wind shriek so loud around the high crests of the oaks / the wind that roars the loudest in its rage / as was then the cry of Trojans and Achaeans, / shouting terribly when they leaped upon each other.

#5 (394) [the cry of the Trojans and Achaeans ≈ (was louder than) waves of the sea]

#6* (396) [the cry of the Trojans and Achaeans ≈ (was louder than) a blazing fire]

#7* (398) [the cry of the Trojans and Achaeans ≈ (was louder than) the shrieking wind] Narrator

***

tὸν μὲν ἐπειτ’ ἀπόντα μέγας Τελαμώνιος Αἰας

χερμαδίῳ, τὰ ρα πολλὰ θοᾶν ἐχαμα νηῶν 410

πάρ ποιὶ μαρναμένων ἐκυλίνδετο, τῶν ἐν αἰέρας

στῆθος βεβλήκει ὑπὲρ ἄντυνως ἀγχόθι δειρῆς,

8 (413) στρόμμbuν δ᾽ ὡς ἔσσευ βαλῶν, περὶ δ᾽ ἔδραμε πάντη.

9 (414) ὃς δ᾽ ὅθ᾽ ὑπὸ πληγῆς πατρὸς Δίος ἔξερπε ὅβρυς

πρόρριζος, δεινὴ δὲ θεσιόν γίγνεται ὄδμη

ἔξ αὐτῆς, τὸν δ᾽ οὐ περ ἔχει θράσος ὃς κεν ἢστιν

ἐγγὺς ἐὼν, χαλεπὸς δὲ Δίος μεγάλοιο κεραυνός,

ὡς ἐπεσ’ Ἐκτορος ὑμα χαμαί μένος ἐν κονίσι:

But then as he <Hector> drew back, great Telamonian Ajax [hit] him / with a large stone, for there were many props of the swift ships, / that rolled around their feet as they fought; lifting one of these on high, / he hit [Hector] on the chest over the shield-rim,

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
near the neck, / and set him whirling like a top with the blow and he spun [him] all around. / And as when beneath the blast of father Zeus an oak falls / uprooted, and a dread odor of brimstone arises / from it, then courage no longer holds him who sees / standing near by, for dangerous is the thunder bolt of great Zeus, / so fell mighty Hector quickly to the ground in the dust.

But Peneleus drawing his sharp sword / drove it into the middle of [Ilioneus’] neck, and struck his head to the ground with the helmet, and still the mighty spear / was in his eye; and holding it on high like a poppy-head / he showed it to the Trojans and spoke a word exulting.

But Peneleus drawing his sharp sword / drove it into the middle of [Ilioneus’] neck, and struck his head to the ground with the helmet, and still the mighty spear / was in his eye; and holding it on high like a poppy-head / he showed it to the Trojans and spoke a word exulting.

**Similar Rhetorical Figures**

**Transformations and Disguises:**

136* ἀλλὰ μετ’ αὐτούς ἤλθε παλαιῷ φωτὶ ἑοικώς

[The Shaker of the Earth] went with them in the likeness of an old man.

290* ὑπὸ ὑπὸ δοξοὺς πεπυκασμένος ἐπιλαϊκὴ ὑπερεσσὶ, ἦν τε ὑπὲρ ὑπερεσσὴ χαλκίδα κικλῆσκουσι θεοῖ, ἀνδρεῖς δὲ κύμινδιν.

There <Sleep> sat, hidden by the branches of a fir / in the likeness of a clear-voiced bird, which in the mountains / the gods call ‘chalkis’ and men ‘cumindis’.

**Similetic Epithets:**

222* ὡς φάτο, μεῖδησεν δὲ βοώπις πότνια Ἡρη ≈ “ox-eyed” (with eyes like a cow’s)

NB various compound adjectives:

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
noun + noun: ox-eyed, wind-footed (*podênemos*)
adjective + noun: dark-haired, white-armed, great-hearted
noun + verb: cloud-gathering, aegis-bearing
adverb + noun: bent-back (*palintynê*)
adverb + participle: well-twisted (*êustephea*)

>>> Only the first types could be considered similes, where ‘like’ is implied.

Cf. 474: ἤ παϊς: αὐτῶ γὰρ γενεὴν ἁγχιστα ἐφκει.

‘he is most like <Prothoënô> in build.’

[ Ajax speaking to Polydamas about Archelochus, who has just been struck with a spear ] This is factual: therefore, NOT a simile but a literal comparison.

As 521: οὔ γάρ οἱ τις ὁμοῖος ἐπισπέσθαι ποσὶν ἦν.

There was not anyone like him <Ajax>.

* * *

Similes of the *Iliad* Book 15 (O)

SUMMARY

Scenes:

#1 (80) [Hera flew ≈ the mind of a man darts]
#2 (170) [Iris flies quickly ≈ snow or hail driven by Boreas]
#4 (237) [Apollo ≈ a fleet falcon]
#5 (263) [Hector ≈ a horse escaping from his halter]
#6 (271) [Danaans > Hector (vs other Trojans) ≈ dogs and country folk > a lion (vs. a stag or goat)]
#7 (323) [Apollo sends panic on Achaeans ≈ two wild beasts drive in confusion cattle or a flock of sheep]
#8 (όοοο) (358) [Apollo made a long pathway ≈ as far as a spear throw]
#9 (362) [Apollo destroying the wall of the Achaeans ≈ a boy scattering sand by the sea]
#10 (381) [Trojans over the wall ≈ a great wave over the sides of a ship]
#11 (410) [war and battle even (îsa) ≈ a ship’s timber straight]
#12 (579) [Antilochus > you Melanippus ≈ a dog > a wounded fawn]
#13 (586) [Antilochus ≈ a wild beast]
#15 (605) [Hector ≈ Ares or fire]
#16 (618) [Danaans withstand Trojans ≈ a steep rock withstands wind and waves]
#17 (624) [Hector against Achaeans ≈ a wave falling on a ship and crew]

