

## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

cleansed from guilt when they approach the altar. First, to atone for the murder still unexpiated, she held above their heads the young of a sow whose dugs yet swelled from the fruit of the womb, and, severing its neck, sprinkled their hands with the blood; and again she made propitiation with other drink offerings, calling on Zeus the Cleanser, the protector of murder-stained suppliants. And all the defilements in a mass her attendants bore forth from the palace—the Naiad nymphs who ministered all things to her. And within, Circe, standing by the hearth, kept burning atonement-cakes without wine, praying the while that she might stay from their wrath the terrible Furies, and that Zeus himself might be propitious and gentle to them both, whether with hands stained by the blood of a stranger or, as kinsfolk, by the blood of a kinsman, they should implore his grace.

But when she had wrought all her task, then she raised them up and seated them on well polished seats, and herself sat near, face to face with them. And at once she asked them clearly of their business and their voyaging, and whence they had come to her land and palace, and had thus seated themselves as suppliants at her hearth. For in truth the hideous remembrance of her dreams entered her mind as she pondered; and she longed to hear the voice of the maiden, her kinswoman, as soon as she saw that she had raised her eyes from the ground. For all those of the race of Helios were plain to discern, since by the far flashing of their eyes they shot in front of them a gleam as of gold. So Medea told her all she asked—the daughter of Aetes of the gloomy heart, speaking gently in the



κούρη μελιχίως, ἤμην στόλον ἠδὲ κελεύθους  
 ἠρώων, ὅσα τ' ἀμφὶ θεοῖς ἐμόγησαν ἀέθλοις,  
 ὡς τε κασιγνήτης πολυκηδέος ἦλιτε βουλαῖς,  
 ὡς τ' ἀπονόσφιν ἄλυξεν ὑπέρβια δείματα πατρὸς  
 σὺν παισὶν Φρίξοιο· φόνον δ' ἀλέεινεν ἐνισπεῖν  
 Ἄψύρτου. τὴν δ' οὔτι νόῳ λάθην· ἀλλὰ καὶ ἔμπης  
 μυρομένην ἐλέαιρεν, ἔπος δ' ἐπὶ τοῖον ἔειπεν·

‘Σχετλίη, ἦ ῥα κακὸν καὶ ἀεικέα μήσαο νόστον.  
 ἔλπομαι οὐκ ἐπὶ δὴν σε βαρὺν χόλον Αἰήταο  
 ἐκφυγέειν· τάχα δ' εἶσι καὶ Ἑλλάδος ἠθεα γαίης  
 τισόμενος φόνον υἱός, ὅτ' ἄσχετα ἔργ' ἐτέλεσσας.  
 ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ οὖν ἰκέτις καὶ ὁμόγνιος ἔπλευ ἐμείο,  
 ἄλλο μὲν οὔτι κακὸν μητίσομαι ἐνθάδ' ἰούση·  
 ἔρχεο δ' ἐκ μεγάρων ξείνω συνοπηδὸς ἐοῦσα,  
 ὄντινα τοῦτον αἴστον αἰέραο πατρὸς ἀνευθεν·  
 μηδέ με γουνάσσηαι ἐφέστιος, οὐ γὰρ ἔγωγε  
 αἰνήσω βουλάς τε σέθεν καὶ ἀεικέα φύξιν.’

Ἔως φάτο· τὴν δ' ἀμέγαρτον ἄχος λάβεν· ἀμφὶ  
 δὲ πέπλον

ὀφθαλμοῖσι βαλοῦσα γόον χέεν, ὄφρα μιν ἦρως  
 χειρὸς ἐπισχόμενος μεγάρων ἐξῆγε θύραζε  
 δείματι παλλομένην· λείπον δ' ἀπὸ δώματα  
 Κίρκης.

Οὐδ' ἄλοχον Κρονίδαο Διὸς λάθον· ἀλλὰ οἱ Ἴρις  
 πέφραδεν, εὖτ' ἐνόησεν ἀπὸ μεγάροιο κιόντας.  
 αὐτὴ γάρ μιν ἄνωγε δοκευέμεν, ὅππότε νῆα  
 στεῖχοιεν· τὸ καὶ αὐτὶς ἐποτρύνουσ' ἀγόρευεν·



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Colchian tongue, both of the quest and the journeyings of the heroes, and of their toils in the swift contests, and how she had sinned through the counsels of her much-sorrowing sister, and how with the sons of Phrixus she had fled afar from the tyrannous horrors of her father; but she shrank from telling of the murder of Apsyrtus. Yet she escaped not Circe's ken; nevertheless, in spite of all, she pitied the weeping maiden, and spake thus:

“Poor wretch, an evil and shameful return hast thou planned. Not for long, I ween, wilt thou escape the heavy wrath of Aetes; but soon will he go even to the dwellings of Hellas to avenge the blood of his son, for intolerable are the deeds thou hast done. But since thou art my suppliant and my kinswoman, no further ill shall I devise against thee at thy coming; but begone from my halls, companioning the stranger, whosoever he be, this unknown one that thou hast taken in thy father's despite; and kneel not to me at my hearth, for never will I approve thy counsels and thy shameful flight.”

Thus she spake, and measureless anguish seized the maid; and over her eyes she cast her robe and poured forth a lamentation, until the hero took her by the hand and led her forth from the hall quivering with fear. So they left the home of Circe.

But they were not unmarked by the spouse of Zeus, son of Cronos; but Iris told her when she saw them faring from the hall. For Hera had bidden her watch what time they should come to the ship; so again she urged her and spake:



‘Ἴρι φίλη, νῦν, εἴ ποτ’ ἐμὰς ἐτέλεσσας ἐφετμάς,  
 εἰ δ’ ἄγε λαιψηρῆσι μετοιχομένη πτερύγεσσιν,  
 δεῦρο Θέτιν μοι ἄνωχθι μολεῖν ἀλὸς ἐξανιοῦσαν.  
 κείνης γὰρ χρειώ με κιχάνεται. αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα  
 ἐλθεῖν εἰς ἀκτάς, ὅθι τ’ ἄκμονες Ἐφαιστοιο  
 χάλκαιοι στιβαρῆσιν ἀράσσονται τυπίδεσσιν·  
 εἶπε δὲ κοιμῆσαι φύσας πυρός, εἰσόκεν Ἀργῶ  
 τάσγε παρεξέλασθησιν. ἀτὰρ καὶ ἐς Αἴολον ἐλθεῖν,  
 Αἴολον, ὅστ’ ἀνέμοις αἰθρηγενέεσσιν ἀνάσσει·  
 καὶ δὲ τῷ εἰπέμεναι τὸν ἐμὸν νόον, ὥς κεν ἀήτας  
 πάντα ἀπολλήξειεν ὑπ’ ἠέρι, μηδέ τις αὔρη  
 τρηχύνου πέλαγος· ζεφύρου γε μὲν οὔρος ἀήτω,  
 ὄφρ’ οἴγ’ Ἀλκινόου Φαιηκίδα νῆσον ἴκωνται.’

760

‘Ὡς ἔφατ’· αὐτίκα δ’ Ἴρις ἀπ’ Οὐλύμποιο θοροῦσα  
 τέμνε, τανυσσαμένη κοῦφα πτερὰ. δῦ δ’ ἐνὶ πόντῳ  
 Αἰγαίῳ, τόθι πέρ τε δόμοι Νηρήος ἔασιν.  
 πρώτην δ’ εἰσαφίκανε Θέτιν, καὶ ἐπέφραδε μῦθον  
 Ἥρης ἐννεσίης, ὠρσέν τέ μιν εἰς ἐνέεσθαι.  
 δεύτερα δ’ εἰς Ἐφαιστον ἐβήσατο· παῦσε δὲ τόνγε  
 ῥίμφα σιδηρείων τυπίδων· ἔσχοντο δ’ αὐτμῆς  
 αἰθαλέοι πρηστῆρες. ἀτὰρ τρίτον εἰσαφίκανεν  
 Αἴολον Ἰππότεω παῖδα κλυτόν. ὄφρα δὲ καὶ τῷ  
 ἀγγελίην φαμένη θοὰ γούνατα παῦσεν ὀδοῖο,  
 τόφρα Θέτις Νηρῆα κασιγνήτας τε λιποῦσα  
 ἐξ ἀλὸς Οὐλυμπόνδε θεὰν μετεκίαθεν Ἥρην·  
 ἢ δέ μιν ἄσσον ἐοῖο παρείσέ τε, φαῖνέ τε μῦθον·

780

‘Κέκλυθι νῦν, Θέτι δία, τά τοι ἐπιέλδομ’ ἐνισπεῖν.  
 οἴσθα μὲν, ὅσσον ἐμῆσιν ἐνὶ φρεσὶ τίεται ἥρως  
 Αἰσονίδης, οἱ δ’ ἄλλοι ἀοσσητῆρες ἀέθλου,  
 οἴως τέ σφ’ ἐσάωσα διὰ πλαγκτὰς περόωντας  
 πέτρας, ἐνθα πυρὸς δειναὶ βρομέουσι θύελλαι,



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“Dear Iris, now come, if ever thou hast fulfilled my bidding, hie thee away on light pinions, and bid Thetis arise from the sea and come hither. For need of her is come upon me. Then go to the sea-beaches where the bronze anvils of Hephaestus are smitten by sturdy hammers, and tell him to still the blasts of fire until Argo pass by them. Then go to Aeolus too, Aeolus who rules the winds, children of the clear sky; and to him also tell my purpose so that he may make all winds cease under heaven and no breeze may ruffle the sea; yet let the breath of the west wind blow until the heroes have reached the Phaeacian isle of Alcinous.”

So she spake, and straightway Iris leapt down from Olympus and cleft her way, with light wings outspread. And she plunged into the Aegean Sea, where is the dwelling of Nereus. And she came to Thetis first and, by the promptings of Hera, told her tale and roused her to go to the goddess. Next she came to Hephaestus, and quickly made him cease from the clang of his iron hammers; and the smoke-grimed bellows were stayed from their blast. And thirdly she came to Aeolus, the famous son of Hipotas. And when she had given her message to him also and rested her swift knees from her course, then Thetis leaving Nereus and her sisters had come from the sea to Olympus to the goddess Hera; and the goddess made her sit by her side and uttered her word:

“Hearken now, lady Thetis, to what I am eager to tell thee. Thou knowest how honoured in my heart is the hero, Aeson’s son, and the others that have helped him in the contest, and how I saved them when they passed between the Wandering



κύματά τε σκληρῆσι περιβλύει σπιλάδεσσιν.  
 νῦν δὲ παρὰ Σκύλλης σκόπελον μέγαν ἠδὲ Χάρυβδιν  
 δεινὸν ἐρευγομένην δέχεται ὁδός. ἀλλὰ σε γὰρ δὴ 790  
 ἐξέτι νηπυτίης αὐτῆ τρέφον ἠδ' ἀγάπησα  
 ἔξοχον ἀλλάων, αἴτ' εἰν ἀλὶ ναιετάουσιν,  
 οὔνεκεν οὐκ ἔτλης εὐνῆ Διὸς ἰεμένοιο  
 λέξασθαι. κείνῳ γὰρ αἰεὶ τάδε ἔργα μέμηλεν,  
 ἠὲ σὺν ἀθανάταις ἠὲ θνητῆσιν ἰαύειν.  
 ἀλλ' ἐμὲ αἰδομένη καὶ ἐνὶ φρεσὶ δειμαίνουσα,  
 ἠλεύω· ὁ δ' ἔπειτα πελώριον ὄρκον ὄμοσσεν,  
 μήποτέ σ' ἀθανάτοιο θεοῦ καλέεσθαι ἄκοιτιν.  
 ἔμπης δ' οὐ μεθίεσκεν ὀπιπεύων ἀέκουσαν,  
 εἰσότε οἱ πρέσβειρα Θέμις κατέλεξεν ἅπαντα, 800  
 ὡς δὴ τοι πέπρωται ἀμείνονα πατρὸς ἐοῖο  
 παῖδα τεκείν· τῷ καὶ σε λιλαιόμενος μεθέηκεν,  
 δείματι, μή τις ἐοῦ ἀντάξιος ἄλλος ἀνάσσοι  
 ἀθανάτων, ἀλλ' αἰὲν ἐὼν κράτος εἰρύοιτο.  
 αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ τὸν ἄριστον ἐπιχθονίων πόσιν εἶναι  
 δῶκά τοι, ὄφρα γάμου θυμηδέος ἀντιάσειας,  
 τέκνα τε φυτύσαιο· θεοὺς δ' ἐς δαῖτ' ἐκάλεσσα  
 πάντας ὁμῶς· αὐτῆ δὲ σέλας χεῖρεσσιν ἀνέσχον  
 νυμφίδιον, κείνης ἀγανόφρονος εἴνεκα τιμῆς.  
 ἀλλ' ἄγε καὶ τινά τοι νημερτέα μῦθον ἐνίψω. 810  
 εὖτ' ἂν ἐς Ἥλύσιον πεδῖον τεὸς υἱὸς ἴκηται,  
 ὃν δὴ νῦν Χείρωνος ἐν ἧθεσι Κενταύροιο  
 νηιάδες κομέουσι τεοῦ λίπτοντα γάλακτος,



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rocks,<sup>1</sup> where roar terrible storms of fire and the waves foam round the rugged reefs. And now past the mighty rock of Scylla and Charybdis horribly belching, a course awaits them. But thee indeed from thy infancy did I tend with my own hands and love beyond all others that dwell in the salt sea because thou didst refuse to share the couch of Zeus, for all his desire. For to him such deeds are ever dear, to embrace either goddesses or mortal women. But in reverence for me and with fear in thy heart thou didst shrink from his love; and he then swore a mighty oath that thou shouldst never be called the bride of an immortal god. Yet he ceased not from spying thee against thy will, until reverend Themis declared to him the whole truth, how that it was thy fate to bear a son mightier than his sire; wherefore he gave thee up, for all his desire, fearing lest another should be his match and rule the immortals, and in order that he might ever hold his own dominion. But I gave thee the best of the sons of earth to be thy husband, that thou mightest find a marriage dear to thy heart and bear children; and I summoned to the feast the gods, one and all. And with my own hand I raised the bridal torch, in return for the kindly honour thou didst pay me. But come, let me tell a tale that erreth not. When thy son shall come to the Elysian plain, he whom now in the home of Cheiron the Centaur water-nymphs are tending, though he still craves thy mother milk, it is fated

<sup>1</sup> The *Symplegades* are referred to, where help was given by Athena, not by Hera. It is strange that no mention is made of the *Planctae*, properly so called, past which they are soon to be helped. Perhaps some lines have fallen out.



