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APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

THE ARGONAUTICA

WITH AN ENGLISH TRANSLATION BY

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Vc

BOOK III

SUMMARY OF BOOK III

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

SUMMARY OF BOOK III

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

Γ

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

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

Ὡς οἱ μὲν πυκινούσιν ἀνωίστως δονάκεσσιν
μῖμνον ἀριστῆες λελοχημένοι· αἱ δ' ἐνόησαν
Ἥρῃ Ἀθηναίῃ τε, Διὸς δ' αὐτοῖο καὶ ἄλλων
ἀθανάτων ἀπονόσφι θεῶν θάλαμόνδε κιούσαι
βούλευον· πείραζε δ' Ἀθηναίην πάρος Ἥρῃ.

10

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

Ὡς φάτο· τὴν δὲ παρᾶσσον Ἀθηναίη προσέ-
ειπεν·

Καὶ δ' αὐτὴν ἐμὲ τοῖα μετὰ φρεσὶν ὀρμαίνουσαν,
Ἥρῃ, ἀπηλεγέως ἐξείρειαι. ἀλλὰ τοι οὔπω
φράσσασθαι νοέω τοῦτον δόλον, ὅστις ὀνήσει
θυμὸν ἀριστῶν· πολέας δ' ἐπεδοίασα βουλὰς.

20

Ἥ, καὶ ἐπ' οὔδεος αἴγε ποδῶν πάρος ὄμματ'
ἔπηξαν,

BOOK III

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

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

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

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

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

ἄνδιχα πορφύρουσαι ἐνὶ σφίσιν· αὐτίκα δ' Ἕρῃ
τοῖον μητιόωσα παροιτέρῃ ἔκφατο μῦθον
‘Δεῦρ’ ἵομεν μετὰ Κύπριν· ἐπιπλόμεναι δέ μιν
ἄμφω

παιδὶ ἐφ’ εἰπεῖν ὁτρύνομεν, αἶ κε πίθηται
κούρην Αἰήτεω πολυφάρμακον οἷσι βέλεσσιν
θέλξαι ὀιστεύσας ἐπ’ Ἰήσωνι. τὸν δ’ ἂν οἶω
κείνης ἐννεσίῃσιν ἐς Ἑλλάδα κῶας ἀνάξειν.’

Ὡς ἄρ’ ἔφη· πυκινὴ δὲ συνεύαδε μῆτις Ἀθήνῃ, 30
καὶ μιν ἔπειτ’ ἐξαυτίς ἀμείβετο μελιχίοισιν
‘Ἕρῃ, νήϊδα μὲν με πατὴρ τέκε τοῖο βολάων,
οὐδέ τινα χρεῖῳ θελκτῆριον οἶδα πόθοιο.
εἰ δέ σοι αὐτῇ μῦθος ἐφاندάνει, ἦ τ’ ἂν ἔγωγε
ἐσποίμην· σὺ δέ κεν φαίης ἔπος ἀντιόωσα.’

Ἦ, καὶ ἀναΐξασαι ἐπὶ μέγα δῶμα νέοντο
Κύπριδος, ὃ ῥά τέ οἱ δεῖμεν πόσις ἀμφιγυῆεις,
ὅππότε μιν τὰ πρῶτα παραὶ Διὸς ἦγεν ἄκοιτιν.
ἔρκεα δ’ εἰσελθοῦσαι ὑπ’ αἰθούσῃ θαλάμοιο
ἔσταν, ἣν ἐντύνεσκε θεὰ λέχος Ἑφαιστοιο. 40

ἀλλ’ ὁ μὲν ἐς χαλκεῶνα καὶ ἄκμονας ἦρι βεβήκει,
νήσοιο πλαγκτῆς εὐρὺν μυχόν, ᾧ ἔνι πάντα
δαίδαλα χάλκευεν ῥιπῇ πυρός· ἦ δ’ ἄρα μούνη
ἦστο δόμῳ δινωτὸν ἀνὰ θρόνον, ἅντα θυράων.
λευκοῖσιν δ’ ἐκάτερθε κόμας ἐπικειμένη ὥμοις
κόσμει χρυσεῖῃ διὰ κερκίδι, μέλλε δὲ μακροῦς
πλέξασθαι πλοκάμους· τὰς δὲ προπάροιθεν ἰδοῦσα
ἔσχεθεν, εἴσω τέ σφ’ ἐκάλει, καὶ ἀπὸ θρόνου ὤρτο,
εἰσέ τ’ ἐνὶ κλισμοῖσιν· ἀτὰρ μετέπειτα καὶ αὐτῇ
ἵζανεν, ἀψήκτους δὲ χεροῖν ἀνεδήσατο χαίτας. 50
τοῖα δὲ μειδιόωσα προσέννεπεν αἰμυλίοισιν·

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

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

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

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

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

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

‘Ἡθεΐαι, τίς δεῦρο νόος χρειώ τε κομίζει
 δηναίᾳς αὐτως; τί δ’ ἰκάνετον, οὔτι πάρος γε
 λήν φοιτίζουσai, ἐπεὶ περίεστε θεάων;’

Ἦν δ’ Ἦρη τοίοισιν ἀμειβομένη προσέειπεν·
 ‘Κερτομέεις· νῶιν δὲ κέαρ συνορίνεται ἄτη.

ἤδη γὰρ ποταμῷ ἐνὶ Φάσιδι νῆα κατίσχει
 Αἰσονίδης, ἡδ’ ἄλλοι ὅσοι μετὰ κῶας ἔπονται.
 τῶν ἦτοι πάντων μὲν, ἐπεὶ πέλας ἔργον ὄρωρεν,
 δείδιμεν ἐκπάγλως, περὶ δ’ Αἰσονίδαο μάλιστα.

60

τὸν μὲν ἐγών, εἰ καὶ περ ἐς Ἦαιδα ναυτίλληται
 λυσόμενος χαλκῶν Ἰξίονα νειόθι δεσμῶν,
 ῥύσομαι, ὅσσον ἐμοῖσιν ἐνὶ σθένος ἔπλετο γυνίοις,
 ὄφρα μὴ ἐγγελάσῃ Πελίδης κακὸν οἶτον ἀλύξας,
 ὃς μ’ ὑπερηνορῇ θυεων ἀγέραστον ἔθηκεν.

καὶ δ’ ἄλλως ἔτι καὶ πρὶν ἐμοὶ μέγα φίλατ’ Ἰήσων
 ἐξότ’ ἐπὶ προχοῇσιν ἅλις πλήθοντος Ἀναύρου
 ἀνδρῶν εὐνομῆς πειρωμένη ἀντεβόλησεν

θήρης ἐξανιών· νιφετῷ δ’ ἐπαλύνετο πάντα
 οὔρεα καὶ σκοπιαὶ περιμήκεες, οἱ δὲ κατ’ αὐτῶν
 χεῖμαρροι καναχηδὰ κυλινδόμενοι φορέοντο.
 γρηὶ δέ μ’ εἰσαμένην ὀλοφύρατο, καὶ μ’ ἀναείρας
 αὐτὸς ἐοῖς ὤμοισι διέκ προαλὲς φέρειν ὕδωρ.

70

τῷ νῦ μοι ἄλληκτον περιτίεται· οὐδέ κε λῶβην
 τίσειεν Πελίδης, εἰ μὴ σύ γε νόστον ὀπάσσεις.’

Ὡς ἡῦδα· Κύπριν δ’ ἐνεοστασίῃ λάβε μύθων.
 ἄζετο δ’ ἀντομένην Ἦρην ἔθεν εἰσορόωσα,
 καὶ μιν ἔπειτ’ ἀγανοῖσι προσέννεπεν ἦγ’ ἐπέεσσιν·

‘Πότνα θεά, μὴ τοί τι κακώτερον ἄλλο πέλοιτο
 Κύπριδος, εἰ δὴ σείῳ λιλαιομένης ἀθερίζω
 ἢ ἔπος ἡέ τι ἔργον, ὃ κεν χέρες αἴγῃ κάμοιεν
 ἠπεδαναί· καὶ μὴ τις ἀμοιβαίῃ χάρις ἔστω.’

80

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

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

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

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

Ἦς ἔφαθ'· "Ἡρῃ δ' αὖτις ἐπιφραδέως ἀγόρευσεν·
 'Οὔτι βίης χατέουσαι ἰκάνομεν, οὐδέ τι χειρῶν.
 ἀλλ' αὕτως ἀκέουσα τεῶ ἐπικέκλεο παιδί
 παρθένον Αἰήτεω θέλξαι πόθῳ Αἰσονίδαο.
 εἰ γάρ οἱ κείνη συμφράσσεται εὐμενέουσα,
 ῥηιδίως μιν ἐλόντα δέρος χρύσειον δῖω
 νοστήσειν ἐς Ἴωλκόν, ἐπεὶ δολόεσσα τέτυκται.'

Ἦς ἄρ' ἔφη· Κύπρις δὲ μετ' ἀμφοτέρησιν ἔειπεν· 90
 'Ἡρῃ, Ἀθηναίη τε, πίθοιτό κεν ὕμμι μάλιστα,
 ἣ ἐμοί. ὕμειων γὰρ ἀναιδήτῳ περ ἔοντι
 τυτθή γ' αἰδῶς ἔσσετ' ἐν ὄμμασιν· αὐτὰρ ἐμῖο
 οὐκ ὄθεται, μάλα δ' αἰὲν ἐριδμαίνων ἀθερίζει.
 καὶ δὴ οἱ μενέηνα, περισχομένη κακότητι,
 αὐτοῖσιν τόξοισι δυσσηχέας ἄξαι ὀιστοὺς
 ἀμφαδίην. τοῖον γὰρ ἐπηπείλησε χαλεφθεῖς,
 εἰ μὴ τηλόθι χεῖρας, ἕως ἔτι θυμὸν ἐρύκει,
 ἔξω ἐμάς, μετέπειτά γ' ἀτεμβοίμην ἐοῖ αὐτῇ.'

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

Ἦς φάτο· τὴν δ' Ἡρῃ ῥαδινῆς ἐπεμάσσατο
 χειρός,

ἦκα δὲ μειδιόωσα παραβλήδην προσέειπεν·
 'Οὔτω νῦν, Κυθήρεια, τόδε χρέος, ὥς ἀγορεύεις,
 ἔρξον ἄφαρ· καὶ μὴ τι χαλέπτεο, μηδ' ἐρίδαινε
 χωρόμένη σῶ παιδί· μεταλλήξει γὰρ ὀπίσσω.'

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

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

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

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

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

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

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

εὔρε δὲ τόνγ' ἀπάνευθε Διὸς θαλερῇ ἐν ἁλῶν,
 οὐκ οἶον, μετὰ καὶ Γανυμήδεα, τόν ῥά ποτε Ζεὺς
 οὐρανῷ ἐγκατένασεν ἐφέστιον ἀθανάτοισιν,
 κάλλεος ἱμερθεῖς. ἀμφ' ἀστραγάλοισι δὲ τώγε
 χρυσείοις, ἅτε κοῦροι ὁμήθεες, ἐψιύωντο.
 καὶ ῥ' ὁ μὲν ἤδη πάμπαν ἐνίπλεον ᾧ ὑπὸ μαζῷ
 μάργος Ἑρως λαιῆς ὑποῖσχανε χειρὸς ἀγοστόν, 120
 ὀρθὸς ἐφেষτηώς· γλυκερὸν δέ οἱ ἀμφὶ παρειὰς
 χροίῃ θάλλεν ἔρευθος. ὁ δ' ἐγγύθεν ὀκλαδὸν ἦστο
 σίγα κατηφιῶν· δοιῶ δ' ἔχεν, ἄλλον ἔτ' αὐτως
 ἄλλω ἐπιπροΐεις, κεχόλωτο δὲ καγχαλόωντι.
 καὶ μὴν τούσγε παρᾶσσον ἐπὶ προτέροισιν ὀλέσσας
 βῆ κενεαῖς σὺν χερσὶν ἀμήχανος, οὐδ' ἐνόησεν
 Κύπριν ἐπιπλομένην. ἡ δ' ἀντίη ἴστατο παιδός,
 καὶ μιν ἄφαρ γναθμοῖο κατασχομένη προσέειπεν·
 'Τίπτ' ἐπιμειδιάας, ἄφατον κακόν; ἡέ μιν αὐτως
 ἦπαφες, οὐδὲ δίκη περιέπλεο νῆιν ἑόντα; 130
 εἰ δ' ἄγε μοι πρόφρων τέλεσον χρέος, ὅττι κεν
 εἵπω·
 καὶ κέν τοι ὀπάσαιμι Διὸς περικαλλὲς ἄθυρμα
 κείνο, τό οἱ ποίησε φίλη τροφὸς Ἀδρήστεια·
 ἄντρω ἐν Ἰδαίῳ ἔτι νήπια κουρίζοντι,
 σφαῖραν ἐντροχάλον, τῆς οὐ σύγε μείλιον ἄλλο
 χειρῶν Ἡφαίστοιο κατακτεατίσση ἄρειον.
 χρύσεα μὲν οἱ κύκλα τετεύχεται· ἀμφὶ δ' ἐκάστω
 διπλόαι ἀψίδες περιηγέες εἰλίσσονται·
 κρυπταὶ δὲ ῥαφαί εἰσιν· ἔλιξ δ' ἐπιδέδρομε πάσαις
 κυανέη. ἀτὰρ εἴ μιν ἐαῖς ἐνὶ χερσὶ βάλοιо, 140
 ἀστὴρ ὥς, φλεγέθοντα δι' ἡέρος ὀλκὸν ἵησιν.
 τήν τοι ἐγὼν ὀπάσω· σὺ δὲ παρθένον Αἰήταο
 θέλξον οἰστεύσας ἐπ' Ἰήσωνι· μηδέ τις ἔστω
 ἀμβολή. δὴ γάρ κεν ἀφαιροτέρη χάρις εἴη·

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

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

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

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

150

ἴστω νῦν τόδε σείο φίλον κάρη ἡδ' ἐμὸν αὐτῆς,
 ἡ μὲν τοι δῶρόν γε παρέξομαι, οὐδ' ἀπατήσω,
 εἴ κεν ἐνισκίμψῃς κούρῃ βέλος Αἰήταο.

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

μητρὸς ἐῆς εὖ πάντας ἀριθμήσας βάλε κόλπῳ.
 αὐτίκα δ' ἰοδόκην χρυσῇ περικάτθετο μίτρῃ
 πρέμνῳ κεκλιμένην· ἀνὰ δ' ἀγκύλον εἴλετο τόξον.
 βῆ δὲ διέκ μεγάροιο Διὸς πάγκαρπον ἄλωήν.
 αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα πύλας ἐξήλυθεν Οὐλύμποιο
 αἰθερίας· ἔνθεν δὲ καταιβάτις ἐστὶ κέλευθος
 οὐρανίῃ· δοιῶ δὲ πόλοι ἀνέχουσι κάρηνα
 οὐρέων ἡλιβάτων, κορυφαὶ χθονός, ἡχί τ' ἀερθεῖς
 ἡέλιος πρῶτησιν ἐρεύθεται¹ ἀκτίνεσσιν.
 νειόθι δ' ἄλλοτε γαῖα φερέσβιος ἄσπεά τ' ἀνδρῶν
 φαίνεται καὶ ποταμῶν ἱεροὶ ῥόοι, ἄλλοτε δ' αὖτε
 ἄκριες, ἀμφὶ δὲ πόντος ἀν' αἰθέρα πολλὸν ἰόντι.

160

Ἦρωες δ' ἀπάνευθεν ἐῆς ἐπὶ σέλμασι νηὸς
 ἐν ποταμῷ καθ' ἔλος λελοχημένοι ἡγορόωντο.
 αὐτὸς δ' Αἰσονίδης μετεφώνεεν· οἱ δ' ὑπάκουον
 ἡρέμας ἢ ἐνὶ χώρῃ ἐπισχερῶ ἐδριόωντες·
 ὦ φίλοι, ἦτοι ἐγὼ μὲν ὅ μοι ἐπ' ἀνδάνει αὐτῷ
 ἐξερέω· τοῦ δ' ὕμμι τέλος κρηῖναι ἔοικεν.

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¹ ἐρεύθεται G, one Parisian : ἐρεύγεται L : ἐρείδεται Merkel.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

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

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

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

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

ξυνὴ γὰρ χρειώ, ξυνοὶ δέ τε μῦθοι ἔασιν
 πᾶσιν ὁμῶς· ὁ δὲ σῖγα νόον βουλὴν τ' ὑπερύκων
 ἴστω καὶ νόστου τόνδε στόλον οἶος ἀπούρας.
 ὦλλοι μὲν κατὰ νῆα σὺν ἔντεσι μίμνεθ' ἔκηλοι·
 αὐτὰρ ἐγὼν ἐς δώματ' ἐλεύσομαι Αἰήταο,
 υἱας ἐλὼν Φρίξιοιο δύω δ' ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ἐταίρους.
 πειρήσω δ' ἐπέεσσι παροίτερον ἀντιβολήσας,
 εἴ κ' ἐθέλοι φιλότῃτι δέρος χρύσειον ὀπάσσαι, 180
 ἦε καὶ οὐ, πίσυνος δὲ βίῃ μετιόντας ἀτίσσει.
 ὦδε γὰρ ἐξ αὐτοῖο πάρος κακότητα διαέντες
 φρασσόμεθ' εἴτ' ἄρῃ συνοισόμεθ', εἴτε τις ἄλλη
 μῆτις ἐπίρροθος ἔσται ἐεργομένοισιν αὐτῆς.
 μῆδ' αὐτῶς ἀλκῇ, πρὶν ἔπεσσί γε πειρηθῆναι,
 τόνδ' ἀπαμείρωμεν σφέτερον κτέρας. ἀλλὰ πάρ-
 οιβεν

λῳίτερον μύθῳ μιν ἀρέσσασθαι μετιόντας.
 πολλάκι τοι ρέα μῦθος, ὃ κεν μόλις ἐξανύσειεν
 ἡγορέῃ, τόδ' ἔρεξε κατὰ χρέος, ἥπερ ἐφείκει
 πρηϋνας. ὁ δὲ καὶ ποτ' ἀμύμονα Φρίξον ἔδεκτο 190
 μητρυιῆς φεύγοντα δόλον πατρός τε θυηλάς.
 πάντες ἐπεὶ πάντῃ καὶ ὅτις μάλα κύντατος ἀνδρῶν,
 Ξεινίου αἰδεῖται Ζηνὸς θέμιν ἠδ' ἀλεγίξει.'

ᾧ φάτ'· ἐπήνησαν δὲ νέοι ἔπος Αἰσιοίδαιο
 πασσυδίῃ, οὐδ' ἔσκε παρὲξ ὅτις ἄλλο κελεύοι.
 καὶ τότε ἄρ' υἱῆας Φρίξου Τελαμῶνά θ' ἔπεσθαι
 ὥρσε καὶ Αὐγείην· αὐτὸς δ' ἔλεν Ἑρμείαο
 σκῆπτρον· ἄφαρ δ' ἄρα νηὸς ὑπὲρ δόνακάς τε καὶ
 ὕδωρ

χέρσονδ' ἐξαπέβησαν ἐπὶ θρωσμοῦ πεδίοιο.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

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

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

Κιρκαῖον τόδε που κικλήσκεται· ἔνθα δὲ πολλαὶ 200
 ἐξείης πρόμαλοί τε καὶ ἰτέαι ἐκπεφύασιν,
 τῶν καὶ ἐπ' ἀκροτάτων νέκυες σειρῇσι κρέμανται
 δέσμιοι. εἰσέτι νῦν γὰρ ἄγος Κόλχοισιν ὄρωρεν
 ἀνέρας οἰχομένους πυρὶ καίεμεν· οὐδ' ἐνὶ γαίῃ
 ἔστι θέμις στείλαντας ὑπερθ' ἐπὶ σῆμα χέεσθαι,
 ἀλλ' ἐν ἀδεψήτοισι κατειλύσαντε βοεῖαις
 δενδρέων ἐξάπτειν ἐκὰς ἄστεος. ἥερι δ' ἴσῃν
 καὶ χθὼν ἔμμορεν αἶσαν, ἐπεὶ χθονὶ ταρχύουσιν
 θηλυτέρας· ἡ γάρ τε δίκη θεσμοῖο τέτυκται.
 Τοῖσι δὲ νισσόμενοις Ἥρη φίλα μητιώσα 210
 ἡέρα πουλὺν ἐφήκε δι' ἄστεος, ὅφρα λάθοιεν
 Κόλχων μυρίον ἔθνος ἐς Αἰήταο κιόντες.
 ὦκα δ' ὅτ' ἐκ πεδίοιο πόλιν καὶ δώμαθ' ἵκοντο
 Αἰήτεω, τότε δ' αὖτις ἀπεσκέδασεν νέφος Ἥρη.
 ἔσταν δ' ἐν προμολῇσι τεθηπότες ἔρκε' ἀνακτος
 εὐρείας τε πύλας καὶ κίονας, οἱ περὶ τοίχους
 ἐξείης ἀνεχον· θριγκὸς δ' ἐφύπερθε δόμοιο
 λαῖνεος χαλκῆσιν ἐπὶ γλυφίδεσσιν ἀρήρει.
 εὐκῆλοι δ' ὑπὲρ οὐδὸν ἔπειτ' ἔβαν. ἄγχι δὲ τοῖο 220
 ἡμερίδες χλοεροῖσι καταστεφές πετάλοισιν
 ὑψοῦ ἀειρόμεναι μέγ' ἐθήλεον. αἱ δ' ὑπὸ τῇσιν
 ἀέναοι κρῆναι πίσυρες ῥέον, ἅς ἐλάχνηεν
 Ἥφαιστος. καὶ ῥ' ἡ μὲν ἀναβλύεσκε γάλακτι,
 ἡ δ' οἶνω, τριτάτῃ δὲ θυώδεϊ νᾶεν ἀλοιφῇ·
 ἡ δ' ἄρ' ὕδωρ προρέεσκε, τὸ μὲν ποθι δυομένησιν
 θέρμετο Πληιάδεσσιν, ἀμοιβηδὶς δ' ἀνιούσαις
 κρυστάλλῳ ἵκελον κοίλῃς ἀνεκῆκιε πέτρης.
 τοῖ' ἄρ' ἐνὶ μεγάροισι Κυταιέος Αἰήταο
 τεχνῆεις Ἥφαιστος ἐμήσατο θέσκελα ἔργα.
 καὶ οἱ χαλκόποδας ταύρους κάμε, χάλκεα δὲ σφεων 230
 208

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

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

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

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

ἦν στόματ', ἐκ δὲ πυρὸς δεινὸν σέλας ἀμπνείεσκον
πρὸς δὲ καὶ αὐτόγυον στιβαροῦ ἀδάμαντος ἄροτρον
ἤλασεν, Ἡελίῳ τίνων χάριν, ὅς ῥά μιν ἵπποις
δέξατο, Φλεγραΐῃ κεκμηότα δηιοτήτι.

ἔνθα δὲ καὶ μέσσανλος ἐλήλατο· τῇ δ' ἐπὶ πολλαὶ
δικλίδες εὐπηγεῖς θάλαμοί τ' ἔσαν ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα.
δαιδαλέῃ δ' αἶθουσα παρέξ ἐκάτερθε τέτυκτο.
λέχρις δ' αἰπύτεροι δόμοι ἔστασαν ἀμφοτέρωθεν.

τῶν ἦτοι ἄλλω μὲν, ὅτις καὶ ὑπείροχος ἦεν,
κρείων Αἰήτης σὺν ἐῷ ναίεσκε δάμαρτι·

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ἄλλω δ' Ἄψυρτος ναῖεν πάις Αἰήταο,
τὸν μὲν Καυκασίῃ νύμφη τέκεν Ἀστερόδεια
πρὶν περ κουριδίην θέσθαι Εἰδυΐαν ἄκοιτιν,
Τηθύος Ὀκεανοῦ τε πανοπλοτάτην γεγαυίαν.

καὶ μιν Κόλχων νῆες ἐπωνυμίην Φαέθοντα
ἔκλεον, οὐνεκα πᾶσι μετέπρεπεν ἡιθέοισιν.

