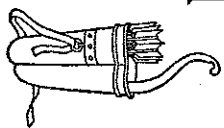


PREVIOUSLY, ON THE *ODYSSEY*...

- Alkinoös, moved by Odysseus's exhilarating yet traumatizing tale, promises that each Phaiakian man will give him a gift to build up wealth for his return to Ithaka.
- They feast (on unlimited meats and sweet wine, of course) throughout the next day while Alkinoös's men prepare the ships. Odysseus is impatient to leave, because even though he spent a year at Circe's, three days is too long to stay with the Phaiakians.
- Alkinoös's men row him to Ithaka during the night as Odysseus sleeps on the ship, and we're kind of surprised he actually made it home this time.
- They land on a rocky grotto, unload the still sleeping Odysseus, and leave him on the shore with all his treasure.
- Up in the clouds, or wherever it is that gods hang out, Poseidon sees Odysseus in Ithaka and approaches Zeus angrily. He wants Odysseus to suffer—more! Mwah-hah-hah.
- Zeus tells him that he is a god and therefore may take his revenge against a mortal any time he wants. So much for all those sacrifices.
- So Poseidon finds the Phaiakians' returning ship, which is almost back to its homeland, and turns it into stone. Where it promptly sinks.
- He'd like to throw up some mountains around their city as well, but Zeus says that would be overkill. Because the *Odyssey* is all about moderation.
- Alkinoös, seeing this happen, remembers the prophecy from Book VIII (that his ship would be turned to stone and mountains thrown up around his island if his people were nice to strangers) and promptly whacks himself on the forehead. *facepalm*
- The onlookers ashore immediately recognize the consummation of the prophecy and resolve to abandon their custom of helping wayward travelers. And thus ends civilized life for the Phaiakians as we know it.

BOOK XIII



- 190 But now great Odysseus awakened
from sleep in his own fatherland, and he did not know it,
having been long away, for the goddess, Pallas Athene,
daughter of Zeus, poured a mist over all, so she could make him
unrecognizable and explain all the details to him,
to have his wife not recognize him, nor his townspeople
and friends, till he punished the suitors for their overbearing oppression.
Therefore to the lord Odysseus she made everything look otherwise
than it was, the penetrating roads, the harbors where all could
anchor, the rocks going straight up, and the trees tall growing.
He sprang and stood upright and looked about at his native
country, and groaned aloud and struck himself on both thighs
with the flats of his hands, and spoke a word of lamentation:
200 'Ah me, what are the people whose land I have come to this time,
and are they savage and violent, and without justice,
or hospitable to strangers and with minds that are godly?
And where shall I take all these many goods? Where shall I
myself be driven? I wish I had stayed among the Phaiakians,
just where I was, and I would have visited some other powerful
king, who then would have been my friend and seen to my journey.
205 Now I do not know where to put all this, and I cannot
leave it here, for fear it may become spoil for others.
Shame on the leaders of the Phaiakians and their men of counsel,
for they were not altogether thoughtful, nor were they righteous,
when they took me away here to another land; but they told me
they would bring me to sunny Ithaka, and they did not do it.
210 May Zeus of the suppliant's punish them, for he oversees other
men besides, and punishes anyone who transgresses.
But come, let me count my goods and find out whether they might not
215 have gone taking some of it with them in the hollow vessel.'
So speaking, he counted up the surpassingly beautiful tripods

