

and especially with Paris, who had loved this king sincerely and with entire affection. For this reason Paris ordered that the body of this king be transported overland to the kingdom of Persia so that this king might be buried where the kings his ancestors had customarily been buried with regal honor, and in the presence of his two sons who were themselves kings.

70 While the truce granted by this treaty lasted, the time came for the city of Troy to celebrate the anniversary of the demise of Hector. The Trojans had decreed that at this time fifteen days of solemn mourning would be observed, and after these days they decided that a funeral feast should be held, as was then the custom of kings and nobles of high birth. During this truce the Greeks entered the city in safety and the Trojans went safely to the Greek camp. Then Achilles was seized with an ill-advised desire to go to Troy and see the city and the celebration of the festival mentioned above. He went unarméd, therefore, to the city, and entered the temple of Apollo, where the body of Hector had been placed, as was described above.

85 There a multitude of heroes and noble women were moaning in anguish before the body of Hector. For the tabernacle of Hector was open on all sides so that it was clearly exposed in plain view for anyone wishing to see it. To tell the truth, the simulated figure of Hector was in the same condition in which it was when he was first placed upon the throne. The virtue of the spices and the liquid of the balsam still maintained the body of Hector. Queen Hecuba was present at the feet of the body with her lovely daughter Polyxena in a retinue of many noble women, who, with their hair dishevelled over their breasts and shoulders, in great bitterness of heart uttered tearful groans from the depths of their souls. Polyxena had not lost the beauty of her face at all, despite the great pangs of her anguish. The vivid color of her cheeks which colored her face with the redness of roses was not at all faded from its vivid brightness and freshness on account of the anguish of her grief, nor was the natural rosy color removed from her lips, nor did the floods of tears flowing from her eyes darken the splendor of her eyes. In fact, it seemed to the on-lookers that the tears flowing down her cheeks seemed to have the appearance of a tablet of new ivory, gleaming with milk-white radiance, which someone had bedewed with drops of brilliant clear water; so also her beautiful golden blond hair scattered in many

strands looked like gold, so that it almost seemed to be not hair but rather threads of gold bound together. When Polyxena raised her hands to tear her hair, it did not seem to be touched by human hands but to be sprinkled profusely with milk.

110 As Achilles looked at Polyxena and contemplated her beauty, it came into his mind that he had never seen a girl or any woman distinguished by the appearance of such beauty. And since two attributes existed together in her, that is, both free and noble birth and a superior amount of beauty, and since Achilles fixed his gaze upon her with a longing heart, the arrow of Cupid unexpectedly wounded the mighty Achilles, and penetrating to the inner recesses of his heart, it took possession of him and forced him to become intoxicated by the great ardor of love. While he thought to please himself by gazing at her frequently and to ease the deep desire of his heart, he made himself the cause of a greater rending of his wound. As he noted and perceived the beauty of Polyxena, he ruined his own, for, because of the great desire of love, his appearance declined into sudden ugliness. Need I say more? Achilles was so ensnared by the love of Polyxena that he did not know what to do. He cast off all other responsibilities and took interest only in Polyxena, as long as he could look at her. On account of this he further extended his injuries, and fixed the wounds of his love more deeply in his heart.

When day had declined into evening, Queen Hecuba left the temple with her daughter Polyxena after they had ended their weeping, while Achilles pursued her as long as he could with loving looks, which were the cause and origin of his sickness. He was accordingly bewildered and made restless by the languor of his great desire, and he turned toward his lodging, sought his bed, and threw himself upon it. He was overwhelmed by the many anxieties crowding in upon him, and his heart was torn inwardly and he felt and perceived that his immense love for Polyxena was the efficient cause of his languor. Then he forced out these words in a soft whisper: "Alas for me, because I, whom the bravest and stoutest of men could not conquer by any means, whom not even the very brave Hector, who surpassed the bravest of all, could conquer, am now overwhelmed and cast down by the sight of one frail girl! If this is the efficient cause of my woe, how can I hope for the healing of a wise physician, since she alone may be physician and healing remedy for me, and she will not

be moved to imperil her right conduct by either my prayers or
 145 presents of great riches or the hardiness of my strength, or my free
 and noble birth? What madness has seized my heart that I love and
 cherish her who should hold me in deadly hatred, since I have arrived
 in her kingdom to deprive her of her parents and have already de-
 150 prived her of her illustrious brother? With what effrontery shall I be
 able to allure her to an act of compliance, who far surpasses me in
 nobility and wealth and is distinguished by her surpassing beauty over
 other women—all of which preserves the haughtiness of her mind? It
 seems clear that all ways by which I can heal myself in safety are
 155 closed to me.” He turned to the wall and in secret dissolved com-
 pletely in tears, so that no one could perceive his grief. At last he
 dried his tears and exchanged them for frequent sighs. He was wholly
 occupied with much deliberation and examined silently in his mind
 ways by which he could improve his condition. He rose then from his
 bed, asked his attendants for water, washed his face and removed the
 160 signs of his tears.

Here begins the twenty-fourth book, about how Achilles was preoccupied by the love of Polyxena and did not wish to fight.

When night came on that day, while the treaty was still in effect,
 Achilles, lying on his couch, spent the whole night sleeplessly,
 considering how he might send his messenger to Hecuba in secret, to
 negotiate with her. His plan was that if she wished to yield him her
 5 daughter, Polyxena, to be joined in the bonds of matrimony, so that
 she would grant her to him as a wife, he would manage and arrange
 that the whole Greek army would depart from the siege of Troy and
 return to Greece without injury to the Trojans, and that every cause
 of offense would be allayed with no other conditions added. For this
 10 reason, with the rising of dawn that morning, he speedily called to
 him one of his men who was in his confidence and very faithful to
 him. When he had revealed the secrets of his heart to him, and had
 enjoined him to keep them faithfully concealed by silence, he
 unhesitatingly ordered him to go to Queen Hecuba in secret, with the
 15 plan of the orders given him. The man immediately carried out the

commands of his lord and prepared quickly for the journey, and
 coming in secret to Queen Hecuba, he faithfully revealed the mission
 of his lord.

