

Odysseus and his weary crew landed on a strange island after days of restless sailing. Seeking food and shelter, they discovered a vast cave filled with cheese, milk, and sheep. Believing the owner would be friendly, they entered and waited. As night fell, the ground shook with heavy footsteps. The cave's owner had returned — Polyphemus, a giant Cyclops with a single terrifying eye. Without mercy, the giant sealed the cave with a massive stone and seized two men, devouring them whole. Each night, more men were eaten, and fear filled the cave. Odysseus knew strength would not save them — only cunning could. He offered Polyphemus powerful wine and told him his name was "Nobody." Drunk and drowsy, the Cyclops collapsed into sleep. Odysseus and his men hardened a wooden stake in fire and drove it deep into the giant's eye. Polyphemus roared in agony, calling for help. When other Cyclopes asked who hurt him, he cried, "Nobody!" and they left him alone. Blinded but furious, Polyphemus guarded the cave entrance, feeling each sheep as it left. Odysseus tied his men beneath the animals' bellies, and they escaped unnoticed. As they fled by ship, Odysseus revealed his true name in pride. Enraged, Polyphemus cursed him, praying to the gods that Odysseus would suffer long before reaching home. Thus began the hero's long and fateful journey.