

The Odyssey – An Ancient Circumnavigation of the Globe

by

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The fundamental error in the interpretation of the Odyssey by Homer and the Argonauts by Apollonius of Rhode Island is the assumption that the knowledge of the journeys came to us from the old Greeks. The Greek only recorded the journeys but did not know where they took place. As far as the Odyssey is concerned, the Phoenicians were the actual sailors who were following the instructions of the old Egyptians. The highest priests and the Pharaoh were the only ones able to write them down, to analyse them exactly and to comprehend the basic points. To the rest of the population, only a coded message was made known – the wanderings of Ulysses.

The voyage of Ulysses was given a Greek background, the search of Telemachos for his father Ulysses. Absolutely independent of this framework is the journey of Ulysses. It starts and ends in Egypt. Thus, the view of the world changed: The earth was not seen as a disk anymore, as the Greeks did, but as a globe as was the Egyptian understanding. The Phoenicians, therefore, were able to sail around the world in westerly direction. They were the best mariners of their time, and their ships were more flexible than the caravelles of Columbus and Magellan. Magellan sailed the same route as Ulysses, and both needed two years' actual sailing time, not counting the stops. The conditions of both were alike – they had to sail with the wind and the ocean currents.

The code of my paper on the Odyssey is the Poenician concept of "Og" – the concept of a circle of water surrounding the earth. In the voyage of Ulysses, this circle of water can be divided into five successive parts of the ocean: 1. The Grey Sea – the Mediterranean; 2. The Okeanos – the Atlantic; 3. The Violet Sea of the prophet – the Pacific; 4. The Black Sea – the Gulf of Bengal; 5. The Red Sea (here you find the wine- or redwine-colored sea of the Odyssey) – The Erythraean Sea, the Red Sea of the old cultures, the ocean between India and Africa – the Arabian Sea. Nowhere in the whole journey of Ulysses this principle is contradicted.

After this introduction, I wish to mention shortly the different stations of the wandering of Ulysses.

On the first station of his journey, Ulysses meets the Lotophages on the Libyan coast – North Africa. Some of his companions eat of the Lotos fruit – a narcotic. He brings his friends back to the ship by force and ties them up. In the old cultures, narcotics were known and taken.

On the next station, Ulysses encounters the Cyclops. I place them in the south of Tunisia. The Cyclops are the tallest and most beautiful people – Herodotus describes them as two to three meters tall! In this area, Barry Fell found the Tifinag-writings.

On the third station, he meets the Lastrygones in Norway. I came to this conclusion on the basis of the exact description of the fjords and the specific position of the sun – long days and short nights. Moreover the Lastrygones are giants like the Cyclops. The Ogam writings which Fell found in Norway stem from this area as well.

Ulysses' next destination is the Island of Aiaia where Circe is living. Judging from the proportion of light – polar days and polar nights – it can only be the island of the Lofotes off the shore of Norway.

Circe sends Ulysses to the realm of death or the underworld – the geographic underworld, the world below which they are living, the other side of the globe – America. In the realm of death, Hades, the prophet Teresias will give Ulysses directions on how to come home. America is also the empire of death of the sun, here it dies and rises up again every day, It is logical, therefore, that Japan is the land of the rising sun.

At that time, the mariners of the old cultures were unable to sail against the Gulf Stream. The crossing of the Atlantic had, therefore, to take place in the high north, as described in the Odyssey. Ulysses arrives in the land of the Kummeres – Labrador or Newfoundland – during the polar night. From there, he travels to the valley of the St. Lawrence River which is described very exactly both in the Odyssey and in the Argonauts. Among other things, worldwide the plane tree appears at frost in this region only.

At the confluence of the Periphlegeton and the Kokytos, an arm of the Styx, a rock marks the entrance to the realm of death. I found out that at the point where the two rivers, the Ottawa and the St. Lawrence, an arm of the Styx – the Niagara Falls, join, there is a rock, the Scout Royal in Montreal. Here is the entrance to the realm of death. In the area of the Ontario Lake near Niagara Falls and the St. Lawrence River, Barry Fell found the engravings on

the rocks in Ogam and Tefinag writing. Point of time: 1750 BC, one thousand years before the beginning of the Greek culture. How then could the journey of Ulysses date back to the Greeks? The first part of the voyage, the journey to North America, is an interpolation, referring to the navigation around the world. It describes the rock engravings at Ontario Lake found and deciphered by Barry Fell.

Of which way home does the prophet tell Ulysses? As seen from America, he has to cross the Violet Sea to the Island of Threnakria – India -, and from there travel back home – but not across the Okeanos – the Atlantic! Ulysses returns to Circe across the Atlantic, making use of the Gulf Stream. Circe helps him to master the dangerous sea route.

Ulysses travels along the European coast in a southerly direction. Arriving in West-Africa, he makes use of the ocean current of the Canarian basin in order to cross the Atlantic. After the crossing, he could have landed in Brazil but that's exactly what Circe had warned him against. He has to sail along the Sirenes! Ulysses had been warned of the deadly cliffs.

The next station is the island under fire and smoke – Tierra del Fuego! Circe had instructed him to sail along the large rocks – the Andes! Making use of the South Passat Drift, Ulysses crosses the Pacific and lands at the great rocks – the inhabited islands – to take water and food on board. After passing through a narrow sea – the Torres Strait between Australia and New Guinea – and after another long voyage Ulysses arrives at the island of Threnakria – the three-cornered island – India. From there, Ulysses sails across the Arabian Sea which is called the wine- or red-wine-colored Sea – the Erythraean Sea of the old cultures. In the sultanate of Oman lives Calypso. Here, Ulysses stays for seven years, until the Gods permit his homecoming.

The last part of the journey takes him through today's Red Sea to the Sinai peninsula, the native country of Alkinoos, the king of the Phaeaks – Egypt. Ulysses crosses the Red Sea to the island of the Phaeaks. The latter will sail him across the Grey Sea. The country where Ulysses landed has to be located at the Red Sea and the Grey Sea – the Mediterranean. The circle of the ancient circumnavigation of the globe – in westerly direction – has been closed with the arrival in Egypt.

Books by Christine Pellech:

“Die Odyssee – Eine antike Weltumsegelung”; 2011; Verlag König.

“Die Argonauten – Eine Weltkulturgeschichte des Altertums”; 2011; Verlag König.

“Die Entdeckung von Amerika: Der Kulturdiffusionismus in neuer Sicht”; 2 Bände;
be printing; Verlag König.