

the macrocosmic (e.g., we are given the latitude and longitude of the reclining Blooms; 606) with the microcosmic (e.g., Bloom's budget for the day; 584) as in the association of the "plump melonous hemispheres" of Molly's rump with the "eastern and western terrestrial hemispheres" of the earth (604). The doubleness of life is conveyed also in the episode's more general practice of treating everyday matters in the stylized manner of logical or scientific analysis. Thus, Bloom does not simply "bump his head" when he enters the front room,

The right temporal lobe of the hollow sphere of his cranium came into contact with a solid timber angle where, an infinitesimal but sensible fraction of a second later, a painful sensation was located in consequence of antecedent sensations transmitted and registered. (579)

There are similar descriptions of Bloom's fall to the pavement on the other side of the railings (546) and of the act of sexual intercourse (602). The effect of this is both comic and exhilarating, mockingly epic and epically mocking at once, as the trivial and the transcendent, the mundane and the miraculous, are placed along a continuum.

In the episode's *reduction* of the novel's focus to two—Bloom and Stephen, and then Molly and Bloom—and in its simultaneous *expansion* of two-ness into a plentitude of images, ideas, and values, it prepares us for the tour de force conclusion of Molly's silent soliloquy, where she is revealed as both single and multitudinous, individual and infinite. This is why one reading of the oversized period or dot that concludes "Ithaca" is that it represents, following the cosmic implications of hemispheres of Molly's rump, both her "posterior rectal orifice" (600) and the very sphere on which all human beings rest, Mother Earth (Molly is described as lying in the attitude of the Gea-Tellus, the Earth-Mother of classical Greco-roman myth), by the "proper perpetual motion" of which we are all of us "carried westward . . . through everchanging tracks of neverchanging space" (606).