

The Homeric Depiction of the Olympian Gods and Achilles

- 1) In the passage beginning at *Rep.* II.379a and continuing to the end of book II Socrates (speaking for Plato) criticizes Homer's depiction of the gods:
 - a) Formulate each of the two laws referred to at 380c. One sentence for each law is sufficient.
 - b) In the *Iliad* the gods are often depicted as acting at variance with these two laws. Plato gives some examples, but there are many more:
 - i) Find an example of your own in the *Iliad* where a god is depicted as acting contrary to the **first** law.
 - ii) Find an example of your own in the *Iliad* where a god is depicted as acting contrary to the **second** law.
 - iii) Cite book and line of the *Iliad*, and describe each example in sufficient detail to make it plain that Plato's law is violated.
- 2) At the beginning of *Republic* III Plato makes it plain that he doesn't want the warriors of his ideal city to emulate Achilles (at least as Homer portrays him).
 - a) What does Plato not like about Homer's Achilles? Make an inventory of the actions and qualities of Achilles that Plato disapproves of.
 - b) Would any of the following heroes, as they are portrayed in the *Iliad*, be a better model of Plato's ideal warrior: Agammenon, Odysseus, Paris, Hector? If so, why? If not, why not?