The Last Word

Dialogue 24. The Hero as Savior.

I. Word of the Day - Sôtêr – ‘savior’
   a. Derivative: sôtêria
      i. Safety, salvation

II. Anti – Heroes
   a. Socrates
   b. Figure of Jesus in the Gospel according to Mark.
      i. Heroic Deeds
      ii. Empty Tomb
         1. Signature of how Jesus narrative is different than hero
            narrative. There is no longer an emphasis on the corpse
            as a talisman of fertility and prosperity for the
            community.

III. Mythos – G - Myth
   a. A reason to save myth.
      i. A myth makes a hero.
   b. Plato’s agenda
      i. To replace Homer.

IV. Myth of Er
a. Socrates “and the myth was saved.”

   i. As if from shipwreck/drowning

V. Aristotle muses about becoming ever more solitary in old age and becoming ever more fond of *muthos.*

VI. Orpheus

   a. Key to immortality

      i. Does it through music

         ii. “Old-fashioned” myth compared to Homer

VII. 5 Scenarios of Immortalization After Death

   a. Jumping from a white rock to the watery depths below. You drown and come back up for air as an immortal.

      i. Ino/Leukothea: HANG ON TO THAT VEIL! (*Odyssey v*)

   b. Engulfment by the earth.

      i. Amphiaraos traveling by chariot from Thebes to Argos.

         1. Earth opens up and engulfs the chariot and horses and hero.


      i. Hera gives him birth all over again on Mt. Olympus.

         1. Rebirth

   d. Sniffing Flowers in the Meadow, Gust of wind carries you to the ocean (Okeanos) and throws you where the sun sets. Therefore you rise again with the sun as an Immortal.

      i. Phaethon
e. Nostos.

i. Special kind of homecoming

1. A return to light and life.

a. Ex. Memnon – Racially Black Hero

i. Dies in the Aithiopis: song of the Ethiopians.

ii. Rises with the sun.

VIII. Passage B.

a. Achilles is a burst of flame ("Halo.")

b. His spirit will save the city.

i. Warp spasm wrath?

ii. Sign of salvation?

iii. Sign of destruction?

IX. Passage C.

a. Achilles’ Shield is like a lighthouse.

b. He helps the Achaeans (and later Greeks) every time they are lost at sea.

X. Passage D.

a. Tomb of Achilles – Sêma

i. Physically a lighthouse

1. Light of salvation, victory on the battlefield.

ii. Located at the Hellespont.

iii. Built by the Argives.
b. Sunlight reflected from bronze becomes stronger than it was before.

XI. Shaw Bronze Statue across from the Massachusetts State House.
   a. All black infantry.
   b. On Summer Solstice – At sunset the light hits only the faces of Shaw and his men.

XII. Focus Passage E.
   a. The Persian Fleet suffers a shipwreck from a wind from the Hellespont.
      i. Sent from Achilles.
      ii. In order to appease the wind, the native Greeks suggest to the Persian Magi to sing to Thetis, Achilles’ mother.
      iii. Achilles was begotten at the exact spot of the shipwreck.
         1. Thetis – the ultimate shape shifter.
         2. A cuttlefish (sepia) is also the ultimate shape shifter.
         3. Achilles
            a. The son that Zeus never had.
      iv. Drowning is everything in today’s lecture.

XIII. Clip from The Piano
   a. Professor Nagy – “A quirky movie.”
   b. Warriors in New Zealand.
      i. Take a woman, her daughter and a piano.
      ii. They throw the piano overboard
         1. Rope connects to women’s leg, she almost wants to die.
2. Then she ends up making it back to the surface.

XIV. Logos – The Word
   a. Socrates “Don’t cut your hair for me”
   b. Cut it if the word dies on us.

XV. Nostos – the homecoming.

XVI. T.S. Eliot

XVII. Alexander The Great
   a. Mummified in Egypt.
   b. His Mummy was called sôma (body) = sêma (tomb).
      i. Like Achilles.

XVIII. Yukuna – the name of the culture means “myth”
   a. If the myths aren’t true then it’s not worth being part of the culture.