

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,  
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,  
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.

35 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 Iliou the wind took me and drove me ashore at Ismaros  
by the Kikonians. I sacked their city and killed their people,  
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,

40 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 Kikonians went and summoned the other  
Kikonians, who were their neighbors living in the inland country,  
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.

50 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;

55 but when the sun had gone to the time for unyoking of cattle,  
then at last the Kikonians turned the Achaeans 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.

Thesis: The food that we eat  
defines who we are, whether a monster,  
man, or god, and  
attempting to eat other  
status only  
leads to suffering.

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 Kikonians.  
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  
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.

75 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 Kyrthera.

80 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, power  
in the country of the Lotus-Eaters, who live on a lowering  
food, and there we set foot on the mainland, and fetched water,  
and my companions soon took their supper there by the fast ships  
But after we had fasted 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  
I chose two men, and sent a third with them, as a herald  
My men went on and presently met the Lotus-Eaters,  
nor did these Lotus-Eaters have any thoughts of destroying  
our companions; but they only gave them lotus to taste of.

90 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 forgo the way-home  
took these men back weeping, by force, to where the ships were,  
and put them aboard under the rowing benches and tied them  
fast, then gave the order to the rest of my eager

100 Desire in violence  
stolen from bees  
Lotus steals  
closer to god or man  
steals  
closer to god or man  
steals  
closer to god or man  
steals

Refined by your food  
shows how civilized you are  
civilization  
most  
no thoughts  
stolen from bees  
gods  
steals  
closer to god or man  
steals  
closer to god or man  
steals  
closer to god or man  
steals

bound to the sea  
hostage