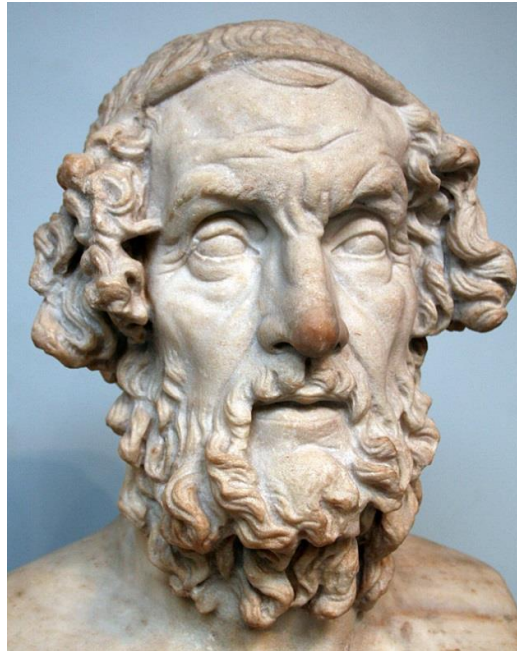


**Greek Winter School 2018.**

**Homer's Odyssey: Book 11.**

Brief Notes: P. G. Brown



### General Introduction:

- Homer's composition of the *Odyssey* is generally dated about 750 BC. Herodotus (2.53) puts Homer '400 years before my own time, at the most' which would put the date at roughly 850 BC, but this is generally thought to be too early. Homer's works describe 'events' that took place long before (c. 1334-1150 BC) during the Late Bronze Age and prior to what has been termed the Dark Ages, when there was general and widespread decline in the Greek world. There are many references in the poems to artifacts and practices from earlier times that were alien to Homer's own age.
- The *Odyssey* was originally an oral poem, written down, and hence roughly fixed, during the time of Peisistratus in the 6<sup>th</sup> century. There were, perhaps, even earlier written versions. The work was passed down from Homer to that time by professional bards who had committed the works to memory. Milman Parry's great work in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century with Yugoslavian bards has shown that this was indeed possible.
- The earliest papyrus fragments of the *Odyssey* date from the 3<sup>rd</sup> century BC while the earliest complete manuscript is the *Laurentianus* from the 10<sup>th</sup> or 11<sup>th</sup> century.
- The language of the poem is old Ionic with traces of Aeolic.

Some of the key features are:

- Lack of contraction of vowels, especially in verbs.
- Augments are often omitted.
- Alternate forms (such as Κρονίδης, Κρονίων) are used indifferently (except *metri gratia*)
  - Consonants are often doubled
  - The genitive masc/neut. singular is often -οιο
  - Tmesis is fairly common.
- **Particles:** Homeric Greek abounds in the use of particles. So much so that one can become fairly lazy in translating them. However, Homer often uses particles in very subtle ways that are hard to translate but

which should not be overlooked. Here is a list of the most commonly occurring ones.

ἄρα, ἄρα, ῥά - connected with the verb ἄραρίσκω, so perhaps originally had the sense of 'fittingly', 'accordingly'. Often used to indicate a consequence or a reason. Paley says it denotes 'connection and consequence'.

(Note: γάρ = γε + ἄρα).

γέ - calls attention to a word or statement. Can sometimes be rendered as 'at least' or 'at any rate'.

δή - originally a temporal particle meaning 'now' (note ἦδη = ἦ + δή), but often seems to do little more than add emphasis.

ἦ - denotes a strong affirmation and is often used to strengthen other words.

ύ - a shortened form of νύ. It is used as an affirmative particle, rather less emphatic than δή.

οὖν - in Homer this does not mean 'therefore', but rather 'after all' or 'be that as it may'.

ἔρ - connected with περί meaning 'beyond', or 'exceedingly'. It can also mean 'although'.

τοί - denotes a kind of restricted affirmation, 'at least, yet surely', and is connected with σοί as a kind of ethic dative, 'if you please'.

