

Two Tripods and Colonization Narrative in Apollonius of Rhodes

<p>1. διοιὺς γὰρ τρίποδας τηλοῦ πόρε Φοῖβος ἄγεσθαι Αἰσονίδῃ περόωντι κατὰ χρέος, ὅπποτε Πυθῶ ἱρὴν πευσόμενος μετεκίαθε τῆσδ' ὑπὲρ αὐτῆς ναυτιλῆς: (Arg. 4.529 – 532)</p>	<p>For Phoebus had given Jason two tripods to take on the distant journey he was required to make, when he went to holy Pytho to inquire about this voyage.¹</p>
<p>2. εἶδον δὲ καὶ αὐτὸς Καδμήια γράμματα ἐν τῷ ἱρῷ τοῦ Ἀπόλλωνος τοῦ Ἴσμηνίου ἐν Θήβῃσι τῆσι Βοιωτῶν, ἐπὶ τρίποσι τισὶ ἐγκεκολαμμένα, τὰ πολλὰ ὅμοια ἔοντα τοῖσι Ἴωνικοῖσι. ὁ μὲν δὲ εἷς τῶν τριπόδων ἐπίγραμμα ἔχει ἀμφιτρύων μ' ἀνέθηκ' ἐνάρων ἀπὸ Τηλεβοάων. Ἰταῦτα ἡλικίην εἶη ἂν κατὰ Λάιον τὸν Λαβδάκου τοῦ Πολυδώρου τοῦ Κάδμου. ἕτερος δὲ τρίπους ἐν ἐξαμέτρῳ τόνῳ λέγει Σκαῖος πυγμαχέων με ἐκηβόλῳ Ἀπόλλωνι νικήσας ἀνέθηκε τεῖν περικαλλὲς ἄγαλμα. Σκαῖος δ' ἂν εἶη ὁ Ἴπποκόωντος, εἰ δὴ οὗτός γε ἐστὶ ὁ ἀναθεὶς καὶ μὴ ἄλλος τῶντὸ οὖνομα ἔχων τῷ Ἴπποκόωντος, ἡλικίην κατὰ Οἰδίπουν τὸν Λαῖου. τρίτος δὲ τρίπους λέγει καὶ οὗτος ἐν ἐξαμέτρῳ Λαοδάμας τρίποδ' αὐτὸς ἐνυπόκωπῳ Ἀπόλλωνι μουναρχέων ἀνέθηκε τεῖν περικαλλὲς ἄγαλμα. (Hdt 5.59 – 61).</p>	<p>I have myself seen Cadmean writing in the temple of Ismenian Apollo at Thebes of Boeotia engraved on certain tripods and for the most part looking like Ionian letters. On one of the tripods there is this inscription: “Amphitryon dedicated me from the spoils of Teleboae. A second tripod says, in hexameter verse: “Scaeus the boxer, victorious in the contest, Gave me to Apollo, the archer god, a lovely offering.” The third tripod says, in hexameter verse again: “Laodamas, while he reigned, dedicated this cauldron To Apollo, the sure of aim, as a lovely offering.”²</p>
<p>3. συμφορήσαντες δὲ τὰ χρήματα καὶ δεκάτην ἐξελόντες τῷ ἐν Δελφοῖσι θεῷ, ἀπ' ἧς ὁ τρίπους ὁ χρύσεος ἀνετέθη ὁ ἐπὶ τοῦ τρικαρῆνου ὄφιος τοῦ χαλκέου ἐπεστεῶς ἄγχιστα τοῦ βωμοῦ, καὶ τῷ ἐν Ὀλυμπίῃ θεῷ ἐξελόντες, ἀπ' ἧς δεκάτην χαλκεον Δία ἀνέθηκαν, καὶ τῷ ἐν Ἴσθμῳ θεῷ, ἀπ' ἧς ἐπτάπηχυς χαλκεος Ποσειδέων ἐξεγένετο, ταῦτα ἐξελόντες τὰ λοιπὰ διαιρέοντο, καὶ ἔλαβον ἕκαστοι τῶν ἄξιοι ἦσαν, καὶ τὰς παλλακὰς τῶν Περσέων καὶ τὸν χρυσὸν καὶ ἄργυρον καὶ ἄλλα χρήματα τε καὶ ὑποζύγια. (Hdt 9.81)</p>	<p>Having brought all the loot together, they set apart a tithe for the god of Delphi. From this was made and dedicated that tripod which rests upon the bronze three-headed serpent, nearest to the altar; another they set apart for the god of Olympia, from which was made and dedicated a bronze figure of Zeus, ten cubits high; and another for the god of the Isthmus, from which was fashioned a bronze Poseidon seven cubits high. When they had set all this apart, they divided what remained, and each received, according to his worth, concubines of the Persians and gold and silver, and all the rest of the stuff and the beasts of burden.</p>

¹ Translation by William H. Race.

² Translation by A. D. Godley.

<p>4. καὶ τὸν τρίποδα θεῖναι ἐν τῷ ἑωντοῦ ἱρῷ, ἐπιθεσπίσαντά τε τῷ τρίποδι καὶ τοῖσι σὺν Ἴησони σημήναντα τὸν πάντα λόγον, ὡς ἐπεὰν τὸν τρίποδα κομίσηται τῶν ἐγγόνων τις τῶν ἐν τῇ Ἄργοι συμπλεόντων, τότε ἑκατὸν πόλιας οἰκῆσαι περὶ τὴν Τριτωνίδα λίμνην Ἑλληνίδας πᾶσαν εἶναι ἀνάγκην. ταῦτα ἀκούσαντας τοὺς ἐπιχωρίους τῶν Λιβύων κρύψαι τὸν τρίποδα. (<i>Hdt.</i>4.179)</p>	<p>But before setting up the tripod within his own sanctuary, Triton prophesied over the tripod to Jason's companions, telling them of all the consequences that would occur whenever a certain descendant of the Argo's crew carried off the tripod from the sanctuary to his home. When that happened, he said, then as a matter of fate and necessity, one hundred Greek cities would be built around Lake Tritonis. When the Libyan natives heard of this prediction, they hid the tripod.</p>
<p>5. πέπρωτο δ' ὅπη χθονὸς ἰδρυνθεῖεν, μήποτε τὴν δήοισιν ἀναστήσεσθαι ἰοῦσιν. τούνεκεν εἰσέτι νῦν κείνη ὄδε κεύθεται αἴη ἀμφὶ πόλιν ἀγανὴν Ὑλληίδα, πολλὸν ἔνερθεν οὔδεος, ὥς κεν ἄφαντος ἀεὶ μερόπεσσι πέλοιτο. (<i>Arg.</i> 4.532 – 536)</p>	<p>It was fated that any land in which the tripod stood would never be ravaged by enemy invasions. Therefore, still today this tripod lies hidden in that land near the friendly city of Hyllus deep underground so that it might always remain unseen by mortals.</p>

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