

1. When Telemachus First Addresses The Assembly (lines 9-34), He Appeals To All Of The Following EXCEPT

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Understanding the pivotal moment when Telemachus first addresses the assembly in Homer's *Odyssey* provides deep insight into his character development, leadership qualities, and the thematic elements of justice and authority in Greek society. This speech, found in lines 9 through 34, marks a significant turning point in the epic, showcasing Telemachus stepping into a leadership role amidst turmoil caused by the absence of Odysseus. A detailed analysis reveals the specific appeals Telemachus makes to his audience, as well as what he intentionally refrains from emphasizing. This article explores the appeals he makes, the rhetorical strategies employed, and the one element he explicitly does not appeal to during this crucial speech.

The Context of Telemachus's Speech

Before delving into the appeals, it's essential to understand the context in which Telemachus addresses the assembly. At this point in the *Odyssey*, Telemachus is a young man grappling with his father's long absence and the chaos wrought by the suitors vying for his mother Penelope's hand. The suitors have overstayed their welcome, consuming Odysseus's wealth and disrespecting his household. Telemachus, who has been relatively passive until now, begins to assert himself as a leader. His speech aims to rally support, seek justice, and establish authority.

Key Elements of Telemachus's Appeal in Lines 9-34

In his speech, Telemachus makes several strategic appeals designed to persuade the assembly of his position and to address the grievances of his household. These appeals can be categorized as follows:

1. Appeal to Justice and Righteousness

Telemachus emphasizes the importance of justice, invoking the divine and societal order. He reminds the assembly that the suitors' actions are unjust, and they have dishonored Odysseus's household. By appealing to the moral law, he seeks to legitimize his call for action.

Example:

"It is not right or just that you should sit here and do nothing while strangers consume our wealth."

This appeal to justice underscores the moral obligation of the community to uphold fairness and retribution.

2. Appeal to Authority and Tradition

He references the customs and traditions of Greek society, emphasizing that elders and leaders should act according to established norms. By invoking tradition, Telemachus seeks to legitimize his authority and appeal for collective action.

Example:

"The elders of our land should guide us in this time of hardship."

This reinforces the idea that adhering to social norms is vital in restoring order.

3. Appeal to Loyalty and Honor

Telemachus appeals to the loyalty of his peers and elders, emphasizing the importance of honoring Odysseus and maintaining family and societal honor. This appeal aims to rally the community to stand against the suitors.

Example:

"We owe it to Odysseus, our king, and to ourselves, to see justice done."

Loyalty to kin and country is a recurring motif in Greek epic poetry, and Telemachus leverages this sentiment effectively.

4. Appeal to Self-Interest

He subtly appeals to the collective self-interest by suggesting that resolving the issue with the suitors will restore stability, prosperity, and peace to Ithaca. A stable household benefits all.

Example:

"If we delay, our land and wealth will be lost forever."

This pragmatic appeal aims to motivate action through the promise of future security.

The Rhetorical Strategies Employed by Telemachus

Telemachus employs various rhetorical devices to strengthen his appeals:

- Repetition: Reiterating key points about justice and honor to emphasize their importance.
- Appeals to Logos: Using logical reasoning, he argues that the current situation is unjust and must be rectified.
- Appeals to Ethos: Establishing his credibility as a young but rightful leader, calling upon the elders and assembly to support him.
- Emotional Appeals: Stirring feelings of loyalty, shame, and pride to motivate collective action.

What Telemachus Does NOT Appeal To

While Telemachus makes several compelling appeals, there is a notable element he explicitly does not invoke in his speech: divine intervention or direct appeal to the gods.

Why Does He Not Appeal to the Gods?

In Greek culture, invoking divine support was a common rhetorical move, especially in matters of justice and leadership. However, in this particular speech, Telemachus chooses to focus on human authority, societal norms, and moral righteousness rather than relying on divine endorsement.

Possible reasons include:

- Strategic Political Choice: By emphasizing human actions over divine will, Telemachus positions himself as a pragmatic leader capable of action without waiting for divine signs.
- Avoiding Appearing Reliant on the Gods: He may want to establish independence and assert that the community's collective responsibility is paramount.
- Setting a Precedent for Future Action: Focusing on human justice prepares the ground for decisive, immediate action rather than waiting for divine intervention.

Examples of what he does not say:

- "By the will of the gods, justice will be served."
- "The gods have decreed that we must act."
- "Let us pray to Athena for guidance."

This omission is significant, as it reflects Telemachus's emerging confidence and his desire to lead through human agency.

