The Odyssey

By Chloe Cao

Prologue

From the tales of an ancient history book comes this tale of great wits and human bravery, filled with deadly trials and the most lethal monsters. This tells an epic adventure of a warrior trying to return home to Athens after a long time of trading. They must face the watchful gods on Mount Olympus. This is the tale of Camellius, the smartest and the most daring king of Ancient Greece. He has to return home with his wife and daughter at home..right? Will the gods take pity on him or will he be shipwrecked forever.

The travels to Troy

A letter from the king of Troy. They had to go to the magnificent land of Troy for trading purposes. Camellius left with twelve ships full of his bravest men. He told his wife, Mariah, to get remarried if he doesn't return. After six month of staying in the beautiful, stunning land of Troy, he decided that it was time to go home. The sea shined like a large sapphire after being polished. Camellius’ men were very tired, after countless days and nights of sailing, so they decided to anchor on a stunning island with plants growing the most beautiful gems on them.

Angering Gaia

This was no doubt Gaia’s island. Camellius whispered, “Be careful, this is no doubt Gaia’s island. If we anger her, we’ll have the hardest time getting home!”

The men nodded and Camellius went to a quiet, peaceful cave so that he could make an offering to Gaia, nature goddess. However, some of his mens decided to wander around the island. They were ravenous so they decided to look for some food. They found a tree surrounded by glistening water and the rarest of gems. One man exclaimed, “ We’re ravenous! We’ll die if we don’t eat, Gaia can grow more anyways! Let's eat the food but we won’t tell Camellius.”

Most of the men agreed while others didn’t. The men plucked the ripe fruit and ate it. It was so juicy and sweet. However Gaia was fuming. She confronted Zeus, father of Gods, about this matter.

“Zeus! You know about the holy fruit. It was grown by my mother and Camellius’ men decided to eat it! Punish them!” yelled Gaia.

“Nature Goddess, calm. I will allow you to punish them however you have to stay calm.” replied Zeus.

Gaia agreed and cursed Camellius however he was not happy.

What have you done?! Get on the ship we’re leaving, NOW!” yelled Camellius.

The men followed his orders and soon enough, they were on the calm, shimmering seas. It would be way harder to go home now since they had a powerful enemy. The men apologised deeply but he just ignored them.

Minotaur Ambush

Over time, Camellius imperceptibly forgave them but they were slowly running out of food and fresh water. He wanted to go to sleep and go back home to Athens. The sparkling, wine-dark sea shimmered. Soon enough, they reached an island and decided to land there. Fortunately, there were cattle and sheep on the green, spacious island. They killed the sheep and cattle, stored some on the ship and cooked the rest to eat. After a while, Camellius was suspicious.

*Why were there sheep and cattle on a deserted island?*

Suddenly, terrifying, fierce minotaurs ambushed some of his men.

“Get on the ship before it's too late!” shouted Camellius loudly.

The men left as quickly as possible but some were lost. Camellius promised to honour those who were lost.

Apollo’s daughter

With the meat that they gathered on the island, they were able to last about twenty-two days on the polished waters of the waveless, peaceful sea. However, their supply was running out. They landed on an island with hot sand and the tallest of palm trees. They didn't know who or what was on that island but without a doubt they had to be circumspect. Camellius sent three of his audacious men to look for food. It had been nearly two days and the men weren’t back yet.

*Where were the three men?*

Camellius left to look for the lost men. The land.. It was corrupted. The plants started to wither and the water was drying out. Out of nowhere, Hermes, the god’s messenger, came. He bowed his head immediately.

“Camellius, this is the land of Hersia, Apollo’s daughter. Give her this fruit and she will help you,” stated Hermes. Camellius did as he was told. He placed the fruit on the floor and after a few hours, Hersia came over and ate the food. The land was back to normal.

“Thank you for helping me. I will give you this magical device and fresh food including water. You will have to meet Gaia’s daughter, she is a good friend of mine.” thanked Hersia.

The Hydra and Echidna, Gaia’s daughter

They hoisted their sails and set sail immediately for Echidna’s island. They were following the north wind like Hersia stated. The sea sparkled like a rare gem and out of nowhere, dark, grey clouds blocked out the golden ball of light. Luckily, it was only heavy rain but they knew reaching Echidna wasn’t going to be easy.

