

The Odyssey

The Cyclops or Nobody Gets the Better of Polyphemus

by Kinsey Kunkel

Based upon Homer's "The Odyssey"

THE ODYSSEY: EPISODE 3: THE CYCLOPS OR NOBODY GETS THE
BETTER OF POLYPHEMUS

INT. DINING HALL-DAY

Odysseus and Alcinous sit eating dinner.

ALCINOUS
So where did you go next?

ODYSSEUS
Oh, we never GO anywhere on
purpose. It just kind of happens.

Alcinous raises an eyebrow.

ALCINOUS
Yeah, okay.

ODYSSEUS
Well we came to an island inhabited
by cyclopes. Rude, mean creatures
they are.

EXT. POLYPHEMUS'S ISLAND-DAY

The sailors march up a hill and see a cave and a sheepfold.

ETESIAS
Look! Let's go see what's inside!

Odysseus and his men enter the cave, which is filled with
cheese. Etesias takes a bite of a piece of cheese.

ETESIAS
(mouth full)
Mmf, dis is good. We should just
take all this stuff!

The men cheer in agreement.

ODYSSEUS
Wait, wait, no! Let's wait. I want
to talk to this guy.

ETESIAS
Why?

ODYSSEUS
I dunno. Just 'cuz.

The men gorge themselves on cheese and settle in.

INT. DINING HALL-DAY

ODYSSEUS
(admitting)
Okay, that was kind of a mistake.

ALCINOUS

Breaking into this Cyclops's home
and eating his food without asking?

ODYSSEUS

Oh no the food wasn't a mistake.
I've never had better cheese in my
life. No, staying to talk to the
guy--Polyphemus was his name--that
was a mistake. As soon as he was
in the door, he blocked the
entrance with a boulder.

Odysseus throws out his arms in a "What the heck?!" Gesture.

INT. POLYPHEMUS'S CAVE-DAY

POLYPHEMUS stands in the middle of the room with a pail of
milk. He lights a fire and turns around to see Odysseus and
his men doing a terrible job of hiding.

POLYPHEMUS

Uh...who are you? What are you
doing in my house?

The sailors continue hiding, but Odysseus steps forward and
opens his mouth to speak, but stops, first turning to his
men.

ODYSSEUS

Guys, just stop. You suck.

The men stop. Odysseus turns back to Polyphemus.

ODYSSEUS

We're from Troy. We were blown off
course by a storm.

Flash back to Odysseus "weathering the storm" of a little
rain.

Back to:

ODYSSEUS

Yeah, a storm. We have the rights
of a guest in your home, yeah? So
uh, gifts please!

Polyphemus reacts, bemused. He grabs two of the sailors by
the wrist and drags them away.

INT. DINING HALL-DAY

ODYSSEUS

We may not have been the best
guests but I don't think eating
people is an appropriate reaction.

ALCINOUS
I should think not.

Alcinous looks down at his food, visibly nauseated by it, he looks over at Odysseus who continues shoveling food down his gullet like a barbarian.

ODYSSEUS
(mouth full)
Anyway...

INT. POLYPHEMUS'S CAVE-DAY

Polyphemus settles in for the night. Odysseus creeps forward, knife drawn.

ODYSSEUS
(whisper)
Imma stab him!

He raises the knife, his sailors silently cheering him on. He pauses, spotting the boulder over the door, and puts down the knife.

ODYSSEUS
On second thought...yeah, no.

Later:

Most of the men are asleep, but Odysseus is up, tossing a ball at a wall and catching it. Suddenly Polyphemus comes forward and grabs two more of Odysseus's men, including Lathyros, and drags them away. The sleeping men jump awake and Odysseus rises.

ODYSSEUS
Oh come on!

There's a comically graphic sound of Polyphemus devouring the men off screen as Odysseus choppily tries to intercede with a comment before giving up.

There's silence off screen.

ODYSSEUS
And...he's gone. Great.

Odysseus spots a long stick leaning against the wall, he takes it and begins to whittle it. Etesias looks at him questioningly.

ODYSSEUS
I've got a plan.

Later:

Odysseus finishes up his spear just as Polyphemus returns. Polyphemus casually walks over and takes two more men.