τοὺς δ' ἔχον ἀμφίπολοί τε καὶ Αἰήταο θύγατρες
ἄμφω, Χαλκιοπῇ Μήδειά τε. τὴν μὲν ἄρ' οἶγε¹
ἐκ θαλάμου θαλαμόνδε κασιγνήτην μετιοῦσαν—

Ἥρη γάρ μιν ἔρυκε δόμῳ· πρὶν δ' οὔτι θάμιζεν
ἐν μεγάροις, Ἐκάτης δὲ πανήμερος ἀμφεπονείτο
νῆόν, ἐπεὶ ῥα θεᾶς αὐτὴ πέλεν ἀρήτειρα—

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καὶ σφεας ὥς ἶδεν ἄσσον, ἀνίαχεν· ὁξὺ δ' ἄκουσεν
Χαλκιοπῇ· δμῳαὶ δὲ ποδῶν προπάροιθε βαλοῦσαι
νήματα καὶ κλωστήρας ἀολλέες ἔκτοθι πᾶσαι
ἔδραμον. ἢ δ' ἅμα τοῖσιν ἐοὺς νύκτας ἰδοῦσα
ὑψοῦ χάρματι χεῖρας ἀνέσχεθεν· ὥς δὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ
μητέρα δεξιόωντο, καὶ ἀμφαγάπαζον ἰδόντες
γηθόσυννοι· τοῖον δὲ κινυρομένη φάτο μῦθον·

¹ τὴν μὲν ἄρ' οἶγε . . . μετιοῦσαν two Vatican, L² by correction: τῇ μὲν ἄρ' οἶγε . . . μετιοῦσαν LG: ἢ μὲν ἄρ' ἦει . . . μετιοῦσα some Parisian.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

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

¹ *i.e.* the fight between the gods and the giants.

² *i.e.* the Shining One.

‘Εμπης οὐκ ἄρ’ ἐμέλλετ’ ἀκηδείη με λιπόντες 260
 τηλόθι πλάγξασθαι· μετὰ δ’ ὑμέας ἔτραπεν αἶσα.
 δειλὴ ἐγὼ, οἷον πόθον Ἑλλάδος ἔκποθεν ἄτης
 λευγαλέης Φρίξιοι ἐφημοσύνησιν ἔλεσθε
 πατρός. ὁ μὲν θνήσκων στυγεράς ἐπετείλατ’ ἀνίας
 ἡμετέρῃ κραδίῃ. τί δέ κεν πόλιν Ὀρχομενοῖο,
 ὅστις ὄδ’ Ὀρχομενός, κτεάνων Ἀθάμαντος ἔκητι
 μητέρ’ ἐὼν ἀχέουσαν ἀποπρολιπόντες, ἴκοισθε;’

Ὡς ἔφατ’· Αἰήτης δὲ πανύστατος ὦρτο θύραζε,
 ἐκ δ’ αὐτῇ Εἰδυῖα δάμαρ κίεν Αἰήταο,
 Χαλκιοῖπης αἰούσα· τὸ δ’ αὐτίκα πᾶν ὁμάδοιο 270
 ἔρκος ἐπεπλήθει. τοὶ μὲν μέγαν ἀμφιπένοντο
 ταῦρον ἄλις δμῶες· τοὶ δὲ ξύλα κάγκανα χαλκῷ
 κόπτον· τοὶ δὲ λοετρὰ πυρὶ ζέον· οὐδέ τις ἦεν,
 ὃς καμάτου μεθίεσκεν, ὑποδρήσσων βασιλῆι.

Τόφρα δ’ Ἐρως πολιοῖο δι’ ἡέρος ἵξεν ἄφαντος,
 τετρηχῶς, οἷον τε νέαις ἐπὶ φορβάσιν οἴστρος
 τέλλεται, ὄντε μύωπα βοῶν κλείουσι νομῆς.
 ὦκα δ’ ὑπὸ φλὴν προδόμῳ ἐνι τόξα ταnúσσας
 ἰοδόκης ἀβλήτα πολύστονον ἐξέλετ’ ἰόν.
 ἐκ δ’ ὄγε καρπαλίμοισι λαθὼν ποσὶν οὐδὸν ἄμειψεν 280
 ὀξέα δενδίλλων· αὐτῷ θ’ ὑπὸ βαιὸς ἐλυσθεὶς
 Αἰσονίδῃ γλυφίδας μέσση ἐνικάτθετο νευρῇ,
 ἰθὺς δ’ ἀμφοτέρησι διασχόμενος παλάμησιν
 ἦκ’ ἐπὶ Μηδείῃ· τὴν δ’ ἀμφασίῃ λάβε θυμόν.
 αὐτὸς δ’ ὑψορόφοιο παλιμπετὲς ἐκ μεγάροιο
 καγχαλῶν ἤιξε· βέλος δ’ ἐνεδαίετο κούρῃ
 νέρθεν ὑπὸ κραδίῃ, φλογὶ εἵκελον· ἀντία δ’ αἰεὶ
 βάλλεν ὑπ’ Αἰσονίδην ἀμαρύγματα, καὶ οἱ ἄηντο

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

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

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

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

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

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

Δμῶες δ' ὁππότε δὴ σφιν ἐπαρτέα θῆκαν ἐδωδήν,
 αὐτοὶ τε λιανοῖσιν ἐφαιδρύναντο λοετροῖς, 300
 ἀσπασίως δόρπῳ τε ποτήτί τε θυμὸν ἄρεσαν.
 ἐκ δὲ τοῦ Αἰήτης σφετέρης ἐρέεινε θυγατρὸς
 νύμφης τοίοισι παρηγορέων ἐπέεσσιν·

‘ Παιδὸς ἐμῆς κοῦροι Φρίξοίό τε, τὸν περὶ πάντων
 ξείνων ἡμετέροισιν ἐνὶ μεγάροισιν ἔτισα,
 πῶς Αἰάνδε νέεσθε παλίσσυτοι; ἢ τίς ἄτη
 σωομένους μεσσήγυς ἐνέκλασεν; οὐ μὲν ἐμεῖο
 πείθεσθε προφέροντος ἀπείρονα μέτρα κελεύθου.
 ἦδειν γάρ ποτε πατρὸς ἐν ἄρμασιν Ἡελίοιο
 δινεύσας, ὅτ' ἐμεῖο κασιγνήτην ἐκόμιζεν 310
 Κίρκην ἐσπερίης εἴσω χθονός, ἐκ δ' ἰκόμεσθα
 ἀκτὴν ἠπείρου Τυρσηνίδος, ἔνθ' ἔτι νῦν περ
 ναιετάει, μάλα πολλὸν ἀπόπροθι Κολχίδος αἴης.
 ἀλλὰ τί μύθων ἦδος; ἃ δ' ἐν ποσὶν ὑμῖν ὄρωρεν,
 εἴπατ' ἀριφραδέως, ἦδ' οὔτινες οἷδ' ἐφέπονται
 ἀνέρες, ὅππῃ τε γλαφυρῆς ἐκ νηὸς ἔβητε.’

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

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

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

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

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

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

'Αιήτη, κείνην μὲν ἄφαρ διέχευαν ἄελλαι 320
 ζαχρηεῖς· αὐτοὺς δ' ὑπὸ δούρασι πεπτηῶτας
 νήσου 'Ενναλίοιο ποτὶ ξερὸν ἔκβαλε κύμα
 λυγαίῃ ὑπὸ νυκτί· θεὸς δέ τις ἄμμ' ἐσάωσεν.
 οὐδὲ γὰρ αἰ τὸ πάροιθεν ἐρημαίην κατὰ νήσον
 ἠυλίζοντ' ὄρνιθες 'Αρήϊαι, οὐδ' ἔτι κείνας
 εὖρομεν. ἀλλ' οὔγ' ἄνδρες ἀπήλασαν, ἔξαποβάντες
 νηὸς ἐῆς προτέρῳ ἐνὶ ἡματι· καὶ σφ' ἀπέρυκεν
 ἡμέας οἰκτείρων Ζηνὸς νόος, ἥε τις αἶσα,
 αὐτίκ' ἐπεὶ καὶ βρώσιν ἄλις καὶ εἶματ' ἔδωκαν,
 οὐνομά τε Φρίξοιο περικλεές εἰσαίοντες 330
 ἡδ' αὐτοῖο σέθεν· μετὰ γὰρ τεὸν ἄστνυ νέονται.
 χρεῖῳ δ' ἦν ἐθέλης ἐξίδμεναι, οὐ σ' ἐπικεύσω.
 τόνδε τις ἰέμενος πάτρης ἀπάνευθεν ἐλάσσαι
 καὶ κτεάνων βασιλεὺς περιώσιον, οὐνεκεν ἀλκῇ
 σφωιτέρῃ πάντεσσι μετέπρεπεν Αἰολίδῃσιν,
 πέμπει δεῦρο νέεσθαι ἀμήχανον· οὐδ' ὑπαλύξειν
 στεῦται ἀμειλίκτοιο Διὸς θυμαλγέα μῆνιν
 καὶ χόλον, οὐδ' ἄτλητον ἄγος Φρίξοιό τε ποινὰς
 Αἰολιδέων γενεήν, πρὶν ἐς Ἑλλάδα κῶας ἰκέσθαι.
 νῆα δ' 'Αθηναίῃ Παλλὰς κάμεν, οὐ μάλα τοίην, 340
 οἰαί περ Κόλχοισι μετ' ἀνδράσι νῆες ἔασιν,
 τάων αἰνοτάτης ἐπεκύρσαμεν. ἤλιθα γάρ μιν
 λάβρον ὕδωρ πνοιή τε διέτμαγεν· ἡ δ' ἐνὶ γόμφοις
 ἴσχεται, ἦν καὶ πᾶσαι ἐπιβρίσωσιν ἄελλαι.
 ἴσον δ' ἐξ ἀνέμοιο θέει καὶ ὅτ' ἀνέρες αὐτοὶ
 νωλεμέως χεῖρεσσιν ἐπισπέρχωσιν ἐρετμοῖς.
 τῇ δ' ἐναγεράμενος Παναχαΐδος εἴ τι φέριστον
 ἡρώων, τεὸν ἄστνυ μετήλυθε, πόλλ' ἐπαληθεῖς
 ἄστεα καὶ πελάγη στνυγερῆς ἀλός, εἴ οἱ ὀπάσσαις.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

“Aeetes, that ship forthwith stormy blasts tore asunder, and ourselves, crouching on the beams, a wave drove on to the beach of the isle of Enyalios¹ in the murky night; and some god preserved us. For even the birds of Ares that haunted the desert isle beforetime, not even them did we find. But these men had driven them off, having landed from their ship on the day before; and the will of Zeus taking pity on us, or some fate, detained them there, since they straightway gave us both food and clothing in abundance, when they heard the illustrious name of Phrixus and thine own; for to thy city are they faring. And if thou dost wish to know their errand, I will not hide it from thee. A certain king, vehemently longing to drive this man far from his fatherland and possessions, because in might he outshone all the sons of Aeolus, sends him to voyage hither on a bootless venture; and asserts that the stock of Aeolus will not escape the heart-grieving wrath and rage of implacable Zeus, nor the unbearable curse and vengeance due for Phrixus, until the fleece comes back to Hellas. And their ship was fashioned by Pallas Athena, not such a one as are the ships among the Colchians, on the vilest of which we chanced. For the fierce waves and wind broke her utterly to pieces; but the other holds firm with her bolts, even though all the blasts should buffet her. And with equal swiftness she speedeth before the wind and when the crew ply the oar with unresting hands. And he hath gathered in her the mightiest heroes of all Achaea, and hath come to thy city from wandering far through cities and gulfs of the dread ocean, in the hope that

¹ A name of Ares.

αὐτῷ δ' ὥς κεν ἄδη, τῶς ἔσσεταμ· οὐ γὰρ ἰκάνει 350
 χερσὶ βιησόμενος· μέμονεν δέ τοι ἄξια τίσειν
 δωτίνης, αἰὼν ἐμέθεν μέγα δυσμενέοντας
 Σαυρομάτας, τοὺς σοῖσιν ὑπὸ σκῆπτροισι δα-
 μάσσει.

εἰ δὲ καὶ οὖνομα δῆθεν ἐπιθύεις γενεήν τε
 ἰδμεναι, οὔτινές εἰσιν, ἕκαστά γε μυθησαίμην.
 τόνδε μὲν, οἷό περ οὔνεκ' ἀφ' Ἑλλάδος ὦλλοι
 ἄγερθεν,

κλείουσ' Αἴσονος υἱὸν Ἰήсона Κρηθεῖδαο.
 εἰ δ' αὐτοῦ Κρηθῆος ἐτήτυμόν ἐστι γενέθλης,
 οὔτω κεν γνωτὸς πατρώιος ἄμμι πέλοιτο.
 ἄμφω γὰρ Κρηθεὺς Ἀθάμας τ' ἔσαν Αἰόλου νῆες· 360
 Φρίξος δ' αὐτ' Ἀθάμαντος ἦν πάις Αἰολίδαο.
 τόνδε δ' ἄρ', Ἡελίου γόνον ἔμμεναι εἴ τιν' ἀκούεις,
 δέρκεαι Αὐγείην· Τελαμῶν δ' ὄγε, κυδίστοιο
 Αἰακοῦ ἐκγεγαώς· Ζεὺς δ' Αἰακὸν αὐτὸς ἔτικτεν.
 ὥς δὲ καὶ ὦλλοι πάντες, ὅσοι συνέπονται ἐταῖροι,
 ἀθανάτων νῆες τε καὶ νῆωνοι γεγάασιν·

Τοῖα παρέννεπεν Ἄργος· ἄναξ δ' ἐπεχώσατο
 μύθοις

εἰσαίτων· ὑψοῦ δὲ χόλῳ φρένες ἠερέθοντο.
 φῆ δ' ἐπαλαστήσας· μενέαινε δὲ παισὶ μάλιστα
 Χαλκιόπης· τῶν γὰρ σφε μετελθέμεν οὔνεκ' ἐώλπει· 370
 ἐκ δέ οἱ ὄμματ' ἔλαμψεν ὑπ' ὀφρύσιν ἱεμένοιο·

‘Οὐκ ἄφαρ ὀφθαλμῶν μοι ἀπόπροθι, λωβη-
 τήρες,
 νεῖσθ' αὐτοῖσι δόλοισι παλίσσυτοι ἔκτοθι γαίης,
 πρὶν τινα λευγαλέον τε δέρος καὶ Φρίξον ιδέσθαι;
 αὐτίχ' ὀμαρτήσαντες ἀφ' Ἑλλάδος, οὐκ ἐπὶ κῶας,
 σκῆπτρα δὲ καὶ τιμὴν βασιληίδα δεύρο νέεσθε.
 εἰ δέ κε μὴ προπάρουθεν ἐμῆς ἥψασθε τραπέζης,

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

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

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

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

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

380

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

‘ Αἰήτη, σχέο μοι τῷδε στόλῳ. οὔτι γὰρ αὐτως
 ἄστν τεδὸν καὶ δώμαθ' ἰκάνομεν, ὥς που ἔολπας,
 οὐδὲ μὲν ἰέμενοι. τίς δ' ἂν τόσον οἶδμα περῆσαι
 τλαίῃ ἐκὼν ὀθνεῖον ἐπὶ κτέρας; ἀλλὰ με daίμων
 καὶ κρυερὴ βασιλῆος ἀτασθάλου ὤρσεν ἐφετμή.

390

δὸς χάριν ἀντομένοισι· σέθεν δ' ἐγὼ Ἑλλάδι πάσῃ
 θεσπεσίην οἶσω κληιδόνα· καὶ δέ τοι ἤδη
 πρόφρονές εἰμεν ἄρῃ θοὴν ἀποτίσαι ἀμοιβήν,
 εἴτ' οὖν Σαυρομάτας γε λιλαίεαι, εἴτε τιν' ἄλλον
 δῆμον σφωιτέροισιν ὑπὸ σκήπτροισι δαμάσσαι.

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

400

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

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

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

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

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

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

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

πείρα δέ τοι μένεός τε καὶ ἄλκῃς ἔσσετ' ἄεθλος,
 τόν ῥ' αὐτὸς περίειμι χεροῖν ὀλοόν περ ἔοντα.
 δοιῶ μοι πεδίον τὸ Ἀρήιον ἀμφινέμονται
 ταύρω χαλκόποδε, στόματι φλόγα φυσιόωντες· 410
 τοὺς ἐλάω ζεύξας στυφελὴν κατὰ νειὸν Ἄρηος
 τετράγυον, τὴν αἶψα ταμῶν ἐπὶ τέλος ἀρότρῳ
 οὐ σπόρον ὀλκοῖσιν Δηοῦς ἐνιβάλλομαι ἀκτὴν,
 ἀλλ' ὄφιος δεινοῖο μεταλδήσκοντας ὀδόντας
 ἀνδράσι τευχιστῆσι δέμας· τοὺς δ' αὖθι δαΐζων
 κείρω ἐμῷ ὑπὸ δουρὶ περισταδὸν ἀντιόωντας.
 ἥριος ζεύγνυμι βόας, καὶ δείελον ὥρην
 παύομαι ἀμήτιο. σύ δ', εἰ τάδε τοῖα τελέσσεις,
 αὐτῆμαρ τόδε κῶας ἀποίσεις εἰς βασιλῆος·
 πρὶν δέ κεν οὐ δοίην, μηδ' ἔλπεο. δὴ γὰρ αἰεὶ κῆρ 420
 ἄνδρ' ἀγαθὸν γεγαῶτα κακωτέρῳ ἀνέρι εἴξαι.

Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη· ὁ δὲ σίγα ποδῶν πάρος ὄμματα
 πῆξας

ἦσ' αὐτῶς ἄφθογγος, ἀμηχανέων κακότητι.
 βουλὴν δ' ἀμφὶ πολὺν στρώφα χρόνον, οὐδέ πῃ
 εἶχεν

θαρσαλέως ὑποδέχθαι, ἐπεὶ μέγα φαίνεται ἔργον·
 ὅψε δ' ἀμειβόμενος προσελέξατο κερδαλέοισιν·
 Ἀιήτη, μάλα τοί με δίκη περιπολλὸν ἐέργεις.
 τῷ καὶ ἐγὼ τὸν ἄεθλον ὑπερφιάλόν περ ἔοντα
 τλήσομαι, εἰ καὶ μοι θανέειν μόρος. οὐ γὰρ ἔτ'
 ἄλλο

ῥίγιον ἀνθρώποισι κακῆς ἐπικείσεται ἀνάγκης,
 ἢ με καὶ ἐνθάδε νείσθαι ἐπέχραεν ἐκ βασιλῆος. 430

Ὡς φάτ' ἀμηχανίῃ βεβολημένος· αὐτὰρ ὁ τόνγε
 σμερδαλέοις ἐπέεσσι προσέννεπεν ἀσχαλῶντα·

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

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

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

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

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

‘Ἐρχεο νῦν μεθ’ ὄμιλον, ἐπεὶ μέμονάς γε πόνοιο·
εἰ δέ σύγε ζυγὰ βουσὶν ὑποδδείσαις ἐπαείραι,
ἥε καὶ οὐλομένου μεταχάσσεαι ἀμήτιοι,
αὐτῷ κεν τὰ ἕκαστα μέλοιτό μοι, ὅφρα καὶ ἄλλος
ἀνὴρ ἐρρίγησιν ἀρείονα φῶτα μετελθεῖν.’

Ἴσκεν ἀπηλεγέως· ὁ δ’ ἀπὸ θρόνου ὤρνυτ’
Ἰήσων,

Αὐγείης Τελαμών τε παρασχεδόν· εἶπετο δ’ Ἄργος 440
οἶος, ἐπεὶ μεσσηγὺς ἔτ’ αὐτόθι νεῦσε λιπέσθαι
αὐτοκασιγνήτοις· οἱ δ’ ἦσαν¹ ἐκ μεγάροιο.
θεσπέσιον δ’ ἐν πᾶσι μετέπρεπεν Αἴσονος υἱὸς
κάλλει καὶ χαρίτεσσιν· ἐπ’ αὐτῷ δ’ ὄμματα κούρη
λοξὰ παρὰ λιπαρὴν σχομένη θηεῖτο καλύπτρην,
κῆρ ἄχει σμύχουσα· νόος δέ οἱ ἤγ’ ὄνειρος
ἐρπύζων πεπότητο μετ’ ἵχνια νισσομένοιο.
καὶ ῥ’ οἱ μὲν ῥα δόμων ἐξήλυθον ἀσχαλῶντες.
Χαλκιόπη δὲ χόλον πεφυλαγμένη Αἰήταο
καρπαλίμως θάλαμόνδε σὺν νιάσιν οἷσι βεβήκει. 450
αὐτῶς δ’ αὖ Μήδεια μετέστιχε· πολλὰ δὲ θυμῷ
ῥομαίν’, ὅσσα τ’ Ἐρωτες ἐποτρύνουσι μέλεσθαι.
προπρὸ δ’ ἄρ’ ὀφθαλμῶν ἔτι οἱ ἰνδάλλετο πάντα,
αὐτὸς θ’ οἶος ἔην, οἷοισί τε φάρεσιν ἔστο,
οἷά τ’ ἔειψ’, ὥς θ’ ἔζετ’ ἐπὶ θρόνου, ὥς τε θύραζε
ἦεν· οὐδέ τιν’ ἄλλον οἶσσατο πορφύρουσα
ἔμμεναι ἀνέρα τοῖον· ἐν οὔασι δ’ αἰὲν ὀρώρει
αὐδὴ τε μῦθοί τε μελίφρονες, οὓς ἀγόρευσεν.
τάρβει δ’ ἀμφ’ αὐτῷ, μή μιν βόες ἥε καὶ αὐτὸς
Αἰήτης φθίσειεν· ὀδύρετο δ’ ἤγ’ ὅτε πάμπαν 460
ἤδη τεθνεῖῶτα, τέρεν δέ οἱ ἀμφὶ παρειᾶς
δάκρυνον αἰνοτάτῳ ἐλέῳ ῥέε κηδοσύνησιν·
ἦκα δὲ μυρομένη λιγέως ἀνενείκατο μῦθον·

¹ ἦσαν Rzach : ἦσαν MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

troubled as he was : " Go forth now to the gathering, since thou art eager for the toil ; but if thou shouldst fear to lift the yoke upon the oxen or shrink from the deadly harvesting, then all this shall be my care, so that another too may shudder to come to a man that is better than he."

He spake outright ; and Jason rose from his seat, and Augeias and Telamon at once ; and Argus followed alone, for he signed to his brothers to stay there on the spot meantime ; and so they went forth from the hall. And wonderfully among them all shone the son of Aeson for beauty and grace ; and the maiden looked at him with stealthy glance, holding her bright veil aside, her heart smouldering with pain ; and her soul creeping like a dream flitted in his track as he went. So they passed forth from the palace sorely troubled. And Chalciopè, shielding herself from the wrath of Aeetes, had gone quickly to her chamber with her sons. And Medea likewise followed, and much she brooded in her soul all the cares that the Loves awaken. And before her eyes the vision still appeared—himself what like he was, with what vesture he was clad, what things he spake, how he sat on his seat, how he moved forth to the door—and as she pondered she deemed there never was such another man ; and ever in her ears rung his voice and the honey-sweet words which he uttered. And she feared for him, lest the oxen or Aeetes with his own hand should slay him ; and she mourned him as though already slain outright, and in her affliction a round tear through very grievous pity coursed down her cheek ; and gently weeping she lifted up her voice aloud :

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

‘Τίπτε με δειλαίην τόδ’ ἔχει ἄχος; εἴθ’ ὄγε
πάντων

φθίσεται ἡρώων προφερέστατος, εἴτε χερείων,
ἔρρέτω. ἦ μὲν ὄφελλεν ἀκήριος ἐξαλέασθαι.
ναὶ δὴ τοῦτό γε, πότνα θεὰ Περσῇ, πέλοιτο,
οἴκαδε νοστήσειε φυγῶν μόρον· εἰ δέ μιν αἶσα
δμηθῆναι ὑπὸ βουσί, τόδε προπάροιθε δαεῖ
οὔνεκεν οὐ οἱ ἔγωγε κακῇ ἐπαγαίομαι ἄτη.’

