SIMILES LONGER THAN ONE LINE IN THE *ILIAD*

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Homer. *The Iliad of Homer*. Trans. Richmond Lattimore. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1951.

In the *Iliad*, there are 195 similes longer than one line (called “epic similes” or “Homeric similes”). Since comparative figures of speech (similes and metaphors) have both a literal term (what the narrator is actually talking about) and a figurative term (what the narrator compares the literal term to), one way to classify comparative figures is by the areas of experience from which the figurative terms are drawn. The world of Homer’s narrative—war—no doubt determined to some extent the figurative terms he chose; this may explain the predominance of predatory animals. Still, a survey of the areas of experience from which Homer chose his figures reveals something of the world he lived in (see, e.g., the human occupations) and about what in his world most interested him (see, e.g., wind on sea). (Line numbers are to Lattimore’s translation; they include literal terms as well as figurative terms.)

Homeric similes in the *Iliad*: some examples

1. **plant**: 6.146-50, “*As is the generation of leaves*, so is that of humanity. *The wind scatters the leaves on the ground, but the live timber burgeons with leaves again in the season of spring returning*. So one generation of men will grow while another dies.”
2. **insects**: 2.84-90, “the army thronged behind them [the leaders]. *Like the swarms of clustering bees that issue forever in fresh bursts from the hollow in the stone, and hang like bunched grapes as they hover beneath the flowers in springtime fluttering in swarms together this way and that way* . . .”
3. **fish**: 23.692-694 (the boxing match), “*As in the water roughened by the north wind a fish jumps in the weeds of the beach-break, then the dark water closes above him*, so Euryalos left the ground from the blow . . .”
4. **snake**: 3.33-36, “*As a man who has come on a snake in the mountain valley suddenly steps back, and the shivers come over his body, and he draws back and away, cheeks seized with a green pallor*; so in terror of Atreus’ son godlike Alexandros lost himself again in the host of the haughty Trojans.”
5. **birds**: 22.139-143, “*As when a hawk in the mountains who moves lightest of things flying makes his effortless swoop for a trembling dove, but she slips away from beneath and flies and he shrill screaming close after her plunges for her again and again, heart furious to take her*; so Achilleus went straight for him [Hektor] in fury . . .”
6. **deer**: 11.113-121, “*And as a lion seizes the innocent young of the running deer, and easily crunches and breaks them caught in the strong teeth when he has invaded their lair, and rips out the soft heart from them, and even if the doe be very near, still she has no strength to help, for the ghastly shivers of fear are upon her also and suddenly she dashes away through the glades and the timber sweating in her speed away from the pounce of the strong beast*; so there was no one of the Trojans who could save these two from death, but they themselves were running in fear from the Argives.”
7. **cow**: 17.4-5, Menelaos “bestrode the body [of Patroklos], *as over a first-born calf the mother cow stands lowing, she who has known no children before this*.”
8. **donkey**: 11.556-563, “*As when a donkey, stubborn and hard to move, goes into a cornfield in despite of boys, and many sticks have been broken upon him, but he gets in and goes on eating the deep grain, and the children beat him with sticks, but their strength is infantile; yet at last by hard work they drive him out when he is glutted with eating*; so the high-hearted Trojans . . . kept after great Aias . . .”
9. **horse**: 6.506-511 (= 15.263-270), “*As when some stalled horse who has been corn-fed at the manger breaking free of his rope gallops over the plain in thunder to his accustomed bathing place in a sweet-running river and in the pride of his strength holds high his head, and the mane floats over his shoulders; sure of his glorious strength, the quick knees carry him to the loved places and the pasture of horses*; so from uttermost Pergamos came Paris . . .”
10. **boar and dogs**: 17.725-729, the Trojans “made a rush against them [Menelaos and Meriones] *like dogs, who sweep in rapidly on a wounded wild boar, ahead of the young men who hunt him, and for the moment race in raging to tear him to pieces until in the confidence of his strength he turns on them, at bay, and they give ground and scatter for fear one way and another*; so the Trojans . . .”
11. **lion**: 17.132-136, “Aias covering the son of Menoitios under his broad shield stood fast, *like a lion over his young, when the lion is leading his little ones along, and men who are hunting come upon them in the forest. He stands in the pride of his great strength hooding his eyes under the cover of down-drawn eyelids*.”
12. **threshing**: 5.499-504, “*As when along the hallowed threshing floors the wind scatters chaff, among men winnowing, and fair-haired Demeter in the leaning wind discriminates the chaff and the true grain and the piling chaff whitens beneath it*, so now the Achaians turned white underneath the dust the feet of the horses drove far into the brazen sky . . .”
13. **carpentry**: 23.711-713 (the wrestling match), Aias and Odysseus “grappled each other in the hook of their heavy arms, *as when rafters lock, when a renowned architect has fitted them in the roof of a high house to keep out the force of the winds’ spite*.”
14. **boy and sand castles**: 15.361-364, the Trojans “wrecked the bastions of the Achaians easily, *as when a little boy piles sand by the sea-shore when in his innocent play he makes sand towers to amuse him and then, still playing, with hands and feet ruins them and wrecks them*.”
15. **girl crying to be picked up**: 16.6-10 (Achilleus to Patroklos), “Why then are you crying *like some poor little girl, who runs after her mother and begs to be picked up and carried, and clings to her dress, and holds her back when she tries to hurry, and gazes tearfully into her face, until she is picked up*?”
16. **quarreling wives**: 20.251-255 (Aineias to Achilleus), “But what have you and I to do with the need for squabbling and hurling insults at each other, *as if we were two wives who when they have fallen upon a heart-perishing quarrel go out in the street and say abusive things to each other, much true, and much that is not, and it is their rage that drives them*.”
17. **wind on sea**, **forest fire**, **trees**: 14.393-395, “The two sides closed together with a great war cry. *Not such is the roaring against dry land of the sea’s surf as it rolls in from the open under the hard blast of the north wind; not such is the bellowing of fire in its blazing in the deep places of the hills when it rises inflaming the forest, nor such again the crying voice of the wind in the deep-haired oaks, when it roars highest in its fury against them*, not so loud as now the noise of Achaians and Trojans in voice of terror rose as they drove against one another.”
18. “**all flesh is grass**”: 21.464-466, “mortals . . . are *as leaves are, and now flourish and grow warm with life, and feed on what the ground gives, but then again fade away and are dead*.”
    1. See Ps 90:3-6, “You turn us back to dust, and say, ‘Turn back, you mortals.’ 4For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night. 5You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; 6in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.”
    2. See Ps 103:14-16, “For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust. 15As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; 16for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.”
19. **wind on sea**: 4.422-427, “*As when along the thundering beach the surf of the sea strikes beat upon beat as the west wind drives it onward; far out cresting first on the open water, it drives thereafter to smash roaring along the dry land, and against the rock jut bending breaks itself into crests spewing back the salt wash*; so thronged beat upon beat the Danaans’ close battalions . . .”
20. **wind on sea**: 7.63-65, the armies, being seated, “shuddered into a bristle of spears, of shields and of helmets. *As when the shudder of the west wind suddenly rising scatters across the water, and the water darkens beneath it*, so darkening were settled the ranks of Achaians and Trojans in the plain.”
21. **fear at river’s edge**: 5.596-600, “Diomedes of the great war cry shivered as he saw him [Hektor], *and like a man in his helplessness who, crossing a great plain, stands at the edge of a fast-running river that dashes seaward, and watches it thundering into white water, and leaps a pace backward*, so now Tydeus’ son gave back . . .”
22. **quick thoughts**: 15.79-83, Hera “went back to tall Olympos from the mountains of Ida. *As the thought flashes in the mind of a man who, traversing much territory, thinks of things in the mind’s awareness, ‘I wish I were this place, or this’, and imagines many things*; so rapidly in her eagerness winged Hera, a goddess.”
23. **dream**: 22.199-201, “*As in a dream a man is not able to follow one who runs from him, nor can the runner escape, nor the other pursue him*, so he could not run him down in his speed, nor the other get clear.”
24. **celestial phenomena**: 8.555-560, “*As when in the sky the stars about the moon’s shining are seen in all their glory, when the air has fallen to stillness, and all the high places of the hills are clear, and the shoulders out-jutting, and the deep ravines, as endless bright air spills from the heavens and all the stars are seen, to make glad the heart of the shepherd*; such in their numbers blazed the watchfires [of] the Trojans . . .”
25. **a metaphor**: Zeus “drives on somewhere on earth the huge edge of tearing battle . . .” (10.8)

