

# Οι ελληνικοί χρόνοι

The Greek Times

## Circe: The Bewitching Goddess of Aeaea

By: Yoni Zerkowitz

Circe, a goddess, who spends her days in her palace on the Aeaeian island, "built of dressed stone on a cleared rise of land," can turn anyone who passes by her palace into an animal. Her connection to the wildlife is obvious, as surrounding her palace, "mountain wolves and lions were roaming round the grounds-she'd bewitched them herself..." Circe is a goddess described with a "spellbinding voice" and her appearance is very attractive.

In an exclusive recent interview by Οι ελληνικοί χρόνοι, Circe gave some fascinating insight regarding the events pertaining to Odysseus and when his men suddenly appeared at her castle.

Reporter: Please give us some insight into your thought process and choice of spell when Odysseus's men showed up at your palace.

Circe: I did the same as I would do whenever someone else would come into my land unannounced. I have my ways to lure them into

the palace with my attractive voice and looks, mix them up one of my special potions, and then blast them with one of my spells that turns them into pigs. When choosing an animal to use as part of my spell, I try to pick one that best represents the particular men, and these men of Odysseus were acting and eating like pigs, so it seemed a most appropriate transformation for these men.

Reporter: Did it come as a shock to you that Odysseus withstood the spell?

Circe: It definitely was a surprise that somebody could withstand such a spell. Previously, anyone who came into my palace never could resist my temptations, so it was definitely a new and interesting experience for me. Odysseus was unique in this way, and when I realized my spell did not work, I was in shock and my initial reaction was to scream and hug his knees. I began to come to the realization that he was special, especially since my magic had not affected him.

Reporter: What have you learned

about Odysseus?

Circe: Odysseus is strategic, demanding, intent and very convincing. He has a way with words and actions and can make you feel guilty when you least expect it. For example, he would just sit in the corner and not touch his food. When I asked him what was wrong, he responded, "How could any man in his right mind endure the taste of food and drink before he'd freed his comrades...?" This convinced me to turn his men back into their human form and even make them as young as ever. I wanted to do a favor for the man; he caused me to feel guilty about my actions.

After encountering Odysseus and staying with him for a year, Circe seems to have much praise for Odysseus. In her final remarks with The Greek Times she concluded, "I feel I came out a better person." Circe certainly learned a lesson in humility, that not everyone can be perfect and remain undefeated.

### The Laestrygonians

By: Andy Rosenberg

Who are these Laestrygonians? Where did they come from? Why does no one know about these people until Odysseus stumbles upon them?

I did a little research and according to the paranormal guide the word Laestrygonian comes from the Greek words 'laisêion' (raw hide/skin) and 'trygâ' (to gather). The

Laestrygonians come from the city Telepylos on the island Lamos. These people are giants (or giant like) and eat humans (aka cannibals). These people are 8 feet tall and are heavily tattooed. Their teeth are pointed and yellow and they carry clubs made of iron. Under their clothes they wear leather armor. Once I got that gross image of a Laestrygonian out of my head, I began to think about the questions I opened with. The obvious reason no one knows who they are is that anyone who even crossed the Laestrygonians' path didn't live to tell the tale.

Next, where did these people come from?

I think there are 2 options: 1. Some god had twin Laestrygonians, which began this whole 'tribe'. Or 2. (The more likely) The Laestrygonians were raised to be the most elite warrior force in the world. They were raised even more savagely than the Spartans were, to the point where they were uncontrollable and rebelled and killed those who stood in their way. But what about my 3rd question. Who ARE these people?

Firstly, I don't consider the Laestrygonians people. They are savage giants. Secondly, the Laestrygonians probably killed off everyone who lived in their original area who was unlike them and built a city.

Laestrygonian info source: <http://www.theparanormalguide.com/blog/laestrygonians>



