**FOOD FOR THOUGHT!**

**Because the best way to acquire a language is to come into contact with its literature – since it’s authentic language –, I will be sending you poems or excerpts of novels or even songs. Just study them and, if you can, memorise some phrases or lyrics that impressed you. You could also try to write your own thoughts about the themes in question – your own “ifs” , for instance.**

This my favourite poem. It’s full of conditional sentences. Which type?

1st, of course!

1. ***If (by Rudyard Kipling)***

If you can keep your head when all about you Are losing theirs and blaming it on you,

If you can trust yourself when all men doubt you,

But make allowance for their doubting too;

If you can wait and not be tired by waiting,

Or being lied about, don’t deal in lies,

Or being hated, don’t give way to hating,

And yet don’t look too good, nor talk too wise:

If you can dream—and not make dreams your master;

If you can think—and not make thoughts your aim;

If you can meet with Triumph and Disaster And treat those two impostors just the same;

If you can bear to hear the truth you’ve spoken Twisted by knaves to make a trap for fools,

Or watch the things you gave your life to, broken,

And stoop and build ’em up with worn-out tools:

If you can make one heap of all your winnings And risk it on one turn of pitch-and-toss,

And lose, and start again at your beginnings And never breathe a word about your loss;

If you can force your heart and nerve and sinew To serve your turn long after they are gone,

And so hold on when there is nothing in you Except the Will which says to them: ‘Hold on!’

If you can talk with crowds and keep your virtue,

Or walk with Kings—nor lose the common touch,

If neither foes nor loving friends can hurt you,

If all men count with you, but none too much;

If you can fill the unforgiving minute With sixty seconds’ worth of distance run,

Yours is the Earth and everything that’s in it,

And—which is more—you’ll be a Man, my son!

1. **ITHACA (BY KONSTANTINOS KAVAFIS)**

**Do you recognize some conditional sentences in the following translation?**

When you set out for distant Ithaca,

fervently wish your journey may be long, — full of adventures and with much to learn.

Of the Laestrygones and the Cyclopes, of the angry god Poseidon,

 have no fear: these you shall not encounter,

if your thought remains at all times lofty, — if select emotion touches you in body and spirit.

Not the Laestrygones, not the Cyclopes, nor yet the fierce Poseidon,

shall you meet,

unless you carry them within your soul, — unless your soul should raise them to confront you

Fervently wish your journey may be long,

May they be numerous — the summer mornings when,

pleased and joyous, you will be anchoring

In harbours you have never seen before.

Stay at the populous Phoenician marts,

and make provision of good merchandise;

coral and mother of pearl; and ebony and amber;

and voluptuous perfumes of every kind,

In lavish quantity,

Sojourn in many a city of the Nile,

and from the learned learn and learn amain,

At every stage bear Ithaca in mind.

The arrival there is your appointed lot

But hurry not the voyage in the least:

‘twere better if you travelled many years

and reached your Island home in your old age

being rich in riches gathered on the way, and not expecting more from Ithaca.

Ithaca gave you the delightful voyage:

without her you would never have set out:

and she has nothing else to give you now.

And though you should find her wanting,

Ithaca will not surprise you;

for you will arrive wise and experienced,

having long since perceived the unapparent sense in Ithacas.

