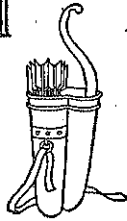


BOOK XVI



These two in the shelter, Odysseus and the noble swineherd, stirred the fire at dawn, and arranged their breakfast, and sent the herdsmen out with the pasturing pigs. At this time the clamorous dogs came fawning around Telemachos, nor did they bark at him as he came, and great Odysseus noticed
5 that the dogs were fawning; above them he heard the loud noise of footsteps.

Immediately he spoke in winged words to Eumaios:
'Eumaios, someone is on his way here who is truly one of yours, or else well known, since the dogs are not barking
10 but fawning about him, and I can hear the thud of his footsteps.'
His whole word had not been spoken when his beloved son stood in the forecourt. Amazed, the swineherd started up, and the vessels, where he had been busily mixing the bright wine, fell from his hand. He came up to meet his master,
15 and kissed his head, and kissed too his beautiful shining eyes, and both his hands, and the swelling tear fell from him. And as a father, with heart full of love, welcomes his only and grown son, for whose sake he has undergone many hardships when he comes back in the tenth year from a distant country,
20 so now the noble swineherd, clinging fast to godlike Telemachos, kissed him even as if he had escaped dying, and in a burst of weeping he spoke to him in winged words:
'You have come, Telemachos, sweet light; I thought I would never

see you again, when you had gone in the ship to Pylos.
25 But come now into the house, dear child, so that I can pleasure my heart with looking at you again when you are inside; for you do not come very often to the estate and the herdsmen, but you stay in town, since now it seems you are even minded to face the deadly company of the lordly suitors.'

30 Then the thoughtful Telemachos said to him in answer:
'So it shall be, my father; but it was for your sake I came here, to look upon you with my eyes, and to hear a word from you, whether my mother endures still in the halls, or whether some other man has married her, and the bed of Odysseus
35 lies forlorn of sleepers with spider webs grown upon it.'

Then in turn the swineherd, leader of men, said to him:
'All too much with enduring heart she does wait for him there in your own palace, and always with her the wretched nights and the days also waste her away with weeping.'

40 So he spoke, and took the bronze spear from him. Telemachos then went inside and stepped over the sill of stone, and his father Odysseus rose from his seat and yielded him place as he entered, but Telemachos from the other side checked him and said to him:
'No, sit, my friend, and we shall find us another seat, here
45 in our own shelter; the man is here who will lay it for us.'

He spoke, and Odysseus went back again and sat down. The swineherd strewed green brushwood and fleeces on the ground for him. There the beloved son of Odysseus seated himself, and for them the swineherd brought and set beside them platters of roasted
50 meat, which they had left over when they were eating earlier; and hastily set bread by them, piling it in baskets, and mixed the wine, as sweet as honey, in a bowl of ivy. He himself sat down across from godlike Odysseus.

They put forth their hands to the good things that lay ready before them.
55 But when they had put away their desire for eating and drinking, then at last Telemachos questioned the noble swineherd:
'Father, where did this stranger come from? How did the sailors bring him to Ithaka? What men do they claim that they are? For I do not think he could have traveled on foot to this country.'

60 Then, O swineherd Eumaios, you said to him in answer:
'So, my child, I will relate you the whole true story.
He announces himself by birth to be one from spacious

Troubles in Ithaka described

Crete, but his wanderings have wheeled him through many cities
of mortal men, for so the divinity spun his thread for him,
65 and now this time he has fled away off a ship of Thesprotian
men, and come to my steading. I put him into your hands now.
Do with him as you will. He names himself your suppliant.'

Then the thoughtful Telemachos said to him in answer:
'Eumaios, this word you spoke hurt my heart deeply. For how
70 shall I take and entertain a stranger guest in my house?
I myself am young and have no faith in my hands' strength
to defend a man, if anyone else picks a quarrel with him;
and my mother's heart is divided in her, and ponders two ways,
whether to remain here with me, and look after the household,
75 keep faith with her husband's bed, and regard the voice of the people,
or go away at last with the best man of the Achaians
who pays her court in her palace, and brings her the most presents.
But as for this stranger, since it is your house he has come to,
I will give him a mantle and tunic to wear, fine clothing,
80 and give him sandals for his feet, a sword with two edges,
and send him wherever his heart and spirit desire to be sent.
Or if you will, keep him here in your steading and look after him,
and I will send the clothes out here, and all provisions
to eat, so he will not be hard on you, nor on your companions;
85 but I will not let him go down there and be where the suitors
are, for their outrageousness is too strong, and I fear
they may insult him, and that will be a hard sorrow upon me
and a difficult one for even a strong man to deal with
among too many of them, since they will be far the stronger.'

