

I. The nurse Goes Up Stairs to tell Penelope the news.

- a. The nurse went upstairs to wake up Penelope and she tells her that Odysseus has returned
- b. Penelope doesn't believe her and the nurse is surprised
- c. Eurykleia said:
"Would I play such a trick on you dear child? It is true, true, as I tell you, he has come! That stranger they were baiting with was Odysseus. Telémakhos knew it days ago- cool head, never to give his father away, till he paid off those swollen dogs!"
Book 23, Lines 27-32
- d. she tells her that dead bodies, [the suitors] were piled up at the gate of the house
- e. Says that he cleaned up the place
- f. She still doesn't believe her, she says the gods killed the suitors not Odysseus the he isn't here
- g. Nurse tells her he saw him with her own eyes
- h. Says they are being tricked by the gods but she finally agrees to go downstairs
- i. She sees Odysseus but still doesn't believe her eyes
- j. Her son yells at her saying that she is rude for not properly acknowledging her husband
- k. She says she is stunned and if it was really Odysseus he would know the secret signs

This is an important event because it shows how Penelope has been waiting so long for her husband that when she hears news that he has returned, she denies it. She has lost much hope in seeing her true husband again.

II. Odysseus focuses on his priorities

- a. Odysseus tell Telémakhos not to worry
- b. He tells him that his wife will not recognize him as the real Odysseus because he is dirty.
- c. he mentions there are more important problems among them
- d. He says they have committed a crime by killing citizens of Ithaca
- e. Odysseus says that they should bathe and that they should change their clothes
- f. He says that the female servants should change as well
- g. They would play music and dance so people walking by would think they were celebrating a wedding and surely it would delay the rumor of the killing of the suitors

This is an important event because it shows how Odysseus still has faith that his wife will recognize him even after being denied. It also shows how he is still focused on the main problem.

II. Odysseus is rejoiced with his wife

- a. Odysseus gets bathed and and received fresh clothing and Athena made him taller and stronger
- b. Odysseus tells Penelope that he heart is made of iron
- c. Penelope tells the nurse to take the bed Odysseus built himself and set it up outside her husband built.
- d. Odysseus gets furious with the fact that someone has moved his bed

“Woman , by heaven you’ve stung me now! Who dared to move my bed? No builder had the skill for that unless a god came down to turn the trick. No mortal in his best days could budge it with a crowbar. There is our pact and pledge, our secret sign, built into that bed- my handiwork and no one else’s!”

Book 23, Lines 208-215

- e. Penelope realizes that this is her true husband.
- f. She ran toward Odysseus and ask for forgiveness
- g. They cried in each others arms.
- h. That night they exchange stories and made love
- I. Athena made the night last longer so they could enjoy their night together.

“The royal pair mingled in love again and afterward lay revelling in stories: hers of the siege her beauty stood at home from arrogant suitors, crowding on her sight, and how they fed their courtship on his cattle, oxen and fat sheep, and dark up rivers of wine out of the vats. Odysseus told of what hard blows he had dealt out to others and of what blows he had taken- all that story. She could not close her eyes till all was told

Book 23, Lines 337-347

This was an important event because it shows how smart Penelope really is. It also shows that she has become less vulnerable to imposers, imposing as her husband. It also the first time in the book that the have finally been re united with each other.

II. Odysseus leaves for his father

- a. Odysseus tells Penelope of his plans to greet his father, and tell Penelope to take the female servants and lock themselves up stairs and never come out.
- b. Odysseus wakes Telémakhos and Is herdsmen and tells them to suit up
- c. Penelope tells the nurse to take the bed Odysseus built himself and set it up outside her husband built.
- d. They left the house to begin their journey

“Now it was broad day but these three men Athena hed in darkness, going before them swiftly from the town.”

Book 23, Lines 420-422

This is an important event because it shows how Odysseus is still aware of what needs to be done, and he cares for all of his family.