

## **Homer and His Peers**

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It is generally recognized today that the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* lean heavily upon the nomenclature of subjects dealt with in the poems of the Epic Cycle. These textual interrelations between Homer and other traditional poetry are usually being accounted for as indication of their equal status as independent variants within a common tradition. It seems, however, that this approach cannot satisfactorily account for the relation between the Cyclic epics and the poems of Homer. The manner in which the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* handle Trojan subjects allows to suggest that, rather than being just two traditional poems among many, the Homeric poems enjoyed a special status within the tradition to which they belonged.