

Ὀδύσσεια

Old Gus Eats

Polly Duff Bresnick



The Odyssey

Stanzas fourteen through twenty-three
mistranslated visually from the ancient Greek

Polly Duff Bresnick



TRANSLATOR'S NOTE

To visually mistranslate The Odyssey while not knowing the language, I looked for familiar shapes in the Greek symbols that could form English words. This has been termed eye-rhyming, bad lip reading, and Rorschach writing. The Greek and English have been placed side-by-side so that you can confirm or reject the mistranslations.

τὴν δ' αὖ Τηλέμαχος πεπνυμένος ἀντίον ἠΰδα:
‘τοιγὰρ ἐγὼ τοι, ξεῖνε, μάλ' ἀτρεκέως ἀγορεύσω.
μήτηρ μὲν τέ μέ φησι τοῦ ἔμμεναι, αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ γε
οὐκ οἶδ': οὐ γάρ πώ τις ἐὼν γόνον αὐτὸς ἀνέγνω.
ὥς δὴ ἐγὼ γ' ὄφελον μάκαρός νύ τευ ἔμμεναι υἱὸς
ἀνέρος, ὃν κτεάτεσσιν ἐοῖς ἔπι γῆρας ἔτετμε.
νῦν δ' ὃς ἀποτμότατος γένετο θνητῶν ἀνθρώπων,
τοῦ μ' ἔκ φασι γενέσθαι, ἐπεὶ σύ με τοῦτ' ἐρεεῖνεις.

The navy or, "Team Max's Tetanus Huevos," avoid nudes.
Totally ape water velvet mans a peak weed pow wow:
"Unite men! The menopause emory values what we pay to
look old. You yearn to talk over your involved auto's Ayurvedic
wisdom," Eyes yelped on: "Make pussy votes imperative views!"
"Every pog of cretin value!" oinked Nettle. Yawn packs attune me.
Vulva of hippopotamus, very omnivorous. Avenue of water
tombs. Elk pout and evaluate. Tutu me: tour a pelvis.

τὸν δ' αὖτε προσέειπε θεά, γλαυκῶπις Ἀθήνη:
'οὐ μὲν τοι γενεήν γε θεοὶ νώνυμνον ὀπίσσω
θήκαν, ἐπεὶ σέ γε τοῖον ἐγείνατο Πηνελόπεια.
ἀλλ' ἄγε μοι τόδε εἰπὲ καὶ ἀτρεκέως κατάλεξον:
τίς δαίς, τίς δὲ ὄμιλος ὄδ' ἔπλετο; τίπτε δέ σε χρεώ;
εἰλαπίνη ἢ γάμος; ἐπεὶ οὐκ ἔρανος τάδε γ' ἐστίν:
ὥς τέ μοι ὑβρίζοντες ὑπερφιάλως δοκέουσι
δαίνυσθαι κατὰ δῶμα. νεμεσσήσαιτό κεν ἀνήρ
αἴσχεα πόλλ' ὀρόων, ὅς τις πιτυτός γε μετέλθοι.

15

Toad art is too polite already. Awkward tit, Avon, or
whomever toyed with envious vowels. Outlaw ovum?
Enclave, Etta, over tulip-eyed bats — it's invite only.
All eyes on mother. She deletes and catapults kiwis. Ketamine lovers
tickle the tide. Ominous ode, Etta, too little, and devoted. Expunge
elevation in hammocks, Etta. Our ape voice takes you to
wet Möbius, covetous uterus pliant as dork ovals.
A diaper vial caterwauls in vehement alto keys. A van naps.
Rolodex toll pow wows. Optic tile versus eyes. Meta-cool.

