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| Thematic Focus: Fathers and Sons |
| **Speech of Athena to Telemachus*** The *Odyssey*, Book 1, lines 230-237
* Translator: Stanley Lombardo
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| Note: In this scene, Athena appears to Telemachus while she is in disguise as an old man.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_I have come Because they say your father has returned,But now I see the gods have knocked him off course.He’s not dead, though, not godlike Odysseus,No way in the world….But now, tell me this, and I want the truth:Tall as you are, are you Odysseus’ son?You bear a striking resemblance to him…Telemachus took a deep breath and said:“You want the truth, and I will give it to you.My mother says that Odysseus is my father.I don’t know this myself. No one witnessesHis own begetting. If I had my way, I’d be the sonOf a man fortunate enough to grow old at home.But it’s the man with the most dismal fate of allThey say I was born from – since you want to know.” |