

The Odyssey

The Land of the Dead or Odysseus Sees Dead People and Doesn't Say Hi

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Based upon Homer's "The Odyssey"

THE LAND OF THE DEAD OR ODYSSEUS SEES DEAD PEOPLE AND DOESN'T SAY HI

INT. MUSIC ROOM-EVENING

ODYSSEUS and ALCINOUS sit in the music room. Odysseus is playing with a violin, very close to breaking it. Alcinous winces as he watches Odysseus. He quickly snatches the violin from Odysseus.

ALCINOUS
Don't touch that.

Odysseus reacts, affronted, before shrugging it off.

ODYSSEUS
Next we got to the island Aeolia,
land of Aeolus, king of the wind.

INT. AEOLUS'S HALL-DAY

Odie and the gang stand before AEOLUS.

AEOLUS
So, friend, what brought you here?

ODYSSEUS
(fake sobbing)
Oh! It is a tale of woe! We are
lost! Attacked! Ravaged by the
cyclops Polyphemus.

BARYPOS steps forward.

BARYPOS
Uh, technically we-

ODYSSEUS
Nip it, Barypos!

AEOLUS
What a tragedy!

Aeolus gestures to some of his wind spirits.

AEOLUS
Quickly! Bring this man a gift!

A WIND SPIRIT dashes forward with a large, inflated bag. They hand it to Odysseus who weighs it in his hands.

ODYSSEUS
Uh. Is there anything in here?

AEOLUS
Oh course! Wind!

Odysseus raises an eyebrow.

ODYSSEUS
A bag of wind? This is...helpful.

AEOLUS

You're welcome! There you go! Now,
on your way.

EXT. THE HOMER-DAY

Odysseus and his crew are on their way, BARYPOS at the helm.

BARYPOS

We're almost home men! I can
practically see Ithaca.

ELPENOR holds the bag of wind shut, studying it.

ELPENOR

I mean, what does it even do?

ETESIAS shrugs.

ETESIAS

Shall we find out?

Elpenor grins and opens the bag. It flies out of his hands with a loud squeaky sound and flies around the ship like a balloon. The wind gathers into a storm cloud. The ship is tossed and thrown.

Odysseus bursts onto the deck.

ODYSSEUS

WHAT is going on out here!?

Odysseus POV. The men hang onto the mast for dear life as the ship careens through the ocean.

Odysseus dives onto the deck and covers his head, rear in the air.

ODYSSEUS

What did you do!?

ETESIAS

Sorry, boss!

Blackout.

INT. AEOLUS'S HALL-DAY

The crew stands before Aeolus, much worse for the wear. Aeolus regards them coldly.

AEOLUS

Yeah. Accidents don't exist. Y'all
are cursed. Get out of my house!

Cut to:

INT. MUSIC ROOM-EVENING

Odysseus stands on top of the piano. Alcinous watches him with a wary eye.

ODYSSEUS

The amount of rude people I've met
on my travels!

ALCINOUS

I mean, he's not wrong.

ODYSSEUS

Well, no, but why should that
matter?

Odysseus jumps off the piano, Alcinous flinches.

ODYSSEUS

From Aeolia, we went to the island
of the Laestrygonians, who
destroyed a few of my ships. Then
we came to the isle of the
sorceress Circe.

Alcinous grimaces.

ALCINOUS

You mentioned her when you first
got here. She ah, "detained" you if
I recall.

ODYSSEUS

Yeah, but we won't get into that.

ALCINOUS

Thank gods.

INT. CIRCE'S HALL-DAY

Odysseus stands in the middle of a large group of pigs.
CIRCE sits on a throne in front of him.

ODYSSEUS

Okay, imma be honest. They don't
really look any different.

One of the pigs oinks reproachfully.

Circe stamps her foot.

CIRCE

How are you not a pig!?

ODYSSEUS

I'm too amazing to be affected by
your witchcraft you...person.

HERMES pokes his head into frame.

HERMES
(nasally and
know-it-ally)

Actually. I gave him something that
made him immune to her spell.

Odysseus shoves Hermes off screen.

ODYSSEUS
Yeah, yeah. Look, Circ, maybe we
can reach an agreement here.

Circe raises her eyebrows.

CIRCE
Perhaps we can.

INT. MUSIC ROOM-EVENING

Alcinous plugs his ears.

ALCINOUS
Wait, wait, wait. I thought we were
skipping this part?

ODYSSEUS
Oh, right. Moving on!

INT. CIRCE'S HALL-DAY

Odysseus stands with his men surrounding him. The men all
stare accusingly at Odysseus.

ODYSSEUS
Hey. I just saved your lives.

KEVIN sadly looks in the mirror.

KEVIN
I kinda liked being a pig.

Etusias smacks him.

ETESIAS
Hey! We're not pigs anymore! Drinks
all around.

The men cheer.

EXT. CIRCE'S HALL-NIGHT

All of the men are drunk and screaming at each other.
Elpenor stands on the roof.

ELPENOR
Hey guys look! I'm on top of the
world!

Later:

The men are mostly knocked out. A few stragglers mumble-sing songs and drink more from their bottles. Odysseus and Etesias stand with hooked arms singing "99 bottles of wine on the wall."

Suddenly there's a loud scream and Odysseus and Etesias look up just as Elpenor falls from the roof. He hits the ground with a horrible splat. Odie and Etesias cheer.

