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Dead Why Homer Matters

## **The Mighty Dead Why Homer Matters**

Presents an edition of this outstanding book containing a clear and readable introduction, concise notes on the text and strong literary appreciation.

Homer and the Poetics of Hades offers a new and unique approach to the Iliad and, more particularly, the Odyssey through an exploration of the role and function of the Underworld as a poetic resource permitting an alternative perspective on the epic past. By portraying Hades as a realm where vision is not

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possible, Homer creates a unique poetic environment in which social constraints and divine prohibitions do not apply, resulting in a narrative which emulates that of the Muses but which at the same time is markedly distinct from it. In Hades experimentation with, and alteration of, important epic forms and values can be pursued with greater freedom, giving rise to a different kind of poetics: the 'poetics of Hades'. In the Iliad, Homer offers us a glimpse of how this alternative poetics works through the visit of Patroclus' shade in Achilles' dream. The

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recollection offered by the shade reveals an approach to its past in which regret, self-pity, and a lingering memory of intimate and emotional moments displace an objective tone and traditional exposition of heroic values. However, the potential of Hades for providing alternative means of commemorating the past is more fully explored in the 'Nekyia' of *Odyssey* 11: there, Odysseus' extraordinary ability to see the dead in Hades allows him to meet and interview the shades of heroines and heroes of the epic past, while the absolute confinement of Hades allows

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the shades to recount their stories from their own personal points of view. The poetic implications are significant, since by visiting Hades and listening to the stories of the shades Odysseus, and Homer with him, gain access to a tradition in which epic values associated with gender roles and even divine law are suspended in favour of a more immediate and personally inflected approach to the epic past. As readers, this alternative poetics offers us more than just a revised framework within which to navigate the Iliad and the Odyssey, inviting as it does a more

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nuanced understanding of the Greeks' anxieties around mortality and posthumous fame.

Brimming with poetry, art, and nature

writing—Wordsworth and Coleridge as you've never seen them before June 1797 to September 1798 is the most famous year in English poetry. Out of it came Samuel Taylor Coleridge's *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* and "Kubla Khan," as well as his unmatched hymns to friendship and fatherhood, and William Wordsworth's revolutionary songs in *Lyrical Ballads* along with "Tintern Abbey," Wordsworth's paean to the

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unity of soul and cosmos, love and understanding. In *The Making of Poetry*, Adam Nicolson embeds himself in the reality of this unique moment, exploring the idea that these poems came from this particular place and time, and that only by experiencing the physical circumstances of the year, in all weathers and all seasons, at night and at dawn, in sunlit reverie and moonlit walks, can the genesis of the poetry start to be understood. The poetry Wordsworth and Coleridge made was not from settled conclusions but from the adventure on which they embarked, thinking of poetry

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as a challenge to all  
received ideas, stripping  
away the dead matter,  
looking to shed  
consciousness and so change  
the world. What emerges is a  
portrait of these great  
figures seen not as literary  
monuments but as young men,  
troubled, ambitious,  
dreaming of a vision of  
wholeness, knowing they had  
greatness in them but still  
in urgent search of the  
paths toward it. The artist  
Tom Hammick accompanied  
Nicolson for much of the  
year, making woodcuts from  
the fallen timber in the  
park at Alfoxden where the  
Wordsworths lived.  
Interspersed throughout the

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book, his images bridge the centuries, depicting lives at the source of our modern sensibility: a psychic landscape of doubt and possibility, full of beauty and thick with desire for a kind of connectedness that seems permanently at hand and yet always out of reach. This book seeks to restore Homer to his rightful place among the principal figures in the history of political and moral philosophy. Through this fresh and provocative analysis of the Iliad and the Odyssey, Peter J. Ahrensdorf examines Homer's understanding of the best life, the nature of the divine, and the nature of



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human excellence. According to Ahrensdorf, Homer teaches that human greatness eclipses that of the gods, that the contemplative and compassionate singer ultimately surpasses the heroic warrior in grandeur, and that it is the courageously questioning Achilles, not the loyal Hector or even the wily Odysseus, who comes closest to the humane wisdom of Homer himself. Thanks to Homer, two of the distinctive features of Greek civilization are its extraordinary celebration of human excellence, as can be seen in Greek athletics, sculpture, and nudity, and

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its singular questioning of the divine, as can be seen in Greek philosophy.

