

**THE FIRST BOOK OF THE  
ILIAD, TRANSLATED INTO  
FOURTEEN-SYLLABLE  
VERSE**

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The first book of the Iliad, translated into fourteen-syllable verse by Charles S. Simms

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**CHARLES S. SIMMS**

**THE FIRST BOOK OF THE  
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FOURTEEN-SYLLABLE  
VERSE**



THE  
FIRST BOOK  
OF THE  
ILIAD OF HOMER

TRANSLATED INTO  
FOURTEEN-SYLLABLE VERSE

BY  
CHARLES S. SIMMS

*Καὶ μάχόμεν κατ' ἑμ' αὐτὸν ἐγώ*  
*Iliad, i. 271*

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1866

## TO THE READER.

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THE Proper names in the following attempt at Homeric translation are spelt for the most part in accordance with the Greek letters, but a rigid consistency in this respect has not been aimed at. Many Latinised forms such as *Phoebus*, *Olympus* and others are now naturalised in English literature, and it would be as useless as pedantic to try to change them.

The liberty has been taken of treating *Danai* throughout as a dissyllable.

Lines 70, 71 as they stand in the text are an anachronism. Such metaphysical abstractions as the Present, the Future, the Past, are, as the friend, to whom I am indebted for pointing out the oversight, acutely remarks, "not much in Homer's way; he uses the concrete." They are the growth of a later age and more advanced culture. The lines should run thus :

All things that are or were or shall be unto him were known,  
He had the Achaians in their ships the way &c.

In line 97 I have followed the reading preferred by Mr. Paley in his lately published volume.

A Glossarial List of all the Proper names which occur in the First Book of the *Iliad* is given on the next page, and will be found useful to young readers and others unfamiliar with Greek mythology and nomenclature. But a caution is necessary. The Greek names of the divinities are explained in the List by their Latin (so-called) equivalents. This explanation is formal only, for the Names are not real equivalents. The *Zeus* of Homer and *Jupiter best and greatest* resemble each other in their general outlines; but there the resemblance stops. As moral conceptions they are almost as unlike as Chance and Providence, or Caprice and Will; and the case is similar with respect to the other deities. The Greek and Roman mythologies differ in short as the mental and moral characteristics of the two races,— that is, very widely indeed.

C. S. S.

May, 1866.

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A GLOSSARIAL LIST OF THE PROPER NAMES WHICH OCCUR IN  
THE FIRST BOOK OF THE ILLIAD.

*The quantity of the vowels is marked when necessary as a guide to pronunciation.*

