

κερκίδα καὶ μυῶνα, περίξ ὀδύνησιν ἐλιχθείς,
 σάρκα δακῶν ἐχάραξεν. ἀτὰρ Μήδεια καὶ ἄλλαι
 ἔτρεσαν ἀμφίπολοι· ὁ δὲ φοῖνιον ἔλκος ἄφασσεν
 θαρσαλέως, ἔνεκ' οὐ μιν ὑπέρβιον ἄλγος ἔτειρεν.
 σχέτλιος· ἦ τέ οἱ ἤδη ὑπὸ χροῖ δύετο κῶμα
 λυσιμελές, πολλή δὲ κατ' ὀφθαλμῶν χέετ' ἀχλὺς.
 αὐτίκα δὲ κλίνας δαπέδῳ βεβαρηότα γυῖα
 ψύχετ' ἀμηχανίῃ· ἔταροι δὲ μιν ἀμφαγέροντο
 ἦρως τ' Αἰσονίδης, ἀδινῆ περιθαμβέες ἄτη.
 οὐδὲ μὲν οὐδ' ἐπὶ τυτθὸν ἀποφθίμενός περ ἔμελλεν
 κείσθαι ὑπ' ἡελίῳ. πύθεσκε γὰρ ἔνδοθι σάρκας
 ἰὸς ἄφαρ, μυδόωσα δ' ἀπὸ χροῦς ἔρρεε λάχνη.
 αἶψα δὲ χαλκείῃσι βαθὺν τάφον ἐξελάχαινον
 ἐσσυμένως μακέλησιν· ἐμοιρήσαντο δὲ χαίτας
 αὐτοὶ ὁμῶς κοῦραί τε, νέκυν ἐλεεινὰ παθόντα
 μυρόμενοι· τρὶς δ' ἀμφὶ σὺν ἔντεσι δινηθέντες
 εὐκτερέων ἴσχοντα, χυτὴν ἐπὶ γαῖαν ἔθεντο.
 Ἄλλ' ὅτε δὴ ῥ' ἐπὶ νηὸς ἔβαν, πρήσοντος ἀήτεω
 ἀμ πέλαγος νοτίοιο, πόρους τ' ἀπετεκμαίροντο
 λίμνης ἐκπρομολεῖν Τριτωνίδος, οὐτίνα μῆτιν
 δὴν ἔχον, ἀφραδέως δὲ πανημέριοι φορέοντο.
 ὡς δὲ δράκων σκολιὴν εἰλιγμένος ἔρχεται οἶμον,
 εὐτέ μιν ὀξύτατον θάλπει σέλας ἡελίοιο·
 ροίζῳ δ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα κάρη στρέφει, ἐν δὲ οἱ ὄσσε
 σπινθαρύγεσσι πυρὸς ἐναλίγκια μαιμώνοντι
 λάμπεται, ὄφρα μυχόνδε διὰ ῥωχμοῖο δύηται·
 ὧς Ἀργῶ λίμνης στόμα ναύπορον ἐξερέουσα
 ἀμφεπόλει δηναῖον ἐπὶ χρόνον. αὐτίκα δ' Ὀρφεὺς
 κέκλετ' Ἀπόλλωνος τρίποδα μέγαν ἔκτοθι νηὸς
 δαίμοσιν ἐγγενέταις νόστῳ ἐπι μείλια θέσθαι.
 καὶ τοὶ μὲν Φοίβου κτέρας ἴδρυν ἐν χθονὶ βάντες·

1520

1530

1540

1550

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

tore the flesh between the shin and the muscles. And Medea and her handmaids fled in terror; but Canthus bravely felt the bleeding wound; for no excessive pain harassed him. Poor wretch! Already a numbness that loosed his limbs was stealing beneath his skin, and a thick mist was spreading over his eyes. Straightway his heavy limbs sank helplessly to the ground and he grew cold; and his comrades and the hero, Aeson's son, gathered round, marvelling at the close-coming doom. Nor yet though dead might he lie beneath the sun even for a little space. For at once the poison began to rot his flesh within, and the hair decayed and fell from the skin. And quickly and in haste they dug a deep grave with mattocks of bronze; and they tore their hair, the heroes and the maidens, bewailing the dead man's piteous suffering; and when he had received due burial rites, thrice they marched round the tomb in full armour, and heaped above him a mound of earth.

But when they had gone aboard, as the south wind blew over the sea, and they were searching for a passage to go forth from the Tritonian lake, for long they had no device, but all the day were borne on aimlessly. And as a serpent goes writhing along his crooked path when the sun's fiercest rays scorch him; and with a hiss he turns his head to this side and that, and in his fury his eyes glow like sparks of fire, until he creeps to his lair through a cleft in the rock; so Argo seeking an outlet from the lake, a fairway for ships, wandered for a long time. Then straightway Orpheus bade them bring forth from the ship Apollo's massy tripod and offer it to the gods of the land as propitiation for their return. So they went forth and set Apollo's gift on the shore; then

τοῖσιν δ' αἰζηῶ ἑναλίγκιος ἀντεβόλησεν
 Τρίτων εὐρυβίης, γαίης δ' ἀνὰ βῶλον αἰείρας
 ξείνι' ἀριστήεσσι προΐσχετο, φώνησέν τε·

