

CLASSICS *Illustrated*

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World's Greatest Authors

No. 77 15¢

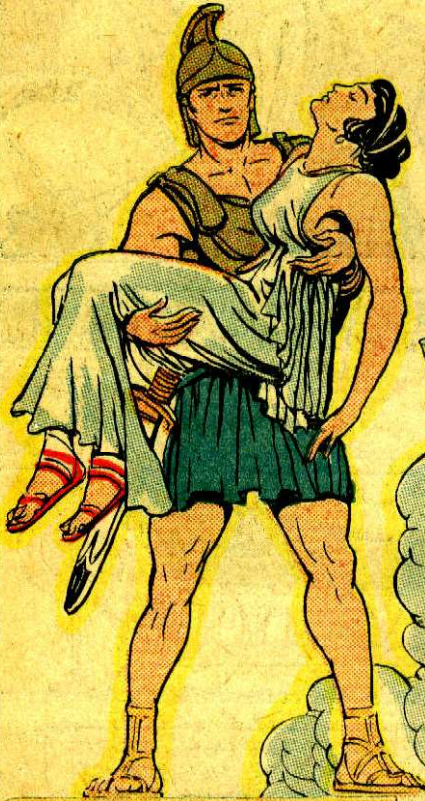
THE ILIAD



THE ILIAD

Illustrated by ALEX A. BLUM

by HOMER



PARIS AND HELEN



KING
AGAMEMNON

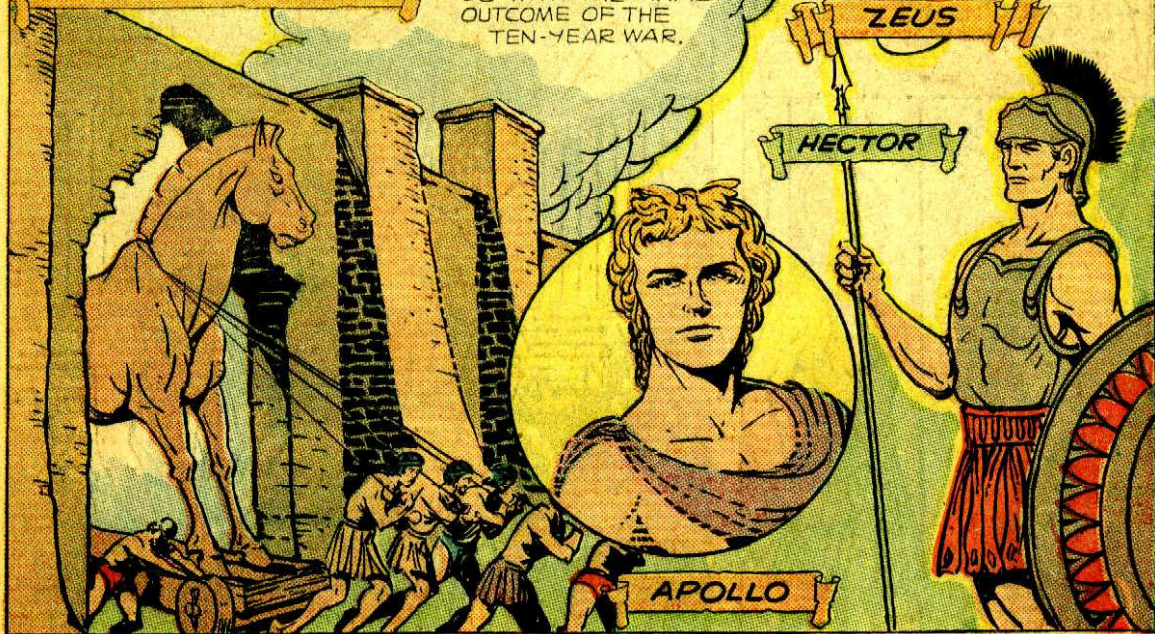


ACHILLES

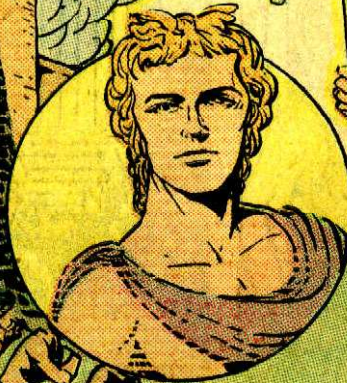
THIS IS THE STORY OF THE GRECIAN-TROJAN WAR, WITH ITS GODS AND HEROES. THE GODS ARE THE MYTHICAL, IMMORTAL INHABITANTS OF OLYMPUS, THE HEAVENLY MOUNTAIN, WHERE THEY FEASTED ON AMBROSIA AND NECTAR AND WATCHED THE HUMAN SPECTACLE BELOW THEM. THESE GODS, FURIOUS PARTISANS OF ONE SIDE OR THE OTHER, HAD MUCH TO DO WITH THE FINAL OUTCOME OF THE TEN-YEAR WAR.



ZEUS



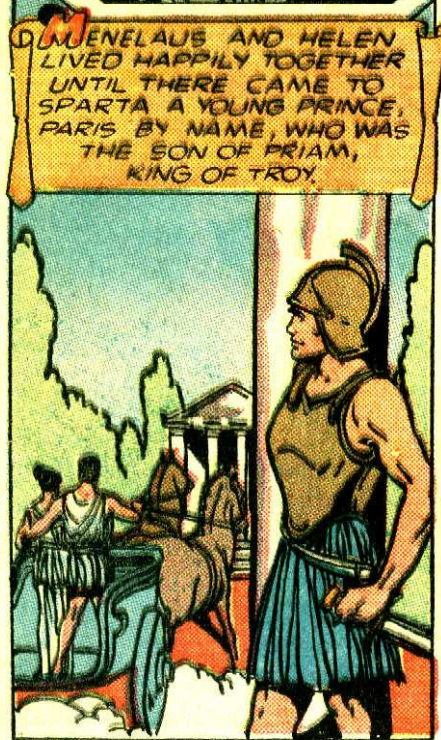
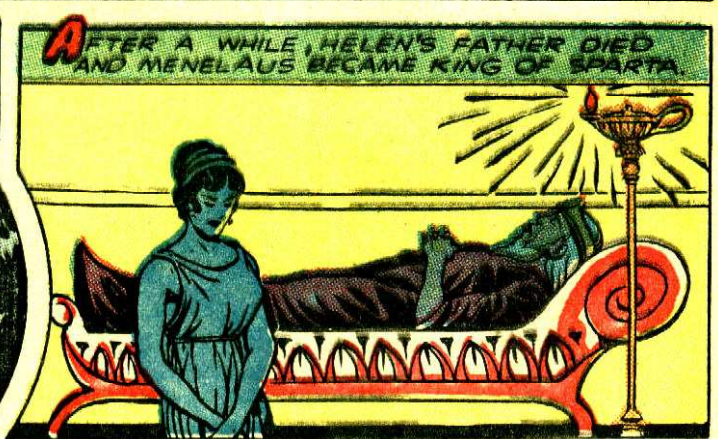
HECTOR



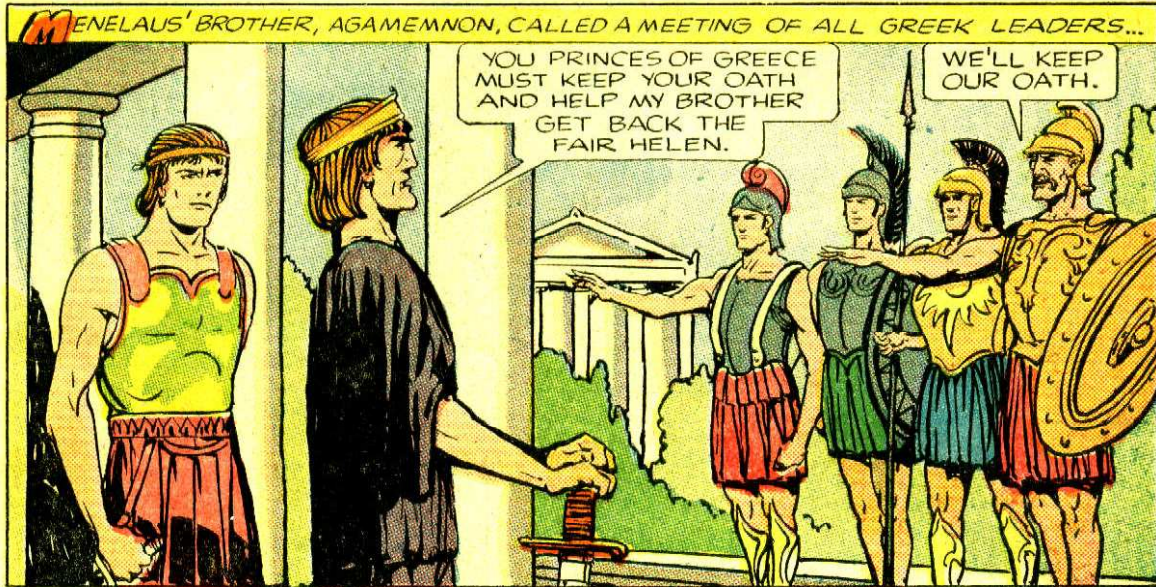
APOLLO



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THE ILIAD



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THE GREEKS TOOK THE CITY OF CHRYSE AND DIVIDED THE SPOILS AMONG THE CHIEFS.



AGAMEMNON RECEIVED IN HIS SHARE OF THE SPOILS A GIRL NAMED CHRYSEIS, THE DAUGHTER OF THE PRIEST OF APOLLO, THE GOD WHO WAS WORSHIPPED IN THE CITY.



CHRYSEIS, I'LL CARRY YOU BACK WITH ME WHEN I'VE TAKEN TROY.

* GOD OF MANLY BEAUTY

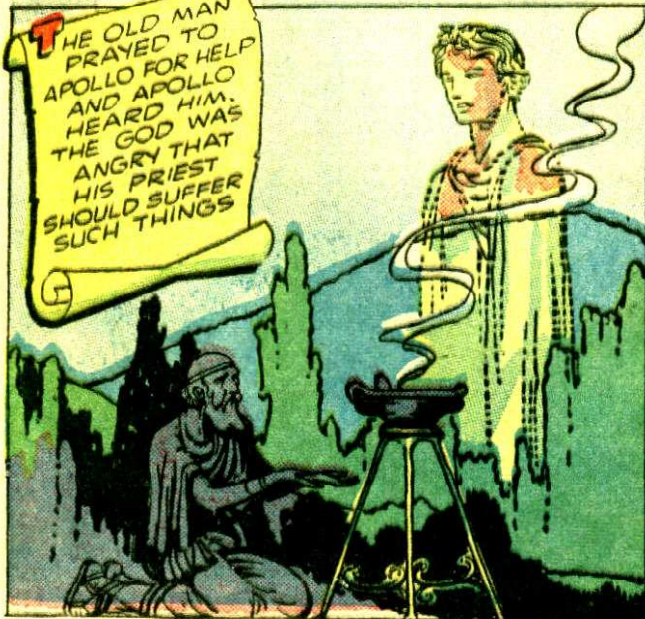
THE PRIEST PLEADED FOR HIS DAUGHTER.

THEN THE GODS WILL HELP YOU TO TAKE THE CITY OF TROY AND BRING YOU SAFE TO YOUR HOMES.

AWAY WITH YOU, OLD MAN, OR IT WILL BE THE WORSE FOR YOU!

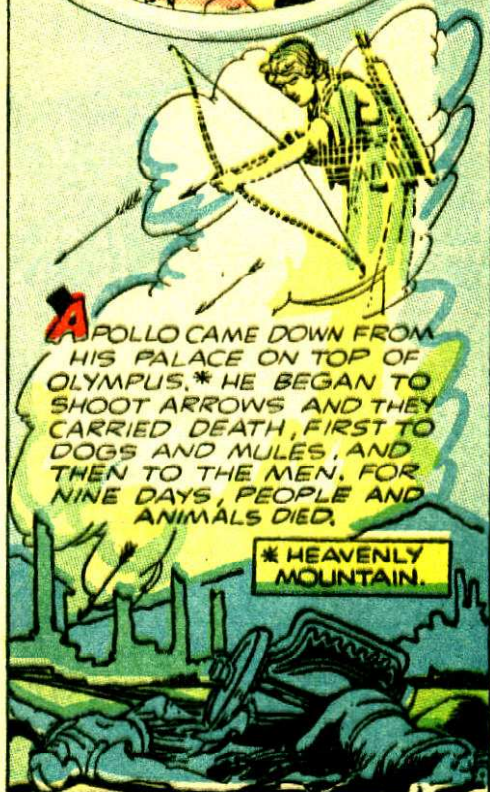


THE OLD MAN PRAYED TO APOLLO FOR HELP AND APOLLO HEARD HIM. THE GOD WAS ANGRY THAT HIS PRIEST SHOULD SUFFER SUCH THINGS



APOLLO CAME DOWN FROM HIS PALACE ON TOP OF OLYMPUS. * HE BEGAN TO SHOOT ARROWS AND THEY CARRIED DEATH, FIRST TO DOGS AND MULES, AND THEN TO THE MEN. FOR NINE DAYS, PEOPLE AND ANIMALS DIED.

* HEAVENLY MOUNTAIN.



THE ILIAD

ON THE TENTH DAY, ACHILLES, THE BRAVEST AND STRONGEST OF THE GREEKS, CALLED AN ASSEMBLY.

YOU, CALCHAS, THE PROPHET, TELL US WHY APOLLO IS ANGRY WITH US.

AGAMEMNON MUST SEND THE GIRL BACK TO HER FATHER, AND WITH HER, A HUNDRED BEASTS AS SACRIFICE.

YOU ALWAYS PROPHECY EVIL, ILL PROPHET!

WHEN TROY HAS BEEN CONQUERED, WE'LL MAKE UP TO YOU WHAT YOU'VE LOST THREE TIMES OVER.

MY SHARE I'LL HAVE AT ONCE.

NEVER WAS THERE A KING SO SHAMELESS AND SO GREEDY! I HAVE BEEN FIGHTING AGAINST THE TROJANS FOR YOUR SAKE AND YOUR BROTHERS. THEY NEVER DID HARM TO ME OR MINE.

GO, AND TAKE YOUR PEOPLE WITH YOU. BUT MARK, THE GIRL BRISEIS, WHO WAS GIVEN YOU, I WILL TAKE!

NOW I WILL SLAY THE VILLAIN WHERE HE SITS.

THE GODDESS ATHENE* HALTED ACHILLES FROM HIS INTENTION...

ARE YOU COME TO SEE THIS VILLAIN DIE?

NAY, I AM COME TO STAY YOUR RAGE! QUEEN HERA AND I LOVE YOU BOTH. DRAW NOT YOUR SWORD, BUT SAY WHAT YOU WILL.

*GODDESS OF WISDOM

I'LL DO AS YOU BID... FOR HE WHO HEARS THE GODS IS HEARD BY THEM.

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AFTER ACHILLES LEFT, AGAMEMNON ORDERED HIS HERALDS...

GO TO THE TENT OF ACHILLES AND FETCH THE GIRL BRISEIS. AND IF HE'LL NOT LET HER GO, SAY THAT I'LL COME WITH OTHERS TO FETCH HER, AND IT'LL BE THE WORSE FOR HIM.



IN GREAT FEAR AND SHAME, THE HERALDS STOOD BEFORE ACHILLES...

DRAW NEAR. 'TIS NO FAULT OF YOURS THAT YOU ARE COME ON SUCH AN ERRAND

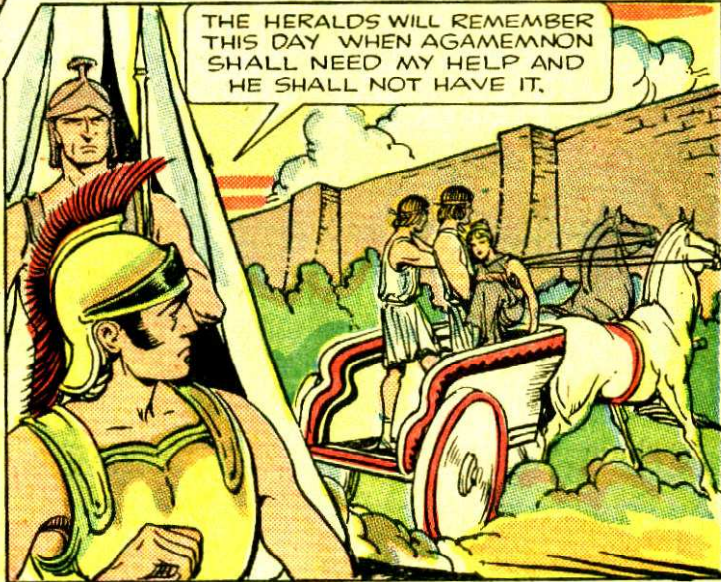


TO HIS LOYAL FRIEND, PATROCLUS, ACHILLES COMMANDED...

FETCH BRISEIS FROM HER TENT AND GIVE HER TO THE HERALDS; LET THEM BE WITNESSES OF THIS EVIL DEED!



THE HERALDS WILL REMEMBER THIS DAY WHEN AGAMEMNON SHALL NEED MY HELP AND HE SHALL NOT HAVE IT.



ACHILLES TOLD HIS MOTHER, THETIS*, OF THE PLOT AGAINST HIM...

GO TO OLYMPUS... TO THE PALACE OF ZEUS** AND ASK HIM TO HELP THE TROJANS SO THAT AGAMEMNON MAY LEARN HOW FOOLISH HE HAS BEEN.

HE'S ATTENDING A TWELVE DAYS' FEAST, BUT I'LL ASK HIM WHEN HE COMES BACK. MEANWHILE, DO YOU SIT STILL AND DO NOT GO FORTH TO BATTLE!



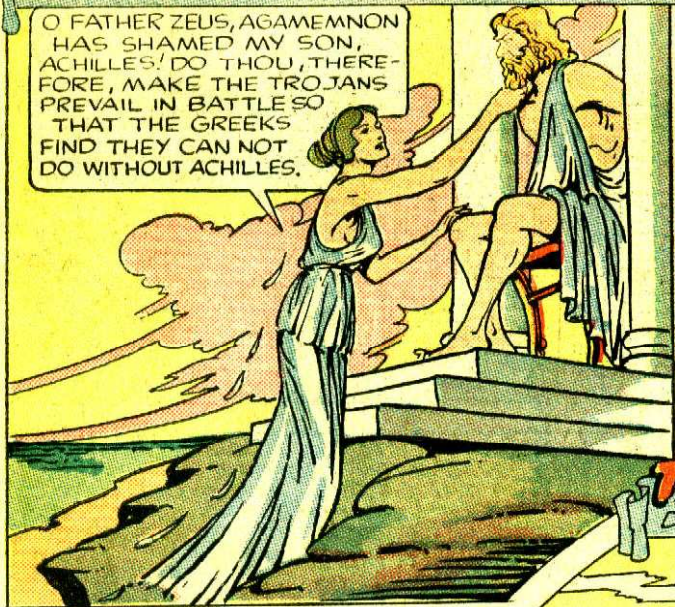
**GOD OF HEAVEN AND EARTH.

* DAUGHTER OF THE SEA.

THE ILIAD

WHEN THE TWELVE DAYS OF FEASTING WERE OVER, THETIS ROSE OUT OF THE SEA AND WENT TO OLYMPUS.

O FATHER ZEUS, AGAMEMNON HAS SHAMED MY SON, ACHILLES! DO THOU, THEREFORE, MAKE THE TROJANS PREVAIL IN BATTLE SO THAT THE GREEKS FIND THEY CAN NOT DO WITHOUT ACHILLES.



THIS WILL MAKE A DREADFUL QUARREL BETWEEN ME AND THE LADY HERA*, MY WIFE. EVEN NOW SHE TELLS ME THAT I FAVOR THE TROJANS TOO MUCH!