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
#18 (630) [Hector > the Achaeans ≈ a lion > cattle]
#19 (679) [Ajax walking over the many decks of the swift ships ≈ a skilled horseman riding horses]
#20 (690) [Hector > a ship ≈ an eagle > a flock of birds (geese, cranes or swans)]

Short Clauses and Phrases:
#3 (196) [me/Poseidon not ≈ some coward]
#14 (592) [Trojans ≈ lions]

***

1 (80) ὡς δ’ ὦτ’ ἀν αἴξῃ νόσος ἀνέρος, ὃς τ’ ἐπὶ πολλὴν γαῖαν ἑληλουθῶς φρεσὶ πευκαλίμησι νοήσῃ ἐνθ’ ἐην ἦ ἔνθα, μενοινήσι τε πολλά, ὡς κραινώς μεμαυακαί διέπτατο πότνια Ἡρη: ἵκετο δ’ αἰτιῦν ὸλυμπον, …

As when the mind of a man darts quickly, who has travelled over much / of the earth [and] thinks in his prudent mind, / ‘I wish I were here or there’, and he wishes many things, / thus swiftly queenly Hera flew on eagerly; and she came to steep Olympus. [Hera flew ≈ the mind of a man darts] Narrator

***

2 (170) ὡς δ’ ὦτ’ ἀν ἐκ νεφέων πτήται νιφάς ἣ ἁλαζα ψυχρὴ ἐπὶ τοῦ ῥίπτης αἰθρηγενέος Βορέαο, ὡς κραινώς μεμαυακαί διέπτατο ὥκεα ἴρις, ἀγχοῦ δ’ ισταμένη προσέφη κλυτὸν ἐννοοὶγαῖον:

And as when from clouds there flies snow or chill hail, / driven by a blast of Boreas born in bright heaven, / thus swift Iris quickly sped in her eagerness; /and standing near she spoke to the famous Earth-Shaker. [Iris flies quickly ≈ snow or hail driven by Boreas] Narrator

***

3 (196) χερσὶ δὲ μὴ τί με πάγχυ πακοῦν ὡς δειδισσέσθω.

‘And with [his] hands let [Zeus] not [try to] frighten me <Poseidon> like some coward.’ [me/Poseidon NOT ≈ some coward] Poseidon

***

4 (237) ὡς ἔφατ’, οὐδ’ ἄρα πατρός ἀνηκοῦστης Ἀρώλλων, ἐπὶ κατ’ Ἰδαῖων ὅρεων ἣρηκε ἑοικὼς ὥκεϊ φασσοφόνῳ, ὃς τ’ ἤκιστος πετεινών.

So he spoke, nor was Apollo disobedient to his father, / but went down from the hills of Ida, like a fleet falcon, / the slayer of doves, that is the swiftest of winged things. [Apollo ≈ a fleet falcon] Narrator

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
So saying, [Apollo] breathed great might into the shepherd of the people. / And as when a stalled horse that has fed his fill at the manger, / breaking his halter runs stamping over the plain / accustomed to bathe him in a fair-flowing river / exulting, and he holds his head high and about his shoulders / his mane floats streaming, and trusting in his splendor / his knees nimbly bear him to the haunts and pastures of mares; / thus Hector swiftly moved his feet and knees / urging on his charioteers, when he heard the voice of the god.

[Hector ≈ a horse escaping from his halter] Narrator

But as dogs and country-folk / pursue a horned stag or a wild goat, / but a sheer rock and a shadowy thicket saves him, / nor is it their lot to find him / and then at their clamor a bearded lion appears / on the road, and immediately turns them all back despite their eagerness, / thus the Danaans for a time followed always in throngs, / thrusting with swords and two-edged spears. / But when they saw Hector going up and down the ranks of men, / then were they seized with fear, and the spirits of all men sank down to their feet.

[Danaans > Hector (vs. other Trojans) ≈ dogs and country folk > a lion (vs. a stag or goat)] Narrator

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
And as two wild beasts drive in confusion a herd of cattle / or a great flock of sheep in the darkness of black night, / coming upon them suddenly when a herdsman is not present, / thus the Achaeans were driven in rout with no might in them; for upon them Apollo / had sent panic, and he was giving glory to the Trojans and Hector. [Apollo sends panic on Achaeans ≈ two wild beasts drive in confusion cattle or a flock of sheep] Narrator

***

προπάροιθε δὲ Φοίβος Ἀπόλλων 355
ρεῖ᾽ ὀχθας κατέτοιο βαθεῖς ποσσίν ἑρεῖπων
ἐς μέσσον κατέβαλλε, γεφύρωσεν δὲ κέλευθον

8 (358) μακρὴν ἥδ᾽ εὐρείαν, ὦσον τ᾽ ἐπὶ δουρός ἑρωὴ
gίγνεται, ὦποτ᾽ ἀνήρ σθένεος πειρώμενος ἢμι.

And before them Phoebus Apollo / easily dashing down with his feet the banks of the deep trench, / cast [them] into the midst, and bridged for the men a pathway / long and broad, as far as is a spear-cast, when a man hurls, making trial of his strength. [Apollo made a long pathway ≈ as far as a spear throw] Narrator

***

τὴ ρ᾽ οί γε προχέοντο φαλαγγηδόν, πρὸ δ᾽ Ἀπόλλων 360
αιγίδ᾽ ἔχων ἑρίτιμον: ἑρείπε δὲ τεῖχος Ἀχαϊών
ῥέεια μάλ᾽, ὡς ὄτε τις ψάμαθαν πάις ἄγχη θαλάσσης,
ὁς τ᾽ ἐπεῖ πού ἤπιο συνήδεω ποσίν καὶ χερσίν ἀθύρων.