‘ Δέχθε, φίλοι· ἐπεὶ οὐ περιώσιον ἐγγυαλίξαι
 ἐνθάδε νῦν πάρ' ἐμοὶ ξεινήιον ἀντομένοισιν.
 εἰ δέ τι τῆσδε πόρους μαίεσθ' ἄλός, οἷά τε πολλὰ
 ἄνθρωποι χατέουσιν ἐν ἄλλοδαπῇ περόωντες,
 ἐξερέω. δὴ γάρ με πατὴρ ἐπίιστορα πόντου
 θῆκε Ποσειδάων τοῦδ' ἔμμεναι. αὐτὰρ ἀνάσσω
 παρραλίας, εἰ δὴ τιν' ἀκούετε νόσφιν ἔοντες
 Εὐρύπυλον Λιβύῃ θηροτρόφῳ ἐγγεγαῶτα.’

1560

ᾠς ἠΰδα· πρόφρων δ' ὑπερέσχεθε βῶλακι
 χεῖρας

Εὐφημος, καὶ τοῖα παραβλήδην προσέειπεν·

‘ Ἄπίδα¹ καὶ πέλαγος Μινώιον εἴ νύ που, ἦρως,
 ἐξεδάης, νημερτὲς ἀνειρομένοισιν ἐνισπε.
 δεῦρο γὰρ οὐκ ἐθέλοντες ἰκάνομεν, ἀλλὰ βαρείαις
 χρίμψαντες γαίης ἐπὶ πείρασι τῆσδε θυέλλαις
 νῆα μεταχρονίην ἐκομίσσαμεν ἐς τόδε λίμνης
 χεῦμα δι' ἠπείρου βεβαρημένοι· οὐδέ τι ἴδμεν,
 πῆ πλόος ἐξανέχει Πελοπηίδα γαίαν ἰκέσθαι.’

1570

ᾠς ἄρ' ἔφη· ὁ δὲ χεῖρα τανύσσατο, δεῖξε δ'
 ἄπωθεν

φωνήσας πόντου τε καὶ ἀγχιβαθὲς στόμα λίμνης·
 ‘ Κεῖνη μὲν πόντοιο διήλυσις, ἐνθα μάλιστα
 βένθος ἀκίνητον μελανεῖ· ἐκάτερθε δὲ λευκαὶ
 ῥηγμῖνες φρίσσουσι διαυγέες· ἢ δὲ μεσηγὺ
 ῥηγμίνων στεινὴ τελέθει ὁδὸς ἐκτὸς ἐλάσσαι.
 κεῖνο δ' ὑπήριον θείην Πελοπηίδα γαίαν
 εἰσανέχει πέλαγος Κρήτης ὕπερ· ἀλλ' ἐπὶ χειρὸς

¹ Ἄπίδα a variant in scholia : Ἄτθίδα MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

before them stood, in the form of a youth, far-swaying Triton, and he lifted a clod from the earth and offered it as a stranger's gift, and thus spake :

“ Take it, friends, for no stranger's gift of great worth have I here by me now to place in the hands of those who beseech me. But if ye are searching for a passage through this sea, as often is the need of men passing through a strange land, I will declare it. For my sire Poseidon has made me to be well versed in this sea. And I rule the shore—if haply in your distant land you have ever heard of Eurypylus, born in Libya, the home of wild beasts.”

Thus he spake, and readily Euphemus held out his hands towards the clod, and thus addressed him in reply :

“ If haply, hero, thou knowest aught of Apis¹ and the sea of Minos, tell us truly, who ask it of you. For not of our will have we come hither, but by the stress of heavy storms have we touched the borders of this land, and have borne our ship aloft on our shoulders to the waters of this lake over the mainland, grievously burdened ; and we know not where a passage shows itself for our course to the land of Pelops.”

So he spake ; and Triton stretched out his hand and showed afar the sea and the lake's deep mouth, and then addressed them : “ That is the outlet to the sea, where the deep water lies unmoved and dark ; on each side roll white breakers with shining crests ; and the way between for your passage out is narrow. And that sea stretches away in mist to the divine land of Pelops beyond Crete ;

¹ An old name of the Peloponnesus.

δεξιτερῆς, λίμνηθεν ὅτ' εἰς ἀλὸς οἶδμα βάλητε,
τόφρ' αὐτὴν παρὰ χέρσον ἐεργμένοι ἰθύνεσθε,
ἔστ' ἂν ἄνω τείνησι περιρρήδην δ' ἐτέρωσε
κλινομένης χέρσοιο, τότε πλόος ὕμιν ἀπήμων
ἀγκῶνος τέτατ' ἰθὺς ἀπὸ προύχοντος ἰούσιν.
ἀλλ' ἴτε γηθόσυνοι, καμάτοιο δὲ μήτις ἀνίη
γιγνέσθω, νεότητι κεκασμένα γυῖα μογήσαι.'

