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THE SIXTH BOOK OF  
THE AENEID

WITH INTRODUCTION AND NOTES

BY

H. E. BUTLER, M.A.

PROFESSOR OF LATIN IN LONDON UNIVERSITY  
FORMERLY FELLOW OF NEW COLLEGE, OXFORD

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## PREFACE

OF the many debts which I, like all modern editors of Vergil, owe to the work of countless predecessors, those which I would specially desire to acknowledge are to the earliest and the latest of our commentators. Servius, even admitting his palpable deficiencies, has provided the foundation for all later work, and has received less than his due. Norden's elaborate and erudite edition of the Sixth Book has raised many new points and provided fresh illustrative matter. The fact that I find myself in strong disagreement with many of his conclusions, and that his methods too often appear to me radically unsound, scarcely lessens my obligation. There is one other commentator whom I should wish to mention as having a special claim upon the gratitude of all students of Vergil—namely, the Spaniard La Cerda, whose influence on subsequent commentaries has been profound. To the other great Vergilian scholars I would express my indebtedness comprehensively and in general terms. Of books not directly connected with Vergil I owe much to Dietrich's *Nekyia*, which is a model in point of form to all writers on such subjects; while, over and above the wider obligations under which Mr. Warde

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## Preface

Fowler has laid all students of Vergil and of Roman religion, I have received much kind help at his hands.

It is hoped that this edition may serve to throw fresh light on some of the many problems of the Sixth Aeneid, and that it may be found to contain a considerable amount of information not hitherto accessible in English editions. A formal commentary is, no doubt, a dry way of presenting one's views. But it is in many respects the most convenient form for practical use.

Mr. A. S. Owen, of Keble College, has been kind enough to read the proofs, and I owe much to his criticisms and the vigilance of his eye.

References to Norden indicate the first edition of his work. The second edition could not be obtained until after the completion of the present commentary.

H. E. BUTLER.

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE,  
LONDON.

*June, 1920.*

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# THE SIXTH BOOK OF THE AENEID

## INTRODUCTION

### § I. THE SIXTH BOOK OF THE AENEID.

THE Sixth Book of the Aeneid, together with the Second and Fourth Books, holds a special place in the affections of all lovers of Vergil. Some will prefer the sombre tragedy of Troy, others the pathos of Dido's passion and self-slaughter. But be his personal predilection what it may, for the reader who considers the Aeneid as a whole and regards it as something more than a mere literary epic, the Sixth Book must hold a unique place. It is the very heart of the poem viewed as the National Epic of Rome, the *Gesta populi Romani* as it was sometimes known in ancient times.<sup>1</sup> Hitherto the national element has only been shadowed forth, in a few vague prophecies and in the dying curse of Dido. The atmosphere thus far is Greek, and the poem no more than the greatest of Hellenistic epics, while its hero is almost as colourless as the Jason of the Argonautica of Apollonius. But with the Sixth Book comes a change. We are on the

<sup>1</sup> Serv. ad Aen. 6. 752.



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soil of Italy in a region familiar and very dear to Vergil's heart. He describes scenes that he has known and loved, and the verse begins to glow with a richness of descriptive colour that it has hitherto only revealed in glimpses. The Sibyl, the guide and instructress of the hero, is a figure closely linked with Roman history, and the position which her dark oracles and the worship of the god whom she serves are to hold at Rome are unconsciously foretold by Aeneas.<sup>1</sup> To enter the world of the dead he needs the talisman of the Golden Bough, which, though its significance and nature are obscure, may well reproduce a picturesque feature of Italian folklore.<sup>2</sup> But ere he can visit the shades of the dead he must be purified from the stain of death, for his comrade Misenus lies a corpse on the seashore. And thus is introduced the description of the familiar rites of funeral, no mere echo of the burials of Hector and Patroclus, but a Roman funeral such as a Roman mourner for his dead could scarce have read without tears.<sup>3</sup> The descent to the underworld takes us for a while into a purely Greek atmosphere. Heroes and heroines, ghosts and goblins, hell and purgatory, the grouping of the spirits, and the doctrine of rebirth, all are Greek.<sup>4</sup> That it should be so is inevitable. Roman beliefs as to the existence of the dead were too impersonal and colourless to permit of poetic treatment, and from the horrors of the Etruscan Hell Vergil rightly

<sup>1</sup> See notes on 69, 71.

<sup>3</sup> See notes on 212-232.

<sup>2</sup> See notes on 141, 204.

<sup>4</sup> See Introd., p. 21 ff.



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stood aloof. Minos<sup>1</sup> alone appears in Roman garb, as the *quaesitor* with the urn whose lot decides the order in which the dead shall appear before him, and, it may be, with a Roman jury of spirits to assist him. And in the list of crimes that doom to eternal pain there are echoes of the sheer simplicity of early Roman law and dark hints of more than one unnamed criminal of Roman history.<sup>2</sup> But when we reach Anchises, the whole spirit of the poem changes. It is not that we feel an atmosphere of greater beauty; for the book has been full of mystery, romance, and colour. Suddenly there dawns on us the vision of the grandeur of Rome, and a deeper note is sounded than Roman poet had sounded before or should sound again. One by one the spirits of the unborn pass before us, the heroes who are to make Rome the mistress of the world. The gallery of portraits is not complete: the canvas must not be overcrowded, and the gaps are to be supplemented later in the no less magnificent description of the Shield of Aeneas.<sup>3</sup> But from the mythical builders of Latium, through the warrior Romulus, the priestly King Numa, the founder of the Republic who sacrificed his own sons to the public weal, to the heroes of recorded history, Fabricius, great amid his poverty, Regulus at the plough, the conquerors of Greece, and those who broke the power of Carthage, Fabius who "by his delaying saved the State," and the Scipios, the

<sup>1</sup> See notes on 431-4 and p. 13.

<sup>2</sup> See notes on 612, 613 and 621, 622.

<sup>3</sup> 8. 626 to end.

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thunderbolts of battle, and finally the two great protagonists of the civil war, every verse is instinct with the Roman spirit, every name wakes an echo. If a slightly more artificial note is struck in the vision of Augustus, we must remember that the poet was on more difficult ground. It is hard to praise the living hero without exaggeration or artificiality, and the judgment of posterity may destroy the whole effect of the poet's art. And yet Augustus, perhaps the most unheroic of heroes and the least of the great men of history, has stood the test of time not ill. For if in sober truth he had little of the true hero, he was more than one of the most astute of statesmen. He had a great and unique work to do, and he knew not merely how to do that work and to restore the shattered fabric of the State by the most grandiose compromise of history, but he knew also how to play the rôle of the second founder of Rome. And that he was accepted as such we cannot doubt. A world sick for peace and order may have been uncritical in its judgment of the man who gave it what its soul desired. Horace and Vergil may have been the most dexterous of Court poets. But *securus iudicat orbis terrarum* is not an utter lie, and neither Horace nor Vergil was a fawning fool. Their flattery is inspired not merely by genius, but by sincerity as well. And if the modern reader cannot feel the thrill that Vergil's own age must have felt at the words *hic Caesar et omnis Iuli progenies*<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> 789.

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introducing the romantic pageant of the new Roman empire, even to-day there is no feeling of anticlimax, though the words follow on the superb picture of Rome of the seven hills, whose realm is conterminous with the bounds of earth, whose spirit with the sky's, a "fresh Cybele"<sup>1</sup> riding in pomp through all the cities of earth, with nations and kings nestling to her breast. It is at worst the apotheosis of Court poetry; but for most students of Roman history it is something more.

The vision draws to its apparent conclusion with the immortal comparison between Greece and Rome. The worldly greatness of Rome has been described; the poet seems to close on a note of moral grandeur.

*tu regere imperio populos, Romane, memento  
(hae tibi erunt artes) pacisque imponere morem,  
parcere subiectis et debellare superbos.*<sup>2</sup>

And there, perhaps, the vision was intended to close.<sup>3</sup> But the end is not yet. Marcellus, the victor of Clastidium and Nola, advances bearing the *spolia opima*, and with him moves a younger spirit overshadowed by the cloud of night, the young Marcellus, son of Octavia, the destined heir of Augustus, who died untimely, ere his promise could become reality, and left the throne of the Cæsars to fall into other and perhaps less worthy hands. Whether, as seems probable, this is a later addition to a book that was virtually com-

<sup>1</sup> 785.

<sup>2</sup> 851 *sqq.*

<sup>3</sup> See Sabbadini, *Aeneis IV., V., VI.*, Introd. xxiii, xxiv.



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plete, cannot be said with certainty. It comes as an unexpected addition (cp. *haec mirantibus addit*), but the addition is effected with consummate art. If the praise of Augustus rings artificial to the ears of some, who cannot render to Cæsar what they cannot conceive to be his due, here all forget that they are reading the utterance of a Court poet. For the pathos is intensely human, and the spirit of the boy who was born for the purple is still duly subordinated to his great ancestor who fulfilled in deeds what destiny did not suffer his descendant to perform.

From this point the book draws to a rapid close and with the magical exit through the gates of sleep Aeneas is once again in upper air, and proceeds without delay upon his appointed task, a man new-nerved for his great task, and, as the subsequent development of his character shows, a hero indeed.

So much for what is the predominant feature of the Sixth Aeneid, the feature which gives it special significance and power. But it is not with the Roman element that its greatness ends. Through almost every passage runs that haunting and romantic beauty of which Vergil was a supreme master. The mysterious priestess and seer, the gloomy woods of Avernus, through which the golden bough sends its unearthly shimmer, the dark cave and the solemn sacrifices on Avernus shore, the great invocation to the gods of the underworld and the spirits of the silent dead, all form a noble introduction to the mysterious journey underground,

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n the dim light as of faint moonbeams "when Jupiter has veiled the heaven with shadow and taken colour from the world."

If the lower world itself is confused for those who desire a region as carefully mapped out and organised as Dante's Inferno, there can be no doubt as to the effectiveness of each successive scene, nor of the grimness of the monsters and goblins that haunt the gates and portals of Hell. Mythology is never an encumbrance; the figures of legend are well chosen, and the poet is at his best in the brief descriptions which he gives of their pains or of their crimes. Above all, the meeting with Dido stands out for its dramatic power, and the figure of the Queen of Carthage standing with "sick and scornful looks averse" spurning the excuses offered by her faithless lover was never surpassed even by Vergil.

Until we reach Elysium there broods over the whole description of the dead an infinite melancholy. Suffering for sin there is, but that is dealt with but briefly. "Non ragionam di lor, ma guarda e passa." But the sadness of death is over all, whether Vergil writes of the ghosts, streaming like autumn leaves or migratory birds to the banks of Styx and stretching their hands in yearning for the further shore, or of the crying of dead children, or of the haters of the light, the slayers of themselves who would gladly live their life again, of the sad lovers in the Fields of Grief or of the dead warriors, old friends and old enemies, who press round the hero or fly before him as they fled in





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life. It is a blend of popular superstition and literary mythology coloured and influenced by Platonic or Orphic eschatology.<sup>1</sup> That there is at times a certain confusion and lack of clearness in the description of this twilight world may be admitted,<sup>2</sup> but there can be no question as to the picturesqueness, the romance and pathos which suffuses the whole.

When Elysium is reached, the poet's grasp of his theme tightens. After an exquisite description of the Elysian fields, full of its happy warriors, its stainless priests, the creators of civilisation and the masters of song, dancing to the music of Orpheus in a land of light, with its own sun and stars, the poet brings us to Anchises watching the spirits of the great unborn. In response to the enquiries of his son Anchises sets forth the doctrines of the fiery World-soul that permeates all creation and of the wheel of rebirth: how the earth-stained soul must be purified of its sins ere it can come to Elysium, and how thence, all, save a happy few, when they have rolled the wheel of a thousand years, return to live on earth anew. Here still the atmosphere is Greek, be the sources, to which we shall return, what they will. And Vergil rises to the height of his beautiful theme and for the first time gives a definite picture of the life after death, though even here there are difficulties and obscurities, which, in the opinion of some, still await solution. But of the nobility of the picture as a

<sup>1</sup> See Introd., p. 19 ff.

<sup>2</sup> See Introd., p. 12 ff.



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whole none have doubted. For pure poetry and exquisite diction it ranks with the very best of Vergil's work.

To ask "How far is it to be taken seriously?" may seem an irreverent question. But it is a real question as to whether Vergil is preaching a doctrine in which he believes or whether he regards it as *γενναίου ψεῦδος*. The question admits of no definite answer. It is suggested by Servius that he was an Epicurean,<sup>1</sup> and for that we may compare his panegyric of Lucretius in the Georgics.<sup>2</sup> We are told too that he intended on the completion of the Aeneid to devote himself to philosophy.<sup>3</sup> But of his leanings we have no real indication. The teaching of Pythagoras and the Mysteries could not but appeal to him as a poet, and for one who designed to give anything more than a purely mythological description of the underworld, the doctrine of metempsychosis imposed itself as a necessity. And for the poet who, like Vergil, designed to reveal the future in a vision of the unborn heroes of Rome, its adoption became doubly imperative. It is a subject on which it were ill to dogmatise. But the primary purpose of Vergil's Pythagoreanism may well have been artistic rather than religious. That the theologian in Vergil is sunk in the artist there can be little doubt; and it is even possible that his artistic design is the *raison d'être* pure and simple of his eschatology. To some

<sup>1</sup> Serv. ad Aen. 6. 264. Ecl. 6. 13.

<sup>2</sup> 2. 490.

<sup>3</sup> Sueton., *Vit. Verg.* 35.

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this may seem little short of blasphemy. But it is a possibility which ought not to be ignored.

It is late in the day to belaud the Sixth Aeneid. Its beauties are familiar, its praise a commonplace. But it is not faultless. The conception of the underworld is not clear. A certain vagueness in the treatment of such a theme has no doubt some romantic advantages; and that in the present case Vergil maintains a consistent level of romantic beauty is not to be denied. With minor blemishes and inconsistencies we need not concern ourselves here. All great works of fiction are liable to such, even when, unlike the Aeneid, they have received the final revision of their authors. But there are certain questions of a more serious nature which inevitably present themselves and require some mention here, although they are discussed in greater detail in the commentary. In the earlier portion of the book there is nothing that calls for serious criticism. There are, it is true, certain indications that the episode of the death and burial of Misenus did not form part of the original draft of the poem, but it has been so skilfully inserted that there can be no certainty on this point.<sup>1</sup> Again, the prophecy of the Sibyl is of a perfunctory nature, telling Aeneas but little that he does not already know, and in any case failing entirely to correspond with the prediction of Helenus that the Sibyl will tell him all that shall befall him in Italy.<sup>2</sup> This is

<sup>1</sup> See note on l. 149, Sabbadini, *Aeneis IV., V., VI.*, p. xvii.

<sup>2</sup> 3. 440-462; 6. 83-97, 890-2; *Introd.*, § 3.

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partly to be explained by the fact that the function assigned by Helenus to the Sibyl is actually performed by Anchises, and partly by the fact that a certain vagueness and obscurity is a regular characteristic of ancient oracles, while, further, there is some evidence that the prophecy in its present form is incomplete. But there can be no doubt that the figure of the Sibyl occupies a far less important place in the picture than was designed by Vergil when he wrote the Third Book.

It is, however, when we reach the underworld that the real difficulties begin. The first problem presents itself immediately after the passage of the Styx. What is the position of the spirits who dwell on the further shore, but have no part either in the pains of Tartarus or the joys of Elysium? The souls of young children, of men unjustly condemned to death, of suicides, of hapless lovers and warriors fallen in battle, all dwell in a kind of Limbo, of whose nature and purpose Vergil gives no hint. Recent research has thrown some light upon the matter. Norden<sup>1</sup> proves conclusively that this grouping of spirits was traditional, that the principle underlying this grouping is that all are the souls of those who died untimely, and that there are traces of an eschatological doctrine that such spirits were condemned to wander aimlessly until the term of their natural life was fulfilled. On the other hand, he has failed to provide a key to the

• <sup>1</sup> Norden, *VI. Aeneis*, Introd., pp. 10 *sqq.* See 426-547, Introductory Note.





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as to the reason for their appearance at this point of his story. That there must have been some reason for this grouping is obvious, that the explanation given by Norden is true is highly probable, and that Vergil was aware merely of the traditional location of these spirits, but unaware of the reason, is extremely unlikely. The deep pathos of the lines in which he describes their fate does not excuse or explain away the blemish. The introduction of the spirits of those who died for love or fell in war has obvious advantages of which Vergil makes noble use in the scenes where Aeneas meets Dido and his old friends and comrades of Troy. But that is no reason why we should be left in darkness as to the reason of his meeting them where he does. Nor yet again can the difficulty be met by the plea that he omitted to explain, because he was speaking to those that understood. Roman familiarity with Greek eschatology was not such as to justify the omission to provide a key to the mystery.

