Similes of the *Iliad* Book 17 (P)

**SUMMARY**

**Scenes:**

1. (4) [Menelaus > Patroclus ≈ a mother cow > her first calf]
2. (τόσσον/όσσον) (20) [sons of Panthous ≈ leopard, lion and wild boar]
3. (οἶον/τοίον) (53) [Menelaus > Euphorbus ≈ a stormy wind > a sapling of an olive tree]
4. (61) [Trojans > Menelaus > body of Patroclus ≈ herdsman > a mountain lion > a heifer]
5. (109) [Menelaus from Patroclus ≈ a bearded lion from a farm]
6. (133) [Ajax > Patroclus ≈ a lion > his cubs]
7. (263) [the shouting of the Trojans ≈ the roar of a mighty wave]
8. (281) [Ajax scatters Trojans ≈ boar scatters youths and dogs]
9. (389) [Trojans and Greeks dragging the corpse ≈ people stretching a bull’s hide]
10. (434) [the horses ≈ a pillar]
11. (520) [Aretus killed by Automedon’s spear ≈ an ox slain by a man’s axe]
12. (547) [the purple cloud covering Athena ≈ a purple rainbow sent by Zeus]
13. (570) [courage of Menelaus ≈ the courage of a fly]
14. (657) [Menelaus from Patroclus’ body ≈ a lion from a fat cow]
15. (674) [Menelaus > Nestor’s son ≈ an eagle > a hare]
16. (725) [Trojans > Achaeans ≈ dogs > a boar]
17. (737) [the battle > the two Ajaxes ≈ a fire > a city]
18. (742) [the two Ajaxes carried the corpse ≈ mules drag a beam or ship-timber]
19. (747) [the two Ajaxes held back the Trojans ≈ a ridge holds back water]
20. (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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βῆ δὲ διὰ προμάχων κεκορυθμένον αἴθωπο χαλκῷ,
άμφι δὲ ἀρ’ αὐτῷ βαῖν’ ὡς τις περὶ πόρτακι μὴτηρ
πρωτοτόκος κινυρ ὧν πρὶν εἰδυία τόκοιο::

5 ὡς περὶ Πατρόκλῳ βαῖνε ξανθός 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

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‘Zeû pàtèr ou µèn kalòn ùpèrbion eûxetάasθai.
oût’ ouûn παρδάλιος τόσσον µένος ouûte λέοντος
ouûte συûs κάρπου ὀλοόφρονος, ouû te mégiûtos
θυμός εûi στήθεσι περὶ σθένει βλεμεάïnei,
όσσον Πάνθου υîès εûûμελίαi 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

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3 (53)
oûûn dè τρέϕει ἕρνος ἀνήρ ἐρίθηλες ἐλαίης
χωρὶς ἐν οἰοπόλῳ, ὃθ’ ἄλις ἀναβέβροχεν υὸωρ,
kalòn τηλεθάον: τὸ δὲ τὸ πνοιαί δονέουσι
παντοιὸν ἀνέμων, καὶ τε βρύει ἀνθέi λεικώ:
ἐλθὼν δ’ ἐξαπίνης ἄνεμος σῦn λαίλαπι πολλῆ
βόθρου τ’ ἔξεστρεψε καὶ ἔξετάνυσ’ ἐπὶ γαῖ.’

τοῖον Πάνθου υîοûn εûûμελίην Εὐφροβὸν
Ἀτρείδης Μενέλαος ἐπεὶ κτάνε τεûχε’ 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

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4 (61)

ὡς δ’ ὀτε τίς τε λέων ὀρεσίτροφος ἀλκίς πεποιθὼς
βοσκοµένης ἄγελης βοῦν ἀρπάσῃ ἢ τις ἀρίστη:
τῆς δ’ ἐξ αὐχέν’ ἐξε βαβών κρατεροίς ὀδούσι
πρῶτον, ἔπειτα δὲ θ’ αἴµα καὶ ἐγκατα πάντα λαφύσει
δῆν: ἀμφὶ δὲ τὸν γε κύνες τ’ ἀνδρές τε νοµῆς
πολλὰ µάλ’ ἵζουσιν ἀπόρρωθεν οὐû’ ἐξέλουσιν
ἀντίον ἐλθέμεναι: µάλα γὰρ χλωρὸν δέος αἰρεῖ:
ὡς τὸν οû τινι θυµός ἐνι στήθεσιν ἐτόλμα
ἀντίον ἐλθέμεναι Μενελάου κυδαλίµιοι.

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
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.

Narrator

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.

Narrator

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

Narrator

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.

Narrator

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
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) ἵθυσεν δὲ διὰ προμάχων σοὶ εἶκελος ἄλκην καπρίῳ, ὡς τ᾽ ἐν ὅρεσι κύνας θαλεροὺς τ᾽ αἰζηνοὺς ῥηίδιως ἐκέδασσεν, ἐλιξάμενος διὰ βήσασας:
νὸς υἱὸς Τελαμόνος ἄγαυος φαίδιμος Αἴας ἰσία 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) ὡς οἳ μὲν μάρναντο δέμας πυρός, οὐδὲ κε φαίης οὔτε ποτ᾽ ἡλιον σών ἐμμεναι οὔτε σελήνην:
ἡρη γὰρ κατέχοντο μάχης ἐπὶ θ᾽ ὅσσον ἀριστοὶ ἐστασαν ἀμφὶ Μενοιτιάδη κατατεθνήωτι.

