The Cyclops

The story of Odysseus and the Cyclops shows treachery and trickery. Most people come to think that treachery and trickery are meant to be bad, often leading to something terrible or of wrongdoing. Not with this situation though, this story shows great trickery to get out of a bad situation to lead to something good.

Odysseus was the leader of the Greeks, and he and his men stumbled onto an island, but what they did not know, was that the Cyclops race lived on this island. They entered one of the caves, which was in control of a Cyclops named Polyphemus, he had trapped them inside by putting a stone over the entrance, he was then enraged of their trespassing, then killing two men and eating them. Odysseus couldn't do anything, he knew that Polyphemus was the only one strong enough to move the stone.

The next morning the Cyclops killed and ate two men for breakfast, which then he rolled the stone off from the entrance, herded his sheep, and rolled the stone back to close the entrance of the cave. Odysseus came up with a plan against Polyphemus, he and his men were to take a piece of timber and sharpen one of the ends and hide it.

Odysseus had brought some wine with him into the cave, so the next day, he offered Polyphemus something to drink. The Cyclops got very drunk and thanked Odysseus and asked for his name, Odysseus replied with "Nēmō," which means "nobody" in Latin. And the Cyclops had fallen asleep. This is where Odysseus' trickery comes into play, he tricked Polyphemus into believing his name was "Nēmō" and this foreshadows into what might happen later in the story.

Odysseus and his men took the timber and heated the end, they then pushed it into the Cyclops eye, and Polyphemus woke up screaming, and kept saying, "Nēmō mē necat!" Which means "Nobody kills me!" The other Cyclops heard but just laughed with the hilarious and foolish call Polyphemus gives to them.

The next day, before Polyphemus went to herd his sheep, Odysseus tied all this men to the belly of the sheep. When Polyphemus went to herd them and open the cave, he felt their backs to see if the men were on the sheep's wooly backs. He felt nothing. The sheep then left the cave with the men, and Odysseus latched himself onto the last sheep's belly. They had all escaped.

Odysseus and his men rushed to the ship, and fled the island, but before out of reach, Odysseus called to Polyphemus saying, "Valē! Ego nōn Nēmō, sed Odysseus sum!" Which means, "Goodbye! I am not nobody, but I am Odysseus!"

This story shows how treachery and trickery can lead to good fortune and can rid you of danger and of possibly being eaten by a Cyclops. Odysseus tricked the Cyclops into giving him a false name so that the other Cyclops wouldn't come and rescue him, it just made Polyphemus seem like a fool. Which then led to Odysseus escaping by using the sheep the Cyclops was going to herd. Odysseus saves the day, and saves the men who weren't already Cyclops food.

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