Similes of the *Iliad* Book 1 (A)

**SUMMARY**

**Short Clauses and Phrases:**

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

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**SIMILES**

ἔκλαγξαν δ’ ἄρ’ ὀ difficulté ἐπ’ ὤμων χωμένοιο,

1 (47) αὐτοῦ κινηθέντος: ὃ δ’ ἥιε νυκτὶ ἔοικός.

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

[Apollo ≈ night] Narrator

Cf. *Odyssey* Bk 11 #8 (606) ὅ δ’ ἑρεμνή νυκτὶ ἔοικός

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ἤτοι δ’ γ’ ὄψιν κατ’ ἄρ’ ἔζετο: τοῖς δ’ ἄνεσσῃ

ηρως Ἀτρείδης εὐρύ κρεῖων Ἀγαμήμων

ἀχνύμενος: μένες δὲ μέγα φρένες ἀμφιμέλαιναι

2 (104) πίμπλαντ’, ὅσσος δὲ οἱ πυρὶ λαμπτόντων ἐίκτην.

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

[Agamemnon’s eyes ≈ blazing fire] Narrator

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

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3* (249) τοῦ καὶ ἀπὸ γλώσσης μέλιτος γλυκίων ρέεν αὐθή

From whose tongue flowed speech sweeter than honey

[Nestor’s voice ≈ honey] Narrator about Nestor

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4 (359) καρπαλίμως δ’ ἀνέδυ πολιῆς ἄλος ἦῡτ’ ὀμίχλη.

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

[Thetis ≈ mist] Narrator

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
For brief comments about these similes see D. Feeney 2014.

Similes of the *Iliad* Book 2 (B)

SUMMARY

Scenes:

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

Short Clauses and Phrases:

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

…ἐπεσσεύοντο δὲ λαοῖ.

1 (87) ἦντε ἔθνεα εἰσὶ μελισσάων ἀδινάων
πέτρης ἐκ γιλαφορῆς αἰεὶ νέον ἐρχομενάων,
βοτρυῖον δὲ πέτονται ἐπ' ἄνθεσιν εἰαρινοίσιν:
αἱ μὲν τῇ ἔνθα ἄλις πεποτήσαται, αἱ δὲ τῇ ἔνθα:

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
But the armies rushed forward, / just like thick tribes of bees / that come from some hollow rock ever anew / and fly in clusters over the spring flowers, / some darting en masse here, others there; / even so did their many tribes march in line from ships and huts / in squads before the broad shore / to the assembly. 
[tribes of Argives ≈ tribes of bees] Narrator


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2 (144) κινήθη δ᾽ ἄγορῇ φῆ κύματα μακρὰ θαλάσσης πόντου Ἰκαρίωι, τὰ μέν τ᾽ Εὐρός τε Νότος τε ἦρσου ἐπαίξας πατρὸς Διὸς ἐκ νεφελάων.

The assembly was stirred like the long waves of the sea, the Icarian sea, when east wind and south wind arise darting down from Father Zeus’ clouds. 
[aroused assembly ≈ long waves lashed by winds] Narrator

NB φῆ = ως

***

3 (147) ως δ᾽ ὀτε κινήσῃ Ζέφυρος βαθὺ λήϊον ἐλθών λάβρος ἔπαιγζων, ἐπὶ τ’ ἡμὺει ἀσταχύεσσιν, ως τῶν πάον ἄγορῃ κινήθῃ: τοί δ᾽ ἄλαλητῷ νήσι ἐπὶ ἐσσεύοντο, ποδῶν δ᾽ ύπένερθε κονίῃ ἱστατ᾽ ἀειρομένη:

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

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4 (190) ‘δαιμόνι’ οὖ σε ἐοίκε κακὸν ως δειδίσσεσθαί. 190

‘Dear sir, it is not right to threaten you as if you were a coward.’
[an Achaean leader NOT ≈ coward] Odysseus

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ως δ᾽ ὑε κοιρανέων δίπεπ στρατόν: οἰ δ᾽ ἄγορην δὲ αὐτὶς ἐπεσσεύοντο νεῶν ἀπὸ καὶ κλισιάων

5 (209) ἡχὴ, ὡς ὀτε κύμα πολυφλοίσβοιο θαλάσσης αἰγίαλῳ μεγάλῳ βρέμεται, σμαραγεῖ δὲ τε πόντος. 210

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

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
6 (289) ὡς τε γὰρ ἢ παιδες νεαροι χήραι τε γυναικες ἀλλῆλοισιν ὄδυρονται οἴκον δὲ νέεσθαι. 290

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

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

7* (326) ὡς οὐτος κατὰ τέκνα φάγε στρουθοδι καὶ αὐτὴν ὅκτω, ἀτάρ μήτηρ ἐνάτῃ ἢν ἢ τέκε τέκνα, ὡς ἡμείς τοσσαυτ ἐτεα πολεμίζουμεν αὐθι, τῷ δεκάτῳ δὲ πόλιν αἱρήσομεν εὐρύγυιαν. 325

‘To us Zeus the counsellor has showed this great sign, / late in coming, late in fulfillment, whose fame shall never perish. / Just as this <serpent> devoured the sparrow's little ones and [the mother] herself, / eight, and the mother that bore the children was the ninth, / so shall we make war here for so many years, / but in the tenth we take the broad-wayed city.’
[we will take Troy after 9 years = serpent devoured 9 sparrows] Calchas

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

8* (337) ὣ πόποι ἢ δὴ παισίν ἐοικότες ἀγοράσοθε νηπίαχοις οἷς οὔ τι μέλει πολεμῆια ἔργα.’