9 (362) ὡς ρὰ σὺ ἠείς Φοίβε οὐκό ήμετο
κόματον καὶ δύζουν
σύγχεας Ἀργείων, αὐτοίς δὲ φύζαν ἐνώρσας.

By this [path] they poured forth rank on rank, and before them went Apollo, / bearing the priceless aegis; and he cast down the wall of the Achaeans / very easily, as when a boy [scatters] the sand by the sea, / when he then makes playthings in his childhood, / and then again mixes it up with his hands and feet making sport, / so did you, far-darting Phoebus, mix up the long toil and labor / of the Argives, and stirred up rout for them.

[Apollo destroying the wall of the Achaeans ≈ a boy scattering sand by the sea] Narrator

***

10 (381) οἱ δ᾽ ὡς τε μέγα κύμα θαλάσσης εὐρύποροι
νῆσος ὑπὲρ τοῖχων καταβῆσεται, ὥποτ᾽ ἐπείγη
ἰς ἀνέμου: ἥ γὰρ τε μάλιστά γε κύματ᾽ ὁφέλλει:

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
And as a great wave of the broad-wayed sea / sweeps down over the bulwarks of a ship, whenever the might of the wind / drives it on, for it above all makes the waves swell; / thus did the Trojans with a great cry rush down over the wall. [Trojans over the wall ≈ a great wave over the sides of a ship] Narrator ***

11 (410) ἀλλ᾽ ὡς τε στάθη δόρυ νήιὸν ἐξιθύνει τέκτονος ἐν παλάμησι δαήμονος, ὡς βά τε πάσης εὐ ἐιδὴ σοφίς ὑποθημοσύνη̃σιν ᾿Αθήνης, ὡς μὲν τῶν ἐπὶ ἴσα μάχη τέτατο πτόλεμος τε.

But as the carpenter’s line makes straight a ship’s timber / in the hands of a cunning workman, who is well skilled / in all manner of craft by the promptings of Athena, / thus their war and battle was stretched evenly. [war and battle even (isa) ≈ a ship’s timber straight (exithynei)] Narrator ***

12 (579) Ἀντιλοχος δ᾽ ἐποροῦσε κύων ὡς, ὡς τ᾽ ἐπὶ νεβρῷ βλημένῳ αἴξῃ, τὸν τ᾽ ἐξ εὐνήφι ὑθρόντα 580 θηρητήρ ἐτύχησε βαλῶν, ὑπέλυσε δὲ γυία: ὡς ἐπὶ σοὶ Μελάνιππε θόρ᾽ ᾿Αντιλοχος μενεχάρμης τεύχεα συλῆσων.

And Antilochus sprang upon [Melanippus] like a dog that rushes upon a wounded fawn, / that leaping from its lair / a hunter succeeded in hitting and loosed its limbs; / thus steady Antilochus leaped on you, Melanippus, / to strip your armor. [Antilochus > Melanippus ≈ a dog > a wounded fawn] Narrator ***

13 (586) Ἀντιλοχος δ᾽ οὐ μείνε θοός περ ἐὼν πολεμιστῆς, ἀλλ᾽ ὡς ἀρ᾽ ἐτρεπε τηρὴ κακὸν ῶεξαντὶ ἑοικῶς, ὡς τε κῦνα κτείνας ἢ βουκὸλον ἁμφὶ βόεσι φεύγει πρὶν περ ὁμιλον ἀολισθήμεναι ἀνδρῶν: ὡς τρέσε Νεστορίδη. 590

Antilochus did not wait, swift warrior though he was, / but fled like a wild beast that has done something bad / one that has killed a dog or a herdsman beside his cattle, / and flees before the throng of men is gathered together; / thus the son of Nestor fled. [Antilochus ≈ a wild beast] Narrator ***

14 (592) Τράες δὲ λείουσιν ἑοικότες χωμάγοισι νησισὶ ἐπεσεύσωντο, Δίδος δ᾽ ἐτέλειον ἐφετμάς, ὃ σφισιν αἰέν ἐγειρε μένος μέγα, θέλγε δὲ θυμόν ἀργείων. 595

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
But the **Trojans, like carnivorous lions**, / rushed upon the ships and were fulfilling the orders of Zeus, / who always roused great might in them, but melted the hearts / of the Argives.

[**Trojans ≈ lions**] Narrator

**15 (605)**

\[
\text{μαίνετο δ’ ὡς ὅτ’ Ἄρης ἐγχέσπαλος ἥ ὁλον πῦρ}
\]
\[
\text{οὐρεσι μαίνεται βαθές ἐν τάρφεσιν ὠλὺς:}
\]
\[
\text{ἀφλοισμὸς δ’ ἐκ στόμα γίγνετο, ἥ ὅ’ ὑσσε}
\]
\[
\text{λαμπέσθην βλοσυρήσει ὑπ’ ὀφρύσιν, ἄμφι δ’ ἡλικὶ}
\]
\[
\text{σμερδαλέον κροτάφοις τινάσσετο μαρναμένοιο}
\]
\[
\text{ Ἐκτορος.}
\]

And [**Hector**] was raging like **Ares**, wielder of the spear, or a **consuming fire** / when it rages on the mountains in the thickets of a deep wood; / and foam appeared around his mouth, and his two eyes / blazed beneath his shaggy brows, and around his temples / Hector’s helmet shook terribly as he fought.