τὴν δ' αὖ Τηλέμαχος πεπνυμένος ἀντίον ἠΰδα:
‘ξείν’, ἐπεὶ ἄρ δὴ ταῦτά μ’ ἀνείρεαι ἠδὲ μεταλλάς,
μέλλεν μὲν ποτε οἶκος ὄδ’ ἀφνειὸς καὶ ἀμύμων
ἔμμεναι, ὄφρ’ ἔτι κείνος ἀνὴρ ἐπιδήμιος ἦεν:
νῦν δ’ ἐτέρως ἐβόλοντο θεοὶ κακὰ μητιώντες,
οἱ κείνον μὲν ἄιστον ἐποίησαν περὶ πάντων
ἀνθρώπων, ἐπεὶ οὐ κε θανόντι περ ὦδ’ ἀκαχοίμην,
εἰ μετὰ οἷς ἐτάροισι δάμη Τρώων ἐνὶ δήμῳ,
ἦ ἢ φίλων ἐν χερσίν, ἐπεὶ πόλεμον τολύπευσεν.
τῷ κέν οἱ τύμβον μὲν ἐποίησαν Παναχαιοί,
ἦ δέ κε καὶ ᾧ παιδί μέγα κλέος ἦρατ’ ὀπίσσω.
νῦν δέ μιν ἀκλειῶς ἄρπυιαι ἀνηρείψαντο:
οἷχετ’ ἄιστος ἄπυστος, ἐμοὶ δ’ ὀδύνας τε γόους τε
κάλλιπεν. οὐδέ τι κείνον ὀδυρόμενος στεναχίζω
οἶον, ἐπεὶ νῦ μοι ἄλλα θεοὶ κακὰ κήδε’ ἔτευξαν.
ὅσσοι γὰρ νήσοισιν ἐπικρατέουσιν ἄριστοι,
Δουλιχίῳ τε Σάμῃ τε καὶ ὑλήεντι Ζακύνθῳ,
ἦ δ’ ὅσσοι κρῶνα ἦν Ἰθάκην κάτα κοιρανέουσιν,
τόσσοι μητέρ’ ἐμὴν μνῶνται, τρύχουσι δὲ οἶκον.
ἦ δ’ οὔτ’ ἀρνεῖται στυγερόν γάμον οὔτε τελευτὴν
ποιῆσαι δύναται: τοὶ δὲ φθινύθουσιν ἔδοντες
οἶκον ἐμόν: τάχα δὴ με διαρραίσουσι καὶ αὐτόν.

Tender author nemeses: teeth humor and the nude aviator.
Selves, Etta. Top-down totem apple peel node metastasizes.
Men of men tote oily coke odes. Ape velocity can avow
them evil opposite Kevlar. An anvil's petulant smiles never
vulva Oedipus. Botanical and oily kaka, untoward vets,
or Kevin, my votive. Eternal tipi taunts and wets
a voluptuous Etta. OK, ovation. Tapped water zodiac's
helmet oils an extra pull at dawn. Twin weave drowns
the paved and very xenophobic. Etta, tomorrow taught everyone
to tweak or tumble new toenails. Malox Maverick
and Keeper Kate waltz dimes to your chaos gnat. They ought to
void my ankle weight. The aperture of an avian penis vat.
Ox tail. A lot, actually. Emote oat vaccine to your tea.
Call time, dude. Tickle under cover pomelos. Other value: wax.
Olive, Etta, or move Allah's oily kaka, kind enough
to love your volume, Etta. Caterpillar valve and apple toy
ambulate with Evan to kill eventual zombie claws.
Nod, drool, kvell, even look at the new cat's koala velvet.
Tools untied, a eunuch movie star. Tupac's oval: the oily cove.
Nod out, ape. Vital tonic pulverizes advice.
Toil now dovetails to depersonalize our living duvets.
Oil cloths emote taxes on me so disapproval can automate.

