

ADAPTED FROM THE EPIC POEM BY HOMER

THE ILIAD



RATED T+



\$2.99 US \$3.05 CAN

DIRECT EDITION

MARVEL
LIMITED SERIES
5 of 8



Roy Thomas
Miguel Angel Sepulveda
Sandu Florea
Nathan Fairbairn

ADAPTED FROM THE EPIC POEM BY HOMER

THE ILIAD

The Story So Far:

When **Helen**, queen of Sparta, was taken across the sea to the city of Troy (also called Ilium) by its prince, **Paris**, her husband **Menelaus** raised a large **Achaean** (Greek) force, led by his brother **King Agamemnon**, to bring her back. In the war's ninth year, Agamemnon offended proud **Achilles**, and that greatest of heroes vowed to fight no more till the matter was redressed. His goddess-mother **Thetis** persuaded **Zeus**, king of the gods, to favor the Achaeans in battle for a time.

At times, the Olympian gods took sides in the war—**Apollo** and **Aphrodite** favoring the Trojans, **Hera** and **Athena** the Argives (Greeks). At last Zeus forbade any gods to take part in combat, and he turned the tide of battle temporarily in favor of Troy and her allies. The Achaeans were driven behind their ship-wall, and pleas to Achilles to return to the fray fell on deaf ears. It seemed that **Hector**, Troy's greatest warrior, might burn the Achaeans' ships and doom the invaders...

The Achaeans



Agamemnon
King of Mycenae



Menelaus
King of Sparta



Achilles
Mightiest Achaean
Warrior



Ajax the Greater
Foremost Achaean
Warrior
after Achilles



Odysseus
King of Ithaca



Diomedes
Youngest Achaean
Commander

The Trojans



Priam
King of Troy



Paris
Son of Priam



Hector
Greatest Warrior
of Troy



Aeneas
Trojan Nobleman
Once Queen of Sparta -
now Helen of Troy



Writer *Roy Thomas* Penciler *Miguel Angel Sepulveda* Inker *Sandu Florea* Colorist *Nathan Fairbairn* Letterer *VC's Joe Caramagna*

Special Thanks — *Allo, Suter, Nausedas, Ginter*

Cover
Paolo Rivera

Production
Rachel Pinnelias

Asst. Editor
Lauren Sankovitch

Editor
Nicole Boose

Senior Editor
Ralph Macchio

Editor in Chief
Joe Quesada

Publisher
Dan Buckley

MARVEL ILLUSTRATED: THE ILIAD No. 5, June, 2008. Published Monthly except semi-monthly in February by MARVEL PUBLISHING, INC., a subsidiary of MARVEL ENTERTAINMENT, INC. OFFICE OF PUBLICATION: 417 5th Avenue, New York, NY 10016. © 2008 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. \$2.99 per copy in the U.S. and \$3.05 in Canada (GST #R127032852) in the direct market and \$3.99 per copy in the U.S. and \$3.99 in Canada (GST #R127032852) through the newsstand; Canadian Agreement #40368537, Canadian Agreement #40668537. Printed in Canada. ALAN FINE, CEO Marvel Toys & Publishing Divisions and COO Marvel Entertainment, Inc.; DAVID GABRIEL, SVP of Publishing Sales & Circulation; DAVID BOGART, SVP of Business Affairs & Talent Management; MICHAEL PASCHULLO, VP Merchandising & Communications; JIM O'KEEFE, VP of Operations & Logistics; DAN CARR, Executive Director of Publishing Technology; JUSTIN F. GABRIE, Director of Editorial Operations; SUSAN CRESPI, Editorial Operations Manager; OMAR OTIEKU, Production Manager; STAN LEE, Chairman Emeritus. For information regarding advertising in Marvel Comics or on Marvel.com, please contact Mitch Dane, Advertising Director, at mitchdane@marvel.com. For Marvel subscription inquiries, please call 800-217-9158.

NOW ZEUS LEFT TROJANS
AND ACHAENS TO THEIR
NEVER-ENDING TOIL, AND
TURNED HIS KEEN EYES
TO OTHER PEOPLES, IN
OTHER LANDS.

