

## BOOK SIXTEEN

### Odysseus Reveals Himself to Telemachus

[Telemachus arrives at Eumaeus' farm; Eumaeus is overjoyed to see Telemachus back from his voyage; Telemachus, Eumaeus, and Odysseus (in disguise) talk together; Telemachus sends Eumaeus off to tell Penelope of his safe return; Athena tells Odysseus to reveal himself to his son and transforms his appearance; Telemachus and Odysseus are reunited; Telemachus and Odysseus discuss strategies for dealing with the suitors; Odysseus gives Telemachus instructions about hiding weapons and behaving in front of the suitors; a herald from Telemachus' crew announces to Penelope and others the news of his return from Pylos; the suitors are upset and discuss what to do; Penelope appears before the suitors and upbraids Antinous for his behaviour; Antinous replies; Eumaeus returns to Odysseus and Telemachus in the hut; Athena transforms Odysseus into an old beggar once again; Odysseus, Eumaeus, and Telemachus eat a meal and go to sleep]

Meanwhile at dawn Odysseus and the loyal swineherd,  
once they'd sent the herdsmen out with droves of pigs,  
made a fire in the hut and prepared their breakfast.  
As Telemachus came closer, the yelping dogs  
stopped barking and fawned around him. Lord Odysseus  
noticed what the dogs were doing and heard his footsteps.  
At once he spoke out to Eumaeus—his words had wings:  
“Eumaeus, some comrade of yours is coming,  
or someone else you know. The dogs aren't barking  
[10] and are acting friendly. I hear footsteps.”

He'd hardly finished speaking when his own dear son  
stood in the doorway. The swineherd, amazed, jumped up—  
the bowls he was using to mix the gleaming wine  
fell from his hands. He went up to greet his master,  
kissed his head, both his handsome eyes, his two hands,  
then burst into tears. Just as a loving father  
welcomes his dear son after a nine-year absence,  
when he comes from a foreign land, an only son,  
his favourite, for whom he's undergone much sorrow,  
[20] that's how the loyal swineherd hugged Telemachus  
and kissed him often, as if he'd escaped his death.

And through his tears he spoke winged words to him:  
"You've come, Telemachus, you sweet light.  
I thought I'd never see you any more,  
once you went off in that ship to Pylos.  
Come in now, dear boy, so that my heart  
can rejoice to see you here in my home,  
now you've just returned from distant places.  
You don't often visit farm and herdsmen—  
[30] your life is in the city. Your heart, I think,  
must like to watch that hateful bunch of suitors."

Shrewd Telemachus then answered him and said:  
"If you say so, old friend. I've come here now  
on your account, to see you face to face  
and to hear you talk about my mother.  
Is she still living in the palace halls,  
or has some other man now married her?  
Is no one sleeping in Odysseus' bed?  
Is it all covered in disgusting cobwebs?"

[40] The swineherd, that outstanding man, then answered him:  
"Yes indeed, she still lives in your palace,  
with a faithful heart, but always grieving,  
wasting days and nights away with weeping."

Once he'd said this, he took Telemachus' bronze spear,  
and let him enter. He crossed the stone threshold.  
As he approached, Odysseus, his father, got up  
to offer him his seat, but from across the room  
Telemachus stopped him and said:  
"Stay put, stranger.  
We'll find a chair in the hut somewhere else.  
[50] Here's a man who'll get one for us."

He spoke. Odysseus went back and sat down again.  
Eumaeus piled up green brushwood on the floor  
and spread a fleece on top. Odysseus' dear son

sat down there. The swineherd then set out before them  
platters of roast meat, left over from the meal  
they'd had the day before, and quickly heaped up  
baskets full of bread. In a wooden bowl he mixed  
wine sweet as honey, and then sat down himself,  
opposite godlike Odysseus. Their hands reached out  
[60] to the fine meal prepared and spread before them.  
When they'd had food and drink to their heart's content,  
Telemachus then said to the splendid swineherd:  
"Old friend, where does this stranger come from?  
How did sailors bring him to Ithaca?  
Who do they claim to be? For I don't think  
there's any way he could get here on foot."

Then, swineherd Eumaeus, you answered him and said:  
"My child, I'll tell you nothing but the truth.  
He claims that he was born in spacious Crete  
[70] and says he has been roaming all around,  
wandering through many human cities.  
That how some god has spun a fate for him.  
He's just fled from a ship of Thesprotians  
and come here to my farm. I give him to you.  
Do as you wish. He's a suppliant, he says."

