

Homer, *Iliad* 22.294-308

[as discussed in the Homer text video by Alastair Harden]

Δηϊφοβον δ' ἐκάλει λευκάσπιδα μακρὸν ἀϋσας·
ἦτέε μιν δόρυ μακρόν· ὃ δ' οὐ τί οἱ ἐγγύθεν ἦεν. 295
Ἔκτωρ δ' ἔγνω ἦσιν ἐνὶ φρεσὶ φώνησέν τε·
'ὦ πόποι ἦ μάλα δή με θεοὶ θάνατον δὲ κάλεσαν·
Δηϊφοβον γὰρ ἔγωγ' ἐφάμην ἦρωα παρεῖναι·
ἀλλ' ὃ μὲν ἐν τείχει, ἐμὲ δ' ἐξαπάτησεν Ἀθήνη.
νῦν δὲ δὴ ἐγγύθι μοι θάνατος κακός, οὐδ' ἔτ' ἄνευθεν, 300
οὐδ' ἀλέη· ἦ γὰρ ῥα πάλαι τό γε φίλτερον ἦεν
Ζηνί τε καὶ Διὸς υἱὶ ἐκηβόλω, οἳ με πάρος γε
πρόφρονες εἰρύατο· νῦν αὖτέ με μοῖρα κιχάνει.
μὴ μὰν ἀσπουδί γε καὶ ἀκλειῶς ἀπολοίμην,
ἀλλὰ μέγα ῥέξας τι καὶ ἐσσομένοισι πυθέσθαι.' 305
ὥς ἄρα φωνήσας εἰρύσσατο φάσγανον ὄξύ,
τό οἱ ὑπὸ λαπάρην τέτατο μέγα τε στιβαρόν τε,
οἴμησεν δὲ ἀλείς ὥς τ' αἰετὸς ὑψιπετήεις...

With a far cry he called Deiphobos of the white shield,
And asked for a long spear; but Deiphobos was not near.
And Hektor understood it in his heart, and said
"Alas! Indeed the gods have called me to my death,
For I really thought Deiphobos the hero was at hand:
But he's within the walls, and Athena has fooled me.
And now indeed a wretched death is near me: no longer distant,
No escape. Yes, for a long time then this has been the preference
Of Zeus, and Zeus's son, far-shooting Apollo, they who before
Would give me their entire support. But now my fate has caught me
But let me not die without a fight, and ingloriously:
Rather after doing something great, for generations to remember!"
Speaking thus he drew out his sharp sword,
Which at his side was hung, great and strong,
He drew himself together, and he swooped:
like an eagle flying high...

[Translation by Alastair Harden]