

A PRIMARY READER

Old-time Stories, Fairy Tales and Myths
Retold by Children

part 3 "The Golden Fleece"



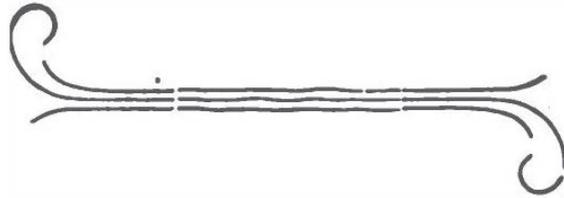
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The following stories by Miss Smythe were originally published under the title of "The Golden Fleece." They have been carefully revised and illustrated for this book.



THE STORY OF THE SHEEP.

ago	horns	fleece
king	Greece	loved
playing	Helle	grass
garden	catch	clouds

Long, long ago there lived a king in Greece. He had two little children, a boy and a girl.

They were good children and loved each other very much.

One day they were playing in the garden.

“Oh, Helle, look!” said the boy.

There on the grass was a fine large sheep. This sheep had a fleece

of gold and his horns were gold,
too.



THE KING AND HIS TWO CHILDREN.

The children wanted to pat the sheep, but they could not catch him. When they went near, he ran away on the clouds.

grew

golden

hold

tame

ride

tight

Every day they played in the garden and every day the sheep came, too.

By and by he grew tame and let the children pat his golden fleece.

One day the boy said, "Helle, let us take a ride."

First he helped his sister on the sheep's back.

Then he got on and held to the horns.

“Hold tight to me, Helle,” he said.

