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The relationship between Odysseus and Athena in the Odyssey and in the Ajax

The presence of a relationship between Athena and Odysseus is very apparent in the Odyssey and the Ajax. However, their relationship very much differs in the two stories. The interaction between Odysseus and Athena in the Ajax is much more brief in comparison to their relationship in the Odyssey. In addition, Odysseus is much more naïve to Athena's caring nature for him in the Ajax.

One of the things that we see in the Odyssey that we don't see in the Ajax is

Odysseus's knowledge of Athena's actions concerning him and his anticipation of her willingness and readiness that she continually shows. ^[Handwritten: Here refer to a couple of scenes] Odysseus's demeanor in the Ajax, ^{on the other}

^{hand,} is one of fear ^[details?] that he holds in her presence. Athena can't understand emotions like a ^{fear death & dying} mortal does because she's immortal, and because ^{she} she is immortal, she holds no fear.

~~Odysseus did not get along with Ajax and~~ ^A after Athena made Ajax slaughter a bunch of animals by making him think they were the soldiers, she ^{thought} had it in her mind that Odysseus

would be pleased with her actions. ^{His reaction} Because of this belief, Athena was baffled and could

~~not understand why Odysseus would want to help with the burial of Ajax after he killed~~ ^{would insist that} ~~himself.~~ ^{he would be buried?}

At this point Odysseus still fears Athena ^{and} because she is a God and has the power to kill him or harm him. He does not yet quite understand her affection for him.

Although, ^A Odysseus grows a little angry with Athena because of her ~~careless~~ reaction

^{to} ~~towards his desire to help bury Ajax,~~ ^{burial,} Odysseus knows ^{she can't} ~~that this is part of her inability to~~ ^{Rejecting the wishes}
feel compassion and other emotions as mortals do. Even though Athena is in a sense
^{of her} Odysseus's sponsor, he ~~goes against her wishes and helps bury Ajax.~~ I believe that after
^{defies} Odysseus ~~goes against Athena's wishes and she does nothing,~~ he finally begins to realize
her affections towards him. Odysseus is Athena's front man and she can't afford ^{to} ~~to kill~~
^{to see} him. It is in the Odyssey where we truly begin to see Odysseus's knowledge of his own
~~mortality and superiority towards Athena and how he takes advantage of her from this~~
knowledge.

In the Odyssey it is very obvious that Odysseus and Athena know how to push each others buttons. At the beginning Athena sees Odysseus weeping and praying to return home and you get the feeling that Athena is probably smiling watching him. She helped him and his crew along until Odysseus finally ended up stranded on Calypso's island. She knows that she could get him off of that island if she wanted to but decides to leave him there for a while. Her jealousy finally kicks in when Odysseus is having his cake and eating it too. She sees him weeping during the day and sleeping with Calypso at night. She finally decides to intervene and get Odysseus off of the island. If it wasn't for Athena, Odysseus would have never gotten home. Odysseus takes advantage of Athena throughout the book knowing that she can't afford to lose him. He takes joy in insulting her and putting her down. When Athena confronts Odysseus on Ithica, they once again begin their never-ending relationship of pushing each others buttons.

Odysseus knows that one of the things Athena takes the most pride is in her ability to create clever disguises for herself. He decides to throw what she considers to be one of her greatest abilities back into her face. He tells her that he knew she was the

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man on the beach all along and just to add a little more spite into his ego-boosting comment, he tells her he knew it was her when he was with the Phaiakians. Any other mortal would not dare insult a God, but Odysseus has learned from experience that Athena will not do anything about it. Odysseus holds his looks very high so to get back at him Athena gives him wrinkles and makes him appear as a beggar. Athena has the power to disguise anyone as anything. She could have made him a young boy, a body-builder, or young suitor, but just to continue their game they have going with each other she turns him into a beggar.

I believe that Odysseus just views Athena as an easy out and a backbone. He just has her to give him credible back-up by having one of his sponsors being a God that in a sense is in love with him. Also, no one with half a brain is going to turn away the help of a God. Odysseus keeps Athena on a string, pulling her along with the thought that she might end up with him. In reality Odysseus would never leave his wife for Athena, but he keeps that idea alive in her head as a possibility. The plain fact is that Athena and Odysseus push each others buttons because they love to do it. Their roles dramatically change from the Ajax to the Odyssey. Odysseus goes from being weary of Athena's powers and convictions towards him to totally just playing with her in the Odyssey.

Well argued,
but your sentences
need work.
Study my revisions. (3)