

All I Really Need to Know I Learned in Greek Literature

by Gary Hardaway

Achilles wasn't brave but demigod
and 98% immune.

Was Thetis stupid to leave the heel un-wet
or was she just another blythe immortal,
caught up in the moment, ill-prepared
by birth to follow through the consequential
path from Illium to underworld?

So much for goddesses and gods, so much
for those Achaeon heroes. We're a race
of braggarts, bullies, and butchers overseen
by narcissistic deities
gaming against the boredom of eternity.

Why worship and remember twits and thugs?
Only as a good excuse to sing
of Priam, Hector, and Odysseus
in contrast to the bloody lunatics
of Atreus- Agamemnon,
Menelaus, Clytemnestra. Hearth
and home - abiding curse and sweetest gift
among the mortal and immortal alike.

