1. How are the exiles of the three speakers in the poems from The Exeter Book similar and different?

The three speakers from the poems, The Wanderer, Wife’s Lament, and The Seafarer, are similar as they all experienced the same emotions such as loneliness and anguish during their solitude and exile. They also longed for companionship and looked at the days when they were not yet exiled. The wanderer dreams of being accepted and greeted again by his kinsmen, while the wife longs for her family and her husband, and the seafarer wants to be with his fellow sailors and compares his life in the sea to the easy life of those who live on the land. On the other hand, they have differences as well such as the choice that they made which resulted in solitude. The Wanderer as mentioned in the poem was exiled against his own will as his lord died and some view it as a form of punishment as he yet failed another lord, while the seafarer was also in exile but of his own will because he wanted to explore the seas. However, in the poem, Wife’s Lament, it seems like that the woman was exiled and was forcefully separated from her family. Also, in the poem, it seemed like it is not only the wife who is experiencing the torment of being alone but also her husband (Ref-J7X2B9).

I agree with the scholar’s interpretation of the sea and related it to its existence. In the poem, it was expressed that the sailor experienced both troubles and happiness in his journey in the sea (Ref-J49K2L). This is the same with every life of a human being wherein we are bound to experience both ups and downs. There is always something to look forward to, and at the same time there are a lot of unknowns in each of our lives, therefore, we could experience fear, the same as the seafarer’s perspective towards his life at the sea.

3. Prompt C: Based on the epics and legends you have studied in this unit and other epics you have read in previous courses, why do you think epic narratives were important to ancient cultures?

Epic narratives are significant to ancient cultures because it is a way of preserving history and stories of legends and those they perceive as heroes. These are important not only for entertainment purposes but also for reinforcing a culture that was present many years ago. These narratives preserve literature, which is interesting since most of these are done in a pre-literate community wherein narratives are created in meter.

4. How do Beowulf’s character traits compare with the traits of other heroes you know about?

In today’s time, heroes are portrayed to have supernatural abilities and have a good sense of justice. This is similar to how Beowulf’s characteristics are presented in the story. Beowulf showed values, pride, loyalty, and courtesy to his people, and showed bravery by killing Grendel even if he’s also injured.

5. How is your understanding and attitude impacted when Beowulf’s fight against Grendel is described from Grendel’s point of view?

From Grendel’s perspective, Beowulf exhibited godlike features during the fight. It was shown how strong and powerful Beowulf is compared to Grendel. For Grendel, Beowulf easily won the fight due to his relentless force and godlike strength. Aside from this, after seeing Grendel’s point of view, it made me realize that underneath all the “evil” portrayal of him in the story, there is a hint of jealousy and loneliness. It made me see a different perspective and Grendel’s action became a little bit justified during the fight as he is presented with violence, therefore, it would be reciprocated as well as a form of revenge.