

Seven Franklin

Dr. Curtis

Classical Mythology

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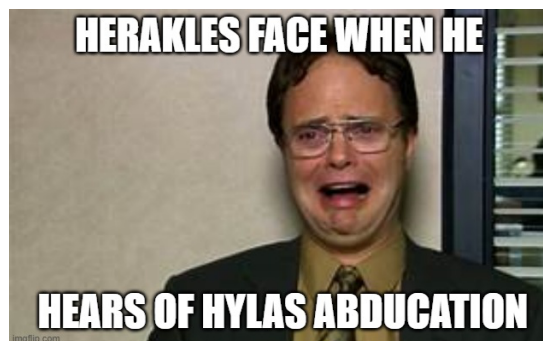
Extra Credit: Epic Mythomemology

Summary

Book 1 Apollonius *Argonautica*:

King Pelias receives an oracle that he will be killed by a man who will only have one sandal. A young man named Jason loses one of his sandals as he crosses a river on the way to King Pelias' banquet. Believing Jason to be the man from the oracle, King Pelias sends Jason on a dangerous journey for the golden fleece, certain that he will not return. With some aide from Athena, Jason brings together a group of people (the Argonauts) to aide him on the perilous mission he is going on. After enduring the weeping of his mother, Jason departs from home, taking the group along with him. Jason and the Argonauts arrive at Lemnos, an island with women who want the men to impregnate them. Although seeming to be a safe place, the women on the island have secret motives for the crew. Escaping possible death from the women, the crew sail away from Lemnos, eventually reaching the land of Dolines. An accident leads to death, resulting in Funeral games. In order to appease the gods, Jason makes a sacrifice, allowing them to continue on their journey. Entering the final phase, the crew reach the land of the Mysians where Herakles' companion Hylas is abducted by a Nymph. Herakles storms off in search of Hylas and the Argonauts decide to leave without Herakles. Telamon informs Jason it is against Zeus' counsel to go back for Herakles and the Crew decides to continue on.

Meme #1:



The quotes reveals Herakles' grief and concern for Hylas, leading him to search in fear for what may come of his companion. This also leads to the Argonauts leaving without Herakles.

“And in wrath he hurled the pine to the ground and hurried along the path whither his feet bore on his impetuous soul. And as when a bull stung by a gadfly tears along, leaving the meadows and the marsh land, and recks not of herdsman or herd, but presses on, now without cheek, now standing still, and raising his broad neck he bellows loudly, stung by the maddening fly; so he in his frenzy now would ply his swift knees unrelenting, now again would cease from toil and shout afar with loud pealing cry.”

Citation:

Book 1, Line 1262

The Argonautica, English Translation by R.C. Seaton. London, England, W. Heinemann; New York, New York, Macmillan Co., 1912

Meme #2:



This quotation reveals the significance of King Pelias seeing Jason with one sandal because it sets up the entire journey he makes Jason undergo, out of fear of the oracle being true.

“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.”

Citation:

Book 1, Line 13

The Argonautica, English Translation by R.C. Seaton. London, England, W. Heinemann; New York, New York, Macmillan Co., 1912

Meme #3:



This quotation reveals the enormous amount of heroes Jason has on his crew, who will prove very helpful along the way and who will do more than Jason does at many points. And it shows that Jason had some assistance from the Gods.

“The ship, as former bards relate, Argus wrought by the guidance of Athena. But now I will tell the lineage and the names of the heroes, and of the long sea-paths and the deeds they wrought in their wanderings; may the Muses be the inspirers of my song!”