τὸν δ' ἐπαλαστήσασα προσήυδα Παλλὰς Ἀθήνη:
‘ὦ πόποι, ἦ δὴ πολλὸν ἀποιχομένου Ὀδυσῆος
δεύη, ὃ κε μνηστήρσιν ἀναιδέσι χεῖρας ἐφείη.
εἰ γὰρ νῦν ἐλθὼν δόμου ἐν πρώτῃσι θύρῃσι
σταίῃ, ἔχων πῆληκα καὶ ἀσπίδα καὶ δύο δοῦρε,
τοῖος ἐὼν οἶόν μιν ἐγὼ τὰ πρώτ' ἐνόησα
οἴκῳ ἐν ἡμετέρῳ πίνοντά τε τεροπόμενόν τε,
ἐξ Ἐφύρης ἀνιόντα παρ' Ἴλου Μερμερίδαο—
ῶχετο γὰρ καὶ κείσε θοῆς

ἐπὶ νηὸς Ὀδυσσεύς

φάρμακον ἀνδροφόνον διζήμενος, ὄφρα οἱ εἶη
ιοὺς χρεῖσθαι χαλκήρεας: ἀλλ' ὁ μὲν οὐ οἱ
δῶκεν, ἐπεὶ ῥα θεοὺς νεμεσίζετο αἰὲν ἐόντας,
ἀλλὰ πατὴρ οἱ δῶκεν ἐμός: φιλέεσκε γὰρ αἰνῶς—
τοῖος ἐὼν μνηστήρσιν ὁμιλ

ἤσειεν Ὀδυσσεύς:

πάντες κ' ὠκύμοροί τε γενοίατο πικρόγαμοί τε.
ἀλλ' ἦ τοι μὲν ταῦτα θεῶν ἐν γούνασι κείται,
ἦ κεν νοστήσας ἀποτίσεται, ἦε καὶ οὐκί,

οἴσιν ἐνὶ μεγάροισι: σὲ δὲ φράζεσθαι ἄνωγα,
ὅπως κε μνηστήρας ἀπώσεται ἐκ μεγάροιο.
εἰ δ' ἄγε νῦν ξυνίει καὶ

Toward Etta, a nautical cocoa typhoon needed Dallas' Avon
 with total ending tomorrow at the x-rated movie. Old Ivan
 dunes an OK unitard with Volvo, Adderall, zipper, and epi-pen.
 [He] yelped: "Vulva vowel dome, Eve! Towel pole oven roll!"
 Oxtail ex-wife: tantric kale/autodidact duo. Soup
 tools weave olive milk and eye water twats' ebonica
 oakwood venom. In the tepid, whittled vat: the tempest beaver and the
 espionage avian lover tap it out. Menopausal,
 waxed yoni clap like Kellogg bones.

Etta vines Old Gus:

"Pop my coda, vampire P.O.V. dick! Huevos opal oiled!
 Your complexion knocks peas all over you or your
 dork cave." Etta, pious and vehement, leaves to evacuate
 all attack tramps of Sweden; to mock placated, zapped alewives.
 "To life, you velveteen power mile!"

Now leave, Old Gus.

Travel quick, you maple trail. Violate silk papayas in
 all nations. "My taut wife, if ever you value tall kelp,
 know vintners' atrocious sea and leaden nickel ukuleles.

"Oy vey, Evie, my own polish seder! Paleontological, always.
 Out wit Kelly's notion — pack afterwards. Elk might plow it.
 Ends are vulnerable."

ἐμῶν ἐμπάζεο μύθων:

αὔριον εἰς ἀγορὴν καλέσας ἥρωας Ἀχαιοὺς
μῦθον πέφραδε πάσι, θεοὶ δ' ἐπὶ μάρτυροι ἔστων.
μνηστήρας μὲν ἐπὶ σφέτερα σκίδνασθαι ἄνωχθι,
μητέρα δ', εἴ οἱ θυμὸς ἐφορμάται γαμέεσθαι,
ἄψ ἴτω ἐς μέγαρον πατρὸς μέγα δυναμένοιο:
οἱ δὲ γάμον τεύξουσι καὶ ἀρτυνέουσιν ἔεδνα
πολλὰ μάλ', ὅσσα ἔοικε φίλης ἐπὶ παιδὸς ἔπεσθαι.
σοὶ δ' αὐτῷ πυκινῶς ὑποθήσομαι, αἴ κε πίθηαι:

Callous emu attack mauve
applause, etc... approval. Cameo: narwhal. Axis: loud.
Mile of tapenade, table oiled, Etta. Marsupial outward and
move not a pace, Miss Etta, optical orchid vapor, avid wax oil.
Untempered, eloquent pop-metal. Ramen noodles
await wet mayo, poverty, and pock-marks: a dual volley.
Ode to your mom's temporal clan aperture: Violent Dave.
Tomorrow's man oboe and elk piano, Etta, tails docked and Oedipal.
Outward drool took lovers unto the underworld's alkaline toe nail.

