

Appendix VIII Divine Comparisons

The divine comparisons provide a means for the poet to indicate an elevated status for an individual. These comparisons can take several forms:

a. **Adjectives:** The simplest form of divine comparison is the addition of an adjective to a individual's name. Some adjectives are simile-like in that a prothesis is a part of the word (e.g., θεοειδής, θεοείκελος, ισόθεος). The table below shows the adjectives commonly used for this purpose and how often they are used in the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. The more detailed listings which follow show that some adjectives are used more commonly for some individuals than others (e.g., ἀρηίφιλος (Menelaus), διογενής (Odysseus), θεοειδής (Paris, Priam)).

Adjective	Frequency in the <i>Iliad</i>	Frequency in the <i>Odyssey</i>
ἀντίθεος	30	32
ἀρηιθώνων αἰζηῶν	3	0
ἀρηίφιλος	25	1
διογενής	22	22
διοτρεφής	34	22
θεῖος	24	47
θεοειδής	27	17
θεοείκελος	0	2
ισόθεος φώς	12	2

b. **Forms Similar to Similes:** Divine comparisons are also made through forms similar to similes with protheses, tenors, and vehicles. Nearly all of these comparisons are short phrases. The comparisons can be attributive or predicate. A third common form is adverbial. Adverbial comparisons express how the action of the sentence is performed. The table below summarizes the protheses commonly in use and how often they are used in the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. The more detailed listings which follow show the protheses, tenors, and common phrases used for the comparisons.

Prothesis	Frequency in the <i>Iliad</i>	Frequency in the <i>Odyssey</i>
	Attributive Phrases and Comparisons	
ἀτάλαντος	24	2
εἵκελος	1	0
εἰκός	3	2
ἐναλίγκιος	1	5
ἐπιείκελος	8	4
ἤύτε	0	1
ἵκελος	3	2
ἴσος	17	1
ὁμοῖος	1	4
ὥς	3	1
No prothesis	1	0
	Predicate Comparisons	
ἀλίγκιος	0	1
εἶσκω	0	2
ἐναλίγκιος	0	3
ἔοικα	4	4
ὥς τέ	0	1
	Adverbial Comparisons	
ἴσον, ἴσα	1	3
ὥς	7	12
	Longer Comparisons and Other	
	3	0
Totals	77	48

Appendix VIII-A Divine Comparisons in the *Iliad*

Adjectives:

ἀντίθεος (god-like)	<u>30 times</u>
Polyphemus	1:264*
Mygdon	3:186*
Pandarus	4:88*, 5:168*
Polyneices	4:377*
Sarpedon	5:639*, 5:663*, 5:692*, 6:199*, 12:307*, 16:649*
Teuthras	5:705*
Lycophontes	8:275*
Ajax	9:623*, 10:112*
Odysseus	11:140*
Molion	11:322*
Lycians	12:408*, 16:421*
Polyphetes	13:791*
Rhadamanthys	14:322*
Thrasymedes	16:321*
Automedon	16:865*
Ganymedes	20:232*
Polydorus	20:407*, 21:91*
Agenor	21:595*
Phoenix	23:360*
Leonteus	23:837*
Mestor	24:257*
ἀρηϊθῶν αἰζηῶν (of youths swift as Ares)	<u>3 times</u>
youths	8:298*, 15:315*, 20:167*
ἀρηϊφίλος (dear to Ares)	<u>25 times</u>
Achilles	2:778*
Menelaus	3:21*, 3:32*, 3:69*, 3:90*, 3:136*, 3:206*, 3:232*, 3:253*, 3:307*, 3:430*, 3:432*, 3:452*, 3:457*, 4:13*, 4:150*, 5:561*, 17:1*, 17:11*, 17:138*, 6:73*, 16:303*, 17:319*, 17:336*
Achaeans	6:73*, 16:303*, 17:319*, 17:336*
Lycomedes	17:346*
διογενής (Zeus-born)	<u>22 times</u>
Patroclus	1:337*, 11:823*, 16:49*, 16:126*, 16:707*
Achilles	1:489*, 21:17*
Odysseus	2:473*, 4:358*, 8:93*, 9:308*, 9:624*, 10:144*, 10:340*
Ajax	4:489*, 7:234*, 7:249*, 11:465*, 23:723*