470

‘Ἡ μὲν ἄρ’ ὥς ἐόλητο νόον μελεδήμασι κούρη.
οἱ δ’ ἐπεὶ οὖν δήμου τε καὶ ἄστεος ἐκτὸς ἔβησαν
τὴν ὁδόν, ἦν τὸ πάροιθεν ἀνήλυθον ἐκ πεδίοιο,
δὴ τότε’ Ἰήσωνα τοῖσδε προσέννεπεν Ἄργος ἔπεσ-
σιν·

‘Αἰσονίδη, μῆτιν μὲν ὀνόσσειαι, ἦντιν’ ἐνίψω·
πείρης δ’ οὐ μάλ’ ἔοικε μεθιέμεν ἐν κακότητι.
κούρην δὴ τινα πρόσθεν ὑπέκλυες αὐτὸς ἐμείο
φαρμάσσειν Ἑκάτης Περσηίδος ἐννεσίησιν.
τὴν εἴ κεν πεπίθοιμεν, οἶομαι, οὐκέτι τάρβος
ἔσσειτ’ ἀεθλεύοντι δαμήμεναι· ἀλλὰ μάλ’ αἰνῶς
δείδω, μή πως οὐ μοι ὑποσταίῃ τόγε μήτηρ.
ἔμπης δ’ ἐξαυτὶς μετελεύσομαι ἀντιβολήσων,
ξυνὸς ἐπεὶ πάντεσσιν ἐπικρέμαθ’ ἡμῖν ὄλεθρος.’

480

‘Ἴσκειν ἐυφρονέων· ὁ δ’ ἀμείβετο τοῖσδ’ ἐπέεσσιν·
‘ὦ πέπον, εἴ νύ τοι αὐτῷ ἐφاندάνει, οὔτι μεγαίρω.
βάσκ’ ἴθι καὶ πυκινόισι τετὴν παρὰ μητέρα μύθοις
ὄρνυθι λισσόμενος· μελέῃ γε μὲν ἡμῖν ὄρωρεν
ἐλπωρή, ὅτε νόστον ἐπετραπόμεσθα γυναιξίν.’
ὥς ἔφατ’· ὦκα δ’ ἔλος μετεκίαθον. αὐτὰρ ἐταῖροι
γηθόσυνοι ἐρέεινον, ὅπως παρεόντας ἴδοντο·
τοῖσιν δ’ Αἰσονίδης τετιημένος ἔκφατο μῦθον·

490

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

"Why does this grief come upon me, poor wretch? Whether he be the best of heroes now about to perish, or the worst, let him go to his doom. Yet I would that he had escaped unharmed; yea, may this be so, revered goddess, daughter of Perses, may he avoid death and return home; but if it be his lot to be o'ermastered by the oxen, may he first learn this, that I at least do not rejoice in his cruel calamity."

Thus then was the maiden's heart racked by love-cares. But when the others had gone forth from the people and the city, along the path by which at the first they had come from the plain, then Argus addressed Jason with these words:

"Son of Aeson, thou wilt despise the counsel which I will tell thee, but, though in evil plight, it is not fitting to forbear from the trial. Ere now thou hast heard me tell of a maiden that uses sorcery under the guidance of Hecate, Perses' daughter. If we could win her aid there will be no dread, methinks, of thy defeat in the contest; but terribly do I fear that my mother will not take this task upon her. Nevertheless I will go back again to entreat her, for a common destruction overhangs us all."

He spake with goodwill, and Jason answered with these words: "Good friend, if this is good in thy sight, I say not nay. Go and move thy mother, beseeching her aid with prudent words; pitiful indeed is our hope when we have put our return in the keeping of women." So he spake, and quickly they reached the back-water. And their comrades joyfully questioned them, when they saw them close at hand; and to them spoke Aeson's son grieved at heart:

“Ω φίλοι, Αἰήταο ἀπηνέος ἄμμι φίλον κῆρ
ἀντικρὺ κεχόλωται, ἕκαστα γὰρ οὐ νύ τι τέκμωρ
οὔτ’ ἐμοί, οὔτε κεν ὕμμι διειρομένοισι πέλοιτο.
φῆ δὲ δύω πεδίων τὸ Ἀρήιον ἀμφινέμεσθαι
ταύρω χαλκόποδε, στόματι φλόγα φυσιόωντας.
τετράγυον δ’ ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ἐφίετο νειδὼν ἀρόσσαι·
δώσειν δ’ ἐξ ὄφιος γενύων σπόρον, ὅς ῥ’ ἀνίησιν
γηγενέας χαλκίοις σὺν τεύχεσιν· ἥματι δ’ αὐτῷ
χρειῶ τούσγε दाῖξαι. ὃ δὴ νύ οἱ—οὔτι γὰρ ἄλλο 500
βέλτερον ἦν φράσσασθαι—ἀπηλεγέως ὑποέστην.”

“Ὡς ἄρ’ ἔφη· πάντεσσι δ’ ἀνήνυτος εἶσατ’
ἄεθλος,
δὴν δ’ ἀνεφ καὶ ἀναυδοὶ ἐς ἀλλήλους ὁρώωντο,
ἄτη ἀμηχανίῃ τε κατηφές· ὁψὲ δὲ Πηλεὺς
θαρσαλέως μετὰ πᾶσιν ἀριστήεσσιν ἔειπεν·
“Ὡρῃ μητιάασθαι ὃ κ’ ἔρξομεν. οὐ μὲν ἔολπα
βουλήs εἶναι ὄνειαρ, ὅσον τ’ ἐπὶ κάρτεϊ χειρῶν.
εἰ μὲν νυνὶ τύνῃ ζεύξαι βόας Αἰήταο,
ἥρως Αἰσονίδῃ, φρονέεις, μέμονάς τε πόνοιο,
ἦ τ’ ἂν ὑποσχεσίην πεφυλαγμένος ἐντύναιο· 510
εἰ δ’ οὐ τοι μάλα θυμὸς ἐῖς ἐπὶ πάγχυ πέποιθεν
ἡγορέῃ, μήτ’ αὐτὸς ἐπείγῃ, μήτε τιν’ ἄλλον
τῶνδ’ ἀνδρῶν πάπταινε παρήμενος. οὐ γὰρ ἔγωγε
σχῆσομ’, ἐπεὶ θάνατός γε τὸ κύντατον ἔσσεται
ἄλγος.”

“Ὡς ἔφατ’ Αἰακίδης· Τελαμῶνι δὲ θυμὸς ὀρίνθη·
σπερχόμενος δ’ ἀνόρουσε θεῶs· ἐπὶ δὲ τρίτος Ἴδας
ᾤρτο μέγα φρονέων, ἐπὶ δ’ υἱέε¹ Τυνδαρέοιο·
σὺν δὲ καὶ Οἰνείδης ἐναρίθμιος αἰζηοῖσιν
ἀνδράσιν, οὐδέ περ ὅσسون ἐπανθιόωντας ἰούλους

¹ υἱέε Köchly : υἱες MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

“My friends, the heart of ruthless Aeetes is utterly filled with wrath against us, for not at all can the goal be reached either by me or by you who question me. He said that two bulls with feet of bronze pasture on the plain of Ares, breathing forth flame from their jaws. And with these he bade me plough the field, four plough-gates ; and said that he would give me from a serpent’s jaws seed which will raise up earthborn men in armour of bronze ; and on the same day I must slay them. This task—for there was nothing better to devise—I took on myself outright.”

Thus he spake ; and to all the contest seemed one that none could accomplish, and long, quiet and silent, they looked at one another, bowed down with the calamity and their despair ; but at last Peleus spake with courageous words among all the chiefs : “It is time to be counselling what we shall do. Yet there is not so much profit, I trow, in counsel as in the might of our hands. If thou then, hero son of Aeson, art minded to yoke Aeetes’ oxen, and art eager for the toil, surely thou wilt keep thy promise and make thyself ready. But if thy soul trusts not her prowess utterly, then neither bestir thyself nor sit still and look round for some one else of these men. For it is not I who will flinch, since the bitterest pain will be but death.”

So spake the son of Aeacus ; and Telamon’s soul was stirred, and quickly he started up in eagerness ; and Idas rose up the third in his pride ; and the twin sons of Tyndareus ; and with them Oeneus’ son who was numbered among strong men, though even the soft down on his cheek showed not yet ;

ἀντέλλων· τοίῳ οἱ αἰίρετο κάρτεϊ θυμός. 520

οἱ δ' ἄλλοι εἷξαντες ἀκὴν ἔχον. αὐτίκα δ' Ἄργος
τοῖον ἔπος μετέειπεν ἐελδομένοισιν ἀέθλου·

“ὦ φίλοι, ἦτοι μὲν τόδε λοίσθιον. ἀλλὰ τιν' οἶω
μητρὸς ἐμῆς ἔσσεσθαι ἐναίσιμον ὕμιν ἀρωγὴν.
τῷ καὶ περ μεμαῶτες, ἐρητύοισθ' ἐνὶ νηὶ
τυτθὸν ἔθ', ὥς τὸ πάροιθεν, ἐπεὶ καὶ ἐπισχέμεν
ἔμψης

λῶιον, ἢ κακὸν οἶτον ἀφειδήσαντας ἐλέσθαι.

κούρη τις μεγάροισιν ἐνιτρέφετ' Αἰήταο,
τὴν Ἑκάτη περίαλλα θεὰ δάε τεχνήσασθαι
φάρμαχ', ὅς' ἡπειρὸς τε φύει καὶ νήχυτον ὕδωρ. 530

τοῖσι καὶ ἀκαμάτοιο πυρὸς μειλίσσετ' ἀντμή,
καὶ ποταμοὺς ἴστησιν ἄφαρ κελαδεῖνὰ ῥέοντας,
ἄστρο τε καὶ μήνης ἱερῆς ἐπέδησε κελεύθους.

τῆς μὲν ἀπὸ μεγάροιο κατὰ στίβον ἐνθάδ' ἰόντες
μνησάμεθ', εἴ κε δύναιτο, κασιγνήτη γεγαυῖα,
μήτηρ ἡμετέρη πεπιθεῖν ἐπαρῆξαι ἀέθλῳ.

εἰ δὲ καὶ αὐτοῖσιν τόδ' ἐφاندάνει, ἦ τ' ἂν ἰκοίμην
ἡματι τῷδ' αὐτῷ πάλιν εἰς δόμον Αἰήταο
πειρήσων· τάχα δ' ἂν σὺν δαίμονι πειρηθείην.”

ὣς φάτο· τοῖσι δὲ σῆμα θεοὶ δόσαν εὐμενέοντες. 540

τρηρὼν μὲν φεύγουσα βίην κίρκοιο πελειὰς
ὑψόθεν Αἰσονίδεω πεφοβημένη ἔμπεσε κόλποις·
κίρκος δ' ἀφλάστῳ περικύππεσεν. ὦκα δὲ Μόψος
τοῖον ἔπος μετὰ πᾶσι θεοπροπέων ἀγόρευσεν·

“Ἰμμι, φίλοι, τόδε σῆμα θεῶν ἰότητι τέτυκται·
οὐδέ πη ἄλλως ἐστὶν ὑποκρίνασθαι ἄρειον,
παρθενικὴν δ' ἐπέεσσι μετελθέμεν ἀμφιέποντας
μήτι παντοίῃ. δοκέω δέ μιν οὐκ ἀθερίζειν,

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

with such courage was his soul uplifted. But the others gave way to these in silence. And straight-way Argus spake these words to those that longed for the contest :

“My friends, this indeed is left us at the last. But I deem that there will come to you some timely aid from my mother. Wherefore, eager though ye be, refrain and abide in your ship a little longer as before, for it is better to forbear than recklessly to choose an evil fate. There is a maiden, nurtured in the halls of Aeetes, whom the goddess Hecate taught to handle magic herbs with exceeding skill—all that the land and flowing waters produce. With them is quenched the blast of unwearied flame, and at once she stays the course of rivers as they rush roaring on, and checks the stars and the paths of the sacred moon. Of her we bethought us as we came hither along the path from the palace, if haply my mother, her own sister, might persuade her to aid us in the venture. And if this is pleasing to you as well, surely on this very day will I return to the palace of Aeetes to make trial ; and perchance with some god’s help shall I make the trial.”

Thus he spake, and the gods in their goodwill gave them a sign. A trembling dove in her flight from a mighty hawk fell from on high, terrified, into the lap of Aeson’s son, and the hawk fell impaled on the stern-ornament. And quickly Mopsus with prophetic words spake among them all :

“For you, friends, this sign has been wrought by the will of heaven ; in no other way is it possible to interpret its meaning better, than to seek out the maiden and entreat her with manifold skill. And I think she will not reject our prayer, if in truth

εἰ ἐτεὸν Φινεύς γε θεᾶ ἐνὶ Κύπριδι νόστον
πέφραδεν ἔσσεσθαι. κείνης δ' ὄγε μείλιχος ὄρνις 550
πότμον ὑπεξήλυξε· κέαρ δέ μοι ὥς ἐνὶ θυμῷ
τόνδε κατ' οἰωνὸν προτιόσσεται, ὥς δὲ πέλοιτο.
ἀλλὰ, φίλοι, Κυθήρειαν ἐπικλείοντες ἀμύνειν,
ἤδη νῦν Ἄργιοι παραιφασίησι πίθεσθε.'

Ἴσκεν· ἐπήνησαν δὲ νέοι, Φινῆος ἐφετμὰς
μνησάμενοι· μῦθος δ' Ἀφαρήιος ἄνθορεν Ἴδας,
δεῖν' ἐπαλαστήσας μεγάλη ὀπί, φώνησέν τε·
'Ὡ πόποι, ἦ ῥα γυναιξὶν ὁμόστολοι ἐνθάδ' ἔβημεν,
οἱ Κύπριν καλέουσιν ἐπίρροθον ἄμμι πέλεσθαι,
οὐκέτ' Ἐνναλίοιο μέγα σθένος; ἐς δὲ πελείας 560
καὶ κίρκους λεύσσοντες ἐρητύεσθε ἀέθλων;
ἔρρετε, μῆδ' ὕμμιν πολεμῆια ἔργα μέλοιτο,
παρθενικὰς δὲ λιτῆσιν ἀνάγκιδας ἡπεροπεύειν.'

Ὡς ἡῦδα μεμαῶς· πολέες δ' ὁμάδησαν ἐταῖροι
ἦκα μάλ', οὐδ' ἄρα τις οἱ ἐναντίον ἔκφατο μῦθον.
χωόμενος δ' ὄγ' ἔπειτα καθέζετο· τοῖσι δ' Ἰήσων
αὐτίκ' ἐποτρύνων τὸν ἐὼν νόον ᾧδ' ἀγόρευεν·
'Ἄργος μὲν παρὰ νηός, ἐπεὶ τόδε πᾶσιν ἔαδεν,
στελλέσθω· ἀτὰρ αὐτοὶ ἐπὶ χθονὸς ἐκ ποταμοῖο
ἀμφαδὸν ἤδη πείσματ' ἀνάψομεν. ἦ γὰρ ἔοικεν 570
μηκέτι δὴν κρύπτεσθαι ὑποπτήσσοντας αὐτήν.'

Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη· καὶ τὸν μὲν ἄφαρ προΐαλλε νέεσθαι
καρπαλίμως ἐξαῦτις ἀνὰ πτόλιν· οἱ δ' ἐπὶ νηὸς
εὐναίας ἐρύσαντες ἐφετμαῖς Αἰσονίδας
τυτθὸν ὑπὲξ ἔλεος χέρσῳ ἐπέκελσαν ἐρετμοῖς.

Αὐτίκα δ' Αἰήτης ἀγορὴν ποιήσατο Κόλχων
νόσφιν ἐοῖο δόμον, τόθι περ καὶ πρόσθε κάθιζον,
ἀτλήτους Μινύησι δόλους καὶ κήδεα τεύχων.
στεῦτο δ', ἐπεὶ κεν πρῶτα βόες διαδηλήσωνται

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

Phineus said that our return should be with the help of the Cyprian goddess. It was her gentle bird that escaped death; and as my heart within me foresees according to this omen, so may it prove! But, my friends, let us call on Cytherea to aid us, and now at once obey the counsels of Argus."

He spake, and the warriors approved, remembering the injunctions of Phineus; but all alone leapt up Aphareian Idas and shouted loudly in terrible wrath: "Shame on us, have we come here fellow-voyagers with women, calling on Cypris for help and not on the mighty strength of Enyalios? And do ye look to doves and hawks to save yourselves from contests? Away with you, take thought not for deeds of war, but by supplication to beguile weakling girls."

Such were his eager words; and of his comrades many murmured low, but none uttered a word of answer back. And he sat down in wrath; and at once Jason roused them and uttered his own thought: "Let Argus set forth from the ship, since this pleases all; but we will now move from the river and openly fasten our hawsers to the shore. For surely it is not fitting for us to hide any longer cowering from the battle-cry."

So he spake, and straightway sent Argus to return in haste to the city; and they drew the anchors on board at the command of Aeson's son, and rowed the ship close to the shore, a little away from the back-water.

But straightway Aeetes held an assembly of the Colchians far aloof from his palace at a spot where they sat in times before, to devise against the Minyae grim treachery and troubles. And he threatened

ἄνδρα τόν, ὅς ῥ' ὑπέδεκτο βαρὺν καμέεσθαι ἄεθλον, 580
 δρυμὸν ἀναρρήξας λασίης καθύπερθε κολώνης
 αὐτανδρον φλέξειν δόρῳ νήιον, ὅφρ' ἀλεγεινὴν
 ὕβριν ἀποφλύξωσιν ὑπέρβια μηχανόωντες.
 οὐδὲ γὰρ Αἰολίδην Φρίξον μάλα περ χατέοντα
 δέχθαι ἐνὶ μεγάροισιν ἐφέστιον, ὃς περὶ πάντων
 ξείνων μειλιχίῃ τε θεουδείῃ τ' ἐκέκαστο,
 εἰ μὴ οἱ Ζεὺς αὐτὸς ἀπ' οὐρανοῦ ἄγγελον ἦκεν
 Ἑρμείαν, ὥς κεν προσκηδέος ἀντιάσειεν·
 μὴ καὶ ληιστῆρας ἔην ἐς γαῖαν ἰόντας 590
 ἔσσεσθαι δηναῖον ἀπήμονας, οἷσι μέμηλεν
 ὀθνείοις ἐπὶ χεῖρα ἔην κτεάτεσσιν αἰεῖρειν,
 κρυπταδίους τε δόλους τεκταινέμεν, ἥδὲ βοτῆρων
 αὐλία δυσκελάδοισιν ἐπιδρομήσι δαίτξαι.
 νόσφι δὲ οἱ αὐτῷ φάτ' ἐοικότα μείλια τίσειν
 υἱῆας Φρίξοιο, κακορρέκτησιν ὀπηδούς
 ἀνδράσι νοστήσαντας ὁμιλαδόν, ὅφρα ἐ τιμῆς
 καὶ σκήπτρων ἐλάσειαν ἀκηδέες· ὥς ποτε βάζειν
 λευγαλέην οὐ πατρὸς ἐπέκλυεν Ἥελίοιο,
 χρειῷ μιν πυκινόν τε δόλον βουλὰς τε γενέθλης
 σφωιτέρης ἄτην τε πολύτροπον ἐξαλέασθαι 600
 τῷ καὶ ἐελδομένους πέμπειν ἐς Ἀχαιίδα γαῖαν
 πατρὸς ἐφημοσύνη, δολιχὴν ὁδόν. οὐδὲ θυγατρῶν
 εἶναι οἱ τυτθόν γε δέος, μὴ πού τινα μῆτιν
 φράσσωνται στυγερήν, οὐδ' υἱέος Ἀψύρτοιο·
 ἄλλ' ἐνὶ Χαλκιόπης γενεῇ τάδε λυγρὰ τετύχθαι.
 καὶ ῥ' ὁ μὲν ἄσχετα ἔργα πιφαύσκετο δημοτέροισιν
 χωόμενος· μέγα δέ σφιν ἀπείλκε νῆά τ' ἐρύσθαι
 ἢδ' αὐτούς, ἵνα μήτις ὑπέκ κακότητος ἀλύξῃ.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

that when first the oxen should have torn in pieces the man who had taken upon him to perform the heavy task, he would hew down the oak grove above the wooded hill, and burn the ship and her crew, that so they might vent forth in ruin their grievous insolence, for all their haughty schemes. For never would he have welcomed the Aeolid Phrixus as a guest in his halls, in spite of his sore need, Phrixus, who surpassed all strangers in gentleness and fear of the gods, had not Zeus himself sent Hermes his messenger down from heaven, so that he might meet with a friendly host; much less would pirates coming to his land be let go scatheless for long, men whose care it was to lift their hands and seize the goods of others, and to weave secret webs of guile, and harry the steadings of herdsmen with ill-sounding forays. And he said that besides all that the sons of Phrixus should pay a fitting penalty to himself for returning in consort with evil-doers, that they might recklessly drive him from his honour and his throne; for once he had heard a baleful prophecy from his father Helios, that he must avoid the secret treachery and schemes of his own offspring and their crafty mischief. Wherefore he was sending them, as they desired, to the Achaean land at the bidding of their father—a long journey. Nor had he ever so slight a fear of his daughters, that they would form some hateful scheme, nor of his son Apsyrtus; but this curse was being fulfilled in the children of Chalciope. And he proclaimed terrible things in his rage against the strangers, and loudly threatened to keep watch over the ship and its crew, so that no one might escape calamity.

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

Τόφρα δὲ μητέρ' ἔην, μετιῶν δόμον Αἰήταο,
 Ἄργος παντοίοισι παρηγορέεσκ' ἐπέεσσιν,
 Μῆδειαν λίσσεσθαι ἁμυνέμεν· ἡ δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ
 πρόσθεν μητιάσκει· δέος δέ μιν ἴσχανε θυμόν,
 μή πως ἡὲ παρ' αἴσαν ἐτώσια μειλίξαιτο
 πατρὸς ἀτυζομένην ὀλοὸν χόλον, ἡὲ λιτῆσιν
 ἐσπομένης ἀρίδηλα καὶ ἀμφαδὰ ἔργα πέλοιτο.

610

Κούρην δ' ἐξ ἀχέων ἀδινὸς κατελώφεεν ὕπνος
 λέκτρῳ ἀνακλινθεῖσαν. ἄφαρ δέ μιν ἡπεροπῆες,
 οἷά τ' ἀκηχεμένην, ὀλοοὶ ἐρέθεσκον ὄνειροι.
 τὸν ξεῖνον δ' ἐδόκησεν ὑφeskάμεναι τὸν ἄεθλον,
 οὔτι μάλ' ὀρμαίνοντα δέρος κριοῖο κομίσσαι,
 οὐδέ τι τοιοῦτον ἐκῆτι μετὰ πτόλιν Αἰήταο
 ἐλθέμεν, ὅφρα δέ μιν σφέτερον δόμον εἰσαγάγοιτο
 κουριδίην παράκοιτιν· οἷετο δ' ἀμφὶ βόεσσιν
 αὐτὴ ἀεθλεύουσα μάλ' εὐμαρέως πονέεσθαι·
 σφωιτέρους δὲ τοκῆας ὑποσχέσις ἀθερίζειν,
 οὔνεκεν οὐ κούρῃ ζεῦξαι βόας, ἀλλὰ οἱ αὐτῷ
 προὔθεσαν· ἐκ δ' ἄρα τοῦ νεῖκος πέλεν ἀμφήριστον
 πατρί τε καὶ ξείνοισ· αὐτῇ δ' ἐπιέτρεπον ἄμφω
 τῶς ἔμεν, ὥς κεν ἔῃσι μετὰ φρεσὶν ἰθύσειεν.
 ἡ δ' ἄφνω τὸν ξεῖνον, ἀφειδήσασα τοκῆων,
 εἶλετο· τοὺς δ' ἀμέγαρτον ἄχος λάβεν, ἐκ δ' ἐ-
 βόησαν

620

630

χωόμενοι· τὴν δ' ὕπνος ἅμα κλαγγῇ μεθέηκεν.
 παλλομένη δ' ἀνόρουσε φόβῳ, περὶ τ' ἀμφὶ τε τοί-
 χους

πάπτηνεν θαλάμοιο· μόλις δ' ἐσαγείρατο θυμόν
 ὡς πάρος ἐν στέρνοις, ἀδινὴν δ' ἀνενείκατο φωνήν·
 'Δειλὴ ἐγών, οἷόν με βαρεῖς ἐφόβησαν ὄνειροι.
 δεῖδια, μὴ μέγα δὴ τι φέρη κακὸν ἤδε κέλευθος

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

Meantime Argus, going to Aeetes' palace, with manifold pleading besought his mother to pray Medea's aid; and Chalciope herself already had the same thoughts, but fear checked her soul lest haply either fate should withstand and she should entreat her in vain, all distraught as she would be at her father's deadly wrath, or, if Medea yielded to her prayers, her deeds should be laid bare and open to view.