Then long-suffering great Odysseus spoke to him in answer:
'Dear friend, since in truth I am privileged to speak of this,
you eat away the dear heart in me, as I listen
to what you tell of the suitors and their reckless contrivings
inside your palace, against your will, when you are such a one
95 as you are. Tell me, are you willingly oppressed by them? Do the people
hate you throughout this place, swayed by some impulse given
from the gods? Do you find your brothers wanting? A man trusts
help from these in the fighting when a great quarrel arises.
I wish that I were truly as young as I am in spirit,
100 or a son of stately Odysseus were here, or he himself might
come in from his wandering. There is time still for hope. If such

Eumaios sent to Penelope

things could be, another could strike my head from my shoulders
if I did not come as an evil thing to all those people
as I entered the palace of Odysseus, the son of Laertes.

105 And if I, fighting alone, were subdued by all their number,
then I would rather die, cut down in my own palace,
than have to go on watching forever these shameful activities,
guests being battered about, or to see them rudely mishandling
the serving women all about the beautiful palace,
110 to see them drawing the wine and eating up food in this utterly
reckless way, without end, forever and always at it.'

Then the thoughtful Telemachos said to him in answer:
'So, my friend, I will tell you plainly the whole truth of it.
It is not that all the people hate me, nor are they angry,
115 nor is it that I find brothers wanting, whom a man trusts for
help in the fighting, whenever a great quarrel arises.
For so it is that the son of Kronos made ours a single
line. Arkeisios had only a single son, Laertes,
and Laertes had only one son, Odysseus; Odysseus in turn
120 left only one son, myself, in the halls, and got no profit
of me, and my enemies are here in my house, beyond numbering.
For all the greatest men who have the power in the islands,
in Doulichion and Same and in wooded Zakynthos,
and all who in rocky Ithaka are holders of lordships,
125 all these are after my mother for marriage, and wear my house out.
And she does not refuse the hateful marriage, nor is she able
to make an end of the matter; and these eating up my substance
waste it away; and soon they will break me myself to pieces.
Yet all these are things that are lying upon the gods' knees.

130 Father Eumaios, go quickly now, and tell the circumspect
Penelope that I am safe and have come from Pylos.
I myself will stay here. You go there quickly, and give this
message to her alone, and let no other Achaian
hear it; for there are many there who are plotting against me.'

135 Then, O swineherd Eumaios, you said to him in answer:
'I see, I understand; you speak to one who follows you.
But come now, tell me this and give me an accurate answer.
Shall I on the same errand go with the news to wretched
Laertes, who while he so greatly grieved for Odysseus
140 yet would look after his farm and with the thralls in his household

Odysseus reveals himself

would eat and drink, whenever the spirit was urgent with him;
but now, since you went away in the ship to Pylos,
they say he has not eaten in this way, nor drunk anything,
nor looked to his farm, but always in lamentation and mourning
145 sits grieving, and the flesh on his bones is wasting from him.'

Then the thoughtful Telemachos said to him in answer:
'Though it hurts the more, we shall let him be, for all our sorrow.
For if it were somehow given to mortals to have their choosing
in all things, we should choose my father's day of homecoming.

150 But you, when you have given your message, come back and do not
go off to the estate to see him, but tell my mother
to tell the servant who is housekeeper to go there swiftly
and secretly, and she can give the news to the old man.'

He spoke, and started the swineherd, who in his hands took up
155 his sandals and tied them on his feet to start for the city.

Nor was Athene unaware that Eumaios the swineherd
had left the steading, but she came near, likened to a woman
beautiful and tall, and skilled in glorious handiwork,
and stood in the forecourt of the shelter, seen by Odysseus.

160 But Telemachos did not look her way nor did he perceive her;
for the gods do not show themselves in this way to everyone;
but Odysseus saw her and the dogs did; they were not barking,
but cowered away, whimpering, to the other side of the shelter.
She nodded to him with her brows, and noble Odysseus

165 saw her, and came from the house, outside the great wall of the courtyard,
and stood in her presence. Then Athene spoke to him, saying:

'Son of Laertes and seed of Zeus, resourceful Odysseus,
it is time now to tell your son the story; no longer
hide it, so that, contriving death and doom for the suitors,
170 you two may go to the glorious city. I myself shall not
be long absent from you in my eagerness for the fighting.'

