Odysseus' tale

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25 30 with her in her hollow caverns, desiring me for her husband, but my island lies low and away, last of all on the water I cannot think of any place sweeter on earth to look at. a rugged place, but a good nurse of men; for my part toward the dark, with the rest below facing east and sunshine, For in truth Kalypso, shining among divinities, kept me There is Doulichion and Same, wooded Zakynthos,

ever, even when far away one lives in a fertile and so likewise Aiaian Circe the guileful detained me troubles, which Zeus inflicted on me as I came from Troy land. But come, I will tell you of my voyage home with its many place, when it is in alien country, far from his parents. that nothing is more sweet in the end than country and parents but never could she persuade the heart within me. So it is beside her in her halls, desiring me for her husband,

by the Kikonians. I sacked their city and killed their people, and urged it, but they were greatly foolish and would not listen, portion. There I was for the light foot and escaping, we shared them out, so none might go cheated of his proper and out of their city taking their wives and many possessions 'From Ilion the wind took me and drove me ashore at Ismaros

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and then and there much wine was being drunk, and they slaughtered more numerous and better men, well skilled in fighting many sheep on the beach, and lumbering horn-curved cattle. Kikonians, who were their neighbors living in the inland country, But meanwhile the Kikonians went and summoned the other

50 55 men with horses, but knowing too, at need the battle ships, and with bronze-headed spears they cast at each other, or leaves, and the luck that came our way from Zeus was evil on foot. They came at early morning, like flowers in season so long we stood fast and fought them off, though there were more of and as long as it was early and the sacred daylight increasing Both sides stood and fought their battle there by the running to make us unfortunate, so we must have hard pains to suffer.

and out of each ship six of my strong-greaved companions but when the sun had gone to the time for unyoking of cattle then at last the Kikonians turned the Achaians back and beat them, * Coxeexs

were killed, but the rest of us fled away from death and destruction.

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Companionship

CIVILIZATION THE We sailed on further along, glad to have escaped dea CIVILIZATION but grieving still at heart for the loss of our dear companions. Departure from Troy—the Lotus-Eaters

. 65 70 until a cry had been made three times for each of my wretched The ships were swept along yawing down the current; the violence in fear of destruction, we took down and stowed in the ships' hulls, of the wind ripped our sails into three and four pieces. These then, Even then I would not suffer the flight of my oarswept vessels in a supernatural storm, and huddled under the cloud scuds land alike and the great water. Night sprang from heaven. Cloud-gathering Zeus drove the North Wind against our vessels companions, who died there in the plain, killed by the Kikonians.

75 sat still, and let the wind and the steersmen hold them steady. we, setting the masts upright, and hoisting the white sails on them, for pain and weariness together eating our hearts out. But when the fair-haired Dawn in her rounds brought on the third day, and rowed them on ourselves until we had made the mainland. There for two nights and two days together we lay up,

80 and the North Wind beat me off course, and drove me on past Kythera but as I turned the hook of Maleia, the sea and current And now I would have come home unscathed to the land of my fathers 'Nine days then I was swept along by the force of the hostile

85 some of my companions ahead, telling them to find out But after we had tasted of food and drink, then I sent and my companions soon took their supper there by the fast ships food, and there we set foot on the mainland, and fetched water, in the country of the Lotus-Eaters, who live on a flowering winds on the fishy sea, but on the tenth day we landed

90 Heavisaddiness away, but they wanted to stay there with the lotus-eating people, feeding on lotus, and forget the way have the stay there was hard forget the way hard for the way hard for the way hard for the way hard forget the way hard for th fast, then gave the order to the rest of my eager took these men-back weeping, by force to where the ships were, I chose two men, and sent a third with them, as a herald. our companions, but they only gave them lotus to taste of and put them aboard under the rowing benches and tiell them nor did these Lotus-Eaters have any thoughts of destroying My men went on and presently met the Lotus-Eaters, what men, eaters of bread, might live here in this country かべかいっち Stay Unwilling by desire to who halp

