

I've done what no one's ever done,  
kissed the hands of the man who's killed my sons.

*Achilles and Priam cry. Achilles pushes Priam's hands away. Priam falls to Achilles's feet. Achilles stands, helps Priam up.*

**ACHILLES:** Oh sad man, the evils you've suffered in your heart.  
How could you come here, alone to look into my eyes,  
when I killed your sons? Truly the heart in you is  
iron. Come sit here. Because no profit comes from  
calm lament. Because that's how the gods have

**PRIAM:** Don't sit me down, godraised,  
not while my Hector lies uncaredfor.

spun it. We suffer. We're mortals. But gods live  
without a care. God gives a gift of two kinds. A gift of suffering or a  
blessing. The thundering god gives  
evil and good. God gave my father great gifts and so he rose to rule his

kingdom but cursed him with only one son,  
doomed to die young. Because I'm here causing you  
nothing but suffering to you and your kids.  
And you, old sir. They say you once were happy, and that you rose to rule your

kingdom because of your riches and  
of your sons. Don't grieve forever because  
grieving for your son, you won't bring him  
back to life. You'll sooner suffer.

**PRIAM:** Please give my Hector back quickly so I can see him.  
and take the ransom, the great ransom that we bring back home  
since this whole time you have spared my life.

**ACHILLES:** Don't test me. I'll give Hector back because I choose. Because I choose to because

God sent a message to my mother. Another immortal must  
have led you here. Don't stir my heart with sorrows  
I'd kill even you,  
even on your knees than disobey the charge of God.

*Achilles, Automedon, and Alcimus go outside. They lead Idaeus to a seat, take the ransom off the wagon, load Hector (in cloak and tunic, lying on a bier) on to the wagon.*

**ACHILLES:** Don't be mad at me, Patroclus, if you hear in the house of Hades  
I gave noble Hector back to his father.  
The ransom wasn't worthy of you,  
but I will make it up to you.