So they <Trojans and Achaians 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 Achaians around the body of Patroclus ≈ fire] Narrator

11 (389) ὡς δ᾽ ὅτ᾽ ἄνηρ ταύροιο βοὸς μεγάλοιο βοείνη λαοίσιν δῷ τανύειν μεθύουσαν ἄλοιφη:
δεξάμενοι δ᾿ ἄρα τοῖς γε διαστάντες τανύουσι κυκλόσ᾽, ἀφαρ δὲ τε ἴκμας ἐβη, δύνει δὲ τ᾽ ἄλοιφη πολλῶν ἑλκόντων, τάνυται δὲ τε πάσα διὰ πρό:
ὡς οἳ γ᾽ ἐνθα καὶ ἐνθα νέκυν ὀλίγη ἐνὶ χώρῃ εἰλκεσον 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)

‘τω δ’ οὔτ’ ἀψ ἑπὶ νήσας ἑπὶ πλατύν Ἐλλήσοπον
BarButton

13 (460)

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)

14 (520)

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

* 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
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\[\text{ὡς εἰπὼν ἐς δίφρον ἑλὼν ἕναρα βροτόεντα} \]
\[\text{θήκ’, ἃν δ’ αὐτός ἑβαίνε πόδας καὶ χειρὰς ὑπερθεν} \]

15 (542) \[\text{αἰματόεις ὡς τίς τε λέων κατά ταύρον ἐδηδώς}.\]

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
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\[\text{ἀψ δ’ ἐπὶ Πατρόκλῳ τέτατο κρατερῆ υσμίνη} \]
\[\text{ἀργαλέῃ πολύδακρυς, ἓγειρῃ δὲ νείκος Ἀθήνη} \]
\[\text{οὐρανόθεν καταβάσα: προῆκε γὰρ εὐρύσπα Ζεὺς} \]
\[\text{ὄρνυμεναι Δαναοῦς: δὴ γὰρ νόσος ἑτράπετ’ αὐτοῦ}.\]

16 (547) \[\text{ἦντε πορφυρένη ἵριν θυντοῖσα τανύσῃ} \]
\[\text{Ζεὺς ἐξ οὐρανόθεν τέρας ἐμμεναι ἢ πολέμοιο} \]
\[\text{ἡ καὶ χειμῶνος δυσθαλπέος, ὡς ὅ τε ἐργών} \]
\[\text{ἀνθρώπους ἀνέπαυσεν ἐπὶ χθονί, μήλα δὲ κήδει,} \]
\[\text{ὡς ὁ πορφύρης νεφέλη πυκάσασα ἐ αὐτὴν} \]
\[\text{δύσετ’ Ἀχαϊῶν ἠθνος, ἓγειρῃ δὲ φώτα ἐκαστον}.\]

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
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\[\text{ὡς φάτο, γῆθησεν δὲ θεὰ γλαυκώπις Ἀθήνη,} \]
\[\text{ὅττι ρά ὀι πάμπρωτα θεῶν ἡρήσατο πάντων.} \]
\[\text{ἐν δὲ βίθν ὤμοισι καὶ ἐν γούνεσσιν ἔθηκε,} \]
\[\text{καὶ οἱ μυίης θάρσος ἐνὶ στήθεσιν ἐνῆκεν,} \]
\[\text{ἡ τε καὶ ἐργομένη μάλα περ χροδὸς ἀνδρομέοι} \]
\[\text{ἰσχανάς διάκειν, λαρὸν τὲ οἱ αἴμ’ ἀνθρώπου:} \]
\[\text{τοῖον μὲν θάρσεως πλήσε φρένας ἀμφὶ μελαίνας,} \]
\[\text{βὴ δ’ ἐπὶ Πατρόκλῳ, καὶ ἀκόντισε δουρὶ φαειν.”}\]

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
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.

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18 (657)  ὡς ἔφατ', οὐδ' ἀπίθησε βοην ἀγαθὸς Μενέλαος,

βῆ δ' ἰέναι ὡς τίς τε λέων ἀπὸ μεσσαύλοιο,

ὀς τ' ἐπεὶ ἄρ κε κάμησι κύνας τ' ἀνδρας τ' ἐρεθίζων,

οἱ τέ μιν οὐκ εἰσοί βοην ἑκ πᾶρ ἐλέσθαι

πάννυχοι ἐγρήσσοντες: ὦ δὲ κρειών ἐρατίζων

ἰθεὶ, ἀλλ' οὔ τι πρῆσσει: θαμές γὰρ ἄκοντες

ἀντίον ἄισσουι θρασειών ἀπὸ χειρῶν,

καιομεναί τε δεταί, τάς τε τρεῖ ἐσσύμενος περ:

ἡώθεν δ’ ἀπονόσφιν ἐβή τετητότι θυμώ:

ὡς ἀπὸ Πατρόκλοιο βοην ἀγαθὸς Μενέλαος

ἡὲ πόλλ' ἀέκων. 660

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

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19 (674)  ὡς ἄρα φωνήσας ἀπέβη ξανθός Μενέλαος,

πάντοσε παπαίνων ὡς τ’ αιετός, ὄν ρά τε φαιν

ὀξύτατον δέρκεσθαι ὑπουρανίων πετενών,

ὅν τε καὶ υψθ' ἐόντα πόδας ταχύς οὐκ ἐλαθε ππώξ

θάμνῳ ὑπ’ ἀμφικόμω κατακείμενος, ἀλλά τ’ ἐπ’ αὐτῷ

ἐσσοῦτο, καὶ τέ μιν ῥκα λαβών ἐξείλετο θυμόν.