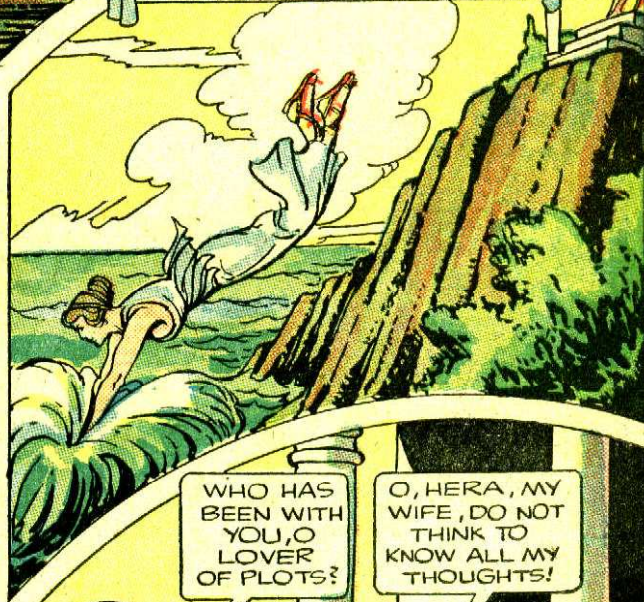


* GODDESS OF MARRIED LIFE

WHEN THETIS WENT AWAY AND DIVED DOWN INTO THE SEA.

IF I'VE EVER HELPED THEE WHEN THE OTHER GODS PLOTTED TO PUT THEE IN CHAINS, HELP ME NOW!

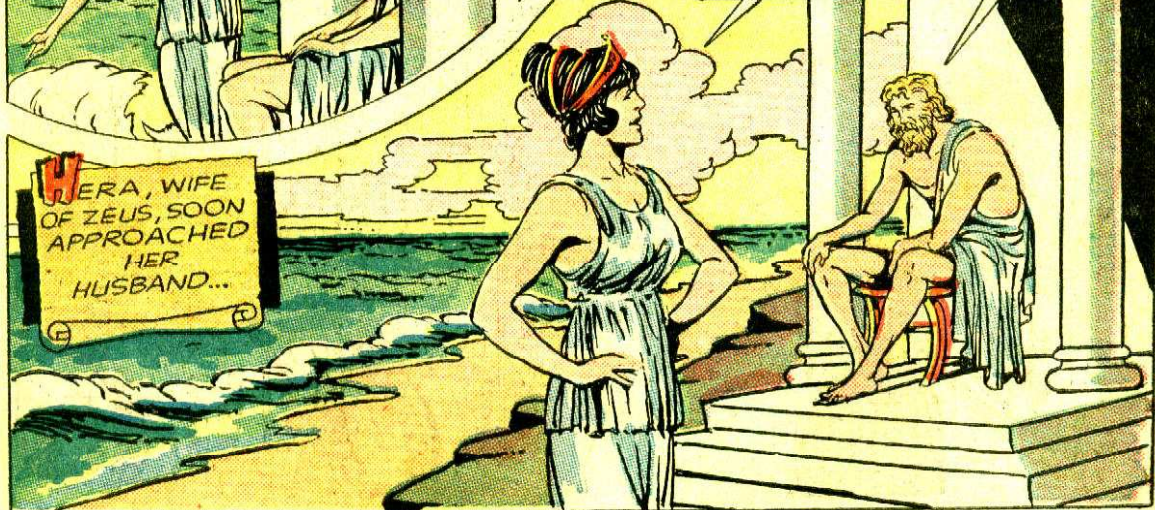
GO, QUICKLY, AND I'LL THINK HOW I MAY BEST DO WHAT YOU ASK.



WHO HAS BEEN WITH YOU, O LOVER OF PLOTS?

O, HERA, MY WIFE, DO NOT THINK TO KNOW ALL MY THOUGHTS!

HERA, WIFE OF ZEUS, SOON APPROACHED HER HUSBAND...



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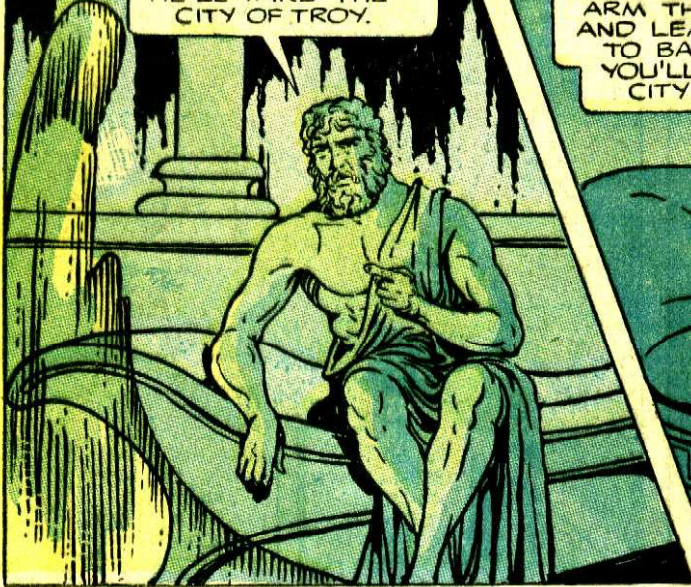
WHILE ALL THE OTHER GODS SLEPT, ZEUS REMAINED AWAKE THINKING HOW HE MIGHT AID THETIS AND HER SON, ACHILLES.

PERHAPS IF AGAMEMNON THOUGHT HE COULD TAKE THE CITY OF TROY...AH, YES, THAT WILL DECEIVE HIM!



THEN ZEUS SUMMONED A DREAM.

GO, DREAM, TO THE TENT OF AGAMEMNON, AND TELL HIM THAT IF HE WILL LEAD HIS ARMY TO BATTLE, HE'LL TAKE THE CITY OF TROY.



THE DREAM TOOK THE FORM OF NESTOR, WHOM AGAMEMNON THOUGHT TO BE THE WISEST OF THE GREEKS, AND STOOD BY THE BEDSIDE OF THE KING AND SAID...

WHY DO YOU WASTE YOUR TIME IN SLEEP? ARM THE GREEKS AND LEAD THEM OUT TO BATTLE, FOR YOU'LL TAKE THE CITY OF TROY.



WE'RE GOING TO BATTLE AGAINST THE TROJANS. AT LAST, THIS LONG WAR IS GOING TO END.

The KING BELIEVED THAT THIS FALSE DREAM WAS TRUE...



THE ILIAD

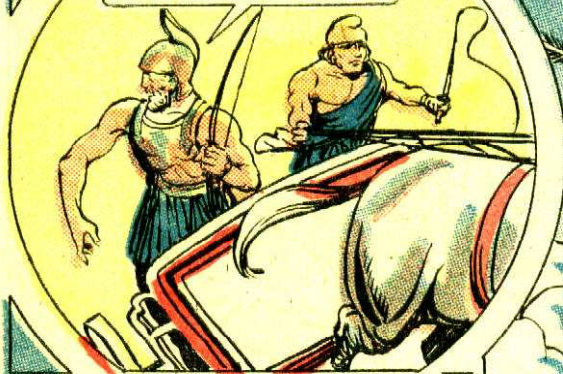
The GREEKS AND THE TROJANS MET BEFORE THE WALLS OF THE CITY OF TROY. COUNTLESS DEEDS DONE GREAT AND HEROIC WERE DONE THAT DAY. WHILE MANY CHIEFS SHOWED THEMSELVES TO BE BRAVE AND VALIANT MEN, THE MOST SINGULAR AND OUTSTANDING EXPLOITS WERE ACCOMPLISHED BY DIOMED. IN THE MIST OF THE TERRIFIC ATTACK, AN ARROW HIT HIM IN THE SHOULDER.



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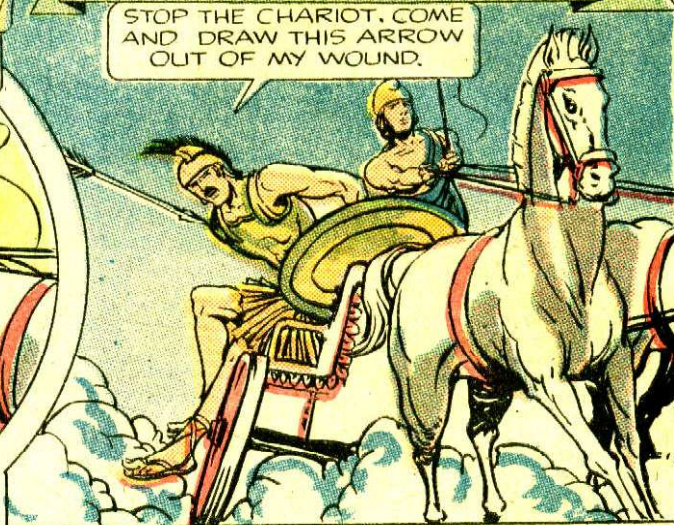
THE GREAT ARCHER PANDARUS BOASTED AS HIS ARROW STRUCK DIOMED

ON, MEN OF TROY! I'VE WOUNDED THE BRAVEST OF THE GREEKS. HE'LL SOON FALL DEAD IN HIS CHARIOT.



BUT DIOMED WAS NOT TO BE CONQUERED IN THIS FASHION...

STOP THE CHARIOT. COME AND DRAW THIS ARROW OUT OF MY WOUND.



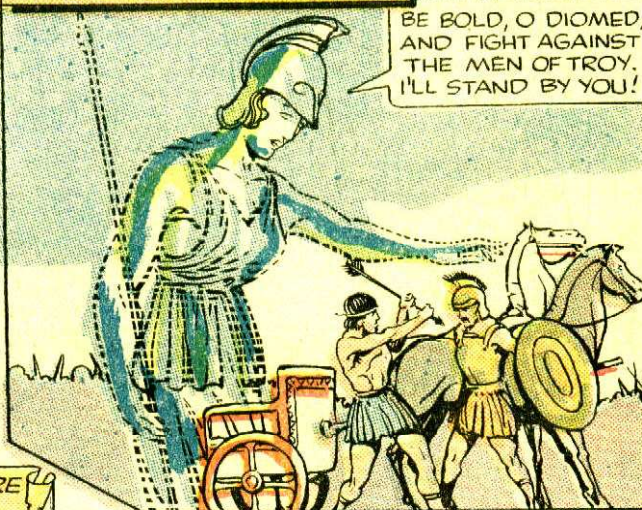
SEEING THE BLOOD SPURT FROM HIS WOUND, DIOMED PRAYED TO THE GODDESS ATHENE...

O GODDESS, STAND BY ME AS YOU DID ALWAYS STAND BY MY FATHER.

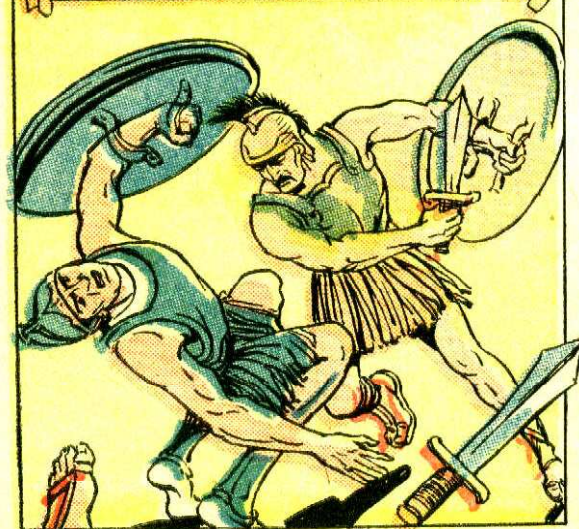


ATHENE HEARD HIS PRAYER...

BE BOLD, O DIOMED, AND FIGHT AGAINST THE MEN OF TROY. I'LL STAND BY YOU!



THEN DIOMED FOUGHT EVEN MORE FIERCELY THAN BEFORE...



AENEAS, BRAVEST OF THE TROJANS NEXT TO HECTOR, SPOKE TO PANDARUS...

DO YOU SEE THIS MAN, DIOMED, DEALING DEATH WHEREVER HE GOES? SHOOT AN ARROW AT HIM!

I'VE HIT HIM AND SEEN BLOOD FLOW, BUT I'VE NOT HARMED HIM. SOME GOD STANDS BY AND DEFENDS HIM, I'M SURE.

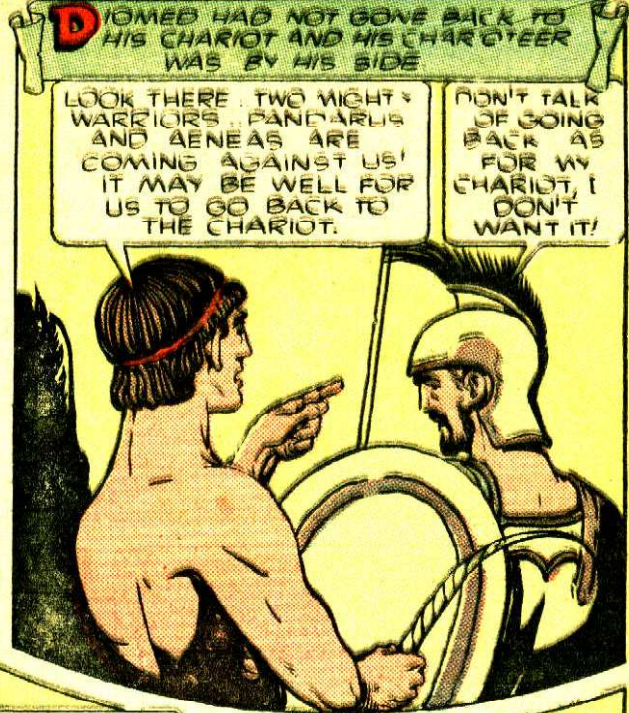


THE ILIAD



TAKE THE REINS AND WHIP AND I'LL FIGHT, OR YOU FIGHT AND I'LL DRIVE.

'TIS BEST THEY SHOULD HAVE THE DRIVER THEY KNOW, I'LL FIGHT!



DIOMED HAD NOT GONE BACK TO HIS CHARIOT AND HIS CHARGEER WAS BY HIS SIDE

LOOK THERE: TWO MIGHTY WARRIORS... PANDARUS AND AENEAS ARE COMING AGAINST US! IT MAY BE WELL FOR US TO GO BACK TO THE CHARIOT.

DON'T TALK OF GOING BACK AS FOR MY CHARIOT, I DON'T WANT IT!

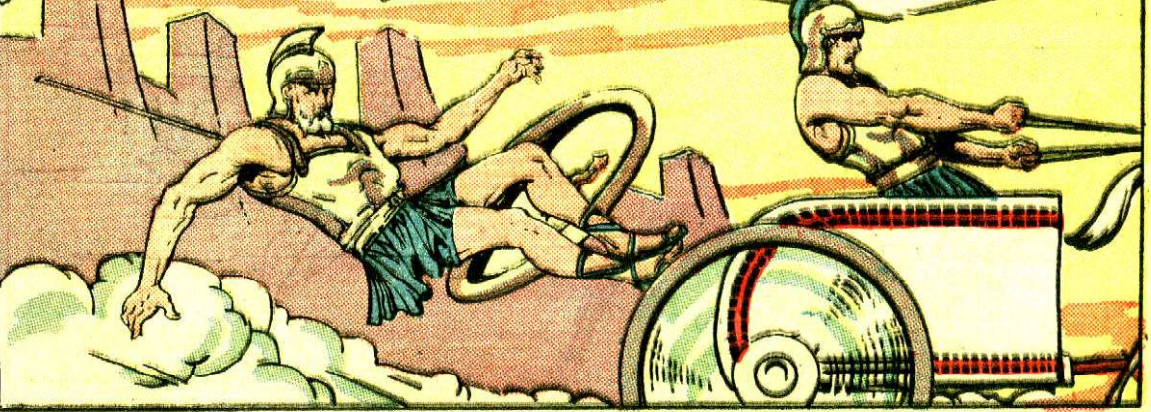
PANDARUS CAST HIS SPEAR AND IT PIERCED THE SHIELD OF DIOMED SO STRONGLY WAS IT THROWN.



AHA! YOU'RE HIT! THIS WOUND WILL STAY YOU FROM FIGHTING!

NOT SO YOU'VE WOUNDED ME NOT AT ALL BUT SEE WHAT I'LL SEND

PANDARUS WAS KILLED BUT AENEAS WOULD NOT LEAVE HIS COMRADE.



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AENEAS STOOD BY HIS COMRADE AS A LION STANDS BY THE CARCASS OF SOME BEAST IT HAS KILLED. DIOMED STOOPED AND TOOK UP A GREAT STONE AND THREW IT AT AENEAS...

THE STONE STRUCK AENEAS AND HE FELL TO THE GROUND. THUS HE WOULD HAVE DIED BUT FOR HIS MOTHER, APHRODITE, THE GODDESS.

AS APHRODITE* SEIZED HER SON, AENEAS, AND RAISED HIM UP, SHE THREW A VEIL OVER HIM TO HIDE HIM.

YOU SHOULD NOT JOIN IN THE BATTLE, DAUGHTER OF ZEUS!

* GODDESS OF LOVE

DIOMED CAST HIS SPEAR AT THE GODDESS, AND SHE DROPPED HER BURDEN...

BEWARE, DIOMED... DO NOT THINK TO FIGHT WITH GODS!

THE GOD APOLLO CAUGHT UP AENEAS WHEN HIS MOTHER DROPPED HIM. EVEN THEN, DIOMED WAS LOATHE TO LET HIM ESCAPE.

THE ILIAD

SOON AFTERWARDS, HECTOR, WITH THE AID OF ARES,* STARTED TO DRIVE THE GREEKS BACK. UP IN OLYMPUS, HERA AND ATHENE APPEALED TO ZEUS...

*GOD OF WAR.

FATHER, SEE HOW FURIOUSLY THE GOD ARES IS RAGING IN THE BATTLE AGAINST THE GREEKS.

MAY WE STOP HIM BEFORE HE DESTROYS THEM?

YOU MAY DO WHAT YOU PLEASE.

THE GODDESSES YOKED THEIR HORSES TO HERA'S CHARIOT AND WENT AS FAST AS THEY COULD TO THE EARTH.

And CHANGING THEMSELVES INTO DOVES, THEY FLEW TO WHERE THE GREEKS AND TROJANS WERE FIGHTING.

WHEN THEY CAME TO THE PLAIN OF TROY, THE GODDESSES COVERED THE CHARIOT WITH A MIST THAT NO ONE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SEE IT.

