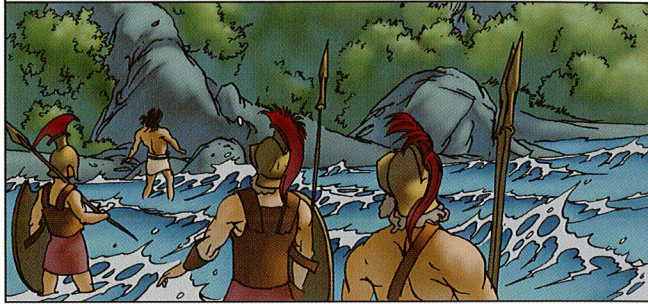
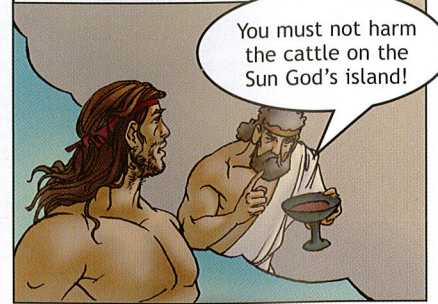


# THE CATTLE OF THE SUN GOD

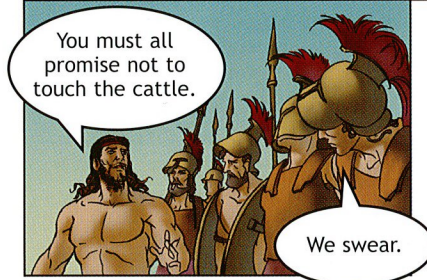
With heavy hearts, the survivors sail on. Troubled and travel-wearied, they reach the island of the Sun God.



Odysseus remembers the warning from Tiresias.



He would prefer to sail straight past—but the men are exhausted.

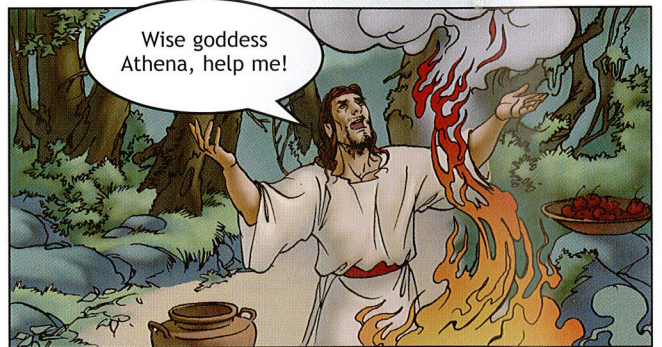


They land on the island—and Poseidon sends a furious storm to stop them from sailing away.

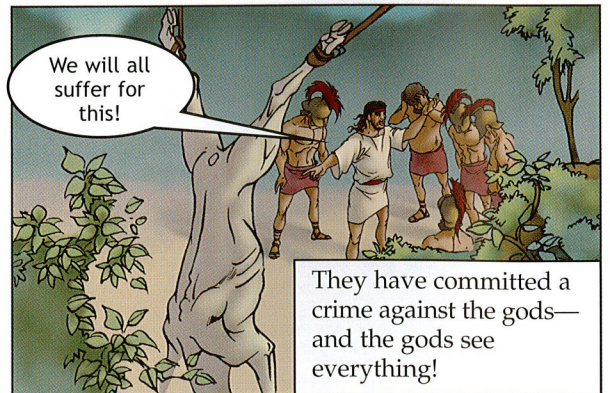
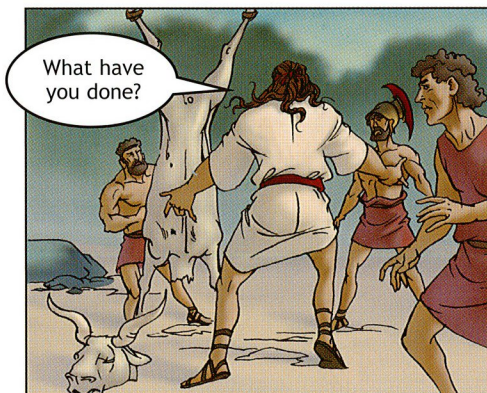
At first they catch fish and hunt hares and deer...



...but they gaze longingly at the fine fat cattle grazing peacefully in the meadows!



One day, while Odysseus is saying his prayers, the temptation is just too much for them...



They have committed a crime against the gods—and the gods see everything!



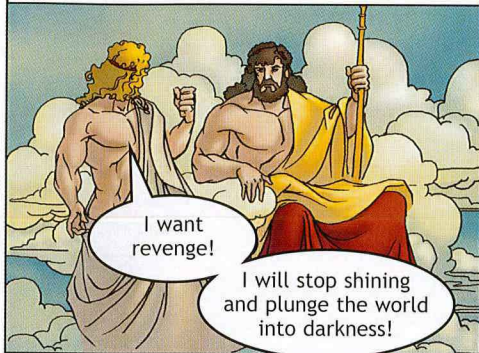
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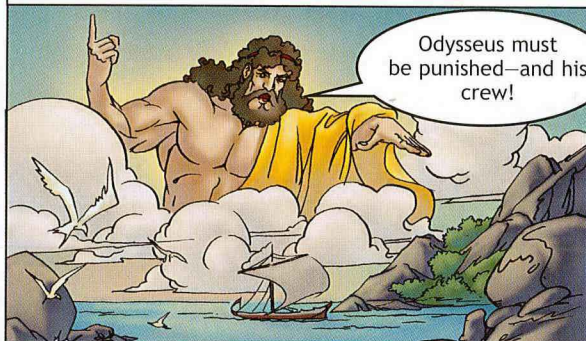
Sure enough, Helios, the Sun God, complains to mighty Zeus.