ὡς τότε σοι Μενέλαε διότρεφες ὡς φαειν

πάντοσε δινείσθην πολέων κατὰ έθνος έταίρων,

ἐἰ που Νέστορος υἱόν ἐτί ζώντα ἱδοῖτο. 680

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

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επὶ δ᾽ ἱαχε λαὸς ὀπισθε
Τρώικός, ὡς εἴδοντο νέκυν αἱροντας Ἀχαιοὺς.
20 (725)
ἰθυσαν δὲ κύνεσσιν ἑοικότες, οἳ τ᾽ ἐπὶ κάπρῳ
βλημένῳ ἄξωσι πρὸ κούρων θηρητήρων:
Ἅως μὲν γάρ τε θέουσι διαρραίδαι μεμαώτες,
ἀλλ᾽ ὅτε δή ρ᾽ ἐν τοῖς ἐλίξεται ἀλκὶ πεποιθῶς,
ἄψ τ᾽ ἀνεχώρησαν διὰ τ᾽ ἐτρέσαν ἀλλῳδς ἄλλος.
725
ὡς Τρώως εἰςο μὲν ὀμιλαδόν αἰέν ἐποντο
νύσσοντες ξίφεσιν τε καὶ ἐγχεσιν ἀμφιγύοισιν.

And the Trojan army behind them shouted, / when they saw the Achaeans 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

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735

warz οἳ γ᾽ ἐμμεμαώτε νέκυν φέρον έκ πολέμιο
νήας ἐπὶ γλαφυράς: ἐπὶ δὲ πτόλεμος τέτατό σφιν
ἀγριος ἦσε πῦρ, τὸ τ᾽ ἐπεσοῦμεν πόλιν ἄνδρων
ὁμμενον ἐξαίφνης φλεγέθει, μινύθουσι δέ ὀκοι
ἐν σέλαι μεγάλῳ: τὸ δ᾽ ἐπιβρέμει ἵς ἀνέμιοι.
740
ὡς μὲν τοῖς ἱππων τε καὶ ἄνδρων αἰχμητάων
ἀξιχής ὀρμαγαδός ἐπήζεν ἐρχομένουσιν:

745

22 (742)
oi δ᾽ ὦς θ᾽ ἡμίωνοι κρατερὸν μένος ἀμφιβαλόντες
ἐλκωσ᾽ εξ ὀρεον κατὰ παιπαλέσσαν ἄταρτον
ἡ δοκόν ἄρ δόρυ μέγα νῆνον: ἐν δὲ τε δειμός
τεῖρεθ᾽ ὦμοι καμάτῳ τε καὶ ἱδρῡ σπευδόντεσσιν:
ὡς οἳ γ᾽ ἐμμεμαώτε νέκυν φέρον, αὐτάρ ὀπίσθεν

750

23 (747)
Αἰαντ᾽ ἱσχανέτην, ὦς τε πρῶν ἰσχανεί ύδωρ
ὑλήσις πεδίον διαπρύσιον τετυχικώς,
ὡς τε καὶ ἱθύων ποταμῶν ἀλεγεινά ῥεῖθρα
ἰσχεί, ἀφαρ δὲ τε πᾶς ρόδον πεδίονδε τίθησι
πλάζων: οὐδὲ τί μιν σθένει ῥηγνύσαι ρέοντες:
ὡς αἰεὶ Αἰαντε μάχην ἀνέεργον ὀπίσσω
Τρώῶν.

* 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) τῶν δ’ ὡς τε ψαρῶν νέφος ἔρχεται ἥ κολοιῶν ὀολον κεκλήγοντες, ὅτε προὶδωσιν οῖντα κύρκον, ὅ τε σμικρῇσι φόνον φέρει ὀρνίθεσιν, ὡς ἄρ᾽ ὑπ᾽ Ἀινεία τε καὶ Ἐκτορι κούροι Ἀχαῖων ὀολον κεκλήγοντες ἰσαν, λήθοντο δὲ χάρμης.

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

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Similar Rhetorical Figures

Transformations and Disguises:

ἐνθά κε ἑια φέροι κλυτὰ τεύχεα Πανθοίδαο Ἄτρείδης, εἰ μή οἱ ἀγάσασατο Φοίβος Ἀπόλλων,

δός ρά οἱ Ἐκτορ’ ἐπώραι θοφ ἀτάλαντον Ἄρης

ἀνέρι εἰσάμενος Κικόνων ἦγήτορι Μέντη:

70
73*

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, Mentes, leader of the Cicones,

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
More unusual is this line, where Ares entered into Hector:

"Εκτορι δ' ἕμμοσε τεύχε' ἐπὶ χροί, δῦ δέ μιν 'Αρης
dεινός ἐνυάλιος, πλήσθεν δ' ἁρα οἱ μέλε' ἐντός

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

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

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

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

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 Abydus; / in his likeness Apollo the far-worker spoke to him <Hector>.

Divine Comparisons:

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

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

***

βή δὲ διὰ προμάχων κεκορυθμένος αἴθοπι χαλκῷ
όξεα κεκλήγων φλογὶ εἰκελος Ἡφαίστοιο
ἀσβέστῳ.

88

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 \(\approx\) unquenchable flame of Hephaestus] Narrator

Lee counts this as a simile

***

199* NB various forms of the ‘god-like’ adjective: Πηλείδαο . . . θείοιο

319* ἐνθά κεν αὔτε Τρώες ἀρητίφιλων ύπ’ Ἀχαιῶν
Then would the Trojans have been driven by the Achaeans, dear to Ares

Metaphoric Similes:

591* τὸν δ’ ἀχεος νεφέλη ἐκάλυψε μέλαινα:

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

615* καὶ τῷ μὲν φάος ἠλθεν, ἀμυνε δὲ νηλεὲς ἠμαρ

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 \(\approx\) cannot drive Hector \(\approx\) from Patroclus’ corpse \(\approx\)
shepherds \(\approx\) cannot frighten a lion \(\approx\) from a body]

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

#9 (219) [clear voice of Aeacus’ son \(\approx\) clear sound of a trumpet]

#10 (318) [Achilles \(\approx\) a lion]

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

Short Clauses and Phrases:

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
Thus they <the Greeks and Trojans> were fighting like a blazing fire.