Now a deep slumber had relieved the maiden from her love-pains as she lay upon her couch. But straightway fearful dreams, deceitful, such as trouble one in grief, assailed her. And she thought that the stranger had taken on him the contest, not because he longed to win the ram's fleece, and that he had not come on that account to Aeetes' city, but to lead her away, his wedded wife, to his own home; and she dreamed that herself contended with the oxen and wrought the task with exceeding ease; and that her own parents set at naught their promise, for it was not the maiden they had challenged to yoke the oxen but the stranger himself; from that arose a contention of doubtful issue between her father and the strangers; and both laid the decision upon her, to be as she should direct in her mind. But she suddenly, neglecting her parents, chose the stranger. And measureless anguish seized them and they shouted out in their wrath; and with the cry sleep released its hold upon her. Quivering with fear she started up, and stared round the walls of her chamber, and with difficulty did she gather her spirit within her as before, and lifted her voice aloud:

"Poor wretch, how have gloomy dreams affrighted me! I fear that this voyage of the heroes will

ἡρώων. περί μοι ξείνῳ φρένες ἡερέθονται.
 μνάσθω ἐὼν κατὰ δῆμον Ἀχαιίδα τηλόθι κούρην·
 ἄμμι δὲ παρθευινή τε μέλοι καὶ δῶμα τοκήων.
 ἔμπα γε μὴν θεμένη κύνεον κέαρ, οὐκέτ' ἄνευθεν
 αὐτοκασιγνήτης πειρήσομαι, εἴ κέ μ' ἀέθλω
 χραιομεῖν ἀντιάσῃσιν, ἐπὶ σφετέροις ἀχέουσα
 παισί· τό κέν μοι λυγρὸν ἐνὶ κραδίῃ σβέσαι¹ ἄλγος·

640

Ἦ ῥα, καὶ ὀρθωθείσα θύρας ὤϊξε δόμοιο,
 νήλιπος, οἶεανος· καὶ δὴ λελίητο νέεσθαι
 αὐτοκασιγνήτηνδε, καὶ ἔρκεος οὐδὸν ἄμειψεν.
 δὴν δὲ καταυτόθι μίμνεν ἐνὶ προδόμῳ θαλάμοιο,
 αἰδοῖ ἐεργομένη· μετὰ δ' ἐτράπετ' αὐτὶς ὀπίσσω
 στρεφθεῖσ'· ἐκ δὲ πάλιν κίεν ἔνδοθεν, ἄψ τ' ἀλέ-
 εινεν

650

εἶσω· τηῦσιοι δὲ πόδες φέρουν ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα·
 ἦτοι ὅτ' ἰθύσειεν, ἔρυκέ μιν ἔνδοθεν αἰδώς·
 αἰδοῖ δ' ἐεργομένην θρασὺς ἕμερος ὀτρύνεσκεν.
 τρὶς μὲν ἐπειρήθη, τρὶς δ' ἔσχετο, τέττατον αὐτὶς
 λέκτροισιν πρηνῆς ἐνικάππεσεν εἰλιχθεῖσα.
 ὥς δ' ὅτε τις νύμφη θαλερὸν πόσιν ἐν θαλάμοισιν
 μύρεται, ᾧ μιν ὅπασσαν ἀδελφεοὶ ἡδὲ τοκῆες,
 οὐδέ τί πω πάσαις ἐπιμίσγεται ἀμφιπόλοισιν
 αἰδοῖ ἐπιφροσύνη τε· μυχῶ δ' ἀχέουσα θαάσσει·
 τὸν δέ τις ὤλεσε μοῖρα, πάρος ταρπήμεναι ἄμφω
 δήνεσιν ἀλλήλων· ἡ δ' ἔνδοθι δαιομένη περ
 σίγα μάλα κλαίει χῆρον λέχος εἰσορόωσα,
 μή μιν κερτομέουσai ἐπιστοβέωσι γυναικες·
 τῇ ἱκέλῃ Μήδεια κινύρετο. τὴν δέ τις ἄφνω
 μυρομένην μεσσηγὺς ἐπιπρομολοῦσ' ἐνόησεν

660

¹ σβέσαι Madvig; σβέσοι MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

bring some great evil. My heart is trembling for the stranger. Let him woo some Achaean girl far away among his own folk ; let maidenhood be mine and the home of my parents. Yet, taking to myself a reckless heart, I will no more keep aloof but will make trial of my sister to see if she will entreat me to aid in the contest, through grief for her own sons ; this would quench the bitter pain in my heart."

She spake, and rising from her bed opened the door of her chamber, bare-footed, clad in one robe ; and verily she desired to go to her sister, and crossed the threshold. And for long she stayed there at the entrance of her chamber, held back by shame ; and she turned back once more ; and again she came forth from within, and again stole back ; and idly did her feet bear her this way and that ; yea, as oft as she went straight on, shame held her within the chamber, and though held back by shame, bold desire kept urging her on. Thrice she made the attempt and thrice she checked herself, the fourth time she fell on her bed face downward, writhing in pain. And as when a bride in her chamber bewails her youthful husband, to whom her brothers and parents have given her, nor yet does she hold converse with all her attendants for shame and for thinking of him ; but she sits apart in her grief ; and some doom has destroyed him, before they have had pleasure of each other's charms ; and she with heart on fire silently weeps, beholding her widowed couch, in fear lest the women should mock and revile her : like to her did Medea lament. And suddenly as she was in the midst of her tears, one of

δμῶων, ἧ οἱ ἐπέτις πέλε κουρίζουσα·
 Χαλκιόπη δ' ἠγγεيلة παρασχεδόν· ἧ δ' ἐνὶ παισὶν
 ἦστ' ἐπιμητιόωσα κασιγνήτην ἀρέσασθαι.
 ἀλλ' οὐδ' ὥς ἀπίθησεν, ὅτ' ἔκλυεν ἀμφιπόλοιο
 μῦθον ἀνώιστον· διὰ δ' ἔσσυτο θαμβήσασα 679
 ἐκ θαλάμου θάλαμόνδε διαμπερές, ᾧ ἔνι κούρη
 κέκλιτ' ἀκηχεμένη, δρύψεν δ' ἐκάτερθε παρειάς·
 ὥς δ' ἶδε δάκρυσιν ὅσσε πεφυρμένα, φώνησέν μιν·
 "ὦ μοι ἐγώ, Μήδεια, τί δὴ τάδε δάκρυα λείβεις;
 τίπτ' ἔπαθες; τί τοι αἶνόν ὑπὸ φρένας ἵκετο πέν-
 θος;

ἧ νύ σε θευμορίη περιδέδρομεν ἄψα νοῦσος,
 ἥέ τιν' οὐλομένην ἐδάης ἐκ πατρὸς ἐνιπὴν
 ἀμφί τ' ἐμοὶ καὶ παισίν; ὄφελλέ με μήτε τοκήων
 δῶμα τόδ' εἰσοράαν, μηδὲ πτόλιν, ἀλλ' ἐπὶ γαίης
 πείρασι ναιετάειν, ἵνα μηδέ περ οὔνομα Κόλχων." 680

Ὡς φάτο· τῆς δ' ἐρύθηνε παρήια· δὴν δέ μιν αἰδῶς
 παρθενίη κατέρυκεν ἀμείψασθαι μεμαυῖαν.
 μῦθος δ' ἄλλοτε μέν οἱ ἐπ' ἀκροτάτης ἀνέτελλεν
 γλώσσης, ἄλλοτ' ἔνερθε κατὰ στήθος πεπότῃτο.
 πολλάκι δ' ἱμερόεν μὲν ἀνὰ στόμα θῦεν ἐνισπείν·
 φθογγῇ δ' οὐ προύβαινε παροιτέρῳ· ὄψε δ' ἔειπεν
 τοῖα δόλῳ· θρασέες γὰρ ἐπεκλονέεσκον Ἑρωτες·

Ἢ Χαλκιόπη, περί μοι παίδων σέο θυμὸς ἄηται,
 μή σφε πατὴρ ξείνοισι σὺν ἀνδράσιν αὐτίκ' ὀλέσση.
 τοῖα κατακνώσσουσα μινυνθαδίῳ νέον ὕπνῳ 690
 λεύσσω ὀνείρατα λυγρά, τά τις θεὸς ἀκράαντα
 θείῃ, μηδ' ἀλεγεινὸν ἐφ' υἰάσι κῆδος ἔλοιο."

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

the handmaids came forth and noticed her, one who was her youthful attendant; and straightway she told Chalciope, who sat in the midst of her sons devising how to win over her sister. And when Chalciope heard the strange tale from the handmaid, not even so did she disregard it. And she rushed in dismay from her chamber right on to the chamber where the maiden lay in her anguish, having torn her cheeks on each side; and when Chalciope saw her eyes all dimmed with tears, she thus addressed her:

“Ah me, Medea, why dost thou weep so? What hath befallen thee? What terrible grief has entered thy heart? Has some heaven-sent disease enwrapped thy frame, or hast thou heard from our father some deadly threat concerning me and my sons? Would that I did not behold this home of my parents, or the city, but dwelt at the ends of the earth, where not even the name of Colchians is known!”

Thus she spake, and her sister's cheeks flushed; and though she was eager to reply, long did maiden shame restrain her. At one moment the word rose on the end of her tongue, at another it fluttered back deep within her breast. And often through her lovely lips it strove for utterance; but no sound came forth; till at last she spoke with guileful words; for the bold Loves were pressing her hard:

“Chalciope, my heart is all trembling for thy sons, lest my father forthwith destroy them together with the strangers. Slumbering just now in a short-lived sleep such a ghastly dream did I see—may some god forbid its fulfilment and never mayst thou win for thyself bitter care on thy sons' account.”

Φῆ ῥα, κασιγνήτης πειρωμένη, εἴ κέ μιν αὐτὴ
 ἀντιάσειε πάροιθεν ἐοῖς τεκέεσσιν ἀμύνειν.
 τὴν δ' αἰνῶς ἄτλητος ἐπέκλυσε θυμὸν ἀνὴ
 δείματι, τοῖ' ἐσάκουσεν· ἀμείβετο δ' ὦδ' ἐπέεσσιν·
 'Καὶ δ' αὐτὴ τάδε πάντα μετήλυθον ὀρμαίνουσα,
 εἴ τινα συμφράσσαιο καὶ ἀρτύνειας ἀρωγὴν.
 ἀλλ' ὅμοσον Γαῖάν τε καὶ Οὐρανόν, ὅττι τοι εἶπω
 σχήσειν ἐν θυμῷ, σὺν τε δρήστειρα πέλεσθαι.
 λίσσομ' ὑπὲρ μακάρων σέο τ' αὐτῆς ἡδὲ τοκῆων,
 μή σφε κακῇ ὑπὸ κηρὶ διαρραισθέντας ιδέσθαι
 λευγαλέως· ἢ σοίγε φίλοις σὺν παισὶ θανοῦσα
 εἶην ἐξ Ἀίδεω στυγερῇ μετόπισθεν Ἑρινύς.'

700

᾽Ως ἄρ' ἔφη, τὸ δὲ πολλὸν ὑπεξέχυτ' αὐτίκα
 δάκρυ·

νειόθι θ' ἀμφοτέρησι περίσχετο γούνατα χερσίν,
 σὺν δὲ κάρη κόλποις περικάββαλεν. ἔνθ' ἐλεεινὸν
 ἄμφω ἐπ' ἀλλήλησι θέσαν γόον· ὦρτο δ' ἰωὴ
 λεπταλὴ διὰ δώματ' ὀδυρομένων ἀχέεσσιν.

τὴν δὲ πάρος Μῆδεια προσέννεπεν ἀσχαλώωσα·

710

'Δαιμονίη, τί νύ τοι ῥέξω ἄκος, οἷ' ἀγορεύεις,
 ἀράς τε στυγεράς καὶ Ἑρινύας; αἶ γὰρ ὄφελλεν
 ἔμπεδον εἶναι ἐπ' ἄμμι τεοὺς νίῃας ἔρυσθαι.
 ἴστω Κόλχων ὄρκος ὑπέρβιος ὄντιν' ὁμόσσαι
 αὐτὴ ἐποτρύνεις, μέγας Οὐρανός, ἢ θ' ὑπένερθεν
 Γαῖα, θεῶν μήτηρ, ὅσσον σθένος ἐστὶν ἐμεῖο,
 μή σ' ἐπιδευήσεσθαι, ἀνυστά περ ἀντιώωσαν.'

Φῆ ἄρα· Χαλκιόπη δ' ἡμείβετο τοῖσδ' ἐπέεσσιν·
 'Οὐκ ἂν δὴ ξείνῳ τλαίης χατέοντι καὶ αὐτῷ
 ἢ δόλον, ἢ τινα μῆτιν ἐπιφράσσασθαι ἀέθλου,
 παίδων εἵνεκ' ἐμεῖο; καὶ ἐκ κείνοιο δ' ἰκάνει

720

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

She spake, making trial of her sister to see if she first would entreat help for her sons. And utterly unbearable grief surged over Chalciope's soul for fear at what she heard; and then she replied: "Yea, I myself too have come to thee in eager furtherance of this purpose, if thou wouldst haply devise with me and prepare some help. But swear by Earth and Heaven that thou wilt keep secret in thy heart what I shall tell thee, and be fellow-worker with me. I implore thee by the blessed gods, by thyself and by thy parents, not to see them destroyed by an evil doom piteously; or else may I die with my dear sons and come back hereafter from Hades an avenging Fury to haunt thee."

Thus she spake, and straightway a torrent of tears gushed forth, and low down she clasped her sister's knees with both hands and let her head sink on to her breast. Then they both made piteous lamentation over each other, and through the halls rose the faint sound of women weeping in anguish. Medea, sore troubled, first addressed her sister:

"God help thee, what healing can I bring thee for what thou speakest of, horrible curses and Furies? Would that it were firmly in my power to save thy sons! Be witness that mighty oath of the Colchians by which thou urgest me to swear, the great Heaven, and Earth beneath, mother of the gods, that as far as strength lies in me, never shalt thou fail of help, if only thy prayers can be accomplished."

She spake, and Chalciope thus replied: "Couldst thou not then, for the stranger—who himself craves thy aid—devise some trick or some wise thought to win the contest, for the sake of my sons? And from

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

Ἀργος, ἐποτρύνων με τεῆς πειρῆσαι ἄρωγῆς·
μεσσηγὺς μὲν τόνγε δόμῳ λίπον ἐνθάδ' ἰούσα·

ᾧ φάτο· τῇ δ' ἐντοσθεν ἀνέπτατο χάρματι
θυμός,

φοινίχθη δ' ἄμυδις καλὸν χροά, καδ δέ μιν ἄχλὺς
εἰλεῖν ἱαινομένην, τοῖον δ' ἐπὶ μῦθον ἔειπεν·

Ἰαλκιόπη, ὡς ὕμμι φίλον τερπνόν τε τέτυκται,
ὥς ἔρξω. μὴ γάρ μοι ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖσι φαεῖνοι
ἦώς, μηδέ με δηρὸν ἔτι ζώουσιν ἴδιοι,

εἴ γέ τι σῆς ψυχῆς προφερέστερον, ἢέ τι παίδων 730

σὼν θείην, οἳ δὴ μοι ἀδελφείοι γεγάασιν,
κηδεμόνες τε φίλοι καὶ ὁμήλικες. ὥς δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ

φημὶ κασιγνήτη τε σέθεν κούρη τε πέλεσθαι,

ἴσον ἐπεὶ κείνοις με τεῶ ἐπαείραο μαζῶ

νηπυτίην, ὡς αἰὲν ἐγὼ ποτε μητρὸς ἄκουον.

ἀλλ' ἴθι, κεῖθε δ' ἐμὴν συγῇ χάριν, ὅφρα τοκῆας
λήσομαι ἐντύνουσα ὑπόσχεσιν· ἦρι δὲ νηὸν

οἴσομαι¹ εἰς Ἑκάτης θελκτήρια φάρμακα ταύρων·

ᾧ φάτο· ἔκ θαλάμοιο πάλιν κίε, παισί τ' ἄρωγῆν 740

αὐτοκασιγνήτης διεπέφραδε. τὴν δὲ μιν αὖτις²

αἰδῶς τε στυγερόν τε δέος λάβε μουνωθεῖσαν,

τοῖα παρέξ οὐ πατρὸς ἐπ' ἀνέρι μητιάασθαι.

Νῦξ μὲν ἔπειτ' ἐπὶ γαίαν ἄγεν κνέφας· οἳ δ'
ἐνὶ πόντῳ

ναῦται³ εἰς Ἑλίκην τε καὶ Ἀστέρας Ὀρίωνος

ἔδρακον ἐκ νηῶν· ὕπνοιο δὲ καὶ τις ὁδότης

ἤδη καὶ πυλαωρὸς ἐέλδετο· καὶ τινα παίδων

μητέρα τεθνεώτων ἀδινὸν περὶ κῶμ' ἐκάλυπτεν·

¹ οἴσομαι L. After this line occurs in scholia as a variant
the line οἴσομένη ξείνῳ ὑπὲρ οὗ τότε νεῖκος ὄρωρε.

² μάλ' αὖτις and μεταῦτις have been conjectured.

³ ναυτίλοι Porson.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

him has come Argus urging me to try to win thy help; I left him in the palace meantime while I came hither."

Thus she spake, and Medea's heart bounded with joy within her, and at once her fair cheeks flushed, and a mist swam before her melting eyes, and she spake as follows: "Chalciope, as is dear and delightful to thee and thy sons, even so will I do. Never may the dawn appear again to my eyes, never mayst thou see me living any longer, if I should take thought for anything before thy life or thy sons' lives, for they are my brothers, my dear kinsmen and youthful companions. So do I declare myself to be thy sister, and thy daughter too, for thou didst lift me to thy breast when an infant equally with them, as I ever heard from my mother in past days. But go, bury my kindness in silence, so that I may carry out my promise unknown to my parents; and at dawn I will bring to Hecate's temple charms to cast a spell upon the bulls."

Thus Chalciope went back from the chamber, and made known to her sons the help given by her sister. And again did shame and hateful fear seize Medea thus left alone, that she should devise such deeds for a man in her father's despite.

Then did night draw darkness over the earth; and on the sea sailors from their ships looked towards the Bear and the stars of Orion; and now the wayfarer and the warder longed for sleep, and the pall of slumber wrapped round the mother whose children were dead; nor was there any more

οὐδὲ κυνῶν ὑλακὴ ἔτ' ἀνὰ πτόλιν, οὐ θρόος ἦεν
 ἡχήεις· σιγὴ δὲ μελαινομένην ἔχεν ὄρφνην. 750
 ἀλλὰ μάλ' οὐ Μήδειαν ἐπὶ γλυκερὸς λάβεν ὕπνος.
 πολλὰ γὰρ Αἰσονίδαο πόθῳ μελεδήματ' ἔγειρεν
 δειδυῖαν ταύρων κρατερὸν μένος, οἷσιν ἔμελλεν
 φθίσθαι ἀεικελίῃ μοίρῃ κατὰ νειὸν Ἄρῃος.
 πυκνὰ δέ οἱ κραδίη στηθέων ἔντοσθεν ἔθνιεν,
 ἡελίου ὥς τίς τε δόμοις ἐνιπάλλεται αἶγλη
 ὕδατος ἑξανιοῦσα, τὸ δὴ νέον ἦε λέβητι
 ἦε πον ἐν γαυλῷ κέχυται· ἦ δ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα
 ὠκείῃ στροφάλιγγι τινάσσεται αἴσσουσα·
 ὥς δὲ καὶ ἐν στήθεσσι κέαρ ἐλελίζετο κούρης. 760
 δάκρυ δ' ἀπ' ὀφθαλμῶν ἐλέῳ ῥέειν· ἔνδοθι δ' αἰεὶ
 τεῖρ' ὀδύνη σμύχουσα διὰ χροός, ἀμφί τ' ἀραιὰς
 ἵνας καὶ κεφαλῆς ὑπὸ νείατον ἰνίου ἄχρῃς,
 ἔνθ' ἀλεγεινότατον δύνει ἄχος, ὅππότ' ἀνίας
 ἀκάματοι πραπίδεςσιν ἐνισκίμψωσιν Ἑρωτες.
 φῆ δέ οἱ ἄλλοτε μὲν θελκτήρια φάρμακα ταύρων
 δωσέμεν, ἄλλοτε δ' οὔτι· καταφθίσθαι δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ·
 αὐτίκα δ' οὔτ' αὐτὴ θανέειν, οὐ φάρμακα δώσειν,
 ἀλλ' αὐτῶς εὐκηλος ἐὼν ὀτλησέμεν ἄτην. 770
 ἐξομένη δ' ἤπειτα δοάσσατο, φώνησέν τε·
 'Δειλὴ ἐγώ, νῦν ἔνθα κακῶν ἢ ἔνθα γένωμαι;
 πάντῃ μοι φρένες εἰσὶν ἀμήχανοι· οὐδέ τις ἀλκὴ
 πήματος· ἀλλ' αὐτῶς φλέγει ἔμπεδον. ὥς ὄφελόν γε
 Ἄρτέμιδος κραιπνοῖσι πάρος βελέεσσι δαμῆναι,
 πρὶν τόνγ' εἰσιδέειν, πρὶν Ἀχαΐδα γαίαν ἰκέσθαι
 Χαλκιόπης υἱας. τοὺς μὲν θεὸς ἢ τις Ἑρινὺς
 ἄμμι πολυκλαύτους δεῦρ' ἤγαγε κείθεν ἀνίας.
 φθίσθω ἀεθλεύων, εἴ οἱ κατὰ νειὸν ὀλέσθαι

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

the barking of dogs through the city, nor sound of men's voices ; but silence held the blackening gloom. But not indeed upon Medea came sweet sleep. For in her love for Aeson's son many cares kept her wakeful, and she dreaded the mighty strength of the bulls, beneath whose fury he was like to perish by an unseemly fate in the field of Ares. And fast did her heart throb within her breast, as a sunbeam quivers upon the walls of a house when flung up from water, which is just poured forth in a caldron or a pail may be ; and hither and thither on the swift eddy does it dart and dance along ; even so the maiden's heart quivered in her breast. And the tear of pity flowed from her eyes, and ever within anguish tortured her, a smouldering fire through her frame, and about her fine nerves and deep down beneath the nape of the neck where the pain enters keenest, whenever the unwearied Loves direct against the heart their shafts of agony. And she thought now that she would give him the charms to cast a spell on the bulls, now that she would not, and that she herself would perish ; and again that she would not perish and would not give the charms, but just as she was would endure her fate in silence. Then sitting down she wavered in mind and said :

“ Poor wretch, must I toss hither and thither in woe ? On every side my heart is in despair ; nor is there any help for my pain ; but it burneth ever thus. Would that I had been slain by the swift shafts of Artemis before I had set eyes on him, before Chalciopé's sons reached the Achæan land. Some god or some Fury brought them hither for our grief, a cause of many tears. Let him perish in the contest if it be his lot to die in the field. For how

