

Circe Didn't Have To Belong

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Such a lovely day at Aeaea. The secluded island where pigs roam around and where birds chirp louder than usual. The beautiful island that is home to the free spirited, powerful enchantress Circe. However was Circe always known to be a powerful enchantress? No, not until she stopped belonging to her past roots. Circe is the daughter of the titan sun god, Helios and an oceanid Perse. Circe was born to a family of formidable sorceresses. This led to many expectations surrounding her birth but with great expectations disappointment was inevitable. Circe was a blank canvas. In fact she seemed so blank that everyone called her a nymph, she was nameless until people realized her voice was different compared to the gods. Hence, she was called Circe after which the Greek origin stands for bird. That's what they compared her voice to. Unlike her siblings Circe was a loner who didn't get quite a lot of attention because she seemed to lack powers. She was no special, only her family was. This led to Circe being desperate for love. So, it was no surprise seeing her fall in love with a mortal. Circe was ready to do everything for him. Even crying while holding him so that he could be a god. It worked! Glaucus was now the prophetic god of the sea. Everyone around her seemed to be so pleased by this situation. Of course, they were not pleased because Circe did it; they were pleased to welcome a new god. And when that new god fell in love with another nymph, Circe acted out on jealousy. She turned that nymph, Scylla, into a two headed monster. Now, Circe was recognised. With her envious act, Zeus felt threatened and decided to send Circe to an island where she would spend the rest of her life. She had to cut all ties with her past. She no longer belonged to her older identity; she was no longer someone unimportant. Because she simply did not have to belong. She discovered her powers and became the enchantress we recognise today; the enchantress who turned Odysseus' men into pigs. What if Circe had stayed where she was born? Would we still recognise her as the powerful enchantress? No, we really wouldn't. Back when Circe belonged to her past, the life where she didn't have any powers and wasn't a special child, she would hopelessly try to fit in. She would imagine how she could also be powerful like her siblings and that would bring great delight for her. As soon as she stopped belonging she found herself, her powers and her glory. Belonging for her was restrictive and much like her for humans, belonging is restrictive too. (Miller, 2019)

On february 6th Turkey got woken up by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake following a second 7.6 magnitude earthquake. Ten total cities were affected leading to many displaced. These displaced people, much like Circe, couldn't decide against it. They didn't want to leave the places they belonged to but did they have a choice? Could they still belong to the collapsed area, especially since they have a life to keep living? This is one of the many negative effects belonging manifests into our daily lives. Let's think about all the displaced people; most of them are feeling stuck and hopeless. All these people are people who lost their lives. That's because they belonged there. If they didn't belong somewhere would they still struggle building a new life after the earthquake? Yes, they probably would when we consider the fact that they lost their family but leaving a whole city behind would not be an issue when they did not have to belong there. When the Syrian civil war broke out many Syrians immigrated to Turkey. Since the ten cities that are affected by the earthquake are closer to the Syrian border a lot of Syrians got placed there. Hatay, a city also affected by the earthquake, was one of those cities Syrians refuged to. The estimated numbers for the refugees pass millions. Therefore when there's too many people coming to a country its hard to keep track of the bad people. These bad people were the ones who committed crimes here; they robbed and damaged properties while also creating danger for women. These people were not bad because they were Syrian, there definitely are similar people in Turkey. But the millions refuging to Turkey was already a tough thing to accept by the people of Turkey. So when the news broke about some of these Syrian people committing crimes everyone labeled the rest of the people as "bad" and that they're bringing danger to Turkey. Innocent refugees also got discriminated against and hate crimed. Would they still get treated the same way if they didn't belong to the refugee label? Unfortunately, there's no way to get rid of belonging. Belonging, in the most general way, starts biologically but in our world there's also a second type of belonging which is psychological. Belonging to a culture, an ethnic root, a religion and belonging to many other things in life bring great psychological relief to humans. We can see that belonging brings communities together but it also separates the different communities. Us humans do not know where to draw the line sometimes, and with belonging, we never knew and the human race never learnt to draw the line. Belonging in our world could have had much more positive effects if we knew how to live with it correctly. It's never too late to learn something, especially if it can bring great comfort. Now is the time to get rid of our walls and learn how to belong to the world. Now is the time to act, for a better future for all!

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