

Similes of the *Iliad* Book 17 (P)

SUMMARY

Scenes:

- #1 (4) [Menelaus > Patroclus ≈ a mother cow > her first calf]
- #2 (τόσσον/ὄσσον) (20) [sons of Panthous ≈ leopard, lion and wild boar]
- #3 (οἶον/τοῖον) (53) [Menelaus > Euphorbus ≈ a stormy wind > a sapling of an olive tree]
- #4 (61) [Trojans > Menelaus > body of Patroclus ≈ herdsmen > a mountain lion > a heifer]
- #5 (109) [Menelaus from Patroclus ≈ a bearded lion from a farm]
- #7 (133) [Ajax > Patroclus ≈ a lion > his cubs]
- #8 (263) [the shouting of the Trojans ≈ the roar of a mighty wave]
- #9 (281) [Ajax scatters Trojans ≈ boar scatters youths and dogs]
- #11 (389) [Trojans and Greeks dragging the corpse ≈ people stretching a bull's hide]
- #12 (434) [the horses ≈ a pillar]
- #14 (520) [Aretus killed by Automedon's spear ≈ an ox slain by a man's axe]
- #16 (547) [the purple cloud covering Athena ≈ a purple rainbow sent by Zeus]
- #17 (570) [courage of Menelaus ≈ the courage of a fly]
- #18 (657) [Menelaus from Patroclus' body ≈ a lion from a fat cow]
- #19 (674) [Menelaus > Nestor's son ≈ an eagle > a hare]
- #20 (725) [Trojans > Achaeans ≈ dogs > a boar]
- #21 (737) [the battle > the two Ajaxes ≈ a fire > a city]
- #22 (742) [the two Ajaxes carried the corpse ≈ mules drag a beam or ship-timber]
- #23 (747) [the two Ajaxes held back the Trojans ≈ a ridge holds back water]
- #24 (755) [Aeneas and Hector > the Achaean youths ≈ a falcon > starlings and jackdaws]

Short Clauses and Phrases:

- #6 (128) [Ajax' shield ≈ a tower]
- #10* (366) [Trojans and Achaeans around the body of Patroclus ≈ fire]
- #13 (460) [Automedon > the Trojans ≈ a vulture > geese]
- #15 (542) [Automedon (with bloody hands and feet) > the corpse of Aretus ≈ a lion (that has just devoured) > a bull]

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- 1 (4) βῆ δὲ διὰ προμάχων κεκορυθμένος αἴθοπι χαλκῷ,
ἀμφὶ δ' ἄρ' αὐτῷ βαῖν' ὥς τις περὶ πόρτακι μήτηρ
πρωτοτόκος κινυρὴ οὐ πρὶν εἰδυῖα τόκοιο: 5
ὥς περὶ Πατρόκλω βαῖνε ξανθὸς Μενέλαος.

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

[Menelaus] went through the front ranks clad in flashing bronze armor / and he went around him **as some mother** around **her calf**, / wailing her first-born not before knowing parenthood; / **thus** golden-haired **Menelaus** went around **Patroclus**.

[Menelaus > Patroclus ≈ a mother cow > her first calf] Narrator

2 (20) ‘Ζεῦ πάτερ οὐ μὲν καλὸν ὑπέρβιον εὐχετάσθαι.
οὔτ’ οὖν παρδάλιος τόσσον μένος οὔτε λέοντος
οὔτε συὸς κάπρου ὀλοόφρονος, οὐ τε μέγιστος
θυμὸς ἐνὶ στήθεσσι περὶ σθένει βλεμαίνει,
ὄσσον Πάνθου υἱῆς ἐϋμμελῖαι φρονέουσιν.’

‘[By] Father Zeus, it is not a good thing to boast excessively. / Then neither [is] the might of a **leopard** nor of a **lion** /, nor of a savage **wild-boar**, whose spirit is greatest / and exults in his chest because of his strength, of such power **as sons of Panthous** boast.’

[sons of Panthous ≈ leopard, lion and wild boar] Menelaus

3 (53) οἶον δὲ τρέφει ἔρνος ἀνὴρ ἐριθηλὲς ἐλαίης
χώρῳ ἐν οἰοπόλῳ, ὅθ’ ἄλις ἀναβέβροχεν ὕδωρ,
καλὸν τηλεθάον: τὸ δὲ τε πνοιαὶ δονέουσι
παντοίων ἀνέμων, καὶ τε βρύει ἄνθει λευκῶ:
ἐλθὼν δ’ ἐξαπίνης ἄνεμος σὺν λαίλαπι πολλῇ
βόθρου τ’ ἐξέστρεψε καὶ ἐξετάνουσ’ ἐπὶ γαίῃ:
τοῖον Πάνθου υἱὸν ἐϋμμελίην Εὐφορβον
Ἄτρείδης Μενέλαος ἐπεὶ κτάνε τεύχε’ ἐσύλα.

And **as a man nourishes a fruitful sapling of an olive tree** in a lonely place, / where water wells up abundantly—/ beautiful [and] fair-growing; and **the breezes of all sorts of winds** make it to quiver, / and it swells with a white blossom; / but suddenly the **wind** coming with a mighty tempest, / both tore [it] out of its trench, and stretched it out upon the earth; / **such** [was] Panthous' son, **Euphorbus** of the good ash spear / when **Menelaus**, son of Atreus, killed [him] [and] stripped off [his] armor.

[Menelaus > Euphorbus ≈ a stormy wind > a sapling of an olive tree] Narrator

4 (61) ὥς δ’ ὅτε τίς τε λέων ὄρεσίτροφος ἀλκὶ πεποιθῶς
βοσκομένης ἀγέλης βοῶν ἀρπάσῃ ἢ τις ἀρίστη:
τῆς δ’ ἐξ αὐχέν’ ἔαξε λαβὼν κρατεροῖσιν ὁδοῦσι
πρῶτον, ἔπειτα δὲ θ’ αἶμα καὶ ἔγκατα πάντα λαφύσσει
δηῶν: ἀμφὶ δὲ τὸν γε κύνες τ’ ἄνδρες τε νομῆες
πολλὰ μάλ’ ἰύζουσιν ἀπόπροθεν οὐδ’ ἐθέλουσιν
ἀντίον ἐλθέμεναι: μάλα γὰρ χλωρὸν δέος αἰρεῖ:
ὥς τῶν οὐ τινὶ θυμὸς ἐνὶ στήθεσσι ἐτόλμα
ἀντίον ἐλθέμεναι **Μενελάου** κυδαλίμοιο.

And **as when some mountain-nurtured lion**, trusting in his might, / has seized from amid a grazing herd a **heifer** that is finest: / taking her by the neck he seized her in his strong jaws / first and then breaking it, he gulps down the blood and all the inner parts; / and all around him dogs and **herds-men** / clamor loudly from afar but are not willing / to come against him, for pale fear seizes [them] greatly; / **thus** the spirit in the breasts of **anyone** did not dare / to go face to face with glorious **Menelaus**.

[Trojans > Menelaus > body of Patroclus ≈ herdsman > a mountain lion > a heifer]
Narrator

5 (109) αὐτὰρ ὃ γ' ἐξοπίσω ἀνεχάζετο, λείπε δὲ νεκρὸν
ἐντροπαλιζόμενος ὥς τε λῖς ἠϋγένειος,
ὄν ῥα κύνες τε καὶ ἄνδρες ἀπὸ σταθμοῖο δίωνται 110
ἔγχεσι καὶ φωνῇ: τοῦ δ' ἐν φρεσὶν ἄλκιμον ἦτορ
παχνοῦται, ἀέκων δὲ τ' ἔβη ἀπὸ μεσσαύλοιο:
ὥς ἀπὸ Πατρόκλοιο κίε ξανθὸς Μενέλαος.

Then he <Menelaus> gave ground backward, and left the corpse, / turning around **like a bearded lion** / that dogs and men drive from a fold / with spears and shouting; and in his breast his valiant heart / grows chill, and unwilling he goes from the farmstead; / **thus** fair-haired Menelaus went from Patroclus.

[Menelaus from Patroclus ≈ a bearded lion from a farm] Narrator

6 (128) Αἴας δ' ἐγγύθεν ἦλθε φέρων σάκος ἥύτε πύργον.

But Ajax drew near, bearing his **shield like a tower**.

[Ajax' shield ≈ a tower] Narrator

7 (133) Αἴας δ' ἀμφὶ Μενoitιάδῃ σάκος εὐρὸν καλύψας
ἐστήκει ὥς τις τε λέων περὶ οἷσι τέκεσσιν,
ᾧ ῥά τε νήπι' ἄγοντι συναντήσονται ἐν ὕλῃ
ἄνδρες ἐπακτῆρες: ὃ δὲ τε σθένει βλεμαίνει, 135
πάν δέ τ' ἐπισκύνιον κάτω ἔλκεται ὅσσε καλύπτων:
ὥς Αἴας περὶ Πατρόκλῳ ἥρωϊ βεβήκει.

But **Ajax** put his broad shield around **the son of Menoetius** / and stood **as a lion over his cubs**, / one that huntsmen have met in the forest as he leads his young; / then he exults in his strength, / and draws down all his brows hiding his eyes; / **thus Ajax** walked around the warrior Patroclus.

[Ajax > Patroclus ≈ a lion > his cubs] Narrator

8 (263) Τρῶες δὲ προὔτυψαν ἀολλέες: ἦρχε δ' ἄρ' Ἔκτωρ.
ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἐπὶ προχοῇσι διπετέος ποταμοῖο
βέβρυχεν μέγα κύμα ποτὶ ῥόον, ἀμφὶ δέ τ' ἄκραι

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

ἠϊόνες βοόωσιν ἐρευγομένης ἀλὸς ἔξω,
τόσση ἄρα Τρῶες ἰαχῆ ἴσαν.

265

The Trojans drove forward in close order; and Hector led [them]. / **As when** at the mouth of river swollen by rain / **a mighty wave** roars against the stream, and on both sides the high / sea-banks echo, as the salt-sea bellows beyond; **with such a shout** the Trojans came on.

[the shouting of the Trojans ≈ the roar of a mighty wave] Narrator

9 (281) ἴθυσεν δὲ διὰ προμάχων σὺν εἵκελος ἀλκῆν
καπρίῳ, ὅς τ' ἐν ὄρεσσι κύνας θαλερούς τ' αἰζηοὺς
ῥηϊδίως ἐκέδασσεν, ἐλιξάμενος διὰ βήσσας:
ὥς υἱὸς Τελαμῶνος ἀγαυοῦ φαίδιμος Αἴας
ῥεῖα μετεισάμενος Τρώων ἐκέδασσε φάλαγγας.

285

Straight through the foremost fighters he <Ajax> advanced, **in might like a wild boar** / that in the mountains easily scatters dogs and sturdy youths / wheeling upon them in the glades; **even so** the son of lordly Telamon, glorious **Ajax**, / easily scattered [the] ranks of the Trojans, coming among them.

[Ajax scatters Trojans ≈ boar scatters youths and dogs] Narrator

10* (366) ὥς οἱ μὲν μάρναντο δέμας πυρός, οὐδέ κε φαίης
οὔτε ποτ' ἠέλιον σὼν ἔμμεναι οὔτε σελήνην:
ἤερι γὰρ κατέχοντο μάχης ἐπὶ θ' ὅσον ἄριστοι
ἔστασαν ἀμφὶ Μενoitιάδῃ κατατεθνηῶτι.

So they <Trojans and Achaeans around the body of Patroclus> fought like fire, and you would not say / that either the sun or moon still remained safe, / for with mist they were held fast in the battle, all the chieftains / that stood around the slain son of Menoetius.

[Trojans and Achaeans around the body of Patroclus ≈ fire] Narrator

11 (389) ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἀνὴρ ταύροιο βοὸς μέγαλοιο βοεῖην
λαοῖσιν δῶν τανύειν μεθούσαν ἀλοιφῆ: 390
δεξάμενοι δ' ἄρα τοί γε διαστάντες τανύουσι
κυκλός', ἄφαρ δέ τε ἰκμάς ἔβη, δύνει δέ τ' ἀλοιφή
πολλῶν ἐλκόντων, τάνυται δέ τε πᾶσα διὰ πρό:
ὥς οἱ γ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα νέκυν ὀλίγη ἐνὶ χώρῃ
εἴλκεον ἀμφότεροι. 395

And **as when** a man gives to his people the hide of a great bull / to stretch, all drenched in fat, / and when they have taken it, standing in a circle **they stretch it**, / and straightaway its moisture goes and the fat enters / with many people tugging, and all the

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

hide is stretched to the utmost; / **thus they <Trojans and Greeks>** on this side and on that were **dragging the corpse** in scant space, / both sides.

[Trojans and Greeks dragging the corpse ≈ people stretching a bull's hide] Narrator

12 (434) ἄψ' οὐτ' ἄψ' ἐπὶ νῆας ἐπὶ πλατὺν Ἑλλήσποντον
ἠθέλετ' ἰέναι οὐτ' ἐς πόλεμον μετ' Ἀχαιοῦς,
ἀλλ' ὥς τε στήλη μένει ἔμπεδον, ἢ τ' ἐπὶ τύμβῳ
ἀνέρος ἐστήκη τεθνηότος ἢ ἐ γυναικός, 435
ὥς μένον ἀσφαλῶς περικαλλέα δίφρον ἔχοντες
οὐδεὶς ἐνισκίμψαντε κάρηατα.