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

1 (1) ὡς οἳ μὲν μάρναντο δέμας πυρὸς αἰθομένοι
Thus they <the Greeks and Trojans> were fighting like a blazing fire.

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

2 (56) ἔξοχον ἥρων: ὡς ἂν ἀνέδραμεν ἔρνεϊ ἱσος:

3 (57) τὸν μὲν ἐγὼ θρέψασα φυτὸν ὡς γουνῷ ἀλωῆς νησιῶν ἐπιπρόεθηκα κορωνίσιν Ἰλιον εἰσω

Thetis darting from Olympus ≈ a falcon]

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

4* (109) ὡς ἐρις ἐκ τε θεῶν ἐκ τ᾽ ἀνθρώπων ἀπόλυσον καὶ χόλος, ὡς τ᾽ ἑφέηκε πολύφρονά περ χαλεπήναι,

5 (110) ἄνδρῶν ἐν στήθεσιν ἄξεται ἣμετε κατνύσ.

‘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]
#5 (110) [anger ≈ smoke] Achilles

"Εκτωρ τε Πριάμοιο πάις φλογί είκελος 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. είκελος) for other occurrences of this simile.

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

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

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
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

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

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

‘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

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
‘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.’

[ Achilless ≈ a plant] Thetis

Cf. #3 (57) above.

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

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’ Ἐρις ἐν δὲ Κυδοιμός ὀμίλεων, ἐν δ’ ὀλοή Κήρ, 535
  ...

  538* εἴμαι δ’ ἐξ’ ἀμφ’ ὠμοίσι δαφοινεδὸν αἴματι φωτών.
  ὁμίλευν δ’ ὡς τε ζωοὶ βροτοὶ ἦδ’ ἐμάχοντο,
  νεκροὺς τ’ ἀλλήλων ἑρυον κατατεθνηώτας. 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 Πηλείωνι ποδήνεμος ὦκέα Ἕρις (repeated at 183) “wind-footed swift Iris” (two nouns: ‘foot’ and ‘wind’)

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

Metaphoric Similes:

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

102* οὔδέ τι Πατρόκλω γενόμην φάος οὔδ’ ἔταροισι ‘I was not at all a light [of deliverance] for Patroclus or my other comrades’ (Achilles)

140* ύμεῖς μὲν νῦν δὖτε θαλάσσης εὕρεα 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, οὐδὲ τις ἔτηλ ἄντην εἰσιδέειν, ἀλλ’ ἔτρεσαν. αὐτὰρ Ἀχιλλεύς

1 (17) δεινόν ὑπὸ βλεφάρων ὡς εἰ σέλας ἑξεφάνθην: τέρπετο δ’ ἐν χείρεσιν 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.

[glimpse of Achilles’ eyes ≈ gleam of flame] Narrator

***

واجب εἰπὼν ὄτρυνε πάρος μεμαιῶν Ἀθήνην:

2 (350) ἡ δ’ ἄρτη ἐξικία ταμπτέρυμι λιγυφώνω

οὐρανοῦ ἐκκατεπάλτο δι’ αἴθέρος.

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

***

tοῖ δ’ ἀπάνευθε νεῶν ἔχουντο θοῶν.

3 (357) ὡς δ’ ὀτὲ ταρφεῖα νιφάδες Δίως ἐκποτέονται

ψυχρά ὑπὸ ρίπης αἰθρηγενέος Βορέαο, ὡς τότε ταρφεῖα κόρυθες λαμπρὸν γανώσαι

νηῶν ἐκφορέοντο.

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 μέσοις κορύσσετο δῖος Ἀχιλλεύς.

tοῦ καὶ ὄδοντων μὲν καναχὴ πέλε, τὼ δὲ οἰ ὄσσε

4 (366) λαμπέσθην ὡς εἰ τε πυρὸς σέλας . . .

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
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

*** ἂμφὶ δ’ ἀρ’ ὤμοισιν βάλετο ξίφος ἁργυρόηλον χάλκεον: ἀυτὰρ ἐπεὶτα σάκος μέγα τε στιβαρόν τε εἰλετο, τοῦ δ’ ἀπάνευθε σέλας γένετ’ ἦμτε μήνης. 5 (374)

ως δ’ ὁτ’ ἄν ἐκ πόντοιο σέλας ναύτης φανῆ καιομένιο πυρός, τό τε καίεται ύψοθ’ ὀρεσφι σταθμῷ ἐν οἰοπόλω: τοὺς δ’ οὐκ ἐθέλοντας ἀελλαὶ πόντον ἐπὶ ἰχθυόεντα φιλὼν ἀπάνευθε φέρουσιν: 6 (375) ως ἀπ’ Ἀχιλῆςος σάκεος σέλας αἰθέρ’ ἵκανε καλὸν δαιδαλέαυ: περὶ δὲ τρυφάλειαν ἄειρας κρατὶ θέτο βριαρῆν: ᾧ δ’ ἀστήρ ως ἀπέλαμπεν ἵππουρις τρυφάλεια, περισσεῖοντο δ’ ἔθειραι χρύσεια, ἃς ’Ήφαιστος ἵει λόφον ἀμφὶ θαμείας. 7 (381)

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’ ἐπὶ αὐτοῦ ἐν ἔντεσι δίος Ἀχιλλεύς, εἱ οἱ ἐφαμόσσεσαι καὶ ἐντρέχοι ἁγιάλα γυῖα: 8 (386)

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
Similar Rhetorical Figures

Divine Comparisons:

ἀν δ’ Αγαμέμνων
250* ἰστατο: Ταλθύβιος δὲ θεῷ ἐναλίγκιος αὐθήν
κάπρον ἔχων ἐν χεροί παρίστατο ποιμένι λαών.

