



Ulysses

by Alfred, Lord Tennyson

ALFRED LORD TENNYSON

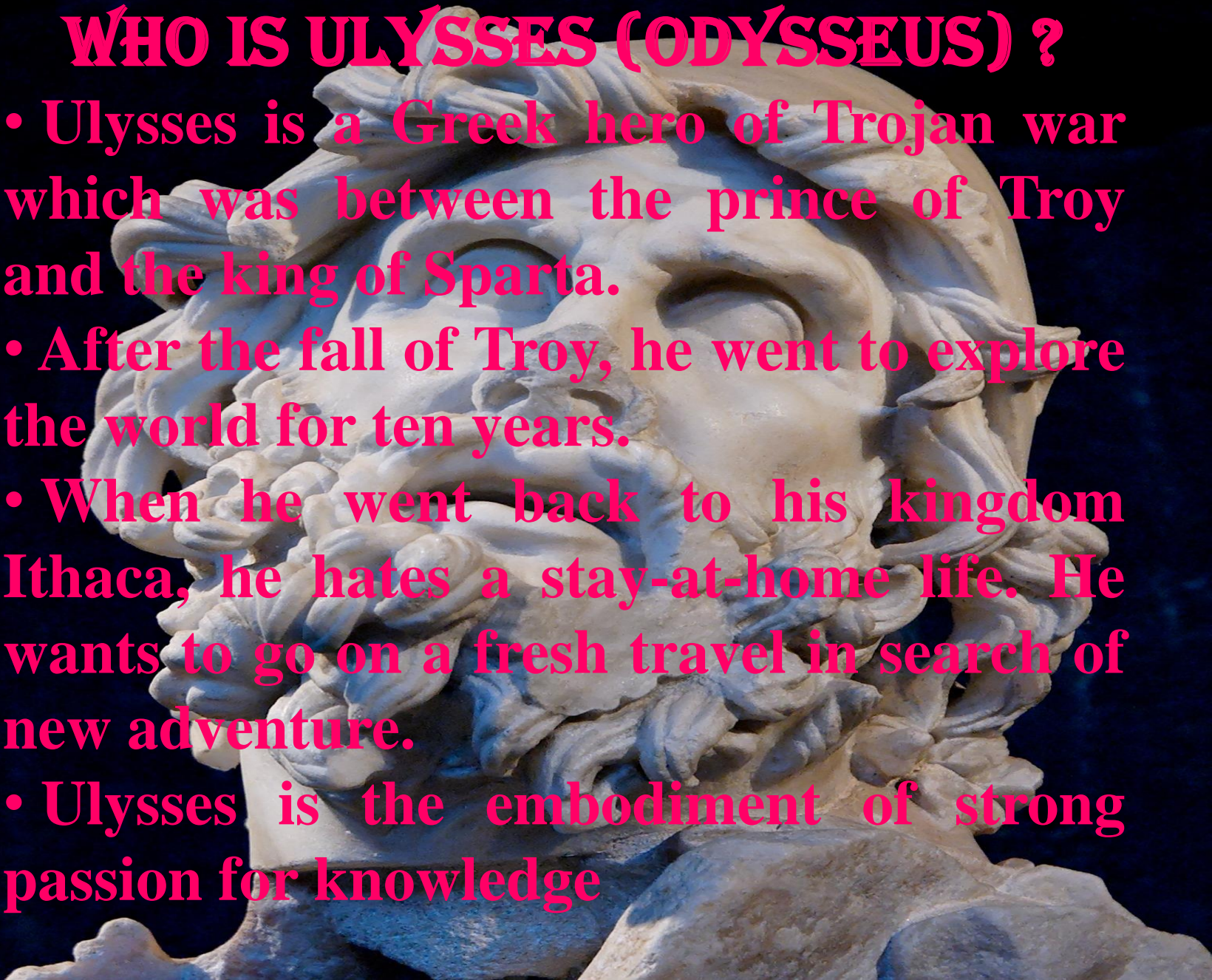
- Born on 6th August 1809 in Lincolnshire.
- He was shocked by the sudden death of his friend and his sorrow led him to write his best poetry including In Memoriam, The Passing of Arthur, Ulysses and Tithonus.
- Appointed as Poet Laureate in 1850.
- The leading victorian poet of England.
- His poetry is known for its metrical variety, rich imagery and verbal melodies.