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Arrival at the island

companions to embark on the ships in haste, for fear and sitting well in order dashed the oars in the gray sea and the men quickly went aboard and sat to the oarlocks, someone else might taste of the lotus and forget the way home, 00000

OII wheat and barley and also the grapevines, which yield for them wine of strength, and it is Zeus' rain that waters it for them. along, and reached the country of the lawless outrageous gods, neither plow with their hands nor plant anything, Cyclopes who, putting all their trust in the immortal but all grows for them without seed planting, without cultivation, These people have no institutions, no meetings for counsels; 'From there, grieving still at heart, we sailed on further

SII for his own wives and children, and cares nothing about the others. neither close in to the land of the Cyclopes nor far out for there is no coming and going of human kind to disturb them, from it; forested; wild goats beyond number breed there, There is a wooded island that spreads, away from the harbor,

among the peaks of the high mountains, and each one is the law rather they make their habitations in caverns hollowed

120 nor are they visited by hunters, who in the forest suffer hardships as they haunt the peaks of the mountains, it goes without people and supports the bleating wild goats. but all its days, never plowed up and never planted neither again is it held by herded flocks, nor farmers,

125 For the Cyclopes have no ships with cheeks of vermilion, cross the sea by means of ships and visit each other, to all the various cities of men, in the way that people strong-benched vessels, and these if made could have run them sailings nor have they builders of ships among them, who could have made them

130 135 and they could have made this island a strong settlement for them. always in season, since there is very rich subsoil. Also in season, and there are meadow lands near the shores of the gray sea and there is smooth land for plowing, men could reap a full harvest well watered and soft; there could be grapes grown there endlessly, For it is not a bad place at all, it could bear all crops

one could just run ashore and wait for the time when the sailors' nor anchor stones to be thrown ashore nor cables to make fast; there is an easy harbor, with no need for a hawser desire stirred them to go and the right winds were blowing.

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155 the hill-roving goats our way for my companions to feast on. with long sockets, and arranging ourselves in three divisions Now there were twelve ships that went with me, and for each one nine cast about, and the god granted us the game we longed for. At once we went and took from the ships curved bows and javelins there, and the nymphs, daughters of Zeus of the aegis, started we made a tour about the island, admiring everything 'But when the young Dawn showed again with her rosy fingers,

160 170 165 in storing jars when we stormed the Kikonians' sacred citadel. So for the whole length of the day until the sun's setting while I, with my own ship and companions that are in it, "The rest of you, who are my eager companions, wait here, then I held an assembly and spoke forth before all: but when the young Dawn showed again with her rosy fingers, then we lay down to sleep along the break of the seashore; some still left, for we all had taken away a great deal for the red wine had not yet given out in the ships, there was we sat there feasting on unlimited meat and sweet wine; We looked across at the land of the Cyclopes, and they were

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Aloss of others 1055 OF CIVILIZOTION Page 141 off the land of the Cyclopes

140 Also at the head of the harbor there runs bright water, on the shore, but the first thing was when we beached the well-benched showing in the sky, but she was under the clouds and hidden. us in through the gloom of the night, nothing showed to look at, spring beneath rock, and there are black poplars growing around it and we never saw any long waves rolling in and breaking There was none of us there whose eyes had spied out the island, for there was a deep mist around the ships, nor was there any moon There we sailed ashore, and there was some god guiding

and we ourselves stepped out onto the break of the sea beach, and there we fell asleep and waited for the divine Dawn. Then after we had beached the ships we took all the sails down.

were portioned out, but I alone had ten for my portion.

But when the sun went down and the sacred darkness came over, near by, and we saw their smoke and heard sheep and goats bleating

175 or hospitable to strangers and with minds that are godly." whether they are savage and violent, and without justice, go and find out about these people, and learn what they are,