

In Books 15 and 16 of "The Odyssey," Odysseus returns to Ithaca after a long absence, disguised as a beggar. He meets Eumaeus, his loyal swineherd, and tells him a fabricated story about his life. Eumaeus, unaware of Odysseus's true identity, offers him hospitality and shares his own story of being kidnapped and sold into slavery. Meanwhile, Telemachus, Odysseus's son, returns to Ithaca from Sparta and meets Eumaeus and the disguised Odysseus. Telemachus is unaware that the beggar is his father, but Eumaeus recognizes Telemachus and informs him of the beggar's identity. The books highlight the themes of disguise, loyalty, and the return of the hero.