‘Enough! You are holding assembly like little boys / that care not for deeds of war.’
[Argives ≈ little boys] Nestor to the Argives

9 (394) ὡς ἐφατ’, Ἀργείοι δὲ μέγ’ ἰαχον ὡς ὅτε κύμα ἀκτῆ ἑφ’ ὑψηλῆ, ὅτε κινήση Νότος ἐλθὼν, προβάλλει σκοπέλω: τὸν δ’ οὔ ποτε κύματα λείπει παντοίων ἀνέμων, ὅτ’ ἄν ἐνθ’ ἢ ἐνθα γέννωται. 395

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
So [Agamemnon] spoke, and the Argives shouted loudly as when a wave / [crashes] against a high headland, when the south wind comes and stirs / it against a jutting crag that is never left by the waves / of all the winds that come from this side or from that. [shouting Argives ≈ crashing wave] Narrator

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

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

See Muellner 1990:62.

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

See Muellner 1990:62.

Cf. Odyssey Bk 9 #1* (51) ἡλθον ἐπειθ' ὧσα φύλλα καὶ ἀνθέα γίγνεται ὥρη

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
Even as numerous dense tribes of flies / that swarm to and fro throughout the sheep fold / in the season of spring, when the milk splashes in the pails, / even in such numbers stood the long-haired Achaeans / upon the plain against the Trojans, eager to destroy them.

[numerous Achaeans ≈ numerous tribes of flies] Narrator

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

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

[Achaean leaders ≈ goatherds] Narrator

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

[Agamemnon to warriors ≈ bull to cattle] Narrator

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

[Titaressus river ≈ olive oil] Narrator

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
Of horses best by far were the mares of the son of Pheres, / those that Eumelas drove, swift as birds, with like hair, of the same age, equal in height to a hair.

[Narrator]

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18 (780)  
οἱ δ’ ἄρ’ ἵσαν ὡς εἴ τε πυρὶ χθὼν πᾶσα νέμοιτο.

So they <Achaean army> marched then as if all the land were swept with fire.  
[marching Achaean army ≈ fire] Narrator

***

19 (781)  
γαία δ’ ὑπεστενάξει Διὶ ὡς τερπικεραύνῳ 
χωμένῳ ὁτε τ’ ἁμφὶ Τυφωέι γαϊαν ἰμάσῃ 
eἰν Ἀρίμοιοι, ὅθι φασὶ Τυφώος ἔμμεναι εὐνάς:

ὡς ἀρα τῶν ὑπὸ ποσσὶ μέγα στεναξίζετο γαία
ἐρχομένων.

And the earth groaned beneath them, as beneath Zeus who delights in the thunderbolt / in his wrath, when he lashes the earth about Typhoeus / in the country of the Arimi, where men say is the couch of Typhoeus. / Even so the earth groaned greatly beneath their feet as they went.  
[earth groaning under the feet of the army ≈ earth groaning under Zeus’ lashing] Narrator


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20 (800)  
ἀλλ’ οὖ πι τοιόντες τοσόνδε τε λαὸν ὅπωπα:
লিন গার ফিল্লওয়ান এইকোর্টেস হ’ পেসাভোইসিন
ἐρχονται πεδίοιο μαχησόμενοι προτὶ ἄστυ.

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

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

***

21 (872)  
tῶν μὲν ἄρ’ Ἀμφιμαχοῦ καὶ Νάστης ἡγησάσθην,
Νάστης Ἀμφιμαχός τε Νομίνος ἀγλαὰ τέκνα,

δ’ καὶ χρυσὸν ἔχων πόλεμον δ’ ἓν ἥντε κοῦρη 
νήπιος, οὐδὲ τι οἶ τό γ’ ἐπήρκεσε λυγρὸν ὀλέθρον,

ἀλλ’ ἐδάμη ὑπὸ χερσὶ ποδῶκεος Αἰακίδαο 
ἐν ποταμῷ, χρυσὸν δ’ Ἀχιλεὺς ἐκόμισε δαίφρων.

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

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
but his gold in no way prevented bitter destruction. / He was slain beneath the hands of the swift-footed son of Aeacus / in the river; and fiery-hearted Achilles took the gold.  
[Nastes decked in gold ornaments ≈ a girl] Narrator  

* * *  

Similar Rhetorical Figures  

Transformations and Disguises:  

The dream as Nestor:  

20* στῇ δ’ ἀρ’ ύπερ κεφαλῆς Νηληήω μῃ ἐοικὼς  
Νέστορι, τὸν ῥὰ μάλιστα γερόντων τ’ Ἀγαμέμνων:  
τῷ μιν ἐεισάμενος προσεφώνεε θεῖος ὅνειρος  

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

***  

57* μάλιστα δὲ Νέστορι δίῳ  
εἴδος τε μέγεθός τε φυήν τ’ ἀγχιστα ἐφκει:  

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

***  

Athena as a herald:  

παρὰ δὲ γλαυκώπις Ἀθήνη  

280* ´εἰδομένη κήρυκι σιωπάν λαόν ἀνώγει  

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

***  

Iris as Polites:  

ἀγχοῦ δ’ ἵσταμεν προσ椁 perfection πόδας ὴκα Ὄιρις:  

790  
eίσατο δὲ φθογγὴν υἱ нашем Πρίαμῳ Πολίτη.  

δς Τρῶων σκοπός ἵζε πολυκείμον πεποίθως  
tύμβῳ ἐπ’ ἀκροτάτῳ Αἰσιόμητα γέροντος,  
dὲγμένος ὀπόπτε ναύφιν ἀφορμῆθειεν Ἀχαιοῖ:  

795  
tῷ μιν ἐεισάμενη προσέφωνε πόδας ὴκα Ὄιρις:  

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

[Iris ≈ Polites (in voice)]  

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* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
Divine Comparisons:

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

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

Lee counts this as a simile.