Homeric similes in the *Iliad*: all instances

1. 2.84-90, Nestor “led the way departing from the council, and the rest rose to their feet, the sceptred kings, . . . and the army thronged behind them. *Like the swarms of clustering bees that issue forever in fresh bursts from the hollow in the stone, and hang like bunched grapes as they hover beneath the flowers in springtime fluttering in swarms together this way and that way* . . .”
2. 2.144-146, “And the assembly was shaken *as on the sea the big waves in the main by Ikaria, when the south and south-east winds driving down from the clouds of Zeus the father whip them*.”
3. 2.147-150, “*As when the west wind moves across the grain deep standing, boisterously, and shakes and sweeps it till the tassels lean*, so all of that assembly was shaken, and the men in tumult swept to the ships . . .”
4. 2.208-210, “they swept back into the assembly place from the ships and the shelters clamorously, *as when from the thunderous sea the surf-beat crashes upon the great beach, and the whole sea is in tumult*.”
5. 2.394-397, “the Argives shouted aloud, *as surf crashing against a sheerness, drivels by the south wind descending, some cliff out-jutting, left never alone by the waves from all the winds that blow, as they rise one place and another*.”
6. 2.455-458, “*As obliterating fire lights up a vast forest along the crests of a mountain, and the flare shows far off*, so as they marched, from the magnificent bronze the gleam went dazzling all about through the upper air to the heaven.”
7. 2.459-465, “These, *as the multitudinous nations of birds winged, of geese, and of cranes, and of swans long-throated in the Asian meadow beside the Kaÿstrian waters this way and that way make their flights in the pride of their wings, then settle in clashing swarms and the whole meadow echoes with them*, so of these the multitudinous tribes from the ships and shelters poured to the plain of Skamandros . . .”
8. 2.467-468, “They took position in the blossoming meadow of Skamandros, thousands of them, *as leaves and flowers appear in their season*.”
9. 2.469-473,“*Like the multitudinous nations of swarming insects who drive hither and thither about the stalls of the sheepfold in the season of spring when the milk splashes in the milk pails*: in such numbers the flowing-haired Achaians stood up through the plain against the Trojans . . .”
10. 2.474-477, “These, *as men who are goatherds among the wide goatflocks easily separate them in order as they take to the pasture*, thus the leaders separated them this way and that way toward the encounter . . .”
11. 2.480-482, “*like some ox of the herd pre-eminent among the others, a bull, who stands conspicuous in the huddling cattle*; such was the son of Atreus as Zeus made him that day . . .”
12. 2.780-783, “But the rest went forward, *as if all the earth with flame were eaten*, and the ground echoed under them, *as if Zeus who delights in thunder were angry, as when he batters the earth about Typhoeus, in the land of the Arimoi, where they say Typhoeus lies prostrate*.”
13. 3.2-5, “the Trojans came on with clamour and shouting, *like wildfowl, as when the clamour of cranes goes high to the heavens, when the cranes escape the winter time and the rains unceasing and clamorously wing their way to the streaming Ocean* . . .”
14. 3.10-14, “*As on the peaks of a mountain the south wind scatters the thick mist, no friend to the shepherd, but better than night for the robber, and a man can see before him only so far as a stone cast*, so beneath their feet the dust drove up in a stormcloud of men marching . . .”
15. 3.23-3.26, “he was glad, *like a lion who comes on a mighty carcass, in his hunger chancing upon the body of a horned stag or wild goat; who eats it eagerly, although against him are hastening the hounds in their speed and the stalwart young men*: thus Menelaos was happy finding godlike Alexandros . . .”
16. 3.33-36, “*As a man who has come on a snake in the mountain valley suddenly steps back, and the shivers come over his body, and he draws back and away, cheeks seized with a green pallor*; so in terror of Atreus’ son godlike Alexandros lost himself again in the host of the haughty Trojans.”
17. 3.59-62, “Hektor, . . . your heart forever is weariless, *like an axe-blade driven by a man’s strength through the timber, one who, well skilled, hews a piece for a ship, driven on by the force of a man’s strength* . . .”
18. 3.150-152, the elders sitting with Priam “fought no longer, yet were they excellent speakers still, and clear, *as cicadas who through the forest settle on trees, to issue their delicate voice of singing*.”
19. 4.75-78, “*As when the son of devious-devising Kronos casts down a star, portent to sailors or to widespread armies of peoples glittering, and thickly the sparks of fire break from it*, in such likeness Pallas Athene swept flashing earthward . . .”
20. 4.130-131, “She [Athena] brushed it [the arrow] away from his [Menelaos’] skin *as lightly as when a mother brushes a fly away from her child who is lying in sweet sleep* . . .”
21. 4.141-147, “*As when some Maionian woman or Karian with purple colours ivory, to make it a cheek piece for horses; it lies away in an inner room, and many a rider longs to have it, but it is laid up to be a king’s treasure, two things, to be the beauty of the horse, the pride of the horseman*: so, Menelaos, your shapely thighs were stained with the colour of blood . . .”
22. 4.275-279, “*As from his watching place a goatherd watches a cloud move on its way over the sea before the drive of the west wind; far away though he be he watches it, blacker than pitch is, moving across the sea and piling the storm before it, and as he sees it he shivers and drives his flocks to a cavern*; so about the two Aiantes moved the battalions . . .”
23. 4.422-427, “*As when along the thundering beach the surf of the sea strikes beat upon beat as the west wind drives it onward; far out cresting first on the open water, it drives thereafter to smash roaring along the dry land, and against the rock jut bending breaks itself into crests spewing back the salt wash*; so thronged beat upon beat the Danaans’ close battalions . . .”
24. 4.433-436, “But the Trojans, *as sheep in a man of possessions’ steading stand in their myriads waiting to be drained of their white milk and bleat interminably as they hear the voice of their lambs*, so the crying of the Trojans went up through the wide army.”
25. 4.452-456, “*As when rivers in winter spate running down from the mountains throw together at the meeting of streams the weight of their water out of the great springs behind in the hollow stream-bed, and far away in the mountains the shepherd hears their thunder*; such, from the coming together of men, was the shock and the shouting.”
26. 4.482-487, Simoeisios “dropped then to the ground in the dust, *like some black poplar, which in the land low-lying about a great marsh grows smooth trimmed yet with branches growing at the uttermost tree-top: one whom a man, a maker of chariots, fells with the shining iron, to bend it into a wheel for a fine-wrought chariot, and the tree lies hardening by the banks of a river*.”
27. 5.4-6, “She [Athene] made weariless fire blaze from his [Diomedes’] shield and helmet *like that star of the waning summer who beyond all stars rises bathed in the ocean stream to glitter in brilliance*.”
28. 5.87-92, “he [Diomedes] went storming up the plain *like a winter-swollen river in spate that scatters the dikes in its running current, one that the strong-compacted dikes can contain no longer, neither the mounded banks of the blossoming vineyards hold it rising suddenly as Zeus’ rain makes heavy the water and many lovely works of the young men crumble beneath it*.”
29. 5.136-142, rage “took hold of him [Diomedes], *as of a lion whom the shepherd among his fleecy flocks in the wild lands grazed as he leapt the fence of the fold, but has not killed him, but only stirred up the lion’s strength, and can no more fight him off, but hides in the steading, and the frightened sheep are forsaken, and these are piled pell-mell on each other in heaps, while the lion raging still leaps out again over the fence of the deep yard* . . .”
30. 5.161-163, “*As among cattle a lion leaps on the neck of an ox or heifer, that grazes among the wooded places, and breaks it*, so the son of Tydeus hurled both [Echemmon and Chromios] from their horses . . .”
31. 5.499-504, “*As when along the hallowed threshing floors the wind scatters chaff, among men winnowing, and fair-haired Demeter in the leaning wind discriminates the chaff and the true grain and the piling chaff whitens beneath it*, so now the Achaians turned white underneath the dust the feet of the horses drove far into the brazen sky . . .”
32. 5.522-526, the two Aiantes, Odysseus, and Diomedes “stayed where they were, *like clouds, which the son of Kronos stops in the windless weather on the heights of the towering mountains, motionless, when the strength of the north wind sleeps, and the other tearing winds, those winds that when they blow into tempests high screaming descend upon the darkening clouds and scatter them*.”
33. 5.554-558, “These [Orsilochos and Krethon], *as two young lions in the high places of the mountains*, had been raised by their mother in the dark of the deep forest, *lions which as they prey upon the cattle and the fat sheep lay waste the steadings where there are men, until they also fall and are killed under the cutting bronze in the men’s hands* . . .”
34. 5.596-600, “Diomedes of the great war cry shivered as he saw him [Hektor], *and like a man in his helplessness who, crossing a great plain, stands at the edge of a fast-running river that dashes seaward, and watches it thundering into white water, and leaps a pace backward*, so now Tydeus’ son gave back . . .”
35. 5.770-772, “*As far as into the hazing distance a man can see with his eyes, who sits in his eyrie gazing on the wine-blue water*, as far as this is the stride of the gods’ proud neighing horses.”