Agamemnon	9:106*
Eurypylus	11:810*
Menelaus	23:294*

διοτρεφής (Zeus fostered)	<u>34 times</u>
kings	1:176*, 2:98*, 2:196*, 2:445*, 14:28*
vigorous men	2:660*, 4:280*
Troezenus	2:847*
Peteos	4:338*, 12:355*
sons of Priam	5:463*
Priam	5:464*, 24:803*
Menelaus	7:109*, 10:43*, 17:12*, 17:34*, 17:238*, 17:652*, 17:679*, 17:702*, 23:594*
Achilles	9:229*, 21:75*, 24:553*, 24:635*
Phoenix	9:607*
Nestor	11:648*, 11:653*
Eurypylus	11:819*
Aesyetes	13:427*
Antilochus	17:685*, 23:581*
Scamander	21:223*

θεῖος (god-like)	<u>24 times</u>
dream	2:22*, 2:56*
voice	2:41*
Odysseus	2:335*, 9:218*, 10:243*, 11:806*
Talthybius	4:192*
race	6:180*
assembly	7:298*, 18:376*
Eumedes	10:315*
Ilus	10:415*
Oelius	13:694*, 15:333*
Thoas	14:230*
Heracles	15:25*, 20:145*
wearer of Achilles' helmet	16:798
Achilles	17:199*, 19:279*, 19:297*
Mynes	19:296*
Priam	21:526*

θεοειδής (god-like)	<u>27 times</u>
Polyxeinus	2:623*
Ascanius	2:862*
Paris/Alexander	3:16*, 3:27*, 3:30*, 3:37*, 3:58*, 3:450*, 6:290*, 6:332*, 6:517*, 11:581*, 13:774*, 24:763*
Deiphobus	12:94*

Aretus	17:494*
Chromius	17:534*
Neoptolemus	19:327*
Priam	24:217*, 24:299*, 24:372*, 24:386*, 24:405*, 24:483*, 24:552*, 24:634*, 24:659*

ἰσόθεος φῶς (god-like man)	<u>12 times</u>
Euryalus	2:565*, 23:677*
Priam	3:310*
Machaon	4:212*
Ereuthalion	7:136*
Patroclus	9:211*, 11:644*
Socus	11:428*
Ajax	11:472*
Melanippus	15:559*
Meriones	16:632*
Menelaus	23:569*

Attributive Phrases and Comparisons:

ἰσάμενος (equal) 24 times

... Διὶ μῆτιν ἰσάμενον (peer to Zeus in counsel)

Odysseus	2:169*, 2:447*, 2:636*, 10:137*
Hector	7:47*, 11:200*

ἰσάμενος Ἄρηϊ, ἰσάμενος Ἐνυαλίῳ (peer of Ares)

Meges	2:627*, 15:302*
Meriones	2:651*, 7:146*, 8:264*, 13:295*, 13:328*, 13:528*, 17:259*
Pylaemenes	5:576*
Hector	8:215*, 17:72*
Aeneas and Idomeneus	13:500*
Automedon	17:536*
Patroclus	16:784*

θεόφιν μῆστῳ ἰσάμενος (peer of the gods in counsel)

Priam	7:367*
Peirithous	14:318*
Patroclus	17:477*

εἴκελος (like) 1 time

φλογὶ εἴκελος Ἡφαίστοιο (like the flame of Hephaestus)

Bronze of Hector's helmet 17:88

εἰκός (like) 3 times

ἐἴκυῖα θεῆσι (like the goddesses)

Castianeira 8:305*

Nestor's serving woman 11:638*

Briseis 19:286*

ἐναλίγκιος (like) 1 time

θεῶ ἐναλίγκιος αὐδῆν (like a god in his voice)

Talthybius 19:250*

ἐπιείκελος (like) 8 times

ἐπιείκελος ἀθανάτοισιν (like the immortals)

Theseus 1:265*

Maeon 4:394*

Sons of Antenor 11:60*

θεοῖς ἐπιείκελ' (like the gods)

Achilles 9:485*, 9:494*, 22:279*, 22:280*, 22:485*

ἵκελος (like) 3 times

ὄμματα καὶ κεφαλὴν ἵκελος Διὶ τερπικεραύνῳ, Ἄρει δὲ ζώνην, στέρνον δὲ Ποσειδάωνι. (like Zeus in eyes and head, Ares in waist, and Poseidon in chest)

Agamemnon 2:478

ικέλη χρυσῆ Ἄφροδίτῃ (like golden Aphrodite)