μοῖρα πέλει. πῶς γάρ κεν ἐμονὺς λελάθοιμι τοκῆας
 φάρμακα μησαμένη; ποῖον δ' ἐπὶ μῦθον ἐνίψω; 780
 τίς δὲ δόλος, τίς μῆτις ἐπὶ κλοπος ἔσσειτ' ἀρωγῆς;
 ἦ μιν ἀνευθ' ἐτάρων προσπτύξομαι οἶον ἰδοῦσα;
 δύσμορος· οὐ μὲν ἔολπα καταφθιμένοιο περ ἔμπης
 λωφήσειν ἀχέων· τότε δ' ἂν κακὸν ἄμμι πέλοιτο,
 κείνος ὅτε ζωῆς ἀπαμείρεται. ἐρρέτω αἰδώς,
 ἐρρέτω ἀγλαΐη· ὁ δ' ἐμῇ ἰότητι σαωθεῖς
 ἀσκηθῆς, ἵνα οἱ θυμῷ φίλον, ἔνθα νέοιτο.
 αὐτὰρ ἐγὼν αὐτῆμαρ, ὅτ' ἐξανύσειεν ἄεθλον,
 τεθναίνην, ἣ λαιμὸν ἀναρτήσασα μελάθρῳ,
 ἣ καὶ πασσαμένη ραιστήρια φάρμακα θυμοῦ. 790
 ἀλλὰ καὶ ὥς φθιμένη μοι ἐπιλλίξουσιν ὀπίσσω
 κερτομίας· τηλοῦ δὲ πόλις περὶ πᾶσα βοήσει
 πότμον ἐμόν· καὶ κέν με διὰ στόματος φορέουσai
 Κολχίδες ἄλλυδις ἄλλαι ἀεικέα μωμήσονται
 ἣτις κηδομένη τόσον ἀνέρος ἄλλοδαποῖο
 κάτθανεν, ἣτις δῶμα καὶ οὖς ἤσχυνε τοκῆας,
 μαργουσύνῃ εἷξασα· τί δ' οὐκ ἐμόν ἔσσεται αἰσχος;
 ὦ μοι ἐμῆς ἄτης. ἦ τ' ἂν πολὺ κέρδιον εἶη
 τῇδ' αὐτῇ ἐν νυκτὶ λιπεῖν βίον ἐν θαλάμοισιν
 πότμῳ ἀνωίστῳ, κάκ' ἐλέγχεα πάντα φυγοῦσαν, 800
 πρὶν τάδε λωβήεντα καὶ οὐκ ὀνομαστὰ τελέσσαι·

Ἦ, καὶ φωριαμὸν μετεκίαθεν, ἣ ἐνὶ πολλὰ
 φάρμακά οἱ, τὰ μὲν ἐσθλά, τὰ δὲ ραιστήρι', ἔκειτο.
 ἐνθεμένη δ' ἐπὶ γούνατ' ὀδύρετο. δεῦε δὲ κόλπους
 ἄλληκτον δακρύνουσι, τὰ δ' ἔρρεεν ἀσταγὲς αὐτως,
 αἶν' ὀλοφυρομένης τὸν ἐὸν μόρον. ἴετο δ' ἦγε
 φάρμακα λέξασθαι θυμοφθόρα, τόφρα πᾶσαιτο.
 ἦδη καὶ δεσμούς ἀνελύετο φωριαμοῖο,
 ἐξελέειν μεμαυῖα, δυσάμμορος. ἀλλὰ οἱ ἄφνω

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

could I prepare the charms without my parents' knowledge? What story can I tell them? What trick, what cunning device for aid can I find? If I see him alone, apart from his comrades, shall I greet him? Ill-starred that I am! I cannot hope that I should rest from my sorrows even though he perished; then will evil come to me when he is bereft of life. Perish all shame, perish all glory; may he, saved by my effort, go scatheless wherever his heart desires. But as for me, on the day when he bides the contest in triumph, may I die either straining my neck in the noose from the roof-tree or tasting drugs destructive of life. But even so, when I am dead, they will fling out taunts against me; and every city far away will ring with my doom, and the Colchian women, tossing my name on their lips hither and thither, will revile me with unseemly mocking—the maid who cared so much for a stranger that she died, the maid who disgraced her home and her parents, yielding to a mad passion. And what disgrace will not be mine? Alas for my infatuation! Far better would it be for me to forsake life this very night in my chamber by some mysterious fate, escaping all slanderous reproach, before I complete such nameless dishonour."

She spake, and brought a casket wherein lay many drugs, some for healing, others for killing, and placing it upon her knees she wept. And she drenched her bosom with ceaseless tears, which flowed in torrents as she sat, bitterly bewailing her own fate. And she longed to choose a murderous drug to taste it, and now she was loosening the bands of the casket eager to take it forth, unhappy maid! But suddenly a deadly fear of

δεῖμ' ὀλοὸν στυγεροῖο κατὰ φρένας ἦλθ' Ἀίδαο.
 ἔσχετο δ' ἀμφασίῃ δηρὸν χρόνον, ἀμφὶ δὲ πᾶσαι
 θυμηδεῖς βιότοιο μεληδόνες ἰνδάλλοντο.
 μνήσατο μὲν τερπνῶν, ὅσ' ἐνὶ ζωόισι πέλονται,
 μνήσαθ' ὀμηλικίης περιγηθέος, οἷά τε κούρη·
 καὶ τέ οἱ ἥελιος γλυκίων γένετ' εἰσοράασθαι,
 ἢ πάρος, εἰ ἐτέον γε νόω ἐπεμαίεθ' ἕκαστα.
 καὶ τὴν μὲν ῥα πάλιν σφετέρων ἀποκάτθετο
 γούνων,

810

Ἦρῃς ἐννεσίῃσι μετὰτροπος, οὐδ' ἔτι βουλὰς
 ἄλλῃ δοιάζεσκεν· ἐέλδετο δ' αἶψα φανῆναι
 ἡῶ τελλομένην, ἵνα οἱ θελκτῆρια δοίῃ
 φάρμακα συνθεσίῃσι, καὶ ἀντήσειεν ἐς ὥπῃν.
 πυκνὰ δ' ἀνὰ κληίδας ἐὼν λύσκε θυράων,
 αἶγλην σκεπτομένη· τῇ δ' ἀσπᾶσιον βάλε φέγγος
 Ἦριγενῆς, κίνυντο δ' ἀνὰ πτολίεθρον ἕκαστοι.

820

Ἐνθα κασιγνήτους μὲν ἔτ' αὐτόθι μείναι ἀνώγει
 Ἀργος, ἵνα φράζωιντο νόον καὶ μῆδεα κούρης·
 αὐτὸς δ' αὐτ' ἐπὶ νῆα κίεν προπάρειθε λιασθεῖς.

Ἡ δ' ἐπεὶ οὖν τὰ πρῶτα φαεινομένην ἶδεν ἡῶ
 παρθενική, ξανθὰς μὲν ἀνήψατο χερσὶν ἐθείρας,
 αἶ οἱ ἀτημελίῃ καταειμέναι ἠερέθοντο,
 αὐσταλέας δ' ἔψησε παρηίδας· αὐτὰρ ἀλοιφῇ
 νεκταρὲφ φαιδρύνετ' ἐπὶ χροᾷ· δύνε δὲ πέπλον
 καλόν, εὐγνάμπτοισιν ἀρηρέμενον περόνησιν·
 ἀμβροσίῳ δ' ἐφύπερθε καρήατι βάλλε καλύπτρην
 ἀργυφῆν. αὐτοῦ δὲ δόμοις ἐνὶ δινεύουσα
 στεῖβε πέδον λήθῃ ἀχέων, τά οἱ ἐν ποσὶν ἦεν
 θεσπέσι, ἄλλα τ' ἔμελλεν ἀεξήσεσθαι ὀπίσσω.
 κέκλετο δ' ἀμφιπόλοισι, αἶ οἱ δυοκαίδεκα πᾶσαι
 ἐν προδόμφ θαλάμοιο θυώδεος ἠϋλίζοντο

830

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

hateful Hades came upon her heart. And long she held back in speechless horror, and all around her thronged visions of the pleasing cares of life. She thought of all the delightful things that are among the living, she thought of her joyous play-mates, as a maiden will; and the sun grew sweeter than ever to behold, seeing that in truth her soul yearned for all. And she put the casket again from off her knees, all changed by the prompting of Hera, and no more did she waver in purpose; but longed for the rising dawn to appear quickly, that she might give him the charms to work the spell as she had promised, and meet him face to face. And often did she loosen the bolts of her door, to watch for the faint gleam: and welcome to her did the dayspring shed its light, and folk began to stir throughout the city.

Then Argus bade his brothers remain there to learn the maiden's mind and plans, but himself turned back and went to the ship.

Now soon as ever the maiden saw the light of dawn, with her hands she gathered up her golden tresses which were floating round her shoulders in careless disarray, and bathed her tear-stained cheeks, and made her skin shine with ointment sweet as nectar; and she donned a beautiful robe, fitted with well-bent clasps, and above on her head, divinely fair, she threw a veil gleaming like silver. And there, moving to and fro in the palace, she trod the ground forgetful of the heaven-sent woes thronging round her and of others that were destined to follow. And she called to her maids. Twelve they were, who lay during the night in the vestibule of her fragrant chamber, young as herself, not yet

ἤλικες, οὐπω λέκτρα σὺν ἀνδράσι πορσύνουσαι, 840
 ἐσσυμένως οὐρῆας ὑποζεύξασθαι ἀπήνη,
 οἳ κέ μιν εἰς Ἑκάτης περικαλλέα νηὸν ἄγοιεν.
 ἔνθ' αὐτ' ἀμφίπολοι μὲν ἐφοπλίζεσκον ἀπήνην·
 ἡ δὲ τέως γλαφυρῆς ἐξείλετο φωριαμοῖο
 φάρμακον, ὃ ῥά τέ φασι Προμήθειον καλέεσθαι.
 τῷ εἴ κ' ἐννυχίοισιν ἀρεσσάμενος θυέεσσιν
 Κούρην¹ μουνογένειαν ἐὼν δέμας ἱκμαίνοιτο,
 ἢ τ' ἂν ὄγ' οὔτε ῥηκτὸς ἔοι χαλκοῖο τυπῆσιν,
 οὔτε κεν αἰθομένῳ πυρὶ εἰκάθοι· ἀλλὰ καὶ ἀλκῇ 850
 λωίτερος κεῖν' ἡμαρ ὁμῶς κάρτει τε πέλοιτο.
 πρωτοφυὲς τόγ' ἀνέσχε καταστάξαντος ἔραζε
 αἵετοῦ ὠμηστέῳ κνημοῖς ἐνὶ Καυκασίοισιν
 αἱματόεντ' ἰχῶρα Προμηθῆος μογεροῖο.
 τοῦ δ' ἦτοι ἄνθος μὲν ὅσον πήχυιον ὑπερθεν
 χροίῃ Κωρυκίῳ ἱκελον κρόκῳ ἐξεφαάνθη,
 καυλοῖσιν διδύμοισιν ἐπήγορον· ἡ δ' ἐνὶ γαίῃ
 σαρκὶ νεοτμήτῳ ἐναλιγκίῃ ἔπλετο ῥίζα.
 τῆς οἴην τ' ἐν ὄρεσσι κελαινὴν ἱκμάδα φηγοῦ
 Κασπίῃ ἐν κόχλῳ ἀμήσατο φαρμάσσεσθαι,
 ἐπτά μὲν ἀενάοισι λοεσσαμένη ὑδάτεσσιν, 860
 ἐπτάκι δὲ Βριμῶ κουροτρόφον ἀγκαλέσασα,
 Βριμῶ νυκτιπόλον, χθονίην, ἐνέροισιν ἄνασσαν,
 λυγαίῃ ἐνὶ νυκτί, σὺν ὀρφναίοις φάρεσσιν.
 μυκηθμῷ δ' ὑπένερθεν ἐρεμνὴ σείετο γαῖα,
 ῥίζης τεμνομένης Τιτηνίδος· ἔστνε δ' αὐτὸς
 Ἰαπετοῖο πάις ὀδύνῃ πέρι θυμὸν ἀλύων.
 τό ῥ' ἦγ' ἐξανελούσα θυώδεϊ κάτθετο μήτρῃ,
 ἦτε οἱ ἀμβροσίοισι περὶ στήθεσσιν ἔερτο.
 ἐκ δὲ θύραζε κιοῦσα θεῆς ἐπεβήσατ' ἀπήνης·
 σὺν δέ οἱ ἀμφίπολοι δοιαὶ ἐκάτερθεν ἔβησαν. 870

¹ Κούρην] Δαῖραν G, schol.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

sharing the bridal couch, and she bade them hastily yoke the mules to the chariot to bear her to the beauteous shrine of Hecate. Thereupon the handmaids were making ready the chariot; and Medea meanwhile took from the hollow casket a charm which men say is called the charm of Prometheus. If a man should anoint his body therewithal, having first appeased the Maiden, the only-begotten, with sacrifice by night, surely that man could not be wounded by the stroke of bronze nor would he flinch from blazing fire; but for that day he would prove superior both in prowess and in might. It shot up first-born when the ravening eagle on the rugged flanks of Caucasus let drip to the earth the blood-like ichor¹ of tortured Prometheus. And its flower appeared a cubit above ground in colour like the Corycian crocus, rising on twin stalks; but in the earth the root was like newly-cut flesh. The dark juice of it, like the sap of a mountain-oak, she had gathered in a Caspian shell to make the charm withal, when she had first bathed in seven ever-flowing streams, and had called seven times on Brimo, nurse of youth, night-wandering Brimo, of the underworld, queen among the dead,—in the gloom of night, clad in dusky garments. And beneath, the dark earth shook and bellowed when the Titanian root was cut; and the son of Iapetus himself groaned, his soul distraught with pain. And she brought the charm forth and placed it in the fragrant band which engirdled her, just beneath her bosom, divinely fair. And going forth she mounted the swift chariot, and with her went two handmaidens on each side. And she herself took the reins and in

¹ *i.e.* the liquid that flows in the veins of gods.

αὐτὴ δ' ἤν' ἔδεκτο καὶ εὐποίητον ἰμάσθλην
 δεξιτερῇ, ἔλαεν δὲ δι' ἄστεος· αἱ δὲ δὴ ἄλλαι
 ἀμφίπολοι, πείρινθος ἐφαπτόμεναι μετόπισθεν,
 τρώχων εὐρείαν κατ' ἀμαξιτόν· ἂν δὲ χιτῶνας
 λεπταλέους λευκῆς ἐπιγουνίδος ἄχρισ ἄειρον.
 οἷα δὲ λιαροῖσιν ἐφ' ὕδασι Παρθενίοιο,
 ἥε καὶ Ἀμνισοῖο λοεσσαμένη ποταμοῖο
 χρυσείοις Λητωῖς ἐφ' ἄρμασιν ἐστηνῖα
 ὠκείαις κεμάδεσσι διεξελάσῃσι κολῶνας,
 τηλόθεν ἀντιόωσα πολυκνίσου ἑκατόμβης·
 τῇ δ' ἄμα νύμφαι ἔπονται ἀμορβάδες, αἱ μὲν ἐπ'
 αὐτῆς

880

ἀγρόμεναι πηγῆς Ἀμνισίδος, ἂν δὲ δὴ ἄλλαι
 ἄλσεα καὶ σκοπιάς πολυπίδακας· ἀμφὶ δὲ θῆρες
 κνυζηθμῷ σαίνουσιν ὑποτρομέοντες ἰοῦσαν·
 ὧς αἰγ' ἐσσεύοντο δι' ἄστεος· ἀμφὶ δὲ λαοὶ
 εἰκον, ἀλευάμενοι βασιληίδος ὄμματα κούρης.
 αὐτὰρ ἐπεὶ πόλιος μὲν ἐνδμήτους λίπ' ἀγνιάς,
 νηὸν δ' εἰσαφίκανε δι' ἐκ πεδίων ἐλάουσα,
 δὴ τότε ἔντροχάλοιο κατ' αὐτόθι βήσατ' ἀπήνης
 ἰεμένη, καὶ τοῖα μετὰ δμῶῃσιν ἔειπεν·

890

ᾧ φίλ' αἰ, ἡ μέγα δὴ τι παρήλιτον, οὐδ' ἐνόησα
 μὴ ἔμεν¹ ἀλλοδαποῖσι μετ' ἀνδράσιν, οἷτ' ἐπὶ γαίαν
 ἡμετέρεην στρωφῶσιν. ἀμηχανίη βεβόληται
 πᾶσα πόλις· τὸ καὶ οὐτις ἀνήλυθε δεῦρο γυναικῶν
 τῶν, αἱ τὸ πάροιθεν ἐπημάτια ἀγέρονται.
 ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ οὖν ἰκόμεσθα, καὶ οὐ νύ τις ἄλλος ἔπεισιν,
 εἰ δ' ἄγε μολπῇ θυμὸν ἀφειδείως κορέσωμεν
 μειλίχῃ, τὰ δὲ καλὰ τερέινης ἄνθεα ποίης
 λεξάμεναι τότε ἔπειτ' αὐτὴν ἀπονισσόμεθ' ὥρην.

¹ μῆνιμ' Merkel.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

her right hand the well-fashioned whip, and drove through the city ; and the rest, the handmaids, laid their hands on the chariot behind and ran along the broad highway ; and they kilted up their light robes above their white knees. And even as by the mild waters of Parthenius, or after bathing in the river Amnisus, Leto's daughter stands upon her golden chariot and courses over the hills with her swift-footed roes, to greet from afar some richly-steaming hecatomb ; and with her come the nymphs in attendance, gathering, some at the spring of Amnisus itself, others by the glens and many-fountained peaks ; and round her whine and fawn the beasts cowering as she moves along : thus they sped through the city ; and on both sides the people gave way, shunning the eyes of the royal maiden. But when she had left the city's well paved streets, and was approaching the shrine as she drove over the plains, then she alighted eagerly from the smooth-running chariot and spake as follows among her maidens :

“ Friends, verily have I sinned greatly and took no heed not to go among the stranger-folk¹ who roam over our land. The whole city is smitten with dismay ; wherefore no one of the women who formerly gathered here day by day has now come hither. But since we have come and no one else draws near, come, let us satisfy our souls without stint with soothing song, and when we have plucked the fair flowers amid the tender grass, that very hour will we

¹ or, reading *μήνιμ'*, “ took no heed of the cause of wrath with the stranger-folk ”

καὶ δέ κε σὺν πολέεσσιν ὀνείασιν οἶκαδ' ἴκοισθε 900
 ἡματι τῷ, εἴ μοι συναρέσσετε τήνδε μενοιμήν.
 Ἄργος γάρ μ' ἐπέεσσι παρατρέπει, ὥς δὲ καὶ αὐτὴ
 Χαλκιόπη· τὰ δὲ σίγα νόῳ ἔχετ' εἰσαΐουσαι
 ἐξ ἐμέθεν, μὴ πατὴρ ἐς οὔατα μῦθος ἴκηται.
 τὸν ξεῖνόν με κέλονται, ὅτις περὶ βουσὶν ὑπέστη,
 δῶρ' ἀποδεξαμένην ὀλοῶν ῥύσασθαι ἀέθλων.
 αὐτὰρ ἐγὼ τὸν μῦθον ἐπῆνεον, ἥδὲ καὶ αὐτὸν
 κέκλωμαι εἰς ὥπην ἐτάρων ἄπο μῦνον ἰκέσθαι,
 ὄφρα τὰ μὲν δασόμεσθα μετὰ σφίσιν, εἴ κεν ὀπάσῃ
 δῶρα φέρων, τῷ δ' αὖτε κακώτερον ἄλλο πόρῳ μεν 910
 φάρμακον· ἀλλ' ἀπονόσφι πέλεσθέ μοι, εὖτ' ἂν ἴκη-
 ται.

Ὡς ἤνδα· πάσῃσι δ' ἐπὶ κλοπος ἦνδανε μήτις.
 αὐτίκα δ' Αἰσονίδην ἐτάρων ἄπο μῦνον ἐρύσας
 Ἄργος, ὅτ' ἤδη τήνδε κασιγνήτων ἐσάκουσεν
 ἡερίην Ἑκάτης ἱερὸν μετὰ νηὸν ἰοῦσαν,
 ἦγε διέκ πεδίον· ἅμα δὲ σφίσιν εἶπετο Μόψος
 Ἀμπυκίδης, ἐσθλὸς μὲν ἐπιπροφανέντας ἐνισπεῖν
 οἰωνούς, ἐσθλὸς δὲ σὺν εὖ φράσσασθαι ἰοῦσιν.

Ἐνθ' οὐπὼ τις τοίος ἐπὶ προτέρων γένετ' ἀνδρῶν,
 οὔθ' ὅσοι ἐξ αὐτοῖο Διὸς γένος, οὔθ' ὅσοι ἄλλων 920
 ἀθανάτων ἥρωες ἀφ' αἵματος ἐβλάστησαν,
 οἶον Ἰήσωνα θῆκε Διὸς δάμαρ ἡματι κείνῳ
 ἡμὲν ἐσάντα ἰδεῖν, ἥδὲ προτιμυθῆσασθαι.
 τὸν καὶ παπταίνοντες ἐθάμβεον αὐτοὶ ἐταῖροι
 λαμπόμενον χαρίτεσσιν· ἐγήθησεν δὲ κελεύθῳ
 Ἀμπυκίδης, ἥδη που ὀισσάμενος τὰ ἕκαστα.

Ἔστι δὲ τις πεδίοιο κατὰ στίβον ἐγγύθι νηοῦ
 αἴγειρος φύλλοισιν ἀπειρεσίοις κομώσα,
 τῇ θαμὰ δὴ λακέρυζαι ἐπηυλίζοντο κορώναι.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

return. And with many a gift shall ye reach home this very day, if ye will gladden me with this desire of mine. For Argus pleads with me, also Chalciope herself; but this that ye hear from me keep silently in your hearts, lest the tale reach my father's ears. As for yon stranger who took on him the task with the oxen, they bid me receive his gifts and rescue him from the deadly contest. And I approved their counsel, and I have summoned him to come to my presence apart from his comrades, so that we may divide the gifts among ourselves if he bring them in his hands, and in return may give him a baleful charm. But when he comes, do ye stand aloof."

So she spake, and the crafty counsel pleased them all. And straightway Argus drew Aeson's son apart from his comrades as soon as he heard from his brothers that Medea had gone at daybreak to the holy shrine of Hecate, and led him over the plain; and with them went Mopsus, son of Ampycus, skilled to utter oracles from the appearance of birds, and skilled to give good counsel to those who set out on a journey.

Never yet had there been such a man in the days of old, neither of all the heroes of the lineage of Zeus himself, nor of those who sprung from the blood of the other gods, as on that day the bride of Zeus made Jason, both to look upon and to hold converse with. Even his comrades wondered as they gazed upon him, radiant with manifold graces; and the son of Ampycus rejoiced in their journey, already foreboding how all would end.