The **two [horses]** wanted to go back neither to the ships at the broad Hellespont / nor to war with [the] Achaeans, / but **as a pillar** remains firm that stands on the tomb / of a dead man or woman, / **so [the two]** remained steady holding the beautiful chariot, / bowing their heads down to the earth.

[the horses ≈ a pillar] Narrator (speaking about the horses carrying the body of Patroclus back to the ships)

13 (460) τοῖσι δ' ἐπ' Αὐτομέδων μάχετ' ἀχνύμενός περ ἑταίρου
ἵπποις αἴσσων ὥς τ' αἰγυπιὸς μετὰ χῆνας: 460
ῥέα μὲν γὰρ φεύγεσκεν ὑπ' ἐκ Τρώων ὀρυμαγδοῦ,
ῥεῖα δ' ἐπαίξασκε πολὺν καθ' ὄμιλον ὀπάζων.

And **against them Automedon** was fighting, although grieving for his comrade, / swooping with [his] horses **like a vulture on [a flock of] geese**, / for easily would he flee from out of the battle-din of the **Trojans**, / and easily charge, attacking them through the great throng.

[Automedon > the Trojans ≈ a vulture > geese] Narrator

14 (520) ἦ ῥα, καὶ ἀμπεπαλὼν προΐει δολιχόσκιον ἔγχος,
καὶ βάλεν Ἀρήτιο κατ' ἀσπίδα πάντοσ' εἴσην:
ἦ δ' οὐκ ἔγχος ἔρυτο, διὰ πρὸ δὲ εἴσατο χαλκός,
νειαίρη δ' ἐν γαστρὶ διὰ ζωστήρος ἔλασσεν.
ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἂν ὀξὺν ἔχων πέλεκυν αἰζήτιος ἀνὴρ 520
κόψας ἐξόπιθεν κεράων βοῶς ἀγραύλοιο
ἵνα τάμη διὰ πάσαν, ὃ δὲ προθορῶν ἐρίπησιν,
ὥς ἄρ' ὃ γε προθορῶν πέσεν ἕππιος: ἐν δὲ οἱ ἔγχος
νηδυίοισι μάλ' ὀξὺ κραιδαινόμενον λυε γυῖα.

[Automedon] spoke, and balancing [it] he hurled his far-shadowing spear / and struck the shield of Aretus [that was] equal on every side; / but this did not ward off the spear, and it passed straight through the bronze, / and into the lower belly he drove it through the belt. And **as when a strong man holding a sharp axe** / striking behind the horns of an ox in a field / cuts clean through a sinew, and the [ox] **leaping forward** falls; / **so he**

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

<Aretus> leaping forward fell upon his back, and the spear, / very sharp, fixed quivering in his bowels loosed his limbs.

[Aretus killed by Automedon's spear ≈ an ox slain by a man's axe] Narrator

ὡς εἰπὼν ἐς δίφρον ἐλὼν ἕναρα βροτόεντα 540
θῆκ', ἂν δ' αὐτὸς ἔβαινε πόδας καὶ χεῖρας ὑπερθεν
15 (542) αἱματόεις ὡς τίς τε λέων κατὰ ταῦρον ἐδηδῶς.

So speaking, taking up the **bloody spoils** [of Aretus], [Automedon] set them in the chariot, / and he himself mounted on it, **his feet and his hands** above / **bloody, as some lion** [that has] **devoured a bull**.

[Automedon (with bloody hands and feet) > the corpse of Aretus ≈ a lion (that has just devoured) > a bull] Narrator

ἄψ δ' ἐπὶ Πατρόκλῳ τέτατο κρατερὴ ὑσμίνη
ἀργαλή πολύδακρυς, ἔγειρε δὲ νεῖκος Ἀθήνη
οὐρανόθεν καταβάσα: προῆκε γὰρ εὐρύοπα Ζεὺς 545
ὀρνύμεναι Δαναούς: δὴ γὰρ νόος ἐτράπετ' αὐτοῦ.
16 (547) ἤτε πορφυρὴν ἶριν θνητοῖσι τανύσση
Ζεὺς ἐξ οὐρανόθεν τέρας ἔμμεναι ἢ πολέμοιο
ἢ καὶ χειμῶνος δυσθαπέος, ὅς ῥά τε ἔργων
ἀνθρώπους ἀνέπαυσεν ἐπὶ χθονί, μῆλα δὲ κήδει, 550
ὡς ἢ πορφυρὴ νεφέλη πυκάσσασα ἐ αὐτήν
δύσετ' Ἀχαιῶν ἔθνος, ἔγειρε δὲ φῶτα ἕκαστον.

And again the fierce fight raged about Patroclus, / grievous [and] tearful, for Athena roused strife / coming down from heaven; for far-seeing Zeus sent her, / to stir up the Danaans; for his mind was turning. / **As when Zeus spreads a purple rainbow** for mortals / from heaven to be a portent either of war / or even of a chill storm which causes men to cease from their labors / on earth and and plagues the flocks / **so** she covering herself with a **purple cloud** / caused the tribe of Achaeans to sink and aroused each man.

[the purple cloud covering Athena ≈ a purple rainbow sent by Zeus] Narrator

ὡς φάτο, γήθησεν δὲ θεὰ γλαυκῶπις Ἀθήνη,
ὅττι ῥά οἱ πάμπρωτα θεῶν ἠρήσατο πάντων.
ἐν δὲ βίην ὤμοισι καὶ ἐν γούνεσσιν ἔθηκε,
καὶ οἱ μῦθ' ἔθαρσεν ἐνὶ στήθεσσιν ἐνήκεν, 570
ἢ τε καὶ ἐργομένη μάλα περ χροὸς ἀνδρομέοιο
ἰσχανάα δακείν, λαρόν τέ οἱ αἶμ' ἀνθρώπου:
τοίου μιν θάρσευς πλήσε φρένας ἀμφὶ μελαίνας,
βῆ δ' ἐπὶ Πατρόκλῳ, καὶ ἀκόντισε δουρὶ φαεινῷ.

So [Menelaus] spoke, and the goddess, flashing-eyed Athena, was glad, / because to her first of all the gods he made his prayer. / And she put strength into his shoulders and his knees, / and in his chest set **the courage of a fly**, / that though it be driven away often from the skin of a man, / desires to bite, and sweet to it is the blood of man; / **the courage of such [a fly]** filled his dark heart all around, / and he stood over Patroclus and hurled with his bright spear.
[courage of Menelaus ≈ the courage of a fly] Narrator

For other examples of similes expressed by the genitive case, see Appendix III.2.

18 (657) ὡς ἔφατ', οὐδ' ἀπίθησε βοὴν ἀγαθὸς Μενέλαος,
βῆ δ' ἰέναι ὥς τις τε λέων ἀπὸ μεσσαύλοιο,
ὅς τ' ἐπεὶ ἄρ κε κάμησι κύνας τ' ἄνδρας τ' ἐρεθίζων,
οἷ τέ μιν οὐκ εἰῶσι βοῶν ἐκ πῖαρ ἐλέσθαι
πάννυχοι ἐγρήσσοντες: ὃ δὲ κρειῶν ἐρατίζων 660
ἰθύει, ἀλλ' οὐ τι πρήσσει: θαμέες γὰρ ἄκοντες
ἀντίον αἴσσουσι θρασειάων ἀπὸ χειρῶν,
καϊόμεναί τε δεταί, τὰς τε τρεῖ ἐσσύμενός περ:
ἠῶθεν δ' ἀπονόσφιν ἔβη τετιηότι θυμῶ:
ὡς ἀπὸ Πατρόκλοιο βοὴν ἀγαθὸς Μενέλαος 665
ἦϊε πόλλ' ἀέκων.

So he spoke, and **Menelaus**, good at the war-cry, did not disobey, / but went his way **as some lion** from a courtyard / when he grows tired of vexing dogs and men / who do not allow him to seize the fattest of the herd, / watching the whole night through; and in his lust for flesh / he presses on, but does not accomplish anything, for frequent darts / fly to meet him from bold hands, / and blazing torches, and he flees from them even though eager, / and at dawn he goes away with sorrowful heart; **thus** from Patroclus did Menelaus, good at the war-cry, depart / very reluctantly.
[Menelaus from Patroclus' body ≈ a lion from a fat cow] Narrator

19 (674) ὡς ἄρα φωνήσας ἀπέβη ξανθὸς Μενέλαος,
πάντοσε παππαίνων ὡς τ' αἰετός, ὃν ρά τέ φασιν
ὀξύτατον δέρκεσθαι ὑπουρανίων πετεηνῶν, 675
ὃν τε καὶ ὑψόθ' ἐόντα πόδας ταχὺς οὐκ ἔλαθε πῶξ
θάμνω ὑπ' ἀμφικόμῳ κατακείμενος, ἀλλὰ τ' ἐπ' αὐτῷ
ἔσσυτο, καί τέ μιν ὦκα λαβῶν ἐξείλετο θυμόν.
ὡς τότε σοὶ Μενέλαε διοτρεφὲς ὅσσε φαιινῶ
πάντοσε δινεῖσθην πολέων κατὰ ἔθνος ἐταίρων, 680
εἶ που Νέστορος υἱὸν ἔτι ζῶοντα ἴδοιτο.

So saying fair-haired Menelaus departed, / glancing warily on every side **like an eagle**, which, they say, has the keenest sight of [all] winged things under heaven, / which, even being high in the sky, has not missed seeing a swift-footed **hare** / hiding under a leafy

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

bush, but [the eagle] swoops down upon it / and quickly seizing it, takes its life. / **Even so** then, Menelaus, nurtured of Zeus, did your bright eyes / range everywhere over the throng of your many comrades, / to see if somewhere the son of Nestor was still alive. [Menelaus > Nestor's son ≈ an eagle > a hare] Narrator

	ἐπὶ δ' ἴαχε λαὸς ὀπισθε	
	Τρωϊκός, ὡς εἶδοντο νέκυν αἶροντας Ἀχαιοῦς.	
20 (725)	ἴθυσαν δὲ κύνεσσιν ἐοικότες, οἳ τ' ἐπὶ κάπρω βλημένῳ αἰξῶσι πρὸ κούρων θηρητήρων: ἕως μὲν γάρ τε θέουσι διαρραῖσαι μεμαῶτες, ἀλλ' ὅτε δὴ ῥ' ἐν τοῖσιν ἐλίξεται ἀλκὴ πεποιθώς, ἅψ τ' ἀνεχώρησαν διὰ τ' ἔτρεσαν ἄλλυδις ἄλλος. ὡς Τρῶες εἶος μὲν ὁμιλαδὸν αἰὲν ἔποντο νύσσοντες ξίφεσίν τε καὶ ἔγχεσιν ἀμφιγύοισιν.	725 730

And the **Trojan army** behind them shouted, / when they saw the **Achaean**s lifting [the] corpse. And **they** charged straight upon them **like dogs** that on a wounded **boar** / rush in front of hunting youths; / meanwhile they run eager to destroy [it], but whenever he turns among them trusting in his strength, / they shrink back and tremble in fear, one here, one there. / **Thus** the Trojans for a time followed always in groups, / thrusting with swords and two-edged spears.

[Trojans > Achaeans ≈ dogs > a boar] Narrator

	ὡς οἳ γ' ἐμμεμαῶτε νέκυν φέρον ἐκ πολέμοιο νῆας ἔπι γλαφυράς: ἐπὶ δὲ ππόλεμος τέτατό σφιν ἄγριος ἠύτε πῦρ, τό τ' ἐπεσσύμενον πόλιν ἀνδρῶν ὄρμενον ἐξαίφνης φλεγέθει, μινύθουσι δὲ οἴκοι ἐν σέλαϊ μεγάλῳ: τὸ δ' ἐπιβρέμει ἰς ἀνέμοιο. ὡς μὲν τοῖς ἵππων τε καὶ ἀνδρῶν αἰχμητῶν ἀζηχῆς ὀρυμαγδὸς ἐπήϊεν ἐρχομένοισιν: οἳ δ' ὡς θ' ἡμίονοι κρατερὸν μένος ἀμφιβαλόντες ἔλκωσ' ἐξ ὄρεος κατὰ παιπαλόεσσαν ἀταρπὸν ἢ δοκὸν ἢ ἐ δόρου μέγα νήϊον: ἐν δὲ τε θυμὸς τείρεθ' ὁμοῦ καμάτῳ τε καὶ ἰδρῶ σπευδόντεσσιν: ὡς οἳ γ' ἐμμεμαῶτε νέκυν φέρον. αὐτὰρ ὀπισθεν Αἴαντ' ἰσχανέτην, ὡς τε πρῶν ἰσχάνει ὕδωρ ὕληεις πεδίοιο διαπρύσιον τετυχηκῶς, ὅς τε καὶ ἰφθίμων ποταμῶν ἀλεγεινὰ ῥέεθρα ἴσχει, ἄφαρ δὲ τε πᾶσι ῥόον πεδίωνδε τίθησι πλάζων: οὐδέ τί μιν σθένει ῥηγνῦσι ῥέοντες: ὡς αἰεὶ Αἴαντε μάχην ἀνέεργον ὀπίσω Τρώων.	735 740 745 750
21 (737)		
22 (742)		
23 (747)		

