



The Odyssey of Homer

Homer (c. 8th cen - c. 8th cen) Translated by Samuel Butler (1835 - 1902)

Read by:	Multiple readers	Format:	MP3 CD in DVD case
Length:	11 hours 44 minutes	Catalog:	DB-1013
Language:	English	UPC:	0684758935984
Style:	Collaborative	MSLP:	\$11.99
Genre:	Action & Adventure Fiction, Classics, Poetry, War & Military Fiction		

The Odyssey by Homer is an epic poem composed in part as sequel to *The Iliad* that tells the story of the wily Greek hero Odysseus and his journey home to Ithaca following the end of the Trojan War. All begins well; Aeolus, the god of wind, bags the “bad winds” for Odysseus and sends him off on what should be a short voyage home. But nothing’s that simple: the crew unties the bag, the winds escape, and Odysseus and his mates, most of whom don’t survive the journey, are tossed about the known world for ten years to encounter one trial after another. Meanwhile, his extended absence has led to the assumption that he has died, and when he finally returns home in disguise he finds his wife Penelope and son Telemachus dealing with a group of unruly suitors vying for Penelope’s hand in marriage.

The Odyssey at heart is about the longing and struggles of homecoming, where those who know us best can help us see in stark relief both the person we have become and the person we once were and thus find a measure of our growth and progress, our aging and mortality. (Summary by Michael Hogan)

Homer was a Greek poet in the oral tradition who is the author of the first two great works of western literature, *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*. The actual life of Homer is at best a mystery, owing to an almost total lack of information. Some believe the works were composed by a single person; others believe they may be the work of a group. There is a general consensus, however, that he was born on the coast of Asia Minor or one of the nearby islands sometime between 750 BC and 1200 BC. Some think he lived close to the time of the Trojan War; others believe he lived much later, based on the style of his poetry. Greek historian Herodotus put his birth at 850 BC. He is thought to have been blind based on a likely similarity with the blind poet and minstrel Demodokos in *The Odyssey*. Whatever the facts about Homer the person, *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*, lengthy works composed and transmitted orally for hundreds of years, have served as both seed and fertilizer for much of the arts and sciences. That may be all we need to know.