I want revenge!

I will stop shining and plunge the world into darkness!

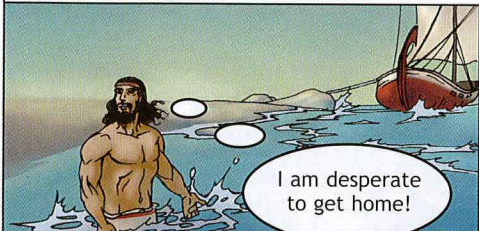
Zeus persuades Helios to go on shining...



Odysseus must be punished—and his crew!

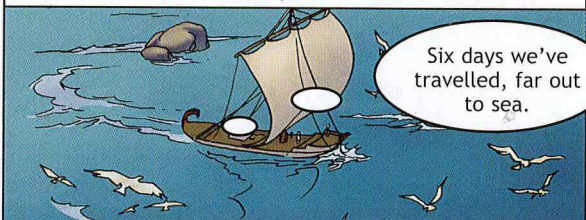
...but he, too, is angry about the cattle.

Odysseus could stay on the island and wait for the gods' punishment...



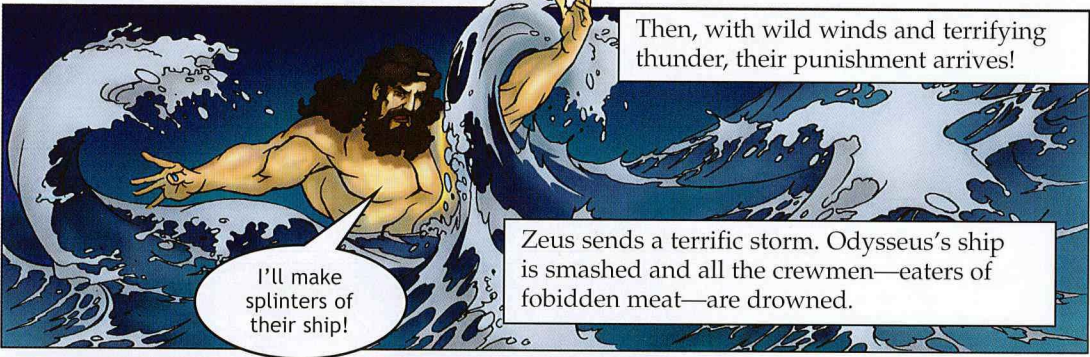
I am desperate to get home!

...but instead he bravely decides to set sail...



Six days we've travelled, far out to sea.

...and risk whatever the gods may send him.



Then, with wild winds and terrifying thunder, their punishment arrives!

I'll make splinters of their ship!

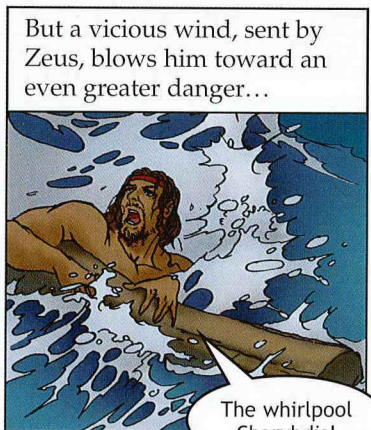
Zeus sends a terrific storm. Odysseus's ship is smashed and all the crewmen—eaters of forbidden meat—are drowned.



Only Odysseus survives, surrounded by shattered timbers.



Weak and exhausted, he clings to the wreckage.



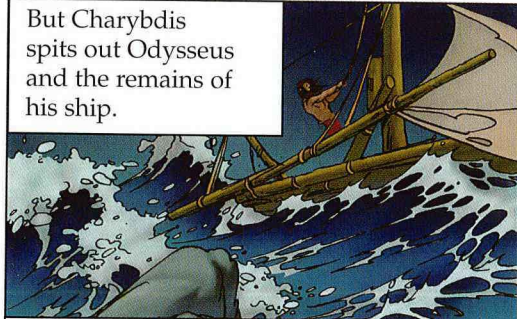
But a vicious wind, sent by Zeus, blows him toward an even greater danger...

The whirlpool Charybdis!



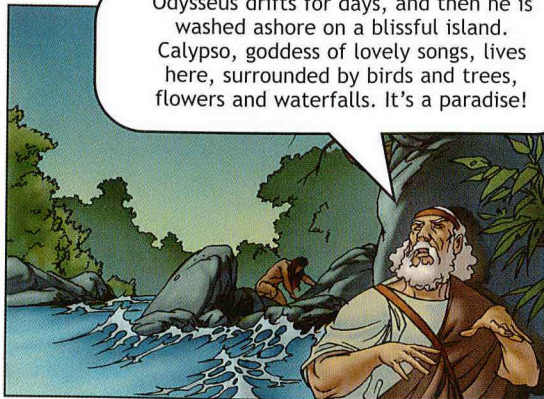
# CALYPSO AND NAUSICAA

But Charybdis spits out Odysseus and the remains of his ship.



The gods want Odysseus to suffer, but they don't want him to die!

Odysseus drifts for days, and then he is washed ashore on a blissful island. Calypso, goddess of lovely songs, lives here, surrounded by birds and trees, flowers and waterfalls. It's a paradise!



Calypso falls in love with Odysseus. She promises he will live forever, as long as he stays on her island.



Beloved guest!

Divine Calypso!

They even begin a family.

We have two fine sons!



But still Odysseus longs to see his homeland and his real family. He sits by the sea and weeps.



