

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

the neighbours call the river by the name of Callichorus<sup>1</sup> and the cave Aulion.<sup>2</sup>

Next they beheld the barrow of Sthenelus, Actor's son, who on his way back from the valorous war against the Amazons—for he had been the comrade of Heracles—was struck by an arrow and died there upon the sea-beach. And for a time they went no further, for Persephone herself sent forth the spirit of Actor's son which craved with many tears to behold men like himself, even for a moment. And mounting on the edge of the barrow he gazed upon the ship, such as he was when he went to war; and round his head a fair he'm with four peaks gleamed with its blood-red crest. And again he entered the vast gloom; and they looked and marvelled; and Mopsus, son of Ampycus, with word of prophecy urged them to land and propitiate him with libations. Quickly they drew in sail and threw out hawsers, and on the strand paid honour to the tomb of Sthenelus, and poured out drink offerings to him and sacrificed sheep as victims. And besides the drink offerings they built an altar to Apollo, saviour of ships, and burnt thigh bones; and Orpheus dedicated his lyre; whence the place has the name of Lyra.

And straightway they went aboard as the wind blew strong; and they drew the sail down, and made it taut to both sheets; then Argo was borne over the sea swiftly, even as a hawk soaring high through the air commits to the breeze its outspread wings and is borne on swiftly, nor swerves in its flight, poising in the clear sky with quiet pinions. And lo, they passed by the stream of Parthenius as it flows into the sea, a

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.*, river of fair dances.

<sup>2</sup> *i.e.*, the bedchamber.



πρηυτάτου ποταμοῦ, παρεμέτρεον, ᾧ ἐνὶ κούρῃ  
 Λητωίς, ἄγρηθεν ὅτ' οὐρανὸν εἰσαναβαίνῃ,  
 ὃν δέμας ἱμερτοῖσιν ἀναψύχει ὑδάτεσσιν.  
 νυκτὶ δ' ἔπειτ' ἄλληκτον ἐπιπροτέρωσε θεόντες  
 Σήσαμον αἰπεινούς τε παρεξενέοντ' Ἑρυθίνους,  
 Κρωβίαλον, Κρῶμνάν τε καὶ ὑλήεντα Κύτωρον.  
 ἔνθεν δ' αὖτε Κάραμβιν ἅμ' ἡελίοιο βολῇσιν  
 γνάμψαντες παρὰ πουλὺν ἔπειτ' ἤλαυνον ἐρετμοῖς  
 Αἰγιαλὸν πρόπαν ἡμαρ ὁμῶς καὶ ἐπ' ἡματι νύκτα.  
 Αὐτίκα δ' Ἀσσυρίης ἐπέβαν χθονός, ἔνθα  
 Σινώπην,

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θυγατέρ' Ἀσωποῖο, καθίσσατο, καὶ οἱ ὅπασσεν  
 παρθενίην Ζεὺς αὐτός, ὑποσχεσίησι δολωθεῖς.  
 δὴ γὰρ ὁ μὲν φιλόκτητος ἐέλδετο· νεῦσε δ' ὅγ' αὐτῇ  
 δωσέμεναι, ὅ κεν ἦσι μετὰ φρεσὶν ἰθύσειεν.  
 ἢ δέ ἐ παρθενίην ἡτήσατο κερδοσύνησιν.  
 ὥς δέ καὶ Ἀπόλλωνα παρήπαφεν εὐνηθῆναι  
 ἰέμενον, ποταμόν τ' ἐπὶ τοῖς Ἄλυν· οὐδὲ μὲν  
 ἀνδρῶν

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τήνγε τις ἱμερτῇσιν ἐν ἀγκοίνῃσι δάμασσεν.  
 ἔνθα δὲ Τρικκαίοιο ἀγανοῦ Δηιμάχοιο  
 υἱες, Δηιλέων τε καὶ Αὐτόλυκος Φλογίος τε  
 τῆμος ἔθ', Ἡρακλῆος ἀποπλαγχθέντες, ἔναιον·  
 οἳ ῥα τόθ', ὥς ἐνόησαν ἀριστήων στόλον ἀνδρῶν,  
 σφᾶς αὐτοὺς νημερτὲς ἐπέφραδον ἀντιάσαντες·  
 οὐδ' ἔτι μιμνάζειν θέλον ἔμπεδον, ἀλλ' ἐνὶ νηί,  
 ἀργέσταιο παρᾶσσον ἐπιπνεύοντος, ἔβησαν.  
 τοῖσι δ' ὁμοῦ μετέπειτα θοῇ πεφορημένοι αὖρῃ  
 λείπον Ἄλυν ποταμόν, λείπον δ' ἀγχίρροον Ἴριν,  
 ἡδὲ καὶ Ἀσσυρίης πρόχυσιν χθονός· ἡματι δ' αὐτῷ  
 γνάμψαν Ἀμαζονίδων ἕκαθεν λιμενήοχον ἄκρην.

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most gentle river, where the maid, daughter of Leto, when she mounts to heaven after the chase, cools her limbs in its much-desired waters. Then they sped onward in the night without ceasing, and passed Sesamus and lofty Erythini, Crobialus, Cromna and woody Cytorus. Next they swept round Carambis at the rising of the sun, and plied the oars past endless Aegialus, all day and on through the night.

And straightway they landed on the Assyrian shore where Zeus himself gave a home to Sinope, daughter of Asopus, and granted her virginity, beguiled by his own promises. For he longed for her love, and he promised to grant her whatever her heart's desire might be. And she in her craftiness asked of him virginity. And in like manner she deceived Apollo too who longed to wed her, and besides them the river Halys, and no man ever subdued her in love's embrace. And there the sons of noble Deimachus of Tricca were still dwelling, Deileon, Autolycus and Phlogius, since the day when they wandered far away from Heracles; and they, when they marked the array of chieftains, went to meet them and declared in truth who they were; and they wished to remain there no longer, but as soon as Argestes<sup>1</sup> blew went on ship-board. And so with them, borne along by the swift breeze, the heroes left behind the river Halys, and left behind Iris that flows hard by, and the delta-land of Assyria; and on the same day they rounded the distant headland of the Amazons that guards their harbour.

<sup>1</sup> The north-west wind.



Ἐνθα ποτὲ προμολοῦσαν Ἀρητιάδα Μελανίππην  
 ἥρως Ἡρακλῆης ἐλοχῆσατο, καὶ οἱ ἄποινα  
 Ἰππολύτη ζωστήῃρα παναίολον ἐγγυάλιξεν  
 ἀμφὶ κασιγνήτης· ὁ δ' ἀπήμονα πέμψεν ὀπίσσω.  
 τῆς οἴγ' ἐν κόλπῳ, προχοαῖς ἐπὶ Θερμώδοντος,  
 κέλσαν, ἐπεὶ καὶ πόντος ὀρίνετο νισσομένοισιν.  
 τῷ δ' οὔτις ποταμῶν ἐναλίγκιος, οὐδὲ ῥέεθρα  
 τόσσ' ἐπὶ γαῖαν ἴησι παρέξ ἔθεν ἄνδιχα βάλλων.  
 τετράκισ εἰς ἑκατὸν δεύοιτό κεν, εἴ τις ἕκαστα  
 πεμπάζοι· μία δ' οἴῃ ἐτήτυμος ἔπλετο πηγῇ.  
 ἢ μὲν τ' ἐξ ὀρέων κατανίσσεται ἠπειρόνδε  
 ὑψηλῶν, ἃ τε φασὶν Ἀμαζόνια κλείεσθαι.  
 ἔνθεν δ' αἰπυτέρην ἐπικίδναται ἔνδοθι γαῖαν  
 ἀντικρὺ· τῷ καὶ οἱ ἐπίστροφοί εἰσι κέλευθοι·  
 αἰεὶ δ' ἄλλυδις ἄλλη, ὅπῃ κύρσειε μάλιστα  
 ἠπείρου χθαμαλῆς, εἰλίσσεται· ἢ μὲν ἄπωθεν,  
 ἢ δὲ πέλας· πολέες δὲ πόροι νώνυμνοι ἔασιν,  
 ὅππῃ ὑπεξαφύονται· ὁ δ' ἀμφαδὸν ἄμμιγα παύροις  
 Πόντον ἐς Ἀξεινον κυρτὴν ὑπερεύγεται ἄχνην.<sup>1</sup>  
 καὶ νῦν κε δηθύνοντες Ἀμαζονίδεσσιν ἔμιξαν  
 ὑσμίνην, καὶ δ' οὐ κεν ἀναιμωτί γ' ἐρίδηναν—  
 οὐ γὰρ Ἀμαζονίδες μάλ' ἐπήτιδες, οὐδὲ θέμιστας  
 τίουσαι πεδίου Δοιάντιον ἀμφενέμοντο·  
 ἀλλ' ὕβρις στονόεσσα καὶ Ἄρεος ἔργα μεμήλει·  
 δὴ γὰρ καὶ γενεὴν ἔσαν Ἄρεος Ἀρμονίης τε  
 νύμφης, ἥτ' Ἀρηϊ φιλοπτολέμους τέκε κούρας,  
 ἄλσεος Ἀκμονίοιο κατὰ πτύχας εὐνηθεῖσα—  
 εἰ μὴ ἄρ' ἐκ Διόθεν πνοιαὶ πάλιν ἀργεστᾶο  
 ἤλυθον· οἱ δ' ἀνέμῳ περιηγέα κάλλιπον ἀκτὴν,  
 ἔνθα Θεμισκύρεια Ἀμαζόνες ὠπλίζοντο.

<sup>1</sup> ἄχνην Ruhnken : ἄκρην MSS.



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Here once when Melanippe, daughter of Ares, had gone forth, the hero Heracles caught her by ambuscade and Hippolyte gave him her glistening girdle as her sister's ransom, and he sent away his captive unharmed. In the bay of this headland, at the outfall of Thermodon, they ran ashore, for the sea was rough for their voyage. No river is like this, and none sends forth from itself such mighty streams over the land. If a man should count every one he would lack but four of a hundred, but the real spring is only one. This flows down to the plain from lofty mountains, which, men say, are called the Amazonian mountains. Thence it spreads inland over a hilly country straight forward; wherefrom its streams go winding on, and they roll on, this way and that ever more, wherever best they can reach the lower ground, one at a distance and another near at hand; and many streams are swallowed up in the sand and are without a name; but, mingled with a few, the main stream openly bursts with its arching crest of foam into the Inhospitable Pontus. And they would have tarried there and have closed in battle with the Amazons, and would have fought not without bloodshed—for the Amazons were not gentle foes and regarded not justice, those dwellers on the Doeantian plain; but grievous insolence and the works of Ares were all their care; for by race they were the daughters of Ares and the nymph Harmonia, who bare to Ares war-loving maids, wedded to him in the glens of the Acmonian wood—had not the breezes of Argestes come again from Zeus; and with the wind they left the rounded beach, where the Themiscyreian Amazons



οὐ γὰρ ὁμηγερέες μίαν ἄμ πόλιν, ἀλλ' ἀνὰ γαῖαν  
κεκριμέναι κατὰ φύλα διάτριχα ναιετάασκον·  
νόσφι μὲν αἶδ' αὐταί, τῇσιν τότε κοιρανέεσκεν  
Ἴππολύτη, νόσφιν δὲ Λυκάστιαι ἀμφενέμοντο,  
νόσφι δ' ἀκοντοβόλοι Χαδήσiai. ἤματι δ' ἄλλω 1000  
νυκτί τ' ἐπιπλομένη Χαλύβων παρὰ γαῖαν ἵκοντο.

Τοῖσι μὲν οὔτε βοῶν ἄροτος μέλει, οὔτε τις ἄλλη  
φυταλιὴ καρποῖο μελίφρονος· οὐδὲ μὲν οἷγε  
ποίμνας ἐρσήεντι νομῶ ἐνὶ ποιμαίνουσιν.

ἀλλὰ σιδηροφόρον στυφελὴν χθόνα γατομέοντες  
ὦνον ἀμείβονται βιοτήσιον, οὐδέ ποτέ σφιν  
ἥως ἀντέλλει καμάτων ἄτερ, ἀλλὰ κελαινῇ  
λιγνύι καὶ καπνῶ κάματον βαρὺν ὀτλεύουσιν.

Τοὺς δὲ μετ' αὐτίκ' ἔπειτα Γενηταίου Διὸς ἄκρην  
γνάμψαντες σῶοντο παρὲξ Τιβαρηνίδα γαῖαν. 1010  
ἐνθ' ἐπεὶ ἄρ κε τέκωνται ὑπ' ἀνδράσι τέκνα  
γυναῖκες,

αὐτοὶ μὲν στενάχουσιν ἐνὶ λεχέεσσι πεσόντες,  
κράατα δησάμενοι· ταὶ δ' εὖ κομέουσιν ἐδωδῇ  
ἀνέρας, ἥδὲ λοετρὰ λεχώια τοῖσι πένονται.

Ἴρὸν δ' αὖτ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ὄρος καὶ γαῖαν ἀμειβον,  
ἥ ἐνὶ Μοσσύνοικοι ἀν' οὔρεα ναιετάουσιν  
μόσσυνας, καὶ δ' αὐτοὶ ἐπώνυμοι ἐνθεν ἔασιν.

ἀλλοίη δὲ δίκη καὶ θέσμια τοῖσι τέτυκται.  
ὅσσα μὲν ἀμφαδίην ῥέζειν θέμις, ἥ ἐνὶ δήμῳ,  
ἥ ἀγορῇ, τάδε πάντα δόμοις ἐνὶ μηχανόωνται· 1020  
ὅσσα δ' ἐνὶ μεγάροις πεπονήμεθα, κείνα θύραζε  
ἀψεγέως μέσσησιν ἐνὶ ῥέζουσιν ἀγυιαῖς.  
οὐδ' εὐνῆς αἰδῶς ἐπιδήμιος, ἀλλά, σύες ὥς  
φορβάδες, οὐδ' ἡβαιὸν ἀτυζόμενοι παρεόντας,  
μίσγονται χαμάδις ξυνῇ φιλότῃτι γυναικῶν,



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were arming for war. For they dwelt not gathered together in one city, but scattered over the land, parted into three tribes. In one part dwelt the Themiscyreians, over whom at that time Hippolyte reigned, in another the Lycastians, and in another the dart-throwing Chadesians. And the next day they sped on and at nightfall they reached the land of the Chalybes.

That folk have no care for ploughing with oxen or for any planting of honey-sweet fruit; nor yet do they pasture flocks in the dewy meadow. But they cleave the hard iron-bearing land and exchange their wages for daily sustenance; never does the morn rise for them without toil, but amid bleak sooty flames and smoke they endure heavy labour.

And straightway thereafter they rounded the headland of Genetaean Zeus and sped safely past the land of the Tibareni. Here when wives bring forth children to their husbands, the men lie in bed and groan with their heads close bound; but the women tend them with food, and prepare child-birth baths for them.

Next they reached the sacred mount and the land where the Mossynoeci dwell amid high mountains in wooden huts,<sup>1</sup> from which that people take their name. And strange are their customs and laws. Whatever it is right to do openly before the people or in the market place, all this they do in their homes, but whatever acts we perform at home, these they perform out of doors in the midst of the streets, without blame. And among them is no reverence for the marriage-bed, but, like swine that feed in herds, no whit abashed in others' presence, on the

<sup>1</sup> called "Mossynes."



αὐτὰρ ἐν ὑψίστῳ βασιλεὺς μόσσυι θαάσσω  
 ἰθείας πολέεσσι δίκας λαοῖσι δικάζει,  
 σχέτλιος. ἦν γάρ πού τι θεμιστεύων ἀλίπηται,  
 λιμῶ μιν κεῖν' ἡμαρ ἐνικλείσαντες ἔχουσιν.