Shrewd Telemachus then answered him and said:  
"Eumaeus, I'm really distressed at heart  
by what you've said. How can I welcome  
this guest into my home? I myself am young—  
[80] I don't believe my hands are strong enough  
to fight a man who acts with violence  
against me first. As for my mother,  
in her chest the heart is quite divided,  
whether to stay with me and tend the house,  
out of respect for what the people say  
and for her husband's bed, or to go now  
with the finest man of those Achaeans  
who've been courting her within the halls,

the one who offers the most marriage gifts.

[90] But anyway, now this stranger's come here,  
to your home, I'll dress him in fine clothing,  
cloak and tunic, and give a two-edged sword  
and sandals for his feet. I'll send him off  
wherever his heart and spirit prompt him.  
If you wish, you can keep him at this farm  
and care for him. I'll send some clothing here  
and all the food he'll eat, so he won't ruin  
you and your comrades. But I won't permit him  
to go there and mingle with the suitors—

[100] they are far too full of arrogant pride  
and might make fun of him, which would bring me  
deadly sorrow. It's difficult for one man,  
even if he's powerful, to do much  
with so many more. They are far stronger.”

Then lord Odysseus, who had endured so much,  
said to Telemachus:

“Friend, surely it's all right  
for me to answer, and my heart is torn  
as I hear you talk—these suitors think up  
such presumptuous actions in your palace  
[110] and flout your will, though you're a decent man.  
Tell me, do you agree with this oppression?  
Do the people of the country hate you  
and follow what some god is telling them?  
Do you think the blame rests with your kinsmen,  
whom a man relies on when there's fighting,  
even if a major quarrel should arise?  
With my heart the way it is, how I wish  
I were either as young as you, the son  
of brave Odysseus, or the man himself  
[120] returning from his travels—there's still room  
for us to hope for that—then, if I came  
to the halls of Laertes' son, Odysseus,  
and didn't bring destruction on them all,

let a stranger slice this head off my neck.  
If I, acting all alone, was overwhelmed  
by their greater numbers, I'd rather die,  
killed in my own home, than continue watching  
such disgraceful acts—guests treated badly,  
women servants shamelessly being dragged  
[130] through the fine palace, wine drawn and wasted,  
and all the time food eaten needlessly,  
acts which go on and on, without an end.”

Shrewd Telemachus then answered him and said:  
“Well, stranger, I'll speak candidly to you.  
The people are not all angry with me,  
nor do they bear a grudge. And I don't blame  
my kinsmen, the ones a man relies on  
in a fight, even if a great quarrel comes.  
The son of Cronos has made our family  
[140] follow a single line. It goes like this—  
Arcisius fathered a single son,  
Laertes, and he, too, was the father  
of only a single son, Odysseus,  
and Odysseus fathered me, his only son,  
then left me by myself in his own hall.  
He got no joy of me. And that's why now  
countless hostile men are in our home.  
All those lords with power in the islands—  
Dulicium, Same, wooded Zycanthus—  
[150] and those who rule in rocky Ithaca,  
all of them are trying to court my mother  
and destroy my home.<sup>1</sup> She does not turn down  
the hateful marriage, but cannot decide  
to bring these matters to an end. And so,  
with their feasting they consume my household,  
and they'll soon be the ruin of me, too.  
But all this lies in the lap of the gods.  
Old friend, you must go quickly and report  
to wise Penelope that I've returned,

[160] I'm safely home from Pylos. I'll stay here,  
until you've given the news to her alone  
and come back here. No other Achaean  
must learn about it, for many of them  
are planning nasty things against me."

Then, swineherd Eumaeus, you answered him and said:

"I know what you're saying—I understand.  
You're speaking to a man who thinks things through.  
But come, tell me this, and be frank with me.  
On this trip should I go to Laertes

[170] with the news? The poor man's in misery.  
For a while, though suffering great distress  
about Odysseus, he'd supervise the fields  
and in his home eat and drink with servants,  
as the heart inside his chest would urge him.  
But now, since the time you left for Pylos,  
people say he no longer eats and drinks  
the way he used to or inspects the fields,  
but sits there groaning and wailing, in tears,  
with his flesh shriveling around his bones."