Queen Hecuba, who was known for great discretion, when she had
 20 understood the words of the messenger with her gentle soul, although
 she heaved many sighs from her heart, thus responded to the messen-
 ger: “Friend, go back to your lord, and promise him freely on my
 part that, as much as it is in me, I am ready to carry out his wishes
 in a happy frame of mind. But in order for this business to come to
 25 a proper end, it is necessary for me to discover the will of King
 Priam, my husband, and of Paris, my son. When I am informed of
 their responses, see that you return on the third day to receive an
 answer from me as to what can be done.” When he had heard the
 words of Hecuba, the messenger returned to Achilles. After Achilles
 30 had heard the response of the messenger, he was relieved of his grief,
 since the hope of the words gladdened his mind, and in the confi-
 dence of this hope he rested a bit.

When Queen Hecuba had seized the opportunity of speaking to
 the king and Paris, she reported to them secretly the words which
 35 Achilles had sent her by his messenger. After King Priam had heard
 them, he bowed his head for a long time and said nothing, while he
 considered her words from many different points of view. Finally he
 responded thus to Queen Hecuba: “Oh, how hard it seems to my
 mind to receive as a friend him who has injured me so severely by
 40 hatred and great enmity so that he has removed the light of my eyes
 by killing Hector, on account of whose death the Greeks undertake
 bold deeds against me, and strive for the extermination of my people!
 But so that henceforth we may avoid more serious things in the
 future, if by chance there are any, and so that my other sons at least
 45 may be preserved from harm, and so that I may rest in my old age
 from the exertions of battle, I give unwilling consent to your wishes,
 provided that he first does what he promises, lest perchance he
 intends to deceive us by any crafty machinations.” Paris, then, when
 he heard the king’s word, approved the king’s advice and readily gave
 50 his consent, because among those promises of Achilles, Helen, his
 wife, was not to be returned to her husband, but on the contrary
 should remain with Paris perpetually.

On the third day following, Achilles sent his messenger mentioned

before to Queen Hecuba. When he had approached her, Queen
 55 Hecuba told him secretly that she had received a response from King
 Priam her husband and Paris her son, concerning the words sent to
 her by Achilles, "by which it pleases them both, and me likewise, to
 fulfill the wishes of Achilles, if, however, he first definitely redeems
 60 the pledge of his promise. It is therefore in his power to accomplish
 his wish in this present business, but in the meanwhile, until he can
 carry out this thing, let him act discreetly and cautiously." Thus,
 when permission had been given to the messenger, the messenger
 went back to Achilles, to whom he revealed faithfully everything
 which had been said to him by Queen Hecuba.

65 Since Achilles was bound by the bonds of fervent love, when he
 perceived that by no other way could he satisfy his wishes concern-
 ing Polyxena, he was plagued by many troubles and cares, while he
 turned over in his anxious mind the considerable promises he had
 made King Priam, which were absolutely not in his complete power.
 70 For it is a usual and typical weakness in all lovers that when they are
 seething with the yearning of desire, on account of their ill-advised
 passion, they promise great things which are impossible for them.
 Achilles thought, nevertheless, since he was confident of his worth
 and reputation, that if he refused to aid the Greeks further, the
 75 Greeks would agree with him concerning their withdrawal, and that
 when the siege of Troy had been raised, they would return to their
 own country.

On account of this, Achilles, with the consent of Palamedes, called
 all the Greek kings and princes together for a conference. When they
 80 had assembled, Achilles put forth these words among them: "Kings,
 dukes, and princes, my friends—all of you who with me have taken
 up the burden of the present war as princes, acting all together—what
 ill-advised spirit of contentiousness has spurred us on so that for
 recovering the wife, that is, Lady Helen, of one man, that is, Lord
 85 Menelaus, we have left our kingdoms to be torn asunder by others,
 and our countries, our wives and sons, and have come to a foreign
 land? For her recovery we have already recklessly paid a heavy price,
 and we have exposed our persons to death and countless hardships,
 since already many of our nobles and brave and stout knights have
 90 been delivered to death, who might perhaps have lived till today in
 safety with us. I have received many wounds from which I have lost

much blood, and it was not many days ago that I received such a
 wound in killing Hector that I did not believe I could ever live after
 it. Is Helen of such value that for her recovery so many nobles have
 95 to die? Obviously there are in different parts of the world many
 noble women from whom King Menelaus can choose not just one but
 two or more for a wife, for whom it would not be necessary for all
 Greece to undergo so many hardships. For it is not easy to vanquish
 the Trojans thus easily, since they have a very strong city strengthened
 100 by many warrior knights and foot soldiers. Since we have already
 given the very brave Hector over to death, and many of their nobles,
 this should abundantly suffice for us from now on, so that we may
 return with glory and honor to our own country. For if we depart
 without recovering Helen, this cannot seem very grievous to us, since
 105 we have among us Hesione from Troy, and she is the sister of King
 Priam, whom Helen cannot surpass in noble rank."

Thus Achilles made an end to his speech. But King Thoas, and
 Menesteus, duke of Athens, opposed Achilles with a great flood of
 disapproving words. Likewise the majority of the kings and princes
 110 reproached Achilles' advice and did not wish to agree to Achilles'
 advice. For this reason, Achilles was moved by great wrath and
 ordered his Myrmidons not to bear arms against the Trojans any
 more, nor to dare henceforth to give assistance to the Greeks.