χρειώ μιν κούρης πόσιν ἔμμεναι Αἰήταο  
 Μηδείης· σὺ δ' ἄρηγε νυῶ ἔκυρή περ εἴουσα,  
 ἠδ' αὐτῶ Πηλῆι. τί τοι χόλος ἐστήρικται;  
 ἀάσθη. καὶ γάρ τε θεοὺς ἐπινίσσεται ἄτη.  
 ναὶ μὲν ἐφημοσύνησιν ἐμαῖς Ἕφαιστον οἴω  
 λωφήσειν πρήσοντα πυρὸς μένος, Ἴπποτάδην δὲ  
 Αἴολον ὠκείας ἀνέμων αἰκας ἐρύξειν,  
 νόσφιν εὐσταθέος ζεφύρου, τείως κεν ἴκωνται  
 Φαιήκων λιμένας· σὺ δ' ἀκηδέα μήδεο νόστον.  
 δεῖμα δέ τοι πέτραι καὶ ὑπέρβια κύματ' ἔασιν  
 μοῦνον, ἃ κεν τρέψαιο κασιγνήτησι σὺν ἄλλαις.  
 μηδὲ σύγ' ἠὲ Χάρυβδιν ἀμηχανέοντα εἰάσης  
 ἐσβαλέειν, μὴ πάντας ἀναβρόξασα φέρησιν,  
 ἠὲ παρὰ Σκύλλης στυγερόν κευθμῶνα νέεσθαι,  
 Σκύλλης Αὐσονίης ὀλοόφρονος, ἣν τέκε Φόρκυ  
 νυκτιπόλος Ἑκάτη, τήντε κλείουσι Κράταιν,  
 μή πως σμερδαλέησιν ἐπαίξασα γένυσσιν  
 λεκτοὺς ἠρώων δηλήσεται. ἀλλ' ἔχε νῆα  
 κείσ', ὅτι περ τυτθή γε παραίβασις ἔσσετ' ὀλέθρου.  
 Ὡς φάτο· τὴν δὲ Θέτις τοίῳ προσελέξατο μύθῳ·

820

Ἐἰ μὲν δὴ μαλεροῖο πυρὸς μένος ἠδὲ θύελλαι  
 ζαχρηεῖς λήξουσιν ἐτήτυμον, ἢ τ' ἂν ἔγωγε  
 θαρσαλέη φαίην, καὶ κύματος ἀντιόωντος  
 νῆα σαωσέμεναι, ζεφύρου λίγα κινυμένοιο.  
 ἀλλ' ὦρη δολιχὴν τε καὶ ἄσπετον οἶμον ὀδεύειν,  
 ὄφρα κασιγνήτας μετελεύσομαι, αἴ μοι ἄρωγοὶ  
 ἔσσονται, καὶ νηὸς ὅθι πρυμνήσι' ἀνήπται,  
 ὥς κεν ὑπηῶοι μνησαίατο νόστον ἐλέσθαι.  
 Ὡς φάτο· τὴν δὲ Θέτις τοίῳ προσελέξατο μύθῳ·

830

840

Ἦ, καὶ ἀναίξασα κατ' αἰθέρος ἔμπεσε δίναις  
 κυανέου πόντοιο· κάλει δ' ἐπαμυνέμεν ἄλλας



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that he be the husband of Medea, Aeetes' daughter ; do thou aid thy daughter as a mother should, and aid Peleus himself. Why is thy wrath so steadfast ? He was blinded by folly. For blindness comes even upon the gods. Surely at my behest I deem that Hephaestus will cease from kindling the fury of his flame, and that Aeolus, son of Hippotas, will check his swift rushing winds, all but the steady west wind, until they reach the havens of the Phaeacians ; do thou devise a return without bane. The rocks and the tyrannous waves are my fear, they alone, and them thou canst foil with thy sisters' aid. And let them not fall in their helplessness into Charybdis lest she swallow them at one gulp, or approach the hideous lair of Scylla, Ausonian Scylla the deadly, whom night-wandering Hecate, who is called Crataeis,<sup>1</sup> bare to Phorcys, lest swooping upon them with her horrible jaws she destroy the chiefest of the heroes. But guide their ship in the course where there shall be still a hair's breadth escape from destruction."

Thus she spake, and Thetis answered with these words : " If the fury of the ravening flame and the stormy winds cease in very deed, surely will I promise boldly to save the ship, even though the waves bar the way, if only the west wind blows fresh and clear. But it is time to fare on a long and measureless path, in quest of my sisters who will aid me, and to the spot where the ship's hawsers are fastened, that at early dawn the heroes may take thought to win their home-return."

She spake, and darting down from the sky fell amid the eddies of the dark blue sea ; and she called

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* the Mighty One.



αὐτοκασιγνήτας Νηρηίδας· αἶ δ' αἴουσαι  
 ἦντεον ἀλλήλησι· Θέτις δ' ἀγόρευεν ἐφετμὰς  
 Ἥρης· αἶψα δ' ἴαλλε μετ' Αὐσονίην ἄλα πάσας.  
 αὐτὴ δ' ὠκυτέρη ἀμαρύγματος ἠὲ βολάων  
 ἠελίου, ὅτ' ἀνεισι περαίης ὑψόθι γαίης,  
 σεύατ' ἴμεν λαιψηρὰ δι' ὕδατος, ἔστ' ἀφίκανεν  
 ἀκτὴν Αἰαίην Τυρσηνίδος ἠπείροιο.

850

τοὺς δ' εὖρεν παρὰ νηὶ σόλω ῥιπήσιν τ' οἰστῶν  
 τερπομένους· ἢ δ' ἄσσον ὀρεξαμένη χερὸς ἄκρης  
 Αἰακίδεω Πηλῆος· ὁ γάρ ῥά οἱ ἦεν ἀκοίτης·  
 οὐδέ τις εἰσιδέειν δύνατ' ἔμπεδον, ἀλλ' ἄρα τῶγε  
 οἶω ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖσιν εἴσατο, φώνησέν τε·

Ἐμῆκετι νῦν ἀκταῖς Τυρσηνίσιν ἦσθε μένοντες,  
 ἠῶθεν δὲ θοῆς πρυμνήσια λύετε νηός,  
 Ἥρη πειθόμενοι ἐπαρηγόνι· τῆς γὰρ ἐφετμῆς  
 πασσυδίῃ κούραι Νηρηίδες ἀντιόωσιν,  
 νῆα διέκ πέτρας, αἶτε Πλαγκταὶ καλέονται,  
 ῥυσόμεναι· κείνη γὰρ ἐναίσιμος ὕμμι κέλευθος.  
 ἀλλὰ σὺ μὴ τῶ ἐμὸν δείξης δέμας, εὖτ' ἂν ἴδῃαι  
 ἀντομένην σὺν τῆσι· νόῳ δ' ἔχε, μὴ με χολώσης  
 πλείϊον ἔτ', ἢ τὸ πάροιθεν ἀπηλεγέως ἐχόλωσας·

860

Ἦ, καὶ ἔπειτ' αἰδήλος ἐδύσατο βένθεα πόντου·  
 τὸν δ' ἄχος αἶνον ἔτυψεν, ἐπεὶ πάρος οὐκέτ' ἰούσαν  
 ἔδρακεν, ἐξότε πρῶτα λίπεν θάλαμόν τε καὶ εὐνήν  
 χωσαμένη Ἀχιλῆος ἀγαυοῦ νηπιάχοντος.  
 ἢ μὲν γὰρ βροτέας αἰεὶ περὶ σάρκας ἔδαιεν  
 νύκτα διὰ μέσσην φλογμῶ πυρός· ἦματα δ' αὖτε  
 ἀμβροσίῃ χρίεσκε τέρεν δέμας, ὄφρα πέλοιτο

870



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to aid her the rest of the Nereids, her own sisters; and they heard her and gathered together; and Thetis declared to them Hera's behests, and quickly sped them all on their way to the Ausonian sea. And herself, swifter than the flash of an eye or the shafts of the sun, when it rises upwards from a far-distant land, hastened swiftly through the sea, until she reached the Aeaean beach of the Tyrrhenian mainland. And the heroes she found by the ship taking their pastime with quoits and shooting of arrows; and she drew near and just touched the hand of Aeacus' son Peleus, for he was her husband; nor could anyone see her clearly, but she appeared to his eyes alone, and thus addressed him:

“No longer now must ye stay sitting on the Tyrrhenian beach, but at dawn loosen the hawsers of your swift ship, in obedience to Hera, your helper. For at her behest the maiden daughters of Nereus have met together to draw your ship through the midst of the rocks which are called *Planctae*,<sup>1</sup> for that is your destined path. But do thou show my person to no one, when thou seest us come to meet thee, but keep it secret in thy mind, lest thou anger me still more than thou didst anger me before so recklessly.”

She spake, and vanished into the depths of the sea; but sharp pain smote Peleus, for never before had he seen her come, since first she left her bridal chamber and bed in anger, on account of noble Achilles, then a babe. For she ever encompassed the child's mortal flesh in the night with the flame of fire; and day by day she anointed with ambrosia his tender frame, so that he might become immortal

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* the Wanderers.



ἀθάνατος, καὶ οἱ στυγερόν χροῖ γῆρας ἀλάλκοι.  
 αὐτὰρ ὄγ' ἐξ εὐνήης ἀνεπάλμενος εἰσενόησεν  
 παῖδα φίλον σπαίροντα διὰ φλογός· ἦκε δ' αὐτὴν  
 σμερδαλέην ἐσιδών, μέγα νήπιος· ἦ δ' αἴουσα  
 τὸν μὲν ἄρ' ἀρπάγδην χαμάδις βάλε κεκληγῶτα,  
 αὐτὴ δὲ πνοιῇ ἰκέλη δέμας, ἠύτ' ὄνειρος,  
 βῆ ῥ' ἴμεν ἐκ μεγάροιο θοῶς, καὶ ἐσήλατο πόντον  
 χωσαμένη· μετὰ δ' οὔτι παλίσσυτος ἴκετ' ὀπίσσω.  
 τῶ μιν ἀμηχανίη δῆσεν φρένας· ἀλλὰ καὶ ἔμπης 880  
 πᾶσαν ἐφημοσύνην Θέτιδος μετέειπεν ἑταίροις.  
 οἱ δ' ἄρα μεσσηγὺς λῆξαν καὶ ἔπαυσαν ἀέθλους  
 ἐσσυμένως, δόρπον τε χαμεύνας τ' ἀμφεπένοντο,  
 τῆς ἐνὶ δαισάμενοι νύκτ' ἄεσαν, ὡς τὸ πάροιθεν.

Ἦμος δ' ἄκρον ἔβαλλε φαεσφόρος οὐρανὸν Ἥως,  
 δὴ τότε λαιψηροῖο κατηλυσίη ζεφύροιο  
 βαῖνον ἐπὶ κληίδας ἀπὸ χθονός· ἐκ δὲ βυθοῖο  
 εὐναίας εἴλκον περιγηθείες ἄλλα τε πάντα  
 ἄρμενα μηρύοντο κατὰ χρέος· ὕψι δὲ λαῖφος 890  
 εἴρυσσαν τανύσαντες ἐν ἰμάντεσσι κεραίης.  
 νῆα δ' εὐκραῆς ἄνεμος φέρειν· αἶψα δὲ νῆσον  
 καλήν, Ἄνθεμόεσσαν ἐσέδρακον, ἔνθα λίγειαί  
 Σειρήνες σίνοντ' Ἀχελώιδες ἠδείησιν  
 θέλγουσαι μολπήησιν, ὅτις παρὰ πείσμα βάλοιτο.  
 τὰς μὲν ἄρ' εὐειδῆς Ἀχελώϊω εὐνηθείσα  
 γείνατο Τερψιχόρη, Μουσέων μία· καὶ ποτε Δηοῦς  
 θυγατέρ' ἰφθίμην ἀδμῆτ' ἔτι πορσαίνεσκον  
 ἄμμισα μελπόμεναι· τότε δ' ἄλλο μὲν οἴωνοῖσιν,  
 ἄλλο δὲ παρθενότης ἐναλίγκιαι ἔσκον ἰδέσθαι.  
 αἰεὶ δ' εὐόρμου δεδοκημένοι ἐκ περιωπῆς 900  
 ἦ θαμὰ δὴ πολέων μελιηδέα νόστον ἔλοντο,



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

and that she might keep off from his body loathsome old age. But Peleus leapt up from his bed and saw his dear son gasping in the flame; and at the sight he uttered a terrible cry, fool that he was; and she heard it, and catching up the child threw him screaming to the ground, and herself like a breath of wind passed swiftly from the hall as a dream and leapt into the sea, exceeding wroth, and thereafter returned not again. Wherefore blank amazement fettered his soul; nevertheless he declared to his comrades all the bidding of Thetis. And they broke off in the midst and hurriedly ceased their contests, and prepared their meal and earth-strewn beds, whereon after supper they slept through the night as aforetime.

Now when dawn the light-bringer was touching the edge of heaven, then at the coming of the swift west wind they went to their thwarts from the land; and gladly did they draw up the anchors from the deep and made the tackling ready in due order; and above spread the sail, stretching it taut with the sheets from the yard-arm. And a fresh breeze wafted the ship on. And soon they saw a fair island, Anthemoessa, where the clear-voiced Sirens, daughters of Achelous, used to beguile with their sweet songs whoever cast anchor there, and then destroy him. Them lovely Terpsichore, one of the Muses, bare, united with Achelous; and once they tended Demeter's noble daughter still unwed, and sang to her in chorus; and at that time they were fashioned in part like birds and in part like maidens to behold. And ever on the watch from their place of prospect with its fair haven, often from many had they taken away their sweet return, consuming



τηκεδόνι φθινύθουσαι· ἀπηλεγέως δ' ἄρα καὶ τοῖς  
 ἴεσαν ἐκ στομάτων ὄπα λείριον. οἱ δ' ἀπὸ νηὸς  
 ἤδη πείσματ' ἔμελλον ἐπ' ἠιόνεσσι βαλέσθαι,  
 εἰ μὴ ἄρ' Οἰάγροιο πάϊς Θρηϊκίος Ὀρφεὺς  
 Βιστονίην ἐνὶ χερσὶν ἑαῖς φόρμιγγα τανύσσας  
 κραιπνὸν εὐτροχάλοιο μέλος κανάχησεν ἀοιδῆς,  
 ὄφρ' ἄμυδις κλονέοντος ἐπιβρομέωνται ἀκουαὶ  
 κρεγμῶ· παρθενικὴν δ' ἐνοπὴν ἐβιήσατο φόρμιγγξ.  
 νῆα δ' ὁμοῦ ζέφυρός τε καὶ ἠχῆεν φέρε κῦμα  
 πρυμνόθεν ὀρνύμενον· ταὶ δ' ἄκριτον ἴεσαν αὐδῆν. 910  
 ἀλλὰ καὶ ὧς Τελέοντος εὖς πάϊς, οἷος ἑταίρων  
 προφθάμενος, ξεστοῖο κατὰ ζυγοῦ ἐνθορε πόντῳ  
 Βούτης, Σειρήνων λιγυρῆ ὀπὶ θυμὸν ἰανθείς·  
 νῆχε δὲ πορφυρέοιο δι' οἴδματος, ὄφρ' ἐπιβαίῃ,  
 σχέτλιος. ἦ τέ οἱ αἶψα καταυτόθι νόστον ἀπηύρων,  
 ἀλλὰ μιν οἰκτεῖρασα θεὰ Ἐρυκος μεδέουσα  
 Κύπρις ἔτ' ἐν δίναις ἀνερείψατο, καί ῥ' ἐσάωσεν  
 πρόφρων ἀντομένη Λιλυβηίδα ναιέμεν ἄκρην.  
 οἱ δ' ἄχει σχόμενοι τὰς μὲν λίπον, ἀλλὰ δ' ὄπαζον 920  
 κύντερα μιξοδίησιν ἀλὸς ῥαιστήρια νηῶν.