36. 5.864-567, “*As when out of the thunderhead the air shows darkening after a day’s heat when the stormy wind uprises*, thus to Tydeus’ son Diomedes Ares the brazen showed as he went up with the clouds into the wide heaven.”
37. 5.902-904, “*As when the juice of the fig in white milk rapidly fixes that which was fluid before and curdles quickly for one who stirs it*; in such speed as this he healed violent Ares . . .”
38. 6.506-511, “*As when some stalled horse who has been corn-fed at the manger breaking free of his rope gallops over the plain in thunder to his accustomed bathing place in a sweet-running river and in the pride of his strength holds high his head, and the mane floats over his shoulders; sure of his glorious strength, the quick knees carry him to the loved places and the pasture of horses*; so from uttermost Pergamos came Paris . . .”
39. 7.4-7, “*And as to men of the sea in their supplication the god sends a fair wind, when they are breaking their strength at the smoothed oar-sweeps, driving over the sea, and their arms are weak with weariness*, so these two [Hektor and Paris] appeared to the Trojans, who had longed for them.”
40. 7.63-65, the armies, being seated, “shuddered into a bristle of spears, of shields and of helmets. *As when the shudder of the west wind suddenly rising scatters across the water, and the water darkens beneath it*, so darkening were settled the ranks of Achaians and Trojans in the plain.”
41. 8.306-307, “He [Gorgythion, struck by an arrow,] bent drooping his head to one side, *as a garden poppy bends beneath the weight of its yield and the rains of springtime* . . .”
42. 8.338-341, “*As when some hunting hound in the speed of his feet pursuing a wild boar or a lion snaps from behind at his quarters or flanks, but watches for the beast to turn upon him*, so Hektor followed close on the heels of the flowing-haired Achaians . . .”
43. 8.555-560, “*As when in the sky the stars about the moon’s shining are seen in all their glory, when the air has fallen to stillness, and all the high places of the hills are clear, and the shoulders out-jutting, and the deep ravines, as endless bright air spills from the heavens and all the stars are seen, to make glad the heart of the shepherd*; such in their numbers blazed the watchfires the Trojans were burning . . .”
44. 9.4-8, “*As two winds rise to shake the sea where the fish swarm, Boreas and Zephyros, north wind and west, that blow from Thraceward, suddenly descending, and the darkened water is gathered to crests, and far across the salt water scatters the seaweed*; so the heart in the breast of each Achaian was troubled.”
45. 9.13-15, “They took their seats in assembly, dispirited, and Agamemnon stood up before them, shedding tears, *like a spring dark-running that down the face of a rock impassable drips its dim water*.”
46. 9.323-325 (Achilleus describing his self-imposed inactivity), “*For as to her unwinged young ones the mother bird brings back morsels, wherever she can find them, but as for herself it is suffering*, such was I, as I lay through all the many nights unsleeping . . .”
47. 10.5-10, Agamemnon “was held by no sweet sleep as he pondered deeply within him. *As when the lord of Hera the lovely-haired flashes his lightning as he brings on a great rainstorm, or a hail incessant, or a blizzard, at such time when the snowfall scatters on ploughlands, or drives on somewhere on earth the huge edge of tearing battle*, such was Agamemnon, with the beating turmoil in his bosom from the deep heart, and all his wits were shaken within him.”
48. 10.181-187, the sentries “were wide awake, and sat by their weapons. *As dogs about the sheep in a yard are restless in watching as they hear a wild beast boldly moving, who through the timber goes among the mountains, and a clamour rises about him of men and of dogs, and all their sleep has been broken from them*; so for these the softness of sleep was broken from their eyes . . .”
49. 10.360-364, “*as when two rip-fanged hounds have sighted a wild beast, a young deer, or a hare, and go after it, eagerly always through the spaces of the woods, and the chase runs crying before them,* so the son of Tydeus, and Odysseus, sacker of cities, kept always hard on his [Dolon’s] heels . . .”
50. 10.485-487, “*As a lion advancing on the helpless herds unshepherded of sheep or goats pounces upon them with wicked intention*, so the son of Tydeus attacked the Thracian people . . .”
51. 11.61-63, “And Hektor carried the perfect circle of his shield in the foremost, *as among the darkened clouds the bale star shows forth in all shining, then merges again in the clouds and the darkness*.”
52. 11.66-71, “*like two lines of reapers who, facing each other, drive their course all down the field of wheat or of barley for a man blessed in substance, and the cut swathes drop showering*, so Trojans and Achaians driving in against one another cut men down . . .”
53. 11.86-90, “But at that time *when the woodcutter makes ready his supper in the wooded glens of the mountains, when his arms and hands have grown weary from cutting down the tall trees, and his heart has had enough of it, and longing for food and for sweet wine takes hold of his senses*; at that time the Danaans by their manhood broke the battalions [of the Trojans] . . .”
54. 11.113-121, “*And as a lion seizes the innocent young of the running deer, and easily crunches and breaks them caught in the strong teeth when he has invaded their lair, and rips out the soft heart from them, and even if the doe be very near, still she has no strength to help, for the ghastly shivers of fear are upon her also and suddenly she dashes away through the glades and the timber sweating in her speed away from the pounce of the strong beast*; so there was no one of the Trojans who could save these two from death, but they themselves were running in fear from the Argives.”
55. 11.155-159, “*As when obliterating fire comes down on the timbered forest and the roll of the wind carries it everywhere, and bushes leaning under the force of the fire’s rush tumble uprooted*, so before Atreus’ son Agamemnon went down the high heads of the running Trojans . . .”
56. 11.171-178, “each side endured the other, while others still in the middle plain stampeded *like cattle when a lion, coming upon them in the dim night, has terrified the whole herd, while for a single one sheer death is emerging. First the lion breaks her neck caught fast in the strong teeth, then gulps down the blood and all the guts that are inward*; so Atreus’ son, powerful Agamemnon, went after them killing ever the last of the men; and they fled in terror.”
57. 11.269-272, “*As the sharp sorrow of pain descends on a woman in labour, the bitterness that the hard spirits of childbirth bring on, Hera’s daughters, who hold the power of the bitter birthpangs*, so the sharp pains began to break in on the strength of Atreides [Agamemnon].”
58. 11.292-295, “*As when some huntsman drives to action his hounds with shining teeth against some savage beast, wild boar or lion,* so against the Achaians Hektor . . . lashed on the high-hearted Trojans.”
59. 11.297-298, Hektor “hurled himself on the struggle of men *like a high-blown storm-cloud which swoops down from above to trouble the blue sea-water*.”
60. 11.305-308, Hektor killed “the multitude, *as when the west wind strikes in the deepening whirlstorm to batter the clouds of the shining south wind, so that the bulging big waves roll hard and the blown spume scatters high before the force of the veering wind’s blast*.”
61. 11.324-325, Diomedes and Odysseus “wrought havoc, *as when two wild boars hurl themselves in their pride upon the hounds who pursue them*.”
62. 11.412-420, “the ranks of the armoured Trojans came on against him [Odysseus], and penned him in their midst, but made thereby a wound in their ranks, *as when closing about a wild boar the hounds and the lusty young men rush him, and he comes out of his lair in the deep of a thicket grinding to an edge the white fangs in the crook of the jawbones, and these sweep in all about him, and the vaunt of his teeth uprises as they await him, terrible though he is, without wavering*; so closing on Odysseus beloved of Zeus the Trojans rushed him.”
63. 11.473-481, “around him [Odysseus] the Trojans crowded, *as bloody scavengers in the mountains crowd on a horned stag who is stricken, one whom a hunter shot with an arrow from the string, and the stag has escaped him, running with his feet, while the blood stayed warm, and his knees were springing beneath him. But when the pain of the flying arrow has beaten him, then the rending scavengers begin to feast on him in the mountains and the shaded glen. But some spirit leads that way a dangerous lion, and the scavengers run in terror, and the lion eats it* . . .”
64. 11.493-496, “*As when a swollen river hurls its water, big with rain, down the mountains to the flat land following rain from the sky god, and sweeps down with it numbers of dry oaks and of pine trees numbers, until it hurls its huge driftwood into the salt sea*; so now glittering Aias cumbered the plain as he chased them . . .”
65. 11.547-555, “*as when the men who live in the wild and their dogs have driven a tawny lion away from the mid-fenced ground of their oxen, and will not let him tear out the fat of the oxen, watching nightlong against him, and he in his hunger for meat closes in but can get nothing of what he wants, for the raining javelins thrown from the daring hands of the men beat ever against him, and the flaming torches, and these he balks at for all of his fury and with the daylight goes away, disappointed of desire*; so Aias, disappointed at heart, drew back from the Trojans . . .”
66. 11.556-563, “*As when a donkey, stubborn and hard to move, goes into a cornfield in despite of boys, and many sticks have been broken upon him, but he gets in and goes on eating the deep grain, and the children beat him with sticks, but their strength is infantile; yet at last by hard work they drive him out when he is glutted with eating*; so the high-hearted Trojans and companions in arms gathered from far places kept after great Aias . . .”
