

Homer, *Odyssey* XIII.1-9

Ὡς ἔφαθ', οἱ δ' ἄρα πάντες ἀκὴν ἐγένοντο σιωπῆι,
κηληθμῶι δ' ἔσχοντο κατὰ μέγαρα σκίοεντα.

τὸν δ' αὖτ' Ἀλκίνοος ἀπαμείβετο φώνησέν τε·

“ὦ Ὀδυσσεῦ, ἐπεὶ ἴκευ ἐμὸν ποτὶ χαλκοβατῆς δῶ

ὑπερεφές, τῷ σ' οὐ τι πάλιν πλαγχθέντα γ' οἶω

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ἄψ ἀπονοστήσειν, εἰ καὶ μάλα πολλὰ πέπονθας.

ὑμέων δ' ἀνδρὶ ἐκάστωι ἐφιέμενος τάδε εἴρω,

ὄσσοι ἐνὶ μεγάροισι γερούσιον αἶθοπα οἶνον

αἰεὶ πίνετ' ἐμοῖσιν, ἀκουάζεσθε δ' αἰδοῦ·

VOCABULARY

ἰοιδός, οὔ, ὄ: (*n.*) singer, bard

αἶθοψ, οπος: (*adj.*) bright, sparkling

ἀκὴν: (*adv.*) calmly

ἀκουάζομαι: (*v.*) listen to (with *genitive* of person)

ἀπαμείβω: (*v.*) (*mid.*) answer, reply to

ἀπονοστήω: (*v.*) come back, return, return home

ἄψ: (*adv.*) back, again

γερούσιος: (*adj.*) of old men / councillors

δῶ, τό: (*n.*) house, abode

εἴρω (φείρω): (*v.*) utter, speak, say, tell

ἐφήμι: (*v.*) send, shoot, let fly; (*mid.*) ἐφίεμαι: lay a command upon someone

κηληθμός, -οῦ, ὄ: (*n.*) charm, enchantment

μέγαρον, τό: (*n.*) hall (*pl.* palace)

οἶω: (*v.*) think

πάσχω: (*v.*) (*pf.* πέπονθα) suffer; experience

πλάζω: (*v.*) drive; (*mid.* / *pass.*) be driven, wander

(*aor. pass.*: πλάγχθη; *ppt.* πλαγχθείς, -έντος)

σιωπή -ῆς, ἦ: (*n.*) silence

σκίοεις, -εντος: (*adj.*) shadowy

ὑπερεφής, -ές: (*adj.*) with a high roof

φωνέω: (*v.*) speak

χαλκοβατής, -ές : (*adj.*) bronze-floored

COMMENTARY

1. The opening words ὥς ἔφατο ('Like this he spoke...'), mark the end of Odysseus' story of his wanderings, which has occupied most of the previous four books.

ἀκὴν: the use of the adverbial accusative with part of the verb 'to be' (ἐγένοντο) is translated predicatively, i.e. 'were calm' (cf. the familiar predicative use of ἔχω with an adverb, e.g. καλῶς ἔχει: 'is well').

σιωπῆι is used adverbially: 'silently', 'in silence'

3. τὸν is the relative pronoun: 'him' (i.e. Odysseus)

ἀπαμείβετο φώνησέν τε: the omission of the augment is very frequent in Homer

τε: connecting particle ('and'); though τε frequently coordinates with καὶ or a subsequent τε to mean '...both... and...', it may stand alone.

4. ἴκευ: 2nd *s. aor.* of ἰκνέομαι: 'come'

ποτὶ = πρὸς: 'to' (with *acc.*)

5-6. τῷ: 'for that reason...' (coordinating with ἐπεὶ: 'since')

σ' οὐ τι πάλιν πλαγχθέντα γ' οἶω ἄψ ἀπονοστήσειν = οὐκ οἶω σε οὐδαμοῦ ἀπονοστήσειν πάλιν γε πλαγχθέντα: 'I do not think you will return back home having wandered again in any way', i.e. Alkinoos is certain that the Phaeacians can escort Odysseus straight home. The construction is an accusative and infinitive with Odysseus as subject (σε... πλαγχθέντα). As is natural in Greek, the negating particle is applied to the main verb (i.e. 'I do not think that...'), rather than to the verb in indirect speech, to convey the sense 'I think... that not...'

εἰ καὶ: 'even if'

8 ὄσσοι (following ὑμέων): 'as many of you as...'

ἐνὶ = ἐν ('in' + *dat.*)

9 πίνετ' = πίνετε 2nd *pl. pres. indic.*