Meanwhile provisions were lacking in the Greek army which caused
 115 a very great famine among them. For this reason Palamedes, at a
 council attended by all the foremost men and officers of the Greek
 army . . . They all agreed in this, that they should send King
 Agamemnon with many ships to King Telephus at Messa, in order to
 bring the ships back loaded with the greatest amount of provisions,
 120 so that all scarcity of supplies would be driven away from the Greek
 army and the Greeks could rejoice in great plenty. Agamemnon
 willingly received the orders of his commander and went without
 delay to Messa with the aforesaid ships, and when by good fortune he
 had landed there, King Telephus received Agamemnon with much
 125 pleasure. At last when the ships had been loaded with a great amount
 of provisions and edible things and things for human use, they
 returned to the Greek army by a fortunate voyage, and were wel-
 comed there with the greatest joy. Palamedes took the responsibility
 of his command and ordered all the ships which had come with the

Priamus in Palamidem irruit, ipsum ab equo uiolenter prosternit, et eo prostrato dimisso, furibundus¹ se ingerit inter Grecos. Multos ex Grecis² interficit, multos uulnerat et prosternit. Multa fecit³ eo die rex Priamus de persona sua que quasi incredibilia facta sunt, ut homo tam senilis etatis potuisset tam⁴ bellicose sic uiriliter commisisse.

Neptolomus un-
horses Sarpedon.
Sarpedon wounds
Neptolomus. The
Greci kill the
King of the Perse.

Deyfebus uero Grecos comprimit⁵ incessanter, dum⁶ ad hoc rex Sarpedon⁷ ex parte Troyanorum bellum ingreditur, qui in Neptolomum,⁸ omnium Grecorum fortissimum, irruit animose. Sed Neptolomus⁹ in equi sui cursu regem excipit Sarpedonem,¹⁰ et in robusto ictu sue lance ab equo prostrauit illum in terram. Rex igitur Sarpedon prostratus a terra uiolenter exurgit, et pedes ut erat in Neptolomum¹¹ irruit ense nudo,¹² ipsum sic potenter percutit ense suo circa femur ipsius quod ei letale uulnus infixit. Tunc rex Persarum cum sua acie bellum intrat, et regem Sarpedonem equum fecit ascendere in aliorum auxilio Troyanorum. In quem dux Athenarum et Menelaus in multitudine pugnatorum uiolenter irruunt, et aciebus eorum circunquaque diffusis, in medio eorum Troyanos includunt. Regem Persarum Greci tunc¹³ interficiunt, et in multitudine bellancium Troiani retrocedere compelluntur, in defensionem quorum rex Sarpedon multa in sua bellicosa uirtute commisit.

Priamus and
*f. 91^r
Paris prevent the
Greci from cut-
ting off the Tro-
jan retreat.

Ad hec autem rex Priamus cum filiis suis naturalibus, qui ubique sequuntur eundem, uirtuose succurrendo Troyanis, * in Grecos furibundus anhelat, eos uiriliter opprimit, et in multa strage confundit. Nullus itaque fuit ex parte Troyanorum tam strenuus eo die qui tantum in armorum uiribus commisisset quantum rex Priamus ipse solus commisit, cui dolor et ira vires¹⁴ vndique subministrant.¹⁵ Sed Greci, consilio inito, in eum locum unde Troiani poterant reditum ad eorum ciuitatem habere in multa militum glomeracione conueniunt, locum ipsum ab eis¹⁶ obsessum occupant.¹⁷ Ad quem dum Troiani retrocedentes accedere¹⁸ compelluntur, in multitudine pugnatorum loci ipsius transitum obsessum inueniunt, ubi durissimum prelium¹⁹ est commissum. Et nisi fuisset rex Priamus, qui ex superiori parte ad ipsum locum accessit in pugnantium multitudine glomerata, innumerabiles de gente sua tunc crudeliter amisisset.²⁰

¹ furibunde CP¹S¹ ² eis AH ³ facit AC ⁴ talia sic C talia P¹S¹ ⁵ Et S¹ deprimit AH opprimit C ⁶ dum . . . hoc] dum adhuc AH dum ad hec C Inter hec S¹ ⁷ Serpedon (et alibi) A Serpedon H Sparpadon P¹ ⁸ Neptolomus (in text. Telepolus) B (v. 17212, nota) Neoptolomum C Neptolonum (et alibi) H Neptolonum (et alibi) P¹ ⁹ Neoptolomus (et alibi) C ¹⁰ Serpedonem (et alibi) H Sparpadonem (et alibi) P¹ ¹¹ Neptolomum P¹ ¹² et add. CP¹S¹ ¹³ om. CP¹ ¹⁴ om. P¹ ¹⁵ subministrat P¹ ¹⁶ ipsis P¹ ¹⁷ occupant . . . obsessum om. AH ¹⁸ retrocedere P¹ ¹⁹ om. P¹ ²⁰ ammisisset. Sed C

Paris autem¹ superueniens ex transuerso in multa copia gentis nimium bellicose in² Grecos se ingerit cum³ eadem, qui⁴ in arcubus et sagittis letaliter Grecos primunt, uulnerant, et sepiissime⁵ morti⁶ tradunt, sic quod Greci sustinere non ualentes ictus letiferos sagittarum, ex quibus iam multi defecerant, retrocedentes⁷ ad eorum tentoria redire festinant. Quos dum Troiani inspiciunt⁸ redeuntes, eos⁹ insequi nullatenus¹⁰ sunt¹¹ conati sed ciuitatem eorum lentis passibus intrauerunt. Propter quod eo die prelium fuit¹² diuisum, laude belli tocus illius¹³ diei regi Priamo totaliter¹⁴ attributa.¹⁵