sky

dizzy

sea

sister

land

dragon

lose

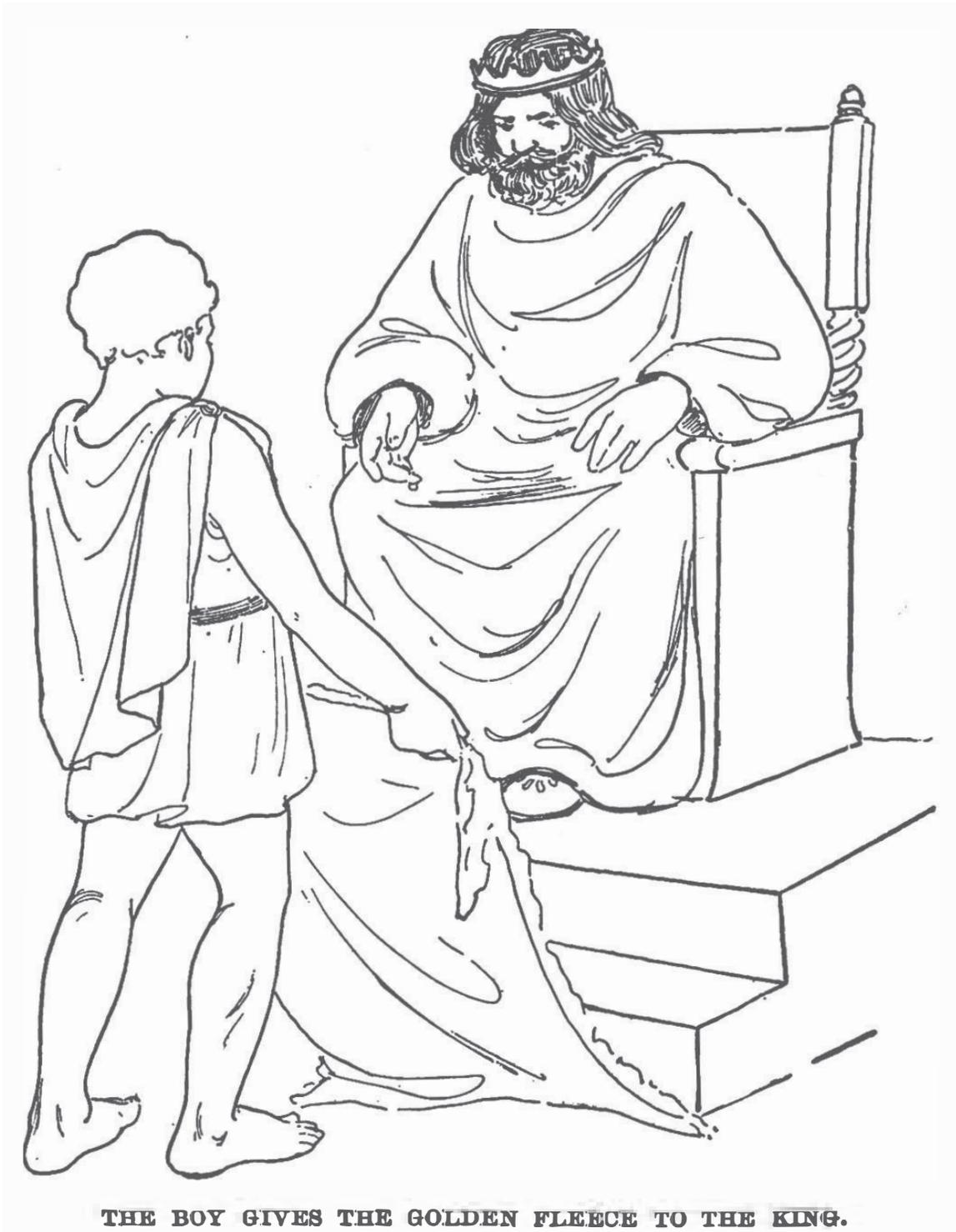
nailed

Colchis

The sheep went up, up into the sky, and ran a long way on the clouds. But Helle got dizzy and fell down into the sea.

The boy felt very bad to lose his sister, but went right on.

Then he came to the land Colchis. He killed the sheep and gave the golden fleece to the king.



THE BOY GIVES THE GOLDEN FLEECE TO THE KING.

The king was glad to have it and nailed it to an oak tree.

By the tree was a dragon. The
dragon never went to sleep. He



THE SHEEP WENT UP INTO THE SKY AND RAN A LONG WAY ON THE CLOUDS

would not let any one but the king
come to the tree.

So no one could get the golden
fleece.

THE GOOD SHIP ARGO.

across	untied	wade
Jason	brave	party
rained	creek	bridge
shoe-strings		invited

Jason was a brave young man.
He lived a little way from the
king's city.

One day the king gave a big
party and invited Jason.

It was a very dark night and it
rained hard.

Jason had to go across a creek,
but there was no bridge.





JASON COMES TO THE KING'S HOUSE.



The creek was full of water and Jason had to wade.

One of his shoe-strings came untied and he lost his shoe in the water.

When he came to the king's house, he had but one shoe.

knew bring fight
wild Argo asked
animals shoe Argonauts

The king did not like this, for a fairy had said, "The man who shall come to your house with one shoe, will be king."

So he knew Jason was to be king.

Then he said to Jason, “You may be king when you bring me the golden fleece.”

Jason was glad to go, and asked many brave men to go with him.

To get the golden fleece they would have to fight wild men and animals.

They made a big ship which they named “Argo.”

The men who went on the Argo were called Argonauts.

JASON AND THE HARPIES.

wings	blind	nobody
strong	iron	hard
skin	drive	claws
scratched	brass	Harpies

The ship Argo sailed a long way. There were two strong men on the ship. They had wings and could fly.

One day the Argo came to a land where the blind king lived.

This poor king had a hard time. When he sat down to the table to eat, some ugly birds, called Harpies, came too. The Harpies had skin

like brass and nobody could hurt them. They had claws of iron, and scratched people when they tried to drive them away.

When the king's dinner was ready, the Harpies came and took it away. When Jason and his men came, the king told them all about it. Jason said they would help him.

food drowned tired
swords hurt flying

They all sat down to the table. When the food was put on the table, the Harpies came flying in. Jason and his men took their swords.



JASON TRIES TO KILL THE HARPIES.

They cut at the Harpies but could not hurt them.

Then the two men with wings flew up in the air. The Harpies were afraid and flew away. The men flew after them.

At last the Harpies grew very tired and fell into the sea and were drowned.

Then the men with wings came back.

Now the blind king could eat all he wanted.

thanked

rocks

moved

friends

helping

good-bye

over

apart

icebergs

It was now time for Jason and his friends to go away.

The king thanked them over and over again for helping him.

When they said good-bye, he told them how to get to the land where they would find the golden fleece.

On the sea where Jason and his men had to sail, were two big rocks. These rocks moved on the water like icebergs.

They were as high as a big hill. They would come close to each other, then they would go far apart.

fishes

pieces

dove



past

break

together

row

almost

rocks

When fishes swam in the water, the rocks would come together and kill the fishes.