Homer: A Ladybird Expert Book

Why Homer Matters

Odyssey

The Mighty Dead

Seize the Fire

Life Between the Tides

A cogent analysis of Alexander the Great's controversial career.

Aeneas appears in The Illiad in vague snatches and starts as a

traveling warrior of great piety who was loosely connected to

the foundation of Rome. Virgil weaves these fragments into a

powerful myth about the

founding of Rome in The Aeneid.

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Aeneas travels from his native Troy to Italy then wages victorious war upon the Latins. The first full study of corpse mistreatment and funeral violation in Greco-Roman epic poetry, illuminating many major texts.

Fifty years of reading Homer—both alone and with students—prepared Eva Brann to bring the *Odyssey* and the *Iliad* back to life for today's readers. In *Homeric Moments*, she brilliantly conveys the unique delights of Homer's epics as she focuses on the crucial scenes, or moments, that mark the high points of the narratives: Penelope and

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Odysseus, faithful wife and returning husband, sit face to face at their own hearth for the first time in twenty years; young Telemachus, with his father Odysseus at his side, boldly confronts the angry suitors; Achilles gives way to boundless grief at the death of his friend Patroclus. Eva Brann demonstrates a way of reading Homer's poems that yields up their hidden treasures. With an alert eye for Homer's extraordinary visual effects and a keen ear for the musicality of his language, she helps the reader see the flickering campfires of the Greeks and hear the roar of

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the surf and the singing of nymphs. In *Homeric Moments*, Brann takes readers beneath the captivating surface of the poems to explore the inner connections and layers of meaning that have made the epics "the marvel of the ages." "Written with wit and clarity, this book will be of value to those reading the *Odyssey* and the *Iliad* for the first time and to those teaching it to beginners." *Library Journal*

"*Homeric Moments* is a feast for the mind and the imagination, laid out in clear and delicious prose. With Brann, old friends of Homer and new acquaintances alike will rejoice in the beauty,

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and above all the humanity, of the epics." □Jacob Howland, University of Tulsa, Author of The Paradox of Political Philosophy "In Homeric Moments, Eva Brann lovingly leads us, as she has surely led countless students, through the gallery of delights that is Homer's poetry. Brann's enthusiasm is as infectious as her deep familiarity with the works is illuminating." □Rachel Hadas "Brann invites us to enter a conversation [about Homer] in which information and formal arguments jostle with appreciations and frank conjectures and surmises to

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increase our pleasure and deepen the inward dimension of our humanity."—Richard Freis, Millsaps College "For anyone eager to experience the profundity and charm of Homer's great epic poems, Eva Brann's book will serve as a passionate and engaging guide. Brann displays a deep sensitivity to the cadence and flow of Homeric poetry, and the kind of knowing intimacy with its characters that comes from years of teaching and contemplation. Her relaxed but informative approach succeeds in conveying the grandeur of the great Homeric heroes, while making them

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continually resonate for our own lives. Brann helps us see that this poetry has an urgency for our own era as much as it did for a distant past."—Ralph M. Rosen, University of Pennsylvania, Author of *Old Comedy and The Iambographic Tradition* "The most enjoyable books about Homer are always written by those who have read and taught him the most. Eva Brann's collection of astute observations, unusual asides, and visual snapshots of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* reveals a lifelong friendship with the poet, and is as pleasurable as it is informative. *Homeric Moments* is



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rare erudition without pedantry, in a tone marked by good sense without levity."—Victor Davis

Hanson, author of *The Other Greeks* and co-author of *Who Killed Homer?*

*Homer on Life and Death*

*Clues to Delight in Reading the Odyssey and the Iliad*

*The Iliad*

*God's Secretaries*

*Abused Bodies in Roman Epic*

*The Ethics of Suicide*

A lush exploration of Joni Mitchell's career and art. When singer, musician, and broadcast journalist Malka Marom had the opportunity to interview Joni Mitchell in 1973,

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she was eager to reconnect with the performer she'd first met late one night in 1966 at a Yorkville coffeehouse. More conversations followed over the next four decades of friendship, and it was only after Joni and Malka completed their most recent recorded interview, in 2012, that Malka discovered the heart of their discussions: the creative process. In *Joni Mitchell: In Her Own Words*, Joni and Malka follow this thread through seven decades of life and art, discussing the influence of Joni's childhood, love and loss, playing dives and huge festivals, acclaim and criticism,

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poverty and affluence, glamorous triumphs and tragic mistakes . . . This riveting narrative, told in interviews, lyrics, paintings, and photographs, is shared in the hope of illuminating a timeless body of work and inspiring others.