They were so close to reaching Echidna’s island and atlast they did.

“Welcome, it seems you have angered my mother but don't worry I will help you. Offer her this fruit, kill a Hydra and then she will forgive you,” Echidna bowed politely.

“Thank you for your generosity, Echidna,” replied Camellius.

Before they left, she, the young goddess, told them to follow the east wind to the Hydra.

*Cut off the immortal head.* The warning kept on ringing in his ear. They made it. That was when the Hydra struck. The deafening roar of the Hydra made his companions cover their ears and Camellius knew all of them wouldn’t make it out alive. When they defeated the Hydra, a note flew out of the air. It read:

*I’ll help you get home, don't worry.*

Camellius wasn’t sure if he even was able to make it home. He had less than twenty percent of his men remaining. As dazzling arrows of golden light tore through the night sky, the hope in his heart still remained. Will Gaia curse him forever?

Help is on the way

Although there was a little hope left in him, good times never last. Gaia was here for revenge. The fury of the sea drowned his ship and all his men submerged one by one. However, he only passed out. Not all hope was lost though. Athena was watching from Mount Olympus.

“Father Zeus! Camellius has already suffered long enough, take pity on him or I will!” roared Athena.

“My dearest daughter,” started Zeus, “It is not my doing. It is Gaia, the goddess of nature. Camellius’ men ate her fruit and she is going for revenge.”

Athena was furious. Camellius was her most faithful, loyal follower and yet Zeus, her father, wouldn’t even listen to her! She had enough. She went down to Earth and took Camellius to an island where she can help him without anybody or anything finding out.

As the sun rose from the horizon, Camellius woke up, dazed. He wondered where he was, the landscape was calming and peaceful. Before long, a young, outstanding woman came up to him.

“Hell-,” started Camellius.

“Who are you?” asked the woman, holding a sharp knife to his throat.

He was really awake now. Camellius told her the whole story and she believed him.

“So.. you are Camellius of Athens and you got shipwrecked? Well, take this ship, fresh food and water. Clothes are stored with the bottles of water. I wish you the best of luck on your journeys.” announced the woman. Meanwhile, at Athens, Mariah had some wicked suitors that wanted to marry her. Her daughter wanted to kill them one by one.

Home at last and the wicked suitors

As Camellius sailed countlessly days and nights, the ships guided him home as if the ship knew which way was Athens. Atlast the land of Athens… home. Athena walked up to him. He knew exactly who she was.

Without a thought, he bowed down and she returned her favour.

“Dear Camellius,” started Athena, “I shall disguise you as a merchant and go to your home and meet your daughter. She will recognise you instantly.”

Camellius did as she said. However, slowly he started to realise that the note..the help. It was Athena! However his thoughts were lost when he realised that he had arrived at his palace. Meanwhile, all Aliah, his daughter could think about was killing the suitors, however, when his father came in, she didn’t forget his manners.

“Welcome, would you like something to eat or drink,” stated Aliah, “Father?”

Camellius shushed her and thought of a plan to kill the suitors. Aliah locked the doors and one by one they were slaughtered. However, Gaia wasn’t pleased.

“ Athena! How dare you help Camellius you know what he did yet still decided to help him!?” boomed Gaia.

“Gaia, I mean no disrespect but his men ate the fruit not him, just watch this play out.” replied Athena calmly.

Once all the wicked suitors were slaughtered, Aliah hugged Camellius with tears of joy. Camellius asked for Mariah and Aliah asked a servant to call her mother.

“Mother,” called Aliah, “ You’ve waited for father all these years, how come you’re hesitating?”

“I have been fooled too many times now. Camellius is dead and he’ll never return!” cried Mariah.

Her tears wanted to make Camellius reveal himself but he didn't.

“ Very well then, he can stay and have my charm but the bedside,” laughed Mariah.

“HOW DARE YOU WOMAN. YOU KNOW I BUILT THAT OUT OF MY OWN HANDS AND MY OWN GROWN SANDBEARER TREE!!” shouted Camellius.

Mariah hugged him. He was home at last. Camellius recounted his story and how he had to offer the gift.

Epilogue

The offering was successful and Gaia was at peace with Camellius now. Athena was always watching from Mount Olympus and he was safe now.

The tale of Camellius’ tales were spread all around Ancient Greece.

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The End

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