FOR HE DID NOT
BELIEVE THAT
ANY OF THE
IMMORTALS WOULD
DARE HELP EITHER
SIDE IN THE FRAY.

BUT POSEIDON,
GOD OF THE SEA,
PITIED THE ARGIVES...

...AND STRONG WAS
HIS ANGER AGAINST
HIS BROTHER ZEUS.

AS THE SEA OPENED A
PATH BEFORE HIS CHARIOT,
SEA-MONSTERS LEFT THEIR
LAIRS AND CAME GAMBOLING
ABOUT HIM FROM EVERY
CORNER OF THE DEEP...

FOR THEY
KNEW THEIR
MASTER.

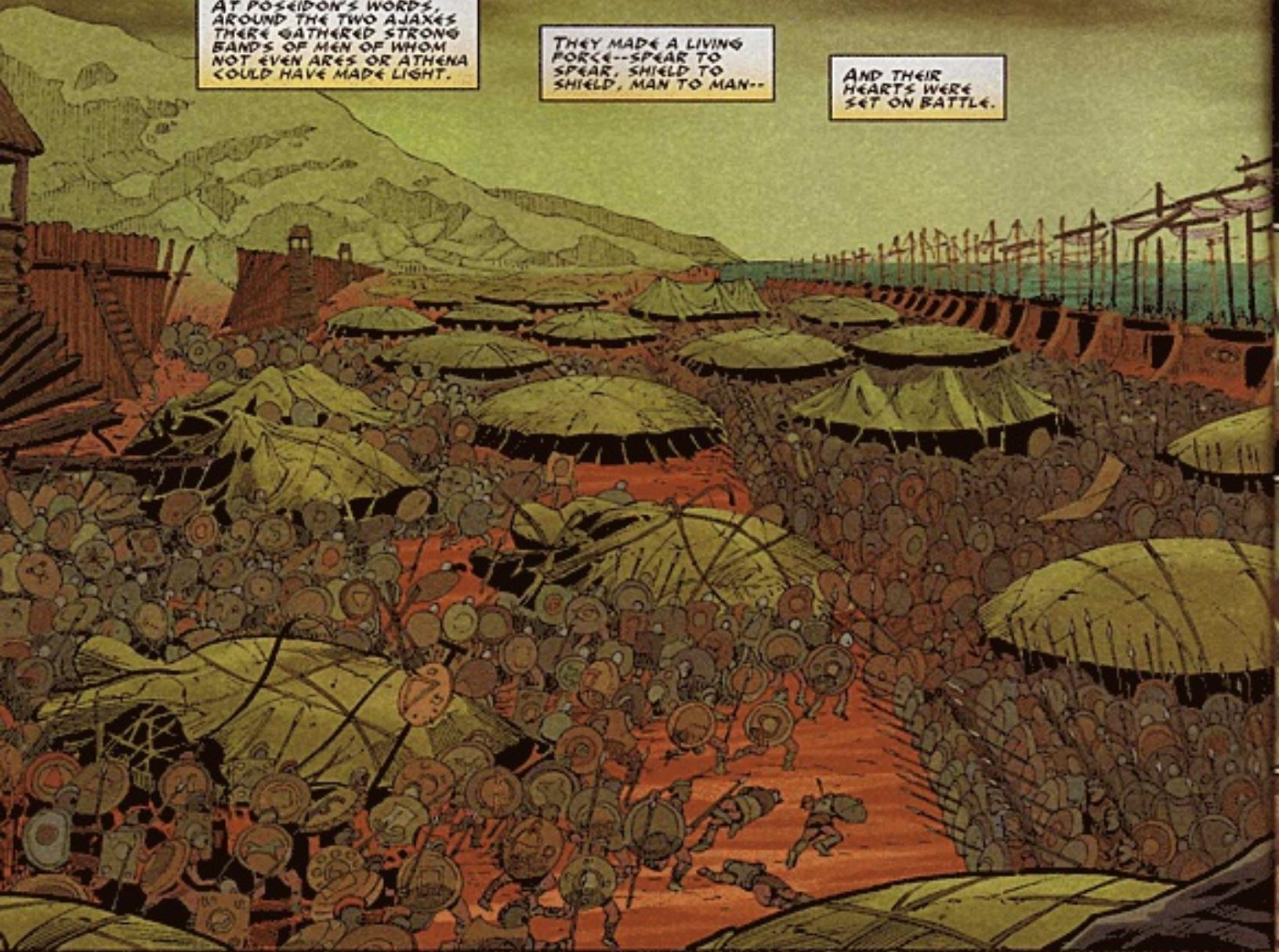




AT POSEIDON'S WORDS,
AROUND THE TWO AJAXES
THERE GATHERED STRONG
BANDS OF MEN OF WHOM
NOT EVEN ARES OR ATHENA
COULD HAVE MADE LIGHT.

THEY MADE A LIVING
FORCE--SPEAR TO
SPEAR, SHIELD TO
SHIELD, MAN TO MAN--

AND THEIR
HEARTS WERE
SET ON BATTLE.



TEUCER LOOSED ARROW
AFTER ARROW INTO
TROJAN RANKS FROM A
RAISED MOUND OF EARTH...



YET STILL
HECTOR
PRESSED
ON...

The
Achaeans
will not
check me for
long.

For Zeus
himself has
inspired my
onset!





HECTOR THEN TOOK AIM AT THE ARCHER TEUCER--

HAH!
I evade your spear, son of Priam!

BUT HE STRUCK
INSTEAD AMPHIMACHUS,
SON OF CTEATUS...

--AND GRANDSON
OF POSEIDON!

