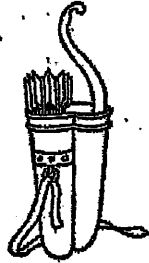


BOOK XXI



In chapter 21 of The Odyssey, Homer uses Odysseus' possessions of natural things to show his godliness and that the gods get their power from power itself over the human world.

But now the goddess, gray-eyed Athene, put it in the mind of the daughter of Ikarios, circumspect Penelope, to set the bow before the suitors, and the gray iron, in the house of Odysseus: the contest, the beginning of the slaughter.

5 So she ascended the high staircase of her own house, and in her solid hand took up the beautiful, brazen and artfully curved key, with an ivory handle upon it.

With her attendant women she went to the inmost recess of the chamber. There were stored away the master's possessions.

10 Bronze was there, and gold, and difficulty wrought iron, and there the backstrung bow was stored away, and the quiver to hold the arrows. There were many painful shafts inside it. These were gifts from a friend whom he met in Lakedaimon, Iphitos, son of Eurytos, one like the immortal gods.

not completely a god - Shows Odysseus' god-like abilities in war

- Don't worry—Homer tells you the story:

Associated with godlike characteristics

Odysseus is god-like

↑ heavens
↑ upward
↑ mastery of skills
↑ power
↑ with
↑ element nature
↑ mastery of nature and control over it

→ nature
→ Odysseus → referred to as godly