[**Hector ≈ Ares or fire**] Narrator

**Note:** the prothesis (ὡς ὅτ’) appears to serve without a verb in the first vehicle, and with a verb in the second: ὡς ὅτ’ Ἄρης ἐγχέσπαλος ἥ ὁλον πῦρ . . . μαίνεται. The first vehicle is also listed separately as a Divine Comparison.

**16 (618)**

\[
\text{ἀλλ’ ὡς δύνατα ῥήξα τοίν περ μενεάινων:}
\]
\[
\text{ἐγνήσι γὰρ πυργηδὸν ἄρηραίτες, ἥπερ πέτρη}
\]
\[
\text{ἡλίβατος μεγάλη πολιής ἀλός ἐγγύς ἐόουσα,}
\]
\[
\text{ἡ τε μένει λιγέων ἄνέμων λαψηρᾶ κέλευθα}
\]
\[
\text{κύματά τε τροφέεντα, τά τε προσερέγειται αὐτήν:}
\]
\[
\text{ὡς Δαναοὶ Τρώας μένον ἔμπεδον ὴδδε φέβοντο.}
\]

Yet not even so was [Hector] able to break [the Danaans], even though he was so eager; / for they restrained [him] solidly like a **wall**, like a **rock**, steep [and] great, being near the grey sea, / that withstands the swift paths of the shrill winds, / and the swelling waves that belch forth against it; / thus the **Danaans withstood the Trojans** steadily, and did not flee.

[**Danaans withstand Trojans ≈ a steep rock withstands wind and waves**] Narrator

**N.B. πυργηδόν as a similetic adverb.**

**17 (624)**

\[
\text{αὐτάρ ὀ λαμπόμενος πυρὶ πάντοθεν ἐνθορ’ ὠμίλῳ,}
\]
\[
\text{ἐν δ’ ἔπεσα ὡς ὄτε κύμα θοῆ ἐν νη’ πέσησι}
\]
\[
\text{λάβρον ύπα τεφέων ἀνεμοτριφές: ἥ δ’ τε πᾶσα}
\]
\[
\text{ἄχνη ὑπεκρύφθη, ἀνέμοιο δὲ δεινὸς ἂτη}
\]
\[
\text{ιστὶ ἐμβρέμεται, τρομέουσι δὲ τε φρένα ναύται}
\]
\[
\text{δειδίτες: τυτθὸν γὰρ ύπ’ ἐκ θανάτου εἴρονται:}
\]

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
But he <Hector> shining all about with fire leaped among the throng, / and fell on them as when a wave falls upon a swift ship / fierce [and] swollen by the winds, and it is all / hidden by the foam, and the dread blast of wind / roars against the sail, and the sailors shudder in their hearts / in fear, for by only a little are they carried from death; /thus the hearts of the Achaeans were torn within their chests. [Hector against Achaeans ≈ a wave falling on a ship and crew] Narrator

18 (630) αὐτάρ ὁ γὰρ τὸ λέων ὀλοόφρων βουσίν ἐπελθὼν, 630
aí ὡς τ᾽ ἐν εἰμενὴ ἠλεος μεγάλοιο νέμονται
μυρίαι, ἐν δὲ τῇ πάλεν νομεῖς οὐ πω σάφα εἰδὼς
θηρί μαχέσσασθαι ἕλικος βοῦς ἀμφί φονῆσιν:
ἵττοι ὡς μὲν πρώτησι καὶ ὑστατήσι βοέσσιν
αἰὲν ὀμοστιχάε, ὁ δὲ τ᾽ ἐν μέσσῃν ὅρούσας
βοῦν ἐδεί, αἰ δὲ τε πάσαι ὑπέτρεσαν: ὡς τότ᾽ Ἀχαιοὶ
θεοπέσσως ἐφόβηθεν ὕφ᾽ ὦ Ἑκτορι καὶ Δί πατρὶ
pάντες.

But he [Hector] fell upon them like a destructive lion attacking cattle, that are grazing in the bottom-land of a great marsh, / countless [cows], and among them is a herdsman not yet skilled to fight with a wild beast over the slaughter of a curving-horned cow; / for he walks always by their side, now with the first cattle and now with the last, but [the lion] leaping into the middle / devours a heifer, and they all flee in terror; thus then the Achaeans / were utterly routed one and all by Hector and father Zeus. [Hector > the Achaeans ≈ a lion > cattle] Narrator

19 (679) ὡς δ᾽ ὡς τ᾽ ἀνὴρ ἰπποις κελητίζειν ἐνε εἰδῶς,
δς τ᾽ ἐπεί ἐκ πολέων πίσυρας συναείρεται ἰπποὺς,
σείκα ἐκ πεδίου μέγα προτί ἀστυ δίηται
λαοφόρον καθ᾽ ὁδὸν: πολέους τ᾽ ἐθήςαντο
ἀνέρες ἢδε γυναίκες: ὁ δ᾽ ἐμπέδον ἀσφαλές αἰεὶ
θρόσκων ἀλλοτ᾽ ἐπὶ ἀλλον ἀμείβεται, οἱ δὲ πέτονται:
ὡς Ἀιάς ἐπὶ πολλὰ θάλας ἱκρια νήων
φοίτα μακρὰ βιβάς, φωνὴ δὲ οἱ αἰθέρ᾽ ἵκανεν.

And like a man who knows well how to ride horses / who joins together four horses [chosen] out of many / and who drives them from the plain, steers them toward a great city / along a highway, while many marvel at him, / both men and women, and continuously with sure step always / leaping passes from one [horse] to another, while they speed on; / thus Ajax ranging over the many decks of the swift ships / went with long strides, and his voice went up to heaven.