Agamemnon / stood up and Talthybius like a god in his voice / stood by the shepherd of the people with a boar in his hands.

286* εἴπε δ’ ἀρὰ κλαίουσα γυνὴ ἐϊκυία θεῆς:
She <Briseis> spoke weeping, a woman like the goddesses.

***

ὁ δὲ μάστιγα φαεινήν
χειρὶ λαβῶν ἄραριν ἐφ᾽ ἵπποιν ἀνόρουσεν
Αὐτομέδων: ὅπιθεν δὲ κορυσσάμενος βῆ Ἀχιλλεύς
tεύχεσι παμφαίνων ὡς τ ήλέκτῳ Ἰπερίων.

And he Automedon taking the bright lash / in his hand that fitted it well, leapt upon the two horses [the chariot]; / and behind him went Achilles harnessed for fight, / gleaming in his armor like bright Hyperion. [Achilles ≈ Hyperion] Narrator

Lee counts this as simile.

* * *

Similes of the *Iliad* Book 20 (Y)

SUMMARY

Scenes:

#2 (164) [Achilles ≈ a lion]
#5 (252) [we two (Aeneas and Achilles) ≈ women]
#8 (403) [Hippodamus ≈ a bull]
#11 (490) [Achilles ≈ a fire]
#12 (495) [Achilles > horses > the dead and their shields ≈ thresher > bulls > barley]

Short Clauses and Phrases:

#1 (51) [Ares ≈ a whirlwind]
#3 (200) [me (Aeneas) NOT ≈ a child]
#4 (244) [Aeneas to Achilles ≈ NOT children]
#6* (371) [Achilles’ hands ≈ fire]

* 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]

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

And on the other side the **son of Peleus** rushed against 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

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) *ἀλλ’ ἂνε μηκέτι ταῦτα λεγώμεθα νηπύτιοι ὡς ἐσταὸτ’ ἐν μέσης ύσμινη δηιτήτος.* 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 ἡ ἔριδας καὶ νείκεα νῷν ἀνάγκη νεικεῖν ἀλλήλους ἐναντίον ὡς τε γυναίκας, αἱ τε χολωσάμεναι ἕριδας πέρι θυμοβόροι νεικεῦσ’ ἀλλήλησι μέσην ἐς ἄγνιαν ιοῦσαι πόλλ’ ἐτεά 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 ἐοικεν.* 7* (372) εἰ πυρὶ χεῖρας ἐοικε, μένος δ’ αἴθωνι 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 δ’ θυμὸν ἀϊσθε καὶ ἡρυγεν, ὡς ὅτε ταῦρος ἡρυγεν ἐλκόμενον Ἐλικώνιον ἀμφὶ ἀνακτὰ κούρων ἐλκόντων: γάνυται δὲ τε τοῖς ἐνσοίχθων: θυμὸς δ’ ἐρυγόντα λίπ’ ὡστε αὐτὸς 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

***

"Εκτωρ δ’ ὡς ἐνόσθε κασίγνητον Πολύδωρων ἑντερα χερσίν ἐχοντα λιαζόμενον ποτι γαϊη 420

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
But when Hector noticed his brother Polydorus, clapping his bowels in his hand and sinking to the 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.

[As a flame] Hector

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

As a wondrous-blazing fire rages through the deep glens of a parched mountainside, and the deep forest burns, and the driving wind whirs the flame everywhere, so he 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.

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

Transformations and Disguises:

81* ιιει δε Πριάμοιο Λυκάονι ειςατο φωνήν:  
82* τφ μιν εειςάμενος προσέφη Διός ιιός Απόλλων.  

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

***

224* Ιππ ς ειςάμενος παρελέξατο κυανοχαίτη.

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

Divine Comparisons:

45–6 ὄρωντο ποδόκεα Πηλείωνα  
tεύχεσι λαμπόμενον βροτολογψ ἴσον Ἁρη.  

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 ἄρηθόων αιζηῶν = one of the youths swift as Ares

232* ἄντιθεος Γανυμήδης  

God-like Ganymede

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

493* ως ς γε πάντη θύνε σὺν ἐγχει 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*(ōōov) (251) [he rushed back [a long way: τόσσον implied] ≈ (ὤοον, as far as) a spear-cast]

* * *

1 (12) ως δ’ ὀθ’ ὑπὸ ρίπης πυρὸς άκριδες ήπερέθονται
φευγόμεναι ποταμόνδε: τὸ δὲ φλέγει ἀκάματον πῦρ
ὄρμενον ἐξαίφνης, ταὶ δὲ πτώσσουσι καθ’ ὕδωρ:
ὡς ὑπ’ Άχιλλῆς Ξάνθου βαθυδινήντως
πλήτο ρόός κελάδων ἐπιμίξ ιππῶν τε καὶ ἀνδρῶν.

