

# Troilus and Cressida

## 4.7

*[Enter Hector and Ajax fighting, and Aeneas and Diomedes interposing.] Trumpets cease*

**DIOMEDES**

You must no more.

**AENEAS** Princes, enough, so please you.

**AJAX**

I am not warm yet. Let us fight again.

**DIOMEDES**

As Hector pleases.

**HECTOR** Why then will I no more.±±

Thou art, great lord, my father's sister's son,

A cousin-german to great Priam's seed.

5

The obligation of our blood forbids

A gory emulation 'twixt us twain.

Were thy commixtion Greek and Trojan so

That thou couldst say `This hand is Grecian all,

And this is Trojan; the sinews of this leg

10

All Greek, and this all Troy; my mother's blood

Runs on the dexter cheek, and this sinister

Bounds in my father's,' by Jove multipotent

Thou shouldst not bear from me a Greekish member

Wherein my sword had not impressure made

15

Of our rank feud. But the just gods gainsay

That any drop thou borrowed'st from thy mother,

My sacred aunt, should by my mortal sword

Be drained. Let me embrace thee, Ajax.

By him that thunders, thou hast lusty arms.

20

Hector would have them fall upon him thus.

Cousin, all honour to thee.

**AJAX**

I thank thee, Hector.

Thou art too gentle and too free a man.

I came to kill thee, cousin, and bear hence

A great addition earneÁd in thy death.

25

**HECTOR**

Not Neoptolemus so mirable,

On whose bright crest Fame with her loud'st oyez

Cries 'This is he!', could promise to himself  
A thought of added honour torn from Hector.

**AENEAS**

There is expectance here from both the sides 30  
What further you will do.

**HECTOR**

We'll answer it:

The issue is embracement.±±Ajax, farewell.

**AJAX**

If I might in entreaties find success,  
As sold I have the chance, I would desire  
My famous cousin to our Grecian tents. 35

**DIOMEDES**

'Tis Agamemnon's wish±±and great Achilles  
Doth long to see unarmed the valiant Hector.

**HECTOR**

Aeneas, call my brother Troilus to me,  
And signify this loving interview  
To the expecters of our Trojan part. 40  
Desire them home.

*[Exit Aeneas]*

Give me thy hand, my cousin.

I will go eat with thee, and see your knights.

*Enter Agamemnon and the rest: Aeneas, Ulysses,  
Menelaus, Nestor, Achilles, Patroclus, Troilus, and  
others*

**AJAX**

Great Agamemnon comes to meet us here.

**HECTOR** *(to Aeneas)*

The worthiest of them, tell me name by name.  
But for Achilles, mine own searching eyes 45  
Shall find him by his large and portly size.

**AGAMEMNON** *(embracing him)*

Worthy of arms, as welcome as to one  
That would be rid of such an enemy.  
But that's no welcome. Understand more clear:  
What's past and what's to come is strewed with husks 50  
And formless ruin of oblivion,  
But in this extant moment faith and troth,  
Strained purely from all hollow bias-drawing,  
Bids thee with most divine integrity

From heart of very heart, 'Great Hector, welcome!' 55

HECTOR

I thank thee, most imperious Agamemnon.

AGAMEMNON *[to Troilus]*

My well-famed lord of Troy, no less to you.

MENELAUS

Let me confirm my princely brother's greeting.

You brace of warlike brothers, welcome hither.

*[He embraces Hector and Troilus]*

HECTOR *(to Aeneas)*

Who must we answer?

AENEAS The noble Menelaus. 60

HECTOR

O, you, my lord! By Mars his gauntlet, thanks.

Mock not that I affect th'untraded oath.

Your quondam wife swears still by Venus' glove.

She's well, but bade me not commend her to you.

MENELAUS

Name her not now, sir. She's a deadly theme. 65

HECTOR O, pardon. I offend.

NESTOR

I have, thou gallant Trojan, seen thee oft,

Labouring for destiny, make cruel way

Through ranks of Greekish youth, and I have seen thee

As hot as Perseus spur thy Phrygian steed, 70

And seen thee scorning forfeits and subduements,

When thou hast hung th'advanceÁd sword i'th' air,

Not letting it decline on the declined,

That I have said unto my standers-by,

'Lo, Jupiter is yonder, dealing life'. 75

And I have seen thee pause and take thy breath,

When that a ring of Greeks have hemmed thee in,

Like an Olympian, wrestling. This have I seen;

But this thy countenance, still locked in steel,

I never saw till now. I knew thy grandsire 80

And once fought with him. He was a soldier good,

But±±by great Mars, the captain of us all±±

Never like thee. Let an old man embrace thee;

And, worthy warrior, welcome to our tents.

*He embraces Hector*

**AENEAS** (*to Hector*) 'Tis the old Nestor. 85

**HECTOR**

Let me embrace thee, good old chronicle,  
That hast so long walked hand in hand with time.  
Most reverend Nestor, I am glad to clasp thee.