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
Ajax walking over the many decks of the swift ships ≈ a skilled horseman riding horses

Narrator

20 (690) ἀλλ᾽ ὡς τ’ ὅρνιθων πετεννῶν αἰετὸς αἴθων ἐθνος ἐφορμάται ποταμὸν πάρα βοσκομενάων χηνῶν ἢ γεράνων ἢ κύκνων δουλιχοδείρων, ὡς Ἕκτωρ ἰθὺσ νέος κυανοπρόροιο ἀντίος ἄιξας: τὸν δὲ Ζεὺς ὤσεν ὑπόσθε χειρὶ μάλα μεγάλη, ὀδύφην δὲ λαὸν ᾧ αὐτῷ.

But as a fiery eagle stirs up a flock of winged birds / that are feeding by a river's bank, / [a flock] of wild geese or cranes or long-necked swans, / thus Hector made for a dark-prowed ship, / rushing straight for it; and from behind Zeus thrust him on / with very mighty hand, and aroused the army together with him.

[Hector > a ship ≈ an eagle > a flock of birds (geese, cranes or swans)] Narrator

* * *

Similar Rhetorical Figure

Divine Comparison

303* Meges “peer of (atalanton) Ares”

15 (605) μαίνετο δ’ ὡς ὃτ’ Ἀρης ἐγχέσπαλος ἢ ὀλοὸν πῦρ

And [Hector] was raging like Ares

[Hector ≈ Ares] Narrator

* * *

Similes of the Iliad Book 16 (Π)

SUMMARY

Scenes:

#1 (3) [Patroclus crying ≈ spring pouring water] 
#2 (7) [Patroclus ≈ a silly child] 
#4 (156) [leaders of the Myrmidons ≈ carnivorous wolves] 
#6 (212) [helmets and shields fitted as close together ≈ stones of a high house] 
#7 (259) [Myrmidons ≈ wasps] 
#8 (297) [Danaans > fire from their ships ≈ Zeus > a dense cloud from the crest of a mountain] 
#9 (352) [Danaans > Trojans ≈ carnivorous wolves > lambs or kids] 
#10 (364) [Hector and Trojans crossing the trench ≈ a cloud going to heaven before a storm] 
#11 (384) [Trojan mares roared loudly running ≈ the rivers roar loudly flowing] 
#12 (406) [Patroclus > Thestor from his chariot ≈ a man > a fish from the sea]

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
#13 (428) [Sarpedon and Patroclus ≈ vultures]
#14 (482) [Sarpedon fell ≈ an oak or poplar or pine tree falls]
#15 (487) [Sarpedon killed by Patroclus ≈ a bull killed by a lion]
#16 (582) [Patroclus ≈ a fleet falcon]
#17 (δόση/τόσσον) (589) [the Trojans withdrew ≈ as far as the flight of a javelin]
#18 (633) [the noise from their weapons ≈ the noise from woodcutters in the mountains]
#19 (641) [Greeks and Trojans gathered about Sarpedon’s corpse ≈ flies around full milk-pails]
#20 (742) [Cebriones ≈ a diver]
#21 (752) [Patroclus standing near Achilles shepherd of people / pouring warm tears like a dark spring / which pours murky water down a sheer rock.]
#22 (756) [Hector and Patroclus fighting for the corpse of Cebriones ≈ two lions fighting for a slain deer]
#23 (765) [Trojans and Achaeans fighting each other ≈ the East and West Winds struggling in a storm]
#24 (823) [Hector > Patroclus ≈ a lion > a boar]

Short Clauses and Phrases:
#3 (59) [Achilles ≈ an alien without rights]
#5 (192) [Eudorus ≈ Phylas’ own son]
#20 (742) [Cebriones ≈ a diver]

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‘Why, Patroclus, do you stand there weeping like some silly child / that running to her mother begs to be picked up / catching hold of her dress, and grabs her though she is in a hurry, / and tearfully looks at her until she picks [her] up; like her, Patroclus, you are shedding a soft tear.’
[Patroclus ≈ a silly child] Achilles

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
The girl that the sons of the Achaeans chose out for me as a prize, / and that I won with my spear, when I had laid waste a well-walled city, / her has lord Agamemnon taken back from my arms, / the son of Atreus, as if [I were] some alien that had no rights.’

[Achilles = an alien without rights] Achilles

But Achilles going back and forth armed the Myrmidons / throughout all the huts with their weapons, and like carnivorous wolves / in whose hearts [is] unspeakable fury / that having slain in the hills a great horned stag / are eating it; and the jaw[s] of all are red with gore; / and in a pack they go / to lap with their slender tongues the dark water from a dusky spring, / belching forth the reeking blood along the top, and in their chests their spirit / is unmoved, and their bellie[s] are gorged; / such [were] the leaders and rulers of the Myrmidons / moving quickly around the valiant squire of the swift-footed son of Aeacus.

[leaders of the Myrmidons = carnivorous wolves] Narrator

And old Phylas nursed well and cherished him <Eudorus> / loving him dearly, as if he were his own son.