# Category 5 Hurricane on the Way

By: Yoni Krantz

Ithaca could be facing its worst weather catastrophe in centuries. 4 days ago, on the 12th of May, Halitherses, the master of omen deciphering, ran as fast as he could to the town square after witnessing what seemed like a harmless scenario. Near the edge of a cliff overlooking the bay, he noticed 3 men on the dock with a bottle of wine and some cups. One of the men clearly owned the bottle considering he was holding it and wouldn't let the others drink. When the wine holder placed it down and turned the other way, the other 2 picked it up and pried it open but in doing so, made the wine burst out and spray them in the face, causing them to fall back and trip into the ocean. Halitherses ran to the elders who were presiding in the elder's chamber in the town hall. He told them what he saw, and then gave his interpretation. His idea was that the man was with the wine was Odysseus [who he strongly believes is still alive because of the eagles], and the wine must mean Odysseus was in possession of a very precious and valuable item. Clearly his crew desired the item for themselves and when they tried to steal it, it caused them to suffer. The elders had already ignored the eagle's omen regarding the return and revenge of Odysseus, so just again they rejected his prophecy and went back to their meditating. 2 days later, near the dusk, Maximus and Octavius, both fishermen, came to the elders to back up Halitherses' interpretation. According to the men, they had been fishing like they always do, 9 to 5, when Octavius noticed a ship far down the horizon. He told Maximus, and they both took their scopes and saw a group of men around a strange looking bag. According to M & O, the men tore open the bag and out came winds powerful enough to lift mountains off the ground. They all fell to the ground as the winds flew up into the air, bringing massive waves with them. The winds combined to conjure a massive storm. Then they claim to have seen a muscular man run towards them looking very infuriated and broken. But the winds pushed the ship back and was gone from

sight within seconds. 'We didn't know what to say,' says Ogrificus, one of the elders. They had no choice but to believe both events. The next morning, a foreign man swam upon the shore, weakened to the bone, and was pulled onto the sand by nearby joggers. The man said his name was Sumirces, and a crewmember of the great Odysseus himself. The joggers brought him to the elders, who talked to Sumirces and learned terrible news. One, Odysseus is in fact alive and nearby, two, that they were so close to coming home, but then the crew turned on him. And thirdly, that in doing so, released winds from all corners of the earth. The winds had conjured a massive wind storm which pushed back the ship hundreds of miles. Sumirces knew of the winds within after sneaking into Aeolus' palace and eavesdropping on his conversation with Odysseus. Knowing this, Sumirces abandoned ship just before they tore it open. He submerged himself underwater for about a minute and half to not be blown away. He then swam with all his might to Ithaca. The two nearby joggers said that 'the storm seemed to have moved opposite of Ithaca, but no promises,' With all the people and their experiences, the elders had no choice but to believe it. So, Deliphicus decided to confront the sacred Pythia, or Oracle at Delphi for the final answer. He quotes that she proclaimed 'A monster storm like never before. Obstructed by the winds of the world given to the mighty Odysseus through the hands of the wind god, Aeolus. Jealous crewmen have taken a turn for the worst, and the people of Ithaca must prepare for the existence of their civilization'. This now has cleared up any doubts the elders may have had, but it has also struck immense panic throughout the city. The markets have been overflowing with anxious citizens trying to by food and materials for better shelter." It's complete chaos down here," says Sertes. "No one can even spread their arms anywhere in the market." Of course, this hasn't been any good times for the elders either. They've been confronted by thousands of worried Samaritans

just looking for a simple reassurance, but the elders are forbidden from lying, which makes it hard for them to give their honest opinions. Our local meteorologists have gained info from their eagles and would appear as though the ocean has been strengthening the storm, and they have no other option but to classify this as a category 5 super-storm. The expectance is for 157+ MPH winds, catastrophic flooding from the Mediterranean, imminent property destruction, and worst of all, possible casualties throughout the region. Several hundreds of families have completely evacuated, taking with them their most valuable possessions. The township hasn't officially called for any serious moves such as a town wide evacuation, but it is very much expected. All most of us can do is pray and hope that the storm with dissipate due to two possibilities. One, it passes over an incredibly dry airy area, or two, the water it is currently presiding over will drop it temperature, weakening the storm to a much less sever one. But for now, the most any of us can do is prepare with additional protection and perhaps shelter near the mountain ranges, or just simply anywhere that is not in open fields or regions. More news will continue, but we must all prepare for what we are expecting. - Magnosius

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## Eurylochus: Circe's Spell Lasted Longer than you Think

By: Remy Chamberlain

There are a lot of questions we can ask about Odysseus's journey home, but the biggest is probably, why isn't he home. He has had so many opportunities to get home and missed all of them. He had to go through so much and he hasn't seen his family in twenty years. On his journey home he fought a man eating cyclops, the ferocious laestrygonians, and lotus eaters. He then faces Circe, defeats her, saves his men, and then stays for an entire year. Why would anyone who has been away from his family for twenty years prolong his return. We might not know what was going on in Odysseus's mind, but we were able to interview Odysseus's crew and see what they thought about the situation.

After a while we were able to finally get to speak to Eurylochus. He was the one that tried to convince his shipmates not to devour Circe's food. Are first question was, "How did you feel when you thought you lost your comrades to Circe."