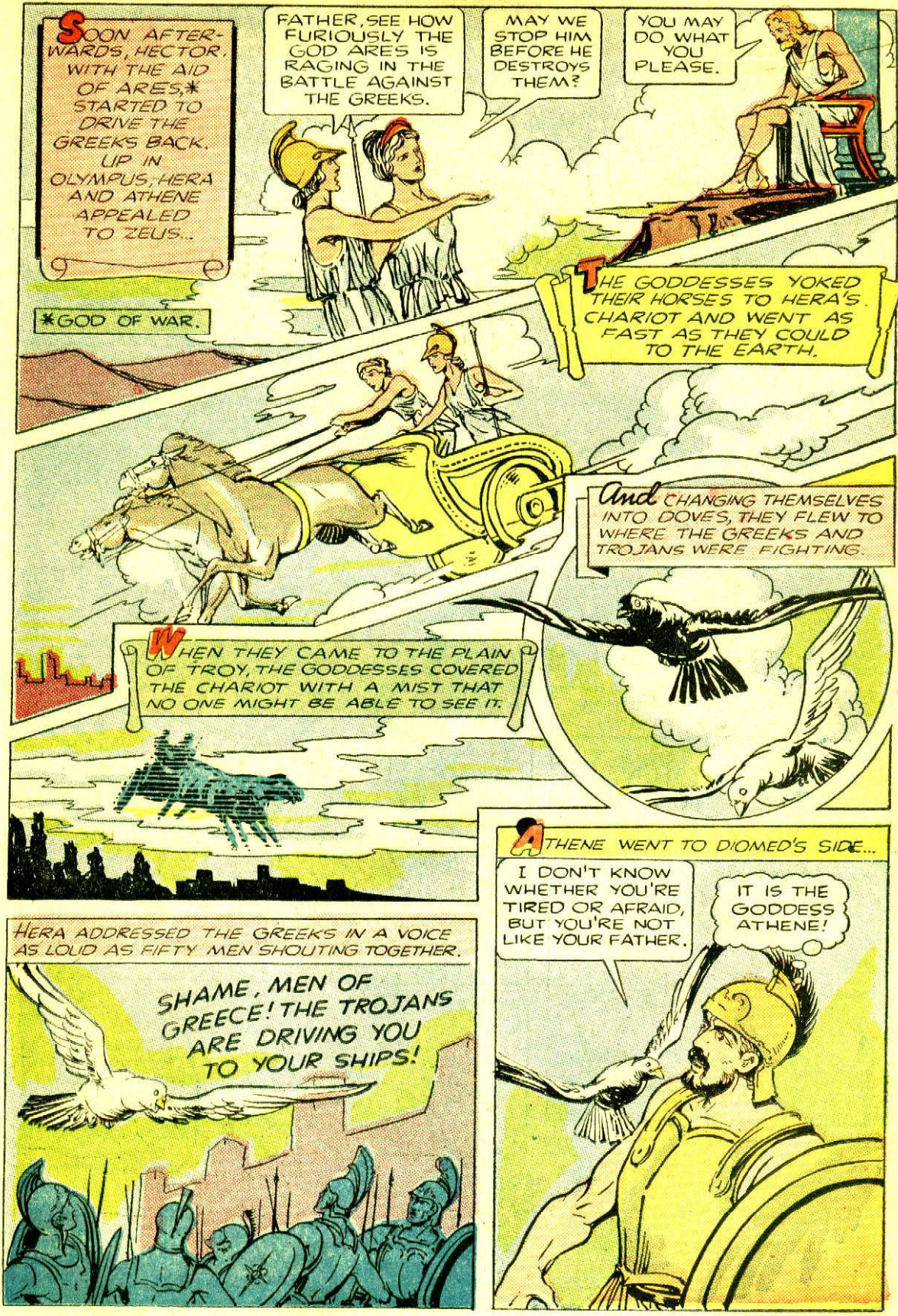
ATHENE WENT TO DIOMED'S SIDE...

I DON'T KNOW WHETHER YOU'RE TIRED OR AFRAID, BUT YOU'RE NOT LIKE YOUR FATHER.

IT IS THE GODDESS ATHENE!

HERA ADDRESSED THE GREEKS IN A VOICE AS LOUD AS FIFTY MEN SHOUTING TOGETHER.

SHAME, MEN OF GREECE! THE TROJANS ARE DRIVING YOU TO YOUR SHIPS!

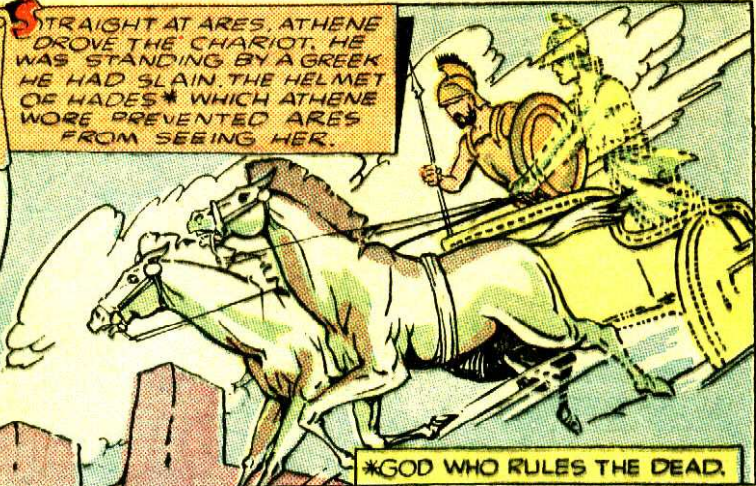


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I DO NOT DARE TO GO AGAINST ARES.

DO NOT BE AFRAID OF ARES. I'LL COME WITH YOU!

STRAIGHT AT ARES, ATHENE DROVE THE CHARIOT. HE WAS STANDING BY A GREEK HE HAD SLAIN. THE HELMET OF HADES* WHICH ATHENE WORE PREVENTED ARES FROM SEEING HER.

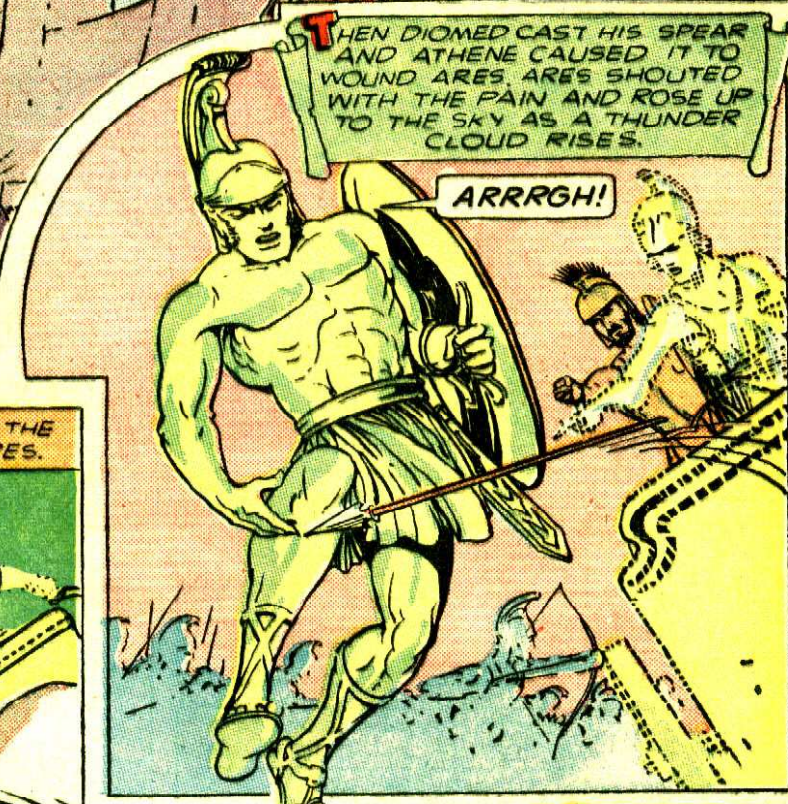


*GOD WHO RULES THE DEAD.

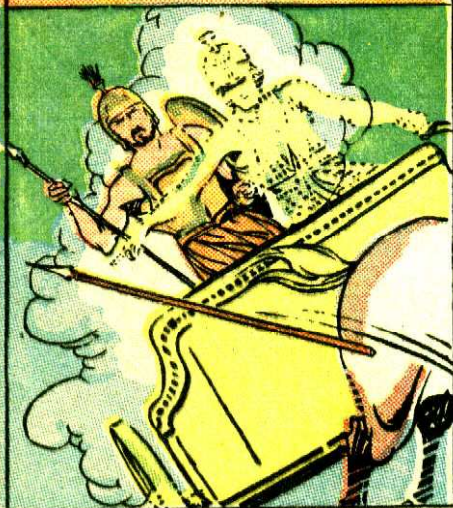


THEN DIOMED CAST HIS SPEAR AND ATHENE CAUSED IT TO WOUND ARES. ARES SHOUTED WITH THE PAIN AND ROSE UP TO THE SKY AS A THUNDER CLOUD RISES.

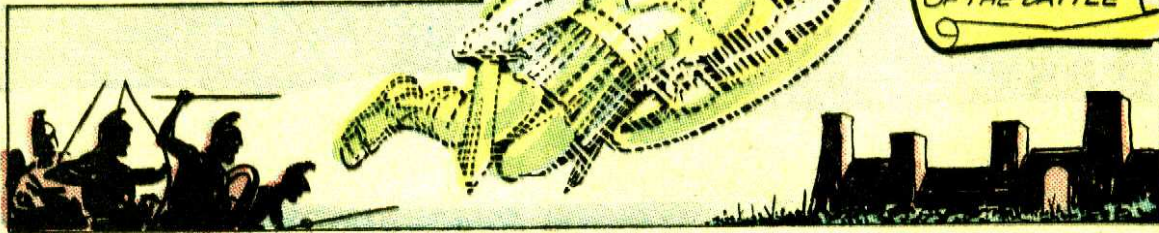
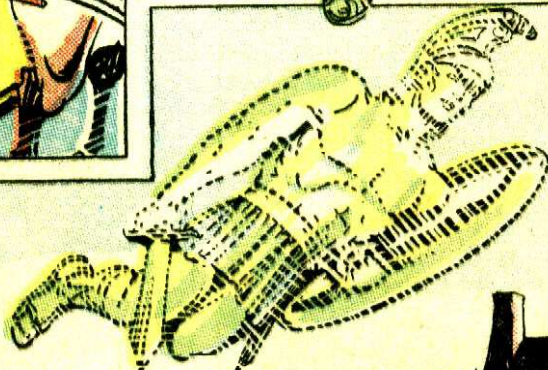
ARRRGH!



ATHENE TURNED ASIDE THE SPEAR THROWN BY ARES.



THIS WAS THE GREATEST DEED OF DIOMED, THAT HE WOUNDED ARES AND DROVE HIM OUT OF THE BATTLE



THE ILIAD

LATER, ATHENE WAS CONFRONTED BY APOLLO...

ATHENE, YOU LOVE THE GREEKS AND I LOVE THE TROJANS. LET'S JOIN TOGETHER TO STOP THEM FROM FIGHTING FOR TODAY!

AND HOW SHALL WE STOP THEM!



WE'LL SET ON HECTOR TO CHALLENGE THE BRAVEST OF THE GREEKS TO FIGHT WITH HIM, MAN TO MAN.

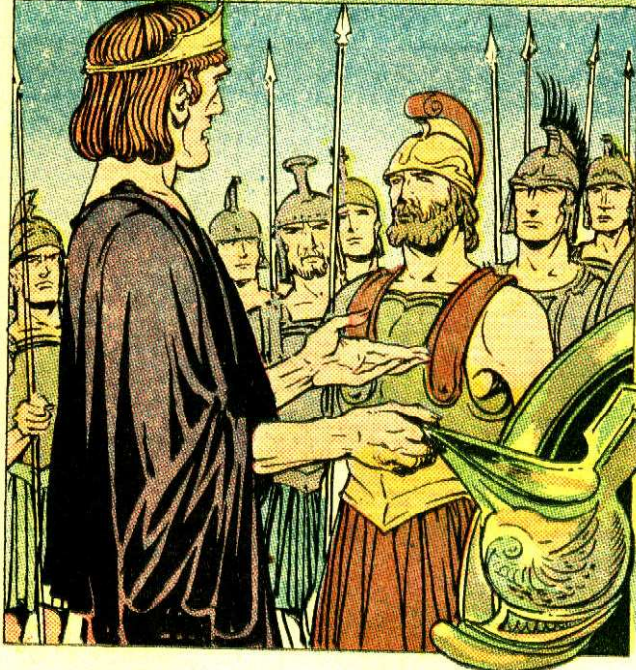


THE GODS DID AS THEY HAD PLANNED AND HECTOR WAS PLEASED. HE ROSE BEFORE HIS MEN AND CALLED TO THE GREEKS...

CHOOSE YOUR STRONGEST AND BRAVEST TO FIGHT ME, MAN TO MAN! IF I KILL HIM, YOU'LL GO TO YOUR SHIPS AND RETURN TO YOUR LAND. IF HE SHOULD KILL ME, TROY IS YOURS!

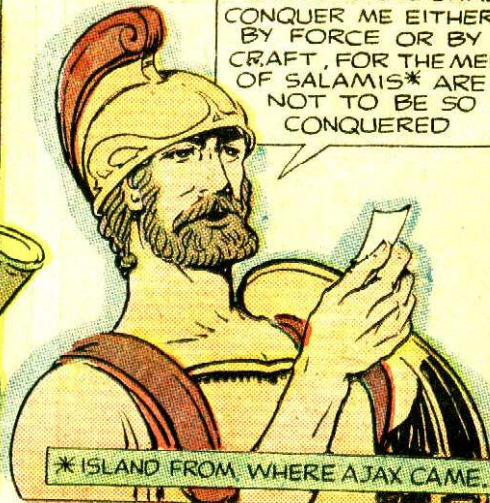


THE GREEK CHAMPION WAS TO BE CHOSEN BY DRAWING. NINE CHIEFS THREW THEIR LOTS INTO KING AGAMEMNON'S HELMET, EACH HOPING THAT HIS WOULD BE THE ONE!



THE LOT DRAWN WAS THE ONE BELONGING TO AJAX...

IT'S MINE AND I'M GLAD ABOVE MEASURE, FOR I'LL CONQUER THIS MIGHTY HECTOR, MY FRIENDS. NO ONE SHALL CONQUER ME EITHER BY FORCE OR BY CRAFT, FOR THE MEN OF SALAMIS* ARE NOT TO BE SO CONQUERED



* ISLAND FROM WHERE AJAX CAME.

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AJAX HELD HIS GREAT SHIELD BEFORE HIM, AS IT MIGHT BE A WALL. IT HAD SEVEN FOLDS OF BULL'S HIDE AND ONE FOLD OF BRONZE.

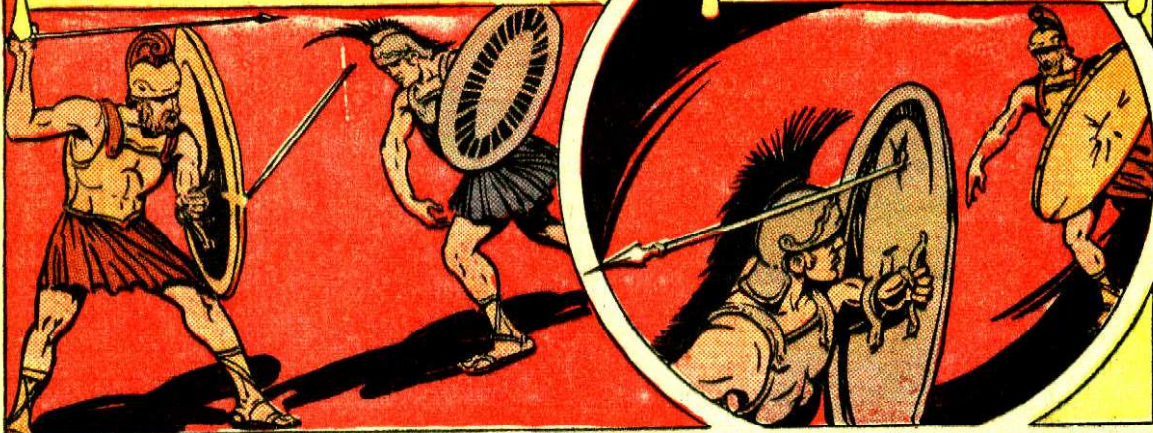
COME NEAR, HECTOR, THAT YOU MAY SEE WHAT MEN WE HAVE AMONG US, WE GREEKS, THOUGH THE GREAT ACHILLES SITS IDLE IN HIS TENT.

DO NOT SPEAK TO ME, GREAT AJAX, AS TO A CHILD. I KNOW ALL THE ARTS OF BATTLE! COME, LET US FIGHT OPENLY, FACE TO FACE!

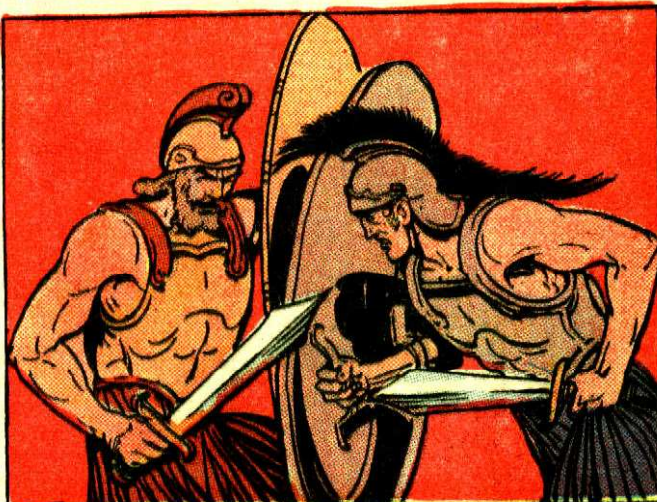
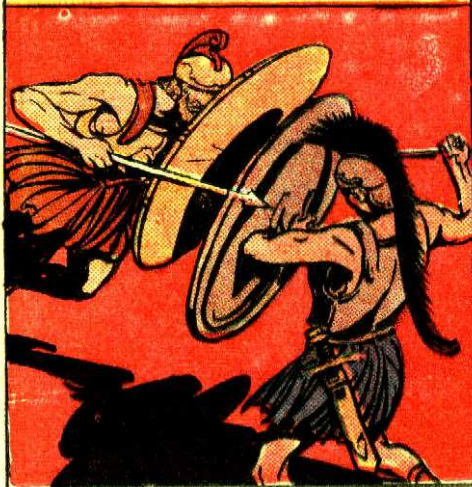


THEN HECTOR THREW HIS SPEAR, THROUGH SIX FOLDS OF BULL-HIDE THE SPEAR PASSED BUT THE SEVENTH STOPPED IT.

AJAX THREW HIS SPEAR. IT PASSED THROUGH HECTOR'S SHIELD AND CAME NEAR KILLING HIM.



THE WARRIORS TOOK FRESH SPEARS AND RAN TOGETHER AS FIERCELY AS LIONS OR WILD BOARS.



THE BATTLE WAS GOING AGAINST HECTOR. A SPEAR POINT HAD GRAZED HIS NECK AND HE BLED. NOW THE WARRIORS TURNED TO SWORDS.

THE ILIAD



NIGHTFALL BROUGHT A COMMAND TO HALT THE BATTLE FROM HERALDS OF THE OPPOSING ARMIES.

YOU ARE GREAT WARRIORS... AND ZEUS LOVES YOU BOTH.

BUT NOW THE NIGHT IS AT HAND AND ZEUS BIDS YOU CEASE!



'TIS FOR HECTOR TO SPEAK, FOR HE BEGAN THIS MATTER. AND WHAT HE WILLS, THAT I WILL ALSO.

THE HERALD SPEAKS WELL. LET US CEASE THEN FROM FIGHTING. HAPLY, WE MAY MEET AGAIN ANOTHER DAY, AND THE GODS MAY GIVE THE VICTORY TO YOU OR TO ME.

BUT NOW, LET US GIVE GIFTS TO EACH OTHER, SO THAT THE TROJANS AND GREEKS MAY SAY, 'HECTOR AND AJAX MET IN BATTLE BUT PARTED IN FRIENDSHIP!'



SO HECTOR GAVE TO AJAX A SILVER-STUDDED SWORD, WITH A SCABBARD AND A BELT, AND AJAX GAVE TO HECTOR A BUCKLER SPLENDID WITH PURPLE.



KING AGAMEMNON CALLED ALL THE GREEK CHIEFS TO A FEAST FOR INDEED THEIR CHAMPION HAD PREVAILED.

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ZZEUS TOOK A HAND IN THE STRUGGLE AND ADDRESSED THE GODS AND GODDESSES...



LISTEN AND OBEY! NO ONE OF YOU SHALL HELP EITHER THE GREEKS OR THE TROJANS... AND MARK THIS... IF ANY GOD OR GODDESS DARES TO DO SO, I'LL THROW HIM DOWN INTO THE OUTER DARKNESS!

