Sing in me, Muse,1 and through me tell the story

of that man skilled in all ways of contending,

the wanderer, harried for years on end,

after he plundered the stronghold

on the proud height of Troy.2

He saw the townlands

and learned the minds of many distant men,

and weathered many bitter nights and days

in his deep heart at sea, while he fought only

to save his life, to bring his shipmates home.

But not by will nor valor could he save them,

for their own recklessness destroyed them all—

children and fools, they killed and feasted on

the cattle of Lord Helios,3 the Sun,

and he who moves all day through heaven

took from their eyes the dawn of their return.

Of these adventures, Muse, daughter of Zeus,4

tell us in our time, lift the great song again.

1 **Muse:** Any one of the nine goddesses of the arts, literature,

and the sciences.

2 **Troy:** City in northwest Asia Minor, site of the Trojan War.

3 **Helios:** Sun god.

4 **Zeus:** King of the gods.