

# Poetry Porch: Poetry

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## **Odysseus Among Strangers**

By Sharon Portnoff

Twenty years it took him – well, ten from the time he thought to come home  
The adventures along the way – some harrowing  
Some alluring – are hardly important:  
He would and could not get home  
On the other side he was nobody

Gifts from strangers are not enough – his mind will not let him stop  
He counts them – makes sure each is there  
More care than he showed his men:  
Endurance is a kind of kindness  
The wisdom not to share