

A stylized illustration of a river scene. Large, leafy trees frame the top and sides of the image. In the center, a river flows towards a distant village on a hill. A small boat with a person is on the river. The style is reminiscent of a children's book illustration.

Comparing Odysseus and Bilbo

By Michael Jannuzzi

Bilbo comes to the Huts of the Rastelvers

An Unexpected Journey



The Odyssey - “Now, let me tell you all the trouble Zeus has caused me on my journey home from Troy. A blast of wind pushed me off course towards the Cicones in ismarus.” (Page 241 Book 9)

The Hobbit- “Indeed for your old grandfather Took’s sake, and for the sake of poor Belladonna, I will give you what you asked for.” “I beg your pardon, I haven’t asked for anything!” “Yes, you have! Twice now.. In fact I will go so far as to send you on this adventure. Very amusing for me, very good for you—and profitable too, very likely, if you ever get over it.”(Page 5)



The Want to Return Home



The Odyssey- “Do not be raging at me, great goddess. You are quite right. I know my modest wife Penelope can never match your beauty. She is a human you’re deathless ageless. But even so I want to go back home, and every day, I hope that day will come, and if some God strikes me on the wine dark sea, I will endure it. By now I am used to suffering- I have gone through so much at sea and in the war. Let this come too.” (Page 187 Book 5)

The Hobbit- “The summer is getting on down below,” thought Bilbo, “and haymaking is going on and picnics. They will be harvesting and blackberrying, before we even begin to go down the other side at this rate.”(page 55).



Being Clever to Resolve Situations

The Odyssey- “Cyclops, you asked my name. I will reveal it; then you must give the gift you promised me, of hospitality. My name is no man. My friends and family all call me no man. (Pg 252 Book 9)

The Hobbit- “This is the Arkenstone of Thrain,” said Bilbo, “The Heart of the Mountain; and it is also the heart of Thorin. He values it above a river of gold. I give it to you. It will aid you in your bargaining.” (Page 272)



The Mystical Mentor



The Odyssey- “ But now I will disguise you, so no human can recognize you. I will shrivel up the fine skin of your supple arm and legs, ruin your hair, and dress you up in rags, so everyone will shutter, seeing you.” (Pg 329 book 13)

The Hobbit- “You asked me to find the fourteenth man for your expedition, and I chose Mr. Baggins. Just let anyone say I chose the wrong man or the wrong house, and you can stop at thirteen and have all the bad luck you like, or go back to digging coal.” (Pg 18)





The End