

57. The Wicked Uncle

○ Latin

Erant olim in Thessalia duo fratres, quorum alter Aeson, Pelias alter appellabatur. Aeson primo regnum obtinuerat; at post paucos annos Pelias, regni cupiditate adductus, non modo fratrem suum expulit, sed etiam in animo habebat Iasonem, Aesonis filium, interficere. Quidam tamen ex amicis Aesonis, ubi sententiam Peliae cognoverunt, puerum e tanto periculo eripere constituerunt. Noctu igitur Iasonem ex urbe abstulerunt, et cum postero die ad regem rediissent, ei renuntiaverunt puerum mortuum esse. Pelias cum hoc audivisset, etsi re vera magnum gaudium percipiebat, speciem tamen doloris praebuit et quae causa esset mortis quaesivit. Illi autem cum bene intellegerent dolorem eius falsum esse, nescio quam fabulam de morte pueri fixerunt.

○ Translation (from class)

Once upon a time in Thessaly there were two brothers, of which one was called Aeson and the other Pelias. Aeson had obtained power first; but after a few years Pelias, having been led by desire for rule, but he not only drove out his own brother, but also was having in mind to kill Jason, son of Aeson. Nevertheless certain people out of the friends of Aeson, when they found out about the plan of Pelias, decided to remove the boy from such danger. Therefore at night they carried Jason away from the city, and when they had returned on the next day to the king, they announced to him that the boy was dead. Pelias, when he had heard this, though in true fact he was feeling great joy, put on the appearance of grief, and asked what was the cause of death. However since they were aware that his grief was false, I don't know which story they made up about the death of the boy.

58. A Fateful Accident

○ Latin

Post breve tempus Pelias, veritus ne regum suum tanta vi et fraude occupatum amitteret, amicum quondam Delphos misit, qui oraculum consuleret. Ille igitur quam celerrime Delphos se contulit et quam ob causa venisset demonstravit. Respondit oraculum nullum esses in praesentia periculum; monuit tamen Peliam ut si quis unum calcium gerens venire, eum caveret. Post paucis annis accidit ut Pelias magnum sacrificium facturum esset; nuntios in omnes partes dimiserat et certam diem conveniendi dixerat. Die constituta magnus hominum numerus undique ex agris convenit; in his autem venit etiam Iason, qui a pueritia apud centaurum quendam habitaverat. Dum tamen iter facit, unum e calceis in transeundo nescio quo flumine amisit.

○ Translation (from class)

After a short time Pelias, fearing that he would lose his own kingdom by great force and also fearing that he would lose his own position by fraud, he sent a certain friend to Delphi, who would consult the oracle. Therefore he conferred to Delphi as quickly as possible and demonstrated for what reason he had come. The oracle responded that there was no danger at the present; he, nevertheless, warned Pelias that if anyone should come carrying one shoe he should be guarded. A few years later it happened that Pelias was about to make a huge sacrifice; he had sent messengers in all directions and made a certain day of convening. On the decided day a great number of people came together from everywhere out of the fields; however among these people even Jason came, who had lived since childhood at the home of a certain centaur. However while he made this journey, he lost one of his shoes in crossing a river I know not what.

59. The Golden Fleece

○ Latin

Iason igitur cum calcium amissum nullo modo recipere posset, uno pede nudo in regiam pervenit. Quem cum Pelias vidisset, subito timore affectus est; intellexit enim hunc esses hominem quem oraculum demonstravisset. Hoc igitur consilium initt. Rex erat quidam Aetes, qui regnum Colchidis illo tempore obtinebat. Huic commissum erat illud vellus aureum quod Phrixus olim ibi reliquerat. Constituit igitur Pelias Iasoni negotium dare ut hoc cellere potiretur; cum enim res esset magni periculi, eum in itinere periturum esse sperabat. Iasonem igitur ad se arcessivit, et eum cohortatus quid fieri vellet docuit. Ille etsi intellegebat rem esse difficillimam, negotium libenter suscepit.

○ Translation (from class)

Jason accordingly, since there was no way of retrieving his shoe, proceeded to the kingdom with one bare foot. Who when Pelias had seen, he was immediately overcome by fear; and so he knew that he was the man whom the oracle had demonstrated. Therefore he began this plan. There was a certain king, Aetes, who was maintaining the kingdom of Colchis at the time. The Golden Fleece, which Phrixus had once left behind there, had been entrusted to this man. There for Pelias decided to give a task to Jason to acquire this fleece; since the matter was of great danger, Pelias was hoping that he was about to perish on the journey. Therefore he summoned Jason to himself, having urged him he taught him what he wanted to become. Although he understood the matter was most difficult, he undertook the task willingly.