So, too, we are perplexed by the introduction of Minos as judging in this mysterious Limbo.<sup>1</sup> There is no question of punishment or reward: the functions of the judge seem to be confined merely to the allotment of a dwelling-place to the souls that come before him. The judgment of the great sinners is left to Rhadamanthus.<sup>2</sup> It will, it is true, involve no inconsistency, if we suppose that Minos merely allots a dwelling-place, while Rhada-

<sup>1</sup> 431 sqq.

<sup>2</sup> 566.

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manthus assigns punishment for sin. But why is the description of the court of Minos embedded between two groups of those who died untimely? It is no doubt suggested by the mention of those who were unjustly condemned on earth, upon which it follows immediately. The judge of the dead may be conceived as rectifying the miscarriage of justice in the world above. But we should expect Minos to appear as the judge of all the dead, and not to be associated merely with the spirits of those who dwell in Limbo. Plead as we may, the whole situation is left obscure by the position of the passage, the lack of explanation, and the unsystematic development of the subject. We are once more driven to the theory that the passage as it stands is in the rough. It may even be doubted whether the lines dealing with Minos are in the actual position which the poet designed them ultimately to occupy. But no remedy is possible. The mischief was done by Vergil's own untimely death, and there is no reason to suppose that any blame attaches to his editors, Varius and Tucca.

Nor is this the only sign of such lack of completion. It is hard to believe that Vergil's description of the sinners in Tartarus has come down to us in what he intended to be its final form. The passage begins with a description of some of the more striking examples of punishment for great sin.<sup>1</sup> In this portion the only indication of lack of completion is the attribution to Ixion and

<sup>1</sup> 580.



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Pirithous of punishments quite other than those usually assigned to them, though familiar in connexion with other sinners.<sup>1</sup> That this is due to textual corruption is highly improbable, while it is not likely, in view of Vergil's treatment of Ixion in the fourth Georgic, in a passage written in all probability at no very distant date from the present,<sup>2</sup> that he had in his mind other versions of the legend. The most probable explanation is that a line referring to Tantalus and others should have preceded the description of the penalty, but that the poet had not written the required line or lines in a form that satisfied him at the time of his death. This is, however, a less serious problem than that which follows hard upon its heels. The Sibyl proceeds to mention certain classes of criminal without any reference to mythology, those that in life hated their brethren or struck their parents, played their clients false or brooded miser-like over their gold and gave no share to their kin, adulterers slain for their sin, and those that waged impious warfare or armed slaves against their masters.<sup>3</sup> Then comes a short list of typical penalties,<sup>4</sup> which is followed once again by a short list of typical criminals—traitors who enslaved their country, corrupt politicians, and those guilty of incest.<sup>5</sup> Now, although there was no need for Vergil to give an exhaustive list of crimes or punishments for crime, the order seems confused and the

<sup>1</sup> 601-607.

<sup>2</sup> See 305 note.

<sup>3</sup> 608-614.

<sup>4</sup> 615-620.

<sup>5</sup> 621-624.

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selection of crimes somewhat casual. The text as it stands before us, is exactly what we should expect to arise if the poet had written different portions of the passage at different times<sup>1</sup> with a view to welding them into a compact and artistic whole. Death prevented this, and his editors did their best to give the passage a form as little unsatisfactory as possible. They did their work with skill and discretion, but there is still a lack of organisation and unity about the passage as it stands.

The remainder of the book stands on a different footing. With the exception of the fact that the vision of Cæsar of Pompey is unfinished, as the half-line, *proice tela manu, sanguis meus*,<sup>2</sup> shows, and not to speak of the fact that a little greater elaboration of so important a theme might seem to be desirable, there is nothing to lead us to suppose that we have not Vergil's last word. Difficulties there are, but none of them insuperable. We can form no clear idea as to what Vergil means by the "fields of air,"<sup>3</sup> as a description of Elysium, and the exact significance of the hero's exit by the dream-gate of ivory<sup>4</sup> has long been a problem to Vergilian critics. Both may be relics of some earlier design to represent the vision of the world of spirits in the form of a dream, and the spirits of the blest may in that scheme have been represented, like the heroes of the *Somnium Scipionis*, as dwelling in the highest heavens. But that must

<sup>1</sup> See *Introd.*, § 3, A.

<sup>2</sup> 835.

<sup>3</sup> 887.

<sup>4</sup> 893 *sqq.*

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be a matter for conjecture and, whatever explanation we adopt, we can scarcely regard the presence of these passages as indicating lack of completion. So, too, the exquisite Marcellus episode reveals certain indications of being a later addition, but its insertion has been accomplished with such skill that the voice of criticism must be silent. More serious is the well-known difficulty presented by the poet's account of the doctrine of metempsychosis. But here Norden<sup>1</sup> has provided a reasonable solution of the difficulty. The great bulk of the spirits of Elysium return to earth after they "have rolled the wheel of a *thousand* years." The "few who abide in the happy fields" are those who for their virtue are spared the travail of rebirth: they dwell in bliss, each year removing the stains of earth until the "orb of time" is complete, and after the passage of *ten thousand* years are restored to the pure ethereal being that once was theirs, before they taught themselves to

fashion aught

But a pure celestial thought.

Of the ultimate destiny of the happy spirit, become "all fire, all air," Vergil says nothing, whether it remains in perfection of bliss in the paradise where it now dwells, or is caught up into the empyrean and reabsorbed into the divine fire.<sup>2</sup> It was not necessary that he should say more: he is poet, not mystagogue, and his main design is to write the

<sup>1</sup> Norden, pp. 16 *sqq.* See 733-751, Introductory Note.

<sup>2</sup> But cp. Georg. 4, 223.



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Epic of the Roman people. Such vagueness and obscurity as there is in his exposition of the doctrine of rebirth is not of so serious a nature that it need trouble us, and if it be urged that an exact parallel for Norden's interpretation is not forthcoming, it is sufficiently near the Pythagorean doctrines as set forth by Plato and the later syncretistic school of Stoics to make but small demand upon our faith. It is always possible that the poet's final revision would have produced a clearer picture. But there is no need to postulate the necessity of such revision. For whatever view we take of Vergil's Nekyia, on one point all critics will be agreed, that there is but one other vision to be compared with it, the *Divina Commedia* of Dante, who, while following other methods and aiming at an accuracy of detail, topographical and otherwise, such as his predecessor never contemplated, paid the Sixth Aeneid the noblest of all tributes by choosing Vergil for his guide through the circles of the Inferno. Whatever its blemishes and obscurities, real or imaginary, the Sixth Aeneid is unique, and even although criticism may be a labour of love and a tribute of admiration, the critic cannot escape the feeling that he does it wrong, "being so majestic," by subjecting it to such analysis.

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## § 2.—THE SOURCES OF VERGIL'S ESCHATOLOGY.

The study of the sources of Vergil's eschatology is an unsatisfying pursuit, unless the searcher be content with the engrossing occupation of making bricks without straw. It is, of course, possible to trace the history and development of Greek eschatology with some degree of profit, as Dieterich's fascinating *Nekyia* has shown. But such investigations throw but little light on the precise sources to which Vergil went for his inspiration. And it is cold comfort to be told of certain works on which he may have drawn, when those works are lost, the exact nature of their contents unknown, and possibly even their very existence problematic. Our investigation must therefore be restricted in its nature and unsatisfying in its results.

Two outstanding facts are, it is true, obvious. In the first place, the introduction of a *Nekyia* into the *Aeneid* is clearly suggested by the Eleventh Book of the *Odyssey*, while the place selected for the visit of Aeneid to the underworld is one that was not infrequently identified with Homer's land of the Cimmerians.<sup>1</sup> Secondly, Vergil has been largely influenced by the teaching of the Pythagoreans and the Orphic mysteries as regards his doctrine of rebirth and the allotment of reward and punishment to the righteous and the sinner. Again, there is yet a third element of popular superstition and folklore.

<sup>1</sup> See note on 237.





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and there is no trace of his functions as the awarder of eternal doom. At the close of the book there is a description of some of the more notorious criminals of mythology.<sup>1</sup> But even this acknowledged interpolation provides no real parallel to the Vergilian Tartarus. And Tartarus<sup>2</sup> itself, although it is described by Homer as a bottomless pit, in language which has been closely imitated by Vergil, is not a hell for the general punishment of crime, but merely the prison-house of the earth-born Titans, while the Erinyes<sup>3</sup> are the avengers of sin on earth rather than in Hell. The Elysian fields are, it is true, already in existence, but they lie far apart at the world's end, and the qualification for admission is divine descent or the possession of a wife thus qualified.<sup>4</sup> And it is in this paradise that the yellow-haired Rhadamanthus is to be found, for he has not yet acquired his position as co-judge with his brother Minos. Homer, therefore, will help us little in our search.

At what date the belief in an organised spirit-world, where virtue was rewarded and sin chastened, may have originated is uncertain. But by the sixth century B.C. we begin to find traces of the mystical doctrines of Orphism, parallel to which runs the teaching of the Pythagorean philosophy.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Od. II. 576 *sqq.*

<sup>2</sup> Il. 8. 13, 481, and 14. 279.

<sup>3</sup> Il. 9. 453, 569; 15. 204. Od. 17. 475; 20. 78.

<sup>4</sup> Od. 4. 563.

<sup>5</sup> See especially Maass, *Orpheus*, Munich, 1895; Dieterich, *Nekyia*, Leipzig, 1893; J. Harrison, *Prolegomena to Greek Religion*; Abel, *Orphica*, Leipzig, 1885.

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Indeed, the two streams are so intermingled that no attempt will be made to distinguish between them. The main features of the new doctrine are the belief in purgatory, hell, paradise, metempsychosis and rebirth, while the origin of the new eschatology, which, however, never cuts itself entirely adrift from the traditional mythology, lies in the consciousness of the vagueness and inadequacy of popular belief and in the desire to create a new world which will redress the balance of this. The Orphics, therefore, postulate an immortality that shall right the evils of this life in another region, where good may triumph over evil and purity of motive and action come to their own. Neither Orphism nor Pythagoreanism involved a breach with the past. Whatever may have been the origin of the doctrines of transmigration and rebirth, in all else at any rate they developed and moralised the unsystematic popular beliefs regarding the other world. And whatever Vergil's debt may be to Orphism, he is no hierophant of its mysteries. That is to say, eternal bliss lies within the reach of virtue without the necessity of initiation or of the observance of other rites than those of the State religion or of other rules than those of righteousness. Orpheus himself,<sup>1</sup> though he has a place in the underworld, is the immortal singer living in eternal happiness and making music to the dead with barely a hint of his position as the divine founder of a new creed.

<sup>1</sup> 645.



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With the details of Orphic-Pythagorean belief we are concerned only in so far as they are reproduced by Vergil. And for those elements which he does so reproduce we shall have to rely, not on the fragmentary Orphic literature, most of which is of late date, nor yet again on the all too scanty relics of the teaching of Pythagoras, but in the main on the myths of Plato and a few exquisite lines in Pindar. The great fresco representing Odysseus' visit to Hades, which Polygnotus painted on the walls of the Lesche at Delphi, throws but little light on the subject.<sup>1</sup> It represented a number of the more famous figures of legend as dwellers of the underworld. But there is no evidence of an organised underworld and no indication of the ultimate fate of the dead. It differs from the Homeric account in a number of points: Charon appears ferrying souls across the river, there are scenes of punishment for sins, and the fact that some of the sufferers are labelled "Uninitiate" reveals the influence of the mysteries. When, however, we turn to Pindar, we find in the passages referring to the spirit-world an atmosphere that recalls that of the Sixth Aeneid, even though it may differ in detail. The virtuous man, he tells us,<sup>2</sup> "knoweth that immediately after death, on earth, it is the lawless spirits that suffer punishment, and the sins committed in this realm of Zeus are judged by One who passeth sentence stern

<sup>1</sup> Paus. 10. 28, Robert's *Polygnot.* Halle, 1892, 1893.

<sup>2</sup> Olymp. 2. 58 (tr. by Sandys).

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and inevitable; while the good, having the sun shining for evermore, for equal nights and equal days, receive the boon of a life of lightened toil, not vexing the soil with the strength of their hands, no, nor the water of the sea to gain a scanty livelihood; but in presence of the honoured gods, all who were wont to rejoice in keeping their oaths share a life that knoweth no tears, while the others endure labour that none can look upon. But whosoever, while dwelling in either world, have thrice been courageous in keeping their souls pure from all deeds of wrong pass by the highway of Zeus into the tower of Cronus, where the ocean-breezes blow around the Islands of the Blest, and flowers of gold are blazing, some on the shore from radiant trees, while others the water fostereth; and with chaplets thereof they entwine their hands, and with crowns, according to the righteous councils of Rhadamanthus, who shareth for evermore the judgment-seat of the mighty Father.” Again, there is the no less famous description of Elysium, a fragment fortunately preserved to us by Plutarch:<sup>1</sup> “For them the sun shineth in his strength in the world below, while here ’tis night; and in meadows red with roses, the space before their city is shaded by the incense tree and is laden with golden fruits. . . . Some of them delight themselves with horses and with wrestling; others with draughts and with lyres; while beside them bloometh the fair flower of perfect bliss. And o’er that lovely land frag-

<sup>1</sup> Fr. 129 and 130 Bergk, *Plut Consol. ad Apollon.* 35., p. 120.



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rance is ever shed, while they mingle all manner of incense with the far-shining fire on the altars of the gods. From the other side sluggish streams of darksome night belch forth a boundless gloom." Finally, in another fragment, preserved to us by Plato,<sup>1</sup> he tells us that "As for those from whom Persephone shall exact the penalty of their pristine woe, in the ninth year she once more restoreth their souls to the upper sunlight; and from these come into being august monarchs, and men who are swift in strength and supreme in wisdom; and for all future time, men call them sainted heroes." From these passages we may gather that Pindar's creed<sup>2</sup> was that after death the soul passed before a judge in Hades. If accounted blameless in its past life, it is admitted to the Elysium in the underworld which is described in the second quotation. It does not, however, dwell there eternally, but must return to earth and live yet twice again, as we are told in the first passage. At length, however, it is delivered from "its pristine woe," and returns to earth to dwell in the body of a hero or a sage, after which, free from the wheel of birth, it passes to the Islands of the Blest. That here the influence of the mysteries may be traced is clear from other fragments in which he speaks of "those who by happy fortune culled the fruit of the rite that releases from toil," or proclaims that "blessed

<sup>1</sup> Fr. 133 Bergk, *Plato, Meno*, 81 B.

<sup>2</sup> See Rohde, *Psyche*, p. 499 sqq (*Psyche*, ii. 204-222, 2nd ed., 1898).

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is he who hath seen these things before he goeth under the earth: for he understandeth the end of mortal life and the beginning (of a new life) given of God." Here, then, we have a great poet who 500 years before Vergil sings of the life to come in not dissimilar tone.

Fuller and more striking are the famous myths of Plato. In the Phædo,<sup>1</sup> after an extremely elaborate account of the four rivers of the underworld (throwing no light, however, on the four rivers of Vergil), we are told that the spirits of the dead are conveyed each by his own "dæmon" to Hades and there sentenced. Those who lived without praise or blame are conveyed to Acheron, where they are purified, punished for their evil deeds, and rewarded for their virtues. Incurable crimes are punished eternally in Tartarus, while great sinners who have repented of their sins are released from Tartarus after a year, and then carried about by the streams of Hell, until they are pardoned by those whom they had wronged. The good go to a celestial place, while those who have been purified by philosophy rise to a yet higher region of eternal joy.

In the Phædrus<sup>2</sup> the essential features of the myth are that souls on rebirth pass into different classes of men according to the glimpses of the vision of truth that they have been vouchsafed in life, each life being a state of probation. Ten thousand years elapse before the soul can return to

<sup>1</sup> III sqq.

<sup>2</sup> 248 sqq.



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the place whence it came. Only the soul of the philosopher or the true lover may acquire wings in the third recurring period of one thousand years, and if they choose this life thrice in succession may find release from the cycle of birth at the close of three thousand years. Others receive judgment after their first life and go either to the house of correction under earth or to some place in heaven. At the end of the first thousand years good souls and evil cast lots and choose their second life, those who have never even had a glimpse of the truth passing into beasts.

The Gorgias<sup>1</sup> gives what is perhaps a simpler and more primitive picture. After death the souls pass before three judges, Rhadamanthus, Æacus, and Minos. Rhadamanthus judges Asia and Æacus Europe, while Minos presides over the court of appeal. Sin leaves its scars upon the soul, and the judge immediately detects these signs and estimates the guilt of those who stand before him. Sinners are once again divided into curable and incurable. Both alike are despatched, duly labelled, to Tartarus, while the good are conveyed to the Islands of the Blest. But there is yet another passage in the Gorgias<sup>2</sup> which is not irrelevant to our present enquiry, in which Socrates refers to the line of Euripides, "Life may be death, and death be life. Who knows?" and proceeds to say that he has heard a wise man allege that in this life we are dead, that the body is a tomb, and that the part of the

<sup>1</sup> 524.

<sup>2</sup> 493.