So spoke Athene, and with her golden wand she tapped him.
First she made the mantle and the tunic that covered
his chest turn bright and clean; she increased his strength and stature.

175 His dark color came back to him again, his jaws firmed,
and the beard that grew about his chin turned black. Athene
went away once more, having done her work, but Odysseus
went back into the shelter. His beloved son was astonished
and turned his eyes in the other direction, fearing this must be

to Telemachos

180 a god, and spoke aloud to him and addressed him in winged words:
'Suddenly you have changed, my friend, from what you were formerly;
your skin is no longer as it was, you have other clothing.
Surely you are one of the gods who hold the high heaven.

Be gracious, then: so we shall give you favored offerings
185 and golden gifts that have been well wrought. Only be merciful.'

Then in turn long-suffering great Odysseus answered him:

'No, I am not a god. Why liken me to the immortals?
But I am your father, for whose sake you are always grieving
as you look for violence from others, and endure hardships.'

190 So he spoke, and kissed his son, and the tears running
down his cheeks splashed on the ground. Until now, he was always
unyielding.

But Telemachos, for he did not yet believe that this was
his father, spoke to him once again in answer, saying:

'No, you are not Odysseus my father, but some divinity
195 beguiles me, so that I must grieve the more, and be sorry.
For no man who was mortal could ever have so contrived it
by his own mind alone, not unless some immortal, descending
on him in person, were lightly to make him a young or an old man.
For even now you were an old man in unseemly clothing,
200 but now you resemble one of the gods who hold wide heaven.'

Then resourceful Odysseus spoke in turn and answered him:
'Telemachos, it does not become you to wonder too much
at your own father when he is here, nor doubt him. No other
Odysseus than I will ever come back to you. But here I am,

205 and I am as you see me, and after hardships and suffering
much I have come, in the twentieth year, back to my own country.
But here you see the work of Athene, the giver of plunder,
who turns me into whatever she pleases, since she can do this;
and now she will make me look like a beggar, but then the next time
210 like a young man, and wearing splendid clothes on my body;
and it is a light thing for the gods who hold wide heaven
to glorify any mortal man, or else to degrade him.'

So he spoke, and sat down again, but now Telemachos
folded his great father in his arms and lamented,
215 shedding tears, and desire for mourning rose in both of them;
and they cried shrill in a pulsing voice, even more than the outcry
of birds, ospreys or vultures with hooked claws, whose children

They make their plans

were stolen away by the men of the fields, before their wings grew strong; such was their pitiful cry and the tears their eyes wept.
 220 And now the light of the sun would have set on their crying, had not Telemachos spoken a quick word to his father:
 'What kind of ship was it, father dear, in which the sailors brought you to Ithaka? What men do they claim that they are? For I do not think you could have traveled on foot to this country.'

225 Then long-suffering great Odysseus said to him in answer:
 'So, my child, I will tell you all the truth. The Phaiakians famed for seafaring brought me here, and they carry other people as well, whoever may come into their country. They brought me sleeping in their fast ship over the open
 230 sea, and set me down in Ithaka, and gave me glorious gifts, abundant bronze and gold and woven apparel. All this, by the gods' grace, is lying stored in the caverns. But now I have come to this place by the advice by Athene, so we together can make our plans to slaughter our enemies.

235 Come then, tell me the number of suitors, and tell me about them, so I can know how many there are, and which men are of them; and then, when I have pondered it in my faultless mind, I can decide whether we two alone will be able to face them without any help, or whether we must go looking for others.'

240 Then the thoughtful Telemachos said to him in answer:
 'Oh, father, I have always heard of your great fame, and how you were a fighting man with your hands, and prudent in counsel; but what you have spoken of is too big; I am awed; for it could not be that two men could fight against strong men in these numbers.

245 The suitors are no simple number of ten, nor twice that, but far more than that. Even now you shall hear the number of those that are here. From Doulichion there are two and fifty young men, choice men, and there are six thralls of their following; the number of men come from Same is four and twenty,
 250 and from Zakynthos there are twenty sons of the Achaians. From Ithaka itself there are twelve, and all of their best men, and Medon the herald is with them, and the divine singer, and there are two henchmen with them, both skilled in carving. If we set ourselves to fight against all who are in the palace,
 255 I fear your revenge on their violence may be grim and bitter for us. Then, if you can think of anyone to stand by us

to deal with the suitors

and with forthright spirit be our protector, speak of him to me.'

