WEEK 4: Higher Powers and Vices Notes Sheet

Excerpt Analysis

1. Finding home; telling stories, p. 324-325

Odysseus... did not recognize the place from which he had been absent for so long. ... looking at his native land, he groaned and smacked his thighs, and sobbed, "Where am I now?..." ... Odysseus was overjoyed to see [Athena]. He cried, "Oh friend! You are the very first person that I have met here. Greetings! ... tell me, please, what is this place?... Who lives here?" And with twinkling eyes the goddess said, "Stranger, you must be a foreigner from distant parts, or foolish, since you ask about this famous country. Many people know it, from those who live towards the east under the rising sun, to those out west in lands of gloomy dusk... ... Foreigner I think the name of Ithaca is even known in Trov. a land they say is far away from Greece." Odvsseus, who had endured so much, so long was overloved, to hear from her that he was in his own dear native land. His words took wings and flew, but he did not tell her the truth; he bit his story back. His mind was always full of clever schemes. "Yes, I have heard of Ithaca, although I come from distant Crete. Now I am here With all this wealth; I left an equal share Of riches for my children back at home. I am in exile."

A. How is it possible that Odysseus would fail to recognize his home? What strikes you as interesting about the way Athena describes Ithaca? Why do you think Odysseus suppresses his joy? Why does he immediately begin to tell an untrue story? What is surprising about the story he tells?

What wa	e your most striking memories of returning home, or returning to civilian life familiar and what was new? How did you (or do you) adapt or change the sto out your time in service based on who you are addressing?	
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2. Gettin	help from a higher power, p. 483-4	
Atheno		
	raged, and angrily she scolded	
-	Where is your courage now?	
	nine years on end against the Trojans tered many men when war was raging,	
	l the plan that made the city fall.	
-	re home at last, how can you flinch	
•	brave and using proper force	
	se suitors? Come now, stand by me	
and wate		
	our enemies as recompense	
	service."	
does Ody	es Athena want to help Odysseus? What are the answers to her questions – w seus act differently at war than he does at home? Athena seems to suggest th quality; do you agree?	-
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D 147h -+	tside forces propel people to act in moments of self-doubt, violence, fear? Ar	e.

3. Recalling images of violence, p. 486		
•	n their crooked beaks and talons	
	he hills and pounce on smaller birds	
	s the fields beneath the clouds; ave no help and no way out,	
	kers slaughter them, and men	
	joy the violence. So these	
	sprang and struck, and drove the suitors	
	ns. Screaming filled the hall,	
us skulis were	cracked; the whole floor ran with blood.	
What do you	s vivid imagery here to explain violence – appealing to the reader's senses. think of the wording and the pictures he provides? Do they help you envision	
whathappen	ed? Why do you think he choose to tell the story this way?	
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• • • B. How do yo	ed? Why do you think he choose to tell the story this way? u think Odysseus will feel when he looks back on this episode a decade later; atility to recounting and recalling violent encounters?	
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${\bf 4.\, Asserting\, power;\, protecting\, honor,\, p.\, 491}$

Tell me now about the household women.
Which ones dishonor me? And which are pure?
The slave who loved her master answered...
Twelve stepped away from honor: those twelve girls
Ignore me; and Penelope our mistress...
The master strategiest Odysseus

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Said "Call the women who made those treasonous plots while I was gone we must start to clear the corpses out. The girls must help When the whole house is set in proper order, restore my halls to health: take out the girls between the courtyard wall and the rotunda. Hack at them with long swords, eradicate all life from them. They will forget the things the suitors made them do with them in secret, through Aphrodite."
A. Why do you think Odysseus is determined to "eradicate all life" from the enslaved women? If you think about this scenario from the perspective of the women, rather than Odysseus, how does your interpretation of it change? •
B. Looking back on your own departure from military life, how would you advise Odysseus to manage feelings of jealousy and vengefulness? Is there a way to avoid these emotions after a long absence? Should they be avoided?

THREE TAKEAWAYS

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are Odysse	the answers to the "B" questions above to assess: How common or unique eus' struggles with higher powers and bad habits? What could he learn de what can we learn from him?
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	s your favorite excerpt from this week's reading? Why? (Feel free to
	m #1-4 above, or a different excerpt from the book.)