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Book one of the Argonautica

King Pelias of Iolcos was told that a man who only had one sandal would bring his downfall. Not long after King Pelias was told, Jason, the protagonist of the epic poem, lost his sandal as he was crossing the river Anaurus. The king saw Jason as sent him on a nearly impossible quest to retrieve the Golden Fleece from Colchis. Jason brought together a crew to help him retrieve the fleece, they are known as the Argonauts. A man named Argos built them a ship, the *Argo*, named after himself. An important aspect of this ship is that they used a plank from the sacred oak of Zeus at Dodona. This oak had oracular powers so it came to be of use for the Argonauts. After leaving Iolcos, they first land at the port of Lemnos. There were no men in Lemnos, as the women there had killed their husbands and fathers. So the men of the *Argo* stayed for a while and 'mingled' with the women. There Jason had two sons with Hypsipyle, Euneos and Neophonos. After leaving Lemnos they went to the land of the Doliones, who welcomed the Argonauts with open arms. Not long after, they left the land of the Doliones but while at sea they were blown back. They were confused as to where they were at and ended up fighting the Doliones accidentally. After leaving Doliones they landed in Mysia, the heroes Heracles and Polyphemos stayed to search for Heracles' lover, Hylas. This is where book one ends off.

Book one memes:



The quote is describing how the king was told someone with one sandal would bring his downfall and how shortly after he sent Jason on an impossible quest.

Such was the oracle that Pelias heard, that a hateful doom awaited him to be slain at the prompting of the man whom he should see coming forth from the people with but one sandal. And no long time after, in accordance with that true report, Jason crossed the stream of wintry Anaurus on foot, and saved one sandal from the mire, but the other he left in the depths held back by the flood. And straightway he came to Pelias to share the banquet which the king was offering to his father Poseidon and the rest of the gods, though he paid no honour to Pelasgian Hera. Quickly the king saw him and pondered, and devised for him the toil of a troublous voyage, in order that on the sea or among strangers he might lose his home-return.

Argonautica 1.5 ff

Apollonius Rhodius. *Argonautica*. Translated by Seaton, R. C. Loeb Classical Library Volume 001. London, William Heinemann Ltd, 1912.



The quote is Jason addressing his crew onboard the Argo, basically stating that if they trust him that their journey will begin right away.

Thus he spake with high thoughts, and they assented, as Heracles bade; and warlike Jason himself rose up, glad at heart, and thus addressed the eager throng: "If ye entrust your glory to my care, no longer as before let our path be hindered."

Argonautica 1.348 f

Apollonius Rhodius. *Argonautica*. Translated by Seaton, R. C. Loeb Classical Library Volume 001. London, William Heinemann Ltd, 1912.

**WHEN YOU'RE
GETTING ALONG
WITH THE DOLIONES**



**AFTER YOU
REALIZE YOU
ACCIDENTALLY KILLED
SOME OF THE DOLIONES**

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The first quote shows how at first the Argonauts were welcomed by the Diodones and the second is talking about the Argonauts and getting in a fight with the people of the Doliones.

Now the Doliones and Cyzicus himself all came together to meet them with friendliness, and when they knew of the quest and their lineage welcomed them with hospitality, and persuaded them to row further and to fasten their ship's hawsers at the city harbour.

Argonautica 1.961 f

Apollonius Rhodius. *Argonautica*. Translated by Seaton, R. C. Loeb Classical Library Volume 001. London, William Heinemann Ltd, 1912.

Nor did anyone note with care that it was the same island; nor in the night did the Doliones clearly perceive that the heroes were returning but they deemed that Pelasgian war-men of the Macrians had landed. Therefore they donned their armour and raised their hands against them. And with clashing of ashen spears and shields they fell on each other, like the swift rush of fire which falls on dry brushwood and rears its crest; and the din of battle, terrible and furious, fell upon the people of the Doliones.