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 confusingly 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) ως δ’ ὑπὸ δελφίνος μεγακήτεος ἰχθύες ἀλλοι
φεῦγοντες πιπλάσι μυχοὺς λιμένος εὐρύμοου
dειδίοτες: μάλα γάρ τε κατεσθίει ὡν κε λάβησιν:
ὡς Τρώες ποταμοῖο κατὰ δεινοῖο ρέεθρα
πτώσον 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
He chose twelve living youths out of the water / [as] revenge for dead Patroclus son of Menoithios. / These he drew out like dazed fawns.
[twelve Trojan youths ≈ dazed fawns] Narrator

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

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: τόσοον implied) ≈ (όοον, as far as) a spear- cast]
#6 (254) [Achilles' rush ≈ eagle's swoop] Narrator

* 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

3 (282) νύν δὲ με λευγαλέως θανάτῳ εἰμιρτό ἀλώναι
8 (346) οὐς δὲ ὅτε ὑπωρινὸς Βορέης νεοαρδέ· ἀλωὴν αἰών ἀγηράνης: χαίρει δὲ μίν ὅς τις ἑθέρι: ὡς ἔμεράνθη πεδίον πᾶν, καὶ δὲ ἃρα νεκροὺς κηνεν: δὲ δὲ ἐς ποταμὸν τρέψε φλόγα παμφανόσωσαν.

‘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

3 (346) ὡς δὲ ἐλήθης ζεὶ ἔνδον ἐπειγόμενος πυρὶ πολλῷ κνίσιν μελδόμενος ἀπαλοτρεφέος σιάλοιο πάντοθεν ἀμβολάδην, ὑπὸ δὲ ξύλα κάγκακα κείται, ὡς τοῦ καλὰ ρέεθρα πυρὶ φλέγετο, ζέε δὲ ὑδρω: 365

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

3 (362) φη πυρὶ καϊόμενος, ἀνὰ δὲ ἔφλυε καλὰ ρέεθρα.

10 (362) ὡς δὲ λέβης ζεὶ ἔνδον ἐπειγόμενος πυρὶ πολλῷ κνίσιν μελδόμενος ἀπαλοτρεφέος σιάλοιο πάντοθεν ἀμβολάδην, ὑπὸ δὲ ξύλα κάγκακα κείται, ὡς τοῦ καλὰ ρέεθρα πυρὶ φλέγετο, ζέε δὲ ὑδρω: 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

3 (464) ἑδομέν, οἱ φύλλουσιν ἑοικότες ἄλλοτε μὲν τε ζαφλεγέες τελεθούσιν ἀρούρης καρπὸν ἐδοντες, 465

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
‘Shaker of Earth, you would not say that I am sound of mind, / if I should war with you for the sake of mortals, / pitiful creatures, who like leaves sometimes / are full of flaming life, eating the fruit of the field, / and sometimes are spiritless and perish.’

[mortals ≈ leaves] Apollo

Then weeping the goddess <Artemis> fled from before her <Hera> like a dove that from before a falcon flies into a hollow rock, / a cleft—and it is not her fate to be taken; / thus she [Artemis] fled weeping, and left her bow there.

[Artemis > Hera ≈ a dove > a falcon] Narrator

As when smoke going to broad heaven comes / from a burning city, and wrath of the gods has sent it, / it makes toil for all, and sends sorrows to many, / thus did Achilles bring toil and sorrows to the Trojans.

[Achilles > toil and sorrows for the Trojans ≈ smoke from a burning city sent by wrath of gods > toil and sorrows for many] Narrator

Just as a leopard goes out from a deep thicket / to face a hunter, neither in his spirit / is it afraid nor does it flee when it hears the baying [of the dogs]; / for even if it is anticipating jabs or throws [of a spear], yet even if pierced through with the spear it does not cease / from its struggle, until it either grapples with him or is killed; thus Antenor's...

* 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* ἀντί τοῖ εἰμί ἱκέταο διοτρεφές αἰδοίοιο.

'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 ὁ διογενής . . . ἔσθορε δαίμονι ἰσος
But the hero (ὁ διογενής) . . . plunged [into the river] like a daimón

227* ὃς εἰπών Τρώεσσιν ἐπέσσυτο δαίμονι ἰσος:  ‘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 ≈ maiden > youth]
- **#13 (199)** [Achilles > Hector ≈ one pursuing in a dream > another fleeing]
- **#14 (262)** [Achilles > Hector > 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]

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1 (1) ὡς οἳ μὲν κατὰ ἄστυ πεφυζότες ἦντε νεβροὶ
ιδρω ἀπεψύχοντο πίον τ᾽ ἀκέοντο τε δίφαν
κεκλιμένοι καλήσιν 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

***

_halows _η_ μὲν προτι ἄστυ μέγα φρονέων ἐβεβήκει,
σευάμενος ὡς θ᾽ ἵππος ἀεθλοφόρος σύν ὁχοσφιν,
ος ὀ τε ἐ_ι_ θέησι τιταίνόμενοι πεδίοιο:
_ξα_ Αχιλεύς λαιψηρά 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

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* 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 recurred or exists in all times” (32).

3 (26) τὸν δ’ ὁ γέρων Πρίαμος πρώτος ἰδεῖν ὠφθαλμοῖς παμφαίνονθ’ ὡς τ’ ἀστέρ’ ἐπεσούμενον τεδίοιο, ὡς τ’ ὑπώρης εἰσιν, ἀρίζηλοι δέ οἱ αὐγαὶ φαίνονται πολλοῖς μετ’ ἀστράσι νυκτὸς ἀμολγῷ, ὅπε τε κύν’ Ὡρίωνος ἐπίκλησιν καλέοσι.