Penelope!

Have the gods forgotten Odysseus? Was Tiresias's prophecy wrong? Should Odysseus give up all hope? No!

Goddess Athena persuades Zeus, king of the gods, to let Odysseus leave Calypso's island. Calypso is heartbroken—but Zeus must be obeyed. She gives Odysseus wood to make a boat, and food and water for his journey. She calls up a kindly wind to speed him on his way.



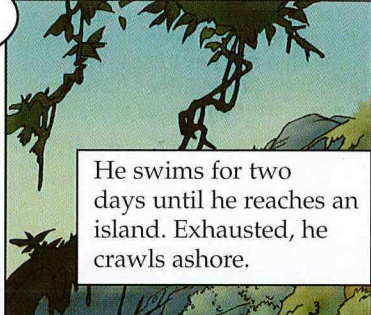
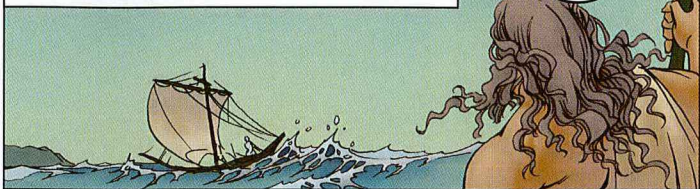
Farewell, my love!



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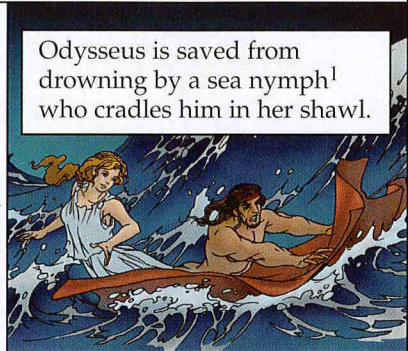
Odysseus speeds on, steering a straight course by the stars. His heart is full of joy. But his bitter enemy, Poseidon, is watching him.

He's nearly home—but I'll give him a rough ride!

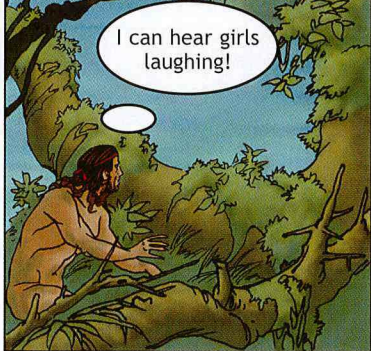


He swims for two days until he reaches an island. Exhausted, he crawls ashore.

Angry Poseidon whips up another furious storm.



Odysseus is saved from drowning by a sea nymph<sup>1</sup> who cradles him in her shawl.

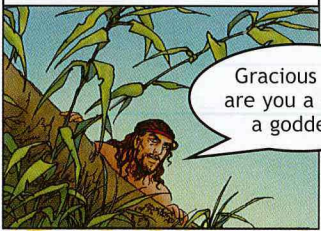


I can hear girls laughing!

Odysseus has lost all his clothes in the shipwreck, so he hides behind some bushes.

Odysseus is a wretched sight—wild-eyed, salt-stained, and grimy. The girls run away—all except one.

She is Princess Nausicaa, the lovely daughter of the king of this island.



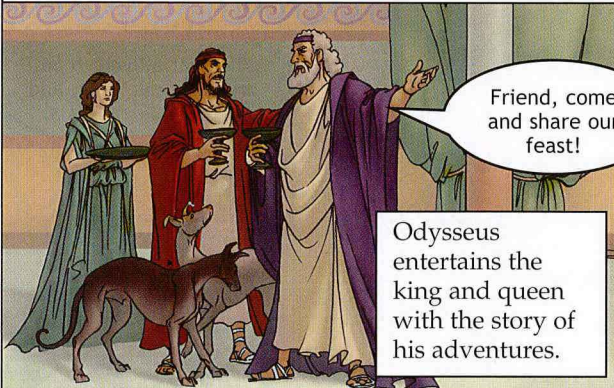
Gracious lady, are you a girl or a goddess?

Eek!

Good sir, are you a castaway<sup>2</sup>?

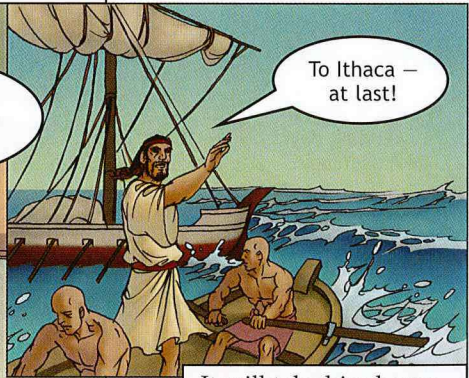
We must take care of you!

She finds clothes for him and leads him to the palace.



Friend, come and share our feast!

Odysseus entertains the king and queen with the story of his adventures.



To Ithaca — at last!

When it's time to leave, they give him a magic ship.

It will take him home, all by itself!

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ould

1. nymph: a minor goddess or nature-spirit in the shape of a beautiful young woman.  
2. castaway: one who washes ashore after having survived a shipwreck.

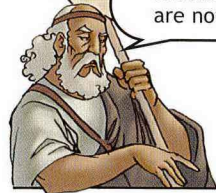


# ITHACA

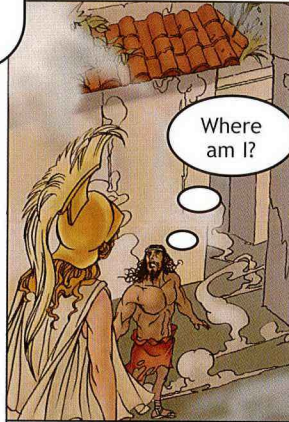
Odysseus climbs on board, and falls into a deep, dreamless sleep. He is still sleeping when the ship reaches Ithaca. The gods be praised! He's home again after almost 20 years!