Τοὺς παρανισσόμενοι καὶ δὴ σχεδὸν ἀντιπέρηθεν  
 νήσου Ἀρητιάδος τέμνον πλόον εἰρεσίησιν 1030  
 ἡμάτιοι· λιαρὴ γὰρ ὑπὸ κνέφας ἔλλιπεν αὖρη.

ἤδη καί τιν' ὑπερθεν Ἀρήιον αἴσσοντα  
 ἐνναέτην νήσοιο δι' ἡέρος ὄρνιν ἴδοντο,  
 ὅς ῥα τιναξάμενος πτέρυγας κατὰ νῆα θέουσας  
 ἦκ' ἐπὶ οἱ πτερὸν ὀξύ· τὸ δ' ἐν λαιῶ πέσεν ὦμῳ  
 δίου Ὀιλῆος· μεθέηκε δὲ χερσὶν ἐρετμὸν  
 βλήμενος· οἱ δὲ τάφον πτερόεν βέλος εἰσορόωντες.  
 καὶ τὸ μὲν ἐξείρυσσε παρεδριόων Ἐριβώτης,  
 ἔλκος δὲ ξυνέδησεν, ἀπὸ σφετέρου κολεοῖο 1040  
 λυσάμενος τελαμῶνα κατήγορον· ἐκ δ' ἐφαάνθη  
 ἄλλος ἐπὶ προτέρῳ πεποτημένος· ἀλλὰ μιν ἦρως  
 Εὐρυτίδης Κλυτίος—πρὸ γὰρ ἀγκύλα τείνατο  
 τόξα,

ἦκε δ' ἐπ' οἰωνὸν ταχινὸν βέλος—αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα  
 πληῆξεν· δινηθεὶς δὲ θοῆς πέσεν ἀγχόθι νηός.  
 τοῖσιν δ' Ἀμφιδάμας μυθήσατο, παῖς Ἀλεοῖο·

‘Νῆσος μὲν πέλας ἡμῖν Ἀρητιάς· ἴστε καὶ αὐτοὶ  
 τούσδ' ὄρνιθας ἰδόντες. ἐγὼ δ' οὐκ ἔλπομαι ἰοὺς  
 τόσσον ἐπαρκέσσειν εἰς ἔκβασιν. ἀλλὰ τιν' ἄλλην 1050  
 μῆτιν πορσύνωμεν ἐπίρροθον, εἴ γ' ἐπικέλσαι  
 μέλλετε, Φινῆος μεμνημένοι, ὥς ἐπέτελλεν.  
 οὐδὲ γὰρ Ἡρακλῆς, ὁπότε ἤλυθεν Ἀρκαδίηϊδε,  
 πλωίδας ὄρνιθας Στυμφαλίδας ἔσθενε λίμνης  
 ὥσασθαι τόξοισι, τὸ μὲν τ' ἐγὼ αὐτὸς ὅπωπα.  
 ἀλλ' ὄγε χαλκείην πλατάγην ἐνὶ χερσὶ τινάσσω  
 δούπει ἐπὶ σκοπιῆς περιμήκεος· αἱ δ' ἐφέβοντο



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earth they lie with the women. Their king sits in the loftiest hut and dispenses upright judgments to the multitude, poor wretch ! For if haply he err at all in his decrees, for that day they keep him shut up in starvation.

They passed them by and cleft their way with oars over against the island of Ares all day long ; for at dusk the light breeze left them. At last they spied above them, hurtling through the air, one of the birds of Ares which haunt that isle. It shook its wings down over the ship as she sped on and sent against her a keen feather, and it fell on the left shoulder of goodly Oileus, and he dropped his oar from his hands at the sudden blow, and his comrades marvelled at the sight of the winged bolt. And Eribotes from his seat hard by drew out the feather, and bound up the wound when he had loosed the strap hanging from his own sword-sheath ; and besides the first, another bird appeared swooping down ; but the hero Clytius, son of Eurytus—for he bent his curved bow, and sped a swift arrow against the bird—struck it, and it whirled round and fell close to the ship. And to them spake Amphidamas, son of Aleus :

“ The island of Ares is near us ; you know it yourselves now that ye have seen these birds. But little will arrows avail us, I trow, for landing. But let us contrive some other device to help us, if ye intend to land, bearing in mind the injunction of Phineus. For not even could Heracles, when he came to Arcadia, drive away with bow and arrow the birds that swam on the Stymphalian lake. I saw it myself. But he shook in his hand a rattle of bronze and made a loud clatter as he stood upon a lofty



τηλοῦ, ἀτυζηλῶ ὑπὸ δείματι κεκληγυῖαι.  
 τῷ καὶ νῦν τοίην τιν' ἐπιφραζώμεθα μῆτιν·  
 αὐτὸς δ' ἂν τὸ πάροιθεν ἐπιφρασθεὶς ἐνέποιμι.  
 ἀνθέμενοι κεφαλῇσιν ἀερσιλόφους τρυφαλείας,  
 ἡμίσεες μὲν ἐρέσσετ' ἀμοιβαδῖς, ἡμίσεες δὲ  
 δούρασί τε ξυστοῖσι καὶ ἀσπίσιν ἄρσετε νῆα.  
 αὐτὰρ πασσυδίῃ περιώσιον ὄρνυτ' αὐτὴν  
 ἀθρόοι, ὅφρα κολῶν ἀηθείῃ φοβέωνται  
 νεύοντάς τε λόφους καὶ ἐπήορα δούραθ' ὑπερθεν.  
 εἰ δέ κεν αὐτὴν νῆσον ἰκώμεθα, δὴ τότε ἔπειτα  
 σὺν κελάδῳ σακέεσσι πελώριον ὄρσετε δοῦπον.  
 ὣς ἄρ' ἔφη· πάντεσσι δ' ἐπίρροθος ἦνδανε  
 μῆτις.

ἀμφὶ δὲ χαλκείας κόρυθας κεφαλῇσιν ἔθεντο  
 δεινὸν λαμπομένας, ἐπὶ δὲ λόφοι ἐσσεύοντο  
 φοινίκεοι. καὶ τοὶ μὲν ἀμοιβήδην ἐλάασκον·  
 τοὶ δ' αὖτ' ἐγχείησι καὶ ἀσπίσι νῆ' ἐκάλυψαν.  
 ὥς δ' ὅτε τις κεράμῳ κατερέψεται ἐρκίον ἀνὴρ,  
 δώματος ἀγλαΐην τε καὶ ὑετοῦ ἔμμεναι ἄλκαρ,  
 ἄλλω δ' ἔμπεδον ἄλλος ὁμῶς ἐπαμοιβὸς ἄρηρεν·  
 ὥς οἷγ' ἀσπίσι νῆα συναρτύναντες ἔρεψαν.  
 οἷη δὲ κλαγγὴ δῆου πέλει ἐξ ὀμάδοιο  
 ἀνδρῶν κινυμένων, ὅποτε ξυνίωσι φάλαγγες,  
 τοίη ἄρ' ὑψόθι νηὸς ἐς ἡέρα κίδνατ' αὐτή.  
 οὐδέ τιν' οἰωνῶν ἔτ' ἐσέδρακον, ἀλλ' ὅτε νήσῳ  
 χρίμψαντες σακέεσσιν ἐπέκτυπον, αὐτίκ' ἄρ' οἷγε  
 μυρίοι ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα πεφυζότες ἠερέθοντο.  
 ὥς δ' ὅποτε Κρονίδης πυκινὴν ἐφέηκε χάλαζαν  
 ἐκ νεφέων ἀνά τ' ἄστυ καὶ οἰκία, τοὶ δ' ὑπὸ τοῖσιν  
 ἐνναέται κόναβον τεγέων ὑπερ εἰσαΐοντες  
 ἦνται ἀκὴν, ἐπεὶ οὐ σφε κατέλλαβε χείματος ὥρη  
 ἀπροφάτως, ἀλλὰ πρὶν ἐκαρτύναντο μέλαθρον.



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peak, and the birds fled far off, screeching in bewildered fear. Wherefore now too let us contrive some such device, and I myself will speak, having pondered the matter beforehand. Set on your heads your helmets of lofty crest, then half row by turns, and half fence the ship about with polished spears and shields. Then all together raise a mighty shout so that the birds may be scared by the unwonted din, the nodding crests, and the uplifted spears on high. And if we reach the island itself, then make mighty noise with the clashing of shields."

Thus he spake, and the helpful device pleased all. And on their heads they placed helmets of bronze, gleaming terribly, and the blood-red crests were tossing. And half of them rowed in turn, and the rest covered the ship with spears and shields. And as when a man roofs over a house with tiles, to be an ornament of his home and a defence against rain, and one tile fits firmly into another, each after each; so they roofed over the ship with their shields, locking them together. And as a din arises from a warrior-host of men sweeping on, when lines of battle meet, such a shout rose upward from the ship into the air. Now they saw none of the birds yet, but when they touched the island and clashed upon their shields, then the birds in countless numbers rose in flight hither and thither. And as when the son of Cronos sends from the clouds a dense hail-storm on city and houses, and the people who dwell beneath hear the din above the roof and sit quietly, since the stormy season has not come upon them unawares, but they have first made strong their roofs; so the birds sent against the heroes a thick



ὥς πυκινὰ πτερὰ τοῖσιν ἐφίεσαν αἰσسونτες  
ὑψι μάλ' ἄμ πέλαγος περάτης εἰς οὐρεα γαίης.

Τίς γὰρ δὴ Φινῆος ἔην νόος, ἐνθάδε κέλσαι  
ἀνδρῶν ἡρώων θεῖον στόλον; ἢ καὶ ἔπειτα  
ποῖον ὄνειαρ ἔμελλεν ἐλδομένοισιν ἰκέσθαι;

Τίῃες Φρίξοιο μετὰ πτόλιν Ὀρχομενοῖο  
ἐξ Αἴης ἐνέοντο παρ' Αἰήταο Κυταίου,  
Κολχίδα νῆ' ἐπιβάντες, ἵν' ἄσπετον ὄλβον ἄρωνται  
πατρός· ὁ γὰρ θνήσκων ἐπετείλατο τήνδε κέλευθον.  
καὶ δὴ ἔσαν νήσοιο μάλα σχεδὸν ἡματι κείνῳ.

Ζεὺς δ' ἀνέμου βορέας μένος κίνησεν ἀῆναι,  
ὔδατι σημαίνων διερὴν ὁδὸν Ἀρκτούροιο·

αὐτὰρ ὅγ' ἡμάτιος μὲν ἐν οὐρεσι φύλλ' ἐτίνασσε  
τυτθὸν ἐπ' ἀκροτάτοισιν ἀήσυρος ἀκρεμόνεσσιν·  
νυκτὶ δ' ἔβη πόντονδε πελώριος, ὦρσε δὲ κύμα  
κεκληγὼς πνοιῇσι· κελαινὴ δ' οὐρανὸν ἀχλὺς  
ἄμπεχεν, οὐδέ πῃ ἄστρα διαυγέα φαίνετ' ἰδέσθαι  
ἐκ νεφέων, σκοτόεις δὲ περὶ ζόφος ἡρήρειστο.

οἱ δ' ἄρα μυδαλέοι, στυγερὸν τρομέοντες ὄλεθρον,  
νίῃες Φρίξοιο φέρονθ' ὑπὸ κύμασιν αὐτῶς.

ἰστία δ' ἐξήρπαξ' ἀνέμου μένος, ἡδὲ καὶ αὐτὴν  
νῆα διάνδιχ' ἔαξε τινασσομένην ῥοθίοισιν.

ἐνθα δ' ὑπ' ἐννεσίῃσι θεῶν πίσυρές περ' εἶοντες  
δούρατος ὠρέξαντο πελωρίου, οἷά τε πολλὰ  
ῥαισθείσης κεκέδαστο θοοῖς συναρηρότα γόμφοις.

καὶ τοὺς μὲν νῆσόνδε, παρὲξ ὀλίγον θανάτοιο,  
κύματα καὶ ῥιπαὶ ἀνέμου φέρον ἀσχαλόωντας.

αὐτίκα δ' ἐρράγη ὄμβρος ἀθέσφατος, ὕε δὲ πόντον  
καὶ νῆσον καὶ πᾶσαν ὄσῃν κατεναντία νήσου  
χώρην Μοσσύνοικοι ὑπέρβιοι ἀμφενέμοντο.

τοὺς δ' ἄμυδις κρατερῶ σὺν δούρατι κύματος ὀρμῇ



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

shower of feather-shafts as they darted over the sea to the mountains of the land opposite.

What then was the purpose of Phineus in bidding the divine band of heroes land there? Or what kind of help was about to meet their desire?

The sons of Phrixus were faring towards the city of Orchomenus from Aea, coming from Cytaean Aeetes, on board a Colchian ship, to win the boundless wealth of their father; for he, when dying, had enjoined this journey upon them. And lo, on that day they were very near that island. But Zeus had impelled the north wind's might to blow, marking by rain the moist path of Arcturus; and all day long he was stirring the leaves upon the mountains, breathing gently upon the topmost sprays; but at night he rushed upon the sea with monstrous force, and with his shrieking blasts uplifted the surge; and a dark mist covered the heavens, nor did the bright stars anywhere appear from among the clouds, but a murky gloom brooded all around. And so the sons of Phrixus, drenched and trembling in fear of a horrible doom, were borne along by the waves helplessly. And the force of the wind had snatched away their sails and shattered in twain the hull, tossed as it was by the breakers. And hereupon by heaven's prompting those four clutched a huge beam, one of many that were scattered about, held together by sharp bolts, when the ship broke to pieces. And on to the island the waves and the blasts of wind bore the men in their distress, within a little of death. And straightway a mighty rain burst forth, and rained upon the sea and the island, and all the country opposite the island, where the arrogant Mossynoeci dwelt. And the sweep of



υῖῆας Φρίξοιο μετ' ἠϊόνας βάλε νήσου  
νύχθ' ὑπο λυγαίην· τὸ δὲ μυρίον ἐκ Διὸς ὕδωρ  
λῆξεν ἅμ' ἠελίῳ· τάχα δ' ἐγγύθεν ἀντεβόλησαν  
ἀλλήλοισι, Ἄργος δὲ παροίτατος ἔκφατο μῦθον·

1120

‘ Ἀντόμεθα πρὸς Ζηνὸς Ἐποψίου, οἵτινές ἐστε  
ἀνδρῶν, εὐμενέειν τε καὶ ἀρκέσσαι χατέουσιν.  
πόντῳ γὰρ τρηχεῖαι ἐπιβρίσασαι ἄελλαι  
νηὸς ἀεικελῆς διὰ δούρατα πάντ' ἐκέδασσαν  
ἧ ἔνι πείρομεν οἶμον<sup>1</sup> ἐπὶ χρέος ἐμβεβαῶτες.  
τούνεκα νῦν ὑμέας γουναζόμεθ', αἴ κε πίθησθε,  
δοῦναι ὅσον τ' εἴλυμα περὶ χροός, ἡδὲ κομίσσαι  
ἀνέρας οἰκτείραντας ὁμήλικας ἐν κακότητι.

1130

ἀλλ' ἰκέτας ξείνους Διὸς εἵνεκεν αἰδέσασσθε  
Ξεινίου Ἰκεσίου τε· Διὸς δ' ἅμφω ἰκέται τε  
καὶ ξεῖνοι· ὁ δὲ πού καὶ ἐπόψιος ἅμμι τέτυκται.

Τὸν δ' αὖτ' Αἴσονος υἱὸς ἐπιφραδέως ἐρέεινεν,  
μαντοσύνας Φινῆος οἰσσάμενος τελέεσθαι·  
‘ Ταῦτα μὲν αὐτίκα πάντα παρέξομεν εὐμενέοντες.  
ἀλλ' ἄγε μοι κατάλεξον ἐτήτυμον, ὅππόθι γαίης  
ναίετε, καὶ χρέος οἶον ὑπεῖρ ἄλα νεῖσθαι ἀνώγει,  
αὐτῶν θ' ὑμείων ὄνομα κλυτόν, ἡδὲ γενέθλην.