* * *

Similes of the Iliad Book 3 (Γ)

SUMMARY

Scenes:

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

Short Clauses and Phrases:

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

***

αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ κόσμηθεν ἄμι ἤγεμόνεσσιν ἐκαστοι, 1 (2)
Τρῶες μὲν κλαγγῇ τ᾽ ἐνοπῇ τ᾽ ἵσαν ὀρνιθες ὡς

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
But when they each were arrayed with their commanders, the Trojans with a shriek and a battle cry advanced like birds / just as the shriek of cranes goes forth to heaven / when they flee winter and indescribable rain / and fly with a shriek over the streams of Ocean / bringing slaughter and death on Pygmy men; high in the air they bring evil strife.

#1 (2) [shrieking Trojans = birds]
#2 (3) [shrieking Trojans = shrieking cranes] Narrator

See Muellner 1990 passim.

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3 (10) εὔτ᾽ ὀρεσὺς κορυφῆσι Νότος κατέχευεν ὁμίχλην
4* (11) ποιμέσιν οὐ τί φιλήν, κλέπτῃ δὲ τε νυκτὸς ἀμείνω,
5* (12) τόσσόν τίς τ᾿ ἐπιλεύσοις ὅσον τ᾿ ἐπὶ λάζων ἰησιν:
       ώς ἀρα τῶν ὑπὸ ποσσὶ κονίσαλος ὄρνυτ᾽ ἀελλῆς ἔρχομένων: μάλα δ᾽ ὡκα διέπτρησσον πεδίοιο.

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

#3 (10) [dense dust ≈ fog]
#4* (11) [fog ≈ night]
#5* (12) [visibility distance ≈ stone’s throw distance] Narrator

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

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τὸν δ᾽ ώς οὖν ἐνόησεν ἀρηίφιλος Μενέλαος ἔρχομενον προπάροιθεν ὁμίλου μακρὰ βιβάντα,
6 (23) ώς τε λέων ἐχάρη μεγάλῳ ἐπὶ σῶματι κύρσας εὐρών ἡ ἐλαφον κεραν ἡ ἄγριοι αἴγα πεινάων: μάλα γάρ τε κατεσθίει, εἰ περ ἂν αὐτὸν σεύωντα ταχέως τε κύνες θαλεροὶ τ᾿ αἰζησίοι: ώς ἐχάρη Μενέλαος Ἀλέξανδρον θεοεἰδέα ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἰδών: φάτο γάρ τίσεσθαι ἀλείτην:

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

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
energetic youths might set upon him, / even thus was Menelaus glad when his eyes caught sight of god-like Alexander, / for he thought that now he would be revenged on a sinner.
[Menelaus to Paris ≈ lion to stag or goat] Narrator


***
7 (33) \( \omega \delta \, \delta \, \delta \) τις τε δράκοντα ἴδὼν παλίνορσος ἀπέστη οὐρέος ἐν βήσησι, ὑπὸ τε τρόμοις ἐλλαβε γυία, ἄψ δ' ἀνεχώρησεν, ἤχρος τέ μιν εἶλε παρειάς, ἢς αὐτὶς καθ' ὁμιλον ἐδο Τρώων ἀγερώχων δείσας Ατρέος υἱὸν Ἀλέξανδρος θεοειδής.

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


***
8 (60) αἰεὶ τοι κραδίν πέλεκυς ὡς ἔστιν ἀτειρίς ὃς τ' εἶσιν διὰ δουρός ὑπ' ἀνέρος ὃς ρά τε τέχνη νήιον ἐκτάμνησιν, ὁφέλλει δ' ἀνδρός ἔρωθ: ὡς σοι ἑνὶ στηθεσιν ἀτάρβητος νόος ἔστι:

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

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

***
9 (151) γῆρα ὅ τι πολέμου πεπαυμένοι, ἀλλ' ἀγορηται ἐσβλοί, τεττίγεσιν ἐοικότες οἳ τε καθ' ὑλην δενδρέω ἐφεζόμενοι ὅπα λειρίδεσαν ἰείοι: τοῖοι ἂρα Τρώων ἡγήτορες ἤγντ' ἐπὶ πύργῳ.

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

See W. B. Stanford 1969.

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
But he <Odysseus> goes himself around like the lead ram through the ranks of men.  
/ I compare him to a ram, a ram of thick fleece, that goes through a great flock of white ewes.’

#10 (196) [Odysseus ≈ lead ram]
#11 (197) [Odysseus > men ≈ ram > ewes]  

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

#12* (219) [Odysseus ≈ an ignorant man]
#13 (222) [Odysseus’ words ≈ snow-flakes]  

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

[Menelaus ≈ wild animal]  

[Paris/Alexander] was hated by all equal to black death.  
[Paris/Alexander ≈ black death]
Similar Rhetorical Figures

Transformations and Disguises:

Iris \approx\ Laodice:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Ἴρις} & \ddote\text{ αὐθ᾽} \\
\text{Ἑλένη} & \text{ λευκωλένῳ ἅγγελος ἦλθεν} \\
\text{εἰδομένη} & \text{ γαλῶ Ἀντηνορίδα} \\
\text{δάμαρτι} & \text{ τὴν Ἀντηνορίδης εἰς} \\
\text{κρείων Ἐλικάων} & \text{ Λαοδίκην Πριάμοιο} \\
\text{θυγατρῶν} & \text{ εἶδος ἀρίστην}.
\end{align*}
\]

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

Aphrodite \approx an old woman:

\[
\begin{align*}
\gammaρη & \ddot{δ} \text{ μιν ἕκυπνοι παλαιγενέ} \\
\text{προσέειπεν} & \text{ εἰροκόμῳ, ἢ} \\
\text{οἱ Λακεδαίμονι} & \text{ ναιετοῦσ} \\
\text{ήσκειν} & \text{ εἰρία καλά,} \\
\text{μάλιστα} & \text{ δὲ} \\
\text{μιν} & \text{ φιλέςσε:} \\
\text{τὴ} & \text{ μιν ἔεισαμένη} \\
\text{προσεφώνεε} & \text{ δ᾽ Ἀφροδίτη:}
\end{align*}
\]

