

**THE ODYSSEY OF  
HOMER, VOL.  
I, BOOKS I-XII**

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The Odyssey of Homer, Vol. I, Books I-XII by Homer & Philip Stanhope Worsley

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**HOMER & PHILIP STANHOPE WORSLEY**

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*Eighteen copies*

THE  
ODYSSEY OF HOMER  
BOOKS I.-XII.

IN MAGNIS VOLUISSE SAT EST

THE  
ODYSSEY OF HOMER

TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH VERSE IN  
THE SPENSERIAN STANZA

BY  
PHILIP STANHOPE WORSLEY, M.A.  
SCHOLAR OF CORPUS CHRISTI COLLEGE, OXFORD

VOL. I.  
BOOKS I.-XII.

THIRD EDITION

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MDCCCLXXVII

TO  
THE REV. JOHN BRADLEY DYNE, D.D.

HEAD MASTER OF SIR ROGER CHOLMELEY'S SCHOOL, HIGHGATE

THIS TRANSLATION OF THE ODYSSEY

IS INSCRIBED

BY HIS AFFECTIONATE FRIEND AND LATE PUPIL

P. S. WORSLEY.



## P R E F A C E.

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IN adding one more to existing versions of the 'Odyssey,' the end I have in view is not that recommended by Mr Matthew Arnold—to reproduce for scholars the enjoyment derived from reading the original poem. Some may, perhaps, find their powers stimulated by aspiring to the unattainable, and it may often be true that

Who aimeth at the sky,  
Shoots higher much than he that means a tree.

For myself, I have cherished throughout the humbler ambition of conveying to the unprofessional reader, through the medium of his own language, something of what the classically educated feel in perusing Homer himself. It is those who have little or no Greek that I desire to interest. In seeking this end, I have followed no systematic theory. It has been my aim to produce, independently of doctrinal rules, a ver-

sion free enough to avoid harshness, and literal enough to deserve the name of a translation rather than a paraphrase.

The fact that the 'Iliad' and 'Odyssey' of both Chapman and Pope are read, while Cowper is neglected, seems to indicate, among other things, that blank verse will not, in these long narrative poems, sustain the interest of the general reader. If, therefore, experience seems to suggest the adoption of rhyme in translating Homer, it can scarcely be disputed that the metre of the 'Faerie Queene' is entitled to a trial. Theoretically, of course, no one will uphold the Spenserian, or any other stanza, as the true representative of the Homeric hexameter. The steady, continuous flow of Homer's style is apparently quite alien from the regular recurrence of such mechanical breaks as every stanzaic system demands; and it is at once evident that the Epic commonplace cannot, under the limitations of distributed rhyme, be always uniformly rendered. Nevertheless, it is quite possible that in practice, by which alone the question can be solved, these and other dissimilarities will not assert themselves obtrusively, and that the Spenserian stanza and the Homeric hexameter do, when judged not by detached lines but by entire passages, really resemble each other in their broad and general effect. I am myself

convinced that, with a range of comparison sufficiently large, the analogy is, notwithstanding many serious drawbacks, quite perceptible. If I have failed in exemplifying this, the blame attaches less to the design than to the workman.

It was not till the final pages of this volume were passing through the press, that I had the pleasure of reading Mr Arnold's Lectures on translating Homer. I believe thoroughly in the truth of his fundamental axioms concerning the Homeric style, though I find it impossible to accept all his conclusions. It would ill become me to enter into anything like a controversy with so ripe a scholar and so accomplished a poet as Mr Arnold; but since in one passage he treats the question of translating Homer in the Spenserian stanza as one not worth arguing, I may be excused for pointing to an evident misconception in this particular instance. According to Mr Arnold,\* "it is enough to observe, that if Pope's couplet, with the simple system of correspondences that its rhymes introduce, changes the movement of Homer, in which no such correspondences are found, and is therefore a bad measure for a translator to employ; Spenser's stanza, with its far more intricate system of correspondences, must change Homer's movement

\* Lectures on Homer, pp. 67, 68.