

- I. Epithet encourages the reader to hone the story and narrows the perspective through time. This can signify multiple different events, but the ones chosen here are the journey/homecoming moments and significant moments in the plot that are both good and bad.
 - A. “Homer and Ancient Narrative Time” Kahane
 1. Understanding of the “right” time to do something, connections with mortality
 2. Creates a visual image and also reinforces the immortality of sunrise and sunset.
 - a) The idea of immortality and deification with respect to time creates a natural dichotomy between immortal gods and mortal humans
 - b) “Epic narrative action is inseparable from the existential limitedness of mortal time. Needless to say, such action resonates beyond a hero’s lifespan, but only and precisely because of the limitedness of mortality” (15) - the inclusion of specific time points in the *Odyssey* gives meaning to actions because mortality gives meaning to actions
 - B. “Sunrise, Sunset: hmos in Homeric Epic” Radin
 1. Homer uses ἥμος when a daily action is repeated unlike many later poets who use it interchangeably with ἡνίκα and ὅτε
 2. “In Homer, ἥμος always connects a recurring point in cyclical time to a specific moment in the linear narrative” (293)
 3. Can be used to argue: the epithet is used when focusing in on a narrow point in time to emphasize moments in the plot. Significant moments demonstrating a pivotal scene important for later consequences in the story or for reincorporating the idea of nostos
 - C. “Tracking the Odyssey’s Plot through Dawn’s Epithets” Hartwick
 1. Spondee in the first foot of Formula 1 (ἥμος δ’ ἡριγένεια φάνη ῥοδοδάκτυλος Ἥως) emphasizes the epithet
 2. Epithet refocuses the audience by closing the previous part of the story and introducing the next
 3. ῥοδοδάκτυλος is generally used more consistently and frequently than any other instance of dawn in the *Odyssey*
 - D. Throughout the *Odyssey*, there are portions where time is largely skipped over within Odysseus’ flashbacks. Because it is telling a story that progresses over the course of multiple years, rosy-fingered Dawn urges the audience to situate themselves within a very narrow point of the story. This emphasizes the elements

of the story leading up to and directly after the epithet much more than if the epithet had been omitted.

II. Case Studies

A. Book 2.1-5, 2.40-44

1. Context: Telemachus has called for an assembly to discuss the search for his father.
2. At that time, early-born, rosy-fingered Dawn appeared / The dear son of Odysseus was rousing from bed / While putting on his garments, around his shoulder, he put his sharp sword, / Underneath his smooth feet, he tied on beautiful sandals / He walked to go from his bedroom, god-like in presence
3. At this point in the narrative, people are beginning to question who called the assembly. Telemachus responds, “O old man, this man is not far away, soon you will know him. / (The man) who called the people together is me: great distress has come. / I have not heard any message of an army coming, / Which I may say to you plainly, whenever I might learn (of it) first, at any rate. / Nor (is there) any other public matter I am communicating or telling of, / But it is my need (of myself)
4. In this instance, the Telemachy is about to begin, and the use of ῥοδοδάκτυλος Ἥως is calling to attention Telemachus’ journey. The Telemachy is a significant point in the story in that it spans over nearly half the work. While the Odyssey tells the story of Odysseus’ homecoming, it also details Telemachus’ character growth and process into becoming an adult. The use of the epithet here is a starting point for the long-awaited Telemachy.

B. Book 4.331-37

1. Context: Menelaus talking about his journey home, and how he was able to trick Proteus into changing the winds so he could return to Greece was Egypt
2. At that time, early-born, rosy-fingered dawn appeared / And then, of course, by the heaped shore of the wide-wayed sea / I was supplicating many gods, but I was leading three comrades, / With whom I had trusted greatly for all undertakings. / Meanwhile, the goddess, having plunged into the wide gulf of the sea, / Brought up the skins of four seals from the sea: / They were all newly stripped off: she was contriving a trap for her father.
3. This introduces a pivotal part of the plot for Menelaus’ own nostos. I believe that using the epithet in this instance was a way to narrow the audience’s perspective but also to possibly foreshadow the necessity of divine powers aiding Odysseus’ nostos, specifically Leucothea’s help.

C. Book 9.431-443

1. Context: Odysseus and his men have been in Polyphemus' cave for a couple days by this point, and Odysseus is looking for a way out. He ties his men to the stomachs of the livestock and, having no one to tie him, is forced to hang on when the ram makes to leave the cave.
2. ...But me, at least, / For there was a ram, the best by far of all the flocks, / Having grasped his back (and) curled up underneath his shaggy stomach, / I lay: but having twisted of the abundant wool with my hands, / I clung unceasingly with an enduring heart / So then, lamenting, we awaited the divine Dawn. / At that time, early-born, rosy-fingered Dawn appeared, / And then the males of the flocks sped forth to pasture, / the female sheep were bleating unmilked around their pens, / For their udders were full to bursting. The master, being afflicted with bad pains, / Was touching the backs of all sheep, / Standing upright: the thing the fool did not see was / That (for him) (my comrades) had been bound to the chests underneath the woolly-fleeced sheep.
3. This is a pivotal moment for Odysseus. Again the epithet is a sign to the audience that an important moment in the story is going to happen. Rather than the instances of the epithet earlier in the book where they might have been used to build up the anticipation of the event, this use of the epithet is one of the climatic moments that leads to Odysseus' escape.

D. Book 12.316-24

1. Context: Odysseus and his men have reached an island where the cattle of the sun god reside. Odysseus warns them to not eat the cattle, and because the winds are not able to take them away from the island, they are forced to stay there. Odysseus' men eat the cattle and soon pay for it with their lives.
2. At that time, early-born, rosy-fingered Dawn appeared, / On the one hand, we drew the ships on shore, drawing into a hollow cave. / On the other hand, there were beautiful dancing-places and seats of nymphs: / And then, I, setting up assembly, spoke a speech among (them), / "O friends, for there is food and drink on the swift ship, / Let us keep our hands off of the cattle, lest something evil befalls us: / For these cows and well-grown flocks are of the / Awe-inspiring god, Helios, who surveys all and hears all." / So I was saying, their courageous heart yielded.
3. This serves as a precursor to the suffering that will befall Odysseus and his men. Similarly to how I believe the epithet was used for anticipatory moments in book 9, I believe this is in the same vein. Though there is only one instance of the epithet being used here. It is also a precursor to a tragedy for Odysseus and his men.

E. Book 15.189-193

1. Telemachus is ready to begin his journey home, and he is eager to reach Ithaca as soon as he can. He coerces the son of Nestor to lie for him, so he can sail away sooner.
2. When early-born, rosy-fingered Dawn appeared, / They had their horses yoked and went on the ornamented chariots, / They drove from the gateway and echoing portico: / He whipped (the horses) to drive, thus they ran unrestrained. / Then, they quickly came to the steep city of Pylos.
3. This section shows Telemachus' symmetry with Odysseus because both are longing for home, and it reinforces the idea of nostos. It also demonstrates Telemachus' similarities to Odysseus through his use of trickery. Again, rosy-fingered Dawn is being used here as a signal for the reader to focus in and recalls the importance of nostos to the *Odyssey* as a whole.