To my parents,
and all my mentors

As you set out for Ithaka hope the voyage is long,
full of adventure, full of discovery.
...............  
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
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