67. 12.41-49, “*As when among a pack of hounds and huntsmen assembled a wild boar or lion turns at bay in the strength of his fury, and the men, closing themselves into a wall about him, stand up to face him, and cast at him with the volleying spears thrown from their hands, and in spite of this the proud heart feels not terror, nor turns to run, and it is his own courage that kills him; and again and again he turns on them trying to break the massed men and wherever he charges the masses of men break away in front of him*; such was Hektor as he went through the battle and rallied his companions . . .”
68. 12.131-134, Polypoites and Leonteus, “in front of the high gates, stood there *like two oaks who rear their crests in the mountains and through day upon day stand up to the wind and the rainbeat since their great roots reach far and are gripped in the ground*.”
69. 12.146-152, “They [Polypoites and Leonteus] were *in the likeness of two wild boars who in the mountains await a rabble of men and dogs advancing upon them and as they go tearing slantwise and rip the timber about them to pieces at the stock, the grinding scream of their teeth sounds high, until some man hits them with his throw and takes the life from them*; such was the grinding scream from the bright bronze covering their chests struck hard on by spears . . .”
70. 12.156-158, “the flung stones dropped to the ground *like snowflakes which the winds’ blast whirling the shadowy clouds drifts in their abundance along the prospering earth*.”
71. 12.167-172, “*as wasps quick-bending in the middle, or as bees will make their homes at the side of the rocky way, and will not abandon the hollow house they have made, but stand up to men who come to destroy them, and fight for the sake of their children*, so these [Polypoites and Leonteus], though they are only two, are unwilling to give back from the gates . . .”
72. 12.278-287, “*as storms of snow descend to the ground incessant on a winter day, when Zeus of the counsels, showing before men what shafts he possesses, brings on a snowstorm and stills the winds asleep in the solid drift, enshrouding the peaks that tower among the mountains and the shoulders out-jutting, and the low lands with their grasses, and the prospering work of men’s hands, and the drift falls along the grey sea, the harbours and beaches, and the surf that breaks against it is stilled, and all things elsewhere it shrouds from above, with the burden of Zeus’ rain heavy upon it*; so numerous and incessant were the stones volleyed from both sides . . .”
73. 12.299-307, “he [Sarpedon] went onward *like some hill-kept lion, who for a long time has gone lacking meat, and the proud heart is urgent upon him to get inside of a close steading and go for the sheepflocks. And even though he finds herdsmen in that place, who are watching about their sheepflocks, armed with spears, and with dogs, even so he has no thought of being driven from the steading without some attack made, and either makes his spring and seizes a sheep, or else himself is hit in the first attack by a spear from a swift hand thrown*.”
74. 12.421-425, “*as two men with measuring ropes in their hands fight bitterly about a boundary line at the meeting place of two cornfields, and the two of them fight in the strait place over the rights of division*, so the battlements held these armies apart, and across them they hewed at each other . . .”
75. 12.430-435, the armies “held evenly *as the scales which a careful widow holds, taking it by the balance beam, and weighs her wool evenly at either end, working to win a pitiful wage for her children*: so the battles fought by both sides were pulled fast and even . . .”
76. 12.451-453, “*As when a shepherd easily carries the fleece of a wether, picking it up with one hand, and little is the burden weighting him*, so Hektor lifting the stone carried it straight for the door leaves . . .”
77. 13.62-64, Poseidon “burst into winged flight himself, *like a hawk with quick wings who from the huge height of an impassable rock lifting leans to flight to pursue some other bird over the wide land* . . .”
78. 13.102-104, the Trojans “were *like fugitive deer* before us, *who in the forests are spoil for scavengers and wolves and leopards, who scatter in absolute cowardice, there is no war spirit within them*.”
79. 13.136-145, “Hektor led them raging straight forward, *like a great rolling stone from a rock face that a river swollen with winter rain has wrenched from its socket and with immense washing broken the hold of the unwilling rock face; the springing boulder flies on, and the forest thunders beneath it; and the stone runs unwavering on a strong course, till it reaches the flat land, then rolls no longer for all its onrush*; so Hektor for a while threatened lightly to break through the shelters and ships of the Achaians and reach the water cutting his way.”
80. 13.177-180, Imbrios “dropped *like an ash tree which, on the crest of a mountain glittering far about, cut down with the bronze axe scatters on the ground its delicate leafage* . . .”
81. 13.197-201, “*as two lions catch up a goat from the guard of rip-fanged hounds, and carry it into the density of the underbrush, holding it high from the ground in the crook of their jaws*, so the lordly two Aiantes lifted Imbrios high and stripped him . . .”
82. 13.242-245, Idomeneus “went on his way, *as a thunderbolt, which the son of Kronos catching up in his hand shakes from the shining edge of Olympos, flashes as a portent to men and the bright glints shine from it*. Such was the glitter of bronze that girt his chest in his running.”
83. 13.298-303, “*As manslaughtering Ares is when he strides into battle and Terror goes on beside him, his beloved son, the powerful and dauntless, who frightens even the patient-hearted warrior: these two come out of Thrace to encounter in arms the Ephyroi or the great-hearted Phlegyes, but the two will not listen to prayers from both sides, but give the glory to one side or the other*: such were Meriones and Idomeneus . . .”
84. 13.334-337, “*as when under the screaming winds the whirlstorms bluster on that day when the dust lies deepest along the pathways and the winds in the confusion of dust uplift a great cloud*, such was their indiscriminate battle . . .”
85. 13.389-391, Asios “fell, *as when an oak goes down or a white poplar or like a towering pine tree which in the mountains the carpenters have hewn down with their whetted axes to make a ship timber*.”
86. 13.471-475, “he [Idomeneus] stood his ground *like a mountain wild boar who in the confidence of his strength stands up to a great rabble of men advancing upon him in some deserted place, and bristles his back up, and both his eyes are shining with fire; he grinds his teeth in his fury to fight off the dogs and the men*.”
87. 13.490-494, behind the Trojan leaders “the people . . . followed on, *as when the sheep follow the lead-ram as they leave the pasture to drink, and make proud the heart of the shepherd*, and thus also the heart of Aineias was gladdened within him . . .”
88. 13.570-572, Antilochos, “writhing about it [a spear], gasped *as an ox does when among the mountains the herdsmen have bound him strongly in twisted ropes and drag him unwilling*.”
89. 13.588-592, “*As along a great threshing floor from the broad blade of a shovel the black-skinned beans and the chickpeas bounce high under the whistling blast and the sweep of the winnowing fan*, so back from the corselet of glorious Menelaos the bitter arrow rebounded far away . . .”
90. 13.703-708, “*as two wine-coloured oxen straining with even force drag the compacted plough through the fallow land, and for both of them at the base of the horns the dense sweat gushes; only the width of the polished yoke keeps a space between them as they toil down the furrow till the share cuts the edge of the ploughland*; so these [the Aiantes] took their stand in battle, close to each other.”
91. 13.795-801, “They went on, *as out of the racking winds the stormblast that underneath the thunderstroke of Zeus father drives downward and with gigantic clamour hits the sea, and the numerous boiling waves along the length of the roaring water bend and whiten to foam in ranks, one upon another*; so the Trojans closing in ranks, some leading and others after them, in the glare of bronze armour followed their leaders.”
92. 14.16-20, “*As when the open sea is deeply stirred to the ground-swell but stays in one place and waits the rapid onset of tearing gusts, nor rolls its surf onward in either direction until from Zeus the wind is driven down to decide it*; so the aged man [Nestor] pondered, his mind caught between two courses . . .”
93. 14.384-387, Poseidon “led them holding in his heavy hand the stark sword with the thin edge glittering, *as glitters the thunderflash none may close with by right in sorrowful division, but fear holds all men back*.”
94. 14.393-395, “The two sides closed together with a great war cry. *Not such is the roaring against dry land of the sea’s surf as it rolls in from the open under the hard blast of the north wind* . . .”
95. 14.393, 396-397, “The two sides closed together with a great war cry. . . . *not such is the bellowing of fire in its blazing in the deep places of the hills when it rises inflaming the forest* . . .”
96. 14.393, 398-402, “[*not*] *such again the crying voice of the wind in the deep-haired oaks, when it roars highest in its fury against them*, not so loud as now the noise of Achaians and Trojans in voice of terror rose as they drove against one another.”
97. 14.414-418, “*as a great oak goes down root-torn under Zeus father’s stroke, and a horrible smell of sulphur uprises from it, and there is no courage left in a man who stands by and looks on, for the thunderstroke of great Zeus is a hard thing*; so Hektor in all his strength dropped suddenly in the dust . . .”