Athene disguised tells him where he is

- and caldrons, and the gold and all the fine woven clothing.
 There was nothing gone from all of this; but he in great sorrow
 crept over the beach of his own country beside the resounding
 sea, with much lamentation; but now Athene came near him,
 likening herself in form to a young man, a herdsman
 of sheep, a delicate boy, such as the children of kings are,
 and wearing a well-wrought shawl in a double fold over her shoulders.
 225 Under her shining feet she had sandals, and in her hand carried
 a spear. Odysseus, in joy at the sight, came up to meet her,
 and spoke aloud to her and addressed her in winged words, saying:
 'Dear friend, since you are the first I have met with in this country,
 I give you greeting. Do not cross me with evil purpose,
 230 but rescue these possessions and me. I make my prayer to you
 as to a god, and come to your dear knees as a suppliant.
 And tell me this and tell me truly, so that I may know it.
 What land is this, what neighborhood is it, what people live here?
 Is it some one of the sunny islands, or is it some foreland
 235 flatted out from the generous mainland into the salt sea?'
 Then in turn the gray-eyed goddess Athene answered:
 'You are some innocent, O stranger, or else you have come from
 far away; if you ask about this land, for it is not
 so nameless as all that. There are indeed many who know it,
 240 whether among those who live toward the east and the sunrise,
 or those who live up and away toward the mist and darkness. See now,
 this is a rugged country and not for the driving of horses,
 but neither is it so unpleasant, though not widely shaped;
 for there is abundant grain for bread grown here, it produces
 245 wine, and there is always rain and the dew to make it
 fertile; it is good to feed goats and cattle; and timber
 is there of all sorts, and watering places good through the seasons;
 so that, stranger, the name of Ithaka has gone even
 to Troy, though they say that is very far from Achaian country.'
 250 So she spoke, and resourceful great Odysseus was happy,
 rejoicing in the land of his fathers when Pallas Athene
 daughter of Zeus of the aegis told him the truth of it,
 and so he answered her again and addressed her in winged words;
 but he did not tell her the truth, but checked that word from the outset,
 forever using to every advantage the mind that was in him:
 255 'I heard the name of Ithaka when I was in wide Crete,

He lies to her

- far away, across the sea; now I myself have come here
 with these goods that you see, but leaving as much again to my children.
 I have fled, an exile, because I killed the son of Idomeneus,
 260 Orsiochos, a man swift of foot, who in wide Crete surpassed
 all other mortal men for speed of his feet. I killed him
 because he tried to deprive me of all my share of the plunder
 from Troy, and for the sake of it my heart suffered many
 pains: the wars of men, hard crossing of the big waters;
 265 for I would not do his father favor, and serve as his henchman
 in the land of Troy, but I led others, of my own following.
 I lay in wait for him with a friend by the road, and struck him
 with the bronze-headed spear as he came back from the fields. There was
 a very dark night spread over all the sky, nor did anyone
 270 see me, nor did anyone know of it when I stripped the life
 from him. But then, when I had cut him down with the sharp bronze,
 I went at once to a ship, and supplicated the lordly
 Phoenician men, and gave them spoil, to stay their eagerness,
 and asked them to carry me and to set me down in Pylos
 275 or shining Elis where the Dpeians are lords; but it happened
 that the force of the wind beat them away from those places, greatly
 against their will; it was not as if they wished to deceive me.
 So, driven off those courses, we came in here, by night,
 and rowed her hastily into the harbor, nor was there any
 280 thought in us of the evening meal, much though we wanted it,
 but all of us came off the ship as we were, and lay down;
 then, weary as I was, the sweetness of sleep came upon me,
 while they, taking all the possessions out of the hollow hall, set them
 ashore on the sand, and close to the place where I was lying,
 285 and they, embarking, went on their way to strongly settled
 Sidon; but I, grieving at the heart, was left behind here.'
 So he spoke. The goddess, gray-eyed Athene, smiled on him,
 and stroked him with her hand, and took on the shape of a woman
 both beautiful and tall, and well-versed in glorious handiworks,
 290 and spoke aloud to him and addressed him in winged words, saying:
 'It would be a sharp one, and a stealthy one, who would ever get past you
 in any contriving; even if it were a god against you.
 You wretch, so devious, never weary of tricks, then you would not
 even in your own country give over your ways of deceiving
 295 and your thievish tales. They are near to you in your very nature.