Τῇ μὲν γὰρ Σκύλλης λισσὴ προυφαίνετο πέτρη·  
 τῇ δ' ἄμοτον βοάασκεν ἀναβλύζουσα Χάρυβδις·  
 ἄλλοθι δὲ Πλαγκταὶ μεγάλῳ ὑπὸ κύματι πέτραι  
 ῥόχθεον, ἦχι πάροιθεν ἀπέπτυνεν αἰθομένη φλόξ  
 ἄκρων ἐκ σκοπέλων, πυριθαλπέος ὑψόθι πέτρης,  
 καπνῶ δ' ἀχλυόεις αἰθὴρ πέλεν, οὐδέ κεν αὐγὰς  
 ἔδρακες ἠελίοιο. τότε αὖ λήξαντος ἀπ' ἔργων  
 Ἐφαιίστου θερμὴν ἔτι κήκιε πόντος αὐτμήν.  
 ἔνθα σφιν κοῦραι Νηρηίδες ἄλλοθεν ἄλλαι



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

them with wasting desire ; and suddenly to the heroes, too, they sent forth from their lips a lily-like voice. And they were already about to cast from the ship the hawsers to the shore, had not Thracian Orpheus, son of Oeagrus, stringing in his hands his Bistonian lyre, rung forth the hasty snatch of a rippling melody so that their ears might be filled with the sound of his twanging ; and the lyre overcame the maidens' voice. And the west wind and the sounding wave rushing astern bore the ship on ; and the Sirens kept uttering their ceaseless song. But even so the goodly son of Teleon alone of the comrades leapt before them all from the polished bench into the sea, even Butes, his soul melted by the clear ringing voice of the Sirens ; and he swam through the dark surge to mount the beach, poor wretch. Quickly would they have robbed him of his return then and there, but the goddess that rules Eryx, Cypris, in pity snatched him away, while yet in the eddies, and graciously meeting him saved him to dwell on the Lilybean height. And the heroes, seized by anguish, left the Sirens, but other perils still worse, destructive to ships, awaited them in the meeting-place of the seas.

For on one side appeared the smooth rock of Scylla ; on the other Charybdis ceaselessly spouted and roared ; in another part the Wandering rocks were booming beneath the mighty surge, where before the burning flame spouted forth from the top of the crags, above the rock glowing with fire, and the air was misty with smoke, nor could you have seen the sun's light. Then, though Hephaestus had ceased from his toils, the sea was still sending up a warm vapour. Hereupon on this side and on that



ἦντεον· ἢ δ' ὄπιθεν πτέρυγος θίγε πηδαλίοιο  
 δία Θέτις, Πλαγκτῆσιν ἐνὶ σπιλάδεσσιν ἐρύσσαι.  
 ὡς δ' ὀπότεν δελφῖνες ὑπέξ ἄλός εὐδιόωντες  
 σπερχομένην ἀγεληδὸν ἐλίσσονται περὶ νῆα,  
 ἄλλοτε μὲν προπάροιθεν ὀρώμενοι, ἄλλοτ' ὄπισθεν,  
 ἄλλοτε παρβολάδην, ναύτησι δὲ χάρμα τέτυκται·  
 ὧς αἰ ὑπεκπροθέουσαι ἐπήτριμοι εἰλίσσοντο  
 Ἄργῳ περὶ νηί, Θέτις δ' ἴθυνε κέλευθον.  
 καί ῥ' ὅτε δὴ Πλαγκτῆσιν ἐνιχρίμψεσθαι ἔμελλον,  
 αὐτίκ' ἀνασχόμεναι λευκοῖς ἐπὶ γούνασι πέζας, 940  
 ὑψοῦ ἐπ' αὐτῶν σπιλάδων καὶ κύματος ἀγῆς  
 ῥῶοντ' ἐνθα καὶ ἐνθα διασταδὸν ἀλλήλησιν.  
 τὴν δὲ παρηορίην κόπτειν ῥόος· ἀμφὶ δὲ κῦμα  
 λάβρον ἀειρόμενον πέτραις ἐπικαχλάζεσκεν,  
 αἴθ' ὅτε μὲν κρημνοῖς ἐναλίγκιαι ἠέρι κῦρον,  
 ἄλλοτε δὲ βρύχαι νεάτῳ ὑπὸ πυθμένι πόντου  
 ἠρήρειν, τὸ δὲ πολλὸν ὑπείρεχεν ἄγριον οἶδμα.  
 αἰ δ', ὥστ' ἠμαθέεντος ἐπισχεδὸν αἰγιαλοῖο  
 παρθενικαί, δίχα κόλπον ἐπ' ἰξύας εἰλίξασαι,  
 σφαίρη ἀθύρουσιν περιηγεί· αἰ μὲν ἔπειτα 950  
 ἄλλη ὑπ' ἐξ ἄλλης δέχεται καὶ ἐς ἠέρα πέμπει  
 ὑψι μεταχρονίην· ἢ δ' οὐποτε πίνυται οὔδει·  
 ὧς αἰ νῆα θεούσαν ἀμοιβαδὶς ἄλλοθεν ἄλλη  
 πέμπει διηερίην ἐπὶ κύμασιν, αἰὲν ἀπωθεν  
 πετράων· περὶ δὲ σφιν ἐρευγόμενον ζέειν ὕδωρ.  
 τὰς δὲ καὶ αὐτὸς ἀναξ κορυφῆς ἐπι λισσάδος ἄκρης  
 ὀρθὸς ἐπὶ στελεῇ τυπίδος βαρὺν ὤμον ἐρείσας  
 Ἡφαιστος θηεῖτο, καὶ αἰγλήεντος ὑπερθεν  
 οὐρανοῦ ἐστηνῖα Διὸς δάμαρ· ἀμφὶ δ' Ἀθήνη



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

the daughters of Nereus met them; and behind, lady Thetis set her hand to the rudder-blade, to guide them amid the Wandering rocks. And as when in fair weather herds of dolphins come up from the depths and sport in circles round a ship as it speeds along, now seen in front, now behind, now again at the side—and delight comes to the sailors; so the Nereids darted upward and circled in their ranks round the ship Argo, while Thetis guided its course. And when they were about to touch the Wandering rocks, straightway they raised the edge of their garments over their snow-white knees, and aloft, on the very rocks and where the waves broke, they hurried along on this side and on that apart from one another. And the ship was raised aloft as the current smote her, and all around the furious wave mounting up broke over the rocks, which at one time touched the sky like towering crags, at another, down in the depths, were fixed fast at the bottom of the sea and the fierce waves poured over them in floods. And the Nereids, even as maidens near some sandy beach roll their garments up to their waists out of their way and sport with a shapely-rounded ball; then they catch it one from another and send it high into the air; and it never touches the ground; so they in turn one from another sent the ship through the air over the waves, as it sped on ever away from the rocks; and round them the water spouted and foamed. And lord Hephaestus himself standing on the summit of a smooth rock and resting his massy shoulder on the handle of his hammer, beheld them, and the spouse of Zeus beheld them as she stood above the gleaming heaven; and she threw her arms round Athena, such



βάλλε χέρας, τοῖόν μιν ἔχεν δέος εἰσορόωσαν. 960  
 ὄσση δ' εἰαρινοῦ μηκύνεται ἡματος αἶσα,  
 τοσσάτιον μογέεσκον ἐπὶ χρόνον, ὀχλίζουσαι  
 νῆα διέκ πέτρας πολυηχέας· οἱ δ' ἀνέμοιο  
 αὐτίς ἐπαυρόμενοι προτέρω θεόν· ὦκα δ' ἄμειβον  
 Θρινακίης λειμῶνα, βοῶν τροφὸν Ἑλίοιο.  
 ἔνθ' αἶ μὲν κατὰ βένθος ἀλίγκιαι αἰθυίησιν  
 δύνον, ἐπεὶ ῥ' ἀλόχοιο Διὸς πόρσυνον ἐφειμάς.  
 τοὺς δ' ἄμυδις βληχὴ τε δι' ἡέρος ἴκετο μήλων,  
 μυκηθμός τε βοῶν αὐτοσχεδὸν οὔατ' ἔβαλλεν.  
 καὶ τὰ μὲν ἐρσήεντα κατὰ δρία ποιμαίνεσκεν 970  
 ὀπλοτέρη Φαέθουσα θυγατρῶν Ἑλίοιο,  
 ἀργύρεον χαῖον παλάμη ἐνὶ πηχύνουσα·  
 Λαμπετίη δ' ἐπὶ βουσὶν ὄρειχάλκοιο φαεινοῦ  
 πάλλεν ὀπηδεύουσα καλαύροπα. τὰς δὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ  
 βοσκομένας ποταμοῖο παρ' ὕδασιν εἰσορόωντο  
 ἄμ πεδίου καὶ ἔλος λειμώνιον· οὐδέ τις ἦεν  
 κυανέη μετὰ τῆσι δέμας, πᾶσαι δὲ γάλακτι  
 εἰδόμεναι, χρυσέοισι κεράασι κυδιάασκον.  
 καὶ μὲν τὰς παράμειβον ἐπ' ἡματι· νυκτὶ δ' ἰούση  
 πείρον ἄλὸς μέγα λαῖτμα κεχαρμένοι, ὄφρα καὶ αὐτίς 980  
 Ἦὼς ἠριγενῆς φέγγος βάλε νισσομένοισιν.  
 Ἔστι δέ τις πορθμοῖο παροιτέρη Ἰονίοιο  
 ἀμφιλαφῆς πίειρα Κεραυνίη εἰν ἄλιν νῆσος,  
 ἧ ὑπο δὴ κείσθαι δρέπανον φάτις—ἴλατε Μοῦσαι,  
 οὐκ ἐθέλων ἐνέπω προτέρων ἔπος—ὦ ἀπὸ πατρὸς  
 μήδεα νηλειῶς ἔταμεν Κρόνος· οἱ δὲ ἐ Δηοῦς  
 κλείουσι χθονίης καλαμητόμον ἔμμεναι ἄρπην.  
 Δηὼ γὰρ κείνη ἐνὶ δῆ ποτε νάσσατο γαίῃ,  
 Τιτῆνας δ' ἔδαε στάχυν ὄμπνιον ἀμήσασθαι,



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

fear seized her as she gazed. And as long as the space of a day is lengthened out in springtime, so long a time did they toil, heaving the ship between the loud-echoing rocks; then again the heroes caught the wind and sped onward; and swiftly they passed the mead of Thrinacia, where the kine of Helios fed. There the nymphs, like sea-mews, plunged beneath the depths, when they had fulfilled the behests of the spouse of Zeus. And at the same time the bleating of sheep came to the heroes through the mist and the lowing of kine, near at hand, smote their ears. And over the dewy leas Phaëthusa, the youngest of the daughters of Helios, tended the sheep, bearing in her hand a silver crook; while Lampetia, herding the kine, wielded a staff of glowing orichalcum<sup>1</sup> as she followed. These kine the heroes saw feeding by the river's stream, over the plain and the water-meadow; not one of them was dark in hue but all were white as milk and glorying in their horns of gold. So they passed them by in the day-time, and when night came on they were cleaving a great sea-gulf, rejoicing, until again early rising dawn threw light upon their course.

Fronting the Ionian gulf there lies an island in the Ceraunian sea, rich in soil, with a harbour on both sides, beneath which lies the sickle, as legend saith—grant me grace, O Muses, not willingly do I tell this tale of olden days—wherewith Cronos pitilessly mutilated his father; but others call it the reaping-hook of Demeter, goddess of the nether world. For Demeter once dwelt in that island, and taught the Titans to reap the ears of corn, all for

<sup>1</sup> A fabulous metal, resembling gold in appearance.



Μάκριδα φιλαμένη. Δρεπάνη τόθεν ἐκλήισται  
 οὔνομα, Φαιήκων ἱερὴ τροφός· ὧς δὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ  
 αἵματος Οὐρανίουο γένος Φαίηκες ἔασιν.  
 τοὺς Ἄργῳ πολέεσσιν ἐνισχομένη καμάτοισιν  
 Θρινακίης αὐρῆς ἴκετ' ἐξ ἄλός· οἱ δ' ἀγανῆσιν  
 Ἄλκίνοος λαοί τε θυηπολίησιν ἰόντας  
 δειδέχατ' ἀσπασίως· ἐπὶ δέ σφισι καγχαλάασκεν  
 πᾶσα πόλις· φαίης κεν εἰς ἐπὶ παισὶ γάνυσθαι.  
 καὶ δ' αὐτοὶ ἦρωες ἀνὰ πληθὺν κεχάροντο,  
 τῷ ἴκελοι, οἷόν τε μεσαιτάτη ἐμβεβαῶτες  
 Αἰμονίη· μέλλον δὲ βοῆ ἐνὶ θωρήξεσθαι.  
 ὧδε μάλ' ἀγχίμολον στρατὸς ἄσπετος ἐξεφαάνθη  
 Κόλχων, οἱ Πόντοιο κατὰ στόμα καὶ διὰ πέτρας  
 Κυανέας μαστήρες ἀριστήων ἐπέρησαν.  
 Μήδειαν δ' ἔξαιτον εἰς πατρὸς ἄγεσθαι  
 ἴεντ' ἀπροφάτως, ἢ ἐστονόεσσαν αὐτὴν  
 νωμήσειν χαλεπήσιν ὁμόκλεον ἀτροπίησιν  
 αὐθί τε καὶ μετέπειτα σὺν Αἰήταο κελεύθῳ.  
 ἀλλὰ σφεας κατέρυκεν ἐπειγομένους πολέμοιο  
 κρείων Ἄλκίνοος. λελίητο γὰρ ἀμφοτέροισιν  
 δηιοτήτος ἀνευθεν ὑπέρβια νείκεα λῦσαι.  
 κούρη δ' οὐλομένῳ ὑπὸ δείματι πολλὰ μὲν αὐτοὺς  
 Αἰσονίδεω ἐτάρους μειλίσσετο, πολλὰ δὲ χερσὶν  
 Ἄρητης γούνων ἀλόχου θίγεν Ἄλκινόοιο.

990

1000

1010

Ἐγουνούμαι, βασίλεια· σὺ δ' ἴλαθι, μηδέ με Κόλ-  
 χοις

ἐκδώης ᾧ πατρὶ κομιζέμεν, εἴ νυ καὶ αὐτὴ  
 ἀνθρώπων γενεῆς μία φέρβει, οἷσιν ἐς ἄτην  
 ὠκύτατος κούφησι θέει νόος ἀμπλακίησιν,  
 ὡς ἐμοὶ ἐκ πυκιναὶ ἔπεσον φρένες, οὐ μὲν ἔκητι  
 μαργοσύνης. ἴστω δ' ἱερὸν φάος Ἡελίοιο,



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

the love of Macris. Whence it is called Drepane,<sup>1</sup> the sacred nurse of the Phaeacians; and thus the Phaeacians themselves are by birth of the blood of Uranus. To them came Argo, held fast by many toils, borne by the breezes from the Thrinacian sea; and Alcinous and his people with kindly sacrifice gladly welcomed their coming; and over them all the city made merry; thou wouldst say they were rejoicing over their own sons. And the heroes themselves strode in gladness through the throng, even as though they had set foot in the heart of Haemonia; but soon were they to arm and raise the battle-cry; so near to them appeared a boundless host of Colchians, who had passed through the mouth of Pontus and between the Cyanean rocks in search of the chieftains. They desired forthwith to carry off Medea to her father's house apart from the rest, or else they threatened with fierce cruelty to raise the dread war-cry both then and thereafter on the coming of Aetes. But lordly Alcinous checked them amid their eagerness for war. For he longed to allay the lawless strife between both sides without the clash of battle. And the maiden in deadly fear often implored the comrades of Aeson's son, and often with her hands touched the knees of Arete, the bride of Alcinous:

“I beseech thee, O queen, be gracious and deliver me not to the Colchians to be borne to my father, if thou thyself too art one of the race of mortals, whose heart rushes swiftly to ruin from light transgressions. For my firm sense forsook me—it was not for wantonness. Be witness the sacred light of Helios, be witness the rites of the maiden that

<sup>1</sup> *i.e.* the Sickle-island.