1580

Ἴσκειν εὐφρονέων· οἱ δ' αἰψ' ἐπὶ νηὸς ἔβησαν
λίμνης ἐκπρομολεῖν λεληημένοι εἰρεσίησιν.
καὶ δὴ ἐπιπρονέοντο μεμαότες· αὐτὰρ ὁ τείως
Τρίτων ἀνθέμενος τρίποδα μέγαν, εἷσατο λίμνην
εἰσβαίνειν· μετὰ δ' οὔτις ἐσέδρακεν, οἶον ἄφαντος 1590
αὐτῷ σὺν τρίποδι σχεδὸν ἔπλετο. τοῖσι δ' ἰάνθη
θυμός, ὃ δὴ μακάρων τις ἐναίσιμος ἀντεβόλησεν.
καὶ ῥά οἱ Αἰσονίδην μῆλων ὅ τι φέρτατον ἄλλων
ἦνωγον ῥέξαι καὶ ἐπευφημῆσαι ἔλόντα.

αἰψα δ' ὄγ' ἐσσυμένως ἐκρίνατο, καὶ μιν ἀείρας
σφάξε κατὰ πρύμνης, ἐπὶ δ' ἔννεπεν εὐχολῆσιν·
'Δαῖμον, ὅτις λίμνης ἐπὶ πείρασι τῆσδ' ἐφαάνθησ,
εἴτε σέγε Τρίτων', ἄλιον τέρας, εἴτε σε Φόρκυν,
ἢ Νηρῆα θύγατρεις ἐπικλείουσ' ἄλοσύδναι,
ἴλαθι, καὶ νόστοιο τέλος θυμηδὲς ὄπαζε.'

1600

Ἦ ῥ', ἅμα δ' εὐχολῆσιν ἐς ὕδατα λαιμοτομήσας
ἦκε κατὰ πρύμνης· ὁ δὲ βένθεος ἐξεφαάνθη
τοῖος ἐών, οἷός περ ἐτήτυμος ἦεν ιδέσθαι.
ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἀνὴρ θοὸν ἵππον ἐπ' εὐρέα κύκλον ἀγῶνος
στέλλη, ὀρεξάμενος λασίης εὐπειθέα χαίτης,
εἶθαρ ἐπιτροχάων, ὁ δ' ἐπ' αὐχένι γαῦρος ἀερθεὶς
ἔσπεται, ἀργινόεντα δ' ἐνὶ στομάτεσσι χαλινὰ

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

but hold to the right, when ye have entered the swell of the sea from the lake, and steer your course hugging the land, as long as it trends to the north; but when the coast bends, falling away in the other direction, then your course is safely laid for you if ye go straight forward from the projecting cape. But go in joy, and as for labour let there be no grieving that limbs in youthful vigour should still toil."

He spake with kindly counsel; and they at once went aboard, intent to come forth from the lake by the use of oars. And eagerly they sped on; meanwhile Triton took up the mighty tripod, and they saw him enter the lake; but thereafter did no one mark how he vanished so near them along with the tripod. But their hearts were cheered, for that one of the blessed had met them in friendly guise. And they bade Aeson's son offer to him the choicest of the sheep and when he had slain it chant the hymn of praise. And straightway he chose in haste and raising the victim slew it over the stern, and prayed with these words:

"Thou god, who hast manifested thyself on the borders of this land, whether the daughters born of the sea call thee Triton, the great sea-marvel, or Phorcys, or Nireus, be gracious, and grant the return home dear to our hearts."

He spake, and cut the victim's throat over the water and cast it from the stern. And the god rose up from the depths in form such as he really was. And as when a man trains a swift steed for the broad race-course, and runs along, grasping the bushy mane, while the steed follows obeying his master, and rears his neck aloft in his pride, and the

ἀμφὶς ὀδακτάζοντι παραβλήδην κροτέονται·
 ὧς ὄγ' ἐπισχόμενος γλαφυρῆς ὀλκήιον Ἄργους
 ἦγ' ἄλαδε προτέρωσε· δέμας δέ οἱ ἐξ ὑπάτιο
 κράατος, ἀμφί τε νῶτα καὶ ἰξύας ἔστ' ἐπὶ νηδὺν
 ἀντικρὺ μακάρεσσι φυὴν ἔκπαγλον εἶκτο·
 αὐτὰρ ὑπαὶ λαγόνων δίκραιρά οἱ ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα
 κήτεος ὀλκαίη μηκύνετο· κόπτε δ' ἀκάνθαις
 ἄκρον ὕδωρ, αἶτε σκολιοῖς ἐπινειόθι κέντροις
 μήνης ὡς κεράεσσιν εἰδόμεναι διχόωντο.
 τόφρα δ' ἄγεν, τείως μιν ἐπιπροέηκε θαλάσση
 νισσομένην· δὺ δ' αἶψα μέγαν βυθόν· οἱ δ' ὀμάδη-
 σαν