But his troubles are not over...



A thick mist covers the island, and Odysseus feels lost. A tall, stately woman approaches...

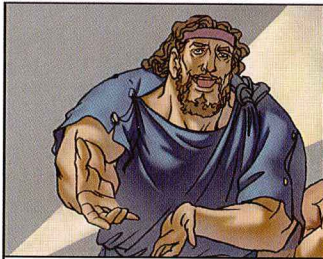


Where am I?



I am always watching over you, to help and protect you. Now, listen to me!

It's the goddess Athena, here in Odysseus's homeland!



For three long years, greedy suitors<sup>1</sup> have been trying to wed your wife Penelope.

They want her beauty—and your kingdom!

You will need all your cleverness to get rid of them, and save her.

Athena tells Odysseus what has been happening in Ithaca.

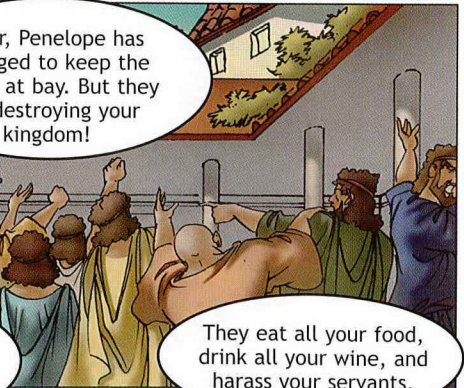


Every day, they torment Penelope at your home, asking her to choose one of them as her husband.

Penelope!  
Penelope! Name the wedding day!  
Make us happy!

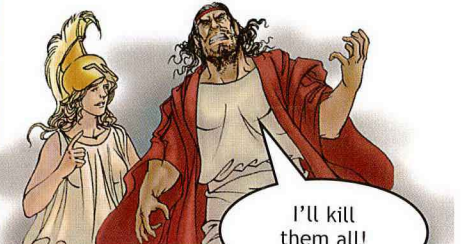


Odysseus, my love, if only you were here to help me!



So far, Penelope has managed to keep the suitors at bay. But they are destroying your kingdom!

They eat all your food, drink all your wine, and harass your servants.

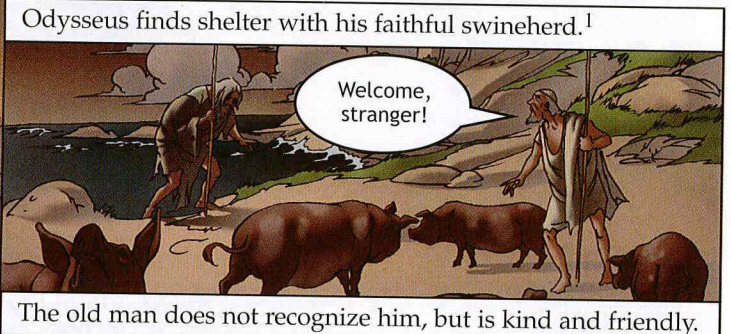
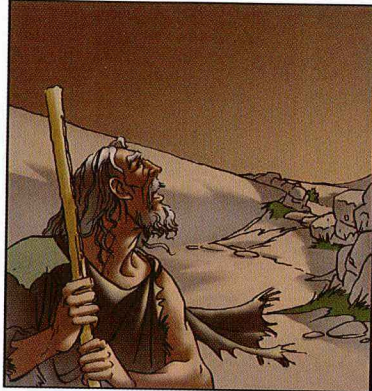
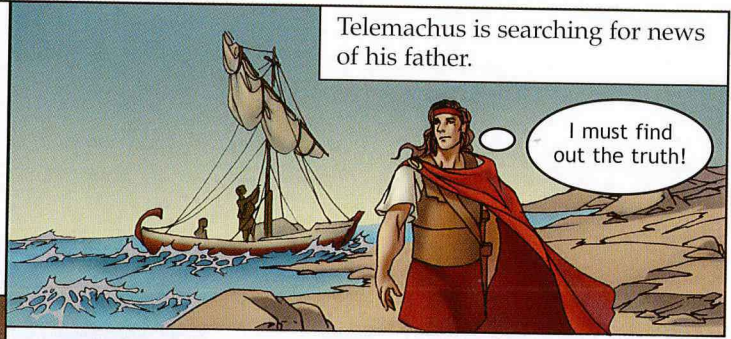


I'll kill them all!

1. suitors: men who want to marry. Because Odysseus has been away so long, most people assume that he is dead, and that Penelope is a widow.



Athena disguises Odysseus as a poor wandering beggar. That way, he can spy on the suitors without being recognized. Then she leaves Ithaca and speeds off to Sparta to fetch Telemachus, Odysseus's son.



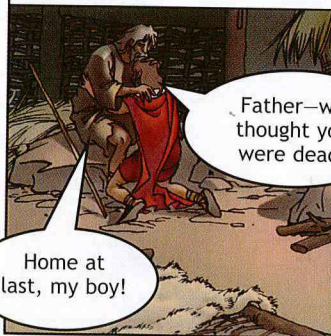
They talk about the good times long ago...