DOES ANYONE THINK THAT I'M NOT STRONGER THAN ALL OF YOU PUT TOGETHER?



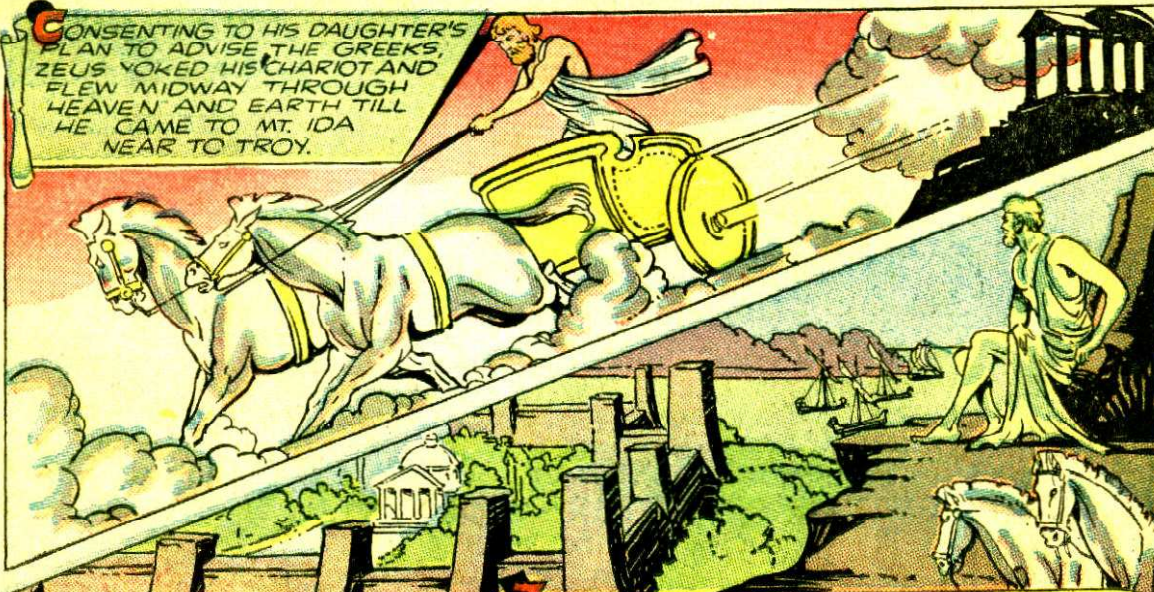
FATHER, WE KNOW RIGHT WELL THAT NONE OF US CAN STAND UP AGAINST YOU AND YET WE CAN NOT HELP PITYING THE GREEKS FOR WE FEAR THEY'LL BE ALTOGETHER DESTROYED!

ATHENE WAS HIS DAUGHTER, AND ZEUS LOVED HER BETTER THAN ANY AMONG THE GODS AND GODDESSES, SO HE LISTENED AS SHE SPOKE.



WE'LL NOT HELP THE GREEKS, FOR THIS YOU FORBID. BUT, IF YOU'LL PERMIT, WE'LL GIVE THEM ADVICE.

CONSENTING TO HIS DAUGHTER'S PLAN TO ADVISE THE GREEKS, ZEUS YOKED HIS CHARIOT AND FLEW MIDWAY THROUGH HEAVEN AND EARTH TILL HE CAME TO MT. IDA NEAR TO TROY.

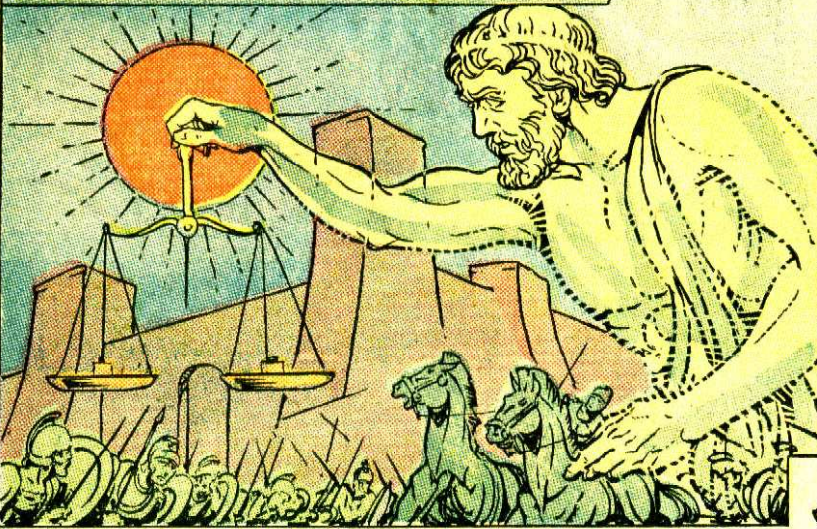


ZZEUS SAT DOWN AND WATCHED THE BATTLE. THE TIME HAD COME WHEN HE WOULD KEEP THE PROMISE MADE TO THETIS TO HELP THE TROJANS SO THAT THE GREEKS WOULD FEEL THE ABSENCE OF ACHILLES.

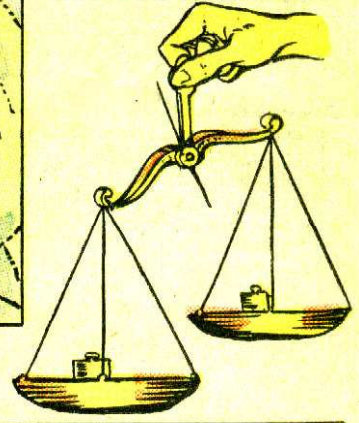
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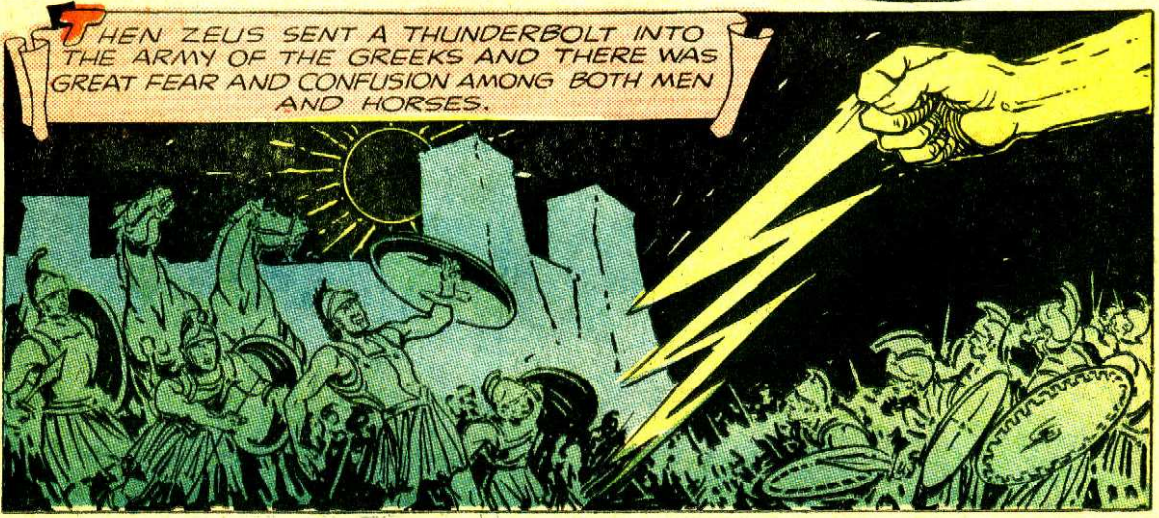
SO LONG AS THE SUN ROSE, NEITHER SIDE PREVAILED; BUT AT NOON, ZEUS HELD OUT HIS GOLDEN SCALES AND IN ONE HE LAID A WEIGHT FOR THE TROJANS, AND IN THE OTHER A WEIGHT FOR THE GREEKS...WEIGHTS OF DEATH!



THE ARMY WHOSE WEIGHT WAS THE HEAVIER WOULD SUFFER MOST. AND LO! THE SCALE OF THE GREEKS SANK LOWER!



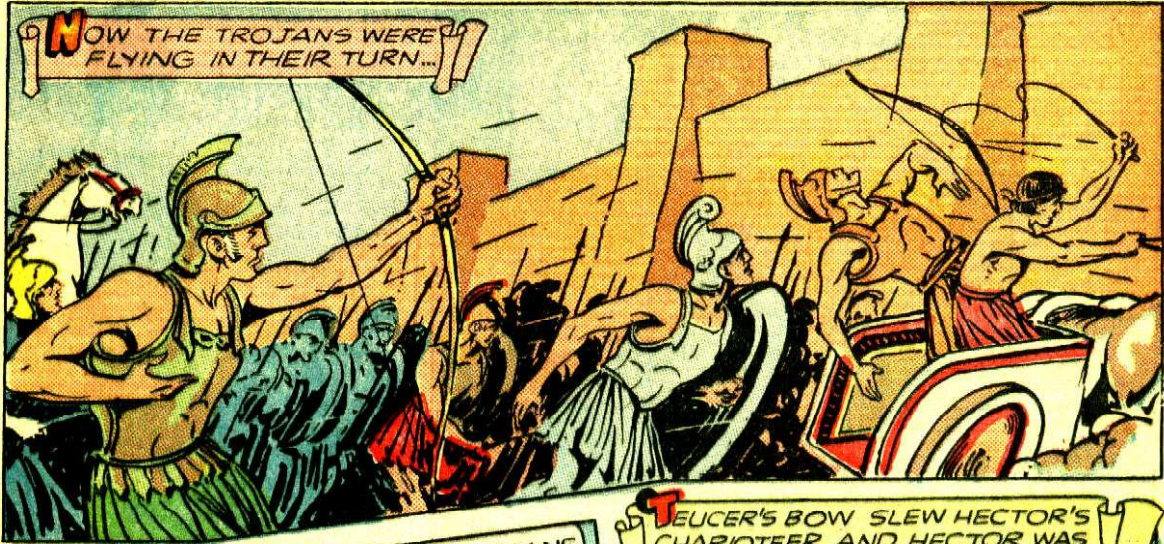
THEN ZEUS SENT A THUNDERBOLT INTO THE ARMY OF THE GREEKS AND THERE WAS GREAT FEAR AND CONFUSION AMONG BOTH MEN AND HORSES.



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THE ILIAD



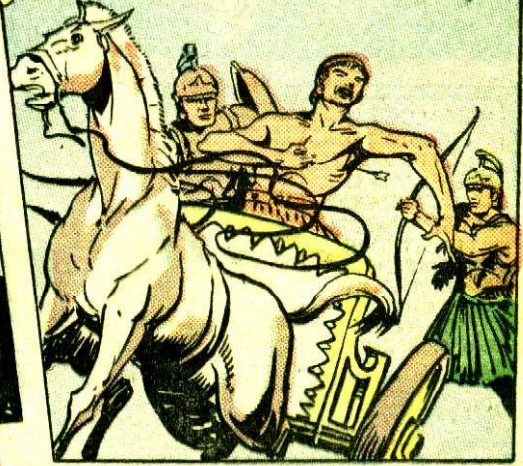
NOW THE TROJANS WERE FLYING IN THEIR TURN...



SHOOT ON, TEUCER, AND BE A JOY TO YOUR PEOPLE.

EIGHT TROJANS HAVE I SHOT, BUT THIS HECTOR I CAN NOT HIT.

TEUCEUR'S BOW SLEW HECTOR'S CHARIOTEER AND HECTOR WAS FILLED WITH GRIEF AND RAGE...



HECTOR SEVERELY WOUNDED TEUCER WITH A GREAT STONE...



AJAX AND TWO COMRADES BORE TEUCER FROM THE FIELD. THE TROJANS TOOK FRESH COURAGE AS THEY SAW THE GREAT ARCHER DEPART. AGAIN, THEY DROVE THE GREEKS TOWARD THEIR SHIPS...



CLASSICS Illustrated

THAT NIGHT, HECTOR ADDRESSED THE TROJANS...

NIGHT HAS COME AND HINDERED US FROM FINISHING OUR WORK. SOME OF YOU FETCH FUEL THAT WE MAY BURN FIRES AND WATCH THE GREEKS TO SEE WHETHER THEY WILL TRY TO ESCAPE.



TRULY THEY'LL NOT GO IN PEACE. MANY WILL WE KILL. THE REST SHALL CARRY AWAY WOUNDS TO HEAL AT HOME, SO NO MAN MAY COME AGAIN AND TROUBLE THIS CITY OF TROY.



HERALDS SHALL GO TO THE CITY AND PROCLAIM THAT ALL PEOPLE KEEP WATCH, LEST THE ENEMY ENTER THE CITY WHILE WE ARE FIGHTING AT THE SHIPS.



TOMORROW, WE'LL DRIVE THE GREEKS TO THEIR SHIPS... AND IF IT MAY BE... BURN THESE SHIPS.



A THOUSAND FIRES WERE BURNING, AND BY EACH FIRE SAT FIFTY MEN. AND THE HORSES STOOD BY THE CHARIOTS CHAMPING OATS AND BARLEY. SO THEY ALL WAITED FOR MORNING...



THE ILIAD



THE GREEKS WERE SORELY TROUBLED, BUT NOT ONE WAS MORE SAD THAN KING AGAMEMNON, AS HE SPOKE TO HIS CHIEFS...

O, MY FRIENDS, TRULY ZEUS SEEMS TO HATE ME.

ONCE HE PROMISED THAT I SHOULD TAKE THIS CITY OF TROY AND RETURN HOME IN SAFETY, BUT THIS PROMISE HE HAS NOT KEPT!



BEFORE WE PERISH, LET US FLEE TO OUR OWN LAND, FOR TROY WE MAY NOT TAKE.

O, KING, THIS TALK OF YOURS IS NOTHING BUT MADNESS!



IF YOU'RE BENT ON GOING BACK, GO... BUT I, DIOMED, AND ALL THE OTHER GREEKS WILL STAY TILL WE'VE TAKEN THE CITY OF TROY!!

CLASSICS Illustrated

AS SENTINELS WATCHED, AGAMEMNON AND HIS CHIEFS SAT DOWN TO EAT AND DRINK. LATER, OLD NESTOR ROSE TO SPEAK.

O, KING, IT WAS AN EVIL DAY WHEN YOU ANGERED ACHILLES. UNDO THIS EVIL DEED.

YOU'VE TRULY SPOKEN, OLD SIR. I ACTED AS A FOOL THAT DAY!



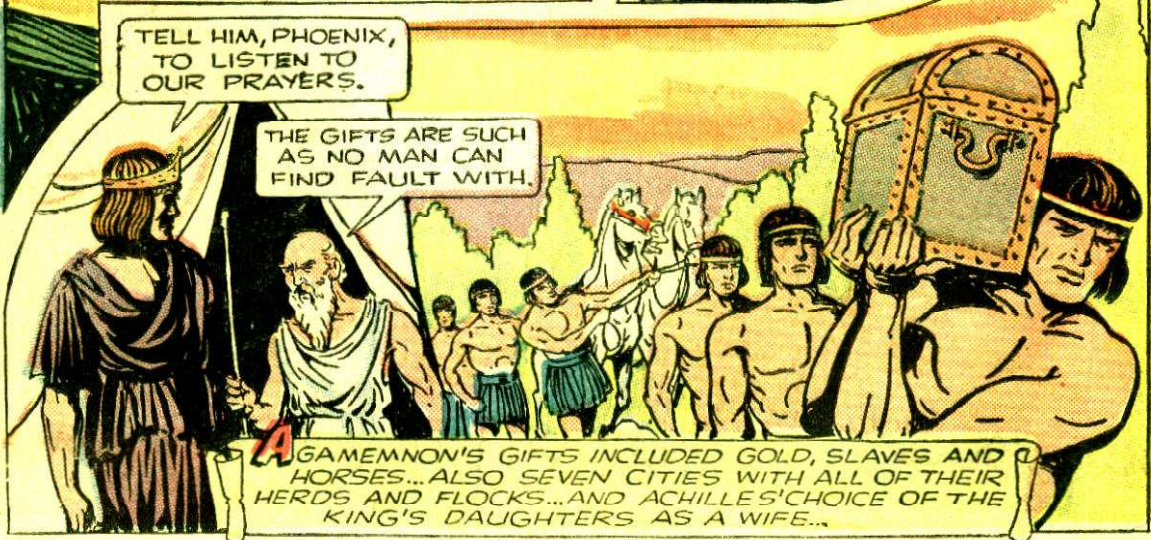
NOT ONLY IS ACHILLES A GREAT WARRIOR, BUT HE'S DEAR TO ZEUS AND WORTH MORE THAN WHOLE ARMIES OF MEN. SEE HOW WE'RE PUT TO FLIGHT WHEN HE STANDS ASIDE FROM THE BATTLE.

I'LL MAKE AMENDS... GIVING BACK MORE THAN I TOOK FROM HIM.



