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***Telemachy: A Mediterranean Initiation?***

Odyssey I–IV: accompanied by Odysseus' old friend Mentor, the young Telemachus goes to Pylos and Sparta to get from Nestor and Menelaos some information on his father's fate.

The "Telemachy" as the first *Bildungsroman*, which inspired Fénelon's *Adventures of Telemachus, Son of Ulysses* (1699), but also as a problem of Homeric philology: it has no close connection with the central plot of the Odyssey and lacks the intrinsic logic. By provoking the suitors and then leaving for a long journey –which will end without result– Telemachus jeopardizes not only himself, but also his fathers' cause.

A Pre-Homeric, independent "Telemachy": the story of young prince making his claim to the throne of his (presumably dead) father against the matriarchal right?

The very purpose of the oversea journey: young prince's initiation into the rituals of ξεινίη, not unlike the Melanesian *Kula* as described by Malinowski?