**Translated by John Cavafis**

**ΤΟ ΠΟΙΗΜΑ***πρωτοδημοσιεύτηκε στο περιοδικό*Γράμματα *του Οκτωβρίου - Νοεμβρίου 1911, όταν ο ποιητής ήταν σαράντα οκτώ ετών. Ανήκει στα διδακτικά ποιήματα του Καβάφη.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Σα βγεις στον πηγαιμό για την Ιθάκη,να εύχεσαι να 'ναι μακρύς ο δρόμος,γεμάτος περιπέτειες, γεμάτος γνώσεις.Τους [Λαιστρυγόνας](http://ebooks.edu.gr/modules/ebook/show.php/DSGL-A111/262/1918%2C6388/indexG3_2.html%22%20%5Co%20%22%CE%9B%CE%B1%CE%B9%CF%83%CF%84%CF%81%CF%85%CE%B3%CF%8C%CE%BD%CE%B5%CF%82%3A%7C%20%CE%BC%CF%85%CE%B8%CE%B9%CE%BA%CE%AE%20%CF%86%CF%85%CE%BB%CE%AE%20%CE%B3%CE%B9%CE%B3%CE%B1%CE%BD%CF%84%CF%8C%CF%83%CF%89%CE%BC%CF%89%CE%BD%20%CE%B1%CE%BD%CE%B8%CF%81%CF%89%CF%80%CE%BF%CF%86%CE%AC%CE%B3%CF%89%CE%BD%2C%20%CF%80%CE%BF%CF%85%20%CE%B5%CE%AF%CF%87%CE%B1%CE%BD%20%CF%80%CF%81%CF%89%CF%84%CE%B5%CF%8D%CE%BF%CF%85%CF%83%CE%B1%20%CF%84%CE%BF%CF%85%CF%82%20%CF%84%CE%B7%20%CE%9B%CE%B1%CE%B9%CF%83%CF%84%CF%81%CF%85%CE%B3%CE%BF%CE%BD%CE%AF%CE%B1%2C%20%CF%84%CE%B7%CE%BD%20%CF%85%CF%88%CE%B7%CE%BB%CE%AE%20%CF%80%CF%8C%CE%BB%CE%B7%20%CF%84%CE%BF%CF%85%20%CE%9B%CE%AC%CE%BC%CE%BF%CF%85.) και τους Κύκλωπας,τον θυμωμένο Ποσειδώνα μη φοβάσαι, |
|  | τέτοια στον δρόμο σου ποτέ σου δεν θα βρεις,αν μέν' η σκέψις σου υψηλή, αν εκλεκτήσυγκίνησις το πνεύμα και το σώμα σου αγγίζει.Τους Λαιστρυγόνας και τους Κύκλωπας,τον άγριο Ποσειδώνα δεν θα συναντήσεις, |
|  | αν δεν τους  [κουβανείς](http://ebooks.edu.gr/modules/ebook/show.php/DSGL-A111/262/1918%2C6388/indexG3_2.html%22%20%5Co%20%22%CE%BA%CE%BF%CF%85%CE%B2%CE%B1%CE%BD%CE%B5%CE%AF%CF%82%3A%7C%20%CE%BA%CE%BF%CF%85%CE%B2%CE%B1%CE%BB%CE%AC%CF%82.) μες στην ψυχή σου,αν η ψυχή σου δεν τους στήνει εμπρός σου.Να εύχεσαι να 'ναι μακρύς ο δρόμος.Πολλά τα καλοκαιρινά πρωιά να είναιπου με τι ευχαρίστηση, με τι χαρά |
|  | θα μπαίνεις σε λιμένας πρωτοϊδωμένους·να σταματήσεις σ' εμπορεία Φοινικικά,και τες καλές πραγμάτειες ν' αποκτήσεις,[σεντέφια](http://ebooks.edu.gr/modules/ebook/show.php/DSGL-A111/262/1918%2C6388/indexG3_2.html) και κοράλλια, κεχριμπάρια κι [έβενους](http://ebooks.edu.gr/modules/ebook/show.php/DSGL-A111/262/1918%2C6388/indexG3_2.html%22%20%5Co%20%22%CE%AD%CE%B2%CE%B5%CE%BD%CE%BF%CF%82%3A%7C%20%CE%BC%CE%B1%CF%8D%CF%81%CE%BF%20%CF%80%CE%BF%CE%BB%CF%8D%CF%84%CE%B9%CE%BC%CE%BF%20%CE%BE%CF%8D%CE%BB%CE%BF%20%CF%83%CE%BA%CE%BB%CE%B7%CF%81%CF%8C%2C%20%CE%BA%CE%B1%CF%84%CE%AC%CE%BB%CE%BB%CE%B7%CE%BB%CE%BF%20%CE%B3%CE%B9%CE%B1%20%CF%83%CF%84%CE%AF%CE%BB%CE%B2%CF%89%CF%83%CE%B7.%20),και ηδονικά μυρωδικά κάθε λογής, |
|  | όσο μπορείς πιο άφθονα ηδονικά μυρωδικά·σε πόλεις Αιγυπτιακές πολλές να πας,να μάθεις και να μάθεις απ' τους σπουδασμένους. Πάντα στον νου σου να 'χεις την Ιθάκη.Το φθάσιμον εκεί είν' ο προορισμός σου. |
|  | Αλλά μη βιάζεις το ταξίδι διόλου.Καλύτερα χρόνια πολλά να διαρκέσει·και γέρος πια ν' αράξεις στο νησί,πλούσιος με όσα κέρδισες στον δρόμο,μη προσδοκώντας πλούτη να σε δώσει η Ιθάκη. |
|  |  Η Ιθάκη σ' έδωσε τ' ωραίο ταξίδι.Χωρίς αυτήν δεν θα 'βγαινες στον δρόμο.Άλλα δεν έχει να σε δώσει πια.Κι αν πτωχική την βρεις, η Ιθάκη δεν σε γέλασε.Έτσι σοφός που έγινες, με τόση πείρα, |
|   | ήδη θα το κατάλαβες οι Ιθάκες τι σημαίνουν. |

**Λαιστρυγόνες:** μυθική φυλή γιγαντόσωμων ανθρωποφάγων, που είχαν πρωτεύουσα τους τη Λαιστρυγονία, την υψηλή πόλη του Λάμου.
**κουβανείς:** κουβαλάς.
**σεντέφι ή σιντέφι:** αντικείμενο φτιαγμένο από μάρμαρο, ουσία που ιριδίζει και αποτελεί την επιφάνεια ορισμένων οστράκων.
**έβενος:** μαύρο πολύτιμο ξύλο σκληρό, κατάλληλο για στίλβωση.

**If you wanna listen to a great song, listen to “Kilkelly”. There are a lot of versions on youtube. You can also find videos with the lyrics on them.**

**It’s the story of an Irish family, the young sons of which have to immigrate, at the beginning of the 20th century, due to the economic crisis that plagued Ireland back then. You’ll love it!**

**Enjoy yourselves and tell me if you liked the song!**