1610

ἦρωες, τέρας αἶνον ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἰδόντες.
 ἔνθα μὲν Ἄργῶός τε λιμὴν καὶ σήματα νηὸς
 ἠδὲ Ποσειδάωνος ἰδὲ Τρίτωνος ἔασιν
 βωμοί· ἐπεὶ κεῖν' ἦμαρ ἐπέσχεθον. αὐτὰρ ἐς ἠῶ
 λαίφεσι πεπταμένοις αὐτὴν ἐπὶ δεξι' ἔχοντες
 γαῖαν ἐρημαίην, πνοιῇ ζεφύροιο θέεσκον.
 ἦρι δ' ἔπειτ' ἀγκῶνά θ' ὀμοῦ μυχάτην τε θάλασσαν
 κεκλιμένην ἀγκῶνος ὕπερ προύχοντος ἴδοντο.
 αὐτίκα δὲ ζέφυρος μὲν ἐλώφεεν, ἦλυθε δ' αὔρη
 ἀργεστᾶο νότου· κεχάροντο δὲ θυμὸν ἰωῆ.
 ἦμος δ' ἠέλιος μὲν ἔδυ, ἀνὰ δ' ἦλυθεν ἀστήρ
 αὔλιος, ὅστ' ἀνέπαυσεν οἰζυροὺς ἀροτῆρας,
 δὴ τότε ἔπειτ' ἀνέμοιο κελαινῇ νυκτὶ λιπόντος
 ἰστία λυσάμενοι περιμήκεά τε κλίναντες
 ἰστόν, εὐξέστησιν ἐπερρώοντ' ἐλάττησιν
 παννύχιοι καὶ ἐπ' ἦμαρ, ἐπ' ἡματι δ' αὐτίς ἰοῦσαν
 νύχθ' ἐτέρην. ὑπέδεκτο δ' ἀπόπροθι παιπαλόεσσα
 Κάρπαθος· ἔνθεν δ' οἶγε περαιώσεσθαι ἔμελλον
 Κρήτην, ἦτ' ἄλλων ὑπερέπλετο εἰν ἀλὶ νήσων.

1620

1630

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

gleaming bit rings loud as he champs it in his jaws from side to side; so the god, seizing hollow Argo's keel, guided her onward to the sea. And his body, from the crown of his head, round his back and waist as far as the belly, was wondrously like that of the blessed ones in form; but below his sides the tail of a sea monster lengthened far, forking to this side and that; and he smote the surface of the waves with the spines, which below parted into curving fins, like the horns of the new moon. And he guided Argo on until he sped her into the sea on her course; and quickly he plunged into the vast abyss; and the heroes shouted when they gazed with their eyes on that dread portent. There is the harbour of Argo and there are the signs of her stay, and altars to Poseidon and Triton; for during that day they tarried. But at dawn with sails outspread they sped on before the breath of the west wind, keeping the desert land on their right. And on the next morn they saw the headland and the recess of the sea, bending inward beyond the jutting headland. And straightway the west wind ceased, and there came the breeze of the clear south wind; and their hearts rejoiced at the sound it made. But when the sun sank and the star returned that bids the shepherd fold, which brings rest to wearied ploughmen, at that time the wind died down in the dark night; so they furled the sails and lowered the tall mast and vigorously plied their polished oars all night and through the day, and again when the next night came on. And rugged Carpathus far away welcomed them; and thence they were to cross to Crete, which rises in the sea above other islands.

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

Τοὺς δὲ Τάλως χάλκειος, ἀπὸ στιβαροῦ σκοπέ-
λοιο

ῥηγνύμενος πέτρας, εἶργε χθονὶ πείσματ' ἀνάψαι,
Δικταίην ὄρμοιο κατερχομένους ἐπιωγῆν. 1640

τὸν μὲν χαλκείης μελιηγενέων ἀνθρώπων
ρίξης λοιπὸν ἔοντα μετ' ἀνδράσιν ἡμιθέοισιν
Εὐρώπη Κρονίδης νήσου πόρεν ἔμμεναι οὖρον,
τρὶς περὶ χαλκείοις Κρήτην ποσὶ δινεύοντα.

ἀλλ' ἦτοι τὸ μὲν ἄλλο δέμας καὶ γυῖα τέτυκτο
χάλκεος ἠδ' ἄρρηκτος· ὑπαὶ δέ οἱ ἔσκε τένοντος
σύριγξ αἱματόεσσα κατὰ σφυρόν· αὐτὰρ ὁ τήνγε
λεπτὸς ὑμῆν, ζωῆς, ἔχε, πείρατα καὶ θανάτοιο.
οἱ δέ, δύη μάλα περ δεδμημένοι, αἶψ' ἀπὸ χέρσου
νῆα περιδδείσαντες ἀνακρούεσκον ἐρετμοῖς. 1650

καὶ νύ κ' ἐπισμυγερῶς Κρήτης ἐκὰς ἤέρθησαν,
ἀμφότερον δίψη τε καὶ ἄλγεσι μοχθίζοντες,
εἰ μὴ σφιν Μήδεια λιαζομένοις ἀγόρευσεν·

‘Κέκλυτέ μεν. μούνη γὰρ οἴομαι ὑμμι δαμάσ-
σειν

ἄνδρα τόν, ὅστις ὄδ' ἐστί, καὶ εἰ παγχάλκεον ἴσχει
ὄν δέμας, ὅπποτε μὴ οἱ ἐπ' ἀκάματος πέλοι αἰών.
ἀλλ' ἔχετ' αὐτοῦ νῆα θελήμονες ἐκτὸς ἐρωῆς
πετράων, εἴως κεν ἐμοὶ εἴξειε δαμῆναι.’