Τὸν δ' Ἄργος προσέειπεν ἀμηχανέων κακότητι· 1140  
‘ Αἰολίδην Φρίξον τιν' ἀφ' Ἑλλάδος Αἴαν ἰκέσθαι  
ἀτρεκέως δοκέω που ἀκούετε καὶ πάρος αὐτοί,  
Φρίξον, ὅτις πτολίεθρον ἀνήλυθεν Αἰήταο,  
κριοῦ ἐπεμβεβαώς, τὸν ῥα χρύσειον ἔθηκεν  
Ἑρμείας· κῶας δὲ καὶ εἰσέτι νῦν κεν ἴδοισθε.<sup>2</sup>  
τὸν μὲν ἔπειτ' ἔρρεξεν ἐῆς ὑποθημοσύνησιν

<sup>1</sup> πείρομεν οἶμον Merkel : τειρόμενοι ἅμ' MSS.

<sup>2</sup> After this line the MSS. have the line 1270 below.  
Brunck first expelled it from here, putting a stop at the end  
of the preceding line.



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

the waves hurled the sons of Phrixus, together with their massy beam, upon the beach of the island, in the murky night; and the floods of rain from Zeus ceased at sunrise, and soon the two bands drew near and met each other, and Argus spoke first:

“We beseech you, by Zeus the Beholder, whoever ye are, to be kindly and to help us in our need. For fierce tempests, falling on the sea, have shattered all the timbers of the crazy ship in which we were cleaving our path on business bent. Wherefore we entreat you, if haply ye will listen, to grant us just a covering for our bodies, and to pity and succour men in misfortune, your equals in age. Oh, reverence suppliants and strangers for Zeus’ sake, the god of strangers and suppliants. To Zeus belong both suppliants and strangers; and his eye, methinks, beholdeth even us.”

And in reply the son of Aeson prudently questioned him, deeming that the prophecies of Phineus were being fulfilled: “All these things will we straightway grant you with right good will. But come tell me truly in what country ye dwell and what business bids you sail across the sea, and tell me your own glorious names and lineage.”

And him Argus, helpless in his evil plight, addressed: “That one Phrixus an Aeolid reached Aea from Hellas you yourselves have clearly heard ere this, I trow; Phrixus, who came to the city of Aeetes, bestriding a ram, which Hermes had made all gold; and the fleece ye may see even now. The ram, at its own prompting, he then sacrificed to



Φυξίῳ ἐκ πάντων Κρονίδῃ Διί. καί μιν ἔδεκτο  
 Αἰήτης μεγάρω, κούρην τέ οἱ ἐγγυάλιξεν  
 Χαλκιόπην ἀνάεδνον εὐφροσύνησι νόοιο.  
 τῶν ἐξ ἀμφοτέρων εἰμὲν γένος. ἀλλ' ὁ μὲν ἤδη  
 γηραιὸς θάνε Φρίξος ἐν Αἰήταο δόμοισιν.  
 ἡμεῖς δ' αὐτίκα πατρὸς ἐφετμάων ἀλέγοντες  
 νεύμεθ' ἐς Ὀρχομενὸν κτεάνων Ἀθάμαντος ἔκητι.  
 εἰ δὲ καὶ οὖνομα δῆθεν ἐπιθύεις δεδαῆσθαι,  
 τῷδε Κυτίσσωρος πέλει οὖνομα, τῷδέ τε Φρόντις,  
 τῷδε Μέλας· ἐμὲ δ' αὐτὸν ἐπικλείοιτέ κεν Ἄργον.

1150

Ὡς φάτ'· ἀριστῆες δὲ συνηβολίῃ κεχάροντο,  
 καί σφεας ἀμφίεπον περιθαμβέες. αὐτὰρ Ἰήσων  
 ἐξαὐτίς κατὰ μοῖραν ἀμείψατο τοῖσδ' ἐπέεσσιν·

Ἡ ἄρα δὴ γνωτοὶ πατρώιοι ἄμμιν ἔοντες  
 λίσσεσθ' εὐμενέοντας ἐπαρκέσσαι κακότητα.  
 Κρηθεὺς γάρ ῥ' Ἀθάμας τε κασίγνητοι γεγάασιν.  
 Κρηθῆος δ' υἱὸν ἐγὼ σὺν τοισίδ' ἐταίροις  
 Ἑλλάδος ἐξ αὐτῆς νέομ' ἐς πόλιν Αἰήταο.  
 ἀλλὰ τὰ μὲν καὶ ἐσαὐτίς ἐνίψομεν ἀλλήλοισιν.  
 νῦν δ' ἔσσεσθε πάροιθεν. ὑπ' ἐννεσίῃσι δ' οἴω  
 ἀθανάτων ἐς χεῖρας ἐμὰς χατέοντας ἰκέσθαι.

1160

Ἡ ῥα, καὶ ἐκ νηὸς δῶκέ σφισιν εἴματα δῦναι.  
 πασσυδίῃ δ' ἤπειτα κίον μετὰ νηὸν Ἄρηος,  
 μῆλ' ἱερευσόμενοι· περὶ δ' ἐσχάρῃ ἐστήσαντο  
 ἐσσυμένως, ἥτ' ἐκτὸς ἀνηρεφέος πέλε νηοῦ  
 στιάων· εἴσω δὲ μέγας λίθος ἡρήρειστο  
 ἱερός, ᾧ ποτε πᾶσαι Ἀμαζόνες εὐχετόωντο.

1170



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

Zeus, son of Cronos, above all, the god of fugitives. And him did Aeetes receive in his palace, and with gladness of heart gave him his daughter Chalciopé in marriage without gifts of wooing.<sup>1</sup> From those two are we sprung. But Phrixus died at last, an aged man, in the home of Aeetes; and we, giving heed to our father's behests, are journeying to Orchomenus to take the possessions of Athamas. And if thou dost desire to learn our names, this is Cytissorus, this Phrontis, and this Melas, and me ye may call Argus."

Thus he spake, and the chieftains rejoiced at the meeting, and tended them, much marvelling. And Jason again in turn replied, as was fitting, with these words :

"Surely ye are our kinsmen on my father's side, and ye pray that with kindly hearts we succour your evil plight. For Cretheus and Athamas were brothers. I am the grandson of Cretheus, and with these comrades here I am journeying from that same Hellas to the city of Aeetes. But of these things we will converse hereafter. And do ye first put clothing upon you. By heaven's devising, I ween, have ye come to my hands in your sore need."

He spake, and out of the ship gave them raiment to put on. Then all together they went to the temple of Ares to offer sacrifice of sheep; and in haste they stood round the altar, which was outside the roofless temple, an altar built of pebbles; within a black stone stood fixed, a sacred thing, to which of yore the Amazons all used to pray. Nor was it

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* without exacting gifts from the bridegroom. So in the *Iliad* (ix. 146) Agamemnon offers Achilles any of his three daughters *ἀνέδνος*.



οὐδέ σφιν θέμις ἦεν, ὅτ' ἀντιπέρηθεν ἴκοιντο,  
μήλων τ' ἠδὲ βοῶν τῇδ' ἐσχάρη ἱερὰ καίειν.  
ἀλλ' ἵππους δαίτρευνον, ἐπηετανὸν κομέουσαι.  
αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ ῥέξαντες ἐπαρτέα δαῖτ' ἐπάσαντο,  
δὴ τότε ἄρ' Αἰσονίδης μετεφώνεεν, ἦρχέ τε μύθων.  
'Ζεὺς αὐτὸς<sup>1</sup> τὰ ἕκαστ' ἐπιδέρκεται· οὐδέ μιν  
ἄνδρες

λήθομεν ἔμπεδον, οἳ τε θεουδέες ἠδὲ<sup>2</sup> δίκαιοι.  
ὥς μὲν γὰρ πατέρ' ὑμὸν ὑπεξείρυτο φόνοιο  
μητρυνῆς, καὶ νόσφιν ἀπειρέσιον πόρεν ὄλβον.  
ὥς δὲ καὶ ὑμέας αὐτὶς ἀπήμονας ἐξεσάωσεν  
χείματος οὐλομένοιο. πάρεστι δὲ τῇσδ' ἐπὶ νηὸς  
ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα νέεσθαι, ὅπῃ φίλον, εἴτε μετ' Αἴαν,  
εἴτε μετ' ἀφνειὴν θείου πόλιν Ὀρχομενοῖο.  
τὴν γὰρ Ἀθηναίη τεχνήσατο, καὶ τάμε χαλκῷ  
δούρατα Πηλιάδος κορυφῆς πέρι· σὺν δέ οἱ Ἄργος  
τεύξεν. ἀτὰρ κείνην γε κακὸν διὰ κῦμ' ἐκέδασσεν,  
πρῖν καὶ πετράων σχεδὸν ἐλθεῖν αἴτ' ἐνὶ πόντῳ  
στενωπῷ συνίασι πανήμεροι ἀλλήλησιν.  
ἀλλ' ἄγεθ' ὧδε καὶ αὐτοὶ ἐς Ἑλλάδα μαιομένοισιν  
κῶας ἄγειν χρύσειον ἐπίρροθοι ἄμμι πέλεσθε  
καὶ πλόου ἡγεμονῆες, ἐπεὶ Φρίξοιο θυηλὰς  
στέλλομαι ἀμπλήσων, Ζηνὸς χόλον Αἰολίδησιν.'

'Ἴσκε παρηγορέων· οἳ δ' ἔστυγον εἰσαΐοντες.  
οὐ γὰρ ἔφαν τεύξεσθαι ἐννέος Αἰήταο  
κῶας ἄγειν κριοῖο μεμαότας, ὧδε δ' ἔειπεν  
'Ἄργος, ἀτεμβόμενος τοῖον στόλον ἀμφιπένεσθαι.  
'ὦ φίλοι, ἡμέτερον μὲν ὅσον σθένος, οὐποτ'  
ἀρωγῆς

σχήσεται, οὐδ' ἡβαιόν, ὅτε χρειώ τις ἴκηται.

<sup>1</sup> αὐτὸς one Vatican, all the Parisian : αἰτεῖ LG.

<sup>2</sup> ἠδὲ Stephanus : οὐδὲ MSS.



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

lawful for them, when they came from the opposite coast, to burn on this altar offerings of sheep and oxen, but they used to slay horses which they kept in great herds. Now when they had sacrificed and eaten the feast prepared, then Aeson's son spake among them and thus began :

“ Zeus' self, I ween, beholds everything ; nor do we men escape his eye, we that be god-fearing and just, for as he rescued your father from the hands of a murderous step-dame and gave him measureless wealth besides ; even so hath he saved you harmless from the baleful storm. And on board this ship ye may sail hither and thither, where ye will, whether to Aea or to the wealthy city of divine Orchomenus. For our ship Athena built and with axe of bronze cut her timbers near the crest of Pelion, and with the goddess wrought Argus. But yours the fierce surge hath shattered, before ye came nigh to the rocks which all day long clash together in the straits of the sea. But come, be yourselves our helpers, for we are eager to bring to Hellas the golden fleece, and guide us on our voyage, for I go to atone for the intended sacrifice of Phrixus, the cause of Zeus' wrath against the sons of Aeolus.”

He spake with soothing words ; but horror seized them when they heard. For they deemed that they would not find Aeetes friendly if they desired to take away the ram's fleece. And Argus spake as follows, vexed that they should busy themselves with such a quest :

“ My friends, our strength, so far as it avails, shall never cease to help you, not one whit, when need



ἀλλ' αἰνῶς ὀλοῇσιν ἀπηνείησιν ἄρηρεν  
 Αἰήτης· τῷ καὶ περιδείδια ναυτίλλεσθαι.  
 στεῦται δ' Ἡελίου γόνος ἔμμεναι· ἀμφὶ δὲ Κόλχων  
 ἔθνεα ναιετάουσιν ἀπείρονα· καὶ δέ κεν Ἄρει  
 σμερδαλέην ἐνοπὴν μέγα τε σθένος ἰσοφαρίζοι.  
 οὐ μὰν οὐδ' ἀπάνευθεν ἐλεῖν δέρος Αἰήταο  
 ῥηίδιον, τοῖός μιν ὄφρις περί τ' ἀμφί τ' ἔρυται  
 ἀθάνατος καὶ ἄνπνος, ὃν αὐτὴ Γαῖ' ἀνέφυσεν  
 Καυκάσου ἐν κνημοῖσι, Τυφαιονίῃ ὅθι πέτρη,  
 ἔνθα Τυφάονά φασι Διὸς Κρονίδαο κεραυνῷ  
 βλήμενον, ὁππότε οἱ στιβαρὰς ἐπορέξατο χεῖρας,  
 θερμὸν ἀπὸ κρατὸς στάξαι φόνον· ἴκετο δ' αὐτῶς  
 οὖρεα καὶ πεδῖον Νυσηῖον, ἔνθ' ἔτι νῦν περ  
 κεῖται ὑποβρύχιος Σερβωνίδος ὕδασι λίμνης·

1210

ᾧ ὣς ἄρ' ἔφη· πολέεσσι δ' ἐπὶ χλόος εἶλε παρειὰς  
 αὐτίκα, τοῖον ἄεθλον ὅτ' ἔκλυον· αἶψα δὲ Πηλεὺς  
 θαρσαλέοις ἐπέεσσιν ἀμείψατο, φώνησέν τε·

ἄλλ' οὕτως, ἡθεῖε, λήην δειδίσσεο θυμῷ.  
 οὔτε γὰρ ὧδ' ἀλκὴν ἐπιδευόμεθ', ὥστε χερεῖους  
 ἔμμεναι Αἰήταο σὺν ἔντεσι πειρηθῆναι·  
 ἀλλὰ καὶ ἡμέας οἷω ἐπισταμένους πολέμοιο  
 κεῖσε μολεῖν, μακάρων σχεδὸν αἵματος ἐκγεγαῶτας.  
 τῷ εἰ μὴ φιλότῃτι δέρος χρύσειον ὀπάσσει,  
 οὐ οἱ χραισμήσειν ἐπιέλπομαι ἔθνεα Κόλχων·

1220

ᾧ ὣς οἷγ' ἀλλήλοισιν ἀμοιβαδὸν ἡγορόωντο,  
 μέσφ' αὖτις δόρποιο κορεσσάμενοι κατέδαρθεν.  
 ἦρι δ' ἀνεγρομένοισιν εὐκραῆς ἄεν οὖρος·  
 ἰστία δ' ἥειραν, τὰ δ' ὑπαὶ ῥιπῆς ἀνέμοιο  
 τείνετο· ῥίμφα δὲ νῆσον ἀποπροέλειπον Ἄρης.

1230



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

shall come. But Aeetes is terribly armed with deadly ruthlessness; wherefore exceedingly do I dread this voyage. And he boasts himself to be the son of Helios; and all round dwell countless tribes of Colchians; and he might match himself with Ares in his dread war-cry and giant strength. Nay, to seize the fleece in spite of Aeetes is no easy task; so huge a serpent keeps guard round and about it, deathless and sleepless, which Earth herself brought forth on the sides of Caucasus, by the rock of Typhaon, where Typhaon, they say, smitten by the bolt of Zeus, son of Cronos, when he lifted against the god his sturdy hands, dropped from his head hot gore; and in such plight he reached the mountains and plain of Nysa, where to this day he lies whelmed beneath the waters of the Serbonian lake."

Thus he spake, and straightway many a cheek grew pale when they heard of so mighty an adventure. But quickly Peleus answered with cheering words, and thus spake:

"Be not so fearful in spirit, my good friend. For we are not so lacking in prowess as to be no match for Aeetes to try his strength with arms; but I deem that we too are cunning in war, we that go thither, near akin to the blood of the blessed gods. Wherefore if he will not grant us the fleece of gold for friendship's sake, the tribes of the Colchians will not avail him, I ween."