- ACHAIANS, Argives, Danaï, are names used interchangeably to express the whole body of the Greeks.
- ACHILLEUS, king of the Myrmidons, the warlike inhabitants of Phthia, a district of Thessaly.
- ÆTHIOPS, dwellers by the river of Ocean which flowed round the circular plain of the earth.
- AGAMEMNON, king of Mycenæ in Argos, and supreme leader of the Greeks.
- ATLAS *or* AJAX, king of Salamis.
- AIDES, Pluto.
- AIKAION *or* Briareos, son of Uranos and Gaia, *i.e.* of Heaven and Earth.
- AGEUS, king of Athens.
- APIAN land, Peloponnesus.
- APOLLO.
- ARGIVES, inhabitants of Argos; *see* Achaians.
- ARGOS, a district of Peloponnesus.
- ATHENÉ, Minerva.
- ATREIDÉS (*i.e.* son of Atreus), Agamemnon.
- ATREUS, king of Mycenæ, father of Agamemnon and Menelaos.
- BRIAREOS, *see* Aikaiôn.
- BRISEÏS, *i.e.* daughter of Briseus.
- CENTAURS, a savage and warlike race inhabiting Mount Pelion in Thessaly, who were destroyed in a war with the Lapithæe. A later belief converted them into monsters, half-man and half-horse.
- CHRYSÉ, a city on the coast of the Troad, having a temple to Apollo Smintheus.
- CHRYSÉS, priest of Apollo at Chryse.
- CHRYSEÏS, *i.e.* daughter of Chryse.
- DANAÏ, the Argives were so called from Danaos a former king. *See* Achaians.
- DRYAS, king of the Edones in Thrace.
- ÆTION, king of Thebe, a city of Mysia.
- EUKRYBATES, herald of Agamemnon.
- EKADIOS, a hero of the Lapithæe.
- HEKTOR, eldest son of Priam king of Troy.
- HEPHAÏSTOS, Vulcan.
- HÉRÉ, Juno.
- IDOMENEUS, king of Crete.
- ILION *or* Troy, capital of the Trôad.
- KAINÉUS, a hero of the Lapithæe.
- KALCHAS (*i.e.* the searcher), a soothsayer of the Greeks.
- KILLA, a town in the Trôad having a temple of Apollo.
- KLYTÆMNESTRA, wife of Agamemnon.
- KRONOS, Saturn.
- KRONION (*i.e.* son of Kronos), Zeus.
- LEMNOS, an island in the Aegæan sea.
- LETO, Latona.
- MENELAOS, younger brother of Agamemnon and king of Lacedæmon.
- MENORTIADÉS (*i.e.* son of Menoetius), Patroklos.
- MYRMIDONS; *see* Achilleus.
- NESTOR, king of Pylos.
- OCEAN; *see* Æthiops.
- ODYSSEUS *or* Ulysses, king of Ithaca.
- OLYMPUS, the mountain range between Thessaly and Macedonia.
- PALLAS, an epithet of Athene.
- PATROKLOS, the friend of Achilleus.
- PEIRITHOOS, king of the Lapithæe in Thessaly, vanquisher of the Centaurs.
- PELEUS, father of Achilleus.
- PELEIDÉS (*i.e.* son of Peleus), Achilleus.
- PHORBUS, purg of radiant, an epithet of Apollo.
- PHYTHIA; *see* Achilleus.
- POLYPHEMÉ, a hero of the Lapithæe.
- POSEIDON, Neptune.
- PRIAM, king of Troy.
- PYLOS, a town and district of Peloponnesus.
- SINTIANS (*i.e.* raveners), early piratical inhabitants of Lemnos.
- SMINTHEUS, a surname of Apollo.
- TALTHYBIUS, herald of Agamemnon.
- TENEDOS, an island in the Aegæan sea.
- THEBÉ; *see* Ætion.
- THESEUS, king of Athens.
- THESTOR, father of Kalchas.
- THETIS, a sea divinity and mother of Achilleus.
- TROY; *see* Ilion.
- ZEUS, Jupiter.

# THE ILIAD.

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## BOOK I.

---

THE deadly wrath of Peleus-son Achilleus, goddess! sing,  
That wrath which did ten-thousand woes upon the Achaians bring,  
Sent many a hero's mighty soul to Aides away,  
And made each corse to dogs and every ravening bird a prey —  
Still was the will of Zeus fulfilled — from that first moment when,       5  
By quarrel sundered, stood apart Atreides king of men  
And the divine Achilleus. Who among the gods was he  
Stirred up that jealous strife, and bade the fatal feud to be?  
The son of Zeus and Leto. He, enraged against the king,  
A plague throughout the army spread, the men were perishing,       10  
Because his priest by Atreus-son was put to open shame  
When to the Achaians' rapid ships the aged Chryses came.  
His daughter to release, he brought of ransom boundless store;  
His hands Apollo's fillets on a golden sceptre bore;  
To all the Achaians was his prayer, but most his speech address       15  
The brethren twain, the sons of Atreus, leaders of the rest:  
"Ye sons of Atreus and the rest, well-greaved Achaians, hear!  
"The gods who on Olympus dwell, to them I make my prayer



“That, Priam's city spoiled, ye safe again your homes may know ;  
 “But take the ransom which I bring, let my dear daughter go,      20  
 “Honouring the son of Zeus the god of the far-darting bow.”

Then all the rest with one accord assenting cried, they ought  
 The priest to reverence and receive the splendid ransom brought ;  
 But Agamemnon Atreus-son it pleased not in his heart,  
 And with foul scorn and harsh command he bade the priest depart :      25  
 “Old man, beside the hollow ships let me not find thee stay,  
 “Delaying now or yet again returning by the way,  
 “Lest not the fillet of the god nor sceptre thee avail.  
 “For her, I free her not before with age she waneth pale  
 “Within our house, in Argos, far from her own native land,      30  
 “Sharing my bed or labouring at the loom at my command.  
 “But thou, begone ! provoke me not, that thou may'st safer go.”

