

Text 1: The *agorē* of the Laistrygones

οἱ δ' ἐπεὶ εἰσηλθόν κλυτὰ δώματα, τὴν δὲ γυναῖκα
εὖρον, ὄσσην τ' ὄρεος κορυφὴν, κατὰ δ' ἔστυγον αὐτήν.

ἡ δ' αἶψ' ἐξ ἀγορῆς ἐκάλει κλυτὸν Ἀντιφατῆα,
ὄν πόσιν, ὃς δὴ τοῖσιν ἐμήσατο λυγρὸν ὄλεθρον.

αὐτίχ' ἕνα μάρψας ἐτάρων ὠπλίσσατο δεῖπνον:

τῷ δὲ δὴ αἶξαντε φυγῆ ἐπὶ νῆας ἰκέσθην.

αὐτὰρ ὁ τεῦχε βοῆν διὰ ἄστεος: οἱ δ' αἶοντες

φοίτων ἴφθιμοι Λαιστρυγόνες ἄλλοθεν ἄλλος,

μυρίοι, οὐκ ἄνδρεςσιν εἰκότες, ἀλλὰ Γίγασιν.

οἳ ῥ' ἀπὸ πετράων ἀνδραχθεῖσι χερμαδίοισι

βάλλον: ἄφαρ δὲ κακὸς κόναβος κατὰ νῆας ὀρώρει

ἀνδρῶν ὀλλυμένων νηῶν θ' ἅμα ἀγνυμενάων:

And when they entered the famous home, his wife

they did find, as big as a mountain peak, and they loathed her.

And she at once began calling for famous Antiphatēs from the *agorē*,

her husband, who indeed devised sheer destruction for them.

Immediately he snatched up one of my companions and prepared his meal,

and the two darted off in flight and reached the ships.

But he raised a cry through the city, and they darted up,

the powerful Laistrygones, and began roaming around, from one side to the other,

myriads of them, not like men, but like Giants.

They indeed from the rocks with boulders as large as a man can carry

hit their mark; and an evil din rose up around the ships

of men perishing and ships being shattered.

Odyssey 10.112-123

Text 2: The *agorē*-less Kuklopes

τοῖσιν δ' οὔτ' ἀγοραὶ βουλευφόροι οὔτε θέμιστες,

ἀλλ' οἳ γ' ὑψηλῶν ὀρέων ναίουσι

ἐν σπέσσι γλαφυροῖσι, θεμιστεύει δὲ ἕκαστος

παίδων ἢ δ' ἀλόχων, οὐδ' ἀλλήλων ἀλέγουσι.

there are neither council-bearing *agorai* nor ordinances,

but they in lofty mountains dwell,

in hollow caves, and each determines the rules

for his children and wives, nor do they care for one another.

Odyssey 9.112-115

Table 1: Features of the “polis complex” in early Greek epic communities

parentheses=indicated by inference or periphrasis

WD= Works and Days; As = Hesiodic Aspis; Cat = Hesiodic Catalogue; HH = Homeric Hymn

place	agorē	temple	wall
Askrē	WD		
Athēnai		Ath-Il (Od)	
Dēlos (not a polis)		Ap-Od, HH3	
Delphoi (Putho) (not a polis)		Ap-HH3, Od (Il)	
Eleusis	HH2	Dem-HH2	HH2
Gortun			Il
Ithakē	Od		
Kaludon			Il
Khrusē		Ap-Il	
Lurnessos			Il
Olumpos (not exactly a polis)	Il (Od), As		Il
Paphos		Aphr-Od, HH5	
Pheia			Il
Pulos	Od		Cat
Skheriē (Phaiēkes)	Od	Pos-Od	Od
Suriē (Eumaios)	(Od)		
Tēlepulos (Laistrugones)	Od		
Thēbai (Boiotia)			Od, Cat
Thēbai (Egypt)			Il
Thēbē (Troad)			Il
Troiē	Il, Od	Ath-Il, Ap-Il (Z-Il)	Il
camp of Akhaioi at Troiē	Il		Il
Akhilleus’ Shield: City at Peace	Il		
Akhilleus’ Shield: City at War	Il		Il
Herakles’ Shield: City at Peace			As
Herakles’ Shield: City at War			As

Table 2: Archaeological Evidence for an *agora* in Archaic Greek communities

Site	Dating	Related Features	References
Dreros (Crete)	8 th c	temple (Ap)	Coldstream, Demargne
Lato (Crete)	7 th c	public buildings	Perlman
Gortyn (Crete)	7 th c		Martin
Amnisos (Crete)	8 th c	shrine (Zeus)	Mazarakis Ainian
Phaistos (Crete)	7 th c (?)		Sjogren
Prinias (Crete)	7 th c (?)		Sjogren
Megara Hyblaia (Sicily)	7 th c	grid	Di Vita, De Angelis
Selinous (Sicily)	7 th c	public buildings	De Angelis
Syracuse (Sicily)	7 th c		Kenzler
Metapontion (S. Italy)	7 th c		Adamesteanu
Thasos (Aegean)	7 th c (?)		Osborne
Zagora (Andros)	8 th c	shrine/temple (Ath)	Cambitoglou
Emporio (Chios)	7 th c	megaron	Boardman
Old Smyrna (Ionia)	8 th c (?)		Boardman, Nicholls
Thera	7 th c (?)		Martin
Koukounaries (Paros)	7 th c	temple (Ath)	Schilardi
Oikonomos (Paros)	7 th c	wall	Schilardi
Vroulia (Rhodes)	7 th c	wall, shrines/temple	Whitley
Thebes (Boiotia)	8 th /7 th c		Symeonoglou
Eretria (Euboia)	7 th c (?)		Walker
Argos	7 th c (?)		Kenzler
Sparta	6 th c (?)		Martin
Thorikos (Attika)	6 th c		Kenzler
Athens	8 th /7 th c (?)		Papadopoulos
Corinth	7 th c (?)		Whitley

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