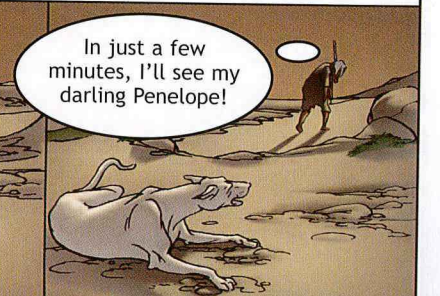
Magically, Telemachus appears, brought from Sparta by Athena.

...when Odysseus lived and ruled in Ithaca!

While the swineherd is out feeding his pigs, Odysseus tells Telemachus who he is. Father and son hug each other joyfully.



Next morning, on the way to the palace, Odysseus and Telemachus pass a very old dog by the side of the road. It's Argos, Odysseus's faithful hound. He recognizes his master, wags his tail—and dies of happiness.

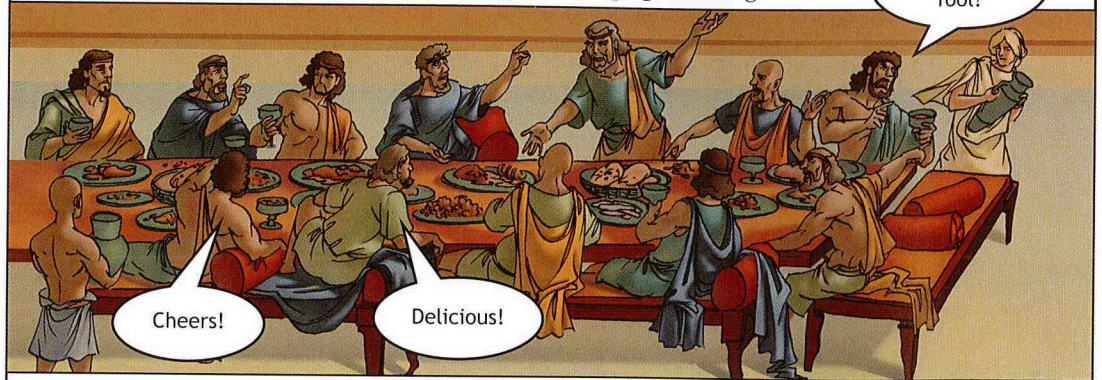


1. swineherd: a farmworker who looks after pigs.



# PENELOPE AND THE SUITORS

At the palace, the greedy suitors are feasting, boasting, quarrelling.



Odysseus controls his anger and watches them carefully, planning how to attack.

Most of them ignore Odysseus, but one beats and insults him.



He recognizes Penelope. She's older, of course, but still lovely.



Odysseus's heart leaps with joy, but he stays silent.

Penelope speaks to the suitors.



She has decided, at last, to marry again.

But where are your rich gifts to persuade me?

Odysseus breathes a sigh of relief: Penelope has not yet married!



Night falls. Odysseus and Telemachus clear the hall.



After Telemachus has gone to bed, Penelope comes to the hall. Odysseus is sitting by the fire. Penelope does not recognize him, but questions him keenly.

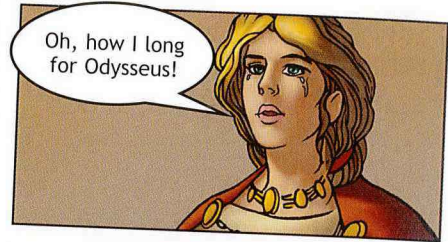




They talk. Penelope tells the "beggar" of the clever trick she has played on the suitors. She has asked them to wait until she has finished weaving a shroud<sup>1</sup> for Odysseus's father. Each night she unravels<sup>2</sup> all she has woven during the day, so the shroud is never finished. But now her trick has been discovered!



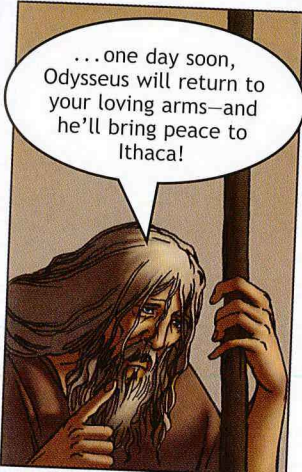
Now I must marry one of the suitors, or else they will ruin the kingdom!



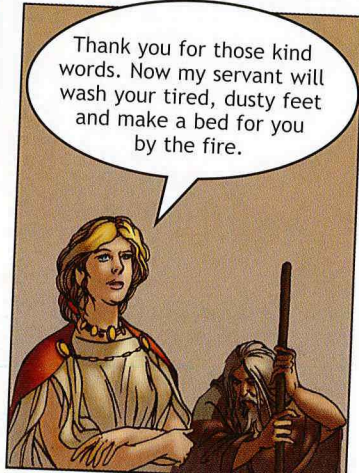
Oh, how I long for Odysseus!



Believe me, Madam...



...one day soon, Odysseus will return to your loving arms—and he'll bring peace to Ithaca!



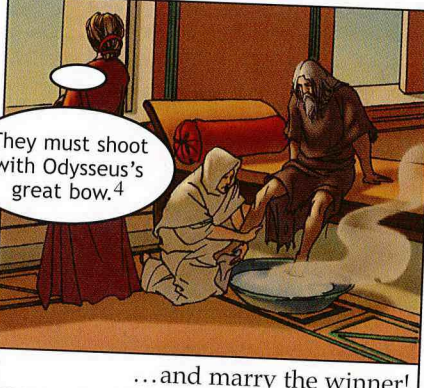
Thank you for those kind words. Now my servant will wash your tired, dusty feet and make a bed for you by the fire.