Eurylochus answered, " I felt like my world was falling apart. I couldn't even get a word out to speak. I was so concerned for my shipmates safety, I didn't know what to do with myself. Then I realized, it was all my fault. I should've held them back, not merely say I won't go. I should've persuaded them to stay, and go back to the ship. There was so much I could have done to save my friends."

Remy: "Wow that seems horrible, how did you feel when Odysseus said he was going to get your crew back?"

Eurylochus: "I felt like coward pleading to Odysseus for him not to take me, but I also felt relieved. I was glad that our captain was brave and kind and not willing to leave our men behind. I know some men think Odysseus is overrated and egotistical, but it is things like this that make him such a great leader."

Remy: "If you feel so strongly that he is a great leader, than why did you disagree to go back to Circe's and call him a hothead?"

Eurylochus: "Look, we all do stupid things, right. I was just a little mad because I almost lost my friends to that evil witch and I was not happy that we were going back there to pretend that nothing happened. It was my fault last time that my friends got trapped in Circe's evil spell and I was not going to just let that happen. I tried to convince them, but it didn't work so I went with them in the end because I wanted to be with my friends. I also trusted Odysseus that it was going to be fine. I only called him a hothead because I was mad at myself."

Remy: "Last question, so if you weren't mad at him when he decided to go back to Circe's, were you mad when he stayed for a whole year?"

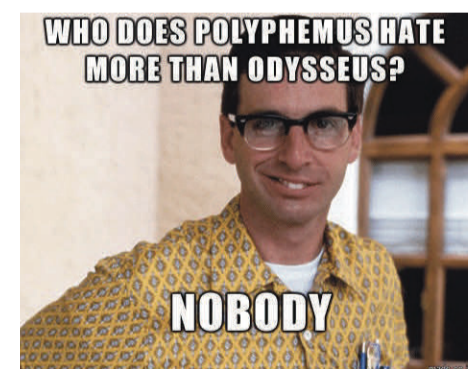
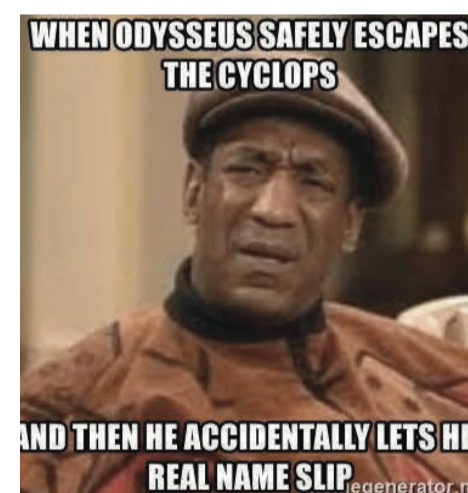
Eurylochus: " I was mad at first because why would he stay there for an entire year, thats crazy! I then doubted his credibility and I thought maybe he doesn't want to go home anymore, then I realized it is the complete opposite. Odysseus has had so much responsibility looking after us and trying to get us back home, that he just broke. He couldn't take it anymore so he just stayed at Circe's were he didn't have any responsibility. I don't blame him for wanting to take a break, but a year is a long time. That's why he needs us

though, so we can push and help him to be the leader he needs to be."

Remy: Thank you for letting us interview you Eurylochus it was a pleasure.

Eurylochus: No, thank you. You heard it here, all he needed was a break to collect his strength and gather his mind, so he and his crew could continue on their journey home.

# Mememes



# Letter to the Editor

By: Noah Beckoff

In the news article, Men Knock the Wind out of the bag, states that "I also think this could be the crew's fault. Maybe they should look from his perspective." As a sailor during this time I've been a part of a couple mutinous crews, and I'm being honest: not once have I ever thought to myself, let me put myself in the captain's shoes. Not once have I ever done that.

When I rebelled I was obviously riled up and most people don't say to themselves, wait, how does the captain feel. I don't think any sensible person would say that. Let's say that the captain isn't sharing spoils with the crew. I would be angry because why does he get the riches and we don't. That is almost exactly what happened here with Odysseus and his crew. The crew had every right to open the sack and take some money for themselves because they have probably worked harder than he has.

Yes, in the end, there was no money in the bag but they weren't wrong for suspecting that a bad captain was hiding spoils. If I were in Odysseus's crew's situation, I would have done the same thing.

