

Reese Gerjekian  
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## Reading Response 2: Homer's Iliad

*Prompt: In this reading response, focused on Homer's Iliad, we'll focus on the gods that play a roll in this epic Trojan War. Over the course of 300 words, I'd like you to compare and contrast Zeus and Apollo as they're presented in this text. Make sure to highlight at least 1 similarity and 1 difference (more is always good!) and support your observations with at least 3 citations from the ancient text. Remember there are no right or wrong answers here as long as you support your argument with strong reasoning and evidence from the text.*

In Homer's Iliad, Book 1, Zeus and Apollo play significant roles, demonstrating their divine influence and unique characteristics. A notable similarity between them is their direct involvement in mortal affairs. For example, in response to Agamemnon's dishonor of his priest, Apollo sends a plague to the Greek camp, illustrating his ability to affect the mortal world: "Who then of the gods was it that brought these two together to contend? The son of Leto and Zeus; for he in anger against the king roused throughout the host an evil pestilence, and the people began to perish..." (Homer, Iliad, Book 1.8-10). Similarly, Zeus's overarching control is evident as the Trojan War unfolds according to his plan: "thus the plan of Zeus came to fulfillment, from the time when first they parted in strife Atreus' son, king of men, and brilliant Achilles." (Homer, Iliad, Book 1.5-6).

Despite this shared ability to influence human affairs, Zeus and Apollo differ in their temperaments and the extent of their powers. Zeus is often portrayed as more measured and authoritative, while Apollo is depicted as more impulsive and reactive. Moreover, Zeus's authority extends over all aspects of the cosmos, making him a central figure in the pantheon, whereas Apollo's powers are more specialized.

Zeus's authority over the other gods is also highlighted in the text. For instance, he sends Athene to prevent Achilles from attacking Agamemnon, demonstrating his ability to maintain order among gods and mortals: "But come, cease from strife, and do not grasp the sword with your hand. With words indeed taunt him, telling him how it shall be. For thus will I speak, and this thing shall truly be brought to pass. Hereafter three times as many glorious gifts shall be yours on account of this arrogance. But refrain, and obey us." (Homer, Iliad, Book 1.208-212).

In conclusion, Zeus and Apollo are both powerful deities in the Iliad, able to significantly influence mortal affairs. However, they differ in their temperaments, with Zeus being more balanced and authoritative, while Apollo is more reactive and specialized in his powers.

### Bibliography

"Homer, Iliad, Book 1." *W*[www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0134%3Abook%3D1](http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0134%3Abook%3D1).

Word Count: 344