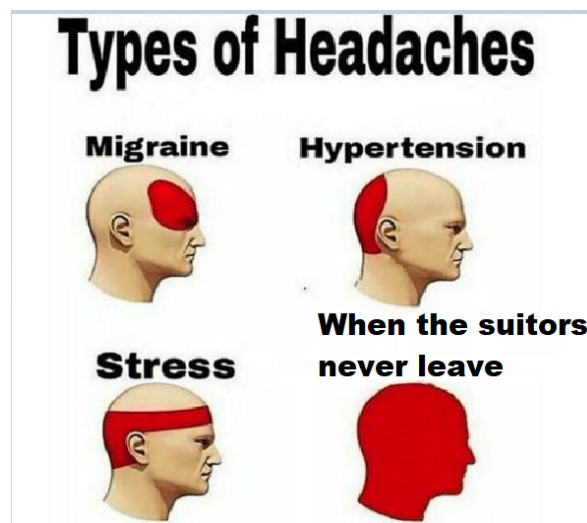


Odyssey

Book 1: The Boy and the Goddess

The poem begins with the invocation to the Muse. Zeus is in his palace with the other gods- except Poseidon- and Athena lobbies for Odysseus to be sent home. Zeus agrees and sends Hermes to Ogygia where Calypso lives to tell her to let Odysseus go. Athena then devises a plan to raise Odysseus' son's spirits by posing as a guest-friend, Mentos. Telemachus speaks to her about how his mother Penelope's suitors are eating their food and never leaving. Athena as Mentos tells Telemachus his father is alive and then flies away like an owl. Telemachus gains new courage from his meeting with the divine. The poet Phemius sings a sad song about heroes never making it home and upsets Penelope. She tells him to sing another song and Telemachus rebukes her. She leaves and Telemachus addresses the suitors. He plans a meeting with the suitors for the next day and two of the men question him on whom he was speaking to earlier.



This quote shows how the suitors' behavior and overstay are worrisome and uncomfortable.

"The gods have given me so many other troubles. All the chiefs of Same, Zacynthus, Dulichium, and local lords from rocky Ithaca, are courting Mother, wasting our whole house."

Odyssey 1.244 ff

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Emily R. Wilson, W.W. Norton & Company, 2018.

Book 2: A Dangerous Journey

Telemachus calls a meeting and speaks to the high-ranking men of Ithaca. He tells of the wrongdoings he's been inflicted with by the suitors. Then Antinous, one of Penelope's suitors, declares there is nothing wrong in the suitors' behavior and it is instead Penelope who is in the wrong. He explains that she told the suitors that she will choose one to marry after she finishes Laertes' funeral shroud. During the day she would spin her loom and at night unravel all the day's work. This went on for three years until a slave revealed the truth to the men vying for her hand in marriage. Telemachus defends his mother and

asks for a ship to take him to Pylos to learn more of his father's journey. Zeus sends two eagles to attack the suitors and a man named Halitherses proclaims a prophecy that Odysseus is on his way home. Mentor sticks up for Telemachus and Leocritus dismisses the man's warnings. After the meeting, Telemachus prays to Athena and she responds in the form of Mentor and promises to help. Athena rounds up men for the trip and selects a ship. Telemachus arrives back at his father's house and is mocked by the suitors. Then he goes to his nanny, Eurycleia, and asks her to pack for his trip. She complies; Telemachus and his men leave in the night with Athena's aid.

odysseus: *is gone*

penelope's suitors:



This quote reveals how Penelope's suitors have taken over their house and life. They are treating themselves to Odysseus' wealth and home.

"First I lost my father, who was kind to you as if you also were his sons. Now, even worse, my house is being ripped apart; my wealth will soon be gone! The sons of all the nobles have shoved inside my house to court my mother, against her wishes. They should go and ask Icarius her father to provide a dowry, and choose who should be her husband. They are too scared. Instead, they haunt our house day after day, and kill our cows and pigs and good fat goats. They feast and drink red wine, not caring if they waste it all."

Odyssey 2.45 ff

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Emily R. Wilson, W.W. Norton & Company, 2018.

Book 3: An Old King Remembers

Telemachus reaches Pylos and is welcomed by Nestor and his sons. They give thanks to Poseidon and have a feast. Then Telemachus asks Nestor for news of his father and Nestor regales him with old war stories. He compliments Odysseus on his cleverness in war and recounts the suffering of the Greeks. He tells that after the war Menelaus and Agamemnon argued about when to set sail and the troops became divided. They then faced more troubles at sea. Nestor made it home, Menelaus went to Egypt, and Agamemnon returned to Mycenae where he was murdered by Clytemnestra and Aegisthus. Nestor warns Telemachus that the suitors in his house are a danger to him. Nestor also encourages Telemachus to visit Menelaus in Sparta and provides horses and for his son to accompany Telemachus on his journey.



This quote shows that danger can hide in the form of an angry sea or a murderous cousin and life is not guaranteed.

“I would rather suffer immensely, but then get home safe,
than die on my return like Agamemnon,
murdered by his own wife, and by Aegisthus.
But death is universal. Even gods
cannot protect the people that they love,
when fate and cruel death catch up with them.”

