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The Odyssey

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by Homer

translated by Samuel Butler

BOOK I

TELL ME, O MUSE, of that ingenious hero who travelled far and wide after he had sacked the f

So now all who escaped death in battle or by shipwreck had got safely home except Ulysses, a

Now Neptune had gone off to the Ethiopians, who are at the world's end, and lie in two halve

"See now, how men lay blame upon us gods for what is after all nothing but their own folly.

Then Minerva said, "Father, son of Saturn, King of kings, it served Aegisthus right, and so

And Jove said, "My child, what are you talking about? How can I forget Ulysses than whom th

And Minerva said, "Father, son of Saturn, King of kings, if, then, the gods now mean that Ul

So saying she bound on her glittering golden sandals, imperishable, with which she can fly 1

Telemachus saw her long before any one else did. He was sitting moodily among the suitors t

He led the way as he spoke, and Minerva followed him. When they were within he took her spe

A maid servant then brought them water in a beautiful golden ewer and poured it into a silve

Then the suitors came in and took their places on the benches and seats. Forthwith men serv

"I hope, sir," said he, "that you will not be offended with what I am going to say. Singing

And Minerva answered, "I will tell you truly and particularly all about it. I am Mentos, sc

"My mother," answered Telemachus, tells me I am son to Ulysses, but it is a wise child that

And Minerva said, "There is no fear of your race dying out yet, while Penelope has such a fi

"Sir," said Telemachus, "as regards your question, so long as my father was here it was well

"Is that so?" exclaimed Minerva, "then you do indeed want Ulysses home again. Give him his

"But there! It rests with heaven to determine whether he is to return, and take his revenge

"Sir," answered Telemachus, "it has been very kind of you to talk to me in this way, as thou

Minerva answered, "Do not try to keep me, for I would be on my way at once. As for any pres

With these words she flew away like a bird into the air, but she had given Telemachus courag

Phemius was still singing, and his hearers sat rapt in silence as he told the sad tale of th

"Phemius," she cried, "you know many another feat of gods and heroes, such as poets love to

"Mother," answered Telemachus, "let the bard sing what he has a mind to; bards do not make t
She went wondering back into the house, and laid her son's saying in her heart. Then, going
Then Telemachus spoke, "Shameless," he cried, "and insolent suitors, let us feast at our ple
The suitors bit their lips as they heard him, and marvelled at the boldness of his speech.
Telemachus answered, "Antinous, do not chide with me, but, god willing, I will be chief too
Then Eurymachus, son of Polybus, answered, "It rests with heaven to decide who shall be chie
"My father is dead and gone," answered Telemachus, "and even if some rumour reaches me I put
The suitors then returned to their singing and dancing until the evening; but when night fel

BOOK II

NOW when the child of morning, rosy-fingered Dawn, appeared, Telemachus rose and dressed him
Aegyptius, a man bent double with age, and of infinite experience, the first to speak His sc
"Men of Ithaca," he said, "hear my words. From the day Ulysses left us there has been no me
Telemachus took this speech as of good omen and rose at once, for he was bursting with what
With this Telemachus dashed his staff to the ground and burst into tears. Every one was ver
"Telemachus, insolent braggart that you are, how dare you try to throw the blame upon us sui
"This was what she said, and we assented; whereon we could see her working on her great web
Telemachus answered, "Antinous, how can I drive the mother who bore me from my father's hous
As he spoke Jove sent two eagles from the top of the mountain, and they flew on and on with
"Hear me, men of Ithaca, and I speak more particularly to the suitors, for I see mischief br
Eurymachus son of Polybus then said, "Go home, old man, and prophesy to your own children, c
Then Telemachus said, "Eurymachus, and you other suitors, I shall say no more, and entreat y
With these words he sat down, and Mentor who had been a friend of Ulysses, and had been left
"Hear me, men of Ithaca, I hope that you may never have a kind and well-disposed ruler any n
Leiocritus, son of Evenor, answered him saying, "Mentor, what folly is all this, that you sh
On this he broke up the assembly, and every man went back to his own abode, while the suitor
Then Telemachus went all alone by the sea side, washed his hands in the grey waves, and pray
"Hear me," he cried, "you god who visited me yesterday, and bade me sail the seas in search
As he thus prayed, Minerva came close up to him in the likeness and with the voice of Mentor
Thus spoke Minerva daughter of Jove, and Telemachus lost no time in doing as the goddess tol

"Antinous," answered Telemachus, "I cannot eat in peace, nor take pleasure of any kind with
As he spoke he snatched his hand from that of Antinous. Meanwhile the others went on getting
"Telemachus," said one youngster, "means to be the death of us; I suppose he thinks he can k
Another said, "Perhaps if Telemachus goes on board ship, he will be like his father and peri
This was how they talked. But Telemachus went down into the lofty and spacious store-room w
"Nurse, draw me off some of the best wine you have, after what you are keeping for my father
When Euryclea heard this she began to cry, and spoke fondly to him, saying, "My dear child,
"Fear not, nurse," answered Telemachus, "my scheme is not without heaven's sanction; but swe
The old woman swore most solemnly that she would not, and when she had completed her oath, s
Then Minerva bethought her of another matter. She took his shape, and went round the town t
Furthermore she went to the house of Ulysses, and threw the suitors into a deep slumber. Sh
"Telemachus," said she, "the men are on board and at their oars, waiting for you to give you
On this she led the way, while Telemachus followed in her steps. When they got to the ship t
With these words he led the way and the others followed after. When they had brought the thi
Thus, then, the ship sped on her way through the watches of the night from dark till dawn.

BOOK III

BUT as the sun was rising from the fair sea into the firmament of heaven to shed Blight on n
Minerva led the way and Telemachus followed her. Presently she said, "Telemachus, you must
"But how, Mentor," replied Telemachus, "dare I go up to Nestor, and how am I to address him?
"Some things, Telemachus," answered Minerva, "will be suggested to you by your own instinct,
She then went quickly on, and Telemachus followed in her steps till they reached the place w
"Offer a prayer, sir," said he, "to King Neptune, for it is his feast that you are joining;
As he spoke he handed her the cup. Minerva thought it very right and proper of him to have
When she had thus made an end of praying, she handed the cup to Telemachus and he prayed lik
"Now," said he, "that our guests have done their dinner, it will be best to ask them who the
Telemachus answered boldly, for Minerva had given him courage to ask about his father and ge
"Nestor," said he, "son of Neleus, honour to the Achaean name, you ask whence we come, and I
"My friend," answered Nestor, "you recall a time of much sorrow to my mind, for the brave Ac
"When however, we had sacked the city of Priam, and were setting sail in our ships as heaven
"The sons of Atreus called a meeting which was not as it should be, for it was sunset and th

"That night we rested and nursed our anger, for Jove was hatching mischief against us. But
"Therefore, my dear young friend, I returned without hearing anything about the others. I k
"Nestor son of Neleus," answered Telemachus, "honour to the Achaean name, the Achaeans appla
"My friend," said Nestor, "now that you remind me, I remember to have heard that your mother
Telemachus answered, "I can expect nothing of the kind; it would be far too much to hope for
On this Minerva said, "Telemachus, what are you talking about? Heaven has a long arm if it i
"Mentor," answered Telemachus, "do not let us talk about it any more. There is no chance of
"I will tell you truly," answered Nestor, "and indeed you have yourself divined how it all h
"At first she would have nothing to do with his wicked scheme, for she was of a good natural
"Meanwhile Menelaus and I were on our way home from Troy, on good terms with one another. W
"Take my advice then, and do not go travelling about for long so far from home, nor leave yo
As he spoke the sun set and it came on dark, whereon Minerva said, "Sir, all that you have s
Thus spoke the daughter of Jove, and they obeyed her saying. Men servants poured water over
"Heaven and the immortal gods," he exclaimed, "forbid that you should leave my house to go c
Then Minerva answered, "Sir, you have spoken well, and it will be much better that Telemachu
When she had thus spoken, she flew away in the form of an eagle, and all marvelled as they k
Thus did he pray, and Minerva heard his prayer. He then led the way to his own house, follc
Now when the child of morning, rosy-fingered Dawn, appeared, Nestor left his couch and took
"My sons," said he, "make haste to do as I shall bid you. I wish first and foremost to prop
On this they hurried off on their several errands. The heifer was brought in from the plain
When they had done praying and sprinkling the barley meal Thrasymedes dealt his blow, and br
Meanwhile lovely Polycaste, Nestor's youngest daughter, washed Telemachus. When she had was
Thus did he speak, and they did even as he had said, and yoked the fleet horses to the chari
Now when the sun had set and darkness was over the land,

BOOK IV (1)

THEY reached the low lying city of Lacedaemon where they drove straight to the abode of Mene
So the neighbours and kinsmen of Menelaus were feasting and making merry in his house. Ther
Telemachus and the son of Nestor stayed their horses at the gate, whereon Eteoneus servant t
Menelaus was very angry and said, "Eteoneus, son of Boethous, you never used to be a fool, k

So Eteoneus bustled back and bade other servants come with him. They took their sweating hands
When the servants had washed them and anointed them with oil, they brought them woollen cloaks
Menelaus then greeted them saying, "Fall to, and welcome; when you have done supper I shall
On this he handed them a piece of fat roast loin, which had been set near him as being a prize
Menelaus overheard him and said, "No one, my sons, can hold his own with Jove, for his house
Thus spoke Menelaus, and the heart of Telemachus yearned as he bethought him of his father.
While he was thus in two minds Helen came down from her high vaulted and perfumed room, looking
"Do we know, Menelaus," said she, "the names of these strangers who have come to visit us?"
"My dear wife," replied Menelaus, "I see the likeness just as you do. His hands and feet are
Then Pisistratus said, "Menelaus, son of Atreus, you are right in thinking that this young man
"Bless my heart," replied Menelaus, "then I am receiving a visit from the son of a very dear
Thus did he speak, and his words set them all a weeping. Helen wept, Telemachus wept, and so
"Sir, my father Nestor, when we used to talk about you at home, told me you were a person of
"Your discretion, my friend," answered Menelaus, "is beyond your years. It is plain you take
On this Asphalion, one of the servants, poured water over their hands and they laid their hands
Then Jove's daughter Helen bethought her of another matter. She drugged the wine with an herb
"Menelaus, son of Atreus, and you my good friends, sons of honourable men (which is as Jove
Then Menelaus said, "All that you have been saying, my dear wife, is true. I have travelled
"How sad," exclaimed Telemachus, "that all this was of no avail to save him, nor yet his own
On this Helen told the maid servants to set beds in the room that was in the gatehouse, and