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years. Virtue is rewarded in the same proportion. The fate of infants dying soon after birth is dismissed as scarce worth mention. Parricides and other murderers are punished in an abyss from which there is no issuing forth. The choice of the new life that each soul shall lead lies with the souls themselves. *αἰτία ἐλομένου· θεὸς ἀναίτιος*, although the order in which they chose is determined by lot. The choice made by each soul is governed largely by their previous existence. The life of a beast may be chosen no less than that of a man, while the choice once made is rendered final and irreversible by Atropos. The souls then pass onward from the place of choice to the Plains of Forgetfulness, where they drink of the river Unmindful, after which they return to earth.

There is also a passage<sup>1</sup> in the same work in which Socrates speaks in no complimentary terms of the Orpheotelestæ, a set of priests, who in the name of Orpheus, Musæus, and Eumolpus, preach that the reward of virtue is a life of everlasting sensual pleasure in the next world, while the wicked are buried in a slough in Hades and punished in a variety of ways. In this passage Plato is clearly alluding to the baser and grosser side of the doctrines of which he himself makes free use in the tenth book.

In addition to these we may mention the description of the underworld with which the pseudo-Platonic Axiochus<sup>2</sup> concludes. The abode of the

<sup>1</sup> 363.

<sup>2</sup> p. 371.

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spirits of the dead is shut in by the gates of Pluto, which are closed by iron bolts and bars. On passing these the rivers of Acheron and Cocytus are reached, which must be crossed by the spirits, before they can reach the plain of Truth where they are judged by Minos and Rhadamanthus. The virtuous go to a Paradise enjoying eternal summer, full of clear streams and flowery meadows. There dwell philosophers and poets; the meadow is full of dancing and song, of feasting and happiness made perfect. There is neither wintry cold nor scorching heat, but clear air and temperate sunlight. Special honour is paid to the initiated. The wicked are carried by the Erinyes into Tartarus and there tormented for their sins in every way. The authority cited by Socrates for these statements is that of Gobryas the mage.

These passages from Pindar and Plato, although they present much variety, are all more or less inspired by Orphic and Pythagorean doctrine. Of that much we may be sure. But when we try to get behind the evidence of Pindar and Plato to the original fountain-head, the path is lost. The Orphic literature which has come down to us is for the most part late and fragmentary,<sup>1</sup> while the evidence for the doctrines of the Pythagoreans is most meagre. Both creeds were to some extent the property of secret societies, a fact which may account for the unsatisfactory condition of our knowledge concerning them.

<sup>1</sup> See Maass, *Orpheus*, ch. 3; Abel, *Orphica*.



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It will be seen that Vergil's eschatology is in its essentials contained in the passages already cited. There are, it is true, no references to the mysteries in Vergil or to the possibility of the soul passing into the bodies of beasts. The mention of either would have been alien to his purpose. Vergil again makes immediate release from the wheel of birth possible at once for the most perfect, the "few who hold the happy fields," whereas Plato in the *Phædrus* will only release them after three births—*i.e.*, a period of three thousand years. None the less Vergil might easily have produced the greater and the most important portion of his eschatological doctrine<sup>1</sup> from the passages already quoted. No greater *remaniement* would have been required than that which Plato must have given to the material from which he constructed his myths.

But there are other elements as well. There is, in the first place, the grouping of the souls of those who died untimely. If Norden's explanation be true—namely, that these spirits remained in Limbo until they had fulfilled the term of what should have been their natural life—it is not improbable that here too we have an Orphic element, since Tertullian,<sup>2</sup> who is the authority for this view, attributes the doctrine to "magic," a term which he may well have applied to the teaching of Orphism.

There is also the doctrine of the *anima mundi*,

<sup>1</sup> The reference to the "wheel" of time is, however, definitely Orphic; see note on 748.

<sup>2</sup> See note on 426-547; Tertullian *de an.* 56.

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the all-pervading world-soul, a well-known tenet of Stoicism, with which Vergil must have been familiar from Varro, while there is also the probability that it had been linked up with non-Stoic eschatological doctrines by eclectics such as Posidonius.<sup>1</sup>

Further, there are numerous elements of popular belief, many of which no doubt were taken over by Orphism. There are, in the first place, the personified abstractions that haunt the gates of the underworld; for most of these we have evidence as old as Hesiod,<sup>2</sup> though it is impossible to say whether the employment made of them by Vergil is original or borrowed from some lost literary source. Immediately beyond them are the monsters,<sup>3</sup> who are the actual guardians of the gate. For the existence of such monsters in Hades we have ample evidence in Aristophanes and elsewhere.<sup>4</sup> But here again the function given them by Vergil has no parallel and may be original. Cerberus, as we have seen, is as old as Homer, Charon, though non-Homeric, dates from high antiquity,<sup>5</sup> and the Furies are familiar as spirits of the underworld in post-Homeric literature.<sup>6</sup> The legendary figures who are mentioned as dwelling in the various regions of the underworld present no serious difficulty. There are many possible sources from which they may have been selected. On the other hand, the Tree

<sup>1</sup> For Varro see Aug. C. D. 7. 6.

<sup>2</sup> See note on 274.

<sup>3</sup> See note on 285-9.

<sup>4</sup> See Dieterich, *Nekyia*, p. 46 sqq.

<sup>5</sup> See note on 298.

<sup>6</sup> See Dieterich, *Nekyia*, p. 54 sqq.



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of Dreams<sup>1</sup> and the Golden Bough<sup>2</sup> remain mysteries for us, as they were for Servius.

But all these facts, such as they are, bring us but little nearer to the answer to the main question before us. They give us, it is true, in a general sense the sources of his eschatology, but we have no means of judging his immediate sources. There is nothing to show that his picture is not the result of brilliant eclecticism applied to Greek literature of all ages. The task would not have been difficult for one of his learning and his genius. But it obviously cannot be claimed that his doctrine of rebirth is a free reconstruction of the myths of Plato, nor even that he has been directly influenced by Plato, though there is nothing intrinsically improbable in such a theory. It is obvious that he may have owed much to the teaching of eclectic philosophers such as Posidonius,<sup>3</sup> and that the no

<sup>1</sup> See note on 282-4.

<sup>2</sup> See note on 136.

<sup>3</sup> Norden has attempted in his edition of the Sixth Aeneid to bring the eschatology into connexion with the great but shadowy figure of Posidonius. But the arguments which he adduces do not bring the two authors appreciably nearer to one another, and the evidence on which he relies is of the most unsatisfactory character. Certain of his arguments suffer further from the fact that he accepts in varying degree the esoteric interpretation given of several passages by Servius to the effect that the spirit-world is in the heavens and not underground. In view of the fact that Vergil makes his hero go underground to reach it and gives no hint of his being elsewhere, such an assumption is, to say the least, gratuitous, though it is conceivable that the phrase *aeris in campis* (888) may be a survival of a once entertained but subsequently abandoned design, representing the spirit-world as being in the air, on the analogy of the *Somnium*

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less eclectic Varro and the Pythagorean Nigidius Figulus may have contributed much to his conceptions. Again, the loss of practically all the Orphic literature existing in his day prevents us from ascertaining the amount and directness of his debt to Orphism. It is conceivable that his *Nekyia* may, as Dieterich<sup>1</sup> holds, be a free handling of some Orphic-Pythagorean poem on the underworld. It is even probable that he drew upon lost Greek *καταβάσεις*, such as the "*Ὀρφέως καταβάσις*,"<sup>2</sup> to which we find a few references in Servius. But the fact that no ancient critic, despite the interest taken by malevolent men of letters in discovering "Vergil's thefts,"<sup>3</sup> has suggested that his *Nekyia* or his doctrine of rebirth is derived from any special sources points strongly to the widest eclecticism.

If the sources on which Vergil drew for his

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Scipionis. The suggestion of Servius that the *novies Styx interfusa* (439) refers to the nine heavenly spheres may be ruled out on the same grounds. Further, with regard to any attempt to connect Vergil and Posidonius, the extreme exiguity of our knowledge of the teaching of Posidonius must be borne in mind. Our knowledge of his views is by no means so great as is sometimes supposed. See Dobson, "The Posidonius Myth," *Classical Quarterly*, 1918, p. 179.

<sup>1</sup> Dieterich, *Nekyia*, p. 158, where, however, the case is stated with far greater assurance than is warranted by the evidence.

<sup>2</sup> See Abel, *Orphica*, 153 *sqq.* But in view of the fact that the only references in Servius are to be found in his notes on 565 and 392, it is not improbable that Vergil's debt was but small. For Greek *Nekyia* see Ettig, *Acheruntica*, Leipz. Stud. Norden's arguments to show that Vergil must have used a Descent of Hercules and a Descent of Orpheus (see his *Introd.*, p. 5) are not convincing, though there is nothing improbable in the hypothesis.

<sup>3</sup> Cp. Sueton., *Vit. Verg.* 61 *sqq.*



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eschatology are uncertain, there is at any rate one great work which was almost undoubtedly a direct inspiration. The de Republica of Cicero, despite its fragmentary condition, breathes the same national spirit as the Sixth Aeneid, and presents some striking analogies. For although it is primarily inspired in its broad outlines by the Republic of Plato, it has many original features of its own. It is written by a statesman and not by a philosopher, by a man of affairs, and not by a visionary, while the problems discussed are based as a whole on the history and political needs of the Roman State. And in the Second and Sixth Books it presents features which may well have inspired Vergil with his conception of the vision of the greatness of Rome, which forms the heart of the Sixth Aeneid. For not only is the de Republica a superb panegyric of the Roman State and the race that made it, but, like the Sixth Aeneid, it contains a review of the makers of Rome, and concludes with a vision, revealed in a dream to Scipio Africanus the Younger, shortly before his death, of the paradise allotted to the spirits of those who have loved and served their country well. It is true that this vision cannot be regarded as a source of Vergil's eschatology, since the conception of the after-life of the righteous is essentially different. But it may well have suggested to Vergil the national treatment that he should give his theme. And it is noteworthy that in both cases it is the father of the hero who expounds the mysteries of the other world, although





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*moraretur, quaedam imperfecta transmisit, alia leuissimis uerbis ueluti fulsit, quae per iocum pro tibicinibus interponi aiebat ad sustinendum opus, donec solidae columnae aduenirent.*

(B) *Ib.*, 47: *cui (sc. Augusto) tamen multo post perfectaue demum materia tres omnino libros recitauit, secundum quartum et sextum, sed hunc notabili Octauiae adfectione, quae cum recitationi interesset, ad illos de filio suo uersus (6. 884) 'tu Marcellus eris' defecisse fertur atque aegre fociata est. (So, too, Seru. ad 4. 323 with the variant *primum* for *secundum*.)* This recitation took place after the death of Marcellus in 23 B.C.

(C) *Seruius, praef., p. 4, 17 Th.: quidam superflue dicunt secundum primum esse, tertium secundum et primum tertium, ideo quia primum Ilium concidit, post errauit Aeneas, inde ad Didonis regna peruenit, nescientes hanc esse artem poeticam.*

(D) *Suet. Vit. 59: edidit autem auctore Augusto Varius, sed summam emendata, ut qui uersus etiam imperfectos sicut erant reliquerit; quos multi mox supplere conati non perinde ualuerunt ob difficultatem, quod omnia fere apud eum hemistichia absoluto perfectoque sunt sensu praeter illud (3. 340) 'quem tibi iam Troia.' Nisus grammaticus audisse se a senioribus aiebat, Varium duorum librorum ordinem commutasse, et qui nunc secundus sit in tertium locum transtulisse.<sup>1</sup> Cp. also Seruius,*

<sup>1</sup> This passage is obviously corrupt, as it implies that the recension of Varius was not accepted. Either *tunc . . . esset* (Hagen) must be read for *nunc . . . sit*, or we must add *in primum, tertium in secundum et primum* (Reifferscheid) after *sit*.

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præf., p. 2. 12. Th.: *Augustus uero, ne tantum opus periret, Tuccam et Varium hac lege iussit emendare ut superflua demerent, nihil adderent tamen.*

This evidence taken by itself does not tell us very much.

(A) The first citation warns us to be on our guard against attaching too much importance to inconsistencies and contradictions, and against rashly asserting that any one book was completed before any other.

(B) The second merely shows that II., IV., and VI. were the first to reach that state of perfection which Vergil considered necessary to justify recitation to the Imperial Court. It also gives us an indication of date, as the recitation took place after 23 B.C.

(C) The third by itself carries little weight, but may well be a distortion of something that actually occurred.

(D) The fourth lends some vague support to the third, and lays further emphasis on the unfinished condition of the poem.

As regards internal evidence we tread on very insecure ground. Minor inconsistencies are numerous: but such inconsistencies are not infrequent in most writers of fiction in spite of the advantages conferred on them by the invention of printing and proof-reading. Further, the poem was unrevised and the method adopted by Vergil in its composition (see A) was bound to lead to blemishes of this kind and to make the task of revision



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unusually severe. If any inference is to be drawn from such inconsistencies, they must be of a serious kind, such as can scarcely be attributed to carelessness pure and simple.

Now there are certain discrepancies which to a greater or less degree come under this heading; and it is to these that this enquiry will be confined.

(a) In I. 755 and V. 626 the Trojans are spoken of as being in their *septima aestas* of wandering—

(i) Although a year has elapsed since the death of Anchises (V. 46), immediately after which they had proceeded to Carthage, and though

(ii) The wanderings as described in III. bring them to Carthage in their *third* year of wandering, and

(iii) Aeneas' sojourn at Carthage extends to the winter (IV. 51), and his departure, according to Dido, is also in the winter (IV. 309).

(b) In VI. Palinurus is spoken of as having been lost *Libyco cursu* (338), whereas, according to V. 827 *sqq.*, he was lost on the way to Italy from Sicily.

(c) In V. Acestes greets the Trojans, as though he had never seen them before (35), whereas they had already visited Drepanum a year previously and had performed the funeral rites of Anchises there (III. 707).

(d) The prophecy of Helenus (III. 458) states that *tibi Italiae populos uenturaque bella, | et quo quemque modo fugiasque ferasque laborem, | expēdict cursusque dabit uenerata sacerdos* (i.e., the Sibyl). But in VI.

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the Sibyl's prophecy is as obscure as most oracles (83 *sqq.*) and, though it may give Aeneas hope, certainly does not give him enlightenment. It is the spirit of Anchises that does what Helenus had foretold that the Sibyl should do (VI. 891) *exin bella viro memorat quae deinde gerenda | Laurentesque docet populos urbemque Latini, | et quo quemque modo fugiatque feratque laborem.* Cp. also V. 724 *sqq.*, where the methods actually followed for the revelation of the future in VI. are for the first time announced.

The above may be regarded as the *crucial* inconsistencies in the first six books.

The solution of the problem thus suggested cannot from the very nature of the case be certain, and must at best be tentative. If, however, we assume that in the original draft of the poem

III.	was originally	1,
V.	„	2 (less the loss of Palinurus),
I.	,	3,
II.	„	4,
IV.	„	5 (plus the loss of Palinurus),

we get the following scheme:

Book III.—(1) The wanderings of Aeneas after the fall of Troy till his arrival in Sicily. The book may well have begun with the existing opening (*Arma uirumque cano*), although *Postquam res Asiae* (3, 1) would obviously make an admirable opening in itself, even if not preceded by the existing *exordium*.

Book V.—(2) The arrival at Drepanum, greeting



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from Acestes, death of Anchises and Funeral games.

Book I.—(3) The voyage from Sicily to Carthage, and welcome by Dido.

Book II.—(4) The story of the siege of Troy, followed by a brief summary of the wanderings of Aeneas, resumptive of the preceding books.

Book IV.—(5) The betrayal and death of Dido, departure of Aeneas and death of Palinurus (*Libyco cursu*).

If such were the original design of the Aeneid, the inconsistencies mentioned above would disappear, with the exception of the discrepancies (*a*) between III. and V. as to the number of years for which the Trojans had been wandering (3 in III., and 7 in V. and I.), and (*b*) between the prophecies in III. and VI. (Incidentally this theory clears up a minor difficulty in VI. 355 as regards *hibernas noctes*: for if Palinurus did actually perish *Libyco cursu*, the season would be winter [cp. *hiberno sidere*, IV., 309]). Finally, such a theory may represent the truth of the somewhat obscure statements of Suetonius (D) and Servius (C) with regard to a change having been made in the order of the books.