Odyssey 3.232 ff

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Emily R. Wilson, W.W. Norton & Company, 2018.

Book 4: What the Sea God Said

Telemachus and Nestor’s son Pisistratus reach Sparta during great festivities. Two of Menelaus’ children were getting married and Telemachus and Pisistratus are welcomed. After they eat, Menelaus tells them about his wanderings after the Trojan War because he had caught the disfavor of the gods. He spoke greatly about Odysseus and Telemachus begins to cry. Helen then joins them and remarks the similarities between Odysseus and Telemachus; Menelaus agrees. Pisistratus confirms Telemachus is Odysseus’ son and Menelaus makes them all cry with his grief for his friend. Then Helen adds a drug to

the wine to stop the tears and shares the story of when she met Odysseus while he was spying in Troy. Menelaus share more glorifying tales of the missing hero and the next morning meets with Telemachus. Telemachus tells Menelaus about to suitors in his house and causes an outrage. Then Menelaus shares a story from his travels when he captured the sea god Proteus. He reveals that Odysseus is on Calypso's island, unable to return home. Back in Ithaca, the suitors realize Telemachus actually did leave to Pylos and grow upset. They plot to murder him at sea before he reaches home. Penelope learns of the plot and is distressed until Athena sends an apparition of her sister to calm her.

showing respect to the woman you wish to marry	
insulting her hero husband and fatherless child	
overstaying your welcome and destroying the wealth of her husband's house	
killing her only child on his return home	

The quote below demonstrates the murderous intent of the suitors crowding Telemachus' home and the unsafe conditions breeding in the absence of Odysseus.

"This is the start of worse.
May Zeus destroy his strength before he reaches
manhood. Give me a ship and twenty men,
so I may watch and catch him in the strait
in between Ithaca and craggy Same.
A sad end to this journey for his father!"

Odyssey 4.667 ff

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Emily R. Wilson, W.W. Norton & Company, 2018.

Book 5: From the Goddess to the Storm

Zeus holds council with the other gods- Poseidon is absent. Athena asks Zeus to stop the suitors from killing Telemachus and he sends her to protect him. Then Zeus sends Hermes to Calypso's island so she will let Odysseus go. When Hermes delivers the news, Calypso is angry but relents because it is Zeus' wish. She tells Odysseus he can leave and tells him to build a raft. After eighteen days at sea, Odysseus spots Phaeacian land and Poseidon spots him. The god sends a great wave and knocks him off the raft.

Ino, the White Goddess, gives him her scarf so he can safely make it to shore. With the aid of Athena, Odysseus survives the dangerous waters and rocks and makes it to a safe river. He returns the scarf to Ino and sleeps in a bush.

odysseus: i see land!

poseidon:



This quote reveals Poseidon's wrath at Odysseus. It also shows that Odysseus is fearful for his life and does not think he will ever make it home again because he has garnered Poseidon's disfavor.

“He gathered up
the clouds, and seized his trident and stirred round
the sea and roused the gusts of every wind,
and covered earth and sea with fog. Night stretched
from heaven. Eurys, Notus, blasting Zephyr
and Boreas, the child of sky, all fell
and rolled a mighty wave. Odysseus
grew weak at knees. He cried out in despair.”

Odyssey 5.292 ff

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Emily R. Wilson, W.W. Norton & Company, 2018.

Book 6: A Princess and Her Laundry

Appearing as a friend, Athena advises the Phaeacian princess Nausicaa to go to the river and wash laundry. In the morning, Nausicaa takes clothes, food, and slaves down to the river where Odysseus is sleeping near. While playing with a ball, Odysseus is woken and approaches the princess. She tells him to bathe and gives him clothes to wear. She also tells him to follow her into town but not with her to avoid suspicions from her people. Odysseus goes to the temple of Athena to wait and pray.



This quote shows Odysseus in a weak and desperate position. He is still crafty and uses his speech to gather trust and pity so he can get what he needs.

“But I am desperate. I came from
Ogygia, and for twenty days storm winds
and waves were driving me, adrift until
yesterday some god washed me up right here,
perhaps to meet more suffering. I think
my troubles will not end until the gods
have done their all. My lady, pity me.
Battered and wrecked, I come to you, you first-
and I know no one else in this whole country.
Show me the town, give me some rags to wear,
if you brought any clothes when you came here.”

Odyssey 6.169 ff

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Emily R. Wilson, W.W. Norton & Company, 2018.

Book 7: A Magical Kingdom

Nausicaa arrives back at the palace and Odysseus leaves Athena's temple. While walking through the town, Athena shrouds him in a mist to make him invisible. Then the goddess takes the form of a young girl that Odysseus asks for directions from. She warns him not to attract attention and leads him to the king's palace all the while invisible from the Phaeacians. Athena tells him to first supplicate to the queen and that if she looks kindly upon him, he will have a chance to go home. Odysseus does as she says and approaches the queen first. At this moment Athena lifts the mist and he finally appears to the Phaeacians. He receives a warm welcome and dines next to King Alcinous. Queen Arete asks him about his clothes and he tells her Nausicaa gave them to him earlier that day. Odysseus tells of his recent plight on Calypso's island and his desire to go home. King Alcinous promises he can leave the next day and Odysseus goes to sleep on the porch.



