

**Holmes, B. (2007) "The *Iliad*'s Economy of Pain," *Transactions of the American Philological Association* 137.1, 45-84.**

This article analyzes the representation of *odunai* in the *Iliad*, pains usually caused by weapons in descriptions of wounding. It shows that wounding scenes offer the opportunity to represent the circulation of suffering (*algea*) that constitutes the epic plot. It focuses in particular on the wounding of Agamemnon in Book 11, which compares him to a woman in labor — the only time a simile is used to capture *odunai*. It argues that this simile implicitly challenges an economy which trades *timê* by means of blood and pain, a challenge echoed by Hecuba's maternal anger in book 24. Finally, it suggests that the epic's use of mothers to represent fierce and irreducible pain anticipates tragic appropriations of the feminine.