*Odyssey* Notes

Book 5: Sweet Nymph and Open Sea

Names to know:

Telemakhos: Song of Odysseus who was left as a baby when Odysseus went to fight in the Trojan War 20 years earlier

Leukothea: Once the mortal Ino, she threw herself into the sea and became the immortal Nereid Leukothea. She helps Odysseus in Book 5.

Kalypso: A daughter of Atlas who lives in Ogýgia and offered a home and immortality to Odysseus when he was shipwrecked. Kalypso, a goddess, is immortal.

Zeus: The father of gods and men

Athena: The goddess of wisdom and a war goddess with a focus on strategy. Athena is Zeus’ favorite daughter.

Hermes: The messenger of the gods, Hermes is clever, tricky, a thief and a god who moves through the air very quickly.

Poseidon: As the god of the sea, of earthquakes, and of horses, he has immense power but is changeable.

Settings: Mount Olympus, home of the Olympian gods

 Ogýgia and Skería, both islands in the Mediterranean

Greek concepts:

* *nostos* (return),
* *xenia (*guest-host relationship),
* *polutropos (*a description meaning “many turnings,” “crafty” and “wandering”
* *agathos* (the nobleman, a successful warrior)

Summary

1-Personification of Dawn

9-Athena to Zesus

 Urges him to let kings be cruel, as men cannot remember the good & merciful O

15-Odysseus is stuck on Kalypso’s island

20-The suitor plan to murder Telemachos on his return voyage from Pylos

24-Zeus- “you-yourself, arrange this matter.” Let his enemies encounter no one…”

32-Zeus to Hermes—tell Kalypso to let Odysseus go home and give him gifts.

48- Hermes puts on his winged sandals and flies to Kalypso’s cave, singing and weaving.

78- Kalypso recognizes him. Hermes doesn’t see Odysseus

90 Kalypso seats Hermes and asks “…what brings you to my island?

98- Kalypso serves Hermes nectar and ambrosia.

103-Hermes says, “Zeus made me come…”

118-Hermes says, still referring to Zeus, “Now the command is: send him back in haste./ His life may not in exile go to waste./ His destiny, his homecoming, is at hand…”

124- Kalypso complains that the god “hat it when we choose to lie with men…” and cites examples.

136-Kalypso notes, “it was I who saved him…”but admits…

144-“But now there’s no eluding Zeus’s will…I say so be it…”

146- Kalypso quibbles, “let the man strike out alone /over the vast water.”

154-Hermes assent, but warns, “show more grace/in our obedience, or be chastised by Zeus.”

156- Kalpyso goes to find Odysseus, and he is weeping:

159 “The sweet days of his life time/were running out in anguish over his exile…”

168-Kalypso to Odysseus: “grieve no more…(171) I shall help you go.” and suggests O make a raft.

175- She will give him bread, water and wine because the gods “who rule side heaven wish it so” (179).

183- Odysseus is suspicious” O goddess, what guile is hidden here?” He knows a raft is not seaworthy.

188- Odysseus: “I take no raft you grudge me out to sea, / Or yield me first a great oath, if I do,/ to work no more enchantment to my harm” (190).

193- Kalypso swears she has “no further spells to work against you.”

200-Kalypso continues,“Fairness is all I think of…my heart is kind.” She leads him to her cave and maids bring food and drink.

212- Kalypso asks why Odysseus wants to return home after all this time with her.

217- She offers Odysseus immortality if her were to stay with her, and questions his love for his wife.

220- “Can I be less desirable than she is…Can mortals compare with goddesses in grace and form?

223- “the strategist” Odysseus replies: (see text, p.87) Penelope will age and die, but you will not. Yet , I long for home. I can handle hardships, if the voyage brings them.

234- They “retire” to the inner cave at dusk.

237-At dawn, Odysseus gets dressed and Kalypso dresses up “in a silvery gown…a golden belt and helped Odysseus prepare to leave. She gave him tools, showed him where the big timber was, and left.

252- Odysseus chops 20 trees and trimmed them to build a ship. Kalypso brings him cloth for a sail and he assembles the rigging.

271- He finished on the fourth day, and on the fifth she bathed him, gave him a scented cloak, food and drink. She conjured a breeze to blow and O left, steering all night by the stars. (to 282)

292-Poseidon spotted Odysseus and “grew sullen” to see that the gods decided to help Odysseus.

300-Poseidon: “Still I can give him a rough ride in, and will.”

301-Poseidon calls up hurricane winds and torrential rain.

309- Odysseus wonders, “is this the end of me?” and fears “I am going down, that’s sure.” He considers that if he had died in battle, he would have a soldier’s burial.

324- A great wave drove him overboard and kept him under for a long time, but he got a handhold on the boat and crouched in the bilge. The winds drove the craft in all directions.

344-Ino/Leukothea, a Nereid saw him, and told him to shed his cloak and swim for the shore of Skheria to find shelter. She gave him her veil, but told him to cast it “far away” when he got to shore.

387- “in perplexity,” Odysseus decides to stay aboard the boat.

378- Poseidon destroyed the boat with a huge wave and Odysseus ditched Kalypso’s cloak, wrapped himself in Ino’s veil and swam for shore.

390- Poseidon watched and promised more trouble for Odysseus.

399-Athena “countered” Poseidon, calming the winds and sending Odysseus join the Phaiákians.