

Gendered Travel in the Homeric *Hymn to Demeter*
 Kate Melberg (klmelberg@wisc.edu) University of Wisconsin-Madison

Each selection of text comes from the *Hymn to Demeter*
 Handout 1:

δεῖπνόν τ' ἐπηρτύνοντο παρὰ πρυμνήσια νηός:
 ἀλλ' ἔμοι οὐ δόρπιοι μελίφρονος ἦρατο θυμός:
 λάθρη δ' ὀρμηθεῖσα δι' ἠπείροιο μελαίνης
 φεύγου ὑπερφιάλους σημάντορας, ὄφρα κε μή με
 ἀπριάτην περάσαντες ἐμῆς ἀποναίατο τιμῆς.

And they were preparing breakfast by the cables of the ship:
 But my spirit did not desire sweet food:
 And after setting off in secret through the dark land
 I fled from overbearing masters, lest they, after bringing
 Me across the sea sell me never having been bought. (128-132)¹

Handout 2:

οὐ μὲν γάρ ποτ' ἔφασκε θυώδεος Οὐλύμπιοιο
 πρὶν γ' ἐπιβήσεσθαι, οὐ πρὶν γῆς καρπὸν ἀνήσειν,
 πρὶν ἴδοι ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἐὴν εὐώπιδα κούρην.

For she said that she would not ever return to fragrant Olympus
 Nor would she send fruit from the earth,
 Until she saw her pretty-faced daughter with her eyes. (331-3)

Handout 3:

τέτμε δὲ τόν γε ἄνακτα δόμων ἔντοσθεν ἐόντα,
 ἤμενον ἐν λεχέεσσι σὺν αἰδοίῃ παρακοίτι,
 πόλλ' ἀεκαζομένη μητρὸς πόθῳ: ἢ δ' ἀποτηλοῦ
 ἔργοις θεῶν μακάρων [δεινὴν] μητίσετο βουλήν.

And he found the lord being within the house,
 Sitting on a couch with the reverent wife,
 Who was reluctant out of yearning for her mother, far off she
 Stewed on that terrible plan from the designs of the blessed gods. (342-5)

¹ Greek text is excerpted from the Loeb; All translations are my own.

Handout 4:

...ἤ δὲ ἰδοῦσα

ἦιξ', ἥυτε μαινὰς ὄρος κάτα δάσκιον ὕλη.

Περσεφόνη δ' ἔτέρ[ωθεν ἐπεὶ ἴδεν ὄμματα καλὰ

μητρὸς ἐῆς κατ' ἄρ' ἢ γ' ὄχεα **προλιποῦσα** καὶ ἵππους

ἄλτο θέει[ν], δειρῆ δέ οἱ **ἔμπεσε** ἀμφιχυθεῖσα

And when Demeter saw her

She **darted**, just as a Maenad from the forest down a wooded mountain.

And Persephone, when she saw the lovely eyes of her mother from the other side of the meadow, **abandoning** the chariot and horses leaped to **run**, and **falling** around her neck she **poured** herself around her. (385-9)

Handout 5:

αὐτὰρ ἐπειδὴ πάνθ' ὑπεθήκατο δῖα θεάων,

βάν ῥ' ἴμεν Οὐλυμπόνδε θεῶν μεθ' ὀμήγουριν ἄλλων.

ἔνθα δὲ **βαιετάουσι** παραὶ Διὶ τερπικεραύνω

σεμναί τ' αἰδοῖται τε: μέγ' ὄλβιος, ὄν τιν' ἐκεῖναι

προφρονέως **φίλωνται** ἐπιχθονίων ἀνθρώπων:

αἶψα δέ οἱ **πέμπουσιν** ἐφέστιον ἐς μέγα δῶμα...

But when the bright one of the goddesses had laid everything out,

They started to go to up to Olympus among the assembly of the other gods.

There **they live** by Zeus delighting in thunder,

Holy and revered: and he is greatly fortunate, whomever **they**

Willingly **love** of the earthly mortals:

Easily **they send** Ploutus as a guest into his big house...(483-8)

Works Cited

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