ἴστω νυκτιπόλου Περσηίδος ὄργια κούρης,  
 μὴ μὲν ἐγὼν ἐθέλουσα σὺν ἀνδράσιν ἀλλοδαποῖσιν  
 κείθεν ἀφωρμήθην· στυγερὸν δέ με τάρβος ἔπεισεν  
 τῆσγε φυγῆς μνήσασθαι, ὅτ' ἤλιτον· οὐδέ τις ἄλλη  
 μῆτις ἔην· ἔτι μοι μήτρη μένει, ὡς ἐνὶ πατρὸς  
 δώμασιν, ἀχραντος καὶ ἀκήρατος· ἀλλ' ἐλέαιρε,  
 πότνα, τεόν τε πόσιν μειλίσσεο· σοὶ δ' ὀπάσειαν  
 ἀθάνατοι βίοτόν τε τελεσφόρον ἀγλαίην τε  
 καὶ παῖδας καὶ κῦδος ἀπορθήτοιο πόληος·

1020

Τοῖα μὲν Ἀρήτην γουνάζετο δάκρυ χέουσα·  
 τοῖα δ' ἀριστήων ἐναμοιβαδὶς ἀνδρα ἕκαστον·

1030

‘Ὑμέων, ὦ πέρι δὴ μέγα φέρτατοι, ἀμφί τ' ἀέθλοις  
 ὦν κάμον<sup>1</sup> ὑμετέροισιν, ἀτύζομαι· ἦς ἰότητι  
 ταύρους τ' ἐξεύξασθε, καὶ ἐκ θέρος οὐλοὸν ἀνδρῶν  
 κείρατε γηγενέων· ἦς εἶνεκεν Αἰμονίηνδε  
 χρύσειον αὐτίκα κῶας ἀνάξετε νοστήσαντες.  
 ἦδ' ἐγώ, ἦ πάτρην τε καὶ οὐς ὤλεσσα τοκῆας,  
 ἦ δόμον, ἦ σύμπασαν εὐφροσύνην βιότοιο.  
 ὑμμι δὲ καὶ πάτρην καὶ δώματα ναιέμεν αὐτίς  
 ἦνυσσα· καὶ γλυκεροῖσιν ἔτ' εἰσόψεσθε τοκῆας  
 ὄμμασιν· αὐτὰρ ἐμοὶ ἀπὸ δὴ βαρὺς εἴλετο δαίμων 1040  
 ἀγλαΐας· στυγερὴ δὲ σὺν ὀθνείοις ἀλάλημαι.  
 δείσατε συνθεσίας τε καὶ ὄρκια, δείσατ' Ἐρινὺν  
 Ἴκεσίην, νέμεσίν τε θεῶν, ἐς χεῖρας ἰοῦσαν  
 Αἰήτεω λώβη πολυπήμονι δηωθῆναι.  
 οὐ νηούς, οὐ πύργον ἐπίρροθον, οὐκ ἀλεωρὴν  
 ἄλλην, οἴοθι δὲ προτιβάλλομαι ὑμέας αὐτούς.  
 σχέτλιοι ἀτροπίης καὶ ἀνηλέες· οὐδ' ἐνὶ θυμῷ  
 αἰδεῖσθε ξείνης μ' ἐπὶ γούνατα χεῖρας ἀνάσσης  
 δερκόμενοι τείνουσαν ἀμήχανον· ἀλλά κε πᾶσιν,

<sup>1</sup> ὦν κάμον Merkel : οὔνεκεν MSS.



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

wanders by night, daughter of Perses. Not willingly did I haste from my home with men of an alien race ; but a horrible fear wrought on me to bethink me of flight when I sinned ; other device was there none. Still my maiden's girdle remains, as in the halls of my father, unstained, untouched. Pity me, lady, and turn thy lord to mercy ; and may the immortals grant thee a perfect life, and joy, and children, and the glory of a city unravaged !”

Thus did she implore Arete, shedding tears, and thus each of the chieftains in turn :

“ On your account, ye men of peerless might, and on account of my toils in your ventures am I sorely afflicted ; even I, by whose help ye yoked the bulls, and reaped the deadly harvest of the earthborn men ; even I, through whom on your homeward path ye shall bear to Haemonia the golden fleece. Lo, here am I, who have lost my country and my parents, who have lost my home and all the delights of life ; to you have I restored your country and your homes ; with eyes of gladness ye will see again your parents ; but from me a heavy-handed god has reft all joy ; and with strangers I wander, an accursed thing. Fear your covenant and your oaths, fear the Fury that avenges suppliants and the retribution of heaven, if I fall into Aetes' hands and am slain with grievous outrage. To no shrines, no tower of defence, no other refuge do I pay heed, but only to you. Hard and pitiless in your cruelty ! No reverence have ye for me in your heart though ye see me helpless, stretching my hands towards the knees of a stranger queen ; yet, when ye longed to seize the fleece,



κῶας ἐλείν μεμαῶτες, ἐμίξατε δούρατα Κόλχοις 1050  
 αὐτῷ τ' Αἰήτη ὑπερήνορι· νῦν δ' ἐλάθεσθε  
 ἠνορέης, ὅτε μῦνοι ἀποτμηγέυτες ἕασιν·

ᾠς φάτο λισσομένη· τῶν δ' ὄντινα γουνάζοιτο,  
 ὅς μιν θαρσύνεσκεν ἐρητύων ἀχέουσαν.  
 σείον δ' ἐγχείας εὐήκεας ἐν παλάμησιν,  
 φάσγανά τ' ἐκ κολεῶν· οὐδὲ σχήσεσθαι ἀρωγῆς  
 ἔννεπον, εἴ κε δίκης ἀλιτήμονος ἀντιάσειεν.  
 στρευγομένοις δ' ἀν' ὄμιλον ἐπήλυθεν εὐνήτειρα  
 Νύξ ἔργων ἀνδρεςσι, κετευκῆλησε δὲ πᾶσαν  
 γαῖαν ὁμῶς· τὴν δ' οὔτι μίνυυθά περ εὔνασεν ὕπνος, 1060  
 ἀλλὰ οἱ ἐν στέρνοις ἀχέων εἰλίσσετο θυμός.  
 οἶον ὅτε κλωστῆρα γυνὴ ταλαεργὸς ἐλίσσει  
 ἐννουχίῃ· τῇ δ' ἀμφὶ κινύρεται ὄρφανὰ τέκνα  
 χηροσύνη πόσιος· σταλάει δ' ὑπὸ δάκρυ παρειᾶς  
 μνωομένης, οἴη μιν ἐπὶ σμυγερῇ λάβεν αἶσα·  
 ὧς τῆς ἱκμαίνοντο παρηίδες· ἐν δέ οἱ ἦτορ  
 ὀξεῖης εἰλείτο πεπαρμένον ἀμφ' ὀδύνησιν.

Τὼ δ' ἔντοσθε δόμοιο κατὰ πτόλιν, ὡς τὸ πά-  
 ροιθεν,

κρείων Ἀλκίνοος πολυπότνιά τ' Ἀλκινόοιο 1070  
 Ἀρήτη ἄλοχος, κούρης πέρι μητιάασκον  
 οἴσιν ἐνὶ λεχέεσσι διὰ κνέφας· οἶα δ' ἀκοίτην  
 κουρίδιον θαλεροῖσι δάμαρ προσπτύσσετο μύθοις·

ἘΝΑΙ φίλος, εἰ δ' ἄγε μοι πολυκηδέα ῥύεο Κόλ-  
 χων

παρθευικήν, Μινύησι φέρων χάριν· ἐγγύθι δ' Ἄργος  
 ἡμετέρης νήσοιο καὶ ἀνέρες Αἰμονιῆες·

Αἰήτης δ' οὔτ' ἂν ναίει σχεδόν, οὐδέ τι ἴδμεν  
 Αἰήτην, ἀλλ' οἶον ἀκούομεν· ἦδε δὲ κούρη  
 αἰνοπαθῆς κατὰ μοι νόον ἔκλασεν ἀντιόωσα.



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

ye would have met all the Colchians face to face and haughty Aetes himself; but now ye have forgotten your courage, now that they are all aione and cut off."

Thus she spake, beseeching; and to whomsoever she bowed in prayer, that man tried to give her heart and to check her anguish. And in their hands they shook their sharp pointed spears, and drew the swords from their sheaths; and they swore they would not hold back from giving succour, if she should meet with an unrighteous judgement. And the host were all wearied and Night came on them, Night that puts to rest the works of men, and lulled all the earth to sleep; but to the maid no sleep brought rest, but in her bosom her heart was wrung with anguish. Even as when a toiling woman turns her spindle through the night, and round her moan her orphan children, for she is a widow, and down her cheeks fall the tears, as she bethinks her how dreary a lot hath seized her; so Medea's cheeks were wet; and her heart within her was in agony, pierced with sharp pain.

Now within the palace in the city, as aforetime, lay lordly Alcinous and Arete, the revered wife of Alcinous, and on their couch through the night they were devising plans about the maiden; and him, as her wedded husband, the wife addressed with loving words:

"Yea, my friend, come, save the woe-stricken maid from the Colchians and show grace to the Minyae. Argos is near our isle and the men of Haemonia; but Aetes dwells not near, nor do we know of Aetes one whit: we hear but his name; but this maiden of dread suffering hath broken my



μή μιν, ἄναξ, Κόλχοισι πόροις ἐς πατρὸς ἄγεσθαι.  
 ἀάσθη, ὅτε πρῶτα βοῶν θελκτήρια δῶκεν  
 φάρμακά οἱ· σχεδόθεν δὲ κακῶ κακόν, οἶά τε  
 πολλὰ

1080

ρέζομεν ἀμπλακίησιν, ἀκειομένη ὑπάλυξεν  
 πατρὸς ὑπερφιάλοιο βαρὺν χόλον. αὐτὰρ Ἰήσων,  
 ὡς αἴω, μεγάλοισιν ἐνίσχεται ἐξ ἔθεν ὄρκοις,  
 κουριδίην θήσεσθαι ἐνὶ μεγάροισιν ἄκοιτιν.  
 τῷ, φίλε, μήτ' σὺν αὐτὸν ἐκὼν ἐπίορκον ὁμόσσαι  
 θείης Αἰσονίδην, μήτ' ἄσχετα σείο ἔκητι  
 παῖδα πατὴρ θυμῷ κεκοτηότι δηλήσαιτο.  
 λίην γὰρ δύσζηλοι εἰσὶ ἐπὶ παισὶ τοκῆες·  
 οἶα μὲν Ἀντιόπην εὐώπιδα μήσατο Νυκτεύς·  
 οἶα δὲ καὶ Δανάη πόντῳ ἐνὶ πήματ' ἀνέτλη,  
 πατρὸς ἀτασθαλίησι· νέον γε μὲν, οὐδ' ἀποτηλοῦ,  
 ὑβριστῆς Ἐχέτος γλήναις ἐνὶ χάλκεα κέντρα  
 πῆξε θυγατρὸς ἐῆς· στονόεντι δὲ κάρφεται οἴτῳ  
 ὀρφναίῃ ἐνὶ χαλκὸν ἀλετρεύουσα καλιῆ·

1090

ὣς ἔφατ' ἀντομένη· τοῦ δὲ φρένες ἰαίνοντο  
 ἧς ἀλόχου μύθοισιν, ἔπος δ' ἐπὶ τοῖον ἔειπεν·

Ἄρῆτη, καὶ κεν σὺν τεύχεσιν ἐξελάσαιμι  
 Κόλχους, ἠρώεσσι φέρων χάριν, εἴνεκα κούρης.  
 ἀλλὰ Διὸς δεῖδοικα δίκην ἰθεῖαν ἀτίσσαι.  
 οὐδὲ μὲν Αἰήτην ἀθεριζέμεν, ὡς ἀγορεύεις,  
 λῶιον· οὐ γάρ τις βασιλεύτερος Αἰήταο.  
 καὶ κ' ἐθέλων, ἕκαθεν περ, ἐφ' Ἑλλάδι νεῖκος  
 ἄγοιτο.

1100

τῷ μ' ἐπέοικε δίκην, ἧτις μετὰ πᾶσιν ἀρίστη  
 ἔσσεται ἀνθρώποισι, δικαζέμεν· οὐδέ σε κεύσω.  
 παρθενικὴν μὲν εἰούσαν ἐῶ ἀπὸ πατρὶ κομίσσαι  
 ἰθύνω· λέκτρον δὲ σὺν ἀνέρι πορσαίνουσαν



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

heart by her prayers. O king, give her not up to the Colchians to be borne back to her father's home. She was distraught when first she gave him the drugs to charm the oxen; and next, to cure one ill by another, as in our sinning we do often, she fled from her haughty sire's heavy wrath. But Jason, as I hear, is bound to her by mighty oaths that he will make her his wedded wife within his halls. Wherefore, my friend, make not, of thy will, Aeson's son to be forsworn, nor let the father, if thou canst help, work some intolerable mischief on his child. For fathers are all too jealous against their children; what wrong did Nycteus devise against Antiope, fair of face! What woes did Danae endure on the wide sea through her sire's mad rage! Of late, and not far away, Echetus in wanton cruelty thrust spikes of bronze in his daughter's eyes; and by a grievous fate is she wasting away, grinding grains of bronze in a dungeon's gloom."

Thus she spake, beseeching; and by his wife's words his heart was softened, and thus he spake:

"Arete, with arms I could drive forth the Colchians, showing grace to the heroes for the maiden's sake. But I fear to set at nought the righteous judgement of Zeus. Nor is it well to take no thought of Aetes, as thou sayest: for none is more lordly than Aetes. And, if he willed, he might bring war upon Hellas, though he dwell afar. Wherefore it is right for me to deliver the judgement that in all men's eyes shall be best; and I will not hide it from thee. If she be yet a maid I decree that they carry her back to her father; but if she shares a husband's bed, I will not separate her from her lord; nor, if



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1080

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 πατρὸς ὑπερφιάλοιο βαρὺν χόλον. αὐτὰρ Ἰήσων,  
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1100

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 ἔσσεται ἀνθρώποισι, δικαζέμεν· οὐδέ σε κεύσω.  
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 ἰθύνω· λέκτρον δὲ σὺν ἀνέρι πορσαίνουσαν



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

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οὐ μιν ἐοῦ πόσιος νοσφίσσομαι· οὐδέ, γενέθλην  
 εἴ τι ν' ὑπὸ σπλάγχνοισι φέροι, δήοισιν ὀπάσσω.  
 ὣς ἄρ' ἔφη· καὶ τὸν μὲν ἐπισχεδὸν εὔνασεν  
 ὕπνος.

1110

ἢ δ' ἔπος ἐν θυμῷ πυκινὸν βάλετ'· αὐτίκα δ' ὤρτο  
 ἐκ λεχέων ἀνὰ δῶμα· συνήϊξαν δὲ γυναῖκες  
 ἀμφίπολοι, δέσποιναν ἔην μέτα ποιπνύουσαι.  
 σίγα δ' ἐὼν κήρυκα καλεσσαμένη προσέειπεν,  
 ἦσιν ἐπιφροσύνησιν ἐποτρυνέουσα μιγῆναι  
 Αἰσονίδην κούρη, μηδ' Ἀλκίνοον βασιλῆα  
 λίσσεσθαι· τὸ γὰρ αὐτὸς ἰὼν Κόλχοισι δικάσσει,  
 παρθενικὴν μὲν εἴδουσαν ἐοῦ ποτὶ δῶματα πατρὸς  
 ἐκδώσειν, λέκτρον δὲ σὺν ἀνέρι πορσαίνουσαν  
 οὐκέτι κουριδίας μιν ἀποτμήξειν φιλότητος.