[180] Shrewd Telemachus then answered him and said:

"That's more distressing, but nevertheless,  
though it makes us sad, we'll leave him alone.  
If mortal men could somehow get all things  
simply by wishing, we would first of all  
select the day my father gets back home.  
But after you've delivered your message,  
then come back here. Don't go wandering  
around the fields looking for Laertes.

Instead, tell my mother to send her maid,  
[190] the housekeeper, quickly and in secret.  
She can report the news to the old man."

His words spurred on the swineherd. He took his sandals,  
tied them on his feet, and set off for the city.

Now, it did not escape the notice of Athena  
that swineherd Eumaeus was going from the farm.  
She approached the hut, appearing like a woman,  
beautiful, tall, and skilled in making lovely things.  
She stood just outside the entrance to the farm  
and was visible to no one but Odysseus.

[200] Telemachus did not see her face to face  
or notice she was there. For when gods appear,  
there's no way their form is perceptible to all.  
But Odysseus saw her. So did the dogs, as well.  
But they didn't bark. Instead, they crept away,  
whimpering in fear, to the far side of the hut.  
She signaled with her eyebrows. Lord Odysseus  
noticed and went out of the hut, past the large wall  
around the yard, and stood in front of her.  
Then Athena spoke to him:

“Son of Laertes,

[210] resourceful Odysseus, sprung from Zeus,  
Now is the time to speak to your own son—  
make yourself known and don't conceal the facts,  
so you two can plan the suitors' lethal fate,  
then go together to the famous city.  
I won't be absent from you very long—  
I'm eager for the battle.”

As she said this, Athena  
touched Odysseus with her golden wand. To start with,  
she placed a well-washed cloak around his body,  
then made him taller and restored his youthful looks.

[220] His skin grew dark once more, his countenance filled out,  
and the beard around his chin turned black again.  
Once she'd done this, Athena left. But Odysseus  
returned into the hut. His dear son was amazed.  
He turned his eyes away, afraid it was a god,  
and spoke to him—his words had wings:  
“Stranger,  
you look different to me than you did before—

you're wearing different clothes, your skin has changed.  
You're one of the gods who hold wide heaven.  
If so, be gracious, so we can give you  
[230] pleasing offerings, well-crafted gifts of gold.  
But spare us."

Long-suffering lord Odysseus  
then answered him and said:  
"I'm not one of the gods.  
Why do you compare me to immortals?  
But I am your father, on whose account  
you grieve and suffer so much trouble,  
having to endure men's acts of violence."

He spoke, then kissed his son. A tear ran down his cheek  
onto the ground—till then he'd held himself in check.  
But Telemachus, who could not yet believe  
[240] it was his father, spoke to him again, saying:  
"You cannot be Odysseus, my father.  
No. Some spirit has cast a spell on me,  
to make me lament and grieve even more.  
There's no way a mortal man could plan this  
with his own wits, unless some god himself  
came by, who could, if he so desired,  
make him young or old quite easily.  
Not long ago you wore filthy clothing  
and were an old man. But now you're like  
[250] the gods who hold wide heaven."

Then resourceful Odysseus answered him and said:  
"Telemachus, it's not appropriate for you  
to be overly surprised your father  
is back home or to be too astonished.  
You can rest assured—no other Odysseus  
will ever be arriving. I am here.  
I've endured a lot in many wanderings,  
and now, in the twentieth year, I've come back



to my native land. This present business,  
[260] you should know, is forager Athena's work.  
She's made me look like this—it's what she wants,  
and she has power—in one moment,  
like a beggar, and in another one,  
a young man with fine clothes around his body.  
It's easy for the gods who hold wide heaven  
to glorify or else debase a man."

Once he'd said this, he sat down, and Telemachus  
embraced his noble father, cried out, and shed tears.  
A desire to lament arose in both of them—  
[270] they wailed aloud, as insistently as birds,  
like sea eagles or hawks with curving talons  
whose young have been carried off by country folk  
before they're fully fledged. That's how both men then  
let tears of pity fall from underneath their eyelids.  
And now light from the sun would've gone down on them,  
as they wept, if Telemachus had not spoken.  
He suddenly addressed his father:  
"In what kind of ship,  
dear father, did sailors bring you here,  
to Ithaca? Who did they say they were?  
[280] For I don't think you made it here on foot."