Citation:

Book 1, Line 18

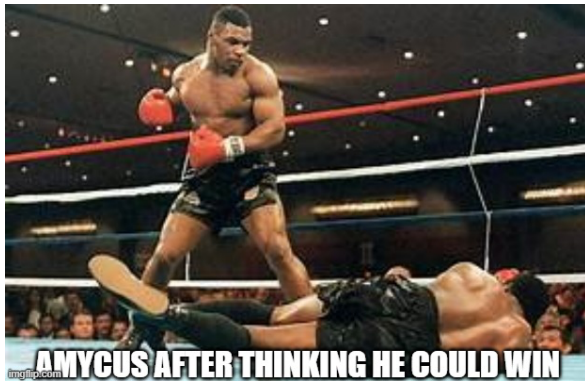
The Argonautica, English Translation by R.C. Seaton. London, England, W. Heinemann; New York, New York, Macmillan Co., 1912

Summary:

Book 2 Apollonius *Argonautica*:

The heroes continue their journey and come across the land of the Bebrycians. Amycus, the king, forces one of the Argonauts to box him. Enraged, Polydeuces accepts the challenge and wins, sparking a battle between the crew and the Bebrycians. After winning the battle, the group travel on the sea and come across Phineus, a prophet who endures torture from Harpies. Zetes and Kalais run the Harpies away and the Argonauts feast with Phineus who gives them advice against the crashing rocks and their mission. The group meets King Aites who gives additional advice on obtaining the golden fleece. After reaching the clashing rocks, the group passes through with the aid of Athena. After several more events, the Argonauts reach the island of Ares where they are attacked by his birds. A storm wreaks havoc on their ship, but the crew survive, and learn the origins of the ram's fleece. Jason discusses why he wants the golden fleece, explaining he wants to bring the fleece back home and his desire to appease Zeus. The group contemplates the dangers of King Aietes and reach the Colchian land. They hide the ship and wait until sunrise for their next step.

Meme #1:



These quotes reveal that Amycus was too cocky and thought he could win but suffered a fatal loss, sparking a deadly battle after being killed.

"Bare the most arrogant of men; for even for strangers he laid down an insulting ordinance, that none should depart till they had made trial of him in boxing" And " Next Amycus rising on tiptoe, like one who slays an ox, sprung to his full height and swung his heavy hand down upon his rival; but the hero swerved aside from the rush, turning his head, and just received the arm on his shoulder; and coming near and slipping his knee past the king's, with a rush he struck him above the ear, and broke the bones inside, and the king in agony fell upon his knees; and the Minyan heroes shouted for joy; and his life was poured forth all at once."

Citation:

Book 2, Lines 3 & 93

The Argonautica, English Translation by R.C. Seaton. London, England, W. Heinemann; New York, New York, Macmillan Co., 1912

Meme #2:



These quotes reveal that Phineus the great prophet was suffering heavily under the Harpies and the Argonauts set him free, allowing them to earn great advice for their journey.

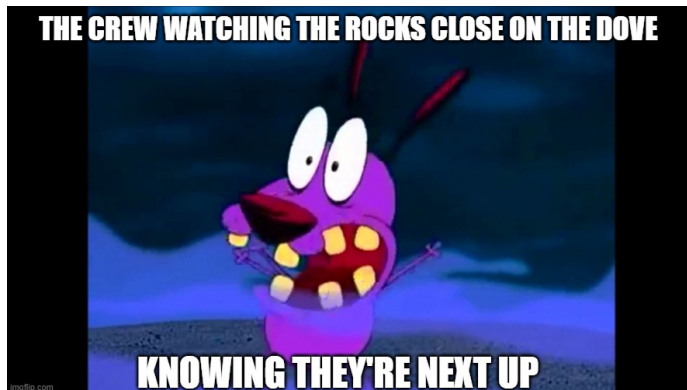
“And he rose from his couch, like a lifeless dream, bowed over his staff, and crept to the door on his withered feet, feeling the walls; and as he moved, his limbs trembled for weakness and age; and his parched skin was caked with dirt, and naught but the skill held his bones together. And he came forth from the hall with wearied knees and sat on the threshold of the courtyard; and a dark stupor covered him, and it seemed that the earth reeled round beneath his feet, and he lay in a strengthless trance, speechless.” And “With them feasted Phineus ravenously, delighting his soul, as in a dream. And there, when they had taken their fill of food and drink, they kept awake all night waiting for the sons of Boreas. And the aged sire himself sat in the midst, near the hearth, telling of the end of their voyage and the completion of their journey.”

