

國立中央大學99學年度碩士班考試入學試題卷

所別：英美語文學系碩士班 不分組(一般生) 科目：英美文學與理論 共 1 頁 第 1 頁

本科考試禁用計算器

*請在試卷答案卷(卡)內作答

Odysseus comes back to Ithaca in a little boat on a clear day. The familiarity of the east face of the island seems absurd — bemused, he runs a tricky rip current he has not thought about in fifteen years and lands by the mouth of a creek where he swam as a boy. All his impatience leaves him and he sits under an oak he remembers whose branches overhang the water, good for diving. Twenty years have gone by, he reflects, what are a few more minutes. An hour passes in silence and it occurs to him that he is tired and might as well go home, so he picks up his sword and walks toward his house, sure that whatever obstacles await will be minor compared to what he has been through. . . .

Within, Penelope is at her loom and an old man drowns by the fire. Odysseus stands in the doorway for a while before Penelope notices him and shrieks, dropping her shuttle . . . running and embracing him, kissing him and wetting his cheeks with her tears. . . . The man by the fire stands up looking possessive and pitifully concerned and in an intuitive flash Odysseus knows that this is her husband. The idea is absurd — the man is soft, grey and heavy, no hero and never was one, would not have lasted an hour in the blinding glare before the walls of Troy. He looks at Penelope to confirm his guess and notices how she has aged. . . . Without the eyes of homecoming there is only an echo of her beauty. . . .

He had spent the days of his exile imagining different homecoming scenarios but it had never occurred to him that she would just give up. The town deserted, his house overrun by violent suitors, Penelope dying, or dead and burned, but not this. "Such a long trip," he thinks, "and so many places I could have stayed along the way." Then, mercifully, revelation comes. He realizes that this is not Penelope. This is not his hall. This is not Ithaca — what he sees before him is a vengeful illusion, the deception of some malevolent god. The real Ithaca is elsewhere, somewhere on the sea-roads, hidden. Giddy, Odysseus turns and flees the tormenting shadows.

From *The Lost Book of Odyssey*, Zachary Mason

Discuss the above excerpt from two chosen theoretic approaches, for example psychoanalysis, reader-response, gender studies, or postmodernism, so that you can bring out some of the important issues engaged by the passages. (100%)

- In your discussions, please make sure that
- (1) your analyses based on different theories are relevant and connected to the passages, i.e. that you refrain from blindly reciting what you have read,
 - (2) you should try to organize your interpretations based on the approaches so that a coherent essay is delivered, and
 - (3) cite regularly from the passage and name relevant examples from other literary works as support of your understanding of the passages.

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