THE SEA-LORD WAS ENRAGED TO SEE AMPHIMACHUS FALL...

Idomeneus--what has become of the threats you once hurled at the Trojans?

I would not yield even to Achilles in hand-to-hand fight!

THEN DID THE WARRIOR-KING OF CRETE LEAD THE SONS OF HELLAS AGAINST THE TROJANS' LEFT WING...

--SPREADING PANIC AS THEY BEHELD HIM COMING ON, STRONG AS FLAME!



MEANWHILE, BEHIND
THEIR HARD-PRESSED
LINES, MANY AN ACHAean
HERO-KING WAS TENDING
TO HIS WOUNDS:

MENELAUS,
GRAZED ON THE
FOREHEAD BY
A BATTLE-AXE...

ODYSSEUS, HIS
THIGH SLICED BY
A SPEAR...

DIOMEDES, WHOSE
FOOT HAD BEEN
PIERCED BY PARIS'
ARROW...

AGAMEMNON,
STRUCK BY ONE
TROJAN BROTHER
WHEN HE SLEW
THE OTHER.

Agamemnon!
The wall before our
ships is fallen--and the
fighting has reached
our ships!

Then,
Nestor, it must
be the will of Zeus
that the Achaeans
perish here, far
from Argos.

Perhaps
we can
escape ruin by
fleeing...

Son of Atreus, you should have commanded some other, baser army--

--not Achaeans, to whom Zeus has allotted a life of hard fighting from youth to old age!