BOOK IV (2)

When the child of morning, rosy-fingered Dawn, appeared, Menelaus rose and dressed himself.
"And what, Telemachus, has led you to take this long sea voyage to Lacedaemon? Are you on your
"I have come, sir replied Telemachus, "to see if you can tell me anything about my father.
Menelaus on hearing this was very much shocked. "So," he exclaimed, "these cowards would use
"I was trying to come on here, but the gods detained me in Egypt, for my hecatombs had not gone
"She came to me one day when I was by myself, as I often was, for the men used to go with their
"Let me tell you," said I, "whichever of the goddesses you may happen to be, that I am not
"Stranger," replied she, "I will make it all quite clear to you. There is an old immortal who
"Can you show me," said I, "some stratagem by means of which I may catch this old god witho

"'Stranger,' said she, 'I will make it all quite clear to you. About the time when the sun s
"'First he will look over all his seals, and count them; then, when he has seen them and tal
"Having so said she dived under the waves, whereon I turned back to the place where my ships
"When the child of morning, rosy-fingered Dawn, appeared, I took the three men on whose prow
"We waited the whole morning and made the best of it, watching the seals come up in hundreds
"'You know that yourself, old man,' I answered, 'you will gain nothing by trying to put me c
"Then,' he said, 'if you would finish your voyage and get home quickly, you must offer sacri
"I was broken hearted when I heard that I must go back all that long and terrible voyage to
"'Son of Atreus,' he answered, 'why ask me? You had better not know what I can tell you, fc
"'Your brother and his ships escaped, for Juno protected him, but when he was just about to
"'Now there was a watchman whom Aegisthus kept always on the watch, and to whom he had promi
"Thus spoke Proteus, and I was broken hearted as I heard him. I sat down upon the sands and
"On this I took comfort in spite of all my sorrow, and said, 'I know, then, about these two;
"'The third man,' he answered, 'is Ulysses who dwells in Ithaca. I can see him in an island
"As he spoke he dived under the waves, whereon I turned back to the ships with my companions
"And now for yourself- stay here some ten or twelve days longer, and I will then speed you c
"Son of Atreus," replied Telemachus, "do not press me to stay longer; I should be contented
Menelaus smiled and took Telemachus's hand within his own. "What you say," said he, "shows
Thus did they converse [and guests kept coming to the king's house. They brought sheep and
Meanwhile the suitors were throwing discs or aiming with spears at a mark on the levelled gr
"Have we any idea, Antinous, on what day Telemachus returns from Pylos? He has a ship of mi
They were astounded when they heard this, for they had made sure that Telemachus had not gon
"I lent it him," answered Noemon, "what else could I do when a man of his position said he w
Noemon then went back to his father's house, but Antinous and Eurymachus were very angry. T
"Good heavens, this voyage of Telemachus is a very serious matter; we had made sure that it
Thus did he speak, and the others applauded his saying; they then all of them went inside th
It was not long ere Penelope came to know what the suitors were plotting; for a man servant,
Then Medon said, "I wish, Madam, that this were all; but they are plotting something much mc
Then Penelope's heart sank within her, and for a long time she was speechless; her eyes fill
"I do not know," answered Medon, "whether some god set him on to it, or whether he went on h

Then he went downstairs again, leaving Penelope in an agony of grief. There were plenty of
"My dears, heaven has been pleased to try me with more affliction than any other woman of my
Then the dear old nurse Euryclea said, "You may kill me, Madam, or let me live on in your hc
With these words she made her mistress leave off crying, and dried the tears from her eyes.
"Hear me," she cried, "Daughter of Aegis-bearing Jove, unweariable. If ever Ulysses while h
She cried aloud as she spoke, and the goddess heard her prayer; meanwhile the suitors were c
"The queen is preparing for her marriage with one or other of us. Little does she dream that
This was what they said, but they did not know what was going to happen. Then Antinous said
He then chose twenty men, and they went down to their. ship and to the sea side; they drew
But Penelope lay in her own room upstairs unable to eat or drink, and wondering whether her
Then Minerva bethought her of another matter, and made a vision in the likeness of Penelope'
"You are asleep, Penelope: the gods who live at ease will not suffer you to weep and be so s
Penelope, who was sleeping sweetly at the gates of dreamland, answered, "Sister, why have yo
Then the vision said, "Take heart, and be not so much dismayed. There is one gone with him w
"Then," said Penelope, "if you are a god or have been sent here by divine commission, tell m
And the vision said, "I shall not tell you for certain whether he is alive or dead, and ther
Then it vanished through the thong-hole of the door and was dissipated into thin air; but Pe
Meantime the suitors went on board and sailed their ways over the sea, intent on murdering T

BOOK V

AND NOW, as Dawn rose from her couch beside Tithonus- harbinger of light alike to mortals an
"Father Jove," said she, "and all you other gods that live in everlasting bliss, I hope ther
"What, my dear, are you talking about?" replied her father, "did you not send him there you
When he had thus spoken, he said to his son Mercury, "Mercury, you are our messenger, go the
Thus he spoke, and Mercury, guide and guardian, slayer of Argus, did as he was told. Forthw
He found her at home. There was a large fire burning on the hearth, and one could smell frc
Calypso knew him at once- for the gods all know each other, no matter how far they live from
As she spoke she drew a table loaded with ambrosia beside him and mixed him some red nectar,
"We are speaking god and goddess to one another, one another, and you ask me why I have come
Calypso trembled with rage when she heard this, "You gods," she exclaimed, to be ashamed of
"Then send him away," said Mercury, "or Jove will be angry with you and punish you"

On this he took his leave, and Calypso went out to look for Ulysses, for she had heard Jove's
"My poor fellow, you shall not stay here grieving and fretting your life out any longer. I
Ulysses shuddered as he heard her. "Now goddess," he answered, "there is something behind a
Calypso smiled at this and caressed him with her hand: "You know a great deal," said she, "k
When she had thus spoken she led the way rapidly before him, and Ulysses followed in her ste
"Ulysses, noble son of Laertes, so you would start home to your own land at once? Good luck
"Goddess," replied Ulysses, "do not be angry with me about this. I am quite aware that my wi
Presently the sun set and it became dark, whereon the pair retired into the inner part of th
When the child of morning, rosy-fingered Dawn, appeared, Ulysses put on his shirt and cloak,
In four days he had completed the whole work, and on the fifth Calypso sent him from the isl
But King Neptune, who was returning from the Ethiopians, caught sight of Ulysses a long way
Thereon he gathered his clouds together, grasped his trident, stirred it round in the sea, a
As he spoke a sea broke over him with such terrific fury that the raft reeled again, and he
When he was in this plight, Ino daughter of Cadmus, also called Leucothea, saw him. She had
"My poor good man," said she, "why is Neptune so furiously angry with you? He is giving you
But Ulysses did not know what to think. "Alas," he said to himself in his dismay, "this is
While he was thus in two minds, Neptune sent a terrible great wave that seemed to rear itsel
But Minerva resolved to help Ulysses, so she bound the ways of all the winds except one, and
Thereon he floated about for two nights and two days in the water, with a heavy swell on the
Ulysses' heart now began to fail him, and he said despairingly to himself, "Alas, Jove has l
While he was thus in two minds a wave caught him and took him with such force against the rc
Here poor Ulysses would have certainly perished even in spite of his own destiny, if Minerva
"Hear me, O King, whoever you may be, and save me from the anger of the sea-god Neptune, for
Then the god stayed his stream and stilled the waves, making all calm before him, and bringi
"Alas," he cried to himself in his dismay, "what ever will become of me, and how is it all t
In the end he deemed it best to take to the woods, and he found one upon some high ground nc

BOOK VI

SO HERE Ulysses slept, overcome by sleep and toil; but Minerva went off to the country and c
She went straight to the beautifully decorated bedroom in which there slept a girl who was a

"Nausicaa, what can your mother have been about, to have such a lazy daughter? Here are you
When she had said this Minerva went away to Olympus, which they say is the everlasting home
By and by morning came and woke Nausicaa, who began wondering about her dream; she therefore
"Papa dear, could you manage to let me have a good big waggon? I want to take all our dirty
She did not say a word about her own wedding, for she did not like to, but her father knew a
On this he gave his orders to the servants, who got the waggon out, harnessed the mules, and
When they reached the water side they went to the washing-cisterns, through which there ran
When it was time for them to start home, and they were folding the clothes and putting them
"Alas," said he to himself, "what kind of people have I come amongst? Are they cruel, savag
As he said this he crept from under his bush, and broke off a bough covered with thick leave
"O queen," he said, "I implore your aid- but tell me, are you a goddess or are you a mortal
"And now, O queen, have pity upon me, for you are the first person I have met, and I know no
To this Nausicaa answered, "Stranger, you appear to be a sensible, well-disposed person. Th
Then she called her maids and said, "Stay where you are, you girls. Can you not see a man w
On this the maids left off running away and began calling one another back. They made Ulyss
Then they stood on one side and went to tell the girl, while Ulysses washed himself in the s
"Hush, my dears, for I want to say something. I believe the gods who live in heaven have se
They did as they were told, and set food before Ulysses, who ate and drank ravenously, for i
"Stranger," said she, "rise and let us be going back to the town; I will introduce you at th
"I am afraid of the gossip and scandal that may be set on foot against me later on; for the
"If, therefore, you want my father to give you an escort and to help you home, do as I bid y
So saying she lashed the mules with her whip and they left the river. The mules drew well a
"Hear me," he cried, "daughter of Aegis-bearing Jove, unweariable, hear me now, for you gave
Thus did he pray, and Minerva heard his prayer, but she would not show herself to him openly

BOOK VII

THUS, then, did Ulysses wait and pray; but the girl drove on to the town. When she reached
Presently Ulysses got up to go towards the town; and Minerva shed a thick mist all round him
"My dear, will you be so kind as to show me the house of king Alcinous? I am an unfortunate
Then Minerva said, "Yes, father stranger, I will show you the house you want, for Alcinous l
On this she led the way, and Ulysses followed in her steps; but not one of the Phaeicians cou