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

Thus **the two <Ajaxes>** eagerly carried the corpse from the battle / to the hollow ships, but the **battle** strained against **them / fierce as fire** that, rushing upon **a city** of men / rising suddenly sets it aflame, and houses fall / in [the] great glare; and the force of the wind makes it roar. **Thus** against them as they went came the ceaseless din / of horses and of spearmen. / But **as mules** that, putting forth on either side their great strength, / **drag** from the mountain down a rugged path / **either a beam or a great ship-timber**, and within [them] their spirit / as they strive is distressed by both toil and sweat, / **thus these two** eagerly carried the corpse. But behind [them] / the **two Ajaxes held back [the foe], as a ridge holds back water** / a wooded [ridge] that happens to lie all across a plain / and that holds back even the dread streams of mighty rivers, / and at once turns the current for [them] all to wander over the plain; nor do they break through it at all with their strength as they flow; **thus the two Ajaxes always kept back the battle of the Trojans.**

#21 (737) [the battle > the two Ajaxes ≈ a fire > a city]

#22 (742) [the two Ajaxes carried the corpse ≈ mules drag a beam or ship-timber]

#23 (747) [the two Ajaxes held back the Trojans ≈ a ridge holds back water] Narrator

24 (755)	<p>τῶν δ' ὡς τε ψαρῶν νέφος ἔρχεται ἡὲ κολοιῶν οὐλον κεκλήγοντες, ὅτε προΐδωσιν ἰόντα κίρκον, ὃ τε μικρῆσι φόνον φέρει ὀρνίθεσσιν, ὡς ἄρ' ὑπ' Αἰνεία τε καὶ Ἑκτορι κοῦροι Ἀχαιῶν οὐλον κεκλήγοντες ἴσαν, λήθοντο δὲ χάρμης.</p>	755
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And **as a cloud of starlings or of jackdaws comes** / crying destruction, when they see coming / **a falcon** / which brings death to small birds, / **so** before **Aeneas and Hector** fled **the youths of the Achaeans**, / crying destruction, and they forgot about fighting. [Aeneas and Hector > the Achaean youths ≈ a falcon > starlings and jackdaws] Narrator

* * * *

Similar Rhetorical Figures

Transformations and Disguises:

73*	<p>ἐνθά κε ρεῖα φέροι κλυτὰ τεύχεα Πανθοΐδαο Ἄτρεΐδης, εἰ μὴ οἱ ἀγάσσατο Φοῖβος Ἀπόλλων, ὅς ρά οἱ Ἑκτορ' ἐπῶρσε θοῶ ἀτάλαντον Ἄρηϊ ἀνέρι εἰσάμενος Κικόνων ἡγήτορι Μέντη:</p>	70
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Easily then would Atreus' son have carried off the glorious armor of the son of Panthous, / if **Phoebus Apollo** had not begrudged it him, / [and] aroused against him Hector, the peer of swift Ares /, [Apollo] **in the likeness of a man, Mentos**, leader of the Cicones,

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

[Apollo ≈ Mentos]

210 – 211* More unusual is this line, where Ares entered into Hector:

Ἐκτορι δ' ἤρμοσε τεύχε' ἐπὶ χροί, δὴ δέ μιν Ἄρης
δεινὸς ἐνυάλιος, πλήσθεν δ' ἄρα οἱ μέλε' ἐντὸς

He <Zeus> made the armor fit on Hector's body, and there **Ares entered into him**, the terrible Enyalios, and his limbs were filled with valor

322*

ἀλλ' αὐτὸς Ἀπόλλων
Αἰνεῖαν ὄτρυνε δέμας Περίφαντι ἐοικῶς

But **Apollo** himself / urged on Aeneas **taking on the form of Periphas**

326*

τῷ μιν ἐεισάμενος προσέφη Διὸς υἱὸς Ἀπόλλων

In his likeness Apollo the son of Zeus spoke to him <Aeneas>

554–5*

ἴφθιμον Μενέλαον: ὃ γάρ ῥά οἱ ἐγγύθεν ἦεν:
εἰσαμένη Φοῖνικι δέμας καὶ ἀτειρέα φωνήν

[To encourage him Athena spoke to] mighty Menelaus, for he was near her / **likening herself to Phoenix in form and untiring voice.**

583*

Ἐκτορα δ' ἐγγύθεν ἰστάμενος ὄτρυνεν Ἀπόλλων
Φαίνοπι Ἀσιάδῃ ἐναλίγκιος, ὅς οἱ ἀπάντων
ξείνων φίλτατος ἔσκεν Ἀβυδόθι οἰκία ναίων:
τῷ μιν ἐεισάμενος προσέφη ἐκάεργος Ἀπόλλων: 585

Standing near Hector Apollo urged him on / **in the likeness of Asius' son Phaenops**, who of all / his guest-friends was dearest to him, living in his house in Abydos; / **in his likeness** Apollo the far-worker spoke to him <Hector>.

Divine Comparisons:

51

αἵματί οἱ δεύοντο κόμαι Χαρίτεσσιν ὁμοῖαι
πλοχμοί θ', οἱ χρυσῶ τε καὶ ἀργύρῳ ἐσφήκωντο.

His [Euphorbus'] hair was drenched in blood, [was] **like [the hair of] the Graces**, / and his tresses that were braided with gold and silver.

[Euphorbus' hair ≈ the hair of the Graces] Narrator

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

Lee counts this as a simile.

88 βῆ δὲ διὰ προμάχων κεκορυθμένος αἴθοπι χαλκῷ
ὄξεα κεκλήγων φλογὶ εἴκελος Ἥφαιστοιο 88
ἀσβέστῳ.

And [**Hector**] went through the foremost fighters, wearing a helmet of flaming bronze, / crying shrilly, **like an unquenchable flame of Hephaestus.**

[Hector's bronze helmet ≈ unquenchable flame of Hephaestus] Narrator

Lee counts this as a simile

199* NB various forms of the 'god-like' adjective: Πηλεΐδαο . . . θείοιο

319* ἔνθά κεν αὖτε Τρῶες ἀρηϊφίλων ὑπ' Ἀχαιῶν
Then would the Trojans have been driven by the **Achaean, dear to Ares**

Metaphoric Similes:

591* τὸν δ' ἄχεος νεφέλη ἐκάλυψε μέλαινα:

a black cloud of grief enfolded him <Hector> [intensity of grief (implied comparison) ≈ a black cloud]

615* καὶ τῷ μὲν φάος ἦλθεν, ἄμυνε δὲ νηλεὲς ἦμαρ

And he <Coeranus> **came to him <Idomeneus> [as] a light** [of deliverance] and warded off his day of doom.

* * *

Similes of the *Iliad* Book 18 (Σ)

SUMMARY

Scenes:

#7 (161) [the two Ajaxes > cannot drive Hector > from Patroclus' corpse ≈ shepherds > cannot frighten a lion > from a body]

#8 (207) [gleam of fire from Achilles ≈ glare of flames from a city]

#9 (219) [clear voice of Aeacus' son ≈ clear sound of a trumpet]

#10 (318) [Achilles ≈ a lion]

#14 (600) [young men running ≈ a potter at his wheel]

Short Clauses and Phrases:

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

- #1 (1) [the Greeks+Trojans fighting ≈ a blazing fire]
 #2 (56) [Achilles ≈ a sapling]
 #3 (57) [Achilles ≈ a plant]
 #4* (109) [anger ≈ honey]
 #5 (110) [anger ≈ smoke]
 #6 (154) [Hector ≈ a flame]
 #11 (418) [Hephaestus' handmaids ≈ living young women]
 #12 (437) [Achilles ≈ a sapling]
 #13 (438) [Achilles ≈ a plant]
 #15 (616) [Thetis darting from Olympus ≈ a falcon]

* * *

1 (1) ὡς οἱ μὲν μάρναντο δέμας πυρὸς αἰθομένοιο

Thus they <the Greeks and Trojans> were fighting **like a blazing fire**.
 [the Greeks+Trojans fighting ≈ a blazing fire] Narrator

This line is the same as Book11 #28 (596)

	ὦ μοι ἐγὼ δειλή, ὦ μοι δυσαριστοτόκεια,	
	ἢ τ' ἐπεὶ ἄρ τέκον υἱὸν ἀμύμονά τε κρατερόν τε	55
2 (56)	ἔξοχον ἠρώων: ὃ δ' ἀνέδραμεν ἔρνεϊ ἴσος:	
3 (57)	<u>τὸν μὲν ἐγὼ θρέψασα φυτὸν ὡς γουνῶ ἀλωῆς</u>	
	νηυσὶν ἐπιπροέηκα κορωνίσιν Ἴλιον εἴσω	
	Τρωσὶ μαχησόμενον:	

'Alas poor me, most unfortunate in having a child, / for when I had borne a son peerless and strong, / pre-eminent among warriors, and **he shot up like a sapling**; / after rearing him **like a plant** in high ground of an orchard, / I sent him forth in the beaked ships to Ilium / to make war with the Trojans.'

#2 (56) [Achilles ≈ a sapling]

#3 (57) [Achilles ≈ a plant] Thetis

Cf. #12 (437) and #13 (438) below.

	ὡς ἔρις ἔκ τε θεῶν ἔκ τ' ἀνθρώπων ἀπόλοιτο	
	καὶ χόλος, ὅς τ' ἐφέηκε πολύφρονά περ χαλεπῆναι,	
4* (109)	ὅς τε πολὺ <u>γλυκίων μέλιτος</u> καταλειβομένοιο	
5 (110)	<u>ἀνδρῶν ἐν στήθεσσι ἀέξεται ἤύτε καπνός.</u>	110

'So may strife perish both from the gods and from men / and **anger [too]**, which causes even a righteous man to harden his heart, / and which grows **much sweeter than honey** dripping / in the chests of men **like smoke**.'

#4* (109) [anger ≈ honey]

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

#5 (110) [anger ≈ smoke] Achilles

6 (154) αἶτις γὰρ δὴ τὸν γε κίχον λαός τε καὶ ἵπποι
Ἔκτωρ τε Πριάμοιο πάϊς φλογὶ εἵκελος ἀλκήν.

For now again the people and horses overtook him <Patroclus>, / and **Hector**, son of Priam, in might **similar to a flame in valor**.

[Hector ≈ a flame] Narrator

See Appendix III (s.v. εἵκελος) for other occurrences of this simile.

7 (161) ὥς δ' ἀπὸ σώματος οὗ τι λέοντ' αἶθωνα δύνανται 161
ποιμένες ἄγραυλοι μέγα πεινάοντα δίεσθαι,
ὥς ῥα τὸν οὐκ ἐδύναντο δύω Αἴαντε κορυστὰ
Ἔκτορα Πριαμίδην ἀπὸ νεκροῦ δειδίξασθαι.

And **as shepherds** of the field are not able to drive **from a body a tawny lion** / when he is very hungry, / so the **two Ajaxes** were not able to frighten **Hector**, Priam's son, away from the **corpse [of Patroclus]**.

[the two Ajaxes > cannot drive Hector > from Patroclus' corpse ≈ shepherds > cannot frighten a lion > from a body] Narrator

8 (207) ἀμφὶ δέ οἱ κεφαλῇ νέφος ἔστεφε δῖα θεάων 205
χρύσειον, ἐκ δ' αὐτοῦ δαῖε φλόγα παμφανόωσαν.
ὥς δ' ὅτε καπνὸς ἰὼν ἐξ ἄστεος αἰθέρ' ἴκηται
τηλόθεν ἐκ νήσου, τὴν δὴ ἴοι ἀμφιμάχωνται,
οἳ τε πανημέριοι συγερῶ κρῖνονται Ἄρηϊ
ἄστεος ἐκ σφετέρου: ἅμα δ' ἠελίῳ καταδύντι 210
πυρσοί τε φλεγέθουσιν ἐπήτριμοι, ὑψόσε δ' αὐγὴ
γίγνεται αἴσσουσα περικτιόνεσσιν ἰδέσθαι,
αἳ κέν πωσ σὺν νηυσὶν ἄρεω ἀλκτῆρες ἴκωνται:
ὥς ἀπ' Ἀχιλλῆος κεφαλῆς σέλας αἰθέρ' ἴκανε:

And the divine goddess <Athena> set a golden **cloud** about his head, / and a gleaming **fire** blazed from him <Achilles>. / **And as when smoke going from a city reaches heaven** / far away from an island that foes surround, / and they fight all day in hateful war (Ares), / from their city, and at sunset / flames burst out one after another, and high aloft a **glare** / comes rushing for dwellers round about to behold, / if by chance they may come with their ships [as] defenders of war; / **so from the head of Achilles went up the gleam to heaven**.

[gleam of fire from Achilles ≈ glare of flames from a city] Narrator

9 (219) ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἀριζήλη φωνή, ὅτε τ' ἴαχε σάλπιγξ

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

ἄστῳ περιπλομένων δῆϊών ὑπο θυμοραϊστέων,
ὡς τότε ἀριζήλη φωνὴ γένετ' Αἰακίδαο.

220

As when [there is] a clear voice when a trumpet sounds / beneath the press of murderous foes surrounding a city, so clear was then the voice of the son of Aeacus.

[clear voice of Aeacus' son ≈ clear sound of a trumpet] Narrator

10 (318) τοῖσι δὲ Πηλεΐδης ἀδινοῦ ἐξήρχε γόοιο
χεΐρας ἐπ' ἀνδροφόνους θέμενος στήθεσσι ἐταίρου
πυκνὰ μάλα στενάχων ὡς τε λῖς ἠϋγένειος,
ὦ ρά θ' ὑπὸ σκύμνους ἐλαφηβόλος ἀρπάσῃ ἀνήρ
ὔλης ἐκ πυκινῆς: ὃ δέ τ' ἄχνυται ὕστερος ἐλθῶν,
πολλὰ δέ τ' ἄγκε' ἐπήλθε μετ' ἀνέρος ἴχνι' ἐρευνῶν
εἷ ποθεν ἐξεύροι: μάλα γὰρ δριμύς χόλος αἰρεῖ:
ὡς ὃ βαρὺ στενάχων μετεφώνεε Μυρμιδόνεσσιν.