Sed¹⁶ illucescente¹⁷ mane Troiani mittunt ad Grecos, inducias postulant. Treuga¹⁸ petita et postulate inducie conceduntur a Grecis, quarum induciarum tempus in libro non inuenitur expressum. Inter has igitur inducias corpus regis Persarum in ciuitatem Troye flebiliter fuit deductum. Luctus fit inde maximus inter ciues et¹⁹ specialiter a Paride, qui regem ipsum²⁰ dilexerat integro²¹ sinceritatis²² affectu. Quare per Paridem extitit ordinatum quod corpus ipsius regis per²³ terram in regnum Persye²⁴ fuit²⁵ transductum, ut rex ipse sepeliretur ibidem ubi reges antecessores ipsius consueuerunt honore regio sepeliri et²⁶ in suorum duorum presencia filiorum qui regi superstites erant eidem.²⁷

Durantibus autem ipsius treuge concessis induciis, iam tempus aduenerat in quo debebat defuncti Hectoris in ciuitate Troye anniuersarium celebrari. In quo²⁸ Troiani constituerunt seruari sollempniter xv²⁹ dies luctus et post eos³⁰ dies celebranda quedam festa funeraria statuerunt, prout tunc regum et maiorum nobilium gentium³¹ moris erat. Inter has igitur inducias secure Greci intrabant ciuitatem et Troiani securi³² se conferebant ad Grecorum castra. Tunc Achillem quidam inconsultus rapuit appetitus ut Troyam uellet adire uisurus urbem et sollempnitatem * anniuersarii supradicti. Inermis igitur ad ciuitatem se contulit et Appollinis templum intrauit, ubi corpus Hectoris collocatum extiterat, ut est supra relatam. Ibi enim multitudo uirorum et nobilium mulierum anxiosos³³ gemitus coram Hectoris corpore protrahebant. Erat enim tabernacu-

¹ uero P¹ om. C ² in Grecos] in Grecis C om. P¹ ³ in P¹ ⁴ que A om. CP¹ ⁵ plurimos AHS¹ ⁶ neci AH ⁷ retrocedentes . . . festinant] retrocedunt CP¹ ⁸ respiciunt AH ⁹ om. AH ¹⁰ non AH ¹¹ sunt conati] conantur AHS¹ ¹² fuit diuisum] diuiditur A est diuisum C fuit dimissum HS¹ ¹³ illius diei] ipsi H ipso die P¹ ipsius diei S¹ om. A ¹⁴ om. AH ¹⁵ Qualiter Troyanis inducie conceduntur a Grecis add. P¹ ¹⁶ om. P¹ ¹⁷ illucete A uero add. P¹ ¹⁸ Treuga petita om. AHS¹ ¹⁹ om. CP¹ ²⁰ predictum P¹S¹ ²¹ in magno A intimo P¹ ²² caritatis C ²³ ad CP¹ ²⁴ Persie ACHP²S¹ ²⁵ sit CP¹ ²⁶ om. P¹ ²⁷ ibidem. Qualiter Achilles captus fuit amore Polisenae, filie regis Priami C ²⁸ qua P¹P² ²⁹ xi AH ³⁰ hos CP¹ ³¹ gentilium P² om. AHS¹ ³² secure CP¹ ³³ anxios P¹

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*f. 91^r

lum Hectoris, ex¹ omni parte uulgatum, sic quod aperte cuilibet illud uidere uolenti publicus patebat aspectus. Erat equidem² effigies Hectoris in ea scilicet qualitate in qua fuit cum primum in sede solii extitit collocata.³ Adhuc⁴ virtus aromatum et liquor balsami totum corpus Hectoris firmauerunt immutatum. Coram uero eodem corpore ante pedes ipsius erat regina Heccuba et formosa eius filia Polixena in multarum mulierum nobilium comitiua, que, sparsis per earum pectora et terga capillis, flebiles gemitus in multa cordis amaritudine ab ymis pectoribus⁵ producebant. Nunquid igitur Polixena in tantis angustiarum anxietatibus sue immutauerat pulchritudinem faciei. Nunquid color uiuidus⁶ suarum maxillarum, qui rosarum⁷ rubedine colorauerat genas suas, propter sui doloris angustias a sui uigoris uiuida claritate fuerat exhaustus, aut natius eius color roseus labiorum ablatus, uel forte lacrimae fluuiales ab eius oculis decurrentes splendorem suorum offuscauerant⁸ oculorum. Sane sic reuera uidebatur intuentibus⁹ ut eius defluentes¹⁰ lacrimae per maxillas¹¹ instar illud proprie viderentur¹² habere ueluti siquis tabulam recentis eboris, in suo lacteo candore nitentem, ex guttis aque lucide et preclare desuper irroraret; sic eius aurea et flaua cesaries in multis dispersa capillis auri similitudinem presentabat ut quasi non uiderentur capilli esse sed coniuncta¹³ pocius auri fila. Quos dum Polixene manus ad dirumpendum insurgerent, manibus tangi non uidebantur humanis sed nimia effusione lactis aspergi.

