

Odysseus' Nostos: Homecoming Leads to Self-Discovery

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Telemachos

- Athena as Mentor stirs him to call Council
- Hospitality Abused by Suitors
- Questions his Legitimacy
- Quest to Seek Father
- Is He Equal to Odysseus?



Telemachus at Pylos

- Nestor tells him about the homecoming of Agamemnon
- The contrast between Odysseus and Agamemnon, Penelope and Clytemnestra, and Telemachus and Oresteia is established



Telemachus at Sparta: Menelaus and Helen



- Telemachus learns that he is like his father
- He is socially skillful
- Helen and Menelaus form a third marriage model: passionate but competitive

Odysseus and the Goddesses

- He is a captive of Calypso for 7 years
- Hermes tells her to let him leave
- Quote what he says about Penelope



Odysseus and Restraint: Food, Sex, and Sleep

- Lotus Eaters
- Circe: his men are turned into swine; he must restrain from her bed until he has coerced a promise of cooperation
- Cattle of Helios, Sun God
- Aeolus, Wind God, gives him gift of winds in a bag; he sleeps, and men let the winds out



Polyphemus the Cyclops

- Hospitality gone Wrong
- Cyclops and Odysseus abuse Hospitality, like Suitors
- Food—Men
- Wine—Blood
- Gift—Last to be Eaten
- Odysseus' Hubris (Arrogant Pride): Boast



Nausikaa Washing Clothes

- Likens her to Artemis
- “Blessed the man who takes you as bride”
- Like a tall Palm tree
- “May the gods accomplish your desire: home, husband, harmonious converse...the best thing in the world is a strong house where husband and wife agree”
- “All Depends upon Arete, my Mother”



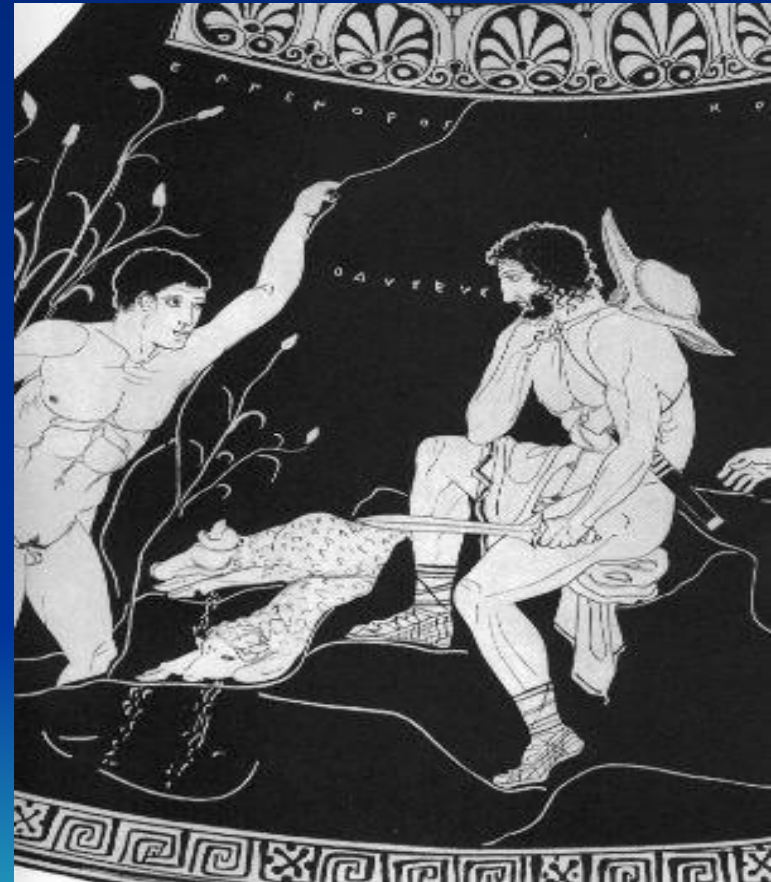
What Odysseus Learns among the Phaeacians

- He cries when the aiodos sings about Troy
 - Recognition of what he has done during war by hearing his story told
- He turns down an opportunity to marry Nausikaa and become a prince there
 - The need for Home



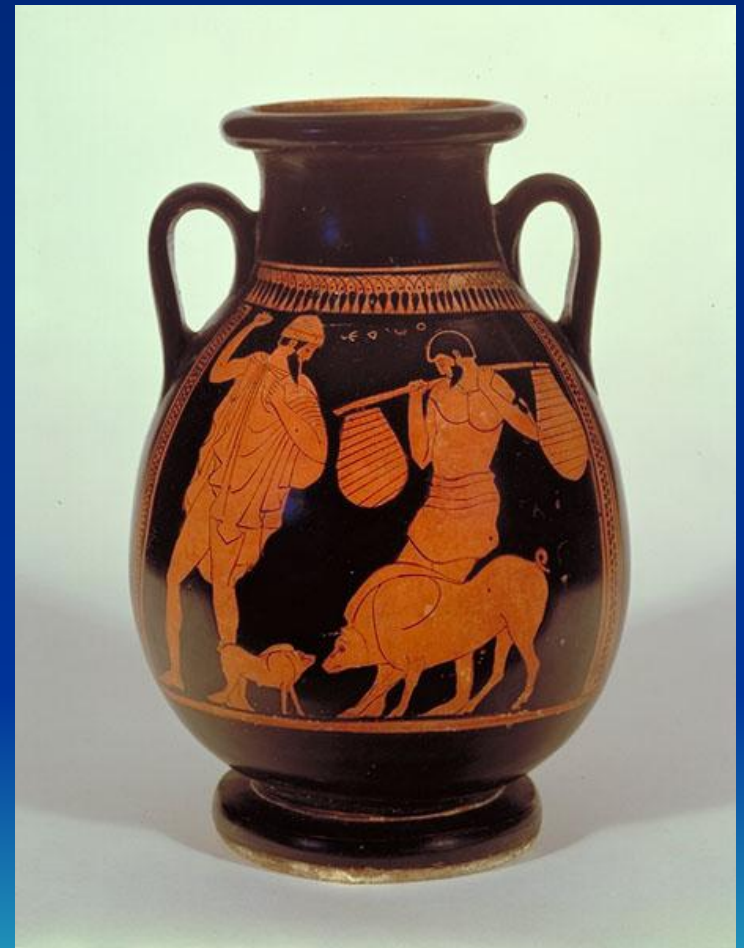
Teiresias the Prophet: The Underworld Adventure

- Journey to Underworld and back is an Epic trope
- Heroic Contrast with Agamemnon and Achilles
- What he learns about women
- The need to confront the past before moving on to the future



Odysseus the Beggar

- From Eumaios he learns the importance of rewarding loyalty
- Humility
- He must fight for a spot at his own table in his own home



Test of Bow



Recognition Scene: Penelope and Odysseus

- Sign of the Bed
- Things Unspoken
- They are a match for each other in Cunning and Wisdom
- “I armed myself long ago against the frauds of men, imposters who might come...Helen of Argos, would she have joined with the stranger, lain with him, if she had known her destiny?... But what sign could be so clear as this our bed?...You make my stiff heart know that I am yours.”



Conclusions

- Hero of Cunning and Endurance
- Not Great Deeds, Not Great Power, But Honor and Happiness through Family
- Wife and Husband who are Harmonious and Equals
- Happiness in Fighting with Son
- Justice of Gods: Hospitality, Beggars, Worthy Suppliants

