

Translating Deliverance: Heroes and Believers, Trials and Miracles of the *Homerocentones*

Like Odysseus, the Son in the *Homerocentones* passes through twelve trials with twelve faithful companions. Whereas the former's adventures lead to his victory in the contest of the twelve double-axes and recovery of his realm in Ithaca, the Son's victory over death by his own death and resurrection prepares the way for first his companions and then all peoples to enter the gates of heaven, which are kept by the twenty-four Hours. What is more, unlike the companions of Odysseus who all die during their *nostos*, the return to the heavenly home of the Son's companions and followers is described in the *Centos* as potentially automatic. As Odysseus and his men were able to escape from the cave of Polyphemus with the help of the wine of Maro (twelve jars), the Son is described as filling twelve jars with a new wine (foreshadowing the Eucharist) in lines drawn from Homer's description of Odysseus' judgment at Charybdis and final return to Ithaca. Through a combination of sacramental life, charity, Trinitarian psychology and faith, all peoples and companions of the Son, including those he delivered from Hades, are welcome in the Kingdom of God.

Although the parallels between Homeric and Biblical themes, actions and characters in the *Centos* are certainly striking, the differences and contradictions remain profound. In this paper I examine select episodes from the *Cento* miracle stories for their significance in the original Homeric context, in the corresponding Bible story, and for their role in the narrative of the *Centos*. My analysis is framed through the lens of translation. The *Centos* has sometimes been compared with the game of *stomachion*, which consisted of outlining different shapes with a set number of sticks. I will examine how specific stories are sketched, colored with themes drawn from both the Homeric poems and Scripture, and how the stories change as the lens shifts from register to register. As we work through the various levels of meaning in specific lines, I

highlight specific techniques and terms that I use to reflect the different ethical registers in my own translation.