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Question 2

In Homer's epics, women were not treated in the best way, they were seen as an object of value for men and were not allowed to have a voice of their own. Men, in order to strengthen their masculinity, besides trying to be the strongest and best warriors, also wanted to have the most desired women. Moreover, a great exemplification to show that women were a possession, or an object of value is when Helen is depicted as a booty to be taken along with the treasure once the assembled armies of Greece had taken Troy (her abduction was, after all, the catalyst for the war). A contrast is drawn between the passive role of the wife (Helen) and the active role of her husband (Menelaus), who must enter combat to gain his freedom. In the *Odyssey*, these active and passive roles are maintained, as Odysseus' journey through history and the presence of Penelope are but a prize to be won upon his return. Moreover, it illustrates all the professional ideas discussed above. But as Homer paints his characters, the two characters begin to diverge, Helen serves as a catalyst, while Penelope heralds the return of war. The differences in the role of women in the epic of *Gilgamesh* were that women can be dangerous because their knowledge can make or break depending on how she is approached and how their powers are used. In the ancient stories of *Gilgamesh*, women represent not only great wisdom and strength but also seduction and destruction.