

The Iliad of Homer: Books 2 and 3.

Brief Notes. (P.G. Brown)

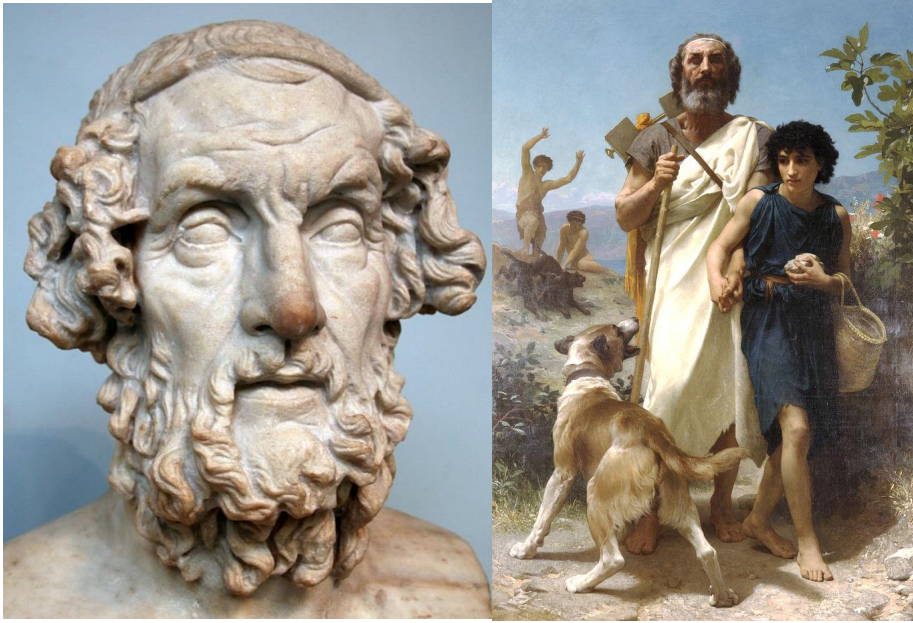


Figure 1.Homer

Commentaries and Editions:

OCT edition, edited by Munro and Allen, 1902 (reprinted 1966).

The Iliad: A Commentary Vol. I, Books 1-4, G. Kirk, 1990.

The Iliad of Homer, Books I-XII, M.M. Willcock, 1978.

The Iliad of Homer, Books I-XII, W. Leaf and M.A. Bayfield, 1895 (reprinted 1962.)

Homer, Iliad, Books I-XII, D.B. Munro, 1894.

School Iliad Books I-III, Thomas D. Seymour, 1892.

Homer: Iliad 3, J.T. Hooker, 1979.

Homer: Iliad Book III, A.M. Bowie, 2019.

The Iliad of Homer, Books I-XII, F. A. Paley, 1875.

Book 2.

Notes:

12. πανσυδίη - 'with all zeal, with all haste'.

14. ἐπέγναμψεν - 'has bent', so 'has won over'.

25. 'to whom a host is entrusted, and upon whom rest so many cares'.

26. ξύνες - 'hearken', imperative from συνίημι

34. ἀνήη - 'shall let you go', < ἀνίημι.

41. 'and the divine voice was ringing in his ears'.



Figure 2. Agamemnon and the dream.

43. νηγάτεον - of uncertain meaning, probably 'not previously worn'.

49. ἐρέουσα - lit. 'being about to announce'.

55. πυκινὴν ...βουλήν - 'cunning plan'.

75. ἐρητεύω - 'restrain, check'.

81. νοσφιζοίμεθα - 'we would turn our backs on it'.

84. ἦρχε νέεσθαι - 'led the way forth'.

87. ἀδινάων - 'swarming'.

88. νέον - tr. 'afresh'.

89. βοτρυδόν - 'in a cluster', (like grapes).

90. ἄλις - 'in great numbers'.

93. ἴλαδόν - 'in company'.

ὄσσα - 'rumour'.

δεδήειν - pluperfect from δαίω - 'had spread like a flame.'

95. τετρήχει - 'was in confusion' < ταραάσσω.

109. ἐρεισάμενος - 'leaning'.

116. μέλλει - 'it seems probable that'.

117. 'who has laid low the heads of many cities'.