1120

ὣς ἄρ' ἔφη· τὸν δ' αἶψα πόδες φέρον ἐκ μεγάροιο,  
 ὥς κεν Ἰήσони μῦθον ἐναίσιμον ἀγγείλειεν  
 Ἀρήτης βουλὰς τε θεουδέος Ἀλκινόοιο.  
 τοὺς δ' εὔρεν παρὰ νηὶ σὺν ἔντεσιν ἐγρήσσοντας  
 Ἑλλικῷ ἐν λιμένι, σχεδὸν ἄστεος· ἐκ δ' ἄρα πᾶσαν  
 πέφραδεν ἀγγελίην· γήθησε δὲ θυμὸς ἐκάστου  
 ἠρώων· μάλα γάρ σφιν ἑαδότα μῦθον ἔειπεν.

Αὐτίκα δὲ κρητῆρα κερασσάμενοι μακάρεσσιν  
 ἢ θέμισ, εὐαγέως ἐπιβώμια μῆλ' ἐρύσαντες,  
 αὐτονοχὶ κούρη θαλαμήιον ἔντυον εὐνήν  
 ἀντρῷ ἐν ἠγαθέῳ, τόθι δὴ ποτε Μάκρις ἔναιεν,  
 κούρη Ἀρισταίιο μελίφρονος, ὅς ῥα μελισσέων  
 ἔργα πολυκμήτιό τ' ἀνεύρατο πῖαρ ἐλαίης.  
 κείνη δὲ πᾶμπρωτα Διὸς Νυσήιον νῖα  
 Εὐβοίης ἔντοσθεν Ἀβαντίδος ᾧ ἐνὶ κόλπῳ  
 δέξατο, καὶ μέλιτι ξηρὸν περὶ χεῖλος ἔδευσεν,  
 εὐτέ μιν Ἑρμείας φέρεν ἐκ πυρός· ἔδρακε δ' Ἥρη,  
 καὶ ἐχολωσαμένη πάσης ἐξήλασε νήσου.

1130



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

she bear a child beneath her breast, will I give it up to an enemy."

Thus he spake, and at once sleep laid him to rest. And she stored up in her heart the word of wisdom, and straightway rose from her couch and went through the palace; and her handmaids came hasting together, eagerly tending their mistress. But quietly she summoned her herald and addressed him, in her prudence urging Aeson's son to wed the maiden, and not to implore Alcīnous; for he himself, she said, will decree to the Colchians that if she is still a maid he will deliver her up to be borne to her father's house, but that if she shares a husband's bed he will not sever her from wedded love.

Thus she spake, and quickly from the hall his feet bore him, that he might declare to Jason the fair-omened speech of Arete and the counsel of god-fearing Alcīnous. And he found the heroes watching in full armour in the haven of Hyllus, near the city; and out he spake the whole message; and each hero's heart rejoiced; for the word that he spake was welcome.

And straightway they mingled a bowl to the blessed ones, as is right, and reverently led sheep to the altar, and for that very night prepared for the maiden the bridal couch in the sacred cave, where once dwelt Macris, the daughter of Aristaeus, lord of honey, who discovered the works of bees and the fatness of the olive, the fruit of labour. She it was that first received in her bosom the Nysean son of Zeus in Abantian Euboea, and with honey moistened his parched lips when Hermes bore him out of the flame. And Hera beheld it, and in wrath drove her from the whole island. And she accordingly came



ἢ δ' ἄρα Φαιήκων ἱερῶ ἐνὶ τηλόθεν ἄνθρω  
 νάσσατο, καὶ πόρεν ὄλβον ἀθέσφατον ἐνναέτησιν. 1140  
 ἔνθα τότε ἐστόρεσαν λέκτρον μέγα· τοῖο δ' ὑπερθευ  
 χρύσειον αἰγλήεν κῶας βάλλον, ὄφρα πέλοιτο  
 τιμήεις τε γάμος καὶ αἰοίδιμος. ἄνθεα δέ σφιν  
 νύμφαι ἀμεργόμεναι λευκοῖς ἐνὶ ποικίλα κόλποις  
 ἐσφόρεον· πάσας δὲ πυρὸς ὡς ἀμφεπεν αἰγλή·  
 τοῖον ἀπὸ χρυσεῶν θυσάνων ἀμαρύσσετο φέγγος.  
 δαΐε δ' ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖς γλυκερὸν πόθον· ἴσχε δ'  
 ἐκάστην

αἰδῶς ἱεμένην περ ὅμως ἐπὶ χεῖρα βαλέσθαι.  
 αἰ μὲν τ' Αἰγαίου ποταμοῦ καλέοντο θύγατρεις·  
 αἰ δ' ὄρεος κορυφᾶς Μελιτηίου ἀμφενέμοντο· 1150  
 αἰ δ' ἔσαν ἐκ πεδίων ἀλσηίδες. ὦρσε γὰρ αὐτὴ  
 Ἥρη Ζηνὸς ἀκοιτις, Ἰήσωνα κυδαίνουσα.  
 κεῖνο καὶ εἰσέτι νῦν ἱερὸν κληίζεται ἄντρον  
 Μηδείης, ὅθι τούσγε σὺν ἀλλήλοισιν ἔμιξαν  
 τεινάμεναι ἑανοὺς εὐώδεας. οἱ δ' ἐνὶ χερσὶν  
 δούρατα νωμήσαντες ἀρήια, μὴ πρὶν ἐς ἀλκὴν  
 δυσμενέων αἰδέηλος ἐπιβρίσειεν ὄμιλος,  
 κράατα δ' εὐφύλλοις ἐστεμμένοι ἀκρεμόνεσσιν,  
 ἐμμελέως, Ὀρφῆος ὑπαὶ λίγα φορμίζοντος  
 νυμφιδίαις ὑμέναιον ἐπὶ προμολῆσιν ἄειδον. 1160  
 οὐ μὲν ἐν Ἀλκινόοιο γάμον μενέαινε τελέσσαι  
 ἦρως Αἰσονίδης, μεγάροις δ' ἐνὶ πατρὸς ἐοῖο,  
 νοστήσας ἐς Ἴωλκὸν ὑπότροπος· ὡς δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ  
 Μήδεια φρονέεσκε· τότε αὖ χρεὼ ἦγε μιγῆναι.  
 ἀλλὰ γὰρ οὐποτε φύλα δυηπαθέων ἀνθρώπων  
 τερπωλῆς ἐπέβημεν ὄλω ποδί· σὺν δέ τις αἰεὶ  
 πικρὴ παρμέμβλωκεν εὐφροσύνησιν ἀνίη.



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

to dwell far off, in the sacred cave of the Phaeacians, and granted boundless wealth to the inhabitants. There at that time did they spread a mighty couch; and thereon they laid the glittering fleece of gold, that so the marriage might be made honoured and the theme of song. And for them nymphs gathered flowers of varied hue and bore them thither in their white bosoms; and a splendour as of flame played round them all, such a light gleamed from the golden tufts. And in their eyes it kindled a sweet longing; yet for all her desire, awe withheld each one from laying her hand thereon. Some were called daughters of the river Aegaeus; others dwelt round the crests of the Meliteian mount; and others were woodland nymphs from the plains. For Hera herself, the spouse of Zeus, had sent them to do honour to Jason. That cave is to this day called the sacred cave of Medea, where they spread the fine and fragrant linen and brought these two together. And the heroes in their hands wielded their spears for war, lest first a host of foes should burst upon them for battle unawares, and, their heads enwreathed with leafy sprays, all in harmony, while Orpheus' harp rang clear, sang the marriage song at the entrance to the bridal chamber. Yet not in the house of Alcinous was the hero, Aeson's son, minded to complete his marriage, but in his father's hall when he had returned home to Iolcus; and such was the mind of Medea herself; but necessity led them to wed at this time. For never in truth do we tribes of woe-stricken mortals tread the path of delight with sure foot; but still some bitter affliction keeps pace with our joy. Wherefore they too, though their souls were melted



τῷ καὶ τοὺς γλυκερῇ περ ἰαινομένους φιλότητι  
 δεῖμ' ἔχεν, εἰ τελέοιτο διάκρισις Ἀλκινόοιο.

Ἦὼς δ' ἀμβροσίοισιν ἀνερχομένη φαέεσσιν  
 λῦε κελαινὴν νύκτα δι' ἠέρος· αἱ δ' ἐγέλασσαν  
 ἠιόνες νήσοιο καὶ ἐρσήεσσαι ἄπωθεν  
 ἀτραπιτοὶ πεδίων· ἐν δὲ θρόος ἔσκειν ἀγυιαῖς·  
 κίνυντ' ἐνναέται μὲν ἀνὰ πτόλιν, οἱ δ' ἀποτηλοῦ  
 Κόλχοι Μακρινίδης ἐπὶ πείρασι χερνήσοιο.  
 αὐτίκα δ' Ἀλκίνοος μετεβήσετο συνθεσίησιν  
 ὄν νόον ἐξερέων κούρης ὕπερ· ἐν δ' ὄγε χειρὶ  
 σκῆπτρον ἔχεν χρυσοῖο δικασπόλον, ᾧ ὕπο λαοὶ  
 ἰθείας ἀνὰ ἄστυ διεκρίνοντο θέμιστας.

τῷ δὲ καὶ ἐξείης πολεμήια τεύχεα δύντες  
 Φαιήκων οἱ ἄριστοι ὀμίλαδὸν ἐστιχόωντο.  
 ἥρωας δὲ γυναῖκες ἀολλέες ἔκτοθι πύργων  
 βαῖνον ἐποψόμεναι· σὺν δ' ἀνέρες ἀγροιώται  
 ἦντεον εἰσαῖοντες, ἐπεὶ νημερτέα βάξιιν

Ἦρη ἐπιπροέηκεν. ἄγεν δ' ὁ μὲν ἔκκριτον ἄλλων  
 ἀρνειὸν μῆλων, ὁ δ' ἀεργηλὴν ἔτι πόρτιν·  
 ἄλλοι δ' ἀμφιφορῆας ἐπισχεδὸν ἴστασαν οἴνου  
 κίρνασθαι· θυέων δ' ἀποτηλόθι κήκιε λιγνύς.  
 αἱ δὲ πολυκμήτους ἑανοὺς φέρον, οἷα γυναῖκες,  
 μείλια τε χρυσοῖο καὶ ἀλλοίην ἐπὶ τοῖσιν  
 ἀγλαίην, οἶην τε νεόζυγες ἐντύνονται·  
 θάμβευν δ' εἰσορόωσαι ἀριπρεπέων ἠρώων  
 εἶδεα καὶ μορφάς, ἐν δὲ σφισιν Οἰάγροιο  
 υἷὸν ὑπαὶ φόρμιγγος εὐκρέκτου καὶ ἀοιδῆς  
 ταρφέα σιγαλόεντι πέδον κροτέοντα πεδίλω.  
 νύμφαι δ' αἰμιγα πᾶσαι, ὅτε μνήσαιτο γάμοιο  
 ἰμερόενθ' ὑμέναιον ἀνήπυον· ἄλλοτε δ' αὐτε



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

with sweet love, were held by fear, whether the sentence of Alcinous would be fulfilled.

Now dawn returning with her beams divine scattered the gloomy night through the sky; and the island beaches laughed out and the paths over the plains far off, drenched with dew, and there was a din in the streets; the people were astir throughout the city, and far away the Colchians were astir at the bounds of the isle of Macris. And straightway to them went Alcinous, by reason of his covenant, to declare his purpose concerning the maiden; and in his hand he held a golden staff, his staff of justice, whereby the people had righteous judgments meted out to them throughout the city. And with him in order due and arrayed in their harness of war went marching, band by band, the chiefs of the Phaeacians. And from the towers came forth the women in crowds to gaze upon the heroes; and the country folk came to meet them when they heard the news, for Hera had sent forth a true report. And one led the chosen ram of his flock, and another a heifer that had never toiled; and others set hard by jars of wine for mixing; and the smoke of sacrifice leapt up far away. And women bore fine linen, the fruit of much toil, as women will, and gifts of gold and varied ornaments as well, such as are brought to newly-wedded brides; and they marvelled when they saw the shapely forms and beauty of the gallant heroes, and among them the son of Oeagrus, oft beating the ground with gleaming sandal, to the time of his loud-ringing lyre and song. And all the nymphs together, whenever he recalled the marriage, uplifted the lovely bridal-chant; and at times again they sang alone as they



οἴοθεν οἶαι ἄειδον ἑλισσόμεναι περὶ κύκλον,  
 "Ἡρη, σείο ἔκητι· σὺ γὰρ καὶ ἐπὶ φρεσὶ θῆκας  
 Ἄρητη, πυκινὸν φάσθαι ἔπος Ἀλκινόοιο. 1200  
 αὐτὰρ ὄγ' ὡς τὰ πρῶτα δίκης ἀνὰ πείρατ' ἔειπεν  
 ἰθείης, ἤδη δὲ γάμου τέλος ἐκλήιστο,  
 ἔμπεδον ὧς ἀλέγυνε διαμπερές· οὐδέ ἐ τάρβος  
 οὐλοόν, οὐδέ βαρεῖαι ἐπήλυθον Αἰήταο  
 μήνιες, ἀρρήκτοισι δ' ἐνιζεύξας ἔχεν ὄρκοις.  
 τῷ καὶ ὅτ' ἠλεμάτως Κόλχοι μάθον ἀντιόωντες,  
 καὶ σφεας ἠὲ θέμιστας εἰς εἴρυσθαι ἄνωγεν,  
 ἢ λιμένων γαίης τ' ἀποτηλόθι νῆας ἔέργειν,  
 δὴ τότε μιν βασιλῆος ἐοῦ τρομέοντες ἐνιπὰς  
 δέχθαι μειλίξαντο συνήμονας· αὐθι δὲ νήσῳ 1210  
 δὴν μάλα Φαιήκεσσι μετ' ἀνδράσι ναιετάασκον,  
 εἰσότε Βακχιάδαι, γενεὴν Ἐφύρηθεν εἶοντες,  
 ἀνέρες ἐννάσσαντο μετὰ χρόνον· οἱ δὲ περαίην  
 νῆσον ἔβαν· κεῖθεν δὲ Κεραύνια μέλλον Ἀβάντων  
 οὔρεα, Νεσταίους τε καὶ Ὠρικὸν εἰσαφικέσθαι·  
 ἀλλὰ τὰ μὲν στείχοντος ἄδην αἰῶνος ἐτύχθη.  
 Μοιράων δ' ἔτι κείσε θύη ἐπέτεια δέχονται  
 καὶ Νυμφέων Νομίοιο καθ' ἱερὸν Ἀπόλλωνος  
 βωμοί, τοὺς Μῆδεια καθίσσατο. πολλὰ δ' ἰοῦσιν  
 Ἀλκίνοος Μινύαις ξεινήια, πολλὰ δ' ὄπασσεν 1220  
 Ἄρητη· μετὰ δ' αὐτε δυώδεκα δῶκεν ἔπεσθαι  
 Μηδείῃ δμῶας Φαιηκίδας ἐκ μεγάροιο.  
 ἤματι δ' ἐβδομάτῳ Δρεπάνην λίπον· ἤλυθε δ' οὔρος  
 ἀκραῆς ἠῶθεν ὑπέκ Διός· οἱ δ' ἀνέμοιο  
 πνοιῇ ἐπειγόμενοι προτέρω θεόν. ἀλλὰ γὰρ οὔπω



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

circled in the dance, Hera, in thy honour; for it was thou that didst put it into the heart of Arete to proclaim the wise word of Alcinous. And as soon as he had uttered the decree of his righteous judgement, and the completion of the marriage had been proclaimed, he took care that thus it should abide fixed; and no deadly fear touched him nor Aeetes' grievous wrath, but he kept his judgement fast bound by unbroken oaths. So when the Colchians learnt that they were beseeching in vain and he bade them either observe his judgements or hold their ships away from his harbours and land, then they began to dread the threats of their own king and besought Alcinous to receive them as comrades; and there in the island long time they dwelt with the Phaeacians, until in the course of years, the Bacchiadae, a race sprung from Ephyra,<sup>1</sup> settled among them; and the Colchians passed to an island opposite; and thence they were destined to reach the Ceraunian hills of the Abantes, and the Nestaeans and Oricum; but all this was fulfilled after long ages had passed. And still the altars which Medea built on the spot sacred to Apollo, god of shepherds, receive yearly sacrifices in honour of the Fates and the Nymphs. And when the Minyae departed many gifts of friendship did Alcinous bestow, and many Arete; moreover she gave Medea twelve Phaeacian handmaids from the palace, to bear her company. And on the seventh day they left Drepane; and at dawn came a fresh breeze from Zeus. And onward they sped borne along by the wind's breath. Howbeit not yet was

<sup>1</sup> The old name of Corinth.



