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*To my parents,  
and all my mentors*

*As you set out for Ithaka hope the voyage is long,*

*full of adventure, full of discovery.*

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*Better if it lasts for years, so you are old by the time you  
reach the island,*

*enriched with what you have gained on the way,*

*not expecting Ithaka to make you rich.*

*Ithaka gave you the marvelous journey.*

*Without her you would have not sailed away.*

*She has nothing left to give you now.*

*And if you find her poor, Ithaka won't have fooled you.*

*This way, wise as you will have become, so full of  
experience,*

*you will have understood by then what these Ithakas  
mean.*

From Ithaka, by  
Konstantinos Kavafis (1866-1933)

Translated by  
Edmund Keeley & Philip Sherrard