‘Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη· καὶ τοὶ μὲν ὑπέκ βελέων ἐρύσαντο
νῆ' ἐπ' ἐρετμοῖσιν, δεδοκημένοι ἦντινα ῥέξει
μῆτιν ἀνωίστως· ἢ δὲ πτύχα πορφυρέοιο
προσχομένη πέπλοιο παρειάων ἐκάτερθεν
βήσατ' ἐπ' ἰκριόφιν· χειρὸς δέ ἐ χειρὶ μεμαρπῶς
Αἰσονίδης ἐκόμιζε διὰ κληῖδας ἰούσαν. 1660

ἔνθα δ' ἀοιδῆσιν μειλίσσετο, μέλπε δὲ Κῆρας
θυμοβόρους, Ἄϊδαο θοὰς κύνας, αἰὲν περὶ πᾶσαν

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

And Talos, the man of bronze, as he broke off rocks from the hard cliff, stayed them from fastening hawsers to the shore, when they came to the roadstead of Dicte's haven. He was of the stock of bronze, of the men sprung from ash-trees, the last left among the sons of the gods; and the son of Cronos gave him to Europa to be the warder of Crete and to stride round the island thrice a day with his feet of bronze. Now in all the rest of his body and limbs was he fashioned of bronze and invulnerable; but beneath the sinew by his ankle was a blood-red vein; and this, with its issues of life and death, was covered by a thin skin. So the heroes, though outworn with toil, quickly backed their ship from the land in sore dismay. And now far from Crete would they have been borne in wretched plight, distressed both by thirst and pain, had not Medea addressed them as they turned away:

“Hearken to me. For I deem that I alone can subdue for you that man, whoever he be, even though his frame be of bronze throughout, unless his life too is everlasting. But be ready to keep your ship here beyond the cast of his stones, till he yield the victory to me.”

Thus she spake; and they drew the ship out of range, resting on their oars, waiting to see what plan unlooked for she would bring to pass; and she, holding the fold of her purple robe over her cheeks on each side, mounted on the deck; and Aeson's son took her hand in his and guided her way along the thwarts. And with songs did she propitiate and invoke the Death-spirits, devourers of life, the swift hounds of Hades, who, hovering through all

ἡέρα δινεύουσαι ἐπὶ ζωοῖσιν ἄγονται.

τὰς γουναζομένη τρὶς μὲν παρεκέκλετ' αἰοδαῖς,
τρὶς δὲ λιταῖς· θεμένη δὲ κακὸν νόον, ἐχθοδοποῖσιν
ὄμμασι χαλκείοιο Τάλω ἐμέγηρεν ὀπωπᾶς·
λευγαλέον δ' ἐπὶ οἷ πρίεν χόλον, ἐκ δ' αἶδηλα
δείκηλα προΐαλλεν, ἐπιζάφελον κοτέουσα.

1670

Ζεῦ πάτερ, ἦ μέγα δὴ μοι ἐνὶ φρεσὶ θάμβος ἄηται,
εἰ δὴ μὴ νούσοισι τυπῆσί τε λυγρὸς ὄλεθρος
ἀντιάει, καὶ δὴ τις ἀπόπροθεν ἄμμε χαλέπτει.

ὧς ὄγε χάλκειός περ ἐὼν ὑπόειξε δαμῆναι
Μηδείης βρίμη πολυφαρμάκου. ἂν δε βαρείας
ὀχλίζων λάιγγας, ἐρυκέμεν ὄρμον ἰκέσθαι,
πετραίῳ στόνυχι χρίμψε σφυρόν· ἐκ δὲ οἱ ἰχῶρ
τηκομένῳ ἴκελος μολίβῳ ῥέεν· οὐδ' ἔτι δηρὸν
εἰστήκει προβλήτος ἐπεμβεβαὼς σκοπέλοιο.

1680

ἀλλ' ὧς τίς τ' ἐν ὄρεσσι πελωρίῃ ὑψόθι πεύκη,
τήντε θοοῖς πελέκεσσιν ἔθ' ἡμιπλήγα λιπόντες
ὑλοτόμοι δρυμοῖο κατήλυθον· ἢ δ' ὑπὸ νυκτὶ
ῥιπῆσιν μὲν πρῶτα τινάσσεται, ὕστερον αὖτε
πρυμνόθεν ἐξαγείσα κατήριπεν· ὧς ὄγε ποσσὶν
ἀκαμάτοις τείως μὲν ἐπισταδὸν ἠωρεῖτο,
ὕστερον αὖτ' ἀμενηνὸς ἀπείροσι κάππεσε δούπῳ.

κεῖνο μὲν οὖν Κρήτη ἐνὶ δὴ κνέφας ἠυλίζοντο
ἤρωες· μετὰ δ' οἷγε νέον φαέθουσιν ἐς ἠῶ

1690

ἶρον Ἀθηναίης Μινωίδος ἰδρύσαντο,
ὔδωρ τ' εἰσαφύσαντο καὶ εἰσέβαν, ὧς κεν ἐρετμοῖς
παμπρώτιστα βάλοιεν ὑπὲρ Σαλμωνίδος ἄκρης.

