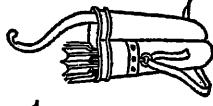


# BOOK XIX

## Thesis:

In Homer's *The Odyssey*, the manipulation by gods of the people's decision shows why people have a need to express themselves and be different.



because they don't want to assimilate and grant all glory they earned to the gods

Now great Odysseus still remained in the hall, pondering how, with the help of Athena, he would murder the suitors.

Presently he spoke in winged words to Telemachos:

"Telemachos, we must have the weapons stored away inside 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, but are made foul, with all the smoke of the fire upon them.

Also, some divinity 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."

So he spoke, and Telemachos obeyed his dear father, and summoned out Eurykleia his nurse, and said to her:

"Come, nurse, please detain the women inside the palace, while I put away my father's beautiful armor

in the inner room; it is carelessly laid in the house, and darkened with smoke, in my father's absence, and I was a child all that time.

Now I would put it away, where smoke from the fire will not reach it."

Then in turn Eurykleia his dear nurse said to him:

"I only hope, my child, that you will assume such foresight in taking care of the house and protecting all our possessions.

But tell me, who is it will go with you and hold the light for you?"

282 used to be a poor but virtuous person who helps Penelope

25 The maids would have given you light, but you would not let them come out. Then the thoughtful Telemachos said to her in answer:

"This stranger will. I will not suffer a man who feeds from our stores, and does not work, even though he comes from far off."

So he spoke, and she had no winged words for an answer.

Eurykleia barred the doors of the strong-built great hall.

The two men, Odysseus and his glorious son, sprang up and began carrying helmets, shields massive in the middle, and pointed spears, and before them Pallas Athene, holding a golden lamp, gave them splendid illumination.

Suddenly Telemachos spoke a word to his father:

"Father, here is a great wonder that my eyes look on.

Always it seems that the chamber walls, the handsome bases and roof timbers of fit and tall columns sustaining them, shine in my eyes as if a fire were blazing. There must be surely a god here, one of those who hold the high heaven."

Then resourceful Odysseus spoke in turn and answered him:

"Hush, and keep it in your own mind, and do not ask questions. For this is the very way of the gods, who hold Olympus.

You should now go to bed, and I shall remain behind here, so that I can continue to stir up the maids, and also

your mother; and she in her sorrow will question me about everything."

So he spoke, and Telemachos went out of the great hall to his own chamber to go to bed, with torches to light him

to his bed, where he always lay when sweet sleep came on him.

There he lay this time also and waited for the divine Dawn, while great Odysseus still remained in the hall, pondering how, with the help of Athena, he would murder the suitors.

But now circumspect Penelope came down from her chamber, looking like Artemis or like golden Aphrodite.

They set a chair for her to sit on close by the fireplace.

The chair was inlaid with ivory and silver; the craftsman Ikmaliros had made it, and for the feet he had joined on a footstool, all of one piece with it; a great fleece was spread out

over the chair, and upon it circumspect Penelope took her place. Her white-armed handmaids came from the palace.

They cleared and carried away a great deal of food, with the tables and goblets, where the men in high spirits had been drinking, and shook the ash from the cressets onto the ground, then piled them

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assimilation to gods

comparison to gods = highest compliment

spive for Odysseus

Highest quality/purity

Holy Cakes also mean purity/quality

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rescue the suitors

write get not written

Gods are attacking

any monster

black

red

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