αἴσιμον ἦν ἐπιβῆναι Ἀχαιίδος ἠρώεσσιν,  
ὄφρ' ἔτι καὶ Λιβύης ἐπὶ πείρασιν ὀτλήσειαν.

Ἦδη μὲν ποθι κόλπον ἐπώνυμον Ἀμβρακιάων,  
ἤδη Κουρήτιν ἔλιπον χθόνα πεπταμένοισιν  
λαίφεσι καὶ στεινὰς αὐταῖς σὺν Ἐχινάσι νήσους  
ἐξείης, Πέλοπος δὲ νέον κατεφαίνετο γαῖα·  
καὶ τότε ἀναρπάγδην ὅλοη βορέαο θύελλα  
μεσσηγὺς πέλαγόςδε Λιβυστικὸν ἐννέα πάσας  
νύκτας ὁμῶς καὶ τόσσα φέρ' ἤματα, μέχρις ἴκοντο  
προπρὸ μάλ' ἐνδοθι Σύρτιν, ὅθ' οὐκέτι νόστος  
ὀπίσσω

1230

νηυσὶ πέλει, ὅτε τόνγε βιώατο κόλπον ἰκέσθαι.  
πάντη γὰρ τέναγος, πάντη μνιόεντα βυθοῖο  
τάρφεα· κούφη δὲ σφιν ἐπιβλύει ὕδατος ἄχνη·  
ἠερίη δ' ἄμαθος παρακέκλιται· οὐδέ τι κείσε  
έρπετόν, οὐδὲ ποτητὸν αἰίρεται. ἐνθ' ἄρα τούσγε  
πλημμυρίς—καὶ γάρ τ' ἀναχάζεται ἠπείροιο  
ἢ θαμὰ δὴ τότε χεῦμα, καὶ ἄψ' ἐπερεύγεται ἀκτὰς  
λάβρον ἐποιχόμενον—μυχάτη ἐνέωσε τάχιστα  
ἠϊόνι, τρόπιος δὲ μάλ' ὕδασι παῦρον ἔλειπτο.  
οἱ δ' ἀπὸ νηὸς ὄρουσαν, ἄχος δ' ἔλεν εἰσορόωντας  
ἠέρα καὶ μεγάλης νῶτα χθονὸς ἠέρι ἴσα,  
τηλοῦ ὑπερτείνοντα διηνεκές· οὐδέ τιν' ἀρδμόν,  
οὐ πάτον, οὐκ ἀπάνευθε κατηνγάσαντο βοτήρων  
αὔλιον, εὐκῆλω δὲ κατείχετο πάντα γαλήνη.  
ἄλλος δ' αὐτ' ἄλλον τετιημένος ἐξερέεινεν·

1240

1250

‘Τίς χθὼν εὐχεται ἤδε; πόθι ξυνέωσαν ἄελλαι  
ἡμέας; αἴθ' ἔτλημεν, ἀφειδέες οὐλομένοιο  
δείματος, αὐτὰ κέλευθα διαμπερές ὀρμηθῆναι  
πετράων. ἢ τ' ἂν καὶ ὑπὲρ Διὸς αἶσαν ἰούσιν  
βέλτερον ἦν μέγα δὴ τι μενοινώοντας ὀλέσθαι.  
νῦν δὲ τί κεν ῥέξαιμεν, ἐρυκόμενοι ἀνέμοισιν



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

it ordained for the heroes to set foot on Achaea, until they had toiled even in the furthest bounds of Libya.

Now had they left behind the gulf named after the Ambracians, now with sails wide spread the land of the Curetes, and next in order the narrow islands with the Echinades, and the land of Pelops was just descried; even then a baleful blast of the north wind seized them in mid-course and swept them towards the Libyan sea nine nights and as many days, until they came far within Syrtis, wherefrom is no return for ships, when they are once forced into that gulf. For on every hand are shoals, on every hand masses of seaweed from the depths; and over them the foam of the wave washes without noise; and there is a stretch of sand to the dim horizon; and there moveth nothing that creeps or flies. Here accordingly the flood-tide—for this tide often retreats from the land and bursts back again over the beach coming on with a rush and roar—thrust them suddenly on to the innermost shore, and but little of the keel was left in the water. And they leapt forth from the ship, and sorrow seized them when they gazed on the mist and the levels of vast land stretching far like a mist and continuous into the distance; no spot for water, no path, no steading of herdsmen did they descry afar off, but all the scene was possessed by a dead calm. And thus did one hero, vexed in spirit, ask another:

“What land is this? Whither has the tempest hurled us? Would that, reckless of deadly fear, we had dared to rush on by that same path between the clashing rocks! Better were it to have overleapt the will of Zeus and perished in venturing some mighty deed. But now what should we do, held back



αὐθι μένειν τυτθὸν περ ἐπὶ χρόνον; οἶον ἐρήμη  
πέζα διωλυγίης ἀναπέπταται ἠπείροιο.

᾽Ως ἄρ' ἔφη· μετὰ δ' αὐτὸς ἀμηχανίῃ κακότητος  
ἰθυντῆρ' Ἀγκαῖος ἀκηχέμενος ἀγόρευσεν·

1260

᾽Ὀλόμεθ' αἰνότατον δῆθεν μόρον, οὐδ' ὑπάλυξις  
ἔστ' ἄτης· πάρα δ' ἄμμι τὰ κύντατα πημανθῆναι  
τῆδ' ὑπ' ἐρημαίῃ πεπτηότας, εἰ καὶ ἀῆται

χερσόθεν ἀμπνεύσειαν· ἐπεὶ τεναγώδεα λεύσσω  
τῆλε περισκοπέων ἄλα πάντοθεν· ἤλιθα δ' ὕδωρ  
ξαινόμενον πολιῆσιν ἐπιτροχάει ψαμάθοισιν.

καί κεν ἐπισμυγερῶς διὰ δὴ πάλαι ἤδ' ἐκεάσθη  
νηῦς ἱερὴ χέρσου πολλὸν πρόσω· ἀλλὰ μιν αὐτῆ  
πλημμυρὶς ἐκ πόντοιο μεταχθονίην ἐκόμισσεν.

νῦν δ' ἢ μὲν πέλαγόςδε μετέσσυται, οἰόθι δ' ἄλμη 1270  
ἄπλοος εἰλεῖται, γαίης ὑπερ ὅσσον ἔχουσα.

τούνεκ' ἐγὼ πᾶσαν μὲν ἀπ' ἐλπίδα φημὶ κεκόφθαι  
ναυτιλίας νόστου τε· δαημοσύνην δέ τις ἄλλος  
φαίνοι ἐήν.<sup>1</sup> πάρα γάρ οἱ ἐπ' οἰήκεσσι θαάσσειν  
μαιομένῳ κομιδῆς· ἀλλ' οὐ μάλα νόστιμον ἦμαρ  
Ζεὺς ἐθέλει καμάτοισιν ἐφ' ἡμετέροισι τελέσσαι.

᾽Ως φάτο δακρυόεις· σὺν δ' ἔννεπον ἀσχαλόωντι  
ὄσσοι ἔσαν νηῶν δεδαημένοι· ἐν δ' ἄρα πᾶσιν  
παχνώθη κραδίη, χύτο δὲ χλόος ἀμφὶ παρειάς.

οἶον δ' ἀψύχοισιν εἰκότες εἰδώλοισιν

1280

ἄνερές εἰλίσσονται ἀνὰ πτόλιν, ἢ πολέμοιο  
ἢ λοιμοῖο τέλος ποτιδέγμενοι, ἢέ τιν' ὄμβρον  
ἄσπετον, ὅστε βοῶν κατὰ μυρία ἔκλυσεν ἔργα,  
ἢ ὅταν αὐτόματα ξόανα ῥέη ἰδρώοντα  
αἵματι, καὶ μυκαὶ σηκοῖς ἐνὶ φαντάζονται,  
ἢέ καὶ ἠέλιος μέσῳ ἡματι νύκτ' ἐπάγησιν

<sup>1</sup> φαίνοι ἐήν Madvig: φαίνοιεν LG.



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

by the winds to stay here, if ever so short a time? How desolate looms before us the edge of the limitless land!"

Thus one spake; and among them Ancaeus the helmsman, in despair at their evil case, spoke with grieving heart: "Verily we are undone by a terrible doom; there is no escape from ruin; we must suffer the cruellest woes, having fallen on this desolation, even though breezes should blow from the land; for, as I gaze far around, on every side do I behold a sea of shoals, and masses of water, fretted line upon line, run over the hoary sand. And miserably long ago would our sacred ship have been shattered far from the shore; but the tide itself bore her high on to the land from the deep sea. But now the tide rushes back to the sea, and only the foam, whereon no ship can sail, rolls round us, just covering the land. Wherefore I deem that all hope of our voyage and of our return is cut off. Let someone else show his skill; let him sit at the helm—the man that is eager for our deliverance. But Zeus has no will to fulfil our day of return after all our toils."

Thus he spake with tears, and all of them that had knowledge of ships agreed thereto; but the hearts of all grew numb, and pallor overspread their cheeks. And as, like lifeless spectres, men roam through a city awaiting the issue of war or of pestilence, or some mighty storm which overwhelms the countless labours of oxen, when the images of their own accord sweat and run down with blood, and bellowings are heard in temples, or when at mid-day the sun draws on night from heaven, and the stars shine



οὐρανόθεν, τὰ δὲ λαμπρὰ δι' ἠέρος ἄστρα φαείνη.<sup>1</sup>  
 ὡς τότε ἄριστῆες δολιχοῦ πρόπαρ αἰγιαλοῖο  
 ἤλυον ἐρπύζοντες. ἐπήλυθε δ' αὐτίκ' ἐρεμνὴ  
 ἔσπερος· οἱ δ' ἔλεεινὰ χεροῖν σφέας ἀμφιβαλόντες 1290  
 δακρυόειν ἀγάπαζον, ἵν' ἀνδιχα δῆθεν ἕκαστος  
 θυμὸν ἀποφθίσειαν ἐνὶ ψαμάθοισι πεσόντες.  
 βὰν δ' ἴμεν ἄλλυδισ ἄλλος ἕκαστέρω αὖτις ἐλέσθαι·  
 ἐν δὲ κάρη πέπλοισι καλυψάμενοι σφετέροισιν  
 ἄκμηνοι καὶ ἄπαστοι ἐκείατο νύκτ' ἐπι πᾶσαν  
 καὶ φάος, οἰκτίστῳ θανάτῳ ἐπι. νόσφι δὲ κοῦραι  
 ἀθρόαι Αἰήταο παρεστενάχοντο θυγατρί.  
 ὡς δ' ὅτ' ἐρημαῖοι πεπτηότες ἐκτοθι πέτρης  
 χηραμοῦ ἀπτῆνες λιγέα κλάζουσι νεοσσοί·  
 ἢ ὅτε καλὰ νάοντος ἐπ' ὄφρῦσι Πακτωλοῖο 1300  
 κύκνοι κινήσωσιν ἐὼν μέλος, ἀμφὶ δὲ λειμῶν  
 ἐρσήεις βρέμεται ποταμοῖό τε καλὰ ῥέεθρα·  
 ὡς αἰ ἐπὶ ξανθὰς θέμεναι κονίησιν ἐθείρας  
 παννύχιαι ἐλεεινὸν ἰήλεμον ὠδύροντο.  
 καὶ νύ κεν αὐτοῦ πάντες ἀπὸ ζωῆς ἐλίαςθεν  
 νώνυμοι καὶ ἄφαντοι ἐπιχθονίοισι δαῆναι  
 ἠρώων οἱ ἄριστοι ἀνηνύστῳ ἐπ' ἀέθλῳ·  
 ἀλλὰ σφεας ἐλέηραν ἀμηχανίῃ μινύθοντας  
 ἠρῶσαι, Λιβύης τιμήοροι, αἰ ποτ' Ἀθήνην,  
 ἦμος ὅτ' ἐκ πατρὸς κεφαλῆς θόρε παμφαίνουσα, 1310  
 ἀντόμεναι Τρίτωνος ἐφ' ὕδασι χυτλώσαντο.  
 ἔνδιον ἦμαρ ἔην, περὶ δ' ὀξύταται θέρον αὐγαὶ  
 ἠελίου Λιβύην· αἰ δὲ σχεδὸν Αἰσονίδαο  
 ἔσταν, ἔλον δ' ἀπὸ χερσὶ καρῆατος ἠρέμα πέπλον.  
 αὐτὰρ ὄγ' εἰς ἐτέρωσε παλιμπετὲς ὄμματ' ἐνεικεν,  
 δαίμονας αἰδεσθεῖς· αὐτὸν δὲ μιν ἀμφαδὸν οἶον  
 μελιχίοις ἐπέεσσιν ἀτυζόμενον προσέειπον·

<sup>1</sup> φαείνη Brunck : φαείνοι L : φαείνει G.



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

clear through the mist; so at that time along the endless strand the chieftains wandered, groping their way. Then straightway dark evening came upon them; and piteously did they embrace each other and say farewell with tears, that they might, each one apart from his fellow, fall on the sand and die. And this way and that they went further to choose a resting-place; and they wrapped their heads in their cloaks and, fasting and unfed, lay down all that night and the day, awaiting a piteous death. But apart the maidens huddled together lamented beside the daughter of Aetes. And as when, forsaken by their mother, unfledged birds that have fallen from a cleft in the rock chirp shrilly; or when by the banks of fair-flowing Pactolus, swans raise their song, and all around the dewy meadow echoes and the river's fair stream; so these maidens, laying in the dust their golden hair, all through the night wailed their piteous lament. And there all would have parted from life without a name and unknown to mortal men, those bravest of heroes, with their task unfulfilled; but as they pined in despair, the heroine-nymphs, warders of Libya, had pity on them, they who once found Athena, what time she leapt in gleaming armour from her father's head, and bathed her by Triton's waters. It was noon-tide and the fiercest rays of the sun were scorching Libya; they stood near Aeson's son, and lightly drew the cloak from his head. And the hero cast down his eyes and looked aside, in reverence for the goddesses, and as he lay bewildered all alone they addressed him openly with gentle words:



‘ Κάμμορε, τίπτ’ ἐπὶ τόσσον ἀμηχανίῃ βεβό-  
λησαι;

ἴδμεν ἐποιχομένους χρύσειον δέρος· ἴδμεν ἕκαστα  
ὑμετέρων καμάτων, ὅσ’ ἐπὶ χθονός, ὅσσα τ’ ἐφ’ ὑγρὴν 1320  
πλαζόμενοι κατὰ πόντον ὑπέρβια ἔργ’ ἐκάμεσθε.  
οἰοπόλοι δ’ εἰμὲν χθόνιαι θεαὶ αὐδήεσσαι,  
ἠρῶσσαι, Λιβύης τιμήοροι ἠδὲ θύγατρεις.  
ἀλλ’ ἄνα· μηδ’ ἔτι τοῖον οἰζύων ἀκάχησο·  
ἀνστησον δ’ ἐτάρους. εὖτ’ ἂν δέ τοι Ἀμφιτρίτη  
ἄρμα Ποσειδάωνος εὐτροχον αὐτίκα λύσῃ,  
δὴ ῥα τότε σφετέρῃ ἀπὸ μητέρι τίνετ’ ἀμοιβὴν  
ᾧν ἔκαμεν δηρὸν κατὰ νηδύος ὑμμε φέρουσα·  
καὶ κεν ἔτ’ ἠγαθέην ἐς Ἀχαιίδα νοστήσαιτε.’

