Writing Assignment 1

Many times Athena helps Odysseus, but I want to mention one in book 5. It begins in the beginning of the book, Zeus, who sat among the other gods, listened to Athena. Athena was telling the tale of all of Odysseus’ problems, including the fact that he was still in Calypso’s cave. During her tale, she tells Zeus and all the other “blessed immortals” that Odysseus is still being held captive by the nymph Calypso with no way to get back to his land. She claims his ships are lost, he has no crew and he must go back to his land (lines 7-20). With much convincing Zeus then tells Hermes to tell Calypso to release Odysseus from her captive with only a “rickety raft.” I believe Athena was the help her in helping Odysseus get off the island he was being held captive.

Now I want to discuss a “hostile intervention.” I want to talk about Circe, the goddess of magic. Circe has her intervention when she turns several men of Odysseus’s crew into twine. I believe that Circe is both hostile to the men of Odysseus’s crew and Odysseus himself. Although Hermes gives Odysseus an antidote to her dark magic, the witch lures him into bed. Odysseus and his men spend 1 year in her “luxury” hospitality until finally Odysseus’ men ask him if they can leave because they long to see their home of Ithaca again. This whole part is important as it lays out the ways of other gods having to intertwine and help Odysseus out. Odysseus comes along many hardships, along with much help from the Gods, but this just shows some gods will harm others just to harm Odysseus.