

Hector Vs. Achilles

Hector and Achilles are both great warriors and great men, but differ in many ways. Both men are considered heroes of their time, but fight for completely different reasons. Hector, who fights for the Trojans, fights for his land and his family's honor.

? Achilles fights for only himself. Both characters believe they are fated to die on the battle field as warriors, but approach war ~~very~~ differently. Hector is heroic is his departure for ? the war, but his human side is overshadowed by his love for his family. He does not want to widow his wife and leave his child, but he knows he has to live out his fate and be a warrior.

An example in which Hector and Achilles use different approaches to heroic behavior is in Book 22. Hector decides to remain outside the city, while all the other warriors are inside the walls safe from the rapidly approaching Greeks. Priam, Hector's father, sees Achilles and the rest of the Greeks advancing so he warns his son to get behind the walls to remain safe. But Hector does not listen to his father. Pride and honor play a big role in preventing Hector from backing down. Hector's fearless confrontation of his fate and destiny is a very heroic action. However, Hector flees from Achilles, which is a very human reaction, not the type of behavior expected from a hero such as Hector. This illustrates a common conflict among heroic characters; the internal contest between having what it takes to be a hero, and the human emotions and instincts that

sometimes present clashing impulses to that heroic standard. Each hero responds in a different way to this conflict. Hector, in this case, decides to act on his human impulses, thus he runs from Achilles, who instantly gives chase. After Athena disguises herself to look like Hector's friend, Hector stops running and decides to stand his ground and fight. Hector thinks he has a friend to fight with him, but Athena promptly disappears when Achilles catches up. This illustrates one of the biggest contradictions between a warrior's heroic code and the warrior's human side. Achilles, mad and vengeful, kills Hector in a way that is unnecessarily cruel and barbaric. He allows Hector to die a slow and agonizing death, after which he shamelessly drags Hector's body around. Achilles does not care about the feelings of Hector's family, or any of the on looking Trojans who admired Hector. These actions are consistent with the heroic warrior code of the Greeks, which put a lot of value on payback and vengeance. But even the most valiant and coldhearted soldier must have a human side, which definitely must object to the brutal killing that is very common in war.

where do you see this?

did Hector care about Achilles' feelings when he killed Patroclus?

On the other hand, when Achilles and his soldiers get some type of weird pleasure from repeatedly stabbing Hector's lifeless corpse, another kind of dark human emotion is shown. The pent-up anger and hostility that builds up during the pursuit for revenge, gets directed towards the most obvious symbol of their hatred.

It might be concluded that the heroic code and human emotions may not conflict with each other after all. When Achilles decides to return Hector's body to Priam so he can honorably bury his son, Achilles violates the unfeeling and uncompassionate heroic code that he had shown earlier. Achilles decided to be a noble human being and have sympathy for someone else's loss, even though it was his enemy. All humans are linked

who said warriors have to be unfeeling? Achilles is far from unfeeling

with a common bond, and Priam drew from that emotion and link, because no amount of rational thought would have influenced Achilles to give up his pride. In the end, this is an excellent way to end The Iliad, because it shows that Achilles, the character who most people seem to identify with, has shown his independence from the heroic code and that he is capable of making decisions that have no basis in precedence, and that he is able to choose his own destiny and live his own philosophy, and one who accomplishes this is truly a hero by anyone's standards.

It seems that while Hector is certainly possessive of a human side, he is afraid of dying in war, he loves his wife and family, and he does not want to accept his fate at first. Achilles, however, is the more human one. He uses his human emotions, the warrior code that he learned through his mother, and his innate senses. Achilles is able to find a common balance between his two states; therefore the resulting actions are very admirable. Achilles also seems to have successfully navigated his way through the heroic development in decent manner. While they both try to win glory and victory in war for their families, their country, and themselves, they both have certain strengths and weaknesses in their characters that show they have very different courses of action and thoughts. They are both presented with conflicts and dilemmas throughout the story, the resolutions of which must be made using both their intuitive human side and their aggressive heroic side. Thus both Hector and Achilles behave as heroes throughout The Iliad. Whether fighting for honor and family, or vengeance and fame, Hector and Achilles had very different motives for fighting, and very different attitudes towards fate. However, both have been named great men, and are remembered in history as heroes.

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You're not explaining this very well.

largely that's because you're not going into detail

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