What, then, of the inconsistencies which still remain? The theory stated above involves two hypotheses: (i.) That the original draft of III. was written in the third person and later altered to the first, when transferred to its present position and placed in the mouth of Aeneas; (ii.) that it stands

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in a certain isolation from the rest of the Aeneid, the first draft having in fact been written before the rest of the poem had been clearly conceived and formulated by the poet. It is not, of course, suggested that the alteration of the persons in III. was a merely mechanical alteration. It would clearly have involved a reshaping of the whole book, which must have been awaiting final revision when the poet died. If these two hypotheses be accepted, the chronological inconsistency which still remains may be regarded as the result of the comparative isolation of III. which we have just postulated. The discrepancy as regards the prophecies may be explained on the same lines. When Vergil wrote the first draft of III., he had in contemplation a different form of the revelation of the future greatness of Rome. This might have been given to Aeneas in the shape of a long narrative from the lips of the Sibyl, or may have taken the form of a vision by *ἐγκοίμησις*, in which the Sibyl may still conceivably have been his guide and the spirit-world possibly located in the skies, as in the *Somnium Scipionis*. As has already been indicated, this would provide a possible explanation of *aeris in campis* and of the Gates of Sleep. And, further, this form of revelation would have been natural enough in view of the statement in Cicero (*de Div.* I, 21): *Sint haec, ut dixi, somnia fabularum, hisque adiungatur etiam Aeneae somnium, quod in Numerii Fabii Pictoris Graecis annalibus eiusdem est, ut omnia, quae ab Aenea gesta sunt quaeque illi*



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*acciderint, ea fuerint, quae ei secundum quietem visa sunt.*

Stylistic considerations help us little in Vergilian problems. The books vary considerably in merit: the themes are not all equally inspiring, and the purely poetic quality fluctuates accordingly. Further, it is scarcely ever possible to say at what date any given passage was written, owing to the method adopted by Vergil in writing his epic (see A). But technically the poem maintains an extraordinarily high level. The last six books show perhaps the high-water mark of Vergilian technique, and, as they stand, are the most finished, though not the most interesting or poetic portion of the poem, if they be regarded as a whole. They are probably the latest portion of the poem, or at any rate the most thoroughly revised: but on this point there have been many different opinions. The Second, Fourth, and Sixth Books, despite their extraordinary merits and their undeniable claim to be considered the three best books of the Aeneid, show more traces of the lack of the *ultima manus*. The Third Book, however, although it contains passages (such as the meeting with Andromache) which Vergil never surpassed, has been felt by many readers as being somewhat tame and perfunctory compared with its immediate neighbours. To the present writer it reads like the work of a great poet who has not quite found the epic stride. But this is a personal impression. The critic who gives it the lie direct can scarcely be countered by





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Book, together with the Second and Fourth, to Augustus does not prove that he considered it complete. It shows no more than that he considered it sufficiently advanced for such partial publication. Recited in connexion with II. and IV. the discrepancies discussed above would not be apparent.

The views given above are in their broad outlines those adopted by Sabbadini in his *Disegno primitivo dell'Eneide* (Turin, 1900), although the problem is approached from a somewhat different angle. With the exception of the last paragraph, however, this chapter was written before I had seen his work, the only portion of which that was known to me being his ingenious theory of the rewriting of Book III. Thanks to the courtesy of Dr. Sabbadini I have since been able to make myself acquainted with his searching examination of the first six books of the Aeneid. While in general agreement with his views, I regard his detailed criticism as subsidiary to the main lines of the problem as stated above. Like all such investigators, he will seem to some to lay himself open to the charge of being over-minute and literal in his criticism. But that his method is sound, his criticism penetrating, and his taste such as to put to shame many of those who have attacked the same problem is to one of his readers beyond a doubt.<sup>1</sup>

No attempt has been made to summarise the

<sup>1</sup>. See also *The Growth of the Aeneid* by Miss Crump, in this series (Blackwell, Oxford, 1920).

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conflicting views of the various scholars who have written on this subject, still less to criticise them. The subject is one of such complexity and uncertainty that a statement of the problem as far as it affects the Sixth Book and a tentative effort to suggest a solution have been regarded as likely to be of more value than any attempt to enter what is by now a very labyrinth of complicated and often contradictory criticism.



## AENEIDOS

## LIBER SEXTUS

Sic fatur lacrimans, classi iue inmittit habenas,  
 Et tandem Euboïcis Cumarum adlabitur oris.  
 Obuertunt pelago proras; tum dente tenaci  
 Ancora fundabat naus, et litora curuae 4  
 Prætexunt puppes. Iuuenum manus emicat ardens  
 Litus in Hesperium; quaerit pars semina flammae  
 Abstrusa in uenis silicis; pars densa ferarum  
 Tecta rapit, siluas, inuentaque flumina monstrat.  
 At pius Aeneas arces, quibus altus Apollo  
 Praesidet, horrendaeque procul secreta Sibyllae, 10  
 Antrum immane, petit, magnam cui mentem ani-  
 mumque  
 Delius inspirat uates, aperitque futura.  
 Iam subeunt Triuiæ lucos atque aurea tecta.  
 Daedalus, ut fama est, fugiens Minoïa regna,  
 Praepetibus pinnis ausus se credere caelo, 15  
 Insuetum per iter gelidas enauit ad Arctos,  
 Chalcidicaque leuis tandem super adstitit arce,  
 Redditus his primum terris tibi, Phoebe, sacrauit  
 Remigium alarum, posuitque immania templa.  
 In foribus letum Androgeo; tum pendere poenas 20

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Cecropidae iussi (miserum!) septena quotannis  
Corpora natorum; stat ductis sortibus urna.  
Contra elata mari respondet Gnosia tellus:  
Hic crudelis amor tauri, suppostaque furto  
Pasiphae, mixtumque genus prolesque biformis 25  
Minotaurus inest; Veneris monimenta nefandae;  
Hic labor ille domus et inextricabilis error;  
Magnum reginae sed enim miseratus amorem  
Daedalus ipse dolos tecti ambagesque resoluit,  
Caeca regens filo uestigia. Tu quoque magnam 30  
Partem opere in tanto, sineret dolor, Icare, haberes  
Bis conatus erat casus effingere in auro,  
Bis patriae cecidere manus. Quin protinus omnia  
Perlegerent oculis, ni iam praemissus Achaes  
Adforet, atque una Phoebi Triuiaequae sacerdos, 35  
Deiphobe Glauci, fatur quae talia regi:  
' Non hoc ista sibi tempus spectacula poscit;  
' Nunc grege de intacto septem mactare iuuenos  
' Praestiterit, totidem lectas de more bidentis.'  
Talibus adfata Aenean (nec sacra morantur 40 -  
Iussa uiri) Teucros uocat alta in templa sacerdos.  
Excisum Euboicae latus ingens rupis in antrum,  
Quo lati ducunt aditus centum, ostia centum;  
Unde ruunt totidem uoces, responsa Sibyllae.  
Ventum erat ad limen, cum uirgo, ' Poscere fata 45  
' Tempus,' ait; ' deus, ecce, deus!' cui talia fanti  
Ante fores subito non uoltus, non color unus,  
Non comptae mansere comae; sed pectus anhelum,  
Et rabie fera corda tument; maiorque uideri  
Nec mortale sonans, adflata est numine quando 50  
Iam propiore dei. ' Cessas in uota precesque,



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‘Tros,’ ait, ‘Aenea, cessas? neque enim ante dehiscit

‘Attonitae magna ora domus.’ Et talia fata  
Conticuit. Gelidus Teucris per dura cucurrit *scat.*  
Ossa tremor, funditque preces rex pectore ab imo: 55

‘Phoebe, grauis Troiae semper miserate labores,

‘Dardana qui Paridis dexteri tela manusque

‘Corpus in Aeacidae, magnas obeuntia terras

‘Tot maria intraui duce te penitusque repostas

‘Massylum gentis, praetentaque Syrtibus arua; 60

‘Iam tandem Italiae fugientis prendimus oras.

‘Hac Troiana tenus fuerit fortuna secuta.

‘Vos quoque Pergameae iam fas est parcere genti,

‘Dique deaeque omnes, quibus obstitit Ilium et  
ingens

‘Gloria Dardaniae. Tuque, o sanctissima uates, 65

‘Praescia uenturi, da (non indebita posco

‘Regna meis fatis) Latio considerare Teucros,

‘Errantisque deos agitataque numina Troiae.

‘Tum Phoebos et Triuiae solido de marmore tem-  
plum

‘Instituum, festosque dies de nomine Phoebi. 70

‘Te quoque magna manent regnis penetralia nostris;

‘Hic ego namque tuas sortis arcanaque fata,

‘Dicta meae genti, ponam lectosque sacrabo,

‘Alma, uiros. Foliis tantum ne carmina manda,

‘Ne turbata uolent rapidis ludibria uentis: 75

‘Ipsa canas oro.’ Finem dedit ore loquendi.

At, Phoebi nondum patiens, immanis in antro

Bacchatur uates, magnum si pectore possit

Excussisse deum: tanto magis ille fatigat 79

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Os rabidum, fera corda domans, fingitque premendo.

Ostia iamque domus patuere ingentia centum

Sponte sua uatisque ferunt responsa per auras:

‘ O tandem magnis pelagi defuncte periclis,

‘ (Sed terrae grauiora manent) in regna Lauini 84

‘ Dardanidae uenient, mitte hanc de pectore curam,

‘ Sed non et uenisse uolent. Bella, horrida bella,

‘ Et Thybrim multo spumantem sanguine cerno.

‘ Non Simois tibi nec Xanthus nec Dorica castra

‘ Defuerint: alius Latio iam partus Achilles,

‘ Natus et ipse dea, nec Teucris addita Iuno 90

‘ Usquam aberit; cum tu supplex in rebus egenis

‘ Quas gentis Italum aut quas non oraueris urbes!

‘ Causa mali tanti coniunx iterum hospita Teucris,

‘ Externique iterum thalami.

‘ Tu ne cede malis, sed contra audentior ito, 95

‘ Quam tua te Fortunam sinet. Via prima salutis,

‘ Quod minime reris, Graia pandetur ab urbe.’

Talibus ex adyto dictis Cumaea Sibylla

Horrendas canit ambages antroque remugit,

Obscuris uera inuoluens, ea frena furenti 100

Concutit et stimulos sub pectore uertit Apollo.

Ut primum cessit furor, et rabida ora quierunt,

Incipit Aeneas heros: ‘ Non ulla laborum,

‘ O uirgo, noua mi facies inopinatae surgit; 104

‘ Omnia praecipi atque animo mecum ante peregi.

‘ Unum oro: quando hic inferni ianua regis

‘ Dicitur et tenebrosa palus Acheronte refuso

‘ Ire ad conspectum cari genitoris et ora

‘ Contingat; doceas iter, et sacra ostia pandas.

‘ Illum ego per flammam et mille sequentia tela 110



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‘ Eripui his umeris, medioque ex hoste recepi; —  
‘ Ille, meum comitatus iter, maria omnia mecum  
‘ Atque omnis pelagique minas caelique ferebat,  
‘ Inualidus, uires ultra sortemque senectae. 114  
‘ Quin, ut te supplex peterem, et tua limina adirem,  
‘ Idem orans mandata dabat. Gnatique patrisque,  
‘ Alma, precor, miserere, potes namque omnia,  
‘ nec te  
‘ Nequiquam lucis Hecate praefecit Auernis.  
‘ Si potuit Manis accersere coniugis Orpheus,  
‘ Threïcia fretus cithara fidibusque canoris; 120  
‘ Si fratrem Pollux alterna morte redemit,  
‘ Itque reditque uiam totiens—quid Thesea magnum,  
‘ Quid memorem Alciden? Et mi genus ab Ioue  
‘ summo.’ *Hercules*

Talibus orabat dictis arasque tenebat;

Cum sic orsa loqui uates: ‘ Sate sanguine diuom, 125  
‘ Tros Anchisiade, facilis descensus Auerni;  
‘ Noctes atque dies patet atri ianua Diis;  
‘ Sed reuocare gradum superasque euadere ad auras,  
‘ Hoc opus, hic labor est. Pauci, quos aequus ama-  
‘ uit *graciam sup*  
‘ Iuppiter, aut ardens euexit ad aethera uirtus, 130  
‘ Dis geniti potuere. Tenent media omnia siluae,  
‘ Cocytusque sinu labens circumuenit atro.  
‘ Quod si tantus amor menti, si tanta cupido est  
‘ Bis Stygios innare lacus, bis nigra uidere  
‘ Tartara, et insano iuuat indulgere labori; 135  
‘ Accipe, quae peragenda prius. Latet arbore opaca,  
‘ Aureus et foliis et lento uimine ramus,  
‘ Iunoni infernae dictus sacer: huñc tegit omnis





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## The Sixth Book of the Aeneid

Dardanio Aeneae sese fortissimus heros

Addiderat socium, non inferiora secutus. 170

Sed tum forte cava dum personat aequora concha,

Demens, et cantu uocat in certamina diuos,

Aemulus exceptum Triton, si credere dignum est,

Inter saxa uirum spumosa immerserat unda.

Ergo omnes magno circum clamore fremebant; 175

Praecipue pius Aeneas. Tum iussa Sibyllae,

Haud mora, festinant flentes aramque sepulchro

Congerere arboribus caeloque educere certant.

Itur in antiquam siluam, stabula alta ferarum:

Procumbunt piceae; sonat icta securibus ilex; 180

Fraxineaeque trabes cuneis et fissile robur

Scinditur; aduoluunt ingentis montibus ornos.

Nec non Aeneas opera inter talia primus

Hortatur socios paribusque accingitur armis.

Atque haec ipse suo tristi cum corde uolutat, 185

Aspectans siluam inmensam, et sic forte precatur:

' Si nunc se nobis ille aureus arbore ramus

' Ostendat nemore in tanto! quando omnia uere

' Heu! nimium de te uates, Misene, locuta est.'

Vix ea fatus erat, geminae cum forte columbae 190

Ipsa sub ora uiri caelo uenere uolantes,

Et uiridi sedere solo. Tum maximus heros

Maternas adgnoscit auis, laetusque precatur:

' Este duces, o, si qua uia est, cursumque per auras

' Derigite in lucos, ubi pinguem diues opacat 195

' Ramus humum. Tuque a dubiis ne defice rebus,

' Diva parens.' Sic effatus uestigia pressit

Obseruans, quae signa ferant, quo tendere pergant.

Pascentes illae tantum prodire uolando,

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Quantum acie possent oculi seruare sequentum. 200

Inde ubi uenere ad fauces graue olentis Auerni,

Tollunt se celeres liquidumque per aera lapsae

Sedibus optatis gemina super arbore sidunt,

Discolor unde auri per ramos aura refulsit.

Quale solet siluis brumali frigore uiscum 205

Fronde uirere noua, quod non sua seminat arbos,

Et croceo fetu teretis circumdare truncos:

Talis erat species auri frondentis opaca

Ilicè, sic leni crepitabat brattea uento.

Corripit Aeneas extemplo auidusque refringit 210

Cunctantem, et uatis portat sub tecta Sibyllae.

Nec minus interea Misenum in litò e Teucri

Flebant et cineri ingrato suprema ferebant.

Principio pinguem taedis et robore secto

Ingentem struxere pyram, cui frondibus atris 215

Intexunt latera, et feralis ante cupressos

Constituunt, decorantque super fulgentibus armis.

Pars calidos latices et aëna undantia flammis

Expediunt, corpusque lauant frigentis et unguunt. 219

Fit gemitus. Tum membra toro defleta reponunt,

Purpureasque super uestis, uelamina nota,

Coniciunt. Pars ingenti subiere feretro,

Triste ministerium, et subiectam more parentum

Auersi tenuere facem. Congesta cremantur

Turea dona, dapes, fuso crateres oliuo. 225

Postquam conlapsi cineres et flamma quieuit,

Reliquias uino et bibulam lauere fauillam,

Ossaque lecta cado texit Corynaeus aëno.

Idem ter socios pura circumtulit unda

Spargens rore leui et ramo felicis oliuae, 230



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hael

Lustravitque viros, dixitque nouissima uerba.  
At pius Aeneas ingenti mole sepulchrum  
Inponit, suaque arma uiro remumque tubamque,  
Monte sub aereo; qui nunc Misenus ab illo  
Dicitur, aeternumque tenet per saecula nomen. 235

His actis propere exsequitur praecepta Sibyllae.  
Spelunca alta fuit uastoque immanis hiatu,  
Scrupea, tuta lacu nigro nemorumque tenebris;  
Quam super haud ullae poterant inpune uolantes  
Tendere iter pinnis: talis sese halitus atris 240

Faucibus effundens supera ad conuexa ferebat:  
[Unde locum Graei dixerunt nomine Aornon.]  
Quattuor hic primum nigrantis terga iuuenos  
Constituit, frontique inuergit uina sacerdos;  
Et summas carpens media inter cornua saetas 245

Ignibus inponit sacris, libamina prima,  
Voce uocans Hecaten, caeloque Ereboque potentem.  
Supponunt alii cultros, tepidumque cruorem  
Succipiunt pateris. Ipse atri uelleris agnam  
Aeneas matri Eumenidum magnaеque sorori 250

Ense ferit, sterilemque tibi, Proserpina, uaccam.  
Tum Stygio regi nocturnas incohat aras,  
Et solida inponit taurorum uiscera flammis,  
Pingue super oleum fundens ardentibus extis.  
Ecce autem, primi sub lumina solis et ortus, 255

Sub pedibus mugire solum, et iuga coepta moueri  
Siluarum, uisaeque canes ululare per umbram,  
Aduentante dea. 'Procul o, procul este, profani'  
Conclamat uates, 'totoque absistite luco:  
'Tuque inuade uiam, uaginaque eripe ferrum; 260  
'Nunc animis opus, Aenea, nunc pectore firmo.'





