

The Words of Tiresias

The gods see all and so see us,
What has happened,
What will happen
And what just might;
So heed the words of Tiresias
To whom the gods have lent their sight:

First, there will be the siren women
But do not listen to their singing;
Your freedom will come from not being free,
From resisting to go where you long to be.

The horror of the rocks you must not mention
Don't let the crew know of your intention;
If they know about the rocky death
Then not one of you will keep your breath.

Though you will lose six noble brethren
Better six than all your brave men
The choice is this, whatever you do:
The death of six, or of all of you!

You must resist the cattle of Helios
If you resist not, then all hope is lost;
Hunger will come to everyone,
You all will die - all but one -
If you succeed in angering
The god of the sun.

You will return home, that much is true
But how you do so is up to you;
Will you return home all victorious?
Or dead? Or worse still, forgotten, inglorious?