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Journal 9

Book 10 thoughts

After reading book 10, it became obvious why Odysseus was called “Man of Sorrow”. Firstly Odysseus is given much hope that he may set foot on his shores once more when Aeolus presents Odysseus with a bag of wind which will push him home. This hope is reinforced when he is so close to Ithaca, he can make out men on the shore. However because his shipmates, who at this point in the book are symbols of greed open the bag to steal “odysseus riches’ ” Odysseus’ ship is then taken far away from ithaca. This further reflects why he is called the man of sorrow, and is one more hardship on his long journey home. This also represents the consequences of a lack of loyalty to one’s ruler. A value which was very important to the greeks. Another value which was even more important to the greeks, loyalty to home and family was not upheld by Odysseus, but rather was practically forgotten by Odysseus due to the presence of Circe. Only after much persuasion was he convinced to leave his mistress, while his wife waits at home mourning the loss of her husband. This was a bit discouraging to me in that Odysseus places his own wants above loyalty to home and family.