Then in turn long-suffering great Odysseus answered him:
 'So, then, I will tell you. Hear me and understand me
 260 and consider whether Athene with Zeus father helping will be enough for us, or whether I must think of some other helper.'

Then the thoughtful Telemachos said to him in answer:
 'Those indeed are two excellent helpers you name to me, even though they sit high away in the clouds, for they have power
 265 over others besides, over mortal men and the gods immortal.'

Then in turn long-suffering great Odysseus answered him:
 'These are two who will not for a long time stay far off from the strong battle, at that time when the War God's decision is fought out in our halls between ourselves and the suitors.
 270 But now, as for you, you must make your way, when dawn shows, back to our house, and be with the group of insolent suitors. At a later time the swineherd shall take me to the city, and I shall look like a dismal vagabond, and an old man. But if they maltreat me within the house, then let the dear heart
 275 in you even endure it, though I suffer outrage, even if they drag me by the feet through the palace to throw me out of it, or pelt me with missiles; you must still look on and endure it; though indeed you may speak to them with soft words and entreat them to give over their mad behavior, but still they will never
 280 listen to you, for the day of their destiny stands near them. And put away in your heart this other thing that I tell you. When Athene, lady of many counsels, puts it into my mind, I will nod my head to you, and when you perceive it, take all the warlike weapons which are stored in the great hall,
 285 and carry them off and store them away in the inward corner of the high chamber; and when the suitors miss them and ask you about them, answer and beguile them with soft words, saying: "I stored them away out of the smoke, since they are no longer like what Odysseus left behind when he went to Troy land,
 290 but are made foul, with all the smoke of the fire upon them. Also, the son of Kronos put into my head this even greater thought, that with the wine in you, you might stand up and fight, and wound each other, and spoil the feast and the courting, since iron all of itself works on a man and attracts him."

295 But leave behind, for you and me alone, a pair each

Return of the suitors

of swords and spears, and a pair of oxhide shields, to take up
in our hands, and wield them, and kill these men; and Zeus of the
counsels

and Pallas Athene will be there to maze the wits in them.
And put away in your heart this other thing that I tell you.

300 If truly you are my own son, and born of our own blood,
then let nobody hear that Odysseus is in the palace;
let not Laertes hear of it, neither let the swineherd;
let no one in the household know, not even Penelope
herself; you and I alone will judge the faith of the women,
305 and, besides these, we can make trial of the serving men, to see
whether any of them is true to us and full of humility,
or whether one cares nothing for you, and denies your greatness.'

Then in answer again his glorious son said to him:

'Father, I think you will learn what my spirit is like, when the time
comes,

310 for the mood that is in my mind shows no slackening; only
I think in what you propose there will be no profit for either
of us, and I urge you to think well about it. You would
be going about our holdings, testing and learning the nature
of man after man, while they at their ease in the palace
315 overbearingly consume our goods, and spare nothing.
And yet I do urge you to find out about the women,
which of them care nothing for you, and which are innocent;
but I myself would not wish that we should go out to the steadings
to test the men, but this is a task to be left for later,
320 if truly you have been given some sign from Zeus of the aegis.'

Now as these two were conversing thus with each other,
the well-made vessel which had carried Telemachos, together
with his companions, from Pylos, now came in to Ithaka.
They, when they were inside the many-hollowed harbor,
325 hauled the black-hulled ship onto the dry land, high up,
and their high-hearted henchmen carried their armor for them,
and took the beautiful presents to the house of Klytios.
But they sent a herald on his way to the house of Odysseus
to take a message to circumspect Penelope, saying

330 Telemachos was in the country now, but had told them to sail
the ship back to the city, so the magnificent queen would not
be terrified within her heart, and shed the soft tears.

from their futile ambush

The two of them met, the herald and noble swineherd, going
by reason of the same message, to report to the lady.

335 But when they had come to the house of the sacred king, the herald
stood in the midst of the serving maids and delivered his message:
'Now, O queen, your beloved son is back in this country.'

But the swineherd stood very close to Penelope and told her
all the message that her beloved son had entrusted

340 to him to tell, but when he had given her all the message,
he went back to his pigs, leaving the palace and courtyard.