125-130a. 'and should the Trojans be gathered together, even all they that have dwellings in the city, and we Achaeans be marshalled by tens, and choose, each company of us, a man of the Trojans to pour our wine, then would many tens lack a cup-bearer; so far, I deem, do the sons of the Achaeans outnumber the Trojans that dwell in the city'

131. ἐγχέσπαλοι - 'brandishing the spear'.

132. πλάζουσι - 'distract, prevent'.

135. σπάρτα - 'rigging'. Note the neuter plural with plural verb.

144. φή = ὤς. Only twice in the Iliad.

147. λήιον - 'cornfield'.

148. ἐπαιγίζω - 'rush forward'. (Rare). Tr. 'blasting violently'.

ἐπί ... ἡμίει - 'bends down' (the subject is 'cornfield').

149. ἀλαλητῶ - 'with a shout'.

153. οὐρούς - 'launching ways'. These were channels by which the ships were dragged up from the sea.

154b. 'and they began to take the props from beneath the ships'.

157. Athena's title here is old and obscure. Generally taken to mean 'the unwearied one'.

160. εὐχωλήν - 'boast', in apposition to Helen in the next line.

169b. 'peer of Zeus in counsel'.

179. ἐρώει- 'be slow, give up', lit, 'draw back'.

190. κακὸν ὡς - 'like a coward'.

193. ἴψεται - 'he will chastise'.

199. ὀμοκλήσασκε - 'he will reproach'.

204a. 'too many rulers is not a good thing'.

206. An interpolation and not in the best manuscripts.

207. κοιρανέων - 'acting as leader'.

211b. 'and were stayed in their places'.

212. ἀμετροεπής - 'unmeasured in words'. (Only here).

κολωάω - 'to make an unseemly noise'. (Only here).

214. μάψ - 'idly, in vain'.

215. 'but (he said) what seemed to him to raise a laugh among the Argives'.

217-219. φορκός, φόξος and ψεδνή are only here in Homer, while the first never appears elsewhere in Greek. 'He was bandy-legged, lame in one foot, his two shoulders were hunched, brought in upon his chest (the verb is συνέχω), above his head was pointed and thin wooly hair grew from it (the verb is possibly ἐπανθέω).'



Figure 3. Thersites

225. 'what are you finding fault with and what do you lack?'

230b. 'as a ransom for his son'.

233a. 'whom you will hold separate'.

234. κακῶν ἐπιβασκέμεν - 'to bring into misfortune'.

235. πέπονες - 'weaklings'.

κάκ' ἐλέγχε' - 'base disgraces'.

237. πεσσέμεν - 'to digest'.

241. μεθήμων - 'slow to take action'.

242. ἢ γὰρ ἄν - 'for otherwise'.

245. ἐνίπτω - 'revile'.

246. ἀκριτόμυθε - 'indiscriminate in speech, reckless babbler'.

248. Note the double comparative.

250. οὐκ ἄν + opt. - 'you have better not ...'.

Lit. 'having kings on your lips', tr. 'on the subject of kings'.

255. ἤσσαι ὀνειδίζων - 'persist in reproaching'.

258. ἀφραίνω - 'to be mad, to rave'.

266. ἰδνώθη - rare word, 'bent backwards'.

267. 'a red weal rose up from his back'.

269. ἀχρεῖον ἰδών - 'with a helpless look'.

273. κορύσσων - 'arming himself'.

275ff. 'seeing he hath made this scurrilous babbler to cease from his prating. Never again, I ween, will his proud spirit henceforth set him on to rail at kings with words of reviling'.

285. ἐλέγχιστον - 'most disgraced, despised'.

289. ὡς - 'like'.

291. 'indeed there is trouble enough to make a man return home in despair'.

293. ἀσχαλάω - 'to be impatient'.

294. 'the rising sea imprison'.

295. περιτροπέων - 'revolving'.

302. κήρ is a special form of death that comes for each person.

303a. '(It seems like) yesterday or the day before'. The expression probably just means 'recently'.

307. πλατανίστω - 'plane tree'.

312. ὑποπεπτηῶτες - 'cowering'.

314. ἐλεεινὰ ... τετριγῶτας - 'chirping piteously'.

318. ἀίζηλον - 'invisible', i.e. he removed it from sight.

323. ἄνεω - 'silent'.

