Jonathan Quang

Period 8

H.W.#59

The dream that Penelope relates to the stranger at the end of book 19 reveals that she subconsciously does not want to marry any of the suitors and wishes that Odysseus would come back and resolve this situation. She has a dream where geese, representing the suitors, were all killed by an eagle, representing Odysseus, who said that he would come back. What is surprising about this dream is that it reveals that Penelope also wants the suitors dead for what they do. Penelope does not come off as a violent person. Depressed and driven to the edge, yes, but not violent.   
 Book 19 shows that Penelope has a hunch that Odysseus is actually the beggar in front of her when she is shown the equal of her husband. She acts on this hunch by telling the beggar of her efforts to dissuade the suitors, as if to make the beggar know that she has tried her best to remain faithful by using her son's youth as an excuse. Penelope then probes the beggar for information about Odysseus, which the beggar accurately provides. This further confirms Penelope's hunch. Penelope also gives the beggar a dream about Odysseus returning. The strongest piece of evidence that demonstrates that Penelope has a suspicion about who the beggar is when Homer writes, "Up with you now, my good old Eurycleia, come and wash your master's... equal in years," (406-407). Penelope interrupts her own sentence by saying that the beggar looks to be the same exact age as Eurycleia, which hints that Penelope is starting to figure out the age of the beggar.