Briseis 19:282*

Cassandra 24:699*

ἴσος (equal to) 17 times

δαίμονι ἴσος (equal to a god)

Diomedes 5:438, 5:469*, 5:884*

Sarpedon 16:705*

Patroclus 16:786*

Achilles 20:447*, 20:493*, 21:18*, 21:227*

θεοῖσιν / ἴσ' ἔθελε φρονέειν (like in spirit to the gods)

Diomedes 5:440*

ἴσος Ἄρηϊ, ἴσος Ἐνυαλίῳ (equal to Ares)	
Hector	11:295, 13:802
Patroclus	11:604
Leonteus	12:130
Achilles	20:46, 22:132*

μέμονεν δ' ὅ γε ἴσα θεοῖσι (he is minded [to vie] equally with the gods)	
Achilles	21:398*

ὁμοῖος (like)	<u>1 time</u>
Euphorbus' hair	17:51

ὡς (like, as)	<u>3 times</u>
---------------	----------------

θεὸς ὡς (as a god)	
Idomeneus	3:230

ὡς ὅτ' Ἄρης (as Ares)	
Hector	15:605*

ὡς τ' ἠλέκτωρ Ὑπερίων	
Achilles	19:398

No prothesis

Γοργοῦς ὄμματ' ἔχων ἠδὲ βροτολοιγοῦ Ἄρης (having the eyes of Gorgon and Ares, bane of mortals)	
Hector	8:349*

Predicate Comparisons:

ἔοικα	<u>4 times</u>
-------	----------------

ἀθανάτησι θεῆς εἰς ὧπα ἔοικεν (she seemed like the goddesses to look on)	
Helen	3:158*

ἔοικεν / ἀθανάτοισι θεοῖσιν	
Rhesus' armor	10:440*

θεοῖσι γὰρ ἅντα ἔώκει	
Achilles	23:630*

ἐώκει / ἀνδρός γε θνητοῦ παῖς ἔμμεναι ἀλλὰ θεοῖο (he seemed to be the child not of a mortal but of a god)

Hector 24:778*

Adverbial Comparisons:

ἴσον (equally to) 1 times
ἴσον ... θεῶ τίσουσιν (honor ... equally to a god)
Achilles 9:603*

ὡς 7 times

θεὸς δ' ὡς τίετο δῆμῳ (honored by [his] people as a god)

Dolopion 5:78*
Agamemnon 10:33*
Aeneas 11:58*
Thoas 13:218*
Laogonus 16:605*

θεῶ ὡς εὐχετόωντο (pray to as to a god)

Hector 22:394*

θεὸν ὡς / δειδέχατ' (greeted as a god)

Achilles 22:434*

Scene Similes:

7:208 σεύατ' ἔπειθ' οἶός τε πελώριος ἔρχεται Ἄρης,
ὅς τ' εἴσιν πόλεμον δὲ μετ' ἀνέρας οὐς τε Κρονίων
θυμοβόρου ἔριδος μένει ξυνέηκε μάχεσθαι. 210
τοῖος ἄρ' Αἴας ὦρτο πελώριος ἔρκος Ἀχαιῶν
μειδιῶν βλοσυροῖσι προσώπασι.

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

[huge Ajax ≈ huge Ares] Narrator

Lee counts this as a simile

13:298 οἶος δὲ βροτολοιγὸς Ἄρης πόλεμον δὲ μέτεισι,
τῷ δὲ Φόβος φίλος υἱὸς ἅμα κρατερός καὶ ἀταρβῆς
ἔσπετο, ὅς τ' ἐφόβησε ταλάφρονά περ πολεμιστήν: 300

τὸ μὲν ἄρ' ἐκ Θρήκης Ἐφύρους μέτα θωρήσεσθον,
ἤε μετὰ Φλεγύας μεγαλήτορας: οὐδ' ἄρα τῶ γε
ἔκλυον ἀμφοτέρων, ἑτέροισι δὲ κῦδος ἔδωκαν:
τοῖοι Μηριόνης τε καὶ Ἴδομενεὺς ἀγοὶ ἀνδρῶν
ἦῖσαν ἐς πόλεμον κεκορυθμένοι αἴθοπι χαλκῶ.

305

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 Ephyri / or the great-hearted Phlegyes, yet they / do not listen to both sides, but give glory to one or the other; / **as such men did Meriones and Idomeneus**, leaders of men, **go out into the fight**, helmeted in flaming bronze.