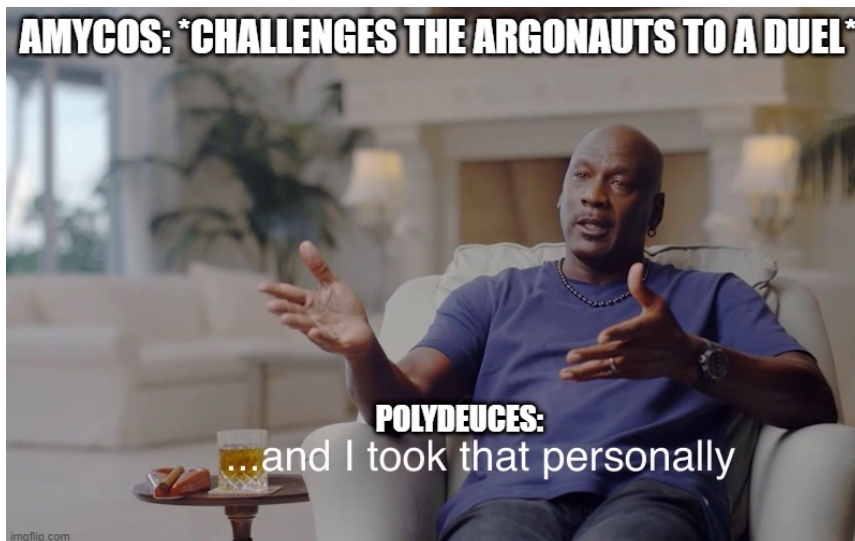
Argonautica 1.1012 ff

Apollonius Rhodius. *Argonautica*. Translated by Seaton, R. C. Loeb Classical Library Volume 001. London, William Heinemann Ltd, 1912.

Book two of the Argonautica

Book two of the Argonautica begins off in the land of the Bebrycians, which was ruled by King Amycos. He would challenge anyone who landed on his island to a duel so naturally, he challenged the Argonauts to a duel. Polydeuces accepted the challenge and ended up killing Amycos. Learning that the Polydeuces killed their king, the Bebrycians attacked Polydeuces and the Argonauts. After the Argonauts retaliated, they left the land of the Bebrycians quickly. They then meet a blind-prophetic-old man, Phineus, who was cursed by Zeus for telling the secrets of the gods. Along with being cursed with old age and blindness, he was cursed with the torment of Harpies. The Argonauts got rid of the Harpies for Phineus so in return he gave them information about how to get to Colchis, specifically how to get past the Clashing Rocks. As the Argonauts approached the clashing rocks they released a dove, as Phineus told them, and saw that it survived, only the tip of its tail was cut off. The Argonauts then went through the clashing rocks themselves and survived with the help of goddess Athena. They then landed at the land of the Mariandynians, whose king, Lycos, welcomed them. There a prophetic Argonaut, known as Idmon, was killed by a boar.

Book two memes:

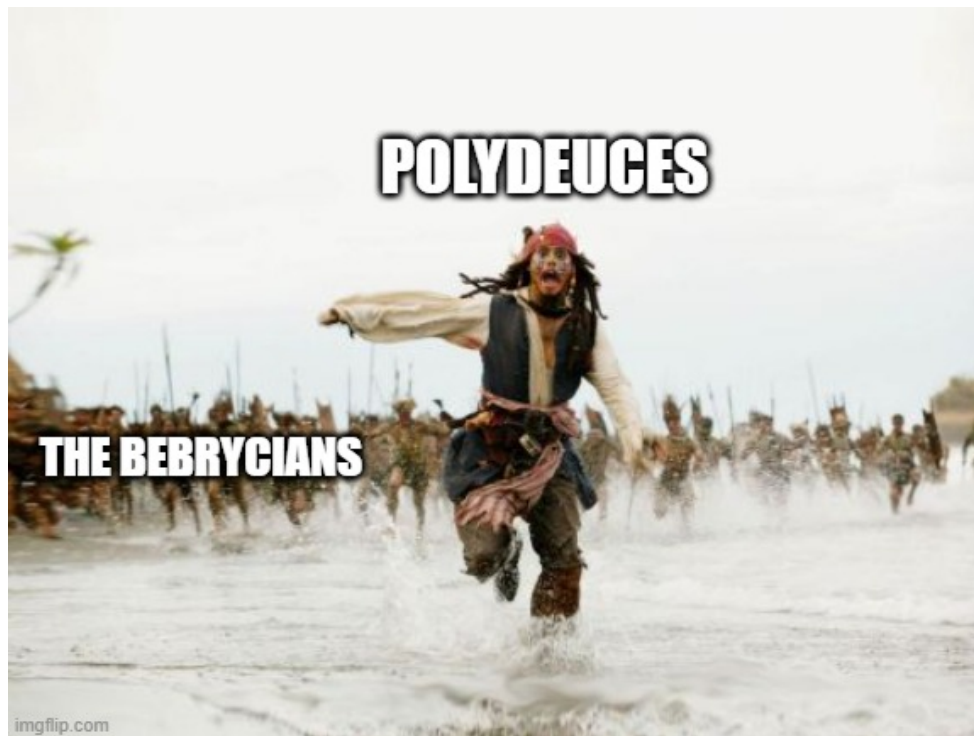


This quote explains how out of all the Argonauts, Polydeuces was the one to accept Amycus' duel.

Thus he spake in his pride, but fierce anger seized them when they heard it, and the challenge smote Polydeuces most of all. And quickly he stood forth his comrades' champion, and cried: "Hold now, and display not to us thy brutal violence, whoever thou art; for we will obey thy rules, as thou sayest. Willingly now do I myself undertake to meet thee."

Argonautica 2.19 ff

Apollonius Rhodius. Argonautica. Translated by Seaton, R. C. Loeb Classical Library Volume 001. London, William Heinemann Ltd, 1912.

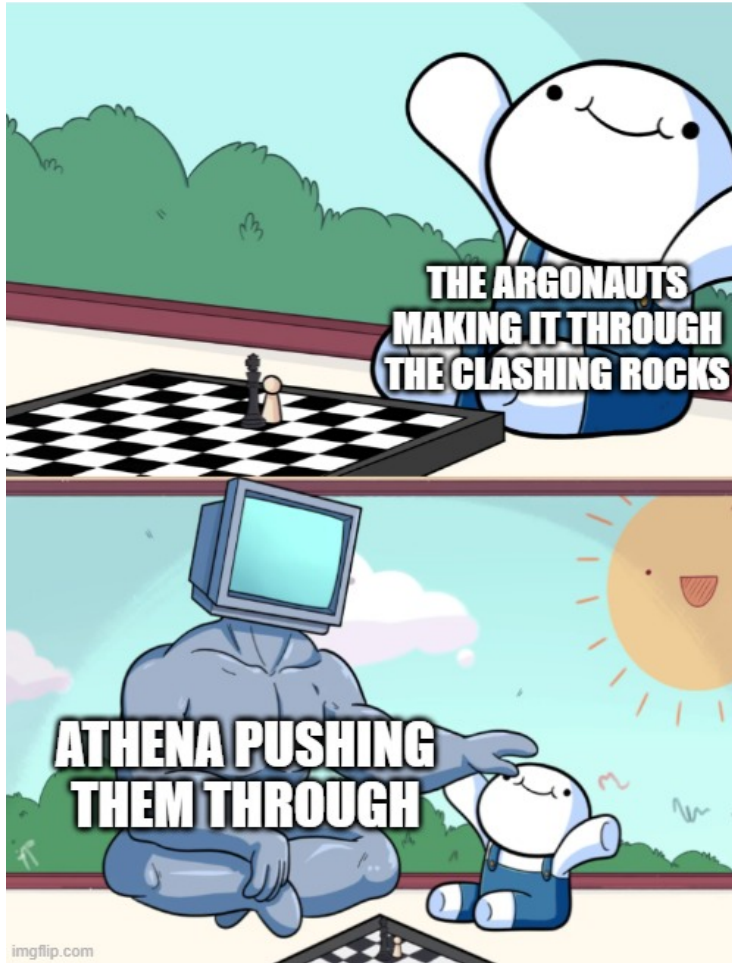


The quote explains how the Bebrycians were angry and rushed Polydeuces after he killed their king.