ᾧς ἄρ’ ἔφαν, καὶ ἄφαντοι ἴν’ ἔσταθεν, ἐνθ’ ἄρα  
ταίγε

φθογγῇ ὁμοῦ ἐγένοντο παρασχεδόν. αὐτὰρ Ἰήσων  
παπτήνας ἀν’ ἄρ’ ἔζετ’ ἐπὶ χθονός, ᾧδέ τ’ ἔειπεν·

“Ἰλατ’ ἐρημονόμοι κυδραὶ θεαί· ἀμφὶ δὲ νόστῳ  
οὔτι μαλ’ ἀντικρὺ νοέω φάτιν. ἦ μὲν ἐταίρους  
εἰς ἐν ἀγειράμενος μυθήσομαι, εἴ νύ τι τέκμωρ  
δήωμεν κομιδῆς· πολέων δέ τε μῆτις ἀρείων.’

Ἦ, καὶ ἀναΐξας ἐτάρους ἐπὶ μακρὸν αὐτεῖ,  
αὐσταλέος κούρησι, λέων ὧς, ὅς ῥά τ’ ἀν’ ὕλην  
σύννομον ἦν μεθέπων ὠρύεται· αἱ δὲ βαρείῃ  
φθογγῇ ὑποτρομέουσιν ἀν’ οὔρεα τηλόθι βῆσσαι· 1340  
δείματι δ’ ἄγραυλοὶ τε βόες μέγα πεφρίκασιν  
βουπελάται τε βοῶν· τοῖς δ’ οὔ νύ τι γῆρυς ἐτύχθη  
ρίγεδανῆ ἐτάροιο φίλους ἐπικεκλομένοιο.  
ἀγχοῦ δ’ ἠγερέθοντο κατηφῆες· αὐτὰρ ὁ τούσγε  
ἀχνυμένους ὄρμοιο πέλας μίγα θηλυτέρησιν  
ἰδρύσας, μυθεῖτο πιφασκόμενος τὰ ἕκαστα·



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

“ Ill-starred one, why art thou so smitten with despair? We know how ye went in quest of the golden fleece; we know each toil of yours, all the mighty deeds ye wrought in your wanderings over land and sea. We are the solitary ones, goddesses of the land, speaking with human voice, the heroines, Libya’s warders and daughters. Up then; be not thus afflicted in thy misery, and rouse thy comrades. And when Amphitrite has straightway loosed Poseidon’s swift-wheeled car, then do ye pay to your mother a recompense for all her travail when she bare you so long in her womb; and so ye may return to the divine land of Achaea.”

Thus they spake, and with the voice vanished at once, where they stood. But Jason sat upon the earth as he gazed around, and thus cried:

“ Be gracious, noble goddesses of the desert, yet the saying about our return I understand not clearly. Surely I will gather together my comrades and tell them, if haply we can find some token of our escape, for the counsel of many is better.”

He spake, and leapt to his feet, and shouted afar to his comrades, all squalid with dust, like a lion when he roars through the woodland seeking his mate; and far off in the mountains the glens tremble at the thunder of his voice; and the oxen of the field and the herdsmen shudder with fear; yet to them Jason’s voice was no whit terrible—the voice of a comrade calling to his friends. And with looks downcast they gathered near, and hard by where the ship lay he made them sit down in their grief and the women with them, and addressed them and told them everything:



‘ Κλύτε, φίλοι· τρεῖς γάρ μοι ἀνιάζοντι θεάων,  
 στέρφεσιν αἰγείοις ἐζωσμένοι ἐξ ὑπάτοιο  
 αὐχένος ἀμφί τε νῶτα καὶ ἰξύας, ἥύτε κούραι,  
 ἔσταν ὑπὲρ κεφαλῆς μάλ’ ἐπισχεδόν· ἂν δ’ ἐκά-  
 λυψαν

1350

πέπλον ἐρυσσάμεναι κούφῃ χερὶ, καί μ’ ἐκέλοντο  
 αὐτόν τ’ ἔγρεσθαι, ἀνά θ’ ὑμέας ὄρσαι ἰόντα·  
 μητέρι δὲ σφετέρῃ μενοεικέα τίσαι ἀμοιβὴν  
 ὧν ἔκαμεν δηρὸν κατὰ νηδύος ἄμμε φέρουσα  
 ὀππότε κεν λύσησιν εὐτροχον Ἀμφιτρίτη  
 ἄρμα Ποσειδάωνος. ἐγὼ δ’ οὐ πάγχυ νοῆσαι  
 τῆσδε θεοπροπίης ἴσχω πέρι. φάν γε μὲν εἶναι  
 ἠρῶσσαι, Διβύης τιμήοροι ἠδὲ θύγατρεις·  
 καὶ δ’ ὀπόσ’ αὐτοὶ πρόσθεν ἐπὶ χθονὸς ἠδ’ ὄσ’ ἐφ’  
 ὑγρὴν

ἔτλημεν, τὰ ἕκαστα διίδμεναι εὐχετόωντο.  
 οὐδ’ ἔτι τάσδ’ ἀνὰ χῶρον ἐσέδρακον, ἀλλὰ τις  
 ἀχλὺς

1360

ἠὲ νέφος μεσσηγὺ φαεινομένας ἐκάλυψεν.  
 ὣς ἔφαθ’· οἱ δ’ ἄρα πάντες ἐθάμβεον εἰσαΐοντες.  
 ἔνθα τὸ μήκιστον τεράων Μινύησιν ἐτύχθη.  
 ἐξ ἀλὸς ἠπειρόνδε πελώριος ἐκθορεν ἵππος,  
 ἀμφιλαφής, χρυσέησι μετήορος αὐχένα χαίταις·  
 ῥίμφα δὲ σεισάμενος γυίων ἀπο νήχυτον ἄλμην  
 ὠρτο θέειν, πνοιῇ ἴκελος πόδας. αἶψα δὲ Πηλεὺς  
 γηθήσας ἐτάροισιν ὀμηγερέεσσι μετηύδα·

‘ Ἄρματα μὲν δὴ φημι Ποσειδάωνος ἔγωγε  
 ἤδη νῦν ἀλόχοιο φίλης ὑπὸ χερσὶ λελύσθαι·  
 μητέρα δ’ οὐκ ἄλλην προτιόσσομαι, ἢ ἐπερ αὐτὴν  
 νῆα πέλειν· ἦ γὰρ κατὰ νηδύος ἄμμε φέρουσα  
 νωλεμὲς ἀργαλέοισιν ὀιζύει καμάτοισιν.  
 ἀλλὰ μιν ἀστεμφεῖ τε βίῃ καὶ ἀτειρέσιν ὤμοις

1370



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

“Listen, friends; as I lay in my grief, three goddesses girded with goat-skins from the neck downwards round the back and waist, like maidens, stood over my head nigh at hand; and they uncovered me, drawing my cloak away with light hand, and they bade me rise up myself and go and rouse you, and pay to our mother a bounteous recompense for all her travail when she bare us so long in her womb, when Amphitrite shall have loosed Poseidon’s swift-wheeled car. But I cannot fully understand concerning this divine message. They said indeed that they were heroines, Libya’s warders and daughters; and all the toils that we endured aforetime by land and sea, all these they declared that they knew full well. Then I saw them no more in their place, but a mist or cloud came between and hid them from my sight.”

Thus he spake, and all marvelled as they heard. Then was wrought for the Minyae the strangest of portents. From the sea to the land leapt forth a monstrous horse, of vast size, with golden mane tossing round his neck; and quickly from his limbs he shook off abundant spray and started on his course, with feet like the wind. And at once Peleus rejoiced and spake among the throng of his comrades:

“I deem that Poseidon’s car has even now been loosed by the hands of his dear wife, and I divine that our mother is none else than our ship herself; for surely she bare us in her womb and groans unceasingly with grievous travailing. But with unshaken strength and untiring shoulders will we



ὑψόθεν ἀνθέμενοι ψαμαθώδεος ἔνδοθι γαίης  
οἴσομεν, ἧ προτέρωσε ταχὺς πόδας ἤλασεν ἵππος.  
οὐ γὰρ ὄγε ξηρὴν ὑποδύσεται· ἴχνια δ' ἡμῖν  
σημανέειν τιν' ἔολπα μυχὸν καθύπερθε θαλάσσης.'

ᾠς ἡὔδα· πάντεσσι δ' ἐπήβολος ἦνδανε μῆτις.  
Μουσάων ὄδε μῦθος· ἐγὼ δ' ὑπακουὸς αἰίδω  
Πιερίδων, καὶ τήνδε πανατρεκὲς ἔκλυον ὀμφήν,  
ὑμέας, ὧ πέρυ δὴ μέγα φέρτατοι υἱες ἀνάκτων,  
ἧ βίη ἧ τ' ἀρετῇ Λιβύης ἀνὰ θίνας ἐρήμους  
νῆα μεταχρονίην ὅσα τ' ἔνδοθι νηὸς ἄγεσθε,  
ἀνθεμένους ὤμοισι φέρειν δυοκαίδεκα πάντα  
ἡμαθ' ὁμοῦ νύκτας τε. δύην γε μὲν ἦ καὶ οἰζὺν  
τίς κ' ἐνέποι, τὴν κείνοι ἀνέπλησαν μογέοντες;  
ἔμπεδον ἀθανάτων ἔσαν αἵματος, οἷον ὑπέσταν  
ἔργον, ἀναγκαίη βεβημένοι. αὐτὰρ ἐπιπρὸ  
τῆλε μάλ' ἀσπασίως Τριτωνίδος ὕδασι λίμνης  
ὡς φέρον, ὡς εἰσβάντες ἀπὸ στιβαρῶν θέσαν ὤμων.

Λυσσαλέοις δ' ἠπειτ' ἵκελοι κυσὶν αἰσσοντες  
πίδακα μαστεύεσκον· ἐπὶ ξηρῇ γὰρ ἔκειτο  
δίψα δυηπαθίη τε καὶ ἄλγεσιν, οὐδ' ἐμάτησαν  
πλαζόμενοι· ἴξον δ' ἱερὸν πέδον, ὧ ἔνι Λάδων  
εἰσέτι που χθιζὸν παγχρύσεια ῥύετο μῆλα  
χώρῳ ἐν Ἄτλαντος, χθόνιος ὄφεις· ἀμφὶ δὲ νύμφαι  
Ἐσπερίδες ποίπνου, ἐφίμερον αἰείδουσαι.  
δὴ τότε δ' ἦτοι τῆμος ὑφ' Ἡρακλῆι δαιχθεὶς  
μῆλειον βέβλητο ποτὶ στύπος· οἰόθι δ' ἄκρη  
οὐρῇ ἔτι σκαίρεσκεν· ἀπὸ κρατὸς δὲ κελαινήν  
ἄχρῖς ἐπ' ἄκνηστιν κείτ' ἄπνοος· ἐκ δὲ λιπόντων  
ὑδρης Λερναίης χόλον αἵματι πικρὸν οἰστῶν  
μυῖαι πυθομένοισιν ἐφ' ἔλκεσι τερσαίνοντο.  
ἀγχοῦ δ' Ἐσπερίδες κεφαλαῖς ἐπι χεῖρας ἔχουσαι



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

lift her up and bear her within this country of sandy wastes, where yon swift-footed steed has sped before. For he will not plunge beneath the earth; and his hoof-prints, I ween, will point us to some bay above the sea."

Thus he spake, and the fit counsel pleased all. This is the tale the Muses told; and I sing obedient to the Pierides, and this report have I heard most truly; that ye, O mightiest far of the sons of kings, by your might and your valour over the desert sands of Libya raised high aloft on your shoulders the ship and all that ye brought therein, and bare her twelve days and nights alike. Yet who could tell the pain and grief which they endured in that toil? Surely they were of the blood of the immortals, such a task did they take on them, constrained by necessity. How forward and how far they bore her gladly to the waters of the Tritonian lake! How they strode in and set her down from their stalwart shoulders!

Then, like raging hounds, they rushed to search for a spring; for besides their suffering and anguish, a parching thirst lay upon them, and not in vain did they wander; but they came to the sacred plain where Ladon, the serpent of the land, till yesterday kept watch over the golden apples in the garden of Atlas; and all around the nymphs, the Hesperides, were busied, chanting their lovely song. But at that time, stricken by Heracles, he lay fallen by the trunk of the apple-tree; only the tip of his tail was still writhing; but from his head down his dark spine he lay lifeless; and where the arrows had left in his blood the bitter gall of the Lernaean hydra, flies withered and died over the festering wounds. And close at hand the Hesperides, their white arms



ἀργυφέας ξανθήσι λίγ' ἔστενον· οἱ δ' ἐπέλασσαν  
 ἄφνω ὀμοῦ· ταὶ δ' αἶψα κόνις καὶ γαῖα, κιόντων  
 ἔσσυμένως, ἐγένοντο καταυτόθι. νόσατο δ' Ὀρφεὺς  
 θεῖα τέρα, τὰς δέ σφι παρηγορέεσκε λιτῆσιν·

1410

‘ Δαίμονες ὦ καλαὶ καὶ εὐφρονες, ἴλατ', ἀνασσαι,  
 εἴτ' οὖν οὐρανίαις ἐναρίθμιοί ἐστε θεῆσιν,  
 εἴτε καταχθονίαις, εἴτ' οἰοπόλοι καλέεσθε  
 νύμφαι· ἴτ', ὦ νύμφαι, ἱερὸν γένος Ὠκεανοῖο,  
 δείξατ' ἐελδομένοισιν ἐνωπαδὶς ἄμμι φανείσαι  
 ἢ τινα πετραίην χύσιν ὕδατος, ἢ τινα γαίης  
 ἱερὸν ἐκβλύοντα, θεαί, ῥόον, ᾧ ἀπὸ δίψαν  
 αἰθομένην ἄμοτον λωφήσομεν. εἰ δέ κεν αὐτίς  
 δῆ ποτ' Ἀχαιίδα γαῖαν ἰκώμεθα ναυτιλίησιν,  
 δῆ τότε μυρία δῶρα μετὰ πρώτῃσι θεάων  
 λοιβάς τ' εἰλαπίνας τε παρέξομεν εὐμενέοντες.’

1420

ᾧ φάτο λισσόμενος ἀδινῆ ὀπί· ταὶ δ' ἐλέαιρον  
 ἐγγύθεν ἀχτυμένους· καὶ δῆ χθονὸς ἐξανέτειλαν  
 ποίην πάμπρωτον· ποίης γε μὲν ὑψόθι μακροὶ  
 βλάστεον ὄρπηκες· μετὰ δ' ἔρνεα τηλεθάοντα  
 πολλὸν ὑπὲρ γαίης ὀρθοσταδὸν ἠέξοντο.