# Op-Ed

## Why Odysseus Stayed

By: Remy Chamberlain

The Greeks have been away from home for so long that you would think that all they would want to do is go home. However, this isn't so for Odysseus. His men arrived

at Circe's palace and let in by the beautiful Nymph herself. She kindly offered them to sit and sip her wicked potion, and they all fell into her villainous trap. Suddenly, they were all turned into repulsive pigs that didn't know better than to roll in the mud. Odysseus soon learned of the fate that had fallen upon his fellow shipmates. Odysseus set out to free his crew, heading straight for Circe's palace, but he was warned of the insidious plot that she had planned for him. He reached Circe's gate and she graciously let him in. Circe gave Odysseus her corrupted concoction, but Odysseus came prepared. The drug had no effect on Odysseus and Circe fell to her knees and begged for mercy. Odysseus told her she had to release his comrades and Circe released them and invited them for a delicious meal. They ate the meal and then Odysseus made his men stay for one whole year. Why did Odysseus save his men from an evil person who turned his men into pigs, and then stay.

It doesn't make any sense for him to have stayed for an entire year. What I believe is that Odysseus subconsciously distracted himself from his trek home. Odysseus may not have known it but he was not ready to return to his homeland. He had been fighting every moment of every day against merciless people. Maybe he was scared of settling down and becoming king again. I think he needed to be fighting, or to be at war. I think he likes the excitement and rush of not knowing whether or not he'd be alive tomorrow. Odysseus didn't want to have a boring life again.

First of all, it had been twenty years since he had been home to Ithaca. It's been twenty years since he has seen his wife and settled down. He hasn't even met his own son yet! What is he going to say to his family after all these years? What if he changed or what if she changed? After all he has been through do you think it will be easy to just go back to becoming a husband and father? What if the man he is now is not the man he needs to be for his family?

His own crew went up to him and said "this is madness"; they had stayed there so long. Maybe he stayed there because of the

temptation of Circe, or because he didn't care about his homeland anymore. What I believe is that he was scared that he was not going to be able to be the man he needed to be for his family and for his homeland. So much was on his mind that he just needed a break from his life. A year is a little much, but he needed to recollect himself. I believe Odysseus is a great man and a great leader; however, you can't be a leader by yourself, and that's why his crew helped him get through it and reminded him to move on.

# Odysseus and the Longer than Necessary Journey

By: Luzzy Junger

With the Trojan war nearly 10 years old, hope of any remaining survivors had gone. Almost all resigned themselves to the fact that the brave Odysseus would not be returning. But the gods should always have your faith put in them, because Odysseus did in fact return, and what a story he had when he did. But apparently we needn't actually have waited ten years, if not for the fact of a curious decision by Odysseus. Following the foolishness that was the episode with the Cyclops, after the Lotus Eaters, and the Laestrygonians, Odysseus in a somewhat questionable move decided to send a scouting party out onto a newly encountered (most likely deadly) island. As per usual something goes terribly wrong. The island is home to Circe, and Circe, deciding that these "pigs" could not be allowed to keep masquerading as men any longer, revealed their "true" nature and turned them into pigs. Luckily Eurylochus survived and went back to the ship, begging Odysseus to cut loose and sail. Odysseus of course, in true Odysseus fashion, decides to rescue the crew. With help from Hermes, Odysseus manages to thwart Circe and free his men. And then he decides to get the heck out of there right? Well no. Circe convinced Odysseus to stay.

In fact he stays another whole year. But why? You would think he'd like to get home as soon as possible. Maybe he just wanted to stay with an all powerful immortal goddess. Well if that were the case he would have had no problem staying with Calypso. And we know he had quite a problem staying with Calypso. Perhaps it were the circumstances that faced him at each interval. After all he must have wanted to rest following the events of the Cyclops, Laestrygonians, the sack of wind, etc. but the same could be applied to the events of the Cattle of the Sun. There are a million other reasons that may explain his reasoning but the main one would probably have to do with Calypso and Circe's varying personalities. Both are immortal goddesses, both want Odysseus. The similarities stop there. Whereas Calypso is needy and spiteful, with little tact and self integrity, whining to Odysseus about how could he ever choose his loyal, intelligent, loving wife, over her, a lonely, pitiful, demanding, and controlling nymph, Circe is cool, calm, and collected, using her cunning to win Odysseus over, and manipulate him into staying. Calypso kept Odysseus on Ogygia by force (something which no one, especially Odysseus, would want) only allowing him to leave after her hand is forced by Zeus (and even then pretend it were by her own volition, saying "now I am willing, heart and soul, to send you off at last"). Circe used her cunning, and wit to make him stay willingly. She accomplished this by giving Odysseus the illusion of power, and control. Calypso instead used her power to control Odysseus, something which he would surely hate. From



the first Odysseus hated Ogygia and was intrigued by Circe's island.