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

***

Divine Comparisons:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{ἀἰνῶς} & \text{ ἀθανάτησι θεῆς} \\
\text{εἰς} & \text{ ὦπα ἔσοικεν:}
\end{align*}
\]

‘She is dreadfully like immortal goddesses in the face.’
[Helen \approx goddesses] Trojan elders speaking about Helen

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{Ἰδομενεύς} & \ddote\text{ ἐτέρωθεν ἐνὶ} \\
\text{Κρήτεσσι} & \text{ θεός ὡς} \\
\text{ἔστηκ}, & \text{ ἀμφὶ} \ddot{δ} \text{ μιν} \\
\text{Κρητῶν} & \text{ ἁγοὶ ἦγερθονται.}
\end{align*}
\]

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

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

* * *

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

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

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

http://bmcr.brynmawr.edu/2004/2004-12-02.html#t3

* * *

**Similes of the Iliad Book 4 (Δ)**

**SUMMARY**

**Scenes:**

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

**Short Clauses and Phrases:**

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

* * *

1 (75) οἶδον δ’ ἀστέρα ἣκε Κρόνου παῖς ἄγκυλομήτεων ἢ ναύτησι τέρας ἢ εὐρεῖ ὀρφεύων λαμπρόν: τοῦ δὲ τε πολλοί ἀπὸ σπινθῆρες ἑνταί: τῷ ἐίκεν ἡμὲν ἐπὶ χθόνα Παλλάς Ἀθηνῆ,*

καὶ δ’ ἔθορ ἐς μέσον: θάμβος δ’ ἔχειν εἰσορόων τας Τρώας θ’ ἵπποδάμους καὶ ἐὐκνήμιδας Ἀχαιοὺς. 80

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
Just as the son of crooked-counselling Cronus sends a star / to be a portent either for seamen or for a wide army of warriors, / a gleaming star, and from it many sparks fly; / like this Pallas Athena darted to earth, / and down she leaped into their midst; and amazement came on those that saw, / both on horse-taming Trojans and well-greaved Achaeans.

[Athena = gleaming star] Narrator

***

2 (130) ἰ δὲ τόσον μὲν ἔργεν ἀπὸ χροὸς ώς ὅτε μήτηρ 130
παιδὸς ἔργη μοίαν δὴ ἱδεῖ λέξεται ὑπνῷ.

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

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

See Dué and Ebbott 2012:8–9.

***

3 (141) ώς δ᾽ ὅτε τίς τ᾽ ἑλέφαντα γυνὴ φοίνικι μήνη 145
Μηνιώς ἢ Κάειρα παρηγόν ἐμμεναι ἵππων:
κεῖται δ᾽ ἐν θαλάμῳ, πολέες τὲ μὲν ἠρήσαντο
ἵππης φορέειν: βασιλῆι δὲ κεῖται ἃγαλμα,
ἀμφότερον κόσμος θ᾽ ἵππω ἐλατηρί τε κύδος:
τοίοί τοι Μενέλαε μιάνθην αἴματι μηροὶ
εὐφυές κνῆμα τε ἑδὲ σφυρὰ κάλ᾽ ύπένερθε.

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

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

***

4 (243) τίφθ᾽ οὔτως ἐστητε τεθηπότες ἥπτε νεβροῖ,
αἲ τ᾽ ἐπεὶ οὖν ἐκακον πολέος πεδίοιο θεοῦσαι
ἐστασό, οὐδ᾽ ἄρα τίς οὐτα φρεσὶ γίγνεται ἄλκη: 245
ὡς ύμεῖς ἐστήτε τεθηπότες οὐδὲ μάχεσθε.

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

[Argives = fawns] Agamemnon

***

5 (253) Ἰδομενεῦς μὲν ἐνὶ προμάχῳς σὺ ἐἰκέλος ἄλκην.
Idomeneus [was] amid the foremost fighters like a wild boar in valor. 
[Idomeneus = wild boar] Narrator

***

6 (275) ὡς δ' ὅτ' ἀπὸ σκοπιῆς εἶδεν νέφος αἰπόλος ἀνήρ ἐρχόμενον κατὰ πόντον ὑπὸ Ζεφύρου ἰωής:

7* (277) τῷ δὲ τῷ ἀνευθεν ἑόντι μελάντερον ἕπτε πίσσα φαίνετ' ἵνα κατὰ πόντον, ἀγεὶ δὲ τῇ λαίλατα πολλήν, ὑγιησέν τε ἰδὼν, ὑπὸ τῇ σπέος ἥλασε μῆλα; τοῖς ἀμι' Αἴαντεσσι διοτρεφέων αἰζηῶν δὴν ἐς πόλεμον πυκναὶ κίνυντο φάλαγγες κυάνεαι, σάκεσιν τε καὶ ἔγχεσι πεφρικυῖαι.

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

#6 (275) [Achaean phalanxes = a cloud blacker than pitch] #7* (277) [a dark cloud = blacker than pitch] Narrator

***

8 (422) ὡς δ' ὅτ' ἐν αἰγιαλῷ πολυχεῖ κύμα θαλάσσης ὤρνυτ' ἐπασσύτερον Ζεφύρου ὑπὸ κινήσαντος: πόντῳ μὲν τῇ πρώτᾳ κορύσσοται, αὐτὰρ ἐπιτάχ τἄρχοι ῥηγησέν μεγάλα βρέμει, ἀμφὶ δὲ τῷ ἀκραὶς κυρτόν ἐνὸ κορυφοῦται, ἀποτύει δ' ἀλῶς ἄχνην: ὡς τῷ ἐπασσύτεραι Δαναῶν κίνυντο φάλαγγες νωμεμέως πόλεμον δὲ.

