

Calypso and Odysseus

Scene 1 On Ogygia, Calypso's island

*Calypso is standing and Odysseus is sitting looking sad.
Close to them is Athene.*

Calypso

ō Odysseus, cārissime, vērō volō tē fēlicem esse. tum ego fēlicissima nymphārum
O Odysseus, dearest I only want you happy to be Then I the happiest of nymphs
mondī sim.
of the world would be

Odysseus

mihi benignissima es, ō Calypsō, tamen bene cognōscis quantum domum Ithacā
to me very kind you are Calypso, but well you know how much home in Ithaca
redīre cupiō et iterum uxōrem cārissimam et filium iuvenem revīserē.
to return I long and again my wife dearest and son. young to see

Athene

iam filius iuvenis illius vir adultus est. tempus adest ad mē faciendum ut domum mox
now the son young of him a man grown is time is present for me seeing so that home soon
redeat.
he might return

Scene 2 On Mount Olympus

Zeus is polishing thunderbolts. Next to him is his wife Hera, who is knitting. Enter Athene.

Athene

ō pater Zeus!
Father Zeus!

Zeus

quid dīcis? quid agit? occupātus sum.
What are you saying? What is going on? I'm busy.

Athene

O pater Zeus, invītus Odysseus ā nymphā Calypsōne in insulā longinquā retinitur.
Father Zeus, unwillingly Odysseus by the nymph Calypso. on an island far away is being kept

Zeus

Calypsō? ubi est? (*looks through his telescope*) cūr iste vexātus est? illa pulcherrima est.
Calypso? Where is she? why that man worried is? She very pretty is.

Hera

quid spectās, ō Zeus?
What are you looking at, Zeus?

Follows his looks, and sees Calypso. Stands between Zeus and Calypso.

Zeus

vērō nihil, cāra. hōc momentō cum Athēnā occupātus sum. *Hera remains standing.*
Oh, nothing, . dear just now with Athene I'm busy .

ō Athēna, quid cupis mē facere?
Athene, what do you want me to do

Athene

tibi placeat imperāre Calypsōnī ut Odysseum liberet.
may it please you to order Calypso to Odysseus let go.

Hera

cognōscō tē, ō Zeus. Calypsōnem vīs visitāre, et deinde ...
I know you, Zeus! Calypso you want to visit, and then ...

Zeus

minimē, ō cāra. Hermēs prō mē ībit. Hermēs!
Not at all, my dear. Hermes for me will go. Hermes!

Enter Hermes

Hermes

adsum, ō pater Zeus! quid cupis?
here I am Father Zeus? what do you want?

Zeus

ad Calypsōnem advolā. eam monē ut Odysseus liberandus sit, nē eī irātissimus fiam.
to Calypso fly her tell that Odysseus to be freed is, lest with her very angry I become.

Hera

Hermēs tam improbus est quam tū. dolī pessimī eī semper sunt
Hermes just as bad is as you. tricks very bad to him always are

Hermes

dolī? mihi?? haudquāquam!
Tricks? me?? never!

Exits to fly to Calypso in Ogygia.

Scene 3 On Ogygia

Calypso and Odysseus as before. Enter Hermes.

Hermes

ō Calypsō, Zeus mē missit. oportet tē Odysseum liberāre
Calypso, Zeus me has sent. You must let Odysseus let go

Odysseus

(Cannot see or hear Hermes.) cūr tam infēlix subitō vidēris?
Why so unhappy suddenly do you seem?

Calypso

nōn possum illud facere
I cannot it do.

Hermes

necesse est tibi nē Zeus fulmina in tē iaciat.
You must do so, lest Zeus lightning at you will throw.

Odysseus

quid dīcis, ō Calypsō. quid nōn potēs facere?
What are you saying, Calypso? What cannot you do?

Calypso

tē liberābō.

you I will let go.

Exit Hermes. Enter Athene

Odysseus

vērōne mē liberābis? benignissima es. tibi grātiās agō.

really me you will let go? very kind you are. thank you.

Calypso

tibi māteria et fūnēs et lintea dābō ut ratem aedificēs. tibi cibum et vīnum dābō.

to you wood and rope and sailcloth I shall give so that a raft you can make. To you food and wine I will give

mē benedīcente discēdēs sed semper tē valdē dēsīderam.

with me blessing [you], you will depart but always you much I shall miss.

Athene

ō Odysseus, necesse est tibi festināre. Poseidōn nunc abest et oportet tē

Odysseus, you must hurry. Poseidon now is away, and you must

discēdere antequam redeat, quod sī tē videat, tempestāte conētur tē interficere.

go before he comes back, because if you he sees, with a storm he will try you to destroy.