But the hearts of the suitors were disturbed and discouraged. They
went

out of the palace and stood by the great wall of the courtyard,
and there in front of the palace gates they held an assembly.

345 First of them to speak was Eurymachos, son of Polybos:

'Friends, this is a monstrous thing, this voyage made by Telemachos
and insolently put through. We thought he would never achieve it.

But come, let us drag a black ship, our best one, down to the water,
and assemble sailors to row it, who can with all speed carry

350 the message to give to our others and tell them to come home quickly.'

He had not yet said all before Amphinomos, turning
from his place, saw the ship inside the depths of the harbor,
and they had the oars now in their hands and were taking the sails down.
He laughed out sweetly and spoke a word then to his companions:

355 'We need send them no message now. Here they are, inside.
Either some god told it to them, or they themselves saw
the other ship pass by, and they were not able to catch her.'

He spoke, and they stood up and went down to the sand of the
seashore,

and others hauled their black-hulled ship up onto the dry land,
360 and their high-hearted henchmen carried their armor for them.

They went in a throng to the assembly, nor did they suffer
any of the young men or any of the elders to sit with them.

Thereupon Antinoös, son of Eupheithes, addressed them:

'It is shameful how the gods got this man clear of misfortune.

365 In the daytime we sat watchful along the windy headlands,
always succeeding each other, but when the sun set, we never
lay through the night on the dry land, but always on the open

water, cruising in a fast ship, we waited for the divine dawn,
watching to ambush Telemachos, so that we could cut him

Antinoös' proposal to murder Telemachos

370 off; but all the time some divinity brought him home. Therefore,
we who are here must make our plans for the grim destruction
of Telemachos, so he cannot escape us; since I have no thought
we can get our present purpose accomplished while he is living.
For he himself is understanding in thought and counsel,
375 and the people here no longer show us their entire favor.
But come now, before he can gather the Achaians and bring them
to assembly; for I think he will not let us go, but work out
his anger, and stand up before them all and tell them
how we designed his sudden murder, but we could not catch him;
380 and they will have no praise for us when they hear of our evil
deeds, and I fear they will work some evil on us, and drive us
from our own country, so we must make for another community;
then let us surprise him and kill him, in the fields away from the city,
or in the road, and ourselves seize his goods and possessions,
385 dividing them among ourselves fairly, but give his palace
to his mother to keep and to the man who marries her. Or else,
if what I say is not pleasing to you, but you are determined
to have him go on living and keep his father's inheritance,
then we must not go on gathering here and abundantly eating
390 away his fine substance, but from his own palace each man
must strive to win her with gifts of courtship; she will then marry
the man she is fated to have, and who brings her the greatest presents.'

So he spoke, and all of them stayed stricken to silence.
Now Amphinomos spoke forth and addressed them. He was
395 the shining son of Nisos, son of the lord Aretiades,
and led those suitors who had come over from the abundant
grasslands and grainlands of Doulichion, and pleased Penelope
more than the others in talk, for he had good sense and discretion.
He in kind intention toward all spoke forth and addressed them:
400 'Dear friends, I for my part would not be willing to murder
Telemachos; it is terrible to kill one of royal
blood; we should first have to ask the gods for their counsel.
Then, if the ordinances of great Zeus approve of it,
I myself would kill him and tell all others to do so;
405 but I say we must give it up, if the gods deny us.'

So Amphinomos spoke, and his word was acceptable to them.
Then they stood up at once and went into the house of Odysseus,
and entering they found their polished chairs, and were seated.

vetoed by Amphinomos

But now circumspect Penelope thought of her next move,
410 to show herself to her overbearing violent suitors;
for she had heard how they had planned her son's death in the palace.
The herald, Medon, who overheard their planning, had told her.
She went with her attendant women into the great hall.
But when she, shining among women, came to the suitors,
415 she stood by the pillar that supported the roof with its joinery,
holding her shining veil in front of her face to shield it,
and spoke a word of reproach to Antinoös, naming him:
'Antinoös, violent man, deviser of evil: in Ithaka
the common account says you are the best man among your age mates
420 for speech and counsel. But you have never been such. Oh, boisterous
creature, why do you weave a design of death and destruction
for Telemachos, and take no heed of suppliants, over whom
Zeus stands witness? It is not right to plan harm for each other.
Do you not know how your father came here once, a fugitive
425 in fear of the people? These were terribly angered with him,
because he had thrown in his lot with the pirate Taphians
and harried the Thesprotians, and these were friends of our people.
They wanted to waste him away, to break the dear heart in him,
to eat up his substance and abundant livelihood. Only
430 Odysseus stayed their hand and held them, for all their fury.
Now you eat up his house without payment, pay court to his wedded
wife, try to murder his son, and do me great indignity.
I tell you to stop it, and ask the others to do so likewise.'

