

“Real Monsters in Apollonius Rhodius’ *Argonautica*”

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Argon. 4.445-49

Σχέτλι’ Ἔρωσ, μέγα πῆμα, μέγα στύγος ἀνθρώποισιν.
ἐκ σέθεν οὐλόμεναί τ’ ἔριδες στοναχαί τε γόοι τε,
ἄλγεά τ’ ἄλλ’ ἐπὶ τοῖσιν ἀπείρονα τετρήχασιν.
δυσμενέων ἐπὶ παισὶ κορύσσειο, δαίμων, ἀερθείς,
οἷος Μηδεῖη στυγερὴν φρεσὶν ἔμβαλες ἄτην.

Brutal Eros, great misery, great horror for humanity.
You are the source of deadly conflicts, sobbing and wailing
And more, a tumult of sorrows without end.
Against my enemies children, demon, may you rise armed for battle,
As when you cast dread ruin within Medea’s heart.*

Argon. 3.129

ἄφατον κακόν (“unspeakable evil”)

Argon. 4.1-3

Αὐτὴ νῦν κάματόν γε, θεά, καὶ δήνεα κούρης
Κολχίδος ἔννεπε, Μοῦσα, Διὸς τέκος· **ἦ γὰρ ἐμοί γε
ἀμφασίη νόος ἔνδον ἐλίσσεται ὀρμαίνοντι**

Goddess, tell now the trouble and plans of the
Colchian girl yourself, Muse, child of Zeus. **For my mind
within is spinning, speechless, as I begin...**

Speechless characters, e.g., Jason (3.423), Medea (3.284, 811), Aetes (3.1372), Argonauts (2.409)

Ptolemy and Arsinoe likened to Zeus and Hera: Callimachus, fr. 392 Pfeiffer; Posidippus AB 114 and an anonymous poem liken Arsinoe’s wedding to Hera’s. See Carney 2013, 161 n.93.

*Translations mine unless otherwise noted

Argon. 1.295-302

“μή μοι λευγαλέας ἐνιβάλλεο, μήτερ, ἀνίας
ᾧδε λίην, ἐπεὶ οὐ μὲν ἐρητύσεις κακότητος
δάκρυσιν, ἀλλ’ ἔτι κεν καὶ ἐπ’ ἄλγεσιν ἄλγος ἄροιο.
πήματα γάρ τ’ αἰδήλα θεοὶ θνητοῖσι νέμουσιν,
τῶν μοῖραν κατὰ θυμὸν ἀνιάζουσά περ ἔμπης
τλήθι φέρειν. θάρσει δὲ συνημοσύνησιν Ἀθήνης
ἠδὲ θεοπροποίησιν, ἐπεὶ μάλα δεξιὰ Φοῖβος
ἔχρη, ἀτὰρ μετέπειτά γ’ ἀριστήων ἐπαρωγῆ.

“Mother, please do not take upon yourself too many bitter sorrows in this way, for you will not ward off misfortune with tears, but will add yet further grief to your griefs. **For the gods mete out unforeseen woes to mortals,** and although it pains your heart, endure to bear your portion of them. But take courage from the commitments of Athena and from the oracles (for Phoebus has made very favorable prophecies) and, thereafter, from the aid of the heroes.” (tr. Race)

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