



Zeus in the Odyssey.

By MARKS, J.,

Condition: New. Center for Hellenic Studies (Harvard University Press), Cambridge (Mass.) / London, 2008. 175p. Paperback. Series: Hellenic Studies, 31. 'This book makes the case that the plot of the Odyssey is represented within the narrative as a plan of Zeus, Dios boulê, that serves as a guide for the performing poet and as a hermeneutic for the audience. Through occasional participation in events and pervasive influence, the character of Zeus maintains thematic unity as the narrative moves through a mass of potential narrative paths for Odysseus that was already dense and conflicting at the time the Odyssey was taking shape. The 'Zeus-centric' reading proposed here offers fresh perspectives on the tenor of interactions among the Odyssey's characters, on the relationships among traditional accounts of Odysseus' return, and on long-standing problems of interpretation. (Publisher's information). This book is the result of an attempt to read the Odyssey simultaneously as a literary artifact and a political instrument. Its author, Jim Marks, tries to show that Zeus, in the hands of the singer, is the character responsible for giving narrative unity to the poem and establishing a Panhellenic version of the story to the detriment of 'epichoric' (local) traditions. (.) it must..



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