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

***

9 (433) Τρώες δ', ὡς τ' ὀικεὶς πολυπάμονος ἀνδρός ἐν αὐλῆ μυρία ἐστήκασιν ἀμελήγΜενει γάλα λευκόν ἀζηχές μεμαικυία ἀκόουσαὶ ὅπα ἄρνων, ἤς Τρώων ἀλαλητὸς ἀνὰ στρατὸν εὐρὺν ὅρῳρει: οὐ γὰρ πάντων ἣν ὀμός θρόδος σύδ' ἰα γῆρις, ἀλλὰ γλώσσα μέμικτο, πολύκλητοι δ' ἐσαν ἀνδρες.

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

[clamor of the Trojans ≈ bleating of ewes] Narrator

10 (452) ὃς δ᾽ ὁτε χημαρροι ποταμοι κατ᾽ ὄρεσφι ρέοντες ἐς μισάγκειαι συμβάλλετον ὄβριμον ὕδωρ κρουαλὼν ἐκ μεγάλων κοιλίς ἐντοσθὲ χαράδρης, τῶν δὲ τε τηλόσε δοῦτον ἐν οὐρεσιν ἐκλυε ποιμήν: 455 ὃς τῶν μισομένων γένετο ἰαχὴ τε πόνος τε. 11 (462) ἡρπε δ᾽ ὅς ὀτε πύργος ἐνι κρατερὴ υσμίνη.

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

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

12 (471) ἄργαλεόν Τρώων καὶ Ἓχαιῶν: οἴ δὲ λύκοι ὃς ἀλλήλοις ἐπώρουσαν, ἀνήρ δὲ ἄνδρ᾽ ἐδνοπάλιζαν. 13 (482) ἦλθεν: ὁ δ᾽ ἐν κονίησα χαμαί πέσεν αἰγευρος ὃς ἦ ρά τ᾽ ἐν εἰαμενή έλεος μεγάλοιο πεφύκει

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

[Trojans and Achaean ≈ wolves] Narrator

14 (480) πρώτον γάρ μιν ἴόντα βάλε στήθος παρὰ μαζὸν δεξίον: ἀντικρύ δὲ δι᾽ ὄμου χάλκεουν ἐγχος

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
λείη, ἀτάρ τε οἱ ὀξοὶ ἐπ’ ἀκροτάτη πεφύσι: 
τὴν μέν θ’ ἄρματοπηγὸς ἀνήρ αἰθωνι σιδήρῳ 
ἐξέταμ’ ἄφρα ἵτουν κάμψη περικαλλῆς δίφρως: 
ἡ μὲν τ’ ἀξομένῃ κεῖται ποταμοῖο παρ’ ὀχθας.

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

***

Similar Rhetorical Figure

Transformations and Disguise:

86* ἥ δ’ ἄνδρὶ ἱκέλῃ Τρώων κατεδύσεθ’ ὡμιλόν 
Λαοδόκῳ Ἀντηνορίδη κρατερῷ αἰχμήτῃ, 
Πάνδαρον ἀντίθεον διζημένη ἐξ οὗ ἔφευροι.

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

* * *

Similes of the Iliad Book 5 (E)

SUMMARY

Scenes:

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

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

#5 (299) [Aeneas ≈ lion]
#6 (476) [Hector’s sisters’ husbands and his brothers ≈ dogs around a lion]
#7 (487) [Hector and Trojans ≈ someone snared in flax]
#11 (560) [Diocles' twin sons, Crethon and Orsilochus ≈ fir-trees]
#14 (778) [Athena and Hera ≈ timorous doves]
#15 (782) [Argives around Diomedes ≈ carnivorous lions and wild boars]

* ***

Δαίδ οἱ ἐκ κόρυθός τε καὶ ἀστιδός ἀκάματον πῦρ ἀστέρ’ ὀπωρινόν ἐναλίγκιον, ὡς τε μάλιστα λαμπρόν παμφαίνησι λελουμένος ὑκεανοῖο:

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

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

***

2 (87) θύνε γὰρ ἃμ πεδίον ποταμῷ πλήθοντι ἐσικώς 
 χειμάρρῳ, ὡς τ’ ὕκα ρέων ἐκέδαςα γεφύρας:
 τὸν δ’ οὔτ’ ἄρ τ’ ἐγέρναι ἐργυρέμενα ἰσχανόωσιν,
 οὔτ’ ἄρα ἐρκεα ἰσχει ἀλώαν ἐριθηλέων ἐλθόντ’ ἐξαπίνης ὡς ἐπιβρίσῃ Διὸς ὑμβρος:
 πολλὰ δ’ ὑπ’ αὐτοῦ ἔργα καθήπισε καλ’ αἰζηῶν:
 ὡς ὑπὸ Τυδείδη πυκναὶ κλονέντο φάλαγγες
 Ἰτρών, οὔτ’ ἄρα μιν μίμνυν πολέες περ ἑόντες.

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

[son of Tydeus ≈ flooding river in winter] Narrator

***

3 (136) δὴ τότε μιν τρίς τόσσον ἔλεν μένος ὡς τε λέοντα
 ὁν ὡ τ’ ποιμνὴ ἄγρῳ ἐπ’ εἰρωτόκοις ὀίεσσι
 χραύσῃ μὲν τ’ αὐλῆς ὑπεράλμενον σοῦδε δαμάσῃ:
 τοῦ μὲν τ’ σθένος ὄρσεν, ἔπειτα δὲ τ’ οὖ προσαμύνει,
 ἀλλὰ κατὰ σταθμοὺς δύσται, τὰ δ’ ἐρήμα φοβείται: 140
 αἰ μὲν τ’ ἀγχιστίναι ἐπ’ ἀλλήλης κέχυνται,
 αὐτάρ δ’ ἐμμεμαῖς βαθῆς ἐξάλλεται αὐλῆς:

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

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

4 (161)  ὡς δὲ λέων ἐν βουσὶ θορῶν ἐξ αὐχένα ἀξη
πόρτιος ἧ δε βοδὸς ξύλοχον κάτα βοσκομενάων,
ὡς τοὺς ἁμφοτέρους ἐξ ἵππων Τυδέος υἱὸς
βήσε κακώς ἀέκοντας, ἔπειτα δὲ τεύχε' ἔσύλα:

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

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

5 (299)  ἀμφὶ δ᾽ ἀρ᾽ αὐτῷ βαῖνε λέων ὡς ἀλκὶ πεποιθώς.