"This is the house, father stranger, which you would have me show you. You will find a number
"Neptune, however, lay with his daughter, and she had a son by him, the great Nausithous, who
"Thus she both was, and still is, respected beyond measure by her children, by Alcinous himself.
Then Minerva left Scheria and went away over the sea. She went to Marathon and to the spacious
On either side there stood gold and silver mastiffs which Vulcan, with his consummate skill,
Outside the gate of the outer court there is a large garden of about four acres with a wall
So here Ulysses stood for a while and looked about him, but when he had looked long enough he
"Queen Arete," he exclaimed, "daughter of great Rhexenor, in my distress I humbly pray you,
Then he sat down on the hearth among the ashes and they all held their peace, till presently
"Alcinous," said he, "it is not creditable to you that a stranger should be seen sitting among
When Alcinous heard this he took Ulysses by the hand, raised him from the hearth, and bade him
Pontonous then mixed wine and water, and handed it round after giving every man his drink-of
"Aldermen and town councillors of the Phaeacians, hear my words. You have had your supper, so
Then Ulysses said: "Pray, Alcinous, do not take any such notion into your head. I have nothing
Thus did he speak. Every one approved his saying, and agreed that he should have his escort
And Ulysses answered, "It would be a long story Madam, were I to relate in full the tale of
"I stayed with Calypso seven years straight on end, and watered the good clothes she gave me
"There I tried to land, but could not, for it was a bad place and the waves dashed me against
Then Alcinous said, "Stranger, it was very wrong of my daughter not to bring you on at once
"Pray do not scold her," replied Ulysses; "she is not to blame. She did tell me to follow all
"Stranger," replied Alcinous, "I am not the kind of man to get angry about nothing; it is all
Then was Ulysses glad and prayed aloud saying, "Father Jove, grant that Alcinous may do all
Thus did they converse. Then Arete told her maids to set a bed in the room that was in the
So Ulysses slept in a bed placed in a room over the echoing gateway; but Alcinous lay in the

BOOK VIII

NOW when the child of morning, rosy-fingered Dawn, appeared, Alcinous and Ulysses both rose,
With these words she made them all want to come, and they flocked to the assembly till seats
"Hear me," said he, "aldermen and town councillors of the Phaeacians, that I may speak even
Alcinous then led the way, and the others followed after, while a servant went to fetch Democritus
A servant presently led in the famous bard Demodocus, whom the muse had dearly loved, but to

The company then laid their hands upon the good things that were before them, but as soon as
Thus sang the bard, but Ulysses drew his purple mantle over his head and covered his face, f
With these words he led the way, and the others followed after. A servant hung Demodocus's l
The foot races came first. The course was set out for them from the starting post, and they
"You are quite right, Laodamas," replied Euryalus, "go up to your guest and speak to him abc
When Laodamas heard this he made his way into the middle of the crowd and said to Ulysses, "
Ulysses answered, "Laodamas, why do you taunt me in this way? my mind is set rather on care
Then Euryalus reviled him outright and said, "I gather, then, that you are unskilled in any
"For shame, Sir," answered Ulysses, fiercely, "you are an insolent fellow- so true is it tha
So he hurried up without even taking his cloak off, and seized a disc, larger, more massive
Ulysses was glad when he found he had a friend among the lookers-on, so he began to speak mc
They all held their peace except King Alcinous, who began, "Sir, we have had much pleasure i
On this a servant hurried off to bring the lyre from the king's house, and the nine men who
Meanwhile the bard began to sing the loves of Mars and Venus, and how they first began their
Now Venus was just come in from a visit to her father Jove, and was about sitting down when
She was nothing loth, so they went to the couch to take their rest, whereon they were caught
"Father Jove," he cried, "and all you other blessed gods who live for ever, come here and se
On this the gods gathered to the house of Vulcan. Earth-encircling Neptune came, and Mercury
"Ill deeds do not prosper, and the weak confound the strong. See how limping Vulcan, lame a
Thus did they converse, but King Apollo said to Mercury, "Messenger Mercury, giver of good t
"King Apollo," answered Mercury, "I only wish I might get the chance, though there were thre
The immortal gods burst out laughing as they heard him, but Neptune took it all seriously, a
"Do not," replied Vulcan, "ask me to do this; a bad man's bond is bad security; what remedy
"Vulcan," said Neptune, "if Mars goes away without paying his damages, I will pay you myself
Thereon he loosed the bonds that bound them, and as soon as they were free they scampered of
Thus sang the bard, and both Ulysses and the seafaring Phaeacians were charmed as they heard
Then Alcinous told Laodamas and Halius to dance alone, for there was no one to compete with
"King Alcinous, you said your people were the nimblest dancers in the world, and indeed they
The king was delighted at this, and exclaimed to the Phaeacians "Aldermen and town councillor
Thus did he speak. The others all of them applauded his saying, and sent their servants to

As he spoke he placed the sword in the hands of Ulysses and said, "Good luck to you, father
To which Ulysses answered, "Good luck to you too my friend, and may the gods grant you every
With these words he girded the sword about his shoulders and towards sundown the presents be
"Wife," said he, turning to Queen Arete, "Go, fetch the best chest we have, and put a clean
Then Arete told her maids to set a large tripod upon the fire as fast as they could, whereon
"See to the lid yourself, and have the whole bound round at once, for fear any one should re
When Ulysses heard this he put the lid on the chest and made it fast with a bond that Circe
And Ulysses said, "Nausicaa, daughter of great Alcinous, may Jove the mighty husband of Junc
When he had said this, he seated himself beside Alcinous. Supper was then served, and the w
The servant carried the pork in his fingers over to Demodocus, who took it and was very much
The bard inspired of heaven took up the story at the point where some of the Argives set fir
All this he told, but Ulysses was overcome as he heard him, and his cheeks were wet with tea
"Aldermen and town councillors of the Phaeacians, let Demodocus cease his song, for there ar
"Therefore, Sir, do you on your part affect no more concealment nor reserve in the matter at
"And now, tell me and tell me true. Where have you been wandering, and in what countries ha

BOOK IX

AND ULYSSES answered, "King Alcinous, it is a good thing to hear a bard with such a divine v
"Firstly, then, I will tell you my name that you too may know it, and one day, if I outlive
"When I had set sail thence the wind took me first to Ismarus, which is the city of the Cicc
"Thence we sailed onward with sorrow in our hearts, but glad to have escaped death though we
"I was driven thence by foul winds for a space of nine days upon the sea, but on the tenth d
"We sailed hence, always in much distress, till we came to the land of the lawless and inhum
"Now off their harbour there lies a wooded and fertile island not quite close to the land of
"Here we entered, but so dark was the night that some god must have brought us in, for there
"When the child of morning, rosy-fingered Dawn, appeared, we admired the island and wandered
"'Stay here, my brave fellows,' said I, 'all the rest of you, while I go with my ship and ex
"I went on board, bidding my men to do so also and loose the hawsers; so they took their pla
"I told my men to draw the ship ashore, and stay where they were, all but the twelve best an
"We soon reached his cave, but he was out shepherding, so we went inside and took stock of a

"We lit a fire, offered some of the cheeses in sacrifice, ate others of them, and then sat w
" 'Strangers, who are you? Where do sail from? Are you traders, or do you sail the as rover
"We were frightened out of our senses by his loud voice and monstrous form, but I managed to
"To this he gave me but a pitiless answer, 'Stranger,' said he, 'you are a fool, or else you
"He said this to draw me out, but I was too cunning to be caught in that way, so I answered
"The cruel wretch vouchsafed me not one word of answer, but with a sudden clutch he gripped
"When the child of morning, rosy-fingered Dawn, appeared, he again lit his fire, milked his
"In the end I deemed it would be the best plan to do as follows. The Cyclops had a great clu
" 'Look here, Cyclops,' said I, you have been eating a great deal of man's flesh, so take thi
"He then took the cup and drank. He was so delighted with the taste of the wine that he beg
"I then gave him some more; three times did I fill the bowl for him, and three times did he
"But the cruel wretch said, 'Then I will eat all Noman's comrades before Noman himself, and
As he spoke he reeled, and fell sprawling face upwards on the ground. His great neck hung h
" 'What ails you, Polyphemus,' said they, 'that you make such a noise, breaking the stillness
"But Polyphemus shouted to them from inside the cave, 'Noman is killing me by fraud! Noman
" 'Then,' said they, 'if no man is attacking you, you must be ill; when Jove makes people ill
"Then they went away, and I laughed inwardly at the success of my clever stratagem, but the
"As for myself I kept on puzzling to think how I could best save my own life and those of my
"Thus, then, did we wait in great fear of mind till morning came, but when the child of morn
" 'My good ram, what is it that makes you the last to leave my cave this morning? You are no
"As spoke he drove the ram outside, but when we were a little way out from the cave and yard
" 'Cyclops,' said I, 'you should have taken better measure of your man before eating up his c
"He got more and more furious as he heard me, so he tore the top from off a high mountain, a
" 'Do not,' they exclaimed, 'be mad enough to provoke this savage creature further; he has th
"But I would not listen to them, and shouted out to him in my rage, 'Cyclops, if any one ask
"On this he groaned, and cried out, 'Alas, alas, then the old prophecy about me is coming tr
"Then I said, 'I wish I could be as sure of killing you outright and sending you down to the
"On this he lifted up his hands to the firmament of heaven and prayed, saying, 'Hear me, gre
"Thus did he pray, and Neptune heard his prayer. Then he picked up a rock much larger than
"When at last we got to the island where we had left the rest of our ships, we found our com

"Thus through the livelong day to the going down of the sun we feasted our fill on meat and

BOOK X

THENCE we went on to the Aeoli island where lives Aeolus son of Hippotas, dear to the immort

"Aeolus entertained me for a whole month asking me questions all the time about Troy, the Ar

"Nine days and nine nights did we sail, and on the tenth day our native land showed on the h

"Thus they talked and evil counsels prevailed. They loosed the sack, whereupon the wind fle

"When we reached it we went ashore to take in water, and dined hard by the ships. Immediate

"Thus did they speak, but I answered sorrowfully, 'My men have undone me; they, and cruel sl

"I spoke as movingly as I could, but they said nothing, till their father answered, 'Vilest

"Thence we sailed sadly on till the men were worn out with long and fruitless rowing, for th

"When we reached the harbour we found it land-locked under steep cliffs, with a narrow entra

"The men when they got on shore followed a level road by which the people draw their firewoc

"She at once called her husband Antiphates from the place of assembly, and forthwith he set

"Thence we sailed sadly on, glad to have escaped death, though we had lost our comrades, and

"When I had nearly got back to the ship some god took pity upon my solitude, and sent a fine

"Thus through the livelong day to the going down of the sun we stayed there eating and drink

"Their hearts sank as they heard me, for they remembered how they had been treated by the La

"When they reached Circe's house they found it built of cut stones, on a site that could be

"They called her and she came down, unfastened the door, and bade them enter. They, thinkin

"Thus then were they shut up squealing, and Circe threw them some acorns and beech masts suc

"'We went,' said he, as you told us, through the forest, and in the middle of it there was a

"Then I took my sword of bronze and slung it over my shoulders; I also took my bow, and told

"'Stay where you are, then, 'answered I, 'eating and drinking at the ship, but I must go, fc

"With this I left the ship and went up inland. When I got through the charmed grove, and wa

"'And I will tell you of all the wicked witchcraft that Circe will try to practise upon you.