Thus they addressed each other in turn, until again, satisfied with their feast, they turned to rest. And when they rose at dawn a gentle breeze was blowing; and they raised the sails, which strained to the rush of the wind, and quickly they left behind the island of Ares.



Νυκτὶ δ' ἐπιπλομένη Φιλυρηίδα νῆσον ἄμβειβον.  
 ἔνθα μὲν Οὐρανίδης Φιλύρῃ Κρόνος, εὖτ' ἐν  
 Ὀλύμπῳ

Τιτῆνων ἥνασσε, ὃ δὲ Κρηταῖον ὑπ' ἄντρον  
 Ζεὺς ἔτι Κουρήτεσσι μετετρέφετ' Ἰδαίοισιν,  
 Ῥεῖην ἐξαπαφών, παρελέξατο· τοὺς δ' ἐνὶ λέκτροις  
 τέτμε θεὰ μεσσηγύς· ὃ δ' ἐξ εὐνῆς ἀνορούσας  
 ἔσσυτο χαιτήεντι φυὴν ἐναλίγκιος ἵππῳ.  
 ἥ δ' αἰδοῖ χῶρόν τε καὶ ἥθεα κεῖνα λιποῦσα  
 Ὠκεανὶς Φιλύρῃ εἰς οὖρεα μακρὰ Πελασγῶν  
 ἦλθ', ἵνα δὴ Χείρωνα πελώριον, ἄλλα μὲν ἵππῳ,  
 ἄλλα θεῷ ἀτάλαντον, ἀμοιβαίῃ τέκεν εὐνῇ.

1240

Κεῖθεν δ' αὖ Μάκρωνα ἀπειρεσίην τε Βεχείρων  
 γαῖαν ὑπερφιάλους τε παρεξενέοντο Σάπειρας,  
 Βύζηράς τ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν· ἐπιπρὸ γὰρ αἰὲν ἔτεμνον  
 ἔσσυμένως, λιαροῖο φορεύμενοι ἐξ ἀνέμοιο.  
 καὶ δὴ νισσομένοισι μυχὸς διεφαίνετο πόντου.  
 καὶ δὴ Καυκασίων ὀρέων ἀνέτελλον ἐρίπναι  
 ἠλίβατοι, τόθι γυῖα περὶ στυφελοῖσι πάγοισιν  
 ἰλλόμενος χαλκέησιν ἀλυκτοπέδῃσι Προμηθεὺς  
 αἰετὸν ἥπατι φέρβε παλιμπετὲς αἴσσουντα.  
 τὸν μὲν ἐπ' ἀκροτάτης ἴδον ἔσπερον ὀξεί ροίζῳ  
 νηὸς ὑπερπτάμενον νεφέων σχεδόν· ἄλλὰ καὶ ἔμπης  
 λαίφεα πάντ' ἐτίναξε, παραιθύξας πτερύγεσσιν.  
 οὐ γὰρ ὄγ' αἰθερίοιο φυὴν ἔχεν οἰωνοῖο,  
 ἴσα δ' εὐξέστοις ὠκύπτερα πάλλεν ἐρετμοῖς.  
 δηρὸν δ' οὐ μετέπειτα πολύστονον αἶον αὐδὴν  
 ἥπαρ ἀνελκομένοιο Προμηθέος· ἔκτυπε δ' αἰθὴρ  
 οἰμωγῇ, μέσφ' αὖτις ἀπ' οὖρεος αἴσσουντα  
 αἰετὸν ὠμηστὴν αὐτὴν ὁδὸν εἰσενόησαν.  
 ἐννύχιοι δ' Ἄργοιο δαημοσύνησιν ἴκοντο  
 Φᾶσιν τ' εὐρὺν ῥέοντα, καὶ ἔσχατα πείρατα πόντου.

1250

1260



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

And at nightfall they came to the island of Philyra, where Cronos, son of Uranus, what time in Olympus he reigned over the Titans, and Zeus was yet being nurtured in a Cretan cave by the Curetes of Ida, lay beside Philyra, when he had deceived Rhea; and the goddess found them in the midst of their dalliance; and Cronos leapt up from the couch with a rush in the form of a steed with flowing mane, but Ocean's daughter, Philyra, in shame left the spot and those haunts, and came to the long Pelasgian ridges, where by her union with the transfigured deity she brought forth huge Cheiron, half like a horse, half like a god.

Thence they sailed on, past the Macrones and the far-stretching land of the Becheiri and the overweening Sapeires, and after them the Byzeres; for ever forward they clave their way, quickly borne by the gentle breeze. And lo, as they sped on, a deep gulf of the sea was opened, and lo, the steep crags of the Caucasian mountains rose up, where, with his limbs bound upon the hard rocks by galling fetters of bronze, Prometheus fed with his liver an eagle that ever rushed back to its prey. High above the ship at even they saw it flying with a loud whirr, near the clouds; and yet it shook all the sails with the fanning of those huge wings. For it had not the form of a bird of the air but kept poising its long wing-feathers like polished oars. And not long after they heard the bitter cry of Prometheus as his liver was being torn away; and the air rang with his screams until they marked the ravening eagle rushing back from the mountain on the self-same track. And at night, by the skill of Argus, they reached broad-flowing Phasis, and the utmost bourne of the sea.



Αὐτίκα δ' ἰστία μὲν καὶ ἐπίκριον ἔνδοθι κοίλης  
ἰστοδόκης στείλαντες ἐκόσμεον· ἐν δὲ καὶ αὐτὸν  
ἰστὸν ἄφαρ χαλάσαντο παρακλιδόν· ὦκα δ' ἐρετ-  
μοῖς

εἰσέλασαν ποταμοῖο μέγαν ῥόον· αὐτὰρ ὁ πάντη  
καχλάζων ὑπόεικεν· ἔχον δ' ἐπ' ἀριστερὰ χειρῶν  
Καύκασον αἰπήεντα Κυταιίδα τε πτόλιν Αἴης,  
ἐνθεν δ' αὖ πεδίου τὸ Ἀρήιον ἱερά τ' ἄλση  
τοῖο θεοῦ, τόθι κῶας ὄφεις εἴρυτο δοκεύων  
πεπτάμενον λασίοισιν ἐπὶ δρυὸς ἀκρεμόνεσσιν.  
αὐτὸς δ' Αἰσονίδης χρυσέῳ ποταμόνδε κυπέλλῳ  
οἴνου ἀκηρασίοιο μελισταγέας χέε λοιβὰς  
Γαίῃ τ' ἐνναέταις τε θεοῖς ψυχαῖς τε καμόντων  
ἡρώων· γουνοῦτο δ' ἀπήμονας εἶναι ἀρωγούς  
εὐμενέως, καὶ νηὸς ἐναίσιμα πείσματα δέχθαι.  
αὐτίκα δ' Ἀγκαῖος τοῖον μετὰ μῦθον ἔειπεν·

‘Κολχίδα μὲν δὴ γαῖαν ἱκάνομεν ἠδὲ ῥέεθρα  
Φάσιδος· ὥρῃ δ' ἡμῖν ἐνὶ σφίσι μητιάασθαι,  
εἴτ' οὖν μελιχίῃ πειρησόμεθ' Αἰήταο,  
εἴτε καὶ ἀλλοίῃ τις ἐπήβολος ἔσσεται ὁρμή.’

ᾧ ὥς ἔφατ'· Ἄργου δ' αὖτε παρηγορήσιν Ἰήσων  
ὑψόθι νῆ' ἐκέλευσεν ἐπ' ἐνναίῃσιν ἐρύσσαι  
δάσκιον εἰσελάσαντας ἔλος· τὸ δ' ἐπισχεδὸν ἦεν  
νισσομένων, ἐνθ' οἷγε διὰ κνέφας ηὐλίζοντο.  
ἠὼς δ' οὐ μετὰ δηρὸν ἐελδομένοις ἐφάνθη.



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK II

And straightway they let down the sails and the yard-arm and stowed them inside the hollow mast-crutch, and at once they lowered the mast itself till it lay along; and quickly with oars they entered the mighty stream of the river; and round the prow the water surged as it gave them way. And on their left hand they had lofty Caucasus and the Cytaean city of Aea, and on the other side the plain of Ares and the sacred grove of that god, where the serpent was keeping watch and ward over the fleece as it hung on the leafy branches of an oak. And Aeson's son himself from a golden goblet poured into the river libations of honey and pure wine to Earth and to the gods of the country, and to the souls of dead heroes; and he besought them of their grace to give kindly aid, and to welcome their ship's hawsers with favourable omen. And straightway Ancaeus spake these words:

"We have reached the Colchian land and the stream of Phasis; and it is time for us to take counsel whether we shall make trial of Aeetes with soft words, or an attempt of another kind shall be fitting."

Thus he spake, and by the advice of Argus Jason bade them enter a shaded backwater and let the ship ride at anchor off shore; and it was near at hand in their course and there they passed the night. And soon the dawn appeared to their expectant eyes.







## BOOK III



## SUMMARY OF BOOK III

INVOCATION of the Muse, Erato (1-5).—Hera and Athena, after consultation, visit Cypris to ask the aid of her son Eros on behalf of the Argonauts (6-110).—Eros promises to pierce with an arrow Medea, daughter of Aeetes: Jason lays his plans before his comrades (111-209).—Arrival of Jason and a few chosen companions at the palace of Aeetes, which is described: Eros performs his promise (210-298).—Interview between Aeetes and the heroes: Jason undertakes the task imposed by the king as the price of obtaining the golden fleece (299-438).—Anguish of Medea because of her love for Jason (439-470).—On the advice of Argus, it is decided to apply for Medea's aid through Chalciope, mother of Argus and sister of Medea (471-575).—Plans of Aeetes against the Argonauts (576-608).—Medea promises Chalciope to aid her sons and their companions (609-743).—After long hesitation Medea prepares to carry magic drugs to Jason and goes with her attendants to meet him at Hecate's temple (744-911).—Interview



### SUMMARY OF BOOK III

*of Jason and Medea : return of Medea to the palace (912-1162).—Aeetes hands over the dragon's teeth to Jason's messengers : Jason offers a nocturnal sacrifice to Hecate (1163-1224).—Preparations of Jason : he yokes the fiery bulls, sows the dragon's teeth, and compels the giants who spring up to slay one another, himself joining in the slaughter : the task is accomplished (1225-1407).*



Γ

Εἰ δ' ἄγε νῦν, Ἐρατώ, παρά θ' ἴστασο, καί μοι  
ἐνισπε,

ἐνθεν ὅπως ἐς Ἴωλκὸν ἀνήγαγε κῶας Ἰήσων  
Μηδείης ὑπ' ἔρωτι. σὺ γὰρ καὶ Κύπριδος αἶσαν  
ἔμμορες, ἀδμήτας δὲ τεοῖς μελεδήμασι θέλγεις  
παρθενικάς· τῷ καί τοι ἐπήρατον οὔνομ' ἀνήπται.

Ὡς οἱ μὲν πυκινοῖσιν ἀνώϊστως δονάκεσσιν  
μῖμνον ἀριστῆες λελοχημένοι· αἱ δ' ἐνόησαν  
Ἥρη Ἀθηναίη τε, Διὸς δ' αὐτοῖο καὶ ἄλλων  
ἀθανάτων ἀπονόσφι θεῶν θάλαμόνδε κιοῦσαι  
βούλευον· πείραζε δ' Ἀθηναίην πάρος Ἥρη.

10

Ἀὐτὴ νῦν προτέρη, θύγατερ Διός, ἄρχεο βουλῆς.  
τί χρέος; ἢ ἐδόλον τινὰ μήσεαι, ᾧ κεν ἐλόντες  
χρῦσεον Αἰήταο μεθ' Ἑλλάδα κῶας ἄγοιντο,  
ἢ καὶ τόνγ' ἐπέεσσι παραιφάμενοι πεπίθοιεν  
μειλιχίοις; ἢ γὰρ ὄγ' ὑπερφίαλος πέλει αἰνῶς.  
ἔμπης δ' οὔτινα πείραν ἀποτρωπᾶσθαι ἔοικεν.

Ὡς φάτο· τὴν δὲ παρᾶσσον Ἀθηναίη προσέ-  
ειπεν·

Καὶ δ' αὐτὴν ἐμὲ τοῖα μετὰ φρεσὶν ὀρμαίνουσιν,  
Ἥρη, ἀπηλεγέως ἐξείρεαι. ἀλλὰ τοι οὔπω  
φράσσασθαι νοέω τοῦτον δόλον, ὅστις ὀνήσει  
θυμὸν ἀριστήων· πολέας δ' ἐπεδοίασα βουλάς.

20

Ἦ, καὶ ἐπ' οὔδεος αἶγε ποδῶν πάρος ὄμματ'  
ἐπηξαν,



### BOOK III

COME now, Erato, stand by my side, and say next how Jason brought back the fleece to Iolcus aided by the love of Medea. For thou sharest the power of Cypris, and by thy love-cares dost charm unwedded maidens ; wherefore to thee too is attached a name that tells of love.

Thus the heroes, unobserved, were waiting in ambush amid the thick reed-beds ; but Hera and Athena took note of them, and, apart from Zeus and the other immortals, entered a chamber and took counsel together ; and Hera first made trial of Athena :

“Do thou now first, daughter of Zeus, give advice. What must be done ? Wilt thou devise some scheme whereby they may seize the golden fleece of Aeetes and bear it to Hellas, or can they deceive the king with soft words and so work persuasion ? Of a truth he is terribly overweening. Still it is right to shrink from no endeavour.”

Thus she spake, and at once Athena addressed her : “I too was pondering such thoughts in my heart, Hera, when thou didst ask me outright. But not yet do I think that I have conceived a scheme to aid the courage of the heroes, though I have balanced many plans.”

She ended, and the goddesses fixed their eyes on the ground at their feet, brooding apart ; and



ἄνδιχα πορφύρουσαι ἐνὶ σφίσιν· αὐτίκα δ' "Ηρη  
τοῖον μητιόωσα παροιτέρη ἔκφατο μῦθον·  
'Δεῦρ' ἴομεν μετὰ Κύπριν· ἐπιπλόμεναι δέ μιν  
ἄμφω

παιδὶ ἐὼ εἰπεῖν ὀτρύνομεν, αἳ κε πίθηται  
κούρην Αἰήτεω πολυφάρμακον οἷσι βέλεσσιν  
θέλξαι οἰστεύσας ἐπ' Ἰήσони. τὸν δ' ἂν οἶω  
κείνης ἐννεσίησιν ἐς Ἑλλάδα κῶας ἀνάξειν.'

᾽Ως ἄρ' ἔφη· πυκινὴ δὲ συνεύαδε μῆτις Ἀθήνη, 30  
καί μιν ἔπειτ' ἐξαὐτίς ἀμείβετο μελιχίοισιν·  
'"Ηρη, νήιδα μέν με πατήρ τέκε τοῖο βολάων,  
οὐδέ τινα χρεῖῶ θελκτήριον οἶδα πόθοιο.  
εἰ δέ σοι αὐτῇ μῦθος ἐφανδάνει, ἦ τ' ἂν ἔγωγε  
ἔσποίμην· σὺ δέ κεν φαίης ἔπος ἀντιόωσα.'

