

But the rays of the sun, which are sometimes called his spears or his sword, are sometimes the golden locks which no razor has ever touched. These locks of Phœbus Akersekomês (the unshorn) are endowed with a mysterious power to ward off all harm from their possessors, and they reappear in the purple lock which Skylla (XXIX.), like another Delilah, takes from the head of Nisos while he sleeps, and thus delivers him and his people into the power of Minos.

In the myth of Phrixos and Hellê (XXX.) the sunlight becomes a golden fleece, just as in the legend of Herakles, and again in that of Medeia, it becomes a robe which devours the flesh of those who put it on. This fleece is borne from the Western land far away to the East; and the Argonautic expedition sets forth to recover and to bring back the lost treasure. The chieftains of all the tribes, afterwards known collectively as the Hellênes, are carried in the speaking ship to the Kolchian land, whence after a long and perilous voyage they reach once more their own country. The whole narrative is in substance a close parallel to that of the Trojan war. In both cases a treasure is lost; in both an allied army goes from the West to the East in order to recover it; in both there is a long and hard conflict before the prize is won, while the returning chieftains undergo many dangers and losses on their homeward voyage. There are thus two struggles, one to recover the robbed treasures, the other to reach their home and establish their title to their old inheritance, a title which Odysseus establishes only when he has bathed his hall in the blood of the suitors of Penelopê. The two legends, of the Golden Fleece and of the Trojan War, are thus a third time repeated in the myths which relate the departure of the Herakleids from Argos and their reconquest of the Peloponnese after the lapse of generations. The journey of Phrixos and Hellê on the back of the golden-fleeced ram thus answers to the departure of Helen from Sparta to Ilion. The name Hellê, like that of Hellên, itself denotes the bright light, whether of the morning or of the evening when it fades away from the sky after sundown. But Phrixos