The quote below shows the hospitality bestowed on Odysseus once in the Phaeacian palace. He is received graciously, and Odysseus welcomes the chance to recover after his ordeal on the sea.

“He made Laodamas, his favorite son,
vacate his chair so he could sit beside him.
The slave girl brought him water in a pitcher
of gold to wash his hands, and poured it out
over a silver bowl, and fetched a table
of polished wood; a humble slave brought out
bread and an ample plateful of meat.
Half-starved and weak, the hero ate and drank.”

Odyssey 7.170 ff

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Emily R. Wilson, W.W. Norton & Company, 2018.

Book 8: The Songs of a Poet

King Alcinous gathers the leaders of Phaeacia and addresses them. He says that the lost stranger needs to go home and that Phaeacia will help him on his journey. They select a boat and 52 men to travel with Odysseus. Afterward, they go to the palace to feast in celebration of the voyage. Then the poet Demodocus sings of the quarrel between Odysseus and Achilles. Odysseus cries, hiding his face and only the king notices. Alcinous stops the poet and suggests that everyone go outside to partake in athletic games so the stranger may take tales of their strength to his homeland. Laodamas invites Odysseus to try his hand in the games and he declines. Euryalus then turns to mock Odysseus and angers him. Odysseus throws a heavy discus further than all the rest and Athena is disguised as a mortal congratulates him. Next came Phaeacian dancing and a song about Ares and Aphrodite’s affair that Odysseus enjoyed. King Alcinous then told all the lords and nobles to bring gifts for Odysseus to take home and they all complied. After they ate, Odysseus asks Demodocus to tell the story of the Trojan horse. Odysseus sobs and Alcinous asks who he is.

**odysseus: demodocus, tell us about
the wooden horse
odysseus, two seconds later:**



This quote demonstrates the misery Odysseus felt about his friends and comrades at Troy that he lost all those years ago.

“Her face is marked with her despair.
In that same desperate way, Odysseus
was crying. No one noticed that his eyes
were wet with tears, except Alcinous,
who sat right next to him and heard his sobs.”

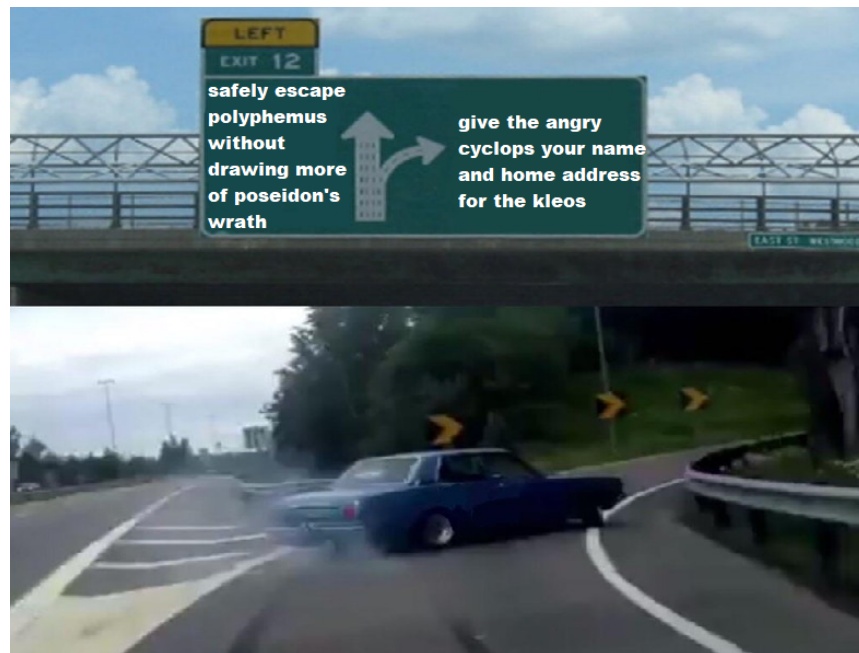
Odyssey 8.530 ff

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Emily R. Wilson, W.W. Norton & Company, 2018.

Book 9: A Pirate in a Shepard's Cave

Odysseus introduced himself. He tells that as his ship left Troy a blast of wind sent him to the Cicones in Ismarus where his crew sacked the city and took the women. After this was done Odysseus wanted to leave but his crew did not listen. They were attacked by neighbors of the city they plundered and lost six men from each ship. Next Zeus sent a wind that brought Odysseus' ships to the island of the Lotus-Eaters. Once his a few of his men ate the lotus, they lost their will to return home and Odysseus tied them up and promptly left the island. Then they reached the island of the Cyclopes. Odysseus wanted to find out who lived here and if they would respect the laws of hospitality and give gifts. He selected twelve men to accompany him and they traveled to a cave separate from the others. Once meeting the Cyclops Polyphemos, Odysseus asks him to respect Zeus and the laws between hosts and guests. Polyphemos eats two of Odysseus' men instead and they remain trapped in his cave overnight because the stone door is too heavy for anyone to move. The next morning two more men were eaten, and Odysseus schemed. While the Cyclops was gone, he and his men made a stake. Then when Polyphemos returned, he ate two more men and Odysseus offered him the special wine he had brought with him. Polyphemos orders Odysseus to give his name and Odysseus tells him it is "Noman". When Polyphemos is drunk and passed out. Odysseus and his men shoved the stake into his eye. Polyphemos cried out to the other