Αὐτίκα δὲ Κρηταῖον ὑπὲρ μέγα λαῖτμα θεόντας
νύξ ἐφόβει, τήνπερ τε κατουλάδα κικλήσκουσιν·
νύκτ' ὀλοὴν οὐκ ἄστρα δίσχανεν, οὐκ ἀμαρυγαὶ
μήνης· οὐρανόθεν δὲ μέλαν χάος, ἢέ τις ἄλλη

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

the air, swoop down on the living. Kneeling in supplication, thrice she called on them with songs, and thrice with prayers; and, shaping her soul to mischief, with her hostile glance she bewitched the eyes of Talos, the man of bronze; and her teeth gnashed bitter wrath against him, and she sent forth baneful phantoms in the frenzy of her rage.

Father Zeus, surely great wonder rises in my mind, seeing that dire destruction meets us not from disease and wounds alone, but lo! even from afar, may be, it tortures us! So Talos, for all his frame of bronze, yielded the victory to the might of Medea the sorceress. And as he was heaving massy rocks to stay them from reaching the haven, he grazed his ankle on a pointed crag; and the ichor gushed forth like melted lead; and not long thereafter did he stand towering on the jutting cliff. But even as some huge pine, high up on the mountains, which woodmen have left half hewn through by their sharp axes when they returned from the forest—at first it shivers in the wind by night, then at last snaps at the stump and crashes down; so Talos for a while stood on his tireless feet, swaying to and fro, then at last, all strengthless, fell with a mighty thud. For that night there in Crete the heroes lay; then, just as dawn was growing bright, they built a shrine to Minoan Athena, and drew water and went aboard, so that first of all they might by rowing pass beyond Salmone's height.

But straightway as they sped over the wide Cretan sea night scared them, that night which they name the Pall of Darkness; the stars pierced not that fatal night nor the beams of the moon, but black chaos descended from heaven, or haply some other

ὠρώρει σκοτίη μυχάτων ἀνιούσα βερέθρων.
 αὐτοὶ δ', εἴτ' Ἀίδη, εἴθ' ὕδασιν ἐμφορέοντο,
 ἠείδειν οὐδ' ὅσσον· ἐπέτρεψαν δὲ θαλάσση
 νόστον, ἀμηχανέοντες, ὅπη φέροι. αὐτὰρ Ἰήσων
 χεῖρας ἀνασχόμενος μεγάλη ὀπί Φοῖβον αὐτεῖ,
 ῥύσασθαι καλέων· κατὰ δ' ἔρρεεν ἀσχαλόωντι
 δάκρυα· πολλὰ δὲ Πυθοῖ ὑπέσχετο, πολλὰ δ'

1700

Ἀμύκλαις,

πολλὰ δ' ἐς Ὀρτυγίην ἀπερείσια δῶρα κομίσειν.
 Λητοῖδῃ, τύνη δὲ κατ' οὐρανοῦ ἴκεο πέτρας
 ῥίμφα Μελαντίους ἀριήκοος, αἴτ' ἐνὶ πόντῳ
 ἦνται· δοιῶν δὲ μιῆς ἐφύπερθεν ὀρούσας,
 δεξιτερῇ χρύσειον ἀνέσχεθες ὑψόθι τόξον·
 μαρμαρέην δ' ἀπέλαμψε βιὸς περὶ πάντοθεν αἴγλην. 1710
 τοῖσι δέ τις Σποράδων βαιὴ ἀπὸ τόφρ' ἐφαάνθη
 νῆσος ἰδεῖν, ὀλίγης Ἴππουρίδος ἀντία νήσου,
 ἐνθ' εὐνάς ἐβάλλοντο καὶ ἔσχεθον· αὐτίκα δ' ἠὼς
 φέγγεν ἀνερχομένη· τοὶ δ' ἀγλαὸν Ἀπόλλωνι
 ἄλσει ἐνὶ σκιερῷ τέμενος σκιοέντά τε βωμὸν
 ποίεον, Αἴγλήτην μὲν εὐσκόπου εἵνεκεν αἴγλης
 Φοῖβον κεκλόμενοι· Ἀνάφην δέ τε λισσάδα νήσου
 ἴσκον, ὃ δὴ Φοῖβός μιν ἀτυζομένοις ἀνέφηεν.
 ῥέζον δ' ὅσσα περ ἄνδρες ἐρημαίῃ ἐνὶ ῥέζειν
 ἀκτῇ ἐφοπλίσσειαν· ὃ δὴ σφεας ὀππότε δαλοῖς 1720
 ὕδωρ αἰθομένοισιν ἐπιλλεῖβοντας ἴδοντο
 Μηδείης δμωαὶ Φαιηκίδες, οὐκέτ' ἔπειτα
 ἴσχειν ἐν στήθεσσι γέλω σθένον, οἷα θαμειᾶς
 αἰὲν ἐν Ἀλκινόοιο βοοκτασίας ὀρόωσαι.
 τὰς δ' αἰσχροῖς ἦρωες ἐπεστοβέεσκον ἔπεσσι
 χλεύῃ γηθόσυνοι· γλυκερὴ δ' ἀνεδαίετο τοῖσιν

