

BOOK ONE



The Rage of Achilles

* Rage—Goddess, sing the rage of Peleus' son Achilles,
murderous, doomed, that cost the Achaeans countless losses,
hurling down to the House of Death so many sturdy souls,
great fighters' souls, but made their bodies carrion,
feasts for the dogs and birds,
and the will of Zeus was moving toward its end.
Begin, Muse, when the two first broke and clashed,
Agamemnon lord of men and brilliant Achilles.

*Carrion;
dead and
decaying flesh.*

What god drove them to fight with such a fury?
Apollo the son of Zeus and Leto. Incensed at the king 10
he swept a fatal plague through the army—men were dying
and all because * Agamemnon spurned Apollo's priest.
Yes, Chryses approached the Achaeans' fast ships
to win his daughter back, bringing a priceless ransom

- Theme of Rage. —What is the will of Zeus?
- An appeal to the goddess Muse.
- Agamemnon causes a Plague.