

This book offers a listing of modern English words with their ancient Greek equivalents, drawn from the Homeric epics - the Iliad and the Odyssey.

A Glossary to the Homeric Epics

By Mark Winterrowd

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The background of the cover is a photograph of a valley. In the foreground, there are stone ruins, likely part of an ancient wall or temple. The middle ground shows a valley filled with olive trees and other vegetation. In the background, there are mountains under a blue sky with some clouds. The title is overlaid on the upper part of the image.

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PREFACE

This is the second edition of a previous book, A Glossary to the Iliad, which has been expanded by adding vocabulary from the Odyssey. It is in some sense a 'reflection' of R.J. Cunliffe's indispensable volume A Lexicon of the Homeric Dialect. In the same way that dictionaries of modern languages are often bi-directional (e.g. Eng-Span, Span-Eng), this book grew up in response to that monumental predecessor.

It is here possible to find the ancient Homeric Greek word for many modern English ones. If Pope, in the preface to his translation, is correct in saying "...How fertile will that imagination appear, which was able to clothe all the properties of elements, the qualifications of the mind, the virtues and vices, in forms and persons; and to introduce them into actions agreeable to the nature of the things they shadowed!", if all that is true, the view of human nature and experience here presented is extensive, if not comprehensive.

Some of these Greek terms have, of course, been used for centuries in the arts and sciences and in commerce. This book hopes to be useful in furthering the process. An increasing familiarity with the sentiments of heroic ages cannot be useless in our own troubled, degenerate era. By themselves, these tropes cannot prevent environmental destruction, refugee suffering, or thermonuclear extinction, but when absorbed into the hearts and souls of men and women, they can inspire us to build a better world.

Foreword

to the first edition

...here are golden words....

—Thoreau

This compilation arose out of my own attempt to understand the language of the *Iliad*. It has reference mainly to the original text and to Cunliffe's Lexicon of the Homeric Dialect. My debt to the latter will be evident in some of the definitions.

Alternative forms of words are sometimes indicated by parentheses. A simple example would be the entry for 'hush', (ἐπι)κεύθω, which would indicate either κεύθω or ἐπικεύθω. The entry for a word like 'behind', on the other hand, involves numerous permutations which would be space- and time-consuming, as well as tedious. In some cases, this type of notation may lead to slight ambiguity as to the diacritical marks. For example, one of the entries for 'kill' is written (ἐξ)ἐναρίζω. The two alternative forms would be written ἐναρίζω and ἐξεναρίζω.

In general, details of intonation, as well as of grammar, are not emphasized in this book. There are many other volumes which cover these subjects thoroughly. My hope and intent has been to interest the general reader who may be, as I was, eager to embark on an adventure. We wish to behold the grandeur of "the eternal *Iliad*," as Ovid called it, to experience firsthand why Dante considered Homer the greatest of poets —

...quelli è Omero, poeta sovrano...

Così vid'ì adunar la bella scola
di quel signor de l'altissimo canto
che sovra li altri com' aquila vola.

We may eventually come to the same realization that Vergil did, if Pope's account is correct –

...But when t' examine every part he came,
Nature and Homer were, he found, the same....

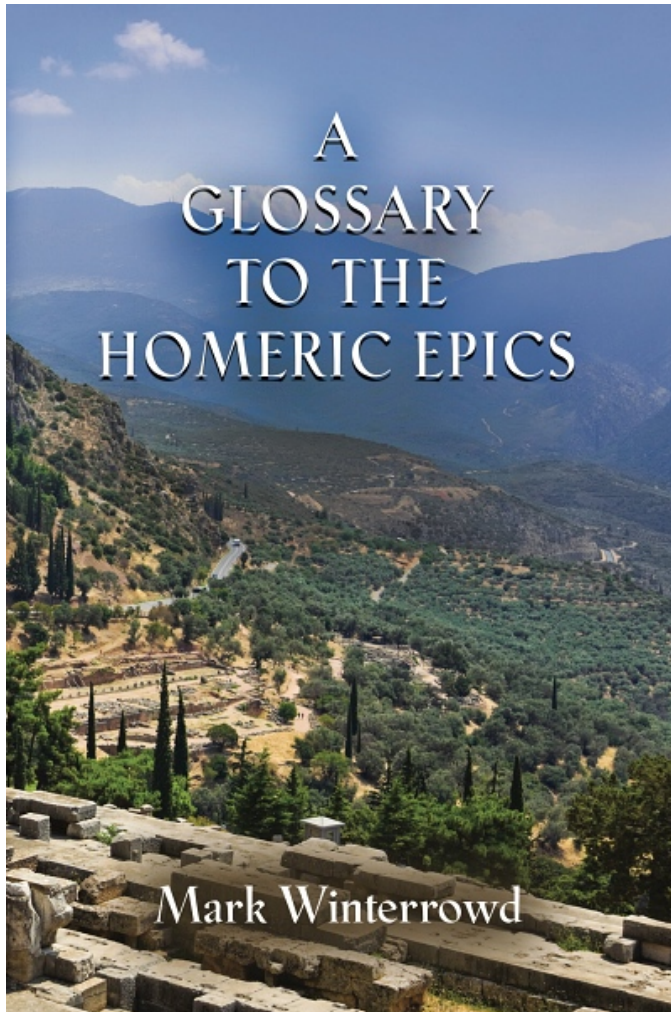
Meanwhile, there is much work to be done, again according to Pope -

Be Homer's works your study and delight,
Read them by day, and meditate by night;
Thence form your judgment, thence your maxims bring,
And trace the Muses upward to their spring.

—M.W.

The Greek Alphabet / Pronunciation Guide

- | | | | |
|-----|---|---|--|
| 1. | A | α | alpha (as the a in father) |
| 2. | B | β | beta |
| 3. | Γ | γ | gamma |
| 4. | Δ | δ | delta |
| 5. | E | ε | epsilon (as the e in epsilon) |
| 6. | Z | ζ | zeta |
| 7. | H | η | eta (as the a in Thracian, cf. N577) |
| 8. | Θ | θ | theta (as the th in theta, thermos, etc.) |
| 9. | I | ι | iota (as the i in glorious) |
| 10. | K | κ | kappa |
| 11. | Λ | λ | lambda |
| 12. | M | μ | mu |
| 13. | N | ν | nu |
| 14. | Ξ | ξ | xi (as the English x) |
| 15. | O | ο | omicron (as in rose; sometimes as in pontiff) |
| 16. | Π | π | pi |
| 17. | P | ρ | rho |
| 18. | Σ | σ | sigma (latter form at the end of words) |
| 19. | T | τ | tau |
| 20. | Υ | υ | upsilon (as the oo in hoop; perhaps shading to e.g. German über) |
| 21. | Φ | φ | phi (as English f or ph) |
| 22. | Χ | χ | chi (as the ch in German doch, or the r in French rouge) |
| 23. | Ψ | ψ | psi (as the ps in popsickle) |
| 24. | Ω | ω | omega (as in omega) |



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