

say he was slaine by *Pæan*, who wounded him with an arrow in the heele. From hence the *Argonautes* sailed to *Ægina* where they were faine to fight for fresh water. And lastly from *Ægina* they sailed by *Eubæa* and *Locris* home to *Iolcos*, where they arriued, hauing spent foure whole moneths in the expedition.

Some there are that by this iourney of *Iason*, vnderstand the mysterie of the Philosophers Stone, called the golden Fleece, to which also other superfine *Chymists*, draw the twelue labours of *Hercules*. *Suidas* thinks that by the golden Fleece, was ment a booke of Parcement, which is of sheepe-skinne, and therefore called golden, because it was taught therein how other mettals might be transmuted. Others would signifie by *Iason* wisdome, and moderation, which ouercommeth all perils: but that which is most probable is the opinion of *Dercilus*, that the Storie of such a passage was true, and that *Iason* with the rest went indeed to robbe *Colchos*, to which they might arriue by boate. For not farre from *Caucasus* there are certaine steepe falling torrents which wash downe many graines of gold, as in many other parts of the world, and the people there inhabiting vse to set many fleeces of wooll in those descents of waters, in which the graines of gold remaine, and the water passeth through, which *Strabo* witnesseth to be true. The many rockes, straites, sands, and Currents, in the passage betweene *Greece* and the bottome of *Pontus*, are Poetically conuerted into those fierie bulles, the armed men rising out of the ground, the Dragon cast asleepe, and the like. The man of brasse, the *Syrens*, *Scylla* and *Charybdis*, were other hazards and aduentures which they fell into in the *Mediterran* sea, disguised, as the rest, by *Orpheus*, vnder poeticall morrals: all which *Homer* afterward vsed (the man of brasse excepted) in the description of *Vlysses* his trauailes on the same Inland-seas.

Ch. XIV. *Of the Warre of Troy*

SWR H