

Read Books XVII-XX of Homer's *Odyssey* and answer the following questions<sup>1</sup>:

Book Seventeen

1. What contributions do the episodes of Melanthios striking Odysseus by the spring and Antinoos striking Odysseus in his own house contribute to the plot?

2. Describe what happens between Odysseus and Argos? How does this contribute to the story?

Book Eighteen

1. What does the speech in lines 125-156 tell us about Odysseus' character?

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<sup>1</sup> Some of the material from the questions comes from Wes Callihan, *A Study Guide To The Great Books: Homer's Odyssey* (Lancaster PA: Veritas Press, 2009) 80-95. Material also comes from Peter J. Leithart, *Heroes of the City of Man* (Moscow ID: Canon Press, 1999) 178-179.

2. Reread lines 155-156 and 364-368. What do these lines suggest about Homer's view of divine control and human responsibility? Does it appear that Homer believes that Athene's involvement in provoking men to evil lessens their responsibility for their evil actions?

Book Nineteen

1. What was Penelope's deception of the web?

2. How does Eurykleia almost give Odysseus away?

Book Twenty

1. What two omens does Odysseus receive early in this book?

2. What is Theoklymenes' vision in 345-357? How do the suitors react to this vision?

*The Odyssey* Study Questions  
Books XVII-XX

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