Odysseus in the Underworld

Based on the *Odyssey* book 11

**Ὀδυσσευς** had been on theisland of the beautiful witch **Κιρκη** for one year. **Κιρκη** **λεγει**: “In order for you to get home to Ithaca, you must **πρωτον** visit **῾Αιδης** and seek the advice of the blind **προφητης** Tiresias.”

  
So **Ὀδυσσευς** sails in his **ναυς** to **῾Αιδης**, and **πρωτον** he must perform a ritual. He digs a pit, and pours in milk, honey, **οἰνος** and water. He scatters some barley and vows tokill a **βους** in Ithaca upon his return. Then he **λαμβανει** a **μεγας** sheep and slits its throat: its blood drops into the pit on top of the offerings. A soul mustdrink the blood in the pit before he **λεγει**.

Lots of souls rush out and he sees a **ναυτης** that used to be on his **ναυς**. The **ναυτης** tells **Ὀδυσσευς** his **μυθος**. He drank too much **οἰνος**, fell off theroof of **Κιρκη**‘s **οἰκος** and broke his neck. When he **ἀκουει** the story, **Ὀδυσσευς** promises he will bury his **νεκρος** properly when he returns to **Κιρκη**’s island.

Then Tiresias drinks the blood and **λεγει** to **Ὀδυσσευς** about his future. Odysseus sees further into **῾Αιδης**, and in **Ταρταρος** he sees souls being endlessly tortured. Tityos is tied to a **λιθος** and has his liver pecked out by vultures: it regrows every night and is pecked out again the nextday. Tantalus stands by a lake and a **δενδρον** but cannot reach the fruit to eat or the waterto drink so can never quench his thirst or hunger. Sisyphus is forced to roll a **μεγας λιθος** up a hill, only for it to fall down again. **Ὀδυσσευς** is overwhelmed by the souls and quickly returns from **῾Αιδης** to the land of the living.

**Exercise 1:**

**Link the Greek words with the English derivatives.**

**Can you then guess what the Greek words mean?**

**Greek English derivative meaning of the Greek word**

πρωτον mythology great, big

λεγει lithography cow

προφητης megalithic stone

ναυς bovine first

οἰνος wine s/he takes

βους prototype s/he hears/listens to

μεγας acoustics s/he says/speaks

ναυτης lexicon tree

μυθος necromancer story

οἰκος prophetic ship

νεκρος dendrochronology prophet

λιθος nautical corpse

ἀκουει economy wine

δενδρον syllable house

λαμβανει sailor

**Exercise 2:**

**Divide the words into the different categories of words.**

**Can you spot any similarities between them?**

**Look particularly at the endings of the words**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Nouns** | **Verbs** | **Adjectives** | **Adverbs** |
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**Nouns: endings on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Verbs: ending on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**