Credit however must be given where it's due. Calypso did take him in, and treated him nicely, though due to her other, more unsavory character traits alienated Odysseus. Ultimately a large portion of Odysseus's journey could have been avoided had he simply learned from the Cyclops, and the Laestrygonians. In the end, Odysseus could use a bit more caution, and a lot less pride.

## Man Gets Drunk and Breaks his Neck

By: Yoni Krantz

Elpenor, a young and illogical young-adult, drank one night, and woke up breaking his neck. The young, early 20s crewmember of the ship led by the one and only, Odysseus the great, stopped with his ship at the island of Circe about a year ago. Unfortunately, Odysseus began to fall for Circe, and remained in her island for a year, before his crewmen finally gave him a wake-up call. Odysseus and his men went to sleep that night with the intention to set sail at dawn. Elpenor decided to drink that night and get drunk. He then proceeded to climb up to the roof, where he passed out from the alcohol. Johnicus, one of Elpenor's close friends, said that he saw him climbing the roof, but thought Elpenor just wanted to get a nice view and didn't try to stop him. In the morning, the crew gathered everyone and began loading their belongings onto the ships. Elpenor woke up from the racket with no memory of the previous evening. Completely forgetting he was on a roof, he got up and started walking to the ships. Elpenor fell right off the edge and landed head-first into a patch of dried ground, and his neck snapped under the pressure of a 175 lb. man falling about 20 mph. Two nearby crewmen heard the snap and rushed to him. They raised him to his feet, but he fell right back down. They knew he wasn't okay so one of them ran to tell Odysseus. Loyal Odysseus ran as

fast as he could, his crewmen behind him. Sadly, by the time they got there, it was obvious Elpenor had passed. Blood was dripping from his mouth, and his head was at about a 25o. However, Odysseus and his crew had a mission to fulfill, so they left the body and set sail. Circe found the corpse a few hours later and informed any civilizations nearby. Eventually word got out and schools used this sad story as the perfect example of the dangers of young drinking. At least 45 schools around the area have held assemblies regarding drinking and how you can harm yourself in doing so. I think this is a great idea. Often schools will try to persuade you not to do certain things and give you hypothetical scenarios that lead to negative outcomes. This time however, we now actually have a real true case where someone literally lost his life. As sad and depressing and quite pathetic as it may be, Elpenor's passing may just have a major impact on many people's lives. I think it is best that we use this time to promote this anti-drinking campaign, before any more younger adults harm themselves for no reason whatsoever. I just wish there was a way to do this before Elpenor had a tragic accident. But life is life, and we should love it to its finest. And drinking and killing yourself is no way to value your precious life.

## Odysseus's Crew and His Bag

By: Noah Beckoff

Odysseus and his men finally came upon the island of Aeolia, where king Aeolus rules. The gods gave him control of the winds and then he gave the winds that would obstruct Odysseus in getting to his goal, home, to Odysseus in a sack. On their way home to Ithaca Odysseus's men got jealous of the fact that Odysseus got this sack and they didn't. So, when Odysseus wasn't in their presence, they ripped the sack open and the winds disbursed back into the air. Now they were pushed farther away from Ithaca.

Why are his men so jealous that Odysseus has this sack? If they thought it contained riches, then why didn't they believe that Odysseus would distribute the riches to everyone? He seems like a good leader, or is he? This is very controversial. I think that he is quite the opposite of a good leader even though he has some leadership qualities.

Before we see what other opinions exist, my opinion is that he isn't a good leader. This is evident to me in multiple ways. One, if he were a good leader, his crew would have trusted him in disbursing the loot inside, but they didn't, showing their lack of loyalty. This gives a legitimate proof for his bad leadership skills. Secondly, maybe he was a good war general but, in strategies. He could still be a bad sailing general. I think both of those statements are true.

For one, Odysseus led a massive army to victory over the Trojans. This by itself is incredible, but he has one major skill he still needs to work on, gaining loyalty. People say it wasn't his fault and that the crew was feeling mutinous because of their lack of food and sleep. His men were probably seasick from all the time out at sea. Other people with opinions attack Odysseus like a lion attacks its prey. They say that as a good leader he should keep the loyalty of his crew at any cost. I agree that the only way anyone will survive is if there is loyalty to the captain. Loyalty is step one and that has been broken now.