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

[Aeneas ≈ lion] Narrator

6 (476)  ἀλλὰ καταπτώσοσουι κύνες ὡς ἀμφὶ λέοντα.

‘But they cower like dogs around a lion.’

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

7 (487)  μὴ πως ὡς ἀψίσι λίνου ἀλόντε πανάγρου
ἀνδράσι δυσμενέσσιν ἐλώρ καὶ κύρμα γένησθε:

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

[Hector and Trojans ≈ someone snared in flax] Sarpedon

8 (499)  ὡς δ᾽ ἄνεμος ἄνηνας φορέει ιερᾶς κατ᾽ ἀλώας
ἀνδρῶν λικμώντων, ὅτε τε ξανθῆ Δημήτηρ
κρίνῃ ἑπειγομένων ἀνέμων καρπόν τε καὶ ἄνηνας,
αἱ δ᾽ ὑπολευκαίνονται ἄχυρμαι: ὡς τότ᾽ Ἀχαιοὶ
λευκοὶ ὑπερθε γένοντο κονισάλῳ, ὃν ρα δι᾽ αὐτῶν
οὐρανόν ἐς πολύχαλκον ἐπέπληγον πόδες ἵππων

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
And **even as** the wind carries chaff about the sacred threshing-floors / of men that are winnowing, when fair-haired Demeter / amid the driving blasts of wind separates the grain from the chaff, / and the **heaps of chaff grow white; even so** then the Achaeans / grew white beneath the cloud of dust that through them / the hooves of their horses beat up to the brazen heaven, / as the fight was joined again; and the charioteers wheeled round.  

[Achaeans growing white = chaff growing white] Narrator

***

9 (522) ἀλλ’ ἐμενον νεφέλησιν ἐοικότες ἃς τε Κρονίων νημείης ἔστησεν ἐπ’ ἀκροπόλοισιν ὀρέσσιν ἀτρέμας, ὥφρ’ εὐδής κέλνος Βορέας καί ἀλλων ζαχρειῶν ἀνέμων, ὦτ’ ὡς νέφεα σκιόντα

525 πνοίησιν λιγυρήι διασκιδνάσιν ἀέντες: ὡς Δαναοὶ Τρῶας κέλνον ἐμπεδον οὐδὲ φέβοντο.

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

[Danaans = motionless clouds] Narrator

***

10 (554) οἶω τῷ γε λέοντε δύω ὄρεος κορυφῆσιν ἑτραφέτην ὑπὸ μητρὶ βαθείης τάρφεσιν ὑλῆς: 555 τῷ μὲν ᾳρ’ ἀρπαζόντε βόας καὶ ἱφα μήλα σταθμούς ἀνθρώπων κεραζότεν, ὥφρα καὶ αὐτῷ ἀνδρῶν ἐν παλάμηι κατέκαθεν ὄξεὶ χαλκᾶ: τοῖο ὑπὸ χείρεσιν ὑπὶ Αἰνειαο δαμέντε

11 (560) καππεσέτην, ἐλάτησιν ἐοικότες ψηλῆσι. 560

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

#10 (554) [Diocles’ twin sons subdue by Aeneas = two lions subdue by axe men]  
#11 (560) [Diocles’ twin sons, Crethen and Orsilochus = fir-trees] Narrator

***

12 (597) τὸν δὲ ἰδὼν ρίγησε βοήν ἀγαθὸς Διομήδης:

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
At sight of him Diomedes, good at the war-cry shuddered; and even as when a man in passing over a great plain / halts in dismay at a swift-streaming river that flows on to the sea, / and seeing it seething with foam starts backward, / even so now did the son of Tydeus give ground.

[Diomedes ≈ man startled by a swift river] Narrator

***

13 (770) ὥσον δ’ ἡπερειδής ἀνὴρ ἤδεν ὀφθαλμοῖς ἡμενος ἐν σκοτίῃ, λεύσασιν ἐπὶ οἴνοπα πόντον, τόσον ἐπιθρώσκουσι θεών ὑψηχές ἵπποι.

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

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

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14 (778) αἱ δὲ βάτην τρήρωσι πελειάσιν ἵθμαθ’ ὀμοίαι, ἀνδράσιν Ἀργείοισιν ἀλεξέμεναι μεμαιαί: ἀλλ’ ὅτε δὴ ἡ ἰκανόν ὀθι πλείστοι καὶ ἀριστοὶ ἔστασαν ἀμφὶ βίην Διομήδεος ἰπποδάμιο
15 (782) εἰλόμενοι λείουσιν ἐοικότες ὑμοφάγοισιν ἡ συσὶ κάπροισιν, τῶν τε σθένος οὐκ ἀλαπαδνόν.

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

#14 (778) [Her and Athena ≈ timorous doves]
#15 (782) [Argives around Diomedes ≈ carnivorous lions and wild boars] Narrator

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...δ’ ἔβραξε χάλκεος Ἁρης
16 (860) ὥσον τ᾿ ἐννεάχυλοι ἐπίσχον ἢ δεκάχυλοι ἀνέρες ἐν πολέμῳ ἐριδὰ ξυνάγοντες Ἁρης.