Noble long-suffering Odysseus answered him:  
"All right, my child, I'll tell you the truth.  
Phaeacians, those famous sailors, brought me.  
They escort other men, as well, all those  
who visit them. And I remained asleep  
as they transported me across the sea  
in their swift ship and set me on Ithaca.  
They gave me splendid gifts of bronze and gold  
and woven clothing. Now, thanks to the gods,  
[290] these things are stored away in caves. I've come here  
at Athena's bidding, so we may plan  
destruction for our enemies. But come now,

tell me about the number of the suitors,  
so I know how many men there are  
and what they're like. Then, once my noble heart  
has thought it over, I'll make up my mind,  
whether we two are powerful enough  
to take them on alone, without assistance,  
or whether we should seek out other men."

[300] Shrewd Telemachus answered him and said:

"Father,  
I've always heard about your great renown,  
a mighty warrior—your hands are very strong,  
your plans intelligent. But what you say  
is far too big a task. I'm astonished.  
Two men cannot fight against so many—  
and they are powerful. In an exact count,  
there are not just ten suitors or twice ten,  
but many more. Here, you can soon add up  
their numbers—from Dulichium there are  
[310] fifty-two hand-picked young men, six servants  
in their retinue, from Same twenty-four,  
from Zacynthus twenty young Achaeans,  
and from Ithaca itself twelve young men,  
all nobility. Medon, the herald,  
is with them, as is the godlike minstrel,  
and two attendants skilled in carving meat.  
If we move against all these men inside,  
I fear revenge may bring a bitter fate,  
now you've come home. So you should consider  
[320] whether you can think of anyone who'll help,  
someone prepared to stand by both of us  
and fight with all his heart."

Then lord Odysseus,  
who had endured so much, answered him and said:  
"All right, I'll tell you. Pay attention now,

and listen. Do you believe Athena,  
along with Father Zeus, will be enough  
for the two of us, or should I think about  
someone else to help us?”

Shrewd Telemachus

then said in reply:

“Those two allies you mention  
[330] are excellent. They sit high in the clouds,  
ruling others, men and immortal gods.”

Long-suffering lord Odysseus answered him and said:

“The two of them won’t stand apart for long  
from the great fight—we can be sure of that—  
when Ares’ warlike spirit in my halls  
is put to the test between these suitors  
and ourselves. But for now, when Dawn arrives,  
go to the house, join those arrogant suitors.

The swineherd will bring me to the city

[340] later on. I’ll be looking like a beggar,  
old and wretched. If they’re abusive to me,  
let that dear heart in your chest endure it,  
while I’m being badly treated, even if  
they drag me by my feet throughout the house  
and out the door or throw things and hit me.  
Keep looking on, and hold yourself in check.  
You can tell them to stop their foolishness,  
but seek to win them over with nice words,  
even though you’ll surely not convince them,

[350] because the day they meet their fate has come.

I’ll tell you something else—keep it in mind.

When wise Athena puts it in my mind,

I’ll nod my head to you. When you see that,

take all the weapons of war lying there,  
in the hall, and put them in a secret place,  
all of them, in the lofty storage room.

When the suitors notice they’ve gone missing

and ask about them, you must deceive them  
with reassuring words:

‘I’ve placed them  
[360] well beyond the smoke, since they’re no longer  
like the weapons Odysseus left behind  
when he went off to Troy. They’re all tarnished—  
the fire has breathed on them too many times.  
Beyond that, the son of Cronos has put  
a greater worry in my heart that you,  
after too much wine, may start up a fight  
amongst yourselves and then hurt each other,  
dishonouring your courtship and the feast.  
For iron attracts a man all on its own.’

[370] “But leave behind a pair of swords, two spears,  
and two ox-hide shields, for the two of us  
to grab up when we make a rush at them,  
while Pallas Athena and Counselor Zeus  
will keep the suitors’ minds preoccupied.  
I’ll tell you something else—keep it in mind.  
If you are my son and truly of our blood,  
let no one hear Odysseus is back home.  
Don’t let Laertes know or the swineherd,  
or any servants, or Penelope herself.

[380] You and I alone will investigate  
how the women feel, and we’ll check out  
some of the serving men, to discover  
if any of them fears and honours us  
in his heart—and the ones with no respect,  
who discredit you for being the man you are.”

Then his splendid son answered him and said:  
“Father,  
I think you’ll later come to recognize  
my spirit, for no timidity of mind  
possesses me. But still, I do not think

[390] your plan will benefit the two of us.  
I'd ask you to consider this—you'll spend  
a long time simply testing every man,  
as you visit the farms, while those others,  
in their proud way, relax inside your halls  
and consume your goods without restraint.  
But I'd suggest you learn about the women,  
those disgracing you and the guiltless ones.  
As for men on the estates, I'd prefer  
we didn't test them. We can deal with that  
[400] at a later time, if you truly recognize  
some sign from Zeus, who bears the aegis."