Ἐσπέρη, αἶγειρος, πτελέη δ' Ἐρυθθῆς ἔγεντο·  
 Αἶγλη δ' ἰτείης ἱερὸν στύπος· ἐκ δέ νυ κείνων  
 δενδρέων, οἶαι ἔσαν, τοῖαι πάλιν ἔμπεδον αὐτῶς  
 ἐξέφανεν, θάμβος περιώσιον, ἔκφατο δ' Αἶγλη  
 μειλιχίοις ἐπέεσσιν ἀμειβομένη χατέοντας·

1430

Ἦ ἄρα δῆ μέγα πάμπαν ἐφ' ὑμετέροισιν ὄνειαρ  
 δεῦρ' ἔμολεν καμάτοισιν ὁ κύντατος, ὅστις ἀπούρας  
 φρουρὸν ὄφιν ζωῆς παγχυρέα μῆλα θεάων  
 οἴχετ' ἀειράμενος· στυγερόν δ' ἄχος ἄμμι λέλειπται.  
 ἤλυθε γὰρ χθιζός τις ἀνὴρ ὀλοώτατος ὕβριν



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

flung over their golden heads, lamented shrilly ; and the heroes drew near suddenly ; but the maidens, at their quick approach, at once became dust and earth where they stood. Orpheus marked the divine portent, and for his comrades addressed them in prayer : “ O divine ones, fair and kind, be gracious, O queens, whether ye be numbered among the heavenly goddesses, or those beneath the earth, or be called the Solitary nymphs ; come, O nymphs, sacred race of Oceanus, appear manifest to our longing eyes and show us some spring of water from the rock or some sacred flow gushing from the earth, goddesses, wherewith we may quench the thirst that burns us unceasingly. And if ever again we return in our voyaging to the Achaean land, then to you among the first of goddesses with willing hearts will we bring countless gifts, libations and banquets.”

So he spake, beseeching them with plaintive voice ; and they from their station near pitied their pain ; and lo ! first of all they caused grass to spring from the earth ; and above the grass rose up tall shoots ; and then flourishing saplings grew standing upright far above the earth. Hespere became a poplar and Eretheis an elm, and Aegle a willow's sacred trunk. And forth from these trees their forms looked out, as clear as they were before, a marvel exceeding great, and Aegle spake with gentle words answering their longing looks :

“ Surely there has come hither a mighty succour to your toils, that most accursèd man, who robbed our guardian serpent of life and plucked the golden apples of the goddesses and is gone ; and has left bitter grief for us. For yesterday came a man most



καὶ δέμας· ὅσσε δέ οἱ βλοσυρῶ ὑπέλαμπε μετώπῳ·  
 νηλής· ἀμφὶ δὲ δέρμα πελωρίου ἔστο λέοντος  
 ὠμόν, ἀδέψητον· στιβαρὸν δ' ἔχεν ὄζον ἐλαίης  
 τόξα τε, τοῖσι πέλωρ τόδ' ἀπέφθισεν ἰοβολήσας. 1440  
 ἤλυθε δ' οὖν κακείνος, ἅτε χθόνα πεζὸς ὀδεύων,  
 δίψη καρχαλέος· παίφασσε δὲ τόνδ' ἀνὰ χῶρον,  
 ὕδωρ ἐξερέων, τὸ μὲν οὐ ποθι μέλλεν ιδέσθαι.  
 ἦδε δέ τις πέτρη Τριτωνίδος ἐγγύθι λίμνης·  
 τὴν ὄγ' ἐπιφρασθεῖς, ἢ καὶ θεοῦ ἐννεσίησιν,  
 λάξ ποδὶ τύψεν ἔνερθε· τὸ δ' ἀθρόον ἔβλυσεν ὕδωρ.  
 αὐτὰρ ὄγ' ἀμφῶ χεῖρε πέδῳ καὶ στέρνον ἐρείσας  
 ῥωγάδος ἐκ πέτρης πῖεν ἄσπετον, ὄφρα βαθείαν  
 νηδύν, φορβάδι ἴσος ἐπιπροπεσών, ἐκορέσθη.'

Ἔως φάτο· τοὶ δ' ἀσπαστὸν ἵνα σφίσι πέφραδεν

Αἴγλη

πίδακα, τῇ θεῶν αἶψα κεχαρμένοι, ὄφρ' ἐπέκυρσαν.  
 ὡς δ' ὀπότε στεινὴν περὶ χηραμὸν εἰλίσσονται  
 γειομόροι μύρμηκες ὀμιλαδόν, ἢ ὅτε μυῖαι  
 ἀμφ' ὀλίγην μέλιτος γλυκεροῦ λίβα πεπτηνῦναι  
 ἀπλητον μεμάασιν ἐπήτριμοι· ὡς τότε ἀολλεῖς  
 πετραίη Μινύαι περὶ πίδακι δινεύεσκον.

καὶ πού τις διεροῖς ἐπὶ χείλεσιν εἶπεν ἰανθείς·

Ἔω πόποι, ἢ καὶ νόσφιν ἐὼν ἐσάωσεν ἐταίρους  
 Ἑρακλέης δίψη κεκμηότας· ἀλλὰ μιν εἴ πως  
 δήοιμεν στείχοντα δι' ἠπείροιο κίοντες.' 1460

Ἦ, καὶ ἀμειβομένων, οἷτ' ἄρμενοι ἐς τόδε ἔργον,  
 ἔκριθεν ἄλλυδις ἄλλος ἐπαΐξας ἐρεείνειν.  
 ἴχνια γὰρ νυχίοισιν ἐπηλίνδητ' ἀνέμοισιν



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

fell in wanton violence, most grim in form ; and his eyes flashed beneath his scowling brow ; a ruthless wretch ; and he was clad in the skin of a monstrous lion of raw hide, untanned ; and he bare a sturdy bow of olive, and a bow, wherewith he shot and killed this monster here. So he too came, as one traversing the land on foot, parched with thirst ; and he rushed wildly through this spot, searching for water, but nowhere was he like to see it. Now here stood a rock near the Tritonian lake ; and of his own device, or by the prompting of some god, he smote it below with his foot ; and the water gushed out in full flow. And he, leaning both his hands and chest upon the ground, drank a huge draught from the rifted rock, until, stooping like a beast of the field, he had satisfied his mighty maw."

Thus she spake ; and they gladly with joyful steps ran to the spot where Aegle had pointed out to them the spring, until they reached it. And as when earth-burrowing ants gather in swarms round a narrow cleft, or when flies lighting upon a tiny drop of sweet honey cluster round with insatiate eagerness ; so at that time, huddled together, the Minyae thronged about the spring from the rock. And thus with wet lips one cried to another in his delight :

"Strange ! In very truth Heracles, though far away, has saved his comrades, fordone with thirst. Would that we might find him on his way as we pass through the mainland !"

So they spake, and those who were ready for this work answered, and they separated this way and that, each starting to search. For by the night winds the footsteps had been effaced where the sand



κινυμένης ἀμάθου. Βορέας μὲν ὠρμήθησαν  
 υἱε δύνω, πτερύγεσσι πεποιθότε· ποσσὶ δὲ κούφοις  
 Εὐφημος πίσυνος, Λυγκεὺς γέ μὲν ὄξέα τηλοῦ  
 ὅσσε βαλεῖν· πέμπτος δὲ μετὰ σφίσιν ἔσσυτο  
 Κάνθος.

τὸν μὲν ἄρ' αἶσα θεῶν κείνην ὁδὸν ἠνορέη τε  
 ὤρσεν, ἴν' Ἡρακλῆος ἀπηλεγέως πεπύθοιτο,  
 Εἰλατίδην Πολύφημον ὅπη λίπε· μέμβλετο γάρ οἱ 1470  
 οὐ ἔθεν ἀμφ' ἐτάριοιο μεταλλῆσαι τὰ ἕκαστα.  
 ἀλλ' ὁ μὲν οὖν Μυσοῖσιν ἐπικλεῖς ἄστυ πολίσσας  
 νόστου κηδοσύνησιν ἔβη διζήμενος Ἀργῶ  
 τῆλε δι' ἠπείριοιο· τέως δ' ἐξίκετο γαῖαν  
 ἀγχιάλων Χαλύβων· τόθι μιν καὶ Μοῖρ' ἐδάμασ-  
 σεν.

καὶ οἱ ὑπὸ βλωθρὴν ἀχερωίδα σῆμα τέτυκται  
 τυτθὸν ἀλὸς προπάροιθεν. ἀτὰρ τότε γ' Ἡρακλῆα  
 μῶνον ἀπειρεσίης τηλοῦ χθονὸς εἶσατο Λυγκεὺς  
 τῶς ιδέειν, ὡς τίς τε νέω ἐνὶ ἡματι μῆνην  
 ἢ ἴδεν, ἢ ἐδόκησεν ἐπαχλύουσαν ιδέσθαι. 1480  
 ἐς δ' ἐτάρους ἀνιῶν μυθήσατο, μή μιν ἔτ' ἄλλον  
 μαστήρα στείχοντα κιχησέμεν· οἱ δὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ  
 ἤλυθον, Εὐφημὸς τε πόδας ταχὺς υἱέ τε δοιωῖ  
 Θρηκίου Βορέω, μεταμῶνια μοχθήσαντε.

Κάνθε, σὲ δ' οὐλόμεναι Λιβύῃ ἐνὶ Κῆρες ἔλοντο.  
 πώεσι φερβομένοισι συνήντεες· εἶπετο δ' ἀνὴρ  
 αὐλίτης, ὅ σ' ἐὼν μήλων πέρι, τόφρ' ἐτάροισιν  
 δευομένοις κομίσειας, ἀλεξόμενος κατέπεφνευ  
 λαί βαλὼν· ἐπεὶ οὐ μὲν ἀφαιρότερός γ' ἐτέτυκτο,  
 υἱωνὸς Φοίβοιο Λυκωρείοιο Κάφαυρος 1490  
 κούρης τ' αἰδοίης Ἀκακαλλίδος, ἣν ποτε Μίνως



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

was stirred. The two sons of Boreas started up, trusting in their wings; and Euphemus, relying on his swift feet, and Lynceus to cast far his piercing eyes; and with them darted off Canthus, the fifth. He was urged on by the doom of the gods and his own courage, that he might learn for certain from Heracles where he had left Polyphemus, son of Eilatus; for he was minded to question him on every point concerning his comrade. But that hero had founded a glorious city among the Mysians, and, yearning for his home-return, had passed far over the mainland in search of Argo; and in time he reached the land of the Chalybes, who dwell near the sea; there it was that his fate subdued him. And to him a monument stands under a tall poplar, just facing the sea. But that day Lynceus thought he saw Heracles all alone, far off, over measureless land, as a man at the month's beginning sees, or thinks he sees, the moon through a bank of cloud. And he returned and told his comrades that no other searcher would find Heracles on his way, and they also came back, and swift-footed Euphemus and the twin sons of Thracian Boreas, after a vain toil.

But thee, Canthus, the fates of death seized in Libya. On pasturing flocks didst thou light; and there followed a shepherd who, in defence of his own sheep, while thou wert leading them off<sup>1</sup> to thy comrades in their need, slew thee by the cast of a stone; for he was no weakling, Caphaurus, the grandson of Lycoreian Phoebus and the chaste maiden Acacallis, whom once Minos drove from home

<sup>1</sup> This seems to be the only possible translation, but the optative is quite anomalous. We should expect ἐκόμιζες.



ἐς Λιβύην ἀπένασσε θεοῦ βαρὺ κῦμα φέρουσαν,  
 θυγατέρα σφετέρην· ἢ δ' ἀγλαὸν νίεα Φοίβω  
 τίκτεν, ὃν Ἀμφίθεμιν Γαράμαντά τε κικλή-  
 σκουσιν.

Ἀμφίθεμις δ' ἄρ' ἔπειτα μίγη Τριτωνίδι νύμφη·  
 ἢ δ' ἄρα οἱ Νασάμωνα τέκεν κρατερόν τε Κάφαι-  
 ρον,

ὃς τότε Κάνθον ἔπεφνεν ἐπὶ ῥήνεσσιν ἐοῖσιν.  
 οὐδ' ὄγ' ἀριστήων χαλεπὰς ἠλεύατο χεῖρας,  
 ὡς μάθον οἶον ἔρεξε. νέκυν δ' ἀνάειραν ὀπίσσω  
 πευθόμενοι Μινύαι, γαίῃ δ' ἐνὶ ταρχύσαντο  
 μυρόμενοι· τὰ δὲ μῆλα μετὰ σφέας οἴγ' ἐκόμισσαν.

1500

Ἔνθα καὶ Ἀμπυκίδην αὐτῷ ἐνὶ ἡματι Μόψον  
 νηλειῆς ἔλε πότμος· ἀδευκέα δ' οὐ φύγεν αἴσαν  
 μαντοσύναις· οὐ γάρ τις ἀποτροπή θανάτοιο.  
 κείτο δ' ἐπὶ ψαμάθοισι μεσημβρινὸν ἡμαρ ἀλύ-  
 σκων

δεινὸς ὄφεις, νωθῆς μὲν ἐκὼν ἀέκοντα χαλέψαι  
 οὐδ' ἂν ὑποτρέσσαντος ἐνωπαδὶς αἴξειεν.

ἀλλὰ μὲν ᾧ τὰ πρῶτα μελάγχχιμον ἰὸν ἐνείη  
 ζώντων, ὅσα γαῖα φερέσβιος ἔμπνοα βόσκει,  
 οὐδ' ὀπόσον πήχυιον ἐς Ἄϊδα γίγνεται οἶμος,  
 οὐδ' εἰ Παιήων, εἴ μοι θέμις ἀμφαδὸν εἰπεῖν,  
 φαρμάσσοι, ὅτε μῶνον ἐνιχρίμψησιν ὁδοῦσιν.  
 εὔτε γὰρ ἰσόθεος Λιβύην ὑπερέπτατο Περσεὺς  
 Εὐρυμέδων—καὶ γὰρ τὸ κάλεσκέ μιν οὔνομα  
 μήτηρ—

1510

Γοργόνος ἀρτίτομον κεφαλὴν βασιλῆι κομίζων,  
 ὄσσαι κυανέου στάγες αἵματος οὐδας ἴκοντο,  
 αἱ πᾶσαι κείνων ὀφίων γένος ἐβλάστησαν.

τῷ δ' ἄκρην ἐπ' ἄκανθαν ἐνεστηρίξατο Μόψος  
 λαιὸν ἐπιπροφέρων ταρσὸν ποδός· αὐτὰρ ὁ μέσσην



## THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

to dwell in Libya, his own daughter, when she was bearing the gods' heavy load; and she bare to Phoebus a glorious son, whom they call Amphithemis and Garamas. And Amphithemis wedded a Tritonian nymph; and she bare to him Nasamon and strong Caphaurus, who on that day in defending his sheep slew Canthus. But he escaped not the chieftains' avenging hands, when they learned the deed he had done. And the Minyae, when they knew it, afterwards took up the corpse and buried it in the earth, mourning; and the sheep they took with them.

• Thereupon on the same day a pitiless fate seized Mopsus too, son of Ampycus; and he escaped not a bitter doom by his prophesying; for there is no averting of death. Now there lay in the sand, avoiding the midday heat, a dread serpent, too sluggish of his own will to strike at an unwilling foe, nor yet would he dart full face at one that would shrink back. But into whatever of all living beings that life-giving earth sustains that serpent once injects his black venom, his path to Hades becomes not so much as a cubit's length, not even if Paeëon, if it is right for me to say this openly, should tend him, when its teeth have only grazed the skin. For when over Libya flew godlike Perseus Eurymedon—for by that name his mother called him—bearing to the king the Gorgon's head newly severed, all the drops of dark blood that fell to the earth, produced a brood of those serpents. Now Mopsus stepped on the end of its spine, setting thereon the sole of his left foot; and it writhed round in pain and bit and