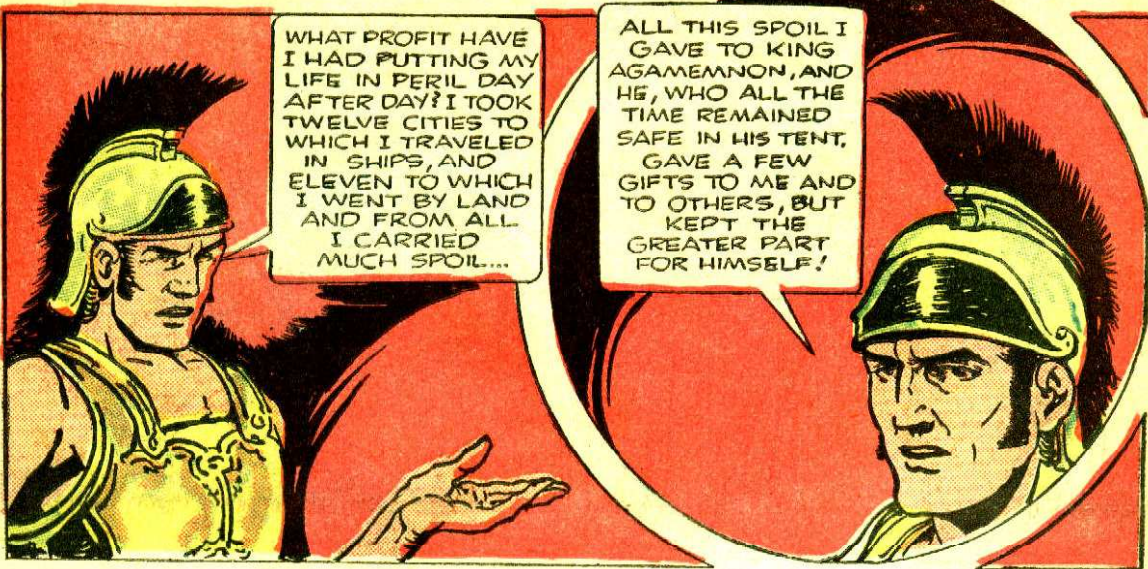
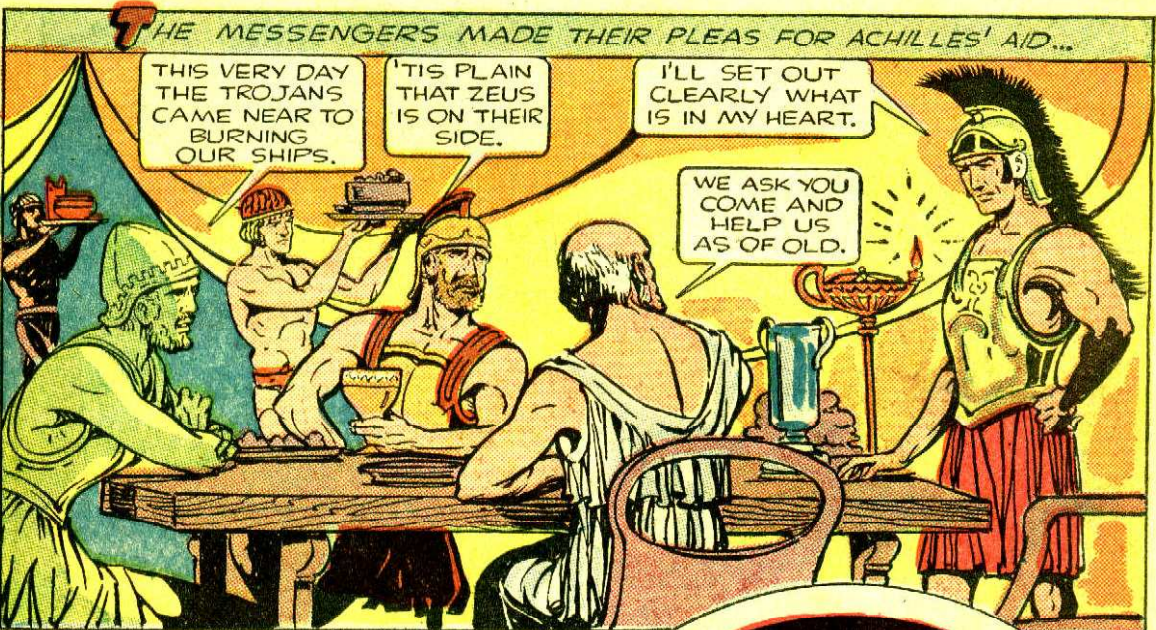
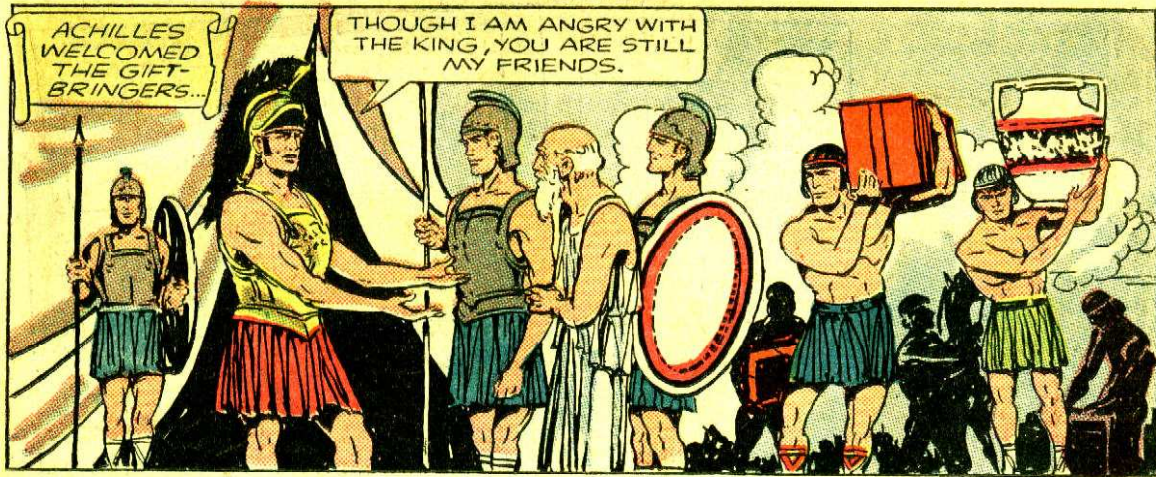
TELL HIM, PHOENIX, TO LISTEN TO OUR PRAYERS.

THE GIFTS ARE SUCH AS NO MAN CAN FIND FAULT WITH.



A GAGEMNON'S GIFTS INCLUDED GOLD, SLAVES AND HORSES... ALSO SEVEN CITIES WITH ALL OF THEIR HERDS AND FLOCKS... AND ACHILLES' CHOICE OF THE KING'S DAUGHTERS AS A WIFE...

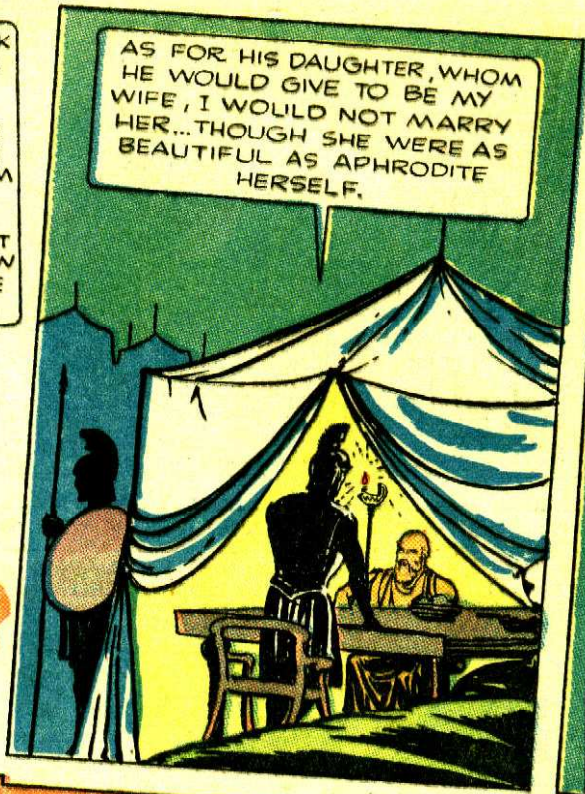
THE ILIAD



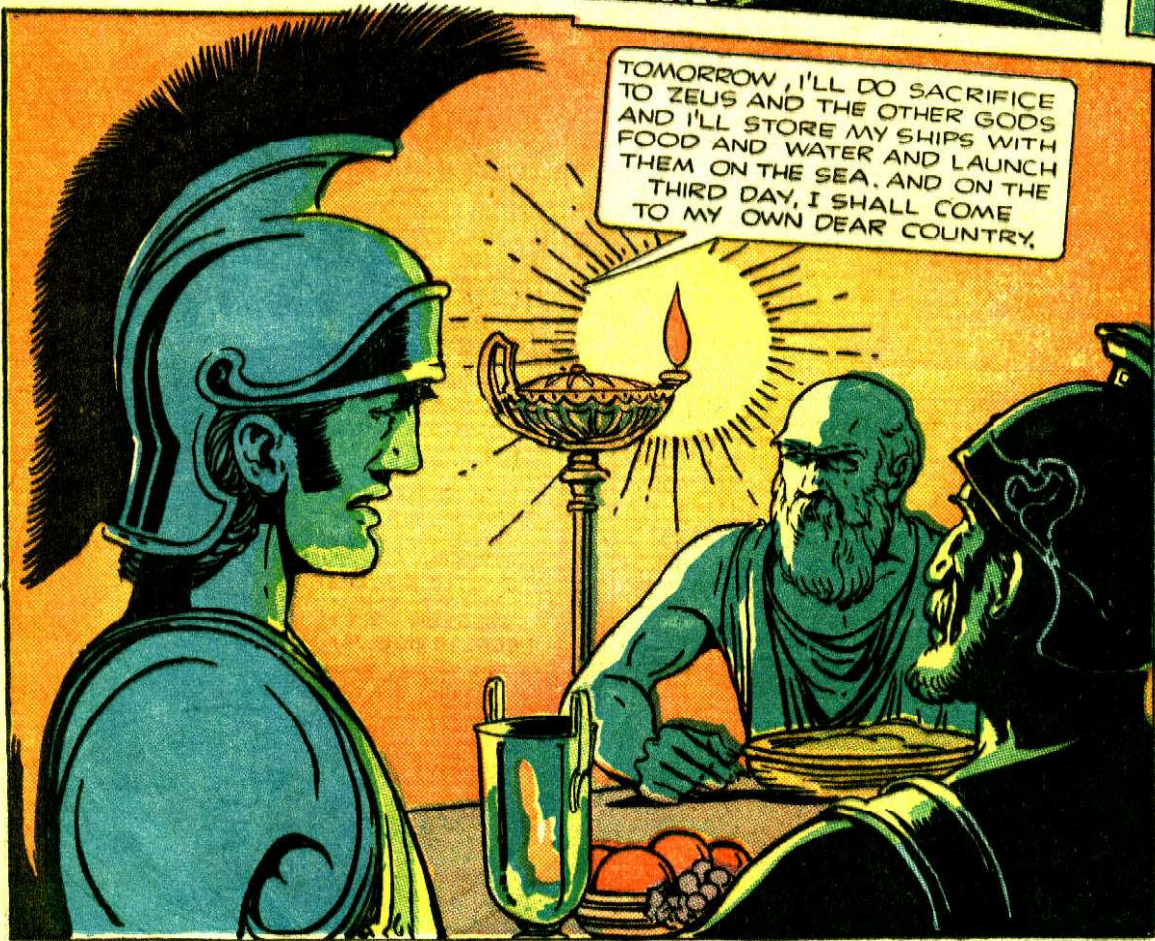
CLASSICS *Illustrated*



AND THEN HE TOOK BRISEIS. LET HIM KEEP HER IF HE WILL, BUT LET HIM NOT ASK ME FOR AID. THERE ARE OTHERS WHOM HE HAS NOT WRONGED AND SHAMED THUS... LET HIM ASK THEM HOW TO KEEP THE FIRE FROM THE SHIPS.



AS FOR HIS DAUGHTER, WHOM HE WOULD GIVE TO BE MY WIFE, I WOULD NOT MARRY HER... THOUGH SHE WERE AS BEAUTIFUL AS APHRODITE HERSELF.



TOMORROW, I'LL DO SACRIFICE TO ZEUS AND THE OTHER GODS AND I'LL STORE MY SHIPS WITH FOOD AND WATER AND LAUNCH THEM ON THE SEA. AND ON THE THIRD DAY, I SHALL COME TO MY OWN DEAR COUNTRY.

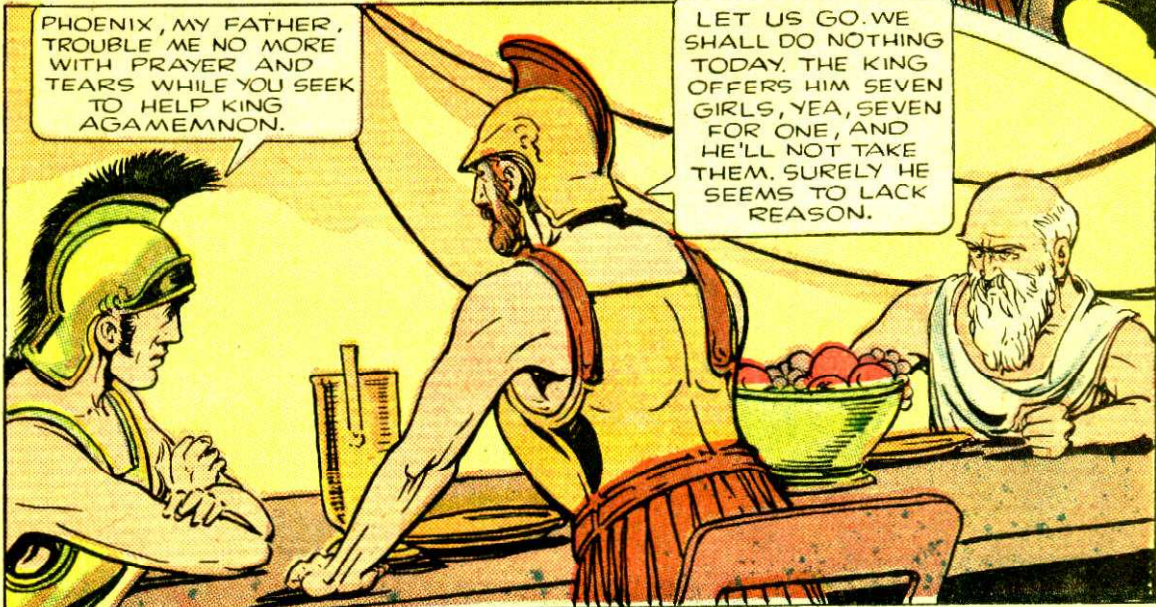
THE ILIAD



O, ACHILLES, I, PHOENIX, YOUR TEACHER, CANNOT STAY HERE WITHOUT YOU, BUT I PRAY YOU TO PUT THE ANGER OUT OF YOUR HEART.

KING AGAMEMNON HAS RESTORED THAT WHICH HE TOOK FROM YOU.

'TIS NOT FIT THAT A MAN SHOULD HARDEN HIS HEART IN THIS WAY.



PHOENIX, MY FATHER, TROUBLE ME NO MORE WITH PRAYER AND TEARS WHILE YOU SEEK TO HELP KING AGAMEMNON.

LET US GO. WE SHALL DO NOTHING TODAY. THE KING OFFERS HIM SEVEN GIRLS, YEA, SEVEN FOR ONE, AND HE'LL NOT TAKE THEM. SURELY HE SEEMS TO LACK REASON.



YOU SPEAK WELL, GREAT AJAX ... NEVERTHELESS, AGAMEMNON PUT ME TO SHAME BEFORE ALL THE PEOPLE! GO, AND TAKE MY MESSAGE. I'LL NOT ARISE TO DO BATTLE WITH THE TROJANS TILL HECTOR SHALL SEEK TO SET FIRE TO MY SHIPS, BUT WHEN HE SHALL DO THIS, THEN I'LL ARISE... AND STOP HIM!

CLASSICS Illustrated

A GAGEMNON DECIDED TO SEND A SPY INTO THE TROJAN CAMP..

LET US FIND OUT HOW MANY THERE ARE AND WHAT THEY ARE PLANNING.

IS THERE ANY-ONE WHO'LL DARE DO SUCH A THING?

D IOMED VOLUNTEERED TO GO INTO THE ENEMY CAMP..

I'LL GO, BUT IT IS WELL THAT I SHOULD HAVE SOMEONE WITH ME. TWO WITS ARE BETTER THAN ONE.

CHOOSE, O DIOMED, THE MAN WHOM YOU WOULD MOST DESIRE.

IF I MAY HAVE MY CHOICE... ULYSSES SHALL GO WITH ME!

THAT NIGHT THE TWO ARMED THEMSELVES AND WENT TO SPY ON THE TROJANS...

MEANWHILE, HECTOR WAS THINKING ABOUT SENDING A SPY INTO THE GREEK CAMP..

WHO WILL GO AMONG THE GREEKS AND FIND OUT WHAT THEY PLAN TO DO TOMORROW?

I, DOLON, WILL GO, O HECTOR. BUT I WANT A GREAT REWARD.. EVEN THE HORSES OF ACHILLES!

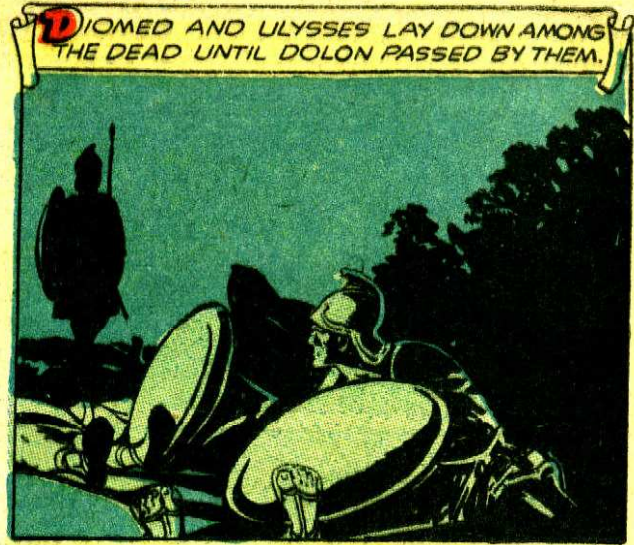
YOU SHALL HAVE YOUR WISH IF YOU BRING US BACK THE INFORMATION WE SEEK.

THE ILIAD



I HEAR FOOTSTEPS COMING OUR WAY.

LET HIM PASS BY, THAT WE MAY TAKE HIM.



DIOMED AND ULYSSES LAY DOWN AMONG THE DEAD UNTIL DOLON PASSED BY THEM.



DOLON WAS CONFUSED AT THE SOUND OF THE MEN COMING TOWARD HIM...

HECTOR HAS SENT MEN AFTER ME TO RETURN.



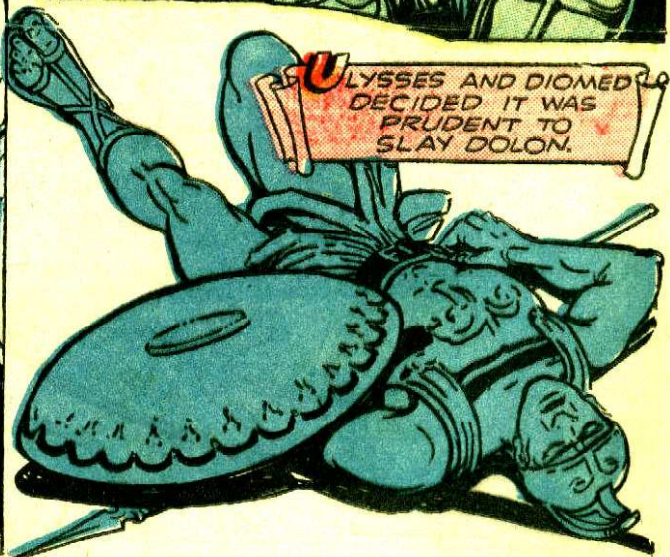
DON'T KILL ME. MY FATHER WILL PAY A GREAT REWARD. HECTOR PERSUADED ME TO GO, PROMISING ME THE CHARIOT AND HORSES OF ACHILLES.

WHERE'S HECTOR? WHAT WATCH DOES THE TROJAN KEEP?



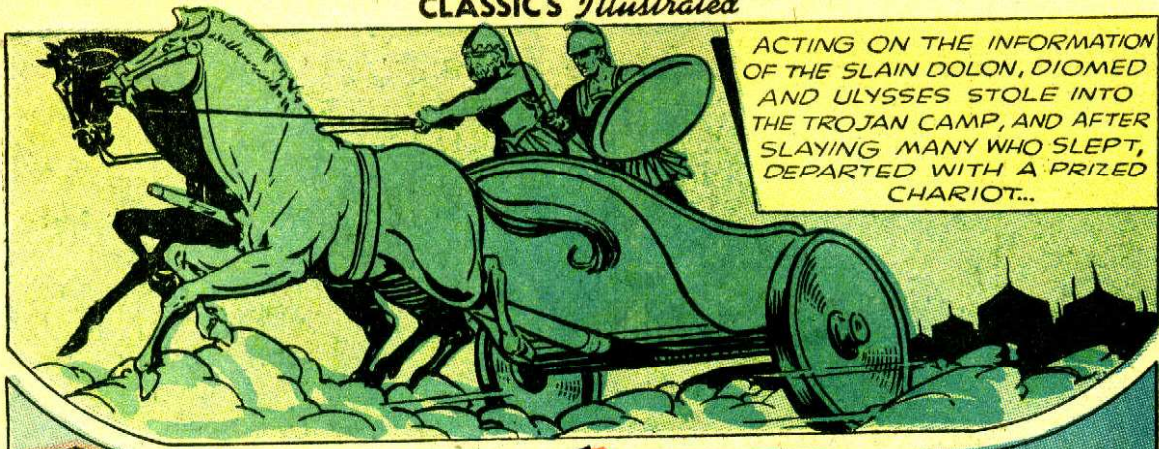
DOLON TALKED FOR HIS LIFE...

THERE ARE NO WATCHES SET, EXCEPT IN THAT PART OF THE CAMP WHERE HECTOR IS. THE ALLIES SLEEP WITHOUT WATCHES, THINKING THE TROJANS WILL DO THIS FOR THEM.

