

Constantine P. Cavafy - Ithaki (Ιθάκη)

Ιθάκη	Ithaka
<p>Σὰ βγεῖς στὸν πηγαῖμὸ γιὰ τὴν Ἰθάκη, νὰ εὔχεσαι νὰ ἔναι μακρὺς ὁ δρόμος, γεμάτος περιπέτειες, γεμάτος γνώσεις.</p> <p>Τοὺς Λαιστρυγῶνας καὶ τοὺς Κύκλωπας, τὸν θυμωμένο Ποσειδῶνα μὴ φοβᾶσαι, τέτοια στὸν δρόμο σου ποτέ σου δὲν θὰ βρεῖς, ἂν μὲν ἡ σκέψις σου ὑψηλὴ, ἂν ἐκλεκτὴ συγκίνησις τὸ πνεῦμα καὶ τὸ σῶμα σου ἀγγίζει.</p> <p>Τοὺς Λαιστρυγῶνας καὶ τοὺς Κύκλωπας, τὸν ἄγριο Ποσειδῶνα δὲν θὰ συναντήσεις, ἂν δὲν τοὺς κουβανεῖς μὲς στὴν ψυχὴ σου, ἂν ἡ ψυχὴ σου δὲν τοὺς στήνει ἐμπρὸς σου.</p> <p>Νὰ εὔχεσαι νὰ ἔναι μακρὺς ὁ δρόμος. Πολλὰ τὰ καλοκαιρινὰ πρωινὰ νὰ εἶναι ποῦ μὲ τί εὐχαρίστηση, μὲ τί χαρὰ θὰ μπαίνεις σὲ λιμένας πρωτοειδωμένους.</p> <p>Νὰ σταματήσεις σ' ἐμπορεῖα Φοινικικά, καὶ τὲς καλὲς πραγμάτειες ν' ἀποκτήσεις, σεντέφια καὶ κοράλλια, κεχριμπάρια κ' ἔβενους, καὶ ἡδονικὰ μυρωδικὰ κάθε λογῆς, ὅσο μπορεῖς πιὸ ἄφθονα ἡδονικὰ μυρωδικὰ.</p> <p>Σὲ πόλεις Αἰγυπτιακὲς πολλὲς νὰ πᾶς, νὰ μάθεις καὶ νὰ μάθεις ἀπ' τοὺς σπουδασμένους. Πάντα στὸ νοῦ σου νὰ ἔχεις τὴν Ἰθάκη. Τὸ φθάσιμον ἐκεῖ εἶν' ὁ προορισμὸς σου.</p> <p>Ἀλλὰ μὴ βιάζεις τὸ ταξίδι διόλου. Καλλίτερα χρόνια πολλὰ νὰ διαρκέσει. Καὶ γέρος πιά ν' ἀράξεις στὸ νησί, πλούσιος μὲ ὅσα κέρδισες στὸν δρόμο, μὴ προσδοκῶντας πλοῦτη νὰ σὲ δώσει ἡ Ἰθάκη.</p> <p>Ἡ Ἰθάκη σ' ἔδωσε τ' ὠραῖο ταξίδι. Χωρὶς αὐτὴν δὲν θὰ βγαίνεις στὸν δρόμο. Ἄλλα δὲν ἔχει νὰ σὲ δώσει πιά.</p>	<p>Once you set out for Ithaka hope your road to be long, full of adventures, full of knowledge.</p> <p>Don't be afraid of the Laistrygonians and the Cyclops, the angry Poseidon you'll never find them on your way if you keep your thoughts high, if rare excitement touches your spirit and your body.</p> <p>You won't meet the Laistrygonians and the Cyclops, the wild Poseidon unless you bring them along inside your soul, unless your soul puts them in front of you.</p> <p>Hope your road to be long may there be many summer mornings when you'll enter with pleasure, with joy, the harbours you've seen for the first time</p> <p>Stop in Phoenician trading stations and get the good wares pearls and corals, ambers and ebony, and sensual herbs of every kind as many sensual herbs as you can</p> <p>Go to many Egyptian cities to study and learn from the educated ones keep Ithaka always in your mind your arrival there is your destiny</p> <p>But don't rush the journey at all it better lasts for many years, and then when you're old to stay on the island, wealthy with all you've gained on the way without expecting Ithaka to make you rich.</p>

Κι ἂν πτωχικὴ τὴν βρεῖς, ἡ Ἴθάκη δὲν σὲ γέλασε.
Ἔτσι σοφὸς ποὺ ἔγινες, μὲ τόση πείρα,
ἤδη θὰ τὸ κατάλαβες οἱ Ἰθάκες τι σημαίνουν.

Ithaka gave you the beautiful journey.
without her you wouldn't have set out
there's nothing else to give you anymore

And if you find her poor, Ithaka hasn't fooled
you.

now that you became wise with so much
experience

you should have already understood what
Ithakas mean.