An exciting series that provides students with direct access to the ancient world by offering new translations of extracts from its key texts.

"In a time of division, we can have no better prophetic voice to frame today's discussions of justice and freedom than a one-legged fugitive slave who came to a Capitol without a Dome to

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tell how the Constitution could be made more perfect, in the name of God." —from a letter sent by the President of the Presbyterian Historical Society to the President of the Maryland State Senate In February 1865, just days after the adoption of the Thirteenth Amendment banning slavery, Presbyterian pastor and abolitionist Henry Highland Garnet spoke before the U.S. Congress, becoming the first African American to do so. Garnet's speech, titled "Let the Monster Perish," celebrated the end of slavery and pleaded with humanity to never let it rise again. Garnet's address

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would later set the tone for Congressional Reconstruction, providing the important and necessary perspective from those whose voices had been excluded from American democracy. His address is reproduced here along with a time line of his life.

An examination of the aesthetic qualities of the Homeric simile

Endymion, a Poetic Romance

The World of Odysseus

Journeys in Roman Britain

The First Battle Scenes of

Homer's Iliad Rewritten

Homer on the Gods and Human Virtue

Odyssey. book X

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The Mighty Dead Why Homer Matters William Collins Simon Armitage is rightly celebrated as one of the country's most original and engaging poets; but he is also an adaptor and translator of some of our most important epics, such as Sir Gawain and the Green Knight, The Death of King Arthur and Homer's Odyssey. The latter, originally a commission for BBC Radio, rendered the classical tale with all the flare, wit and

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engagement that we have come to expect from this most distinctive of contemporary authors, and in so doing brought Odysseus's return from the Trojan War memorably to life. The Last Days of Troy, a prequel of kinds, tells the tale of the Trojan War itself in a vivid new dramatic adaptation that is published to coincide with the Royal Exchange's stage performance in April 2014.

Is suicide wrong,

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profoundly morally wrong? Almost always wrong, but excusable in a few cases? Sometimes morally permissible? Imprudent, but not wrong? Is it sick, a matter of mental illness? Is it a private matter or a largely social one? Could it sometimes be right, or a "noble duty," or even a fundamental human right? Whether it is called "suicide" or not, what role may a person play in the end of his or her own life? This



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collection of primary sources--the principal texts of ethical interest from major writers in western and nonwestern cultures, from the principal religious traditions, and from oral cultures where observer reports of traditional practices are available, spanning Europe, Asia, the Middle East, Africa, Oceania, the Arctic, and North and South America--facilitates exploration of many controversial practical

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issues: physician-assisted suicide or aid-in-dying; suicide in social or political protest; self-sacrifice and martyrdom; suicides of honor or loyalty; religious and ritual practices that lead to death, including sati or widow-burning, harakiri, and sallekhana, or fasting unto death; and suicide bombings, kamikaze missions, jihad, and other tactical and military suicides. This collection has no

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interest in taking sides in controversies about the ethics of suicide; rather, rather, it serves to expand the character of these debates, by showing them to be multi-dimensional, a complex and vital part of human ethical thought.

What does Roman Britain mean to us now? How were its physical remains rediscovered and made sense of? How has it been reimagined, in story and song and verse? Sometimes on

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foot, sometimes in a magnificent, if not entirely reliable, VW camper van, Charlotte Higgins sets out to explore the ancient monuments of Roman Britain. She explores the land that was once Rome's northernmost territory and how it has changed since the years after the empire fell. *Under Another Sky* invites us to see the British landscape, and British history, in an entirely fresh way: as indelibly marked by how

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the Romans first  
imagined and wrote,  
these strange and exotic  
islands, perched on the  
edge of the known world,  
into existence.

