



# The Iliad: 3 Editions

*Homer*

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## **The Iliad: 3 Editions** Homer

The Iliad (sometimes referred to as the Song of Ilion or Song of Ilium) is an ancient Greek epic poem in dactylic hexameter, traditionally attributed to the poet Homer.

Set during the Trojan War, the ten-year siege of the city of Troy (Ilium) by a coalition of Greek states, it tells of the battles and events during the weeks of a quarrel between King Agamemnon and the warrior Achilles.

The Iliad was a standard work of great importance already in Classical Greece and remained so throughout the Hellenistic and Byzantine periods. It made its return to Italy and Western Europe beginning in the 15th century, primarily through translations into Latin and the vernacular languages.

This collection includes three different translations of the Iliad into English.

**Edward Smith-Stanley (Earl of Derby)**'s translation is closely allied to the original Greek and has been hailed as "superior to any that has yet been attempted in the blank verse".

**Alexander Pope**'s translation makes use of heroic couplets (poems constructed from a sequence of rhyming pairs of lines in iambic pentameter) and was praised as "a performance which no age or nation could hope to equal". But also criticized for its poetic liberties with the original Greek.

**Samuel Butler**'s translation reshapes the original poem into prose. The prose translation sidesteps many of the problems encountered by translators trying to conform the archaic Greek meter to English and provides a highly readable text. The prose translation, however, loses any sense of the original's oral poetry.

This collection also includes links to **free audiobook versions of the Earl of Derby's translation and of Butler's translation**. The original poem was meant to be heard not read.

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