

Professor Philip Garrison

English 105

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Neoptolemos and Telemakhos

Neoptolemos, son of Achilles, and Telemakhos, son of Odysseus are to be warrior kings without their father's presence. These two young men in two different stories are going to accomplish their goals but in different ways. They have to learn what is right or wrong, in spite of their bad influences, and have to see and follow the good lessons they learn. Neoptolemos will learn ^{from one large example of} through honor while Telemakhos ~~achieves~~ ^{learns from smaller examples} his own goals through learning to take action and not to give up.

Starting with Neoptolemos, in the island where Philoctetes was left behind, because of his misfortune, Odysseus is asking from Neoptolemos to go and retrieve the bow Philoctetes had to take with them to Troy. ^{when was} Odysseus ~~through his instruction to~~ Neoptolemos ~~asks him to lie and be deceitful and say whatever it takes, therefore he~~ ^{to} can get ~~the~~ Hercules's arrow from Philoctetes and take it to Trojan War. Eventhough, the young Neoptolemos mentions that this is an act of dishonesty; ^{and} Odysseus ^{refuses to} will not change his plan and ^{behaviour even more} even further encourages unacceptable behavior for a warrior king. Odysseus with his action and talks with Neoptolemos ^{seems not to understand} is setting a very bad example for him. This ^{the irony:} also adds to Odysseus's disrespect towards Neoptolemos. ^{he} He has not only stolen Achilles' armors, now he is telling Neoptolemos that it is O.K. to ~~be dishonorable and~~ win ~~the battle~~ with lies and deceit. Eventhough, initially, Neoptolemos will go on with Odysseus' plan, ^{when he hears} but later he will learn from Philoctetes ^{history} how he has been ~~deserted~~ all

he rejects the negative example of us, especially
alone in this island without food or an arrow for many years. What this teaches

~~Neoptolemos through what Odysseus done to Philoctetes is that it is O.K. to be unkind
and dishonest man, but also it is O.K. to have someone else ^{doing} to do your dirty deeds. This
also adds a very negative example of a warrior king's behavior for Neoptolemos to learn
from.~~

Meanwhile, Odysseus with his absence from Ithaka, his own home land that he left behind to go to Troy has been setting a bad example for his son Telemakhos and other young men in Ithaka. Odysseus is now been gone for twenty years, eventhough, the Trojan War is finished in ten years. Because of Odysseus' absence and all the fathers in Ithaka due to the war, all the young men have turned spoiled and dishonest. The young men of Ithaka dishonoring Odysseus and his wife with pursuing Penelope's hand in marriage. Odysseus not only has not been available for his son and his country, he has also given opportunity to the suitors to turn rowdy and disrespectful in regards to his county's honor and sense of propriety. Odysseus also left a mentor, Athena, behind to be in charge that was not doing anything to really help the situation since people would not adhere to her.

Eventhough, Odysseus had not been a good example for his son through his absence, when he finally arrived in Ithaka he taught a great lesson to Telemakhos. While Telemakhos was in hurry to go and take revenge since his father was back, Odysseus taught him how to plan ahead, do not be in a hurry and do what you can to gain the honor back. Also, Odysseus showed his son how to have a plan, which helps a good warrior king in his battle with the enemy.

Back to Neoptolemos, the son of the great Achilles which through his encounter with Philoctetes and listening to his stories learns how hard it is to be honorable but honor is the best way for a true warrior king to conduct himself. He also has heard and seen from his father's legend that if he wants to be an honorable warrior king, he must do the right thing in spite of the consequences that may exist in his path. Eventhough, he had never learned in action actually what he must do; he has heard the stories of the legends. But his personal experience with Philoctetes and the wrong teachings of Odysseus helped him to learn to do the right thing. Neoptolemos learned from Philoctetes that choosing the honorable behavior is not easy but it is how a true warrior king will get what he needs no matter how hard it is.

Neoptolemos and Telemakhos, in their journey to becoming what the legends expected of them, came across many obstacles that helped or hindered them to learn. These two kings worked their way through good and bad influences of their life experiences and learned what ought to be the best behavior for the great heroes.

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You've argued well.
Study my revisions
of your sentences.

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