98. 15.79-83, Hera “went back to tall Olympos from the mountains of Ida. *As the thought flashes in the mind of a man who, traversing much territory, thinks of things in the mind’s awareness, ‘I wish I were this place, or this’, and imagines many things*; so rapidly in her eagerness winged Hera, a goddess.”
99. 15.169-172, Iris “went down along the hills of Ida to sacred Ilion. *As those times when out of the clouds the snow or the hail whirls cold beneath the blast of the north wind born in the bright air*, so rapidly in her eagerness winged Iris, the swift one . . .”
100. 15.263-270, “*As when some stalled horse who has been corn-fed at the manger breaking free of his rope gallops over the plain in thunder to his accustomed bathing place in a sweet-running river and in the pride of his strength holds high his head and the mane floats over his shoulders; sure of his glorious strength, the quick knees carry him to the loved places and the pasture of horses*; so Hektor moving rapidly his feet and his knees went onward, stirring the horsemen . . .”
101. 15.271-280, “*And as when men who live in the wilds and their dogs have driven into flight a horned stag or a wild goat. Inaccessible the rocky cliff or the shadowed forest has covered the quarry so that the men know it was not their fortune to take him; and now by their clamouring shows in the way a great bearded lion, and bends them to sudden flight for all their eagerness*; so the Danaans until that time kept always in close chase assembled, stabbing at them with swords and leaf-headed spears, but when they saw Hektor once more ranging the men’s ranks they were frightened, and by their feet collapsed all their bravery.”
102. 15.323-326, “*as when in the dim of the black night two wild beasts stampede a herd of cattle or big flock of sheep, falling suddenly upon them, when no herdsman is by*, the Achaians fled so in their weakness and terror . . .”
103. 15.361-364, the Trojans “wrecked the bastions of the Achaians easily, *as when a little boy piles sand by the sea-shore when in his innocent play he makes sand towers to amuse him and then, still playing, with hands and feet ruins them and wrecks them*.”
104. 15.381-384, “*as when the big waves on the sea wide-wandering wash across the walls of a ship underneath the leaning force of the wind, which particularly piles up the big waves*, so the Trojans with huge clamour went over the rampart . . .”
105. 15.410-413, “*But as a chalkline straightens the cutting of a ship’s timber in the hands of an expert carpenter, who by Athene’s inspiration is well versed in all his craft’s subtlety*, so the battles fought by both sides were pulled fast and even.”
106. 15.579-581, “Antilochos sprang forth against him [Melanippos, after Antilochos wounds him], *as a hound rushes against a stricken fawn that as he broke from his covert a hunter has shot at, and hit, and broken his limbs’ strength*.”
107. 15.586-588, Antilochos “fled away [from Hektor] *like a wild beast who has done some bad thing, one who has killed a hound or an ox-herd tending his cattle and escapes, before a gang of men has assembled against him* . . .”
108. 15.605-606, Hektor “raged, *as when destructive fire or spear-shaking Ares rages among the mountains and dense places of the deep forest*.”
109. 15.618-621, the Greeks “closed into a wall and held him [Hektor], *like some towering huge sea-cliff that lies close along the grey salt water and stands up against the screaming winds and their sudden directions and against the waves that grow to bigness and burst up against it*.”
110. 15.624-629, Hektor “descended upon them *as descends on a fast ship the battering wave storm-bred from beneath the clouds, and the ship goes utterly hidden under the foam, and the dangerous blast of the hurricane thunders against the sail, and the hearts of the seamen are shaken with fear, as they are carried only a little way out of death’s reach*. So the heart in the breast of each Achaian was troubled.”
111. 15.630-637, “Hektor came on against them, *as a murderous lion on cattle who in the low-lying meadow of a great marsh pasture by hundreds, and among them a herdsman who does not quite know how to fight a wild beast off from killing a horn-curved ox, and keeps pace with the first and the last of the cattle always, but the lion making his spring at the middle eats an ox as the rest stampede*; so now the Achaians fled in unearthly terror before father Zeus and Hektor . . .”
112. 15.679-686, “*And as a man who is an expert rider of horses who when he has chosen and coupled four horses out of many makes his way over the plain galloping toward a great city along the travelled road, and many turn to admire him, men or women, while he steadily and never slipping jumps and shifts his stance from one to another as they gallop*; so Aias ranged crossing from deck to deck of the fast ships taking huge strides . . .”
113. 15.690-693, “*as a flashing eagle makes his plunge upon other flying birds as these feed in a swarm by a river, whether these be geese or cranes or swans long-throated*, so Hektor steered the course of his outrush straight for a vessel . . .”
114. 16.3-4, Patroklos “wept warm tears, *like a spring dark-running that down the face of a rock impassable drips its dim water* . . .”
115. 16.6-10 (Achilleus to Patroklos), “Why then are you crying *like some poor little girl*, Patroklos, *who runs after her mother and begs to be picked up and carried, and clings to her dress, and holds her back when she tries to hurry, and gazes tearfully into her face, until she is picked up*?”
116. 16.156-166, “And they [the Myrmidons], *as wolves who tear flesh raw, in whose hearts the battle fury is tireless, who have brought down a great horned stag in the mountains, and then feed on him, till the jowls of every wolf run blood, and then go all in a pack to drink from a spring of dark-running water, lapping with their lean tongues along the black edge of the surface and belching up the clotted blood; in the heart of each one is a spirit untremulous, but their bellies are full and groaning*; as such the lords of the Myrmidons and their men of counsel around [Achilleus] swarmed . . .”
117. 16.212-214, “*And as a man builds solid a wall with stones set close together for the rampart of a high house keeping out the force of the winds*, so close together were the helms and shields massive in the middle.”
118. 16.259-265, “The Myrmidons came streaming out *like wasps at the wayside when little boys have got into the habit of making them angry by always teasing them as they live in their house by the roadside; silly boys, they do something that hurts many people; and if some man who travels on the road happens to pass them and stirs them unintentionally, they in heart of fury come swarming out each one from his place to fight for their children*.”
119. 16.297-302, “*as when from the towering height of a great mountain Zeus who gathers the thunderflash stirs the cloud dense upon it, and all the high places of the hills are clear and the shoulders out-jutting and the deep ravines, as endless bright air spills from the heavens*, so when the Danaans had beaten from their ships the ravening fire, they got breath for a little, but there was no check in the fighting . . .”
120. 16.352-356, “They *as wolves make havoc among lambs or young goats in their fury, catching them out of the flocks, when the sheep separate in the mountains through the thoughtlessness of the shepherd, and the wolves seeing them suddenly snatch them away, and they have no heart for fighting*; so the Danaans ravaged the Trojans . . .”
121. 16.364-366, “*As when a cloud goes deep into the sky from Olympos through the bright upper air when Zeus brings on the hurricane*, so rose from beside the ships their outcry, the noise of their terror.”
122. 16.384-393, “*As underneath the hurricane all the black earth is burdened on an autumn day, when Zeus sends down the most violent waters in deep rage against mortals after they stir him to anger because in violent assembly they pass decrees that are crooked, and drive righteousness from among them and care nothing for what the gods think, and all the rivers of these men swell current to full spate and in the ravines of their water-courses rip all the hillsides and dash whirling in huge noise down to the blue sea, out of the mountains headlong, so that the works of men are diminished*; so huge rose the noise from the horses of Troy in their running.”
123. 16.428-430, “They [Sarpedon and Patroklos] *as two hook-clawed beak-bent vultures above a tall rock face, high-screaming, go for each other*, so now these two, crying aloud, encountered together.”
124. 16.482-484, “He [Sarpedon] fell, *as when an oak goes down or a white poplar, or like a towering pine tree which in the mountains the carpenters have hewn down with their whetted axes to make a ship-timber*.”
125. 16.486-491, “*as a blazing and haughty bull in a huddle of shambling cattle when a lion has come among the herd and destroys him dies bellowing under the hooked claws of the lion*, so now before Patroklos [Sarpedon] died raging . . .”
126. 16.582-585, “He [Patroklos] steered his way through the ranks of the front fighters, *like a flying hawk who scatters into flight the daws and the starlings*. So straight for the Lykians [Patroklos] swept . . .”
127. 16.633-636, “*As the tumult goes up from men who are cutting timber in the mountain valleys, and the sound is heard from far off*, such was the dull crashing that rose . . . from the bronze shields . . .”
128. 16.640-643, those “about him [Sarpedon] kept forever swarming over his dead body, *as flies through a sheepfold thunder about the pails overspilling milk, in the season of spring when the milk splashes in the buckets*.”
129. 16.751-753, Patroklos “strode against the hero Kebriones *with the spring of a lion, who as he ravages the pastures has been hit in the chest, and his own courage destroys him*.”
