

# Polytropos

In Homer's *Odyssey* 1 and Hebrews 1

The fifth word of the *Odyssey* is the third word of Hebrews. Discuss.

## Opening lines of the *Odyssey*:

andra moi ennepe, mousa, polutropon, hos mala polla  
ἄνδρα μοι ἔννεπε, μοῦσα, πολύτροπον, ὃς μάλα πολλά  
Man to me sing muse, of many turns, who evils many

Plankthe, epei Troies hieron ptoliethron epersen

πλάγχθη, ἐπεὶ Τροίης ἱερὸν πτολίεθρον ἔπερσεν:  
suffered after of Troy sacred citadel sacked

Pollon d' anthropon iden astea kai noon egno

πολλῶν δ' ἀνθρώπων ἴδεν ἄστεα καὶ νόον ἔγνω,  
of many men he saw towns and minds learned

Polla d' ho g' en ponto pathen algae hon kata thumon

πολλά δ' ὃ γ' ἐν πόντῳ πάθεν ἄλγεα ὃν κατὰ θυμόν,  
many things he in sea suffered pains in his spirit

## Opening lines of Hebrews:

Polymerōs kai polytropōs palai ho Theos lalēsas tois  
1 Πολυμερῶς καὶ πολυτρόπως, πάλαι ὁ Θεὸς λαλήσας τοῖς  
In many portions and in many ways long ago - God having spoken to the

patrasin en tois prophētais ep' eschatou tōn hēmerōn toutōn  
πατράσιν ἐν τοῖς προφήταις, 2 ἐπ' ἐσχάτου τῶν ἡμερῶν τούτων  
fathers in the prophets in last - days these

elalēsen hēmin en Huiō hon ethēken klēronomon pantōn  
ἐλάλησεν ἡμῖν ἐν Υἱῷ, ὃν ἔθηκεν κληρονόμον πάντων,  
has spoken to us in [His] Son whom He appointed heir of all things