

## Chapter 4: Calypso

**The action:** Ah! Thank goodness! You can breathe again. Here's Mr. Leopold Bloom. We'll watch him at his morning routine: puttering in the kitchen, dropping in on the pork butcher, bringing his wife (Molly) her breakfast and morning mail, cooking and eating his own breakfast, and finally chatting with Molly. He reads a letter from his daughter, Milly, who has recently gone off to work in a photographer's shop. He goes to the outhouse and wipes himself with a page from a magazine. Try to read this chapter fairly conventionally: do you like Bloom? Why or why not? how would you characterize him? any pre-occupations? predilections?



*This is Eccles Street, the row of houses in which the Bloom's live.*

Look very carefully at Bloom's interaction with Dglacz. Watch his reaction to Molly's letters. Note his emotions after reading Milly's letter.



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**Odyssey parallel:** Odysseus is stuck on the Calypso's island, the last survivor of the Ithacans who were with the other Greeks at Troy. Calypso is an immortal who is in love with the hero, but he pines for Penelope and longs to escape this sexual paradise to return to his wife. According to Joyce, the nymph in the painting above the bed is Calypso.

Metempsychosis is an important concept in the episode--really in the novel--the transmigration of souls, what we might call reincarnation. It types us off to Joyce's method just as the work, "Usurper" did in "Telemachus." Molly is Penelope; Leopold is Odysseus. So we might expect that there is some sort of metaphorical estrangement between them. In a way, this is a domestic novel about the relationship between the Blooms. Glean what you can about them.