130. 16.756-758, Patroklos and Hektor “fought it out over Kebriones, *like lions who in the high places of a mountain, both in huge courage and both hungry, fight together over a killed deer*.”
131. 16.765-770, “*As east wind and south wind fight it out with each other in the valleys of the mountains to shake the deep forest timber, oak tree and ash and the cornel with the delicate bark; these whip their wide-reaching branches against one another in inhuman noise, and the crash goes up from the splintering timber*; so Trojans and Achaians springing against one another cut men down . . .”
132. 16.823-828, “*As a lion overpowers a weariless boar in wild combat as the two fight in their pride on the high places of a mountain over a little spring of water, both wanting to drink there, and the lion beats him down by force as he fights for his breath*, so Hektor, Priam’s son, with a close spear-stroke stripped the life from [Patroklos] . . .”
133. 17.4-5, Menelaos “bestrode the body [of Patroklos], *as over a first-born calf the mother cow stands lowing, she who has known no children before this*.”
134. 17.20-23, “*Neither the fury of the leopard is such, not such is the lion’s, nor the fury of the devastating wild boar, within whose breast the spirit is biggest and vaunts in the pride of his strength*, is so great as goes the pride in these sons of Panthoös . . .”
135. 17.52-60, “*As some slip of an olive tree strong-growing that a man raises in a lonely place, and drenched it with generous water, so that it blossoms into beauty, and the blasts of winds from all quarters tremble it, and it bursts into pale blossoming. But then a wind suddenly in a great tempest descending upon it wrenches it out of its stand and lays it at length on the ground*; such was Euphorbos . . . whom Menelaos Atreides killed . . .”
136. 17.61-69, “*As when in the confidence of his strength some lion hill-reared snatches the finest cow in a herd as it pastures; first the lion breaks her neck caught fast in the strong teeth, then gulps down the blood and all the guts that are inward savagely, as the dogs and the herdsmen raise a commotion loudly about him, but from a distance, and are not willing to go in and face him, since the hard green fear has hold of them*; so no heart in the breast of any Trojan had courage to go in and face glorious Menelaos.”
137. 17.108-112, “Menelaos backed away from them [the Trojans] and left the dead man, but kept turning on his way *like some great bearded lion when dogs and men drive him off from a steading with weapons and shouts, and in the breast of the lion the strong heart of valour freezes, and he goes reluctant away from the fenced ground*.”
138. 17.132-136, “Aias covering the son of Menoitios under his broad shield stood fast, *like a lion over his young, when the lion is leading his little ones along, and men who are hunting come upon them in the forest. He stands in the pride of his great strength hooding his eyes under the cover of down-drawn eyelids*.”
139. 17.263-266, “*As when at the outpouring place of a rain-glutted river the huge surf of the sea roars against the current, out-jutting beaches thunder aloud to the backwash of the salt water*, with such a bellow the Trojans came on . . .”
140. 17.281-283, “He [Aias] steered through the front fighters in pride of strength *like a savage wild boar, who among the mountains easily scatters the dogs and strong young men when he turns at bay in the valley*.”
141. 17.389-395, “*As when a man gives the hide of a great ox, a bullock, drenched first deep in fat, to all his people to stretch out; the people take it from him and stand in a circle about it and pull, and presently the moisture goes and the fat sinks in, with so many pulling, and the bull’s hide is stretched out level*; so the men of both sides in a cramped space tugged at the body in both directions . . .”
142. 17.434-436, “still *as stands a grave monument which is set over the mounded tomb of a dead man or lady*, they [Achilleus’ horses] stood there holding motionless in its place the fair-wrought chariot . . .”
143. 17.519-523, the spear “was driven on through the belt to the deep of the belly. *As when a strong-grown man with sharp axe in his hands chops at an ox, ranger of the fields, behind the horns, cutting all the way through the sinew, and the ox springing forward topples,* so Aretos sprang forward, then toppled back . . .”
144. 17.547-552, “*As when in the sky Zeus strings for mortals the shimmering rainbow, to be a portent and sign of war, or of wintry storm, when heat perishes, such storm as stops mortals’ work upon the face of the earth, and afflicts their cattle*, so Athene shrouded in the shimmering cloud about her merged among the swarming Achaians, and wakened each man.”
145. 17.569-572, “She put strength into the man’s [Menelaos’] shoulders and knees, inspiring in his breast the persistent daring of *that mosquito who though it is driven hard away from a man’s skin, even so, for the taste of human blood, persists in biting him*.”
146. 17.657-666, Menelaos “went on his way, *as from a mid-fenced ground some lion who has been harrying dogs and men, but his strength is worn out; they will not let him tear out the fat of the oxen, watching nightlong against him, and he in his hunger for meat closes in but can get nothing of what he wants, for the raining javelins thrown from the daring hands of the men beat ever against him, and the flaming torches, and these he balks at for all of his fury, and with the daylight goes away, disappointed of desire*; so Menelaos of the great war cry went from Patroklos[’ body] much unwilling . . .”
147. 17.673-678, Menelaos “went away from them peering about on all sides, *like an eagle, who, as men say, sees most sharply of all winged creatures under the heaven, and lofty though he hover the cowering hare, the swift-footed, escapes not his sight as he crouches in the shaggy bush, but the eagle plunges suddenly to grab him and tear the life from him*.”
148. 17.725-729, the Trojans “made a rush against them [Menelaos and Meriones] *like dogs, who sweep in rapidly on a wounded wild boar, ahead of the young men who hunt him, and for the moment race in raging to tear him to pieces until in the confidence of his strength he turns on them, at bay, and they give ground and scatter for fear one way and another*; so the Trojans until that time kept always in close chase assembled, stabbing at them with swords and leaf-headed spears, but every time the two Aiantes would swing round to face them and stand fast, the colour of their skin changed, and no longer could any endure to sweep in further and fight for the body.”
149. 17.737-739, the fight “was wild *as fire which, risen suddenly, storming a city of men sets it ablaze, and houses diminish before it in the high glare, and the force of the wind on it roars it to thunder* . . .”
150. 17.742-746, “But they [Menelaos and Meriones], *as mules who have put the on-drive of strength upon them drag down from the high ground along a steep stony trail either a beam or some big timber for a ship, and the heart in them wearies under the hard work and sweat of their urgent endeavour*; so these, straining, carried the dead man away . . .”
151. 17.747-751, “the two Aiantes held them [the Trojans] off, *as a timbered rock ridge holds off water, one that is placed to divide an entire plain, which, though flood-currents of strong rivers drive sorely against it, holds them off and beats back the waters of them all to be scattered over the plain, and all the strength of their streams cannot break it* . . .”
152. 17.755-759, “*as goes a cloud of daws or of starlings screaming terror when they have seen coming forth against them the hawk, whose coming is murder for the little birds*, so now before Aineias and Hektor the young Achaian warriors went, screaming terror . . .”
153. 18.161-164, “*as herdsmen who dwell in the fields are not able to frighten a tawny lion in his great hunger away from a carcass*, so the two Aiantes, marshals of men, were not able to scare Hektor, Priam’s son, away from the body.”
154. 18.205-214, Athene “about his head circled a golden cloud, and kindled from it a flame far-shining. *As when a flare goes up into the high air from a city from an island far away, with enemies fighting about it who all day long are in the hateful division of Ares fighting from their own city, but as the sun goes down signal fires blaze out one after another, so that the glare goes pulsing high for men of the neighbouring islands to see it, in case they might come over in ships to beat off the enemy*; so from the head of Achilleus the blaze shot into the bright air.”
155. 18.219-221, “*As loud as comes the voice that is screamed out by a trumpet by murderous attackers who beleaguer a city*, so then high and clear went up the voice of Aiakides.”
156. 18.318-323, “*As some great bearded lion when some man, a deer hunter, has stolen his cubs away from him out of the close wood; the lion comes back too late, and is anguished, and turns into many valleys quartering after the man’s trail on the chance of finding him, and taken with bitter anger*; so he, groaning heavily, spoke out to the Myrmidons . . .”
157. 18.599-601, “they [girls and youths depicted as dancing on Achilleus’ shield] would run very lightly, *as when a potter crouching makes trial of his wheel, holding it close in his hands, to see if it will run smooth*.”
158. 19.357-360, “*As when in their thickness the snowflakes of Zeus come fluttering cold beneath the blast of the north wind born in the bright sky*, so now in their thickness the pride of the helms bright shining were carried out from the ships . . .”
159. 19.375-380, “*And as when from across water a light shines to mariners from a blazing fire, when the fire is burning high in the mountains in a desolate steading, as the mariners are carried unwilling by storm winds over the fish-swarming sea, far away from their loved ones*; so the light from the fair elaborate shield of Achilleus shot into the high air.”