νή' ἄρσας ἐρέτησιν ἐείκοσιν, ἢ τις ἀρίστη,
ἔρχεο πευσόμενος πατρὸς δὴν οἰχομένοιο,
ἦν τίς τοι εἶπησι βροτῶν, ἢ ὄσσαν ἀκούσης
ἐκ Διός, ἢ τε μάλιστα φέρει κλέος ἀνθρώποισι.
πρῶτα μὲν ἐς Πύλον ἐλθέ καὶ εἶρεο Νέστορα δῖον,

κείθεν δὲ Σπάρτηνδε παρὰ ξανθὸν Μενέλαον:
ὄς γὰρ δεύτατος ἦλθεν Ἀχαιῶν χαλκοχιτώνων.
εἰ μὲν κεν πατρὸς βίοτον καὶ νόστον ἀκούσης,
ἦ τ' ἂν τρυχόμενός περ ἔτι τλαίης ἐνιαυτόν:
εἰ δέ κε τεθνηῶτος ἀκούσης μηδ' ἔτ' ἐόντος,
νοστήσας δὴ ἔπειτα φίλην ἐς πατρίδα γαίαν
σῆμά τέ οἱ χεῦται καὶ ἐπὶ κτέρεα κτερεΐξαι
πολλὰ μάλ', ὄσσα ἔοικε, καὶ ἀνέρι μητέρα δοῦναι.
αὐτὰρ ἐπὶν δὴ ταῦτα τελευτήσης τε καὶ ἔρξης,
φράζεσθαι δὴ ἔπειτα κατὰ φρένα καὶ κατὰ θυμὸν
ὅπως κε μνηστήρας ἐνὶ μεγάροισι τεοῖσι
κτείνης ἢ ἐ δόλω ἢ ἀμφαδόν: οὐδέ τί σε χρὴ
νηπιάας ὀχέειν, ἐπεὶ οὐκέτι τηλίκος ἐσοσι.
ἦ οὐκ αἴεις

οῖον κλέος ἔλλαβε δῖος Ὀρέστης
πάντας ἐπ' ἀνθρώπους, ἐπεὶ ἔκτανε πατροφονῆα,
Αἴγισθον δολόμητιν, ὃ οἱ πατέρα κλυτὸν ἔκτα;

Wine! Approach poet/novelists with sulking, oval nicotine potion;
 expository tad poles, and divine lox malevolence.
 Now, tick tock Etta: noble pot waves noon's acumen
 ecology. Neither man nor lots of people. Koalas plow avocado to LOL
 Twister Men's eskimo love. Keen clan peony: neon topaz love.

Kinder every day, Etta. Pout nude and tape everyone. Nevermind
 oak sap deuteronomy: axel wives zoned for oxtail. Wave, wave.
 Them and Kevin tater-pot blowtorched canned votive acorns.
 A natal pox almost toppled the titan's evil, stovetop
 vintner candy. Etta, tap anvil stations. Pita way-layed and
 intimate. Oil sexual kettles. Take apart knit pickles,
 tuna man-noodles. Silk can evaporate souvenir underpants.
 An autoharp never danced tautly. Tea newt nouns take epi-pens
 paleontological on Etta's late cat's preview. Call all cats "your mom."
 Outwit Kermit, not paved Mayan polio. Steal oil.
 Kevin's nephew is now part of the Dudes of Expectation.
 Vine to class, ox eel veteran intel looks at international cool and
 nuclear alias.

O love! Keep us, Etta. Be solid at optical
 Tetris, at adorable wet tubas. Etta, escape tattered popovers.
 All your love don't mention — uh oh — potato caution: Kate.

