

## Penelope's Dream

ἀλλ' ἄγε μοι τὸν ὄνειρον ὑπόκριναί καὶ ἄκουσον.  
χῆνες μοι κατὰ οἶκον ἐείκοσι πυρὸν ἔδουσιν  
ἐξ ὕδατος, καὶ τέ σφιν ἰαίνομαι εἰσορόωσα·  
ἐλθὼν δ' ἐξ ὄρεος μέγας αἰετὸς ἀγκυλοχήλης  
πᾶσι κατ' αὐχένας ἤξε καὶ ἔκτανεν· οἱ δ' ἐκέχυντο  
ἀθρόοι ἐν μεγάροισ', ὁ δ' ἐς αἰθέρα δῖαν ἀέρθη.  
αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ κλαῖον καὶ ἐκώκυον ἔν περ ὄνειρῳ,  
ἀμφὶ δέ μ' ἠγερέθοντο ἐϋπλοκαμίδες Ἀχαιαί,  
οἴκτρ' ὀλοφυρομένην, ὃ μοι αἰετὸς ἔκτανε χῆνας.  
ἄψ δ' ἐλθὼν κατ' ἄρ' ἔζετ' ἐπὶ προὔχοντι μελάθρῳ,  
φωνῆ δὲ βροτέῃ κατερήτυε φώνησέν τε·  
'θάρσει, Ἰκαρίου κόυρη τηλεκλειτοῖο·  
οὐκ ὄναρ, ἀλλ' ὕπαρ ἐσθλόν, ὃ τοι τετελεσμένον ἔσται.  
χῆνες μὲν μνηστῆρες, ἐγὼ δέ τοι αἰετὸς ὄρνις  
ἦα πάρος, νῦν αὖτε τεὸς πόσις εἰλήλουθα,  
ὃς πᾶσι μνηστῆρσιν ἀεικέα πότμον ἐφήσω.'

(*Odyssey* 19.535–550)

But come, respond to a dream for me and listen to it.  
I have twenty geese at home, they eat wheat  
out of the water, and I delight in looking at them.  
But a great eagle with a curved beak came from the mountain  
and broke each one's neck and killed all of them. And they lay in a heap  
in the house, while the eagle rose up high into the shining ether.  
But I cried and wailed, though in a dream,  
and Achaean women with beautiful hair gathered around me  
as I was bitterly lamenting that the eagle killed my geese.  
But the eagle came back and settled on a projecting roof-beam,  
and in a human voice consoled me and spoke to me:  
"Take heart, daughter of far-famed Ikarios.  
This is not a dream, but a true waking vision, and it will come to fulfillment.  
The geese are the suitors, and I was an eagle before,  
but now I have come back and I am your husband,  
and I will bring an ugly death upon all of the suitors."

Translated by Olga Levaniouk