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Corripit hic subita trepidus formidine ferrum 290  
Aeneas, strictamque aciem uenientibus offert,  
Et, ni docta comes tenuis sine corpore uitas  
Admoneat uolitare caua sub imagine formae,  
Inruat, et frustra ferro diuerberet umbras. 294

Hinc via Tartarei quae fert Acherontis ad undas.  
Turbidus hic caeno uastaque uoragine gurges  
Aestuat atque omnem Cocyto eructat harenam.  
Portitor has horrendus aquas et flumina servat  
Terribili squalore Charon: cui plurima mento  
Canities inculta iacet; stant lumina flamma; 300  
Sordidus ex umeris nodo dependet amictus.  
Ipse ratem conto subigit, uelisque ministrat,  
Et ferruginea subuectat corpora cumba,  
Iam senior; sed cruda deo uiridisque senectus.  
Huc omnis turba ad ripas effusa ruebat, 305  
Matres atque uiri, defunctaque corpora uita  
Magnanimum heroum, pueri innuptaeque puellae,  
Inpositique rogis iuuenes ante ora parentum:  
Quam multa in siluis autumnis frigore primo, 309  
Lapsa cadunt folia, aut ad terram gurgite ab alto  
Quam multae glomerantur aues, ubi frigidus annus  
Trans pontum fugat et terris inmittit apricis.  
Stabant orantes primi transmittersse cursum,  
Tendebantque manus ripae ulterioris amore;  
Nauita sed tristis nunc hos nunc accipit illos, 315  
Ast alios longe summos arcet harena.  
Aeneas miratus enim motusque tumultu,  
'Dic,' ait, 'o uirgo, quid uolt concursus ad am  
nem?'

'Quidue petunt animae? uel quo discrimine ripas

## The Sixth Book of the Aeneid

- ‘ Hæc linquunt, illae remis uada liuida uerrunt ?’ 320  
Olli sic breuiter fata est longæua sacerdos :
- ‘ Anchisæ generate, deum certissima proles,  
‘ Coccyti stagna alta uides Stygiamque paludem,  
‘ Di cuius iurare timent et fallere numen.  
‘ Haec omnis, quam cernis, inops inhumataque turba  
est; 325
- ‘ Portitor ille Charon; hi, quos uehit unda, sepulti.  
‘ Nec ripas datur horrendas et rauca fluenta  
‘ Transportare prius, quam sedibus ossa quierunt.  
‘ Centum errant annos uolitantque hæc litora cir-  
cum; 329
- ‘ Tum demum admissi stagna exoptata revisunt.’  
Constitit Anchisæ satus et uestigia pressit,  
Multa putans, sortemque animi miseratus iniquam  
Cernit ibi maestos et mortis honore carentis  
Leucaspim et Lyciæ ductorem classis Orontem,  
Quos simul a Troia uentosa per æquora uectos 335  
Obruit Auster, aqua inuoluens nauemque uirosque  
Ecce gubernator sese Palinurus agebat,  
Qui Libyco nuper cursu, dum sidera seruat,  
Exciderat puppi mediis effusus in undis. 339  
Hunc ubi uix multa maestum cognouit in umbra,  
Sic prior adloquitur: ‘ Quis te, Palinure, deorum  
‘ Eripuit nobis, medioque sub æquore mersit ?  
‘ Dic age. Namque mihi, fallax haud ante reper-  
tus,  
‘ Hoc uno responso animum delusit Apollo, 344  
‘ Qui fore te ponto incolumem finisque canebat  
‘ Venturum Ausonios. En hæc promissa fides  
est ?’



## The Sixth Book of the Aeneid

Ille autem: ' Neque te Phoebi cortina fefellit,  
' Dux Anchisiade, nec me deus aequore mersit.  
' Namque gubernaculum, multa ui forte reuolsum,  
' Cui datus haerebam custos cursusque regebam, 350  
' Praecipitans traxi mecum. Maria aspera iuro  
' Non ullum pro me tantum cepisse timorem,  
' Quam tua ne, spoliata armis, excussa magistro,  
' Deficeret tantis nauis surgentibus undis. 354  
' Tres Notus hibernas immensa per aequora noctes  
' Vexit me uiolentus aqua; uix lumine quarto  
' Prospexi Italiam summa sublimis ab unda.  
' Paulatim adnabam terrae: iam tuta tenebam,  
' Ni gens crudelis madida cum ueste grauatum 359  
' Prensantemque uncis manibus capita aspera mon-  
tis  
' Ferro inuasisset, praedamque ignara putasset.  
' Nunc me fluctus habet, uersantque in litore uenti.  
' Quod te per caeli iucundum lumen et auras,  
' Per genitorem oro, per spes surgentis Iuli 364  
' Eripe me his, inuicte, malis: aut tu mihi terram  
' Inice, namque potes, portusque require Velinos;  
' Aut tu, si qua uia est, si quam tibi diua creatrix  
' Ostendit (neque enim, credo, sine numine diuom  
' Flumina tanta paras Stygiamque innare palu-  
dem), 369  
' Da dextram misero, et tecum me tolle per undas;  
' Sedibus ut saltem placidis in morte quiescam.'  
Talia fatus erat, coepit cum talia uates:  
' Unde haec, o Palinure, tibi tam dira cupido ?  
' Tu Stygias inhumatus aquas amnemque seuerum  
' Eumenidum aspicias, ripamue iniussus adibis ? 375





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## The Sixth Book of the Aeneid

' Troïus Aeneas, pietate insignis et armis,  
' Ad genitorem imas Erebi descendit ad umbras.  
' Si te nulla mouet tantae pietatis imago, 405  
' At ramum hunc' (aperit ramum, qui ueste late-  
bat)  
' Adgnoscas.' Tumida ex ira tum corda residunt.  
Nec plura his. Ille admirans uenerabile donum  
Fatalis uirgae, longo post tempore uisum, 409  
Caeruleam aduertit puppim, ripaeque propinquat.  
Inde alias animas, quae per iuga longa sedebant,  
Deturbat, laxatque foros: simul accipit alueo  
Ingentem Aenean. Gemuit sub pondere cumbà  
Sutilis, et multam accepit rimosa paludem. 414  
Tandem trans fluuium incolumis uatemque uirum-  
que  
Informi limo glaucaque exponit in ulua.  
Cerberus haec ingens latratu regna trifauci  
Personat, aduerso recubans immanis in antro.  
Cui uates, horrere uidens iam colla colubris,  
Melle soporata et medicatis frugibus offam 420  
Obicit. Ille fame rabida tria guttura pandens  
Corripit obiectam, atque immania terga resoluit  
Fusus humi, totoque ingens extenditur antro.  
Occupat Aeneas aditum custode sepulto,  
Euaditque celer ripam inremeabilis undae. 425  
Continuo auditae uoces, uagitus et ingens,  
Infantumque animae flentes in limine primo,  
Quos dulcis uitae exsortis et ab ubere raptos  
Abstulit atra dies et funere mersit acerbo.  
Hos iuxta falso damnati crimine mortis. 430  
Nec uero hae sine sorte datae, sine iudice, sedes:

## The Sixth Book of the Aeneid

Quaesitor Minos urnam mouet; ille silentum  
Consiliumque uocat uitasque et crimina discit.

Proxima deinde tenent maesti loca, qui sibi letum  
Insontes peperere manu, lucemque perosi 435  
Proiecere animas. Quam uellent aethere in alto  
Nunc et pauperiem et duros perferre labores!  
Fas obstat, tristisque palus inamabilis undae  
Alligat, et nouiens Styx interfusa coercet.

Nec procul hinc partem fusi monstrantur in om-  
nem 440

Lugentes campi; sic illos nomine dicunt.  
Hic, quos durus amor crudeli tabe peredit,  
Secreti celant calles et myrtea circum  
Silua tegit: curae non ipsa in morte relinquunt.  
His Phaedram Procrimque locis, maestamque Eri-  
phylen, 445

Crudelis nati monstrantem uolnera, cernit,  
Euadnenque, et Pasiphaen; his Laodamia  
It comes, et iuuenis quondam, nunc femina, Cae-  
neus,

Rursus et in ueterem fato reuoluta figuram.

Inter quas Phoenissa recens a uolnere Dido 450  
Errabat silua in magna: quam Troïus heros,  
Ut primum iuxta stetit adgnouitque per umbras  
Obscuram, qualem primo qui surgere mense  
Aut uidet aut uidisse putat per nubila lunam,  
Demisit lacrimas, dulcique adfatus amore est: 455  
' Infelix Dido, uerus mihi nuntius ergo  
' Venerat extinctam, ferroque extrema secutam?  
' Funeris heu tibi causa fui? Per sidera iuro,  
' Per superos, et si qua fides tellure sub ima est,



## The Sixth Book of the Aeneid

‘ Inuitus, regina, tuo de litore cessi. 460  
‘ Sed me iussa deum, quae nunc has ire per umbras,  
‘ Per loca senta situ cogunt noctemque profundam  
‘ Imperiis egere suis; nec credere quiui  
‘ Hunc tantum tibi me discessu ferre dolorem, 464  
‘ Siste gradum, teque aspectu ne subtrahe nostro.  
‘ Quem fugis? Extremum fato, quod te adloquor  
hoc est.’

Talibus Aeneas ardentem et torua tuentem  
Lenibat dictis animum, lacrimasque ciebat.  
Illa solo fixos oculos auersa tenebat;  
Nec magis incepto uoltum sermone mouetur, 470  
Quam si dura silex aut stet Marpesia cautes.  
Tandem corripuit sese, atque inimica refugit  
In nemus umbriferum, coniunx ubi pristinus illi  
Respondet curis, aequatque Sychaeus amorem.  
Nec minus Aeneas, casu concussus iniquo, 475  
Prosequitur lacrimis longe, et miseratur euntem.

Inde datum molitur iter. Iamque arua tenebant  
Ultima, quae bello clari secreta frequentant.  
Hic illi occurrit Tydeus, hic inclutus armis  
Parthenopaeus et Adrasti pallentis imago; 480  
Hic multum fleti ad superos belloque caduci  
Dardanidae, quos ille omnis longo ordine cernens  
Ingemuit, Glaucumque, Medontaque, Thersilochum-  
que,

Tres Antenoridas, Cererique sacrum Polyboten,  
Idaeumque, etiam currus, etiam arma tenentem. 485  
Circumstant animae dextra laeuaque frequentes.  
Nec uidisse semel satis est: iuuat usque morari  
Et conferre gradum et ueniendi discere causas.

## The Sixth Book of the Aeneid

At Danaum proceres Agamemnoniaequē phalanges  
Ut uidere uirum fulgentiaque arma per umbras, 490  
Ingenti trepidare metu: pars uertere terga,  
Ceū quondam petiere ratis; pars tollere uocem  
Exiguam: inceptus clamor frustratur hiantis.

Atque hic Priamiden laniatum corpore toto  
Deiphobum uidit, lacerum crudeliter ora, 495  
Ora manusque ambas, populataque tempora raptis  
Auribus, et truncas inhonesto uolnere naris.

Vix adeo adgnouit pauitantem et dira tegentem  
Supplicia, et notis compellat uocibus ultro: 499

‘ Deiphobe armipotens, genus alto a sanguine Teu-  
cri,

‘ Quis tam crudelis optauit sumere poenas ?

‘ Cui tantum de te licuit ? Mihi fama suprema

‘ Nocte tulit fessum uasta te caede Pelasgum

‘ Procubuisse super confusae stragis aceruum.

‘ Tunc egomet tumulum Rhoeteo litore inanem 505

‘ Constitui, et magna Manis ter uoce uocaui.

‘ Nomen et arma locum seruant; te, amice, nequiui

‘ Conspicere et patria decedens ponere terra.’

Ad quae Priamides: ‘ Nihil o tibi, amice, relictum;

‘ Omnia Deiphobo soluisti et funeris umbris. 510

‘ Sed me fata mea et scelus exitiale Lacaenae

‘ His mersere malis: illa haec monimenta reliquit.

‘ Namque ut supremam falsa inter gaudia noctem

‘ Egerimus, nosti; et nimium meminisse necesse est.

‘ Cum fatalis equus saltu super ardua uenit 515

‘ Pergama, et armatum peditem grauis attulit aluo:

‘ Illa, chorum simulans, euhantis orgia circum

‘ Ducebat Phrygias; flammam media ipsa tenebat



## The Sixth Book of the Aeneid

‘ Ingentem, et summa Danaos ex arce uocabat.  
‘ Tum me confectum curis somnoque grauatum 520  
‘ Infelix habuit thalamus, pressitque iacentem  
‘ Dulcis et alta quies placidaeque simillima morti.  
‘ Egregia interea coniunx arma omnia tectis  
‘ Emouet, et fidum capiti subduxerat ensem:  
‘ Intra tecta uocat Menelaum, et limina pandit; 525  
‘ Scilicet id magnum sperans fore munus amanti,  
‘ Et famam exstingui ueterum sic posse malorum.  
‘ Quid moror? inrumpunt thalamo; comes additus  
  una  
‘ Hortator scelerum Aeolides. Di, talia Grais  
‘ Instaurate, pio si poenas ore reposco. 530  
‘ Sed te qui uiuum casus, age fare uicissim,  
‘ Attulerint. Pelagine uenis erroribus actus,  
‘ An monitu diuom? an quae te Fortuna fatigat,  
‘ Ut tristis sine sole domos, loca turbida, adires?’  
Hac uice sermonum roseis Aurora quadrigis 535  
Iam medium aetherio cursu traiecerat axem;  
Et fors omne datum traherent per talia tempus;  
Sed comes admonuit, breuiterque adfata Sibylla est:  
‘ Nox ruit Aenea; nos flendo ducimus horas. 539  
‘ Hic locus est, partis ubi se uia findit in ambas:  
‘ Dexteram quae Ditis magni sub moenia tendit,  
‘ Hac iter Elysium nobis: at laeua malorum  
‘ Exercet poenas, et ad impia Tartara mittit.’  
Deiphobus contra: ‘ Ne saeui, magna sacerdos; 544  
‘ Discedam, explebo numerum, reddarque tenebris.  
‘ I decus, i, nostrum; melioribus utere fatis.’  
Tantum effatus, et in uerbo uestigia torsit.  
  Respicit Aeneas subito, et sub rupe sinistra

## The Sixth Book of the Aeneid

Moenia lata uidet, triplici circumdata muro; 549  
Quae rapidus flammis ambit torrentibus amnis  
Tartareus Phlegethon, torquetque sonantia saxa.  
Porta aduersa ingens, solidoque adamante colum-  
nae,  
Vis ut nulla uirum, non ipsi excindere bello  
Caelicolae ualeant. Stat ferrea turris ad auras;  
Tisiphoneque sedens, palla succincta cruenta, 555  
Vestibulum exsomnia seruat noctesque diesque.  
Hinc exaudiri gemitus, et saeua sonare  
Verbera: tum stridor ferri, tractaeque catenae.  
Constitit Aeneas strepituque exterritus hae-  
sit: 559  
' Quae scelerum facies? o uirgo, effare; quibusue  
' Urgentur poenis? quis tantus plangor ad auras?'  
Tum uates sic orsa loqui: ' Dux inclute Teucrum,  
' Nulli fas casto sceleratum insistere limen;  
' Sed me cum lucis Hecate praefecit Auernis, 564  
' Ipsa deum poenas docuit, perque omnia duxit.  
' Gnosius haec Rhadamanthus habet durissima  
regna,  
' Castigatque auditque dolos, subigitque fateri,  
' Quae quis apud superos, furto laetatus inani,  
' Distulit in seram commissa piacula mortem.  
' Continuo sontis ultrix accincta flagello 570  
' Tisiphone quatit insultans, toruosque sinistra  
' Intentans anguis uocat agmina saeua sororum.  
' Tum demum horrisono stridentes cardine sacrae  
' Panduntur portae. Cernis, custodia qualis  
' Vestibulo sedeat? Facies quae limina seruet? 575  
' Quinquaginta atris immanis hiatibus Hydra



## The Sixth Book of the Aeneid

- ‘ Sacuior intus habet sedem. Tum Tartarus ipse  
‘ Bis patet in praeceps tantum tenditque sub um-  
bras,  
‘ Quantus ad aetherium caeli suspectus Olympum.  
‘ Hic genus antiquum Terrae, Titania pubes, 580  
‘ Fulmine deiecti, fundo uoluuntur in imo:  
‘ Hic et Aloidas geminos, immania uidi  
‘ Corpora, qui manibus magnum rescindere caelum  
‘ Adgressi, superisque Iouem detrudere regnis.  
‘ Vidi et crudelis dantem Salmonea poenas, 585  
‘ Dum flammam Iouis et sonitus imitatur Olympi.  
‘ Quattuor hic inuectus equis et lampada quassans  
‘ Per Graium populos mediaeque per Elidis urbem  
‘ Ibat ouans, diuomque sibi poscebat honorem,  
‘ Demens, qui nimbos et non imitabile fulmen 590  
‘ Aere et cornipedum pulsu simularet equorum.  
‘ At pater omnipotens densa inter nubila telum  
‘ Contorsit, non ille faces, nec fumea taedis  
‘ Lumina, praecipitemque immani turbine ade-  
git.  
‘ Nec non et Tityon, Terrae omniparentis alum-  
num, 595  
‘ Cernere erat, per tota novem cui iugera corpus  
‘ Porrigitur; rostroque immanis uoltur obunco  
‘ Immortale iecur tondens fecundaque poenis  
‘ Viscera rimaturque epulis habitatque sub alto  
‘ Pectore, nec fibris requies datur ulla renatis. 600  
‘ Quid memorem Lapithas, Ixiona Pirithoumque?\*\*\*  
‘ Quos super atra silex iam iam lapsura cadentique  
‘ Imminet adsimilis: lucent genialibus altis  
‘ Aurea fulcra toris, epulaeque ante ora paratae





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## The Sixth Book of the Aeneid

Dixerat, et pariter gressi per opaca uiarum  
Corripiunt spatium medium, foribusque propin-  
quant.