Nor were the Bebrycians reckless of their king; but all together took up rough clubs and spears and rushed straight on Polydeuces. But in front of him stood his comrades, their keen swords drawn from the sheath.

Argonautica 2.98 ff

Apollonius Rhodius. *Argonautica*. Translated by Seaton, R. C. Loeb Classical Library Volume 001. London, William Heinemann Ltd, 1912.



The quote explains how Athena helped the Argonauts sail through the Clashing Rocks.

Then a vaulted billow rushed upon them, and the ship like a cylinder ran on the furious wave plunging through the hollow sea. And the eddying current held her between the clashing rocks; and on each side they shook and thundered; and the ship's timbers were held fast. Then Athena with her left hand thrust back one mighty rock and with her right pushed the ship through; and she, like a winged arrow, sped through the air.

Argonautica 2.593 ff

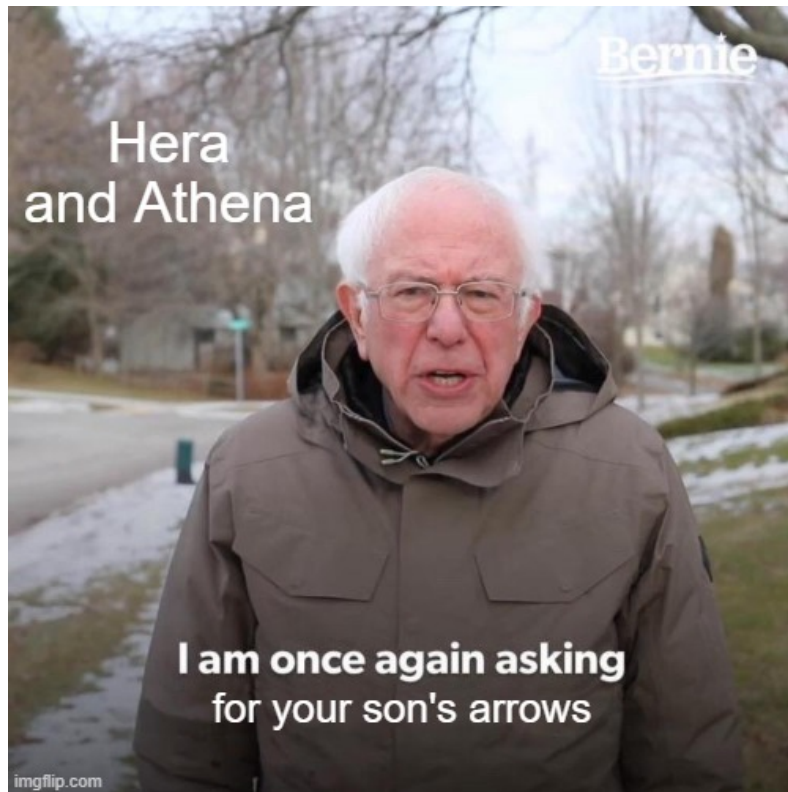
Apollonius Rhodius. *Argonautica*. Translated by Seaton, R. C. Loeb Classical Library Volume 001. London, William Heinemann Ltd, 1912.

Book three of the Argonautica

Book three of the *Argonautica* starts off in the river Phasis, which is the main river of Colchis. Here Hera and Athena talk about how they can help Jason retrieve the golden fleece. The ship then arrived at the port of Colchis and Jason went to Aietes to ask for the golden fleece. Aietes responded saying that if Jason wanted the fleece he would have to do an impossible task, yoke his fire-breathing bronze-hooved bulls, plow the field of Ares, and harvest the crop that turns

into armed men before they can kill him. Hera and Athena enlisted the help of Aphrodite to have her son, Eros, shoot a sorceress, Medea, with an arrow to have her fall in love with Jason. After Medea fell madly in love with Jason she asked him to make her his wife. In return, she made him a potion that temporarily made him invulnerable to fire and iron. The book ends off as the day ends and Jason successfully completed his challenge from Aietes.