Ἦ, καὶ ἀναΐξασαι ἐπὶ μέγα δῶμα νέοντο  
Κύπριδος, ὃ ρά τέ οἱ δεῖμεν πόσις ἀμφιγυήεις,  
ὅππότε μιν τὰ πρῶτα παραὶ Διὸς ἦγεν ἄκοιτιν.  
ἔρκεα δ' εἰσελθοῦσαι ὑπ' αἰθούσῃ θαλάμοιο  
ἔσταν, ἵν' ἐντύνεσκε θεὰ λέχος Ἡφαίστοιο. 40  
ἀλλ' ὁ μὲν ἐς χαλκεῶνα καὶ ἄκμονας ἦρι βεβήκει,  
νήσοιο πλαγκτῆς εὐρὺν μυχόν, ᾧ ἐνὶ πάντα  
δαίδαλα χάλκευεν ῥιπῇ πυρός· ἡ δ' ἄρα μούνη  
ἦστο δόμῳ δινωτὸν ἀνὰ θρόνον, ἅντα θυράων.  
λευκοῖσιν δ' ἐκάτερθε κόμας ἐπιειμένη ὥμοις  
κόσμει χρυσεῖῃ διὰ κερκίδι, μέλλε δὲ μακροὺς  
πλέξασθαι πλοκάμους· τὰς δὲ προπάροιθεν ἰδοῦσα  
ἔσχεθεν, εἴσω τέ σφ' ἐκάλει, καὶ ἀπὸ θρόνου ὦρτο,  
εἰσέ τ' ἐνὶ κλισμοῖσιν· ἀτὰρ μετέπειτα καὶ αὐτῇ  
ἴζανεν, ἀψήκτους δὲ χεροῖν ἀνεδήσατο χαίτας. 50  
τοῖα δὲ μειδιόωσα προσέννεπεν αἰμυλίοισιν·



### THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

straightway Hera was the first to speak her thought :  
“Come, let us go to Cypris; let both of us accost her  
and urge her to bid her son (if only he will obey)  
speed his shaft at the daughter of Aeetes, the  
enchantress, and charm her with love for Jason.  
And I deem that by her device he will bring back  
the fleece to Hellas.”

Thus she spake, and the prudent plan pleased  
Athena, and she addressed her in reply with gentle  
words :

“Hera, my father begat me to be a stranger to  
the darts of love, nor do I know any charm to work  
desire. But if the word pleases thee, surely I will  
follow ; but thou must speak when we meet her.”

So she said, and starting forth they came to the  
mighty palace of Cypris, which her husband, the  
halt-footed god, had built for her when first he  
brought her from Zeus to be his wife. And entering  
the court they stood beneath the gallery of the  
chamber where the goddess prepared the couch of  
Hephaestus. But he had gone early to his forge  
and anvils to a broad cavern in a floating island where  
with the blast of flame he wrought all manner of  
curious work ; and she all alone was sitting within, on  
an inlaid seat facing the door. And her white  
shoulders on each side were covered with the mantle  
of her hair and she was parting it with a golden  
comb and about to braid up the long tresses ; but  
when she saw the goddesses before her, she stayed  
and called them within, and rose from her seat and  
placed them on couches. Then she herself sat  
down, and with her hands gathered up the locks  
still uncombed. And smiling she addressed them  
with crafty words :



‘Ἡθεῖαι, τίς δεῦρο νόος χρειώ τε κομίζει  
 δηναῖας αὐτως; τί δ’ ἰκάνετον, οὔτι πάρος γε  
 λήν φοιτίζουσαι, ἐπεὶ περίεστε θεάων;

Τὴν δ’ Ἥρη τοίοισιν ἀμειβομένη προσέειπεν·  
 ‘Κερτομέεις· νῶιν δὲ κέαρ συνορίνεται ἄτη.  
 ἤδη γὰρ ποταμῷ ἐνὶ Φάσιδι νῆα κατίσχει  
 Αἰσονίδης, ἡδ’ ἄλλοι ὅσοι μετὰ κῶας ἔπονται.  
 τῶν ἦτοι πάντων μὲν, ἐπεὶ πέλας ἔργον ὄρωρεν,  
 δίδιμεν ἐκπάγλως, περὶ δ’ Αἰσονίδαο μάλιστα.  
 τὸν μὲν ἐγών, εἰ καί περ ἐς Ἄϊδα ναυτίλληται  
 λυσόμενος χαλκέων Ἰξίονα νειόθι δεσμῶν,  
 ῥύσομαι, ὅσσον ἐμοῖσιν ἐνὶ σθένος ἔπλετο γυίοις,  
 ὄφρα μὴ ἐγγελάσῃ Πελίδης κακὸν οἶτον ἀλύξας,  
 ὅς μ’ ὑπερηνορέῃ θυεων ἀγέραςτον ἔθηκεν.  
 καὶ δ’ ἄλλως ἔτι καὶ πρὶν ἐμοὶ μέγα φίλατ’ Ἰήσων  
 ἐξότ’ ἐπὶ προχοῇσιν ἄλις πλήθοντος Ἀναύρου  
 ἀνδρῶν εὐνομίας πειρωμένη ἀντεβόλησεν  
 θήρης ἐξανιών· νιφετῷ δ’ ἐπαλύνετο πάντα  
 οὔρεα καὶ σκοπιαὶ περιμήκεες, οἱ δὲ κατ’ αὐτῶν  
 χείμαρροι καναχηδὰ κυλινδόμενοι φορέοντο.  
 γρηὶ δέ μ’ εἰσαμένην ὀλοφύρατο, καί μ’ ἀναείρας  
 αὐτὸς ἐοῖς ὥμοισι διέκ προαλὲς φέρειν ὕδωρ.  
 τῷ νύ μοι ἄλληκτον περιτίεται· οὐδέ κε λώβην  
 τίσειεν Πελίδης, εἰ μὴ σύ γε νόστον ὀπάσσεις.’

‘Ὡς ηὔδα· Κύπριν δ’ ἐνεοστασίῃ λάβε μύθων.  
 ἄζετο δ’ ἀντομένην Ἥρην ἔθεν εἰσορόωσα,  
 καί μιν ἔπειτ’ ἀγανοῖσι προσέννεπεν ἥγ’ ἐπέεσσιν·  
 ‘Πότνα θεά, μή τοί τι κακώτερον ἄλλο πέλοιτο  
 Κύπριδος, εἰ δὴ σείο λιλαιομένης ἀθερίζω  
 ἢ ἔπος ἢ ἐτι ἔργον, ὃ κεν χέρες αἴγε κάμοιεν  
 ἠπεδαναί· καὶ μή τις ἀμοιβαίῃ χάρις ἔστω.’



### THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

“Good friends, what intent, what occasion brings you here after so long? Why have ye come, not too frequent visitors before, chief among goddesses that ye are?”

And to her Hera replied: “Thou dost mock us, but our hearts are stirred with calamity. For already on the river Phasis the son of Aeson moors his ship, he and his comrades in quest of the fleece. For all their sakes we fear terribly (for the task is nigh at hand) but most for Aeson’s son. Him will I deliver, though he sail even to Hades to free Ixion below from his brazen chains, as far as strength lies in my limbs, so that Pelias may not mock at having escaped an evil doom—Pelias who left me unhonoured with sacrifice. Moreover Jason was greatly loved by me before, ever since at the mouth of Anaurus in flood, as I was making trial of men’s righteousness, he met me on his return from the chase; and all the mountains and long ridged peaks were sprinkled with snow, and from them the torrents rolling down were rushing with a roar. And he took pity on me in the likeness of an old crone, and raising me on his shoulders himself bore me through the headlong tide. So he is honoured by me unceasingly; nor will Pelias pay the penalty of his outrage, unless thou wilt grant Jason his return.”

Thus she spake, and speechlessness seized Cypris. And beholding Hera supplicating her she felt awe, and then addressed her with friendly words: “Dread goddess, may no viler thing than Cypris ever be found, if I disregard thy eager desire in word or deed, whatever my weak arms can effect; and let there be no favour in return.”



ὣς ἔφαθ'· Ἥρη δ' αὖτις ἐπιφραδέως ἀγόρευσεν·  
 'Οὐτι βίης χατέουσai ἰκάνομεν, οὐδέ τι χειρῶν.  
 ἀλλ' αὖτως ἀκέουσα τεῶ ἐπικέκλεο παιδὶ  
 παρθένον Αἰήτεω θέλξαι πόθῳ Αἰσονίδαο.  
 εἰ γάρ οἱ κείνη συμφράσσεται εὐμενέουσα,  
 ῥηιδίως μιν ἐλόντα δέρος χρύσειον οἶω  
 νοστήσειν ἐς Ἴωλκόν, ἐπεὶ δολόεσσα τέτυκται.'

ὣς ἄρ' ἔφη· Κύπρις δὲ μετ' ἀμφοτέρησιν ἔειπεν· 90  
 'Ἥρη, Ἀθηναίη τε, πίθοιτό κεν ὕμμι μάλιστα,  
 ἢ ἐμοί. ὑμείων γὰρ ἀναιδήτῳ περ εἶναι  
 τυτθὴ γ' αἰδῶς ἔσσετ' ἐν ὄμμασιν· αὐτὰρ ἐμεῖο  
 οὐκ ὄθεται, μάλα δ' αἰὲν ἐριδμαίνων ἀθερίζει.  
 καὶ δὴ οἱ μενέηνα, περισχομένη κακότητι,  
 αὐτοῖσιν τόξοισι δυσηχέας ἄξαι οἰστοὺς  
 ἀμφαδίην· τοῖον γὰρ ἐπηπείλησε χαλεφθεῖς,  
 εἰ μὴ τηλόθι χεῖρας, ἕως ἔτι θυμὸν ἐρύκει,  
 ἔξω ἐμάς, μετέπειτά γ' ἀτεμβοίμην ἐοῖ αὐτῇ.'

ὣς φάτο· μείδησαν δὲ θεαί, καὶ ἐσέδρακον ἄντην 100  
 ἀλλήλαις· ἢ δ' αὖτις ἀκηχεμένη προσέειπεν·  
 'Ἄλλοις ἄλγεα τὰμὰ γέλως πέλει· οὐδέ τί με χρὴ  
 μυθεῖσθαι πάντεσσιν· ἄλις εἰδυῖα καὶ αὐτῇ.  
 νῦν δ' ἐπεὶ ὕμμι φίλον τόδε δὴ πέλει ἀμφοτέρησιν,  
 πειρήσω, καὶ μιν μειλίξομαι, οὐδ' ἀπιθήσει.'

ὣς φάτο· τὴν δ' Ἥρη ῥαδινῆς ἐπεμάσσατο  
 χειρός,  
 ἦκα δὲ μειδιόωσα παραβλήδην προσέειπεν·  
 'Οὕτω νῦν, Κυθέρεια, τόδε χρέος, ὥς ἀγορεύεις,  
 ἔρξον ἄφαρ· καὶ μή τι χαλέπτεο, μηδ' ἐρίδαινε  
 χωομένη σῶ παιδί· μεταλλήξει γὰρ ὀπίσσω.'

Ἡ ῥα, καὶ ἔλλιπε θῶκον· ἐφωμάρτησε δ' Ἀθήνη·  
 ἐκ δ' ἴσαν ἄμφω ταίγε παλίσσυτοι· ἢ δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ  
 βῆ ῥ' ἵμεν Οὐλύμποιο κατὰ πτύχας, εἴ μιν ἐφεύροι.



### THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

She spake, and Hera again addressed her with prudence: "It is not in need of might or of strength that we have come. But just quietly bid thy boy charm Aeetes' daughter with love for Jason. For if she will aid him with her kindly counsel, easily do I think he will win the fleece of gold and return to Iolcus, for she is full of wiles."

Thus she spake, and Cypris addressed them both: "Hera and Athena, he will obey you rather than me. For unabashed though he is, there will be some slight shame in his eyes before you; but he has no respect for me, but ever slights me in contentious mood. And, overborne by his naughtiness, I purpose to break his ill-sounding arrows and his bow in his very sight. For in his anger he has threatened that if I shall not keep my hands off him while he still masters his temper, I shall have cause to blame myself thereafter."

So she spake, and the goddesses smiled and looked at each other. But Cypris again spoke, vexed at heart: "To others my sorrows are a jest; nor ought I to tell them to all; I know them too well myself. But now, since this pleases you both, I will make the attempt and coax him, and he will not say me nay."

Thus she spake, and Hera took her slender hand and gently smiling, replied: "Perform this task, Cytherea, straightway, as thou sayest; and be not angry or contend with thy boy; he will cease hereafter to vex thee."

She spake, and left her seat, and Athena accompanied her and they went forth both hastening back. And Cypris went on her way through the glens of Olympus to find her boy. And she found him apart,



εὔρε δὲ τόνγ' ἀπάνευθε Διὸς θαλερῇ ἐν ἁλῶν,  
οὐκ οἶον, μετὰ καὶ Γανυμήδεα, τόν ῥά ποτε Ζεὺς  
οὐρανῷ ἐγκατένασσε ἐφέστιον ἀθανάτοισιν,  
κάλλεος ἱμερθεῖς. ἀμφ' ἀστραγάλοισι δὲ τώγε  
χρυσείοις, ἅτε κοῦροι ὁμήθεες, ἐψιόωντο.

καί ῥ' ὁ μὲν ἤδη πάμπαν ἐνίπλεον ᾧ ὑπὸ μαζῶ  
μάργος Ἑρως λαιῆς ὑποῖσχανε χειρὸς ἀγοστόν,  
ὀρθὸς ἐφεστηώς· γλυκερὸν δέ οἱ ἀμφὶ παρειὰς  
χροιῇ θάλλεν ἔρευθος. ὁ δ' ἐγγύθεν ὀκλαδὸν ἦστο  
σίγα κατηφιόων· δοιῶ δ' ἔχεν, ἄλλον ἔτ' αὐτως  
ἄλλῳ ἐπιπροΐεις, κεχόλωτο δὲ καγχαλόωντι.

120

καὶ μὲν τούσγε παρᾶσσον ἐπὶ προτέροισιν ὀλέσσας  
βῆ κενεαῖς σὺν χερσὶν ἀμήχανος, οὐδ' ἐνόησεν  
Κύπριν ἐπιπλομένην. ἡ δ' ἀντίη ἴστατο παιδός,  
καί μιν ἄφαρ γναθμοῖο κατασχομένη προσέειπεν·

‘Τίπτ' ἐπιμειδιάας, ἄφατον κακόν; ἦέ μιν αὐτως  
ἦπαφες, οὐδὲ δίκη περιέπλεο νῆιν ἔοντα;  
εἰ δ' ἄγε μοι πρόφρων τέλοςον χρέος, ὅττι κεν  
εἴπω·

130

καί κέν τοι ὀπάσαιμι Διὸς περικαλλὲς ἄθυρμα  
κεῖνο, τό οἱ ποίησε φίλη τροφὸς Ἀδρήστεια  
ἄντρῳ ἐν Ἰδαίῳ ἔτι νήπια κουρίζοντι,  
σφαῖραν ἐντρόχαλον, τῆς οὐ σύγε μείλιον ἄλλο  
χειρῶν Ἡφαίστοιο κατακτεατίσση ἄρειον.  
chrύσεα μὲν οἱ κύκλα τετεύχεται· ἀμφὶ δ' ἐκάστω  
διπλόαι ἀψίδες περιηγέες εἰλίσσονται·

κρυπταὶ δὲ ῥαφαί εἰσιν· ἔλιξ δ' ἐπιδέδρομε πάσαις  
κυανέῃ. ἀτὰρ εἴ μιν ἑαῖς ἐνὶ χερσὶ βάλοιο,  
ἀστήρ ὥς, φλεγέθοντα δι' ἡέρος ὀλκὸν ἴησιν.  
τήν τοι ἐγὼν ὀπάσω· σὺ δὲ παρθένον Αἰήταο  
θέλξον οἰστεύσας ἐπ' Ἰήσони· μηδέ τις ἔστω  
ἀμβολίη. δὴ γάρ κεν ἀφαιροτέρη χάρις εἴη·

140



### THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

in the blooming orchard of Zeus, not alone, but with him Ganymedes, whom once Zeus had set to dwell among the immortal gods, being enamoured of his beauty. And they were playing for golden dice, as like-minded boys are wont to do. And already greedy Eros was holding the palm of his left hand quite full of them under his breast, standing upright; and on the bloom of his cheeks a sweet blush was glowing. But the other sat crouching hard by, silent and downcast, and he had two dice left which he threw one after the other, and was angered by the loud laughter of Eros. And lo, losing them straightway with the former, he went off empty-handed, helpless, and noticed not the approach of Cypris. And she stood before her boy, and laying her hand on his lips, addressed him:

“Why dost thou smile in triumph, unutterable rogue? Hast thou cheated him thus, and unjustly overcome the innocent child? Come, be ready to perform for me the task I will tell thee of, and I will give thee Zeus’ all-beauteous plaything—the one which his dear nurse Adrasteia made for him, while he still lived a child, with childish ways, in the Idaean cave—a well-rounded ball; no better toy wilt thou get from the hands of Hephaestus. All of gold are its zones, and round each double seams run in a circle; but the stitches are hidden, and a dark blue spiral overlays them all. But if thou shouldst cast it with thy hands, lo, like a star, it sends a flaming track through the sky. This I will give thee; and do thou strike with thy shaft and charm the daughter of Aeetes with love for Jason; and let there be no loitering. For then my thanks would be the slighter.”