Cyclopes that “No man” has hurt him. The other Cyclopes think he is sick and leave. In the morning Odysseus and his men escape the cave by hanging from the bellies of the rams as they leave for the pasture. Once in their ship, Odysseus cannot help but taunt the cyclops and tell him his name and home address. Polyphemus asks his father, Poseidon, to curse Odysseus.



This quote shows how Odysseus was concerned with glory and would reach for *kleos* at the sake of everyone's safety.

“Please! Calm down! Why are you being so insistent and taunting this wild man? He hurled that stone and drove our ship right back to land. We thought that we were going to die. If he had heard us, he would have hurled a jagged rock and crushed our heads and wooden ship. He throws so hard!”

But my tough heart was not convinced; I was still furious, and shouted back again,

‘Cyclops! If any mortal asks you how your eye was mutilated and made blind, say that Odysseus, the city-sacker, Laertes’ son, who lives in Ithaca, destroyed your sight.’”

Odyssey 9.494 ff

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Emily R. Wilson, W.W. Norton & Company, 2018.

Book 10: The Winds and the Witch

They then reached the island of Aeolus, guardian of the winds. As a gift to Odysseus, he gave him a bag containing the winds and the ships came within sight of Ithaca. However, Odysseus fell asleep and his jealous crew members wanted to see what treasures were in the bag. They released the ties and the winds hit them all at once and sent them back to Aeolus. When Odysseus asked Aeolus for help once more, Aeolus yelled at them to get out because he saw Odysseus was hated by the gods and wanted nothing to do with him. They set sail again and arrived at Laestrygonia- all the ships except Odysseus' anchored in the harbor. Then they discovered the people living there were cannibalistic giants. All the men in the harbor were killed and eaten with only Odysseus' ship and men making it out. Next, they reached Aeaea where the goddess Circe lived. Half of the remaining men were sent to her house and were turned into pigs by a special potion Circe fed them with their wine except for Eurylochus. The remaining man returned to the ships and told Odysseus what had happened. Odysseus then prepared to go after the men. On his way, he met Hermes who warned him whom he was going to encounter and gave him Moly so Circe could not transfigure him with her magic. Using Hermes' advice, Odysseus gains Circe's promise not to harm him, his men are turned back into people, and he goes to Circe's bed. Odysseus returns to the ship and brings the rest of his men to Circe's house where they stay for a year. She then helps them on their way and tells Odysseus they must travel to the house of Hades to consult with the prophet Tiresias. Right before they left, Elpenor fell from Circe's roof and died.

**odysseus, when his men open the bag of wind
and ruin their chance to go home:**



This quote from book ten shows how Odysseus' men have no sense. Which may be harsh, but their foolishness and jealousy cost them their only chance at returning home.

“That bad idea took hold of them; they did it.
They opened up the bag, and all the winds
rushed out at once. A sudden buffet seized us
and hurled us back to sea, the wrong direction,
far from our home. They screamed and I woke up,
and wondered if I should jump off the ship
and drown, or bite my lip, be stoical.”

Odyssey 10.46 ff

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Emily R. Wilson, W.W. Norton & Company, 2018.

Book 11: The Dead

Following Circe's instructions, Odysseus and his men travel to the land of the Cimmerians. He digs the pit and performs libations and sacrifice, promising all the things Circe told him to promise. Then the spirits of the dead approached. He spoke to Elpenor and saw his mother but held her back until Tiresias came forward. The seer then drank the blood and spoke. Tiresias warns him that if he or his men hurt the Sun God's cattle death and misery will follow. He also gives instructions for a sacrifice in Ithaca when Odysseus returns. Next Odysseus spoke with his mother; she tells him that she died of missing her son. Then came numerous famous women, wives of heroes or lovers of the gods, that Odysseus conversed with. Then the weary hero took a break from his story but Alcinous wanted to know more about the heroes at Troy. Then Odysseus resumes the tale from when he spoke to Agamemnon about being murdered by his wife. Agamemnon imparted to Odysseus that it would be best to arrive home unknown to anyone in preparation of possible plots. Then Odysseus spoke to Achilles and Ajax. He recounted seeing Minos judging the dead and famous figures being punished for crimes against the gods. Then Heracles spoke to him and Odysseus left Hades' house in fear of attracting Persephone's attention.

**odysseus' mother
approaching the
blood**



**tiresias approaching
the blood**



The quote shows the determination of Odysseus to get home and one of the times he actually listened to Circe.