Achilles igitur ut Polixenam inspexit et eius est¹⁴ pulchritudinem contemplatus, uere suo concepit in animo nunquam se uidisse puellam nec aliquam aliam mulierem tante pulchritudinis forma uigere. Et dum¹⁵ in eius persona concurrerent ista duo, tam generosa nobilitas et tam excellentis copiae pulchritudo, et¹⁶ dum desiderabili animo in eam Achilles suum defixisset intuitum, sagitta cupidinis fortem¹⁷ Achillem subito uulnerauit et¹⁸ ad interiora pertransiens cordis eius¹⁹ ipsum multo ardore amoris obsessum bachari coegit. Qui dum in eam frequentius intuendo sibi ipsi placere putaret et lenire graue desiderium cordis sui, maioris²⁰ scissure²¹ uulneris²² seipsum sibi reddebat actorem.²³ Qui dum Polixene pulchritudinem notat et concipit, destruit ipse suam, que ex multo amoris desiderio

¹ ab P¹ ² Et S¹ enim AH quidem C quedam uel quidam P¹ ³ collocatum AHP²S¹ ⁴ Ad hoc AS¹ Ad hec CHP¹ ⁵ pectoris P¹ ⁶ uiuidus suarum om. P¹ ⁷ om. P¹ ⁸ obfuscarat A obfuscauerat H obscurauerat P¹ effuscauerat P² obfuscauerunt S¹ ⁹ om. CP¹ ¹⁰ decurrentes P¹ ¹¹ ad add. AH ¹² uideretur AHP¹ ¹³ iuncta AH ¹⁴ nimiam add. AH ¹⁵ vt CP¹S¹ cum H om. A ¹⁶ ut P¹ ¹⁷ fortem Achillem] Et S¹ fortiter A frontem Achillis CP¹ ¹⁸ om. P¹ ¹⁹ ipsius P¹ ²⁰ amoris P¹ ²¹ scissura cordis P²S¹ ²² uultus AH ²³ auctorem CP¹

subitum labitur in squalorem. Quid ultra? Amore Polixene nimium illaqueatus Achilles nescit ipse quid faciat. Omnibus aliis curis exiit et sola illa * superest sibi cura, Polixenam tantum¹ intueri dum potest. Propter quod dilatat² amplius plagas suas et sui amoris uulnera magis sui cordis attrahit in profundum.

Verum cum iam dies declinaret ad uesperas³ et regina Heccuba cum eius filia Polixena a templo discederent, lacrimis fine facto, Achilles dum potuit ipsam est dulcibus aspectibus insequutus qui⁴ fuerunt causa et principium sui morbi. Stupefactus igitur et multi desiderii languoris factus impaciens ad hospicium suum declinat, stratum petit, et in ipso se prostrat. Et eo in multarum curarum aggregacionibus inuoluto, eius⁵ animus exacerbatur⁶ intrinsecus, sentit et percipit quod Polixene amor immensus⁷ est causa efficiens sui languoris. Tunc tacito murmure intra se hec uerba collidit:⁸ "Ve michi, quia me, quem⁹ uiri fortissimi et robusti uincere minime potuerunt, quem nec etiam¹⁰ ille fortissimus Hector, qui fortissimos omnes excessit, vnus fragilis puella deuicit¹¹ et¹² prostrauit intuitus!¹³ Et si ea est causa efficiens mali mei, cuius sapientis medici possum sperare medelam,¹⁴ cum ipsa sit que sola michi potest esse medicus et medela salutis, quam nec preces mee nec multarum precia facultatum nec mearum uirium fortitudo nec mea generosa nobilitas mouere poterunt ad lubricum pietatis? Quis enim furor sic meum animum occupauit ut illam diligam¹⁵ et affectem que me habet odio capitali, cum ego in regnum suum aduenerim eam suis orbare parentibus et iam orbauerim inclito fratre suo? Qua igitur fronte, ut amantes ceteri, ipsam allicere potero ad motum flexibilis uoluntatis, cum ipsa in nobilitate et diuiciarum potencia me penitus antecellat¹⁶ et tanto uigore pulchritudinis uigeat super alias mulieres, que omnia¹⁷ animum eius in elacione conseruant? Sane omnis uia michi uidetur esse preclusa per quam¹⁸ michi prouidere ualeam in salute."¹⁹ Et conuersus ad parietem funditur totus²⁰ furtiuus in lacrimis ne aliquis percipiat suos dolores. Et²¹ demum suas lacrimas astringendo²² eas in suspiria crebra commutat. Et sic deliberacione multa correctus, tacitus²³ in mente sua uias plures exquirat²⁴ quibus ad sue

¹ Et S¹ om. ACH ² dilacerat P¹ ³ uesperum P¹ ⁴ qui fuerunt] que fuerat AHS¹ ⁵ eius animus] eius animo A om. H ⁶ exacerbatus S¹ ⁷ Et S¹ incensus ACH ⁸ loquitur C colloquitur. Achilles Pollisene amore bachatus talia uerba murmure tacito refundebat P¹ ⁹ tam CP¹ ¹⁰ om. AP¹S¹ ¹¹ Et S¹ deuincit A deiuncunt H deuixit P² ¹² et prostrauit om. P²S¹ ¹³ om. P¹ ¹⁴ salutem AH ¹⁵ diligam . . . effectem] diligam affectione precipua C affectione diligam P¹ ¹⁶ antecellet CP¹ ¹⁷ omnia . . . uia om. C ¹⁸ que C mea add. P¹ ¹⁹ salutem AHS¹ ²⁰ Et S¹ totis A om. CP¹ ²¹ Et demum] Deinde A Et deinde H ²² astringendo AHS¹ ²³ tacite AP¹ ²⁴ exquirat P¹

The more Achilles gazes the more deeply is he wounded by the arrow of desire.

*f. 92

Achilles his b...
ments

salutis beneficium ualeat¹ peruenire. A strato² igitur surgit, et a famulis suis aqua petita, faciem suam lauat ut³ suarum signa lacrimarum abstergat.⁴

[Incipit⁵ liber⁶ xxiiiius⁷ de⁸ Achille intercepto amore Polixene et bellare nollente.]