[Meriones and Idomeneus go forth to war ≈ Ares and Rout] Narrator

Lee counts this as a simile.

Other:

ἄλλοι δ' ἀμφ' ἄλλησι μάχην ἐμάχοντο πύλησιν:
Il 12:176* ἀργαλέον δέ με ταῦτα θεὸν ὥς πάντ' ἀγορεύσαι:
πάντη γὰρ περὶ τεῖχος ὀρώρει θεσπιδαῆς πῦρ
λαῖνον.

175

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 epithet' (175–178) to refer to the Narrator speaking *in the first person*.

Appendix VIII-B Divine Comparisons in the *Odyssey*

Adjective:

ἀντίθεος (god-like)	<u>32 times</u>
Odysseus	1:21*, 2:17*, 4:741*, 6:331*, 13:126*, 14:40*, 15:90*, 19:456*, 20:369*, 21:254*, 22:291*
Polyphemus	1:70*
Thrasymedes	3:414*
Odysseus' companions	4:571*, 11:371*, 14:247*, 14:385*, 19:216*, 24:300*
Phaeacians	6:241*
Rhexenor	7:146*
Clytoneus	8:119*
Menelaus	8:518*, 14:116*
Odysseus' wife	11:117*, 13:378*
Otus	11:308*
Nestor	11:512*
Suitors	14:18*
Arcesius	14:182*
Neleus	15:237*
Telemachus' companions	17:54*
ἀρηίφιλος (dear to Ares)	<u>1 time</u>
Menelaus	15:169*
διογενής (Zeus-born)	<u>22 times</u>
Odysseus	2:352*, 2:366*, 5:203*, 5:387*, 8:3*, 10:401*, 10:443*, 10:488*, 10:504*, 11:60*, 11:92*, 11:405*, 11:473*, 11:617*, 13:375*, 14:486*, 15:485*, 16:167*, 18:312*, 22:164*, 23:306*, 24:542*
διοτρεφής (Zeus fostered)	<u>22 times</u>
kings	3:480*, 4:63*, 7:49*
Menelaus	4:26*, 4:44*, 4:138*, 4:157*, 4:235*, 4:291*, 4:316*, 4:391*, 4:561*, 15:64*, 15:87*, 15:155*, 15:167*
Phaeacians	5:378*
Odysseus	10:266*, 10:419*
Peisistratus	15:199*
Agelaus	22:136*
Agamemnon	24:122*

θεῖος (god-like)	<u>47 times</u>
Odysseus	1:65*, 2:233*, 2:259*, 2:394*, 3:398*, 4:682*, 4:799*, 5:11*, 5:198*, 15:63*, 15:313*, 15:347*, 15:554*, 16:58*, 16:335*, 17:3*, 17:230*, 17:402*, 18:417*, 20:248*, 20:283*, 20:298*, 20:325*, 21:74*, 21:189*, 21:244*, 21:432*, 24:151*
Phemius	1:336*
Menelaus' singer	4:17*
Palace	4:43*
Proteus	4:395*
Menelaus	4:621*
Kings	4:691*
Demodocus	8:43*, 8:47*, 8:87*, 8:549*, 13:27*
Drink	9:205*
Enipeus	11:238*
Dream	14:495*
Singer of Ithaca	16:257*, 17:359*, 23:133*, 23:143*, 24:439*

θεοειδής (god-like)	<u>17 times</u>
Telemachus	1:113*, 3:343*, 14:173*, 16:20*, 17:328*, 17:391*
Eurymachus	4:628*, 21:186*
Nausithous	6:7*
Alcinous	7:231*
Eurylochus	10:205*
Theoclymenus	15:271*, 15:508*, 17:152*, 20:350*, 20:363*
Antinous	21:277*

θεοείκελος (god-like)	
Telemachus	3:416*
Deiphobus	4:276*

ἰσόθεος φώς (god-like man)	<u>2 times</u>
Telemachus	1:324*, 20:124*
Antinous	8:256*

Attributive Phrases and Comparisons:

ἄτάλαντος (equal)	<u>2 times</u>
--------------------------	----------------

θεόφιν μήστρω ἄτάλαντος (peer of the gods in counsel)	
Patroclus	3:110*
Neleus	3:409*