320

And for them the son of Peleus began the vehement lamentation, / laying his man-slaying hands upon the breast of his comrade / [and] uttering many groans, **as a well-maned lion** / whose children some deer hunter has snatched away / from a thick forest; and it <the lion> coming later grieves, / and through many glens he goes after the man tracing his footsteps, / if somewhere he may find [him], for very piercing anger seizes [the lion], / **thus he <Achilles>** groaning deeply spoke to the Myrmidons.

[Achilles ≈ a lion] Narrator

11 (418) ὑπὸ δ' ἀμφίπολοι ρώνοντο ἄνακτι
χρύσειαι ζωῆσι νεήνισιν εἰοικυῖαι.
τῆς ἐν μὲν νόος ἐστὶ μετὰ φρεσίν, ἐν δὲ καὶ αὐδὴ
καὶ σθένος, ἀθανάτων δὲ θεῶν ἅπο ἔργα ἴσασι.
αἱ μὲν ὑπαιθα ἄνακτος ἐποίπνυον.

Golden **handmaids** worked for their lord [Hephaestus], / **like living young women.** / In them there is intelligence with reason, and also in [them] [are] voice / and strength, and they know their duties from the immortal gods. / They bustled by the side of their lord.

[Hephaestus' handmaids ≈ living young women] Narrator

12 (437) ἄλλα δέ μοι νῦν,
υἷὸν ἐπεὶ μοι δῶκε γενέσθαι τε τραφέμεν τε
ἔξοχον ἠρώων: ὃ δ' ἀνέδραμεν ἔρνεϊ ἴσος.

435

'But now other [griefs] are mine / since he gave me a **son** to bear and rear / preeminent among warriors, and **he shot up like a sapling.**'

[Achilles ≈ a sapling] Thetis

Cf. #2 (56) above.

13 (438) τὸν μὲν ἐγὼ θρέψασα φυτὸν ὡς γουνῶ ἀλωῆς
νηυσὶν ἐπιπροέηκα κορωνίσιν Ἴλιον εἴσω
Τρωσὶ μαχησόμενον. 440

'Then when I <Thetis> had reared him like a plant in the high ground of an orchard, / I sent him forth in the beaked ships to Ilium / to war with the Trojans.'
[Achilles ≈ a plant] Thetis

Cf. #3 (57) above.

14 (600) οἱ δ' ὅτε μὲν θρέξασκον ἐπισταμένοισι πόδεσσι
ρεῖα μάλ', ὡς ὅτε τις τροχὸν ἄρμενον ἐν παλάμησιν 600
ἐζόμενος κεραμεὺς πειρήσεται, αἶ κε θέησιν.

Sometimes the [young men] would run very easily with knowing feet, / as when some potter sitting [at his work] makes trial of his wheel / fitting it in his hands [to see] if it will run.

[young men running ≈ a potter at his wheel] Narrator

15 (616) αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ πάνθ' ὄπλα κάμε κλυτὸς ἀμφιγυήεις,
μητρὸς Ἀχιλλῆος θῆκε προπάροιθεν ἀείρας. 615
ἦ δ' ἴρηξ ὡς ἄλτο κατ' Οὐλύμπου νιφόεντος
τεύχεα μαρμαίροντα παρ' Ἡφαίστοιο φέρουσα.

But when the famed lame god had made all the armor, / he took it and set it before the mother of Achilles; / and she darted like a falcon from snowy Olympus / carrying the gleaming armor from [the house of] Hephaestus.
[Thetis darting from Olympus ≈ a falcon] Narrator

* * *

Similar Rhetorical Figures

Transformations and Disguise:

* ἐν δ' Ἴρις ἐν δὲ Κυδοιμὸς ὀμίλειον, ἐν δ' ὀλοὴ Κῆρ, 535
...
538* εἶμα δ' ἔχ' ἀμφ' ὤμοισι δαφοινεὸν αἵματι φωτῶν.
ὀμίλειον δ' ὡς τε ζωοὶ βροτοὶ ἠδ' ἐμάχοντο,
νεκρούς τ' ἀλλήλων ἔρουον κατατεθνηῶτας. 540

And amid them **Strife and Tumult joined in the fray, and deadly Fate**, . . . and the clothing that she had about her shoulders was red with the blood of men. **Like living**

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

mortals they joined in the fray and fought; and they were hauling away the dead corpses of one another.

[Strife and Tumult and deadly Fate ≈ living mortals] Narrator

Similetic Epithets:

166* εἰ μὴ Πηλεΐωνι ποδὴνεμος ὠκέα Ἴρις (repeated at 183)
“wind-footed swift Iris” (two nouns: ‘foot’ and ‘wind’)

239* βοῶπις πότνια Ἥρη
“**ox-eyed** queenly Hera” (repeated at 357, 360)
Again two nouns combined into a similetic adjective.

Metaphoric Similes:

22* ὥς φάτο, τὸν δ' ἄχεος νεφέλη ἐκάλυψε μέλαινα
“a black cloud of grief” enfolded Achilles
[intensity of grief (implied comparison) ≈ a black cloud]

102* οὐδέ τι Πατρόκλῳ γενόμεν φάος οὐδ' ἐτάροισι
‘I was not at all **a light [of deliverance] for Patroclus** or my other comrades’ (Achilles)

140* ὑμεῖς μὲν νῦν δῦτε θαλάσσης εὐρέα κόλπον
‘You now plunge beneath the **broad bosom of the sea**’

These three examples illustrate what might be called a “genitive simile” (22), a metaphor (‘light’) that translators often turn into a simile by adding the phrase ‘of deliverance’ (102), and a true metaphor (‘bosom’) which remains a metaphor even with the addition of ‘sea’ in the genitive.

* * *

Similes of the *Iliad* Book 19 (T)

SUMMARY

Scenes:

- #3 (357) [densely packed helmets ≈ densely packed snow-flakes]
- #6 (375) [gleam from Achilles’ shield ≈ gleam from a fire]

Short Clauses and Phrases:

- #1 (17) [gleam of Achilles’ eyes ≈ gleam of flame]
- #2 (350) [Athena ≈ a falcon]

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

- #4 (366) [gleam of Achilles' eyes ≈ a gleam of fire]
 #5 (374) [the gleam from Achilles' shield ≈ the gleam from the moon]
 #7 (381) [Achilles' helmet shone ≈ a star]
 #8 (386) [Achilles' armor ≈ wings]

* * *

Μυρμιδόνας δ' ἄρα πάντας ἔλε τρόμος, οὐδέ τις ἔτλη
 ἄντην εἰσιδέειν, ἀλλ' ἔτρεσαν. αὐτὰρ Ἀχιλλεὺς 15
 ὡς εἶδ', ὡς μιν μάλλον ἔδου χόλος, ἐν δέ οἱ ὄσσε
 1 (17) δεινὸν ὑπὸ βλεφάρων ὡς εἰ σέλας ἐξεφάανθεν:
 τέρπετο δ' ἐν χεῖρεσσιν ἔχων θεοῦ ἀγλαὰ δῶρα.

Trembling [awe] held all the Myrmidons, and none dared / look at it <the divine armor which Thetis brought from Hephaestus>, but they were trembling; however Achilles / when he saw [it], so even more anger seized him, and **his eyes** / gleamed terribly under his eyelids **as if the gleam [of a flame]**, / for he was glad having in his hands the splendid gifts of [the] god.

[gleam of Achilles' eyes ≈ gleam of flame] Narrator

ὡς εἰπὼν ὄτρυνε πάρος μεμαυῖαν Ἀθήνην:
 2 (350) ἧ δ' ἄρπυιᾶ ἐἴκυῖα τανυπτέρυγι λιγυφώνω 350
 οὐρανοῦ ἐκκατεπάλτο δι' αἰθέρος.

Thus speaking he urged Athena, who was already eager. / **She like a falcon** on broad wings with loud voice / darted down from heaven through the air.

[Athena ≈ a falcon] Narrator

τοῖ δ' ἀπάνευθε νεῶν ἐχέοντο θοάων.
 3 (357) ὡς δ' ὅτε ταρφειαὶ νιφάδες Διὸς ἐκποτέονται
 ψυχραὶ ὑπὸ ῥιπῆς αἰθρηγενέος Βορέας,
 ὡς τότε ταρφειαὶ κόρυθες λαμπρὸν γανόωσαι
 νηῶν ἐκφορέοντο. 360

But they poured out of the swift ships. / **As when thick snow-flakes** fly out from Zeus / cold from a blast of air-born Boreas, / **thus then thick helmets** shining bright / streamed from the ships.

[densely packed helmets ≈ densely packed snow-flakes] Narrator

ἐν δὲ μέσοισι κορύσσετο δῖος Ἀχιλλεὺς.
 τοῦ καὶ ὀδόντων μὲν καναχὴ πέλε, τῷ δὲ οἱ ὄσσε 365
 4 (366) λαμπέσθην ὡς εἴ τε πυρὸς σέλας

In their midst divine Achilles put on his armor. / There was also a gnashing of his teeth, and his **eyes** / shone **as if [they had been] a gleam of fire.**

[Achilles' eyes ≈ a gleam of fire] Narrator

- 5 (374) ἀμφὶ δ' ἄρ' ὤμοισιν βάλετο ξίφος ἀργυρόηλον
χάλκεον: αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα σάκος μέγα τε στιβαρόν τε
εἶλετο, τοῦ δ' ἀπάνευθε σέλας γένετ' ἠύτε μῆνης.
- 6 (375) ὡς δ' ὅτ' ἂν ἐκ πόντοιο σέλας ναύτησι φανήη
καιομένοιο πυρός, τό τε καίεται ὑψόθ' ὄρεσφι
σταθμῶ ἐν οἰοπόλῳ: τοὺς δ' οὐκ ἐθέλοντας ἄελλαι
πόντον ἐπ' ἰχθυόεντα φίλων ἀπάνευθε φέρουσιν:
ὡς ἀπ' Ἀχιλλῆος σάκεος σέλας αἰθέρ' ἴκανε
καλοῦ δαιδαλέου: περὶ δὲ τρυφάλειαν αἰείρας
7 (381) κρατὶ θέτο βριαρῆν: ἦ δ' ἀστήρ ὡς ἀπέλαμπεν
ἵππουρις τρυφάλεια, περισσεῖοντο δ' ἔθειραι
χρύσειαι, ἅς Ἥφαιστος ἴει λόφον ἀμφὶ θαμειάς.

He slung the silver-studded sword of bronze about his shoulders, / and then took up the **shield** great and strong / and from it there was **a gleam as if from the moon.** / **As when** from the sea **a gleam** appears to sailors / **from a burning fire**, and it burns high up in the mountains, / in a lonely homestead; but all unwilling storms / carry them out to the teeming sea far from their friends; / even so did **the gleam from Achilles' shield** reach the sky / beautifully fabricated. And lifting up the **strong helmet** / he placed it upon his head, and **it shone like a star** / the horse-tailed **helmet**, and the long hairs / golden which Hephaestus had set thick about the ridge [of the helmet] waved.

#5 (374) [the gleam from Achilles' shield ≈ the gleam from the moon]

#6 (375) [gleam from his shield ≈ gleam from a fire]

#7 (381) [his helmet shone ≈ a star] Narrator

NB the repetition of σέλας in 374, 375, and 379; two similes for Achilles' shield.

- πειρήθη δ' ἔο αὐτοῦ ἐν ἔντεσι δῖος Ἀχιλλεύς,
εἰ οἷ ἐφαρμόσσειε καὶ ἐντρέχοι ἀγλαὰ γυῖα: 385
- 8 (386) τῷ δ' εὔτε περὰ γίγνεται, ἄειρε δὲ ποιμένα λαῶν.

Then godlike Achilles made trial of himself in **his armor** / to see whether it fitted him and his glorious limbs could play freely; / and **it** was to him **like wings**, and lifted up the shepherd of people.

[Achilles' armor ≈ wings] Narrator

* * *

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

#7* (372) [Achilles' might ≈ blazing iron]

#9 (423) [Hector ≈ a flame]

#10 (431) [Hector NOT ≈ a child]

* * *

1 (51) αἶε δ' Ἄρης ἐτέρωθεν ἐρεμνῆ λαίλαπι ἴσος

And on the other side shouted **Ares, equal to a dark whirlwind**
[Ares ≈ a whirlwind] Narrator

2 (164) Πηλείδης δ' ἐτέρωθεν ἐναντίον ὦρτο λέων ὡς
σίντης, ὃν τε καὶ ἄνδρες ἀποκτάμεναι μεμάασιν 165
ἀγρόμενοι πᾶς δῆμος· ὃ δὲ πρῶτον μὲν ἀτίζων
ἔρχεται, ἀλλ' ὅτε κέν τις ἀρηϊθῶν αἰζηῶν
δουρὶ βάλη ἑάλῃ τε χανῶν, περὶ τ' ἀφρὸς ὀδόντας
γίγνεται, ἐν δὲ τέ οἱ κραδίη στένει ἄλκιμον ἦτορ, 170
οὐρῇ δὲ πλευράς τε καὶ ἰσχία ἀμφοτέρωθεν
μαστίεται, ἐὲ δ' αὐτὸν ἐποτρύνει μαχέσασθαι,
γλαυκιῶν δ' ἰθὺς φέρεται μένει, ἦν τινα πέφνη
ἀνδρῶν, ἧ αὐτὸς φθίεται πρώτῳ ἐν ὀμίλῳ·
ὡς Ἀχιλῆϊ ὄτρυνε μένος καὶ θυμὸς ἀγήνωρ
ἀντίον ἐλθέμεναι μεγαλήτορος Αἰνεΐαο. 175

And on the other side **the son of Peleus** rushed against him him **like a lion**, /
carnivorous, that men are eager to kill, / all the people gathered together; and he at the
first caring nothing / [of them] goes his way, but when one of the vigorous [youths] **swift
as Ares** / throws [at him] with a spear, [then] he gathers himself open-mouthed, and
foam comes around his teeth, / and in his heart his valiant spirit groans, / and with his
tail he lashes his ribs and his flanks on both sides, / and rouses himself to fight, / and
with glaring eyes he rushes straight on in his fury, whether he slay some man / or
himself be slain in the foremost throng; / **even so did fury and his lordly spirit drive
Achilles** / to go forth to face great-hearted Aeneas.