He said ; the old man fearing him obeyed ; in silence slow  
 Went back along the beach where dashed the many-sounding sea  
 'Till he had travelled far away ; then much and long prayed he      35  
 Unto the king Apollo whom the fair-haired Leto bore :  
 “Hear me, O Silver-bow ! who guardest ever Chryse's shore  
 “And sacred Killa, and strong rule in Tenedos dost bear,  
 “Smintheus ! if ever I have decked for thee thy temple fair,  
 “If ever the fat thighs of bulls and goats I've burned with fire      40  
 “For thee, for me do thou in turn accomplish this desire—  
 “Let for my tears the Danaï feel the arrows of thine ire.”

Thus praying spoke he ; and his prayer Phoebus Apollo heard,  
 And wrathful in his heart adown the Olympian steeps he fared ;  
 His bow and well-closed quiver were upon his shoulders hung,      45  
 And on the shoulders of the wrathful god the arrows rung

The while he onward came, and onward came he like the Night,  
 Sat from the ships far off and sent an arrow on its flight —  
 With fierce rebound and dreadful sound loud twanged the silver bow.  
 At first indeed the mules he struck and laid the swift dogs low ; 50  
 But next against the men themselves a bitter arrow flew,  
 And smote ; and still the funeral pyres more fast and frequent grew.  
 Nine days throughout the army did the avenging arrows fall ;  
 But on the tenth the folk to council did Achilleus call.  
 The goddess, white-armed Here, prompted him this step to take, 55  
 Because she saw the Danaï die and sorrowed for their sake.  
 Responsive to the summons came together all the men,  
 And, rising up, swift-foot Achilleus spake amongst them then :  
 " Atreides, since again it seems an erring course we've run,  
 " I hold we must retrace our steps if death we are to shun, 60  
 " For war and pestilence combined the Achaians now subdue.  
 " Come then, let us some prophet ask, or learn of priest the view,  
 " Or dream-interpret, for also dreams from Zeus are sent,  
 " Who may declare why 'gainst us thus Apollo's rage is bent ;  
 " Whether he visits for some vow or hecatomb unpaid ; 65  
 " And if, the fat of lambs and goats upon his altar laid,  
 " He may, to ward destruction from us, any way be prayed."

Thus having spoken he sat down. Then rose and them address  
 Kalchas the son of Thestor, of all augurs far the best,  
 To whom the present and the past and future all were known, 70  
 Who in their ships the Achaians had the way to Ilion shown  
 By his prophetic art, the gift Phoebus Apollo shed ;  
 With kindly mind he them harangued and these the words he said :

- "Achilleus, thou desirest me, O dear to Zeus! to show  
 "The anger of Apollo king of the far-darting bow; 75  
 "Therefore I speak; but covenant thou and give to me thine oath  
 "That thou wilt promptly me support with voice and action both.  
 "For well I wot will one be wroth who rules with powerful sway  
 "O'er all the Argives, one whose beck the Achaians all obey.  
 "Since all too mighty is a King when meaner folk offend, 80  
 "For though he should digest his wrath, though calm the day should end,  
 "Yet in his breast continuous still he hatred bears 'till he  
 "Accomplish it; but thou declare, wilt thou my safeguard be?"  
 Swift-foot Achilleus answered him and said, "Be bold of heart,  
 "Thy divination tell, whate'er the god to thee impart; 85  
 "For by Apollo, dear to Zeus, to whom ascends thy prayer  
 "When thou thy divinations to the Danaï dost declare,  
 "No one, while I still live on earth and see the light of day,  
 "Shall near the hollow ships a heavy hand upon thee lay  
 "Of all the Danaï, no, not though thou Agamemnon name, 90  
 "Who boasts him now of all the Achaians first in place and fame."  
 And then indeed the blameless prophet courage took and said,  
 "'Tis for no vow he visits us or hecatomb unpaid,  
 "But for his priest, whom Agamemnon did dishonouring grieve,  
 "Nor would release his daughter nor the ransom would receive; 95  
 "For this hath the Far-darter sent his woes, and sendeth still,  
 "Nor from the Danaï will avert the unseemly ruin 'till  
 "The bright-eyed girl again to her dear father we restore  
 "Unbought, unransomed, and conduct with her to Chryse's shore  
 "A sacred hecatomb; then him we may with hope implore." 100