- 325a. `late come and late fulfilled`.
339. βήσεται - `will become of`.
341. σπονδαὶ ἄκριτοι - `unmixed drink-offerings`.
344. ἀστεμφέα - `persistent, unyielding`.
356. `avenge the struggles and lamentations of Helen`. Others take it as referring to the struggles of the Greeks in recovering Helen.
358. ἀπτέσθω - `let him so much as touch ...`.
365. λαῶν - `among your men`.
- 366b. `They will fight in their own divisions`.
367. `you will know whether it was by the will of the gods that you did not take the city or by the cowardice of men or their stupidity in battle`.
373. ἡμύω - `to bow down, sink`.
378. ἀντίβιος - `hostile, wrangling`.
- 378b. `I was the first to be angry`.
380. ἀνάβλησις - `postponement`.
- οὐδε ἡβαιόν - `not in the least`.
385. `that all day long we may measure our strength in dreadful war`. The verb here has the sense of `be separated`, i.e. the strong from the weak.
387. διακρινέει - `shall part`.
- 388ff. `Wet with sweat about the breast of many a man shall be the baldric of his sheltering shield, and about the spear shall his hand grow weary, and wet with sweat shall a man's horse be, as he tugs at the polished car.`
396. προβλήτι σκοπέλω - `a jutting crag`. Tr. `even against a jutting crag that is never left by the waves of all the winds that come from this side or from that.`
398. ὀρέοντο possibly the imperfect of ὀρέομαι equivalent to ὄρνυμαι.

400. ἔρξε - 'they made sacrifice'.

401. μῶλος - 'tumult of battle', used with Ares.

409b. 'for he knew in his heart how troubled his brother was', lit. 'how his brother was toiling'.

416. δαίζω - 'to cleave, tear asunder', hence 'slay'.

417. ῥωγαλέον - 'pierced'.

420b. 'but he increased the work unceasingly'. ὄφελλεν - 'increased' is not to be confused with the verb ὀφέλλω - 'to owe'.

422. αὔρυσαν - 'they drew back (the victims' heads)'.

424. ὠμοθέτησαν - 'laid raw flesh'.

425ff. 'These they burned on billets of wood stripped of leaves, and the inner parts they pierced with spits, and held them over the flame of Hephaestus. But when the thigh-pieces were wholly burned and they had tasted of the inner parts, they cut up the rest and spitted it, and roasted it carefully, and drew all off the spits'.

436. ἀμβαλλώμεθα - 'postpone'.

ἐγγυαλίζει - 'has conferred on us'.

446. θῦνον κρίνοντες - 'hurried about marshalling the army'.

448. 'on which are hung 100 golden tassels'.

θύσανοι - 'tassels', around the edge of the aegis.

449b. 'each worth a hecatomb'.

452. ἄλληγτον - 'unceasingly'.

456. ἔκαθεν - 'from afar'.

460. δουλιχοδείρων - 'long-necked'.

463. Gen. Abs. of possibly in apposition to ὀρνίθων from line 459, 'settling forward with loud cries'.

σμαραγεῖ -`resounds`.

469. μυιάων ἀδινάων -`swarming flies`.

470. `which fly about the sheep fold`.

471. γλάγος -`milk`.

δεύει -`drenches`.

474. πλατέα -`wide-ranging`.

484 ff. is the Catalogue of Ships.

Book 3.

Notes:

1. κόσμηθεν for κοσμήθησαν - 'each contingent was arrayed (pl.) along with their commanders'.

2. ἴσαν -imperfect of εἶμι, Attic ἦισαν.

κλαγγῆ τε ἔνοπῆ - 'high-pitched roar and the sound of battle'.

3. οὐρανόθι πρό - 'in front of heaven', tr. 'in the skies'.

4. φύγον -gnomic aorist.

ἀθέσφατον - 'unceasing', so used with time, lit. 'unspeakable'.

5. ἐπί - 'as far as'.

6. A reference to the war between the cranes and the Pygmies. Mentioned inter alia in Aesop's Fables.



Figure 4. A Pygmy fighting a crane.

7. ἠέριαι - 'in the early morn'.

ταί for αἰ as τοί for οί.

προφέρονται - 'launch'.

9. ἀλέξω - 'to assist'.

11b. 'but to a thief, better than night'.

12. τόσσον ... ὅσσον - 'so far as ... as'.

ἐπιλεύσει - 'sees'.

τε is used when things are compared.

13. ἀελλής - 'whirling (adj.), (other possible reading here).

κόνισαλος - 'cloud of dust'.

14. διέπρησον - 'traversed'.

