

Epicurus And Homer's Odyssey

Post by “Cassius” of July 24, 2026 at 10:08 AM

[Quote from Bryan](#)

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

Yes this is very fascinating to me and the reason that I've never been certain what is really going on here.

That gets at specifically the issues I want to know about:

Did the ANCIENT GREEKS see Odysseus as first and foremost a liar? Or did they approve of his willingness to use deception against enemies? I suspect that the Stoics would have disapproved due to their absolutist approach to morality, but they came much later, and I don't know that for a fact as to the Greeks as a whole, who I suspect would not have shared that view. Were the Greeks in general embarrassed by the use of the Trojan horse? I don't get that impression.

I have this general impression that the ancient Greeks considered Odysseus in general to be a hero. In fact I can't believe I'm writing that that might NOT be the case. Yes, like the gods, subject to making mistakes or being arbitrary and capricious - but still a hero.

I don't think we can get to the bottom of that without knowing what the ancient authorities had to say about Odysseus. Did they condemn him or praise him or both?

But the way you phrased that Bryan is key -- did they see him as FIRST AND FOREMOST a liar?