Summary of Appeals Made and Not Made

Appeals Made by Telemachus Appeals Not Made by Telemachus	
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Justice and righteousness	Divine intervention or divine will
Authority and tradition	Personal ambition or pride

| Loyalty and honor | Fear or despair |
| Self-interest and stability | Supernatural threats or omens |

This table summarizes the core rhetorical focus of Telemachus's speech and highlights what he consciously omits, particularly divine appeals.

Implications for Leadership and Theme Development

Telemachus's speech exemplifies the qualities of a responsible leader who relies on moral, societal, and logical appeals rather than divine authority alone. His deliberate exclusion of divine appeals signals a shift toward human agency and collective responsibility, themes central to Greek heroic ideals.

Furthermore, this approach resonates with the broader themes of justice, order, and the importance of societal norms—elements that are vital for restoring peace in Ithaca.

Conclusion

In lines 9-34 of Homer's *Odyssey*, Telemachus's first address to the assembly is a masterful display of rhetorical strategy, appealing to justice, tradition, loyalty, and self-interest to galvanize support against the suitors. Notably, he consciously refrains from appealing to divine intervention, emphasizing human action and moral righteousness. This choice underscores his emerging authority, independence, and pragmatic approach to leadership. Understanding these appeals and their omissions enriches our appreciation of Telemachus's character development and the thematic depth of Homer's epic.

SEO Keywords: Telemachus first addresses the assembly, Homer Odysseus speech, appeals in *Odyssey*, Greek leadership in Homer, rhetorical strategies in *Odyssey*, divine vs human authority Homer, Odysseus Telemachus speech analysis, *Odyssey* lines 9-34, Odysseus household justice, Greek societal norms in Homer, leadership in Homer's *Odyssey*

Frequently Asked Questions

When Telemachus first addresses the assembly (lines 9-34), he appeals to all of the following EXCEPT:

His own authority as the son of Odysseus.

What does Telemachus primarily appeal to during his speech at the assembly?

He appeals to the assembly's sense of justice and their duty to take action against the suitors.

During his speech, Telemachus urges the suitors to do which of the following?

Leave his house and stop wasting his father's wealth.

In his address to the assembly, Telemachus appeals to the gods for what reason?

To seek divine support and justice against the suitors.

Which of the following does Telemachus NOT appeal to in his speech at the assembly?

His own personal safety and security.

How does Telemachus attempt to rally the assembly's support?

By reminding them of Odysseus's reputation and their shared loyalty.

What rhetorical strategy does Telemachus primarily use in his appeal to the assembly?

He emphasizes fairness, justice, and the need for action against wrongdoers.

Which of the following is NOT part of Telemachus's appeal when he addresses the assembly?

He requests the gods to punish the suitors immediately without trial.

What is the main goal of Telemachus's speech in lines 9-34?

To persuade the assembly to take measures against the suitors and defend his family's honor.

Additional Resources

1. When Telemachus First Addresses The Assembly (lines 9-34), He Appeals To All Of The Following EXCEPT

In Homer's *Odyssey*, the scene where Telemachus, the young son of Odysseus, calls an assembly

marks a pivotal moment in his journey of self-assertion and leadership. Between lines 9 and 34 of this pivotal speech, Telemachus attempts to rally the suitors and his fellow Ithacans by appealing to their shared interests, moral values, and sense of justice. His address is carefully crafted to persuade and motivate, yet it also reveals what aspects he chooses to emphasize—and what he deliberately leaves out. Analyzing these appeals not only offers insight into Telemachus's character development but also illuminates the thematic undercurrents of authority, justice, and community in Homer's epic.

This article explores the specific appeals Telemachus makes during this speech, focusing on what he emphasizes and the rhetorical devices he employs, while also clarifying the key point: the particular appeals he makes do not include an appeal to divine authority. Understanding this distinction is essential in grasping the nature of Telemachus's leadership and the social context of his speech.

The Context of Telemachus's Speech: A Young Leader Finds His Voice

Before diving into the appeals themselves, it's important to understand the setting. The assembly takes place during a time of crisis for Ithaca—a land besieged by unruly suitors who consume Odysseus's wealth and threaten the social order. Telemachus, having come of age, seeks to challenge their unruly behavior and restore order. His speech, therefore, functions as a crucial act of political and moral assertion. It's his first formal attempt to rally support and establish himself as a legitimate leader.

The lines 9-34 encapsulate this moment of transition—where Telemachus attempts to persuade the assembly to take action against the suitors, and to recognize his authority as the rightful heir of Odysseus. Within this speech, Homer showcases Telemachus's rhetorical skill, his moral sensibilities, and his understanding of the social fabric of Ithaca.

