

The background is a solid dark blue color. At the top, there are several wavy, overlapping lines in lighter shades of blue and cyan, creating a sense of movement and depth. The lines curve across the top of the frame.

# The Iliad

Homer



# Book 1: The Rage of Achilles

**Setting:** 9 years after the Trojan War began in Troy and its surrounding area.

Troy is now Northwestern Turkey



## Lines 1-8

- The narrator asks the muses to tell the story of Achilles, his rage, and the many deaths he caused. He wants the muses to tell the story of the fight between Achilles and Agamemnon.
- **Theme:** Achilles' rage



## Lines 9-24

- Agamemnon took Chryses' daughter, Chryseis, in battle. Chryses is Apollo's priest. Chryses asks Agamemnon and his brother Menelaus for his daughter back in exchange for a large ransom and the gods will help him plunder Troy.



## Lines 25-37

- The Achaeans plead with Agamemnon, their leader, to accept the deal and not anger the priest. Agamemnon refuses.
- **Characterization:** Agamemnon is arrogant and selfish



## Lines 38-49

- Chryses prays to Apollo, god of the plague, to pay the Danaans (Achaean) back.
- **Foreshadowing:** Apollo will bring a plague on them.



## Lines 50-60

- Apollo, in a rage, sends a plague upon the Achaeans and kills many.



## Lines 61-78

Achilles is inspired by Hera to talk to Agamemnon about consulting a prophet to find out why Apollo is angry with them.



## Lines 79-85

They visit Calchas, a man who was given psychic abilities by Apollo.



## Lines 86-98

Calchas tells Achilles that he will explain Apollo's anger but Achilles must protect Calchas from the one he will upset by doing so.

**Foreshadowing:** He says this king (Agamemnon) will be able to hold back his wrath for a little while but eventually he will let it loose.



## Lines 99-108

Achilles vows to protect Calchas if he explains why Apollo is angry with them.



## Lines 109-118

Calchas explains that Apollo is angry because Agamemnon did not return Chryseis to her dad. The only way to appease Apollo is to return Chryseis. This time there is no ransom and he must also bring 100 bulls to him.



## Lines 119-141

Agamemnon is angry with Calchas. He says that he likes Chryseis even more than his wife, Clytemnestra, and he doesn't want to give his "prize" back. But he will if that is what's best for his people. In order to keep his honor, he must have another "prize".

**Theme:** value of personal honor.



## Lines 142-152

Achilles says that all of the treasures have already been distributed and it would be a disgrace for him to take someone else's portion. Agamemnon should just return the girl and somehow, someday the Achaeans will repay him.



## Lines 153-173

Agamemnon says he will take someone's prize and he doesn't care if that person "chokes with rage". They will return Chryseis and figure out the details later.

**Foreshadowing:** Achilles is told to perform the ritual to calm the gods. Maybe he is the one who must give up the prize.



## Lines 174-179

Achilles calls Agamemnon greedy and shameless. He doesn't want to fight for Agamemnon anymore.



## Lines 180-192

Achilles doesn't have any problems with the Trojans. He was only fighting them for Agamemnon's honor. Agamemnon doesn't seem to care or think before he acts and now he wants to strip Achilles of his prize, Briseis.

**Background:** A man's prize normally equals how hard and well he fought. To strip someone of their prize is like taking away his honor and threatens his rank as the greatest fighter.



## Lines 193-198

Achilles says that he fights harder than Agamemnon but receives scraps compared to Agamemnon's prizes. He is frustrated and angry and refuses to accept an inferior status to Agamemnon, so he is withdrawing from the war.



## Lines 199-202

Achilles is going home. He refuses to win battles for Agamemnon only to be disgraced.



## Lines 203-212

- Agamemnon tells Achilles to go home. He doesn't care. He has others that will fight for his honor. He tells Achilles that he hates him and that his fighting abilities are just a gift from the gods.



## Lines 213-221

Agamemnon is tired of Achilles' anger. He is going to take Briseis from him to make an example of him to others who dare to argue with Agamemnon.



## Lines 222-240

Achilles is so angry that he reaches for his sword to kill Agamemnon. Athena, a goddess sent from Hera who loves both men, stops Achilles.

**Foreshadowing:** Achilles warns Athena that Agamemnon will pay for his arrogance with his life.



## Lines 241-251

Athena asks Achilles to fight Agamemnon with his words and not his sword. She promises Achilles rewards for obeying Athena's wishes and Agamemnon's authority.

**Foreshadowing:** What reward?



## Lines 252-256

Achilles obeys Athena's wishes to not kill Agamemnon, although he is full of rage. He knows the gods will reward him for following their instructions.

**Characterization:** Achilles is loyal and has self-restraint. He also has faith in the gods.



## Lines 257-263

Achilles keeps his word to not kill Agamemnon but, still angry, he yells at Agamemnon.

**Characterization:** Angry but true to his word.



## Lines 264-287

Achilles tells Agamemnon that he is a drunk who lacks the courage to fight his own battles, and sends others out to do his work. He mistreats his people and takes their prizes without hesitation.



# Summary between 287 and 288

Nestor advises Agamemnon and Achilles to make up but they refuse. Agamemnon takes Briseis from Achilles. Achilles swears to not fight for the Achaeans again and prays to Thetis to have Zeus help the Trojans defeat the Achaeans.



## Lines 287-293

Achilles is no longer involved in the war but his heart yearns for combat.



## Lines 294-316

Thetis asks Zeus to help the Trojans win, forcing the Achaeans to pay Achilles back.

Foreshadowing: “Achilles is doomed to the shortest life of any man on Earth.”