16. προμαχίζω - 'fight at the front'.

18. κορύσσω - 'crown, tip'.

19. προκαλίζετο - 'challenged'.

20. ἀντίβιος - 'face-to-face'.

22. The verb is βιβάω

23. σώματι - 'carcass'.

ἐχάρη - aor. pass. with middle sense.

25-26. 'even if they might drive him away'.

26. σεύομαι - 'to chase'.

θαλερός - 'strong'.

αἰζηοί - 'youths'. (Etymology uncertain).

28. ἀλείτην - 'the sinner'.

31. κατεπλήγη - 'was terrified', lit, 'smitten',

32. χάζομαι - 'shrink, cower'.

ἔθνος -tr. 'large body of men'.

33. παλίνορσος - 'stepped back again', 'turning tail', only here.

34. βῆσσα - 'glade'.

35b. 'seized his limbs beneath him'.

36. ἀγέρωχος - 'lordly, noble'.

39. ἡπεροπευτήσ - 'deceiver'.

42. 'than to be (as you are) a cause of outrage and held in suspicion by everyone.'

43. ᾗ που - 'surely, without doubt'.

καγχαλόω - 'exult'.

45. ἔπι = ἔπεστι - 'is upon him'.

46a. 'were you such a man when ...'.

47. ἐρίηρας - 'loyal, devoted'.

48. μίσγω -pass. 'to be intimate with'.

49. ἀπίης - 'distant'.

θυόν - 'daughter-in-law'.

51. κατηφείην - 'cause of shame, humiliation'. (Uncertain etymology).

52. μεινείας - 'stand your ground'.

οὐκ άν + opt. in Homer used for a polite request or in sarcasm.

56. δειδήμονες - 'cowards'. (Only here in Homer).

57a. i.e. you would have been stoned to death.

ἔσσο -pluperfect middle < ἔννυμι.

59. κατ' αἴσαν - 'quite rightly'.

ὑπ' - 'over the top'.

60. ἀτειρήσ - 'unweary'.
61. εἶσι < εἶμι - in Homer has present sense.
62. νήιον - 'ship's timber'.
- 62b. 'increases the force of the man's blow'.
64. πρόφερε - 'bring up against me'.
65. ἀπόβλητα - 'to be thrown away'.
70. συμβάλετε - tr. 'set'.
72. εὖ seems to strengthen πάντα.
77. ἀνέεργω - 'keep back'.
78. ἰδρύνθησαν - 'were seated'.
79. ἐπετοξάζοντο - 'they (the Greeks) were bending their bows at him (Hektor)'.
84. στεῦται - 'is about to'. (Only in 3rd p. sing. pres. and imperf.)
- ἄνεω - possibly old instrumental, 'in silence'.
- εἶρω - 'I bid'.
85. ἐσσυμένως - 'eagerly'.
98. διακρινθήμενοι - 'to be parted'.
99. πέπασθε < πάσχω.
- 100b. Tr. 'and Alexander who began it'.
101. τέτυκται - 'has been prepared, has been laid down'.
105. ἄξετε - future imperative.
107. ὑπερβασίη - 'transgression'.
- δηλήσηται - 'be destroyed'.
108. 'For the minds of younger men are always unstable/flighty'.

109. `among whom an old man is found ...`.
- 115b. `there was but little space around`.
122. γαλόω-`husband's sister`.
- 126a. `dark double-folded`, i.e. worn double.
126. ἐνέπασσεν -lit. `sprinkled on it`, i.e. `embroidered on it`.
- 126b. Bowie reads μαρμαρείην -`shining`.
128. ἕθεν -`of her`.
- παλαμάων -`hands`.
130. θεσκελα -lit. `ordained by the gods`, tr. `miraculous`.
132. φέρον -tr. `wage`.
134. ἕαται -3rd p. pl. pres. middle <ἥμαι.
135. `stuck in the ground beside them`. παρά -adverbial.
138. κεκλήση -redup. future passive.
141. `with white linen dress`.
147. ὄζον -tr. `servant`, lit. `root`.
149. δημογέροντες -`as elders of the people`.
152. λειριόεσσαν -`like lilies`.
155. ἦκα -`softly`, `quietly`, uncertain origin.
- 156a. `it is no cause for complaint`.
158. `she resembles terribly the immortal goddesses to look at`.
160. λίποιτο -aor. middle with passive sense. The subject is πῆμα.
163. πηούς -`kinsmen`.
168. κεφαλή - tr. `in height`, lit. `by a head`.

