

## §10. Phoinix



Then at the last spake out the knightly and reverend Phoinix,  
letting his tears well up, in fear for the galleys Achaean . . .

– *Achilles to Odysseus, Iliad 9:378*

The problem of Iliad 9 (The Embassy) was solved, to present satisfaction, on p12-13 of the Prolegomena. That solution identified the speech of Phoinix as intrusive, but left for consideration the character of the speech itself, which has been admired by many.<sup>1</sup> Here are the segments and the resulting crosstable. Achilles has offered to let him remain at Troy if he cares to:

- a. 434-437 (4) Introduction: he cannot remain at Troy
- b. 438-495 (58) He stands to Achilles in the place of a parent
- c. 496-522 (27) urges Achilles to forget his anger and accept the gifts
- d. 523-599 (77) The exemplary tale of Meleager
- e. 600-605 (6) Final direct appeal

<i>Phoinix</i>	<i>a*</i>	<i>b</i>	<i>c</i>	<i>d</i>	<i>e</i>
<i>a*</i>	~	0-00	0-00	0-00	0-00
<i>b</i>	0-00	~	0-00	0-00	0-00
<i>c</i>	0-00	0-00	~	0-00	0-00
<i>d</i>	0-00	0-00	0-00	~	0-00
<i>e</i>	0-00	0-00	0-00	0-00	~

Text

All is exaggerated. Nestor's speech in 1:254-284, where age is the ground for giving advice, here becomes Phoinix' claim to be, in effect, Achilles' father. The tale of Meleager enormously exceeds in length anything else of that kind. Let those who like see it as a final, honorable attempt to persuade Achilles.

<sup>1</sup>For Wilamowitz (*Ilias* 65) "the jewel in the crown" (Willcock *Companion* 95).