60. The Building of the Good Ship Argo

○ Latin

Cum tamen Colchis multorum dierum iter ab eo loco absesset, solus Iason proficisci noluit. Dimisit igitur nuntios in omnes partes, qui causam itineris docerent et diem certam conveniendi dicerent. Interea, postquam omnia quae sunt usui ad armandas naves comportari iussit, negotium dedit Argo cuidam, qui summam scientiam nauticarum rerum habebat, ut navem aedificaret. In his rebus circiter decem dies consumpti sunt; Argus enim, qui opera praeerat. Tantam diligentiam abhibebat ut ne nocturnum quidem tempus ad laborem intermitteret. Ad multitudinem hominum transportandam navis paulo erat latior quam quibus in nostro mari uti consuevimus, et ad vim tempestatum perferendam tota e robore facta est.

○ Translation (from class)

Since however Colchis was away from that place by a journey of many days, Jason did not want to set out alone. Therefore he sent away the messengers into all parts, who would explain the cause of the journey and would announce a certain day of coming together. Meanwhile, after he ordered everything which was of use to be gathered for arming the ships, he gave the task for a certain Argus who was having the highest knowledge of navel things, to build a ship. In these matters about 10 days were spent; for Argus, in truth, who was in charge of the task, was applying such diligence he was not interrupting his time at night in order to work. For transporting a number of people, the ship was wider by a little than those which we are accustomed to using in our sea, and for the purpose of enduring the force of storms, it was made entirely of oak.

61. The Anchor is Weighed

○ Latin

Interea is dies appetebat quem Iason per nuntios edixerat, et ex omnibus regionibus Graeciae multi, quos aut rei novitas aut spes gloriae movebat, undique conveniebat. Traditum est autem in hoc numero fuisse Herculem, de quo supra multa perscripsimus, Orpheum, citharoedem praeclarissimum, Theseum, Castorem, multosque alios quorum nomina sunt notissima. Ex his Iason quos arbitratus est ad omnia pericula subeunda paratissimos esse, eos ad numerum quinquaginta delegit et socios sibi adiunxit; tum paucos dies commoratus, ut ad omnes causa subsidia compararet, navem deduxit, et tempestatem ad navigandam idoneam nactus magno cum plausu omnium solvit.

○ Translation (from class)

Meanwhile the day which Jason had declared through messengers was drawing nearer, and from all regions of Greece many whom either the strangeness of the matter or hope or glory was motivating, were coming together from everywhere. It was reported that however in this number had been Hercules, about which we have thoroughly written many things previously also in this number there had been Orpheus, the most famous cithara-player, Theseus, Castor, and many others whose names are most famous. Out of these, Jason chose who he thought was the most prepared for undergoing all dangers, he selected a number around 50 and joined the allies to himself; then having lingered for a few days, in order to collect support for all causes, he led away the ship, and having met weather suitable for sailing, he released the ship with a great cheer of all.

62. A Fatal Mistake

○ Latin

Haud multo post Argonautae (ita enim appellabantur qui in ista navi vehebantur) insulam quamdam, nomine Cyzicum, attigerunt; et e navi egressi a rege illius regionis hospitio excepti sunt. Paucas horas ibi commorati ad solis occasum rursus solverunt; sed postquam pauca milia passuum progressi sunt, tanta tempestas subito coorta est ut cursum tenere non possent, et in eandem partem insulae unde nuper profecti errant magno cum periculo deicerentur. Incolae tamen, cum nox esset obscura, Argonautas non agnoscebant, et navem inimiciam venisse arbitrati arma rapuerunt et eos egredi prohibebant. Acriter in litore pugnatum est, et rex ipse, qui cum aliis decucurrerat, ab Argonautis occisus est. mox tamen, cum iam dilucesceret, senserunt incolae se errare et arma abiecerunt; Argonautae autem sum regem occisum esse viderent, magnum dolorem perceperunt.

○ Translation (from class)

After a little while the Argonauts (for thus they were named those who were carried in that ship) touched a certain island, by the name of Cyzicus; and having stepped out from the ship they were received by the king of that region with hospitality. Having lingered there for a few hours, they set sail again at the falling of the sun; but after they advanced a few miles suddenly such a great storm arose that they were not able to hold course, and they were cast down with great danger into the same part of the island from where they had recently departed. Nevertheless the inhabitants, since it was a dark night, were not recognizing the Argonauts, and having judged that a hostile ship had arrived they seized arms, and were holding them back from stepping out. It was fought on the beach fiercely, and the king himself, who had run down with the others, was killed by the Argonauts. Soon however since it was growing light, the inhabitants themselves sensed they were making an error, they threw away their arms; the Argonauts however, when they saw that their king was dead, they felt great sorrow.