

Homer, *Odyssey* 13.59-69

“χαῖρέ μοι, ὧ βασιλεια, διαμπερές, εἰς ὃ κε γῆρας
ἔλθῃ καὶ θάνατος, τά τ’ ἐπ’ ἀνθρώποισι πέλονται. 60
αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ νέομαι· σὺ δὲ τέρπεο τῶιδ’ ἐνὶ οἴκῳ
παῖσι τε καὶ λαοῖσι καὶ Ἀλκινόωι βασιλῆϊ.”
ὥς εἰπὼν ὑπὲρ οὐδὸν ἐβήσετο δῖος Ὀδυσσεύς·
τῶι δ’ ἅμα κήρυκα προῖει μένος Ἀλκινόοιο 65
ἠγεῖσθαι ἐπὶ νῆα θοὴν καὶ θῖνα θαλάσσης.
Ἀρήτη δ’ ἄρα οἱ δμωιάς ἅμ’ ἔπεμπε γυναῖκας,
τὴν μὲν φᾶρος ἔχουσαν ἐϋπλυνὲς ἠδὲ χιτῶνα,
τὴν δ’ ἐτέρην χηλὸν πυκινὴν ἅμ’ ὄπασσε κομίζειν·
ἠ δ’ ἄλλη σῖτόν τ’ ἔφερον καὶ οἶνον ἐρυθρόν.

VOCABULARY

ἅμα: (*prep.*) with (+ *dat.* frequently following the case);

(*adv.*) at the same time, together

αὐτὰρ: (*part.*) but; also expresses continuation (‘now’), as
it does here, or introduces a statement.

γῆρας, -ας, τό: (*n.*) old age

δῖος, δῖα, δῖον: (*adj.*) divine, godlike

δμωῖή, -ῆς: (*n.*) slave woman

διαμπερές: (*adv.*) always, forever, through, throughout

ἐρυθρός: (*adj.*) red

ἐϋπλυνής, -ές: (*adj.*) well laundered

θῖς, θινός, ὄ: (*n.*) beach, shore

θοός -ῆ -όν: (*adj.*) quick, swift

κήρυξ -ῦκος, ὄ: (*n.*) herald

νέομαι: (*v.*): come, go

ὀπάζω: (*v.*) send with someone; give, bestow upon

οὐδός, -οῦ, ὄ: (*n.*) threshold

πέλομαι: (*v.*) (dep. of πέλω): come, go around; be

προίημι: (*v.*) send out / forth, dispatch; throw; let go

πυκινός, -ή, -όν: (*adj.*) well-made

τέρπω: (*v.*) (*act.*) delight, please; (*mid.*) enjoy (+ *dat.*)

σῖτος, ὄ: (*n.*) food

φᾶρος, τό: (*n.*) cloak

χηλός, -οῦ, ἠ: (*n.*) box, chest

χιτῶν, -ῶνος, ὄ: (*n.*) tunic

COMMENTARY

59-60. εἰς ὃ κε / γῆρας ἔλθῃ: ‘until whenever old age may come’ (κε = ἄν, here followed by the subjunctive ἔλθῃ indicating an indefinite point in time).

60. τά τ’ ἐπ’ ἀνθρώποισι πέλονται: the *neut. pl.* relative τά after nouns in other genders identifies its antecedents as a unit or a group that go naturally together. In a relative clause in Homer, τε indicates that what is being expressed is universal or always true.

61. τῶιδ’ = τῶιδε: deictic, ‘in this house.’ ἐνὶ = ἐν (‘in’ + *dat.*): cf. 8.

63. ἐβήσετο: sigmatic aorist with thematic conjugation in ε, from βαίνω: walk, go.

64. τῶι: the article is used as a demonstrative, as it commonly is in Homer; it is the antecedent of ἅμα (‘with him’)

μένος Ἀλκινόοιο: cf. 20.

65. ἠγεῖσθαι: exegetic infinitive, explaining the purpose of the main verb προῖει, i.e. Alkinoos sent a herald to lead him

66. οἱ: *masc. dat. s. 3rd pers. pronoun* (part of ἐέ): ‘him’ ἅμ’ = ἅμα in its adverbial sense (‘at the same time’, ‘together with’)

67. ἠδὲ: connective particle (‘and’): cf. 13.

68. κομίζειν: exegetic infinitive (cf. 65): ‘she sent the other slave woman to bring the well-made chest’

69. ἠ δ’ ἄλλη: ‘and another one’ (i.e. another slave-woman)