



ULYSSES

XIII

Nausicaa

Initial Notes

- Linati Schema:
 - 8-9 p.m.
 - Significance: the projected mirage
 - Organ: eye; nose
- Characters from *Dubliners*:
 - Joe Hynes
- This episode is written in the style of a romantic novel, inspired by *The Lamplighter* by Maria Cummins (1854) whose protagonist is named Gerty. “...she read in that book *The Lamplighter* by Miss Cummins...” The perspective is initially focused on Gerty, but then the second half of the episode reveals the parallax of the events from Bloom’s eyes.

Nausicaa (Homeric) Allusions

[there are many with Gerty and Bloom as well]

- “...who is in her pure radiance a beacon ever to the stormtossed heart of man, Mary, star of the sea.” While this is a church, the reference also applies to the beautiful Nausicaa who rescued Odysseus when he washed up on shore, alone. The church is referenced throughout, contrasting the sinful thoughts/actions of the characters.
- This episode takes place at the beach where Gerty and the other girls are when Bloom comes across them. This is similar to Odysseus washing ashore while Nausicaa and her maidens are washing their clothes by the sea.
- “...brown bread with **golden** syrup on...baby was as good as **gold**...no exception to this **golden** rule.” There are multiple references to gold; Nausicaa was a princess.
- “...her rosebud mouth was a genuine Cupid’s bow, Greekly perfect.”
- “Had kind fate but willed her to be born a gentlewoman of high degree...exquisitely gowned with jewels on her brow and patrician suitors at her feet vying with one another to pay their devoirs to her.” This contrasts with Nausicaa, daughter of King Alcinous of Phaeacia.

Nausicaa (Homeric) Allusions

[there are many with Gerty and Bloom as well]

- “But Gerty’s crowning glory was her wealth of wonderful hair.”
- “...he who would woo and win Gerty MacDowell must be a man among men.” This is similar to Nausicaa’s wish that Odysseus would woo and court her.
- “...Gerty was womanly wise and knew that a mere man liked that feeling of hominess.” Odysseus was seeking his home of Ithaca when he washed ashore.
- “Yes, it was her he was looking at and there was meaning in his look. His eyes burned into her as though they would search her through and through, read her very soul. Wonderful eyes they were, superbly expressive, but could you trust them?” ...
“...he was a foreigner...” Allusion to Odysseus spying on Nausicaa.
- “...one of the candles was just going to set fire to the flowers...” Fire (passion) for Mr. Flower (Bloom). Nausicaa, in Greek, means “burner of ships.”
- “...the nobleman with the foreign name from the land of song...” Like Odysseus.

Nausicaa (Homeric) Allusions

[there are many with Gerty and Bloom as well]

- “Sometimes away for ears at the ends of the earth somewhere. No ends really because it’s round.”
- “Why me? Because you were so foreign from the others.” Bloom reflects on what Molly found attractive in him. This was also a fascination of Nausicaa towards Odysseus.
- “He flung his wooden pen away. The stick fell in silted sand, stuck.” Hint of phallus and Penelope reference.
- “She put an arm round the little mariner and coaxed winningly:
 - What’s your name?” This is reminiscent of Nausicaa and Odysseus, though here it is Cissy Caffrey and little Master Tommy.

Gerty

- “...you have a beautiful face but your nose?” ...“As per usual somebody’s nose was out of joint...he was undeniably handsome with an exquisite nose...” Gerty is self-conscious of her nose.
- “They were protestants in his family and of course Gerty knew Who came first and after Him the blessed Virgin and then Saint Joseph.” Gerty is Catholic and the boy she likes is protestant so it won’t work out.
- “She was wearing the blue for luck...the old pair on her inside out and that was for luck...” Gerty is superstitious and wishing to attract a man.
- “...grandpa Giltrap’s lovely dog Garryowen...” Gerty is the granddaughter of Giltrap, the owner of Garryowen, the mangy dog from the previous episode.
- “...she could not see whether he had an aquiline nose or a slightly *retroussé* from where he was sitting.” (turned up – French). Gerty is superficially looking at Bloom’s nose.

Gerty

- “His dark eyes fixed themselves on her again and drinking in her every contour, literally worshipping at her shrine.” Odysseus claimed that Nausicaa resembled the goddess Artemis.
- “Perhaps it was an old flame he was in mourning for from the days beyond recall.” Gerty sees Bloom dressed in black from Dignam’s funeral. However, Bloom is also in mourning for Molly as she has already had her affair; similarly, Penelope was mourning for her lost Odysseus.
- “She’s lame! O!

Mr Bloom watched her as she limped away. Poor girl...A defect is ten times worse in a woman...Glad I didn’t know it when she was on show.”

Bloom notices that Gerty has a limp and finds this unattractive. He wouldn’t have fantasized about her if he had known this.

Bloom

- “...she was sure the gentleman opposite heard what she said.” Bloom, alone on the beach, stands off in the distance but is seen by Gerty watching her. Odysseus, too, spied on Nausicaa and her maidens from afar.
- “The gentleman aimed the ball once or twice and then threw it up the strand toward Cissy Caffrey but it rolled down the slope and stopped right under Gerty’s skirt near the little pool by the rock.” Unlike Odysseus, Bloom is a terrible thrower. And the pool by the rock where Gerty sits is similar to where Nausicaa and her maidens were washing their clothes when Odysseus spied on them. “I never could throw anything straight at school.”
- “...who had erred and wandered...” Bloom and Odysseus.
- “...she had raised the devil in him...she could see him take his hand out of his pocket, getting nervous...” Bloom is discreetly masturbating to Gerty from behind a rock. After Cissy asked Bloom for the time, he “put his hands back into his pockets.”

