

25. dubna 2015 – ANGLICKÝ JAZYK – RÁNO

Cornelis J. Ruijgh, *The source and the structure of Homer's epic poetry*

The ancient Greeks, including Greek scholars, almost unanimously assigned both the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* to one single great poet named Homer. The *Odyssey* presupposes the existence of the *Iliad*; it contains numerous allusions to the Trojan war, the subject matter of the *Iliad*, whereas allusions to Odysseus' wanderings and return are not found in the *Iliad*. According to the treatise *On Sublime Style*, the best work of literary criticism from Greek Antiquity (1st century AD?), the *Iliad* reflects Homer's prime of life, the *Odyssey* his old age. Only a few dissidents, the so-called *chōrizontes* (separating scholars), who based their opinion on slight discrepancies between the two epics, attributed the *Odyssey* to another poet than that of the *Iliad*. For instance, the island of Crete is said to have one hundred cities in the *Iliad*, whereas their number is ninety in the *Odyssey* (Book 19, line 174). Such trivial arguments were rejected by the large majority of the great Alexandrian philologists, the numbers in question are poetic.

In the 5th century, Herodotus tried to prove that the *Cypria* (Cyprian epic) could not be Homer's work. In the 4th century, Aristotle opposed in his *Poetics* the unity of action characteristic of Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey* to the lack of such unity in epics like the *Cypria* and the *Little Iliad* using expressions like 'the poet of the *Cypria*'.

Otázky k textu:

1. Který z eposů předpokládá existenci toho druhého?
2. Proč přisuzovali oddělovači jiného autora eposu *Ilias* než eposu *Odyseia*?
3. Co je tématem *Iliady*?