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HW#42

The idea of xenia, Greek hospitality, can be seen in varying degrees in *The Odyssey*. So far, Telemachus has been to Ithaca, Pylos, and Sparta. The hospitality in Ithaca on the host side is absurdly huge while the guests have been ridiculously rude. For three years, Telemachus and his mother have had to put up with suitors occupying their royal territory, draining the palace of its wine and meat. Pylos's hospitality is much more balanced and better in general. Telemachus lands on the beach of Pylos where he is greeted by soldiers giving offerings to the gods. Athena does grace them with her presence and Nestor waits for Telemachus to be full before asking him why he is there. This shows good respect on both the host's and guest's part. Nestor even offers his sons to guide Telemachus there. This places Pylos second on the most hospitable part. The place that has shown the most hospitality (without the guests over imposing) is at Sparta. The king services Telemachus with many servants, water to clean their hands, oil for their bodies, a royal dinner, and more. All this for a stranger puts Pylos as the most hospitable.

In a way, Helen was kidnapped. Paris did choose Aphrodite's bribe, which may have caused Helen to fall in love with Paris. This can be considered kidnapping. After Paris did die, Helen did marry his brother, and according to the story Helen told, they did try to make their way back to Sparta. This, combined with the fact that Helen seems to show no ill will to Melanaus, means that Helen at least regretted going with Paris to Greece.