

## Heart

Under a pure azure sky  
Sits a heart shaped bay.  
Fringing its sandy shores  
Tall cypress trees hold sway.  
The air is redolent with scents  
Of olive, lemon and more  
The blue sea laps so gently  
Against the bay's gold shore.

In Homeric history  
Odysseus sailed into the bay  
Saw a beautiful princess  
And gave his heart away.  
His love was unrequited  
Nausicaä loved her home;  
Odysseus broken hearted  
Voyaged on alone.

I've been to Paleokastritsa  
And seen the heart shaped bay,  
The cypresses, the turquoise sea;  
It was perfect in every way.  
Like Odysseus before me  
I felt I'd walked into a dream.  
The village with the heart-shaped bay  
Was the loveliest place I'd seen.

I think the bay is heart shaped  
Because when it's time to part  
From beautiful Paleokastritsa  
You leave a little of your heart.

*Margaret Hardy, May 2021*

