


Module 7: The Epic – the *Odyssey*

Topic 3 Content: Book X of the *Odyssey* Notes

Introduction

Book X of the *Odyssey*

Introduction



As this book begins, Odysseus is still telling his story to King Alcinous and the other Phaeacians. After blinding Polyphemus, the son of Poseidon, the Ithacans continue their travels. Click on each of the bars in the "accordion" to learn more about the events of this book.

Image: Odysseus at the Court of Alcinous by Francesco Hayez

- Aiolia and Aiolos
- The Ithacans at Sea
- Lamos and Antiphates
- Aeaea and Circe
- Circe's Prophecy

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Aiolia and Aiolos

Book X of the *Odyssey*

Aiolia and Aiolos

Aiolia and Aiolos



Odysseus and his men land on the island of Aeolia, which is ruled by Aeolus, the god of the winds. Aeolus welcomes Odysseus and his crew, who tell their version of the Trojan War again. After staying for a month, Odysseus and his men prepare to leave. In order to help them get home, Aeolus gives them a bag of wind.

Image: A marble representation of Aeolus

The Ithacans at Sea

Lamos and Antiphates

Aeaea and Circe

Circe's Prophecy

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The Ithacans at Sea

Book X of the Odyssey

Aiolla and Aiolos
The Ithacans at Sea

The Ithacans at Sea



Lamos and Antiphates
Aeaea and Circe
Circe's Prophecy

After nine days at sea, Odysseus falls asleep. His men open the bag because they think that it is full of riches. This wastes all the wind and sends them backwards. Odysseus is so sad that he considers suicide; instead, he goes back to Aiolia. Now that Aiolos sees how cursed these men are, he refuses to help them again.

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Lamos and Antiphates

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The Ithacans at Sea
Lamos and Antiphates

Lamos and Antiphates



Aeaea and Circe
Circe's Prophecy

Odysseus and his men then arrive in Lamos six days later. Lamos is where the scary Laestrygonians live. As soon as the Ithacans get to the island, King Antiphates kills and drinks the blood of one of Odysseus's men. They leave immediately.

Image: A late 1st century BC depiction of the Laestrygonians

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Aeaea and Circe

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The Ithacans at Sea


Lamos and Antiphates

Aeaea and Circe

Aeaea and Circe

They then arrive in Aeaea, which is the home of the goddess Circe. The Ithacans kill a big stag for dinner, and then Odysseus sends 22 of his crew to check out Circe's home. She tricks them with her beauty and turns most of the men into pigs. When Odysseus goes to rescue them, he meets Hermes who gives him instructions on how to prevent being turned into a pig. He tricks Circe and she turns all of his men from pigs back into humans.

Image: Circe Offering the Cup to Odysseus by John William Waterhouse



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Circe's Prophecy



After staying with Circe for a month, Odysseus asks her for her help in getting home. She tells him that they must go to the Underworld and meet the prophet Tiresias before they can go home. She then gives them instructions on getting to the Underworld, and she gives them the needed animal sacrifices in order to do so.

Image: Odysseus in the Underworld by John Flaxman

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