**NESTOR**

I would my arms could match thee in contention  
As they contend with thee in courtesy. 90

**HECTOR** I would they could.

**NESTOR**

Ha! By this white beard I'd fight with thee tomorrow.  
Well, welcome, welcome! I have seen the time.

**ULYSSES**

I wonder now how yonder city stands  
When we have here her base and pillar by us? 95

**HECTOR**

I know your favour, Lord Ulysses, well.  
Ah, sir, there's many a Greek and Trojan dead  
Since first I saw yourself and Diomed  
In Ilium on your Greekish embassy.

**ULYSSES**

Sir, I foretold you then what would ensue. 100  
My prophecy is but half his journey yet;  
For yonder walls that pertly front your town,  
Yon towers whose wanton tops do buss the clouds,  
Must kiss their own feet.

**HECTOR** I must not believe you.

There they stand yet, and modestly I think 105  
The fall of every Phrygian stone will cost  
A drop of Grecian blood. The end crowns all,  
And that old common arbitrator Time  
Will one day end it.

**ULYSSES** So to him we leave it.

Most gentle and most valiant Hector, welcome. 110  
*[He embraces him]*

After the General, I beseech you next  
To feast with me and see me at my tent.

**ACHILLES**

I shall forestall thee, Lord Ulysses. *[To Hector]* Thou!  
Now, Hector, I have fed mine eyes on thee.  
I have with exact view perused thee, Hector, 115

And quoted joint by joint.

**HECTOR** Is this Achilles?

**ACHILLES** I am Achilles.

**HECTOR**  
Stand fair, I pray thee, let me look on thee.

**ACHILLES**  
Behold thy fill.

**HECTOR** Nay, I have done already. 120

**ACHILLES**  
Thou art too brief. I will the second time,  
As I would buy thee, view thee limb by limb.

**HECTOR**  
O, like a book of sport thou'lt read me o'er.  
But there's more in me than thou understand'st.  
Why dost thou so oppress me with thine eye? 125

**ACHILLES**  
Tell me, you heavens, in which part of his body  
Shall I destroy him±±whether there, or there, or  
there±±  
That I may give the local wound a name,  
And make distinct the very breach whereout  
Hector's great spirit flew? Answer me, heavens. 130

**HECTOR**  
It would discredit the blest gods, proud man,  
To answer such a question. Stand again.  
Think'st thou to catch my life so pleasantly  
As to prenominate in nice conjecture  
Where thou wilt hit me dead?

**ACHILLES** I tell thee, yea. 135

**HECTOR**  
Wert thou the oracle to tell me so,  
I'd not believe thee. Henceforth guard thee well.  
For I'll not kill thee there, nor there, nor there,  
But, by the forge that stithied Mars his helm,  
I'll kill thee everywhere, yea, o'er and o'er.±± 140  
You wisest Grecians, pardon me this brag:  
His insolence draws folly from my lips.  
But I'll endeavour deeds to match these words,  
Or may I never±±

**AJAX** Do not chafe thee, cousin.±±  
And you, Achilles, let these threats alone, 145

Till accident or purpose bring you to't.  
You may have every day enough of Hector,  
If you have stomach. The general state, I fear,  
Can scarce entreat you to be odd with him.

**HECTOR** (to Achilles)

I pray you, let us see you in the field. 150  
We have had pelting wars since you refused  
The Grecians' cause.

**ACHILLES** Dost thou entreat me, Hector?

Tomorrow do I meet thee, fell as death;  
Tonight, all friends.

**HECTOR** Thy hand upon that match.

**AGAMEMNON**

First, all you peers of Greece, go to my tent. 155  
There in the full convive you. Afterwards,  
As Hector's leisure and your bounties shall  
Concur together, severally entreat him.  
Beat loud the taborins, let the trumpets blow,  
That this great soldier may his welcome know. 160

*Flourish. Exeunt all but Troilus and Ulysses*

**TROILUS**

My Lord Ulysses, tell me, I beseech you,  
In what place of the field doth Calchas keep?

**ULYSSES**

At Menelaus' tent, most princely Troilus.  
There Diomed doth feast with him tonight±±  
Who neither looks on heaven nor on earth, 165  
But gives all gaze and bent of amorous view  
On the fair Cressid.

**TROILUS**

Shall I, sweet lord, be bound to you so much,  
After we part from Agamemnon's tent,  
To bring me thither?

**ULYSSES** You shall command me, sir. 170

As gentle tell me, of what honour was  
This Cressida in Troy? Had she no lover there  
That wails her absence?

**TROILUS**

O sir, to such as boasting show their scars  
A mock is due. Will you walk on, my lord? 175

She was beloved, she loved; she is, and doth.  
But still sweet love is food for fortune's tooth.  
*Exeunt*