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

darkness came, rising from the nethermost depths. And the heroes, whether they drifted in Hades or on the waters, knew not one whit; but they committed their return to the sea in helpless doubt whither it was bearing them. But Jason raised his hands and cried to Phoebus with mighty voice, calling on him to save them; and the tears ran down in his distress; and often did he promise to bring countless offerings to Pytho, to Amyclae, and to Ortygia. And quickly, O son of Leto, swift to hear, didst thou come down from heaven to the Melantian rocks, which lie there in the sea. Then darting upon one of the twin peaks, thou raisedst aloft in thy right hand thy golden bow; and the bow flashed a dazzling gleam all round. And to their sight appeared a small island of the Sporades, over against the tiny isle Hippuris, and there they cast anchor and stayed; and straightway dawn arose and gave them light; and they made for Apollo a glorious abode in a shady wood, and a shady altar, calling on Phoebus the "Gleamer," because of the gleam far-seen; and that bare island they called Anaphe,¹ for that Phoebus had revealed it to men sore bewildered. And they sacrificed all that men could provide for sacrifice on a desolate strand; wherefore when Medea's Phaeacian handmaids saw them pouring water for libations on the burning brands, they could no longer restrain laughter within their bosoms, for that ever they had seen oxen in plenty slain in the halls of Alcinous. And the heroes delighted in the jest and attacked them with taunting words; and merry railing and contention flung to and fro were kindled among

¹ *i.e.* the isle of Revealing.

κερτομῆ καὶ νεῖκος ἐπεσβόλον. ἐκ δέ νυ κείνης
 μολπῆς ἠρώων νήσῳ ἔνι τοῖα γυναῖκες
 ἀνδράσι δηριόωνται, ὅτ' Ἀπόλλωνα θυηλαῖς
 Αἰγλήτην Ἀνάφης τιμήορον ἰλάσκονται.

1730

Ἄλλ' ὅτε δὴ κἀκεῖθεν ὑπεύδια πείσματ' ἔλυσαν,
 μνήσατ' ἔπειτ' Εὐφημος ὀνείρατος ἐννυχίοιο,
 ἀζόμενος Μαίης υἷα κλυτόν. εἶσατο γάρ οἱ
 δαιμονίη βῶλαξ ἐπιμάστιος ᾧ ἐν ἀγοστῷ
 ἄρδεσθαι λευκῆσιν ὑπὸ λιβάδεσσι γάλακτος,
 ἐκ δὲ γυνὴ βώλοιο πέλειν ὀλίγης περ εἰούσης
 παρθενικῆ ἰκέλη· μίχθη δέ οἱ ἐν φιλότητι
 ἄσχετον ἱμερθεῖς· ὀλοφύρετο δ' ἠύτε κούρην
 ζευξάμενος, τήντ' αὐτὸς ἐῷ ἀτίταλλε γάλακτι·
 ἢ δέ ἐμειλιχίοισι παρηγορέεσκ' ἐπέεσσιν.

1740

Ἐπίτῳ γένος εἰμί, τεῶν τροφός, ᾧ φίλε,
 παίδων,
 οὐ κούρη· Τρίτων γὰρ ἐμοὶ Λιβύη τε τοκῆες.
 ἀλλὰ με Νηρῆος παρακάτθεο παρθενικῆσιν
 ἄμ πέλαγος ναίειν Ἀνάφης σχεδόν· εἶμι δ' ἐς αὐγὰς
 ἡελίου μετόπισθε, τεοῖς νεπόδεσσι ἐτοίμη.

Τῶν ἄρ' ἐπὶ μνήστιν κραδίη βάλεν, ἐκ τ' ὀνό-
 μηνεν

Αἰσονίδη· ὁ δ' ἔπειτα θεοπροπίας Ἐκάτοιο
 θυμῷ πεμπάζων ἀνενείκατο φώνησέν τε·

ᾠ πέπον, ἢ μέγα δὴ σε καὶ ἀγλαὸν ἔμμορε
 κῦδος.

βώλακα γὰρ τεύξουσι θεοὶ πόντουδε βαλόντι
 νῆσον, ἵν' ὀπλότεροι παίδων σέθεν ἐννάσσονται
 παῖδες· ἐπεὶ Τρίτων ξεινήιον ἐγγυάλιξεν
 τήνδε τοι ἠπείροιο Λιβυστίδος. οὐ νύ τις ἄλλος
 ἀθανάτων, ἢ κείνος, ὅ μιν πόρεν ἀντιβολήσας.

1750

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK IV

them. And from that sport of the heroes such scoffs do the women fling at the men in that island whenever they propitiate with sacrifices Apollo the gleaming god, the warder of Anaphe.