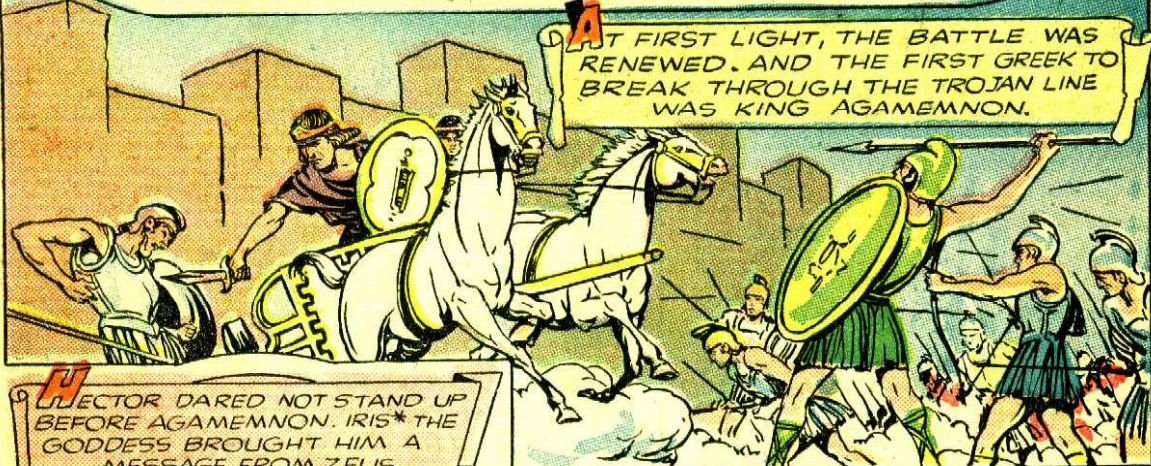


ULYSSES AND DIOMED DECIDED IT WAS PRUDENT TO SLAY DOLON.

CLASSICS Illustrated

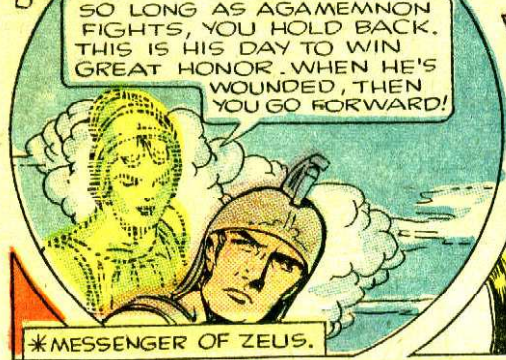


ACTING ON THE INFORMATION OF THE SLAIN DOLON, DIOMED AND ULYSSES STOLE INTO THE TROJAN CAMP, AND AFTER SLAYING MANY WHO SLEPT, DEPARTED WITH A PRIZED CHARIOT...



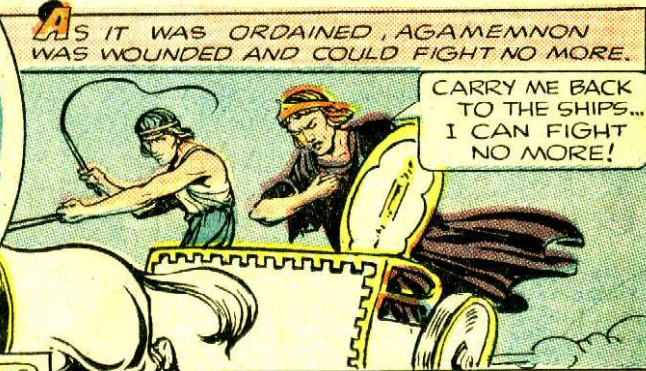
AT FIRST LIGHT, THE BATTLE WAS RENEWED. AND THE FIRST GREEK TO BREAK THROUGH THE TROJAN LINE WAS KING AGAMEMNON.

DIOMED DARED NOT STAND UP BEFORE AGAMEMNON. IRIS* THE GODDESS BROUGHT HIM A MESSAGE FROM ZEUS.



SO LONG AS AGAMEMNON FIGHTS, YOU HOLD BACK. THIS IS HIS DAY TO WIN GREAT HONOR. WHEN HE'S WOUNDED, THEN YOU GO FORWARD!

*MESSENGER OF ZEUS.



AS IT WAS ORDAINED, AGAMEMNON WAS WOUNDED AND COULD FIGHT NO MORE.

CARRY ME BACK TO THE SHIPS... I CAN FIGHT NO MORE!



DIOMED WAS WOUNDED IN THE ANKLE BY AN ARROW SHOT BY PARIS...

I WISH I HAD WOUNDED YOU IN THE LOIN, BOLD DIOMED!

IF I COULD MEET YOU FACE TO FACE, YOU COWARD, YOUR BOWS AND ARROWS WOULD NOT HELP YOU!

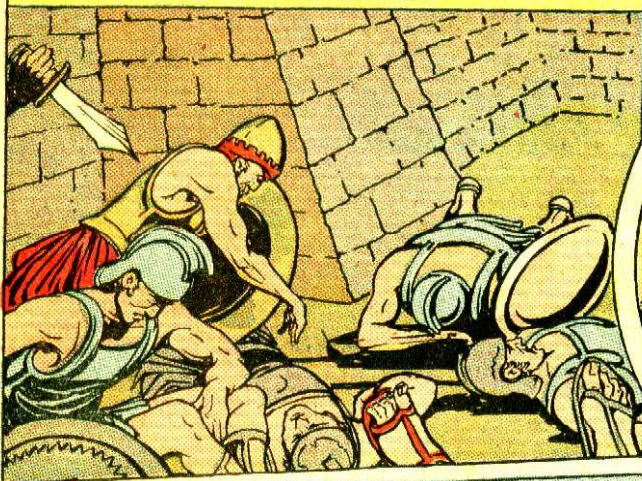
THE ILIAD

TROJANS CAME ABOUT ULYSSES AS DOGS ABOUT A WILD BOAR IN A WOOD.



IT WOULD BE A SHAMEFUL THING TO FLY FROM THESE TROJANS...A BRAVE MAN STANDS IN HIS PLACE, LIVE OR DIE!

FIVE CHIEFS ULYSSES SLEW, BUT ONE OF THE FIVE WOUNDED HIM BEFORE HE WAS SLAIN...



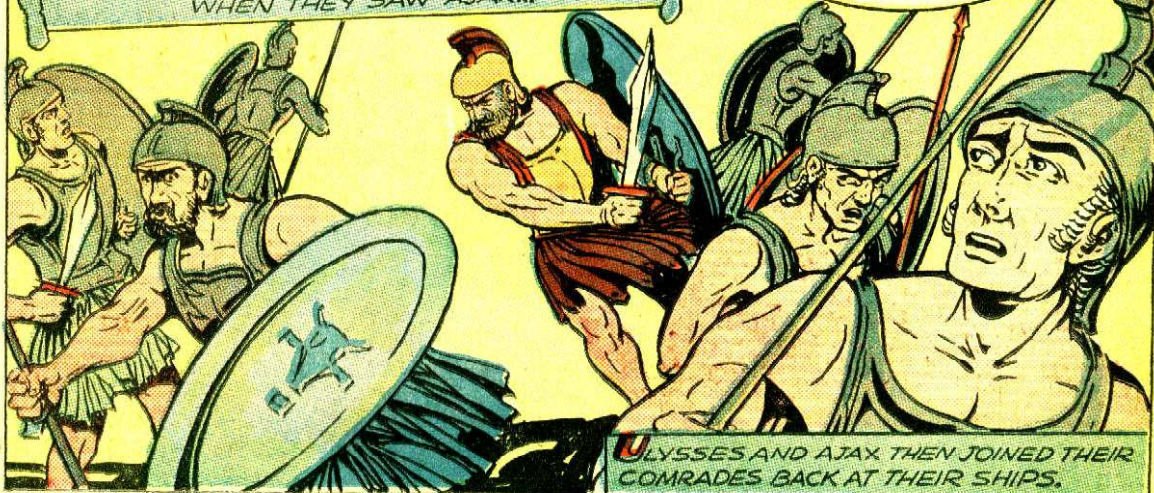
IN ANOTHER PART OF THE FIELD...

O, AJAX, I HEAR THE VOICE OF ULYSSES AND IT SOUNDS LIKE HE'S IN TROUBLE.

COME, LET US GO HELP HIM!



AS JACKALS ARE SCATTERED WHEN A LION COMES, SO THE TROJANS SCATTERED WHEN THEY SAW AJAX...

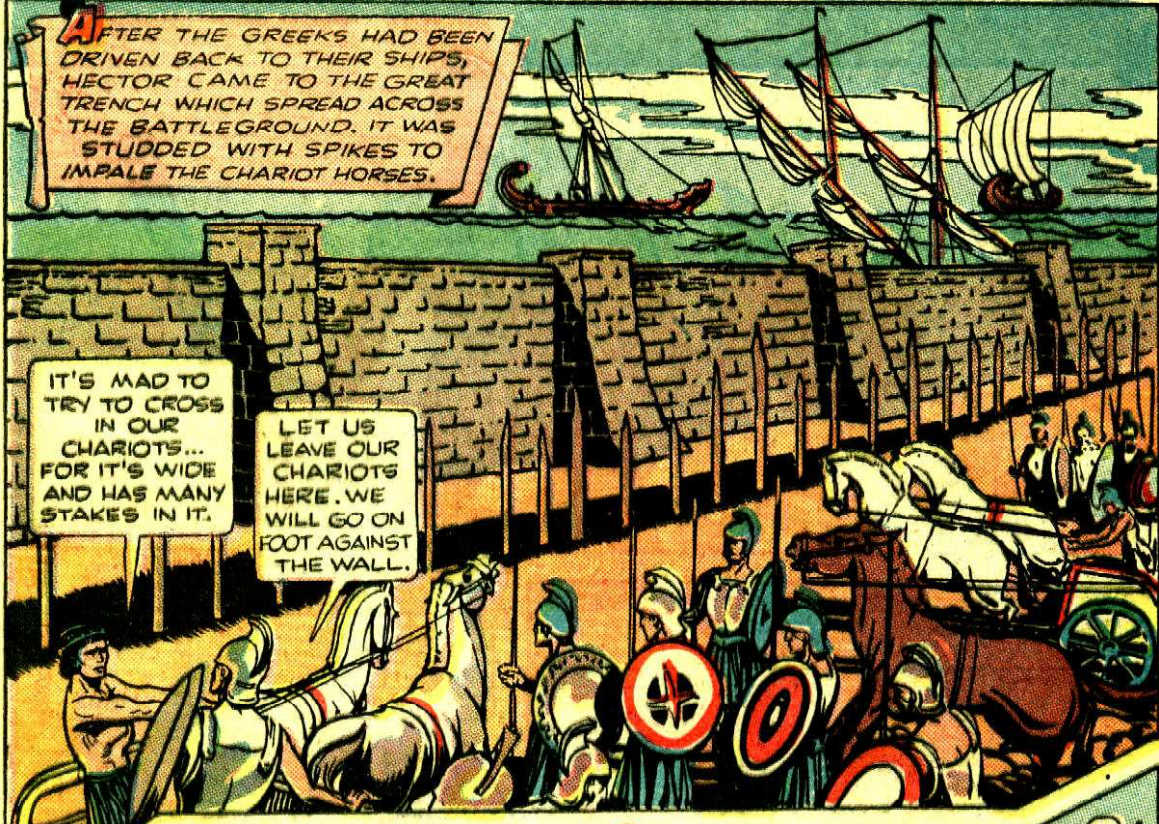


ULYSSES AND AJAX THEN JOINED THEIR COMRADES BACK AT THEIR SHIPS.

AFTER THE GREEKS HAD BEEN DRIVEN BACK TO THEIR SHIPS, HECTOR CAME TO THE GREAT TRENCH WHICH SPREAD ACROSS THE BATTLEGROUND. IT WAS STUDDED WITH SPIKES TO IMPALE THE CHARIOT HORSES.

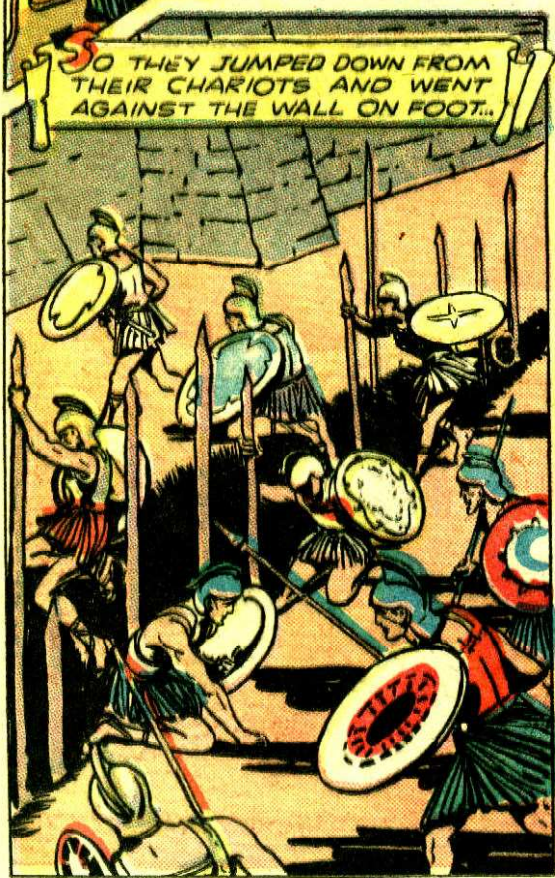
IT'S MAD TO TRY TO CROSS IN OUR CHARIOTS... FOR IT'S WIDE AND HAS MANY STAKES IN IT.

LET US LEAVE OUR CHARIOTS HERE. WE WILL GO ON FOOT AGAINST THE WALL.



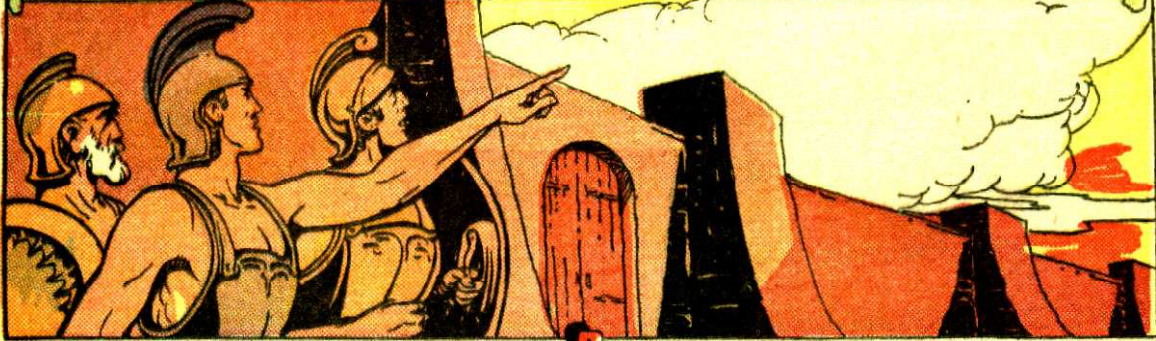
SO THEY JUMPED DOWN FROM THEIR CHARIOTS AND WENT AGAINST THE WALL ON FOOT..

STONES FELL AS FAST AS FLAKES OF SNOW FALL ON A WINTER'S DAY! THE HELMETS AND SHIELDS OF THE TROJANS RANG OUT AS THE STONES CRASHED UPON THEM..

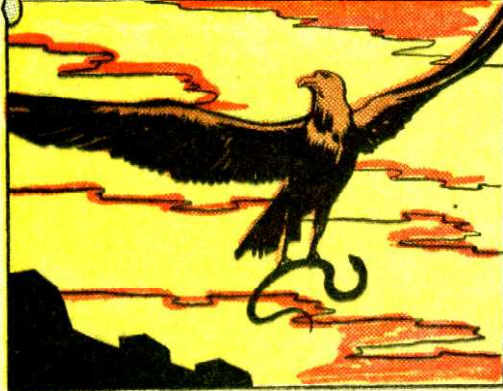


THE ILIAD

AT A GATE WHERE HECTOR WAS LEADING HIS COMPANY, A STRANGE SIGHT WAS SEEN IN THE SKIES...



AN EAGLE HAD CAUGHT A GREAT SNAKE AND WAS CARRYING IT IN ITS CLAWS TO GIVE TO ITS YOUNG ONES FOR FOOD.



BUT THE SNAKE FOUGHT FIERCELY FOR ITS LIFE AND WRITHED ITSELF ABOUT TILL IT BIT THE BIRD UPON THE BREAST.



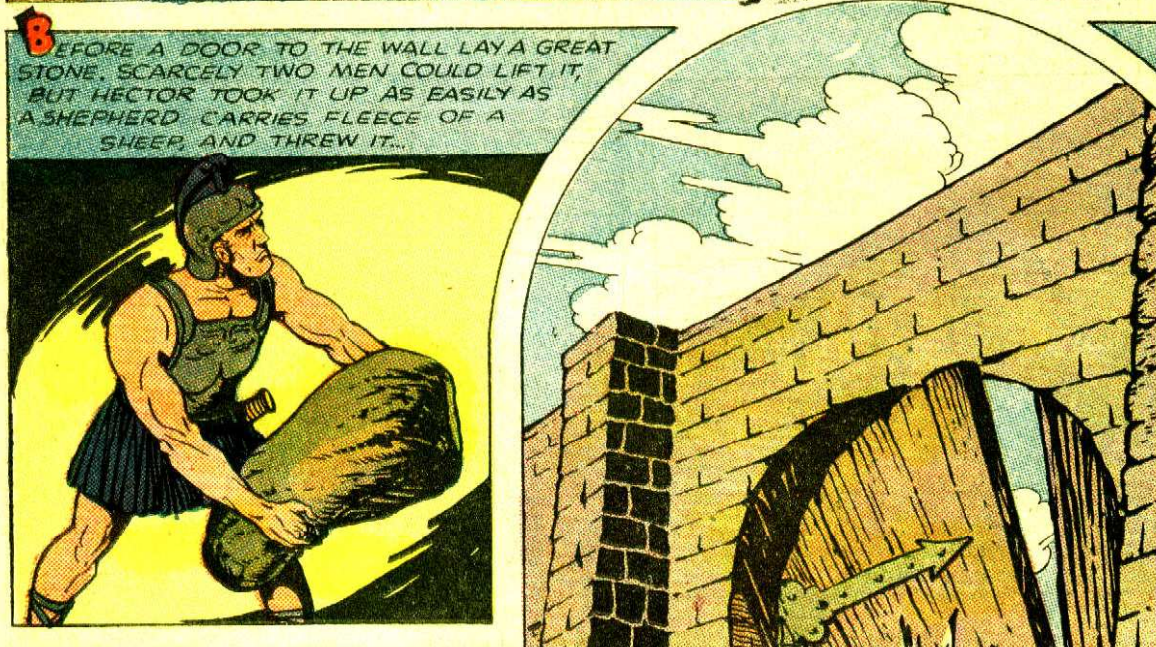
THE EAGLE DROPPED THE SNAKE INTO THE MIDDLE OF THE TWO ARMIES AND FLEW AWAY WITH A LOUD CRY!



THIS IS AN OMEN. JUST AS THE EAGLE COULD NOT CONQUER THE SNAKE, SO SHALL WE NOT BE ABLE TO VANQUISH THE GREEKS!



CLASSICS Illustrated



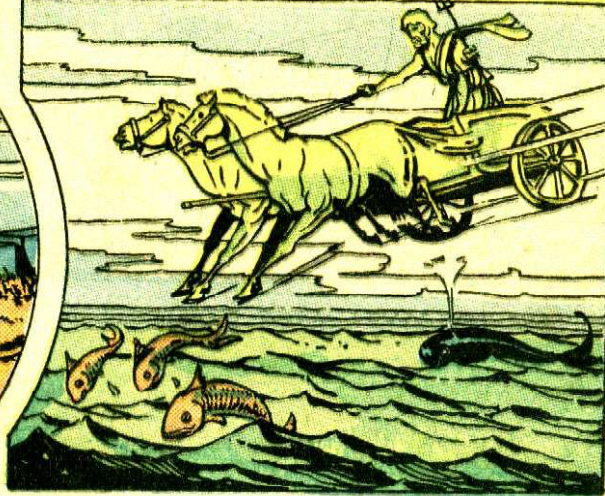
THE ILIAD

FROM A DISTANT MOUNTAIN TOP, POSEIDON* OBSERVED THE BATTLE.