εἰκός (like)	<u>2 times</u>
Ἀρτέμιδι χρυσηλακάτῳ εἰκυῖα (like Artemis of the golded arrows)	
Helen	4:122
εἰκυῖα θεῆσι (resembling the goddesses)	
Nausicaa	7:291
ἐναλίγκιος (like)	<u>5 times</u>
θεῶ ἐναλίγκιος ἄντην	
Telemachus	2:5
Menelaus	4:310*
ἀθανάτοις ἐναλίγκιοι (resembling the immortals)	
Nausicaa's brothers	7:5
Laertes	24:371*
θεοῖς ἐναλίγκια μήδε' ἔχοντα (having counsel like to the gods)	
Odysseus	13:89*
ἐπιείκελος (like)	<u>4 times</u>
ἐπιείκελος ἀθανάτοισιν (like to the immortals)	
Ctesius	15:414*
Iphitus	21:14*, 21:37*
θεοῖς ἐπιείκελ' (like to the gods)	
Achilles	24:36*
ἥύτε (like as)	<u>1 time</u>
ἥύτ' Ἄρηα (like Ares)	
Odysseus	8:518
ἴκελος (like)	<u>2 times</u>
Ἀρτέμιδι ἰκέλη ἢ χρυσῆ Ἀφροδίτῃ (like Artemis or golden Aphrodite)	
Penelope	17:37, 19:54*
ἴσος (equal to)	<u>1 times</u>
ἴσος Ἄρηϊ (like Ares)	
Euryalus	8:115

οἶος (such as) 1 time
οἶα θεάων (such as [the handiwork] of the goddesses
Circe's web 10:222*

ὁμοῖος (like) 4 times
ἀθανάτοισιν ὁμοῖος (like the immortals)
Telemachus 3:468
Nausicaa 6:16
Odysseus 8:14*, 23:163*

ὥς (like, as) 1 times

ἀθάνατος ὥς
Alcinous 6:309

Predicate Comparisons:

ἀλίγκιος (like) 1 time

ἀλίγκιος ἀθανάτοισιν (like to the immortals)
Someone else 8:174*

εἴσκω (liken) 2 times

Ἄρτέμιδι ... / ... εἴσκω (liken to Artemis)
Nausicaa 6:152*

ἀθανάτοισιν εἴσκεις (liken to the immortals)
Odysseus 16:187*

ἐναλίγκιος (like) 3 times

θεοῖς ἐναλίγκιος (like to the gods)
Singer 1:371*
Demodocus 9:4*
Odysseus 19:267*

ἔοικα (seem) 3 times

γενεῆ δὲ Διὸς ... ἔικτον (like to the race of Zeus)
Telemachus and Peisistratus 4:27*

θεοῖσιν ἔοικε (is like the gods)
Odysseus 6:243*

ἀθανάτοισιν ἔοικα (I am [not] like the immortals)
Odysseus 7:209*

θεοῖσιν ἔοικας (seem like the gods)
Odysseus 16:200*

ὥς τέ (like, as) 1 time

ὥς τέ ... ἀθάνατος (like an immortal)
Nestor 3:246*

Adverbial Comparisons:

ἴσα (equal to) 3 times

τιμὴν δὲ λελόγγασιν ἴσα θεοῖσι (they have won honor like that of the gods)
Castor and Polydeuces 11:304*

ἐτίομεν ἴσα θεοῖσιν (we honor [you] like the gods)
Achilles 11:484*

τὸν νῦν ἴσα θεῷ Ἴθακήσιοι εἰσορόωσι (the Ithacans look on him as equal to a god)
Eurymachus 15:520

ὥς 12 times

θεοῦ ὥς τερπόμεθ' (take delight in as a god's)
Menelaus 4:160

θεὸν ὥς τιμήσουσιν (honor as a god)
Odysseus 5:36*, 19:280*, 23:339*

θεῷ ὥς δῆμος ἄκουεν (the district obeyed [him] as though a god)
Alcinous 7:11*

θεὸν ὥς εἰσορόωντες (look on as a god)
Arete 7:71*

οἱ κομιδὴ γε θεῷ ὥς ἔμπεδος ἦεν (there had been care for him as for a god)
Odysseus 8:453*

θεῶ ὡς εὐχετοφώμην (pray [to you] as to a god)

Nausicaa 8:467*

Athena in disguise 13:231

Helen 15:181*

θεὸς ὡς τίετο δῆμῳ (was honored as a god among the people)

Castor 14:205*

παραεἶδειν / ὡς τε θεῶ (sing to as to a god)

Odysseus 22:349