

## Hesiodic Motifs in Apollonius' *Argonautica* Book 1

This paper argues that Apollonius of Rhodes systematically alludes to Hesiodic motifs throughout the major episodes in *Argonautica* Book 1. Apollonius uses such allusions to stress the importance of social values, such as caring for one's family members and offering due sacrifices to the gods, values which are needed for healthy societies to flourish. By revealing the flaws of different societies which the Argonauts encounter, Apollonius highlights the need for social cohesion of the Argonautic crew under a wise, Hesiodic leader in order to be successful on their voyage.

This paper is structured around a concise and linear reading of Hesiodic allusions in *Argonautica* Book I. In the Book I proem, Apollonius alludes to Hesiodic poetry in ring composition to raise ethical questions for the reader about Jason's moral character. Later, as Jason leaves his parents, Hesiodic allusions suggest a systematic explanation of Greek social expectations for Jason in regard to the way he treats his parents. The scene of Orpheus' cosmogony structurally alludes to the proem of the *Theogony* as an example of appropriate behavior for leaders in societies. References in the Lemnian episode to the woes of the Hesiodic iron age in the *Works and Days* stress the need for justice amongst members of a flourishing society. Finally, Hesiodic allusions in the final episodes at Cyzicus and near the land of the Mysians place emphasis on the Hesiodic theme that human beings exist on an ontological level between animals and gods. In this state, the Argonauts must seek justice amongst themselves and be guided by a wise leader in order to succeed on their journey.

This paper responds to a desideratum pointed out by Henry Mason (2016) and Richard P. Martin (2020) for further studies on the relationships between the texts of Hesiod and

Apollonius. The paper is meant to compliment other studies on Hesiodic influence on Apollonius, such as James Clauss' essays on chronology (2000) and human-divine relations (2016), as well as Richard Hunter's recent discussion of philosophical influences at the end of Book 4 (2022). In contrast with the essays by Poulheria Kyriakou (1994) and Ross Jaffe (2017), who see Hesiod's importance for Apollonius as a forerunner of more influential authors such as Empedocles and Xenophon respectively, this paper stresses the importance of Hesiod as an influence on Apollonius in his own right.

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