Ulysses deriding Polyphemus-Homer's Odyssey

Joseph Mallord William Turner



Some key facts

- 0 1829
- Mythological painting
- One of Turner's few oil paintings
- The canvas is exhibited in the National Gallery in London

The plot of the picture

is taken from the "Odyssey" by Homer.

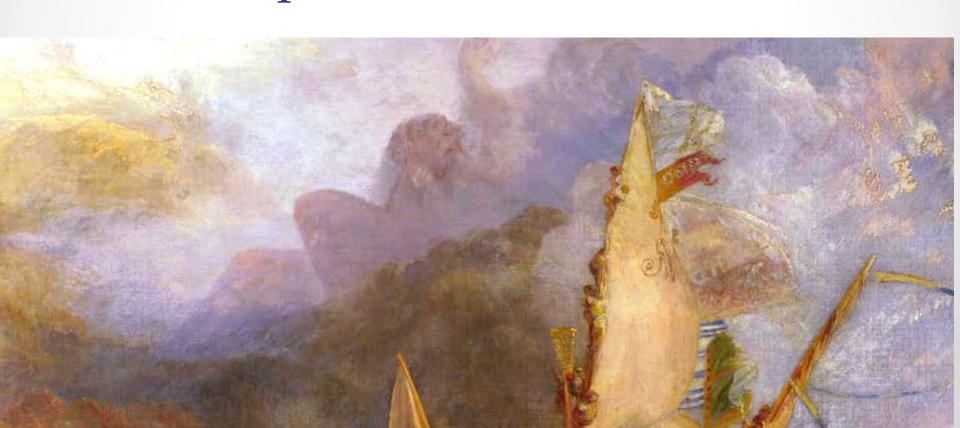
Odyssey returned home after the Trojan War and met cyclops Polyphemus, who was a son of Poseidon.

Polyphemus ate several sailors, but clever Odyssey burned out his only eye. Sailing away Odyssey derided the beaten enemy.

The are three mythological details on this pucture.

- 1) the figure of the cyclops
- 2) Apollo's hoarses
- 3) seamaids

the cyclops silhouette is painted blurred (размыто) so it can be misinterpreted as a cloud



we can see some hoarses silhouettes. It means Apollo riding in the chariot through the sky. It embodies sunrise.



The light figures near the ship are seamaids, mythological figures, too.



Turner painted this picture after his visiting Italia that's why we can see the influence of the italien painters here.
e.g. masterful colour effects
light and shade effects

These effects become more important than the characters themselfs.

Thank you for your attention!