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

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

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17 (864) οὐθ’ δ’ ἐκ νεφέων ἐρεβεννή φαίνεται ἀνὴρ καύματος ἔξ ἁνέμοι δυσσέος ὄρνυμένοιο, τοῖος Τυδείδη Διομήδεϊ χάλκεος Ἁρης φαίνεθ’ ὑμον νεφέσσαν ῥν ἐς ύμαρνόν εὐρύν.

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
As a black mist appears from the clouds / when after heat a blustering wind arises, even so to Diomedes, son of Tydeus, brazen Ares / appeared, as he went amid the clouds to broad heaven. [Ares ≈ black mist] Narrator

...καρπαλίμως δ᾽ ἱκανε θεῶν ἐδος αἰπύν Ὄλυμπον, πάρ δὲ Δί Κρονίωνι καθέζετο θυμόν ἀχεύων, δειξεν δ᾽ ἀμβροτον αἷμα καταρρέον ἐξ ὑπειλής, 870

18 (902) ὡς δ᾽ ὅτ᾽ ὑπὸ δάλα λευκὸν ἐπειγόμενος συνέπηξεν ύγρὸν ἑόν, μάλα δ᾽ ἱκανο χρόνον περιτρέφεται κυκώντι, ὡς ἄρα καρπαλίμως ἵσατο θυρον Ἀρη.

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

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

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

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Similar Rhetorical Figures

Transformations and Disguises:

αὐτάρ δ᾽ εἰδώλον τεῦξ’ ἀργυρότοξος Ἀπόλλων
αὐτῷ τ᾽ Αἰνεία ἱκέλον καὶ τεῦχεσι τοῖον,
ἀμφὶ δ᾽ ἄρε εἰδώλῳ Τρώες καὶ δίοι Ἀχαιοί

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

***

461–2* Τρφας δὲ στίχας οὐλος Ἀρης ὀτρυνε μετελθών εἰδόμενος Ἀκάμαντι θοψ ἡγήτορι Θρηκῶν:

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

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604* καὶ νῦν οἱ πάρα κεῖνος Ἀρης βροτῷ ἀνδρὶ ἐοικώς.

‘even now Ares is by his side in the likeness of a mortal man.’

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* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
Standing there the white-armed goddess Hera shouted / in the likeness of great-hearted Stentor of the brazen voice.

Divine Comparisons:

438 ἀλλ᾽ ὅτε δὴ τὸ τέταρτον ἐπέσσυτο δαίμονι ὴσος.

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

Lee counts this as a simile.

cf. αὐτὰρ ἔπειτ᾽ αὐτῷ μοι ἐπέσσυτο δαίμονι ὴσος. 459

‘[Diomedes] then rushed at me myself like a god.’ Apollo

* * *

Similes of the Iliad Book 6 (Z)

SUMMARY

Scenes:

#1 (oἰν/τοῖν) (146) [lineage of men ≈ lineage of leaves]
#6 (506) [Paris ≈ horse]

Short Clauses and Phrases:

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

* * *

τὸν δ᾽ αὐθ᾽ ἵππολόχοιο προσηύδα φαίδιμος ύιός: ‘Τυδείδη μεγάθυμε τί ἢ γενεήν ἐρεείνεις; 145

1 (146) οἰν ἀντί περ φύλλων γενεὴ τοῖν δὲ καὶ ἄνδρῶν. φύλλα τὰ μέν τ᾽ ἄνεμος χαμάδις χέει, ἄλλα δὲ θ᾽ ὕλη τηλεθώσα φύει, ἔαρος δ᾽ ἐπιγίγνεται ὡρη: ῥς ἄνδρῶν γενεή ἢ μὲν φύει ἢ δ᾽ ἀπολήγει.
Then the glorious son of Hippolochus spoke to him: / ‘Great-souled son of Tydeus, why do you inquire about my lineage? / Just as is the lineage of leaves, such [is that] also of men. / As for the leaves, the wind scatters some upon the earth, but the forest, / as it blooms, puts forth others when the season of spring arrives; / thus the lineage of men: one [generation] springs up and another passes away.’

[ lineage of men ≈ lineage of leaves] Glauce

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

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

***

2 (295) ἀντὶ ὁ δ᾽ ὡς ἀπέλαμπεν: ἕκειτο δὲ νείατος ἄλλως.

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

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

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3* (389) μαίνομένη ἐἰκούσια: φέρει δ᾽ ἄμα πάϊδα τιθήνη.

‘She <Andromache> has gone to the wall in haste / like a raging woman and a nurse is carrying the child.’ [Andromache ≈ a raging woman] A housekeeper to Hector

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

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4 (401) Ἐκτορίδην ἀγαπητὸν ἀλίγκιον ἀστέρι καλῷ.

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
She then met him, and a handmaid came with her / bearing in her bosom the tender boy, a mere baby, / the well-loved son of Hector <Astyanax>, like a fair star.  
[Hector’s son ≈ fair star] Narrator

τὴν δ᾿ αὐτὲ προσέειπε μέγας κορυθαίολος Ἑκτωρ: 440
ἡ καὶ ἑμοὶ τάδε πάντα μέλει γύναι: ἀλλὰ μάλ¯᾿ αἰνῶς
αἰδέομαι Τρώας καὶ Τρῳάδας ἐλκεσπέπλους,
5 (443) αἳ κε κακὸς ὃς νόσφιν ἀλυσκάζω πολέμοιο:

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

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


* * *

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
Similes of the *Iliad* Book 7 (H)

**SUMMARY**

**Scenes:**
- **#1 (4)** [Hector and Paris to longing Trojans ≈ fair wind to longing sailors]
- **#2 (οἴν/τοῖα) (63)** [ranks of Trojans and Achaeans ≈ ripple of West Wind]
- **#4 (235)** [Hector NOT ≈ a puny boy or a woman who does not know warfare]

**Short Clauses and Phrases:**
- **#3 (219)** [Ajax’ shield ≈ tower]
- **#5 (256)** [Hector and Ajax ≈ carnivorous lions or wild boars]

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1 (4)  ὡς δὲ θεὸς ναύτησιν ἐελδομένοισιν ἔδωκεν ὑπὲρον, ἐπεὶ κε κάμωσιν ἐψεύδησις ἐλάτησιν 5 πόντον ἐλαύνοντες, καμάτῳ δ᾽ ὑπὸ γυῖα λέλυνται, ὥς ἂρα τῷ Τρώουσιν ἐελδομένοις φανήτησιν.