ETESIAS

Do it again!

Elpenor doesn't get up.

ETESIAS

Elpenor?

ODYSSEUS

He'll be fine.

Circe walks over to him.

CIRCE

If you want to go home you better go see the prophet Tiresias on the island of the Men of Winter.

ODYSSEUS

Why?

Circe throws her hands up in the air and storms away.

CIRCE

I don't freaking know. I didn't write the script.

Odysseus and Etesias look at each other and shrug.

EXT. ISLAND-DAY

The men all stand on an island. Several of Odysseus's men dig a hole. We can't see them unless they pop their heads up to talk.

BARYPOS

(popping up)

So why are we digging a hole?

ODYSSEUS

Uh...sacrifices and stuff.

ETESIAS

(popping up)

Sweet, so uh. What's the sacrifice?

ODYSSEUS

You.

Etesias drops his shovel.

ODYSSEUS
 (pulling out a sheep from
 nowhere)
 Kidding. Here's the sacrifice.

He tosses the sheep in the hole. It lands on Etesias and
 knocks him over.

ETESIAS
 Ow.

The men climb out to the hole and toss a match into the pit.
 It immediately erupts into flames.

BARYPOS
 What was in those sheep?

ODYSSEUS
 Who knows. They were from
 Polyphemus. Could have been
 anything.

GHOSTS start spilling out from the smoke. Odysseus and his
 men hide behind their swords. One of the ghosts who strolls
 out is Elpenor. Odysseus stands up to face him.

ODYSSEUS
 Elpenor? What the heck? What are
 you doing here?

ELPENOR
 I freaking died! I fell off the
 roof at Circe's and snapped my
 neck. You just freaking left me
 there!

ODYSSEUS
 (sucking air in through
 his teeth)
 Ooh. Yikes. Sorry man.

ELPENOR
 (exasperated)
 Just do me a favor? Bury me when
 you get back okay?

ODYSSEUS
 Yeah, for sure!

He gives him a thumbs up and Elpenor moves on.

ETESIAS
 Hey look! It's your mom!

Odysseus turns to follow Etesias's gesture.

ANTICLEA stands near the pit.

ODYSSEUS

Oh darn! She was alive when I left Ithaca. Oh well.

BARYPOS

Aren't you gonna go say hi?

ODYSSEUS

Eh, I don't want to miss Tiresias.

INT. MUSIC ROOM-EVENING

Odysseus sits at the piano.

ALCINOUS

You're mom was dead. You could have said goodbye, and you didn't?

EXT. ISLAND-DAY

Anticlea sighs.

ANTICLEA

Typical.

INT. MUSIC ROOM-EVENING

Odysseus shrugs.

ODYSSEUS

I mean.

He spreads his arms in a "what can you do?" Gesture.

ANTICLEA

(sighing)

So did you see Tiresias?

Odysseus bangs out a few awful notes on the piano.

ODYSSEUS

Uh-huh.

EXT. ISLAND-DAY

TIRESIAS stands before the men.

TIRESIAS

(spooky ghost voice)

Ooh, my name is Tiresias. I'm a prophet.

ODYSSEUS

Uh. I'm Odysseus, this is Etesias, Barypos, Hypocrates, Dagos, and Kevin.

TIRESIAS
(normal voice)

Kevin?

Odysseus makes a slashing motion across his throat.

ODYSSEUS
Don't ask about Kevin.

KEVIN
Hey!

ODYSSEUS
So what's the word Ty?

TIRESIAS
Oh.

Tiresias returns to his spooky ghost voice.

TIRESIAS
The sea god is very mad that you-
Back to normal voice.

TIRESIAS
Stabbed out his son's eye? My gods
mate!

ODYSSEUS
He ate my friends!

TIRESIAS
Oh. Okay then. Ahem.

Back to spooky voice.

TIRESIAS
The only way to be sure that you
and all your men return home is to
not kill the cows of Helios, god of
the sun.

ODYSSEUS
How are those things even remotely
connected?

TIRESIAS
If you don't. All your men will die
and you'll return home alone.

ODYSSEUS
Wow.

Tiresias begins sinking back into the pit, which is no longer burning.

TIRESIAS
Don't raid the beeves!

He's gone into the pit. There's silence. Tiresias pops back up.

TIRESIAS

Oh, wait! One more thing. If you raid the beeves, you will have to murder all your wife's boyfriends when you get home.

ODYSSEUS

My wife's...What!?

Tiresias disappears down into the pit again.

TIRESIAS

Then, you'll live to a ripe old age and die at sea!

The men look at each other, perplexed.

ODYSSEUS

Well, you heard the man. Onward! And don't raid the beeves!

BARYPOS

Shouldn't we go back and bury Elpenor?

Odysseus shrugs.

ODYSSEUS

Meh.

INT. MUSIC ROOM-EVENING

Odysseus takes a lute from the shelf. Alcinous tenses.

ALCINOUS

So, either way you live. I think the men are the ones Poseidon really cursed.

Odysseus strums the lute gently and Alcinous relaxes.

ODYSSEUS

Oh it was me. Trust me.

ALCINOUS

(skeptical)

Well what comes next?

Odysseus gives the lute one final, brisk strum and one of the strings snaps. Alcinous's eye twitches.

The End.