- The Homeric poems are written in dactylic hexameter metre. This consists of 6 feet that may have three syllables \_ υυ (dactyl) or two long syllables \_\_ (spondee). In Homer there is generally a word break, called a *caesura* in the third foot and the last foot is generally a spondee.

Here are the opening lines of Longfellow's Courtship of Miles Standish which give some idea of how the hexameter works:

*In the Old | Colony | days, in | Plymouth the | land of the | Pilgrims,  
To and | fro in a | room of his | simple and | primitive | dwelling,  
Clad in a | doublet and | hose, and | boots of | Cordovan | leather,  
Strode, with a | martial | air, Miles | Standing the | Puritan | Captain.*

- The Homeric poems abound in stock epithets such as 'well-greaved Achaeans' and 'glorious Odysseus'. In some cases these seem to add nothing to the sense and in other cases the epithet is entirely inappropriate (such as 'blameless Aigistheus' – who is hardly 'blameless'!), however, a closer examination shows that we cannot always simply dismiss these as mere 'fillers' introduced to fit the metre or fill up the line.

Commentaries and Editions:

Homer Odyssey Books 1-12, W. Merry, 1895

Homer Odyssey Books 1-12, W. B Stanford, 1947

Homer's Odyssey 9-12, Geoffrey Steadman, 2010

**NOTES:**

7. πλησίστιον - 'filling the sail'.

8. αὐδήεσσα - 'speaking with human voice'.

11. τέταται - 'are stretched' < τείνω.

25. πυγούσιον - 'a cubit long' (about 0.46metres) < πυγών - 'the elbow'.

29. ἀμενηνά - 'feeble, powerless'.

32. ἀπάνευθεν - 'separately'.

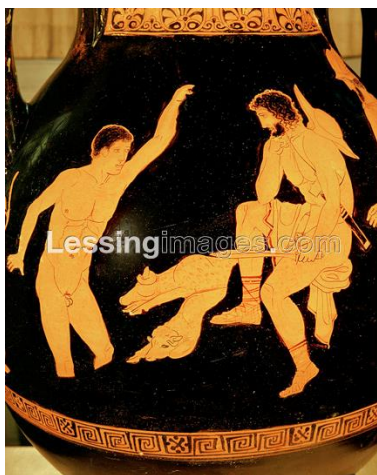


Figure 1. Odysseus with Elpenor.

39. ἀταλαί - 'light-hearted'.

43. ἰαχῆ - 'shriek'.

58. ἔφθης - 'you have been faster than me' < φθάνω.

61. ἄάω - 'to bring to grief'.

ἀθέσφατος - 'inauspicious', but here referring to quantity, tr. 'too much'.

62. καταλέγομενος - 'lying down'.

65. ἀστραγάλων - 'from the vertebrae'.

70b. 'you will hold your well-wrought ship on course'.

73. νοσφισθείς - 'abandoned'.

78. τῷ - 'with which'.

95. ἀποχάζομαι - 'withdraw'.

98. ἐγκατέπηξα - 'I thrust it firmly down in'.

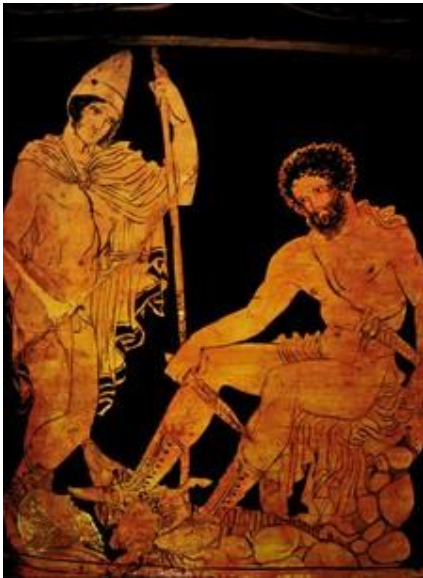


Figure 2. Summoning Teiresias.

104. ἀλλ' ἔτι ... καὶ ὥς - 'but still, even so'.

105. ἐρυκακέειν - 'keep in check'.

112. τεκμαίρομαι - 'I foresee'.

114. νείαι - `you will return`.

118. βίας - `for their violence`.

