

THE ODYSSEY (Revised) - Part I

(The two NARRATORS enter. One holds an intimidating, thickly bound book, "The Odyssey.")

Characters:	Narrator 1	Narrator 2	Narrator 3	Narrator 4	Penelope
	Telly	Suitor 1	Suitor 2	Suitor 3	Athena

NARRATOR 1. Welcome my friends to the show of all shows

NARRATOR 2. A story that mostly everyone knows—

NARRATOR 3. It's forced on us all at a bright early age

NARRATOR 4. Children condemned to read page after page

NARRATOR 1. I'm speaking of course of the great Od-is-see

NARRATOR 2. The tale of Odysseus, master of sea—

NARRATOR 3. His travels, his struggles, his fantastical snuggles

NARRATOR 4. With nymphs and goddesses and non-magical muggles

NARRATOR 1. Stop it you dunce that's not the right story. This one is 76 times more gory.

NARRATOR 2. Oh you're right, my bad— It comes from all that bad schooling I've had

NARRATOR 3. You're not alone my friend and that's why we're here

NARRATOR 4. And even better is the cheer in my heart of the hearts.

NARRATOR 1. We're going to leave out the dull boring parts.

NARRATOR 2. So without further to do let's begin

NARRATOR 3. So the story begins in a most unruly place

NARRATOR 4. Odysseus' estate in the mountains of Thrace

NARRATOR 1. Hey that's a lie it takes place in Ithaca

NARRATOR 2. *(Breaking the rhythm:)* Why don't you try and find a rhyme for Ithaca?

NARRATOR 3. Anyway. There at his home lived his marvelous wife

Whom Odysseus loved with all of his life. *(PENELOPE enters.)*

NARRATOR 4. Penelope Ann MacBuffy MacBay

PENELOPE. I am the queen of all I survey.

NARRATOR 1. But things were not good. They were awfully poor
'cause her husband had not come home from the war

NARRATOR 2. And she had a son, we'll call him young Telly *(TELLY enters, looking like a nerd.)*
Without a Dad he'd grown up all skinny and smelly *(TELLY sniffs his armpits.)*

NARRATOR 3. And her husband's long absence was causing her fears.
He'd been gone, after all, for twenty long years.

NARRATOR 4. And up to the house came a number of guys.
Who weren't very smart and they weren't very wise
(The SUITORS enter.)

SUITOR 1. Penelope Ann MacBuffy MacBay. Come out, come out, come wed me today.

PENELOPE. I'm not coming out you ugly old toad. I'm still married you nerd, so hit the road

SUITOR 2. Penelope Ann MacBuffy MacBay, marry me instead and with you'll I'll stay

PENELOPE. Are you deaf? Are you dumb? Perhaps you don't hear.
I'm still married to my man; he's awfully dear.

SUITOR 3. Penelope Ann MacBuffy MacBay, I love you so much. I can't really say.

PENELOPE. When my husband comes home he'll smash in your head.
Get out of here fast if you don't you'll be dead.

SUITOR 1. Oh, come on, you're kidding. Your husband's long gone.

SUITOR 2. If he isn't dead then he's surely moved on.

TELLY. Give it up you guys; you can't win her heart. My name is Telly. I know mixed martial arts.
(TELLY attacks. They laugh, surround him, and give him a wedgie.)

SUITOR 1. What's this, a young pup defending the place?

SUITOR 2. Move out boy. Get out of this place!

SUITOR 3. On second thought, I have an idea so smartie.
Let's stay with the Lady and with her enjoy a party.
We're staying my lady until you make a choice.
To make a husband of one of us here with your voice.

NARRATOR 1. So they stayed and they partied till dawn. They quite enjoyed themselves partying on.
And the word went out far and farther than that.
That Odysseus' party was where it was at.

(Music plays. The suitors try to impress Telly. During the following speech, SUITORS step forward.)

SUITOR 1. We welcome a group of guys that you'll love the most.
There's Billy the Bully of Billigan Bay. And Mortimer Andrew O'Gilligan Shea.
There's Chippy the Snip, a wonderful dude.
If you love burping and slurping and anything crude.
As you can see the greatest men in the land have all gathered here
to ask for your hand. So I ask you again and we're all waiting to hear.
Which of these men will become your sweet dear?

ALL SUITORS. Penelope Ann MacBuffy MacBay, pick one of us here to marry today!

PENELOPE. All right, all right, I can see that you've won

TELLY. *(Underneath:)* Mom, no!

PENELOPE. But I'm weaving a shroud, and I'll choose when I'm done,

SUITOR 2. That's fine with us, we'll sit and we'll wait

SUITOR 3. And while we are waiting we'll throw a party so great

NARRATOR 2. And the prince of the place, young Telly was sad.
He sat down and cried and thought of his dad
(TELLY sits and cries. The SUITORS laugh.)

NARRATOR 3. But then who should appear in that mungiferous night?
The goddess Athena in her magnificent might *(ATHENA enters.)*

TELLY. Oh my gosh it's you. I knew it was true.
I had a fairy godmother, and her eyes are so blue *(He swoons.)*

ATHENA. Listen. I am no fairy, A goddess instead, years ago I sprang from my father's head

TELLY. That's weird—

ATHENA. I said to be silent, just sit there and nod.
Because I have no patience even though I'm a god.
I'm a friend to your father; we go all the way back.
And he'll be here soon to lead the attack.