Book three memes:



The quote explains how Hera and Athena were planning on meeting Aphrodite, Cypris, to ask for her help. They wanted Aphrodite to ask her son to shoot the daughter of Aietes, Medea, with an arrow to fall in love with Jason

She ended, and the goddesses fixed their eyes on the ground at their feet, brooding apart; and 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 Aietes, the enchantress, and charm her with love for Jason. And I deem that by her device he will bring back the fleece to Hellas."

Argonautica 3.22 ff

Apollonius Rhodius. Argonautica. Translated by Seaton, R. C. Loeb Classical Library Volume 001. London, William Heinemann Ltd, 1912.



The quote explains how love-struck Medea decided to help Jason defeat the bull. She chose Jason over her parents, Aietes and Eidyia.

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.

Argonautica 3.616 ff

Apollonius Rhodius. *Argonautica*. Translated by Seaton, R. C. Loeb Classical Library Volume 001. London, William Heinemann Ltd, 1912.



The quote talks about how Jason successfully yoked the bronze-hooved bull.

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... 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.

Argonautica 3.1278 ff

Apollonius Rhodius. *Argonautica*. Translated by Seaton, R. C. Loeb Classical Library
Volume 001. London, William Heinemann Ltd, 1912.

Book four of the *Argonautica*

Book four of the *Argonautica* starts off with Aietes devising a way to trick the heroes out of their prize. He planned on burning the *Argo* and killing the sailors but was not able to. Jason and the Argonauts instead snuck away to go and steal the fleece. They were successful in stealing the fleece because Medea helped them by putting the serpent who guarded the fleece to sleep. Medea led her brother, Apsyrtos, into an ambush and allowed Jason to kill him. Angered that they killed their prince, the Colchians were going to chase the Argonauts but were restrained by a storm Hera brewed. Zeus became angry that the Argonauts killed Apsyrtos and cursed them. The wood from Dodona then began to speak and told them that they would not return home unless Circe purged away their guilt for the murder of Apsyrtos, as Zeus had cursed them. Circe then cleansed Jason and Medea of their guilt. The Argonauts were then faced with the challenge of the Sirens, who sang beautiful songs to lure men and then killed them. Orpheus then began to play his lyre and drowned out the songs of the Sirens to save the Argonauts. They then landed at the island of the Phaeacians. There they met a Colchian fleet, who demanded the return of Medea. King Alcinous then came up with a proposal to avoid any bloodshed, if she was not married to Jason she was to return to her father but if she was married to Jason she would be allowed to stay with him. After hearing this, that night Jason and Medea got married. The king ruled that Jason and Medea were to stay together and gave the Colchian fleet a chance to leave, they stayed and fought. The Argonauts sailed off and not long after they ran out of water and food. On the brink of death, they were approached by three goddesses who told them that when they saw Poseidon's carriage they should thank their mother. Later they then saw a horse come from the sea who convinced them to carry their ship on their shoulders. They followed the instructions of the carriage. After 12 days and nights, they finally found a spring and the Garden of the Hesperides. After leaving they began sailing, they found and tried to cross Crete but the bronze giant Talos, who was guarding the island, began to hurl rocks at them. Talos then grazed his weak spot on his ankle and died. The final journey of the Argonauts was the founding of the island Calliste.

