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Dr.Mandler Period 8  
HW#46

There are numerous quotes that describe the xenia of Phaecia. Before Odysseus introduced himself to the court, the author describes the palace as having riches that are on par with the riches Odysseus has gather at home. A hospitable royalty would be expected to be able to offer a lot for their guests. This may be a minor offense, but Pontonous says, "Now, our feast finished, home you go to sleep. But at dawn we call the elders in to full assembly," (185). Pontonous plans to send Odysseus to sleep before making sure that Odysseus has had his fill. This goes against the tradition of adequately feeding one's guests. Another offense to Greek tradition can be seen where the author writes "...her(Arete) words flew brusquely, sharply: "Stranger, I'll be the first to question you-myself. Who are you? Where are you from? Who gave you the clothes you're wearing now..."(187) which Odysseus replies with "...this much I will tell you... seeing you probe and press me so intently," (187). Queen Arete breaks the tradition of waiting until the guest has had his fill before asking questions.   
 Arete's role in Phaecia can be compared to Helen's role in Sparta. Arete's is treated by King Pontonous with just as much respect as he has for himself. Arete seems to be able to question Odysseus when has not has fill in the same manner King Pontonous says the feast is over. Arete and Pontonous both can control servants and speak to guests as well. Helen is treated by her significant other in a slightly less respectable manner. Helen is seen as a prize wife, married only because of her beauty, not because of her personality. She is allowed to speak when she wants to, but during Telemachas' visit to Sparta, she started off and ended the feast in her room before others. These women are powerful in that they can turn the world upside down. Arete has political power and, according to Athena, seems to be able to settle quarrels with anyone she is friends with. She can command servants as well. Helen has some power as queen, knows how to drug people to her advantage (such as putting in medicine that makes people happy), and she is so beautiful that people will literally war with each other over it.