For the moment don't die and just keep sitting tight.
Odysseus will return to set this all right.

NARRATOR 4. And she turned into a hawk without waiting for him.
And flew off into the night where the stars were all dim
(Lights change. The two NARRATORS approach.)

NARRATOR 1. So the question remains from on low and on high

NARRATOR 2. Just whatever happened to that Odysseus guy?

THE ODYSSEY (Revised) - Part II

Characters: Narrator 1 Narrator 2 Odysseus Poseiden/Sheep
 Circe Crew Member 1 Crew Member 2 Cyclops
 Additional Crew members (no speaking parts)

NARRATOR 1. Let's take it back ten years to the end of the war
 when they had conquered the Trojans if you're keeping score.
(ODYSSEUS and his crew enter with a boat. Odysseus' crew can consist of a few men.)

NARRATOR 2. After 10 years of fighting against Troy,
 Odysseus, was sailing for home to see his wife and boy.

ODYSSEUS. All right men gather up and let's get in the ship,
 and finally go home after this triumphant trip.

NARRATOR 1. So they got all their stuff and piled into the boat,
 and shoved off for home without leaving a note.
(Everyone gets in the boat.)

NARRATOR 2. Now one of his crew, his name was Circe ("sir-see").
 He was strong as an ox but had a brain full of jelly.

CIRCE. This is so great we'll be home before lunch.
 I've got sweet sailing skills, and I have a hunch.
 There's nothing in quarellous land or in quarrellous sea.
 There is nothing round here quite as awesome as me.

NARRATOR 1. So up from the water came a mighty loud roar.
 And there appeared in the ocean quite far from the shore.
 A guy, a little quizzical guy, with a trident in hand;
 and he spoke with a voice both majestic and grand.
(POSEIDON enters with a trident.)

POSEIDON. I am Poseidon, I speak for the seas.
 And believe me you've never seen seas such as these.

CIRCE. Hey, buddy, get out of the water 'cause we're sailing through.
 We just won a war and we're tougher than you.

POSEIDON. I am Poseidon, I speak for the seas And your disrespect will land you on your knees.
 I was about to let you and your friends on your way. But not now, now you're going to pay today.

CREW MEMBER 1. Can I make a quick point? It was Circe that spoke.

CREW MEMBER 2. How bout punish him and let the rest of us go?

POSEIDON. Nope, for the sins of the one, I'll punish you all.
 He wrecked it for everyone and now all will fall.

Because once one person's done wrong and broken the rule,
I'll make everyone suffer just like in school.
Once again, I will tell you my name; I am Poseidon, and I run this game.
I'm god of the sea, the ocean, and quakes.
I'll give you the willies, and I'll give you the shakes.
Oh the places you'll go and the places I'll send you.
To islands with monsters where you're on the menu.
And sometimes it may look like you're going to win.

CREW MEMBER 1. (*Underneath:*) Dang it!

POSIEDON. Oh the places you'll go you ridiculous fools, You've ticked off a god and that is not cool.
So off now you go to wander the sea. And I promise you haven't heard the last of me.

NARRATOR 2. And he huffed and he huffed a garuffulous huff.
And he puffed and he puffed a ginormulous puff.
And all of the men heard a thunderous thoom,
as into the sea their ship zoomy zoomed.

(The men shake and fall down as POSIEDON disappears.)

CIRCE. My bad. (*The men sit on the edge of the boat and look around.*)

NARRATOR 1. Their mast had been snapped, they had nothing to do

NARRATOR 2. So they sat around sadly and gazed into the blue

NARRATOR 1. And every so often a guy got a thought

(CREW MEMBER 1 gets up slowly, walks over to Circe, kicks him, then sits back down.)

So their chances of going home were sadly all shot

NARRATOR 2. But at last they drifted to a land with a shore

CIRCE. Hey look an island! Guys, an island! Maybe there's more!

CREW MEMBER 1. We hate you. (*A sheep enters.*)

CREW MEMBER 2. Hey, look, a sheep! Sheep are awfully neat!

CREW MEMBER 1. And they're awfully good to cook and to eat!

(CREW MEMBERS 1 and 2 get out of the boat. Ominous music plays.)

ODYSSEUS. Hold on you guys. I just heard an evilish sound.

As if something quite evil lived here on this ground.

CREW MEMBER 2. Oh come on we're warriors we are not afraid

CREW MEMBER 1. Let's follow that sheep down into the shade

(The sheep enters a cave. Everyone follows.)

NARRATOR 2. So they all followed the sheep into a deep darky cave,
and they thanked all the gods for the blessings they gave.

(More ominous music plays. Louder this time.)

ODYSSEUS. That's it, I heard music, I don't like this one bit.

I'll see you guys later, I'm going out to sit.

(The CYCLOPS rolls a boulder in front of the cave entrance.)