Athene reveals herself

- But come, let us talk no more of this, for you and I both know sharp practice, since you are far the best of all mortal men for counsel and stories, and I among all the divinities am famous for wit and sharpness; and yet you never recognized Pallas Athene, daughter of Zeus, the one who is always standing beside you and guarding you in every endeavor. And it was I who made you loved by all the Phaiakians. And now again I am here, to help you in your devising of schemes, and to hide the possessions which the haughty Phaiakians bestowed—it was by my thought and counsel—on you, as you started for home, and tell you all the troubles you are destined to suffer in your well-wrought house: but you must of necessity, endure all, and tell no one out of all the men and the women that you have come back from your wanderings, but you must endure much grief in silence, standing and facing men in their violence.'
- 310 Then in turn resourceful Odysseus spoke to her in answer:
'It is hard, O goddess, for even a man of good understanding to recognize you on meeting, for you take every shape upon you. But this I know well: there was a time when you were kind to me in the days when we sons of the Achaians were fighting in Troy land. But after we had sacked the sheer citadel of Priam, and went away in our ships, and the god scattered the Achaians, I never saw you, daughter of Zeus, after that, nor did I know of your visiting my ship, to beat off some trouble from me, but always with my heart torn inside its coverings I wandered, until the gods set me free from unhappiness, until in the rich territory of the Phaiakian men you cheered me with words, then led me, yourself in person, into their city. And now I entreat you in the name of your father; for I do not think I have really come into sunny Ithaka, but have been driven off course to another country, and I think you are teasing me when you tell me I am, and saying it to beguile me; tell me if it is true that I have come back to my own dear country.'
- 320 Then in turn the goddess gray-eyed Athene answered him:
'Always you are the same, and such is the mind within you, and so I cannot abandon you when you are unhappy, because you are fluent, and reason closely, and keep your head always. Anyone else come home from wandering would have run happily off to see his children and wife in his halls; but it is not

and explains her abences

- 335 your pleasure to investigate and ask questions, not till you have made trial of your wife, yet she, as always, sits there in your palace, and always with her the wretched nights, and the days also, waste her away with weeping. And I never did have any doubt, but in my heart always knew how you would come home, having lost all of your companions. But, you see, I did not want to fight with my father's brother, Poseidon, who was holding a grudge against you in his heart, and because you blinded his dear son, hated you. Come, I will show you settled Ithaka, so you will believe me. This is the harbor of the Old Man of the Sea, Phoorkys, and here at the head of the harbor is the olive tree with spreading leaves, and nearby is the cave that is shaded, and pleasant, and sacred to the nymphs who are called the Nymphs of the Wellsprings.
- 340 Naiads: That is the wide over-arching cave, where often you used to accomplish for the nymphs their complete hecatombs; and there is the mountain, Neritos, all covered with forest.'
- 345 So speaking the goddess scattered the mist, and the land was visible. Long-suffering great Odysseus was gladdened then, rejoicing in the sight of his country, and kissed the grain-griving ground, then raised his hands in the air and spoke to the nymphs, praying:
'Naiad nymphs, O daughters of Zeus, I never suspected that I would see you again. Be welcome now to my gentle prayers, but I will also give you gifts, as I used to before, if Athene the Spoiler, Zeus' daughter, freely grants me to go on living here myself, and sustains my dear son.'
- 350 Then in turn the goddess gray-eyed Athene said to him:
'Never fear, let none of these matters trouble your mind. Rather let us hide these possessions without delay, deep in the inward part of the wonderful cave, so they will be kept safe for you. Then we shall make our plans how all may come out best for us.'
- 355 So the goddess spoke, and went inside the shadowy cave, looking through it for hiding places. Meanwhile, Odysseus brought everything close up, gold, tireless bronze, clothing that had been made with care, given him by the Phaiakians, and stowed it well away inside, and Pallas Athene, daughter of Zeus of the aegis, set a stone against the doorway.
- 360 The two sat down against the trunk of the hallowed olive,

