

# ITHAKA

As you set out for Ithaka  
hope your road is a long one,  
full of adventure, full of discovery.  
Laistrygonians, Cyclops,  
angry Poseidon - don't be afraid of them:  
you'll never find things like that one on your way  
as long as you keep your thoughts raised high,  
as long as a rare excitement  
stirs your spirit and your body.  
Laistrygonians, Cyclops,  
wild Poseidon - you won't encounter them  
unless you bring them along inside your soul,  
unless your soul sets them up in front of you.

Hope your road is a long one.  
May there be many summer mornings when,  
with what pleasure, what joy,  
you enter harbours you're seeing for the first time;  
may you stop at Phoenician trading stations  
to buy fine things,  
mother of pearl and coral, amber and ebony,  
sensual perfumes of every kind -  
as many sensual perfumes as you can;  
and may you visit many Egyptian cities  
to learn and go on learning from their scholars.

Keep Ithaka always in your mind.  
Arriving there is what you're destined for.  
But don't hurry the journey at all.  
Better if it lasts for years,  
so you're old by the time you reach the island,  
wealthy with all you've gained on the way,  
not expecting Ithaka to make you rich.

Ithaka gave you the marvellous journey.  
Without her you wouldn't have set out.

She has nothing left to give you now.  
And if you find her poor, Ithaka won't have fooled you.  
Wise as you will have become, so full of experience,  
you'll have understood by then what these Ithakas mean

[An alternative translation of "Ithaka"](#)

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## ÉèÜêç

Óá âãáèò óòíí >çãáéìü äéá ôçí ÉèÜêç,  
íá â‡÷áóáé íŪíáé ìáêñ‡ò ì äñüìò,  
ãàìŪòìò >ãñé‡ôáéàò, ãàìŪòìò äífióáéò.  
Ōìòò Ēáéóòñòäüíáò éáé òìòò Ê‡êèù‡àò,  
òíí èòìùì‡íí <ìóáéäfiíá ìç òíâŪóáé,  
ò‡òíéá óòíí äñüìì óìò >ìò‡ óìò äái èá äñáéò,  
ái ìái' ç óétøèò óìò òøçèfl, áí äèèäèòfl  
óòäèßíçóéò òì >ìá‡ìá éáé òì ófiíá óìò äããßæáé.  
Ōìòò Ēáéóòñòäüíáò éáé òìòò Ê‡êèù‡àò,  
òíí Ūãñéì <ìóáéäfiíá äái èá óòíáíòflóáéò,  
ái äái òìòò èìòäáíáßò ìàò óòçí øò÷fl óìò,  
ái ç øò÷fl óìò äái òìòò óòflíáé àìñüò óìò.

Íá â‡÷áóáé íŪíáé ìáêñ‡ò ì äñüìò.  
<ièèŪ óá éáèìèáéñéíŪ >ñüúŪ íá áßíáé  
>ìò ìà òé äõ÷áñßòôçóé, ìà òé ÷áñŪ  
èá ìáßíáéò óá èèì‡íáò >ñüòìáéäüì‡ííòò,  
íá óòáìáòflóáéò ó' àì>íñáßá ŌìéíéèèèŪ,  
éáé òàò éáè‡ò >ñáãìŪòáéàò í' á>ìèòflóáéò,  
óáíò‡òéá éáé èìñŪèèèéá, èá÷ñéì>Ūñéá è' ‡ááííòò,  
éáé çäííéèŪ ìòñüäéèŪ èŪèà èìäflò,  
üòí ì>íñáßò >èì Ūèèííá çäííéèŪ ìòñüäéèŪ,  
óá >üèáéò Áéãò>òéáè‡ò >ìèè‡ò íá >àò,  
íá ìŪèáéò éáé íá ìŪèáéò á' òìòò ó>ìòäáóì‡ííòò.

<Ūíóá óòíí ííò óìò íŪ÷áéò ôçí ÉèÜêç.

Ôi òèÛóéiïí âêâß áéí' ì >ñiñéóìùò óiõ.  
ÁëëÛ ìç âéÛæâéò ôi ôáîâßâé äéüëiõ.  
Êáëëßôñá ÷ñüíéá >ïëëÛ íá äéáñê†óâé  
êâé ã†ñiò >éá í' áñÛîâéò óôí íçóß,  
>ëi†óéiò ìâ üóá ê†ñäéóâò óôí äñüiï,  
ìç >ñiôáïêfiíôáò >ëi†ôç íá óâ äfióâé ç ÊèÛêç.

Ç ÊèÛêç ó†âüóâ ô' ùñáßi ôáîâßâé.  
¥ññßò áóôflí äâí èÛâââéíâò óôíí äñüiï.  
Çëëá äâí †÷âé íá óâ äfióâé >éá.

Êé áí >òù÷éêfl ôçí ãñâéò, ç ÊèÛêç äâ óâ ã†éáóâ.  
\_óóé óiõùò >iõ †âéíâò, ìâ ôüóç >âßñá,  
flâç èá ôi éâôÛéáââò ié ÊèÛêâò ôé óçíâßiïí.

*Êùíóôáíôßiïò <. ÊáâÛöçò*

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