128. φήη - `says that (you)`

ἀθηρηλοιγόν-`winnowing fan`.

131. ἐπιβήτορα - `mounter`, hence `male`.

135. ἀβληχρός - `gentle`.

136. ἀρημένον – connected with ἀρειός `harmed, hurt`.

139. ἐπικλώθω – lit. `spin` (of fate), tr. `apportion`.

143. ἐσάντα - `face-to-face`.

144. `how she may recognize that I am he?`

148. ἐνίψει fut. of ἐνέπω.



Figure 3. Ghost of Antikleia.

167. οἰζύν - `grief, woe`.

171. τίς ... κήρ - 'what fate'.

τανηλεγέος - 'long-lamented'.

175. γέρας – tr. 'honour, sovereignty'.

185. τεμενεα νέμεται - 'looks after your estates'.

186. δαίνυται –tr. 'partakes'.

'such as it is fitting that one who deals judgment should share'.

188b. 'nor are there for him by way of bedding'.

193-4. 'then all about the slope of his vineyard plot are strewn his lowly beds of fallen leaves.'.

201. τηκεδών - 'wasting away'.

216. κάμμορος - 'ill-fated'.

217. ἀπαφίσκω - 'delude, beguile'.

218. 'but this is the way of mortals'. The primary sense of δίκη is 'custom'.

219. ἔχουσιν - 'hold'. The subject is ἴνες.

223. λιλαίεο - 'long for', 'strive for'. Tr. 'hasten back'.

233. προμνηστῖναι - 'one before the other'.

235. Ancestry of Tyro, called the Aiolidai:

Deukalion

|

Hellen

|

Aiolos

|

Salmoneus

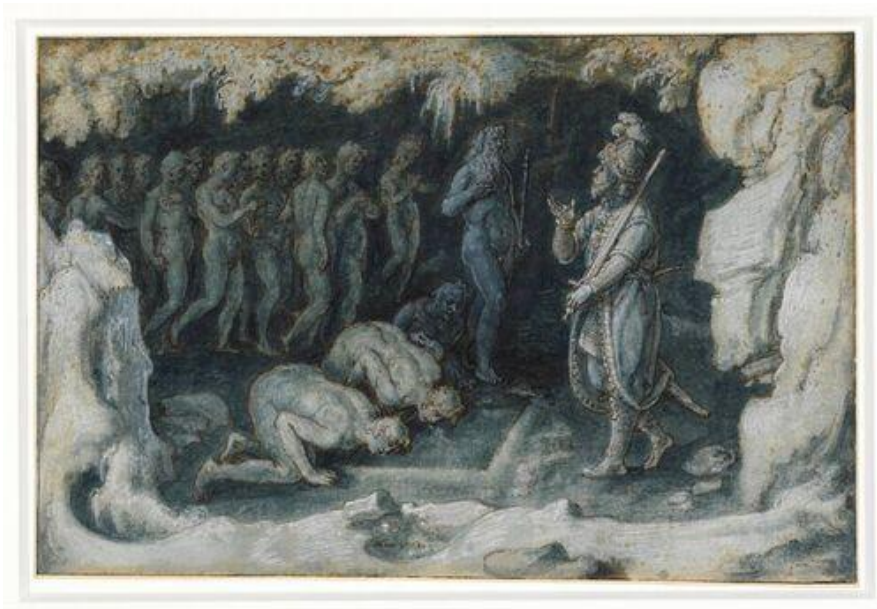
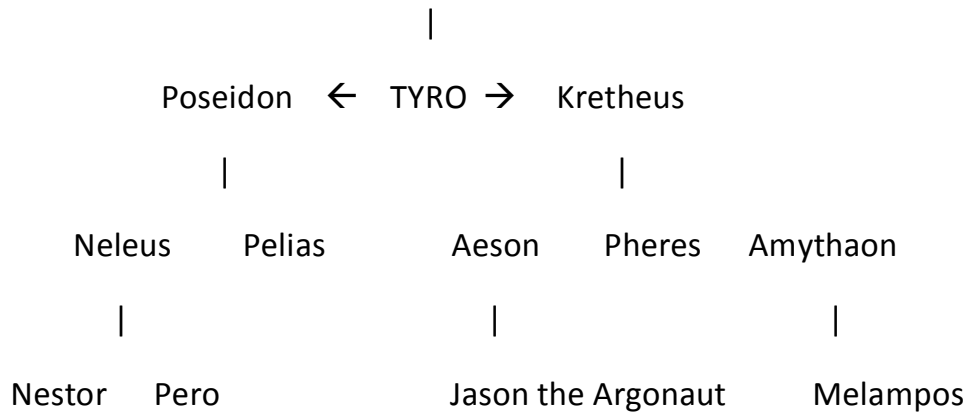


