

### Odysseus and Athena

In two different stories we see two different portrayals of the adventurous Odysseus and the goddess Athena. In the Odyssey, Athena and Odysseus resemble more a husband and wife relationship with their love for each other and yet they still have a combative, defiant streak to them. In Ajax their relationship is more of a goddess watching over her apprentice and protégée, with Odysseus showing more respect for Athena yet Athena not always winning the battles as we see in the burial of Ajax's body.

In the Odyssey, Athena and Odysseus <sup>enjoy a</sup> ~~show more of a combative~~ relationship. <sup>Both</sup> ~~They also show a loving relationship as well.~~ We see that if Athena were able to fall in <sup>combative &</sup> ~~love someone~~ it would have to be <sup>with someone</sup> ~~in the way at which she loves Odysseus.~~ Athena is <sup>as she does</sup> ~~known to be against sex,~~ <sup>Despite</sup> ~~finding it repulsive and so a sexual relationship between the two~~ <sup>the lack of any</sup> ~~would be out of the question.~~ Instead we find them to have a relationship where Athena <sup>can</sup> ~~may be jealous sometimes and even mad at~~ Odysseus. When Odysseus is on the island with Calypso there are a few ways to interpret <sup>vindictive toward</sup> ~~why~~ Odysseus is left alone on the island so long. It seems to me that Athena was upset with Odysseus for spending his nights in Calypso's bed while crying about wanting to leave the island during the day. She could have felt that Odysseus was even thumbing his nose <sup>at</sup> ~~to her at night since she wouldn't get~~ <sup>yet</sup> ~~him off the island during the day.~~ This could have been a vicious cycle since she wouldn't want to get him off the island if he was sleeping with Calypso ~~during the night.~~ In the end, <sup>is</sup> ~~it almost seems like~~ Odysseus wins ~~this battle since~~ Athena <sup>Above all, we</sup> ~~may be pressured~~ to get him off the island to save her reputation as his sponsor. This whole story seems to <sup>not be</sup> ~~show~~ their love-hate relationship.

Odysseus also shows more of his lack of respect for Athena when coming home to Ithica. When Athena is requesting a compliment from Odysseus on how well she does disguising herself, Athena is given a slap in the face when Odysseus replies saying that of course she was good as it, even more unrecognizable than the last time he supposedly didn't recognize her. Athena is very proud of her disguises and so is Odysseus and to insult her on such a matter is defiant. In return for his insult, Athena is just as defiant giving him a disguise that would make his revenge on the suitors much harder than need be.

In Ajax it seems that Athena is more driven by her own ideas and intelligence and leads Odysseus along. An example is at the beginning when she calls out Ajax from his tent and Odysseus' initial reaction is to panic and she seems to make fun of him for it. Of course throughout the entire story Athena does tend to let Odysseus have a limited amount of independence. Odysseus seems to respect Athena more than in the Odyssey and does not try and insult and defy her. Odysseus does require some independence and defiance when concerned with Ajax's burial. Athena tells Odysseus to let Ajax's dead body be cast off like garbage yet Odysseus refuses. Odysseus cannot do this for several reasons and Athena cannot seem to understand why. Athena does not end up killing or obliterating Odysseus in order to save her own reputation. It does not seem that the reason that she spares Odysseus is out of love or care but out of self-interest. Athena cannot harm the man that she has sponsored or there would be a bad reflection on her. Athena's main concern seems to be her own self and what other Gods think of her.

Overall it seems that although there seems to be more animosity in some of Odysseus and Athena's actions in the Odyssey, they care more about each other. When

Odysseus makes a rash, emotional decision, although sometimes inspired by Athena, Athena is looking out for his best interest and welfare. An example of this would be her negotiating skills with the suitors' fathers after Odysseus' killed the sons. Athena would not want another brawl for Odysseus and was looking out for his best interest in love not necessarily because it was in her best interest. In Ajax, instead of love there is more respect from Odysseus towards Athena. Odysseus is more fearful of Athena's wrath and only stands up to Athena when he feels absolutely necessary. Although both stories are different, they are both similar in the respect that Odysseus and Athena have a close personal relationship in either story.

Very well argued.

Study my revisions

3