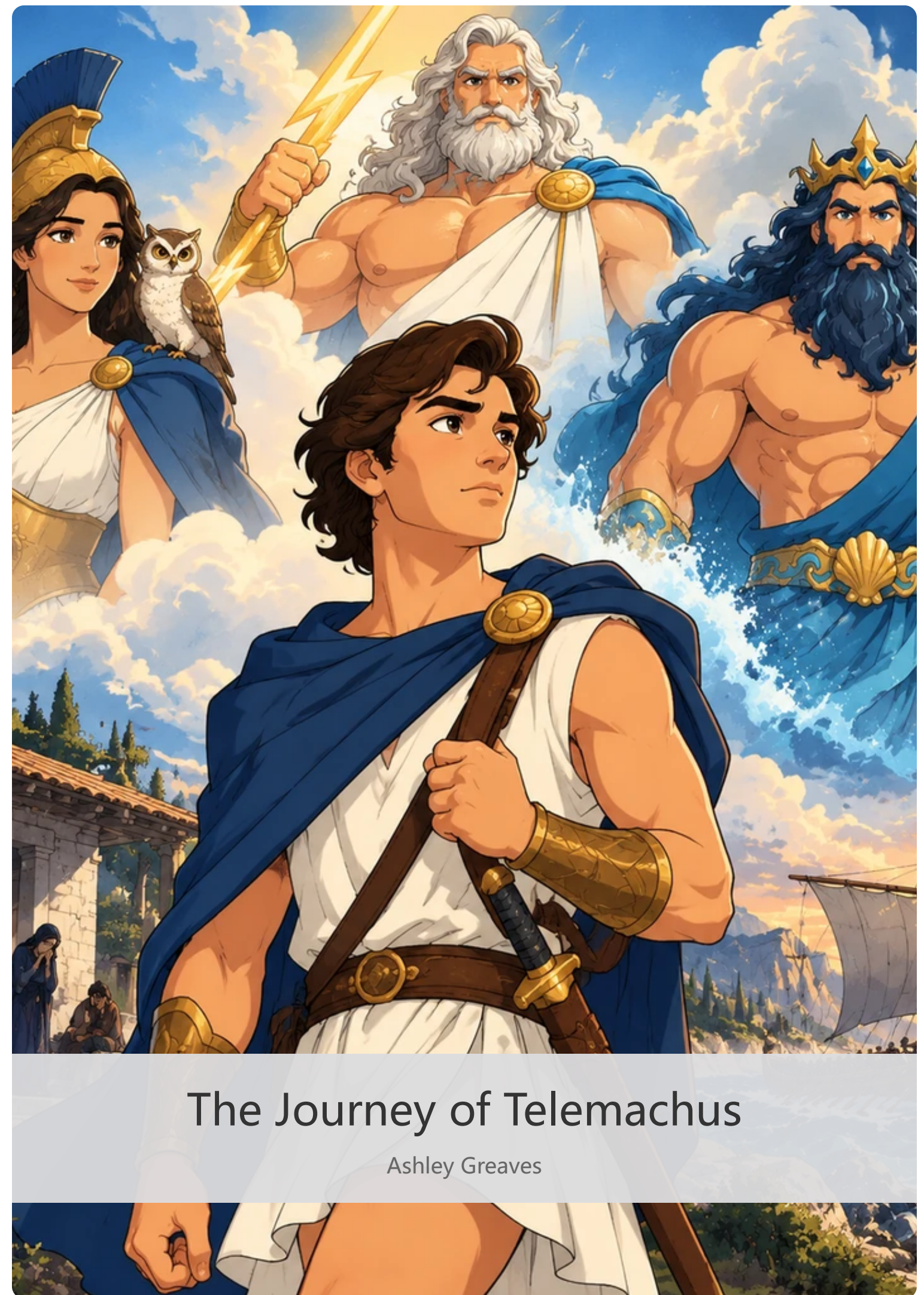




The Journey of Telemachus

Ashley Greaves



High above the mortal realm on Mount Olympus, the gods gather in council while Poseidon is away feasting with the Ethiopians. Athena speaks passionately to her father Zeus, pleading for the safe return of Odysseus, who has been trapped far from home for years.



Down on the rocky island of Ithaca, the grand hall of Odysseus is overrun by arrogant suitors who feast endlessly and waste his estate. Young Telemachus sits quietly among them, brooding over his absent father and feeling helpless in his own home.



Athena transforms herself into Mentes, a trustworthy family friend and Taphian chieftain, and descends to the shores of Ithaca. She approaches the palace gates, carrying a bronze spear, ready to offer guidance to the disheartened prince.



Telemachus spots the stranger standing outside and immediately rushes to welcome him with traditional Greek hospitality. He leads the disguised goddess away from the noisy, disruptive suitors into the quiet inner courtyard of the palace.



Inside the palace, Telemachus and the disguised Athena share a quiet meal while the suitors continue their rowdy celebrations in the background. The wise goddess listens intently as the young prince pours out his sorrow and frustration regarding his missing father.



Athena encourages Telemachus with inspiring words, assuring him that Odysseus is not dead and will surely find a way back home. She urges the young man to find his courage, stand up to the suitors, and take control of his own destiny.



Energized by the stranger's wise counsel, Telemachus feels a newfound sense of purpose and strength stirring within his heart. He begins to see the path forward, realizing he must no longer act like a helpless boy.



Athena reveals a hint of her divine wisdom before departing, leaving Telemachus with a clear mission to gather the men of Ithaca in assembly. The goddess vanishes swiftly like a bird in flight, confirming her divine nature to the awe-struck youth.



Empowered by the visit, Telemachus walks firmly back into the great hall and addresses the stunned suitors with unexpected authority. He commands them to leave his home and prepares to call a public assembly the very next morning.



As night falls over Ithaca, Telemachus retires to his high chamber to plan his perilous journey across the sea to Pylos and Sparta. Holding a burning torch, he looks out into the dark night, ready to seek news of his legendary father.