Occupat Aeneas aditum, corpusque recenti 635  
Spargit aqua, ramumque aduerso in limine figit.

His demum exactis, perfecto munere diuae,  
Deuenere locos laetos, et amoena uirecta  
Fortunatorum nemorum, sedesque beatas.  
Largior hic campos aether et lumine uestit 640

Purpureo, solemque suum, sua sidera norunt.  
Pars in gramineis exercent membra palaestris,  
Contendunt ludo et fulua luctantur harena;  
Pars pedibus plaudunt choreas et carmina dicunt.

Nec non Threïcius longa cum ueste sacerdos 645  
Obloquitur numeris septem discrimina uocum,  
Iamque eadem digitis, iam pectine pulsat eburno.

Hic genus antiquum Teucrici, pulcherrima proles,  
Magnanimi heroes, nati melioribus annis, 649  
Ilusque Assaracusque et Troiae Dardanus auctor.

Arma procul currusque uirum miratur inanis.  
Stant terra defixae hastae, passimque soluti  
Per campum pascuntur equi. Quae gratia currum  
Armorumque fuit uiuis, quae cura nitentis

Pascere equos, eadem sequitur tellure repostos. 655  
Conspicit, ecce, alios dextra laeuaque per herbam  
Vescentis laetumque choro paeana canentis

Inter odoratum lauri nemus, unde superne  
Plurimus Eridani per siluam uoluitur amnis 659  
Hic manus ob patriam pugnando uolnera passi,

Quique sacerdotes casti, dum uita manebat,  
Quique pii uates et Phoebos digna locuti,

## The Sixth Book of the Aeneid

Inuentas aut qui uitam excoluere per artis,  
Quique sui memores aliquos fecere merendo.  
Omnibus his niuea cinguntur tempora uitta, 665  
Quos circumfusus sic est adfata Sibylla,  
Musaeum ante omnis: medium nam plurima turba  
Hunc habet, atque umeris exstantem suspicit altis:  
' Dicite, felices animae, tuque, optime uates: 669  
' Quae regio Anchisen, quis habet locus? Illius ergo  
' Venimus, et magnos Erebi tranauimus amnis.'  
Atque hic responsum paucis ita reddidit heros:  
' Nulli certa domus; lucis habitamus opacis,  
' Riparumque toros et prata recentia riuis 674  
' Incolimus. Sed uos, si fert ita corde uoluntas,  
' Hec superate iugum; et facili iam tramite sistam.'  
Dixit, et ante tulit gressum, camposque nitentis  
Desuper ostentat; dehinc summa cacumina lin-  
quunt.

At pater Anchises penitus conualle uirenti  
Inclusas animas superumque ad lumen ituras 680  
Lustrabat studio recolens, omnemque suorum  
Forte recensebat numerum carosque nepotes,  
Fataque fortunasque uirum moresque manusque.  
Isque ubi tendentem aduersum per gramina uidit  
Aenean, alacris palmas utrasque tetendit, 685  
Effusaeque genis lacrimae, et uox excidit ore:  
' Venisti tandem, tuaque exspectata parenti  
' Vicit iter durum pietas? datur ora tueri,  
' Nate, tua, et notas audire et reddere uoces? 689  
' Sic equidem ducebam animo rebarque futurum,  
' Tempora dinumerans,—nec me mea cura fefellit.  
' Quas ego te terras et quanta per aequora uectum



## The Sixth Book of the Aeneid

‘ Accipio ! quantis iactatum, nate, periclis !  
‘ Quam metui, ne quid Libyae tibi regna nocerent !  
Ille autem : ‘ Tua me, genitor, tua tristis imago, 695  
‘ Saepius occurrens, haec limina tendere adegit.  
‘ Stant sale Tyrrheno classes. Da iungere dextram,  
‘ Da, genitor; teque amplexu ne subtrahe nostro.’  
Sic memorans largo fletu simul ora rigabat.  
Ter conatus ibi collo dare bracchia circum: 700  
Ter frustra comprehensa manus effugit imago,  
Par leuibus uentis uolucrique simillima somno.  
Interea uidet Aeneas in ualle reducta  
Seclusum nemus et uirgulta sonantia siluae,  
Lethaeumque domos placidas qui praenatat am-  
nem. 705  
Hunc circum innumerae gentes populique uola-  
bant;  
Ac uelut in pratis ubi apes aestate serena  
Floribus insidunt uariis, et candida circum  
Lilia funduntur; strepit omnis murmure campus.  
Horrescit uisu subito causasque requirit 710  
Inscius Aeneas, quae sint ea flumina porro,  
Quive uiri tanto complerint agmine ripas.  
Tum pater Anchises : ‘ Animae, quibus altera fato  
‘ Corpora debentur, Lethaei ad fluminis undam  
‘ Securos latices et longa obliuia potant. 715  
‘ Has equidem memorare tibi atque ostendere co-  
ram  
‘ Iampridem hanc prolem cupio enumerare meorum :  
‘ Quo magis Italia mecum laetere reperta.’  
‘ O pater, anne aliquas ad caelum hinc ire putan-  
dum est

## The Sixth Book of the Aeneid

- ‘ Sublimis animas, iterumque in tarda reuerti 720  
‘ Corpora ? Quae lucis miseris tam dira cupido ?’  
‘ Dicam equidem, nec te suspensum, nate, tenebo ;’  
Suscipit Anchises, atque ordine singula pandit.  
‘ Principio caelum ac terras camposque liquentis  
‘ Lucentemque globum Lunae Titaniaque astra 725  
‘ Spiritus intus alit : totamque infusa per artus  
‘ Mens agitat molem, et magno se corpore miscet.  
‘ Inde hominum pecudumque genus uitaeque  
uolantum  
‘ Et quae marmoreo fert monstra sub aequore pon-  
tus.  
‘ Igneus est ollis uigor et caelestis origo 730  
‘ Seminibus, quantum non noxia corpora tardant  
‘ Terrenique hebetant artus moribundaque membra.  
‘ Hinc metuunt cupiuntque, dolent gaudentque,  
neque auras  
‘ Dispiciunt clausae tenebris et carcere caeco.  
‘ Quin et supremo cum lumine uita reliquit, 735  
‘ Non tamen omne malum miseris nec funditus  
omnes  
‘ Corporeae excedunt pestes, penitusque necesse est  
‘ Multa diu concreta modis inolescere miris.  
‘ Ergo exercentur poenis, veterumque malorum  
‘ Supplicia expendunt. Aliae panduntur inanes 740  
‘ Suspensae ad uentos ; aliis sub gurgite uasto  
‘ Infectum eluitur scelus, aut exuritur igni.  
‘ Quisque suos patimur Manis ;—exinde per am-  
plum  
‘ Mittimur Elysium, et pauci laeta arua tenemus,  
‘ Donec longa dies, perfecto temporis orbe, 745



## The Sixth Book of the Aeneid

‘ Concretam exemit labem, purumque reliquit  
‘ Aetherium sensum, atque aurai simplicis ignem.  
‘ Has omnis, ubi mille rotam uoluere per annos,  
‘ Lethaeum ad fluuium deus euocat agmine magno:  
‘ Scilicet inmemores supera ut conuexa reuisant 750  
‘ Rursus, et incipiant in corpora uelle reuerti.’

Dixerat Anchises: natumque unaque Sibyllam  
Conuentus trahit in medios, turbamque sonantem:  
Et tumulum capit, unde omnis longo ordine posset  
Adversos legere, et uenientum discere uoltus. 755

‘ Nunc age, Dardanium prolem quae deinde sequatur

‘ Gloria, qui maneant Itala de gente nepotes,  
‘ Inlustris animas nostrumque in nomen ituras,  
‘ Expediam dictis, et te tua fata docebo.  
‘ Ille, uides, pura iuuenis qui nititur hasta, 760

‘ Proxima sorte tenet lucis loca, primus ad auras  
‘ Aetherias Italo commixtus sanguine surget,  
‘ Siluius, Albanum nomen, tua postuma proles;  
‘ Quem tibi longaeuo serum Lauinia coniunx  
‘ Educet siluis regem regumque parentem; 765

‘ Unde genus Longa nostrum dominabitur Alba.  
‘ Proximus ille Procas, Troianae gloria gentis,  
‘ Et Capys, et Numitor, et qui te nomine reddet  
‘ Siluius Aeneas, pariter pietate uel armis 769

‘ Egregius, si unquam regnandam acceperit Albam.

‘ Qui iuuenes! quantas ostentant, aspice, uiris,  
‘ Atque umbrata gerunt ciuili tempora quercu!  
‘ Hi tibi Nomentum, et Gabios, urbemque Fidenam,

‘ Hi Collatinas imponent montibus arces,

## The Sixth Book of the Æneid

- ‘ Pometios, Castrumque Inui, Bolamque, Coram-  
que. 775
- ‘ Haec tum nomina erunt, nunc sunt sine nomine  
terrae.
- ‘ Quin et auo comitem sese Mauortius addet
- ‘ Romulus, Assaraci quem sanguinis Ilia mater
- ‘ Educet. Viden’ ut geminae stant uertice cris-  
tae, 779
- ‘ Et pater ipse suo superum iam signat honore ?
- ‘ En huius, nate, auspiciis illa incluta Roma
- ‘ Imperium terris, animos aequabit Olympo,
- ‘ Septemque una sibi muro circumdabit arces,
- ‘ Felix prole uirum: qualis Berecyntia mater
- ‘ Inuehitur curru Phrygias turrita per urbes, 785
- ‘ Laeta deum partu, centum complexa nepotes,
- ‘ Omnis caelicolas, omnis supera alta tenentis,
- ‘ Huc geminas nunc flecte acies, hanc aspice gen-  
tem
- ‘ Romanosque tuos. Hic Caesar, et omnis Iuli
- ‘ Progenies, magnum caeli uentura sub axem. 790
- ‘ Hic uir, hic est, tibi quem promitti saepius audis,
- ‘ Augustus Caesar, Diui genus, aurea condet
- ‘ Saecula qui rursus Latio, regnata per arua
- ‘ Saturno quondam; super et Garamantas et Indos
- ‘ Proferet imperium; iacet extra sidera tellus, 795
- z ‘ Extra anni Solisque uias, ubi caelifer Atlas
- ‘ Axem umero torquet stellis ardentibus aptum.
- ‘ Huius in aduentum iam nunc et Caspia regna
- ‘ Responsis horrent diuom et Maeotia tellus,
- ‘ Et septemgemini turbant trepida ostia Nili. 800
- ‘ Nec uero Alcides tantum telluris obiuit,



## The Sixth Book of the Aeneid

- ‘ Fixerit aeripedem ceruam licet, aut Erymanthi  
‘ Pacarit nemora, et Lernam tremefecerit arcu:  
‘ Nec, qui pampineis uictor iuga flectit habenis,  
‘ Liber, agens celso Nysae de uertice tigris. 805  
‘ Et dubitamus adhuc uirtutem extendere factis?  
‘ Aut metus Ausonia prohibet consistere terra?  
‘ Quis procul ille autem ramis insignis oliuae  
‘ Sacra ferens? Nosco crinis incanaque menta  
‘ Regis Romani; primam qui legibus urbem 810  
‘ Fundabit, Curibus paruis et paupere terra  
‘ Missus in imperium magnum. Cui deinde subibit,  
‘ Otia qui rumpet patriae residesque mouebit  
‘ Tullus in arma uiros et iam desueta triumphis 814  
‘ Agmina. Quem iuxta sequitur iactantior Ancus,  
‘ Nunc quoque iam nimium gaudens popularibus  
    auris.  
‘ Vis et Tarquinius reges animamque superbam  
‘ Ultoris Bruti fascisque uidere receptos?  
‘ Consulis imperium hic primus saeuasque securis  
‘ Accipiet, natosque pater, noua bella moventis, 820  
‘ Ad poenam pulchra pro libertate uocabit,  
‘ Infelix! utcunque ferent ea facta minores.  
‘ Vincet amor patriae laudumque inmensa cupido.  
‘ Quin Decios Drusosque procul, saeuomque se-  
    curi  
‘ Aspice Torquatum, et referentem signa Camil-  
    lum. 825  
‘ Illae autem, paribus quas fulgere cernis in armis,  
‘ Concordes animae nunc, et dum nocte premuntur,  
‘ Heu quantum inter se bellum, si lumina uitae  
‘ Attigerint, quantas acies stragemque ciebunt,





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## The Sixth Book of the Aeneid

' Sistet eques, sternet Poenos Gallumque rebellem,  
' Tertiaque arma patri suspendet capta Quirino.'  
Atque hic Aeneas (una namque ire uidebat 860  
Egregium forma iuuenem et fulgentibus armis,  
Sed frons laeta parum, et deiecto lumina uoltu)  
' Quis, pater, ille, uirum qui sic comitatur euntem ?  
' Filius, ane aliquis magna de stirpe nepotum ? 864  
' Qui strepitus circa comitum ! quantum instar in  
ipso !  
' Sed nox atra caput tristi circumuolat umbra.'  
Tum pater Anchises, lacrimis ingressus obortis:  
' O nate, ingentem luctum ne quaere tuorum.  
' Ostendent terris hunc tantum fata, neque ultra  
' Esse sinent. Nimum uobis Romana propago 870  
' Visa potens, superi, propria haec si dona fuissent.  
' Quantos ille uirum magnam Mauortis ad urbem  
' Campus aget gemitus ! uel quae, Tiberine, uidebis  
' Funera, cum tumulum praeterlabere recentem !  
' Nec puer Iliaca quisquam de gente Latinos 875  
' In tantum spe tollet auos ; nec Romula quondam  
' Ullo se tantum tellus iactabit alumno.  
' Heu pietas, heu prisca fides, inuictaque bello  
' Dexterâ ! Non illi se quisquam inpune tulisset  
' Obuius armato, seu cum pedes iret in hostem, 880  
' Seu spumantis equi foderet calcaribus armos.  
' Heu, miserande puer, si qua fata aspera rumpas,  
' Tu Marcellus eris. Manibus date lilia plenis  
' Purpureos spargam flores, animamque nepotis  
' His saltem adcumulem donis, et fungar inani 885  
' Munere.'—Sic tota passim regione uagantur  
Aëris in campis latis, atque omnia lustrant.

## The Sixth Book of the Aeneid

Quae postquam Anchises natum per singula duxit,  
Incenditque animum famae uenientis amore,  
Exin bella uiro memorat, quae deinde gerenda, 890  
Laurentisque docet populos urbemque Latini,  
Et quo quemque modo fugiatque feratque laborem.

Sunt geminae Somni portae: quarum altera fertur  
Cornea, quae ueris facilis datur exitus umbris,  
Altera candenti perfecta nitens elephanto, 895  
Sed falsa ad caelum mittunt insomnia Manes.  
His ibi tum natum Anchises unaque Sibyllam  
Prosequitur dictis, portaque emittit eburna:  
Ille uiam secat ad nauis, sociosque reuisit;  
Tum se ad Caietae recto fert litore portum. 900  
Ancora de prora iacitur; stant litore puppes.



## COMMENTARY

1, 2. **SERVIUS** *sane sciendum, licet primos duos uersus Probus et alii in quinti reliquerint fine, prudenter ad initium sexti esse translatos. nam et coniunctio poematis melior est et Homerus etiam sic incohauit ὡς φάτο δακρυχέων* (Il. 1. 357). The dislocation of these lines is due, no doubt, to Vergil's methods of composition. The beginning of Bk. 6 and the end of Bk. 5 were composed at different times, and these two lines written subsequently to form the connecting link. The original beginning of Bk. 6 (*obuertunt pelago proras*) was too abrupt to be permanently retained as an opening. See Conrad, *Quaest. Verg.* (Trier, 1863), p. xxiv, for a somewhat more elaborate statement of this view.

