

Even a god who found this place  
would gaze, and feel his heart beat with delight:  
so Hermes did; but when he had gazed his fill  
35 he entered the wide cave. Now face to face  
the magical Calypso recognized him,  
as all immortal gods know one another  
on sight—though seeming strangers, far from home.  
But he saw nothing of the great Odysseus,  
40 who sat apart, as a thousand times before,  
and racked his own heart groaning, with eyes wet  
scanning the bare horizon of the sea. . . .

*Calypso invites Hermes to her table for food and drink, asking why he has come. Hermes explains that he has brought with an order from Zeus that Calypso must not detain Odysseus any longer but send him on his way home. She reluctantly obeys, agreeing to offer Odysseus her advice about how to get home.*

The strong god glittering left her as he spoke,  
and now her ladyship, having given heed  
45 to Zeus's mandate, went to find Odysseus  
in his stone seat to seaward—tear on tear  
brimming in his eyes. The sweet days of his life time  
were running out in anguish over his exile,  
for long ago the nymph had ceased to please.  
50 Though he fought shy of her and her desire,  
he lay with her each night, for she compelled him.  
But when day came he sat on the rocky shore  
and broke his own heart groaning, with eyes wet  
scanning the bare horizon of the sea. ©  
55 Now she stood near him in her beauty, saying:

“O forlorn man, be still.  
Here you need grieve no more; you need not feel  
your life consumed here; I have pondered it,  
and I shall help you go. . . .”

60 Swiftly she turned and led him to her cave,  
and they went in, the mortal and immortal.  
He took the chair left empty now by Hermes,  
where the divine Calypso placed before him  
victuals and drink of men; then she sat down  
65 facing Odysseus, while her serving maids  
brought nectar and ambrosia to her side.  
Then each one's hands went out on each one's feast  
until they had their pleasure; and she said:

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Reread lines 43–54. Which of Odysseus' qualities is emphasized here?