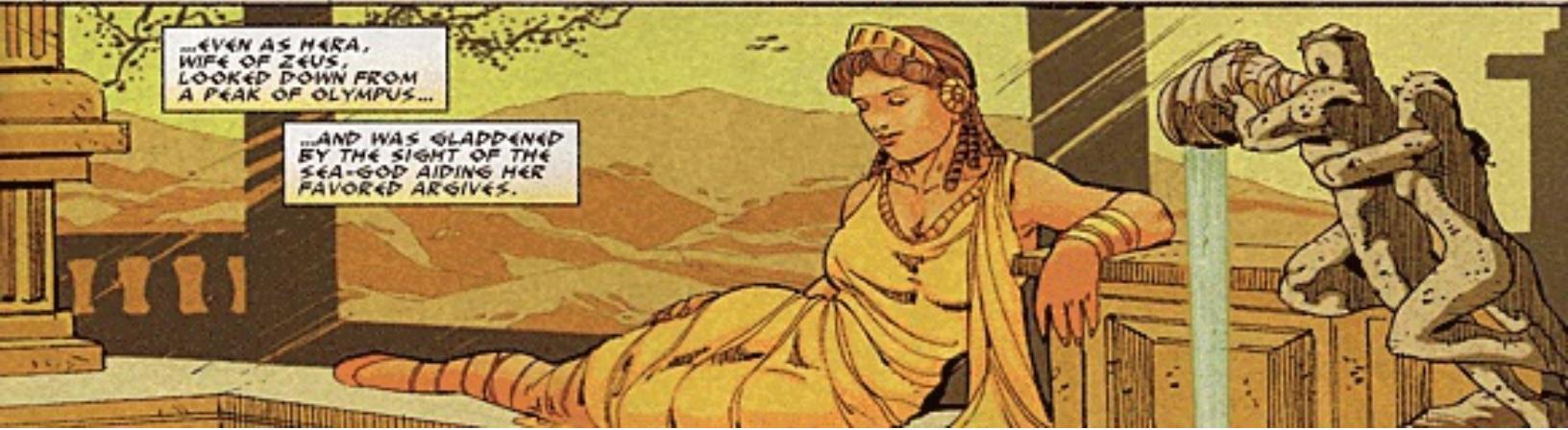
Let us go to the fray, wounded though we be--and spur on others!

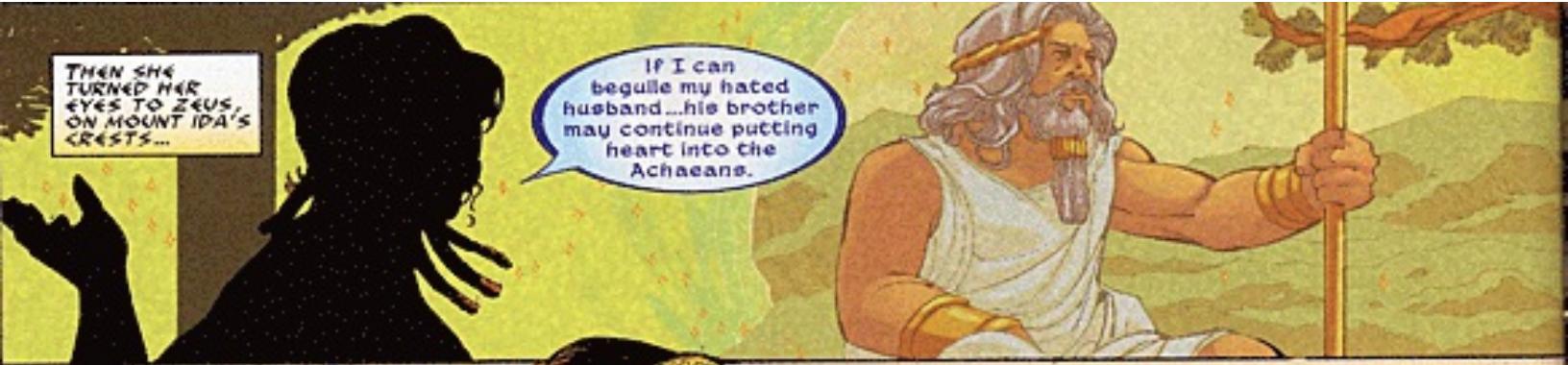
THUS DID THE ARMORED KINGS SET OUT, WITH POSEIDON GRANTING THEM FRESH COURAGE...



EVEN AS HERA, WIFE OF ZEUS, LOOKED DOWN FROM A PEAK OF OLYMPUS...

...AND WAS SLAPPED IN THE FACE BY THE SIGHT OF THE SEA-GOD AIDING HER FAVORED ARGIVES.





THEN DID HERA SPEED
NOT TOWARD OCEANUS,
BUT FAR OVER THE WAVES
OF THE SEA...

...TILL SHE
REACHED THE
CITY OF LEMNOS.

Sleep,
brother of
Death...

You who
lord it alike over
mortals and
immortals...



Do me
but one service,
and I shall
be grateful to
you forever
after.

What
does the queen
of goddesses
want?

Close Zeus'
eyes in slumber
while I clasp him in
my embrace...

...and my
son Hephaestus
will make you a
golden chair and
footstool.