Odysseus absently reaches after them.

ODYSSEUS
Hey, can you not?

POLYPHEMUS
Nope.

Odysseus lays aside his spear and picks up a bowl filled with wine.

ODYSSEUS
Hey, Poly?

POLYPHEMUS
Yo, what's up?

Odysseus holds the bowl and presents it a la Vana White.

ODYSSEUS
I've got some wine here. Made by
Maron, master wine maker. Want
some?

Polyphemus shrugs.

POLYPHEMUS
Sure, why not?

He takes the bowl and guzzles it down.

POLYPHEMUS
Got any more?

ODYSSEUS
Why of course.

He gestures to Etesias who hurries forward with another bowl, two more men follow with still more bowls.

Polyphemus chugs them each in turn and burps, chuckling.

POLYPHEMUS
Hehe, I like you. Tell you what,
I'll give you a gift.

Polyphemus is drunk and clumsily bumps into things.

POLYPHEMUS
What's your name?

ODYSSEUS
You want my name? Remember that
gift you promised me, and I'll tell
you. They call me Nohbdy.

POLYPHEMUS
Well then Nohbdy, I'll eat you
last, there's my gift.

ODYSSEUS

Does that happen to come with a receipt?

Polyphemus doesn't seem to hear, instead his head lolls to one side, and he's asleep.

Odysseus beckons to his men who come carrying the spear. They all grab on an hoist it, too many men than is necessary for this task. After a second of rocking back and forth and lining up the shot, they throw it. Polyphemus roars to life, the spear sticking out of his eye.

POLYPHEMUS

Blind! I'm blind!

He crashes destructively around the room, waving his arms like mad. Odysseus and his men snicker.

There's a knock on the cave wall.

CYCLOPS (OS)

Polyphemus? You okay in there, bud?

POLYPHEMUS

Nohbdy! Nohbdy tricked me! Nohbdy's ruined me!

CYCLOPS (OS)

Well, what are you bellyaching about if nobody did anything? We're trying to sleep over here!

The men continue snickering. Polyphemus goes over to the door and removes the boulder, standing there to catch anyone who comes by. Odysseus looks around, considering options and then spots a sheep.

Odysseus grins.

INT. DINING HALL-DAY

There is dessert sitting before the two men now.

ALCINOUS

You tied your men to the sheep?

ODYSSEUS

Yep. Fooled him. He felt the wool go by and thought it was just his sheep.

EXT. POLYPHEMUS'S ISLAND-MORNING

The men return to the ship, the ones left behind approach merrily.

BARYPOS

Good gods, Odysseus! We were
beginning to think you were dead.

Odysseus shakes his head mournfully.

ODYSSEUS

Some of us are.

EXT. THE HOMER-DAY

The men are out on the open sea again. Odysseus stands near
the rail of the ship.

ODYSSEUS

(shouting after
Polyphemus))

Yeah! That's what you get for
eating my friends! How do you like
that, chump?! Terrible host! Zeus
gave you your just desserts!

Polyphemus howls off screen and the boat rocks. Odysseus
stumbles, a look of fear on his face. Once he realizes that
the wave did nothing he barks out a laugh.

ODYSSEUS

Ha! Missed me! Oh, and should
anyone ask; my name is Odysseus!

EXT. POLYPHEMUS'S ISLAND-MORNING

Polyphemus cries out in despair.

POLYPHEMUS

Agh! Some fortune-teller told me
I'd be blinded by a man called
Odysseus. Come back! Please! I'll
be nice! I'll have my father
Poseidon bless you!

EXT. THE HOMER-DAY

Odysseus laughs.

ODYSSEUS

(brightly)

Nah! I'd still kill you if I could.
Probably not the best idea.

He turns away and stalks off.

POLYPHEMUS (OS)

Fine! Curse you then! Father?! Make
Odysseus pay!

Odysseus laughs it off, not paying heed to the prayer.

INT. DINING HALL-DAY

Odysseus and Alcinous finish their cake.

ODYSSEUS

We tried to sacrifice to Zeus after
that. Didn't take. He had other
things in mind.

Alcinous leans forward.

ALCINOUS

Such as?

The End.

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