

In Book 1 of Apollonius' *Argonautica*, the heroes arrive at an island inhabited by two peoples, the friendly Doliones and the violent Earthborn men (1.936-1152). This episode is an important passage in the story of the *Argonautica*, since it results in a serious obstacle for the voyage of the Argo: strong winds that prevent the ship from continuing its voyage. It is also an important passage for the understanding of Apollonius' use of Homeric models, involving many allusions both to the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*. In discussing the Homeric allusions in the episode of the Doliones, most scholars have focused on the use of the *Iliad* in the lengthy battle scene between the Argonauts and the Doliones (Knight 1995), or on the similarities between Apollonius' Earthborn men and Homer's Laestrygonians (Clauss 1993, Dufner 1998). They have neglected, however, another important model for Apollonius: the Phaeacians in Homer's *Odyssey*. Throughout the episode of the Doliones, Apollonius alludes to Homer's Phaeacians, and his use of this model helps explain the significance of the Doliones in the *Argonautica*. Just as the Phaeacians are crucial to Odysseus' return home, the Doliones play a pivotal role in the success of the voyage of the Argo.

Through his allusions to the Phaeacians, both in thematic links and specific verbal echoes, Apollonius establishes his readers' expectations for the outcome of the passage. By alluding to the land of the Phaeacians at the beginning of the Doliones episode, for instance, Apollonius connects the king of the Doliones, Cyzicus, with the Phaeacian king Alcinoos, creating the expectation that the Doliones will be welcoming and helpful to the Argonauts. Apollonius also hints at a darker outcome for this episode, however, by associating the king with the royal family of the Phaeacians, the ancestors of the Phaeacian queen Arete (*Od.*7.48-76). The example of Arete's father Rhexenor is especially relevant, since he was killed while he was a bridegroom, leaving no heir: the same fate which awaits Cyzicus at the hands of the Argonauts.

The Homeric model of the Phaeacians is also used by Apollonius to characterize Kleite, the young wife of Cyzicus. Just as Cyzicus is compared to Alcinoos, Kleite is compared to the Phaeacian queen Arete, and her function in the story of the *Argonautica* is parallel to Arete's role in the *Odyssey*, as it is described by Athena (*Od.*7.67-71). According to both Nausicaa and Athena, Odysseus must win over Arete if he hopes to return home, and in a similar way, the Argonauts depend on the fate of Kleite for the continuation of their voyage. The significance of Kleite does not become clear, however, until the Argonauts have unwillingly caused her death. At this point, they find that they are unable to leave the island, and only the intervention of the gods can prevent the failure of their mission. This turn of events comes as a surprise to the Argonauts, but as a logical conclusion to the reader who has recognized the model of the Phaeacians behind the story of the Doliones.