Now by the path along the plain there stands near the shrine a poplar with its crown of countless leaves, whereon often chattering crows would roost. One

τάων τις μεσσηγὺς ἀνὰ πτερὰ κινήσασα
ὑψοῦ ἐπ' ἀκρεμόνων Ἥρης ἠνίπαπε βουλάς· 930

Ἄκλειῆς ὄδε μάντις, ὃς οὐδ' ὅσα παῖδες ἴσασιν
οἶδε νόῳ φράσσασθαι, ὁθύνεκεν οὔτε τι λαρὸν
οὔτ' ἐρατὸν κούρη κεν ἔπος προτιμυθήσαιο
ἠιθέῳ, εὐτ' ἂν σφιν ἐπήλυδες ἄλλοι ἔπωνται.
ἔρροις, ὦ κακόμαντι, κακοφραδές· οὔτε σε Κύπρις,
οὔτ' ἀγανοὶ φιλέοντες ἐπιπνεύουσιν Ἑρωτες·

Ἴσκεν ἀτεμβομένη· μείδησε δὲ Μόψος ἀκούσας
ὄμφην οἰωνοῖο θεήλατον, ὧδέ τ' ἔειπεν·

Ἔννη μὲν νηόνδε θεᾶς ἴθι, τῷ ἐνὶ κούρην 940
δήεις, Αἰσονίδη· μάλα δ' ἠπίη ἀντιβολήσεις
Κύπριδος ἐννεσίης, ἥ τοι συνέριθος ἀέθλων
ἔσσεται, ὡς δὴ καὶ πρὶν Ἀγηνορίδης φάτο Φινεύς.
νῶϊ δ', ἐγὼν Ἄργος τε, δεδεγμένοι, εὐτ' ἂν ἴκηαι,
τῷδ' αὐτῷ ἐνὶ χώρῳ ἀπεσσομεθ'· οἰόθι δ' αὐτὸς
λίσιό μιν πυκινοῖσι παρατροπέων ἐπέεσσιν·

Ἡ ῥα περιφραδέως, ἐπὶ δὲ σχεδὸν ἦνεον ἄμφω.
οὐδ' ἄρα Μηδείης θυμὸς τράπετ' ἄλλα νοῆσαι,
μελπομένης περ ὁμῶς· πᾶσαι δέ οἱ, ἦντιν' ἀθύροι
μολπήν, οὐκ ἐπὶ δηρὸν ἐφήνδανεν ἐψιάασθαι. 950

ἀλλὰ μεταλλήγεσκεν ἀμήχανος, οὐδέ ποτ' ὅσσε
ἀμφιπόλων μεθ' ὁμιλον ἔχ' ἀτρέμας· ἐς δὲ κελεύθους
τηλόσε παπταίνεσκε, παρυκλίνουσα παρειάς.

ἦ θαμὰ δὴ στηθέων ἐάγη κέαρ, ὅπποτε δοῦπον
ἦ ποδὸς ἦ ἀνέμοιο παραθρέξαντα δοάσσαι.

αὐτὰρ ὅγ' οὐ μετὰ δηρὸν ἐελδομένη ἐφαάνθη

ὑψόσ' ἀναθρόσκων ἅτε Σείριος Ὠκεανοῖο,

ὃς δὴ τοι καλὸς μὲν ἀρίζηλός τ' ἐσιδέσθαι

ἀντέλλει, μήλοισι δ' ἐν ἄσπετον ἦκεν οἰζύν·

ὥς ἄρα τῇ καλὸς μὲν ἐπήλυθεν εἰσοράσθαι 960
Αἰσονίδης, κάματον δὲ δυσίμερον ὥρσε φαανθείς.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

of them meantime as she clapped her wings aloft in the branches uttered the counsels of Hera :

“ What a pitiful seer is this, that has not the wit to conceive even what children know, how that no maiden will say a word of sweetness or love to a youth when strangers be near. Begone, sorry prophet, witless one ; on thee neither Cypris nor the gentle Loves breathe in their kindness.”

She spake chiding, and Mopsus smiled to hear the god-sent voice of the bird, and thus addressed them : “ Do thou, son of Aeson, pass on to the temple, where thou wilt find the maiden ; and very kind will her greeting be to thee through the prompting of Cypris, who will be thy helpmate in the contest, even as Phineus, Agenor’s son, foretold. But we two, Argus and I, will await thy return, apart in this very spot ; do thou all alone be a suppliant and win her over with prudent words.”

He spake wisely, and both at once gave approval. Nor was Medea’s heart turned to other thoughts, for all her singing, and never a song that she essayed pleased her long in her sport. But in confusion she ever faltered, nor did she keep her eyes resting quietly upon the throng of her handmaids ; but to the paths far off she strained her gaze, turning her face aside. Oft did her heart sink fainting within her bosom whenever she fancied she heard passing by the sound of a footfall or of the wind. But soon he appeared to her longing eyes, striding along loftily, like Sirius coming from ocean, which rises fair and clear to see, but brings unspeakable mischief to flocks ; thus then did Aeson’s son come to her, fair to see, but the sight of him brought love-sick

ἐκ δ' ἄρα οἱ κραδίη στηθέων πέσεν, ὄμματα δ' αὐτως
 ἤχλυσαν· θερμὸν δὲ παρηίδας εἶλεν ἔρευθος.
 γούνατα δ' οὐτ' ὀπίσω οὔτε προπάροιθεν αἰεῖραι
 ἔσθενεν, ἀλλ' ὑπένερθε πάγῃ πόδας. αἱ δ' ἄρα τείως
 ἀμφίπολοι μάλα πᾶσαι ἀπὸ σφείων ἐλίασθεν.
 τῷ δ' ἄνεφ καὶ ἄγανδοι ἐφέστασαν ἀλλήλοισιν,
 ἢ δρυσίν, ἢ μακρῇσιν ἐειδόμενοι ἐλάττησιν,
 αἵτε παρᾶσσον ἔκηλοι ἐν οὔρεσιν ἐρρίζωνται,
 νηνεμίη· μετὰ δ' αὖτις ὑπὸ ῥιπῆς ἀνέμοιο
 κινύμεναι ὁμάδησαν ἀπείριτον· ὥς ἄρα τώγε
 μέλλον ἄλις φθέγξασθαι ὑπὸ πνοιῇσιν Ἑρωτος.
 γυνῶ δέ μιν Αἰσονίδης ἄτῃ ἐνιπεπτηνυῖαν
 θευμορίῃ, καὶ τοῖον ὑποσσαίνων φάτο μῦθον·

970

‘Τίπτε με, παρθενική, τόσον ἄζλαι, οἶον εἶοντα;
 οὐ τοι ἐγών, οἰοί τε δυσαυχέες ἄλλοι ἔασιν
 ἄνδρες, οὐδ' ὅτε περ πάτρη ἐνι ναιετάασκον,
 ἦα πάρος. τῷ μὴ με λίην ὑπεραίδεο, κούρη,
 ἢ τι παρεξερέεσθαι, ὅ τοι φίλον, ἢέ τι φάσθαι.
 ἀλλ' ἐπεὶ ἀλλήλοισιν ἰκάνομεν εὐμενέοντες,
 χώρῳ ἐν ἡγαθέῳ, ἵνα τ' οὐ θέμις ἔστ' ἀλιτέσθαι,
 ἀμφαδίην ἀγόρευε καὶ εἴρεο· μηδέ με τερπνοῖς
 φηλώσης ἐπέεσσιν, ἐπεὶ τὸ πρῶτον ὑπέστης
 αὐτοκασιγνήτῃ μενοεικέα φάρμακα δώσειν.
 πρὸς σ' αὐτῆς Ἑκάτης μελίσσομαι ἠδὲ τοκήων
 καὶ Διός, ὃς ξείνοισι ἰκέτησί τε χεῖρ' ὑπερίσχει·
 ἀμφοτέρων δ', ἰκέτης ξεινός τέ τοι ἐνθάδ' ἰκάνω,
 χρεοῖ ἀναγκαίῃ γουνούμενος. οὐ γὰρ ἄνευθεν
 ὑμείων στονόεντος ὑπέρτερος ἔσσομ' ἀέθλου.
 σοὶ δ' ἂν ἐγὼ τίσαιμι χάριν μετόπισθεν ἄρωγῆς,
 ἢ θέμις, ὥς ἐπέοικε διάνδιχα ναιετάοντας,

980

990

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

care. Her heart fell from out her bosom, and a dark mist came over her eyes, and a hot blush covered her cheeks. And she had no strength to lift her knees backwards or forwards, but her feet beneath were rooted to the ground; and meantime all her handmaidens had drawn aside. So they two stood face to face without a word, without a sound, like oaks or lofty pines, which stand quietly side by side on the mountains when the wind is still; then again, when stirred by the breath of the wind, they murmur ceaselessly; so they two were destined to tell out all their tale, stirred by the breath of Love. And Aeson's son saw that she had fallen into some heaven-sent calamity, and with soothing words thus addressed her:

“Why, pray, maiden, dost thou fear me so much, all alone as I am? Never was I one of these idle boasters such as other men are—not even aforetime, when I dwelt in my own country. Wherefore, maiden, be not too much abashed before me, either to enquire whatever thou wilt or to speak thy mind. But since we have met one another with friendly hearts, in a hallowed spot, where it is wrong to sin, speak openly and ask questions, and beguile me not with pleasing words, for at the first thou didst promise thy sister to give me the charms my heart desires. I implore thee by Hecate herself, by thy parents, and by Zeus who holds his guardian hand over strangers and suppliants; I come here to thee both a suppliant and a stranger, bending the knee in my sore need. For without thee and thy sister never shall I prevail in the grievous contest. And to thee will I render thanks hereafter for thy aid, as is right and fitting for men who dwell far off,

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

οὔνομα καὶ καλὸν τεύχων κλέος· ὥς δὲ καὶ ὅλλοι
 ἥρωες κλήσουσιν ἐς Ἑλλάδα νοστήσαντες
 ἡρώων τ' ἄλοχοι καὶ μητέρες, αἶ νύ που ἦδη
 ἡμέας ἡιόνεσσιν ἐφεζόμεναι γοάουσιν·
 τάων ἀργαλέας κεν ἀποσκεδάσειας ἀνίας.

δὴ ποτε καὶ Θησῆα κακῶν ὑπελύσατ' ἀέθλων
 παρθενικὴ Μινωὶς εὐφρονέουσ' Ἀριάδνη,
 ἦν ῥά τε Πασιφάη κούρη τέκεν Ἑλίοιο.

ἀλλ' ἡ μὲν καὶ νηός, ἐπεὶ χόλον εὔνασε Μίνως,
 σὺν τῷ ἐφεζομένη πάτρην λίπε· τὴν δὲ καὶ αὐτοὶ
 ἀθάνατοι φίλαντο, μέσῳ δέ οἱ αἰθέρι τέκμαρ
 ἀστερόεις στέφανος, τόντε κλείουσ' Ἀριάδνης,
 πάννυχος οὐρανίοισιν ἐλίσσεται εἰδώλοισιν.
 ὥς καὶ σοὶ θεόθεν χάρις ἔσσεται, εἴ κε σαώσης
 τόσσον ἀριστῆων ἀνδρῶν στόλον. ἡ γὰρ ἔοικας
 ἐκ μορφῆς ἀγανῆσιν ἐπητείησι κεκάσθαι.

1000

Ὡς φάτο κυδαίνων· ἡ δ' ἐγκλιδὸν ὅσσε βαλοῦσα
 νεκτάρεον μείδησ'· ἐχύθη δέ οἱ ἔνδοθι θυμὸς
 αἰνῷ ἀειρομένης, καὶ ἀνέδρακεν ὄμμασιν ἄντην·
 οὐδ' ἔχεν ὅττι πάροιθεν ἔπος προτιμυθήσαιο,
 ἀλλ' ἄμυδις μενέαινεν ἀολλέα πάντ' ἀγορεύσαι.
 προπρὸ δ' ἀφειδήσασα θυώδεος ἔξελε μίτρης
 φάρμακον· αὐτὰρ ὄγ' αἶψα χεροῖν ὑπέδεκτο γε-
 γηθώς.

1010

καὶ νύ κέ οἱ καὶ πᾶσαν ἀπὸ στηθέων ἀρύσασα
 ψυχὴν ἐγγυάλιξεν ἀγαιομένη χατέοντι·
 τοίος ἀπὸ ξανθοῖο καρήατος Αἰσονίδαο
 στράπτειν Ἔρως ἠδέϊεν ἀπὸ φλόγα· τῆς δ' ἀμαρυγὰς
 ὀφθαλμῶν ἥρπαζεν· λαίνετο δὲ φρένας εἴσω
 τηκομένη, οἷόν τε περὶ ῥοδέησιν ἔερση
 τήκεται ἡώοισιν λαίνομένη φαέεσσιν.

1020

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

making glorious thy name and fame ; and the rest of the heroes, returning to Hellas, will spread thy renown and so will the heroes' wives and mothers, who now perhaps are sitting on the shore and making moan for us ; their painful affliction thou mightest scatter to the winds. In days past the maiden Ariadne, daughter of Minos, with kindly intent rescued Theseus from grim contests—the maiden whom Pasiphae daughter of Helios bare. But she, when Minos had lulled his wrath to rest, went aboard the ship with him and left her fatherland ; and her even the immortal gods loved, and, as a sign in mid-sky, a crown of stars, which men call Ariadne's crown, rolls along all night among the heavenly constellations. So to thee too shall be thanks from the gods, if thou wilt save so mighty an array of chieftains. For surely from thy lovely form thou art like to excel in gentle courtesy."

Thus he spake, honouring her ; and she cast her eyes down with a smile divinely sweet ; and her soul melted within her, uplifted by his praise, and she gazed upon him face to face ; nor did she know what word to utter first, but was eager to pour out everything at once. And forth from her fragrant girdle ungrudgingly she brought out the charm ; and he at once received it in his hands with joy. And she would even have drawn out all her soul from her breast and given it to him, exulting in his desire ; so wonderfully did love flash forth a sweet flame from the golden head of Aeson's son ; and he captivated her gleaming eyes ; and her heart within grew warm, melting away as the dew melts away round roses when warmed by the morning's light. And now both

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

ἄμφω δ' ἄλλοτε μέν τε κατ' οὔδεος ὄμματ' ἔρειδον
αἰδόμενοι, ὅτε δ' αὖτις ἐπὶ σφίσι βάλλον ὀπωπᾶς,
ἰμερόεν φαιδρῆσιν ὑπ' ὀφρύσι μειδιῶντες.

ὄψε δέ δὴ τοίοισι μόλις προσπτύξατο κούρη·

‘Φράξεο νῦν, ὥς κέν τοι ἐγὼ μητίσομ' ἄρωγῇν.

εὖτ' ἂν δὴ μετιόντι πατήρ ἐμός ἐγγυαλίξῃ
ἐξ ὄφιος γενύων ὀλοοὺς σπείρασθαι ὀδόντας,
δὴ τότε μέσσην νύκτα διαμμοιρηδὰ φυλάξας,
ἀκαμάτοιο ῥοῇσι λοεσσάμενος ποταμοῖο,
οἷος ἄνευθ' ἄλλων ἐνὶ φάρεσι κυανέοισιν
βόθρον ὀρύξασθαι περιηγέα· τῷ δ' ἐνὶ θήλυν
ἄρνεϊον σφάζειν, καὶ ἀδαίετον ὠμοθετῆσαι,
αὐτῷ πυρκαϊὴν εὖ νηήσας ἐπὶ βόθρῳ.

μουνογενῇ δ' Ἑκάτην Περσηίδα μελίσσοιο,
λείβων ἐκ δέπαος σιμβλήια ἔργα μελισσῶν.
ἔνθα δ' ἐπεὶ κε θεὰν μεμνημένος ἰλάσσηαι,
ἄψ' ἀπὸ πυρκαϊῆς ἀναχάζεο· μηδέ σε δούπος
ἡέ ποδῶν ὄρρησι μεταστρεφθῆναι ὀπίσσω,
ἡέ κυνῶν ὑλακῇ, μή πως τὰ ἕκαστα κολούσας
οὐδ' αὐτὸς κατὰ κόσμον εἰς ἐτάροισι πεδάσσης.

ἦρι δέ μυδήνας τόδε φάρμακον, ἡύτ' ἄλοιφῇ
γυμνωθεὶς φαίδρυνε τεὸν δέμας· ἐν δέ οἱ ἀλκῇ
ἔσσετ' ἀπειρεσίῃ μέγα τε σθένος, οὐδέ κε φαίης
ἀνδράσιν, ἀλλὰ θεοῖσιν ἰσαζέμεν ἀθανάτοισιν.
πρὸς δέ καὶ αὐτῷ δουρὶ σάκος πεπαλαγμένον ἔστω
καὶ ξίφος. ἐνθ' οὐκ ἂν σε διατμήξειαν ἀκωκαὶ
γηγενέων ἀνδρῶν, οὐδ' ἄσχετος αἰσσοῦσα
φλόξ ὀλοῶν ταύρων. τοῖός γε μὲν οὐκ ἐπὶ δηρὸν
ἔσσειαι, ἀλλ' αὐτῆμαρ· ὅμως σύγε μή ποτ' ἀέθλου
χάζεο. καὶ δέ τοι ἄλλο παρέξ ὑποθήσομ' ὄνειαρ.
αὐτίκ' ἐπὴν κρατεροὺς ζεύξης βόας, ὧκα δὲ πᾶσαν
χερσὶ καὶ ἡνωρέῃ στυφελὴν διὰ νειὸν ἀρόσσης,

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

were fixing their eyes on the ground abashed, and again were throwing glances at each other, smiling with the light of love beneath their radiant brows. And at last and scarcely then did the maiden greet him :

“ Take heed now, that I may devise help for thee. When at thy coming my father has given thee the deadly teeth from the dragon’s jaws for sowing, then watch for the time when the night is parted in twain, then bathe in the stream of the tireless river, and alone, apart from others, clad in dusky raiment, dig a rounded pit ; and therein slay a ewe, and sacrifice it whole, heaping high the pyre on the very edge of the pit. And propitiate only-begotten Hecate, daughter of Perses, pouring from a goblet the hive-stored labour of bees. And then, when thou hast heedfully sought the grace of the goddess, retreat from the pyre ; and let neither the sound of feet drive thee to turn back, nor the baying of hounds, lest haply thou shouldst maim all the rites and thyself fail to return duly to thy comrades. And at dawn steep this charm in water, strip, and anoint thy body therewith as with oil ; and in it there will be boundless prowess and mighty strength, and thou wilt deem thyself a match not for men but for the immortal gods. And besides, let thy spear and shield and sword be sprinkled. There-upon the spear-heads of the earthborn men shall not pierce thee, nor the flame of the deadly bulls as it rushes forth resistless. But such thou shalt be not for long, but for that one day ; still never flinch from the contest. And I will tell thee besides of yet another help. As soon as thou hast yoked the strong oxen, and with thy might and thy prowess

οἱ δ' ἤδη κατὰ ὦλκας ἀνασταχύωσι Γίγαντες
 σπειρομένων ὄφις δνοφερὴν ἐπὶ βῶλον ὀδόντων,
 αἶ κεν ὀρινομένους πολέας νειοῖο δοκεύσης,
 λάθρη λᾶαν ἄφες στιβαρώτερον· οἱ δ' ἂν ἐπ' αὐτῷ,
 καρχαλέοι κύνες ὥστε περὶ βρώμης, ὀλέκοιεν
 ἀλλήλους· καὶ δ' αὐτὸς ἐπείγγο δηιοτήτος
 ἰθύσαι. τὸ δὲ κῶας ἐς Ἑλλάδα τοιό γ' ἔκητι
 οἶσεαι ἐξ Αἴης τηλοῦ ποθι· νίσσεο δ' ἔμπης,
 ἦ φίλον, ἦ τοι ἔαδεν ἀφορμηθέντι νέεσθαι.'

1060

Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη, καὶ σίγα ποδῶν πάρος ὅσσε βαλοῦσα
 θεσπέσιον λιαροῖσι παρηίδα δάκρυσι δεῦν
 μυρομένη, ὃ τ' ἔμελλεν ἀπόπροθι πολλὸν ἐοῖο
 πόντον ἐπιπλάγξασθαι· ἀνιρῷ δέ μιν ἄντην
 ἐξαυτίς μύθῳ προσεφώνεεν, εἰλέ τε χειρὸς
 δεξιτερῆς· δὴ γάρ οἱ ἀπ' ὀφθαλμοῦς λίπεν αἰδώς·

Μνώεο δ', ἦν ἄρα δὴ ποθ' ὑπότροπος οἶκαδ'
 ἵκηαι,

οὔνομα Μηδείης· ὥς δ' αὐτ' ἐγὼ ἀμφὶς ἐόντος
 μνήσομαι. εἰπὲ δέ μοι πρόφρων τόδε, πῇ τοι ἔασιν
 δώματα, πῇ νῦν ἔνθεν ὑπεῖρ ἄλλα νηὶ περήσεις·
 ἦ νύ που ἀφνειοῦ σχεδὸν ἵξαι Ὀρχομενοῖο,
 ἔξε καὶ Αἰαίης νήσου πέλας; εἰπὲ δὲ κούρην,
 ἦντινα τήνδ' ὀνόμηνας ἀριγνώτην γεγαυῖαν
 Πασιφάης, ἣ πατρὸς ὀμόγνιός ἐστιν ἐμείο.'

1070

Ὡς φάτο· τὸν δὲ καὶ αὐτὸν ὑπήιε δάκρυσι
 κούρης

οὔλος Ἔρωσ, τοῖον δὲ παραβλήδην ἔπος ηὔδα·

Καὶ λήν οὐ νύκτας οἶομαι, οὐδέ ποτ' ἡμαρ
 σεῦ ἐπιλήσασθαι, προφυγὼν μόρον, εἰ ἔτεόν γε
 φεύξομαι ἀσκηθῆς ἐς Ἀχαιίδα, μηδέ τιν' ἄλλον
 Αἰήτης προβάλησι κακώτερον ἄμμιν ἄεθλον.

1080

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

hast ploughed all the stubborn fallow, and now along the furrows the Giants are springing up, when the serpent's teeth are sown on the dusky clods, if thou markest them uprising in throngs from the fallow, cast unseen among them a massy stone; and they over it, like ravening hounds over their food, will slay one another; and do thou thyself hasten to rush to the battle-strife, and the fleece thereupon thou shalt bear far away from Aea; nevertheless, depart wherever thou wilt, or thy pleasure takes thee, when thou hast gone hence."

Thus she spake, and cast her eyes to her feet in silence, and her cheek, divinely fair, was wet with warm tears as she sorrowed for that he was about to wander far from her side over the wide sea: and once again she addressed him face to face with mournful words, and took his right hand; for now shame had left her eyes:

"Remember, if haply thou returnest to thy home, Medea's name; and so will I remember thine, though thou be far away. And of thy kindness tell me this, where is thy home, whither wilt thou sail hence in thy ship over the sea; wilt thou come near wealthy Orchomenus, or near the Aeaean isle? And tell me of the maiden, whosoever she be that thou hast named, the far-renowned daughter of Pasiphae, who is kinswoman to my father."

