

Mr. Hill

Greek I

27 November 2019

## Odyssey God Family Problems

### I. Struggle for Athens

- A. Cecrops was the King of Cecropia
- B. He wanted to have a patron god/goddess for the city
- C. Athena and Poseidon competed for patronage
  - 1. Poseidon made a small salt-water pool called Erechtheus
    - a) Not super significant, just a lame pool
  - 2. Athena planted an olive tree
    - a) Significant because Athenian soil is bad
  - 3. Athena won, and Poseidon resented her for it
    - a) Poseidon, in his rage, flooded Athens for a day

### II. The blinding of Polyphemus

- A. Polyphemus is the son of Poseidon
  - 1. Mother is Thoosa
  - 2. Lived on the isle of the Cyclopes (Sicily)
- B. Odysseus lands on Sicily
  - 1. He does this because his men are hungry, and there are cattle on the island
- C. Odysseus' men enter the cave of Polyphemus
  - 1. Odysseus asks them not to touch anything
  - 2. His men touch everything, and specifically eat his cheese

- D. Polyphemus returns to the cave
    - 1. He kills some of Odysseus' men and leaves them there
    - 2. He blocks the remainder of Odysseus' men in the cave to find their ship
  - E. Odysseus and his men blind the cyclops for their escape
    - 1. They heat up an olive branch
    - 2. When Polyphemus returns the men altogether poke the cyclops' one eye
    - 3. No cyclopes help Polyphemus as Odysseus says his name is "nobody"
      - a) Polyphemus shouts "nobody is attacking me" and so the other cyclopes are confused and do not help
  - F. Odysseus and his men escape
    - 1. They hide underneath the cattle that Polyphemus herds
  - G. Odysseus taunts the Cyclops, telling him his real name
  - H. Polyphemus prays to Poseidon and wishes that Odysseus never reaches home
    - 1. He also says that if Odysseus must return home, he should return a broken man with no crew remaining
- II. Poseidon vs Athena in the Odyssey
- A. Athena constantly complains about Poesidon
    - 1. Begs Zeus to have pity on Odysseus
      - a) Stop Poesidon and his rage
  - B. Poseidon annihilates Odysseus' crew off the shores of Phaeacia
    - 1. Athena once again interferes with Poseidon's plan and saves Odysseus
      - a) Sends him to Phaeacia
      - b) Recieved wamly
      - c) Is supplied a ship to go home

### C. Resolution

1. Odysseus returns home to Ithaca a broken man
  - a) All his crew is dead
2. Poseidon gives up his rage and allows this
  - a) Specifically he calms while Odysseus is in Phaeacia
  - b) Also when Odysseus sacrifices to Poseidon as Tiresias said
3. Both Poseidon and Athena are satisfied with this conclusion
  - a) Their resentment still remains

## III. Characters

### A. Odysseus

1. Warrior from Ithaca
2. Fights in Trojan War
3. Struggles to sail home due to Poseidon's anger
  - a) Blinding Polyphemus

### B. Athena

1. Goddess of wisdom
2. Leads Odysseus home
  - a) Admires his cunning
  - b) Goes against the wishes of Poseidon

### C. Poseidon

1. God of sea
2. Father of Polyphemus
3. Sends obstacles to prevent Odysseus from arriving home
  - a) Angry at Odysseus for blinding his son

### D. Polyphemus

1. Cyclops (has one eye)
2. Son of Poseidon
3. Blinded by Odysseus

a) Pleas to Poseidon to curse their journey home

E. The Crew of Odysseus

1. Bad decision making skills result in longer journey home

F. Tiresias

1. Prophet

2. Tells Odysseus what to do to satisfy Poseidon

a) Sacrifice a ram and bull to Poseidon when he returns homeward

IV. Locations

A. Athens

1. Place where the olive tree and Erechtheus were made

2. The beginning of Athena and Poseidon's feud

B. Troy

1. Where Odysseus starts his story

C. Isle of the Cyclops (Sicily)

1. Where Polyphemus lives

2. Where Odysseus lands and pokes Polyphemus' eye out

D. Phaeacia

1. Main place where Odysseus was punished by Poseidon

E. Calypso's Island

1. Where Odysseus was kept by Poseidon's will

2. Zeus let him stay there, but Athena was the one who suggested he leave

F. Ithaca

1. Odysseus' homeland, and Athena's main goal



<http://www.openculture.com/2019/06/interactive-map-of-odysseus-10-year-journey-in-homers-odyssey.html>

1- Troy

2- Athens

4-Island of the cyclops

14-Ithaca

Phaeacia is right above Ithaca, just southwest of Albania



A descendant of the Olive tree planted by athena, and Erechtheion to its left  
[http://www.classicalathensgoldenage.com/ancient\\_athens\\_acropolis\\_map.htm](http://www.classicalathensgoldenage.com/ancient_athens_acropolis_map.htm)



Athena (middle) planting the olive tree for Cecrops (right)  
<https://changethru.info/and-relationship/cecrops-athena-and-poseidon-relationship.php>

### Works Cited

Apollodorus, "*library*", 3.14. translated by Sir James George Frazer. Perseus Digital Library, <http://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus%3Atext%3A1999.01.0022%3Atext%3DLibrary%3Abook%3D3%3Achapter%3D14> 11/24/2019.

Homer. *The Odyssey*. Translated by Robert Fagles. Penguin Classics, New York, New York, 1997.