Citation:

Book 2, Lines 189 & 303

The Argonautica, English Translation by R.C. Seaton. London, England, W. Heinemann; New York, New York, Macmillan Co., 1912

Meme #3:



The quote reveals the terror inside of the crew's mind, believing death was upon them at any moment, ending their journey.

“Euphemus grasped the dove in his hand and started to mount the prow; and they, at the bidding of Tiphys, son of Hagnias, rowed with good will to drive Argo between the rocks, trusting to their strength. And as they rounded a bend they saw the rocks opening for the last time of all. Their spirit melted within them; and Euphemus sent forth the dove to dart forward in flight; and they all together raised their heads to look; but she flew between them, and the rocks again rushed together and crashed as they met face to face. And the

foam leapt up in a mass like a cloud; awful was the thunder of the sea; and all round them the mighty welkin roared."

Citation:

Book 2, Line 552

The Argonautica, English Translation by R.C. Seaton. London, England, W. Heinemann; New York, New York, Macmillan Co., 1912

Summary

Book 3 Apollonius *Argonautica*:

The gods (Athena and Hera) decide to intervene in the Argonauts mission, wanting Jason to obtain the golden fleece. After Athena and Hera discuss how they can help, Hera asks Aphrodite to get Eros to make Medea fall in love with Jason. Jason goes to see King Aietes with the sons of Phrixos, however, King Aietes is not pleased to see the group, acting volatile. Jason speaks to King Aietes, he then offers Jason a dangerous challenge. In return for the golden fleece, Jason has to prove his might and heroic courage by taming two deadly bronzed foot bulls, plow the field using the bulls, and plant the teeth of a dread serpent that will grow an army of men. King Aietes pretends to be a friend but really hopes for the downfall of the Argonauts. Jason is weary to accept the challenge, knowing he might not survive, but proceeds to accept the challenge. During this, Eros sneaks into the palace and shoots Medea, making her fall in love with Jason. A son of Phrixos tells Jason of Medea, a woman with magic who could aid him if he can win her over. Medea believes Jason will take her as his wife, so she plans to sneak away to meet Jason. Jason and Medea meet each other in person, Jason asks Medea for her assistance in his challenge. Medea gives him drugs and explains to him how to win. At sunrise, Jason sprinkles the drug on himself, succeeding in his challenge thanks to Medea's magic.

Meme #1:



This quote reveals the effects of eros' arrow on Medea. Falling insanely in love with Jason, eventually willing to do anything for him at all costs, driving the story at some points.

“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 heart panted fast through anguish, all remembrance left her, and her soul melted with the sweet pain.”

Citation:

Book 3, Line 278

The Argonautica, English Translation by R.C. Seaton. London, England, W. Heinemann; New York, New York, Macmillan Co., 1912

Meme #2:



This quote reveals King Aietes does not plan to actually help Jason and the Argonauts. He would rather see them killed or fail.

“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.”

Citation:

Book 3, Line 396

The Argonautica, English Translation by R.C. Seaton. London, England, W. Heinemann; New York, New York, Macmillan Co., 1912

Meme #3:



This quote reveals the power of Medea's magic, allowing Jason to overcome his momentous challenge and help him in other situations later on.

"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 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."

Citation:

Book 3, Line 1288

The Argonautica, English Translation by R.C. Seaton. London, England, W. Heinemann; New York, New York, Macmillan Co., 1912

Summary

Book 4 Apollonius *Argonautica*:

Medea flees home with the sons of Phrixos, reuniting with Jason who reassures her of his promise to marry her. Medea and Jason go to obtain the golden fleece from the snake. Medea uses her charms and magic to subdue the snake, allowing Jason to grab the golden fleece. The crew sets sail to head back home where Medea hopes to be wed. King Aietes knows Medea has betrayed him and sends Apsyrtos after her. Jason plots a trap for Apsyrtos which leads to Apsyrtos being killed at the hands of Jason and Medea. Zeus, furious at this transgression, order

the couple to be cleansed, so they go to Circe to complete this. Hera aids the Argonauts once more, getting Thetis to ensure safe travel through monstrous territory. They pass by the islands where the Sirens live but Orpheus saves the crew and Thetis helps with safe passage past Skylla and Charybdis. The Argonauts encounter the Colchians who want Medea but Arete and Jason devise a plan that saves Medea. The Argonauts arrive in Libya where they encounter a storm that results in friendly casualties. After entering lake Triton, Triton the son of Poseidon gives them directions on how to sail home and back into the open ocean. On the way to Crete, the crew runs into Talos, a bronze age man who acts as a final obstacle. Using her magic, Medea once again saves the Argonauts, defeating Talos. Finally, the group proceed to make it back home without any more gigantic difficulties.