Any
of the other
gods I would lull to
sleep without
compunction.

But I dare
not go near
Zeus unless he
bids me.



Once before, he would have cast me down into the sea, had not Night herself shielded me from his eyes.

But that was when you aided me against Hercules.

Mighty Zeus cares far less about the Trojans than he did about his own son.

Pasithea...

Then swear it to me by the dread waters of the river Styx!

Lay one hand on the bounteous earth, and the other on the sheen of the sea, so that all the gods who dwell down below with Ouranos may be our witnessess...

...and know that Pasithea will be mine!

I do so swear--
And I invoke the Titans, who are gods of the nether world, to witness my oath!

SOON HERA
STOOD ON
MOUNT IDA...

—WHILE SLEEP
PERCHED UPON A
TREE BRANCH, IN
THE SEMBLANCE
OF A BIRD...

Zeus—I
came to tell you
I am going to the
world's end, to
reconcile a quarrel
between Oceanus
and mother
Cethys.

AND THE GIRDLE OF
APHRODITE INFLAMED
THE DESIRE OF ZEUS.

You can
choose another
time to visit
Oceanus.
Never have
I been so
overwhelmed by
passion for goddess
or for mortal
woman...

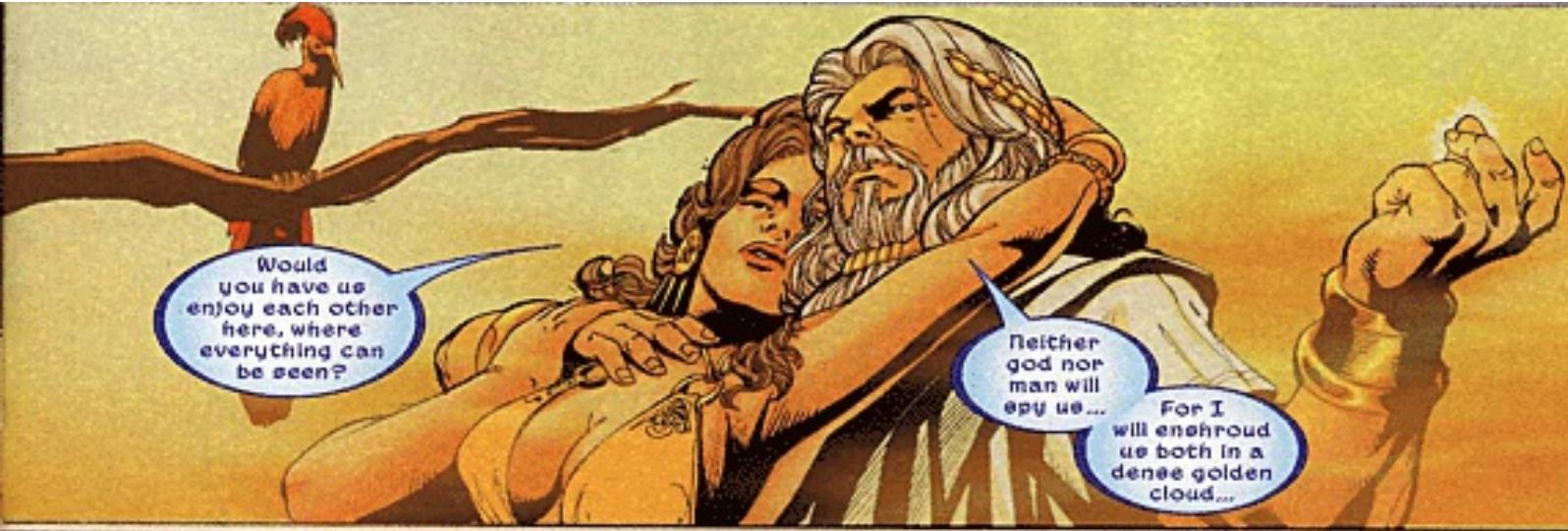
...no, not
for the wife
of Ixion...

...or for
Semele...

...or for
Danaë, or the
daughter of
Phoenix...

...or
Demeter...

...or even
for lovely
Leto...