Bloom

- “...a man of inflexible honour to his fingertips.” Ironic given what he is doing in his pockets. “His hands and face were working...she seemed to hear the panting of his heart, his hoarse breathing.”
- “...he had erred and sinned and wandered.” Like Odysseus.
- “That was their secret, only theirs, alone in the hiding twilight and there was none to know or tell...” Odysseus never told Penelope of Nausicaa.
- “Damned glad I didn’t do it in the bath this morning over her silly I will punish you letter.” Bloom is happy that he didn’t waste masturbating earlier in the novel over Martha Clifford’s letter when he was in the bath in episode 5.
- “Felt for the curves inside her *deshabillé*.” (*negligée* – French) Bloom likes curves.
- “Nuns with whitewashed faces, cool coif and their rosaries going up and down, vindictive too for what they can’t get. Barbed wire.” Bloom theorizes that nuns are strict because of their lack of sex and compares their rosary beads with barbed wire.

Bloom

- “Funny my watch stopped at half past four...Was that just when he, she?

O, he did. Into her. She did. Done.

Ah!” Bloom’s watch stopped at about when Boylan and Molly were having their affair.

- “Molly, lieutenant Mulvey that kissed her under the Moorish wall beside the gardens. Fifteen she told me. But her breasts were developed.” Bloom thinks of Molly’s first love.
- “When I said to Molly the man at the corner of Cuffe street was goodlooking, thought she might like...” A part of Bloom gets a thrill out of being cuckolded...so did Joyce. Nora once told family friend Frank Budgen that Joyce asked her to flirt with other men while he watched so it would give him something to write.
- “Best place for an ad to catch a woman’s eye on a mirror.” Bloom, ever the ad man.
- “Never went back and the soap not paid.” Bloom remembers he never paid for the lemon soap still in his pocket.

Bloom

- “Homerule sun setting in the southeast. My native land, goodnight.” Is Bloom referring to Ireland? Both Israel and Hungary are southeast of Ireland.
- “Nightstock in Mat Dillon;s garden where I kissed her shoulder. Wish I had a full length oilpainting of her then. June that was too I wooed. The year returns. History repeats itself.” Joyce wooed Nora in June and their first date was June 16th, the day of the novel.
- “Pray for us. And pray for us. And pray for us. Good idea the repetition. Same thing with ads. Buy from us. And buy from us.” Bloom, ever the ad man.
- “Dreamt last night? Wait. Something confused. She had red slippers on. Turkish. Wore the breeches.” This dream of Bloom’s appears again in the novel.
- “I...Am. A...No room. Let it go.” The reader never knows what message Bloom was planning on writing in the sand to Gerty. “Hopeless thing sand. Nothing grows in it.”

The Romance Novel

- “Here was that of which she had so often dreamed. It was he who mattered and there was joy on her face because she wanted him because she felt instinctively that he was like no-one else. The very heart of the girlwoman went out to him, her dreamhusband, because she knew on that instant it was him.”
- “She was glad that something told her to put on the transparent stockings...” ...
“Three and eleven she paid for those stockings...and that was what he was looking at, transparent...” Gerty wore transparent stockings which Bloom also comments on. Ironically, their yearning is rather transparent in its obviousness; however, neither Bloom nor Gerty are behaving transparently toward one another as both are attempting to portray themselves as an idealized version of themselves.

The Romance Novel

- The climax: “And she saw a long Roman candle going up over the trees up, up, and, in the tense hush, they were all breathless with excitement as it went higher and higher and she had to lean back more and more to look up after, high, high, almost out of sight...And then the rocket sprang and bang shot blind and O! then the Roman candle burst and it was like a sigh of O! and everyone cried O! O! in raptures and it gusted out of it a stream of rain gold hair threads and they shed and ah! they were all greeny dewy stars falling with golden, O so lovely! O so soft, sweet, soft!”

Miscellaneous

- “Think you’re escaping and run into yourself. Longest way round is the shortest way home.”
- “Gabriel Conroy’s brother is curate.” The Father Conroy at the nearby church is mistaken by Bloom for Gabriel Conroy’s brother (from “The Dead”) who is curate in Balbriggan.
- “Call to the hospital to see. Hope she’s over.” Bloom thinks of Mrs. Purefoy’s labor and wishes to visit the hospital. This sets up the next episode.
- “Mr Bloom stopped and turned over a piece of paper on the strand. He brought it near his eyes and peered. Letter? No. Can’t read.” This is a piece of paper Stephen ripped from Deasy’s letter to write his poem on from earlier in the novel (episode 3).

Miscellaneous

- “*Cuckoo.*

Cuckoo.

Cuckoo.

Because it was a little canarybird that came out of its little house to tell the time that Gerty Macdowell noticed the time she was there because she was as quick anything about a thing like that, was Gerty MacDowell, and she noticed at once that **the foreign gentleman that was sitting on the rocks looking was**

Cuckoo.

Cuckoo.

Cuckoo.”

A canary bird would have its eggs replaced by a cuckoo bird in the nest, symbolic of Boylan replacing Bloom in the marital bed. Canaries are songbirds, like Molly the singer. The last line implied that Bloom was cuckolded. And just as a cuckoo bird can imitate other bird calls, Joyce will imitate the writing styles of writers throughout English history in the next episode.