ὣς φάτο· τῷ δ' ἀσπαστὸν ἔπος γένητ' εἰσαίοντι.  
 μείλια δ' ἔκβαλε πάντα, καὶ ἀμφοτέρησι χιτῶνος  
 νωλεμές ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα θεᾶς ἔχεν ἀμφιμεμαρπώς.  
 λίσσετο δ' αἶψα πορεῖν αὐτοσχεδόν· ἢ δ' ἀγανοῖσιν  
 ἀντομένη μύθοισιν, ἐπειρύσσασα παρειάς,  
 κύσσε ποτισχομένη, καὶ ἀμείβετο μειδιόωσα.

150

Ἰστω νῦν τόδε σείο φίλον κάρη ἡδ' ἐμὸν αὐτῆς,  
 ἢ μὲν τοι δῶρόν γε παρέξομαι, οὐδ' ἀπατήσω,  
 εἴ κεν ἐνισκίμψης κούρη βέλος Αἰήταο.

Φῆ· ὁ δ' ἄρ' ἀστραγάλους συναμήσατο, καδ δὲ  
 φαεινῷ

μητρὸς ἐῆς εὖ πάντας ἀριθμήσας βάλε κόλπῳ.  
 αὐτίκα δ' ἰοδόκην χρυσῇ περικάτθετο μίτρῃ  
 πρέμνῳ κεκλιμένην· ἀνὰ δ' ἀγκύλον εἴλετο τόξον.  
 βῆ δὲ διέκ μεγάροιο Διὸς πάγκαρπον ἀλωήν.  
 αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα πύλας ἐξήλυθεν Οὐλύμποιο  
 αἰθερίας· ἔνθεν δὲ καταιβάτις ἐστὶ κέλευθος  
 οὐρανίῃ· δοιῶ δὲ πόλοι ἀνέχουσι κάρηνα  
 οὐρέων ἡλιβάτων, κορυφαὶ χθονός, ἥχι τ' ἀερθεῖς  
 ἥελιος πρῶτησιν ἐρεύθεται<sup>1</sup> ἀκτίνεσσιν.  
 νειόθι δ' ἄλλοτε γαῖα φερέσβιος ἄστεά τ' ἀνδρῶν  
 φαίνετο καὶ ποταμῶν ἱεροὶ ῥόοι, ἄλλοτε δ' αὖτε  
 ἄκριες, ἀμφὶ δὲ πόντος ἀν' αἰθέρα πολλὸν ἰόντι.

160

Ἡρώες δ' ἀπάνευθεν ἐῆς ἐπὶ σέλμασι νηὸς  
 ἐν ποταμῷ καθ' ἔλος λελοχημένοι ἠγορόωντο.  
 αὐτὸς δ' Αἰσονίδης μετεφώνεεν· οἱ δ' ὑπάκουον  
 ἠρέμας ἢ ἐνὶ χώρῃ ἐπισχερῶ ἐδριόωντες.

170

ὦ φίλοι, ἦτοι ἐγὼ μὲν ὅ μοι ἐπιδανδάνει αὐτῷ  
 ἐξερέω· τοῦ δ' ὕμμι τέλος κρηῆναι ἔοικεν.

<sup>1</sup> ἐρεύθεται G, one Parisian : ἐρεύγεται L : ἐρείδεται Merkel.



### THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

Thus she spake, and welcome were her words to the listening boy. And he threw down all his toys, and eagerly seizing her robe on this side and on that, clung to the goddess. And he implored her to bestow the gift at once ; but she, facing him with kindly words, touched his cheeks, kissed him and drew him to her, and replied with a smile :

“ Be witness now thy dear head and mine, that surely I will give thee the gift and deceive thee not, if thou wilt strike with thy shaft Aeetes’ daughter.”

She spoke, and he gathered up his dice, and having well counted them all threw them into his mother’s gleaming lap. And straightway with golden baldric he slung round him his quiver from where it leant against a tree-trunk, and took up his curved bow. And he fared forth through the fruitful orchard of the palace of Zeus. Then he passed through the gates of Olympus high in air ; hence is a downward path from heaven ; and the twin poles rear aloft steep mountain tops—the highest crests of earth, where the risen sun grows ruddy with his first beams. And beneath him there appeared now the life-giving earth and cities of men and sacred streams of rivers, and now in turn mountain peaks and the ocean all around, as he swept through the vast expanse of air.

Now the heroes apart in ambush, in a back-water of the river, were met in council, sitting on the benches of their ship. And Aeson’s son himself was speaking among them ; and they were listening silently in their places sitting row upon row : “ My friends, what pleases myself that will I say out ; it is for you to bring about its fulfilment. For in



ξυνὴ γὰρ χρειώ, ξυνοὶ δέ τε μῦθοι ἔασιν  
 πᾶσιν ὁμῶς· ὁ δὲ σίγα νόον βουλήν τ' ἀπερύκων  
 ἴστω καὶ νόστου τόνδε στόλον οἶος ἀπούρας.  
 ὧλλοι μὲν κατὰ νῆα σὺν ἔντεσι μίμνεθ' ἔκηλοι·  
 αὐτὰρ ἐγὼν ἐς δώματ' ἐλεύσομαι Αἰήταο,  
 νῆας ἐλὼν Φρίξιοιό δύω δ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ἐταίρους.  
 πειρήσω δ' ἐπέεσσι παροίτερον ἀντιβολήσας,  
 εἴ κ' ἐθέλοι φιλότῃτι δέρος χρύσειον ὀπάσσαι,  
 ἦε καὶ οὐ, πίσυνος δὲ βίῃ μετιόντας ἀτίσσει.  
 ὦδε γὰρ ἐξ αὐτοῖο πάρος κακότητα δαέντες  
 φρασσόμεθ' εἴτ' ἄρῃ συνοισόμεθ', εἴτε τις ἄλλη  
 μῆτις ἐπίρροθος ἔσται ἐεργομένοισιν αὐτῆς.  
 μηδ' αὐτως ἀλκῇ, πρὶν ἔπεσσί γε πειρηθῆναι,  
 τόνδ' ἀπαμείρωμεν σφέτερον κτέρας. ἀλλὰ πάρ-  
 οιθεν

180

λωίτερον μύθῳ μιν ἀρέσσασθαι μετιόντας.  
 πολλάκι τοι ῥέα μῦθος, ὃ κεν μόλις ἐξανύσειεν  
 ἡνορέη, τόδ' ἔρεξε κατὰ χρέος, ἥπερ ἐώκει  
 πρηϋνας. ὁ δὲ καί ποτ' ἀμύμονα Φρίξον ἔδεκτο  
 μητρυνῆς φεύγοντα δόλον πατρός τε θυηλάς.  
 πάντες ἐπεὶ πάντῃ καὶ ὅτις μάλα κύντατος ἀνδρῶν,  
 Ξεινίου αἰδεῖται Ζηνὸς θέμιν ἠδ' ἀλεγίζει.'

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ὣς φάτ'· ἐπήνησαν δὲ νέοι ἔπος Αἰσονίδαο  
 πασσυδίῃ, οὐδ' ἔσκε παρέξ ὅτις ἄλλο κελεύοι.  
 καὶ τότε ἄρ' νύκτας Φρίξου Τελαμῶνά θ' ἔπεσθαι  
 ὥρσε καὶ Αὐγείην· αὐτὸς δ' ἔλεν Ἑρμείας  
 σκῆπτρον· ἄφαρ δ' ἄρα νηὸς ὑπὲρ δόνακάς τε καὶ  
 ὕδωρ

χέρσονδ' ἐξαπέβησαν ἐπὶ θρωσμοῦ πεδίοιο.



### THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

common is our task, and common to all alike is the right of speech; and he who in silence withholds his thought and his counsel, let him know that it is he alone that bereaves this band of its home-return. Do ye others rest here in the ship quietly with your arms; but I will go to the palace of Aeetes, taking with me the sons of Phrixus and two comrades as well. And when I meet him I will first make trial with words to see if he will be willing to give up the golden fleece for friendship's sake or not, but trusting to his might will set at nought our quest. For so, learning his frowardness first from himself, we will consider whether we shall meet him in battle, or some other plan shall avail us, if we refrain from the war-cry. And let us not merely by force, before putting words to the test, deprive him of his own possession. But first it is better to go to him and win his favour by speech. Oftentimes, I ween, does speech accomplish at need what prowess could hardly carry through, smoothing the path in manner befitting. And he once welcomed noble Phrixus, a fugitive from his stepmother's wiles and the sacrifice prepared by his father. For all men everywhere, even the most shameless, reverence the ordinance of Zeus, god of strangers, and regard it."

Thus he spake, and the youths approved the words of Aeson's son with one accord, nor was there one to counsel otherwise. And then he summoned to go with him the sons of Phrixus, and Telamon and Augeias; and himself took Hermes' wand; and at once they passed forth from the ship beyond the reeds and the water to dry land, towards the rising ground of the plain. The plain, I wis, is called



Κιρκαῖον τόδε που κικλήσκεται· ἔνθα δὲ πολλὰ  
 ἐξείης πρόμαλοί τε καὶ ἰτέαι ἐκπεφύασιν,  
 τῶν καὶ ἐπ' ἀκροτάτων νέκυες σειρήσι κρέμανται  
 δέσμιοι. εἰσέτι νῦν γὰρ ἄγος Κόλχοισιν ὄρωρεν  
 ἀνέρας οἰχομένους πυρὶ καιέμεν· οὐδ' ἐνὶ γαίῃ  
 ἔστι θέμις στείλαντας ὑπερθ' ἐπὶ σῆμα χέεσθαι,  
 ἀλλ' ἐν ἀδελφῆτοισι κατειλύσαντε βοείαις  
 δεινδρέων ἐξάπτειν ἐκάς ἄστεος. ἡέρι δ' ἴσῃν  
 καὶ χθὼν ἔμμορεν αἶσαν, ἐπεὶ χθονὶ ταρχύουσιν  
 θηλυτέρας· ἡ γάρ τε δίκη θεσμοῖο τέτυκται.

Τοῖσι δὲ νισσόμενοις Ἥρη φίλα μητιόωσα  
 ἡέρα πουλὺν ἐφῆκε δι' ἄστεος, ὅφρα λάθοιεν  
 Κόλχων μυρίον ἔθνος ἐς Αἰήταο κιόντες.  
 ὦκα δ' ὅτ' ἐκ πεδίοιο πόλιν καὶ δώμαθ' ἵκοντο  
 Αἰήτεω, τότε δ' αὖτις ἀπесκέδασεν νέφος Ἥρη.  
 ἔσταν δ' ἐν προμολῇσι τεθηπότες ἔρκε' ἀνακτος  
 εὐρείας τε πύλας καὶ κίονας, οἱ περὶ τοίχους  
 ἐξείης ἀνεχον· θριγκὸς δ' ἐφύπερθε δόμοιο  
 λαῖνεος χαλκῆσιν ἐπὶ γλυφίδεσσιν ἀρήρει.  
 εὐκῆλοι δ' ὑπὲρ οὐδὸν ἔπειτ' ἔβαν. ἄγχι δὲ τοῖο  
 ἡμερίδες χλοεροῖσι καταστεφές πετάλοισιν  
 ὑψοῦ ἀειρόμεναι μέγ' ἐθήλεον. αἱ δ' ὑπὸ τῇσιν  
 ἀέναοι κρῆναι πίσυρες ῥέον, ἃς ἐλάχηνεν  
 Ἥφαιστος. καί ῥ' ἡ μὲν ἀναβλύεσκε γάλακτι,  
 ἡ δ' οἶνω, τριτάτῃ δὲ θυώδεϊ νᾶεν ἀλοιφῇ·  
 ἡ δ' ἄρ' ὕδωρ προρέεσκε, τὸ μὲν ποθι δυομένησιν  
 θερμετο Πληιάδεσσιν, ἀμοιβηδὶς δ' ἀνιούσαις  
 κρυστάλλῳ ἵκελον κοίλης ἀνεκῆκιε πέτρης.  
 τοῖ' ἄρ' ἐνὶ μεγάροισι Κυταιέος Αἰήταο  
 τεχνήεις Ἥφαιστος ἐμήσατο θέσκελα ἔργα.  
 καὶ οἱ χαλκόποδας ταύρους κάμε, χάλκεα δὲ σφρων



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

Circe's ; and here in line grow many willows and osiers, on whose topmost branches hang corpses bound with cords. For even now it is an abomination with the Colchians to burn dead men with fire ; nor is it lawful to place them in the earth and raise a mound above, but to wrap them in untanned oxhides and suspend them from trees far from the city. And so earth has an equal portion with air, seeing that they bury the women ; for that is the custom of their land.

