

PYRRHOS‘ BETEILIGUNG AN DER SCHLACHT BEI IPSOS: ÜBERLEGUNGEN ZUR KONZEPTION DES HELDENTUMS BEI PLUTARCH (*PYRRH.* 4, 4)

von

MIRON WOLNY

TITLE IN ENGLISH: Pyrrhus’ Involvement in the Battle of Ipsus (301 BC): Reflections on the Concept of Heroism in Plutarch (*Pyrrh.* 4, 4).

ABSTRACT: The author examines the significance of a piece of information given by Plutarch in his biography of Pyrrhus (*Pyrrh.* 4, 4) concerning his involvement in the battle of Ipsus (301 BC). Both the lexical analysis of the passage in question and an inquiry into its linguistic and historical contexts suggest that the description provided by Plutarch is in keeping with the propagandistic paradigm of representing rulers as heroes, based on the heroic standard. A comparison of Plutarch’s description with other sources discussing the course of the battle of Ipsus reveals that Plutarch underscores a major risk taken by Pyrrhus. It may be concluded that the mention of both the (putative) military and political gamble taken by the future ruler of Epirus is primarily intended to make the entire account more gripping. The piece of information highlights Pyrrhus’ determined stance and, at the same time, helps to create a heroic representation of Pyrrhus, one which evokes associations with Achilles. An emphasis on the behaviour of Pyrrhus during the battle also serves this purpose. When Pyrrhus’ image-building is considered in conjunction with the socio-political transformations in Epirus and its Hellenisation, it may be conjectured that references to the world of Homeric heroes are in fact rooted in the tradition of the Epirote kingdom. Also, the creation of the heroic image was one of common devices used to draw convincingly on Alexander and his deeds. All this served, ultimately, to bestow even more respect on Pyrrhus and to endorse the political goals he sought to achieve, which most probably extended well beyond the Balkan region of the Greek world.

EINLEITUNG

Pyrrhos‘ Beteiligung an der Schlacht bei Ipsos (301 v. Chr.) ist von Plutarch in der bezüglichen Biographie des Epiroten bezeugt (Plut. *Pyrrh.* 4, 4). Es hat seine Bedeutung, dass diese Stelle die einzige Quellenangabe ist, wo die genannte Beteiligung erwähnt worden ist. Nach Plutarch kämpften in der großen Schlacht alle hellenistischen Könige gegeneinander, um die Macht zu gewinnen. Pyrrhos nahm als ein noch Minderjähriger daran teil, indem er unter Demetrios kämpfte und sich glorreich unter den Kämpfern auszeichnete:

τῆς δὲ μεγάλης μάχης, ἦν ἐν Ἰψῳ πάντες οἱ βασιλεῖς ἠγωνίσαντο, παρῶν ὁ Πύρρος τοῖς περὶ Δημήτριον συμμετείχε μειράκιον ὦν ἔτι, καὶ τοὺς καθ’ ἑαυτὸν ἐτέψαντο καὶ διεράνη λαμπρὸς ἐν τοῖς μαχομένοις.