Adueniente igitur nocte diei ipsius, cum adhuc treuga duraret, Achilles suo iacens in lecto totam noctem preteriuit⁹ insomnem, cogitans qualiter ad Heccubam suum dirigat nuncium in secreto tractaturum cum ea ut si eius filiam Polixenam sibi uellet* concedere iugalis tēda¹⁰ matrimonii collocandam quod eam sibi tribuat in uxorem, ipse faciet et curabit¹¹ quod totus Grecorum exercitus a Troiane ciuitatis obsidione discedet et sine Troyanorum lesione in Greciam reuertetur, omni scandalo quietato absque alicuius¹² alterius condicionis¹³ euentu. Quare ipsius mane aurora surgente quendam suum¹⁴ secretarium et sibi¹⁵ ualde fidelem uelociter ad se uocat. Cui patefactis sui cordis archanis et iniuncto¹⁶ sibi de¹⁷ eorum¹⁸ tacita occultacione fidei,¹⁹ firmiter mandat illi ut ad reginam Heccubam se dirigat in secreto cum²⁰ dati²¹ sibi forma mandati. Qui statim iussui sui domini fideliter obsecundans se protinus accinxit ad iter, et ad reginam Heccubam ueniens in secreto legacionem sui domini fideliter pandit illi.

Regina uero Heccuba, que multa discrecione uigebat, uerbis ipsius nuncii²² placido animo intellectis, licet multa suspiria a pectore resoluisset, nuncio²³ sic ad eius²⁴ uerba respondit:²⁵ "Amice, ad dominum tuum redeas et illi ex mea parte secure promittas quod, quantum in me est, leto animo sum parata²⁶ uota eius implere.²⁷ Sed ut res ipsa finem debitum consequatur, necesse est me uoluntatem regis Priami uiri mei et filii mei Paridis explorare. De quorum cum²⁸ fuero certiorata²⁹ responsis, die tertia ad me redire curabis responsum a me, ut fieri poterit, recepturus." Auditis ergo Heccube uerbis, rediit³⁰ nuncius ad Achillem. Et nuncii sui audito responso, in suis dolori-

¹ possit CP²S¹ ² stratu HP²S¹ ³ et CP¹ ⁴ astringit CP¹ ⁵ om. ACH
⁶ liber xxiiiius om. C ⁷ xxiiiius A 22us H ⁸ xo bello et add. A de . . . nollente]
qualiter Achilles nuncium suum ad Heccubam dirigat in secreto tota illa cogitauit in nocte P¹ ⁹ preteriuit AH preteriuit . . . ad om. P² ¹⁰ federe AS¹ federis H ¹¹ procurabit AS¹ ¹² alicuius alterius] alicuius H aliter P¹ ¹³ condicione N contradiccionis P¹S¹ ¹⁴ sibi AH ¹⁵ sibi ualde] ualde AH magne P¹ ¹⁶ Et S¹ iniuncta AHP¹ ¹⁷ de eorum] deorum H ¹⁸ horum AP² eorum tacita] secreta C non potest legi P¹ ¹⁹ fidelitate P¹ ²⁰ et P¹ om. S¹ ²¹ data AS¹ dati . . . secreto om. P¹ ²² om. P¹
²³ om. CP¹ ²⁴ nuncii CP¹ ²⁵ Ad Achillis nuncium sic Heccuba respondit add. P¹
²⁶ prompta AH ²⁷ adimplere AH ²⁸ dum HP²S¹ ²⁹ certiora HP¹ ³⁰ rediit CP¹S¹

bus respirauit Achilles, dum uerborum spes eius exhylerauit animum et sub ipsius spei fiducia requieuit¹ quodammodo.

Regina uero Heccuba, regis et Paridis habilitate captata, in secreto refert illis² uerba que sibi Achilles per nuncium suum misit. Quibus auditis, rex Priamus, per magnam horam inclinato capite, nichil dixit, diuersimode cogitando super uerbis eiusdem. Demum regine Heccube sic respondit:³ "O quam durum animo meo uidetur illum in amicum recipere qui tante inimicicie odio sic grauiter me offendit ut ab oculis meis michi lumen erueret, Hectore interfecto, ob cuius⁴ mortem Greci presumpserunt audaciam contra me, in meorum⁵ exterminium anhelantes! Sed ut deinceps, si qua sunt forte,⁶ futura grauiora⁷ uitemus, ut saltem alii filii mei michi seruentur⁸ incolumes, et ut ego in meo senio a belli laboribus conuiescam, inuitus assencio uotis suis, ita tamen quod⁹ ipse prius¹⁰ perficiat quod promittit, ne forte sub alicuius dolositatis¹¹ machina decipere nos intendat." Paris uero, regis uerbis auditis, consilium regis probat et suum¹² forte¹³ sic de facili acomodauit assensum pro eo quod inter promissa ipsius Achillis Helena, consors sua, priori non erat restituenda marito sed penes eum debeat perpetuo remanere.

Die uero tercio succedente, Achilles ad reginam Heccubam suum¹⁴ predictum nuncium misit.¹⁵ Qui cum accessisset ad eam, in secreto regina Heccuba sibi dixit se a rege Priamo uiro suo et¹⁶ Paride nato suo super uerbis ab Achille transmissis habuisse responsum, "per¹⁷ quod placet ambobus et michi similiter implere * uotum Achillis, si¹⁸ tamen ipse primo sue promissionis debitum finaliter¹⁹ exequatur. Est ergo in eius potestate presentis negocii uelle consequi uotum suum, dum tamen interim, donec res ipsa perfici ualeat, secreta et caute geratur." Et sic,²⁰ nuncio data licencia, rediit nuncius²¹ ad Achillem, cui cuncta que sibi dixerat regina Heccuba fideliter patefecit.

