Jonathan Quang

Period 8

HW #58

Homer subtly injects humor between pages 386 and 387 of book 18 of *The Odyssey*, by having several people disrespect the beggar while the beggar is secretly the king, Odysseus. One example of this is when Melantho says, "No fear in your heart? Wine's got your wits? -- or do you always play the fool and babble nonsense?" (Lines 374-377). She essentially calls Odysseus a fool, which the reader knows is completely false. Everyone occupying the palace is the fool in Odysseus' plan to get revenge on the suitors. Homer also occasionally inserts humor by adding comical comparisons, or as modern day teenagers call it, "sick burns." Homer has Eurymachus say, " At least our torchligh seems to come from the sheen of the man's own head-- there's not a hair on his bald plate, not a wisp,'" (Lines 400-402). This is a fairly comical nod off to Odysseus' old and worn appearance.

The beggar king of Ithaca is Odysseus. He disguises himself as a beggar who shows king like qualities, strength and good speech. Odysseus disguised as the beggar is also literally the King of Ithaca. Penelope has also been preserving Odysseus' throne. Since Odysseus is disguised as a beggar, is a king, and has not yet lost his place at the throne, Odysseus is the beggar king.