So the two men talked about these things together.  
Meanwhile, the well-built ship which brought Telemachus  
from Pylos with all his comrades had reached Ithaca.  
Once they'd come inside the deep water harbour,  
they hauled the black ship up on shore. Eager servants  
carried off their weapons and without delay  
took the splendid gifts to Clytius' home.  
They also sent a herald to Odysseus' house,  
[410] to report to wise Penelope, telling her  
Telemachus had gone to visit the estates  
and had told the ship to sail off for the city,  
in case the noble queen might get sick at heart  
and shed some tears. This herald and the swineherd met  
because they'd both been sent off with the same report  
to tell the queen. When they reached the royal palace,  
the herald spoke out in front of female servants:  
"My queen, your dear son has just returned."

But the swineherd came up close to Penelope  
[420] and gave her all the details her dear son  
had ordered him to say. Once he'd told her  
every detail he'd been asked to mention to her,  
he went off, leaving the courtyard and the hall,  
back to his pigs. The suitors were unhappy,

their hearts dismayed, and they departed from the hall,  
past the large courtyard wall. There, before the gates,  
they sat down. The first one of them to say something  
was Eurymachus, son of Polybus:

“O my friends,  
to tell the truth, in his great arrogance  
[430] Telemachus has carried out his trip,  
a great achievement. We never thought  
he would complete it. So come on now,  
let’s launch a black ship, the best one we have,  
collect some sailors, a crew of rowers,  
so they can quickly carry a report  
to those other men to go home at once.”<sup>2</sup>

No sooner had he said all this, than Amphinomus,  
turning in his place, saw a ship in the deep harbour.  
Men were bringing down the sail, others holding oars.  
[440] With a hearty laugh, he then addressed his comrades:  
“Don’t bother with a message any more.  
Here they are back home. Either some god  
gave them news, or they saw his ship themselves,  
as it sailed past, but couldn’t catch it.”

He spoke. They all got up and went to the sea shore,  
then quickly dragged the black ship up onto dry ground,  
while eager attendants carried off their weapons.  
They themselves went to the meeting place together.  
No one else was allowed to sit there with them,  
[450] no old or younger men. Then Antinous addressed them,  
son of Eupheithes:  
“Well, this is bad news—  
the gods have delivered the man from harm.  
Our lookouts sat each day on windy heights,  
always in successive shifts. At sunset,  
we never spent the night on shore, but sailed  
over the sea in our swift ship, waiting  
for sacred Dawn, as we set our ambush

for Telemachus, so we could capture  
and then kill him. Meanwhile, some god  
[460] has brought him home. But let's think about  
a sad end for Telemachus right here  
and ensure he doesn't get away from us.  
For as long as he's alive, I don't think  
we'll be successful in what we're doing.  
He himself is clever, shrewd in counsel,  
and now people don't regard us well at all.  
So come now, before he calls Achaeans  
to assembly. I don't think he will give up.  
He'll get angry and stand up to proclaim  
[470] to everyone how we planned to kill him  
and how we didn't get him. The people  
will resent us, once they learn about  
our nasty acts. Take care they do not harm us  
and force us out, away from our own land,  
until we reach a foreign country. And so,  
let's move first—capture him out in the fields,  
far from the city, or else on the road.  
We ourselves will keep the property he owns,  
his wealth, too, and share it appropriately  
[480] among us. As for possession of the house,  
that's something we should give his mother  
and the man who marries her. However,  
if what I've been saying displeases you,  
and you'd prefer he should remain alive,  
retaining all the riches of his fathers,  
then let's not keep on gathering in this place,  
consuming his supply of pleasant things.  
Instead, let each man carry on his courtship  
from his own home, seeking to prevail with gifts.  
[490] Then she can marry the one who offers most  
and comes to her as her destined husband."

He finished. They all sat quiet, not saying a thing.  
Then Amphinomus spoke out and addressed them,

splendid son of lord Nisus, Areteias' son—  
leader of the suitors from Dulichium,  
land rich in grass and wheat. Penelope found him  
especially pleasant because of how he talked,  
for he understood things well. With good intentions,  
he spoke to them and said:

“My friends,

[500] I wouldn't want to slay Telemachus.

