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Class: Humanities 111

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Date: 5/9/05

The Odyssey by Homer

In Book Two of Homer's The Odyssey Telemakhos gains a significant amount of confidence and decides to call an assembly. At the assembly a wise man Aigyptios presents the listeners with a rare introduction. He states that an assembly has not occurred for about twenty years and commends the individual that had the audacity to call one. At this assembly Telemakhos protests fervently that his mother's suitors be expelled since they have no respect and appreciation for their generosity "these men spend their days around our house killing our beeves and sheep and fatted goats , carousing , soaking up our good dark wine, not caring what they do".

At the end of Telemakhos's first battle to persuade the minds of the Akhaians against the suitors, a fellow leader named Antinoos decides to defend his fellow suitors. Antinoos counteracts Telemakhos claims informing everyone that the suitors should not be criticized since Penelope is the one to blame "you should know the suitors are not to blame but it is your own dear –incomparably cunning mother ".He further adds that she has been deceiving them with her clever ability to avoid any decisions about marriage and gives the example of her unwoven loom.

The suitors then commands that Telemakhos takes immediate action and either evict Miss Penelope from the house or compel her to marry the man her father

suggests. Telemakhos makes a firm stance against the suitor's suggestions and insists that he will never turn his mother out.

During Telemakhos's plead to save his mother; a pair of eagles appears in the sky. Another heated debate then rises between Halitherses and Eurymakhos in which Halitherses argues that the sighting of eagles foretells that Odysseus arrival is near and that the suitors will face grave danger if they don't leave, while Eurymachus protests that the sighting of the birds are insignificant "Bird life aplenty is found in the sunny air, not all of it is significant".

Telemakhos concludes that he is finished with appeals and will let the Gods do the justice. All he desires is to locate a fast ship and a crew of men to carry out a voyage and arrive at a conclusion about his father whereabouts "If he's alive and beating his way home you might hold out for another weary year;.....then I can come back to my own dear country and raise a mound for him....".

After the assembly Telemakhos feels a sense of defeat and decides to pray at the sea shore "O god of yesterday guest in our houselisten to me , be near me". Athena answers his cry comforting him with a few inspiring words to further encourage him to pursue his journey. She tells him that he has the strength and courage within him to be a leader "You'll never be fainthearted or a fool, Telemakhos, if you have your father's spirit".

After listening keenly to Athena's words of wisdom Telemakhos leaves and meets with Antinoos. Telemakhos rejects Antinoos offers and threatens him that he will

not tolerate his presence or appalling behavior anymore “I’ll bring black doom upon you if I can either in Pylos, if I go, or in this country”.

After this confrontation Telemakhos with the reassurance of Athena left and with the help of his nurse, he secretly prepares for his trip to Pylos and Sparta. At the strike of midnight after a short libation Telemakhos and his crew set sails into the dawn.

Minor references were taken from www.cliffnotes.com/theodyssey, www.bookshelf./theodyssey/book2/