[Eudorus = Phylas’ own son] Narrator

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
And as when a man builds a wall of a high house with close-set stones, / to avoid the might of the winds, / thus were arrayed their helmets and bossed shields. [helmets and shields fitted as close together = stones of a high house] Narrator

Straightway they poured forth like (similar to) wasps / of the wayside, that boys are accustomed to stir up / always tormenting them having their nests beside the road, / foolish [boys that they are]; and a common evil they make for many. / And if some traveling man comes along / and stirs [them] up unwittingly, they having bold heart[s] / all fly forth and defend their young; / having the heart and spirit of [the wasps] then [the] Myrmidons / poured forth from the ships. [Myrmidons = wasps] Narrator

And as when from the high crest of a great mountain / Zeus, gatherer of lightning, moves a dense cloud, / and all mountain peaks and high headlands appear, / and glades, and from heaven the infinite air appears, / thus the Danaans having thrust back consuming fire from the ships, / had respite for a little while; but there was no ceasing from war. [Danaans > fire from their ships = Zeus > a dense cloud from the crest of a mountain] Narrator

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
And as carnivorous wolves fall upon lambs or kids, / choosing them from out the flocks, and they in the mountains / are scattered through the witlessness of the shepherd, and seeing [them] / the wolves immediately seize them having heart[s] without courage; / thus the Danaans fell upon the Trojans.

[Danaans > Trojans ≈ carnivorous wolves > lambs or kids] Narrator

10 (364) ὡς δ᾽ ὀτ᾽ ἀπ᾽ Οὐλύμπου νέφος ἔρχεται οὐρανόν εἴσω
αἰθέρος ἐκ δίης, ὅτε τε Ζεὺς λαίλαπα τεινή, 365
ὡς τῶν ἐκ νηῶν γένετο ἰαχῆ τε φόβος τε,
οὐδὲ κατὰ μοῖραν πέραον πάλιν.

And as when from Olympus a cloud goes toward heaven / out of the bright air, when Zeus spreads forth a storm, / thus from the ships came shouting and fear, / and [Hector and the Trojans] did not cross the trench again in good order.

[Hector and Trojans crossing the trench ≈ a cloud going to heaven before a storm] Narrator

11 (384) ὡς δ᾽ ὑπὸ λαίλαπα πᾶσα κελαινὴ βέβριθε χθῶν
ἡματ᾽ ὑπερινῷ, ὅτε λαβρότατον χέει ὕδωρ
Ζεὺς, ὅτε δὴ ῥ᾽ ἀνδρεασι κοτεσσάμενος χαλεπήνῃ,
οἱ βίῃ εἰν ἀγορῇ σκολιάς κρίνωσι θέμιστας,
ἐκ δὲ δίκην ἐλάσωσι θεῶν ὅπιν ὕκ ἄλγοντες:
tῶν δὲ τε πάντες μὲν ποταμοὶ πλῆθουσὶν ῥέοντες,
πολλάς δὲ κλίτως τότ᾽ ἀποτήμηγοι χαράδραι,
ἐς δ᾽ ἀλα πορφυρῆν μεγάλα στενάχουσι βέσουσι
ἐξ ὁρέων ἐπικάρ, μὴνυθεὶ δὲ τε ἔργ᾽ ἀνθρώπων:
ὡς ἵπποι Τρώις μεγάλα στενάχοντο θέσουσι.

And as beneath a tempest all the black earth is oppressed, / on a day in harvest-time, when Zeus pours forth rain most violently, / when indeed being vexed with anger against men, / who by violence gave crooked judgments in the assembly, / and drive justice out, disregarding the vengeance of the gods; / and all their rivers flow in flood, / and the torrents cut off many hillsides, / and rushing down to the dark sea they roar greatly / headlong from the mountains, and diminish the tilled fields of men; / thus the Trojan mares roared loudly as they ran.

[Trojan mares roared loudly running ≈ the rivers roar loudly flowing] Narrator

12 (406) ὦ δ᾽ ἔγχει νύξε παραστάς
γναθμὸν δεξιτερόν, διὰ δ᾽ ἀυτοῦ πείρεν ὁδόντων,
ἔλκε δὲ δουρὸς ἑλῶν ὑπὲρ ἀντυγκός, ὡς ὅτε τις φῶς
πέρη ἐπὶ προβλήτη καθήμενος ἱερὸν ἱερόν ἵππα
ἐκ πόντοιο θύραζε λίνῳ καὶ ἱνοπί χαλκῷ:

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
And standing by his side he <Patroclus> smote [Thestor] with his spear / upon the right jaw and drove it through his teeth; / and seizing [the spear by its] shaft he dragged him over the chariot-rim, as when some man / sitting upon a jutting rock drags a sacred fish / out of the sea with a line and gleaming [hook of bronze]; / thus he dragged him from the chariot gasping on the bright spear, / and threw him down upon his face; and life left him as he fell. [Patroclus > Thestor from his chariot ≈ a man > a fish from the sea] Narrator ***

13 (428) οἴ δ᾽ ὡς τ᾽ αἰγυπτοῖ γαμψώνυχες ἄγκυλοχείλαι πέτρῃ ἐφ᾽ ύψηλῃ μεγάλα κλάζοντε μάχωνται, ὡς οἱ κεκλήγοντες ἐπ᾽ ἄλληλους ὅρουσαν. 430

And Patroclus from the other side, when he saw [Sarpedon], sprang from his chariot. / And as vultures with crooked talons and curved beaks / fight with loud cries upon a high rock, / so with cries they rushed against the one another. [Sarpedon and Patroclus ≈ vultures] Narrator ***

14 (482) ἥρπες δ᾽ ὡς ὅτε τις δρύς ἥρπεν ἤ ἁχερώις ἥττα πτυχὶς βλωθήτρη, τὴν τ᾽ οὐρεσὶ τέκτωνες ἄνδρες ἐξέταμον πελέκεσι νεκήσει νήφων εἶναι: ὡς ὁ πρόσθ᾽ ἱππων καὶ δίφρου κεῖτο ταυσοθείς βεβρυχῶς κόνιος δεδραγμένος αἰματοέσσῃς. 485

15 (487) ἥττε ταύρων ἐπέφυε λέων ἀγέληφι μετελθὼν αἰθωνα μεγάθυμον ἐν εἰλιπόδεσι βόεσσι, ἔλεστα δὲ στενάχων ὑπὸ γαμφηλῆς λέοντος, ὡς ὑπὸ Πατρόκλῳ Λυκίων ἀγός ἀσπιστάων κτεινόμενος μενέατε. 490

And [Sarpedon] fell as when some oak falls, or a poplar / or a tall pine, that in the mountains shipbuilders / cut down with whetted axes to be a ship's timber; / thus before his horses and chariot he lay outstretched, / moaning aloud and clutching at the bloody dust. / And as a lion coming into the midst of a herd slays a bull / tawny [and] high-spirited among the shambling cows, / and with a groan he dies beneath the jaws of the lion; thus beneath Patroclus did the leader of the Lycian warriors / struggle as he was killed. 