160. 20.164-173, Achilleus “rose *like a lion* against him [Aineias], *the baleful beast, when men have been straining to kill him, the county all in the hunt, and he at the first pays them no attention but goes his way, only when some one of the impetuous young men has hit him with the spear he whirls, jaws open, over his teeth foam breaks out, and in the depth of his chest the powerful heart groans; he lashes his own ribs with his tail and the flanks on both sides as he rouses himself to fury for the fight, eyes glaring, and hurls himself straight onward on the chance of killing some one of the men, or else being killed himself in the first onrush*.”
161. 20.251-255 (Aineias to Achilleus), “But what have you and I to do with the need for squabbling and hurling insults at each other, *as if we were two wives who when they have fallen upon a heart-perishing quarrel go out in the street and say abusive things to each other, much true, and much that is not, and it is their rage that drives them*.”
162. 20.403-406, Achilleus “blew his [Hippodamas’] life away, bellowing, *as when a bull bellows as he is dragged for Poseidon, lord of Helike, and the young men drag him. In such bulls the earth shaker glories*. Such was his bellowing as the proud spirit flitted from his bones.”
163. 20.490-493, “*As inhuman fire sweeps on in fury through the deep angles of a drywood mountain and sets ablaze the depth of the timber and the blustering wind lashes the flame along*, so Achilleus swept everywhere with his spear . . .”
164. 20.495-499, “*as when a man yokes male broad-foreheaded oxen to crush white barley on a strong-laid threshing floor, and rapidly the barley is stripped beneath the feet of the bellowing oxen*, so before great-hearted Achilleus the single-foot horses trampled alike dead men and shields . . .”
165. 21.12-16, “*As before the blast of a fire the locusts escaping into a river swarm in air, and the fire unwearied blazes from a sudden start, and the locusts huddle in water*; so before Achilleus the murmuring waters of Xanthos the deep-whirling were filled with confusion of men and of horses.”
166. 21.22-26, “*As before a huge-gaping dolphin the other fishes escaping cram the corners of a deepwater harbour in fear, for he avidly eats up any he can catch*; so the Trojans along the course of the terrible river shrank under the bluffs.”
167. 21.252-253, Achilleus ran “with the speed of *the black eagle, the marauder who is at once the strongest of flying things and the swiftest*.”
168. 21.257-264, “*as a man running a channel from a spring of dark water guides the run of the water among his plants and his gardens with a mattock in his hand and knocks down the blocks in the channel; in the rush of the water all the pebbles beneath are torn loose from place, and the water that has been dripping suddenly jets on in a steep place and goes too fast even for the man who guides it*; so always the crest of the river was overtaking Achilleus . . .”
169. 21.281-283 (Achilleus to Zeus), “this is a dismal death I am doomed to be caught in, trapped in a big river *as if I were a boy and a swineherd swept away by a torrent when he tries to cross in a rainstorm*.”
170. 21.346-349, “*As when the north wind of autumn suddenly makes dry a garden freshly watered and makes glad the man who is tending it*, so the entire flat land was dried up with Hephaistos burning the dead bodies.”
171. 21.362-367, “*And as a cauldron that is propped over a great fire boils up dancing on its whole circle with dry sticks burning beneath it as it melts down the fat of swine made tender*, so Xanthos’ lovely streams were burned with the fire, and the water was boiling and would not flow along but was stopped under stress of the hot blast strongly blown by resourceful Hephaistos.”
172. 21.464-466, “mortals . . . are *as leaves are, and now flourish and grow warm with life, and feed on what the ground gives, but then again fade away and are dead*.”
     1. See Ps 90:3-6, “You turn us back to dust, and say, ‘Turn back, you mortals.’ 4For a thousand years in your sight are like yesterday when it is past, or like a watch in the night. 5You sweep them away; they are like a dream, like grass that is renewed in the morning; 6in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers.”
     2. See Ps 103:14-16, “For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust. 15As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower of the field; 16for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.”
173. 21.491-495, Hera “boxed her ears as Artemis tried to twist away, and the flying arrows were scattered. She got under and free and fled in tears, *as a pigeon in flight from a hawk wings her way into some rock-hollow and a cave, since it was not destiny for the hawk to catch her*.”
174. 21.522-525, “*as when smoke ascending goes up into the wide sky from a burning city, with the anger of the gods let loose upon it which inflicted labour upon them all, and sorrow on many*, so Achilleus inflicted labour and sorrow upon the Trojans.”
175. 21.573-580, “*as a leopard emerges out of her timbered cover to face the man who is hunting her, and takes no terror in her heart nor thought of flight when she hears them baying against her; and even though one be too quick for her with spear thrust or spear thrown stuck with the shaft though she be she will not give up her fighting fury, till she has closed with one of them or is overthrown*; so [Agenor] was unwilling to run away until he had tested Achilleus . . .”
176. 22.22-23, Achilleus ran “in tearing speed, *like a racehorse with his chariot who runs lightly as he pulls the chariot over the flat land*.”
177. 22.26-31, Achilleus “swept across the flat land in full shining, *like that star which comes on in the autumn and whose conspicuous brightness far outshines the stars that are numbered in the night’s darkening, the star they give the name of Orion’s Dog, which is brightest among the stars, and yet is wrought as a sign of evil and brings on the great fever for unfortunate mortals*.”
178. 22.92-96, Hektor “awaited Achilleus as he came on, gigantic. *But as a snake waits for a man by his hole, in the mountains, glutted with evil poisons, and the fell venom has got inside him, and coiled about the hole he stares malignant*, so Hektor would not give ground . . .”
179. 22.139-143, “*As when a hawk in the mountains who moves lightest of things flying makes his effortless swoop for a trembling dove, but she slips away from beneath and flies and he shrill screaming close after her plunges for her again and again, heart furious to take her*; so Achilleus went straight for him [Hektor] in fury . . .”
180. 22.162-165, “*As when about the turnposts racing single-foot horses run at full speed, when a great prize is laid up for their winning, a tripod or a woman, in games for a man’s funeral*, so these two [Hektor and Achilleus] swept whirling about the city . . .”
181. 22.188-192, “Achilleus kept unremittingly after Hektor, chasing him, *as a dog in the mountains who has flushed from his covert a deer’s fawn follows him through the folding ways and the valleys, and though the fawn crouched down under a bush and be hidden he keeps running and noses him out until he comes on him* . . .”
182. 22.199-201, “*As in a dream a man is not able to follow one who runs from him, nor can the runner escape, nor the other pursue him*, so he could not run him down in his speed, nor the other get clear.”
183. 22.307-311, “gathering himself together, he made his swoop, *like a high-flown eagle who launches himself out of the murk of the clouds on the flat land to catch away a tender lamb or a shivering hare*; so Hektor made his swoop, swinging his sharp sword . . .”
184. 22.317-319, “*as a star moves among stars in the night’s darkening, Hesper, who is the fairest star who stands in the sky*, such was the shining from the pointed spear Achilleus was shaking . . .”
185. 23.221-225, “*as a father mourns as he burns the bones of a son, who was married only now, and died to grieve his unhappy parents*, so Achilleus was mourning as he burned his companion’s bones . . .”
186. 23.517-522, “*As far as from the wheel stands the horse who is straining to pull his master with the chariot over the flat land; the extreme hairs in the tail of the horse brush against the running rim of the wheel, and he courses very close, there is not much space between as he runs a great way over the flat land*; by so much Menelaos was left behind by Antilochos . . .”
187. 23.597-599, “his [Antilochos’] anger was softened, *as with dew the ears of corn are softened in the standing corn growth of a shuddering field*. . . .”
188. 23.692-694 (the boxing match), “*As in the water roughened by the north wind a fish jumps in the weeds of the beach-break, then the dark water closes above him*, so Euryalos left the ground from the blow . . .”
189. 23.711-713 (the wrestling match), Aias and Odysseus “grappled each other in the hook of their heavy arms, *as when rafters lock, when a renowned architect has fitted them in the roof of a high house to keep out the force of the winds’ spite*.”
190. 23.760-763 (the foot race), Odysseus “overhauled him [Aias son of Oïleus] close, *as near as to the breast of a woman fair-girdled is the rod she pulls in her hands carefully as she draws the spool out and along the warp, and holds it close to her chest*.”
191. 23.845-847 (the discus), Polypoites “overthrew the entire field by as far *as an ox-herd can cast with his throwing stick which spins through the air and comes down where the cattle graze in their herds* . . .”
192. 24.41-43 (Apollo to the gods), “his [Achilleus’] purposes are fierce, *like a lion who when he has given way to his own great strength and his haughty spirit, goes among the flocks of men, to devour them*.”
193. 24.480-483, “*As when dense disaster closes on one who has murdered a man in his own land, and he comes to the country of others, to a man of substance, and wonder seizes on those who behold him*, so Achilleus wondered as he looked on Priam . . .”