καὶ σύ, φίλος, μάλα γάρ σ' ὀρώω καλόν τε μέγαν τε,
ἄλκιμος ἔσσι', ἵνα τίς σε καὶ ὀψιγόνων ἐν εἵπη.
αὐτὰρ ἐγὼν ἐπὶ νῆα θοὴν κατελεύσομαι ἤδη
ἠδ' ἐτάρους, οἳ πού με μάλ' ἀσχαλόωσι μένοντες:
σοὶ δ' αὐτῷ μελέτω, καὶ ἐμῶν ἐμπάζεο μύθων.

Can you please manage your optimism? Cavort the Mai-Tai
alchemy o'er Ivan. Tickle o'er clap. Owl over with your attention.
Overlap eye wink at Etta. Vine-on-vine: Kate: a vampire bulldozer.
Nod, Etta, pour oil out my man and answer malevolent wails.
Adore out the window water and keep my wave empty and clean. Move
over.

τὴν δ' αὖ Τηλέμαχος πεπνυμένος ἀντίον ἠΰδα:
‘ξείν’, ἦ τοι μὲν ταῦτα φίλα φρονέων ἀγορεύεις,
ὥς τε πατήρ ῥ' παιδί, καὶ οὐ ποτε λήσομαι αὐτῶν.
ἀλλ' ἄγε νῦν ἐπίμεινον,

ἐπειγόμενός περ ὁδοῖο,

ὄφρα λοεσσάμενός τε τεταρπόμενός τε φίλον κῆρ,
δῶρον ἔχων ἐπὶ νῆα κίης, χαίρων ἐνὶ θυμῷ,
τιμῆεν, μάλα καλόν, ὅ τοι κειμήλιον ἔσται
ἐξ ἐμεῦ, οἷα φίλοι ξεῖνοι ξεῖνοισι διδοῦσι.

19

TV Land ought not to climax ten vimeos, an atavist of nudes.
Serves not to have taut plants. Opposed views and pelvic-
wasted Tantra were tardy canoes toting animals. Auto wave.
All eyes vulva Etta, my valve.

Etta, your havoc torpedoes oil.

Opera maneuvers: The tits! The pistols! My voice! The piano knows.
Downpour of ex-wives: Etta's vain kink is just one example of Evil Ovum
Time. Now, Mama, call off or toil-kill one love total.
Empty the viola of pliant selves or see a votive's dead oval.

τὸν δ' ἠμείβετ' ἔπειτα θεά, γλαυκῶπις Ἀθήνη:
'μή μ' ἔτι νῦν κατέρυκε, λιλαιόμενόν περ ὁδοῖο.
δῶρον δ' ὅτι κέ μοι δοῦναι φίλον

ἦτορ ἀνώγη,
αὐτίς ἀνερχομένῳ δόμεναι οἰκόνδε φέρεσθαι,
καὶ μάλα καλὸν ἐλών: σοὶ δ' ἄξιον ἔσται ἀμοιβῆς.

20

Toast newborn Etta later, with egg-raucous whittlers and corn.
The uninvited vacate, puke, and alley-oop venomous torpedo oil.
Dewy pond otters, Mom, they're double pious.

No, top everyone!

Autistic avenue x-box is just some evil vocoder: Pepsi AOL.
Karma man: a call of earth worm coitus: love or amoebas?

ἢ μὲν ἄρ' ὥς εἰποῦσ' ἀπέβη γλαυκῶπις Ἀθήνη,
ἔρως δ' ὥς ἀνόπαια διέπτατο: τῷ δ' ἐνὶ θυμῷ
θήκε μένος καὶ θάρσος, ὑπέμνησέν τέ ἐ πατρὸς
μᾶλλον ἔτ' ἢ τὸ πάροιθεν. ὁ δὲ φρεσὶν ἦσι νοήσας
θάμβησεν κατὰ θυμόν: οἴσατο γὰρ θεὸν εἶναι.
αὐτίκα δὲ μνηστήρας ἐπώχετο ἰσόθεος φῶς.

News app: we eat out Audubon and yank wits all over
pelvic sway. Volatile dilettantes: two evil ovums.