Book four memes

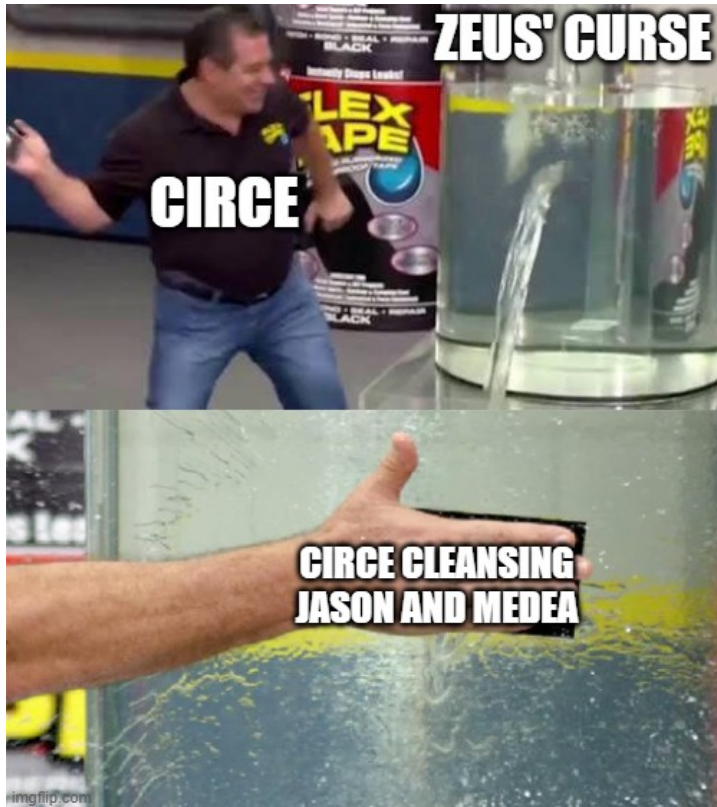


The quote explains how Medea went against her father's will and helped Jason steal the Golden Fleece.

Thus he spake, and straightway clasped her right hand in his; and she bade them row the swift ship to the sacred grove near at hand, in order that, while it was still night, they might seize and carry off the fleece against the will of Aeetes. Word and deed were one to the eager crew. For they took her on board, and straightway thrust the ship from shore; and loud was the din as the chieftains strained at their oars, but she, starting back, held out her hands in despair towards the shore.

Argonautica 4.99 ff

Apollonius Rhodius. *Argonautica*. Translated by Seaton, R. C. Loeb Classical Library Volume 001. London, William Heinemann Ltd, 1912.



The quote explains how Circe cleansed Jason and Medea from the curse of Zeus.

Now when she had dismissed the fears of her nightly visions, straightway she fared backwards, and in her subtlety she bade the heroes follow, charming them on with her hand... And straightway Circe became aware of the doom of a suppliant and the guilt of murder. Wherefore in reverence for the ordinance of Zeus, the god of suppliants, who is a god of wrath yet mightily aids slayers of men, she began to offer the sacrifice with which ruthless suppliants are cleansed from guilt when they approach the altar. First, to atone for the murder still unexpiated, she held above their heads the young of a sow whose dugs yet swelled from the fruit of the womb, and, severing its neck, sprinkled their hands with the blood; and again she made propitiation with other drink offerings, calling on Zeus the Cleanser, the protector of murder- stained suppliants. And all the defilements in a mass her attendants bore forth from the palace -- the Naiad nymphs who ministered all things to her. And within, Circe, standing by the hearth, kept burning atonement-cakes without wine, praying the while that she might stay from their wrath the terrible Furies, and that Zeus himself might be propitious and gentle to them both, whether with hands stained by the blood of a stranger or, as kinsfolk, by the blood of a kinsman, they should implore his grace.

Argonautica 4.685 ff

Apollonius Rhodius. Argonautica. Translated by Seaton, R. C. Loeb Classical Library Volume 001. London, William Heinemann Ltd, 1912.

***SEES A SHIP
APPROACHING HIS ISLAND***



The quote explains how Talos started to fling rocks at the Argonauts. This is because he was entrusted to be the warder of Crete.

And Talos, the man of bronze, as he broke off rocks from the hard cliff, stayed them from fastening hawsers to the shore, when they came to the roadstead of Dicte's haven. He was of the stock of bronze, of the men sprung from ash-trees, the last left among the sons of the gods; and the son of Cronos gave him to Europa to be the warder of Crete and to stride round the island thrice a day with his feet of bronze.

Argonautica 4.1638 ff

Apollonius Rhodius. *Argonautica*. Translated by Seaton, R. C. Loeb Classical Library Volume 001. London, William Heinemann Ltd, 1912.