

Magic, Monsters and Mystery The Labors of Jason

In the stories about the Argonauts, the land of Colchis, far away in the mysterious east, appears as a land of witches, monsters and magic, potions and ointments, ferocious dragons and their teeth, wild bulls, and wild horses. In Homer, except in the stories of Odysseus' adventures on his return voyage from Troy, we find few of these elements, perhaps because the heroes of the generation of the Argo, especially Hercules and Theseus, are said to have cleansed the world of monsters, ushering in an age of culture and civilization.

Imperāvit Jāsonī Aeētēs, ut duōbus taurīs speciē horribilī, quī flammās ex ōre efflābant, jūgum impōneret et hīs junctīs ut agrum quendam arāret et dentēs dracōnis sereret. Ex dentibus istīs virōs armātōs nātūrōs dīxit. Imperāvit ut Jāsōn sōlus hōs virōs occīderet.

Accidit ut Mēdea, rēgis fīlia, Jāsonem vidēret et amāret. Verita nē Jāsōn aut ā taurīs aut ā virīs armātīs opprimerētur, eī unguentum magicum dēdit et monuit ut eō unguentō ūterētur. Quō unguentō protectus Jāsōn labōrēs bene confēcit.

Vocabulary

ager, ī m. field

armō (1) to arm

arō (1) to plough

dens, dentis, m. tooth

dracō, -ōnis, m. dragon

efflō (1) breathe out

flamma, -ae, f. flame

horribilis, -e adj. horrible

jugum, ī n. yoke

jungō jungere junxī junctus to join, yoke

magicus, -a, -um adj. magic

occidō, occidēre, occidī, occisus kill

opprimō, opprimere, oppressī,

oppressum to crush

protegō, protegere, protexī,

protectum to cover, protect

serō serere sēvī satus to sow, plant

speciēs, -eī, f. sight, look

taurus ī m. bull

unguentum, -i, n. unguent, ointment,
salve

ūtor ūtī ūsus sum < abl. to use