"As he spoke he pulled the herb out of the ground an showed me what it was like. The root w

"Then Mercury went back to high Olympus passing over the wooded island; but I fared onward t

"But I rushed at her with my sword drawn as though I would kill her, whereon she fell with a

"And I answered, 'Circe, how can you expect me to be friendly with you when you have just be

"So she swore at once as I had told her, and when she had completed her oath then I went to

"Meanwhile her four servants, who are her housemaids, set about their work. They are the ch
"When Circe saw me sitting there without eating, and in great grief, she came to me and said
"And I said, 'Circe, no man with any sense of what is right can think of either eating or dr
"When I had said this she went straight through the court with her wand in her hand and open
"I agreed to this, so I went back to the sea shore, and found the men at the ship weeping an
"I spoke comfortingly to them and said, 'We must draw our ship on to the land, and hide the
"On this the men would have come with me at once, but Eurylochus tried to hold them back and
"When I heard him I was in two minds whether or no to draw the keen blade that hung by my st
"On this we all went inland, and Eurylochus was not left behind after all, but came on too,
"Meanwhile Circe had been seeing that the men who had been left behind were washed and anoin
"Thus did she speak and we assented. We stayed with Circe for a whole twelvemonth feasting
"Thus did they speak and I assented. Thereon through the livelong day to the going down of
"And the goddess answered, 'Ulysses, noble son of Laertes, you shall none of you stay here a
"I was dismayed when I heard this. I sat up in bed and wept, and would gladly have lived no
"'You will want no guide,' she answered; 'raise you mast, set your white sails, sit quite st
"'When you have reached this spot, as I now tell you, dig a trench a cubit or so in length,
"'When you shall have thus besought the ghosts with your prayers, offer them a ram and a bla
"It was day-break by the time she had done speaking, so she dressed me in my shirt and cloak
"Even so, however, I did not get them away without misadventure. We had with us a certain yc
"When I had got the men together I said to them, 'You think you are about to start home agai
"The men were broken-hearted as they heard me, and threw themselves on the ground groaning a

BOOK XI

THEN, when we had got down to the sea shore we drew our ship into the water and got her mast
"Here Perimedes and Eurylochus held the victims, while I drew my sword and dug the trench a
"The first ghost 'that came was that of my comrade Elpenor, for he had not yet been laid ben
"'Sir,' he answered with a groan, 'it was all bad luck, and my own unspeakable drunkenness.
"Thus, then, did we sit and hold sad talk with one another, I on the one side of the trench
"Then came also the ghost of Theban Teiresias, with his golden sceptre in his hand. He knew
"So I drew back, and sheathed my sword, whereon when he had drank of the blood he began with

"You want to know," said he, "about your return home, but heaven will make this hard for you

"When you get home you will take your revenge on these suitors; and after you have killed t

"This," I answered, "must be as it may please heaven, but tell me and tell me and tell me t

"That," said he, "I can soon do Any ghost that you let taste of the blood will talk with yo

On this the ghost of Teiresias went back to the house of Hades, for his prophecyings had no

"Mother," said I, "I was forced to come here to consult the ghost of the Theban prophet Tei

My mother answered, "Your wife still remains in your house, but she is in great distress of

Then I tried to find some way of embracing my mother's ghost. Thrice I sprang towards her a

"My son," she answered, "most ill-fated of all mankind, it is not Proserpine that is beguil

Thus did we converse, and anon Proserpine sent up the ghosts of the wives and daughters of

The first I saw was Tyro. She was daughter of Salmoneus and wife of Cretheus the son of Ae

Then he dived under the sea, and she in due course bore Pelias and Neleus, who both of them

Next to her I saw Antiope, daughter to Asopus, who could boast of having slept in the arms

Then I saw Alcmena, the wife of Amphitryon, who also bore to Jove indomitable Hercules; and

I also saw fair Epicaste mother of king OEdipodes whose awful lot it was to marry her own s

Then I saw Chloris, whom Neleus married for her beauty, having given priceless presents for

And I saw Leda the wife of Tyndarus, who bore him two famous sons, Castor breaker of horses

After her I saw Iphimedeia wife of Aloeus who boasted the embrace of Neptune. She bore two

Then I saw Phaedra, and Procris, and fair Ariadne daughter of the magician Minos, whom These

I also saw Maera and Clymene and hateful Eriphyle, who sold her own husband for gold. But

Here he ended, and the guests sat all of them enthralled and speechless throughout the cover

What do you think of this man, O Phaecians? Is he not tall and good looking, and is he not

Then spoke the aged hero Echeneus who was one of the oldest men among them, "My friends," sa

The thing shall be done," exclaimed Alcinous, "as surely as I still live and reign over the

And Ulysses answered, "King Alcinous, if you were to bid me to stay here for a whole twelve

Ulysses," replied Alcinous, "not one of us who sees you has any idea that you are a charlat

Alcinous," answered Ulysses, "there is a time for making speeches, and a time for going to

When Proserpine had dismissed the female ghosts in all directions, the ghost of Agamemnon s

"Ulysses," he answered, "noble son of Laertes, was not lost at sea in any storm of Neptune'

And I said, "In truth Jove has hated the house of Atreus from first to last in the matter c

"Be sure, therefore,' continued Agamemnon, 'and not be too friendly even with your own wife
"And I said, 'Agamemnon, why do you ask me? I do not know whether your son is alive or dead
"As we two sat weeping and talking thus sadly with one another the ghost of Achilles came up
"And I said, 'Achilles, son of Peleus, foremost champion of the Achaeans, I came to consult
"Say not a word,' he answered, 'in death's favour; I would rather be a paid servant in a pe
"I have heard nothing,' I answered, 'of Peleus, but I can tell you all about your son Neopt
"When I had told him this, the ghost of Achilles strode off across a meadow full of asphodel
"The ghosts of other dead men stood near me and told me each his own melancholy tale; but th
"When I saw him I tried to pacify him and said, 'Ajax, will you not forget and forgive even
"He would not answer, but turned away to Erebus and to the other ghosts; nevertheless, I shc
"Then I saw Minos son of Jove with his golden sceptre in his hand sitting in judgement on th
"After him I saw huge Orion in a meadow full of asphodel driving the ghosts of the wild beas
"And I saw Tityus son of Gaia stretched upon the plain and covering some nine acres of groun
"I saw also the dreadful fate of Tantalus, who stood in a lake that reached his chin; he was
"And I saw Sisyphus at his endless task raising his prodigious stone with both his hands. W
"After him I saw mighty Hercules, but it was his phantom only, for he is feasting ever with
"On this Hercules went down again into the house of Hades, but I stayed where I was in case

BOOK XII

"AFTER we were clear of the river Oceanus, and had got out into the open sea, we went on til
"Then, when the child of morning, rosy-fingered Dawn, appeared, I sent some men to Circe's h
"While we were doing all this, Circe, who knew that we had got back from the house of Hades,
"We agreed to do as she had said, and feasted through the livelong day to the going down of
"So far so good,' said she, when I had ended my story, 'and now pay attention to what I am
"When your crew have taken you past these Sirens, I cannot give you coherent directions as
"Of these two rocks the one reaches heaven and its peak is lost in a dark cloud. This neve
"You will find the other rocks lie lower, but they are so close together that there is not
"Is there no way,' said I, 'of escaping Charybdis, and at the same time keeping Scylla off
"You dare-devil,' replied the goddess, you are always wanting to fight somebody or somethin
"You will now come to the Thrinacian island, and here you will see many herds of cattle and
"Here she ended, and dawn enthroned in gold began to show in heaven, whereon she returned in

"Then, being much troubled in mind, I said to my men, 'My friends, it is not right that one
"I had hardly finished telling everything to the men before we reached the island of the two
"'Come here,' they sang, 'renowned Ulysses, honour to the Achaean name, and listen to our two
"They sang these words most musically, and as I longed to hear them further I made by frowning
"Immediately after we had got past the island I saw a great wave from which spray was rising
"'My friends,' said I, 'this is not the first time that we have been in danger, and we are in
"So they did as I told them; but I said nothing about the awful monster Scylla, for I knew that
"Then we entered the Straits in great fear of mind, for on the one hand was Scylla, and on the
"When we had passed the [Wandering] rocks, with Scylla and terrible Charybdis, we reached the
"The men were in despair at this, and Eurylochus at once gave me an insolent answer. 'Ulysses
"Thus spoke Eurylochus, and the men approved his words. I saw that heaven meant us a mischief
"They all swore as I bade them, and when they had completed their oath we made the ship fast
"In the third watch of the night when the stars had shifted their places, Jove raised a great
"'My friends,' said I, 'we have meat and drink in the ship, let us mind, therefore, and not
"For a whole month the wind blew steadily from the South, and there was no other wind, but
"Meanwhile Eurylochus had been giving evil counsel to the men, 'Listen to me,' said he, 'my
"Thus spoke Eurylochus, and the men approved his words. Now the cattle, so fair and goodly,
"By this time my deep sleep had left me, and I turned back to the ship and to the sea shore.
"Meanwhile Lampetie went straight off to the sun and told him we had been killing his cows,
"'Sun,' said Jove, 'go on shining upon us gods and upon mankind over the fruitful earth. I
"I was told all this by Calypso, who said she had heard it from the mouth of Mercury.
"As soon as I got down to my ship and to the sea shore I rebuked each one of the men separately
"For six days my men kept driving in the best cows and feasting upon them, but when Jove the
"Then Jove let fly with his thunderbolts, and the ship went round and round, and was filled
"I stuck to the ship till the sea knocked her sides from her keel (which drifted about by it
"[The gale from the West had now spent its force, and the wind got into the South again, which
"Hence I was carried along for nine days till on the tenth night the gods stranded me on the