“Then came the spirit of my own dead mother,
Autolycus' daughter Anticleia,
whom I had left alive when I went off
to holy Troy. On seeing her, I wept
in pity. But despite my bitter grief,
I would not let her near the blood till I
talked to Tiresias. The prophet came

holding a golden scepter, and he knew me”

Odyssey 11.83 ff

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Emily R. Wilson, W.W. Norton & Company, 2018.

Book 12: Difficult Choices

Odysseus and his men return to Circe’s island for Elpenor’s funeral. She explains to Odysseus the dangers they are traveling into. The next day the men leave. When they pass by the Sirens, the crew puts wax in their ears and Odysseus is tied to the mast so he can listen to their song. Next, they had to pass by Scylla and Charybdis. Scylla snatches six men and they continue with their journey. When they are close to Helios’ island, Odysseus reveals the warnings he received concerning the cattle. The men don’t care and want to stop there anyway. Once reaching the island the winds stop and they are stuck. Eventually, they run out of food and while Odysseus is asleep, they kill the Sun God’s cattle. Helios is furious and wants Zeus to punish them. Zeus complies. When Odysseus and his men are in the middle of the sea, Zeus sends a storm that wrecks the ship. Odysseus is the only survivor and he floats away on a piece of the ship. He narrowly escapes Charybdis and Scylla and after ten days reaches Calypso’s island.



This quote from the goddess Circe is a warning about the perils of crossing divine boundaries and committing crimes against the gods.

“If you can
remember home and leave the cows unharmed,
you will at least arrive in Ithaca.

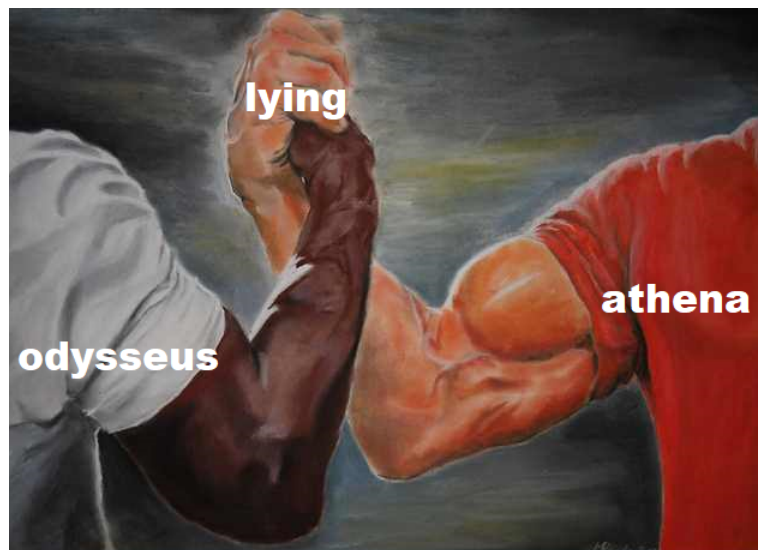
But if you damage them, I must foretell
disaster for your ship and for your crew.
Even if you survive, you will return
late and humiliated, having caused
the death of all your men.”

Odyssey 12.137 ff

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Emily R. Wilson, W.W. Norton & Company, 2018.

Book 13: Two Tricksters

Odysseus is finally ready to leave for Ithaca. The Phaeacians shower him with gifts and he sets off in a fast ship. Odysseus falls asleep and when they reach Ithaca, the Phaeacians leave him in a nymph cove. Poseidon is angered and turns the Phaeacian ship to stone when it is in view of its homeland as punishment for helping travelers. When Odysseus wakes, he does not know where he is because Athena put a mist over the land. She approaches him as a young man and questions him and he lies. She then reveals herself to be the goddess and compliments his deceitful nature. She tells him they are in Ithaca and explains the situation at his house concerning the suitors. She also tells him that his son is in Sparta. Then the goddess changes his form to an old, dirty man so no one will recognize him and leaves to fetch Telemachus.



This quote reveals Athena’s appreciation for Odysseus and his crafty speech by comparing the two of them.

““You clever rascal! So duplicitous,
so talented at lying! You love fiction
and tricks so deeply, you refuse to stop
even in your own land. Yes, both of us
are smart. No man can plan and talk like you,
and I am known among the gods for insight
and craftiness.””

Odyssey 13.294 ff

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Emily R. Wilson, W.W. Norton & Company, 2018.

Book 14: A Loyal Slave

Odysseus visits his slave Eumaeus disguised as a beggar. Odysseus finds him to be loyal and grieving for Odysseus' probable death. Odysseus tells Eumaeus that Odysseus is on his way home; Eumaeus does not believe him. Then the slave asks about the old beggar's story and he gives a long, wild story. Odysseus tells a story about tricking a man for his coat and the slave gives him a place to sleep and a cloak. Odysseus is pleased with Eumaeus.

odysseus, in disguise: odysseus is alive and well
eumaeus: oDYsSEus IS aLiVe aNd WeLI



This quote reveals that Eumaeus is certain his master is dead and believes the old beggar- Odysseus- to be telling lies for no reason. He is loyal but has no faith.