And as they went Hera with friendly thought spread a thick mist through the city, that they might fare to the palace of Aeetes unseen by the countless hosts of the Colchians. But soon when from the plain they came to the city and Aeetes' palace, then again Hera dispersed the mist. And they stood at the entrance, marvelling at the king's courts and the wide gates and columns which rose in ordered lines round the walls ; and high up on the palace a coping of stone rested on brazen triglyphs. And silently they crossed the threshold. And close by garden vines covered with green foliage were in full bloom, lifted high in air. And beneath them ran four fountains, ever-flowing, which Hephaestus had delved out. One was gushing with milk, one with wine, while the third flowed with fragrant oil ; and the fourth ran with water, which grew warm at the setting of the Pleiads, and in turn at their rising bubbled forth from the hollow rock, cold as ice. Such then were the wondrous works that the craftsman-god Hephaestus had fashioned in the palace of Cytaean Aeetes. And he wrought for him bulls with feet of bronze, and their mouths were of bronze, and from them they breathed



ἦν στόματ', ἐκ δὲ πυρὸς δεινὸν σέλας ἀμπνεῖεσκον·  
 πρὸς δὲ καὶ αὐτόγυον στιβαροῦ ἀδάμαντος ἄροτρον  
 ἤλασεν, Ἡελίῳ τίνων χάριν, ὅς ῥά μιν ἵπποις  
 δέξατο, Φλεγραΐη κεκμηότα δηιοτῆτι.  
 ἔνθα δὲ καὶ μέσσαυλος ἐλήλατο· τῇ δ' ἐπὶ πολλαὶ  
 δικλίδες εὐπηγεῖς θάλαμοί τ' ἔσαν ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα.  
 δαιδαλέη δ' αἶθουσα παρέξ ἐκάτερθε τέτυκτο.  
 λέχρις δ' αἰπύτεροι δόμοι ἔστασαν ἀμφοτέρωθεν.  
 τῶν ἦτοι ἄλλω μὲν, ὅτις καὶ ὑπείροχος ἦεν,  
 κρείων Αἰήτης σὺν ἐῇ ναίεσκε δάμαρτι·  
 ἄλλω δ' Ἄψυρτος ναῖεν πάις Αἰήταο,  
 τὸν μὲν Καυκασίη νύμφη τέκεν Ἀστερόδεια  
 πρὶν περ κουριδίην θέσθαι Εἰδυῖαν ἄκοιτιν,  
 Τηθύος Ὠκεανοῦ τε πανοπλοτάτην γεγαυῖαν.  
 καὶ μιν Κόλχων νῆες ἐπωνυμίην Φαέθοντα  
 ἔκλεον, οὐνεκα πᾶσι μετέπρεπεν ἡιθέοισιν.  
 τοὺς δ' ἔχον ἀμφίπολοί τε καὶ Αἰήταο θύγατρες  
 ἄμφω, Χαλκιόπη Μήδειά τε. τὴν μὲν ἄρ' οἶγε<sup>1</sup>  
 ἐκ θαλάμου θαλαμόνδε κασιγνήτην μετιοῦσαν—  
 Ἦρη γάρ μιν ἔρυκε δόμῳ· πρὶν δ' οὔτι θάμιζεν  
 ἐν μεγάροις, Ἐκάτης δὲ πανήμερος ἀμφεπονείτο  
 νηόν, ἐπεὶ ῥα θεᾶς αὐτὴ πέλεν ἀρήτειρα—  
 καὶ σφεας ὥς ἴδεν ἄσσον, ἀνίαχεν· ὁξὺ δ' ἄκουσεν  
 Χαλκιόπη· δμῳαὶ δὲ ποδῶν προπάροιθε βαλοῦσαι  
 νήματα καὶ κλωστήρας ἀολλέες ἔκτοθι πᾶσαι  
 ἔδραμον. ἡ δ' ἅμα τοῖσιν εἰς νύκτας ἰδοῦσα  
 ὑψοῦ χάρματι χεῖρας ἀνέσχεθεν· ὥς δὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ  
 μητέρα δεξιόωντο, καὶ ἀμφαγάπαζον ἰδόντες  
 γηθόσυνοι· τοῖον δὲ κινυρομένη φάτο μῦθον·

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<sup>1</sup> τὴν μὲν ἄρ' οἶγε . . . μετιοῦσαν two Vatican, L<sup>2</sup> by correction: τῇ μὲν ἄρ' οἶγε . . . μετιοῦσαν LG: ἡ μὲν ἄρ' ἦει . . . μετιοῦσα some Parisian.



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

out a terrible flame of fire ; moreover he forged a plough of unbending adamant, all in one piece, in payment of thanks to Helios, who had taken the god up in his chariot when faint from the Phlegræan fight.<sup>1</sup> And here an inner-court was built, and round it were many well-fitted doors and chambers here and there, and all along on each side was a richly-wrought gallery. And on both sides loftier buildings stood obliquely. In one, which was the loftiest, lordly Aeetes dwelt with his queen ; and in another dwelt Apsyrtus, son of Aeetes, whom a Caucasian nymph, Asterodeia, bare before he made Eidyia his wedded wife, the youngest daughter of Tethys and Oceanus. And the sons of the Colchians called him by the new name of Phaëthon,<sup>2</sup> because he outshone all the youths. The other buildings the handmaidens had, and the two daughters of Aeetes, Chalciope and Medea. Medea then [they found] going from chamber to chamber in search of her sister, for Hera detained her within that day ; but beforetime she was not wont to haunt the palace, but all day long was busied in Hecate's temple, since she herself was the priestess of the goddess. And when she saw them she cried aloud, and quickly Chalciope caught the sound ; and her maids, throwing down at their feet their yarn and their thread, rushed forth all in a throng. And she, beholding her sons among them, raised her hands aloft through joy ; and so they likewise greeted their mother, and when they saw her embraced her in their gladness ; and she with many sobs spoke thus :

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* the fight between the gods and the giants.

<sup>2</sup> *i.e.* the Shining One.



‘Εμπης οὐκ ἄρ’ ἐμέλλετ’ ἀκηδείη με λιπόντες 260  
 τηλόθι πλάγξασθαι· μετὰ δ’ ὑμέας ἔτραπεν αἶσα.  
 δειλὴ ἐγώ, οἶον πρόθον Ἑλλάδος ἔκποθεν ἄτης  
 λευγαλέης Φρίξοιο ἐφημοσύνησιν ἔλεσθε  
 πατρός. ὁ μὲν θνήσκων στυγεράς ἐπετείλατ’ ἀνίας  
 ἡμετέρη κραδίη. τί δέ κεν πόλιν Ὀρχομενοῖο,  
 ὅστις ὅδ’ Ὀρχομενός, κτεάνων Ἀθάμαντος ἔκητι  
 μητέρ’ ἐὼν ἀχέουσαν ἀποπρολιπόντες, ἵκοισθε;’

ᾧ ὣς ἔφατ’· Αἰήτης δὲ πανύστατος ὦρτο θύραζε,  
 ἐκ δ’ αὐτὴ Εἰδυῖα δάμαρ κίεν Αἰήταο,  
 Χαλκιοῦσας αἶουσα· τὸ δ’ αὐτίκα πᾶν ὁμάδοιο 270  
 ἔρκος ἐπεπλήθει. τοῖ μὲν μέγαν ἀμφιπένοντο  
 ταῦρον ἄλις δμῶες· τοῖ δὲ ξύλα κάγκανα χαλκῷ  
 κόπτον· τοῖ δὲ λοετρὰ πυρὶ ζέον· οὐδέ τις ἦεν,  
 ὃς καμάτου μεθίεσκεν, ὑποδρήσσω βασιλῆϊ.

Τόφρα δ’ Ἔρως πολιοῖο δι’ ἡέρος ἵξεν ἄφαντος,  
 τετρηχώς, οἶόν τε νέαις ἐπὶ φορβάσιν οἴστρος  
 τέλλεται, ὄντε μύωπα βοῶν κλείουσι νομῆες.  
 ὦκα δ’ ὑπὸ φλιὴν προδόμῳ ἐνὶ τόξα τανύσσας  
 ἰοδόκης ἀβλήτα πολύστονον ἐξέλετ’ ἰόν.  
 ἐκ δ’ ὅγε καρπαλίμοισι λαθὼν ποσὶν οὐδὸν ἄμειψεν 280  
 ὀξέα δεινδίλλων· αὐτῷ θ’ ὑπὸ βαιὸς ἐλυσθεῖς  
 Αἰσονίδῃ γλυφίδας μέσση ἐνικάτθετο νευρῇ,  
 ἰθὺς δ’ ἀμφοτέρησι διασχόμενος παλάμησιν  
 ἦκ’ ἐπὶ Μηδείῃ· τὴν δ’ ἀμφασίῃ λάβε θυμόν.  
 αὐτὸς δ’ ὑψορόφοιο παλιμπετὲς ἐκ μεγάροιο  
 καγχαλόων ἤιξε· βέλος δ’ ἐνεδαίετο κούρῃ  
 νέρθεν ὑπὸ κραδίῃ, φλογὶ εἵκελον· ἀντία δ’ αἰεὶ  
 βάλλεν ὑπ’ Αἰσονίδην ἀμαρύγματα, καὶ οἱ ἄηντο



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

“After all then, ye were not destined to leave me in your heedlessness and to wander far; but fate has turned you back. Poor wretch that I am! What a yearning for Hellas from some woeful madness seized you at the behest of your father Phrixus. Bitter sorrows for my heart did he ordain when dying. And why should ye go to the city of Orchomenus, whoever this Orchomenus is, for the sake of Athamas’ wealth, leaving your mother alone to bear her grief?”

Such were her words; and Aeetes came forth last of all and Eidyia herself came, the queen of Aeetes, on hearing the voice of Chalciope; and straightway all the court was filled with a throng. Some of the thralls were busied with a mighty bull, others with the axe were cleaving dry billets, and others heating with fire water for the baths; nor was there one who relaxed his toil, serving the king

Meantime Eros passed unseen through the grey mist, causing confusion, as when against grazing heifers rises the gadfly, which oxherds call the breese. And quickly beneath the lintel in the porch he strung his bow and took from the quiver an arrow unshot before, messenger of pain. And with swift feet unmarked he passed the threshold and keenly glanced around; and gliding close by Aeson’s son he laid the arrow-notch on the cord in the centre, and drawing wide apart with both hands he shot at Medea; and speechless amazement seized her soul. But the god himself flashed back again from the high-roofed hall, laughing loud; and the bolt burnt deep down in the maiden’s heart, like a flame; and ever she kept darting bright glances straight up at Aeson’s son, and within her breast her



στηθέων ἐκ πυκινὰ καμάτῳ φρένες, οὐδέ τιν' ἄλλην  
 μνήστιν ἔχεν, γλυκερῇ δὲ κατεΐβετο θυμὸν ἀνίη. 290  
 ὥς δὲ γυνὴ μαλερῶ περὶ κάρφεια χεύατο δαλῶ  
 χερνῆτις, τῇπερ ταλασῆια ἔργα μέμηλεν,  
 ὥς κεν ὑπωρόφιον νύκτωρ σέλας ἐντύναιτο,  
 ἄγχι μάλ' ἐγρομένη· τὸ δ' ἀθέσφατον ἐξ ὀλίγοιο  
 δαλοῦ ἀνεγρόμενον σὺν κάρφεια πάντ' ἀμαθύνει·  
 τοῖος ὑπὸ κραδίῃ εἰλυμένος αἶθετο λάθρη  
 οὖλος Ἔρως· ἀπαλὰς δὲ μετετρωπᾶτο παρειὰς  
 ἐς χλόον, ἄλλοτ' ἔρευθος, ἀκηδείησι νόοιο.

Δμῶες δ' ὁππότε δὴ σφιν ἐπαρτέα θῆκαν ἐδωδήν,  
 αὐτοί τε λιαροῖσιν ἐφαιδρύναντο λοετροῖς, 300  
 ἀσπασίως δόρπῳ τε ποτῆτί τε θυμὸν ἄρεσσαν.  
 ἐκ δὲ τοῦ Αἰήτης σφετέρης ἐρέεινε θυγατρὸς  
 νύμφης τοίοισι παρηγορέων ἐπέεσσιν·

‘ Παιδὸς ἐμῆς κοῦροι Φρίξιοί τε, τὸν περὶ πάντων  
 ξείνων ἡμετέροισιν ἐνὶ μεγάροισιν ἔτισα,  
 πῶς Αἰάνδε νέεσθε παλίσσυτοι; ἦέ τις ἄτη  
 σωμένους μεσσηγὺς ἐνέκλασεν; οὐ μὲν ἐμεῖο  
 πείθεσθε προφέροντος ἀπείρονα μέτρα κελεύθου.  
 ἦδεν γάρ ποτε πατρὸς ἐν ἄρμασιν Ἡελίοιο  
 δινεύσας, ὅτ' ἐμεῖο κασιγνήτην ἐκόμιζεν 310  
 Κίρκην ἐσπερίης εἴσω χθονός, ἐκ δ' ἰκόμεσθα  
 ἀκτὴν ἠπείρου Τυρσηνίδος, ἐνθ' ἔτι νῦν περ  
 ναιετάει, μάλα πολλὸν ἀπόπροθι Κολχίδος αἴης.  
 ἀλλὰ τί μύθων ἦδος; ἂ δ' ἐν ποσὶν ὑμῖν ὄρωρεν,  
 εἶπατ' ἀριφραδέως, ἦδ' οἵτινες οἶδ' ἐφέπονται  
 ἀνέρες, ὅππῃ τε γλαφυρῆς ἐκ νηὸς ἔβητε.’

Τοῖά μιν ἐξερέοντα κασιγνήτων προπάροιθεν  
 Ἄργος ὑποδδείσας ἀμφὶ στόλῳ Αἰσονίδαο  
 μελιχίως προσέειπεν, ἐπεὶ προγενέστερος ἦεν·



### THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

heart panted fast through anguish, all remembrance left her, and her soul melted with the sweet pain. And as a poor woman heaps dry twigs round a blazing brand—a daughter of toil, whose task is the spinning of wool, that she may kindle a blaze at night beneath her roof, when she has waked very early—and the flame waxing wondrous great from the small brand consumes all the twigs together; so, coiling round her heart, burnt secretly Love the destroyer; and the hue of her soft cheeks went and came, now pale, now red, in her soul's distraction.

Now when the thralls had laid a banquet ready before them, and they had refreshed themselves with warm baths, gladly did they please their souls with meat and drink. And thereafter Aetes questioned the sons of his daughter, addressing them with these words:

“Sons of my daughter and of Phrixus, whom beyond all strangers I honoured in my halls, how have ye come returning back to Aea? Did some calamity cut short your escape in the midst? Ye did not listen when I set before you the boundless length of the way. For I marked it once, whirled along in the chariot of my father Helios, when he was bringing my sister Circe to the western land and we came to the shore of the Tyrrhenian mainland, where even now she abides, exceeding far from Colchis. But what pleasure is there in words? Do ye tell me plainly what has been your fortune, and who these men are, your companions, and where from your hollow ship ye came ashore.”

Such were his questions, and Argus, before all his brethren, being fearful for the mission of Aeson's son, gently replied, for he was the elder-born:



Αἰήτη, κείνην μὲν ἄφαρ διέχευαν ἄελλαι  
 ζαχρηεῖς· αὐτοὺς δ' ὑπὸ δούρασι πεπτηῶτας  
 νήσου Ἐνναλίοιο ποτὶ ξερὸν ἔκβαλε κύμα  
 λυγαίῃ ὑπὸ νυκτί· θεὸς δέ τις ἄμμ' ἐσάωσεν.  
 οὐδὲ γὰρ αἰ τὸ πάροιθεν ἐρημαίην κατὰ νήσον  
 ηὐλίζοντ' ὄρνιθες Ἀρήϊαι, οὐδ' ἔτι κείνας  
 εὖρομεν. ἀλλ' οἷγ' ἄνδρες ἀπήλασαν, ἐξαποβάντες  
 νηὸς ἐῆς προτέρῳ ἐνὶ ἡματι· καί σφ' ἀπέρυκεν  
 ἡμέας οἰκτείρων Ζηνὸς νόος, ἥέ τις αἶσα,  
 αὐτίκ' ἐπεὶ καὶ βρῶσιν ἄλις καὶ εἶματ' ἔδωκαν,  
 οὐνομά τε Φρίξοιο περικλεὲς εἰσαΐοντες  
 ἦδ' αὐτοῖο σέθεν· μετὰ γὰρ τεὸν ἄστυ νέονται.  
 χρεῖ᾽ δ' ἦν ἐθέλης ἐξίδμεναι, οὐ σ' ἐπικεύσω.  
 τόνδε τις ἰέμενος πάτρης ἀπάνευθεν ἐλάσσαι  
 καὶ κτεάνων βασιλεὺς περιώσιον, οὐνεκεν ἀλκῇ  
 σφωιτέρῃ πάντεσσι μετέπρεπεν Αἰολίδῃσιν,  
 πέμπει δεῦρο νέεσθαι ἀμήχανον· οὐδ' ὑπαλύξειν  
 στεῦται ἀμειλίκτοιο Διὸς θυμαλγέα μῆνιν  
 καὶ χόλον, οὐδ' ἄτλητον ἄγος Φρίξοιό τε ποινὰς  
 Αἰολιδέων γενεήν, πρὶν ἐς Ἑλλάδα κῶας ἰκέσθαι.  
 νῆα δ' Ἀθηναίῃ Παλλὰς κάμεν, οὐ μάλα τοίην,  
 οἰαί περ Κόλχοισι μετ' ἀνδράσι νῆες ἔασιν,  
 τάων αἰνοτάτης ἐπεκύρσαμεν. ἤλιθα γάρ μιν  
 λάβρον ὕδωρ πνοιή τε διέτμαγεν· ἥ δ' ἐνὶ γόμφοις  
 ἴσχεται, ἦν καὶ πᾶσαι ἐπιβρίσωσιν ἄελλαι.  
 ἴσον δ' ἐξ ἀνέμοιο θέει καὶ ὅτ' ἀνέρες αὐτοὶ  
 νωλεμέως χεῖρεσσιν ἐπισπέρχωσιν ἐρετμοῖς.  
 τῇ δ' ἐναγειράμενος Παναχαιίδος εἴ τι φέριστον  
 ἡρώων, τεὸν ἄστυ μετήλυθε, πόλλ' ἐπαληθεὶς  
 ἄστυ καὶ πελάγη στυγερῆς ἀλός, εἴ οἱ ὀπάσσαις.