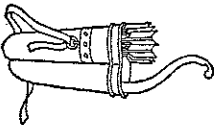
Information and instructions

- and plotted out the destruction of the overmastering suitors.
Their discourse was begun by the goddess gray-eyed Athena:
- 375 Son of Laertes and seed of Zeus, resourceful Odysseus,
consider how you can lay your hands on these shameless suitors,
who for three years now have been as lords in your palace,
and courting your godlike wife, and offering gifts to win her.
And she, though her heart forever grieves over your homecoming,
380 holds out some hope for all, and makes promises to each man,
sending them messages, but her mind has other intentions.
Then resourceful Odysseus spoke in turn and answered her:
'Surely I was on the point of perishing by an evil
fate in my palace, like Atreus' son Agamemnon, unless
385 you had told me, goddess, the very truth of all that has happened.
Come then, weave the design, the way I shall take my vengeance
upon them; stand beside me, inspire me with strength and courage,
as when together we brought down Troy's shining coronal.
For if in your fury, O gray-eyed goddess, you stood beside me,
390 I would fight, lady and goddess, with your help against three hundred
men if you, freely and in full heart, would help me.'
Then in turn the goddess gray-eyed Athena answered:
'I will indeed be at your side, you will not be forgotten
at the time when we two go to this work, and I look for endless
ground to be spattered by the blood and brains of the suitors,
395 these men who are eating all your substance away. But come now,
let me make you so that no mortal can recognize you.
For I will wither the handsome flesh that is on your flexible
limbs, and ruin the brown hair on your head, and about you
put on such a clout of cloth any man will loathe when he sees you
400 wearing it; I will dim those eyes, that have been so handsome,
so you will be unrecognizable to all the suitors
and your wife and child, those whom you left behind in your palace.
First of all, you are to make your way to the swineherd
405 who is in charge of your pigs, but always his thoughts are kindly,
and he is a friend to your son and to circumspect Penelope.
You will find him posted beside his pigs, and these are herded
near the Rock of the Raven and beside the spring Arethousa,
to eat the acorns that stay their strength, and drink of the darkling
410 water, for these are nourishing for pigs, and fatten them.
There you shall wait, and stay with him, and ask him all questions,

Odysseus transformed into an old tramp

- while I go over to Sparta, the country of lovely women,
and call back Telemachos, your own dear son, Odysseus,
who went into spacious Lakedaimon to see Menelaos
415 and ask him for news of you, and whether you were still living.'
Then resourceful Odysseus spoke in turn and answered her:
'Why then did you not tell him, since in your mind you know all things?
Was it so that he too wandering over the barren
sea should suffer pains, while others ate up his substance?'
420 Then in turn the goddess gray-eyed Athena answered:
'Let him not be too much on your mind. It was I myself
who saw him along on that journey, so he would win reputation
by going there, and he has no hardship, but now is staying
at his ease with the son of Atreus, and all abundance is by him.
425 It is true that the young men with their black ship are lying
in wait for him to kill him before he reaches his country;
but I think this will not happen, but that sooner the earth will cover
some one of those suitors, who now are eating away your substance.'
So spoke Athena, and with her wand she tapped Odysseus,
430 and withered the handsome flesh that was upon his flexible
limbs, and ruined the brown hair on his head, and about him,
to cover all his body, she put the skin of an ancient
old man, and then she dimmed those eyes that had been so handsome.
Then she put another vile rag on him, and a tunic,
435 tattered, squalid, blackened with the foul smoke, and over it
gave him the big hide of a fast-running deer, with the hairs rubbed
off, to wear, and she gave him a staff, and an ugly wallet
that was full of holes, with a twist of rope attached, to dangle it.
So they two consulted and went their ways. The goddess
440 went to bright Lakedaimon to fetch the son of Odysseus.

BOOK XIV



But Odysseus himself left the harbor and ascended a rugged path, through wooded country along the heights, where Athene had indicated the noble swineherd, who beyond others cared for the house properties acquired by noble Odysseus.