Thus she spake; and over him too, at the tears of the maiden, stole Love the destroyer, and he thus answered her:

"All too surely do I deem that never by night and never by day will I forget thee if I escape death and indeed make my way in safety to the Achaean land, and Aeetes set not before us some other

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

εἰ δέ τοι ἡμετέρην ἐξίδμεναι εὔαδε πάτρην
 ἐξερέω· μάλα γάρ με καὶ αὐτὸν θυμὸς ἀνώγει.
 ἔστι τις αἰπεινοῖσι περίδρομος οὔρεσι γαῖα,
 πάμπαν εὐρρηνὸς τε καὶ εὐβοτος, ἔνθα Προμηθεὺς
 Ἰαπετιονίδης ἀγαθὸν τέκε Δευκαλίωνα,
 ὃς πρῶτος ποίησε πόλεις καὶ ἐδείματο νηοὺς
 ἀθανάτοισι, πρῶτος δὲ καὶ ἀνθρώπων βασίλευσεν.
 Αἰμονίην δὴ τήνγε περικτίονες καλέουσιν.
 ἐν δ' αὐτῇ Ἰαωλκός, ἐμὴ πόλις, ἐν δὲ καὶ ἄλλαι
 1090
 πολλαὶ ναιετάουσιν, ἵν' οὐδέ περ οὔνομ' ἀκούσαι
 Αἰαίης νήσου· Μινύην γε μὲν ὀρμηθέντα,
 Αἰολίδην Μινύην ἔνθεν φάτις Ὀρχομενοῖο
 δὴ ποτε Καδμείοισιν ὁμούριον ἄστνυ πολίσσαι.
 ἀλλὰ τίη τάδε τοι μεταμῶνια πάντ' ἀγορεύω,
 ἡμετέρους τε δόμους τηλεκλείτην τ' Ἀριάδνην,
 κούρην Μίνως, τόπερ ἀγλαὸν οὔνομα κείνην
 παρθενικὴν καλέεσκον ἐπήρατον, ἦν μ' ἐρεεῖνεις ;
 αἶθε γάρ, ὥς Θησῆϊ τότε ξυναρέσσατο Μίνως
 1100
 ἄμφ' αὐτῆς, ὥς ἄμμι πατὴρ τεὸς ἄρθμιος εἶη.
 Ὡς φάτο, μειλιχίοισι καταψήχων ὀάροισιν.
 τῆς δ' ἀλεγεινόταται κραδίην ἐρέθεσκον ἀνῖαι,
 καὶ μιν ἀκηχεμένη ἀδινῶ προσπτύξατο μύθῳ·
 Ἑλλάδι που τάδε καλὰ, συνημοσύνας ἀλεγύ-
 νειν·

Αἰήτης δ' οὐ τοῖος ἐν ἀνδράσιν, οἷον ἔειπας
 Μίνω Πασιφάης πόσιν ἔμμεναι· οὐδ' Ἀριάδνη
 ἰσοῦμαι· τῷ μήτι φιλοξενίην ἀγόρευε.
 ἀλλ' οἷον τύνη μὲν ἐμεῦ, ὅτ' Ἰωλκὸν ἵκηαι,
 μνώεο· σείο δ' ἐγὼ καὶ ἐμῶν ἀέκητι τοκῶν
 1110
 μνήσομαι· ἔλθοι δ' ἡμιν ἀπόπροθεν ἢ τις ὅσσα,
 ἢ τις ἄγγελος ὄρνις, ὅτ' ἐκλελάθοιό ἐμεῖο·
 ἢ αὐτὴν με ταχεῖαι ὑπὲρ πόντοιο φέροιεν

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

contest worse than this. And if it pleases thee to know about my fatherland, I will tell it out; for indeed my own heart bids me do that. There is a land encircled by lofty mountains, rich in sheep and in pasture, where Prometheus, son of Iapetus, begat goodly Deucalion, who first founded cities and reared temples to the immortal gods, and first ruled over men. This land the neighbours who dwell around call Haemonia. And in it stands Iolcus, my city, and in it many others, where they have not so much as heard the name of the Aeaeon isle; yet there is a story that Minyas starting thence, Minyas son of Aeolus, built long ago the city of Orchomenus that borders on the Cadmeians. But why do I tell thee all this vain talk, of our home and of Minos' daughter, far-famed Ariadne, by which glorious name they called that lovely maiden of whom thou askest me? Would that, as Minos then was well inclined to Theseus for her sake, so may thy father be joined to us in friendship!"

Thus he spake, soothing her with gentle converse. But pangs most bitter stirred her heart and in grief did she address him with vehement words:

"In Hellas, I ween, this is fair—to pay heed to covenants; but Aeetes is not such a man among men as thou sayest was Pasiphae's husband, Minos; nor can I liken myself to Ariadne; wherefore speak not of guest-love. But only do thou, when thou hast reached Iolcus, remember me, and thee even in my parents' despite, will I remember. And from far off may a rumour come to me or some messenger-bird; when thou forgettest me; or me, even me, may swift blasts catch up and bear over the sea hence to

ἐνθένδ' εἰς Ἰαωλκὸν ἵναρπάξασαι ἄελλαι,
ὄφρα σ', ἐν ὀφθαλμοῖσιν ἐλεγχείας προφέρουσα,
μνήσω ἐμῇ ἰότητι πεφιγμένον. αἶθε γὰρ εἶην
ἀπροφάτως τότε σοῖσιν ἐφέστιος ἐν μεγάροισιν.'

᾽Ως ἄρ' ἔφη, ἐλεεινὰ καταπροχέουσα παρειῶν
δάκρυα· τὴν δ' ὄγε δῆθεν ὑποβλήδην προσέειπεν·

᾽Δαιμονίη, κενεὰς κέν ἔα πλάζεσθαι ἀέλλας,
ὥς δὲ καὶ ἄγγελον ὄρνιν, ἐπεὶ μεταμῶνια βάζεις.
εἰ δέ κεν ἦθεα κείνα καὶ Ἑλλάδα γαίαν ἵκηαι,
τιμήεσσα γυναιξὶ καὶ ἀνδράσιν αἰδοίη τε
ἔσσεαι· οἱ δέ σε πάγχυ θεὸν ὥς πορσανέουσιν,
οὐνεκα τῶν μὲν παῖδες ὑπότροποι οἴκαδ' ἵκοντο
σῇ βουλῇ, τῶν δ' αὖτε κασίγνητοὶ τε ἔται τε
καὶ θαλεροὶ κακότητος ἄδην ἐσάωθεν ἀκοῖται.

1120

ἡμέτερον δὲ λέχος θαλάμοις ἐνὶ κουριδίοισιν
πορσυνέεις· οὐδ' ἄμμε διακρινέει φιλότητος
ἄλλο, πάρος θάνατόν γε μεμορμένον ἀμφικαλύνσαι.'

1130

᾽Ως φάτο· τῇ δ' ἔντοσθε κατείβετο θυμὸς ἀκουῇ,
ἔμψης δ' ἔργ' αἰδήλα κατερρίγησεν ἰδέσθαι.
σχετλίη· οὐ μὲν δηρὸν ἀπαρνήσεσθαι ἔμελλεν
Ἑλλάδα ναιετάειν. ὥς γὰρ τότε μῆδετο Ἥρη,
ὄφρα κακὸν Πελίῃ ἱερὴν ἐς Ἰωλκὸν ἵκοιτο
Αἰαίῃ Μήδεια, λιποῦσ' ἀπο πατρίδα γαίαν.

Ἦδη δ' ἀμφίπολοι μὲν ὀπιπεύουσαι ἄπωθεν
σιγῇ ἀνιάζουσιν· ἐδεύετο δ' ἡματος ὥρη
ἄψ οἰκόνδε νέεσθαι ἐὼν μετὰ μητέρα κούρην.
ἡ δ' οὐπω κομιδῆς μιμνήσκετο, τέρπετο γάρ οἱ
θυμὸς ὁμῶς μορφῇ τε καὶ αἰμυλίοισι λόγοισιν,
εἰ μὴ ἄρ' Αἰσονίδης πεφυλαγμένος ὀψέ περ ἡὔδα·
᾽Ὀρη ἀποβλώσκειν, μὴ πρὶν φάος ἡελίοιο
δύη ὑποφθάμενον, καὶ τις τὰ ἕκαστα νοήσῃ
ὀθνείων· αὐτίς δ' ἀβολήσομεν ἐνθαδ' ἰόντες.'

1140

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

Iolcus, that so I may cast reproaches in thy face and remind thee that it was by my good will thou didst escape. May I then be seated in thy halls, an unexpected guest !”

Thus she spake with piteous tears falling down her cheeks, and to her Jason replied : “ Let the empty blasts wander at will, lady, and the messenger-bird, for vain is thy talk. But if thou comest to those abodes and to the land of Hellas, honoured and revered shalt thou be by women and men ; and they shall worship thee even as a goddess, for that by thy counsel their sons came home again, their brothers and kinsmen and stalwart husbands were saved from calamity. And in our bridal chamber shalt thou prepare our couch ; and nothing shall come between our love till the doom of death fold us round.”

Thus he spake ; and her soul melted within her to hear his words ; nevertheless she shuddered to behold the deeds of destruction to come. Poor wretch ! Not long was she destined to refuse a home in Hellas. For thus Hera devised it, that Aeaeon Medea might come to Iolcus for a bane to Pelias, forsaking her native land.

And now her handmaids, glancing at them from a distance, were grieving in silence ; and the time of day required that the maiden should return home to her mother’s side. But she thought not yet of departing, for her soul delighted both in his beauty and in his winsome words, but Aeson’s son took heed, and spake at last, though late : “ It is time to depart, lest the sunlight sink before we know it, and some stranger notice all ; but again will we come and meet here.”

Ὡς τῶγ' ἀλλήλων ἀγανοῖς ἐπὶ τόσσον ἔπεσιν
 πείρηθεν· μετὰ δ' αὖτε διέτμαγεν. ἦτοι Ἰήσων
 εἰς ἐτάρους καὶ νῆα κεχαρμένος ὦρτο νέεσθαι·
 ἡ δὲ μετ' ἀμφιπόλους· αἱ δὲ σχεδὸν ἀντεβόλησαν
 πᾶσαι ὁμοῦ· τὰς δ' οὔτι περιπλομένας ἐνόησεν. 1150
 ψυχὴ γὰρ νεφέεσσι μεταχρονίη πεπότητο.
 αὐτομάτοις δὲ πόδεσσι θοῆς ἐπεβήσατ' ἀπῆνης,
 καὶ ῥ' ἐτέρη μὲν χειρὶ λιβ' ἡνία, τῇ δ' ἄρ' ἰμάσθλην
 δαιδαλέην, οὐρῆας ἐλαυνέμεν· οἱ δὲ πόλινδε
 θύνον ἐπείγόμενοι ποτὶ δώματα. τὴν δ' ἄρ' ἰοῦσαν
 Χαλκιοπή περὶ παισὶν ἀκηχεμένη ἐρέεινεν·
 ἡ δὲ παλιντροπίησιν ἀμήχανος οὔτε τι μύθων
 ἔκλυεν, οὔτ' αὐδῆσαι ἀνειρομένη λελίητο.
 Ἴξε δ' ἐπὶ χθαμαλῷ σφέλαϊ κλιντῆρος ἔνερθεν
 λέχρις ἐρεισάμενι λαιῇ ἐπὶ χειρὶ παρειήν· 1160
 ὕγρα δ' ἐνὶ βλεφάροις ἔχεν ὄμματα, πορφύρουσα
 οἶον ἐῖ κακὸν ἔργον ἐπιξυνώσατο βουλῇ.

Αἰσονίδης δ' ὅτε δὴ ἐτάροις ἐξαῦτις ἔμικτο
 ἐν χώρῃ, ὅθι τούσγε καταπρολιπὼν ἐλιάσθη,
 ὦρτ' ἰέναι σὺν τοῖσι, πιφασκόμενος τὰ ἕκαστα,
 ἡρώων ἐς ὄμιλον· ὁμοῦ δ' ἐπὶ νῆα πέλασσαν.
 οἱ δέ μιν ἀμφαγάπαζον, ὅπως ἴδον, ἕκ τ' ἐρέοντο.
 αὐτὰρ ὁ τοῖς πάντεσσι μετέννεπε δῆνεα κούρης,
 δεῖξέ τε φάρμακον αἰνόν· ὁ δ' οἴοθεν οἶος ἐταίρων
 Ἰδας ἦστ' ἀπάνευθε δακῶν χόλον· οἱ δὲ δὴ ἄλλοι 1170
 γηθόσυνοι τῆμος μὲν, ἐπεὶ κνέφας ἔργαθε νυκτός,
 εὔκηλοι ἐμέλοντο περὶ σφίσιν. αὐτὰρ ἄμ' ἡοὶ
 πέμπον ἐς Αἰήτην ἰέναι σπόρον αἰτήσοντας
 ἄνδρε δύω, πρὸ μὲν αὐτὸν ἀρήφιλον Τελαμῶνα,
 σὺν δὲ καὶ Αἰθαλίδην, νῆα κλυτὸν Ἑρμείαιο.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

So did they two make trial of one another thus far with gentle words; and thereafter parted. Jason hastened to return in joyous mood to his comrades and the ship, she to her handmaids; and they all together came near to meet her, but she marked them not at all as they thronged around. For her soul had soared aloft amid the clouds. And her feet of their own accord mounted the swift chariot, and with one hand she took the reins, and with the other the whip of cunning workmanship, to drive the mules; and they rushed hasting to the city and the palace. And when she was come Chalciope in grief for her sons questioned her; but Medea, distraught by swiftly-changing thoughts, neither heard her words nor was eager to speak in answer to her questions. But she sat upon a low stool at the foot of her couch, bending down, her cheek leaning on her left hand, and her eyes were wet with tears as she pondered what an evil deed she had taken part in by her counsels.

Now when Aeson's son had joined his comrades again in the spot where he had left them when he departed, he set out to go with them, telling them all the story, to the gathering of the heroes; and together they approached the ship. And when they saw Jason they embraced him and questioned him. And he told to all the counsels of the maiden and showed the dread charm; but Idas alone of his comrades sat apart biting down his wrath; and the rest joyous in heart, at the hour when the darkness of night stayed them, peacefully took thought for themselves. But at daybreak they sent two men to go to Aeetes and ask for the seed, first Telamon himself, dear to Ares, and with him Aethalides, Hermes' famous

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

βαν δ' ἴμεν, οὐδ' ἀλώσαν ὁδόν· πόρε δέ σφιν ἰούσιν
 κρείων Αἰήτης χαλεπούς ἐς ἄεθλον ὁδόντας
 Ἄονιοιο δράκοντος, δν Ὀγυγίῃ ἐνὶ Θήβῃ
 Κάδμος, ὅτ' Εὐρώπην διζήμενος εἰσαφίκανεν,
 πέφνεν Ἀρητιάδι κρήνῃ ἐπίουρον ἐόντα·
 ἔνθα καὶ ἐννάσθη πομπῇ βοός, ἣν οἱ Ἀπόλλων
 ὦπασε μαντοσύνησι προηγῆταιραν ὁδοῖο.

1180

τοὺς δὲ θεὰ Τριτωνὶς ὑπέκ γενύων ἐλάσασα
 Αἰήτῃ πόρε δῶρον ὁμῶς αὐτῷ τε φονῇ.
 καὶ ῥ' ὁ μὲν Ἀουίοισιν ἐνισπείρας πεδίοισιν
 Κάδμος Ἀγηνορίδης γαιηγενῇ εἷσατο λαόν,
 Ἄρεος ἀμώοντος ὅσοι ὑπὸ δουρὶ λίποντο·
 τοὺς δὲ τότε Αἰήτης ἔπορεν μετὰ νῆα φέρεσθαι
 προφρονέως, ἐπεὶ οὐ μιν οἶσσατο πείρατ' ἀέθλου
 ἐξανύσειν, εἰ καὶ περ ἐπὶ ζυγὰ βουσὶ βάλοιτο.

1190

Ἡέλιος μὲν ἄπωθεν ἐρεμνὴν δύνετο γαίαν
 ἐσπέριος, νεάτας ὑπὲρ ἄκριας Αἰθιοπῶν·
 Νύξ δ' ἵπποισιν ἔβαλλεν ἐπὶ ζυγὰ· τοὶ δὲ χαμεύνας
 ἔντυον ἥρωες παρὰ πείσμασιν· αὐτὰρ Ἰήσων
 αὐτίκ' ἐπεὶ ῥ' Ἑλίκης εὐφεγγέος ἀστέρες Ἄρκτου
 ἔκλιθεν, οὐρανόθεν δὲ πανεύκηλος γένετ' αἰθήρ,
 βῆ ῥ' ἐς ἐρμηαῖην, κλωπήσιος ἥυτε τις φῶρ,
 σὺν πᾶσιν χρήεσσι· πρὸ γάρ τ' ἀλέγυνεν ἕκαστα
 ἡμάτιος· θῆλυν μὲν ὄιν γάλα τ' ἔκτοθι ποίμνης
 Ἄργος ἰὼν ἤνεικε· τὰ δ' ἐξ αὐτῆς ἔλε νηός.
 ἀλλ' ὅτε δὴ ἶδε χῶρον, ὅτις πάτου ἔκτοθεν ἦεν
 ἀνθρώπων, καθαρῇσιν ὑπεύδιος εἶαμενῇσιν,
 ἔνθ' ἦτοι πάμπρωτα λοέσσατο μὲν ποταμοῖο
 εὐαγέως θείοιο τέρεν δέμας· ἀμφὶ δὲ φᾶρος
 ἔσσατο κυάνεον, τό ρά οἱ πάρος ἐγγυάλιξεν
 Λημνιάς Ὑψιπύλη, ἀδινῆς μνημήιον εὐνῆς.

1200

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

son. So they went and made no vain journey ; but when they came, lordly Aeetes gave them for the contest the fell teeth of the Aonian dragon which Cadmus found in Ogygian Thebes when he came seeking for Europa and there slew—the warder of the spring of Ares. There he settled by the guidance of the heifer whom Apollo by his prophetic word granted him to lead him on his way. But the teeth the Tritonian goddess tore away from the dragon's jaws and bestowed as a gift upon Aeetes and the slayer. And Agenor's son, Cadmus, sowed them on the Aonian plains and founded an earthborn people of all who were left from the spear when Ares did the reaping ; and the teeth Aeetes then readily gave to be borne to the ship, for he deemed not that Jason would bring the contest to an end, even though he should cast the yoke upon the oxen.

Far away in the west the sun was sailing beneath the dark earth, beyond the furthest hills of the Aethiopians ; and Night was laying the yoke upon her steeds ; and the heroes were preparing their beds by the hawsers. But Jason, as soon as the stars of Helice, the bright-gleaming bear, had set, and the air had all grown still under heaven, went to a desert spot, like some stealthy thief, with all that was needful ; for beforehand in the daytime had he taken thought for everything ; and Argus came bringing a ewe and milk from the flock ; and then he took from the ship. But when the hero saw a place which was far away from the tread of men, in a clear meadow beneath the open sky, there first of all he bathed his tender body reverently in the sacred river ; and round him he placed a dark robe, which Hypsipyle of Lemnos had given him aforetime, a memorial of many

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

πῆχυνον δ' ἄρ' ἔπειτα πέδῳ ἐνὶ βόθρον ὀρύξας
 νήησε σχίζας, ἐπὶ δ' ἄρνειοῦ τάμε λαιμόν,
 αὐτόν τ' εὖ καθύπερθε τανύσσατο· δαίε δὲ φιτροὺς
 πῦρ ὑπένερθεν ἰεῖς, ἐπὶ δὲ μιγάδας χέε λοιβάς, 1210
 Βριμὼ κικλήσκων Ἑκάτην ἐπαρωγὸν ἀέθλων.
 καὶ ῥ' ὁ μὲν ἀγκαλέσας πάλιν ἔστιχεν· ἡ δ' αἰούσα
 κευθμῶν ἐξ ὑπάτων δεινὴ θεὸς ἀντεβόλησεν
 ἱροῖς Αἰσονίδαο· πέριξ δέ μιν ἐστεφάνωντο
 σμερδαλέοι δρυῖνοισι μετὰ πτόρθοισι δράκοντες·
 στράπτε δ' ἀπειρέσιον δαῖδων σέλας· ἀμφὶ δὲ τήνγε
 ὀξεῖη ὑλακῇ χθόνιοι κύνες ἐφθέγγοντο.
 πίσεια δ' ἔτρεμε πάντα κατὰ στίβον· αἱ δ' ὀλόλυξαν
 νύμφαι ἐλειονόμοι ποταμηίδες, αἱ περὶ κείνην
 Φάσιδος εἵαμενὴν Ἀμαραντίου εἰλίσσονται. 1220
 Αἰσονίδην δ' ἦτοι μὲν ἔλεν δέος, ἀλλὰ μιν οὐδ' ὥς
 ἐντροπαλιζόμενον πόδες ἔκφερον, ὄφρ' ἐτάροισιν
 μίκτο κῶν· ἦδη δὲ φόως νιφόεντος ὑπερθεν
 Καυκάσου ἡριγενῆς Ἡὼς βάλεν ἀντέλλουσα.
 Καὶ τότε ἄρ' Αἰήτης περὶ μὲν στήθεσσιν ἔεστο
 θώρηκα στάδιον, τὸν οἱ πόρεν ἐξεναρίζας
 σφωιτέραις Φλεγραῖον Ἄρης ὑπὸ χερσὶ Μίμαντα·
 χρυσεῖην δ' ἐπὶ κρατὶ κόρυν θέτο τετραφάληρον,
 λαμπομένην οἷόν τε περίτροχον ἔπλετο φέγγος
 ἡελίου, ὅτε πρῶτον ἀνέρχεται Ὠκεανοῖο. 1230
 ἂν δὲ πολύρρινον νώμα σάκος, ἂν δὲ καὶ ἔγχος
 δεινόν, ἡμαιμάκετον· τὸ μὲν οὐδέ τις ἄλλος ὑπέστη
 ἀνδρῶν ἡρώων, ὅτε κάλλιπον Ἡρακλῆα
 τῆλε παρέξ, ὃ κεν οἶος ἐναντίβιον πολέμιξεν·
 τῷ δὲ καὶ ὠκυπόδων ἵππων εὐπηγέα δίφρον
 ἔσχε πέλας Φαέθων ἐπιβήμεναι· ἂν δὲ καὶ αὐτὸς
 βῆσατο, ῥυτῆρας δὲ χεροῖν ἔχεν· ἐκ δὲ πόλης
 ἤλασεν εὐρείαν κατ' ἁμαξιτόν, ὥς κεν ἀέθλω

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

a loving embrace. Then he dug a pit in the ground of a cubit's depth and heaped up billets of wood, and over it he cut the throat of the sheep, and duly placed the carcase above ; and he kindled the logs placing fire beneath, and poured over them mingled libations, calling on Hecate Brimo to aid him in the contests. And when he had called on her he drew back ; and she heard him, the dread goddess, from the uttermost depths and came to the sacrifice of Aeson's son ; and round her horrible serpents twined themselves among the oak boughs ; and there was a gleam of countless torches ; and sharply howled around her the hounds of hell. All the meadows trembled at her step ; and the nymphs that haunt the marsh and the river shrieked, all who dance round that mead of Amarantian Phasis. And fear seized Aeson's son, but not even so did he turn round as his feet bore him forth, till he came back to his comrades ; and now early dawn arose and shed her light above snowy Caucasus.

Then Aeetes arrayed his breast in the stiff corslet which Ares gave him when he had slain Phlegraean Mimas with his own hands ; and upon his head he placed a golden helmet with four plumes, gleaming like the sun's round light when he first rises from Ocean. And he wielded his shield of many hides, and his spear, terrible, resistless ; none of the heroes could have withstood its shock now that they had left behind Heracles far away, who alone could have met it in battle. For the king his well-fashioned chariot of swift steeds was held near at hand by Phaëthon, for him to mount ; and he mounted, and held the reins in his hands. Then from the city he drove along the broad highway, that

παρσταίη· σὺν δέ σφιν ἀπείριτος ἔσσυτο λαός.
οἶος δ' Ἴσθμιον εἰσι Ποσειδάων ἐς ἀγῶνα
ἄρμασιν ἐμβεβαώς, ἥ Ταίναρον, ἥ ὄγε Λέρνης
ὔδωρ, ἥε κατ' ἄλσος Ἑαντίου Ὀγχηστοῖο,
καί τε Καλαύρειαν μετὰ δῆθ' ἅμα νίσσεται ἵπποις,
πέτρην θ' Αἰμονίην, ἥ δεινδρήεντα Γεραιστόν·
τοῖος ἄρ' Αἰήτης Κόλχων ἀγὸς ἦεν ιδέσθαι.

