

Twis: living in infinite bliss and pleasure erases all thought, therefore less superiority
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Departure from Troy—the Lotus-Eaters

65 From there we sailed on further along, glad to have escaped death, but grieving still at heart for the loss of our dear companions.

Even then I would not suffer the flight of my oarswept vessels until a cry had been made three times for each of my wretched companions, who died there in the plain, killed by the Kikoni-ans.

70 Cloud-gathering Zeus drove the North Wind against our vessels in a supernatural storm, and huddled under the cloud scuds land alike and the great water. Night sprang from heaven.

75 The ships were swept along yawning down the current; the violence of the wind ripped our sails into three and four pieces. These then, in fear of destruction, we took down and stowed in the ships' hulls, and rowed them on ourselves until we had made the mainland.

80 There for two nights and two days together we lay up, for pain and weariness together eating our hearts out.

But when the fair-haired Dawn in her rounds brought on the third day, we, setting the masts upright, and hoisting the white sails on them, sat still, and let the wind and the steersmen hold them steady.

And now I would have come home unscathed to the land of my fathers, but as I turned the hook of Maleia, the sea and current and the North Wind beat me off course, and drove me on past Kythera.

90 Nine days then I was swept along by the force of the hostile winds on the fishy sea, but on the tenth day we landed in the country of the Lotus-Eaters, who live on a flowering food, and there we set foot on the mainland, and fetched water, and my companions soon took their supper there by the fast ships.

100 But after we had tasted of food and drink, then I sent some of my companions ahead, telling them to find out what men, eaters of bread, might live here in this country.

110 I chose two men, and sent a third with them, as a friend. My men went on and presently met the Lotus-Eaters.

120 nor did these Lotus-Eaters have any thoughts of destroying our companions, but they only gave them lotus to taste of. But any of them who ate the honey-sweet fruit of lotus was unwilling to take any message back, or to go away, but they wanted to stay there with the lotus-eating people, feeding on lotus, and forgetting the way home.

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Odysseus' tale

25 There is Doulichion and Same, wooded Zakynthos, but my island lies low and away, last of all on the water toward the dark, with the rest below facing east and sunshine,

30 a rugged place, but a good nurse of men; for my part I cannot think of any place sweeter on earth to look at. For in truth Kalypso, shining among divinities, kept me with her in her hollow caverns, desiring me for her husband,

35 and so likewise Aiaian Circe the guileful detained me beside her in her halls, desiring me for her husband, but never could she persuade the heart within me. So it is that nothing is more sweet in the end than country and parents ever, even when far away one lives in a fertile place, when it is in alien country, far from his parents.

40 But come, I will tell you of my voyage home with its many troubles, which Zeus inflicted on me as I came from Troy land. 'From Ilion the wind took me and drove me ashore at Ismaros by the Kikoni-ans. I sacked their city and killed their people,

45 and out of their city taking their wives and many possessions we shared them out, so none might go cheated of his proper portion. There I was for the light foot and escaping, and urged it, but they were greatly foolish and would not listen,

50 and then and there much wine was being drunk, and they slaughtered many sheep on the beach, and lumbering horn-curved cattle. But meanwhile the Kikoni-ans went and summoned the other Kikoni-ans, who were their neighbors living in the inland country,

55 more numerous and better men, well skilled in fighting men with horses, but knowing too, at need the battle on foot. They came at early morning, like flowers in season or leaves, and the luck that came our way from Zeus was evil, to make us unfortunate, so we must have hard pains to suffer.

60 Both sides stood and fought their battle there by the running ships, and with bronze-headed spears they cast at each other, and as long as it was early and the sacred daylight increasing, so long we stood fast and fought them off, though there were more of them;

65 but when the sun had gone to the time for unyoking of cattle, then at last the Kikoni-ans turned the Achai-ans back and beat them, and out of each ship six of my strong-greaved companions were killed, but the rest of us fled away from death and destruction.

Lotus = pleasure
Lotus-Eaters = pleasure eaters
lose desire
forget home
claiming credit
like animalization
dehumanization
bad sailors
Odysseus = good
animals → they're his
humans → eat in control → they're his
I myself
to where the ships were
fast, then gave the rest of my eager
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