

Phrixus

In Greek mythology **Phrixus** (/ˈfriksəs/; also spelt **Phryxus**; Greek: Φρίξος, *Phrixos* means "standing on end, bristling") was the son of Athamas, king of Boeotia, and Nephele (a goddess of clouds). He was the twin brother of Helle and the father of Argus, Phrontis, Melas and Cytisorus by Chalciope (Iophassa^[1]), daughter of Aeetes, king of Colchis.

Mythology

Phrixus and Helle (also known as Ellie) were hated by their stepmother, Ino. She hatched a devious plot to get rid of the twins, roasting all of Boeotia's crop seeds so they would not grow. The local farmers, frightened of famine, asked a nearby oracle for assistance. Ino bribed the men sent to the oracle to lie and tell the others that the oracle required the sacrifice of Phrixus and Helle. Before they were killed, though, Phrixus and Helle were rescued by a flying, or swimming,^[2] ram with golden wool sent by Nephele, their natural mother; their starting point is variously recorded as Halos in Thessaly and Orchomenus in Boeotia. During their flight Helle, for unknown reasons, fell off the ram and drowned in the strait between Europe and Asia, which was named after her the Hellespont, meaning the sea of Helle (now Dardanelles); Phrixus survived all the way to Colchis, where King Aeëtes, the son of the sun god Helios, took him in and treated him kindly, giving Phrixus his daughter, Chalciope, in marriage. In gratitude, Phrixus sacrificed the ram to Poseidon and gave the king the Golden Fleece of the ram, which Aeëtes hung in a tree in the holy grove of Ares in his kingdom, guarded by a dragon that never slept. Phrixus and Chalciop

e had four sons, who later joined forces with the Argonauts. The oldest was Argos/ Argus, Phrontis, Melas, and Cytisorus.

Phrixus thus lived at the court of Aeëtes but one day Aeëtes learned from an oracle that he would die at the hands of a descendant of Aeolus and so he killed Phrixus.^[3] However, other sources claim that Phrixus lived peacefully at Colchis and died of old age.^[4]

Notes

- Scholia on Apollonius of Rhodes, *Argonautica* 2.1122 citing Hesiod's *Ehoiai*
- Flying is conventional in modern treatments, but see D. S. Robertson, "The Flight of Phrixus (http://www.jstor.org/stable/705411)", *The Classical Review*, Vol. 54, No. 1 (Mar., 1940), pp. 1–8.
- "Hyginus, Fabulae 1-49 - Theoi Classical Texts Library" (https://www.theoi.com/Text/HyginusFabulae1.html). Retrieved 2022-03-28.

Phrixus or Phryxus	
 <div>Boeotian prince</div>	
Member of the Athamantian Royal House	
 <div>Phrixus and Helle</div>	
Abode	Athamantis in Boeotia later Colchis
Personal information	
Parents	Athamas and Nephele
Siblings	Helle , Learches , Melicertes , Schoeneus , Leucon , Ptous (half brothers)
Consort	Chalciop e
Offspring	Argus , Phrontis , Melas and Cytisorus

4. "Phrixus in Greek Mythology" (<https://www.greeklegendsandmyths.com/phrixus.html>). *Greek Legends and Myths*. Retrieved 2023-02-25.



Depiction of Phrixos flying on ram to Colchis on AE dichalkon struck in Halos, Phthiotis in 3rd century BC.

References

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- Palaephatus, *Incredibilia* 30