

## Homer, *Odyssey* XIII.20-30

καὶ τὰ μὲν εὖ κατέθηχ' ἱερὸν μένος Ἀλκινόοιο,  
αὐτὸς ἰὼν διὰ νηὸς ὑπὸ ζυγά, μὴ τιν' ἑταίρων  
βλάβητοι ἐλαυνόντων, ὅποτε σπερχοίαιτ' ἔρετμοῖς·  
οἱ δ' εἰς Ἀλκινόοιο κίον καὶ δαῖτ' ἀλέγυνον.

τοῖσι δὲ βοῦν ἱέρευσ' ἱερὸν μένος Ἀλκινόοιο  
Ζηνὶ κελαϊνεφεΐ Κρονίδηι, ὃς πᾶσιν ἀνάσσει.

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μῆρα δὲ κήαντες δαίνυντ' ἔρικυδέα δαῖτα  
τερπόμενοι· μετὰ δέ σφιν ἐμέλπετο θεῖος ἰαοιδός,  
Δημόδοκος, λαοῖσι τετιμένος. αὐτὰρ Ὀδυσσεὺς  
πολλὰ πρὸς ἥελιον κεφαλὴν τρέπε παμφανόωντα,  
δῦναι ἐπειγόμενος· δὴ γὰρ μενέαινε νέεσθαι.

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### VOCABULARY

ἀλεγύνω: (v.) share, partake of  
ἀνάσσω: (v.) rule over  
δαίνυμι: (v.) give someone a meal; (*mid.*) eat a meal  
δαῖς, δαιτός, ἡ: (n.) feast, banquet  
δύω: (v.) (*act. / mid.*) (of the sun) set  
βλάπτω: (v.) *here*: get in the way, hinder  
ἐπιίγω: (v.) to press / push hard upon; (*pass.*) be eager  
ἔρικυδής, -ές: (*adj.*) splendid, glorious  
ζυγόν, -οῦ, τό: (n.) yoke; *pl.* ζυγά: oarsmen's benches  
ἥλιος, ὁ: (n.) sun  
θεῖος -η -ον: (*adj.*) godlike, divine  
κατατίθημι: (v.) set down, put down; *here*: stow  
κελαϊνεφής, -ές: (*adj.*) 'of the black cloud' (epithet of Zeus)  
κεφαλῆ, -ης, ἡ: (n.) head  
κίον / ἔκιον (v.) (*aor.*): come, go

Κρονίδης: (n.) *patronymic*: 'son of Kronos'  
λαός, -οῦ, ὁ: (n.) people  
μέλω: (v.) play; (*mid.*) play music  
μενεαίνω: (v.) be eager; long for, desire  
μένος, τό: (n.) spirit, mind  
μῆρον, τό: (n.) thigh, thigh bone  
νέομαι: (v.) come, go  
νηῦς, νηός, ἡ: (n.) ship  
παμφανόων, -ωντος: (*adj.*) shining, gleaming  
σπέρχω: (v.) make something move quickly; (*med.*) exert oneself, hurry, rush  
τέρπω: (v.) give pleasure; (*mid.*) enjoy  
τιμάω: (v.) honour (*pf. pass. ptp.* τετιμένος)  
τρέπω: (v.) turn

### COMMENTARY

20. ἱερὸν μένος Ἀλκινόοιο: *lit.* 'the goodly spirit of Alkinoos.' Translations of this formulaic phrase, which is difficult to render both accurately and concisely, vary; one possibility is 'great-hearted Alkinoos.'

21. αὐτὸς ἰὼν: *masc.*, referring to Alkinoos despite the strict need for a neuter *ptp.* to agree with μένος.

The noun νηῦς, νῆα (*acc.*), νηός (*gen.*), νηΐ (*dat.*), νῆες (*nom. pl.*), νῆας (*acc.*), νηῶν (*gen.*), νηυσί / νήεσσι (*dat.*) also has the following short vowel forms: νέα (*acc.*), νέος (*gen.*), νέες (*nom. pl.*), νέας (*acc. pl.*), νεῶν (*gen.*), νέεσσι (*dat. pl.*).

21-2. μὴ τιν' ἑταίρων / βλάβητοι ἐλαυνόντων: the subject of this phrase is τὰ (20): 'in case they should hinder any of his companions while rowing.'

23. εἰς Ἀλκινόοιο: 'to the house of Alkinoos'

24. ἱέρευσ' = ἱέρευσε, the subject being Alkinoos  
ἱερὸν μένος Ἀλκινόοιο: cf. 20.

25. Ζηνὶ κελαϊνεφεΐ Κρονίδηι: *epithet and patronymic*: 'Zeus of the black cloud, the son of Kronos'

26. κήαντες: *aor. pt.* of καίω (*aor.* ἔκηα): 'burn'

27. μετὰ + *dat.*: 'among'

σφιν: 3<sup>rd</sup> *pl. pronoun (dat.)*: 'them'

28. λαοῖσι: *dat.* of agent with the perfect tense τετιμένος

29. πολλά: *adverbial*: 'many times', 'often' (the use of the *n. acc.* of adjectives to yield an adverb is very common in Homer)

30. δὴ emphasizes the main verb μενέαινε: 'he was very eager'