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The Odyssey Test: Central Idea- *Death at the Palace*

It is my opinion that the central idea of *Death at the Palace* is revenge. To begin, evidence from the text asserts that Odysseus shoots Antinous with an arrow to the throat, which immediately kills him (Homer, line 1785). This demonstrates that Odysseus is obviously angry with Antinous, which makes sense because he made romantic advances towards Penelope while he was gone. To make his situation worse, Antinous threw a stool at Odysseus while he was still disguised as a beggar and ridiculed him by calling him a “bleary vagabond, a pest, and a tramp”, which would make anyone have a personal vendetta against him. As a result of Antinous’s foolish actions, Odysseus gets his revenge on him by rewarding him with a gruesome, swift death. Furthermore, according to the text, Odysseus gives his wife’s suitors a lecture about their cowardice (Homer, lines 1805- 1811). This confirms that Odysseus, as expected, held a grudge over the men who hoped to marry Penelope and murder his son. Odysseus felt as if these men had betrayed him and calls them cowards for only attempting to commit these deeds while he was gone. I believe that Odysseus acted irrationally, only focusing on getting his revenge on the suitors in the present, and not paying attention to what the suitors’ deaths could cause in the present. To conclude, the central idea for *Death at the Palace* is revenge.