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The Philosophical and Intertextual Character of Odysseus in Horace *Satire* 2.5

Passage 1: Satire 2.5.1-8 (Texts from Muecke, full text and translation provided at the end of the handout)

Od	'hoc quoque, Teresia, praeter narrata petenti responde, quibus amissas reparare queam res artibus atque modis. Quid rides?	Answer me this, also, beyond what has been said: by what arts and means can I regain my lost wealth? Why are you
Tir	"Iamne doloso non satis est Ithacam revehi patriosque Penatis aspicere?"	laughing? Is it not enough for the wily man to return to Ithaca and look upon his ancestral home?
Od	"O nulli quicquam mentite, vides ut nudus inopsque domum redeam te vate, neque illic aut apotheca procis intacta est aut pecus? Atqui Et genus et virtus nisi cum re vilior alga est."	O you who have never lied to anyone, do you see how I am returning home destitute and without resources by your prediction, and there are neither wine-cellars or the flock untouched? Yet both birth and virtue are worth less than seaweed without money.

Passage 2: Satire 2.5.17-18

Od	"Utne tegam spurco Damae latus? Haud ita Troiae Me gessi certans semper melioribus."	Am I to cover dirty Dama's side? Hardly at all did I so conduct myself at Troy, always striving against better men.
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Passage 3: Satire 2.5.20-23

Od "Fortem hoc animum tolerare iubebo;
Et quondam maiora tuli, tu protinus unde
Divitias aerisque ruam dic, augur, acervos"

Then I will order my brave soul to bear this.
Formerly, I bore greater things. Tell me
at once, seer, from where I may heap up
piles of cash?

Passage 4: Satire 2.5.58

Od "Num furis? An prudens ludis me obscura canendo?"

Are you mad? Or are you intentionally
fooling me by singing obscure things?

Tir "O Laertiade, quidquid dicam aut erit aut non!"

O son of Laertes, whatever I say will either
be or not!

Passage 5: Satire 1.1.120-121

Iam satis est. ne me Crispini scrinia lippi
compilasse putes, verbum non amplius addam.

That's enough. Lest you think that I
plundered the desk of sore-eyed Crispinus
not a word more shall I add.

Satire 1.2.134

Deprendi miserum est; Fabio vel iudice vincam.

It is a wretched thing to be caught. I could
prove that even with Fabius as judge.

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'Hoc quoque, Teresia, praeter narrata petenti responde, quibus amissas reparare queam res artibus atque modis. quid rides?'

'Iamne doloso non satis est Ithacam revehi patriosque Penatis aspicere?'

'O nulli quicquam mentite, vides ut nudus inopsque domum redeam te vate, neque illic aut apotheca procis intacta est aut pecus? atqui et genus et virtus nisi cum re vilior alga est.'

'Quando pauperiem missis ambagibus horres, accipe qua ratione queas ditescere. turdus sive aliud privum dabitur tibi, devolet illuc res ubi magna nitet domino sene; dulcia poma et quoscumque feret cultus tibi fundus honores ante Larem gustet venerabilior Lare dives; qui quamvis periurus erit, sine gente, cruentus sanguine fraterno, fugitivus, ne tamen illi tu comes exterior, si postulet, ire recuses.'

'Utne tegam spurco Damae latus? haud ita Troiae me gessi certans semper melioribus.'

Ergo pauper eris.'

'Fortem hoc animum tolerare iubebo; et quondam maiora tui. tu protinus unde divitias aerisque tuam dic, augur, acervos.'

'Dixi equidem et dico: captes astutus ubique testamenta senum, neu, si vafer unus et alter

insidiatorem praeroso fugerit hamo, aut spem deponas aut artem illusum omittas. magna minorve Foro si res certabitur olim, vivet uter locuples sine gnatis, improbus, ultro qui meliorem audax vocet in ius, illius esto defensor: fama civem causaque priorem sperne, domi si gnatus erit fecundave coniunx. "Quinte," puta, aut "Publi" (gaudent praenomine molles auriculae) "tibi me virtus tua fecit amicum. ius anceps novi, causas defendere possum; eripiet quivis oculos citius mihi quam te contemptum cassa nuce pauperet. haec mea cura est, ne quid tu perdas neu sis iocus." ire domum atque pelliculam curare iube. fi cognitor ipse; persta atque obdura, seu rubra Canicula findet infantis statuas seu pingui tentus omaso Furius hibernas cana nive conspuet Alpibus. "nonne vides" aliquis cubito stantem prope tangens inquiet, "ut patiens, ut amicis aptus, ut acer?" plures adnabunt thygni et cetaria crescent. si cui praeterea validus male filius in re praeclara sublatus aletur, ne manifestum caelibis obsequium nudet te, leniter in spem adrepe officiosus, ut et scribare secundus heres et, si quis casus puerum egerit Orco, in vacuum venias; perraro haec alea fallit. qui testamento tradet tibi cumque legendum, abnuere et tabulas a te removere memento, sic tamen ut limis rapias quid prima secundo cera velit versu; solus multisne coheres, veloci percurrere oculo. quandoque recoctus scriba ex quinqueviro corvum deludet hiantem cantatorque dabit rictus Nasinae Cereris.'