The Seabird's Cry

Sea Room

Joni Mitchell

Coleridge, the

Wordsworths, and Their

Year of Marvels

The Aeneid

The Making of Poetry

*This work has been selected by  
scholars as being culturally  
important and is part of the  
knowledge base of civilization  
as we know it. This work is in*

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*support of the preservation process, and thank you for being an important part of keeping this knowledge alive and relevant.*

*A network of complex currents flowed across Jacobean England. This was the England of Shakespeare, Jonson, and Bacon; the era of the Gunpowder Plot and the worst outbreak of the plague.*

*Jacobean England was both more godly and less godly than the country had ever been, and the entire culture was drawn taut between these polarities. This was the world that created the King James Bible. It is the*

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*greatest work of English prose ever written, and it is no coincidence that the translation was made at the moment "Englishness," specifically the English language itself, had come into its first passionate maturity. The English of Jacobean England has a more encompassing idea of its own scope than any form of the language before or since. It drips with potency and sensitivity. The age, with all its conflicts, explains the book. This P.S. edition features an extra 16 pages of insights into the book, including author interviews, recommended*

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*reading, and more.*

*In 1937, Adam Nicolson's father answered a newspaper ad—"Uninhabited islands for sale. Outer Hebrides, 600 acres. . . . Puffins and seals. Apply."—and thus found the Shiantis. With a name meaning "holy or enchanted islands," the Shiantis for millennia were a haven for those seeking solitude, but their rich, sometimes violent history of human habitation includes much more. When he was twenty-one, Nicolson inherited this almost indescribably beautiful property: a landscape, soaked in centuries-old tales of*

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*restless ghosts and Bronze Age gold, that cradles the heritage of a once-vibrant world of farmers and fishermen. In Sea Room, Nicolson describes and relives his love affair with the three tiny islands and their strange and colorful history in passionate, keenly precise prose—sharing with us the greatest gift an island bestows on its inhabitants: a deep engagement with the natural world.*

*The Mostly True Adventures Of Homer P. Figg (Scholastic Gold)*

*Homeric Moments*

*The Last Days of Troy*

*Stories of the Trojan Wars*

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### *The Shield of Achilles Creating the Foundations of Classical Civilization*

Where does Homer come from? And why does Homer matter? His epic poems of war and suffering can still speak to us of the role of destiny in life, of cruelty, of humanity and its frailty, but why they do is a mystery.

How can we be so intimate with something so distant? This is a genre-defying book of vast ambition which takes the reader on a deeply profound, tender

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journey through Adam Nicolson's love of Homer and why he believes this great ancient poet still matters to us all in our search to understand what it is to be human, to love, to lose, to grow old and to die. Nicolson is one of the greatest writers of landscape and sea -- and in this book he takes his readers to places on the Aegean shores forever haunted by their Homeric heroes, to a disputatious dinner in 19th-century-France; to

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Keats and his travels in the "realms of gold"; memories of setting sail from a Scottish beach to face the vengeful sea and navigating storms off the coast of Ireland; to Sicily awash with wild flowers, to Bosnia where oral poetry still thrives; to Syria where he is forced to face his own mortality; to the deserted, irradiated steppes of Chernobyl, where Homeric warriors still lie unexcavated under the tumuli. This is a world

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of springs and drought, seas and cities, all sewn together by the poems themselves, and their great metaphors of life and suffering. The book is driven by a desire to find the source of Homer's directness and to understand why Homer is still so present and so relevant to us all some 3,700 years after the poems were composed. On every page, the book offers reflections on relationships between fathers and sons,



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mothers and daughters, on the violence of warriors and the deep-held desires of homemakers, of peace and war, youth and old-age. Like Homer himself, it is a book haunted by transience, by the way memory drifts in the face of time. It is a book that will bring each reader face to face with the meaning of existence in a text as accessible as it is full of surprises.