*GOD OF THE SEA.

AS POSEIDON PASSED OVER THE WAVES, THE GREAT BEASTS OF THE SEAS... WHALES AND PORPOISES AND THE LIKE, GAMBOLED AROUND HIM AS HE WENT.



POSEIDON MADE HIMSELF TO LOOK LIKE CALCHAS, THE HERALD. HE ENTERED THE CAMP OF THE GREEKS...



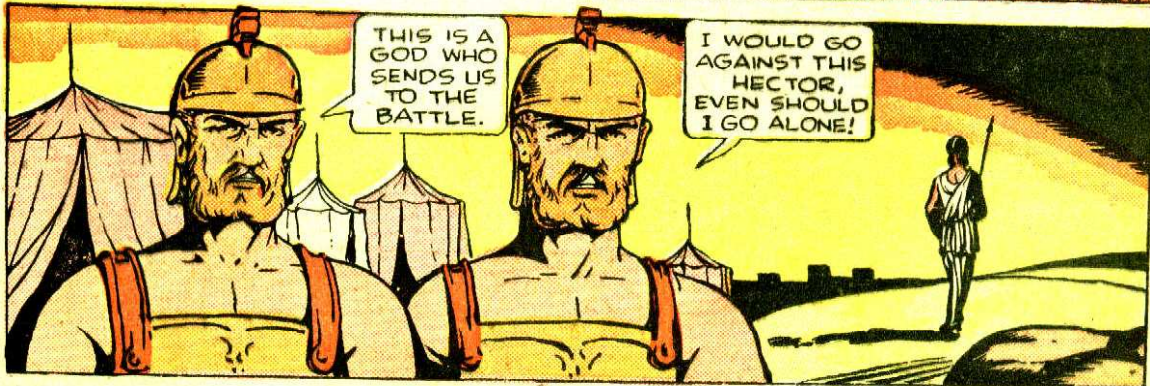
POSEIDON SPOKE TO AJAX THE GREATER AND AJAX THE LESSER..

STIR YOURSELVES! GO TO THE PLACE WHERE HECTOR IS FIGHTING! GO THEN AND KEEP HIM BACK. SOME GOD MAY GIVE YOU STRENGTH AND COURAGE.

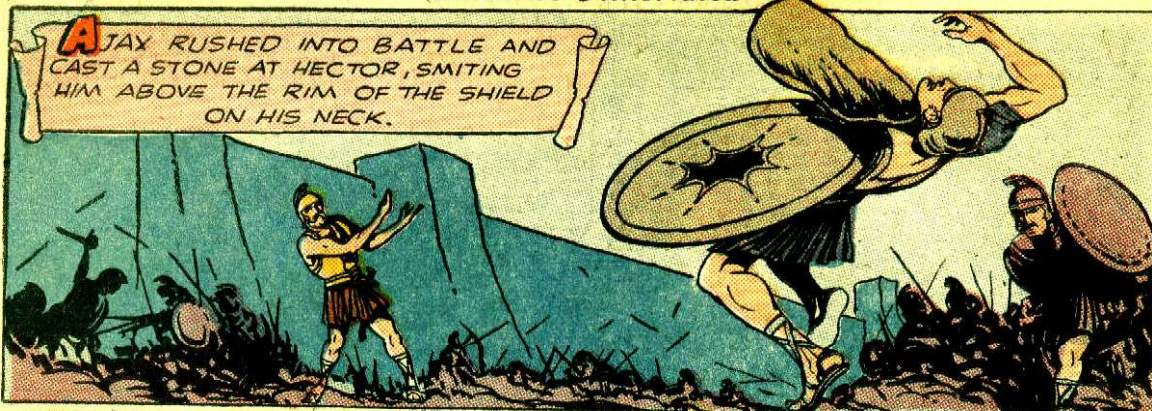


THIS IS A GOD WHO SENDS US TO THE BATTLE.

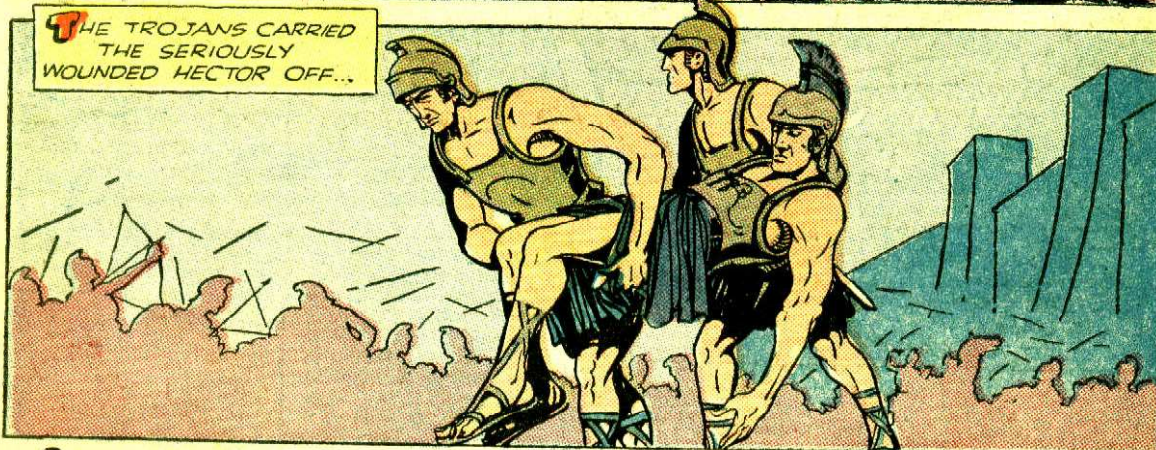
I WOULD GO AGAINST THIS HECTOR, EVEN SHOULD I GO ALONE!



CLASSICS Illustrated



AJAY RUSHED INTO BATTLE AND CAST A STONE AT HECTOR, SMITING HIM ABOVE THE RIM OF THE SHIELD ON HIS NECK.

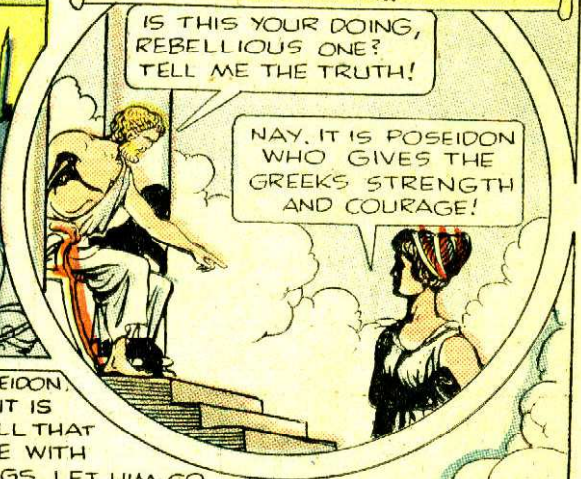


THE TROJANS CARRIED THE SERIOUSLY WOUNDED HECTOR OFF...



WITH HECTOR OUT OF THE BATTLE, THE GREEKS TOOK FRESH COURAGE AND DROVE THE TROJANS BEYOND THE TRENCH.

WHEN ZEUS LOOKED AND SAW WHAT HAD HAPPENED, HE WAS VERY ANGRY. HE BLAMED HERA, HIS WIFE...



IS THIS YOUR DOING, REBELLIOUS ONE? TELL ME THE TRUTH!

NAY, IT IS POSEIDON WHO GIVES THE GREEKS STRENGTH AND COURAGE!



GO TO POSEIDON. TELL HIM IT IS NOT MY WILL THAT HE MEDDLE WITH THESE THINGS. LET HIM GO BACK TO THE SEA, FOR THERE HE IS MASTER! THEN GO TO APOLLO AND BID HIM PUT NEW LIFE AND COURAGE INTO HECTOR, AND SEND HIM BACK TO BATTLE!

THE ILIAD



DO YOU KNOW THE ELDEST BORN IS EVER THE STRONGEST, O POSEIDON?

THESE ARE WORDS OF WISDOM, IRIS. YET IF ZEUS IS MINDING TO SAVE THE CITY OF TROY, THERE'LL BE ENMITY WITHOUT CEASING BETWEEN HIM AND ME.

APOLLO RECEIVED ZEUS' MESSAGE AND ATTENDED HECTOR AT ONCE TO RESTORE HIS STRENGTH AND COURAGE.



THE TROJANS SWIFTLY RECOVERED THE GROUND THEY HAD LOST AND MADE THEIR ASSAULT UPON THE SHIPS WITH HECTOR LEADING THEM.



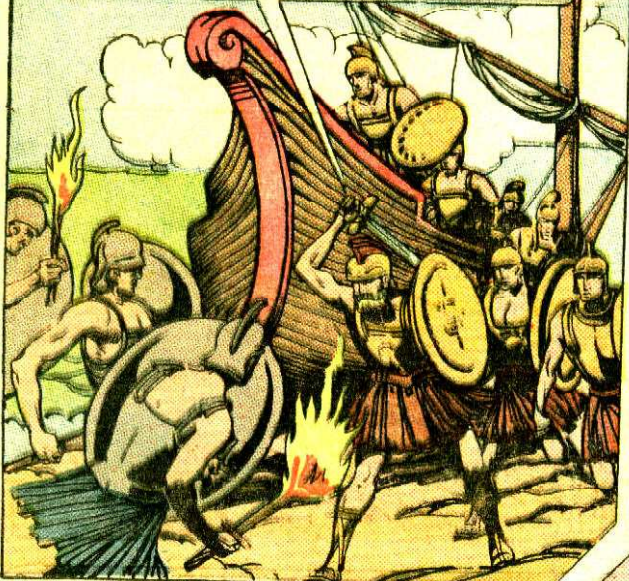
CLASSICS Illustrated



BRING ME FIRE THAT WE MAY BURN THE SHIPS OF THESE ROBBERS, FOR ZEUS HAS GIVEN US THE VICTORY TODAY.

A JAX FLIGHT FRAGELY, THRUSTING AT ANYONE WHO CAME NEAR THE SHIPS WITH FIRE.

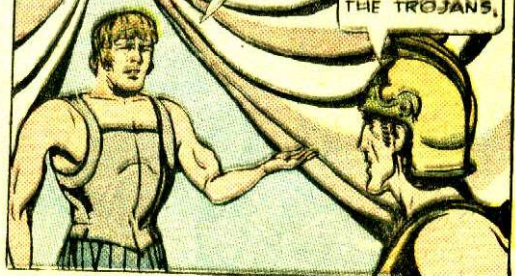
YOU MUST ACQUIT YOURSELVES AS MEN O GREEKS. OUR HOPE IS IN COURAGE! THERE'S NO ONE TO SAVE YOU IF YOU'LL NOT SAVE YOURSELVES!



PATROCLUS ENTREATED ACHILLES TO HELP HIM SAVE THE GREEKS.

LET ME PUT ON YOUR ARMOUR AND LET YOUR PEOPLE GO WITH ME. THE TROJANS WILL THINK YOU'VE COME TO BATTLE AND THE GREEKS WILL HAVE A BREATHING SPACE!

GO, AND KEEP THE FIRE FROM THE SHIPS. BUT WHEN YOU HAVE DONE THIS, COME BACK AND FIGHT NO MORE WITH THE TROJANS.



AT THE SIGHT OF PATROCLUS, WHOM THEY BELIEVED TO BE ACHILLES THE TROJANS FLED. THEN PATROCLUS FORGOT ACHILLES' COMMAND.

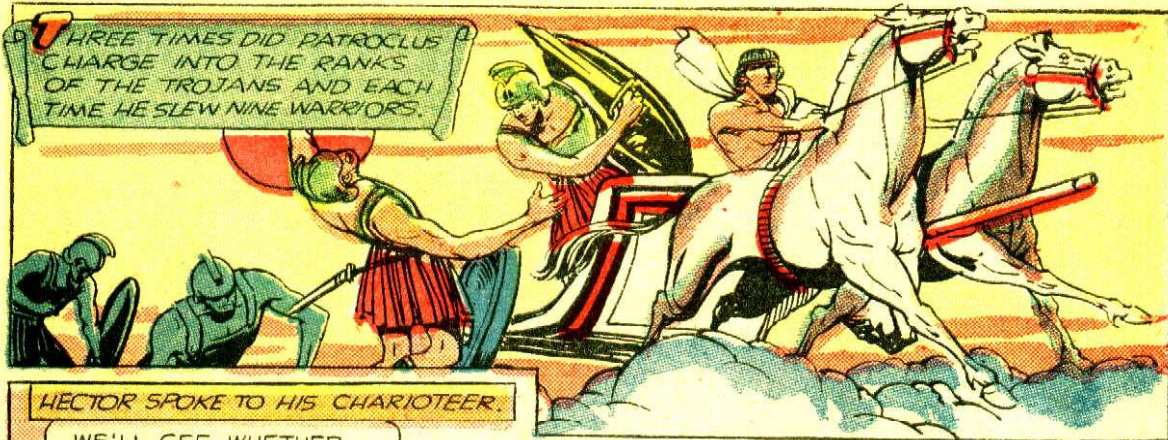
NOW I SHALL TAKE THE CITY OF TROY!



GO BACK, PATROCLUS. IT'S NOT FOR YOU TO TAKE THE GREAT CITY OF TROY. NO, NOT EVEN ACHILLES, WHO IS A FAR BETTER MAN THAN YOU!



THE ILIAD

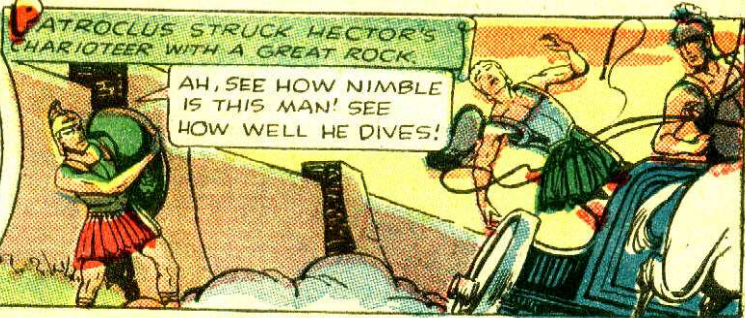


THREE TIMES DID PATROCLUS CHARGE INTO THE RANKS OF THE TROJANS AND EACH TIME HE SLEW NINE WARRIORS.

HECTOR SPOKE TO HIS CHARIOTEER.



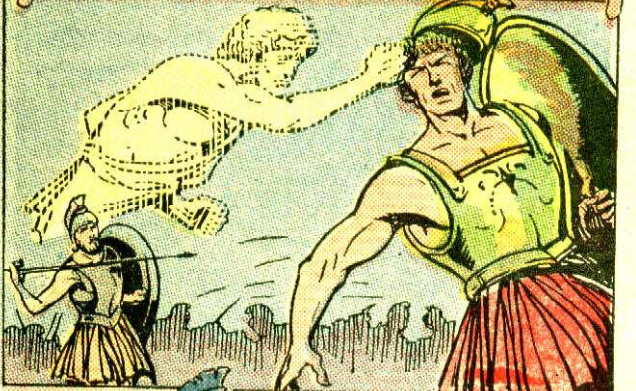
WE'LL SEE WHETHER WE CANNOT DRIVE BACK THIS PATROCLUS, FOR IT MUST BE HE. ACHILLES HE IS NOT, THOUGH HE WEAR HIS ARMOUR!



PATROCLUS STRUCK HECTOR'S CHARIOTEER WITH A GREAT ROCK.

AH, SEE HOW NIMBLE IS THIS MAN! SEE HOW WELL HE DIVES!

THE GOD APOLLO, ENRAGED AT PATROCLUS, STRUCK HIM A GREAT BLOW SO THAT HE COULD NOT SEE THEN, ONE OF THE TROJANS WOUNDED PATROCLUS IN THE BACK.



AS PATROCLUS STOOD DEFENSELESS, HECTOR DROVE A SPEAR INTO HIM AND HE FELL TO THE GROUND...



DID YOU THINK, PATROCLUS, THAT YOU WOULD TAKE OUR CITY, SLAY US WITH THE SWORD, AND CARRY AWAY OUR WIVES AND DAUGHTERS?

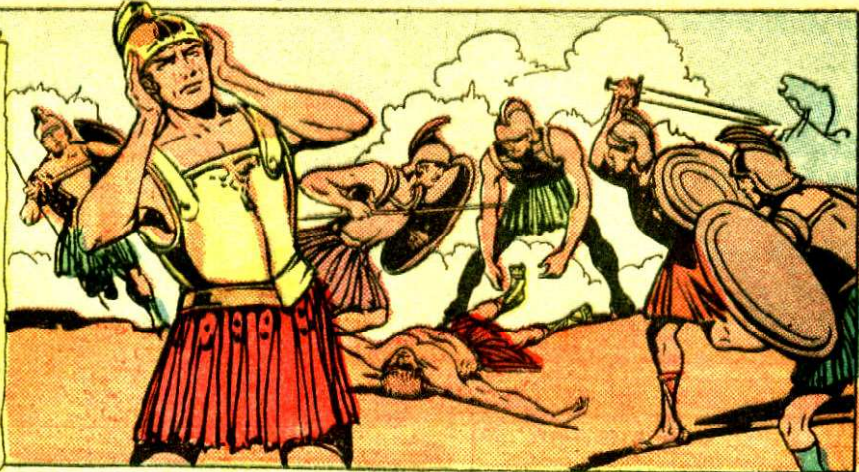


LO! I'VE OVERCOME YOU WITH MY SPEAR AND THE FOWLS OF THE AIR SHALL EAT YOUR FLESH! EVEN GREAT ACHILLES CAN NOT HELP YOU.

YOU BOAST TOO MUCH, O HECTOR. IT'S APOLLO WHO HAS BROUGHT ME TO MY DEATH.

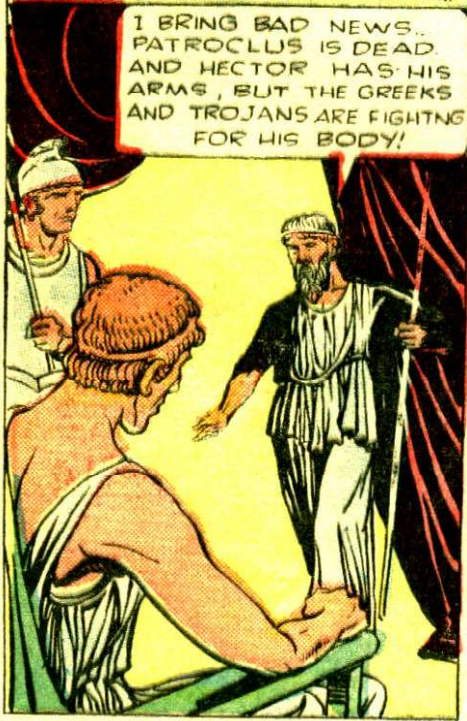
CLASSICS Illustrated

THE MEN OF BOTH SIDES FOUGHT OVER THE BODY OF PATROCLUS AND HECTOR STRIPPED THE BODY OF ACHILLES' ARMOUR AND WORE IT HIMSELF.



IN THE TENT OF ACHILLES...

I BRING BAD NEWS... PATROCLUS IS DEAD, AND HECTOR HAS HIS ARMS, BUT THE GREEKS AND TROJANS ARE FIGHTING FOR HIS BODY!



THETIS, HIS MOTHER, ATTENDED ACHILLES IN HIS GREAT DESPAIR.

WHY DO YOU WEEP, MY SON?