[Achilles ≈ a lion] Narrator

3 (200) τὸν δ' αὖτ' Αἰνεΐας ἀπαμείβετο φώνησέν τε·
Πηλείδη μὴ δὴ ἐπέεσσί με νηπύτιον ὡς 200
ἔλπεο δειδίξεσθαι, ἐπεὶ σάφα οἶδα καὶ αὐτὸς
ἡμὲν κερτομίας ἢ δ' αἴсуλα μυθήσασθαι.

Then Aeneas answered him and said, / 'Son of Peleus, do not expect with words to
frighten **me like a child**, / since I know well too, / how to speak mocking and unseemly
[words].'

[me (Aeneas) NOT ≈ a child] Aeneas

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

4 (244) ἄλλ' ἄγε μηκέτι ταῦτα λεγόμεθα νηπύτιοι ὡς
ἔσταότ' ἐν μέσση ὑσμίνῃ δηϊότητος. 245

'But come, no longer let us talk thus **like children**, / standing in the middle strife of battle.'

[Aeneas to Achilles ≈ NOT children] Aeneas

5 (252) ἀλλὰ τί ἢ ἔριδας καὶ νείκεα νῶϊν ἀνάγκη
νεικεῖν ἀλλήλοισιν ἐναντίον ὡς τε γυναῖκας,
αἶ τε χολωσάμεναι ἔριδος πέρι θυμοβόροιο
νεικεῦσ' ἀλλήλησι μέσην ἐς ἄγυιαν ἰοῦσαι
πόλλ' ἑτέα τε καὶ οὐκί: χόλος δέ τε καὶ τὰ κελεύει. 255

'But what need have **we two** to exchange strifes and *quarreling* / with each other **like women**, / who when they have grown angry in soul-devouring strife / go out into the middle of the road / and *quarrel* with each other / with many [words] true and false; for anger compels [them to speak] even these too.'

[we two (Aeneas and Achilles) ≈ women] Aeneas

6* (371) τοῦ δ' ἐγὼ ἀντίος εἶμι καὶ εἰ πυρὶ χεῖρας ἔοικεν,
7* (372) εἰ πυρὶ χεῖρας ἔοικε, μένος δ' αἶθωνι σιδήρῳ.

'I <Hector> am going out to face him <Achilles> even if **his hands are like fire**, / if **his hands are like fire and his might is like blazing iron**.'

#6* (371) [Achilles' hands ≈ fire]

#7* (372) [Achilles' might ≈ blazing iron] Hector

Note the repetition of the last three words of 371 (*epanalepsis*), on which see De Jong 2012:92.

8 (403) αὐτὰρ ὁ θυμὸν αἴσθε καὶ ἤρυγεν, ὡς ὅτε ταῦρος
ἤρυγεν ἐλκόμενος Ἑλικώνιον ἀμφὶ ἄνακτα
κούρων ἐλκόντων: γάνυται δέ τε τοῖς ἐνοσίχθων:
ὡς ἄρα τόν γ' ἐρυγόντα λίπ' ὀστέα θυμὸς ἀγήνωρ: 405

But **he** <Hippodamus killed by Achilles> breathed forth his spirit and gave a bellowing cry, **as when a bull** / that is dragged bellowed, being dragged around the altar of the lord of Helice; / by young men dragging [it]; for the Shaker of Earth delights in these things; / **so** he bellowed as his lordly spirit left his bones.

[he (Hippodamus) ≈ a bull] Narrator

Ἐκτῶρ δ' ὡς ἐνόησε κασίγνητον Πολύδωρον
ἔντερα χερσὶν ἔχοντα λιαζόμενον ποτὶ γαίῃ 420

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

9 (423) κάρ ρά οἱ ὀφθαλμῶν κέχυτ' ἀχλύς: οὐδ' ἄρ' ἔτ' ἔτλη
 δηρὸν ἐκάς στρωφᾶσθ', ἀλλ' ἀντίος ἦλθ' Ἀχιλῆϊ
 ὄξυ δόρου κραδάων φλογὶ εἵκελος.

But when **Hector** noticed his brother Polydorus, / clasping his bowels in his hand and
 sinking to earth, / a mist was shed down over his eyes, and he could no longer endure /
 to range apart, but went up to Achilles / brandishing a sharp spear **like a flame**.
 [Hector ≈ a flame] Narrator

Note that γαίη in line 420 of Perseus text should be γαίη with an iota subscript.

10 (431) τὸν δ' οὐ ταρβήσας προσέφη κορυθαίολος Ἴεκτωρ: 430
 'Πηλεΐδῃ μὴ δὴ ἐπέεσσὶ με νηπύτιον ὦς
 ἔλπεο δειδίξεσθαι, ἐπεὶ σάφα οἶδα καὶ αὐτὸς
 ἤμην κερτομίας ἠδ' αἴσυλα μυθήσασθαι.

But with no touch of fear, Hector of the flashing helmet spoke to him: / 'Son of Peleus,
 do not expect to frighten **me** with words **like a child**, / since I know well too / [how] to
 speak mocking and unseemly [words].'
 [Hector NOT ≈ a child] Hector

11 (490) ὦς δ' ἀναμαιμάει βαθέ' ἄγκεα θεσπιδαῆς πῦρ 490
 οὔρεος ἀζαλέοιο, βαθεῖα δὲ καίεται ὕλη,
 πάντῃ τε κλονέων ἄνεμος φλόγα εἰλυφάζει,
 ὦς ὃ γε πάντῃ θῦνε σὺν ἔγχρῃ δαίμονι ἴσος
 κτεινομένους ἐφέπων: ῥέε δ' αἵματι γαῖα μέλαινα.
 12 (495) ὦς δ' ὅτε τις ζεύξη βόας ἄρσενας εὐρυμετώπους 495
 τριβέμεναι κρὶ λευκὸν ἐϋκτιμένην ἐν ἄλωῃ,
 ῥίμφά τε λέπτ' ἐγένοντο βοῶν ὑπὸ πόσσ' ἐριμύκων,
 ὦς ὑπ' Ἀχιλλῆος μεγαθύμου μώνυχες ἵπποι
 στεῖβον ὁμοῦ νέκυάς τε καὶ ἀσπίδας.

As a wondrous-blazing fire rages through the deep glens / of a parched mountainside,
 and the deep forest burns, / and the driving wind whirls the flame everywhere, / **so** he
 <Achilles> raged everywhere with his spear, **like a god**, / ever pressing hard upon
 those he killed; and the black earth ran with blood. / And **as when someone** yokes
bulls broad of brow / to tread white **barley** in a well-ordered threshing-floor, / and
 quickly the grain is husked by the feet of the loud-bellowing bulls; / **thus** by great-souled
Achilles did his single-hooved **horses** / trample alike **the dead and their shields**.
 #11 (490) [Achilles ≈ a fire]
 #12 (495) [Achilles > horses > the dead and their shields ≈ thresher > bulls > barley]
 Narrator

* * *

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

Similar Rhetorical Figures

Transformations and Disguises:

- 81* υιεί δὲ Πριάμοιο Λυκάονι εἶσατο φωνήν:
82* τῷ μιν εἰσάμενος προσέφη Διὸς υἱὸς Ἀπόλλων.

He likened his voice to Lycaon, Priam's son; / **being like him Apollo** son of Zeus addressed him.

- 224* ἵππῳ δ' εἰσάμενος παρελέξατο κυανοχαίτη.

Likening himself <Boreas> to a dark-maned stallion he covered [the mares of Erichthonius].

Divine Comparisons:

- 45–6 ὀρώντο ποδώκεα Πηλεΐωνα
τεύχεσι λαμπόμενον βροτολοιγῷ ἴσον Ἄρηϊ.

They saw swift-footed **son of Peleus**, /shining in his harness, **equal to Ares**, the bane of men.

Lee counts this as a simile.

- 167* τις ἀρηιθόων αἰζηῶν = one of the youths swift as Ares

- 232* ἀντίθεος Γανυμήδης **God-like** Ganymede

- 447* ἐπέσσυτο δαίμονι ἴσος he <Achilles> rushed on him <Hector> **like a god**

- 493* ὡς ὃ γε πάντη θῦνε σὺν ἔγχει δαίμονι ἴσος
so he [Achilles] raged everywhere with his spear, **like a god**

* * *

Similes of the *Iliad* Book 21 (Φ)

SUMMARY

Scenes:

- #1 (12) [Achilles > horses and men (Trojan) into the river Xanthus ≈ a blast of fire > locusts into a river]
#2 (22) [Trojans flee Achilles ≈ fish flee dolphin]

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

- #6 (252) [Achilles' rush ≈ eagle's swoop]
 #7 (257) [the River Scamander is faster than Achilles ≈ a stream of water is faster than the man leading it in a channel]
 #8 (282) [Achilles ≈ a swineherd boy]
 #9 (346) [Hephaestus burned the dead ≈ Boreas dries up an orchard]
 #10 (362) [waters of Xanthus boil ≈ a cauldron boiling]
 #11 (464) [mortals ≈ leaves]
 #12 (493) [Artemis > Hera ≈ a dove > a falcon]
 #13 (522) [Achilles > toil and sorrows for the Trojans ≈ smoke from a burning city sent by wrath of gods > toil and sorrows for many]
 #14 (573) [Agenor > Achilles ≈ a leopard > a hunter]

Short Clauses and Phrases:

- #3 (29) [twelve Trojan youths ≈ dazed fawns]
 #4 (237) [Achilles bellowing ≈ a bull]
 #5*(ὄσον) (251) [he rushed back [a long way: τόσσον implied] ≈ (ὄσον, as far as) a spear-cast]

* * *

- 1 (12) ὤς δ' ὄθ' ὑπὸ ῥίπῃς πυρὸς ἀκρίδες ἠερέθονται
 φευγέμεναι ποταμόνδε: τὸ δὲ φλέγει ἀκάματον πῦρ
 ὄρμενον ἐξαίφνης, ταὶ δὲ πῶσσοισι καθ' ὕδωρ:
 ὤς ὑπ' Ἀχιλλῆος Ξάνθου βαθυδινηέντος
 πλῆτο ῥόος κελάδων ἐπιμίξ ἵππων τε καὶ ἀνδρῶν. 15

And **as** when **by a blast of fire locusts** are made to swarm / fleeing to **a river**; and the tireless fire burns / rising suddenly, and they fall into the water: / **so** by **Achilles** was the resounding stream of deep-swirling Xanthus / filled confusedly with both horses and men.

[Achilles > horses and men (Trojan) into the river Xanthus ≈ a blast of fire > locusts into a river] Narrator

- 2 (22) ὤς δ' ὑπὸ δελφίνος μεγακήτεος ἰχθύες ἄλλοι
 φεύγοντες πιμπλάσι μυχοὺς λιμένος εὐόρμου
 δειδιότες: μάλα γάρ τε κατεσθίει ὄν κε λάβησιν:
 ὤς Τρῶες ποταμοῖο κατὰ δεινοῖο ῥέεθρα
 πῶσσον ὑπὸ κρημνοῦς.

As other **fish** fleeing [from] a huge dolphin / fill [every] nook [and corner] of a fair harbor / in fear - for he eats whatever he can catch - / even so did the **Trojans** cower under [the] streams of a mighty river / along its banks.

[Trojans flee Achilles ≈ fish flee dolphin] Narrator

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

ζωούς ἐκ ποταμοῖο δὺώδεκα λέξατο κούρους
ποινήν Πατρόκλιο Μενoitιάδο θανόντος:
3 (29) τούς ἐξήγε θύραζε τεθηπότας ἤύτε νεβρούς.

He chose twelve **living youths** out of the water / [as] revenge for dead Patroclus son of Menoitios. / **These** he drew out **like dazed fawns**.

[twelve Trojan youths ≈ dazed fawns] Narrator

ἦ, καὶ Ἀχιλλεύς μὲν δουρικλυτὸς ἔνθορε μέσσω
κρημνοῦ ἀπαίξας: ὃ δ' ἐπέσσυτο οἴδματι θύων,
πάντα δ' ὄρινε ῥέεθρα κυκώμενος, ὡσε δὲ νεκρούς 235
πολλούς, οἳ ῥα κατ' αὐτὸν ἄλις ἔσαν, οὓς κτάν' Ἀχιλλεύς
4 (237) τούς ἐκβαλλε θύραζε μεμυκῶς ἤύτε ταῦρος

He <the river Scamander> spoke, and Achilles, famed for his spear, leaped into his midst / springing from the bank, but [the river] rushed upon [him] with surging flood, / and roused all his streams tumultuously, and swept along many corpses / that lay thick within his bed, which **Achilles** killed. / These he cast out to the [land], **bellowing like a bull**.

