

Purposes of Homer's Epithets

1. **Origin** ~ "Helen of Argos" (4.205)
2. **Patronym** ~ "Eupithes' son Antinous" (1.440)
3. **Appearance** ~ "red-haired Menelaus" (1.328);
"sparkling-eyed Athena" (1.53)
4. **Skill** ~ "the giant-killer Hermes" (1.46);
"Calypso, the bewitching nymph" (1.16)
5. **Position** ~ "Mentes, lord of the Taphians"
(1.123)
6. **Heroic quality** ~ "godlike Polyphemus" (1.83);
"wise Odysseus" (1.99)