Achilles autem feruentis amoris nexibus alligatus, dum per aliam uiam de Polixena percipit non posse satisfacere uotis suis, multarum exagitatur²² infestacione²³ curarum, dum in mente sua anxiose reuoluit se regi Priamo grauia promississe, que absolute non erant in sue plenitudine potestatis. Etenim²⁴ mos²⁵ est²⁶ et proprium uicium

¹ requieuerit P¹ ² illa P¹ ³ Qualiter rex Priamus Heccube sue intencionis animum reserauit add. P¹ ⁴ eius P¹ ⁵ meum A meum et meorum S¹ ⁶ sinistra add. AH
⁷ om. P² ⁸ conseruentur AH ⁹ ut CP²S¹ ¹⁰ om. AH ¹¹ om. P¹ ¹² om. CP¹
¹³ quod add. P¹ om. C ¹⁴ om. CP¹S¹ ¹⁵ destinauit P¹ ¹⁶ a add. AP²S¹ ¹⁷ propter P¹ om. C ¹⁸ si tamen] sed uide quod CP¹ ¹⁹ fideliter P¹ om. C ²⁰ om. CP¹ ²¹ ipse C om. A ²² excogitatur A infestatur P¹ ²³ Et S¹ festinacione C agitatione P¹ infestacione P² ²⁴ et cum P¹ ²⁵ mox AP¹ ²⁶ om. P¹

Achilles sends word to Heccuba he will withdraw the Greek army

*f. 92^v

from Troia provided she grant him Polixena in marriage.

Heccuba is willing to agree, but must first consult Priamus and Paris.

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Book Three

[1] Both Greeks and Trojans kept the truce and refrained from hostilities throughout the whole winter. The Greeks took advantage of the break and spent all their time and energies preparing for battle. They would assemble in front of the rampart, under their various leaders, each in the contingent that practiced his specialty. One group would practice throwing the spear, using, as a rule, pikes of exactly the right weight and length, or else pointed stakes. Others would practice hurling the sling or shooting the bow. Among those excelling in archery were Ulysses, Teucer, Meriones, Epeus, and Menelaus; but Philoctetes was the best: he owned the bow of Hercules, and always hit the mark with amazing skill.

The Trojans and their allies were, in comparison with the Greeks, almost carefree. They feared no treachery, and therefore neglected their military duties, spending their time making frequent sacrifices to the Thymbraean Apollo.

At about the same time they were informed that almost all of the cities of Asia had turned against Priam and were breaking off diplomatic relations with Troy. These cities blamed Priam for upholding Alexander's cause: he was setting a bad example which would undermine the laws of friendship in their region. Also, they were well aware that the Greeks had won all their battles to date and had conquered many of the neighboring cities. Last but not least, they hated Priam's sons and Priam's kingdom.

[2] One day, at Troy, when Hecuba was praying to Apollo,

Achilles and a few of his men came to watch the religious ceremonies. Many other women were there besides Hecuba: her daughters-in-law, for instance, and the wives of the leading Trojans; some of these, in pure devotion to their queen, attended upon her, while others, pretending to be so devoted, had really come to pray for something for themselves. There were also the daughters of Hecuba, Polyxena and Cassandra, as yet unmarried. They were the priestesses of Minerva and Apollo. Their hair was disheveled, their fillets strange and barbarous. Polyxena was the one who had set them to these duties.

When Achilles by chance turned his gaze on Polyxena, he was struck by the beauty of the girl. The longer he remained there, the deeper his passion grew. Finding no relief, he returned to the ships and, after several days of increasing torment, sent for Automedon and laid bare his heart. Automedon, he finally begged, must go to Hector and plead his suit for the girl.

As for Hector, he, to be sure, would give him his sister to marry if he would betray the whole army to him.

[3] Accordingly, Achilles promised that he would bring the whole war to an end if Polyxena were given to him.

Then Hector said that Achilles must either swear an oath to this betrayal or kill the sons of Plisthenes and Ajax; and that otherwise he was going to hear of no agreement.

Achilles, on hearing this, became terribly angry and shouted that, in the first battle, as soon as fighting was resumed, he was going to kill Hector. Then, his heart being wounded by his violent emotion, he wandered around, now here, now there; sometimes, nevertheless, he considered how far he should go in meeting Hector's demands.

But when Automedon saw how violently he was disturbed and that, as the days went by, he was becoming more and more distraught with longing, and spending the nights outside his hut, he feared that Achilles might harm himself or the leaders men-

tioned above, and thus he revealed the whole matter to Patroclus and Ajax. These kept a careful watch on their friend, without letting on that they knew anything.

As it happened, in time Achilles came to his senses. Having summoned Agamemnon and Menelaus, he told them about his love for Polyxena and about his dealings with Hector. Then everyone tried to console him by pointing out that the girl would be his soon enough, for, before very long, force would succeed where entreaty had failed.

What they said seemed reasonable, since the fall of Troy was already imminent: all the cities of Asia had broken off diplomatic relations with Priam and had willingly offered their aid and alliance to us. Our leaders had answered politely: Our present forces were quite sufficient, and we had no need of auxiliaries; though, to be sure, we willingly accepted the friendship they offered, and their good will would be pleasing to us. This we said, no doubt, because their faith was not to be trusted, their courage was too little tested, and their sudden change of allegiance was probably made with guile.