As the old servant washes his feet, she sees the scar on his thigh, made when the wild boar wounded him!<sup>3</sup>

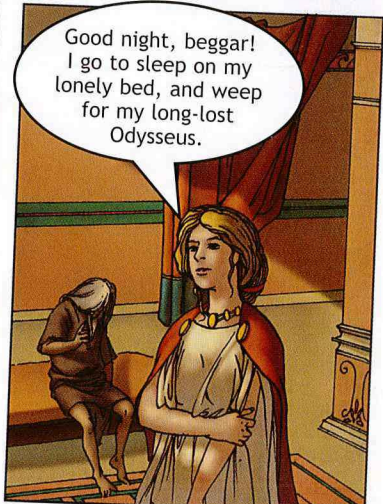


Master! Is it really you?

The goddess Athena has told Penelope to hold a shooting match for the suitors...



They must shoot with Odysseus's great bow.<sup>4</sup>



Good night, beggar! I go to sleep on my lonely bed, and weep for my long-lost Odysseus.

Silence! No one must know!

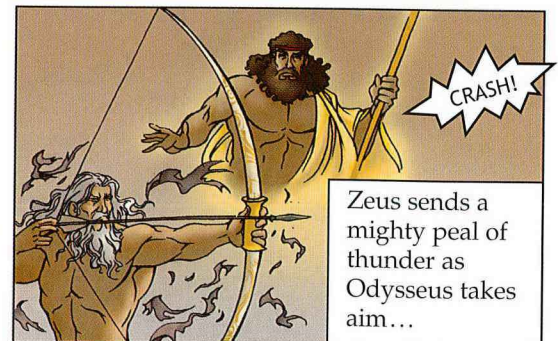
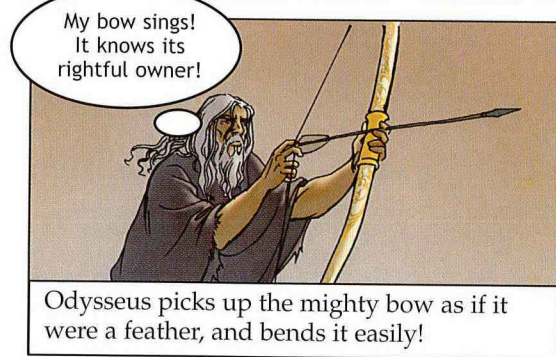
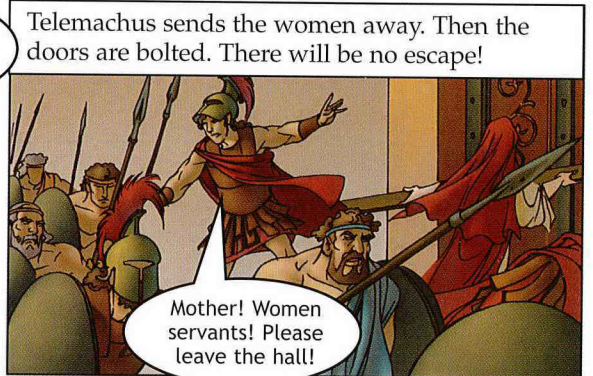
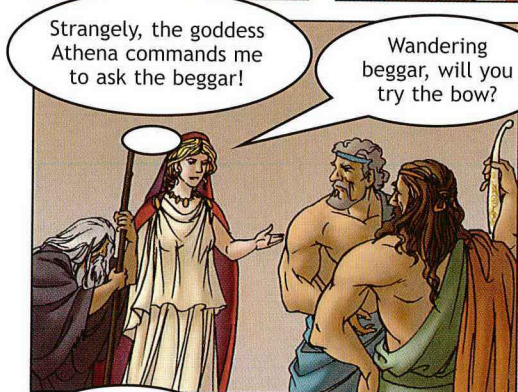
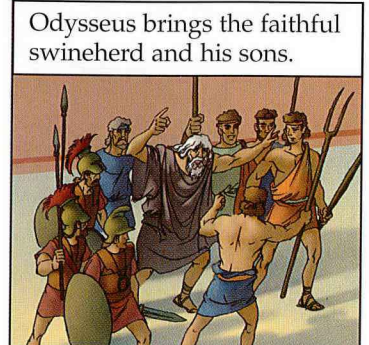
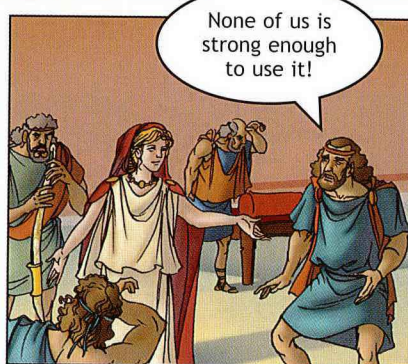
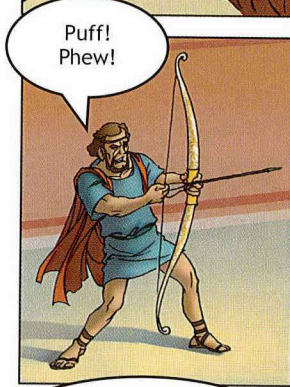
...and marry the winner!

1. shroud: a fine cloth for wrapping a dead body.  
 2. unravels: undoes the weaving.  
 3. when the wild boar wounded him: see page 7.  
 4. Odysseus's great bow: see page 7.



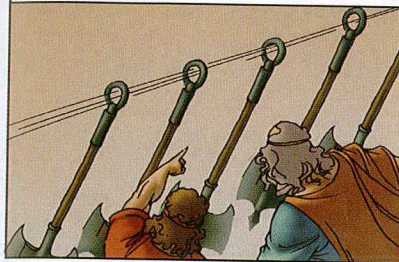
# THE BOW OF ODYSSEUS

At a great feast the next day, the shooting match is announced.





