

# The Cattle of the Sun God

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# Setting

- Olympus- Mt. Olympus is the home to the gods
- On a ship at the shore of Thrinacia
- Ogygia Isle- where the dangerous nymph Calypso lives and sings there

# Characters

- Odysseus- protagonist, fought in Trojan War
- Eurylochus- one of Odysseus' crew member, persuades the other crew members to kill and eat the cows
- Alcinous- gives Odysseus materials to continue his journey
- Helios- the sun god

# Background Information

Odysseus is trying to make his way back home after the Trojan War but he is faced with many obstacles



# Conflicts

- Odysseus and his men are running out of food
- Zeus sends a storm destroying Odysseus' ship in vengeance for stealing Helios' cattle
- Odysseus' crew won't listen to him



# Eurylochus persuasion

- All the barley in the ship was gone driving the crew hungry
- One day Odysseus withdrew to pray to the gods for hope
- On the shore, Eurylochus was persuading the crew to sacrifice the cattle to Helios
- The crew unknowingly killed the cattle of the sun god while Odysseus was sleeping

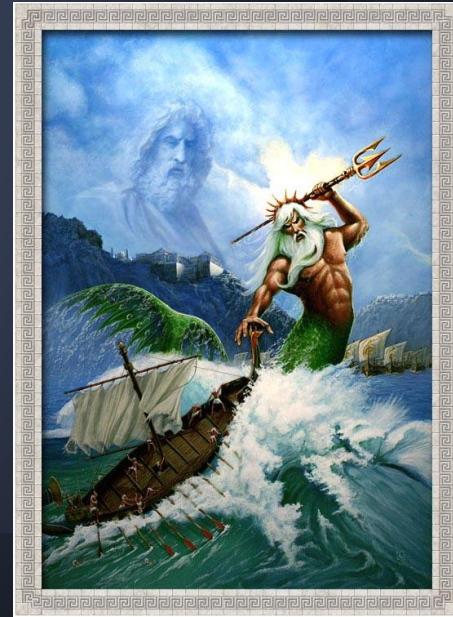
# Zeus and Helios Conference

- Helios asks Zeus to punish Odysseus and his men
- If Zeus doesn't punish them, Helios will go down into the underworld to light the dead
- Zeus tells Helios he will throw a lightning bolt at their ship



# Zeus Strikes

- The crew ate the cattle for 6 days
- On the seventh day they set sail
- Zeus hit shot the ship with a lightning bolt
- Crew was flung into sea
- Ship breaks apart
- Odysseus escapes by swimming to s Island





# Motivation

Odysseus is motivated to get back home to his wife Penelope and his son, Telemachus.

# Important Quotes

- “Comrades...You’ve gone through everything; listen to what I say. All deaths are hateful to us, mortal wretches, but famine is the most pitiful, the worst end that a man can come to.”(lines 863-867)
- “Better open your lungs to a big sea once for all than waste to skin and bones on a lonely island.” (lines 876-878)

# Theme/Moral

You will always be faced with temptations, but you have to have the willpower to resist.

Odysseus' men weren't able to resist their hunger which drove them to kill the sacred cattle.

# Turning point

The end of this chapter is the beginning of the Gods starting to help Odysseus to show pity on him.

# Discussion Questions

- What does Eurylochus say to persuade Odysseus' men to slaughter and eat the cattle of Helios the sun god?
- What is Zeus' response to Helios' demand for revenge?
- How does Odysseus manage to escape death?
- What impression of the gods do you get from the conference between Helios and Zeus