#14 (482) [Sarpedon fell ≈ an oak or poplar or pine tree falls] #15 (487) [Sarpedon killed by Patroclus≈ a bull killed by a lion] Narrator ***

16 (582) Πατρόκλῳ δ᾽ ἄρῃ ἅχος γένετο φθιμένου ἐτάρατοι, ἵθυσεν δὲ διὰ προμάχων ἴρηκε ἔοικὼς

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
Then over Patroclus came grief for his slain comrade, and he charged through the foremost fighters like a fleet falcon, that drives in flight jackdaws and starlings; thus straight against the Lycians, Patroclus, master of horsemen, and against the Trojans did you charge, and your heart was full of wrath for your comrade. And he hit Sthenelaus, the dear son of Ithaemenes, on the neck with a stone, and broke its tendons away; and the foremost fighters and glorious Hector gave ground. As far as is the flight of a long javelin, which a man throws, making trial of his strength, either in a contest, or even in war being pressed by murderous enemy, even so far did the Trojans draw back, and the Achaeans pushed them.

#16 (582) [Patroclus = a fleet falcon]
#17 (589) [the Trojans withdrew ≈ as far as the flight of a javelin] Narrator

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18 (633) τῶν δ᾽ ὡς τε δρυτόμων ἀνδρῶν ὀρυμαγδός ὀρῷρει 
οὔρεος ἐν βήσης, ἐκαθεὶν δὲ τε γίγνετ’ ἁκουή,
ὡς τῶν ὄρνυτο δοῦτος ἀπὸ χθονὸς εὐρυδείης 
χαλκοῦ τε ῥινοῦ τε βοών τ’ εὐποιητάων, 
νυσσομένων ξεφεσίν τε καὶ ἐγχεσιν ἀμφιγύοισιν. 
ουδ’ ἄν ἔτι φράδμων περ ἀνήρ Σαρπηδόνα δίον 
ἐγνω, ἐπεὶ βελέσσοι καὶ αἰματί καὶ κονίσιν 
ἐκ κεφαλῆς εἰλυτο διαμπερῆς ἐς πόδας ἄκρους.

19 (641) οἶ δ’ αἰεὶ περὶ νεκρῶν ὀμίλεον, ὡς ὅτε μυῖαι 
σταθὼ ἐνὶ βρομέωσι περιγλαγέας κατὰ πέλλας 
ἤρῃ ἐν εἰαρινῇ, ὅτε τε γλάγος ἄγγεα δεῦει: 
ὡς ἀρὰ τοι περὶ νεκρῶν ὀμίλεον.

And as the noise of woodcutters arises / in the glades of a mountain, and far away is the sound of it / so from them arose a clanging from the broad-wayed earth, of bronze and of hide and of well-made shields, as they thrust at one other with swords and two-edged spears. Nor could a man, though he knew him well, still recognize godly Sarpedon, since he was utterly wrapped in arrows and blood and dust, from his head to the tips of his feet. And they continuously gathered about the corpse as when flies / in a farmstead buzz around the full milk-pails, in the season of spring, when the milk splashes in the vessels; thus they gathered about the corpse.

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
#18 (633) [the noise from their weapons ≈ the noise from woodcutters in the mountains]
#19 (641) [Greeks and Trojans gathered about Sarpedon’s corpse ≈ flies around full milk-pails]

Narrator

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20 (742) Å δ’ ἄρ’ ἄρνευτῇρι ἐσικὼς
κάππεσ’ ἀπ’ εὐεργέος δίφρου, λίπε δ’ ὀστέα θυμός.

And like a diver he <Cebriones, Hector’s charioteer killed by Patroclus> fell from the well-built car, and his spirit left his bones.
[Cebriones ≈ a diver] Narrator

The passage continues:

τὸν δ’ ἐπικερτομέων προσέφης Πατρόκλεες ἵππευ:
ὁ πότιον ἦ μάλ’ ἐλαφρὸς ἀνήρ, ὡς ρέια κυβιστὰ.
εἶ δὴ που καὶ πόντῳ ἐν ἴχθυόεντι γένοιτο,
πολλοὺς ἄν κορέσειεν ἀνήρ ὄδε τῆθεα διφών
νηὸς ἀποθρώσκων, εἰ καὶ δυσπέμφελος ἐἰη,
ὡς νῦν ἐν πεδίῳ ἐξ ἵππων ρεία κυβιστὰ.
ἡ ρα καὶ ἐν Τρώεσσι κυβιστητῇρες ἐσιν.

Then with mocking words you addressed him, horseman Patroclus: / ‘Hah, see how very nimble the man is, how lightly he dives! If he were in the teeming sea, / this man would satisfy many by seeking oysters, / leaping from his ship even if the sea were stormy, / seeing how now on the plain he dives lightly from his car. / Surely even among the Trojans there are divers.’