ALL THAT YOU ASKED FROM ZEUS, HE HAS DONE... BUT PATROCLUS IS DEAD. I DO NOT WISH TO LIVE BUT TO AVENGE MYSELF UPON HECTOR.



DO NOT SPEAK SO FOR IT IS WRITTEN THAT WHEN HECTOR DIES, THE HOUR IS ALSO NEAR WHEN YOU MUST DIE!

I WOULD THAT I COULD DIE THIS HOUR, FOR I SENT MY FRIEND TO HIS DEATH! CURSED BE THE ANGER THAT SETS MEN TO STRIVE WITH ONE ANOTHER... AND AS FOR MY FATE, WHAT MATTERS IT?



THE ILIAD

AND SO, ACHILLES AND KING AGAMEMNON ENDED THEIR QUARREL.

IT WAS A FOOLISH THING THAT WE QUARRELED ABOUT A GIRL. MANY A GREEK WHO IS NOW DEAD WOULD HAVE STILL BEEN ALIVE BUT FOR THIS.

IT WAS NOT I, BUT THE FURY WHO TURNS THE THOUGHTS OF MEN TO MADNESS THAT BROUGHT OUR QUARREL ABOUT. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS FOR ME TO MAKE AMENDS.

I WILL GIVE THEE ALL THE GIFTS WHICH ULYSSES PROMISED IN MY NAME.

GIVE THE GIFTS, O KING, OR KEEP THEM FOR YOURSELF. THERE'S ONE THING ONLY THAT I CARE FOR...TO GET TO THE BATTLE WITHOUT DELAY.



THE TROJANS WERE DRIVEN BACKWARD BY THE FURY OF THE ASSAULT LED BY ACHILLES.



PRIAM, KING OF TROY, WAS TROUBLED BY THE RETREAT OF HIS SOLDIERS.

KEEP OPEN THE GATES THAT THE SOLDIERS MAY ENTER BY THEM, FOR THEY ARE FLYING BEFORE ACHILLES.



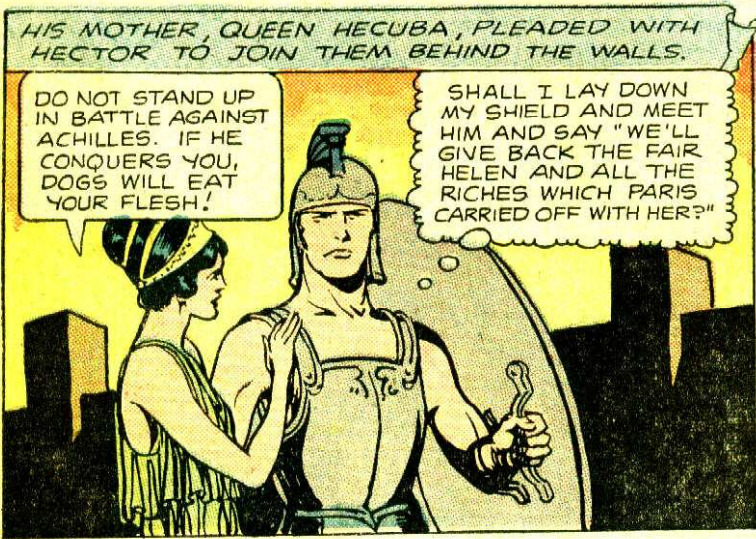
CLASSICS Illustrated



KING PRIAM BE-
SOUGHT HIS SON
NOT TO FIGHT WITH
ACHILLES

COME WITHIN THE
WALLS, DEAR SON...
COME, FOR YOU ARE
THE HOPE OF THE CITY

WOE IS ME IF I
GO WITHIN THE
WALLS! WILL THEY
NOT REPROACH
ME, WHO GAVE ME
GOOD ADVICE WHICH
I WOULD NOT HEAR?



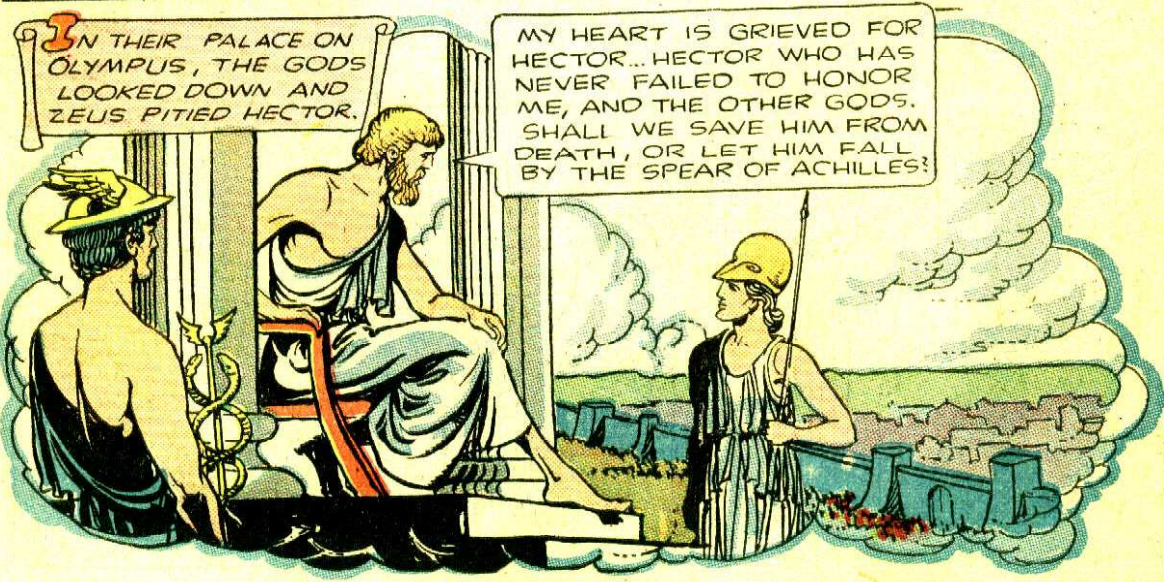
HIS MOTHER, QUEEN HECUBA, PLEADED WITH
HECTOR TO JOIN THEM BEHIND THE WALLS.

DO NOT STAND UP
IN BATTLE AGAINST
ACHILLES. IF HE
CONQUERS YOU,
DOGS WILL EAT
YOUR FLESH!

SHALL I LAY DOWN
MY SHIELD AND MEET
HIM AND SAY "WE'LL
GIVE BACK THE FAIR
HELEN AND ALL THE
RICHES WHICH PARIS
CARRIED OFF WITH HER?"



NO... 'TIS BETTER FAR
TO MEET IN ARMS
AND SEE WHETHER
ZEUS WILL GIVE THE
VICTORY TO HIM
OR TO ME.



IN THEIR PALACE ON
OLYMPUS, THE GODS
LOOKED DOWN AND
ZEUS PITIED HECTOR.

MY HEART IS GRIEVED FOR
HECTOR... HECTOR WHO HAS
NEVER FAILED TO HONOR
ME, AND THE OTHER GODS.
SHALL WE SAVE HIM FROM
DEATH, OR LET HIM FALL
BY THE SPEAR OF ACHILLES?

THE ILIAD

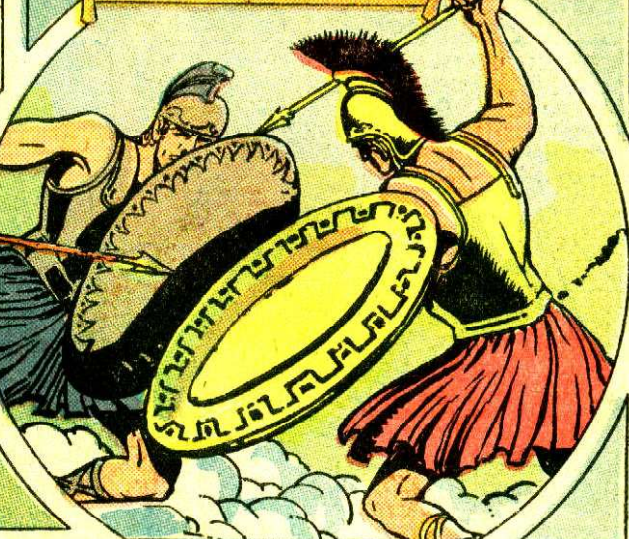
HECTOR AND ACHILLES FACED EACH OTHER AT LAST...

LET'S MAKE THIS AGREEMENT....IF ZEUS GIVES ME VICTORY TODAY, I'LL GIVE BACK YOUR BODY TO THE GREEKS, ONLY I'LL KEEP YOUR ARMS.IF...

NO! LET US FIGHT THAT I MAY HAVE VENGEANCE FOR MY COMRADES WHOM THOU HAST SLAIN, ESPECIALLY PATROCLUS!



HECTOR AND ACHILLES FOUGHT FIERCELY...



O ACHILLES, I ENTREAT YOU TO GIVE MY BODY TO MY FATHER AND MOTHER. LARGE RANSOMS WILL THEY PAY OF GOLD AND SILVER.

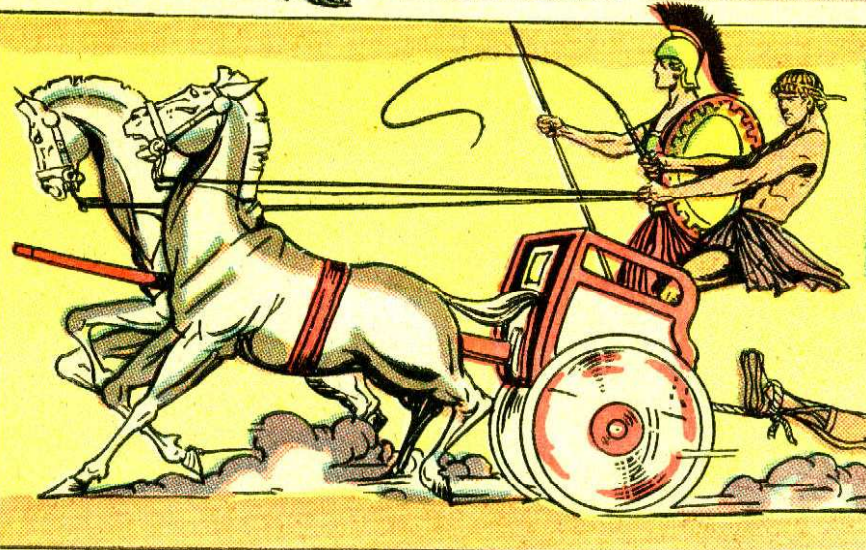
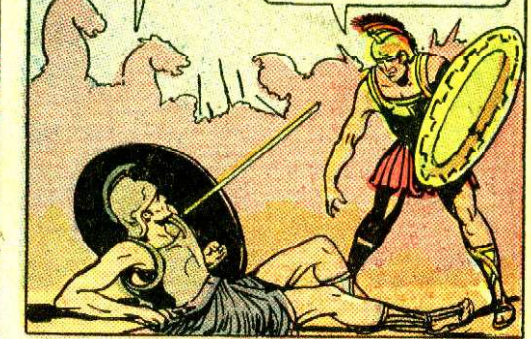
SPEAK NOT TO ME OF RANSOM! PRIAM SHALL NOT BUY THEE BACK!



THE DYING HECTOR CAUTIONED ACHILLES TO BEWARE.

BEWARE THE ANGER OF THE GODS.

DIE, DOG THAT YOU ARE... MY DOOM I'LL MEET WHEN IT SHALL PLEASE THE GODS.



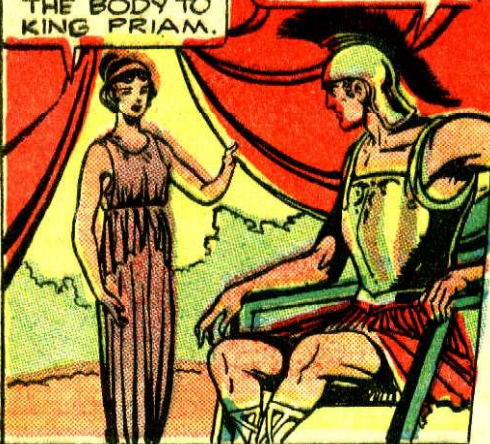
ACHILLES PIERCED THE ANKLE-BONES OF THE DEAD MAN AND FASTENED THE BODY WITH THONGS OF OX-HIDE TO THE CHARIOT.

CLASSICS *Illustrated*

THETIS VISITED THE TENT OF ACHILLES. SHE TOLD HIM THAT ZEUS WAS ANGERED BY ACHILLES' TREATMENT OF THE BODY OF HECTOR.

'TIS THE WILL OF ZEUS THAT YOU GIVE UP THE BODY TO KING PRIAM.

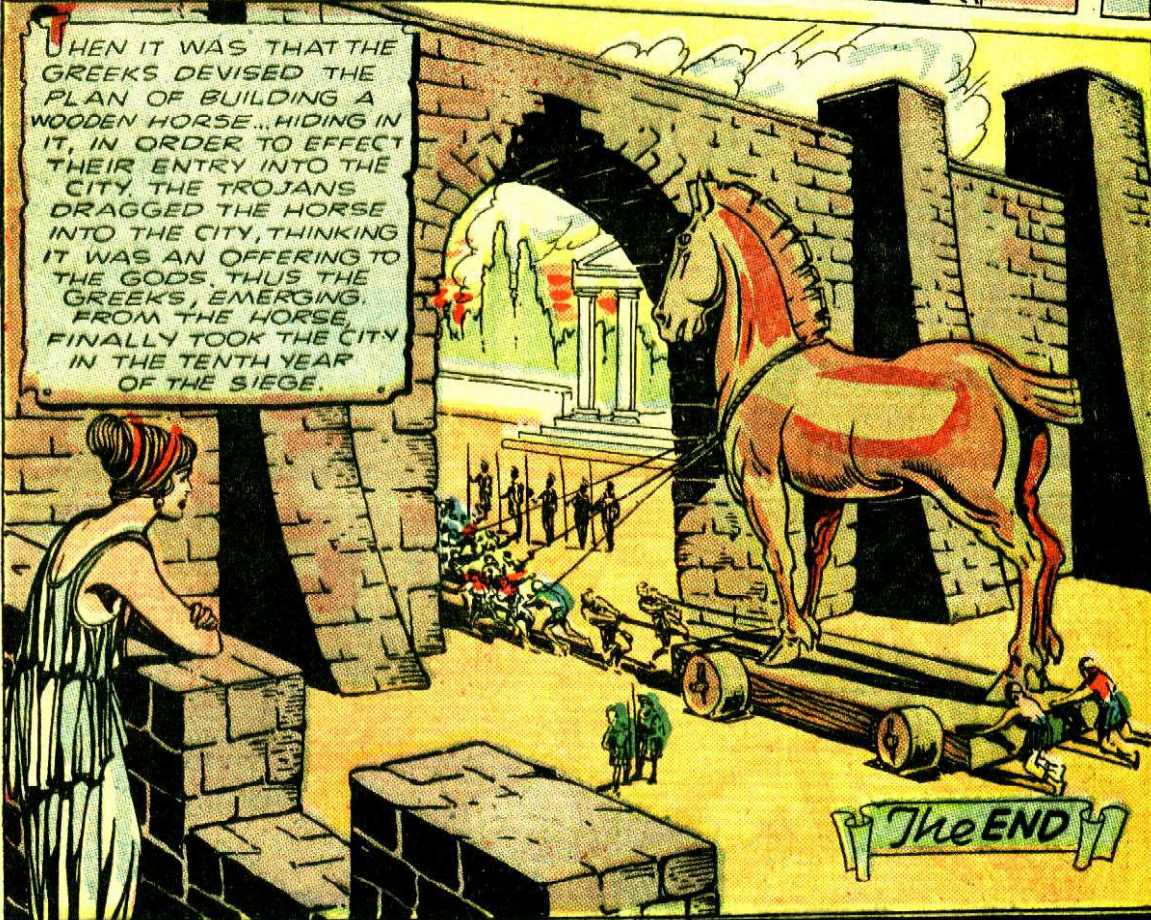
LET IT BE SO IF THE GODS WILL HAVE IT.



LATER, AN ARROW FROM THE BOW OF PARIS, GUIDED BY THE GOD APOLLO, KILLED ACHILLES. IT WAS AN ARROW ALSO THAT TOOK THE LIFE OF PARIS, WHO CAUSED ALL THE TROUBLE.



WHEN IT WAS THAT THE GREEKS DEvised THE PLAN OF BUILDING A WOODEN HORSE... HIDING IN IT, IN ORDER TO EFFECT THEIR ENTRY INTO THE CITY, THE TROJANS DRAGGED THE HORSE INTO THE CITY, THINKING IT WAS AN OFFERING TO THE GODS. THUS THE GREEKS, EMERGING FROM THE HORSE, FINALLY TOOK THE CITY IN THE TENTH YEAR OF THE SIEGE.



The END

NOW THAT YOU HAVE READ THE CLASSICS *Illustrated* EDITION, DON'T MISS THE ADDED ENJOYMENT OF READING THE ORIGINAL, OBTAINABLE AT YOUR SCHOOL OR PUBLIC LIBRARY.

HOMER

ACCORDING to tradition, Homer lived between 800 and 900 B.C. in one of the Ionian Greek communities on the eastern shore of the Aegean sea. "A blind man, he dwells in craggy Chios; his songs shall be fairest for evermore."



In speaking, however, of Homer as the author of *The Iliad*, we should remember that the social background, the general outline of events and, probably, much of the long descriptions of gory, hand-to-hand fighting, he took bodily from the traditional sagas. He could assume that his hearers would be as familiar with that material as he was and would know without his telling them why and how the Greeks had come to Troy, what they were doing there, who were their leaders, what their illustrious pedigrees, and which gods were favoring whom. He could plunge with almost no prologue into his particular theme, the wrath of Achilles in the ninth year of the war, its causes and consequences.

But given the well-known theme and its setting, Homer still could weave out of them a poem of his own, put fresh personality and character into the stock figures of the old saga, enhance the incidents and invent new ones to intensify the dramatic interest, insert many-colored similes and comparisons to vary the narrative and link it with other and different aspects of existence. Later Greek writers, looking back, called Homer the first of the tragedians. It is Homer's qualities of personal genius manifest in *The Iliad* that make us even today regard it as unmatched in literature and set its author at the head of the world's poets.

The poems of Homer did not remain the property of those Greeks only who lived in

Asia Minor. In the sixth century B.C., they were adopted by the city of Athens as a part of its own literary heritage. Every Athenian schoolboy learned to know them as Puritan children once knew their Bibles. At the yearly Pan-Athenaic festivals, Homer's poems were recited from beginning to

end. Alexander the Great could repeat *The Iliad* by heart and chose Achilles as his model of a hero. The Romans, after their conquest of Greece, made the Troy tale part of their own history. They could not, obviously, lay claim to an ancestor among the Greek champions, but they could and did discover one among the best of the Trojans—Aeneas. Poseidon had said, in the twentieth book of *The Iliad*, Aeneas was not to perish with the rest of the blood of Priam but was to live and reign thereafter, he and his children's children. Accordingly, Vergil could take this Aeneas as the hero of his *Aeneid* and the link between Troy and the founding of imperial Rome. With the break-up of the Roman Empire, the knowledge of Greek to all intents and purposes disappeared from Western Europe. To Dante and Chaucer, Homer was no more than a dim, mysterious name. But, in the fourteenth century, the poet Petrarch, to his delight, got a crude translation of both *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey* in Latin. In the next century, a revival of interest in classical letters brought about better translations and the rise of an educated class in Europe who could once again read and enjoy Homer in his own tongue. The scholars of the 18th and 19th centuries, however, denied that there had ever been a man Homer at all. The blind bard of Chios was simply part of the legend. In our own century, it is generally accepted that Homer was a person, author of *The Iliad* in his younger day and of *The Odyssey* as he grew old.

