THE ODYSSEY
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Dedication and Acknowledgments

I started this work over twenty-five years ago, while I was living in the campground of Lisbon, Portugal, with not much else to do and nobody to tell me I was mad. Over the years, there would be enough of both sorts of distraction, but many people have been helpful and supportive. Of these, the ones I note first are those to whom I dedicate the translation: Alfredo C. Costa, my companion from 1973—including the year in Lisbon, Olisipo, the city of Ulysses—until his untimely death in 1994; Bruce Burton, my companion since 1994; and my parents, LaVaun S. Merrill (now deceased) and Ivanelle Harpster Merrill, whose financial support helped give me the leisure to pursue this long labor of love.

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**Book 13**
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**Book 16**
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**Book 17**
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**Book 18**
Odysseus fights and vanquishes Iros the beggar; Penelope extracts presents from the suitors, who again abuse Odysseus.

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**Book 21**
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**Book 22**
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**Book 23**
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**Book 24**
In Hades' domain the shades converse, and the slain suitors enter; Odysseus tests his father and reveals himself; they start to fight the suitors' kinsmen, but Athena and Zeus establish peace.

**List of Proper Names in the Odyssey**