If birds flew in the air, the rocks would come together and kill the birds.

If a boat sailed on the water, the rocks would come together and break the boat into little pieces.

These rocks had been put in the sea, so no one could go to the land where the golden fleece was.

When the ship Argo came to the rocks, Jason sent a dove out.



The rocks came together when the dove was almost past.

Then they went far apart. Jason made his men row as hard as they could.

The rocks began to come together.
“Row hard, my men,” said Jason.

Just as they got past, the rocks hit, but Jason and his men were all right.

So they came to Colchis.



THE BRASS BULLS.

something	plow	bulls
stronger	chains	noses
mouths	smoke	plant
stone	flew	stall

When Jason came to Colchis, he went to the king and said, “Will you give me the golden fleece?”

The king wanted to keep the fleece.

So he said to Jason, “You may have it, but you must do something for me, first.”

“You must plow with the brass bulls, and plant the dragon’s teeth.”

The brass bulls looked like real bulls, but they were larger and stronger.

They blew out fire and smoke from their noses and mouths.

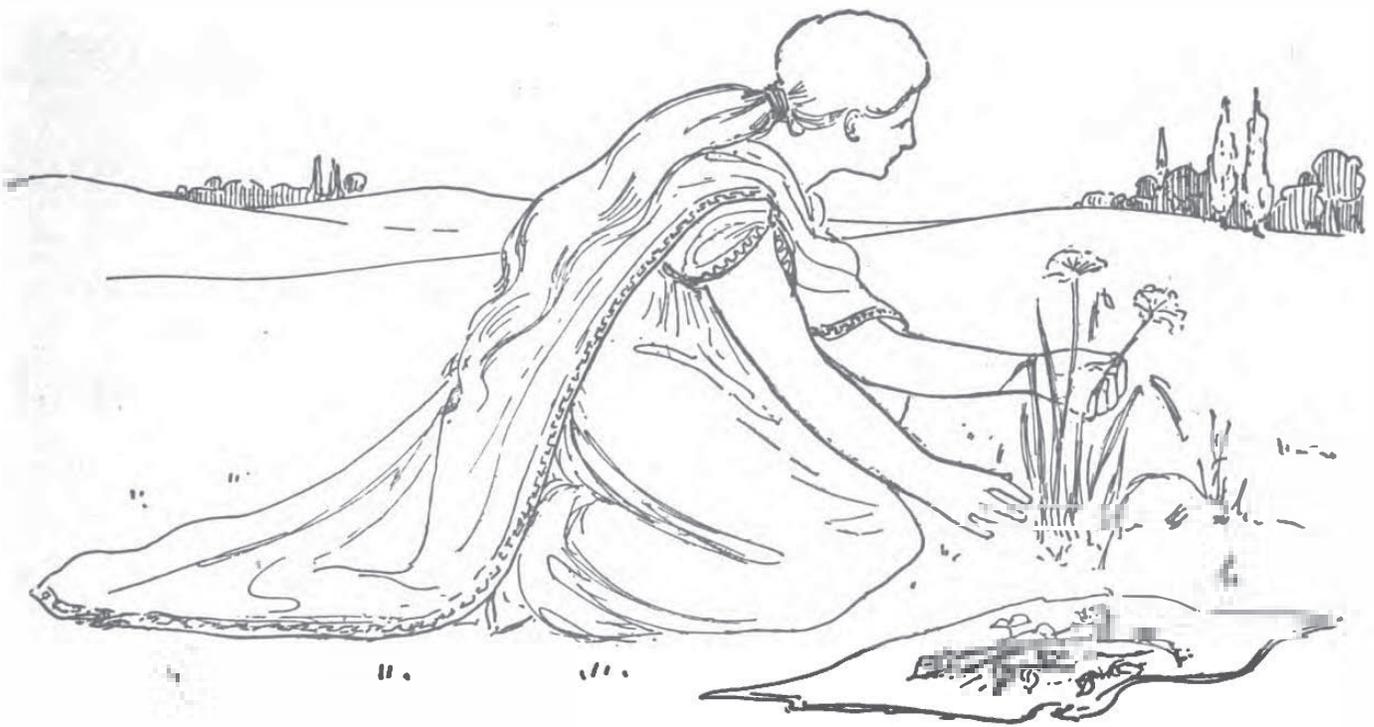
The bulls had a stall made of iron and stone. They had to be tied with strong iron chains.

daughter Medea carriage
snakes through pulled

When the dragon’s teeth were planted, iron men grew up.