... and shoots a single arrow straight through all the axes!

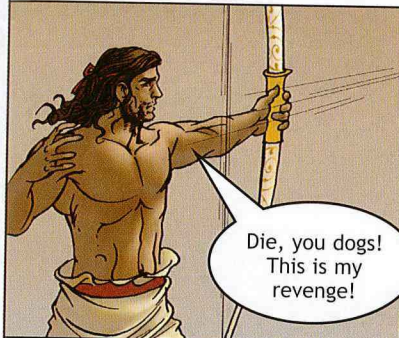


Let's get out of here!



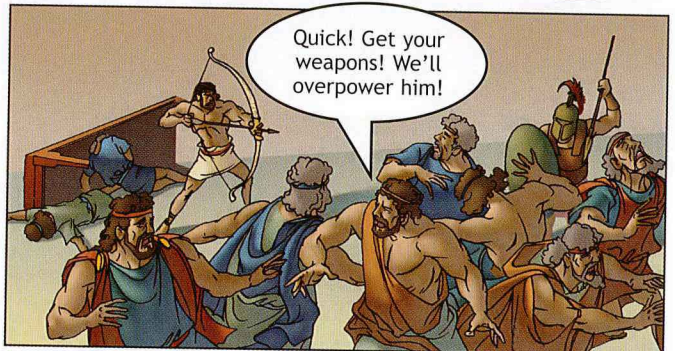
Gasp! Is he a man or a god?

He casts off his disguise...



Die, you dogs! This is my revenge!

...and the battle begins.



Quick! Get your weapons! We'll overpower him!

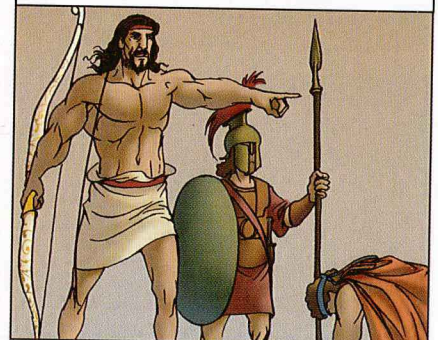
Telemachus and the swineherd's sons join in.



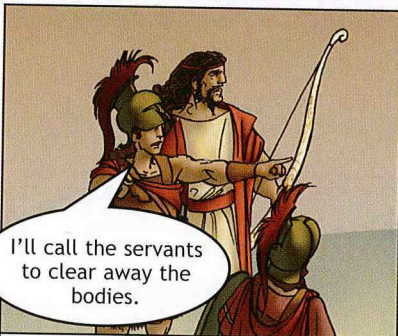
Either fight your way out...

... or run away like cowards!

Odysseus pardons a musician who had played for the suitors...



CRASH!



I'll call the servants to clear away the bodies.

...but everyone else is killed.



Odysseus purifies the hall with prayers and incense.<sup>1</sup>

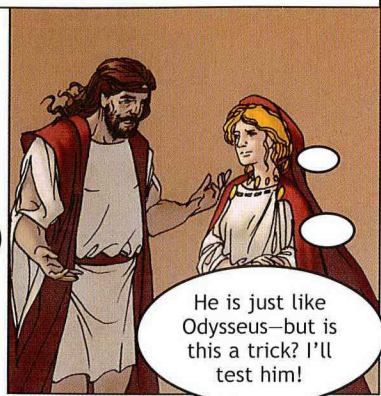
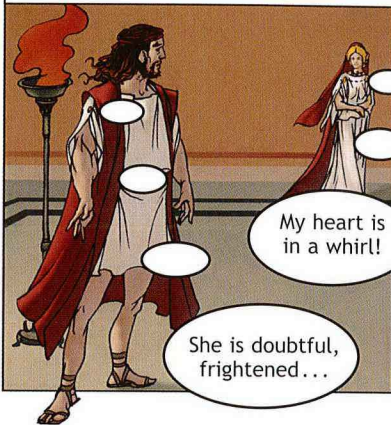
1. incense: herbs, resins, and spices, burned to give off sweet-smelling smoke.



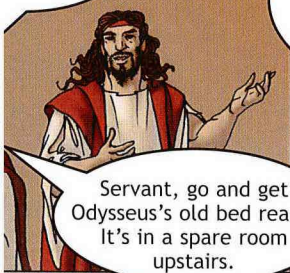
# PY AT LAST

has come  
reunited  
Penelope.  
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Penelope enters the palace hall. The old servant woman has told her that Odysseus is waiting there.



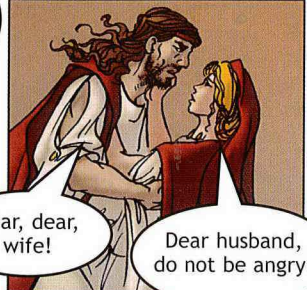
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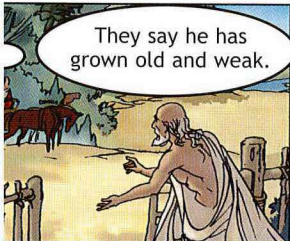
My bed? Moved to a spare room? Lady, that's impossible! I built that bed myself, around a living olive tree. No other man has ever seen it! It's our secret!