UL. 'Answer me this question too, Teresias; I want more than what's been told. By what arts and means can I make good my losses? Why are you laughing?'

TER. 'For the man of many wives, isn't it enough by now to sail back to Ithaca and to look on his ancestral home?'

UL. 'O you who have spoken false to no one, do you see how I'm returning home destitute and resourceless, according to your prediction, and there neither the wine-cellar nor the flock has been left untouched by the suitors? Yet both lineage and manliness (unless you have money to go with them) are worth less than seaweed.'

TER. 'Since it is poverty you shudder at, to put it unambiguously, learn in what way you can become rich. If you are given a thrush or anything else for yourself, let it fly off to the place where great wealth gleams, and the owner of it is an old man; sweet fruit and whatever beauties the tilled farm brings you, let him taste sooner than the Lar, the rich man more to be worshipped than the Lar; however perjured he may be, of no family, stained with brother's blood, a runaway slave, nevertheless don't you refuse if he asks you, to walk on his outside.'

UL. 'What! Am I to cover dirty Dama's side? This wasn't the way I behaved at Troy, always pitting myself against better men.'

TER. 'Then you will be poor.'

UL. 'I will order my steadfast soul to endure this; in past time I have borne even more. You tell me at once, seer, from where may shovel up riches, heaps of cash.'

TER. 'I have told you and I am telling you: be cunning and hunt everywhere for old people's wills, and, if a crafty one or two get away from the fisher, after taking the bait off the end of the hook don't give up hope, or drop the practice because you've been

foiled. If one day a case of greater or less moment is being contested in the Forum, whichever party is rich and childless, a scoundrel, the sort who recklessly and unprovoked would summons a better man into court, of that man be the advocate: spurn the citizen with the better name and case, if he has a son or fertile wife at home. "Quintus," let's say, or "Publius" (sensitive ears delight in first names), "your excellence has made me your friend. I know the law's ambiguity, I can defend cases; sooner will someone pluck out my eyes than hold you in contempt and make you the poorer by a nutshell. My concern is this, that you lose nothing and not become a laughing-stock." Tell him to go home and look after his precious hide. Become his attorney yourself. Stand fast and endure, whether the red Dogstar splits unspeaking statues or whether, swollen with rich tripe, Furius bespatters the wintry Alps with white snow. "Don't you see" someone will say, nudging his neighbour with his elbow, "how long-suffering he is, how serviceable to friends, how keen?" More tunny will swim up and the fish-ponds will grow. If someone, moreover, has a son who is not very well, yet has been acknowledged and is being raised in opulence, then, so that the flagrant servility paid an unmarried man does not unmask you, be attentive and gently worm your way into the hope of being written down second heir and also into the hope that if some mischance should despatch the boy to Orcus, you come into the empty place. Very rarely does this gamble fail. If anyone hands you his will to read, be sure to refuse and push the tablets away from you, but so that you snatch with a side-glance what the second line of the first page prescribes; scan with swift eye to see if you are sole heir or co-heir with a multitude.

HORACE

'Num furis? an prudens ludis me obscura canendo?'

'O Laertiade, quidquid dicam aut erit aut non;
divinare etenim magnus mihi donat Apollo.'

'Quid tamen ista velit sibi fabula, si licet, ede.'

'Tempore quo iuvenis Parthis horrendus, ab alto
demissum genus Aenea, tellure marique
magnus erit, forti nubet procera Corano
filia Nasicae metuentis reddere soldum.
tum gener hoc faciet: tabulas socero dabit atque
ut legat orabit. multum Nasica negatas
accipiet tandem et tacitus leget invenietque
nil sibi legatum praeter plorare suisque.
illud ad haec iubeo: mulier si forte dolosa
libertusve senem delirum temperet, illis
accedas socius; laudes, lauderis ut absens.
adiuvat hoc quoque; sed vincit longe prius ipsum
expugnare caput. scribet mala carmina vecors?
laudato. scortator erit? cave te roget; ultro
Penelopam facilis potiori trade.'

'Putasne
perduci poterit tam frugi tamque pudica,
quam nequiere proci recto depellere cursu?'