5 He found him sitting in front, on the porch, where the lofty enclosure had been built, in a place with a view on all sides, both large and handsome, cleared all about, and it was the swineherd himself who had built it, to hold the pigs of his absent master, far from his mistress and from aged Laertes. He made it

10 with stones from the field, and topped it off with shrubbery. Outside he had driven posts in a full circle, to close it on all sides, set close together and thick, the dark of the oak, split out from the logs. Inside the enclosure he made twelve pig pens next to each other, for his sows to sleep in, and in each of them

15 fifty pigs who sleep on the ground were confined. These were the breeding females, but the males lay outside, and these were fewer by far, for the godlike suitors kept diminishing their numbers by eating them, since the swineherd kept having to send them in the best of all the well-fattened porkers at any time. Now, they numbered three hundred and sixty,

20 and four dogs, who were like wild beasts, forever were lying by them. These the swineherd, leader of men, had raised up himself. Now he was fitting sandals to his feet, cutting out a well-colored piece of oxhide. Meanwhile, the other

25 swineherds were out with the herded pigs one place or another, three of them, but the fourth he had sent off to the city to take a pig to the insolent suitors, since they so forced him, so they could sacrifice it and glut their appetites on it.

30 Suddenly the wild-baying dogs caught sight of Odysseus. They ran at him with a great outcry, and Odysseus prudently sat down on the ground, and the staff fell out of his hand. But there, beside his own steading, he might have endured a shameful manling, but the swineherd, quick and light on his feet, came hurrying to him across the porch, and let fall from his hand the shoe he was holding.

35 He shouted at the dogs and scared them in every direction with volleyed showers of stones, and spoke then to his own master: 'Old sir, the dogs were suddenly on you and would have savaged you badly; so you would have covered me with shame, but already

40 there are other pains and sorrows the gods have bestowed upon me. For here I sit, mourning and grieving away for a godlike master, and carefully raise his fattened pigs for others to eat, while he, in need of finding some sustenance, wanders some city or countryside of alien-speaking people;

45 if he still is alive somewhere and looks on the sunlight. Come, old sir, along to my shelter, so that you also first may be filled to contentment with food and wine, then tell me where you come from, and about the sorrows you have been suffering.'

* * *

He spoke, and pulled his tunic to with his belt, and went out swiftly to his pig pens where his herds of swine were penned in, and picked out a pair and brought them in and sacrificed them, and singed them, and cut them into little pieces, and spitted them,

75 then roasted all and brought and set it before Odysseus hot on the spits as it was, and sprinkled white barley over it, and mixed the wine, as sweet as honey, in a bowl of ivy, and himself sat down facing him, and urged him on, saying: 'Eat now, stranger, what we serving men are permitted to eat: young pigs, but the fattened swine are devoured by the suitors, who have no regard for anyone in their minds, no pity.

80 The blessed gods have no love for a pitiless action, but rather they reward justice and what men do that is lawful;

415 Bring in the best of the pigs, to sacrifice for our stranger
 guest from afar, and we ourselves shall enjoy it, we who
 long have endured this wretched work for the pigs with shining
 teeth, while others at no cost eat up what we have worked on.
 So he spoke, and with the pitiless bronze split kindling,
 and the men brought in a pig, five years old and a very fat one,
 420 and made it stand in front of the fireplace, nor did the swineherd
 forget the immortal gods, for he had the uses of virtue;
 but he cut off hairs from the head of the white-toothed pig, and threw
 them

into the fire as dedication, and prayed to all the gods
 that Odysseus of the many designs should have his homecoming.

430 they cut all the remainder into pieces and spitted them,
 and roasted all carefully and took off the pieces,
 and laid it all together on platters. The swineherd
 stood up to divide the portions, for he was fair minded,
 and separated all the meat into seven portions.

435 One he set aside, with a prayer, for the nymphs and Hermes,
 the son of Maia, and the rest he distributed to each man,
 but gave Odysseus in honor the long cuts of the chine's portion
 of the white-toothed pig, and so exalted the heart of his master.
 Then resourceful Odysseus spoke to him and addressed him:

440 I wish, Eumaios, you could be as dear to our father
 Zeus as to me, when I am so poor, but you grace me with good things.
 Then, O swineherd Eumaios, you said to him in answer:

445 'Eat, my guest, strange man that you are, and take your pleasure
 of what is here now; the god will give you such, or will let it
 be, as in his own mind he may wish. He can do anything.'
 He spoke, and sacrificed first-offerings to the immortal
 gods, then poured bright wine for Odysseus, sacker of cities,
 and put the cup in his hands, and sat down to his own portion.