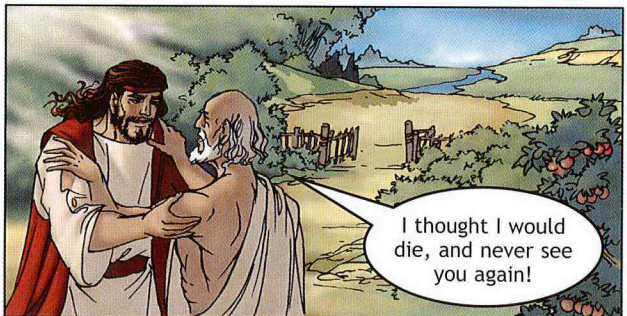
At last, Penelope believes him.



They say he has grown old and weak.



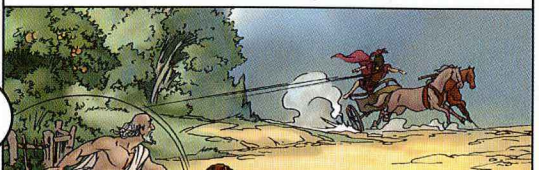
Odysseus goes to visit  
father.



anger threatens: the dead  
lies and friends!



Odysseus and his father fight back...





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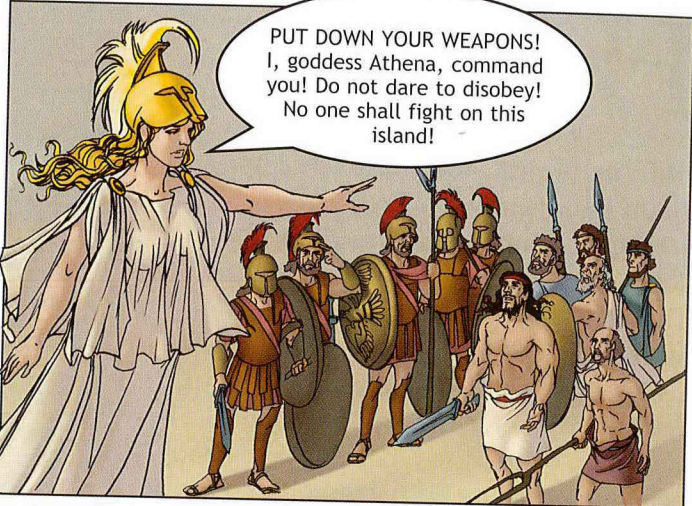
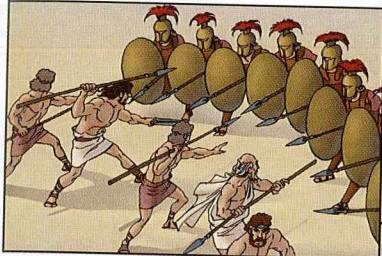
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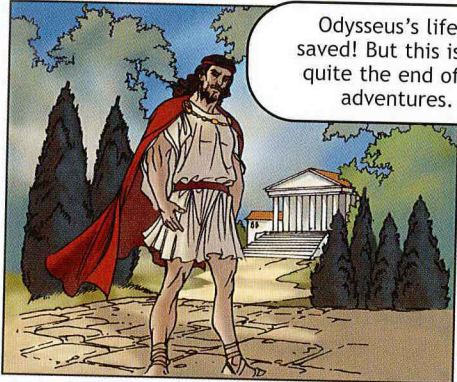
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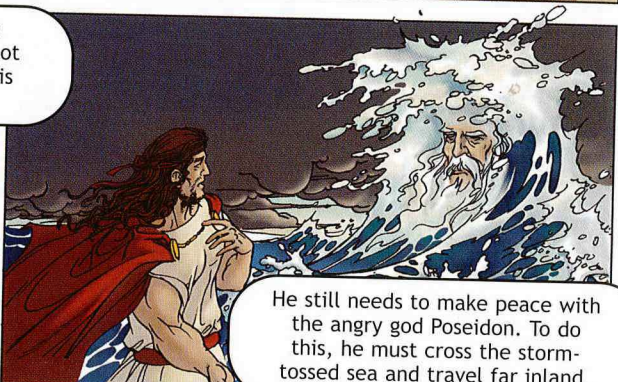
Even with the help of the swineherd and other servants, they are soon surrounded. Is Odysseus's joyful homecoming doomed to end in disaster? No!



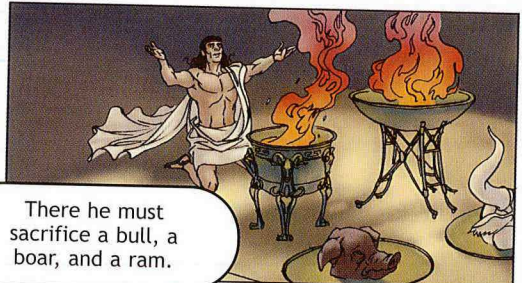
PUT DOWN YOUR WEAPONS! I, goddess Athena, command you! Do not dare to disobey! No one shall fight on this island!



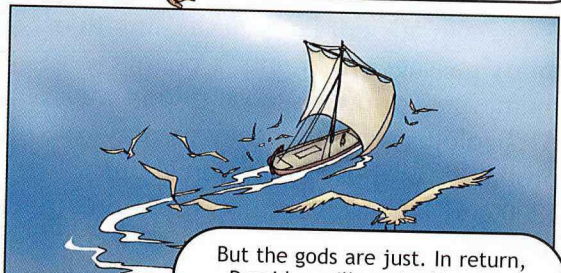
Odysseus's life is saved! But this is not quite the end of his adventures.



He still needs to make peace with the angry god Poseidon. To do this, he must cross the storm-tossed sea and travel far inland.



There he must sacrifice a bull, a boar, and a ram.



But the gods are just. In return, Poseidon will send a blessing. Odysseus will sail home to a life of love, peace, and plenty—and his death will be gentle.