1. **immittit habenas.** Cp. 8. 708 *laxos iam iamque immittere funis*. The metaphor first occurs in Lucr. 5. 787 *immissis habenis*, though not there applied to a ship. It is, however, as Henry points out, highly appropriate to a ship, the *rudentes* (sheets) being the *habenae*.

2. **Euboicis.** Cp. Liv. 9. 22 *Cumani ab Chalcide Euboica originem trahunt*. The colonisation of Cumae took place about 700 B.C., long after Aeneas' time. Vergil is thinking of the Cumae of his own day. For the transferred epithet cp. 9. 710 *in Euboico Baiarum litore*, and in this book *Dardana Paridis tela* (57).

**adlabitur oris.** Cp. 3. 131 *Curetum adlabimur oris*. 569 *Cyclopum adlabimur oris*.

3. For other disembarkations in the Aeneid, see 1. 157; 3. 219; 7. 107. Cp. also Od. 9. 85 and 10. 56.

## The Sixth Book

Quae postquam Anchises n.  
Incenditque animum fama.  
Eia bella iro memorat, quo  
Laurentiæ docet populos  
Et quo quoque modo fugia.  
Sunt geminae Somni portae  
Cernua, quae veris facilis dat  
Altera canenti perfecta nitens  
Sed falsa a caelum mittunt  
His ibi tumatum Anchises u.  
Preequitu dictis, portaque e.  
Ile viam cat ad manis, socio  
Tum se ad aictae recto fert lit.  
Aurora de ora **incit; stant!**



3. G. 5. 39

*cesserint,*

*untque |*

t. Th. 7.

woods,"

Th. 5. 3

ere with

is less

wo are

ural to

indica-

*altus*

*fuisse*

*e ait*

*inus*

*arly*

## The Sixth Book of the Aeneid

The ship was headed to sea and backed on to the shelving shore. It was held at the bows with an anchor, at the stern by stern cables.

4. **fundabat.** "Began to secure." The ships came to shore in succession and were anchored as they came in. The phrase *fundare nauem* elsewhere (except for Claud. Mall. Cons. 113, which may be regarded as an imitation of Vergil) = "to lay the keel of a ship": cp. Plaut. Mil. 918 *haec carina satis probe fundata et bene statuta est.* Ov. P. 4. 3. 5 *puppis ualida fundata carina.* But the metaphorical use of *fundare* in the sense of "to fix or establish" is so common, that the present phrase presents no difficulties. Cp. Solin. 52, where *fundamento* is used of the parrot's beak employed as an anchor (*ancora* in parallel passage in Apul. Flor. 12).

5. **praetexunt.** "Border" or "fringe." Cp. E. 7. 12 *praetexit arundine ripas | Mincius.*

**iuuenum manus.** SERVIUS *post conditam in Sicilia ciuitatem senum aut nulla aut rara fit mentio.*

6. **Hesperium.** The name Ἑσπερία, "Western land," was given by the Greeks equally to Italy and Spain. Vergil adopts the word from Ennius (A. 23) *est locus, Hesperium quem mortales perhibebant.* Cp. 1. 530 *est locus, Hesperium Grai cognomine dicunt.* For Vergil *Hesperia* is always Italy. Horace uses the name both of Italy (Od. 3. 6. 8) and of Spain (Od. 1. 36. 4).

6. **semina flammae** = "sparks": cp. *seminibus* (731). A translation of the Homeric σπέρματα πυρός (Od. 5. 490). For the whole phrase cp. G. 1. 135 *ut silicis uenis abstrusum excuderet ignem.*

7. **silicis.** The hard lava rock still known as *selce* in Italy.

**densa ferarum tecta.** Cp. 179 *stabula alta ferarum.* Vergil describes a thinly inhabited land covered with virgin forests.



## Commentary

**rapit.** *I.e.*, “plunder for firewood.” Cp. Caes. B. G. 5. 39 *qui lignationis munitioisque causa in silvas discesserint*. For this use of *rapio* cp. 2. 374 *rapunt incensa feruntque* | *Pergama*. Tac. Ann. 13. 6 *Armeniam rapere*. Stat. Th. 7. 599. Sil. 15. 401. Others take *rapit* = “scour the woods,” *i.e.*, for game as in 1. 184, or to find water. Cp. Stat. Th. 5. 3 *campum sonipes rapit*, and the common use of *corripere* with *viam* (1. 418), *spatia* (5. 316), etc. But the sense is less natural. Three actions being described, of which two are the kindling of fire and the finding of water, it is natural to take the third as meaning *lignatio*, where there is no indication to the contrary.

9. **pius.** SERVIUS *quippe ad templa festinans*.

**altus.** SERVIUS *uel magnus, ut* (10. 737) “*iacet altus Orodes*,” *uel ad simulacri magnitudinem rettulit, quod fuisse constat altissimum. Coelius enim de Cumaeo Apolline ait* “*est in fano simulacrum Apollinis ligneum altum non minus pedes XV.*” Both views are fanciful. The context clearly shows that *altus* means “high-throned” on the lofty *arx* of Cumae. It may also carry with it the suggestion of majesty as in the *altus Apollo* of 10. 875.

**The site of the temple and the general topography of 9-45.** The Euboeans founded their city on a volcanic hill about 100 yards from the seashore. The sides of the hill are of precipitous trachyte accessible only on the S.E. The hill has two summits, one seawards on the W., the other, slightly lower, on the E., near the entrance to the fortress town. On this latter eminence are the remains of a temple, which is shown by an inscription (C.I.L. 10. 211.) APOLLINI CVMANO | Q. TINEIUS RUFUS, to have been the temple of Apollo Archegetes, the sanctuary from which the cult of Apollo spread to the rest of Italy. In addition to the colossal statue of the god mentioned above (see n. on *altus*), it contained the bones





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## Commentary

That this is the oracular cave of the Sibyl there can be little doubt. The existence of a Grotta della Sibilla on the shores of Avernus, and the fact that Aeneas is made to descend by this route to the underworld, have led many to assume that the Sibylline oracle was on the shores of the lake. That there was a tradition to this effect even in ancient times is probable enough: cp. Stat. Silv. 5. 3. 172 *sic ad Auernales scopulos et opaca Sibyllae | antra rogaturae ueniebant undique gentes* (see also below). But it is perfectly clear from Vergil and his imitator Silius (13. 498) that the oracle was at Cumae itself, and is to be distinguished from the grotto of Avernus (see Cluverius, *Italia antiqua*, ed. 1624, p. 1113; Cocchia, *La geografica delle Metamorfosi d'Ovidio e l'Averno Virgiliano*, Att. R. Accad. archeol. di Napoli, xviii., 1898; Chiapelli, *L'antro della Sibilla a Cuma*, Atti, sc. mor. e pol. di Napoli, xxxi., 1900, p. 557). The Sibyl has two functions. She is the priestess of Apollo and of Triuia or Hecate. In the former capacity she is connected with the shrine of Apollo, the oracular cave, and the grove of Triuia at Cumae (13, 35, 42 *sqq.* Cp. also 69); in the latter capacity she is the priestess of the Avernian groves (118, 564). The *tecta Sibyllae* (211) are the cavern of Avernus (see n. ad loc.). With regard to these twofold functions of the Sibyl Norden (p. 118) suggests with plausibility that when the Greek colonists arrived at Cumae they found an ancient *νεκρομαντεῖον*. Cp. Strabo, 5. 244, where Ephorus is cited to the effect that there was an oracle there in ancient days, but that it had been removed elsewhere (see n. on 237). On dedicating a temple to their guide and patron, Apollo Archegetes, on the Citadel of Cumae, they did not venture to dispossess the ancient earth-goddess, whose worship existed as late as the third century B.C.: cp. Liv. 24. 12. 4 *ad lacum Auerni per speciem sacrificandi descendit*. Instead they united the worship of the two deities,

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the sun-god and the earth-goddess, identifying the latter with Hecate and dedicating a sacred grove in her honour hard by the temple of Apollo: one priestess was placed in charge of the two cults.

As regards the relation between the temple of Apollo and the oracular cave, Vergil is not explicit. But in view of what has been said above and the apparent existence of a passage leading from the cave or its immediate proximity to the temple of Apollo, it may be inferred that Aeneas, after entering by the gate of the *arx* and passing through the grove of Trivia, came to the door of the temple (13). While he lingered to gaze on the scenes depicted on the folding doors, the Sibyl came to him and led him into the temple (41). The next three lines describe the cave and in 45 we are told that they have reached the threshold. It has been suggested that they descended to the cave by the subterranean passage described above. Parallels may be found elsewhere. See Norden on 42-45. This view, however, merely complicates the difficulty, since in either case the omission of the description of the descent leaves a certain obscurity. (Norden in his second edition abandons this interpretation.)

10. **procul secreta.** (1) "Far withdrawn," *i.e.*, deep in the rock beneath the temple. (2) **SERVIUS** *procul haud longe*. The latter has probably some truth in it: cp. E. 6. 16 *serta procul, tantum capiti de lapsa iacebant*. A. 10. 834 *corpusque leuabat | arboris acclinis trunco. procul aerea ramis | dependet galea*. But the sense is not precisely *haud longe*, but rather "apart": Servius is, however, right in holding that no great distance is implied: see Forcellini s.v.

**Sibyllae.** The origin of the Sibyl is uncertain. Utterances attributed to her were current in Greece in the sixth century B.C. Cp. Plut. de or. Pyth. 6 Σίβυλλα δὲ μαινομένῳ



## Commentary

στόματι καθ' Ἡράκλειτον ἀγέλαστα καὶ ἀκαλλώπιστα φθεγομένη χιλιῶν ἔτων ἐξικνεῖται τῇ φωνῇ διὰ τὸν θεὸν—i.e., she is a frenzied prophetess inspired by Apollo. Originating in Asia Minor, she became localised in various Greek cities (Marpessus, Erythrae, Delphi, etc.), and broke up in course of time into several Sibyls. One of the Sibylline abodes was Cumae, the oldest Greek city in Italy and probably the fountain-head of the Apollo cult in Italy. The Sibyl of Cumae is identified with the Erythrean Sibyl by Pseudo-Aristot. de mirab. 1158, and by Servius on 321: *Sibyllam Apollo pio amore dilexit et ei obtulit poscendi quod uellet arbitrium. illa hausit harenam manibus et tam longam uitam poposcit. cui Apollo respondit id posse fieri, si Erythream in qua habitabat insulam relinqueret et eam nunquam uideret. profecta igitur Cumas tenuit et illic defecta corporis uiribus uitam in sola uoce retinuit. quod cum ciues eius (sc. Erythraei) cognouissent siue insidia siue commiseratione commoti ei epistulam miserunt creta antiquo more signatum: qua uisa quia erat de eius insula in mortem soluta est.* It was the Sibyl of Cumae who, according to legend, brought the Sibylline books to Rome in the reign of Tarquinius Superbus. The meaning of the name Sibyllā is uncertain. Varro (ap. Lact. Inst. 1. 6.) derives it from the Aeolic σιοῦ βυλή = θεοῦ βουλή, Diodorus (4. 66. 7) from σιβυλλαίνειν = ἐνθεάζειν κατὰ γλῶτταν; Pausanias regards it as Libyan (10. 12. 1), Suidas as Latin (? connected with *sapiens*, Diez, *Lex. Etym.*, p. 300). It is not improbable that the name is of Oriental origin.

There is no trace of any earlier legend connecting Aeneas with the Sibyl of Cumae; but in older legend he seems to have consulted the Sibyl of Marpessus (Maass, *Hermes*, 18, p. 327. Robert, *Hermes*, 22, p. 454). Vergil, in view of the important part played by the Sibylline books at Rome, may have been the first to introduce the Sibyl of Cumae into





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## Commentary

authors is invariably identified with Diana. So here, though she may have been originally a local earth-goddess (see n. on 9-45, above), she is for Vergil the Chthonian aspect of Diana and associated with her brother Phoebus.

**aurea tecta.** Sc. Phoebi.

14. **ut fama est.** An imitation of Hellenistic poetry. Cp. 266 *audita loqui*, 284 *ferunt*, 893 *fertur*, 173 *si credere dignum est*. The motive for the introduction of such phrases is twofold: (a) the desire to give authority (cp. ἀμάρτυρον οὐδὲν αἰεῖδεν, Call. Fr. 242); (b) an apology for the miraculous (cp. Ap. Rhod. 1. 59. Cp. also Ar. Poet. 1461b, 9; Cat. 64. 2, 19, 76, 124, 212. Hor. Od. 1. 7. 23; 16. 13; 3. 5. 41, etc.).

**Daedalus.** SERVIUS *Daedalus primo Sardiniam, ut dicit Sallustius* (Hist. 2. 6. Kr.), *post delatus est Cumas*. Other versions make him land in Sicily (Diod. 4. 77. Paus. 7. 4. 6) without mentioning Cumae. With regard to his connexion with Cumae Norden suggests that it may be due to the fact that he was closely associated with Chalcis in Euboea, the mother city of Cumae, in early genealogies (cp. Toepffer, *Attische Genealogie*, p. 168).

15. **praepetibus pennis.** *praepes* is specially connected with the science of augury. It is probably derived from *prae* and *peto* (cp. *impes* = *impetus*). This is the view held by Servius, Festus, and Aulus Gellius (7. 6). But there is doubt as to the exact meaning. All agree that the word came from its use in augury to mean "prosperous," "fair-omened." But whether the original meaning is "seeking that which is in front," *i.e.*, flying straight ahead, or possibly "selecting a suitable spot to settle on in preference to all others" (cp. Iul. Hyg. ap. Aul. Gell. l.c. *quae idoneas sedes capiunt*) cannot be determined. Servius paraphrases here as *uel uelocibus uel felicibus*. For the first interpretation there



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is no support save in so far as it can be implied by the meaning "prosperous." We should therefore probably interpret it here = "*felicibus*." Cp. Aul. Gell. l.c., where he defends Vergil against the judgment of Julius Hyginus: *nam quoniam non ipsae tantum aves quae prosperius praeuolant, sed etiam loci quos capiunt quod idonei felicesque sunt, praepetes appellantur, idcirco Daedali pinnas praepetes dixit, quoniam ex locis in quibus periculum metuebat in loca tutiora peruenerat.* Two other interpretations are given by Aulus Gellius: (1) *auibus praepetibus contrarias aves inferas appellari Nigidius Figulus in libro primo augurii priuati ita dicit "discrepat dextra sinistrae, praepes inferae."* On this view *praepetibus* might mean "soaring." (2) *adulescens ego Romae cum etiam tum ad grammaticos itarem, audiui Apollinarem Sulpicium . . . cum de iure augurio quaereretur et mentio praepetum auium facta esset . . . dicere praepetes sibi uideri esse alites, quas Homerus τανυπτέρυγας appellauerat, quoniam istas potissimum augures spectarent quae ingentibus alis patulae atque porrectae praeuolauerunt: cp. Il. 12. 237 τυνὴ δ' οἰώνεσσι τανυπτερύγεσσι κελεύεις | πείθεσθαι κτλ.* On this view the word is connected with *patulus*, *pateo*, etc. Norden accepts this derivation and explains Ennius, A. 478 *praepete portu* and (A. 97) *praepetibus pulcrisque locis* as "wide," "open." But they may equally well mean a "fair haven" and "fair-omened," while the weight of tradition and the analogy of *impes* support the common derivation from *peto*. But certainty is impossible; the meaning was probably doubtful even in Vergil's time. The word occurs also in 3. 361 in its augural sense (*praepetis omina pennae*).

16. **enauit.** The metaphor first occurs in Ennius, A. 21 *transnauit (Venus) cita per teneras caliginis auras.* Cp. also Lucr. 3. 591 *quam prolapsa foras enaret ad aeris auras*, and in

## Commentary

Vergil, G. 4. 59 *nare*, A. 4. 245 *tranat nubila*. Quintilian (8. 6. 18) styles the metaphor a *speciosissima translatio*, but bans its use in prose. It is first found in prose in Apuleius (Met. 5. 25).

**gelidas ad Arctos** can equally be interpreted of Daedalus' northward flight and of his soaring high towards the stars; but the first is the more pointed.

17. **Chalcidica.** See n. on 2.

**super** can be taken either as a preposition or an adverb. The fact that it is separated by *adstitit* from *arce* makes the latter more probable (cp. 1. 301. *Libyae citus adstitit oris*). In that case *arce* is loc. abl. Norden compares Pind. fr. 101 Bgk. σκοπιαῖσιν ἄκραις ὀρέων ὑπερ ἔστα.

**arce.** The precipitous rock citadel of Cumae, known as the Rocca di Cuma.

18. **remigium alarum.** Cp. Lucr. 6. 743 *remigi oblitae pinnarum*, and for the whole passage A. 1. 300 *uolat ille per aethera magnum | remigio alarum ac Libyae citus adstitit oris*. Also Aesch. Ag. 52 πτερύγων ἐρέτμοισιν ἐρεσσόμενοι. Norden suggests that the rare licence *remigi* in Lucr., l.c., points to the phrase being drawn from an older source.