'Venit enim magnum donandi parca iuventus,
nec tantum Veneris quantum studiosa culinae.
sic tibi Penelope frugi est; quae si semel uno
de sene gustarit tecum partita lucellum,
ut canis a corio numquam absterrebitur uncto.
me sene quod dicam factum est: anus improba Thebis
ex testamento sic est elata: cadaver
unctum oleo largo nudis umeris tulit heres,

scilicet elabi si posset mortua; credo,
quod nimium institerat viventi. cautus adito;
neu desis opera neve immoderatus abundes.
difficilem et morosum offendet garrulus; ultra
"non", "etiam" sileas. Davus sis comicus atque
stes capite obstipo, multum similis metuenti.
obsequio grassare; mone, si increbruit aura,
cautus uti velet carum caput; extrahe turba
oppositis umeris; aurem substringe loquaci.
importunus amat laudari? donec "ohe iam!"
ad caelum manibus sublatis dixerit, urge,
crescentem tumidis infla sermonibus utrem.
cum te servitio longo curaque levarit
et certum vigilans "quartae sit partis Ulixes"
audieris "heres:" "ergo nunc Dama sodalis
nusquam est? unde mihi tam fortem tamque fidelem?"
sparge subinde et, si paulum potes illacrimare, est
gaudia prodentem vultum celare. sepulcrum
permissum arbitrio sine sordibus exstrue; funus
egregie factum laudet vicinia. si quis
forte coheredum senior male tussiet, huic tu
dic, ex parte tua seu fundi sive domus sit
emptor, gaudentem nummo te addicere. sed me
imperiosa trahit Proserpina. vive valeque.'

55 Some day the civil servant cooked up from a minor magistrate will
dupe the raven with its beak gaping open, and the hunter Nasica
will provide Coranus with a laugh.'

60 UL. 'Are you raving? or are you deliberately making fun of me
with your veiled prophecy?'

TER. 'O Laertes' son, all that I say either will come to pass or
not; for great Apollo gives me this gift of foretelling the future.'

UL. 'None the less tell me, if it is allowed, what this story of
yours is getting at.'

65 TER. 'At that time when a youth dreadful to the Parthians, scion
descended from high Aeneas, shall be mighty on land and sea, to
gallant Coranus shall be wed the stately daughter of Nasica,
anxious not to repay his debt in full. Then shall the son-in-law do
this: he will give his will to his father-in-law and beg him to read
it. After frequent refusals Nasica will finally take it and will read
70 it in silence and will find nothing bequeathed to him and his but—
to go to hell. This too I recommend: if a crafty woman or freedman
happens to have sway over a senile old man, join them as partner.
Praise them, so that you may be praised in your absence. This too
helps; but it's better by a long way to storm the principal himself.
75 If he's a maniac writing bad verse, praise it. If he's a womaniser,
don't wait to be asked. Be obliging, of your own accord hand over
Penelope to the better man.'

UL. 'What? Do you think she can be procured, so honest and
so pure, she whom the suitors have not been able to swerve from
the right path?'

80 TER. 'Yes, because it was youth that came, frugal in giving a lot,
devoted not so much to Venus as to the kitchen. That's why your
Penelope is honest. But if once she's tasted a nice little profit from
one old man, in partnership with you, then, like a dog from a greasy
hide, she will never be scared away. When I was old, what I am
85 going to tell you happened: at Thebes a wicked old woman, in
accordance with her will, was carried out to burial as follows: the

heir carried the corpse, generously oiled, on his bare shoulders,
her hope evidently being she might slip away from his grasp when
dead; because he had pressed her too hard in life, I suppose. Make
90 a careful approach; neither fall short in service nor be inordinately
overflowing with it. A chatterer will offend the cantankerous and
peevish; beyond "no", "yes," be silent. Be Davus in the comedy
and stand with head bent sideways, with a great look of fear. Assail
him with servility; if the breeze has grown stronger, warn him to
95 cover his dear head; get him out of the crowd using your shoulders.
Cock an attentive ear if he is talkative. Is he an insatiable lover of
praise? Until he says "Steady on!" hands raised to the sky, press
on, blow up the swelling bladder with hot air. When he has
released you from long slavery and anxiety and you hear, sure
100 you're wide awake, "Of the fourth part let Ulysses be heir," throw
in now and then a "And so now Dama my dear friend is no more?"
Where will I find one so brave and so loyal?" and, if you can weep
a little, you can hide the expression betraying joy. If the tomb has
105 been left to your discretion, build it not meanly. Let the neigh-
bourhood praise a funeral brought off exceptionally well. If one
of the co-heirs, an older man, has a bad cough, tell him that, should
he be a buyer for a farm or a house from your share, you would
gladly assign it to him for a song. But as for me, stern Proserpina
110 drags me away. Live long, goodbye.'