They always killed the one who had planted them.

The king wanted the bulls to kill Jason.



MEDEA GATHERS FLOWERS.

He said, “If the bulls do not kill him the iron men will.”

The king had a daughter named Medea. She saw Jason was a brave

young man and did not want him
killed.

She knew how to help him. She
stepped into her carriage, which was
pulled by flying snakes.

Then Medea flew through the air.
She went to hills and creeks and
picked all kinds of flowers.

She took the flowers home and
cooked them.

nothing face rub
juice legs cut

Then Medea went to Jason when
the king did not know it.

She said to Jason, "Rub your face
and hands and legs with this juice."



MEDEA GIVES JASON THE JUICE.

When he did this, he was as strong as a giant.

Nothing could hurt him then. Fire could not burn him, and swords could not cut him.

The next day Jason had to plow with the brass bulls and plant the dragon's teeth.

climbed

early

tied

princess

seats

hold

untied

opened

place

Early in the morning, the king and princess went out to the place.

They had good seats where they could see well.

All the people in the city came
out to see Jason plow.

The little boys climbed the trees
so they could see better.

Then Jason came to the place.
The stall where the brass bulls were
tied was not far off.

The door was opened and Jason
went in.

He untied the bulls and took hold
of their horns.

Then he made the bulls come out
of their stall.

pushed kicked until

The bulls were very angry and

blew fire and smoke from their mouths.

This made the cruel king glad. But the people who saw it were afraid. They did not want Jason killed. They did not know that the princess had helped him.

Jason pushed the bulls' heads down to the ground. Then they kicked at him with their feet, but could not hurt him.

He held their heads down on the ground until the plow was ready.

handle

slowly

noon

wheat

lie

just



Jason took the chains in one hand. He took the handle of the plow in the other.

The bulls jumped and wanted to run away.

But Jason held so hard they had to go very slowly.

When it was noon the ground was all plowed.

Then Jason let the bulls go.

They were so angry that they ran away to the woods.

Now Jason went to the king and said, “Give me the dragon’s teeth.”

The king gave him his hat full.

Then Jason planted the dragon’s teeth, just as a man plants wheat.

By this time he was very tired,
so he went to lie down.



JASON SOWS THE DRAGON'S TEETH.

evening knees marble
threw growing fight

In the evening he came back.

The iron men were growing up.
Some of the men had only their
feet in the ground.

Some of them were in the ground
up to their knees.

Some had only their heads out.
They all tried to get out so they
could kill Jason.

Then Jason did what Medea told
him he should do.

He took a giant's marble and
threw it near the men.

All the iron men wanted to get
the marble.



So they began to fight each other. As soon as one had his feet out of the ground, he cut at the man next to him. So they killed each other.

Then Jason took his sword and cut off all the heads that were out of the ground.

So all the iron men were killed and the king was very angry.

But Medea and the people were glad.



JASON AND THE DRAGON.

yourself fond father

The next day Jason went to the king and said, "Now, give me the golden fleece."

The king did not give it to him, but said, "Come again."

Then Medea said, "If you want the golden fleece, you must help yourself. My father will not give it to you. A dragon is by the tree where the golden fleece is, and he never sleeps. He is always hungry and eats people if they go near him. I can not kill him but I can make

him sleep. He is very fond of cake. I will make some cake and put in something to make the dragon sleep.”

became climbed angry

So Medea made the cakes and Jason took them and threw them to the dragon.

The dragon ate them all and went to sleep.

Then Jason climbed over the dragon and took the nail out of the tree.

He put the golden fleece under his coat and ran to the ship Argo.

Medea went with him and became his wife.



THE DRAGON FINDS THE FLEECE IS GONE.

Oh, how angry the king was! He had lost the golden fleece and the brass bulls and the dragon's teeth. And now his daughter was gone.

through nine stones

He sent his men in ships to take Jason, but they could not get him.

At last Medea and Jason and the other Argonauts came to Greece.

Jason's father was there. He was a very old man.

Jason wanted his father to be king, so he asked Medea to make the old man young.

Then Medea took her carriage and flew through the air.

She did not come back for nine days. She picked flowers from the hills. She found all kinds of stones, too.

