

The Iliad

Book 6

Zeus helps the Trojans defeat the Achaens, but the Achaens are still doing well. Hector and his men pray to the gods for help and Hector tries to persuade Paris to join the fight.

Lines 1-13

Hector cannot find his wife Andromache

Lines 14-23

A servant tells Hector that Andromache and his baby son went to the gate tower, worried that the Achaeans are beating them.

Lines 24-82

Hector meets with Andromache and his son Astyanax. Andromache cries, “Reckless one, my Hector-your own fiery courage will destroy you!” (foreshadowing) Achilles has killed her entire family and she is worried about what she will do if Achilles kills Hector too.

Lines 83-95

Hector is concerned about his family but he will stay in the battle even though he knows that Troy and his dad Priam will someday die.
(Foreshadowing)

Lines 96-117

The pain from the thought of Troy's death is not as bad as the painful thought of Andromache becoming a slave.

Lines 118-136

Hector prays to Zeus that his son Astyanax will be strong and brave like him- that he will one day kill his enemies in battle.

Lines 137-151

Hector comforts his wife and tells her that no-one can escape his fate. He will die if he is destined to and there is nothing anyone can do about that.

Afterword

Andromache anticipates Hector's death. Paris joins the Trojans and together they are beating the Achaeans. Agamemnon realizes he needs Achilles and sends Ajax and Odysseus to bring him back. Odysseus reminds Achilles that Achilles' dad Peleus told him he would have more honor if he could overcome his anger and pride. They tell him that Agamemnon will give him Briseis and other prizes and they will look at him as a god if he comes back. But Achilles refuses.