*The Odyssey*- Calypso, The Sweet Nymph



1. What is the name of the messenger god? What does he tell Calypso?

Hermes tells Calypso that Zeus has ordered her to release Odysseus.

1. Where does Calypso live? Describe her surroundings.

Calypso lives on the Island of Ogygia. It’s breathtakingly beautiful in sight, sound, and smell. The fire throws off fragrances of cypresses and thyme. Ornate birds are seen and chirping merrily. Calypso can be heard signing a sweet tune. The Island is full of greenery, with beautiful purple flowers hanging all around. There are also 4 crystal clear bubbling brooks.

1. How did Odysseus begin to feel about living with Calypso? How does he behave during the day?

While Odysseus longed for home, he wasn’t completely unwilling to be with Calypso night after night. During the days, he would sit out on the beach and cry out of homesickness and maybe a little guilt?

1. What does Calypso promise Odysseus?

Calypso promises Odysseus immortality if he stays with her.

She also promises to release him.

1. Why does Calypso tell Odysseus he would likely want to stay on the island with her?

Calypso warns Odysseus of the troubles that await him on his journey home.

1. According to Odysseus, how does Calypso compare to his wife?

Penelope is a shade compared to Calypso. Penelope will grow old and die, while Calypso will remain beautiful forever. However, it is his home that he misses and wants to get back to.

1. Where is Odysseus sailing and who makes his sailing difficult?

Odysseus is sailing home and Posiedon makes it difficult for him to pass.

1. What happens to his raft and where does he land?

Poseidon creates a terrible storm that destroys Odysseus’s raft and wrecks him, barely alive, on the shore of the Island Scheria.