Figure 4. Corpses drinking the blood.

240. πωλέσκετο - 'she used to come and go'.

241. τῶ i.e. Enipeus.

242. παρελέξατο - 'lay beside'.

244. κυρτόω - 'curve', tr. 'vaulted over'.

249. ἀποφώλιος - 'unblessed with offspring, unfruitful'.

250. κομέω - 'attend to'.

ἀτιτάλλω - 'rear, cherish'.



251. μηδ' ὀνομήνης - 'do not mention it'.
257. πολύρρηνος - 'with many sheep'.
259. ἵππιοχάρμην - 'who fights from chariots'.
261. ἰαῦσαι - 'to lie', 'pass the night'.
264. πύργωσαν - 'they built a wall'.
- 265b. 'however strong they were'.
270. μένος αἰὲν ἀτειρήσ - 'ever unwearied in might'.
274. ἀνάπυστα - '(these things) known'.
280. ἐκτελέουσι - 'bring to pass'.
283. ὀπλοτάτην - 'youngest'.
286. ἀγέρωχον - 'high-minded, impetuous'.
- 288a. 'whom all those dwelling about sought in marriage'.
- 288b ff. 'but Neleus would give her to no man, save to him who should drive from Phylake the kine of mighty Iphikles, sleek and broad of brow; and hard they were to drive.'
291. The blameless seer was Melampous.
292. καταπηδάω - 'bound him fast'.
297. θέσφατα - 'oracles'.
303. ἑτερήμεροι - 'on alternate days'. That is, on alternate days one lies dead while the other lives.



Figure 5. Castor and Pollux.

307. μινυθαδίω δ' ἐγένεσθην - 'but the two of them were short-lived'.

309. μηκίστους - 'tallest'.

311-12. 'For at nine years they were nine cubits in breadth and in height nine fathoms'.

314. 'to raise the din of furious battle'.

316. εἰνοσίφυλλον - 'with shaking leaves'.

320. 'covered their chins with a full growth of beard.'

323. γουνός - 'hill'.

325. 'in sea-girt Dia because of the witness of Dionysus.' We do not know what the offence against Dionysos was.

330. κεν ... φθίτο- 'would wane'.

332. 'My departure shall rest with the gods, and with you'.

334. κληθμός - 'charm'.

337. ἰδέ - 'and'.

340. κολούω - 'curtail', cut short'.

341. θεῶν ἰότητι - 'by the will of the gods'.

344. 'not wide of the mark nor from our own opinion'.

346. 'Yet it is on Alkinous here that deed and word depend'.



Figure 6. *Odysseus at the Court of Alkinous*, Francesco Hayez.

350. τλήτω - 'forebear'.

363. οὐ εἴσκομεν - 'we do not suppose'.

364. ἠπεροπεύς - 'seducer'.

365. πολυσπερέας - 'much strewn'.

366. ὅθεν κέ τις οὐδὲ ἴδοιτο – lit. 'from which no-one could even see', i.e. 'so well told that no-one could suspect'.

373. ἀθέσθατος - 'unspeakable'.

374. θέσκελος - 'god-bidden', hence 'wonderful, supernatural'.

378. ἀριδείκετε - 'much renowned'.

392. πιτνάς < πίτνυμι - 'stretch out'.

392b. 'eager to reach me'.

393. κῆκυς - 'vigour'.

398. 'what fate of long-lamented death overcame you?'

400. ἀμέγαρτος - 'unenviable'.