Meme #1:



This quote reveals the Jason did not have the courage or ability to stop the snake. Rather it was Medea who did all the work that led to Jason completing his ultimate mission.

“And Aeson's son followed in fear, but the serpent, already charmed by her song, was relaxing the long ridge of his giant spine, and lengthening out his myriad coils, like a dark wave, dumb and noiseless, rolling over a sluggish sea; but still he raised aloft his grisly head, eager to enclose them both in his murderous jaws.” And “Hereupon Jason snatched the golden fleece from the oak, at the maiden bidding; and she, standing firm, smeared with the charm the monster's head, till Jason himself bade her turn back towards their ship.”

Citation:

Book 4, Line 136 & 162

The Argonautica, English Translation by R.C. Seaton. London, England, W. Heinemann; New York, New York, Macmillan Co., 1912

Meme #2:



This quote reveals that Medea is putting her all her faith into the idea of marrying Jason. Time and time again she does things that are awful and even against her own kingdom for the sake of Jason.

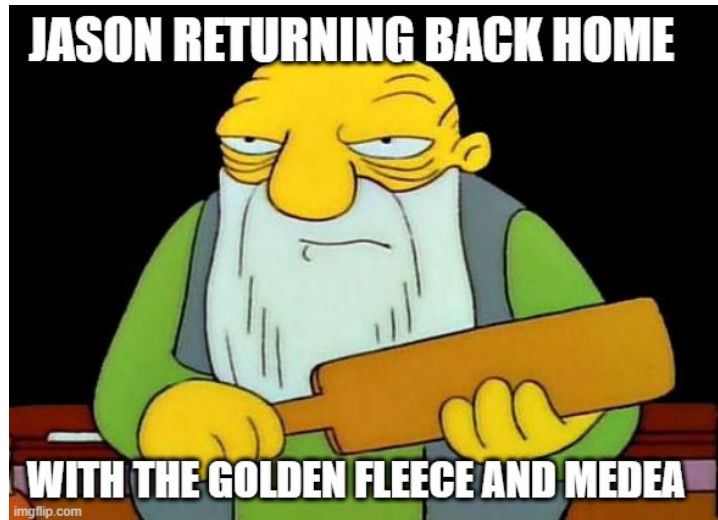
"Before his face uttered her speech all broken with sobs: "What is this purpose that ye are now devising about me, O son of Aeson? Has thy triumph utterly cast forgetfulness upon thee, and reeketh thou nothing of all that thou spakest when held fast by necessity? Whither are fled the oaths by Zeus the suppliants' god, whither are fled thy honied promises? For which in no seemly wise, with shameless will, I have left my country, the glories of my home and even my parents -- things that were dearest to me; and far away all alone I am borne over the sea with the plaintive kingfishers because of thy trouble, in order that I might save thy life in fulfilling the contests with the oxen and the earthborn men. Last of all the fleece." And "Wherefore I say that as thy child, thy bride and thy sister, I follow thee to the land of Hellas. Be ready to stand by me to the end"

Citation:

Book 4, Line 352 & 360

The Argonautica, English Translation by R.C. Seaton. London, England, W. Heinemann; New York, New York, Macmillan Co., 1912

Meme #3:



This quote reveals that Jason returned home after successfully completing his mission. Not only surviving but obtained the golden fleece and returned with a magical women at his leisure, unable to be defeated or stopped.

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

Citation:

Book 4, Line 1773

The Argonautica, English Translation by R.C. Seaton. London, England, W. Heinemann; New York, New York, Macmillan Co., 1912