

Vocabulary in *Allegory of the Cave*

Compiled by AcadeMe for the Homer Project

April 2016

foolery	n.	foolish or silly behavior <i>an amusing bit of foolery</i>
opine	v.	to express an opinion about something <i>Many people opine that the content of Web pages should be better regulated.</i>
potentate	n.	a powerful ruler <i>medieval potentates</i>
gluttony	n.	the act or habit of eating or drinking too much
accustom	v.	to cause (someone) to become adjusted to or familiar with something + to <i>trying to gradually accustom the students to their new surroundings</i>
showman	n.	a person who is good at entertaining people
firelight	n.	the light produced by a fire in a fireplace, stove, etc. <i>The firelight gave the room a warm glow.</i>
dazzle	v.	to cause (someone) to be unable to see for a short time <i>He was dazzled [=blinded] by the camera flash.</i>
fetter	v.	to prevent (someone or something) from moving or acting freely <i>He found himself fettered by responsibilities.</i>
aright	adv.	so as to be correct <i>His name was Jones, if I remember aright. [=rightly, correctly]</i>
handmade	adj.	made with the hands or by using hand tools <i>a handmade rug</i>
prophecy	v.	to state that something will happen in the future :predict <i>He prophesied the government's failure. = He prophesied that the government would fail.</i>
disobey	v.	to not do what someone or something with authority tells you to do :to refuse or fail to obey rules, laws, etc. <i>If you disobey, you will be severely punished.</i>
darken	v.	to make (something) dark or to become dark or darker in color <i>Clouds darkened the sky.</i>
leaden	adj.	having a dull gray color <i>a leaden sky/sea</i>
contrive	v.	to form or think of (a plan, method, etc.) <i>The prisoners contrived a way to escape.</i>
serf	n.	a person in the past who belonged to a low social class and who lived and worked on land owned by another person <i>medieval serfs</i>
blink	v.	to close and then open your eyes very quickly <i>She blinked when the light flashed.</i>
engender	v.	to be the source or cause of (something) <i>The issue has engendered a considerable amount of debate.</i>
eyesight	n.	the ability to see :sight or vision <i>He wears glasses because his eyesight is not good.</i>

surmise	v.	to form an opinion about something without definitely knowing the truth :guess <i>We can only surmise what happened.</i>
downright	adv.	to the fullest degree :completely or totally <i>The movie was downright stupid/bad/scary.</i>
hive	v.	to separate from a group <i>The youngest campers hived off into another room.</i>
thither	adv.	to that place :there <i>traveling/wandering/running hither and thither [=here and there]</i>
nurture	v.	to help (something or someone) to grow, develop, or succeed <i>Teachers should nurture their students' creativity.</i>
ascend	v.	to go up :to rise or move toward the sky <i>They watched their balloons slowly ascend into the sky.</i>
landless	adj.	not owning any land <i>landless people</i>
habitation	n.	the act of living in a place <i>The house was not fit for human habitation.</i>
prosper	v.	to become very successful usually by making a lot of money <i>She prospered as a real estate agent.</i>
gorge	v.	to eat large amounts of food usually + on <i>We gorged on chips and cookies.</i>
parable	n.	a short story that teaches a moral or spiritual lesson <i>He told the children a parable about the importance of forgiveness.</i>
brilliance	n.	the quality or state of being brilliant <i>The professor was known for his brilliance.</i>
spoil	v.	to have a bad effect on (something) :to damage or ruin (something) <i>The fight spoiled the party.</i>
doubly	adv.	much more than usual or previously :to a much higher degree than usual <i>We did the test again because we wanted to be doubly [=extra, especially, very] sure the results were accurate.</i>
allegory	n.	a story in which the characters and events are symbols that stand for ideas about human life or for a political or historical situation <i>the long poem is an allegory of/about love and jealousy</i>
bearer	n.	a person who bears or carries something <i>the bearer of a U.S. passport</i>
toil	v.	to work very hard for a long time <i>He's been toiling (away) in his workshop.</i>
precede	v.	to happen, go, or come before (something or someone) <i>Riots preceded the civil war.</i>
ascent	n.	the act or process of ascending: such as <i>Fifty years ago, he made the first successful ascent of the mountain. [=he was the first person to climb the mountain]</i>
discern	v.	to see, hear, or notice (something) with difficulty or effort <i>We could just discern [=distinguish, make out] the ship through the fog.</i>
worthless	adj.	having no financial value <i>worthless coins/stocks</i>
descend	v.	to go down :to go or move from a higher to a lower place or level <i>Wait for the elevator to descend.</i>
supervise	v.	to be in charge of (someone or something) :to watch and direct (someone or something) <i>The builder supervised the construction of the house.</i>
compulsion	n.	a very strong desire to do something <i>I gave in to one of my compulsions and ordered the chocolate dessert.</i>

infer	v.	to form (an opinion) from evidence :to reach (a conclusion) based on known facts <i>It's difficult to infer how these changes will affect ordinary citizens.</i>
mansion	n.	a large and impressive house :the large house of a wealthy person <i>a mansion with 10 bedrooms and an indoor swimming pool</i>
compel	v.	to force (someone) to do something <i>Illness compelled him to stay in bed.</i>
furious	adj.	very angry <i>She's furious at/over how slowly the investigation is proceeding.</i>
dwell	v.	to live in a particular place <i>a cave where bats dwell</i>
folly	n.	the lack of good sense or judgment :foolishness <i>the folly of driving fast on steep, winding roads</i>
grim	adj.	unpleasant or shocking to see or think about <i>Hikers made a grim discovery when they came across a dead body in the woods.</i>
faction	n.	a group within a larger group that has different ideas and opinions than the rest of the group <i>The committee soon split into factions.</i>
envy	v.	to feel a desire to have what someone else has :to feel envy because of (someone or something) <i>I envy you for your large group of friends.</i>
contemplation	n.	the act of thinking deeply about something <i>He made his decision after many hours of contemplation. [=thought, consideration]</i>
strive	v.	to try very hard to do or achieve something <i>We must all strive to do better.</i>
thence	adv.	from that place :from there <i>Their travels took them to the Bahamas, thence south to Venezuela.</i>