But when they had loosed the hawsers thrice in fair weather, then Euphemus bethought him of a dream of the night, reverencing the glorious son of Maia. For it seemed to him that the god-given clod of earth held in his palm close to his breast was being suckled by white streams of milk, and that from it, little though it was, grew a woman like a virgin; and he, overcome by strong desire, lay with her in love's embrace; and united with her he pitied her, as though she were a maiden whom he was feeding with his own milk; but she comforted him with gentle words:

“Daughter of Triton am I, dear friend, and nurse of thy children, no maiden; Triton and Libya are my parents. But restore me to the daughters of Nereus to dwell in the sea near Anaphe; I shall return again to the light of the sun, to prepare a home for thy descendants.”

Of this he stored in his heart the memory, and declared it to Aeson's son; and Jason pondered a prophecy of the Far-Darter and lifted up his voice and said:

“My friend, great and glorious renown has fallen to thy lot. For of this clod when thou hast cast it into the sea, the gods will make an island, where thy children's children shall dwell; for Triton gave this to thee as a stranger's gift from the Libyan mainland. None other of the immortals it was than he that gave thee this when he met thee.”

᾽Ως ἔφατ'· οὐδ' ἀλίωσεν ὑπόκρισιν Αἰσονίδαο
 Εὐφήμος· βῶλον δέ, θεοπροπίησιν ἰανθείς,
 ἦκεν ὑποβρυχίην. τῆς δ' ἔκτοθι νῆσος ἀέρθη
 Καλλίστη, παίδων ἱερὴ τροφὸς Εὐφήμοιο,
 οἱ πρὶν μὲν ποτε δὴ Σιντηίδα Λῆμνον ἔναιον,
 Λῆμνου τ' ἐξελαθέντες ὑπ' ἀνδράσι Τυρσηνοῖσιν 1760
 Σπάρτην εἰσαφίκανον ἐφέστιοι· ἐκ δὲ λιπόντας
 Σπάρτην Αὐτεσίωνος εὖς πάϊς ἤγαγε Θήρας
 Καλλίστην ἐπὶ νῆσον, ἀμείψατο δ' οὖνομα Θήρης
 ἐξ ἔθεν. ἀλλὰ τὰ μὲν μετόπιν γένετ' Εὐφήμοιο.

Κεῖθεν δ' ἀπτερέως διὰ μυρίον οἶδμα λιπόντες
 Αἰγίνης ἀκτῆσιν ἐπέσχεθον· αἶψα δὲ τοίγε
 ὑδρείης πέρι δῆριν ἀμεμφέα δηρίσαντο,
 ὅς κεν ἀφυσσάμενος φθαίη μετὰ νηᾶδ' ἰκέσθαι.
 ἄμφω γὰρ χρειώ τε καὶ ἄσπετος οὔρος ἔπειγεν.
 ἔνθ' ἔτι νῦν πλήθοντας ἐπωμαδὸν ἀμφιφορῆας 1770
 ἀνθέμενοι κούφοισιν ἄφαρ κατ' ἀγῶνα πόδεσσιν
 κοῦροι Μυρμιδόνων νίκης πέρι δηριόωνται.

Ἴλατ' ἀριστήων μακάρων γένος· αἶδε δ' αἰοιδαὶ
 εἰς ἔτος ἐξ ἔτεος γλυκερώτεραι εἶεν ἀείδειν
 ἀνθρώποις. ἤδη γὰρ ἐπὶ κλυτὰ πείραθ' ἰκάνω
 ὑμετέρων καμάτων· ἐπεὶ οὐ νύ τις ὑμῖν ἄεθλος
 αὐτὶς ἀπ' Αἰγίνηθεν ἀνερχομένοισιν ἐτύχθη,
 οὔτ' ἀνέμων ἐριωλαὶ ἐνέσταθεν· ἀλλὰ ἔκηλοι
 γαίην Κεκροπίην παρά τ' Αὐλίδα μετρήσαντες
 Εὐβοίης ἐντοσθεν Ὀπούντιά τ' ἄστυα Λοκρῶν 1780
 ἀσπασίως ἀκτὰς Παγασηίδας εἰσαπέβητε.

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Thus he spake ; and Euphemus made not vain the answer of Aeson's son ; but, cheered by the prophecy, he cast the clod into the depths. Therefrom rose up an island, Calliste, sacred nurse of the sons of Euphemus, who in former days dwelt in Sintian Lemnos, and from Lemnos were driven forth by Tyrrhenians and came to Sparta as suppliants ; and when they left Sparta, Theras, the goodly son of Autesion, brought them to the island Calliste, and from himself he gave it the name of Thera. But this befell after the days of Euphemus.

And thence they steadily left behind long leagues of sea and stayed on the beach of Aegina ; and at once they contended in innocent strife about the fetching of water, who first should draw it and reach the ship. For both their need and the ceaseless breeze urged them on. There even to this day do the youths of the Myrmidons take up on their shoulders full-brimming jars, and with swift feet strive for victory in the race.

Be gracious, race of blessed chieftains ! And may these songs year after year be sweeter to sing among men. For now have I come to the glorious end of your toils ; for no adventure befell you as ye came home from Aegina, and no tempest of winds opposed you ; but quietly did ye skirt the Cecropian land and Aulis inside of Euboea and the Opuntian cities of the Locrians, and gladly did ye step forth upon the beach of Pagasae.

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