

ITHAKA

C.P. CAVAFY | 1911

As you set out for Ithaka hope your road is a long one, full of adventure, full of discovery.

May there be many summer mornings when, with what pleasure, what joy, you enter harbors you're seeing for the first time.

Keep Ithaka always in your mind.
Arriving there is what you're destined for.
But don't hurry the journey at all.
Better if it lasts for years,
so you're old by the time you reach the island,
wealthy with all you've gained on the way,
not expecting Ithaka to make you rich.

Ithaka gave you the marvelous journey. Without her you wouldn't have set out. She has nothing left to give you now.

And if you find her poor, Ithaka won't have fooled you. Wise as you will have become, so full of experience, you'll have understood by then what these Ithakas mean.