

CALYPSO, THE SWEET NYMPH

The Introduction

- Odysseus has been wandering the Mediterranean Sea for ten years and held captive by Calypso for seven of these ten years
- Zeus orders Calypso to release Odysseus and sends Hermes to deliver message – messenger of the gods

CALYPSO, THE SWEET NYMPH

Hermes

- **epic simile** = flight of a seagull, fishing in the waves, compared to Hermes' trip to Calypso / shows Hermes' agility, speed, and supreme confidence



CALYPSO, THE SWEET NYMPH

Calypso

- o she lives in a cave surrounded by nature's beauty
- o she is at ease and feels a connection with nature

Odysseus

- o by day O sits on the rocky shore scanning the horizon / by night O lays with Calypso – she compels him

CALYPSO, THE SWEET NYMPH

- O is loyal to Calypso, but longs for home
Calypso and Odysseus
- Calypso offers O:
 - 1) wine and food – a feast
 - 2) advice
- Calypso uses three strategies to try and convince O to stay with her

CALYPSO, THE SWEET NYMPH



1) tries to frighten him about the dangers he will face

2) bribe him with immortality

3) instill guilt in him about insulting her

CALYPSO, THE SWEET NYMPH

- O responds by cleverly flattering her, relieving jealousy and anger, while staying loyal to his wife, Penelope
- relationship → well matched competitors – Calypso worked hard to win O's heart and O needed strong will power to resist her
- Calypso helps O build a raft

CALYPSO, THE SWEET NYMPH

Odysseus

- lands on the island, Scheria
- Athena grants O sleep
- **epithets:**
 - line 69 = “versatile Odysseus”
 - line 80 = “strategist Odysseus”

- O is clever and diplomatic in the way he handles people and situations