“Eumaeus, you replied,
‘Poor guest! Your tale of woe is very moving,
but pointless; I will not believe a word
about Odysseus. Why did you stoop
to tell those silly lies? I know about
my master’s homecoming.’”

Odyssey 14.360 ff

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Emily R. Wilson, W.W. Norton & Company, 2018.

Book 15: The Prince Returns

Athena visits Telemachus at night and finds him worrying about his father. She tells him to go home and warns him about the suitors plan to kill him before he reaches Ithaca. Once she leaves dawn arises, and preparations are made to leave Menelaus' house. He is given gifts and when departing, an eagle with a goose in its talons flies by. Helen prophesizes that Odysseus is back home to take revenge. Once in Pylos, Telemachus convinces Pisistratus to let him leave without visiting Nestor. While boarding his ship, Telemachus meets Theoclymenus, a murderer skilled in prophecy. Telemachus welcomes Theoclymenus on board and they depart for Ithaca. Odysseus ponders going into town where the suitors feast and Eumaeus warns against it. Odysseus-as the beggar- asks about his father and how Eumaeus became a slave. The swineherd obliges and tells his tale. Telemachus arrives in Ithaca and a hawk with a pigeon in its grip flies by.



This quote is the remarking on the second time a strong bird holding prey flew by Telemachus. It is a sign from the gods of future justice.

“Telemachus! Some god has sent this bird
to fly on your right hand. I knew at once
It was a sign. No family in all
of Ithaca has greater power; you are
the kings forever”

Odyssey 15.532 ff

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Emily R. Wilson, W.W. Norton & Company, 2018.

Book 16: Father and Son

Telemachus arrives at the swineherd's hut in the morning. Odysseus notes the behavior of the dogs and warns Eumaeus. When Eumaeus sees Telemachus, he is overjoyed and greets him as if he was his own son. Telemachus queries after his mother and the state of his house. Odysseus asks how the suitors came to be such a problem and Telemachus explains how powerless he is. Telemachus sends Eumaeus to Penelope with a message. Once he is gone Athena appears to Odysseus. He meets her and she transforms him into a healthy man once again. Telemachus is shocked and then Odysseus tells him that he is his father. Telemachus is even more confused. They cry and then begin battle plans. Telemachus supplies information on the suitors and Odysseus tells him to hide the weapons. Penelope is not to know he is back. Back in town, the suitors realized Telemachus is alive and in Ithaca. Amphinomus speaks against killing Penelope's son to the suitors. Penelope angrily confronts the suitors when they arrive in her home. Eumaeus comes back to the hut and Athena transforms Odysseus into an old man again.

**odysseus and telemachus planning the
suitors' deaths**



This quote shows that Odysseus has revealed himself to Telemachus and they have begun plotting their revenge.

““Athena told me
to come here and make plans with you to kill
our enemies. How many suitors are there?
What kind of men are they? I am well-known
for my intelligence, and I will plot
to work out if we two alone can fight them,
or if we might need others helping us.””

Odyssey 16.233 ff

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Emily R. Wilson, W.W. Norton & Company, 2018.

Book 17: Insults and Abuse

Telemachus tells Eumaeus that the old man- Odysseus- will have to go begging through town for supper because he is busy. Odysseus agrees and Telemachus leaves for home. When he arrives, the women of the house give him a teary welcome and Penelope inquires about his travels. He tells her to change her clothes. Later, she asks again. He tells her what he has experienced and the news from Menelaus regarding his father. Theoclymenus shares the prophecy that Odysseus is already in Ithaca plotting revenge. The suitors go in to eat. Odysseus and Eumaeus travel into town where they encounter Melanthius, a goat herder. Melanthius has some mean words and then kicks Odysseus. Odysseus keeps his temper and Eumaeus prays for the goatherd's ruin. Argos, Odysseus' dog that was a puppy when he left for war, sees his master for the first time in twenty years. He wags his tail and dies, marking the saddest death in Western literature. Odysseus enters his house and begs the suitors for food. All except Antinous give him scraps. Antinous' temper rises and he throws a footstool at Odysseus. The other suitors reproach Antinous while Odysseus and Telemachus think of revenge. Penelope is furious at the suitors and wishes for them to die. She asks to speak to the beggar but Odysseus puts the conversation off.

**penelope, thinking of the suitors' deaths while
they disrespect her house:**



This quote shows Penelope tired of the suitors and disgusted by their behavior. She hates the men and would gladly have them die.

“‘But if Odysseus comes back
to his own native land, he and his son
will soon take vengeance for their violence.’

Telemachus sneezed loudly and the noise
resounded through the hall. Penelope
laughed, and she told Eumaeus,

‘Call the stranger!
My son just sneezed at what I said- you heard?
It is a sign of death for all the suitors;
no one can save them from their ruin now.’”

Odyssey 17.540 ff

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Emily R. Wilson, W.W. Norton & Company, 2018.

