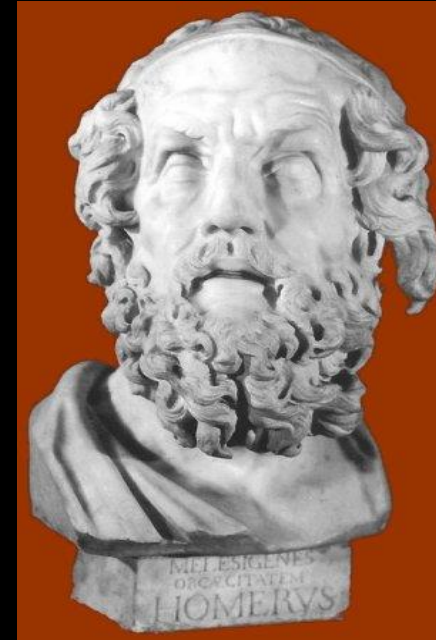


#6

Introduction to
The Odyssey CN



SETTING: TIME & PLACE= GREECE 1250 B.C



The Trojan War: What started it?



- took place from about 1260-1250 B.C.
- Archaeological remains provide evidence that there was a war but cause unknown.
- Scholars believe the war began over control of the trade route between the Aegean Sea and the Black Sea between the Trojans and Greeks.
- Ancient mythology states that the war began over a single woman, Helen, queen of Sparta.

King Peleus marries sea nymph Thetis



- All gods on Olympus invited except ERIS, the evil goddess of Discord
- Apple – “For The Fairest”
- Hera (Queen of Gods), Athena, (Goddess of Wisdom/War), and Aphrodite (Goddess of Love) all claim apple.
- Paris, Prince of Troy, will be the judge



The Bribe

- Hera - POWER
- Athena - WISDOM
- Aphrodite - MOST BEAUTIFUL WOMAN (Helen)

Paris chooses Aphrodite

Helen is Abducted!



Giordano Luca 1634-1705: Enlèvement d'Hélène. Photo © Maicar Förlag - GML

- Helen- beautiful daughter of King of Sparta (in Greece)
- Helen has many suitors- they swear oath to protect Helen and her new husband.
- Paris abducts Helen.
- 1000 ships, including Odysseus & Achilles, leave for Troy.

The Gods Take Sides

TROJANS **(Paris, Hector)**

- Aphrodite
- Ares, God of War
- Apollo
- Artemis
- Zeus (favored, but stayed neutral to please Hera)

GREEKS **(Achilles, Odysseus)**

- Hera
- Athena
- Poseidon, God of the Sea

The Bloody Battle



- lasted for 10 long years
 - Hand to hand combat
 - Periods of temporary truce to bury the dead
 - No fighting after sunset
 - Gods took sides

The Clever Odysseus



- Greeks build a gigantic hollow horse & hide inside.
- Sinon chosen to tell a tale of the Greeks leaving.
- Priest Laocoon tried to warn Trojans “I fear the Greeks even when they bear gifts.”
- Poseidon sent serpent to kill Laocoon.

Surprise Attack



- Trojans thought they had won.
- Sinon tells them horse is an offering to Athena.
- Trojans fall for it and drag horse into city gates to temple of Athena.

Troy is in Flames!



- In middle of night, Greeks leave horse and attack.
- Troy is in flames before Trojans know what has happened.
- King of Troy dead
- Women and Children become slaves
- Helen is returned to Menelaus

Odysseus, King of Ithaca, angers the Gods



- Trojans were slaughtered and city sacked and burned.
- Greeks violated Trojan temples.
- Greeks did not offer sacrifices to the gods to thank them for their victory.
- Odysseus, creator of Horse, will suffer the most.

2 Epic Poems written in 725B.C. by Homer, a blind poet



The *Illiad*

- First written record of Greece.
- Describes the events of 51 days during the last year of the war when Achilles kills Hector.



The *Odyssey*

- Describes the 10-year journey of Odysseus as he tries to go home to Ithaca after the Trojan War
- He and his men face monsters, giants, cannibals, temptation, and death.

**50 years gap between the actual war & when the story was written down

What is an epic?

- An epic is a story-poem about a great hero who performs daring deeds that require superhuman courage
 - long narrative poem
 - great and serious subject
 - related in an elevated style
 - centered on a heroic or quasi-divine figure on whose actions depends the fate of a tribe, a nation, or the human race.
- Told orally, not written, recited from memory by minstrels (traveling entertainers)
- In Greek epics the gods either help or hinder the hero, like in *The Odyssey*, Poseidon hinders Odysseus while Athena helps him

Characteristics of Epic Poetry

1. There must be a hero
2. The hero makes an extraordinary journey/quest
3. Supernatural realms (ex. Underworld) and beings
4. Begins with an invocation or a prayer to the Muse or Muses
5. Begins in media res (in the middle) and then flashes back to the events that took place before the current time setting
6. Includes Epic Similes: elaborately extended comparisons relating heroic events to simple, everyday events
7. Includes Epithets: descriptive adjectives or phrases used repeatedly with or in place of a noun or proper name (ex. Hector, the tamer of horses)

Conflict

- A struggle between opposing forces
- External Conflict: man vs. man, man vs. gods, man vs. nature
- Internal Conflict: man vs. himself (emotions like pride, courage, etc).
- Conflicts put the traits of the epic hero on display.

Definition of Odyssey

- a long wandering and eventful journey
- a Greek epic poem (attributed to Homer) describing the journey of Odysseus after the fall of Troy

Summary

- Something that is becoming clear to me about the background of the *Odyssey* and who Odysseus may be is... (3 sentences)