Odysseus

tibi grātiās agō, ō Calypsō. vērō benignissima es. oportet mē statim incohāre. (*Exits*)

Thank you, Calypso, truly very kind. you are I must immediately start work.

Calypso

ēheu. miserrimam mē!

Alas How miserable I am.

Scene 4 On Mount Olympus

Zeus and Hera as before. Enter Hermes followed by Athene.

Hermes

ō pater Zeus!

O father Zeus

Zeus

quid nunc agit?

What now is going on

Hermes

Calypsō Odysseum liberat.

Calypso Odysseum is freeing

Athene

ēheu. cor eius fractum est.

Alas! heart her broken is

Zeus

fractum? ō miserrima. (*Looks through telescope, and stands up*)

Broken? O unhappy girl

Hera

siste! nolī adīre ad eam, ō Zeus. nōn licet tibi eī consolārī.

stop! do not go to her Zeus, you must not her comfort

Zeus

bene, ō cara. quid autem faciēbam antequam Athēna mē interpellāvit?
Very well my dear. what however was I doing before Athene me interrupted?
nunc meminī. fulmina mea poliēbam.
now I remember thunderbolts my I was polishing

FINIS

Scene introductions

Scene 1 on Ogygia

On his return from the Trojan War, Odysseus has been shipwrecked on the island of the nymph Calypso, who has fallen in love with him, and keeps him on her island for seven years. His protectress, the goddess Athene, decides that something must be done. The first scene takes place on Ogygia, Calypso's island. Odysseus tells Calypso how much he longs to go home. Athene notes the situation.

Scene 2 on Mount Olympus

Athene goes to Mount Olympus, where the gods live, to implore Zeus, the chief god, to make Calypso let Odysseus go. Zeus looks down on Calypso, surprised that Odysseus is unhappy with such a beautiful companion. He is told firmly by his wife Hera not to go and visit Calypso himself, so he sends Hermes, the messenger of the gods, to order Calypso to let Odysseus go home to Ithaca.

Scene 3 on Ogygia

Hermes arrives to tell Calypso to free Odysseus, or else Zeus will strike her with a thunderbolt. She is unhappy, but knows that she must do this. Odysseus, who, as a mortal, cannot see Hermes, sees that Calypso is in distress, but is overjoyed when she tells him that she will help him build a raft, and will give him food and wine, so that he can travel home safely. Athene, who also is invisible to Odysseus, warns him that he must hurry, to avoid being destroyed at sea by the sea-god Poseidon, who hates him. Off he goes, leaving Calypso in great sadness.

Scene 4 on Mount Olympus

Hermes and Athene return to Mount Olympus to report on the success of the mission to Zeus. Athena says that Calypso's heart is broken. Hera again stops Zeus from going to comfort her, and he returns to his task of polishing thunderbolts.



Ogygia, Calypso's island

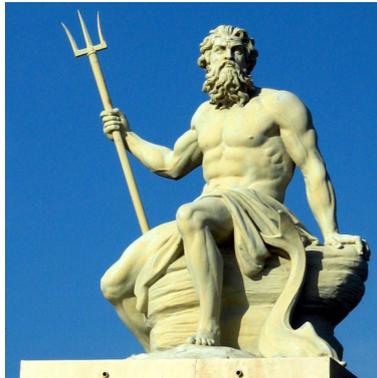


Odysseus and Calypso

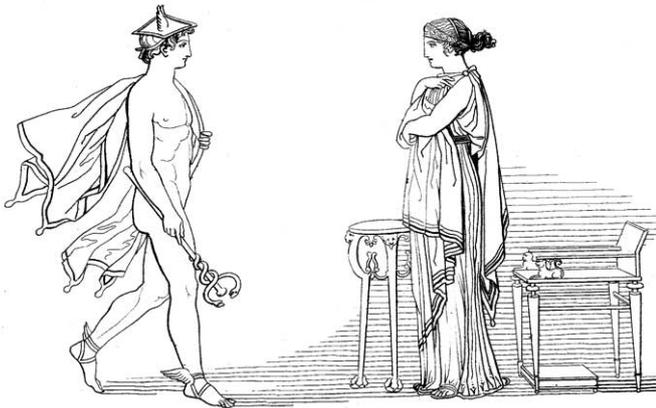


Zeus with Hera (c. 470 BCE)

Zeus and Hera



Poseidon



Hermes with Calypso



Athene and Odysseus