Book 18: Two Beggars

A greedy beggar called Irus tries to chase Odysseus away. Odysseus warns the beggar that he will hurt him if he continues taunting him. Irus becomes furious and so a fight is arranged. The suitors gather around for the entertainment and Odysseus plays down his strength. Once it is determined that the two beggars must fight, Athena arrives and gives him strength. Everyone is shocked at his appearance and then Odysseus beats Irus and is rewarded with a meal. Odysseus warns Amphinomus about the trouble ahead with a story. He considers the danger, but Athena has condemned to die so he does not act on his fear. Then Athena gives Penelope the idea to dress up for the suitors. She reproaches Telemachus for not defending the guest and then requests gifts from the suitors. Odysseus is impressed with her cleverness.

One of the slave girls taunts the beggar and Odysseus threatens to have her killed. Eurymachus is rude to Odysseus and he responds in kind. Eurymachus then throws a footstool at Odysseus.

when irus and the suitors see Odysseus' thighs



This quote is revealing of Odysseus' strength and Athena's favor which is unbeknownst to the suitors.

“They all consented, and Odysseus
took off his rags and tied them round his waist,
revealing massive thighs and mighty shoulders,
enormous chest and sturdy arms. Athena
stood near him and increased his strength, to suit
the shepherd of the people. All the suitors
were flabbergasted, and they said,

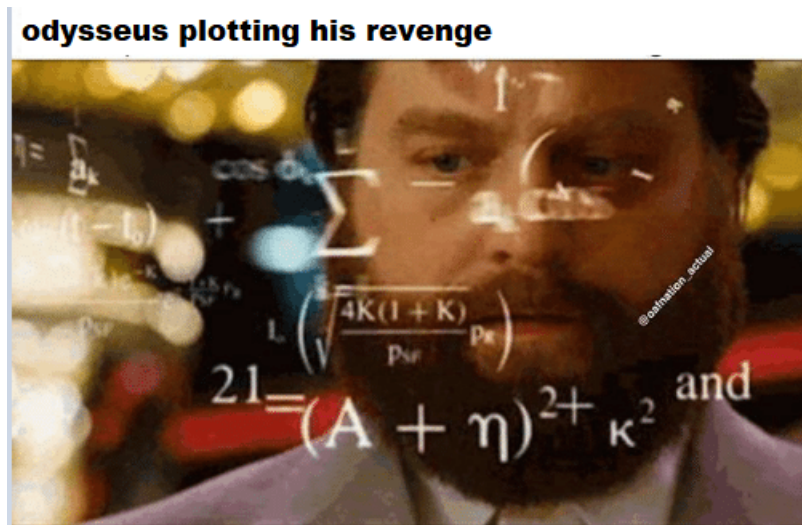
‘This means
the end of Irus-brought upon himself!
What muscles underneath the old man’s rags!’”

Odyssey 18.67 ff

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Emily R. Wilson, W.W. Norton & Company, 2018.

Book 19: The Queen and the Beggar

Odysseus is in the hall planning revenge with Athena when he instructs Telemachus to hide the weapons. Telemachus leaves and tells Eurycleia to lock the doors while he puts the weapons away so they won't be damaged. The house is filled with a divine light while Telemachus moves through the halls. Then the queen leaves her rooms to sit beside the fire. The slave girl Melantho aggravates Odysseus again and Penelope reprimands her. Penelope then invites the guest, Odysseus in disguise, to sit with her and ask him about his people. Odysseus tries to deflect. Penelope tells him about her troubles and asks again after his story. He gives in and skillfully lies to his wife. He tells her how he knows Odysseus and describes him to her to pass a test. Penelope cries and Odysseus tells her that her husband is coming home. Penelope offers Odysseus a bed and he declines. Instead his feet are washed by Eurycleia. The slave woman recognizes a scar Odysseus had on this stranger's leg. Odysseus makes her keep his identity a secret. Penelope shares a prophetic dream she had and her plans for the suitors.



This quote exhibits Odysseus' quick-thinking mind for strategy.

“Odysseus was left there in the hall,
and with Athena, he was hatching plans
for how to kill the suitors. Words flew fast:

‘Telemachus, we have to get the weapons
and hide them. When the suitors see them gone
and question you, come up with good excuses.’”

Odyssey 19.1 ff

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Emily R. Wilson, W.W. Norton & Company, 2018.

Book 20: The Last Banquet

Odysseus is sleeping on the ground outside the entrance to the palace when he witnesses the slave girls going to the suitors' beds. He is enraged and wants to kill them for their treachery. Athena arrives and he questions whether he will escape punishment. She tells him to have faith. Meanwhile, Penelope is praying to be killed because of the pain of her grief. Odysseus asks for a sign by Zeus and Zeus sends thunder to appease Odysseus. A slave speaks an omen that the suitors will die the next day. In the morning Telemachus questions if his mother treated the guest properly then the slave women prepare for the feast. Eumaeus arrives and asks Odysseus if he is treated well. Then Melanthius arrives and taunts Odysseus once more. Odysseus keeps calm while thinking of murder. Another herdsman, Philoetius, arrives and speaks well to Odysseus. Another eagle with prey flies by. Amphinomus discourages murdering Telemachus and the suitors agree. Odysseus is served in his house, but the men still insult and mock him. Ctesippus throws an ox-foot at Odysseus and Telemachus is angered and tells the men to back down. Athena turns the minds of the suitors and they laugh uncontrollably. Then the prophet Theoclymenus sees a grotesque vision of the suitors and leaves the banquet.

theoclymenus: there is an evil coming for you all
suitors: have you lost your mind? get out
theoclymenus:



This quote is a foreshadowing of the suitors' bloody deaths and reveals the arrogance of these men that do not fear retribution.