It's reprehensible to kill someone  
of royal blood. But first let's ask the gods  
for their advice. If great Zeus' oracles  
approve the act, I myself will kill him  
and tell all other men to do so, too.  
But if the gods decline, I say we stop.”

Amphinomus finished. They agreed with what he'd said.

So they immediately got up and went away  
to Odysseus' house. Once they reached the palace,  
[510] they sat down on the polished chairs. By that point,  
wise Penelope had thought of something else—  
to put in an appearance before the suitors,  
despite their arrogance, because she'd heard about  
the destruction of her son there in the hall.

The herald Medon, who'd heard their plans, had told her.

So she set off on her way toward the hall,  
accompanied by her attendant women.

As soon as the noble lady reached the suitors,  
she stood beside the door post of the well-built room

[520] and, holding a bright veil across her countenance,  
addressed Antinous, reprimanding him:

“Antinous, though you're an arrogant man  
and come up with devious schemes, people say  
you are the best among those men your age  
at offering advice and making speeches.  
But you don't seem to be a man like that.  
You madman, why devise a fatal plan  
to kill Telemachus and disregard



the things involved with being a suppliant,  
[530] who has Zeus as witness? It's impiety  
to plan evil things for one another.  
Do you not know your father came here  
a fugitive, afraid of his own people?  
They were extremely angry with him,  
because he'd joined with Taphian pirates  
to cause trouble for the Thesprotians,  
who were allied with us. Those men wished  
to kill him, rip out his heart, and devour  
his huge and pleasant livelihood. But then,  
[540] Odysseus restrained them, kept them in check,  
for all their eagerness. Now you eat up  
that man's home without paying anything,  
court his wife, attempt to kill his son,  
and cause me much distress. So stop all this,  
I tell you, and order other suitors  
to do the same."

Then Eurymachus,  
son of Polybus, answered her:  
"Wise Penelope,  
daughter of Icarius, cheer up. Don't let  
these things concern your heart. No man living  
[550] and no man born and no one yet to be  
will lay hands on your son Telemachus,  
not while I'm alive, gazing on the earth.  
I tell you this—and it will truly happen—  
that man's black blood will quickly saturate  
my spear, for Odysseus, sacker of cities,  
also set me on his knees many times  
and put roast meat into my hands and held  
red wine up for me. Thus, Telemachus  
is far the dearest of all men to me.  
[560] I say to him—don't be afraid of death,  
not from the suitors, but there's no way out  
when death comes from the gods."

He said these words to ease her mood, while he himself  
was planning her son's death. But Penelope  
went to her bright room upstairs and wept there  
for Odysseus, her dear husband, until sweet sleep,  
cast by bright-eyed Athena, spread across her eyelids.  
At evening the fine swineherd came to Odysseus  
and to his son, busy getting dinner ready.

[570] They'd killed a boar, one year old. Then Athena  
approached Odysseus, Laertes' son, and touched him  
with her wand to make him an old man once again.  
She put shabby clothes around his body, just in case  
the swineherd, by looking up, would recognize him  
and then go off to tell faithful Penelope,  
and thus fail to keep the secret in his heart.  
Telemachus addressed the swineherd first and said:  
"Good Eumaeus, you've come. What news is there  
in the city? Are those arrogant suitors

[580] back in the house already from their ambush,  
or are they still out there watching for me  
as I travel on my journey homeward?"

Then, swineherd Eumaeus, you answered him and said:  
"I didn't bother to make enquiries  
or ask about such things on my travels  
through the town. Once I'd given my report,  
my heart told me to get myself back here  
as fast as possible. A swift messenger,  
who came from your companions, met me,

[590] a herald. Your mother first got the report  
from him. But I found out something else,  
which I saw with my own eyes. As I walked  
above the city, by the hill of Hermes,  
I saw a fast ship coming in our harbour,  
with lots of men aboard and loaded down  
with shields and two-edged spears. I thought  
it could be them, but I'm not certain."

Eumaeus finished. Telemachus with a smile,  
full of confidence and strength, allowed his eyes  
[600] to glance over to his father, avoiding contact  
with the swineherd. Then, once they'd finished working  
and dinner was prepared, they dined. Their hearts  
did not lack a thing—they shared the meal as equals.  
When they'd had food and drink to their heart's content,  
they thought of rest, and so they took the gift of sleep.