Figure 7. So-called 'Mask of Agamemnon'.

401. ἀνάρσοι - 'hostile'.

403. περί - tr. 'for, over'.

414-420. '... which are slaughtered in the house of a rich man of great might at a marriage feast, or a joint meal, or a rich drinking-bout. Ere now thou hast been present at the slaying of many men, killed in single combat or in the press of the fight, but in heart thou wouldst have felt most pity hadst thou seen that sight, how about the mixing bowl and the laden tables we lay in the hall, and the floor all swam with blood.'

426. κατ'... ἐλεεῖν - 'cover over', σύν ... ἐρεῖσαι - 'close up'.

434. ἔυεργός - 'upright'.

441. εἶναι - infinitive for imperative.

449. ἀριθμῶ - 'in company'.

452. ἐνιπλησθῆναι - 'to be filled'. Tr. 'content my eyes with the sight of my son'.

453. Join με with αὐτόν.

464. ἀνεμώλια - 'words like the winds', i.e. 'empty words'.

472. ὄλοφυρομένη - 'weeping'.

486. ἀκαχίζω - 'grieve'.

494. πέπυσ(ε)σαι < πυνθανόμαι.

502-3. 'I would give many a one of those who do him violence and keep him from his honour, cause to rue my strength and my invincible hands'.

512. οἶω - 'alone'. (Dual).

519. οἶον τὸν Τηλεφίδην - 'what a warrior was that son of Telephus'.

521. γυναίων εἴνεκα δώρων - 'for the sake of a woman's gifts'. Priam sent Eurypylos' mother a gift to persuade her to send her son and others to fight.

522. κάλλιστος - 'most beautiful'.

523. κάμε - 'laboured on, worked on'. Reference is to the famous wooden horse.

524b. 'and the command of all was laid upon me'.

525. 'both to open and to close the door of our stout-built ambush'.

529. ὠχράω - 'to turn pale'.

531. ἐπιμαίομαι - 'touch, handle feel'.

532. χαλκοβαρές - 'heavy with bronze'.

535. ἀσκαθής - 'unscathed'.

536. ἀυτοσχεδίην - 'hand-to-hand combat'.

537. ἐπιμίξω - 'indiscriminately'.

540a. 'there was joy in that ...'.

546. ἔθηκε -`set it up (as a prize)´.

548. ὡς ... ὄφελον -`would that ...´.

550. περί -`was superior to´.

556. ἀπώλε(σ)ο -`you perished´.



Figure 8. Ajax.



Figure 9. Suicide of Ajax.

565. `Then would he nevertheless have spoken to me for all his wrath, or I to him´.

573. εἰλεῦντα-`shutting in, rounding up´.

574. οἰόπολος - 'lonely'.

575. ἀαγής - 'unbroken'.

577b. 'he was over 9 plethra (= 900 feet)'.

579. δέρτρον - 'bowels'.

583. προσέπλαζε - 'reached up to'.

586. ἀναβροχέν - 'having been swallowed up'.

587. καταζαινω - 'to make dry'.

588. κρήθεν - 'from head to foot'.

591. 'But as often as that old man would reach out toward these, to clutch them with his hands'.

μάσσω - 'touch, handle'.

595. σκηρίπτομαι - 'support oneself'.

596ff. 'but as often as he was about to heave it over the top, the weight would turn it back, and then down again to the plain would come rolling the ruthless stone. But he would strain again and thrust it back, and the sweat flowed down from his limbs, and dust rose up from his head.'



Figure 10. Sisyphos. (530BC)



Titian.

606. ἀτυζομένων - 'bewildered'.

609. ἄορτήρ -`belt'.

610. τελαμών -`baldric'.

ἵνα -tr. `on which'.

613-4. `May he never have designed, or hereafter design such another, even he who stored up in his craft the device of that belt'.

618. ἡγηλάζω – lit. `lead, guide', tr. `drag out'.

619. ὀχέω -`endure'.

622. δεδμήμην -`I was bound (in servitude to)' < δαμάζω.



Figure 11. Herakles.

639. κύμα ῥόοιο – tr. `wave from the current'.