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 μίμων’ Ἀχιλῆα πελώριον ἄσσον ἵοντα.  
4 (93) ὡς δὲ δράκων ἐπὶ χειῆ ὀρέστερος ἄνδρα μένησι βεβρωκαὶ, ἐδε δὲ τέ μιν χόλος αἰνός, σμερδαλέον δὲ δέδορκεν ἐλισσόμενος περὶ χειῆ: ἀνθρώπων ἐκτιμή 
4 (93) ὡς ἐκτιμή ἀβεβασθον ἑχων μένος ὤχ ύπεχώρει πύργῳ ἐπὶ προὐχοντι 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) αὐτῶς ὡς τε γυναίκα, ἐπεὶ κ’ ἀπὸ τεῦχεα δύῳ.

‘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

5* (125) αὐτῶς ὡς τε γυναίκα, ἐπεὶ κ’ ἀπὸ τεῦχεα δύῳ.

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
6 (127) τῷ ὀριζέμεναι, ἃ τε παρθένος ἠθεός τε παρθένος ἠθεός τ᾽ ὀριζέτον ἀλλήλουιν.

'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.

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7 (134) δεινήν ἢ πυρὸς αἰθημένου ἢ ἡμίλιον ἀνιόντος.

So he <Hector> pondered waiting, and near him came Achilles / like Enyalius, 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

***

8 (139) ἐκτορά δ᾽, ὡς ἐνόησεν, ἔλε τρόμος: οὐδ᾽ ἄρ᾽ ἐτ᾽ ἐτλη αὐθὶ μένειν, ὅπως δὲ πῦλας ὑπε, βῆ δὲ φοβηθεῖς: Πηλείδης δ᾽ ἐπόρουσε ποσὶ κραίνοισι πεποιθός.

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

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9 (140) ἔνθα δὲ πηγαὶ

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
9 (150) γίγνεται ἐξ αὐτῆς ὡς εἰ πυρὸς αἰθομένοιο: 150
10 (151) ἢ δὲ ἐτέρη θέρει προφέρει ἐικοία χαλάζῃ, ἢ χιόνι ψυχρῇ ἢ ξε 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

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11 (162) ὡς δ’ ὁτ’ ἀεθλοφόροι περὶ τέρματα μύρυκας ἱπποῖ

ória μάλα τρωχώσι: τὸ δὲ μέγα κεῖται ἄεθλον

হর δিঃ Ιππোন পরি তিরমাটা মুরিকেস ইপ্পো
illas χαλάζ; τó δέ μέγα κεῖται άεθλον

হর ত্রি স্লিমোয়ো পোলিন পেরী দিনের্হ্যেন

হর চিপালামো পেদেসি থেো হর এস পাংটেস হর্ন্যো

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


***

12 (189) ὡς δ’ ὁτε νεβρόν ὄρεσφι κύων ἐλάφοιο δίηται

হর দলো নেবর হোরফি কাজুন এলাফো হোরছেটাই

হর দলো এ প্যর তে লাম্বি কাটটম্প্যাস প্যো থাম্বু,

হর ডলো এ অনিঘুন্যোন থেৈ এমিপেদোন হোফ্রা কেন হৃর: হর এক্টুর উঃ লিথে পদোক্ন পইলেোনা.

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

“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.” (De Jong 2012:107)

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13 (199) ὡς δ’ ἐν ὅνείρῳ οὐ δύναται φεύγοντα διώκειν:

হর দলো প্যো হোনে হোর হোয়ো হোরছে হোরখেইন

হর ডলো ডো ডো হোনে হোয়ে হোয়ে হোর ডো ডো হোরখেইন: 200

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
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 athenised these lines [199–201] as being ‘shabby’ (ευτελείας), 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)

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(Achilles > Hector ≈ lions > men, wolves > lambs) Achilles

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.’

[14 (262) ώς οὐκ ἔστι λέουσι καὶ ἀνδράσιν ὥρκια πιστά, οὔδὲ λύκοι τε καὶ ἄρνες ὀμόφρωνα θυμόν ἔχουσιν, ἀλλὰ κακὰ φρονέουσι διαμπερὲς ἄλληλοισιν, ώς οὐκ ἔστ’ ἐμὲ καὶ σὲ φιλήμεναι, οὔδὲ τι νοῦν ὥρκια ἔσσονται, πρὶν γ’ ἢ ἔτερόν γε πεσόντα αἵματος ἄσσαι Ἀρης ταλαύρινον πολεμιστήν.

15 (308) οἰμήσεν δὲ ἄλεις ώς τ’ αἰετός ύψιπετής, ὃς τ’ εἰσιν πεδίον δὲ διὰ νεφέων ἐρεβνηνύν ἀρπάξων ἢ ἀρν’ ἀμαλὴν ἢ πτώκα λαγων: οἱ ἔκτωρ οἰμήσε τινάσσων φάσγανον ὄξυ.

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.

[15 (308) ώς “Εκτωρ οἰμήσε τινάσσων φάσγανον ὄξυ.]

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
16 (317) ὁίδος δ’ ἀστήρ εἰσὶ μετ’ ἀστράσι νυκτὸς ἁμολγὺ ἔσπερος, ὃς κάλλιστος ἐν οὐρανῷ ἵσταται ἀστήρ, ἃς αἰχμῆς ἀπέλαμπτ’ εὐήκεος, ἤν ἄρ’ Ἀχιλλεὺς πάλλεν δεξιερῆς φρονέων κακὸν “Ἐκτορι δίῳ εἰσορῶν χρόνα καλόν, ὅπη εἰξείει μάλιστα.

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 μάλιστ’ ἄρ’ ἔχνῃ ἐναλίγκιον ὡς εὶ ἄπασα Ἀλιος ὀφρυόεσσα πυρὶ σμύχοιτο κατ’ ἀκρὴς.