U L Y S S E S

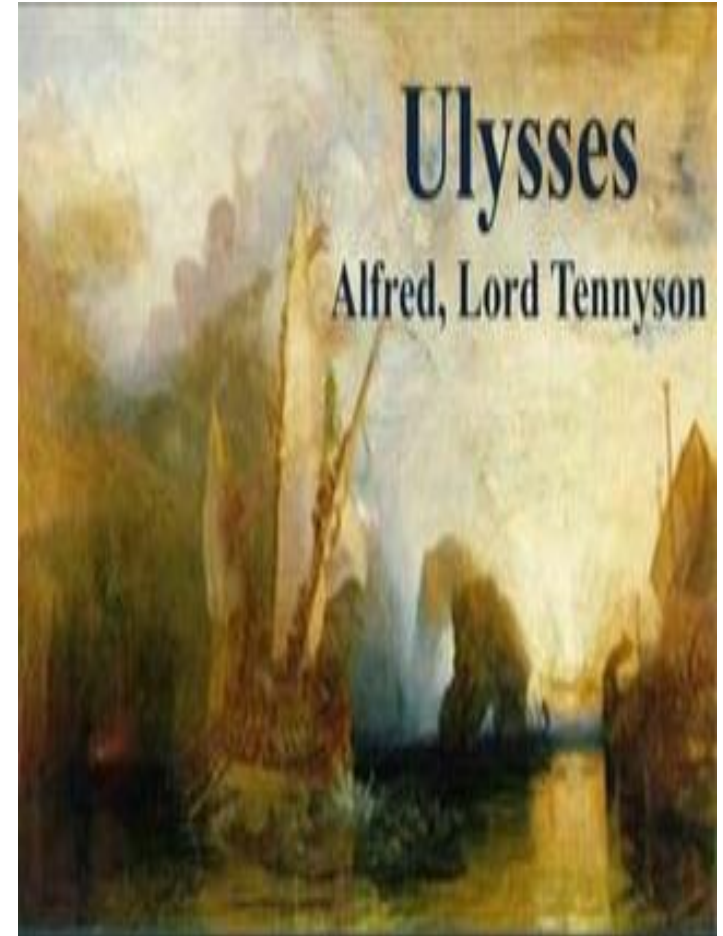
WHO IS ULYSSES (ODYSSEUS) ?

- Ulysses is a Greek hero of Trojan war which was between the prince of Troy and the king of Sparta.
- After the fall of Troy, he went to explore the world for ten years.
- When he went back to his kingdom Ithaca, he hates a stay-at-home life. He wants to go on a fresh travel in search of new adventure.
- Ulysses is the embodiment of strong passion for knowledge



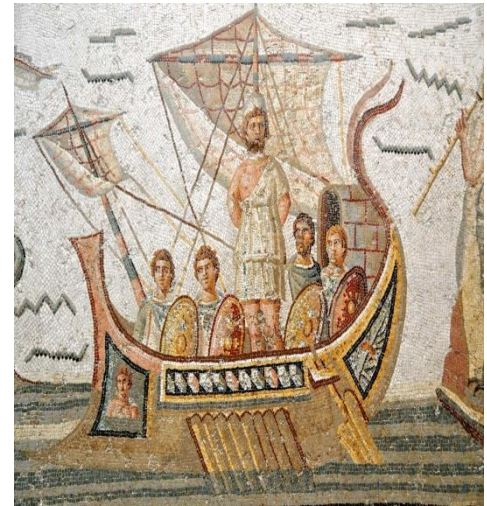
FORM OF THE POEM

- **BLANK VERSE:** The poem is written in Blank verse.
- **DRAMATIC MONOLOGUE:** The poem is the first true Dramatic Monologue addressed to an unknown audience. Ulysses is the speaker in the poem. He is addressing to an unidentified listener or his fellow mariners expressing his unhappiness and discontent with living without adventure. We come to know not about his character but also about the character of his mariners.
- **STANZA FORM:** The poem is divided into three stanzas.
 - **First Stanza:** Ulysses speaks to himself and expresses his discontent with idle life and yearns to go on a fresh travel.
 - **Second Stanza:** Ulysses speaks to an unidentified listener about his son, Telemachus.
 - **Third Stanza:** Ulysses speaks to his fellow mariners that they should undertake new adventure.



SUMMARY OF THE POEM

Ulysses was an ancient Greek hero who was an adventurer and warrior. Through the character of Ulysses, Tennyson represents the philosophy of action and a great thirst of knowledge. Ulysses comes back to his kingdom, Ithaca after 20 years. But he is not happy with his idle life. He considers it dull to live with his aged wife and rule savage people. So, he wants to go on a fresh travel in search of new adventure and knowledge. Ulysses recalls his past life of adventure. He had travelled a lot and gained rich experiences of men, manners, climates and countries, councils and governments. He also took part in the War of Troy. He became famous. He says that his present character is the result of his past experiences and adventures. Ulysses has a great passion for knowledge. He has a strong desire to know the unknown. He wants to go on fresh travel in search of adventure and knowledge.. He thinks his son, Telemachus will rule savage people in a better way. So, he leaves his kingdom in the hands of Telemachus and prepares to undertake a new journey. He inspires his fellow mariners to come with him. He motivates them to do something noble and great before they die. He says they should spend their old life in gaining new experiences and knowledge.



THEMES OF THE POEM

- **PASSION FOR KNOWLEDGE:** Ulysses represents the modern passion for knowledge. He is an untiring wanderer and explorer. The desire for knowledge and adventure is represented through the character of Ulysses. He hates his idle life. He wants to do great deeds even in his old age.
- **FULFILLMENT OF LIFE:** Ulysses expresses his discontent with the idle life he is living after coming back to his kingdom, Ithaca. He believes that life is not just accumulation of years but it is accumulation of experiences. He wants to live his life to the fullest by gaining knowledge



THE END