BOOK XIII

THUS did he speak, and they all held their peace throughout the covered cloister, enthralled

"Ulysses," said he, "now that you have reached my house I doubt not you will get home without
Every one approved of this, and then they went home to bed each in his own abode. When the
"Sir, and all of you, farewell. Make your drink-offerings and send me on my way rejoicing,
Thus did he speak. His hearers all of them approved his saying and agreed that he should have
Pontonous mixed the wine and handed it to every one in turn; the others each from his own seat
"Farewell, queen," said he, "henceforward and for ever, till age and death, the common lot of
As he spoke he crossed the threshold, and Alcinous sent a man to conduct him to his ship and
The ship bounded forward on her way as a four in hand chariot flies over the course when the
When the bright star that heralds the approach of dawn began to show. the ship drew near to
Into this harbour, then, they took their ship, for they knew the place, She had so much way
But Neptune did not forget the threats with which he had already threatened Ulysses, so he told
And Jove answered, "What, O Lord of the Earthquake, are you talking about? The gods are by
"I should have done so at once," replied Neptune, "if I were not anxious to avoid anything that
"My good friend," answered Jove, "I should recommend you at the very moment when the people
When earth-encircling Neptune heard this he went to Scheria where the Phaeacians live, and stood
The Phaeacians then began talking among themselves, and one would turn towards his neighbour
This was how they talked, but they knew nothing about it; and Alcinous said, "I remember now
Thus did the chiefs and rulers of the Phaeacians tell king Neptune, standing round his altar; and
"Alas," he exclaimed, "among what manner of people am I fallen? Are they savage and uncivilized
He counted his goodly coppers and cauldrons, his gold and all his clothes, but there was not
"My friend," said he, "you are the first person whom I have met with in this country; I salute
Minerva answered, "Stranger, you must be very simple, or must have come from somewhere a long
Ulysses was glad at finding himself, as Minerva told him, in his own country, and he began to
"I heard of Ithaca," said he, "when I was in Crete beyond the seas, and now it seems I have
Such was his story, but Minerva smiled and caressed him with her hand. Then she took the form
And Ulysses answered, "A man, goddess, may know a great deal, but you are so constantly changing
"You are always taking something of that sort into your head," replied Minerva, "and that is
As she spoke the goddess dispersed the mist and the land appeared. Then Ulysses rejoiced at
"Take heart, and do not trouble yourself about that," rejoined Minerva, "let us rather set a
Therewith she went down into the cave to look for the safest hiding places, while Ulysses brought

"Ulysses," said Minerva, "noble son of Laertes, think how you can lay hands on these disrepu
And Ulysses answered, "In good truth, goddess, it seems I should have come to much the same
"Trust me for that," said she, "I will not lose sight of you when once we set about it, and
"But why," said Ulysses, "did you not tell him, for you knew all about it? Did you want him
Minerva answered, "Never mind about him, I sent him that he might be well spoken of for havi
As she spoke Minerva touched him with her wand and covered him with wrinkles, took away all
When the pair had thus laid their plans they parted, and the goddess went straight to Laceda

BOOK XIV

ULYSSES now left the haven, and took the rough track up through the wooded country and over
When the hounds saw Ulysses they set up a furious barking and flew at him, but Ulysses was c
On this the swineherd led the way into the hut and bade him sit down. He strewed a good thi
To this you answered, O swineherd Eumaeus, "Stranger, though a still poorer man should come
As he spoke he bound his girdle round him and went to the sties where the young sucking pigs
"Fall to, stranger," said he, "on a dish of servant's pork. The fat pigs have to go to the
This was his story, but Ulysses went on eating and drinking ravenously without a word, brood
Eumaeus answered, "Old man, no traveller who comes here with news will get Ulysses' wife and
"My friend," replied Ulysses, "you are very positive, and very hard of belief about your mas
To this you answered, O swineherd Eumaeus, "Old man, you will neither get paid for bringing
And Ulysses answered, "I will tell you all about it. If there were meat and wine enough, an
"I am by birth a Cretan; my father was a well-to-do man, who had many sons born in marriage,
"My house grew apace and I became a great man among the Cretans, but when Jove counselled th
"But the men disobeyed my orders, took to their own devices, and ravaged the land of the Egy
"I stayed there for seven years and got together much money among the Egyptians, for they al
"The ship ran before a fresh North wind till we had reached the sea that lies between Crete
"There it was that I heard news of Ulysses, for the king told me he had entertained him, and
"These men hatched a plot against me that would have reduced me to the very extreme of miser
To this you answered, O swineherd Eumaeus, "Poor unhappy stranger, I have found the story of
"As for me I live out of the way here with the pigs, and never go to the town unless when Pe
Ulysses answered, "I see that you are of an unbelieving mind; I have given you my oath, and
"And a pretty figure I should cut then," replied Eumaeus, both now and hereafter, if I were

Thus did they converse, and presently the swineherds came up with the pigs, which were then
On this he began chopping firewood, while the others brought in a fine fat five year old boar
To this you answered, O swineherd Eumaeus, "Eat, my good fellow, and enjoy your supper, such
As he spoke he cut off the first piece and offered it as a burnt sacrifice to the immortal gods
Now the night came on stormy and very dark, for there was no moon. It poured without ceasing
"Ulysses," said I, "this cold will be the death of me, for I have no cloak; some god fooled
"Ulysses, who was as crafty as he was valiant, hit upon the following plan:
"Keep still," said he in a low voice, "or the others will hear you." Then he raised his head
"My friends," said he, "I have had a dream from heaven in my sleep. We are a long way from
On this Thoas son of Andraemon threw off his cloak and set out running to the ships, where
And Eumaeus answered, "Old man, you have told us an excellent story, and have said nothing
With this he got up and made a bed for Ulysses by throwing some goatskins and sheepskins on
Thus did Ulysses sleep, and the young men slept beside him. But the swineherd did not like

BOOK XV

BUT Minerva went to the fair city of Lacedaemon to tell Ulysses' son that he was to return
"Telemachus, you should not remain so far away from home any longer, nor leave your property
Then she went back to Olympus; but Telemachus stirred Pisistratus with his heel to rouse him
But Pisistratus said, "No matter what hurry we are in we cannot drive in the dark. It will
As he spoke day began to break, and Menelaus, who had already risen, leaving Helen in bed, came
And Menelaus answered, "Telemachus, if you insist on going I will not detain you. not like
"Menelaus," replied Telemachus, "I want to go home at once, for when I came away I left my property
When Menelaus heard this he immediately told his wife and servants to prepare a sufficient dinner
With these words he placed the double cup in the hands of Telemachus, while Megapenthes brought
"I too, my son," said she, "have something for you as a keepsake from the hand of Helen; it
So saying she gave the robe over to him and he received it gladly. Then Pisistratus put the
"We will be sure, sir," answered Telemachus, "to tell him everything as soon as we see him.
As he was thus speaking a bird flew on his right hand- an eagle with a great white goose in
Menelaus was thinking what would be the most proper answer for him to make, but Helen was to
"May Jove so grant it," replied Telemachus; "if it should prove to be so, I will make vows to

As he spoke he lashed his horses and they started off at full speed through the town towards
"Pisistratus, I hope you will promise to do what I am going to ask you. You know our father
Pisistratus thought how he should do as he was asked, and in the end he deemed it best to tu
With this he drove his goodly steeds back to the city of the Pylians and soon reached his hc
Thus did he speak, and they went on board even as he had said. But as Telemachus was thus bu
His son, Theoclymenus, it was who now came up to Telemachus as he was making drink-offerings
Telemachus said, "I will answer you quite truly. I am from Ithaca, and my father is 'Ulysse
"I too," answered Theoclymenus, am an exile, for I have killed a man of my own race. He has
"I will not refuse you," replied Telemachus, "if you wish to join us. Come, therefore, and
On this he received Theoclymenus' spear and laid it down on the deck of the ship. He went c
Presently the sun set and darkness was over all the land. The vessel made a quick pass sage
Meanwhile Ulysses and the swineherd were eating their supper in the hut, and the men supped
"Eumaeus, and all of you, to-morrow I want to go away and begin begging about the town, so a
The swineherd was very much disturbed when he heard this. "Heaven help me," he exclaimed, "w
Ulysses answered, "I hope you may be as dear to the gods as you are to me, for having saved
"I will tell you all about them," replied Eumaeus, "Laertes is still living and prays heaven
Ulysses answered, "Then you must have been a very little fellow, Eumaeus, when you were take
"Stranger," replied Eumaeus, "as regards your question: sit still, make yourself comfortable
"You may have heard of an island called Syra that lies over above Ortygia, where the land be
"Now to this place there came some cunning traders from Phoenicia (for the Phoenicians are g
"The man who had seduced her then said, 'Would you like to come along with us to see the hou
"'I will do so gladly,' answered she, 'if you men will first swear me a solemn oath that you
"They all swore as she told them, and when they had completed their oath the woman said, 'Hu
"On this she went back to the house. The Phoenicians stayed a whole year till they had load
Ulysses answered, "Eumaeus, I have heard the story of your misfortunes with the most lively
Thus did they converse, and they had only a very little time left for sleep, for it was soon
Then Theoclymenus said, 'And what, my dear young friend, is to become of me? To whose house
"At any other time," replied Telemachus, "I should have bidden you go to my own house, for y
As he was speaking a bird flew by upon his right hand- a hawk, Apollo's messenger. It held
"I wish it may prove so," answered Telemachus. "If it does, I will show you so much good wi

Then he said to his friend Piraeus, "Piraeus, son of Clytius, you have throughout shown your
And Piraeus answered, "Telemachus, you may stay away as long as you please, but I will look
As he spoke he went on board, and bade the others do so also and loose the hawsers, so they