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ὡς εἰπὼν ἐπὶ Κεβριόνῃ ἢρωὶ βεβήκει

21 (752) οὐμα λέοντος ἔχων, ὃς τε σταθμοὺς κεραίζων
ἐβλητὸ πρὸς στήθος, ἐῇ τε μιν ὠλεσεν ἀλκή:
ὡς ἐπὶ Κεβριόνῃ Πατρόκλεες ἄλσο μεμάως.

So saying [Patroclus] went towards the warrior Cebriones / with the rush of a lion that, [while] ravaging the stalls, / was struck on the chest, and his own valor destroyed him; / thus, Patroclus, you leaped furiously upon Cebriones.
[Patroclus leaping on Cebriones ≈ a lion ravaging the stalls of a farm] Narrator

See Appendix III.2 for other examples of this kind of simile

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22 (756) τῷ περὶ Κεβριόναο λέονθ’ ὡς δηρινθήτην,
ὡ τ’ ὁρεός κορυφῆς περὶ κταμένης ἐλάφοιο
ἀμφω πεινάοντε μέγα φρονέοντε μάχεσθον:
ὡς περὶ Κεβριόναο δῦν μήστωρες ἀὐτῆς
Πάτροκλὸς τε Μενοιτιάδης καὶ φαίδιμος "Εκτωρ 760

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
So the two <Hector and Patroclus> started fighting for Cebriones like two lions, / that on the peaks of a mountain fight for a slain deer, / both of them hungering, both very proud; / thus for Cebriones the two masters of the war-cry, / Patroclus, son of Menoetius, and glorious Hector, / were eager to cut the other's flesh with pitiless bronze. [Hector and Patroclus fighting for the corpse of Cebriones ≈ two lions fighting for a slain deer] Narrator

And as the East Wind and the South Wind struggle with one another / in shaking a deep forest in the glades of a mountain, / [a forest] of beech and ash and smooth-barked cornel, / and they hurl against each other their long boughs / with a wondrous noise, and there is a crashing of broken branches, / thus the Trojans and Achaeans leaping upon another / made havoc, nor would either side consider disastrous flight. [Trojans and Achaeans fighting each other ≈ the East and West Winds struggling in a storm] Narrator

And as when a lion has overcome in battle an untiring boar, / when the two fight with great spirit on the peaks of a mountain / for a small spring, and they both want to drink [from it], / the lion overcomes by his force the [boar] panting hard, thus [from] the valiant son of Menoetius, after he had slain many, / did Hector, Priam's son, take life away, [striking him] from close at hand with his spear. [Hector > Patroclus ≈ a lion > a boar] Narrator

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
Similar Rhetorical Figures

Transformation and Disguise:

715* ταύτ’ ἄρα οἱ φρονέοντι παρίστατο Φοίβος Ἀπόλλων ἀνέρι εἰσάμενος αἰζηφι τε κρατερφι τε

While he <Hector> pondered thus Phoebus Apollo came up to him / in the likeness of a man vigorous and strong [Asius].

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Metaphoric Similes:

39* Μυρμιδόνων, ἢν πού τι φῶς Δαναοῖς γένωμαι.

‘If I may become a light^ for the Danaans’ (Patroclus to Achilles)

(Murray 1999 translation adds ^ ‘of deliverance’)

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66* τύνη δ’ ὠμοιν μέν ἐμὰ κλυτὰ τεὐχεα δύθι, ἀρχε δὲ Μυρμιδόνεσσι φιλοπολέμοισι μάχεσθαι, εἰ δὴ κυάνεον Τρώων νέφος ἀμφιβέβηκε νησίσιν ἐπικρατέως.

‘But come, put on your shoulders my glorious armor, / and lead the war-loving Myrmidons to the fight, / if indeed the dark cloud of the Trojans has encompassed / the ships with great force.’
[multitude of Trojans (implied comparison) ≈ dark cloud] Achilles to Patroclus

Here, in contrast to the preceding and following examples, the prothetic phrase (“of the Trojans”) is expressed.

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95* ἀλλὰ πάλιν τρωπᾶσθαι, ἐπὴν φάος ἐν νήσσι θήης.

‘But come back when you have placed the light [of deliverance] among the ships’ [light ≈ deliverance] Achilles to Patroclus

The translation makes a kind of ‘genitive’ simile out of the expression.

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149* Ξάνθον καὶ Βαλίον, τῷ ἁμα πνοιῆς πετέσθην.
Automedon put under the yoke the two swift horses, Xanthous and Balius, that flew **swift as the winds** (literally: they flew with the winds).

The Murray 1999 translation makes a simile of this.

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**Divine Comparisons:**

2* Πάτροκλος δ’ Ἀχιλῆι παρίστατο ποιμένι λαῶν

Achilles as a ‘shepherd’ of men is common metaphor.

321* τού δ’ ἀντίθεος Ὀρασυμήδης

“god-like Thrasymedes”

421* ἀντιθέοις καθαπτόμενος Λυκίοισιν

“reproaching the god-like Lycians”

439* βοώπις πότνια “Ἡρη”

“cow-eyed Hera”

605* Λαόγονον . . . θεὸς δ’ ῥς τίετο δήμῳ.

Laogonus was honored by the people as a god.

632* ὁ δ’ ἄμ’ ἐσπετο ἰσόθεος φῶς

he <Meriones>followed, a god-like man.

649* ἐπ’ ἀντιθέως Σαρπηδόνι

[the conflict] over god-like Sarpedon

705* δαίμονι ἰσος

[Sarpedon] equal to a god

865* Αὐτόμεδοντα / ἀντίθεον θεράποντα ποδώκεος Αἰακίδιοι:

**Automedon / the god-like attendant** of swift-footed son of Aeacus

* * *

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A