

5-1-1992

Reflections on Homer's Odyssey

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Recommended Citation

Sedlacek, Sharon (1992) "Reflections on Homer's Odyssey," *Forces*: Vol. 1992 , Article 41.
Available at: <https://digitalcommons.collin.edu/forces/vol1992/iss1/41>

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Reflections on Homer's "Odyssey": Journeyman's Prayer

Sharon Sedlacek

All-knowing God, direct my journey.

Lead me
out of the Ogygia of indulgent self-pity
that would stifle my sense of purpose.

Wake me
from the lotus-haze of complacency
that would suggest satisfaction
with less than my highest aims.

Free me
from single-visioned selfishness
that would crush my humanity.

Protect me
from the greed that would unleash
the destructive winds of envy and jealousy
and divert me from my course.

Guide me
through the narrow way, between the
engulfing Kharybdis of apathy and the
clutching Skylla of self-glorifying ambition.

Strengthen my resolve
against the Siren-promise of material knowledge,
that I may value spiritual understanding as the
higher knowledge.

Grant me
the courage to face the dark Hades
of my greatest fears, that I may emerge
in a rebirth of enlightenment.

Loving father of all:
Shape my character as a potter moulds his clay.

Purify my soul.
Make me worthy of my place in eternity.