BOOK XVI

MEANWHILE Ulysses and the swineherd had lit a fire in the hut and were were getting breakfas
"Eumaeus, I hear footsteps; I suppose one of your men or some one of your acquaintance is cc
The words were hardly out of his mouth before his son stood at the door. Eumaeus sprang to
"So you are come, Telemachus, light of my eyes that you are. When I heard you had gone to Py
"So be it, old friend," answered Telemachus, "but I am come now because I want to see you, a
"She is still at the house," replied Eumaeus, "grieving and breaking her heart, and doing no
As spoke he took Telemachus' spear, whereon he crossed the stone threshold and came inside.
Ulysses went back to his own place, and Eumaeus strewed some green brushwood on the floor an
To this you answered, O swineherd Eumaeus, "My son, I will tell you the real truth. He says
"I am very much distressed," said Telemachus, "by what you have just told me. How can I tak
Then Ulysses said, "Sir, it is right that I should say something myself. I am much shocked
And Telemachus answered, "I will tell you truly everything. There is no emnity between me an
"I understand and heed you," replied Eumaeus; "you need instruct me no further, only I am go
"More's the pity," answered Telemachus, "I am sorry for him, but we must leave him to himsel
Thus did he urge the swineherd; Eumaeus, therefore, took his sandals, bound them to his feet
"Ulysses, noble son of Laertes, it is now time for you to tell your son: do not keep him in
As she spoke she touched him with her golden wand. First she threw a fair clean shirt and c
"Stranger," said he, "how suddenly you have changed from what you were a moment or two ago.
And Ulysses said, "I am no god, why should you take me for one? I am your father, on whose a
As he spoke he kissed his son, and a tear fell from his cheek on to the ground, for he had r
"You are not my father, but some god is flattering me with vain hopes that I may grieve the
Ulysses answered, "Telemachus, you ought not to be so immeasurably astonished at my being re
As he spoke he sat down, and Telemachus threw his arms about his father and wept. They were
"I will tell you the truth, my son," replied Ulysses. "It was the Phaeacians who brought me
To this Telemachus answered, "Father, I have always heard of your renown both in the field a
"Listen to me," replied Ulysses, "and think whether Minerva and her father Jove may seem suf

"Those whom you have named," answered Telemachus, "are a couple of good allies, for though t
"These two," continued Ulysses, "will not keep long out of the fray, when the suitors and we
"Father," replied Telemachus, "you will come to know me by and by, and when you do you will
Thus did they converse, and meanwhile the ship which had brought Telemachus and his crew fro
The suitors were surprised and angry at what had happened, so they went outside the great wa
"My friends," said he, "this voyage of Telemachus's is a very serious matter; we had made su
He had hardly done speaking when Amphinomus turned in his place and saw the ship inside the
On this they rose and went to the water side. The crew then drew the ship on shore; their s
"Good heavens," said he, "see how the gods have saved this man from destruction. We kept a
They all held their peace until Amphinomus rose to speak. He was the son of Nisus, who was
Thus did he speak, and his words pleased them well, so they rose forthwith and went to the h
Then Penelope resolved that she would show herself to the suitors. She knew of the plot aga
"Antinous, insolent and wicked schemer, they say you are the best speaker and counsellor of
To this Eurymachus son of Polybus answered, "Take heart, Queen Penelope daughter of Icarius,
Then Penelope went upstairs again and mourned her husband till Minerva shed sleep over her e
Telemachus was the first to speak. "So you have got back, Eumaeus," said he. "What is the
"I did not think of asking about that," replied Eumaeus, "when I was in the town. I thought
On hearing this Telemachus smiled to his father, but so that Eumaeus could not see him.
Then, when they had finished their work and the meal was ready, they ate it, and every man h

BOOK XVII

WHEN the child of morning, rosy-fingered Dawn, appeared, Telemachus bound on his sandals and
Then Ulysses said, "Sir, I do not want to stay here; a beggar can always do better in town t
On this Telemachus strode off through the yards, brooding his revenge upon the When he reach
Nurse Euryclea saw him long before any one else did. She was putting the fleeces on to the
"Do not scold me, mother," answered Telemachus, "nor vex me, seeing what a narrow escape I h
She heeded her son's words, washed her face, changed her dress, and vowed full and sufficien
Telemachus went through, and out of, the cloisters spear in hand- not alone, for his two fle
"We do not know, Piraeus," answered Telemachus, "what may happen. If the suitors kill me in
With these words he took Theoclymenus to his own house. When they got there they laid their

"Telemachus, I shall go upstairs and lie down on that sad couch, which I have not ceased to
"I will tell you then truth," replied her son. "We went to Pylos and saw Nestor, who took m
With these words he moved the heart of Penelope. Then Theoclymenus said to her:
"Madam, wife of Ulysses, Telemachus does not understand these things; listen therefore to me
"May it be even so," answered Penelope; "if your words come true, you shall have such gifts
Thus did they converse. Meanwhile the suitors were throwing discs, or aiming with spears at
They left their sports as he told them, and when they were within the house, they laid their
"I know, and understand you," replied Ulysses; "you need say no more. Let us be going, but
As he spoke he threw his shabby old tattered wallet over his shoulders, by the cord from whi
"There you go," cried he, "and a precious pair you are. See how heaven brings birds of the
On this, as he passed, he gave Ulysses a kick on the hip out of pure wantonness, but Ulysses
"Fountain nymphs," he cried, "children of Jove, if ever Ulysses burned you thigh bones cover
Then Melanthius the goatherd answered, "You ill-conditioned cur, what are you talking about?
With this he left them to come on at their leisure, while he went quickly forward and soon r
"Eumaeus, this house of Ulysses is a very fine place. No matter how far you go you will fin
Then Eumaeus said, "You have perceived aright, as indeed you generally do; but let us think
And Ulysses answered, "I understand and heed. Go in first and leave me here where I am. I
As they were thus talking, a dog that had been lying asleep raised his head and pricked up h
"Eumaeus, what a noble hound that is over yonder on the manure heap: his build is splendid;
"This hound," answered Eumaeus, "belonged to him who has died in a far country. If he were
As he spoke he went inside the buildings to the cloister where the suitors were, but Argos d
Telemachus saw Eumaeus long before any one else did, and beckoned him to come and sit beside
Immediately afterwards Ulysses came inside, looking like a poor miserable old beggar, leanin
So Eumaeus went up to him and said, "Stranger, Telemachus sends you this, and says you are t
Ulysses answered, "May King Jove grant all happiness to Telemachus, and fulfil the desire of
Then with both hands he took what Telemachus had sent him, and laid it on the dirty old wall
On this Antinous began to abuse the swineherd. "You precious idiot," he cried, "what have y
And Eumaeus answered, "Antinous, your birth is good but your words evil. It was no doing of
But Telemachus said, "Hush, do not answer him; Antinous has the bitterest tongue of all the
Then turning to Antinous he said, "Antinous, you take as much care of my interests as though

"What do you mean, Telemachus," replied Antinous, "by this swaggering talk? If all the suit
As he spoke he drew the stool on which he rested his dainty feet from under the table, and n
"Sir, give me something; you are not, surely, the poorest man here; you seem to be a chief,
"But the men disobeyed my orders, took to their own devices, and ravaged the land of the Egy
Then Antinous said, "What god can have sent such a pestilence to plague us during our dinner
On this Ulysses began to move off, and said, "Your looks, my fine sir, are better than your
This made Antinous very angry, and he scowled at him saying, "You shall pay for this before
"Listen to me," he cried, "you suitors of Queen Penelope, that I may speak even as I am mind
"Sit where you are, and eat your victuals in silence, or be off elsewhere," shouted Antinous
The other suitors were much displeased at this, and one of the young men said, "Antinous, yc
Thus said the suitors, but Antinous paid them no heed. Meanwhile Telemachus was furious abc
Now when Penelope heard that the beggar had been struck in the banqueting-cloister, she said
Thus did she talk with her maids as she sat in her own room, and in the meantime Ulysses was
To this you answered, O swineherd Eumaeus, "If these Achaeans, Madam, would only keep quiet,
"Call him here, then," said Penelope, "that I too may hear his story. As for the suitors, l
As she spoke Telemachus sneezed so loudly that the whole house resounded with it. Penelope
When Eumaeus heard this he went straight to Ulysses and said, "Father stranger, my mistress
"I will tell Penelope," answered Ulysses, "nothing but what is strictly true. I know all ab
The swineherd went back when he heard this, and Penelope said as she saw him cross the thres
To this you answered, O swineherd Eumaeus, "The stranger is quite reasonable. He is avoidin
"The man is no fool," answered Penelope, "it would very likely be as he says, for there are
When she had done speaking Eumaeus went back to the suitors, for he had explained everything
"Very well," replied Telemachus, "go home when you have had your dinner, and in the morning
On this Eumaeus took his seat again, and when he had finished his dinner he left the courts

BOOK XVIII

NOW there came a certain common tramp who used to go begging all over the city of Ithaca, an
"Be off, old man," he cried, "from the doorway, or you shall be dragged out neck and heels.
Ulysses frowned on him and said, "My friend, I do you no manner of harm; people give you a g
Irus was very angry and answered, "You filthy glutton, you run on trippingly like an old fis
Thus roundly did they rate one another on the smooth pavement in front of the doorway, and w

The suitors all came up laughing, and gathered round the two ragged tramps. "Listen to me,"
The others all agreed, but Ulysses, to throw them off the scent, said, "Sirs, an old man lik
They swore as he told them, and when they had completed their oath Telemachus put in a word
Every one assented, and Ulysses girded his old rags about his loins, thus baring his stalwar
Irus began to be very uneasy as he heard them, but the servants girded him by force, and bro
This frightened Irus still more, but they brought him into the middle of the court, and the
Then he threw his dirty old wallet, all tattered and torn, over his shoulder with the cord b
Ulysses hailed this as of good omen, and Antinous set a great goat's paunch before him fille
To this Ulysses answered, "Amphinomus, you seem to be a man of good understanding, as indeed
With these words he made a drink-offering, and when he had drunk he put the gold cup again i
Then Minerva put it into the mind of Penelope to show herself to the suitors, that she might
"My dear child," answered Eurynome, "all that you have said is true, go and tell your son ab
"I know, Eurynome," replied Penelope, "that you mean well, but do not try and persuade me to
On this the old woman went out of the room to bid the maids go to their mistress. In the me
"What an exquisitely delicious sleep I have been having," said she, as she passed her hands
With these words she came down from her upper room, not alone but attended by two of her mai
"Telemachus," said she, addressing her son, "I fear you are no longer so discreet and well c
"I am not surprised, my dear mother, at your displeasure," replied Telemachus, "I understand
Thus did they converse. Eurymachus then came up and said, "Queen Penelope, daughter of Icar
To this Penelope replied, "Eurymachus, heaven robbed me of all my beauty whether of face or
This was what she said, and Ulysses was glad when he heard her trying to get presents out of
Then Antinous said, "Queen Penelope, daughter of Icarius, take as many presents as you pleas
The others applauded what Antinous had said, and each one sent his servant to bring his pres
Then the queen went back to her room upstairs, and her maids brought the presents after her.
"Maids, servants of Ulysses who has so long been absent, go to the queen inside the house; s
The maids looked at one another and laughed, while pretty Melanthe began to gibe at him cont
"Poor wretch," said she, "are you gone clean out of your mind? Go and sleep in some smithy,
"Vixen," replied Ulysses, scowling at her, "I will go and tell Telemachus what you have been
With these words he scared the women, and they went off into the body of the house. They tr
But Minerva would not let the suitors for one moment cease their insolence, for she wanted U