The most remarkable and affecting book of poetry

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I encountered this year.  
James Wood, The New  
Yorker

Life itself could never  
have been sustainable  
without seabirds. As  
Adam Nicolson writes:  
"They are bringers of  
fertility, the  
deliverers of life from  
ocean to land." A global  
tragedy is unfolding.  
Even as we are coming to  
understand them, the  
number of seabirds on  
our planet is in  
freefall, dropping by  
nearly 70% in the last  
sixty years, a billion

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fewer now than there were in 1950. Of the ten birds in this book, seven are in decline, at least in part of their range. Extinction stalks the ocean and there is a danger that the grand cry of the seabird colony, rolling around the bays and headlands of high latitudes, will this century become little but a memory. Seabirds have always entranced the human imagination and NYT best-selling author Adam Nicolson has been in

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love with them all his life: for their mastery of wind and ocean, their aerial beauty and the unmatched wildness of the coasts and islands where every summer they return to breed. The seabird's cry comes from an elemental layer in the story of the world. Over the last couple of decades, modern science has begun to understand their epic voyages, their astonishing abilities to navigate for tens of thousands of miles on featureless

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seas, their ability to smell their way towards fish and home. Only the poets in the past would have thought of seabirds as creatures riding the ripples and currents of the entire planet, but that is what the scientists are seeing now today.

A Newbery Honor Book, this warm, funny, & heart-wrenching Civil War novel introduces readers to the Battle of Gettysburg & "Little Round Top," one of the most famous feats of

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bravery in U.S. history!

A History

Historical Sources

Under Another Sky

"Let the Monster Perish"

The Iliad of Homer

Themes and Issues

**The World of Odysseus is a concise and penetrating account of the society that gave birth to the Iliad and the Odyssey--a book that provides a vivid picture of the Greek Dark Ages, its men and women, works and days, morals and values. Long celebrated as a pathbreaking achievement in the social history of the ancient world, M.I. Finley's brilliant study remains, as classicist Bernard Knox notes in**

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**his introduction to this new edition, "as indispensable to the professional as it is accessible to the general reader"--a fundamental companion for students of Homer and Homeric Greece.**

**A biography of Gaius Valerius Catullus, Rome's first great poet, a dandy who fell in love with another man's wife and made it known to the world through his verse. This superb book gives a rare portrait of life during one of the most critical moments in world history through the eyes of one of Rome's greatest writers. Living through the debauchery, decadence and political**

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**machinations of the crumbling Great Republic, Gaius Valerius Catullus's fervent poetry was filled with emotion, wit and lurid insight into some of the republic's most enduring figures. In his own scandalous love affairs brimmed all the decadence, debauchery and spectacle of his time. Born in Verona in c. 82BC, Catullus's name remains famous after two thousand years for the sharp, immediate poetry with which he skewered society in the great Republic. From mocking political Rome's sparring titans Pompey, Crassus and his father's friend, Julius Caesar to his**



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wry observations of cavorting youths, money-grabbing brothel-keepers or slaves who knew too much, Catullus was a reckless forefather of social satire. But it was by his erotic, scandalous but tender love elegies that he became known, remaining a monumental figure of reference for poets from Ovid and Virgil onwards. Tracing his journey across youth and experience, from Verona to Rome, Bithynia to Lake Garda, Daisy Dunn rediscovers the world of Catullus's passions. She explores the adventures at sea described by his breathless syllables, the private dinners, love's trysts and power

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**games all amid the trembling death of the Roman republic, written with a wit and energy that Catullus would surely have enjoyed.**

**A new installment of the author's rewritten translation of Homer's Iliad covers the first clash of the armies, in which the doomed Hector achieves the height of his powers during the rise of the Greek army. Reprint.**

**Taking readers on an extraordinary journey through mythical and modern landscapes, the author of a celebrated column for The Sunday Telegraph explores the places forever haunted by their Homeric heroes and reveals the**

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**real roots of Homeric  
consciousness.**

**Catullus' Bedspread**

**In Her Own Words**

**Heroism, Duty, and Nelson's  
Battle of Trafalgar**

**An Island Life in the Hebrides**

**Homer: Iliad Book XVIII**

**The Artistry of the Homeric  
Simile**

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EXPERT SERIES 'Brought

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REVEALED - Was there really a

Trojan War? - What makes a

Homeric hero? - How did Odysseus

defeat the Cyclops? IMMERSE

yourself in the epic adventures of the

Ancient Greek gods and heroes. Filled

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with daring feats, battles and terrifying monsters, the poems and the stories told within them raise complex questions about fate, death and forgiveness that are still debated today. **MIGHTY HEROES AND MEDDLING GODS** Written by the winner of the Classical Association Prize 2020, Daisy Dunn's *Homer* is a fascinating introduction to these ancient stories and their truly timeless themes.