320

330

340



### THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

“Aeetes, that ship forthwith stormy blasts tore asunder, and ourselves, crouching on the beams, a wave drove on to the beach of the isle of Enyalius<sup>1</sup> in the murky night; and some god preserved us. For even the birds of Ares that haunted the desert isle beforetime, not even them did we find. But these men had driven them off, having landed from their ship on the day before; and the will of Zeus taking pity on us, or some fate, detained them there, since they straightway gave us both food and clothing in abundance, when they heard the illustrious name of Phrixus and thine own; for to thy city are they faring. And if thou dost wish to know their errand, I will not hide it from thee. A certain king, vehemently longing to drive this man far from his fatherland and possessions, because in might he outshone all the sons of Aeolus, sends him to voyage hither on a bootless venture; and asserts that the stock of Aeolus will not escape the heart-grieving wrath and rage of implacable Zeus, nor the unbearable curse and vengeance due for Phrixus, until the fleece comes back to Hellas. And their ship was fashioned by Pallas Athena, not such a one as are the ships among the Colchians, on the vilest of which we chanced. For the fierce waves and wind broke her utterly to pieces; but the other holds firm with her bolts, even though all the blasts should buffet her. And with equal swiftness she speedeth before the wind and when the crew ply the oar with unresting hands. And he hath gathered in her the mightiest heroes of all Achaea, and hath come to thy city from wandering far through cities and gulfs of the dread ocean, in the hope that

<sup>1</sup> A name of Ares.



αὐτῷ δ' ὥς κεν ἄδη, τῶς ἔσσεται· οὐ γὰρ ἰκάνει  
 χερσὶ βιησόμενος· μέμονεν δέ τοι ἄξια τίσειν  
 δωτίνης, αἰὼν ἐμέθεν μέγα δυσμενέοντας  
 Σαυρομάτας, τοὺς σοῖσιν ὑπὸ σκῆπτροισι δα-  
 μάσσει.

350

εἰ δὲ καὶ οὖνομα δῆθεν ἐπιθύεις γενεήν τε  
 ἴδμεναι, οἵτινές εἰσιν, ἕκαστά γε μυθησαίμην.  
 τόνδε μέν, οἷό περ οὐνεκ' ἀφ' Ἑλλάδος ὧλλοι  
 ἄγερθεν,

κλείουσ' Αἴσονος υἱὸν Ἰήсона Κρηθείδαο.

εἰ δ' αὐτοῦ Κρηθῆος ἐτήτυμόν ἐστι γενέθλης,  
 οὕτω κεν γνωτὸς πατρώιος ἄμμι πέλοιτο.

ἄμφω γὰρ Κρηθεὺς Ἀθάμας τ' ἔσαν Αἰόλου υἱες·

360

Φρίξος δ' αὐτ' Ἀθάμαντος ἦν παῖς Αἰολίδαο.

τόνδε δ' ἄρ', Ἡελίου γόνον ἔμμεναι εἴ τιν' ἀκούεις,

δέρκεαι Αὐγείην· Τελαμῶν δ' ὄγε, κυδίστοιο

Αἰακοῦ ἐκγεγαώς· Ζεὺς δ' Αἰακὸν αὐτὸς ἔτικτεν.

ὥς δὲ καὶ ὧλλοι πάντες, ὅσοι συνέπονται ἑταῖροι,  
 ἀθανάτων υἱές τε καὶ υἴωνοι γεγάασιν·

Τοῖα παρέννεπεν Ἄργος· ἄναξ δ' ἐπεχώσατο  
 μύθοις

εἰσαΐων· ὑψοῦ δὲ χόλῳ φρένες ἠερέθοντο.

φῆ δ' ἐπαλαστήσας· μενέαινε δὲ παισὶ μάλιστα

Χαλκιόπης· τῶν γὰρ σφε μετελθέμεν οὐνεκ' ἐώλπει·

370

ἐκ δέ οἱ ὄμματ' ἔλαμψεν ὑπ' ὀφρύσιν ἱεμένοιο·

‘Οὐκ ἄφαρ ὀφθαλμῶν μοι ἀπόπροθι, λωβη-  
 τῆρες,

νεῖσθ' αὐτοῖσι δόλοισι παλίσσυτοι ἔκτοθι γαίης,

πρίν τινα λευγαλέον τε δέρος καὶ Φρίξον ιδέσθαι;

αὐτίχ' ὁμαρτήσαντες ἀφ' Ἑλλάδος, οὐκ ἐπὶ κῶας,

σκῆπτρα δὲ καὶ τιμὴν βασιληίδα δεύρο νέεσθε.

εἰ δέ κε μὴ προπάροιθεν ἐμῆς ἤψασθε τραπέζης,



### THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

thou wilt grant him the fleece. But as thou dost please, so shall it be, for he cometh not to use force, but is eager to pay thee a recompense for the gift. He has heard from me of thy bitter foes the Sauromatae, and he will subdue them to thy sway. And if thou desirest to know their names and lineage I will tell thee all. This man on whose account the rest were gathered from Hellas, they call Jason, son of Aeson, whom Cretheus begat. And if in truth he is of the stock of Cretheus himself, thus he would be our kinsman on the father's side. For Cretheus and Athamas were both sons of Aeolus; and Phrixus was the son of Athamas, son of Aeolus. And here, if thou hast heard at all of the seed of Helios, thou dost behold Augeias; and this is Telamon sprung from famous Aeacus; and Zeus himself begat Aeacus. And so all the rest, all the comrades that follow him, are the sons or grandsons of the immortals."

Such was the tale of Argus; but the king at his words was filled with rage as he heard; and his heart was lifted high in wrath. And he spake in heavy displeasure; and was angered most of all with the son of Chalciopé; for he deemed that on their account the strangers had come; and in his fury his eyes flashed forth beneath his brows:

"Begone from my sight, felons, straightway, ye and your tricks, from the land, ere someone see a fleece and a Phrixus to his sorrow. Banded together with your friends from Hellas, not for the fleece, but to seize my sceptre and royal power have ye come hither. Had ye not first tasted of my table, surely



ἢ τ' ἂν ἀπὸ γλώσσας τε ταμῶν καὶ χεῖρε κεάσσας  
ἀμφοτέρας, οἷοισιν ἐπιπροέηκα πόδεσσιν,  
ὥς κεν ἐρητύοισθε καὶ ὕστερον ὀρμηθῆναι.  
οἶα δὲ καὶ μακάρεσσιν ἐπεψεύσασθε θεοῖσιν.

380

Φῆ ῥα χαλεψάμενος· μέγα δὲ φρένες Αἰακίδαο  
νειόθεν οἰδαίνεσκον· ἐέλδετο δ' ἔνδοθι θυμὸς  
ἀντιβίην ὀλοὸν φάσθαι ἔπος· ἀλλ' ἀπέρυκεν  
Αἰσονίδης· πρὸ γὰρ αὐτὸς ἀμείψατο μελιχίοισιν·

‘ Αἰήτη, σχέο μοι τῷδε στόλῳ. οὔτι γὰρ αὕτως  
ἄστυ τεὸν καὶ δῶμαθ' ἰκάνομεν, ὥς που ἔολπας,  
οὐδὲ μὲν ἰέμενοι. τίς δ' ἂν τόσον οἶδμα περῆσαι  
τλαίῃ ἐκὼν ὀθνεῖον ἐπὶ κτέρας; ἀλλὰ με δαίμων  
καὶ κρυερὴ βασιλῆος ἀτασθάλου ὤρσεν ἐφετμή.  
δὸς χάριν ἀντομένοισι· σέθεν δ' ἐγὼ Ἑλλάδι πάσῃ  
θεσπεσίην οἶσω κληηδόνα· καὶ δέ τοι ἤδη  
πρόφρονές εἰμεν ἄρῃ θοὴν ἀποτίσαι ἀμοιβήν,  
εἴτ' οὖν Σαυρομάτας γε λιλαίεαι, εἴτε τιν' ἄλλον  
δῆμον σφωιτέροισιν ὑπὸ σκῆπτροισι δαμάσσαι.’

390

Ἴσκειν ὑποσσαίνων ἀγανῇ ὀπί· τοῖο δὲ θυμὸς  
διχθαδίην πόρφυρεν ἐνὶ στήθεσσι μενοινήν,  
ἢ σφεας ὀρμηθεὶς αὐτοσχεδὸν ἐξεναρίζοι,  
ἢ ὅγε πειρήσαιτο βίης. τό οἱ εἶσατ' ἄρειον  
φραζομένῳ· καὶ δὴ μιν ὑποβλήδην προσέειπεν·

400

‘ Ξεῖνε, τί κεν τὰ ἕκαστα διηνεκέως ἀγορεύοις;  
εἰ γὰρ ἐτήτυμόν ἐστε θεῶν γένος, ἢ καὶ ἄλλως  
οὐδὲν ἐμείο χέρηες ἐπ' ὀθνείοισιν ἔβητε,  
δώσω τοι χρύσειον ἄγειν δέρος, αἶ κ' ἐθέλησθα,  
πειρηθεὶς. ἐσθλοῖς γὰρ ἐπ' ἀνδράσιν οὔτι μεγαίρω,  
ὥς αὐτοὶ μυθεῖσθε τὸν Ἑλλάδι κοιρανέοντα.



### THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

would I have cut out your tongues and hewn off both hands and sent you forth with your feet alone, so that ye might be stayed from starting hereafter. And what lies have ye uttered against the blessed gods ! ”

Thus he spake in his wrath ; and mightily from its depths swelled the heart of Aeacus’ son, and his soul within longed to speak a deadly word in defiance, but Aeson’s son checked him, for he himself first made gentle answer :

“ Aeetes, bear with this armed band, I pray. For not in the way thou deemest have we come to thy city and palace, no, nor yet with such desires. For who would of his own will dare to cross so wide a sea for the goods of a stranger ? But fate and the ruthless command of a presumptuous king urged me. Grant a favour to thy suppliants, and to all Hellas will I publish a glorious fame of thee ; yea, we are ready now to pay thee a swift recompense in war, whether it be the Sauromatae or some other people that thou art eager to subdue to thy sway.”

He spake, flattering him with gentle utterance ; but the king’s soul brooded a twofold purpose within him, whether he should attack and slay them on the spot or should make trial of their might. And this, as he pondered, seemed the better way, and he addressed Jason in answer :

“ Stranger, why needest thou go through thy tale to the end ? For if ye are in truth of heavenly race, or have come in no wise inferior to me, to win the goods of strangers, I will give thee the fleece to bear away, if thou dost wish, when I have tried thee. For against brave men I bear no grudge, such as ye yourselves tell me of him who bears sway in Hellas.



πείρα δέ τοι μένεός τε καὶ ἀλκῆς ἔσσετ' ἄεθλος,  
 τὸν ῥ' αὐτὸς περίειμι χεροῖν ὀλοὸν περ ἔοντα.  
 δοιῶ μοι πεδίον τὸ Ἀρήιον ἀμφινέμονται  
 ταύρω χαλκόποδε, στόματι φλόγα φυσιόωντες·  
 τοὺς ἐλάω ζεύξας στυφελὴν κατὰ νειὸν Ἀρης  
 τετράγυον, τὴν αἶψα ταμῶν ἐπὶ τέλος ἀρότρῳ  
 οὐ σπόρον ὀλκοῖσιν Δηοῦς ἐνιβάλλομαι ἀκτὴν,  
 ἀλλ' ὄφιος δεινοῖο μεταλδήσκοντας ὀδόντας  
 ἀνδράσι τευχηστήσιν δέμας· τοὺς δ' αὖθι δαΐζων  
 κείρῳ ἐμῷ ὑπὸ δουρὶ περισταδὸν ἀντιόωντας.  
 ἥριος ζεύγνυμι βόας, καὶ δείελον ὥρην  
 παύομαι ἀμήτοιο. σύ δ', εἰ τάδε τοῖα τελέσσεις,  
 αὐτῆμαρ τόδε κῶας ἀποίσεις εἰς βασιλῆος.  
 πρὶν δέ κεν οὐ δοίην, μηδ' ἔλπεο. δὴ γὰρ ἀεικὲς  
 ἄνδρ' ἀγαθὸν γεγαῶτα κακωτέρῳ ἀνέρι εἶξαι.

410

420

ὣς ἄρ' ἔφη· ὁ δὲ σῖγα ποδῶν πάρος ὄμματα  
 πήξας

ἦστ' αὐτῶς ἀφθογγος, ἀμηχανέων κακότητι.  
 βουλὴν δ' ἀμφὶ πολὺν στρώφα χρόνον, οὐδέ πη  
 εἶχεν

θαρσαλέως ὑποδέχθαι, ἐπεὶ μέγα φαίνεται ἔργον·  
 ὧς δ' ἀμειβόμενος προσελέξατο κερδαλέοισιν·

Ἀιήτη, μάλα τοί με δίκη περιπολλὸν ἔέργεις.  
 τῷ καὶ ἐγὼ τὸν ἄεθλον ὑπερφίαλόν περ ἔοντα  
 τλήσομαι, εἰ καί μοι θανέειν μόρος. οὐ γὰρ ἔτ'  
 ἄλλο

ῥίγιον ἀνθρώποισι κακῆς ἐπικείσεται ἀνάγκης,  
 ἢ με καὶ ἐνθάδε νείσθαι ἐπέχραεν ἐκ βασιλῆος.

430

ὣς φάτ' ἀμηχανίῃ βεβολημένος· αὐτὰρ ὁ τόνγε  
 σμερδαλέοις ἐπέεσσι προσέννεπεν ἀσχαλόωντα·



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

And the trial of your courage and might shall be a contest which I myself can compass with my hands, deadly though it be. Two bulls with feet of bronze I have that pasture on the plain of Ares, breathing forth flame from their jaws; them do I yoke and drive over the stubborn field of Ares, four plough-gates; and quickly cleaving it with the share up to the headland, I cast into the furrows for seed, not the corn of Demeter, but the teeth of a dread serpent that grow up into the fashion of armed men; them I slay at once, cutting them down beneath my spear as they rise against me on all sides. In the morning do I yoke the oxen, and at eventide I cease from the harvesting. And thou, if thou wilt accomplish such deeds as these, on that very day shalt carry off the fleece to the king's palace; ere that time comes I will not give it, expect it not. For indeed it is unseemly that a brave man should yield to a coward."

Thus he spake; and Jason, fixing his eyes on the ground, sat just as he was, speechless, helpless in his evil plight. For a long time he turned the matter this way and that, and could in no way take on him the task with courage, for a mighty task it seemed; and at last he made reply with crafty words:

"With thy plea of right, Aeetes, thou dost shut me in overmuch. Wherefore also I will dare that contest, monstrous as it is, though it be my doom to die. For nothing will fall upon men more dread than dire necessity, which indeed constrained me to come hither at a king's command."

Thus he spake, smitten by his helpless plight; and the king with grim words addressed him, sore