Uncle Havoc called oak pool universes “nouveau teeter pots.”

Man of tents or trampolines: ode, peeve, or vantage.

Amble. Now vacate. Allow for violated yarrow rivals.

Outtake the unnoticed pewter text: oboes, puce.

τοῖσι δ' αἰδὸς ἄειδε περικλυτός, οἱ δὲ σιωπῇ
ἦατ' ἀκούοντες· ὁ δ' Ἀχαιῶν νόστον ἄειδε
λυγρόν, ὃν ἐκ Τροίης ἐπετείλατο Παλλὰς Ἀθήνη.
τοῦ δ' ὑπερωϊόθεν φρεσὶ σύνθετο θέσπιν αἰοιδὴν
κούρη Ἰκαρίοιο, περίφρων Πηνελόπεια·
κλίμακα δ' ὑψηλὴν κατεβήσετο οἷο δόμοιο,
οὐκ οἶη, ἅμα τῇ γε καὶ ἀμφίπολοι

δύ' ἔποντο.

ἢ δ' ὅτε δὴ μνηστήρας ἀφίκετο δία γυναικῶν,
στή ῥα παρὰ σταθμὸν τέγεος πύκα ποιητοῖο,
ἅντα παρειῶν σχομένη λιπαρὰ κρήδεμνα·
ἀμφίπολος δ' ἄρα οἱ κεδνὴ ἐκάτερθε παρέστη.
δακρύσασα δ' ἔπειτα προσηύδα θεῖον αἰοιδόν·

Totaled oil ducts weld tepid kraut: ode to wet
naps. Arc overt odd axel-woven votive: allied
typo of ecto-points. NATO atelier (challahs, onion)
toured untenable weevils. People bivouac to events alone.
Coupons for Ikea polio, teen pipe wave, naval otter.
Karma makers down Anvil Kate's old Borneo dorm room:
our own amateur yokel amp troll.

Do it over to
denote sun on vaporous ape's keys to diurnal vulcan eaves.
Autumn pats Papa's other move, yet our torqued taint-loin
avatar is repellent. Butt voice omens alter the Panko demon diva.
Impestuous dope or Kevin and Kate's poor petition:
sax-pudding tampon deltas nude and elopes with AOL dove.

Φήμιε, πολλὰ γὰρ ἄλλα βροτῶν θελκτήρια οἶδας,
ἔργ' ἀνδρῶν τε θεῶν τε, τά τε κλείουσιν ἀοιδοί:
τῶν ἔν γέ σφιν ἄειδε παρήμενος, οἱ δὲ σιωπῇ
οἶνον πινόντων: ταύτης δ' ἀποπαύε' ἀοιδῆς
λυγρῆς, ἥ τέ μοι αἰεὶ ἐνὶ στήθεσσι φίλον κῆρ

τείρει, ἐπεὶ με μάλιστα καθίκετο πένθος ἄλαστον.
τοίην γὰρ κεφαλὴν ποθέω μεμνημένη αἰεὶ,
ἀνδρός, τοῦ κλέος εὐρὸ καθ' Ἑλλάδα καὶ μέσον Ἄργος.

Normal tower-rap kaka lobotomy. Teak pantry, olden.
Espy and swerve to every tater tot. Kate loves aioli.
Twelve obvious leaden tape movies or the owl teens.
All of television's waves tautened antennae in an AOL dance.
Syrups note. Moreover, evil Autumn eels plant love and know.

Taipei Etta, my man-lotto calisthenics tear off avatar
tan lines, reap Cleopatra's toes. We menu, unevenly armed.
Avocado tour causes European cow empanadas. A cat meows, "A-paw-calyptse!"

Old Gus Eats © Polly Duff Bresnick 2012

Publishing Genius Press
1818 East Lafayette Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21213
www.PublishingGenius.com

Ice cream cones by Michael Rae.

This book is also archived
for online reading at Chapbook-Genius.com.

This chapbook is a selection.
If you would like more information about the project, contact:
polly.bresnick@gmail.com