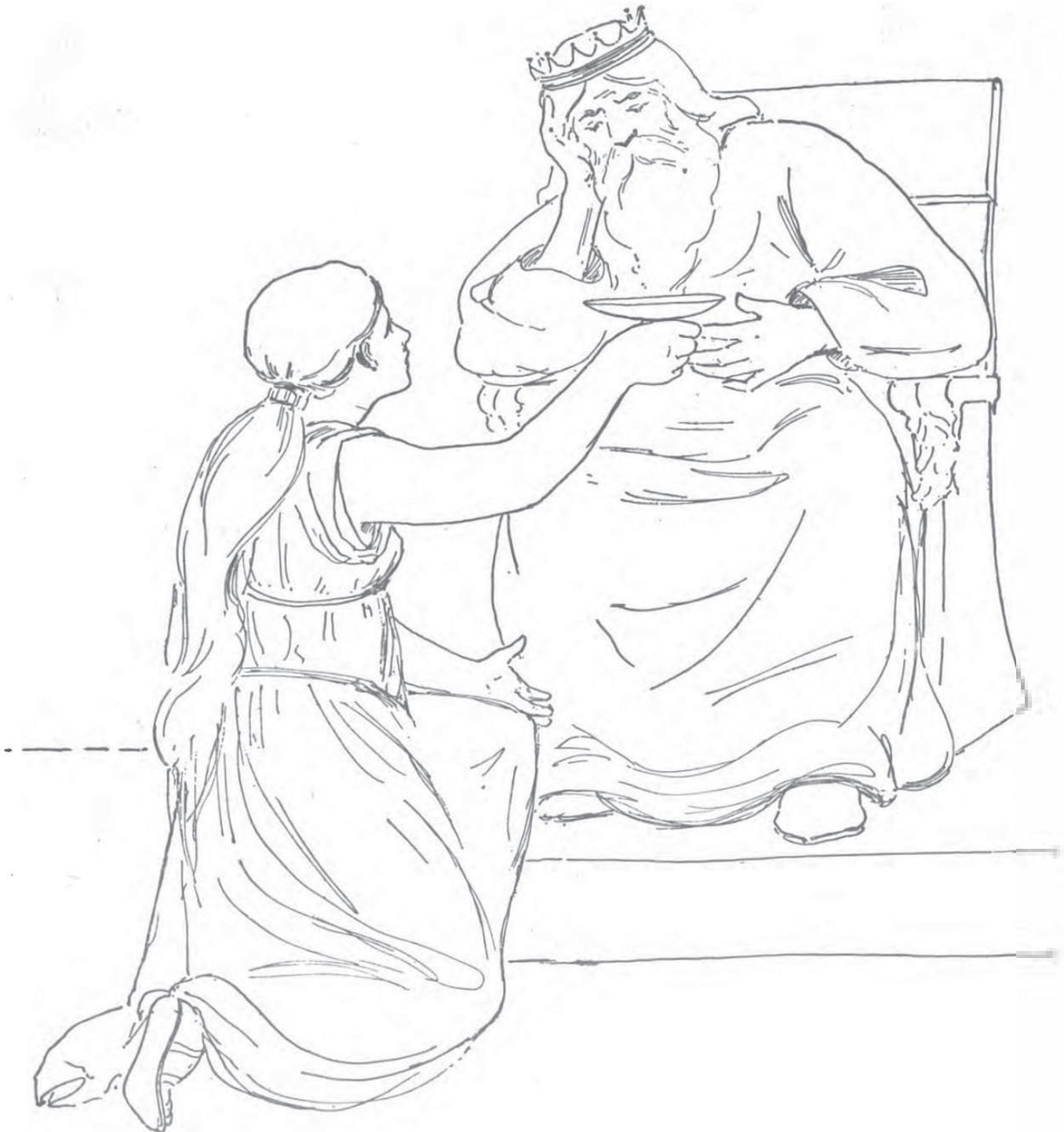
stick

died

woke



When she went home she put all these things into a pot and cooked them.



MEDEA MAKES THE OLD KING YOUNG

Then she put a stick into the pot and leaves grew on it.

Some of the juice fell on the ground and grass grew up.

So Medea knew the juice would make things grow.

Jason's father went to sleep and Medea put some of the juice into his mouth.

His white hair turned black and teeth grew in his mouth.

When he woke up, he looked and felt like a young man.

He lived many years and when he died Jason was king.

