

Epicurus And Homer's Odyssey

Post by “Bryan” of July 24, 2026 at 10:01 AM

Homer's Odysseus is, first and foremost, a liar. His truth is whatever benefits him.

Odysseus lies to Polyphemus by calling himself “Nobody,” to Athena with a false Cretan identity, to Eumaeus with an invented life story, to the suitors by posing as a beggar, to Penelope by claiming to be the Cretan Aethon, and to Laertes by pretending to be a stranger named Eperitus.

With this in mind, it is good to remember that Homer's *Odyssey* presents the stories of the Cyclops, Circe, the Underworld, the Sirens, and Scylla and Charybdis *not* through the poem's omniscient narrator, but as *stories* Odysseus himself *tells* King Alcinous.