170. γερανόν-`stately`.

172. ἔκυρέ-`father-in-law`, `you are worthy of respect and awe-inspiring`.

175. `my child of tender age and my lovely companionship of my girlhood`.

τηλυγέτην - the meaning is unknown, but is often rendered `of tender age` or `last born`.

176. τό is here adverbial meaning `wherefore`.

τέτηκα-tr. `worn down`.

179. ἀμφότερον - `both`.

180b. `if ever it was true`. So much time has passed that she presents it as if a dream.

182. μοιρηγενές - `child of fortune`.

183. δεδμήατο < δάμνημι-`have been made subject to you`.

184. ἀμπελόεσσαν - `rich in vineyards`.

188. ἐπίκουρος - `ally`.

ἐλέχθην - `I was chosen`, tr. `I was counted`.

196. κτίλος - `ram (who leads the flock)`, the so-called `bell-wether`.



Figure 5. Helen and Priam watching the Greeks.

197. πηγεσιμάλλω -`fleecy', `with dense fleece'.
198. `who wanders through the great flock (πῶϊ) of white ewes'.
201. κραναῆς -`rugged'.
202. `shrewd'.
206. `on an envoy concerning you'.
210. ὑπέιρεχεν for ὑπέρεχεν - `overtopped'.
211. γεραρώτερος -`more majestic'.
213. ἐπιτροχάδην -`fluently'. Only here in Homer.
ἦτοι -`in fact'.
214. παῦρα -`with few words'.
215. `rambling'.
- 215b. i.e. younger.
218. ἐνώμα -tr. `direct'.
219. αἰδρεῖ- lit. `with no sense', but probably `one who did not know how to use the sceptre'.
ἀστεμφής -`stiffly, tightly'.
220. ζάκοτον -`surly, ill-mannered'.
αὐτως -`quite simply'.
224. ἄγαμαι -`be angry at'.
236. `marshallers of the host'.
238. αὐτοκασιγνήτω -`my own two brothers'. They were, of course, already dead but Helen does not know this.
240. δεύρω = δεῦρο, the equivalence only here.
243. φυσίζοος -`wheat producing'.

245. ὄρκια -`oath offerings, offerings for oath-making`.
257. ἐπιβώλακα -`deep-soiled`.
258. ἰππόβοτον -`which pastures horses`.
260. ὀτραλέως -`speedily`.
261. κατατείνω -`draw back`.
263. ἔχον -`drove`, as often in Homer.
265. πουλυβότειρον -`bounteous`.
266. ἐστιχόωντο -`marched, strode`.
268. ἄν for ἀνέστη.
272. `which always hung (ἄωρτο -plup. pass < αἶρω) beside the great sheaf of his sword`.
- ἄωρτο is pluperfect passive from αἶρω.
279. τίνυσθον -`take vengeance`. The form is dual, and so must refer to Zeus/Hades (?) and Persephone.
286. τιμήν -`compensation`.
287. πέληται -`shall be known`.
290. ποινῆς -`recompense`.
292. στομάχους -`throats`.
293. ἀσπαίροντας -`gasping`.
- 294a. Lit. `lacking (tr. losing) their life`.
295. ἀφυσσόμενοι -`drawing out the liquid`.
- 299b. `might cause harm contrary to the oaths`.
318. ἤρησαντο -`prayed`.
321. `whichever placed these troubles between the two races ...`.

327. ἀερίποδες - 'high-steeping'.

330. 'greaves around his legs'.

331. ἐπιφυρίοις - 'ankle-pieces'.

337b. 'nod from above'.

338. ἀρήρειν - pluperfect.

341a. 'glaring terribly'.

349. ὤρνωτο χαλκῶ - 'began to rush forward'.