[Achilles bellowing ≈ a bull] Narrator

5* (251) Πηλεΐδης δ' ἀπόρουσεν ὅσον τ' ἐπὶ δουρὸς ἐρωή, 251
6 (252) αἰετοῦ οἴματ' ἔχων μέλανος τοῦ θηρητήρος,
ὅς θ' ἅμα κάρτιστός τε καὶ ὤκιστος πετεηνῶν:
τῷ ἐϊκῶς ἤϊξεν

But the **son of Peleus** rushed back **as far as a spear-cast** / having the swoop of a **black eagle**, the hunter, / that is at the same time both the strongest and swiftest of winged things; / **like him he darted**

#5* (251) [Achilles rushed back (a long way: τόσσον implied) ≈ (ὅσον, as far as) a spear-cast]

#6 (254) [Achilles' rush ≈ eagle's swoop] Narrator

7 (257) ὡς δ' ὅτ' ἀνὴρ ὀχετηγὸς ἀπὸ κρήνης μελανύδρου
ἄμ φυτὰ καὶ κήπους ὑδατι ῥόον ἡγεμονεύη
χερσὶ μάκελλαν ἔχων, ἀμάρης ἐξ ἔχματα βάλλων:
τοῦ μὲν τε προρέοντος ὑπὸ ψηφίδες ἅπασαι 260
ὀχλεῦνται: τὸ δὲ τ' ὦκα κατειβόμενον κελαρύζει
χώρῳ ἐνὶ προαλεῖ, φθάνει δὲ τε καὶ τὸν ἄγοντα:
ὡς αἰεὶ Ἀχιλῆα κιχήσατο κύμα ῥόοιο
καὶ λαιψηρὸν ἐόντα: θεοὶ δὲ τε φέρτεροι ἀνδρῶν.

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

As when a man guiding an irrigation channel leads from a dark spring / a **stream of water** amid his plants and garden-lots / having a mattock in his hands, and throwing out the obstructions from the channel / and as it flows all the pebbles underneath / are swept along; and it gliding swiftly onward murmurs / along a sloping place and **goes faster even than the man guiding it**; / **so** always did the **wave of the river overtake Achilles** / even though he was fleet [of foot]; for the gods are mightier than men.
[the River Scamander is faster than Achilles ≈ a stream of water is faster than the man leading it in a channel] Narrator

8 (282) νῦν δέ με λευγαλέῳ θανάτῳ εἴμαρτο ἀλῶναι
ἐρχθέντ' ἐν μεγάλῳ ποταμῷ ὡς παῖδα συφορβόν,
ὄν ρά τ' ἔναυλος ἀπόερση χεიმῶνι περῶντα.

'But now it is fated for **me** to be taken by a miserable death, / stuck in a great river, **like a swineherd boy** / whom a torrent sweeps away as he tries to cross it in winter.'
[Achilles ≈ a swineherd boy] Achilles

9 (346) ὡς δ' ὅτ' ὀπωρινὸς Βορέης νεοαρδέ' ἀλῶν
αἶψ' ἀγξηράνη: χαίρει δέ μιν ὅς τις ἐθείρη:
ὡς ἐξηράνθη πεδίον πᾶν, κὰδ δ' ἄρα νεκρούς
κῆεν: ὃ δ' ἐς ποταμὸν τρέψε φλόγα παμφανόωσαν.

And **as when** in harvest-time **Boreas quickly dries up a freshly-watered orchard**, / and whoever tills it rejoices; / **so was the whole plain dried**, and the dead he <Hephaestus> completely / burned; and then against the River <Xanthus> he turned his gleaming flame.

[Hephaestus burned the dead ≈ Boreas dries up an orchard] Narrator

10 (362) φῆ πυρὶ καιόμενος, ἀνὰ δ' ἔφλυε καλὰ ῥέεθρα.
ὡς δὲ λέβης ζεῖ ἔνδον ἐπειγόμενος πυρὶ πολλῷ
κνίστην μελδόμενος ἀπαλοτρεφέος σιάλοιο
πάντοθεν ἀμβολάδην, ὑπὸ δὲ ξύλα κάγκανα κείται,
ὡς τοῦ καλὰ ῥέεθρα πυρὶ φλέγετο, ζέε δ' ὕδωρ: 365

He <the river> spoke boiling with fire and his fair waters were seething. **As a cauldron boils** within being forced by a large fire / while it melts the lard of a fatted hog, / [and] it keeps bubbling up all over, and dry wood lies under it, / **so burned in fire** his <Xanthus> fair waters, and the water was boiling.

[waters of Xanthus boil ≈ a cauldron boiling] Narrator

11 (464) 'ἐννοσίγαι' οὐκ ἄν με σαόφρονα μυθήσαιο
ἔμμεναι, εἰ δὴ σοί γε βροτῶν ἔνεκα ππολεμίξω
δειλῶν, οἱ φύλλοισιν ἐοικότες ἄλλοτε μὲν τε
ζαφλεγέες τελέθουσιν ἀρούρης καρπὸν ἔδοντες, 465

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

noble son, godlike **Agenor**, was not willing to flee before he should make trial of **Achilles**. [Agenor > Achilles ≈ a leopard > a hunter] Narrator

For discussion see Naiden 1999.

* * *

Similar Rhetorical Figures

Factual Comparison:

75* ἄντι τοί εἰμ' ικέταο διοτρεφὲς αἰδοίοιο.
'γυνοῦμαι σ' Ἀχιλεῦ: σὺ δέ μ' αἶδεο καί μ' ἐλέησον:

'I beg you, Achilles: have mercy on me and pity me. / I am surely **like a suppliant** worthy of mercy to you.'
[I ≈ suppliant] Lycaon

The preposition *ἀντί* ('instead of' / 'in return for') might be considered prothetic here. In Homer the word is used "often to denote equivalence" (Perseus s.v. *ἀντί*) so that in one sense it could be considered a simile; but since the meaning here is not figurative but rather factual (Lycaon is trying to bargain with Achilles), it is not listed in the text as a simile.

* * *

Divine Comparisons:

18* αὐτὰρ ὃ διογενῆς . . . ἔσθορε δαίμονι ἴσος
But *the hero* (ὃ διογενῆς) . . . plunged [into the river] **like a *daimôn***

227* ὡς εἰπὼν Τρῶεσσιν ἐπέσσυτο δαίμονι ἴσος:
'he rushed on the Trojans **like a daimon/god**

* * *

A Verbal Simile:

388* ἀμφὶ δὲ σάλπιγξεν μέγας οὐρανός.

And the great heaven **rang out [as with a blare of] trumpets.**

Literally: the great heaven 'trumpeted' all around. [heaven ≈ a trumpet]

* * *

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

Similes of the *Iliad* Book 22 (X)

SUMMARY

Scenes:

- #2 (22) [Achilles ≈ a prize-winning horse]
- #3 (26) [Achilles ≈ a star, the Dog of Orion]
- #4 (93) [Hector > Achilles (implied) ≈ a mountain serpent > a man]
- #6 (127) [Hector > Achilles ≈ maiden > youth]
- #8 (139) [Achilles > Hector ≈ a falcon > a dove]
- #11 (162) [Achilles and Hector ≈ two race horses]
- #12 (189) [Hector > Achilles ≈ fawn > dog]
- #13 (199) [Achilles > Hector ≈ one pursuing in a dream > another fleeing]
- #14 (262) [Achilles > Hector ≈ lions > men, wolves > lambs]
- #15 (308) [Hector > Achilles (implied) ≈ a high-flying eagle > a lamb or hare]
- #16 (317) [light from Achilles' spear ≈ the evening star]
- #17 (410) [mourning of Priam et al. ≈ the mourning of Troy destroyed by fire]

Short Clauses and Phrases:

- #1 (1) [the Trojans ≈ fawns]
- #5* (125) [Hector ≈ a woman]
- #7 (134) [bronze ≈ gleaming of fire or the sun]
- #9 (150) [one spring ≈ a blazing fire]
- #10 (151) [the other spring ≈ hail or snow or ice]
- #18 (460) [Andromache ≈ a maenad / madwoman]

* * *

- 1 (1) ὡς οἱ μὲν κατὰ ἄστῦ πεφυζότες ἤύτε νεβροὶ
ἰδρῶ ἀπεψύχοντο πῖον τ' ἀκέοντό τε δίψαν
κεκλιμένοι καλῆσιν ἐπάλξεσιν:

So **they** <the Trojans> fleeing throughout the city **like fawns** / were cooling their sweat and drinking and quenching their thirst / leading against the fine battlements.

[the Trojans ≈ fawns] Narrator

- 2 (22) ὡς εἰπὼν προτὶ ἄστῦ μέγα φρονέων ἐβεβήκει,
σευάμενος ὡς θ' ἵππος ἀεθλοφόρος σὺν ὄχεσφιν,
ὅς ῥά τε ῥεῖα θέησι τιταινόμενος πεδίοιο:
ὡς Ἀχιλεὺς λαιψηρὰ πόδας καὶ γούνατ' ἐνώμα.

So speaking **he** <Achilles> went toward the city in great eagerness / speeding **like a prize-winning horse** with a chariot / which easily runs at full speed over the plain; / **so Achilles** swiftly moved his feet and knees.

[Achilles ≈ a prize-winning horse] Narrator

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

“For the typical use of epic *te*” here and at 3.26 etc. De Jong says 2012:65 that “often as part of a simile. . . . the particle signals that the action or event described is regularly recurring or exists in all times” (32).

3 (26) τὸν δ' ὁ γέρων Πρίαμος πρῶτος ἴδεν ὀφθαλμοῖσι
παμφαίνονθ' ὡς τ' ἀστέρ' ἐπεσσύμενον πεδίῳ,
ὅς ῥά τ' ὀπώρης εἶσιν, ἀρίζηλοι δέ οἱ αὐγαὶ
φαίνονται πολλοῖσι μετ' ἀστράσι νυκτὸς ἀμολγῶ,
ὄν τε κύν' Ὠρίωνος ἐπὶ κλησιν καλέουσι.

The old man Priam was first to see him <Achilles> with his eyes, / gleaming and speeding over the plain **like a star** / that comes at harvest time and its rays shine brightly / among the many stars in the dead of night, / [the star] that men call by name the Dog of Orion.

[Achilles ≈ a star, the Dog of Orion] Narrator

Note the comparison of Achilles to an unusually bright star is paralleled in the simile at 22 #16 (317), where his spear is compared to a bright star.

4 (93) ἀλλ' ὃ γε μὶν' Ἀχιλῆα πελώριον ἄσσον ἰόντα.
ὡς δὲ δράκων ἐπὶ χειρὶ ὀρέστερος **ἄνδρα** μένησι
βεβρωκῶς κακὰ φάρμακ', ἔδου δέ τέ μιν χόλος αἰνός,
σμερδαλέον δὲ δέδορκεν ἐλίσσόμενος περὶ χειρῆ: 95
ὡς Ἴκτωρ ἄσβεστον ἔχων μένος οὐχ ὑπεχώρει
πύργῳ ἔπι προὔχοντι φαεινὴν ἀσπίδ' ἐρείσας.

But he <Hector> awaited huge Achilles as he came nearer. / And **as a serpent** of the mountain awaits **a man** at his lair, / having fed on evil herbs, and dread anger has entered into him, / and terribly he glares as he coils about near his lair, / **so Hector** with unquenchable might did not give ground, leaning his bright shield against a jutting wall. [Hector > Achilles (implied) ≈ a mountain serpent > a man] Narrator

“As often in Homer, the animal of the simile is endowed with human traits” (De Jong 2012:81; she cites other scholars).

5* (125) μή μιν ἐγὼ μὲν ἴκωμαι ἰών, ὃ δὲ μ' οὐκ ἐλεήσει
οὐδέ τί μ' αἰδέσεται, κτενέει δέ με γυμνὸν ἐόντα
αὐτῶς ὡς τε γυναῖκα, ἐπεὶ κ' ἀπὸ τεύχεα δύω.

‘I should not go and meet him and he will not have pity on me / or respect me at all, but he will kill me unarmed / just **as if I were a woman**, when I take off my armor.’

[Hector ≈ a woman] Hector

οὐ μὲν πως νῦν ἔστιν ἀπὸ δρυὸς οὐδ' ἀπὸ πέτρης

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

6 (127) τῷ ὀαριζέμεναι, ἅ τε παρθένος ἠΐθεός τε
παρθένος ἠΐθεός τ' ὀαρίζετον ἀλλήλοιιν.

'It is by no means possible now [for me] from oak tree or from rock / to have a lovers' chat with him, **just as a youth and maiden** / — a youth and maiden chat with one another.'

[Hector > Achilles ≈ maiden > youth] Hector

For another example of *epanalepsis*, see *Iliad* Book 20 #6* and #7* (371–372), and see De Jong 2012:92.