WOUNDED THOUGH
THEY WERE, THEY
MARCHED WITH
POSEIDON...

AND MIGHTY WAS THE
UPROAR AS ACHAAN AND
TROJAN FORCES MET.



MIGHTY HECTOR
AIMED HIS SPEAR
AT GREAT AJAX...



BUT IT WAS NOT
DESTINED TO GET
PAST HIS SHIELD.

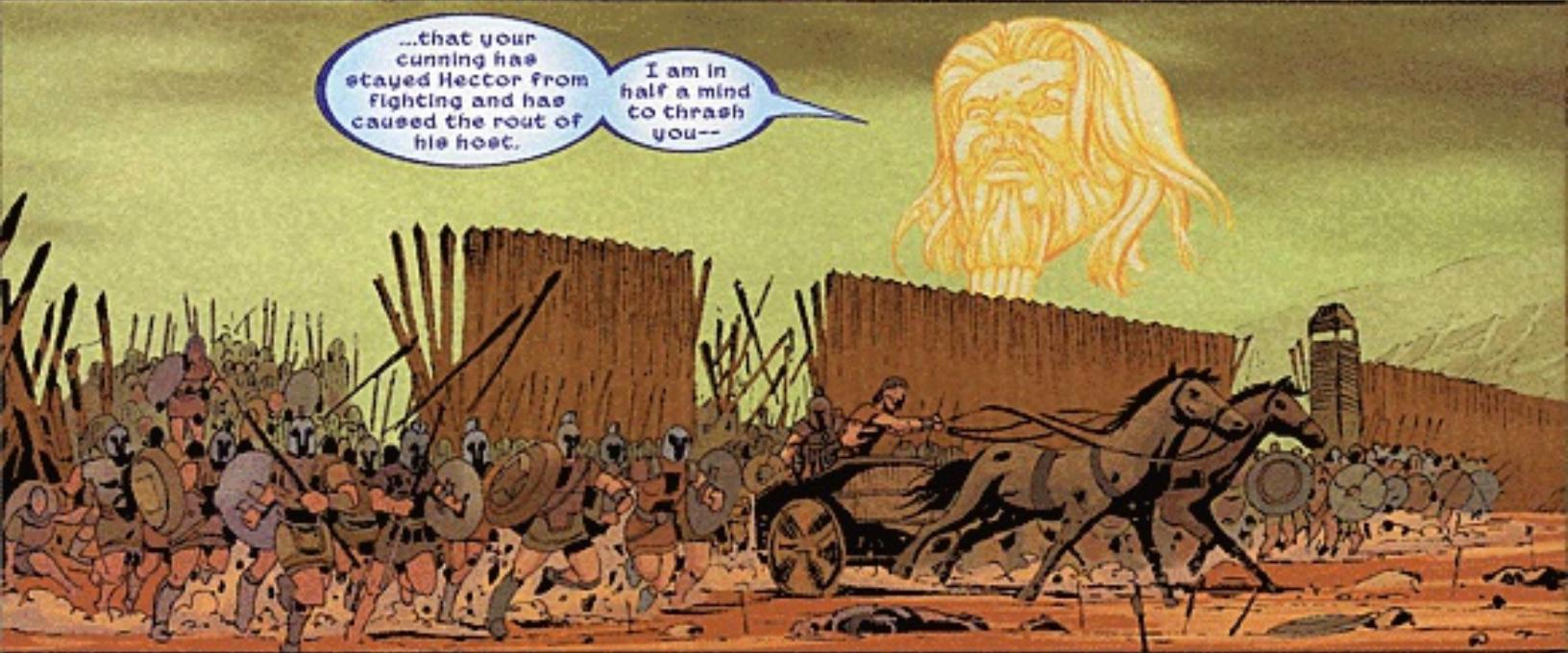
Was it
some spiteful god
that protected
you?





AS THE TROJANS RETREATED, ZEUS WOKE ON THE CRESTS OF IDA...

I see, Hera...



If I were advising him, I would tell him to do as you bid him!

Then go send Iris to Poseidon, to tell him to leave off fighting.

Troy is fated to fall--but not till I have kept my promise to Chethis, concerning her son Achilles.

