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harpercollins is proud to present its new range of best loved essential classics alas that mortals should blame the gods from us they say all evils come yet they themselves it is who through defiant deeds bring sorrow on them far more sorrow than fate would have them bear attributed to the blind greek poet homer the odyssey is an epic tale about cunning and strength of mind it takes its starting point ten years after the fall of the city of troy and follows its greek warrior hero odysseus as he tries to journey to his home of ithaca in northwest greece after the greek victory over the trojans on his travels odysseus comes across surreal islands and foreign lands where he is in turn challenged and supported by those that he meets on his travels as he attempts to find his way back home in order to vanquish those who threaten his estate in turn his son telemachus has to grow up quickly as he attempts to find his father and protect his mother from her suitors dealing with the universal themes of temptation and courage the epic journey that odysseus undertakes is as meaningful today as it was almost 3 000 years ago when the story was composed

arete and the odyssey's poetics of interrogation explores how the enigmatic phaeacian queen arete is at the heart of an epic scale poetics of interrogation used throughout the odyssey to negotiate odysseus' kleos or epic renown. arete's interrogation of odysseus has been especially problematic in scholarship but diachronic and synchronic analysis of similar interrogations across Indo-European Orphic and Greek epigrammatic corpora show that the stranger's interrogation is a formula that demands performance and negotiation of status within the odyssey. This interrogation is part of an intraformular network used to generate kleos and the queen's question initiates the longest and most complex negotiation of odysseus' status in epic and memory. arete's role as interrogator not only explains her strange authority and resonance with both Penelope and comparative afterlife figures but it also establishes a gendered agonistic tension between she and her husband Alkinoos that influences the structure, genre, and narratology of performances across the Phaeacian episode. This book reinterprets the odyssey's central episode and challenges several assumptions about Nausikaa and Alkinoos' famed hospitality even demonstrating how the apologue is organized as a response to competing inquiries into odysseus' fundamental status in tradition. The odyssey ultimately navigates away from odysseus' public reputation and roots his status in private memories and arete's carefully arranged interventions signal the larger process by which the odyssey immortalizes odysseus in poetry as a nostos hero. The queen and her question invite new applications of oral poetics that shed light on the structure, composition, and reperformance of the odyssey.

#### v 49 epic and saga

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