Book 18 of the *Iliad* is an outstanding example of the range and power of Homeric epic. It describes the reaction of the hero Achilles to the death of his closest friend, and his decision to re-enter the conflict even though it means he will lose his own

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life. The book also includes the forging of the marvellous shield for the hero by the smith-god Hephaestus: the images on the shield are described by the poet in detail, and this description forms the archetypal ecphrasis, influential on many later writers. In an extensive introduction, R. B. Rutherford discusses the themes, style and legacy of the book. The commentary provides line-by-line guidance for readers at all levels, addressing linguistic detail and larger questions of interpretation. A substantial appendix considers the relation between Iliad 18 and the Babylonian Epic of Gilgamesh, which has been prominent in much recent discussion.

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"Adam Nicolson writes popular books as popular books used to be, a breeze rather than a scholarly sweat, but humanely erudite, elegantly written, passionately felt...and his excitement is contagious."—James Wood, *The New Yorker*

Adam Nicolson sees the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* as the foundation myths of Greek—and our—consciousness, collapsing the passage of 4,000 years and making the distant past of the Mediterranean world as immediate to us as the events of our own time. *Why Homer Matters* is a magical journey of discovery across wide stretches of the past, sewn together by the poems themselves and their metaphors of life and trouble. Homer's poems occupy,

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as Adam Nicolson writes "a third space" in the way we relate to the past: not as memory, which lasts no more than three generations, nor as the objective accounts of history, but as epic, invented after memory but before history, poetry which aims "to bind the wounds that time inflicts." The Homeric poems are among the oldest stories we have, drawing on deep roots in the Eurasian steppes beyond the Black Sea, but emerging at a time around 2000 B.C. when the people who would become the Greeks came south and both clashed and fused with the more sophisticated inhabitants of the Eastern Mediterranean. The poems, which ask the eternal questions about the

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individual and the community, honor and service, love and war, tell us how we became who we are.

This book demonstrates how Homeric poetry manages to confer significance on persons and actions, interpreting the world and the lives of the people who inhabit it. Taking central themes like characterization, death, and the gods, the author argues that current ideas of the limitations of "oral poetry" are unreal, and that Homer embodies a view of the world both unique and profound.

Book XXIV

Homer and the Poetics of Hades

All Day Permanent Red

Memorial

The Historic Address to Congress of



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Henry Highland Garnet

Adam Nicolson explores the marine life inhabiting seashore rockpools with a scientist's curiosity and a poet's wonder in this beautifully illustrated book. The sea is not made of water. Creatures are its genes. Look down as you crouch over the shallows and you will find a periwinkle or a prawn, a claw-displaying crab or a cluster of anemones ready to meet you. No need for binoculars or special stalking skills: go to the rocks and the living will say hello. Inside each rock pool tucked

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into one of the infinite crevices of the tidal coastline lies a rippling, silent, unknowable universe. Below the stillness of the surface course different currents of endless motion—the ebb and flow of the tide, the steady forward propulsion of the passage of time, and the tiny lifetimes of the rock pool's creatures, all of which coalesce into the grand narrative of evolution. In *Life Between the Tides*, Adam Nicolson investigates one of the most revelatory habitats on earth. Under his microscope, we see a prawn's head become a medieval helmet and a group of

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“winkles” transform into a Dickensian social scene, with mollusks munching on Stilton and glancing at their pocket watches. Or, rather, is a wrinkle more like Achilles, an ancient hero, throwing himself toward death for the sake of glory? For Nicolson, who writes “with scientific rigor and a poet’s sense of wonder” (The American Scholar), the world of the rock pools is infinite and as intricate as our own. As Nicolson journeys between the tides, both in the pools he builds along the coast of Scotland and through the timeline of scientific discovery, he is accompanied

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by great thinkers—no one can escape the pull of the sea. We meet Virginia Woolf and her Waves; a young T. S. Eliot peering into his own rock pool in Massachusetts; even Nicolson's father-in-law, a classical scholar who would hunt for amethysts along the shoreline, his mind on Heraclitus and the other philosophers of ancient Greece. And, of course, scientists populate the pages; not only their discoveries, but also their doubts and errors, their moments of quiet observation and their thrilling realizations. Everything is within the rock pools, where you can look beyond your own

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