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Son of Pain

The meaning of Odysseus's name is obscure, but it probably means something like "one who gives and receives pain." We see a clear example of this in *Odyssey* XIII, when Poseidon punishes the Phaeacians for giving Odysseus safe passage home. Alcinous resolves never to extend the same courtesy to anyone again. The episode ends with the Phaeacians huddled around Poseidon's altar, saying their prayers. Once again, Odysseus's bad fortune transfers to those around him. [#Homer](#)
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