

Epigram on the Twentieth

Post by “Kalosyni” of July 19, 2026 at 4:22 PM

Since tomorrow is the Twentieth... I am thinking again about this quote: "To-morrow, dearest Piso, your friend, beloved by the Muses, who keeps our annual feast of the twentieth invites you to come after the ninth hour to his simple cottage. If you miss udders and draughts of Chian wine, you will see at least sincere friends and you will hear things far sweeter than the land of the Phaeacians. But if you ever cast your eyes on me, Piso, we shall celebrate the twentieth richly instead of simply."

And particularly this section: "...**you will hear things far sweeter than the land of the Phaeacians.**"

A bit of background on the "the Phaeacians"... In Homer's Odyssey, they are a legendary seafaring people who live on the island of Scheria. Known for their advanced shipbuilding and hospitality (*xenia*), they welcome a shipwrecked Odysseus, listen to his adventures, and safely transport him back to Ithaca on their magical, self-steering ships.

Descended from the god Poseidon, the Phaeacians live in a utopian, paradisiacal realm untouched by war or hardship. They are a semi-divine race ruled by King Alcinous and Queen Arete, possessing an idyllic city with a bronze-walled palace, golden statues, and ever-blooming orchards. Homer emphasizes their mastery of the sea and their status as master navigators.

In the Odyssey, the Phaeacians serve as the primary audience for Odysseus's epic tales. After being stranded on Scheria, Odysseus is discovered by Princess Nausicaa, who brings him to her parents' palace.

The Phaeacians host a grand feast where their blind bard, Demodocus, sings of the Trojan War. Hearing these stories causes Odysseus to weep, ultimately leading him to reveal his true identity and recount his ten-year journey (found in Books 9–12).

Wikipedia: [Scheria](#)