Most like this [i.e., the city-wide mourning for Hector] it was, as if all / overhanging Ilium 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 φαμένῃ μεγάροις διέσσυτο μανάδι ἵσπι παλλομένη κραδίνην: ἄμα δ’ ἀμφίπολοι κίον αὐτῆ.

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.

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

Tranformation and Disguise:

\[ \text{Ἕδεραι τὸν μὲν ἠλέπη, κιχήσατο δ᾽ Ἔκτορα δῖον} \]

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

[Athena ∼ Deiphobus] Narrator

Divine Comparisons:

\[ \text{ἥλθεν Ἀχιλλεὺς / (132) ἴσος Ἐνυαλίῳ κορυθαίκι πτολεμιστή} \]

Achilles came like Enyalius warrior of the waving helmet

\[ \text{εὔχωλή κατὰ ἀστυ πελέσκεο, πᾶσι τ᾽ ὁνειαρ,} \]

\[ \text{Τρωσί τε καὶ Τρωῆςι κατὰ πτόλιν, οἱ σε θεόν ὦς δειδέχατ`.} \]

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

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Similes of the Iliad Book 23 (Ψ)

SUMMARY

Scenes:

#2 (222) [Achilles mourns his comrade Patroclus ∼ a father mourns his son]
#5 (ὀσσα/τόσσον) (431) [they ran ∼ (as far as) a discus throw]
#7* (ὀσσον/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 (ὀσσόν/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
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.

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

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.

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

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
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
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7* (517) ὅσον δὲ τροχοῦ ἵππος ἀφίσταται, ὃς ρα ἀνακτά ἐξκησι πεδίοι τιτανόμενοι σύν ὅχσφι: τοῦ μέν τε ψαύσων ἐπισαύτρου τρίχες ἀκραία οὐραία: ὅ δὲ τ’ ἀγχι μάλα τρέχει, οὐδὲ τι πολλῇ χώρῃ μεσηγὺς πολέος πεδίοιο θέοντος: τόσον δή Μενέλαος ἀμύμονος Ἀντιλόχῳ λείπετ’ : ἀτὰρ τὰ πρῶτα καὶ ἐς δίσκουρα λέλειπτο.

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
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8 (598) ἢ ρα καὶ ἵππον ἄγγων μεγαθύμου Νέστορος υἱὸς ἐν χείρεσι τίθει Μενελάου: τοῖο δὲ θυμός ἰἀνθῆ ὡς εἰ τε περί σταχύεσσιν ἐέρση ληίου ἀλδήσκοντος, ὅτε φρίσσουσιν ἄρουαι: ὡς ἄρα σοὶ Μενελαία μετὰ φρεσὶ θυμός ἰἀνθῆ. 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

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

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

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

‘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

* 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

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Similes of the Iliad Book 24 (Ω)

SUMMARY

Scenes:
#1 (41) [Achilles ≈ a lion]
#2 (80) [Iris ≈ a lead sinker]
#3 (όσση/τόσσο’) (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’ ὑς ἄγρια οἶδεν, ὃς τ’ ἐπεὶ ἅρ μεγάλῃ τε βίη καὶ ἀγήνορι θυμῷ εἶξας εἰσ’ ἐπὶ μῆλα βροτῶν ἵνα δαίτα λάβῃσιν: ὑς Αχιλλεὺς ἐλεόν 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

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2 (80) ἦ δὲ μολυβδαίνη ἱκέλη ἐς βυσσόν ὄρουσεν, ἦ τε κατ’ ἄγραῦλοιο βοῦς κέρας ἐμβεβαιώμεν ἐρχεται ὡμηστήσιν ἐπὶ 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

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3 (317) ὀσση δ’ ψυφόφοιο θύρη θαλάμῳ τέτυκται ἄνέρος ἀφνειοί ἐν κλῆσ’ ἀρμυῖα,

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A
As wide as the door of some rich man’s high-roofed treasure-chamber is fashioned, / a door well fitted with bolds, 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

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φίλοι δ’ ἀμα πάντες ἔποντο
4 (328) πόλλ’ ὀλοφυρόμενοι ὡς εἰ θάνατον δὲ κιόντα.

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

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5 (480) ὡς δ’ ὅτ’ ἂν ἄνδρ’ ἄτη πυκνή λάβη, ὃς τ’ ἐνί πάτρῃ
φώτα κατακτείνας ἄλλων ἔξικετο δήμον ἄνδρός ἑς ἀφνείου, θάμβος δ’ ἔχει εἰσορόωντας,
ὡς Ἀχιλεὺς θάμβησεν ἱδὼν 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’ οίκοιο λέων ὡς ἀλτὸ θύραζε

The son of Peleus leaped to the door of the house like a lion. [Achilles ≈ lion] Narrator

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νῦν δὲ μοι ἔρσῃς καὶ πρόσφατος ἐν μεγάροις
κεῖσαι, τῷ ἱκελος ὄν τ’ ἄργυρότοξος Ἀπόλλων
οἷς ἀγανοίς βέλεσσιν ἐποιχόμενος κατέπεφνεν.

‘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

* * *

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

Transformations and Disguise:

347*  βῆ δ' ἱέναι κούρῳς αἰσθιμητήρι ἑοικός
       πρώτον ὑπηνήτῃ, τοῦ περ χαριεστάτη ἢβη.

[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

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Divine Comparisons:

217*  Πρίαμος θεοειδής, +372, 386, 552), 257 (Μήστορά τ᾽ ἀντίθεων)
        ἦτοι Δαρδανίδης Πρίαμος θαύμαζ Ἀχιλήα

630*  ὅσσος ἦν οἴος τε: θεοῖσι γάρ ἄντα ἐψκει.

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

* asterisked similes not listed in Lee List A