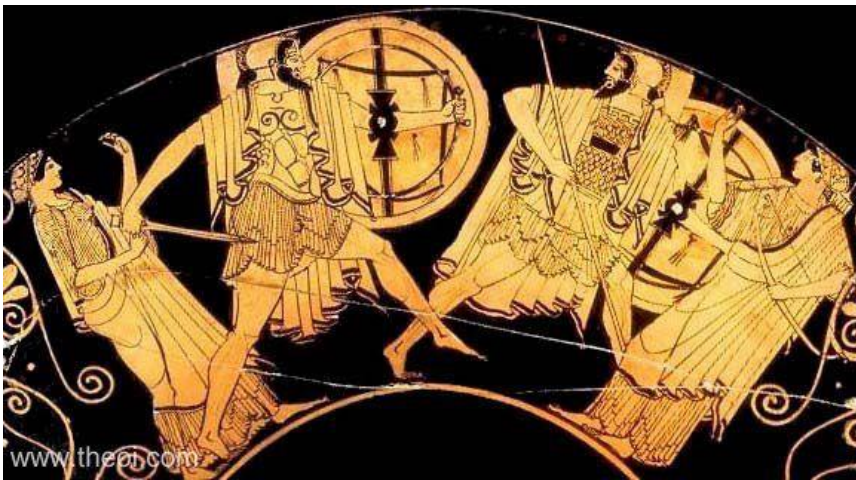


Figure 6. The Duel of Paris and Menelaos.

351. sc. αὐτόν as antecedent for ὃ.

355. ἀμπεπαλών -redupl. aor. participle < ἀναπάλλω - 'brandishing about'.

358. ἤρῃρειστο - 'it had forced its way' < ἐρείδω.

359. 'the spear cut through his tunic beside his thigh'. The verb is διαμάω.

362. φάλον- 'horn' or 'boss' of the helmet. Exact meaning uncertain.

363a. 'in 3 or 4 pieces', appears once in the Odyssey.

363. διαθρύπτω - 'to shatter'. Here aor. pass. participle.

370. ἐπιστρέψας- 'having twisted him around'.

371-2. `the richly embroidered (πολύκεστος < κεντέω -`prick, stab` only here) chin strap was choking him under his tender neck, which was tight under his chin as strap for his helmet`.

ὄχεύς -`strap`.

372. ἄνθερεών-`chin`.



Figure 7. Menelaos dragging Paris by the helmet.

373. ἄσπετον -`untellable, countless`.

ἦρατο < ἄρνυμι -`win`.

375b. βοὸς ἰφι κταμένοιο -`of an ox slaughtered with might/killed by force`.



Figure 8. Aphrodite removes Paris from the battlefield.

376. κεινή - 'empty'.

378. ἐπιδινήσας - 'having swung it around'.

382b. 'sweet-smelling and fragrant'. Others, avoiding the tautology connect the latter term with a word meaning 'vault' and translate 'high vaulted'.

383. ἴε - 'went'.

384. ἄλις - 'in large number'.

385-9. 'and with her hand she grasped the fragrant robe and twitched it, and spoke to her in the likeness of a long-lived old woman, a wool-comber, who had used to work the fair wool for her when she dwelt in Lacedaemon, and who was well loved of her'.

ἦσκειν - imperfect with moveable nu.

391. δινωτοῖσι - probably 'adorned with circles, decorated'.

391. εἴμασιν - 'apparel'.

399. ἠπεροπέύω - 'deceive'.

400ff. Very strong attack on the goddess. A much discussed passage.

πη - 'somewhere' + part. gen. (no-where else so used).

προτέρω - 'further'.

402. 'if there is someone there also among mortal men who is dear to me'.

406b. Lit. 'depart from/ renounce (ἀπόειπε) the way of the gods'. Probable meaning is since you care so much for him why not give up divinity and become a human.

408. οἴζε - 'be anxious'.

410b. 'it would be a hateful thing'.

411. πορανέουσα - 'in order to serve', fut. participle.

412. ἄκριτα - 'countless'.

414. μεθείω -tr. `desert`.

τώς - `so much`.

415. ἔκπλαγλα - `terribly, passionately`.

416a. `between the two`.

417. ὄλῃαι - `you would perish`, aor. middle, subjunctive.

419. ἕανῶ - `robe`.

427a. i.e. refused to look at him. Tr. `turned her eyes askance`.

ἠνίπαπε < ἐνίσσω - `reproach`, redup. aor.

430. εὐχέο - `you boasted`.

435. ἀντίβιον - `face-to-face`.

440. αὐτίς - tr. `another time`.

448. τρητοί-σι -tr. `corded`.

453. `and if anyone saw him they were not going to hide him out of any sense of friendship`.

454. Take ἴσον with the last two words of the line.

461. ἐπὶ δ' ἦνεον - `shouted assent`.



Figure 9. Paris and Helen.