[4] Winter came to an end and, with the beginning of spring, both Greeks and Trojans were ready for war. They called their forces to arms and, giving the signal, led them onto the plain. When they had advanced, in formation, close enough to use their spears, they raised the war cry and joined in battle. The cavalry on both sides held the center and were therefore first to clash: the kings ascended their chariots and entered the fray, each beside the charioteer he had chosen to guide his horses.

Diomedes was in the van. Bearing down upon Pyraechmes, the king of the Paeonians, he slew him with a spear-thrust in the face. The retainers of Pyraechmes, men he had chosen because of their courage, banded together and tried to resist. But Diomedes, riding through their midst at full gallop, ran some of them down with his chariot and put the others to flight with his spear.

Then Idomeneus (Meriones was his charioteer) killed Acamas, the king of the Thracians. Thrusting him out of his chariot, he caught him, as he fell, on the tip of his spear.

When Hector, who was fighting in another part of the plain, heard that the Trojan horsemen in the center were fleeing, he ran to their rescue, leaving his command in the hands of worthy fighters, and taking along Glaucus, Deiphobus, and Polydamas. Without a doubt, the Trojans in the center would have been completely destroyed if Hector had not arrived and checked their flight. Now we were no longer able to mop them up, our offensive was dead; nevertheless, we held our ground and refused to retreat before Hector and the other recent arrivals.

[5] Soon news of this battle spread throughout the army, and the other leaders, having entrusted their positions to worthy subordinates, rushed toward the center. The battle lines, on both sides, were closed up, and the battle was renewed. Hector felt greatly encouraged, seeing that a large number of Trojans were present and thinking himself sufficiently safe. Then he urged on his men to fight with more daring, shouting in a loud voice and calling them each by name; and he himself entered the battle and wounded the two brave leaders of the Elians, Dioreas and Polyxenus.

As soon as Achilles saw Hector attacking like this, he came to the aid of the embattled Greeks, his spirit moved by the thought of how Hector had rejected his suit for Polyxena. He was forced, however, to stop in mid-course and slay Pylaemenes, the king of the Paphlagonians, who stood in his way. Pylaemenes, so they say, claimed to be related to Priam through Phineus, the son of Agenor, for Phineus' daughter, Olizone, on coming of age, had been married to Dardanus.¹

[6] Then Achilles continued his raging drive against Hector, but Hector, who knew very well how hateful he was to Achilles, refused to stay where he was and, mounting his chariot, fled from

in-chief, a position he gratefully accepted and began to administer. Achilles, however, disparaged the change.

[26] When the truce was over, Palamedes, arranging his forces and urging them on, led forth the army ready for battle. Deiphobus commanded the Trojans, who offered fierce opposition. The Lycian Sarpedon, leading his men, attacked and caused great slaughter and havoc. The Rhodian Tlepolemus met and resisted Sarpedon, but finally fell badly wounded. Then Pheres, the son of Admetus, came up and, after a long hand-to-hand fight with Sarpedon, was killed. But Sarpedon also was wounded and forced from the battle. Thus for several days there was fighting, and many leaders died on both sides. The Trojan casualties, however, were greater. When they sent envoys to seek a respite for burying their dead and healing their wounded, Palamedes granted a truce of one year.

Both sides buried their dead and cared for their wounded. Their agreement allowed them to go to each other's areas; the Trojans went to the camp, the Greeks to the city.

Palamedes sent Agamemnon to Mysia to Acamas and Demophoon, Theseus' sons, whom Agamemnon had put in charge of bringing supplies and grain from Telephus. Upon his arrival in Mysia, Agamemnon told them about Palamedes' sedition. When, however, he saw that they were displeased, he admitted that he had agreed to the change.

Meanwhile Palamedes was readying the ships and fortifying the camp with walls and towers. The Trojans were training their army, repairing their walls, adding a rampart and ditch, and diligently getting everything ready.

[27] On the first anniversary of Hector's funeral, Priam, Hecuba, Polyxena, and other Trojans went to the tomb. There they happened to meet Achilles, who, being struck by Polyxena's beauty, fell madly in love. The burning power of his love took all the joy out of life. (His soul was also rankled by the fact that the

Greeks had deposed Agamemnon and made Palamedes commander-in-chief instead of himself.) Accordingly, urged by his love, he sent a trusted Phrygian slave to make this proposal to Hecuba: if she would give him Polyxena to marry, he would go home with his Myrmidons, and thus would set an example which the other leaders would follow. When the slave went to Hecuba and made this proposal, she answered that she would be willing, if Priam agreed, but that she must talk with him first. Then the slave, as Hecuba ordered, returned to Achilles and told him her answer.

Agamemnon, coming from Mysia with a large group of followers, arrived in camp at this time.

When Hecuba talked to Priam about Achilles' proposal, Priam refused to agree. Granted that Achilles would make a good relative, it was not right to marry one's daughter to an enemy; and even if Achilles himself went home, the other Greeks would not follow. Therefore, if Achilles wanted this marriage, he must promise a lasting peace, a treaty with sacred oaths; and the Greeks must depart. On these conditions, Priam would willingly give him his daughter in marriage.

The slave of Achilles, according to his understanding with Hecuba, returned to her and learned what Priam had said. Then he reported all he had heard back to his master. Thereupon Achilles complained, to any and everyone, that for the sake of one woman, that is, Helen, all Europe and Greece were in arms, and now, for a very long time, thousands of men had been dying. Their very liberty, he said, was at stake, and this was the reason they ought to make peace and take their army back home.

[28] When the year was over, Palamedes led forth the army and drew it up. And the Trojans came opposite commanded by Deiphobus. (Achilles, however, refused to take part because of his anger.) Palamedes seized an opportunity to attack Deiphobus and slaughtered him.

A fierce battle arose, fiercely fought on both sides; there were