Then turning to Ulysses he said, "Stranger, will you work as a servant, if I send you to the
"Eurymachus," answered Ulysses, "if you and I were to work one against the other in early su
Eurymachus was furious at all this. He scowled at him and cried, "You wretch, I will soon p
On this Telemachus came forward and said, "Sirs, are you mad? Can you not carry your meat an
The suitors bit their lips and marvelled at the boldness of his speech; but Amphinomus the s
Thus did he speak, and his saying pleased them well, so Mulius of Dulichium, servant to Amph

BOOK XIX

ULYSSES was left in the cloister, pondering on the means whereby with Minerva's help he might
Telemachus approved of what his father had said, so he called nurse Euryclea and said, "Nurs
"I wish, child," answered Euryclea, "that you would take the management of the house into yo
"The stranger," said Telemachus, "shall show me a light; when people eat my bread they must
Euryclea did as she was told, and bolted the women inside their room. Then Ulysses and his
"Hush," answered Ulysses, "hold your peace and ask no questions, for this is the manner of t
On this Telemachus went by torch-light to the other side of the inner court, to the room in
Then Penelope came down from her room looking like Venus or Diana, and they set her a seat i
Ulysses scowled at her and answered, "My good woman, why should you be so angry with me? Is
Penelope heard what he was saying and scolded the maid, "Impudent baggage, said she, "I see
Then she said to her head waiting woman Eurynome, "Bring a seat with a fleece upon it, for t
Eurynome brought the seat at once and set a fleece upon it, and as soon as Ulysses had sat d
"Madam;" answered Ulysses, "who on the face of the whole earth can dare to chide with you?
Then Penelope answered, "Stranger, heaven robbed me of all beauty, whether of face or figure
Then Ulysses answered, "madam, wife of Ulysses, since you persist in asking me about my fami
Many a plausible tale did Ulysses further tell her, and Penelope wept as she listened, for h
"Madam," answered Ulysses, "it is such a long time ago that I can hardly say. Twenty years
Penelope was moved still more deeply as she heard the indisputable proofs that Ulysses laid
Then Ulysses answered, "Madam, wife of Ulysses, do not disfigure yourself further by grievin
"May it be even so," answered Penelope; "if your words come true you shall have such gifts a
Ulysses answered, "Madam, I have foresworn rugs and blankets from the day that I left the sn
To this Penelope said, "My dear sir, of all the guests who ever yet came to my house there n

On these words the old woman covered her face with her hands; she began to weep and made lam
"Those who have seen us both," answered Ulysses, "have always said we were wonderfully like
Then the old woman took the cauldron in which she was going to wash his feet, and poured ple
'Son-in-law and daughter," replied Autolycus, "call the child thus: I am highly displeas
Ulysses, therefore, went to Parnassus to get the presents from Autolycus, who with his sons
When the child of morning, rosy-fingered Dawn, appeared, the sons of Autolycus went out with
As soon as Euryclea had got the scarred limb in her hands and had well hold of it, she recog
As she spoke she looked towards Penelope, as though wanting to tell her that her dear husban
"My child," answered Euryclea, "what are you talking about? You know very well that nothing
And Ulysses answered, "Nurse, you ought not to speak in that way; I am well able to form my
As he said this Euryclea left the cloister to fetch some more water, for the first had been
"Stranger, I should like to speak with you briefly about another matter. It is indeed nearl
"This dream, Madam," replied Ulysses, "can admit but of one interpretation, for had not Ulys
And Penelope answered, "Stranger, dreams are very curious and unaccountable things, and they
Then Ulysses answered, "Madam wife of Ulysses, you need not defer your tournament, for Ulyss
To this Penelope said, "As long, sir, as you will sit here and talk to me, I can have no des
She then went upstairs to her own room, not alone, but attended by her maidens, and when the

BOOK XX

ULYSSES slept in the cloister upon an undressed bullock's hide, on the top of which he threw
Thus he chided with his heart, and checked it into endurance, but he tossed about as one who
"Goddess," answered Ulysses, "all that you have said is true, but I am in some doubt as to h
"For shame," replied Minerva, "why, any one else would trust a worse ally than myself, even
As she spoke she shed sleep over his eyes, and then went back to Olympus.

While Ulysses was thus yielding himself to a very deep slumber that eased the burden of his
On this the day broke, but Ulysses heard the sound of her weeping, and it puzzled him, for i
Thus did he pray. Jove heard his prayer and forthwith thundered high up among the from the
Ulysses was glad when he heard the omens conveyed to him by the woman's speech, and by the t
Then the other maids in the house rose and lit the fire on the hearth; Telemachus also rose
"Do not find fault child," said Euryclea, "when there is no one to find fault with. The str
Then Telemachus went out of the court to the place where the Achaeans were meeting in assembl

Thus did she speak, and they did even as she had said: twenty of them went to the fountain f
"May heaven," answered Ulysses, "requite to them the wickedness with which they deal high-ha
Thus did they converse; meanwhile Melanthius the goatherd came up, for he too was bringing i
Ulysses made no answer, but bowed his head and brooded. Then a third man, Philoetius, joine
As he spoke he went up to Ulysses and saluted him with his right hand; "Good day to you, fat
"Stockman," answered Ulysses, "you seem to be a very well-disposed person, and I can see tha
"If Jove were to bring this to pass," replied the stockman, "you should see how I would do n
And in like manner Eumaeus prayed that Ulysses might return home.

Thus did they converse. Meanwhile the suitors were hatching a plot to murder Telemachus: bu
The others assented, so they went inside and laid their cloaks on the benches and seats. Th
Telemachus purposely made Ulysses sit in the part of the cloister that was paved with stone;
The suitors bit their lips, and marvelled at the boldness of his speech; then Antinous said,
Thus spoke Antinous, but Telemachus heeded him not. Meanwhile the heralds were bringing the
Then they roasted the outer meat, drew it off the spits, gave every man his portion, and fea
But Minerva would not let the suitors for one moment drop their insolence, for she wanted Ul
As he spoke he picked up a heifer's foot from the meat-basket in which it lay, and threw it
They all held their peace till at last Agelaus son of Damastor said, "No one should take off
To this Telemachus answered, "By Jove, Agelaus, and by the sorrows of my unhappy father, whc
Minerva now made the suitors fall to laughing immoderately, and set their wits wandering; bu
Thus did he speak, and they all of them laughed heartily. Eurymachus then said, "This strang
But Theoclymenus said, "Eurymachus, you need not send any one with me. I have eyes, ears, a
He left the house as he spoke, and went back to Piraeus who gave him welcome, but the suitor
Telemachus gave him no heed, but sat silently watching his father, expecting every moment th
Meanwhile the daughter of Icarius, wise Penelope, had had had a rich seat placed for her fac

BOOK XXI

MINERVA now put it in Penelope's mind to make the suitors try their skill with the bow and w
Penelope presently reached the oak threshold of the store room; the carpenter had planed thi
"Listen to me you suitors, who persist in abusing the hospitality of this house because its
As she spoke, she told Eumaeus to set the bow and the pieces of iron before the suitors, and

This was what he said, but all the time he was expecting to be able to string the bow and sh
Then Telemachus spoke. "Great heavens!" he exclaimed, "Jove must have robbed me of my sens
As he spoke he sprang from his seat, threw his crimson cloak from him, and took his sword fr
"Alas! I shall either be always feeble and of no prowess, or I am too young, and have not y
On this he put the bow down, letting it lean against the door [that led into the house] with
"Come on each of you in his turn, going towards the right from the place at which the. cupk
The rest agreed, and Leiodes son of OEnops was the first to rise. He was sacrificial priest
On this he put the bow down, letting it lean against the door, with the arrow standing again
"Leiodes, what are you talking about? Your words are monstrous and intolerable; it makes me
Then he said to Melanthius the goatherd, "Look sharp, light a fire in the court, and set a s
Melanthius lit the fire, and set a seat covered with sheep skins beside it. He also brought
Then the swineherd and the stockman left the cloisters together, and Ulysses followed them.
"Stockman, and you swineherd, I have something in my mind which I am in doubt whether to say
"Father Jove," answered the stockman, "would indeed that you might so ordain it. If some gc
In like words Eumaeus prayed to all the gods that Ulysses might return; when, therefore, he
As he spoke he drew his rags aside from the great scar, and when they had examined it thorou
"Cease your weeping, lest some one should come outside and see us, and tell those who a are
When he had thus spoken, he went back to the house and took the seat that he had left. Pres
At this moment the bow was in the hands of Eurymachus, who was warming it by the fire, but e
"It shall not be so, Eurymachus," said Antinous, "and you know it yourself. To-day is the f
The rest approved his words, and thereon men servants poured water over the hands of the gue
"Suitors of the illustrious queen, listen that I may speak even as I am minded. I appeal mc
This made them all very angry, for they feared he might string the bow; Antinous therefore r
Penelope then spoke to him. "Antinous," said she, "it is not right that you should ill-trea
"Queen Penelope," answered Eurymachus, "we do not suppose that this man will take you away w
"Eurymachus," Penelope answered, "people who persist in eating up the estate of a great chie
Then Telemachus said, "Mother, I am the only man either in Ithaca or in the islands that are
She went wondering back into the house, and laid her son's saying in her heart. Then going
The swineherd now took up the bow and was for taking it to Ulysses, but the suitors clamoure
Eumaeus was frightened at the outcry they all raised, so he put the bow down then and there,

Thus did he speak, and they all of them laughed heartily, which put them in a better humour
Euryclea did as she was told and closed the doors of the women's apartments.