classification of all Homeric similes in the *Iliad*

plants (5 similes) (2.147-150, 6.146-50, 8.306-307, 21.464-466, 23.597-599)

insects (8): flies etc. at a milk pail (2.469-473, 16.640-643), mosquito (17.569-572), cicadas (3.150-152), locusts (21.12-16), bees and wasps (2.84-90, 12.167-172, 16.259-265)

wild animals (55)

non-predatory (9): fish (23.692-694), snake (3.33-36, 22.92-96), birds (2.459-465, 3.2-5, 9.323-325, 21.491-495), deer (11.113-121, 13.102-104)

predatory (46)

birds (9): vultures (16.428-430), hawk (13.62-64, 16.582-585, 17.755-759, 22.139-143), eagle (15.690-693, 17.673-678, 21.252-253, 22.307-311)

boar (7) (11.324-325, 11.412-420, 12.41-49 [also lion], 12.146-152, 13.471-475, 17.20-23, 17.281-283)

lions vs. farmers (11) (5.554-558, 11.547-555, 12.299-307, 13.197-201, 15.630-637, 16.751-753, 17.61-69, 17.108-112, 17.657-666, 18.161-164)

lions hunted, in wild, etc. (13) (5.161-163, 5.782-784, 10.485-487, 11.171-178, 11.473-481, 12.41-49 [also boar], 16.486-491, 16.756-758, 16.823-828, 17.132-136, 18.318-323, 20.164-173, 24.41-43 [see also 17.20-23])

other (6): dolphin (21.22-26), leopard (21.573-580 [see also 17.20-23]), wolves (16.156-166, 16.352-356), “wild beasts” (15.323-326, 15.586-588)

domesticated animals (18)

sheep (2) (4.433-436, 13.490-494)

dog (5) (8.338-341, 10.181-187, 10.360-364, 17.725-729, 22.188-192)

equine (5): donkey (11.556-563), mule (17.742-746), horse (6.506-511, 15.263-270, 23.517-522)

bovine (6) (2.480-482, 13.570-572, 13.703-708, 17.4-5, 20.403-406, 20.495-499)

human occupations (39)

agriculture (6): arguing over a boundary line (12.421-425), irrigation (21.257-264), gardening (21.­346-349), reaping (11.66-71), threshing (5.499-504, 13.588-592)

animal husbandry (3): goat herding (2.474-477), ox herding (23.845-847), killing an ox (17.519-523)

woodcutting (7) (3.59-62, 4.482-487, 11.86-90, 13.177-180, 13.389-391, 16.482-484, 16.633-636)

carpentry (2) (15.410-413, 23.711-713)

sailing (3) (7.4-7, 15.624-629, 19.375-380)

hunting (4) (3.23-3.26, 11.292-295, 15.271-280, 15.579-581 [see also “lions hunted”])

war (3) (18.205-214, 18.219-221, 21.522-525)

other, women’s work (5): cooking (21.362-367), curdling milk (5.902-904), weaving (12.430-435, 23.760-763), making cheek pieces for horses (4.141-147)

other, men’s work (5): pottery (18.599-601), carrying a fleece (12.451-453), stretching leather (17.389-395), building a retaining wall (16.212-214), chariot racing (22.22-23, 22.162-165), standing horseback-riding (15.679-686)

domestic scenes (6): birth pangs (11.269-272), mother brushes fly from child (4.130-131), boy and sand castles (15.361-364), girl cries to be picked up (16.6-10), wives quarreling (20.251-255), funeral (23.221-225), lovers whispering (22.125-28)

wild nature (18)

river (5) (4.452-456, 5.87-92, 11.493-496, 17.263-266, 21.281-283)

trees (3) (12.131-134, 16.765-770, 17.52-60)

forest fire (5) (2.455-458, 11.155-159, 14.396-397, 15.605-606, 20.490-493 [see also 17.737-739])

other (5): rock ridge (17.747-751), sea against cliff face (15.618-621), water down rock face (9.13-15, 16.3-4), boulder bounding down hill (13.136-145)

meteorological phenomena (31)

wind on sea (12) (2.144-146, 2.208-210, 2.394-297, 4.422-427, 7.63-65, 9.4-8, 11.297-298, 11.305-308, 13.795-801, 14.16-20, 14.393-395, 15.381-384)

snow storm (4) (12.156-158, 12.278-287, 15.169-172, 19.357-360)

other storms (6) (2.780-783, 4.275-279, 5.864-567, 10.5-10, 14.398-402, 16.384-393)

lightning (3) (13.242-245, 14.384-387, 14.414-418)

other (6): dust devils (13.334-337), mist (3.10-14), clear air (16.297-302), clouds (5.522-526, 16.364-366), rainbow (17.547-552)

celestial phenomena (6): meteor (4.75-78), stars (5.4-6, 8.555-560, 11.61-63, 22.26-31, 22.317-319)

other similes (7): man gazing out to sea (5.770-772), man stepping back from river’s edge (5.596-600), Ares (13.298-303 [see 15.605-606]), quick thoughts (15.79-83), tombstone (17.434-436), chasing someone in a dream (22.199-201), wonder at an exile (24.480-483)

distribution of Homeric similes in the *Iliad* by book

Book 1 (0)

Book 2 (11): 84-90, 144-146, 147-150, 208-210, 394-297, 455-458, 459-465, 469-473, 474-477, 480-482, 780-783

Book 3 (6): 2-5, 10-14, 23-26, 33-36, 59-62, 150-152

Book 4 (8): 75-78, 130-131, 141-147, 275-279, 422-427, 433-436, 452-456, 482-487

Book 5 (11): 4-6, 87-92, 161-163, 499-504, 522-526, 554-558, 596-600, 770-772, 782-784, 864-567, 902-904

Book 6 (1): 506-511

Book 7 (2): 4-7, 63-65

Book 8 (3): 306-307, 338-341, 555-560

Book 9 (3): 4-8, 13-15, 323-325

Book 10 (4): 5-10, 181-187, 360-364, 485-487

Book 11 (16): 61-63, 66-71, 86-90, 113-121, 155-159, 171-178, 269-272, 292-295, 297-298, 305-308, 324-325, 412-420, 473-481, 493-496, 547-555, 556-563

Book 12 (10): 41-49, 131-134, 146-152, 156-158, 167-172, 278-287, 299-307, 421-425, 430-435, 451-453

Book 13 (15): 62-64, 102-104, 136-145, 177-180, 197-201, 242-245, 298-303, 334-337, 389-391, 471-475, 490-494, 570-572, 588-592, 703-708, 795-801

Book 14 (6): 16-20, 384-387, 393-395, 396-397, 398-402, 414-418

Book 15 (16): 79-83, 169-172, 263-270, 271-280, 323-326, 361-364, 381-384, 410-413, 579-581, 586-588, 605-606, 618-621, 624-629, 630-637, 679-686, 690-693

Book 16 (19): 3-4, 6-10, 156-166, 212-214, 259-265, 297-302, 352-356, 364-366, 384-393, 428-430, 482-484, 486-491, 582-585, 633-636, 640-643, 751-753, 756-758, 765-770, 823-828

Book 17 (20): 4-5, 20-23, 52-60, 61-69, 108-112, 132-136, 263-266, 281-283, 389-395, 434-436, 519-523, 547-552, 569-572, 657-666, 673-678, 725-729, 737-739, 742-746, 747-751, 755-759

Book 18 (5): 161-164, 205-214, 219-221, 318-323, 599-601

Book 19 (2): 357-360, 375-380

Book 20 (5): 164-173, 251-255, 403-406, 490-493, 495-499

Book 21 (11): 12-16, 22-26, 252-253, 257-264, 281-283, ­346-349, 362-367, 464-466, 491-495, 522-525, 573-580

Book 22 (10): 22-23, 26-31, 92-96, 125-28, 139-143, 162-165, 188-192, 199-201, 307-311, 317-319

Book 23 (7): 221-225, 517-522, 597-599, 692-694, 711-713, 760-763, 845-847

Book 24 (2): 41-43, 480-483