ὡς ὄρμαινε μένων, ὃ δέ οἱ σχεδὸν ἦλθεν Ἀχιλλεὺς
ἴσος Ἐνυαλίῳ κορυθαίικι πολεμιστῇ
σειῶν Πηλιάδα μελίην κατὰ δεξιὸν ὤμον
7 (134) δεινὴν: ἀμφὶ δὲ χαλκὸς ἐλάμπετο εἴκελος αὐγῇ
ἢ πυρὸς αἶθομένου ἢ ἡελίου ἀνιόντος. 135

So he <Hector> pondered waiting, and near him came Achilles / **like Enyalios**, warrior of the wavy helmet, / shaking over his right shoulder the Pelian ash, / the terrible spear. And all around **bronze** shone **like the gleaming** / either of **blazing fire** or of a **rising sun**. [bronze ≈ gleaming of fire or the sun] Narrator

Ἐκτορα δ', ὡς ἐνόησεν, ἔλε τρόμος: οὐδ' ἄρ' ἔτ' ἔτλη
αὔθι μένειν, ὀπίσω δὲ πύλας λίπε, βῆ δὲ φοβηθεὶς:
Πηλείδης δ' ἐπόρουσε ποσὶ κραιπνοῖσι πεποιθώς.
8 (139) ἢ ἔτε κίρκος ὄρεσφιν ἐλαφρότατος πετεηνῶν
ῥηϊδίως οἴμησε μετὰ τρήρωνα πέλειαν, 140
ἢ δὲ θ' ὑπαιθα φοβεῖται, ὃ δ' ἐγγύθεν ὄξυ λεληκῶς
ταρφέ' ἐπαΐσσει, ἐλέειν τέ ἐ θυμὸς ἀνώγει:
ὡς ἄρ' ὃ γ' ἐμμεμαῶς ἰθὺς πέτετο, τρέσε δ' Ἐκτωρ
τειχὸς ὑπο Τρώων, λαιψηρὰ δὲ γούνατ' ἐνώμα.

But trembling got hold of Hector when he saw [him], and he dared / no longer stay [where he was] but left the gates behind him, and fled in fear; / and the **son of Peleus** rushed after him, trusting in his fast feet. / **As a falcon in the mountains**, swiftest of winged things, / swoops easily after **a trembling dove**, / she flees before him, and he close at hand with shrill cries / darts again and again, and his heart commands him to seize her; / **thus he <Achilles>** in his fury sped straight on, and Hector fled in terror / beneath the wall of the Trojans, and moved his limbs swiftly.

[Achilles > Hector ≈ a falcon > a dove] Narrator

ἔνθα δὲ πηγαὶ
δοιαὶ ἀναΐσσουσι Σκαμάνδρου δινήεντος.
ἢ μὲν γάρ θ' ὕδατι λιαρῷ ῥέει, ἀμφὶ δὲ καπνὸς

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

- 9 (150) γίνεταί ἐξ αὐτῆς ὡς εἰ πυρὸς αἶθομένοιο: 150
 10 (151) ἢ δ' ἑτέρη θέρεϊ προρέει εἵκυῖα χαλάζῃ,
 ἢ χιόνι ψυχρῇ ἢ ἐξ ὕδατος κρυστάλλῳ.

There **two springs** / well up from eddying Scamander. / The **one** flows with warm water, and around [it] smoke / rises from it **as if from a blazing fire**; / and **the other** in summer flows forth **like hail** / or **chill snow**, or **ice from water**.

#9 (150) [one spring ≈ a blazing fire]

#10 (151) [the other spring ≈ hail or snow or ice] Narrator

- 11 (162) ὡς δ' ὅτ' ἀεθλοφόροι περὶ τέρματα μώνυχες ἵπποι
 ῥίμφα μάλα τρωχῶσι: τὸ δὲ μέγα κεῖται ἄεθλον
 ἢ τρίπος ἢ γυνὴ ἀνδρὸς κατατεθνηῶτος:
 ὡς τῷ τρις Πριάμοιο πόλιν πέρι δινηθήτην 165
 καρπαλίμοισι πόδεσσι: θεοὶ δ' ἐς πάντες ὀρῶντο.

As when prize-winning single-hoofed **horses** around the turning-points / run very swiftly and some great prize is set forth, / either a tripod or a woman, [in honor] of a man who is dead, / **thus the two <Achilles and Hector>** turn around the city of Priam three times / quickly on their feet, and all the gods gaze upon [them].

[Achilles and Hector ≈ two race horses] Narrator

“The second of four similes in the context of the chase.” (De Jong 2012:100). See: 139–143, 162–165, 189–193, 199–201.

- 12 (189) ὡς δ' ὅτε νεβρὸν ὄρεσφι κύων ἐλάφοιο δίηται 190
 ὄρσας ἐξ εὐνῆς διὰ τ' ἄγκεα καὶ διὰ βήσσας:
 τὸν δ' εἴ περ τε λάθησι καταπτήξας ὑπὸ θάμνῳ,
 ἀλλὰ τ' ἀνιχνεύων θέει ἔμπεδον ὄφρα κεν εὔρη:
 ὡς Ἐκτωρ οὐ λήθε ποδώκεα Πηλεΐωνα.

As when a dog chases a **fawn** of a deer in the mountains, / rousing [it] from its nest, through gorges and glens, / and if it escapes [the dog] by crouching under a thicket, / yet tracking it he runs on until he finds [it]; / **thus Hector** did not escape swift-footed **son of Peleus**.

[Hector > Achilles ≈ fawn > dog] Narrator

“Deer in Iliadic comparisons/similes are typically symbols of helplessness, often fear (e.g. 11.113–121). Most ‘deer’ symbols concern the Trojans; . . . At the opening of this book, the Trojans . . . were compared to fawns (22.1).” (De Jong 2012:107)

- 13 (199) ὡς δ' ἐν ὄνειρῳ οὐ δύναται φεύγοντα διώκειν:
 οὐτ' ἄρ' ὁ τὸν δύναται ὑποφεύγειν οὔθ' ὁ διώκειν: 200

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

ὥς ὃ τὸν οὐ δύνατο μάρψαι ποσίν, οὐδ' ὃς ἀλύξαι.

As in a dream [one] is not able to pursue [and catch someone] fleeing, — / neither the one to escape the other nor the other to catch the one — / thus he <Achilles> is unable to catch the other <Hector> on foot, nor the other to escape.

[Achilles > Hector ≈ one pursuing in a dream > another fleeing] Narrator

“Aristarchus athetised these lines [199–201] as being ‘shabby’ (ευτελεις), both as regards their content and their style: the simile, which indicates that the race does not progress, would contradict the simile of the racehorses at 162–6, and line 200 seems a mere repetition of 199.” Here we may be grateful that Aristarchus merely obelised verses . . . rather than removing them, because they are among the most haunting in the Homeric epics . . .” (De Jong 2012:108) “This is the only Homeric simile to refer to dreaming.” (109)

14 (262) ὥς οὐκ ἔστι λέουσι καὶ ἀνδράσιν ὄρκια πιστά,
οὐδὲ λύκοι τε καὶ ἄρνες ὁμόφρονα θυμὸν ἔχουσιν,
ἀλλὰ κακὰ φρονέουσι διαμπερὲς ἀλλήλοισιν,
ὥς οὐκ ἔστ' ἐμὲ καὶ σὲ φιλήμεναι, οὐδέ τι νῶϊν 265
ὄρκια ἔσσονται, πρὶν γ' ἢ ἕτερόν γε πεσόντα
αἵματος ἄσαι Ἄρηα ταλαύρινον πολεμιστήν.

‘**As** there are not trustworthy oaths for **lions and men**, and **wolves and lambs** do not have a harmonious spirit, / but think evil continuously against one another, / **thus** it is not possible for **me and you** to be friends, nor shall there be / any oaths between us, before one of us falls / and satisfies Ares with blood — the tough warrior.’

[Achilles > Hector ≈ lions > men, wolves > lambs] Achilles

15 (308) ὥς ἄρα φωνήσας εἰρύσσατο φάσγανον ὀξύ,
τό οἱ ὑπὸ λαπάρην τέτατο μέγα τε στιβαρόν τε,
οἴμησεν δὲ ἀλείς ὥς τ' αἰετὸς ὑψιπετήεις,
ὅς τ' εἶσιν πεδίον δὲ διὰ νεφέων ἐρεβεννῶν
ἀρπάξων ἢ ἄρν' ἀμαλήν ἢ πτώκα λαγῶν: 310
ὥς Ἐκτωρ οἴμησε τινάσσω φάσγανον ὀξύ.

So speaking he <Hector> drew his sharp sword, / that hung by his side large and mighty, / and gathering himself he swooped **like a high-flying eagle** / that goes to the plain through dark clouds / to seize either a tender **lamb** or a cowering **hare**; / **thus Hector** swooped brandishing his sharp sword.

[Hector > Achilles (implied) ≈ a high-flying eagle > a lamb or hare] Narrator

“The simile [#15 (308)] stresses the heroic and martial nature of Hector for the final time.” (De Jong 2012:136)

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

16 (317) οἶος δ' ἀστήρ εἶσι μετ' ἀστράσι νυκτὸς ἀμοργῶ
ἔσπερος, ὃς κάλλιστος ἐν οὐρανῷ ἴσταται ἀστήρ,
ὡς αἰχμῆς ἀπέλαμπ' εὐήκεος, ἣν ἄρ' Ἀχιλλεὺς
πάλλεν δεξιτερῇ φρονέων κακὸν Ἕκτορι δῖω
εἰσορόων χροῖα καλόν, ὅπῃ εἴξειε μάλιστα. 320

As a star goes among stars in the dark of night — / **the evening star**, which stands most beautiful in heaven, / **so it shone forth from the sharp spear** which Achilles / brandished in his right hand as he devised evil for divine Hector / looking at his fair skin [to see] where it yielded most.

[light from Achilles' spear ≈ the evening star] Narrator

17 (410) τῷ δὲ μάλιστα ἄρ' ἔην ἐναλίγκιον ὡς εἰ ἅπαντα
Ἴλιος ὀφρυόεσσα πυρὶ σμύχοιτο κατ' ἄκρης. 410

Most **like** this [i.e., the city-wide mourning for Hector] it was, **as if all** / overhanging **Ilium were utterly destroyed by fire.**

[mourning of Priam et al. ≈ the mourning of Troy destroyed by fire] Narrator

“This comparison is unique in several aspects: it concerns a singular, specific event (the fall of Troy) rather than an omnitemporal one (e.g., waves crashing on a shore, a lion attacking a herd). The narrator does not just note the similarity between X and Y but the *close* similarity Its primary function is to suggest the intensity and extent of the Trojan lamentation throughout the city. Its secondary function is to announce, once again . . . the fall of Troy Finally, this comparison also forms the climax of a series of similes dealing with the theme of a beleaguered city: cf. 18.219–21 and 21.522–5. . . . To underscore the solemnity of the moment the narrator opts for vocabulary that is unique (ὀφρυόεσσα) or rare (σμύχοιτο).” (De Jong 2012:166)

18 (460) ὡς φαμένη μεγάροιο διέσσυτο μαινάδι ἴση
παλλομένη κραδίην: ἅμα δ' ἀμφίπολοι κίον αὐτῇ. 460

So speaking she <Andromache> rushed through the great hall **like a maenad**, / with throbbing heart, and her maids went with her.

[Andromache ≈ a maenad / madwoman] Narrator.

* * *

Similar Rhetorical Figures

Transformation and Disguise:

228* ἦ δ' ἄρα τὸν μὲν ἔλειπε, κιχήσατο δ' Ἕκτορα δῖον
Δηϊφόβῳ εἰκυῖα δέμας καὶ ἀτειρέα φωνήν:

She <Athena> left him <Achilles> and met noble Hector, / **in the likeness of Deiphobus** in form and untiring voice.

[Athena ≈ Deiphobus] Narrator

Divine Comparisons:

132* ἦλθεν Ἀχιλλεὺς / (132) ἴσος Ἐνυαλίῳ κορυθαίκι πολεμιστῆ

Achilles came **like Enyalios** warrior of the waving helmet

434* εὐχολὴ κατὰ ἄστῦ πελέσκειο, πᾶσι τ' ὄνειαρ,
Τρωσί τε καὶ Τρωῆσι κατὰ πόλιν, οἳ σε θεὸν ὥς
δειδέχατ'.

435

'You [Hector] were [my] boast throughout the city, and a blessing to all /
the Trojan men and women, / who **greeted you as a god.**' [Hecuba]

* * *

Similes of the *Iliad* Book 23 (Ψ)

SUMMARY

Scenes:

#2 (222) [Achilles mourns his comrade Patroclus ≈ a father mourns his son]

#5 (ὄσσα/τόσσον) (431) [they ran ≈ (as far as) a discus throw]

#7* (ὄσσον/τόσσον) (517) [Menelaus > Antilochus ≈ a horse > the wheel of a cart]

#8 (598) [Menelaus' heart was warmed ≈ dew on ears of grain crop ripening]

#9 (692) [Euryalus leaped ≈ a fish leaps]

#10 (712) [Odysseus and Ajax ≈ gable-rafters]

#11 (760) [closeness of Odysseus to Ajax son of Oileus ≈ closeness of a weaving rod to the chest of a woman weaving]

#13 (ὄσσόν/τόσσον) (845) [distance Polypoetes throws an iron mass over the assembly ≈ distance a herdsman throws his crook over the herds]

Short Clauses and Phrases:

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

- #1 (100) [Patroclus' spirit ≈ smoke]
 #3 (366) [dust ≈ a cloud or whirlwind]
 #4* (430) [Antilochus ≈ a deaf person]
 #6 (455) [round white spot on a horse ≈ the moon]
 #12 (783) [the goddess Athena ≈ a mother to Odysseus]

* * *

1 (100) ὡς ἄρα φωνήσας ὠρέξατο χερσὶ φίλησιν
 οὐδ' ἔλαβε: ψυχὴ δὲ κατὰ χθονὸς ἤύτε καπνὸς
 ὤχετο τετριγυῖα.

So saying he <Achilles> reached out with his hands / but did not take [Patroclus]: but **his spirit like smoke** was gone beneath the earth / gibbering.