Eurymachos the son of Polybos spoke then answering:
435 'Daughter of Ikarios, circumspect Penelope,
do not fear. Never let your heart be troubled for these things.
The man is not living, nor will there be one, nor can there ever
be one, who shall lay hands upon your son, Telemachos,
as long as I am alive on earth and look on the daylight.
440 For I tell you this straight out, and it will be a thing accomplished:
instantly his own black blood will stain my spear point.
My own spear; since often Odysseus, sacker of cities,
would seat me also upon his knees, and put pieces of roasted
meat in my hands, and hold the red wine out to me. Therefore,
445 of all men Telemachos is the dearest to me
by far, and I tell him to go in no fear of destruction
from the suitors. But if it comes from the gods, there is no escaping it.'

So he spoke, encouraging her, but himself was planning
the murder. She went back to the shining upper chamber
and wept for Odysseus, her dear husband, until the gray-eyed
450 goddess Athene drifted a sweet sleep over her eyelids.

With the evening, the noble swineherd came back to Odysseus
and his son. Then they stood over the evening meal to prepare it,
and dedicated a year-old sow; but meanwhile Athene
455 had come and stood close by Odysseus, son of Laertes,
and tapped him with her wand and made him once more an old man,
and put foul clothing upon his skin, for fear the swineherd
might recognize him, face to face, and go with the message
to circumspect Penelope, and not keep fast the secret.

460 Now Telemachos was the first who spoke a word to him:
'So, noble Eumaios, you have come. And what was the rumor
in the town? Are the haughty suitors now back from their ambush,
or are they still lying in wait for me on my homeward journey?'

Then, O swineherd Eumaios, you said to him in answer:
465 'It was not on my mind to go down through the city, nor to ask,
nor try to find out; rather the will was urgent within me
to speak my message with all speed and be on my way back here.
But one of your fellows as a swift messenger joined my company,
the herald; he was the first who told the word to your mother.

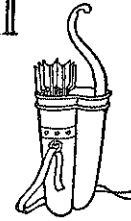
470 But here is another thing I know; with my eyes I saw it.
I was above the city, where the Hill of Hermes is, making
my way along, when I saw a fast vessel coming into
our harbor, making inshore, and many men were aboard her,
and she was loaded with shields and leaf-headed spears. Then I thought
475 that these would be the men we mean, but I do not know it.'

So he spoke, and Telemachos, the hallowed prince, smiled
as he caught his father's eye, but avoided the eyes of the swineherd.

They, when they had finished their work and got their feast ready,
feasted, nor was any man's hunger denied a fair portion.

480 But when they had put away their desire for eating and drinking,
they thought of going to bed, and accepted the gift of slumber.

BOOK XVII



But when the young Dawn showed again with her rosy fingers,
Telemachos, beloved son of godlike Odysseus,
then bound underneath his feet the beautiful sandals,
and took up a powerful spear which fitted his hand's grip,
5 on his way to the city, and going he spoke to his swineherd:
'Father, I am going to the city, so that my mother
will see me, since as I suppose she will never give over
that bitter lamentation of hers and her tearful crying
until she sees me myself. But here is what I will tell you
10 to do; take this unhappy stranger to the city, so that
there he can beg his dinner, and any who will can give him
his bit of bread and his cupful; it is not for me to put up with
everybody, now when I have troubles on my mind. Therefore,
even if the stranger is terribly angry, it will be only
15 the worse for him. Speaking the truth is the way I like best.'

Then resourceful Odysseus spoke in turn and answered him:
'Dear friend, neither do I desire that he should detain me
here; a beggar is better begging his dinner in the city
than in the country. Whoever wants to will give me something;
20 for I am no longer the right age to stay on the farms, the right age
to carry out any task the foreman imposes on me.
Go on then. This man, the one you have asked, will take me,
as soon as I have warmed myself by the fire and there is some
sunlight; these clothes are very poor, and I hope no morning