Meanwhile Philoetius slipped quietly out and made fast the gates of the outer court. There
Another said, "I hope he may be no more successful in other things than he is likely to be i
But Ulysses, when he had taken it up and examined it all over, strung it as easily as a skill
He took an arrow that was lying upon the table- for those which the Achaeans were so shortly
"Your guest has not disgraced you, Telemachus. I did not miss what I aimed at, and I was no
As he spoke he made a sign with his eyebrows, and Telemachus girded on his sword, grasped hi

BOOK XXII

THEN Ulysses tore off his rags, and sprang on to the broad pavement with his bow and his qui
On this he aimed a deadly arrow at Antinous, who was about to take up a two-handled gold cup
Thus they spoke, for they thought that he had killed Antinous by mistake, and did not percei
"Dogs, did you think that I should not come back from Troy? You have wasted my substance, h
They turned pale with fear as he spoke, and every man looked round about to see whither he m
"If you are Ulysses," said he, "then what you have said is just. We have done much wrong on
Ulysses again glared at him and said, "Though you should give me all that you have in the wc
Their hearts sank as they heard him, but Eurymachus again spoke saying:

"My friends, this man will give us no quarter. He will stand where he is and shoot us down
As he spoke he drew his keen blade of bronze, sharpened on both sides, and with a loud cry s
Then Amphinomus drew his sword and made straight at Ulysses to try and get him away from the
"Father, let me bring you a shield, two spears, and a brass helmet for your temples. I will
"Run and fetch them," answered Ulysses, "while my arrows hold out, or when I am alone they n
Telemachus did as his father said, and went off to the store room where the armour was kept.
Now there was a trap door on the wall, while at one end of the pavement there was an exit le
"This may not be, Agelaus," answered Melanthius, "the mouth of the narrow passage is dangerc
On this the goatherd Melanthius went by back passages to the store room of Ulysses, house.
Telemachus answered, "The fault, father, is mine, and mine only; I left the store room door
Thus did they converse. Meanwhile Melanthius was again going to the store room to fetch mor
Ulysses answered, "Telemachus and I will hold these suitors in check, no matter what they do
Thus did he speak, and they did even as he had said; they went to the store room, which they

There, then, they left him in very cruel bondage, and having put on their armour they closed
But all the time he felt sure it was Minerva, and the suitors from the other side raised an
This made Minerva still more furious, so she scolded Ulysses very angrily. "Ulysses," said
But she would not give him full victory as yet, for she wished still further to prove his ow
Meanwhile Agelaus son of Damastor, Eurynomus, Amphimedon, Demoptolemus, Pisander, and Polybu
They threw their spears as he bade them, but Minerva made them all of no effect. One hit th
They therefore aimed straight in front of them and threw their spears. Ulysses killed Demop
The suitors now aimed a second time, but again Minerva made their weapons for the most part
Thus spoke the stockman, and Ulysses struck the son of Damastor with a spear in close fight,
Leiodes then caught the knees of Ulysses and said, "Ulysses I beseech you have mercy upon me
Ulysses looked sternly at him and answered, "If you were their sacrificing priest, you must
With these words he picked up the sword that Agelaus had dropped when he was being killed, a
The minstrel Phemius son of Terpes- he who had been forced by the suitors to sing to them- n
Telemachus heard him, and at once went up to his father. "Hold!" he cried, "the man is guil
Medon caught these words of Telemachus, for he was crouching under a seat beneath which he h
"Here I am, my dear sir," said he, "stay your hand therefore, and tell your father, or he wi
Ulysses smiled at him and answered, "Fear not; Telemachus has saved your life, that you may
The pair went into the outer court as fast as they could, and sat down by Jove's great altar
Then Ulysses said to Telemachus, "Call nurse Euryclea; I have something to say to her."
Telemachus went and knocked at the door of the women's room. "Make haste," said he, "you old
When Euryclea heard this she unfastened the door of the women's room and came out, following
"I will tell you the truth, my son," answered Euryclea. "There are fifty women in the house
"Do not wake her yet," answered Ulysses, "but tell the women who have misconducted themselve
Euryclea left the cloister to tell the women, and make them come to Ulysses; in the meantime
On this the women came down in a body, weeping and wailing bitterly. First they carried the
So saying he made a ship's cable fast to one of the bearing-posts that supported the roof of
As for Melanthius, they took him through the cloister into the inner court. There they cut
When they had done this they washed their hands and feet and went back into the house, for a
"All that you have said is true," answered Euryclea, "but let me bring you some clean clothe
"First light me a fire," replied Ulysses.

She brought the fire and sulphur, as he had bidden her, and Ulysses thoroughly purified the

BOOK XXIII

EURYCLEA now went upstairs laughing to tell her mistress that her dear husband had come home
"My good nurse," answered Penelope, "you must be mad. The gods sometimes send some very sen
"My dear child," answered Euryclea, "I am not mocking you. It is quite true as I tell you t
Then Penelope sprang up from her couch, threw her arms round Euryclea, and wept for joy. "E
"I was not there," answered Euryclea, "and do not know; I only heard them groaning while the
"My dear nurse," said Penelope, "do not exult too confidently over all this. You know how
Then nurse Euryclea said, "My child, what are you talking about? but you were all hard of be
"My dear nurse," said Penelope, "however wise you may be you can hardly fathom the counsels
On this she came down from her upper room, and while doing so she considered whether she sho
"Mother- but you are so hard that I cannot call you by such a name- why do you keep away fro
Penelope answered, "My son, I am so lost in astonishment that I can find no words in which e
Ulysses smiled at this, and said to Telemachus, "Let your mother put me to any proof she lik
"Look to it yourself, father," answered Telemachus, "for they say you are the wisest counsel
"I will say what I think will be best," answered Ulysses. "First wash and put your shirts c
Thus did he speak, and they did even as he had said. First they washed and put their shirts
This was what they said, but they did not know what it was that had been happening. The upp
"My dear," answered Penelope, "I have no wish to set myself up, nor to depreciate you; but I
She said this to try him, but Ulysses was very angry and said, "Wife, I am much displeas
When she heard the sure proofs Ulysses now gave her, she fairly broke down. She flew weepin
Then Ulysses in his turn melted, and wept as he clasped his dear and faithful wife to his bc
At last, however, Ulysses said, "Wife, we have not yet reached the end of our troubles. I h
"You shall go to bed as soon as you please," replied Penelope, "now that the gods have sent
"My dear," answered Ulysses, "why should you press me to tell you? Still, I will not concea
And Penelope said, "If the gods are going to vouchsafe you a happier time in your old age, y
Thus did they converse. Meanwhile Eurynome and the nurse took torches and made the bed read
When Ulysses and Penelope had had their fill of love they fell talking with one another. Sh
He began with his victory over the Cicons, and how he thence reached the fertile land of the

Then Minerva bethought her of another matter. When she deemed that Ulysses had had both of
As he spoke he girded on his armour. Then he roused Telemachus, Philoetius, and Eumaeus, an

BOOK XXIV

THEN Mercury of Cyllene summoned the ghosts of the suitors, and in his hand he held the fair
Here they found the ghost of Achilles son of Peleus, with those of Patroclus, Antilochus, an
They gathered round the ghost of the son of Peleus, and the ghost of Agamemnon joined them,
"Son of Atreus," it said, "we used to say that Jove had loved you better from first to last
"Happy son of Peleus," answered the ghost of Agamemnon, "for having died at Troy far from Ar
"Thus he spoke, and the Achaeans feared no more. The daughters of the old man of the sea st
"Over these the host of the Argives built a noble tomb, on a point jutting out over the open
Thus did they converse, and presently Mercury came up to them with the ghosts of the suitors
"Amphimedon," it said, "what has happened to all you fine young men- all of an age too- that
And the ghost of Amphimedon answered, "Agamemnon, son of Atreus, king of men, I remember eve
"Then some malicious god conveyed Ulysses to the upland farm where his swineherd lives. Thi
"Happy Ulysses, son of Laertes," replied the ghost of Agamemnon, "you are indeed blessed in
Thus did they converse in the house of Hades deep down within the bowels of the earth. Mean
"Go to the house, and kill the best pig that you can find for dinner. Meanwhile I want to s
He then took off his armour and gave it to Eumaeus and Philoetius, who went straight on to t
"I see, sir," said Ulysses, "that you are an excellent gardener- what pains you take with it
His father shed tears and answered, "Sir, you have indeed come to the country that you have
"I will tell you everything," answered Ulysses, "quite truly. I come from Alybas, where I h
A dark cloud of sorrow fell upon Laertes as he listened. He filled both hands with the dust
"If you really are my son Ulysses," replied Laertes, "and have come back again, you must giv
"First observe this scar," answered Ulysses, "which I got from a boar's tusk when I was hunt
Laertes' strength failed him when he heard the convincing proofs which his son had given him
Ulysses answered, "Take heart and do not trouble yourself about that, but let us go into the
Thus conversing the two made their way towards the house. When they got there they found Te
Laertes answered, "Would, by Father Jove, Minerva, and Apollo, that I were the man I was whe
Thus did they converse; but the others, when they had finished their work and the feast was
Then Dolius put out both his hands and went up to Ulysses. "Sir," said he, seizing his maste

"Old man," answered Ulysses, "she knows already, so you need not trouble about that." On th
While they were thus busy getting their dinner ready, Rumour went round the town, and noised
He wept as he spoke and every one pitied him. But Medon and the bard Phemius had now woke u
On this pale fear laid hold of them, and old Halitherses, son of Mastor, rose to speak, for
"Men of Ithaca, it is all your own fault that things have turned out as they have; you would
This was what he said, and more than half raised a loud shout, and at once left the assembly
Then Minerva said to Jove, "Father, son of Saturn, king of kings, answer me this question- W
And Jove answered, "My child, why should you ask me? Was it not by your own arrangement tha
This was what Minerva was already eager to bring about, so down she darted from off the top
Now when Laertes and the others had done dinner, Ulysses began by saying, "Some of you go ou
They put on their armour as fast as they could- that is to say Ulysses, his three men, and t
Then Jove's daughter Minerva came up to them, having assumed the form and voice of Mentor.
"You say truly, my dear father," answered Telemachus, "and you shall see, if you will, that
Laertes was delighted when he heard this. "Good heavens, he exclaimed, "what a day I am enj
On this Minerva came close up to him and said, "Son of Arceisius- best friend I have in the
As she spoke she infused fresh vigour into him, and when he had prayed to her he poised his
On this pale fear seized every one; they were so frightened that their arms dropped from the
Thus spoke Minerva, and Ulysses obeyed her gladly. Then Minerva assumed the form and voice

[the end]

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