I also think their delayed return home could be the crew's fault, too. Maybe they should have loyalty. They were jealous of Odysseus but maybe they should look at the problem from his

perspective. He was under a lot of pressure to survive and get home with the least number of casualties as possible. They should have a little mercy on him and not cause him more troubles. I also bet when they opened the bag and the wind came out, they had a fear of the gods inside them.

In conclusion, no one is totally at fault. But I still think my opinion is correct, that Odysseus is not a good leader. Although I understand what the other opinions are saying. I will agree to disagree with them.

## The Palace of Circe: Odysseus a Leader, Eurylochus a Coward

By: Yoni Zerkowitz

A person's inherent personality traits can affect the way they react to certain events. Odysseus and Eurylochus have two completely different reactions when some of their men get turned into pigs at the hands of Circe. These reactions reiterate why Odysseus is such a great leader, while Eurylochus is clearly inferior.

Upon arriving at the island of Aea, Odysseus decided to split his men into two groups; Eurylochus led one group while Odysseus himself led the second.

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Eurylochus's group arrived at the palace of Circe, a goddess, and they waited outside as Circe greeted them. Circe urged everyone inside the palace but "Only Eurylochus stayed behind - he sensed a trap..." Eurylochus never tried to save his men, or share his suspicion with them that this could be a trap. This is one example of his inferiority when given a leadership role. Furthermore, Eurylochus fled back to the ship in horror to tell Odysseus about the tragedy. Eurylochus didn't try to save the men by going into Circe's palace; rather, he just fled the scene in a cowardly manner. This is clearly a sign of a person who does not show strong leadership abilities.

On the other hand, Odysseus is a strong leader with a battle-tested history of showing true leadership skills. After Eurylochus ran back to the ship from Circe's palace, "...he couldn't get a word out... tears welled in his eyes, his heart possessed by grief." Eurylochus finally gathered himself to tell the tale, after which Odysseus immediately responded, "Lead me back to where you came." Eurylochus pleaded with Odysseus and said, "Don't force me back there..." Odysseus allowed Eurylochus to stay behind and went by himself to try to save the men. As he said, "Necessity drives me," even though he did not know what lay ahead. Odysseus's actions demonstrated that he would do anything for his men while Eurylochus's fear showed that he wasn't brave enough to be a leader in tough times.

Another sign of Odysseus's greatness as a leader is that he knows the importance of listening and taking advice from others. When Odysseus was on his way to save his men from Circe, he encountered Hermes, a messenger god, who told him he could not fight on his own. Rather, Hermes instructed Odysseus to take a drug that would shield him from the powers of Circe. Odysseus followed this advice and this was a key factor in saving his men from the wretched hand of Circe. Odysseus showed that he would do anything to save his men.

Odysseus is superior to Eurylochus as a leader of men,

and the events at Circe's palace portray the true character traits of these two individuals.

Eurylochus's cowardly actions are in sharp contrast to Odysseus's bravery and willingness to act in times of challenge. At the end of the day, this is a clear example of why Odysseus is a proven and dependable leader and someone who can be relied on when facing a tough situation.

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## The Laestrygonians and Why Odysseus isn't a Hero

By: Andy Rosenberg

The Laestrygonians are a tribe of people (or giants) who eat humans. In the Odyssey by Homer, Odysseus came to the island of the Laestrygonians. He sent a few scouts inland to see who inhabited the land. They never returned. Odysseus and the rest of his men fled from the Laestrygonians. But why? Isn't Odysseus a great hero?

According to Homer (and Greek legend) Odysseus is a great hero. But this story makes it seem like he's cowering away from a fight. Great heroes don't cower away from a fight. They attack and kill those who challenge them. They don't let anyone stand in their path. So how is Odysseus a great hero?

A great hero kills his opponents but Odysseus clearly isn't just a warrior. He has a way with words which obviously means he has a very sharp mind. A very sharp mind knows when to charge into battle and when not to. Odysseus understood that he and his remaining men wouldn't kill the Laestrygonians so he fled to save his men's lives and his own.

On the other hand, Odysseus may not have known who lived on this island and instead of taking a risk, he took the safe way and fled. That's not a hero. That's a coward.

The latter possibility seems very unlikely. If Odysseus is a coward, why would he be portrayed as a great hero? Surely there wouldn't be a whole epic poem about his

story.

## Word Search

Words: Aeaea, Aeolus, Circe, Eurylochus, Hermes, Laestrygonians, Odysseus, Tiresias

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