

Reconsidering *Nostos*: László Krasznahorkai's *Chasing Homer* and the *Odyssey*

In László Krasznahorkai's *Chasing Homer (Good luck and nothing else: Odysseus's Cave)*, the narrator, a being who is pursued by unidentified assassins, fixates on reaching Calypso's island after hearing a tour guide speak of the Calypso scene from the *Odyssey*. For the narrator, the site of Odysseus's detention by Calypso becomes the destination of their own *nostos* and an object of nostalgia (itself linked to *nostos*, formed by compounding *nostos* and *algos*). This paper further develops Barbara Cassin's analysis of nostalgia in *Nostalgia: When are We Ever at Home?*, where she argues that we are never at home, but always cultivating the elsewhere, a place of both familiarity and alterity. Building upon this, I demonstrate how *Chasing Homer's* reception of the *Odyssey* complicates the definition of nostalgia as directed towards a known home, and its connection to *nostos*, through its reversal of Odyssean themes and movements. This project also considers Calypso's island as a sight of alterity, an insight by François Hartog in *Memories of Odysseus* that further complicates the relationship between home and otherness. Comparative readings of the *Odyssey*—particularly the descriptions of Odysseus's stay with Calypso and broader reflections on home and homecoming—and *Chasing Homer's* flipping of the *Odyssey's* narratives explore the possibility of a *nostos* to a site of the unknown, a site of the imagination. The tension between the inherited Odyssean narrative and *Chasing Homer's* reception also reveals another possibility: that *nostos* is impossible, with home being located always in the imagination. This conclusion offers insight into Odysseus's *nostos* as well as into *Chasing Homer's* narrator's experience of spatial and temporal dislocation.

## Bibliography

Cassin, Barbara. *Nostalgia: When are We Ever at Home?* New York: Fordham University Press, 2016.

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