[Patroclus' spirit ≈ smoke] Narrator

2 (222) ὡς δὲ πατὴρ οὐ παιδὸς ὀδύρεται ὅστέα καίων
 νυμφίου, ὅς τε θανῶν δειλοὺς ἀκάχησε τοκῆας,
 ὡς Ἀχιλεὺς ἐτάροιο ὀδύρετο ὅστέα καίων,
 ἐρπύζων παρὰ πυρκαϊῆν ἀδινὰ στεναχίζων. 225

As a father mourns for his son as he burns his bones — / (a son) newly wed — whose death has brought woe to his unhappy parents, / **so Achilles mourned for his comrade** as he burned his bones / dragging himself beside the pyre groaning deeply.

[Achilles mourns his comrade Patroclus ≈ a father mourns his son] Narrator

3 (366) οἱ δ' ὦκα διέπρησον πεδίοιο
 νόσφι νεῶν ταχέως: ὑπὸ δὲ στέρνοισι κονίη 365
ἴστατ' ἀειρομένη ὡς τε νέφος ἠὲ θύελλα,

And swiftly they <chariot race-horses in the funeral games> sped over the plain / away from the ships quickly; and **the dust beneath their breasts / rose up high like a cloud or whirlwind.**

[dust ≈ a cloud or whirlwind] Narrator

4* (430) ὡς ἔφατ', Ἀντίλοχος δ' ἔτι καὶ πολὺ μᾶλλον ἔλαυνε
 κέντρῳ ἐπισπέρχων ὡς οὐκ αἴοντι εἰκώς. 430

So he <Menelaus> spoke, but **Antilochus** drove on even more [hotly] / applying the goad, **like one who did not hear.**

[Antilochus ≈ a deaf person] Narrator [NB both ὡς and εἰκώς.]

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

5 (431) ὄσσα δὲ δίσκου οὐρα κατωμαδίῳ πελονται,
ὄν τ' αἰζηὸς ἀφῆκεν ἀνὴρ πειρώμενος ἥβης,
τόσσον ἐπιδραμέτην: αἰ δ' ἠρώησαν ὀπίσσω
Ἄτρείδεω.

As far as is the range of a discus swung from the shoulder / which a young man hurls making trial of his strength, / **so far they ran on**; but the [mares] of the son of Atreus fell back.

[they ran ≈ (as far as) a discus throw] Narrator

6 (455) φράσσατο δ' ἵππον ἀριπρεπέα προὔχοντα,
ὃς τὸ μὲν ἄλλο τόσον φοῖνιξ ἦν, ἐν δὲ μετώπῳ
λευκὸν σῆμα τέτυκτο περίτροχον ἤυτε μῆνη. 455

And he <Idomeneus> pointed out a horse, showing clear to view in front, / one that was chestnut [over] all the rest of him, but on his forehead / there was a **white spot round like the moon**.

[round white spot on a horse ≈ the moon] Narrator

7* (517) ὄσσον δὲ τροχοῦ ἵππος ἀφίσταται, ὅς ῥα ἄνακτα
ἔλκησιν πεδίῳ τιταινόμενος σὺν ὄχεσφι:
τοῦ μὲν τε ψαύουσιν ἐπισσώτρου τρίχες ἄκραι
οὐραῖαι: ὃ δὲ τ' ἄγχι μάλα τρέχει, οὐδέ τι πολλή
χώρη μεσσηγὺς πολέος πεδίῳ θέοντος:
τόσσον δὴ Μενέλαος ἀμύμονος Ἀντιλόχοιο
λείπετ' : ἀτὰρ τὰ πρῶτα καὶ ἐς δίσκουρα λέλειπτο. 520

As far as a horse is from the wheel, a horse that draws his master / over the plain straining at the car — / the tips of the tail hairs touch the rim — / for it runs close behind, and there is not much / space between, as he runs over the wide plain / **by so much Menelaus was behind peerless Antilochus**; though at the first he was behind by a discus-cast distance.

[Menelaus behind Antilochus ≈ wheel of a cart behind the horse] Narrator

8 (598) ἦ ῥα καὶ ἵππον ἄγων μεγαθύμου Νέστορος υἱὸς
ἐν χεῖρεσσι τίθει Μενελάου: τοῖο δὲ θυμὸς
ἰάνθη ὡς εἶτε περὶ σταχύεσσιν ἐέρση
ληγίου ἀλδήσκοντος, ὅτε φρίσσουσιν ἄρουραι:
ὡς ἄρα σοὶ Μενέλαε μετὰ φρεσὶ θυμὸς ἰάνθη. 600

So he spoke and, leading up a horse, the son of great-souled Nestor / placed [it] in the hands of Menelaus. And *his heart* / was warmed **as if dew around the ears of grain** / **in a crop ripening** when the fields are bristling; / **thus Menelaus, was your heart warmed** in your breast.

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

[Menelaus' heart was warmed ≈ dew on ears of grain crop ripening] Narrator

9 (692) ὡς δ' ὄθ' ὑπὸ φρικὸς Βορέω ἀναπάλλεται ἰχθύς
θὶν' ἐν φυκίοντι, μέλαν δέ ἐ κύμα κάλυψεν,
ὡς πληγεὶς ἀνέπαλτ'.

As when, beneath the ripple of Boreas, a fish leaps up / on a shore full of seaweed,
and a black wave hides it, / **so he <Euryalus> leaped up** when he was struck.

[Euryalus leaped ≈ a fish leaps] Narrator

10 (712) ἀγκὰς δ' ἀλλήλων λαβέτην χερσὶ στιβαρῆσιν
ὡς ὄτ' ἀμείβοντες, τοὺς τε κλυτὸς ἤραρε τέκτων
δῶματος ὑψηλοῖο βίας ἀνέμων ἀλεείνων.

They [Odysseus and Telamonian Ajax] laid hold of each other with their mighty
hands / **as gable-rafters**, which a famous craftsman / of a high house has joined
together to avoid the force of the winds.

[Odysseus and Ajax ≈ gable-rafters] Narrator

11 (760) ὦκα δ' ἔπειτα
ἔκφερ' Ὀϊλιάδης: ἐπὶ δ' ὄρνυτο δῖος Ὀδυσσεύς
ἄγχι μάλ', ὡς ὄτε τίς τε γυναικὸς ἐϋζώνιοι 760
στήθεός ἐστι κανών, ὃν τ' εὖ μάλα χερσὶ τανύσση
πηνίον ἐξέλκουσα παρέκ μίτον, ἀγχόθι δ' ἴσχει
στήθεος: ὡς Ὀδυσσεύς θέεν ἐγγύθεν, αὐτὰρ ὀπισθεν

Then speedily / the son of Oileus took the lead, but god-like Odysseus started up / **very close, as when there is a (some) weaving rod [near] the chest of a well-girdled woman** / which she draws deftly in her hands, / pulling the spool past the warp, and **holds [the rod] near / her chest; so close behind ran Odysseus.**

[closeness of Odysseus to Ajax son of Oileus ≈ closeness of a weaving rod to the chest of a woman weaving] Narrator

12 (783) ὦ πόποι ἦ μ' ἔβλαψε θεὰ πόδας, ἣ τὸ πάρος περ
μήτηρ ὡς Ὀδυσῆϊ παρίσταται ἠδ' ἐπαρήγει.

'Alas, a **goddess** <Athena> hampered me <Ajax> in my running, she who stands ever / **by Odysseus' side like a mother** and helps him.'

[the goddess Athena ≈ a mother to Odysseus] Ajax

13 (845) ἀλλ' ὅτε δὴ σόλον εἶλε μενεπτόλεμος Πολυποίτης,
ὅσσόν τίς τ' ἔρριψε καλαύροπα βουκόλος ἀνήρ, 845
ἣ δέ θ' ἐλισσομένη πέτεται διὰ βούς ἀγελαίας,
τόσσον παντὸς ἀγώνος ὑπέρβαλε: τοὶ δὲ βόησαν.

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

But when Polypoetes, firm in the fight, grasped [the] iron, / **as far as some herdsman flings his crook** / and it flies whirling across the herd of cattle, / **so far did he cast it over all the assembly**; and they shouted aloud.

[distance Polypoetes throws an iron mass over the assembly ≈ distance a herdsman throws his crook over the herds] Narrator

* * *

Similes of the *Iliad* Book 24 (Ω)

SUMMARY

Scenes:

#1 (41) [Achilles ≈ a lion]

#2 (80) [Iris ≈ a lead sinker]

#3 (ὄσση/τόσση) (317) [Zeus' eagle's wing-span ≈ width of a rich man's treasure doorway]

#5 (480) [Achilles seeing Priam ≈ bystanders watching a murderer in exile]

#7* (758) [Hector ≈ someone killed by Apollo]

Short Clauses and Phrases:

#4 (328) [weeping at Priam's departure ≈ weeping at Priam's death]

#6 (572) [Achilles ≈ lion]

* * *

1 (41)

λέων δ' ὡς ἄγρια οἶδεν,
ὅς τ' ἐπεὶ ἄρ' μεγάλη τε βίη καὶ ἀγήνορι θυμῷ
εἶξας εἶσ' ἐπὶ μῆλα βροτῶν ἵνα δαῖτα λάβησιν:
ὡς Ἀχιλεὺς ἔλεον μὲν ἀπώλεσεν.

'As a lion knows savagery, / when he yielding to his great might and lordly spirit / goes forth against the flocks of men to take feast, **thus Achilles** has lost all pity.'

[Achilles ≈ a lion] Apollo

2 (80)

ἧ δὲ μολυβδαίνῃ ἰκέλη ἐς βυσσὸν ὄρουσεν,
ἧ τε κατ' ἀγραύλοιο βοὸς κέρας ἐμβεβαυῖα
ἔρχεται ὠμηστῆσιν ἐπ' ἰχθύσι κῆρα φέρουσα.

She <Iris> darted to the depths **like a lead sinker**, which, set upon the horn of an ox of the field, goes down bearing death to flesh-eating fishes.

[Iris ≈ a lead sinker] Narrator

3 (317)

ὄσση δ' ὑπορόφοιο θύρη θαλάμοιο τέτυκται
ἀνέρος ἀφνειοῖο ἐὺ κληῖσ' ἀραρυῖα,

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A

τόσσ' ἄρα τοῦ ἐκάτερθεν ἔσαν ππερά:

As wide as the door of some rich man's high-roofed treasure-chamber is fashioned, / a door well fitted with bolts, **so wide** (much) were its <the eagle's> wings [spread] on each side.

[Zeus' eagle's wing-span ≈ width of a rich man's treasure doorway] Narrator

4 (328) φίλοι δ' ἅμα πάντες ἔποντο
πολλ' ὀλοφυρόμενοι ὡς εἰ θάνατον δὲ κιώντα.

All his <Priam's> loved ones were following, / **weeping** [as] much **as if he were going to his death**.

[weeping at Priam's departure ≈ weeping at Priam's death] Narrator

5 (480) ὡς δ' ὅτ' ἂν ἄνδρ' ἄτη πυκινὴ λάβη, ὅς τ' ἐνὶ πάτρῃ 480
φῶτα κατακτείνας ἄλλων ἐξίκετο δῆμον
ἄνδρὸς ἐς ἀφνειοῦ, θάμβος δ' ἔχει εἰσορόωντας,
ὡς Ἀχιλεὺς θάμβησεν ἰδὼν Πρίαμον θεοειδέα:

As when a dense blind-madness takes a man who in his homeland / having killed a man comes into others' country / to a rich man's [house], **amazement holds those watching**, / **so Achilles was amazed** seeing god-like Priam.

[Achilles seeing Priam ≈ bystanders watching a murderer in exile] Narrator

Willcock 1976:271 points out the "reversal of roles here; for the man who has come is innocent of any deed of violence, while the killer is the man sitting among his followers."

6 (572) Πηλεΐδης δ' οἴκοιο λέων ὡς ἄλτο θύραζε

The son of Peleus leaped to the door of the house **like a lion**.

[Achilles ≈ lion] Narrator

7* (758) νῦν δέ μοι ἐρσήεις καὶ πρόσφατος ἐν μεγάροισι
κεῖσαι, τῷ ἴκελος ὃν τ' ἀργυρότοξος Ἀπόλλων
οἷς ἀγανοῖσι βέλεσσιν ἐποιχόμενος κατέπεφεν.

'Now all dewy and fresh you lie in my halls / **like someone whom Apollo of the silver bow / attacked with his gentle shafts and killed.**'

[Hector ≈ someone killed by Apollo] Hecuba

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Similar Rhetorical Figures

Transformations and Disguise:

347* βῆ δ' ἰέναι κούρω αἰσυμνητῆρι ἐοικῶς
 πρῶτον ὑπηγήτη, τοῦ περ χαριεστάτη ἥβη.

[Hermes] went in the likeness of a young man that is a prince, / with the first down upon his lip, in whom the charm of youth is fairest.

[Hermes ≈ a young prince] Narrator

Divine Comparisons:

217* Πρίαμος θεοειδής, +372, 386, 552), 257 (Μήστορά τ' ἀντίθεον)

630* ἦτοι Δαρδανίδης Πρίαμος θαύμαζ' Ἀχιλῆα
 ὅσσοις ἔην οἶός τε: θεοῖσι γὰρ ἅντα ἔώκει.

Priam, son of Dardanus, marvelled at Achilles, how tall he was and how comely; for **he was like the gods to look upon**. [Achilles ≈ the gods]

763* Ἀλέξανδρος θεοειδής