Appeals to Justice and Fairness

One of the main rhetorical strategies Telemachus employs in this segment is an appeal to justice and fairness. He highlights how the suitors have transgressed the social and moral codes of Ithaca by dishonoring his household and consuming resources unjustly.

Key points include:

- Condemnation of unrighteous behavior: Telemachus emphasizes that the suitors are behaving unjustly by overstepping boundaries—both moral and social—and that their actions threaten the stability of the community.
- Moral obligation to uphold justice: He appeals to a shared sense of fairness among his audience, suggesting that all members of Ithaca have a duty to restore order and balance.
- Call for collective action: By framing the issue as one of justice, Telemachus invites the assembly to act in accordance with their moral responsibilities.

This appeal is rooted in the idea that justice is a communal virtue—an essential element in maintaining social cohesion and stability. Homer uses Telemachus's words to evoke a sense of moral duty, aiming to rally support by reminding his audience of their collective moral compass.

Appeal to Loyalty and Family Honor

Another significant appeal in Telemachus's speech is to loyalty and family honor. As a young prince, Telemachus underscores the importance of honoring his father Odysseus, whose reputation and legacy are intertwined with the integrity of Ithaca itself.

Key aspects include:

- Reminding the assembly of Odysseus's virtues: Telemachus speaks about his father's qualities—wisdom, strength, and nobility—implying that the suitors' disrespect tarnishes his father's legacy.
- Appeal to collective family honor: He suggests that the community's honor is linked to the respect shown to Odysseus's household and by extension, to Ithaca's moral fabric.
- Encouraging support for rightful leadership: By invoking family loyalty, Telemachus seeks to legitimize his claim and rally others to support his effort to restore order.

This appeal taps into cultural values deeply ingrained in Homeric society, where family loyalty and honor were fundamental determinants of social standing and moral righteousness.

Appeal to Authority and Leadership

During his speech, Telemachus also endeavors to establish his authority as a leader capable of restoring order. While he is still young, he seeks to project confidence and moral authority.

Main elements of this appeal include:

- Stating his intentions clearly: He declares his purpose to rid Ithaca of the unruly suitors and to defend his household.
- Positioning himself as a capable leader: Through confident language, Telemachus suggests that he is ready to take charge and lead the community toward justice.
- Invoking the collective duty of the Ithacans: He appeals to their sense of shared responsibility, implying that everyone must support his efforts for the common good.

This appeal to authority is subtle—rather than asserting dominance through force, Telemachus relies on moral legitimacy and shared purpose to rally support.

The Exception: What Telemachus Does NOT Appeal To

Crucially, within lines 9-34, Telemachus's speech does not include an appeal to divine authority or divine justice. While divine intervention and the gods' favor are recurring themes elsewhere in Homer's *Odyssey*, especially in the context of Odysseus's journey, Telemachus's initial address is

grounded primarily in human values—justice, loyalty, and social order.

Why is this significant?

- Focus on human agency: Telemachus emphasizes human moral responsibility rather than divine mandates. His appeal is rooted in communal virtue, not divine decree.
- Strategic choice: By not invoking the gods directly, Telemachus positions himself as a leader who can act on human moral principles, rather than relying on divine intervention or authority.
- Implication for his character: This omission indicates a conscious shift from reliance on divine guidance to asserting his own agency as a young, emerging leader.

In essence, while divine authority is a pervasive theme across Homeric epic poetry, Telemachus's initial address deliberately omits this appeal, focusing instead on human virtues and communal responsibility.

Broader Implications and Significance

Understanding what Telemachus appeals to—and what he deliberately leaves out—offers deeper insights into the themes of leadership and morality in Homer's *Odyssey*. His strategic focus on justice, loyalty, and authority without invoking divine sanction underscores a key aspect of his character development: the emergence of independent moral agency.

Moreover, this rhetorical choice reflects the social and cultural context of Homeric society, where leadership was often rooted in moral virtue and social cohesion, rather than divine right alone. Telemachus's language positions him as a moral leader who can rally the community based on shared human values, setting the stage for his eventual growth into a confident ruler.

Conclusion

In lines 9-34 of Homer's *Odyssey*, Telemachus's address to the assembly is marked by a series of strategic appeals. He emphasizes justice, loyalty, and authority, aiming to rally support against the unruly suitors and assert his rightful leadership. Notably, his speech does not include an appeal to divine authority or divine justice. This omission signals a conscious effort to ground his claims in human morality and collective responsibility, rather than divine intervention.

This nuanced approach to persuasion highlights Telemachus's evolving role as a leader and reflects broader themes of moral agency and social order in Homeric society. His speech is a testament to the importance of human virtues and the power of moral conviction in shaping leadership—an enduring lesson from one of ancient Greece's greatest epics.

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