1240

Τόφρα δὲ Μηδείης ὑποθημοσύνησιν Ἰήσων
φάρμακα μυδῆνας ἡμὲν σάκος ἀμφεπάλυνεν
ἡδὲ δόρυ βριαρόν, περὶ δὲ ξίφος· ἀμφὶ δ' ἐταῖροι
πείρησαν τευχέων βεβημένοι, οὐδ' ἐδύναντο
κεῖνο δόρυ γνάμψαι τυτθὸν γέ περ, ἀλλὰ μάλ' αὖ-
τως

1250

ἀαγὲς κρατερῇσιν ἐνεσκλήκει παλάμησιν.
αὐτὰρ ὁ τοῖς ἄμοτον κοτέων Ἀφαρήιος Ἰδας
κόψε παρ' οὐρίαχον μεγάλῳ ξίφει· ἄλτο δ' ἀκωκῇ
ῥαισστήρ ἄκμονος ὥστε, παλιντυπές· οἱ δ' ὁμάδησαν
γηθόσυνοι ἥρωες ἐπ' ἐλπωρῇσιν ἀέθλου.
καὶ δ' αὐτὸς μετέπειτα παλύνετο· δὴ δέ μιν ἀλκὴ
σμερδαλέη ἄφατός τε καὶ ἄτρομος· αἱ δ' ἐκάτερθεν
χεῖρες ἐπερρώσαντο περὶ σθένει σφριγώσσαι.
ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἀρήιος ἵππος ἐελδόμενος πολέμοιο
σκαρθμῷ ἐπιχρεμέθων κρούει πέδον, αὐτὰρ ὑπερθεν
κυδιόων ὀρθοῖσιν ἐπ' οὔασιν αὐχέν' αἰερεί·
τοῖος ἄρ' Αἰσονίδης ἐπαγαίετο κάρτεϊ γυῖων.
πολλὰ δ' ἄρ' ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα μετάρσιον ἵχνος ἔπαλ-
λεν,

1260

ἀσπίδα χαλκείην μελίνην τ' ἐν χερσὶ τινάσσων.
φαίης κε ζοφεροῖο κατ' αἰθέρος αἰσσοῦσαν
χειμερίην στεροπὴν θαμινὸν μεταπαιφάσσεσθαι
ἐκ νεφέων, ὅτ' ἔπειτα μελάντατον ὄμβρον ἄγωνται.
καὶ τότε ἔπειτ' οὐ δηρὸν ἔτι σχήσεσθαι ἀέθλων

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

he might be present at the contest ; and with him a countless multitude rushed forth. And as Poseidon rides, mounted in his chariot, to the Isthmian contest or to Taenarus, or to Lerna's water, or through the grove of Hyantian Onchestus, and thereafter passes even to Calauria with his steeds, and the Haemonian rock, or well-wooded Geraestus ; even so was Aeetes, lord of the Colchians, to behold.

Meanwhile, prompted by Medea, Jason steeped the charm in water and sprinkled with it his shield and sturdy spear, and sword ; and his comrades round him made proof of his weapons with might and main, but could not bend that spear even a little, but it remained firm in their stalwart hands unbroken as before. But in furious rage with them Idas, Aphareus' son, with his great sword hewed at the spear near the butt, and the edge leapt back repelled by the shock, like a hammer from the anvil ; and the heroes shouted with joy for their hope in the contest. And then he sprinkled his body, and terrible prowess entered into him, unspeakable, dauntless ; and his hands on both sides thrilled vigorously as they swelled with strength. And as when a warlike steed eager for the fight neighs and beats the ground with his hoof, while rejoicing he lifts his neck on high with ears erect ; in such wise did Aeson's son rejoice in the strength of his limbs. And often hither and thither did he leap high in air tossing in his hands his shield of bronze and ashen spear. Thou wouldst say that wintry lightning flashing from the gloomy sky kept on darting forth from the clouds what time they bring with them their blackest rainstorm. Not long after that were the heroes to hold back from the contests ; but sitting in rows on

μέλλον· ἀτὰρ κληῖσιν ἐπισχερῶ ἰδρυνθέντες
 ῥίμφα μάλ' ἐς πεδίον τὸ Ἀρήιον ἠπείγοντο. 1270
 τόσσον δὲ προτέρω πέλεν ἄστεος ἀντιπέρηθεν,
 ὅσσον τ' ἐκ βαλβίδος ἐπήβολος ἄρματι νύσσα
 γίγνεται, ὅππότε ἄεθλα καταφθιμένοιο ἀνακτος
 κηδεμόνες πεζοῖσι καὶ ἱππῆεσσι τίθενται.
 τέτμον δ' Αἰήτην τε καὶ ἄλλων ἔθνεα Κόλχων,
 τοὺς μὲν Καυκασίοισιν ἐφεςταότας σκοπέλοισιν,
 τὸν δ' αὐτοῦ παρὰ χεῖλος ἐλίσσόμενον ποταμοῖο.
 Αἰσονίδης δ', ὅτε δὴ πρυμνήσια δῆσαν ἐταῖροι,
 δῆ ῥα τότε ξὺν δουρὶ καὶ ἀσπίδι βαῖν' ἐς ἄεθλον,
 νηὸς ἀποπροθορῶν· ἄμυδις δ' ἔλε παμφανόωσαν 1280
 χαλκείην πήληκα θοῶν ἔμπλειον ὀδόντων
 καὶ ξίφος ἀμφ' ὤμοις, γυμνὸς δέμας, ἄλλα μὲν Ἄρει
 εἵκελος, ἄλλα δέ που χρυσαόρῳ Ἀπόλλωνι.
 παπτήνας δ' ἑνὰ νειὸν ἶδε ζυγὰ χάλκεα ταύρων
 αὐτόγυόν τ' ἐπὶ τοῖς στιβαροῦ ἀδάμαντος ἄροτρον.
 χρίμψε δ' ἔπειτα κίων, παρὰ δ' ὄβριμον ἔγχος ἔ-
 πηξεν
 ὀρθὸν ἐπ' οὐριάχῳ, κυνέην δ' ἀποκάτθετ' ἐρείσας.
 βῆ δ' αὐτῇ προτέρωσε σὺν ἀσπίδι νήριτα ταύρων
 ἰχνια μαστεύων· οἱ δ' ἔκποθεν ἀφράστοιο
 κευθμῶνος χθονίου, ἵνα τέ σφισιν ἔσκε βόαυλα 1290
 καρτερὰ λιγνυόεντι πέριξ εἰλυμένα καπνῶ,
 ἄμφω ὁμοῦ προγένοντο πυρὸς σέλας ἀμπνείοντες.
 ἔδδεισαν δ' ἥρωες, ὅπως ἴδον. αὐτὰρ ὁ τούσγε,
 εὖ διαβάς, ἐπιόντας, ἅτε σπιλὰς εἰν ἀλὶ πέτρῃ
 μίμνει ἀπειρεσίησι δονεύμενα κύματ' ἀέλλαις.
 πρόσθε δέ οἱ σάκος ἔσχεν ἐναντίον· οἱ δέ μιν ἄμφω
 μυκηθμῶ κρατεροῖσιν ἐνέπληξαν κεράεσσιν·
 οὐδ' ἄρα μιν τυτθὸν περ ἀνώχλισαν ἀντιώοντες.
 ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἐνὶ τρητοῖσιν ἐύρρινοι χοάνοισιν

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

their benches they sped swiftly on to the plain of Ares. And it lay in front of them on the opposite side of the city, as far off as is the turning-post that a chariot must reach from the starting-point, when the kinsmen of a dead king appoint funeral games for footmen and horsemen. And they found Aeetes and the tribes of the Colchians; these were stationed on the Caucasian heights, but the king by the winding brink of the river.

Now Aeson's son, as soon as his comrades had made the hawsers fast, leapt from the ship, and with spear and shield came forth to the contest; and at the same time he took the gleaming helmet of bronze filled with sharp teeth, and his sword girt round his shoulders, his body stripped, in somewise resembling Ares and in somewise Apollo of the golden sword. And gazing over the field he saw the bulls' yoke of bronze and near it the plough, all of one piece, of stubborn adamant. Then he came near, and fixed his sturdy spear upright on its butt, and taking his helmet off leant it against the spear. And he went forward with shield alone to examine the countless tracks of the bulls, and they from some unseen lair beneath the earth, where was their strong stading, wrapt in murky smoke, both rushed out together, breathing forth flaming fire. And sore afraid were the heroes at the sight. But Jason, setting wide his feet, withstood their onset, as in the sea a rocky reef withstands the waves tossed by the countless blasts. Then in front of him he held his shield; and both the bulls with loud bellowing attacked him with their mighty horns; nor did they stir him a jot by their onset. And as when through the holes of the furnace the armourers' bellows anon

φῦσαι χαλκῆων ὅτε μὲν τ' ἀναμαρμαίρουσιν,
 πῦρ ὁλοὸν πιμπρᾶσαι, ὅτ' αὖ λήγουσιν αὐτμῆς,
 δεινὸς δ' ἐξ αὐτοῦ πέλεται βρόμος, ὅππότε' αἶψα
 νειόθεν· ὥς ἄρα τώγε θοὴν φλόγα φυσιόωντες
 ἐκ στομάτων ὁμάδεν, τὸν δ' ἄμφεπε δῆιον αἶθος
 βάλλον ἄτε στεροπή· κούρης δέ ἐ φάρμακ' ἔρυτο.
 καὶ ῥ' ὅγε δεξιτεροῖο βοὸς κέρας ἄκρον ἐρύσσας
 εἵλκεν ἐπικρατέως παντὶ σθένει, ὅφρα πελάσση
 ζεύγλη χαλκείῃ, τὸν δ' ἐν χθονὶ κάββαλεν ὀκλύξ,
 ρίμφα ποδὶ κρούσας πόδα χάλκεον. ὥς δὲ καὶ
 ἄλλον

1300

σφῆλεν γυνῆ ἐπίοντα, μὴ βεβολημένον ὀρμῇ.
 εὐρὺ δ' ἀποπροβαλὼν χαμάδις σάκος, ἔνθα καὶ ἔνθα
 τῇ καὶ τῇ βεβαῶς ἄμφω ἔχε πεπτηῶτας
 γούνασιν ἐν προτέροισι, διὰ φλογὸς εἴθαρ
 ἔλυσθεις.

1310

θαύμασε δ' Αἰήτης σθένος ἀνέρος. οἱ δ' ἄρα τέως
 Τυνδαρίδαι—δὴ γάρ σφι πάλαι προπεφραδμένον
 ἦεν—

ἀγχίμολον ζυγά οἱ πεδόθεν δόσαν ἀμφιβαλέσθαι.
 αὐτὰρ ὁ εὖ ἐνέδησε λόφους· μεσσηγὺ δ' αἶρας
 χάλκεον ἱστοβοῆα, θοῇ συνάρασσε κορώνῃ
 ζεύγληθεν. καὶ τὼ μὲν ὑπὲκ πυρὸς ἄψ' ἐπὶ νῆα
 χαζέσθην. ὁ δ' ἄρ' αὐτὶς ἐλὼν σάκος ἔνθετο νώτῳ
 ἐξόπιθεν, καὶ γέντο θοῶν ἔμπλειον ὀδόντων
 πῆληκα βριαρὴν δόρυ τ' ἄσχετον, ᾧ ῥ' ὑπὸ
 μέσσας

1320

ἐργατίνης ὥς τίς τε Πελασγίδι νύσσειν ἀκαίνῃ
 οὐτάζων λαγόνας· μάλα δ' ἔμπεδον εὖ ἀραρυῖαν
 τυκτὴν ἐξ ἀδάμαντος ἐπιθύνεσκεν ἐχέτλην.

Οἱ δ' εἴως μὲν δὴ περιώσια θυμαίνεσκον,
 λάβρον ἐπιπνεῖοντε πυρὸς σέλας· ὥρτο δ' αὐτμῇ

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

gleam brightly, kindling the ravening flame, and anon cease from blowing, and a terrible roar rises from the fire when it darts up from below; so the bulls roared, breathing forth swift flame from their mouths, while the consuming heat played round him, smiting like lightning; but the maiden's charms protected him. Then grasping the tip of the horn of the right-hand bull, he dragged it mightily with all his strength to bring it near the yoke of bronze, and forced it down on to its knees, suddenly striking with his foot the foot of bronze. So also he threw the other bull on to its knees as it rushed upon him, and smote it down with one blow. And throwing to the ground his broad shield, he held them both down where they had fallen on their fore-knees, as he strode from side to side, now here, now there, and rushed swiftly through the flame. But Aeetes marvelled at the hero's might. And meantime the sons of Tyndareus—for long since had it been thus ordained for them—near at hand gave him the yoke from the ground to cast round them. Then tightly did he bind their necks; and lifting the pole of bronze between them, he fastened it to the yoke by its golden tip. So the twin heroes started back from the fire to the ship. But Jason took up again his shield and cast it on his back behind him, and grasped the strong helmet filled with sharp teeth, and his resistless spear, wherewith, like some ploughman with a Pelasgian goad, he pricked the bulls beneath, striking their flanks; and very firmly did he guide the well fitted plough handle, fashioned of adamant.

The bulls meantime raged exceedingly, breathing forth furious flame of fire; and their breath rose

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

ἤυτε βυκτῶν ἀνέμων βρόμος, οὔστε μάλιστα
 δειδιότες μέγα λαῖφος ἀλίπλοοι ἐστείλαντο.
 δηρὸν δ' οὐ μετέπειτα κελευόμενοι ὑπὸ δουρὶ
 ἦσαν· ὀκριόεσσα δ' ἐρείκετο νειὸς ὀπίσσω,
 σχιζομένη ταύρων τε βίη κρατερῷ τ' ἰροτῇρι.
 δεινὸν δ' ἐσμαράγευν ἄμυδις κατὰ ὠλκας ἀρότρου
 βῶλακες ἀγνύμεναι ἀνδραχθείς· εἶπετο δ' αὐτὸς
 λαῖον ἐπὶ στιβαρῷ πῖεσας ποδί· τῇλε δ' ἐοῖο
 βάλλεν ἀρηρομένην αἰεὶ κατὰ βῶλον ὀδόντας
 ἐντροπαλιζόμενος, μή οἱ πάρος ἀντιάσειεν
 γηγενέων ἀνδρῶν ὁλοὸς στάχυν· οἱ δ' ἄρ' ἐπιπρὸ
 χαλκείης χηλῇσιν ἐρειδόμενοι πονέοντο.

1330

Ἦμος δὲ τρίτατον λάχος ἤματος ἀνομένιοι
 λείπεται ἐξ ἡούς, καλέουσι δὲ κεκμηῶτες
 ἐργατῖναι γλυκερόν σφιν ἄφαρ βουλυτὸν ἰκέσθαι,
 τῆμος ἀρήροτο νειὸς ὑπ' ἀκαμάτῳ ἀροτῇρι,
 τετράγυός περ ἐοῦσα· βοῶν τ' ἀπελύετ' ἄροτρα.
 καὶ τοὺς μὲν πεδίονδε διεπτοίησε φέβεσθαι·
 αὐτὰρ ὁ ἄψ' ἐπὶ νῆα πάλιν κίεν, ὅφρ' ἔτι κεινὰς
 γηγενέων ἀνδρῶν ἴδεν αὐλάκας· ἀμφὶ δ' ἐταῖροι
 θάρσυνον μύθοισιν· ὁ δ' ἐκ ποταμοῖο ροάων
 αὐτῇ ἀφυσσάμενος κυνέη σβέσειεν ὕδατι δίψαν·
 γνάμψε δὲ γούνατ' ἐλαφρά, μέγαν δ' ἐμπλήσατο
 θυμὸν

1340

ἀλκῆς, μαιμῶων συτ' εἵκελος, ὅς ῥά τ' ὀδόντας
 θήγει θηρευτῆσιν ἐπ' ἀνδράσιν, ἀμφὶ δὲ πολλὸς
 ἀφρὸς ἀπὸ στόματος χαμάδις ῥεῖ¹ χωρόμενιο.
 οἱ δ' ἤδη κατὰ πᾶσαν ἀνασταχύνεσκον ἄρουραν
 γηγενέες· φρίξεν δὲ περὶ στιβαροῖς σακέεσσιν
 δούρασί τ' ἀμφιγύοις κορύθεσσί τε λαμπομένησιν
 Ἄρης τέμενος φθισιμβρότου· ἔκετο δ' αἶγλη

1350

¹ ῥεῖ Samuelsson : ῥέε MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

up like the roar of blustering winds, in fear of which above all seafaring men furl their large sail. But not long after that they moved on at the bidding of the spear ; and behind them the rugged fallow was broken up, cloven by the might of the bulls and the sturdy ploughman. Then terribly groaned the clods withal along the furrows of the plough as they were rent, each a man's burden ; and Jason followed, pressing down the ploughshare with firm foot ; and far from him he ever sowed the teeth along the clods as each was ploughed, turning his head back for fear lest the deadly crop of earthborn men should rise against him first ; and the bulls toiled onwards treading with their hoofs of bronze.

But when the third part of the day was still left as it wanes from dawn, and wearied labourers call for the sweet hour of unyoking to come to them straightway, then the fallow was ploughed by the tireless ploughman, four plough-gates though it was ; and he loosed the plough from the oxen. Then he scared in flight towards the plain ; but he went back again to the ship, while he still saw the furrows free of the earthborn men. And all round his comrades heartened him with their shouts. And in the helmet he drew from the river's stream and quenched his thirst with the water. Then he bent his knees till they grew supple, and filled his mighty heart with courage, raging like a boar, when it sharpens its teeth against the hunters, while from its wrathful mouth plenteous foam drips to the ground. By now the earthborn men were springing up over all the field ; and the plot of Ares, the death-dealer, bristled with sturdy shields and

νειόθεν Οὔλυμπόνδε δι' ἡέρος ἀστράπτουσα.
 ὥς δ' ὅπότη' ἐς γαίαν πολέος νιφετοῖο πεσόντος
 ἄψ' ἀπὸ χειμερίας νεφέλας ἐκέδασσαν ἄελλαι
 λυγαίῃ ὑπὸ νυκτί, τὰ δ' ἀθρόα πάντ' ἐφαάνθη
 τείρεα λαμπετόωντα διὰ κνέφας· ὥς ἄρα τοίγε
 λάμπον ἀναλδήσκοντες ὑπὲρ χθονός. αὐτὰρ Ἴησων
 μνήσατο Μηδείης πολυκερδέος ἐννεσιάων,
 λάζετο δ' ἐκ πεδίοιο μέγαν περιηγέα πέτρον,
 δεινὸν Ἐνναλίου σόλον Ἄρεος· οὐδέ μιν ἄνδρες
 αἰζηοὶ πίσυρες γαίης ἄπο τυτθὸν ἄειραν.
 τὸν ῥ' ἀνὰ χεῖρα λαβὼν μάλα τηλόθεν ἔμβαλε
 μέσσοις

1360

αἶξας· αὐτὸς δ' ὑφ' ἐὼν σάκος ἔξετο λάθρῃ
 θαρσαλέως. Κόλχοι δὲ μέγ' ἴαχον, ὥς ὅτε πόντος
 ἴαχεν ὀξείησιν ἐπιβρομέων σπιλάδεσσιν·
 τὸν δ' ἔλεν ἀμφασίῃ ῥιπῇ στιβαροῖο σόλοιο
 Αἰήτην. οἱ δ' ὥστε θεοὶ κύνες ἀμφιθορόντες
 ἀλλήλους βρυχηδὸν ἐδήλιον· οἱ δ' ἐπὶ γαίαν
 μητέρα πίπτον ἐοῖς ὑπὸ δούρασιν, ἥύτε πεύκαι
 ἢ δρύες, ἅστ' ἀνέμοιο κατὰίκες δονέουσιν.
 οἶος δ' οὐρανόθεν πυρόεις ἀναπάλλεται ἀστήρ
 ὀλκὸν ὑπανγάζων, τέρας ἀνδράσιν, οἳ μιν ἴδωνται
 μαρμαρυγῇ σκοτίοιο δι' ἡέρος αἶξαντα·
 τοῖος ἄρ' Αἴσονος υἱὸς ἐπέσσυτο γηγενέεσσιν,
 γυμνὸν δ' ἐκ κολεοῖο φέρε ξίφος, οὐτα δὲ μίγδην
 ἀμώων, πολέας μὲν ἔτ' ἐς νηδὺν λαγόνας τε
 ἡμίσεας ἀνέχοντας ἐς ἡέρα· τοὺς δὲ καὶ ἄχρις
 ὤμων τελλομένους· τοὺς δὲ νέον ἐστηῶτας,
 τοὺς δ' ἤδη καὶ ποσσὶν ἐπειγομένους ἐς ἄρηα.
 ὥς δ' ὅπότη', ἀμφ' οὔροισιν ἐγειρομένου πολέμοιο,
 δείσας γειομόρος, μή οἱ προτάμωνται ἀρούρας,

1380

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

double-pointed spears and shining helmets ; and the gleam reached Olympus from beneath, flashing through the air. And as when abundant snow has fallen on the earth and the storm blasts have dispersed the wintry clouds under the murky night, and all the hosts of the stars appear shining through the gloom ; so did those warriors shine springing up above the earth. But Jason bethought him of the counsels of Medea full of craft, and seized from the plain a huge round boulder, a terrible quoit of Ares Enyalios ; four stalwart youths could not have raised it from the ground even a little. Taking it in his hands he threw it with a rush far away into their midst ; and himself crouched unseen behind his shield, with full confidence. And the Colchians gave a loud cry, like the roar of the sea when it beats upon sharp crags ; and speechless amazement seized Aeetes at the rush of the sturdy quoit. And the Earthborn, like fleet-footed hounds, leaped upon one another and slew with loud yells ; and on earth their mother they fell beneath their own spears, like pines or oaks, which storms of wind beat down. And even as a fiery star leaps from heaven, trailing a furrow of light, a portent to men, whoever see it darting with a gleam through the dusky sky ; in such wise did Aeson's son rush upon the earthborn men, and he drew from the sheath his bare sword, and smote here and there, mowing them down, many on the belly and side, half risen to the air—and some that had risen as far as the shoulders—and some just standing upright, and others even now rushing to battle. And as when a fight is stirred up concerning boundaries, and a husbandman, in fear lest they should ravage his

APOLLONIUS RHODIUS

ἄρπην εὐκαμπῇ νεοθηγέα χερσὶ μεμαρπῶς
 ὦμὸν ἐπισπεύδων κείρει στάχυν, οὐδὲ βολῇσιν
 μίμνει ἐς ὥραίην τερσήμεναι ἡελίοιο·
 ὥς τότε γηγενέων κείρε στάχυν. αἵματι δ' ὀλκοὶ
 ἤύτε κρηναῖαι ἀμάραι πλήθοντο ῥοῇσιν.
 πίπτον δ', οἱ μὲν ὁδὰξ τετρηχότα βῶλον ἀρούρης¹
 λαζόμενοι πρηνεῖς, οἱ δ' ἔμπαλιν, οἱ δ' ἐπ' ἀγοστῶ
 καὶ πλευροῖς, κήτεσσι δομὴν ἀτάλαντοι ἰδέσθαι.
 πολλοὶ δ' οὐτάμενοι, πρὶν ὑπὸ χθονὸς ἵχνος ἀεῖραι,
 ὅσσον ἄνω προύτυψαν ἐς ἡέρα, τόσσον ἔραζε
 βριθόμενοι πλαδαροῖσι καρῆασιν ἡρήρειντο.
 ἔρνεά που τοίως, Διὸς ἄσπετον ὀμβρήσαντος,
 φυταλιῇ νεόθρεπτα κατημύουσιν ἔραζε
 κλασθέντα ῥίζηθεν, ἀλωήων πόνος ἀνδρῶν·
 τὸν δὲ κατηφείη τε καὶ οὐλοὸν ἄλγος ἰκάνει
 κλήρου σημαντήρα φυτοτρόφον· ὥς τότ' ἀνακτος
 Αἰήταο βαρεῖαι ὑπὸ φρένας ἦλθον ἀνῖαι.
 ἦιε δ' ἐς πτολίεθρον ὑπότροπος ἄμμιγα Κόλχοις,
 πορφύρων, ἥ κέ σφι θωώτερον ἀντιόφτο.
 ἦμαρ ἔδυ, καὶ τῷ τετελεσμένος ἦεν ἄεθλος.

¹ ἀρούρης Hermann: ὁδοῦσιν MSS.

THE ARGONAUTICA, BOOK III

fields, seizes in his hand a curved sickle, newly sharpened, and hastily cuts the unripe crop, and waits not for it to be parched in due season by the beams of the sun; so at that time did Jason cut down the crop of the Earthborn; and the furrows were filled with blood, as the channels of a spring with water. And they fell, some on their faces biting the rough clod of earth with their teeth, some on their backs, and others on their hands and sides, like to sea-monsters to behold. And many, smitten before raising their feet from the earth, bowed down as far to the ground as they had risen to the air, and rested there with the damp of death on their brows. Even so, I ween, when Zeus has sent a measureless rain, new planted orchard-shoots droop to the ground, cut off by the root—the toil of gardening men; but heaviness of heart and deadly anguish come to the owner of the farm, who planted them; so at that time did bitter grief come upon the heart of King Aeetes. And he went back to the city among the Colchians, pondering how he might most quickly oppose the heroes. And the day died, and Jason's contest was ended.