NARRATOR 1. But it was far too late to get out of that place
'cause in a moment they came face to face
Or rather face to knee because the monster was awfully tall.
He roared awfully loud and they felt awfully small.

They couldn't run away or call the Greek cops
For they faced the monstrous, one-eyed, bigtastic Cyclops.

CYCLOPS. You're doomed you little grubulous men And I have an appetite to eat three or ten.

NARRATOR 2. For you see though the Cyclops was awfully tall
His heart was twenty two sizes too small

(CREW MEMBER 1 and CREW MEMBER 2 run for it.)

And with that the brave men broke into a run.
But the Cyclops was quick, he was having great fun *(The CYCLOPS laughs.)*
And with one snatch he snatched them.

CREW MEMBER 2. I think we're done!

NARRATOR 1. And with one gulp he ate Crew Member Two and Crew Member One

(The CYCLOPS eats CREW MEMBER 1 and CREW MEMBER 2. They run off-stage, switch hats and return moments later as CREW MEMBER 3 & CREW MEMBER 4)

CIRCE. All right you big monster you've picked on the weak, but I am called Circe, and I am not meek.

ODYSSEUS. Quiet you dunce or you'll end up as brunch
For this gigantic one-eyed mean monster to munch But
I've got a plan for this titan in store

NARRATOR 2. And in popped Crew Member Three and Crew Member Four

(CREW MEMBER 3 and CREW MEMBER 4 enter.)

CIRCE. Hey where were you guys when all of us were attacked?

CREW MEMBER 3. We don't say a whole lot

CREW MEMBER 4. We sit in the back.

ODYSSEUS. Excuse me dear Cyclops, I don't mean to be rude
But I can't help but notice you think we are food
Please let us leave and spare the lives of these men
And we will never, I mean never, bug you again.
And if I may, can I ask you one question? How do you see without depth perception?

CYCLOPS. Oh the sights I can spy with only one eye. If I try I can spy a small fly flying by.

I can spy with my eye the zoom-a-boom bats,
Who are flipping and flapping in zoom-a-boom hats.
Oh, you really don't know what it's like to be me.
To see these amazing spectacular sights that I see.
So your request to leave is hereby denied.
And don't try to leave, 'cause I've got you all spied.

ODYSSEUS. You're right, mighty creature, how could I possibly think
that a poor man like me could outthink your great think?
As a gesture of peace take this jug of red wine.
Drink all that you want, have a fabulous time.

CYCLOPS. Thanks. I gotta say you Greeks sure are nice.
I think I'll eat that one on a bed of fried rice.

(CREW MEMBER 3 cringes.)

NARRATOR 1. So the Cyclops he drank, and he wasn't quite done

He had to wash down Crew Member Two and Crew Member One.
Luckily for him Odysseus had a lot more.
So he drank and he drank and he drank some more.
But then the whole cave seemed like a spin-spinner spun.
He passed out on the floor, Odysseus had won.

(The CYCLOPS burps, then passes out.)

CIRCE. Great let's go and get back to the shore.

ODYSSEUS. You forget that big boulder is blocking the door.

CIRCE. Good thing I'm the strongest man you ever will see.
Stand back my dear man and leave it to me.

(CIRCE tries to move the boulder, but can't.)

NARRATOR 2. So Circe he huffed and he puffed and he swore.

But he couldn't quite remove the rock from the door.

CIRCE. This rockiest lock seems beyond mortal men. I guess we'll all starve to death in here then

ODYSSEUS. We're not going to starve, you rock-headed man.

Because I am a planner and I have a plan.

First we grind down the giant's loneliest eye.

Then beneath those fat sheep ourselves we will tie.

CIRCE. What?

ODYSSEUS. Trust me.

(ODYSSEUS takes a spear and approaches the passed out CYCLOPS.)

NARRATOR 1. Odysseus and his men took a long pole. They sharpened it and put in the fire to glow.

NARRATOR 2. Then Odysseus took the big spear with the others helping in the rear.

NARRATOR 1. With all their might they rammed the pole, aiming it in the Cyclop's only eye hole.

(The CYCLOPS roars out in pain.

The Crew Members each find sheep and hold them on top of themselves.)

CYCLOPS. Oh my eye! My eye! My only I-spying eye! You mean horrible Greeks you're going to die!

NARRATOR 2. Now the Cyclops was determined to eat every last one.

It would take him longer, but he would eat every single bone.

But he found that without his eye he was really quite blind.

And he groped and he groped, but he couldn't quite find . . .

Still he felt with his hands and he only felt sheep.

And the crew members made not one little peep.

CYCLOPS. Somehow they got out, they got past my big rock.

How did they do it? Did they whistle or knock? *(He rolls away the boulder.)*

I will find them these men from the nation of Greece.

I will grab them and eat them one piece by one piece.

NARRATOR 1. And as he opened the door under sheep they did creep
and escaped into the day without saying one peep

(The crew crept out the cave door with the sheep above their heads.)

CYCLOPS. *(Pet each sheep as they leave. When you get to the last sheep stop it and say. . .)*

You're extra slow. You're usually the first to go. Is anything wrong? *(Pause.)* Oh, well. Go along.