“‘This new arrival
has lost his mind! Quick, fellows, throw him out!
Make him go to the marketplace-he thinks
it is like night in here!’

The prophet answered,

‘Eurymachus, I will not ask for guides.
I have good eyes and ears and feet; my mind
is working perfectly, and I am leaving.
I sense some evil coming for you all,
who sit here in Odysseus’ house
tormenting and oppressing other people.
Not one of you will get away.’”

Odyssey 20.362 ff

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Emily R. Wilson, W.W. Norton & Company, 2018.

Book 21: An Archery Contest

Athena plants an idea in Penelope’s mind to retrieve Odysseus’ bow and iron axes and put them in the hall for a contest. She addresses the suitors and explains the contest she has set with herself as the prize. First, Telemachus tries the bow but cannot string it. Then the suitors began to try their hands. Odysseus steps outside with the good herdsmen and reveals his identity. They weep and embrace him. The worried suitors try to put off the contest for another day when Odysseus approaches the bow. The suitors speak out against him, but Penelope defends the guest. Telemachus sends his mother to her rooms. Meanwhile, the suitors are in an uproar. Odysseus takes the bow and easily strings it and wins the contest. Odysseus and Telemachus are ready for the slaughter.

odysseus: *strings the bow*
the suitors:



This quote shows the suitors afraid and the beginning of Odysseus' revenge.

“Odysseus, with ease,
strung the great bow. He held it in his right hand
and plucked the string, which sang like swallow-song,
a clear sweet note. The suitors, horrified,
grew pale, and Zeus made ominous thunder rumble.”

Odyssey 22.410 ff

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Emily R. Wilson, W.W. Norton & Company, 2018.

Book 22: Bloodshed

With the bow in his hand, Odysseus is ready for revenge. He shoots Antinous first and then Eurymachus. The suitors grab the furniture to defend themselves to no avail. Telemachus kills Amphinomus then runs for weapons. Odysseus tells the herdsmen to take Melanthius. Athena joins the fray disguised as Mentor and the suitors are killed. Telemachus is ordered to kill the slave girls; he hangs them. Melanthius is mutilated and killed by the other herdsmen. The remaining slave women come out from hiding to greet Odysseus.

the suitors when odysseus reveals himself:



This quote clearly demonstrates Odysseus' murderous rage and shows retribution will be delivered.
"Clever Odysseus scowled back and sneered,

'Dogs! So you thought I would not come back home
from Troy? And so you fleeced my house and raped
my slave girls, and you flirted with my wife
while I am still alive! You did not fear
the gods who live in heaven, and you thought
no man would ever come to take revenge.
Now you are trapped inside the snares of death.'

At that, pale fear seized all of them.
They groped to find a way to save their lives somehow."

Odyssey 22.34 ff

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Emily R. Wilson, W.W. Norton & Company, 2018.

Book 23: The Olive Tree Bed

Eurycleia goes to Penelope to tell her husband is back and the suitors are dead. Penelope thinks the woman has lost her mind. When she sees Odysseus, she is unsure, and Telemachus is insulted on his father's behalf. Odysseus is fine with it and says it'll take time. He also makes plans to keep people from knowing what has happened. Next, Odysseus tells the story of the bed he crafted which makes Penelope realize it is him. He tells his wife an edited version of events. Odysseus sends her away while he prepares for the upcoming battle.

penelope when she realizes it's
odysseus:



This quote shows when Penelope trusted it was Odysseus.

“Now you have told the story of our bed,
the secret that no other mortal knows,
except yourself and me, and just one slave,
Actoris, whom my father gave to me
when I came here, who used to guard our room.
You made my stubborn heart believe in you.”

Odyssey 23.227 ff

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Emily R. Wilson, W.W. Norton & Company, 2018.

Book 24: Restless Spirits

The suitors are led by Hermes to Hades' house. Agamemnon tells Achilles about his funeral. When the suitors arrive, Agamemnon asks how they died. Amphimedon tells their story and Agamemnon is jealous of Odysseus for having a faithful wife. Then Odysseus goes to his father Laertes in the countryside. He reveals himself to his father and then to the slaves. Men related to the killed suitors are outraged and want justice. Zeus declares Odysseus to be king of Ithaca. Odysseus and his family and slaves fight the rebel men and Athena has to put a stop to the killing.

odysseus:



This quote shows the bloodthirsty, feral nature of killing. Odysseus, raging, wanted to kill all that opposed him in his home.

“Odysseus
charged the front line, his radiant son beside him;
they hacked with swords and curving spears. They would
have killed them all and made sure none of them
could go back home- but then Athena spoke”

Odyssey 24.526 ff

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Emily R. Wilson, W.W. Norton & Company, 2018.