A bad night came on, the dark of the moon, and Zeus rained
 all night long, and the West Wind blew big, always watery.

460 Odysseus spoke among them. He was trying it out on the swineherd,
 to see if he might take off his mantle and give it him, or tell
 one of his men to do it, since he cared for him so greatly:
 'Hear me now, Eumaios and all you other companions.
 What I say will be a bit of boasting. The mad wine tells me
 to do it. Wine sets even a thoughtful man to singing,
 or sets him into softly laughing, sets him to dancing.
 465 Sometimes it tosses out a word that was better unspoken.

But now I have broken into loud speech I will not suppress it.
 I wish I were young again and the strength still steady within me,
 as when, in Troy, we formed an ambush detail and led it.

480 but I, in my carelessness when I started with my companions,
 had left my mantle; I never thought I would be so cold,
 but went along with only my shield and my shining waist guard.
 But when it was the third time of the night and after the star change,
 then I spoke to Odysseus, for he was lying next me,
 nudging him with my elbow, and he listened at once. I said:
 485 "Son of Laertes and seed of Zeus, resourceful Odysseus,
 I shall no longer be left among the living. The weather
 is too much for me. I have no mantle. The spirit made me
 silly, to go half-dressed, and now there is no escape for me."
 490 So I spoke, and he immediately had an idea
 in his mind, such a man he was for counseling, as for fighting.
 He spoke to me in a little voice and said a word to me:
 "Be quiet now, let no other of the Achaians hear you."
 495 Then he propped his head on his elbow and spoke a word, out loud:
 "Hear me, friends. In my sleep a divine dream came to me.
 We have come too far away from the ships. Now, would there be
 someone

to tell Agamemnon, Atreus' son, shepherd of the people,
 so he might send more of the men by the ships to come here to us?"
 So he spoke, and Thoas sprang up, the son of Andraimon,
 500 quickly, and took off and laid aside his red mantle,
 and went on the run for the ships, and I lay down in his clothes,
 happily, and rested until Dawn of the golden throne came.

I wish I were young like that and the strength still steady within me.
 Some one of the swineherds in this house would give me a mantle,
 both for love and out of respect for a strong warrior.
 505 Now they slight me because I wear vile clothing upon me.

Then, O swineherd Eumaios, you said to him in answer:
 'Old sir, that was a blameless fable the way you told it;
 and you have made no unprofitable speech, nor one that
 missed the point, so you shall not lack for clothes, nor anything
 510 rightfully due the unhappy suppliant who approaches us.
 For now, that is. You must flaunt your rags again in the morning.
 There are not many extra mantles and extra tunics
 here to change into. There is only one set for each man.

515 When, however, the dear son of Odysseus comes back,
 he will give you a mantle and tunic to wear as clothing,
 and send you wherever your heart and spirit desire to be sent.'
 So he spoke, and sprang up, and laid a bed for him next to
 the fire, and threw the fleeces of sheep and goats over it.
 520 There Odysseus lay down, and he threw over him a mantle
 that was great and thick, which he kept by him as an extra covering
 to wrap in when winter weather came on and was too rigorous.

So there Odysseus went to bed and the young men beside him
 lay down also to go to sleep. Only the swineherd
 525 did not please to leave his pigs, and go to bed indoors.

Eumaios sleeps with the pigs

but made preparations as he went out; and Odysseus was happy
that his livelihood was so well cared for while he was absent.

530 First the swineherd slung his sharp sword on his heavy shoulders,
and put a very thick mantle about him, to keep the wind out,
and took up also the hairy skin of a great, well-conditioned
goat, and took up a sharp javelin as a protection
against men and dogs, and went to sleep where his pigs, with shining
teeth, lay in the hollow of a rock, sheltered from the North Wind.