

**ULYSSES AMONG THE  
PHEACIANS: FROM  
THE TRANSLATION  
OF HOMER'S ODYSSEY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649355617

Ulysses Among the Phaeacians: From the Translation of Homer's Odyssey by William Cullen Bryant

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT**

**ULYSSES AMONG THE  
PHEACIANS: FROM  
THE TRANSLATION  
OF HOMER'S ODYSSEY**



**The Riverside Literature Series**

---

**ULYSSES AMONG THE PHÆACIANS**

FROM THE

**Translation of Homer's *Odyssey***

BY

**WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT**



**HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN AND COMPANY**

Boston: 4 Park Street; New York: 11 East Seventeenth Street

Chicago: 378-388 Wabash Avenue

*The Riverside Press, Cambridge*

T-88.2276M

~~Edict 889.887.462~~

Gh 62.976

Harvard University,  
Dept. of Education Library

TRANSFERRED TO  
HARVARD COLLEGE LIBRARY

1931

Copyright, 1871,  
By JAMES R. OSGOOD & CO.

Copyright, 1889,  
By HOUGHTON, MIFFLIN & CO.

*All rights reserved.*

The Riverside Press, Cambridge, Mass., U. S. A.  
Electrotyped and Printed by H. O. Houghton & Company.

## PREFACE.

---

THE Iliad and the Odyssey of Homer are two books which, though they had been recited for centuries before, were finally put in order for people to read about 560 B. C. More than a hundred years later, the Parthenon, perhaps the most celebrated of the beautiful buildings of the ancient world, was erected in Athens. These two books have outlasted the Parthenon, which is in ruins. Stone may crumble to dust, and dust be blown across the plain, but the great poems are indestructible, because they have entered the life of men, and have become part and parcel of every educated people. Scholars read them in the original Greek in which they were composed, and school boys and girls translate them word by word and phrase by phrase into their familiar speech; but poets have rendered the verses into every language of Christendom, and the stories which the poems contain have been told over and over again in all manner of forms.

The *Odyssey* is the *Robinson Crusoe* of antiquity, and, though it is less famous than the *Iliad*, it comes closer to modern life, and has more of the romance about it than the *Iliad* has. Every one who wishes to get a peep into the world of Greece should read these poems, and every one ought to know something of Greece and the Greeks; for the American of to-day, while he is first indebted to England for speech and institutions, is, with England, indebted to three great peoples of antiquity. The Jew was at the fountain-head of his religion, the Roman of his law, and the Greek of his thought. Through Homer he will get an entrance into a life which was led by the people who had the highest imagination, the clearest thought, and the most beautiful speech of all who lived in the world before the coming of Christ. In the pages which follow, so much is given of the *Odyssey* as is comprised in portions of the fifth book, the whole of the sixth and seventh books, and portions of the eighth and thirteenth books. This section of the *Odyssey* relates the departure of Ulysses from the isle of Calypso, his adventures on the ocean, and his final landing after shipwreck on the isle of Scheria, inhabited by the Phæacians. Here he was entertained by Alcinoüs and a festival given in his honor, and after the fes-



tival he left the island to make his way to his native Ithaca.

The translation used is that by the American poet William Cullen Bryant. It has been thought best to retain the same division into books and the same numbering of lines as that used in his complete translation of the *Odyssey*. Bryant purposely uses the familiar Latin equivalents for the Greek names; so that, though the book is called the *Odyssey*, that is an account of Odysseus, the hero, throughout, is called Ulysses, and not Odysseus. No attempt has been made to annotate the poem, but the reader who wishes for some help, beside an ordinary classical dictionary, will find a convenient aid in *A Primer on Homer* (Macmillan). J. L. Harrison also published, in 1882, *Myths of the Odyssey* (Rivington, London). *An Introduction to the Study of the Greek Classic Poets*, by Henry Nelson Coleridge, once was in great favor, and deservedly, though it is to be found now chiefly in libraries. Mr. Gladstone, the great English statesman, wrote *Studies on Homer and the Homeric Age*, in three volumes, which was published in 1858 and is a treasury of varied information mingled with considerable theorizing. In *Juventus Mundi* (1869) he restates the greater part of the results arrived at in the earlier work.

The young reader will find his best account, however, not in reading about Homer, but in reading Homer himself. Almost every year some new translation of the Iliad or the Odyssey appears. There is a charm about these works which constantly tempts scholars and poets into a trial of their power in rendering them into modern speech. One of the most interesting of these experiments was made a few years ago by Professor George H. Palmer, of Harvard University, who read Homer aloud in English, week after week, to audiences gathered to hear him—a modern reproduction of the original scene when rhapsodists used to recite the Greek verses to admiring listeners. Professor Palmer has since printed his rendering of the twenty-four books of the Odyssey. *An English version in rhythmic prose* he calls it. It is published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., and on the whole may be commended as the most satisfactory rendering into prose. Another prose translation of the work is by Butcher and Lang, published by Macmillan & Co.

## ULYSSES AMONG THE PHÆACIANS.

---

### BOOK V.

[Ulysses, desiring to leave the isle of the goddess Calypso, and having no ship or boat, builds a raft, upon which he is to set sail without companions.]

'T WAS the fourth day. His labors now were  
done,  
And on the fifth the goddess from her isle 315  
Dismissed him, newly from the bath, arrayed  
In garments given by her, that shed perfumes.  
A skin of dark red wine she put on board,  
A larger one of water, and for food  
A basket, stored with viands such as please 320  
The appetite. A friendly wind and soft  
She sent before. The great Ulysses spread  
His canvas joyfully to catch the breeze,  
And sat and guided with nice care the helm,  
Gazing with fixed eye on the Pleiades, 325  
Boötes setting late, and the Great Bear,  
By others called the Wain, which, wheeling round,  
Looks ever toward Orion, and alone  
Dips not into the waters of the deep.  
For so Calypso, glorious goddess, bade 330  
That on his ocean journey he should keep