And as a god gives to longing seamen / a fair wind when they have grown weary of beating the sea with polished oars of fir, / and with weariness their limbs are undone; / so appeared these two <Hector and Paris> to the longing Trojans.

[Hector and Paris to longing Trojans ≈ fair wind to longing sailors] Narrator

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2 (63)  οἵν δὲ Ζεφύροιο ἐχεύατο πόντον ἐπὶ φρίξ 65 ὤρνυμένου νέον, μελάνει δὲ τῇ πόντῳ ὑπὸ αὐτῆς, τοῖα ἂρα στίχες εἰς Ἀχαιῶν τῇ Τρώῳ ὑπὸ ἐν πεδίῳ.

Just as there is spread over the face of the deep the ripple of Zephyrus, / that is newly risen, and the deep grows black beneath it, / such were the ranks of the Achaeans and Trojans sitting in the plain.

[ranks of Trojans and Achaeans ≈ ripple of West Wind] Narrator

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3 (219)  Αἴας δ᾽ ἐγγύθεν ἠλθεὶς φέρων σάκος ἧπτε πύργον 220 χάλκεοι ἐπαβαθοῦσον, ὡς Τυχίος κάμε τεῦχων

So Ajax drew near, bearing his shield that was like a tower, / a shield of bronze with seven layers of bull’s hide, which Tychios had toiled at in making.

[Ajax’ shield ≈ tower] Narrator

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* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
τὸν δ’ αὕτε προσέειπε μέγας κορυθαίολος Ἂκτυρω: Ἄιαν διογενὲς Τελαμόνιος κοίρανε λαῶν μὴ τί μεῦ ἥπετε παιδὸς ἀφαυτοῦ πειρήτιζε ἢ γυναικός, ἢ οὐκ οἴδεν πολεμῆια ἔργα. αὐτὰρ ἑγὼν εὐ οἴδα μάχας τ’ ἀνδροκτασίας τε:

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

[Hector NOT ≈ a puny boy or a woman who does not know warfare] Narrator

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τῷ δ’ ἐκπασσαμένῳ δολίῳ ἡγχεα χερσὶν ἣμ’ ἄμφω σὺν ρ’ ἐπεσον λείουσιν ἐσικότες ὑμοφάγοισιν ἢ συσὶ κάρποισιν, τῶν τε σθένος οὐκ ἀλαπαδνόν.

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

[Hector and Ajax ≈ carnivorous lions or wild boars] Narrator

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Then the two <Hector and Ajax> both at one moment drew out their long spears with

Similar Rhetorical Figures

Transformations and Disguises:

καὶ δ’ ἀρ’ Ἀθηναῖῃ τε καὶ ἀργυρῶτοξος Ἀπόλλων
7:59*

ἐξέσθην ὥρνισιν ἐοικότες αἰγυπτιοῖσι φηγῷ ἐφ’ ύψηλή πατρὸς Δίος αἰγιόχοιο
60 ἀνδράσι τερπόμενοι.

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

[Athena and Apollo ≈ vultures] Narrator

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Divine Comparison:

7:208 σεύατ’ ἐπεἰθ’ οἴος τε πελώριος ἑρχεται Ἄρης, ὃς τ’ εἰσιν πόλεμον δὲ μετ’ ἀνέρας οὐς τε Κρονίων

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
Then he sped as huge Ares goes forth / when he enters into battle amid warriors whom the son of Cronus / has brought together to contend in the fury of soul-devouring strife. / Even so sprang forth huge Ajax, the bulwark of the Achaeans, / with a smile on his grim face. [huge Ajax ≈ huge Ares] Narrator

Lee counts this as a simile.

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**Similetic Epithet/Adjectives:**

228* θυμολέοντα Achilles lion-hearted

270* εἰσω δ᾽ ἀσπίδ᾽ ἔαξε βαλὼν μυλοειδὲι πέτρῳ,

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

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**Similes of the Iliad Book 8 (Θ)**

**SUMMARY**

**Scenes:**

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

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

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

#7 (555) [Trojan fires ≈ stars]

**Short Clauses and Phrases:**

#2 (94) [Odysseus ≈ coward]

#3 (131) [Trojans ≈ lambs]

#4 (271) [Teucer ≈ child]

* * *

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
'Or taking him <a disobedient god> I will throw him into dark Tartarus / quite far, where the deepest pit under the earth is / and where the gates are iron and the floor is bronze, / as far beneath Hades as heaven is above the earth. / You will know by how much I am the most powerful of all the gods. / ... / By so much, I am superior to gods and superior to men.'

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

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

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

[Odysseus ≈ coward] Diomedes

And they would have been penned in Ilium like lambs.

[Trojans ≈ lambs] Narrator

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

[Teucer ≈ child] Narrator

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

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

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

Similar Rhetorical Figure

Divine Comparisons:

305* καλὴ Καστιάνειρα δέμας ἐϊκυία θεῆς.

Fair Castianeira, in form like the goddesses.

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
"Εκτωρ ... 

349* Ἐκέμνησεν ὁ Ἅρησς τὸν Ἰλιᾶν ἀντικεῖδος τὴν καταστροφήν τοῦ Ἰλιᾶν.

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

* * *

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A