SOON IRIS, FLEET AS THE WIND, APPROACHED THE GOD OF THE SEAS...

We were three brothers--he and I and Hades, who now rules the world below.

We cast lots and divided the world into three parts--and Zeus should keep to his own!

Am I really to take this unyielding message to Zeus--or will you reconsider?

Goddess, your words are wise.

I will give way in spite of my displeasure.

But let Zeus understand that, IF he spares Troy in the end, he will incur my implacable resentment!

MEANWHILE, APOLLO DESCENDED BEHIND THE TROJAN LINES NEAR HECTOR, WHO HAD JUST COME TO HIMSELF AGAIN...

Hector, son of Priam... why are you here away from the others?

Which of the gods asks me thus?

I am Phoebus Apollo, sent by Zeus to stand by you.

Therefore, order your chariots toward the ships in great multitudes.

I will go before you, to turn the Achaeans in flight.

AS APOLLO SPOKE, HE INFUSED GREAT STRENGTH INTO THE SHEPHERD OF HIS PEOPLE.

THEN DID HECTOR URGE HIS HORSEMEN ON...

—WHILE HE SPED FORWARD AS FAST AS HIS LIMBS COULD TAKE HIM.

AND THOAS,
LEADER OF THE
AETOLIANS,
ADDRESSED
THE ARGIVES...



Look! One
of the gods has
brought Hector
to life again, after
he seemed slain
by Ajax!

Let our
main force fall
back upon the
ships...



...while we
who profess to
be the flower
of the army stand firm!

BUT WHO COULD STAND
AGAINST INVISIBLE APOLLO,
WHO KICKED DOWN THE
BANKS OF THE ACHALEAN
TRENCH IN ITS MIDDLE...

...SO THAT
EARTH FILLED
THE TRENCH...



...AND THE TROJAN
BATTALIONS POURED
OVER THAT GREAT
BROAD BRIDGE, CRYING
FOR BLOOD!



AS A WAVE BREAKS
OVER THE BULWARKS
OF A SHIP WHEN THE
SEA RUNS HIGH
BEFORE A GALE...

EVEN SO DID THE
TROJANS SPRING
OVER THE WALL
WITH A SHOUT...

--WITH
HECTOR IN THE
FOREFRONT!

Behold,
Trojans!
I have
seized the
stern of a ship
that brought many
an Achaean to
our shores--
--but will
never bear
them back to
their native
land!

AND
GREAT AJAX
SHOUTED BACK--

Argive
heroes--
servants of
Ares--be
MEN!

We are
on the plain of
Troy, with the sea
behind us, and far
from our own
country!

Our only
salvation--is in
the might of our
hands!

NEXT:
THE RETURN
OF ACHILLES

THE GLOSSARY OF THE ILIAD

Allot – to assign as a portion, distribute

Ambrosial – exceptionally pleasing to taste or smell

Attire – clothes or apparel

Base – of little or no value; worthless; dishonorable

Beguile – to influence by trickery

Bounteous – giving freely; generous

Braggart – a person who does a lot of boasting or speaks often of self-importance

Bulwark – a solid wall-like structure raised for defense

Compunction – a strong uneasiness caused by a sense of guilt

Crest – the highest or culminating point; the peak

Enshroud – to conceal

Flee – to run away

Fray – a fight or battle

Gambol – to skip about, as in dancing or playing

Girdle – a belt, cord, sash, or the like, worn about the waist

Glut – to feed or fill to satiety

Grisly – horrible; gruesome

Implacable – impossible to appease or pacify

Infuse – to introduce into or instill

Keen – characterized by strength of perception; extremely sensitive or responsive

Perish – to suffer destruction or ruin

Plight – a condition or state of misfortune

Scepter – a rod or wand that serves as a symbol of regal or imperial power

Semblance – a likeness, image, or copy

Sheen – luster or brightness

Spur – to urge to go on

Stern – the rear part of a ship or boat

Styx – a river in the underworld in Greek mythology, over which the souls of the dead were ferried by Charon, and by which the gods swore their most solemn oaths

Thrash – to beat soundly in punishment

