

*STRONG SAMPLES

Socratic Circles

"The Sirens; Scylla and Charybdis" &
"The Cattle of the Sun God"
Lines 878-930

Now on the shore Eurylochus
made his insidious plea:

Funny that Eurylochus should be the one to convince them to go ashore and kill the cattle, when he was the one to escape from Circe and alert Odysseus to save the men.

Comrades,' he said,

'You've gone through everything; listen to what I say.

All deaths are hateful to us, mortal wretches,
but famine is the most pitiful, the worst
end that a man can come to.

Do they mean that after all the close brushes w/ death, they decide it isn't as bad as dying from famine/hunger?!

Will you fight it?

Come, we'll cut out the noblest of these cattle
for sacrifice to the gods who own the sky;
and once at home, in the old country of Ithaca,
if ever that day comes—

could they've felt how small their chance to reach home was?

We'll build a costly temple and adorn it
with every beauty for the Lord of Noon.

Lord of Noon = Lord Helios?

But if he flares up over his heifers lost,
wishing our ship destroyed, and if the gods
make cause with him, why, then I say: Better
open your lungs to a big sea once and for all
than waste to skin and bones on a lonely island!

So, they knew the consequences, did they still want to, or thought it worth, all this to sacrifice some lambs/cattle? could they not wait until getting home?

Thus Eurylochus; and they murmured 'Aye!'

Trooping away at once to round up heifers.

Now, that day tranquil cattle with broad brows
were grazing near, and soon the men drew up
Around their chosen beasts in ceremony.

It sounds as deceptful & cunning as something Odysseus would do, creeping up on something unaware or in a weak/helpless state.

They plucked the leaves that shone on a tall oak—
having no barley meal—to strew the victims,
performed the prayers and ritual, knifed the kine
and flayed each carcass, cutting thighbones free
to wrap in double folds of fat. These offerings,
With strips of meat, were laid upon the fire.

Then, as they had no wine, they made libation
with clear spring water, broiling entrails first;
and when the bones were burnt and tripe shared,
they spitted the carved meat.

Is this usually what they do with cattle that they sacrifice to the gods back in Ithaca? It's a little weird how they figure what to put instead of the things they didn't have. Why did they not let Odysseus join the ritual? Did they not want him to take the 'spotlight' as he usually did?

Just then my slumber

left me in a rush, my eyes opened,

and I went down the seaward path. No sooner

If he was asleep how did he know all that happened, and what Eurylochus told his men?