**posuitque immania templa.** Cp. G. 3. 13 *templum de marmore ponam*. The temple is a votive offering. Norden regards the words quite unnecessarily as a ὑστερον πρότερον. The dedication of the wings to Phoebus would be immediate and need not wait for the completion of the temple. In connexion with this line and the description of the reliefs carved upon the doors, the position of Daedalus in legend as the first of sculptors and the founder of arts and crafts must be borne in mind.

20. **in foribus.** Cp. G. 3. 26 *in foribus pugnam ex auro solidoque elephanto | Gangaridum faciam, etc.* A. 1. 453 sqq. where the fate of Troy is depicted on the walls or doors of





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## Commentary

**septena . . . corpora natorum.** Most versions of the story make the tribute, which Athens was compelled to pay for the murder of Androgeos, consist of 7 boys and 7 girls (Cp. Plut. Thes. 15. Paus. 1. 27, 10. Diod. 4. 61. 3. Apollod. 3. 15. 8). Hyg. Fab. 41, however, agrees with Vergil and makes the tribute consist of 7 in all.

**quotannis.** The legend varies, making the tribute yearly as here (also Hyg. l.c.), or every 9 years (Plut. Thes. l.c.).

22. **stat ductis sortibus urna.** Not probably = *stat urna et sortes inde ducuntur*, though G. 2. 141 provides an adequate parallel; but rather = *stat post ductas sortes urna*. The scene represents the parting of the Athenians from their children: the presence of the urn indicates what has occurred. If the lots are shown, they are seen lying beside the urn. This is the simplest and most literal interpretation of the passage, and there is no need to adopt the more elaborate interpretation given above.

23. **contra** = on the opposite door.

**respondet** = matches or corresponds.

**Gnosia** MR: *Cnosia* P. The correct Latin spelling is *Gnosia*, following the rule whereby "any guttural before *n*, *m* becomes the group *gn*, *gm*—e.g., *ilignus* from *ilex*, or the loan-word *cygnus* from *κύνος*" (Lindsay, *Latin Language*, p. 292). Whether Vergil preferred the Latin or the Greek form it is impossible to determine. But see Norden, ad loc.; the MSS. from whose evidence he attempts to reach a conclusion give no certain answer. We cannot be sure as to Vergil's practice, which may itself have been inconsistent.

24. **tauri.** Objective gen. "for the bull."

**suppostaque furto.** "Mated by stealth." Cp. 7. 283 *supposita de matre*. The allusion is to the wooden cow devised by Daedalus for the purpose; cp. Prop. 4. 7. 57 *Cressae . . . lignea monstra bouis*.



## The Sixth Book of the Aeneid

**mixtumque genus prolesque biformis.** Not tautologous. The first phrase gives the origin, the second the appearance of the Minotaur.

**Minotaurus.** Cp. Ov. Ars. Am. 2. 23 *semibouemque uirum semiuirumque bouem.*

**labor ille domus et inextricabilis error.** For *labor* cp. 1. 455 *operumque laborem.* Virtually = *opus*, but carrying with it the idea of the immense labour required to contrive the labyrinth. For *inextricabilis error* cp. Cat. 64. 115 *inobservabilis error* also applied to the Labyrinth. Cp. also 5. 591 *falleret indeprensus et irremeabilis error.* Here, again, we have abstract for concrete, *error* = "maze." The Labyrinth may have been suggested by the complicated system of passages, chambers, and stairways in the ruins of Cnossus, but was conceived by the ancients as a square maze, in which form it is figured on the coins of Cnossus (Cp. Daremberg et Saglio, s.v. Labyrinthe, and Roscher, *Myth. Enc.*, s.v. Minotauros), and in graffiti at Pompeii, with the words *hic habitat Minotaurus* added (Dar. et Saglio, l.c.).

**reginae amorem,** not the passion of Pasiphae, but the love of her daughter Ariadne for Theseus. Vergil's description of the legend is compressed and summary, as he is merely giving a brief outline of the sculptures on the Temple-gates.

**sed enim** = ἀλλὰ γὰρ. *enim* = Gk. δὲ in its original meaning, cp. Lindsay, *Latin Language*, p. 603. "In O. Lat. an asseverative particle merely (cf. *enimvero*), a usage imitated by Vergil—e.g., A. 8. 84 *quam pius Aeneas tibi enim, tibi maxima Iuno, | mactat sacra ferens.*" Cp. also 6. 317 *miratus enim.* G. 2. 509 *geminatus enim*; 3. 70 *semper enim refice.* *sed enim* was archaic according to Quintilian, but is Ciceronian.

30. **uestigia.** The sense requires that *uestigia* should mean *Thesei uestigia*, though there has been no mention of Theseus; the phrase would naturally = *sua uestigia* or *reginae uestigia*



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neither of which is admissible. Cp. Cat. 64.113 *errabunda regens tenui uestigia filo*, where Theseus is the subject.

31. **sineret dolor.** The omission of *si* is unusual with past tenses of the subjunctive, though not uncommon with the present. But cp. Ov. M. 9. 490 *omnia di facerent, essent communia nobis*. The construction is best explained by regarding the protasis as expressed in the form of a wish or concession.

32. Cp. Od. 11. 206 *τρίς μὲν ἐφωρμήθη*.

33. **protinus** = "successively": cp. G. 4. 1.

**omnia.** Scanned as a dissyllable by synizesis of the last two syllables. Cp. 7. 237 *uerba precantia*. Macrobius (5. 14), objecting to this view, regards it as an instance of hypermeter; this is impossible, as the next line does not begin with a vowel. It is possible that we should read *omnia* with Ambrosius for *omnis* MPR in G. 4. 221, while there is good, though not overwhelming, authority for *Lauiniaque uenit* in A. 1. 2. Here R reads *omne*, which was also probably the reading of Servius, whose MSS. give *omnem*. But this is clearly a correction to avoid the necessity of the synizesis. Similarly R reads *precantum* in 7. 237.

34. **perlegerent.** Cp. 13 *subeunt*. 40 *morantur*. Aeneas had not gone alone.

**praemissus Achates.** Cp. 1. 644 *praemittit Achaten*. There has been no mention of this. Cp. 4. 416, where Dido addresses her sister whom we should not otherwise have known to be present.

36. **Deiphobe.**—The name occurs only here. The name of the Cumaean Sibyl is given variously as Demophile, Hero-phile, Amalthea, Melanchraina in other authors.

**Glauci, sc. filia.** Cp. Liv. 27. 20. 4 *Hasdrubal Gisgonis*. The ellipse, regular in Greek, is found not infrequently with foreign names in Latin. With Roman names *filius* or *filia* is





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phrase and its remoteness from *mactare* renders it practically certain that it is to be taken with *lectas*. Norden prefers to take it with *mactare*, citing 5. 96 *caedit binas de more bidentis*; also 4. 57 and 7. 93; 8. 544 *mactat lectas de more bidentis*.

**bidentis.** SERVIUS *oues sunt circa bimatum habentes duos dentes eminentiores*. Plin. 8. 206 *Coruncanus ruminales hostias donec bidentes fierent puras negavit*. Gell. 16. 6. 14. The word, however, is used of other animals than sheep; cp. Pomponius ap. Gell. l.c. *bidenti uerri facere*.

40. **nec sacra morantur iussa uiri**—*i.e.*, the sacrifice is made at Delphi (cp. Herod. 7. 140. Eur. Ion. 226) on the *βωμοὶ πρόναοι*. Their actual sacrifice, a necessary preliminary to consulting the oracle, receives no further mention than in these words.

41. **uocat alta in templa**. They enter the temple to worship, then come out and descend to the cave: cp. n. on p. 84.

43. **lati aditus, ostia centum**. The exact arrangement of the oracular cavern is not clear in detail. One thing, however, is certain, that the *aditus* and *ostia* are not actual entrances, but openings in the wall of the inner shrine through which the answers of the Sibyl are heard. The actual door of the *adytum* is described by *fores* (47) and *limen* (45). At the present moment the Sibyl is *ante fores*; her entry into the shrine is not mentioned, but she is within by the time we reach 77 (cp. *in antro*). The consultants of the oracle remain outside at the *limen*, and the replies of the prophetess reach them by the *aditus* and *ostia*; cp. 151 *nostroque in limine pendes*. The description of the cave in Bk. 3. 443-452 is of the most general kind; but there also an *adytum* is indicated: cp. 447 *uerso tenuis cum cardine uentus | impulit et teneras turbauit ianua frondes*.



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45. **poscere fata.** Cp. 3. 456 *precibus oracula poscas*. *fatum* is used in its primary sense of "solemn utterance," "oracle." Cp. Pac. ap. Cic. Div. 1. 31. 66 *neque me Apollo fatis fatis dementem inuitam ciet*. ib. 44. 100 *fatis quae scripta Veienses haberent*. A. 3. 444 *fata canit*, and 72 below.

46. **deus ecce deus.** The repetition of *deus* is perhaps from actual ritual. Norden (q.v.) compares Ov. M. 15. 677, where the priestess cries *en deus est, deus est*, and the Aeneadae reverently repeat her *geminata uerba* (681). Cp. the repetition of *procul* (258).

47. **non uoltus non color unus.** Cp. Eur. I. T. 291 *παρῆν δ' ὄρᾶν οὐ ταῦτὰ μορφῆς σχήματα*. For the whole description of the Sibyl's frenzy cp. the exaggerated imitations of Lucan (5. 128) and Seneca (Ag. 710). The meaning of *unus* is more than that her face is changed; it is continually changing. Cp. Luc. 5. 214 *stat nunquam facies*.

48. **non comptae mansere comae.** The fillets binding her hair have already been removed, and there is nothing to restrain it. Cp. 3. 370 *uittasque resoluit* (of Helenus before prophesying).

49. **maiorque uideri.** SERVIUS *videbatur*. This is possible, but it may equally well be regarded not as histor. inf., but as the Gk. epexegetic infin. after *maior* = *μείζων εἰσιδεῖν*.

50. **nec mortale sonans.** Cp. 1. 328 *haud tibi uoltus | mortalis nec uox hominem sonat*, where *hominem* is a bold example of the cognate acc. here represented by the neut. adj. *mortale*.

**quando.** Causal. For its position cp. 10. 366 *aspera quis natura loci dimittere quando | suasit equos*.

51. **cessas in uota precesque.** SERVIUS *tardus es ad uota facienda: nam si dixeris "cessas in uotis," hoc significat, tardus es dum uota facis*. Cp. Sen. Med. 406 *nunquam meus cessabit in poenas furor*. Instances of *audere in* (2. 347),



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*ardere in* (12. 71), *meditari in* (10. 455), etc., are not exact parallels, as the verbs imply purpose or motion towards.

53. **attonitae** "is applied strictly and specially to the *domus*, which being *attonita* will not or cannot open its mouth," Henry, who compares Luc. 2. 21 *sic funere primo | attonitae tacuere domus*.

**magna ora** = *aditus, ostia* (above); cp. 81.

54. Cp. 2. 120 *gelidusque per ima cucurrit | ossa tremor*.

56. Cp. 1. 597 *o sola infandos Troiae miserata dolores*.

57. For the death of Achilles cp. Il. 22. 359 ἡματι τῷ ὅτε κέν σε Πάρις καὶ Φοῖβος Ἀπόλλων | ἐσθλὸν εἶοντ' ὀλέσωσιν ἐνὶ Σκαιοῖσι πύλῃσιν. Ov. M. 12. 596 (Apollo Paridi) "*quid spicula perdis | sanguine plebis*" ait. "*siqua est tibi cura tuorum, | uertere in Aeaciden caesosque ulciscere fratres.*" | *dixit et ostentans sternentem Troica ferro | corpora Peliden arcus obuertit in illum | certaue letifera direxit spicula dextra.*

**derexti**. For the contraction cp. *accestis* (1. 201), *exstinxem* (4. 606), *exstinxti* (4. 682), *traxe* (5. 786), *uixet* (11. 118).

58. **corpus in Aeacidae**. For the position of the preposition cp. *litus harenosum ad Libyae* (4. 257), *culmina perque hominum . . . perque deorum* (4. 671), *fata per Aeneae* (7. 234), *gente sub Assaraci* (9. 643).

**obeuntia** = *circumflua*. Cp. Ov. M. 5. 51 *quam limbus obibat*.

59. **duce te**. With special reference to the oracle of Apollo, 3. 90 *sqq.*

61. **Massylum gentis**. The Massylae were a Libyan tribe, mentioned 4. 132, 483. The name is used generally for African.

**praetentaue Syrtibus arua**. The statement is not geographically correct, the Syrtes being to the E. of Carthage. The name is used vaguely of the African coast, and is intended to suggest the perils of approaching those shores.





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## Commentary

69. **magnum de marmore templum.** Here, as in the lines which follow, though the promise strictly refers to the immediate future, there can be no doubt that Servius is right in regarding this promise as a prophecy of the dedication in 28 B.C. by Augustus of the temple of Apollo on the Palatine in commemoration of his victory at Actium. Though the temple was not actually dedicated to Diana (*Triiviae*), her statue stood there beside that of Apollo: cp. Prop. 2. 31. 15 *deinde inter matrem deus ipse interque sororem | Pythius in longa carmine ueste sonat*. Diana as an Italian goddess had no special association with Apollo. It is as the Roman equivalent of Artemis that she is thus united with him, and first appears associated with him at a *lectisternium* in 399 B.C. (Liv. 5. 13; Dion. Hal. 12. 9).

70. **festosque dies de nomine Phoebi.** The *ludi Apollinares* founded in 212 B.C. (Liv. 25. 12. 15).

71. **magna penetralia.** A similar unconscious prophecy of the fate of the Sibylline books at Rome. These according to the well-known legend were brought by the Cumaean Sibyl to Rome in the reign of Tarquinius Superbus (Dion. Hal. 4. 62. Gell. 1. 19. Plin. 13. 88, etc.). They were kept in a stone chest in the temple of Jupiter Capitolinus (Dion. Hal. 4. 62. Dio Cass. Fr. 102. 2), destroyed in the fire of 83 B.C., and replaced by a new collection gathered from the various places where Sibyls were reported to have been active. In 76 B.C. they were deposited in the new temple on the Capitol (Varro and Fenestella ap. Lact. Inst. 1. 16. 11, 14; de ira dei 22. 6. Dion. Hal. 4. 62. Tac. Ann. 6. 12). On the dedication of the temple of Apollo on the Palatine in 28 B.C. (see on 69), the Sibylline books were transferred to it from the Capitol (Tib. 2. 5. 17. Suet. Aug. 31). Hence the close association in the present passage with the dedication of a temple to Apollo.



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72. *hic* = *regnis nostris*.

*sortes . . . fata*. "Prophecies and oracles." Cp. n. on *fata* (45).

73. *lectos . . . uiros*—*i.e.*, the *XV uiri sacris faciundis*. SERVIUS. *sciendum sane primo duos librorum fuisse sacerdotes, inde decem, inde quindecim usque ad Sullana tempora, postea creuit numerus : nam et sexaginta fuerunt, sed remansit in his XV uirorum uocabulum*. See Liv. 6. 37. 12 and 42. 2 for increase to 10 (367 B.C.). For later increases see Cic. Ep. Fam. 8. 4. 1. Dio. Cass. 42. 51. 4; 43. 51. 9; 51. 20. 3. C.I.L. 1, p. 29.

74. *foliis . . . manda*. He is carrying out the advice of Helenus (3. 456). *poscas | ipsa canat uocemque uolens atque ora resoluat*. For *foliis* cp. 3. 444 *foliisque notas et nomina mandat. | quaecunque in foliis descripsit carmina uirgo | digerit in numerum atque antro seclusa relinquit : | illa manent immota locis neque ab ordine cedunt. | uerum eadem, uerso tenuis cum cardine uentus | impulit et teneras turbauit ianua frondes | nunquam deinde cauo uolitantia prendere saxo | nec reuocare situs aut iungere carmina curat*. SERVIUS *ut Varro dicit, in foliis palmae interdum notis, interdum scribebat sermonibus, ut diximus supra (3. 444)*. That Vergil had not witnessed such giving of oracles at the Sibyl's cave may be inferred from the fact that he seems from his description in Bk. 3 to have in his mind leaves much smaller than those of palm.

76. *ipsa canas*. Cp. the words of Helenus cited above.

77. *nondum patiens*. The metaphor here, as in the lines which follow, is from the taming of a fiery horse. SERVIUS. *Sibyllam quasi equum, Apollinem quasi equitem inducit et in ea permanet translatione*. Cp. Suet. Jul. 61 *essoris patiens*. Norden cites Or. Sib. 3. 4.

*in antro*. She has passed within the *adytum*.



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**immanis**, predicative with *bacchatur*, "wildly."

79. **excussisse deum**. The metaphor is from a horse shaking off its rider. With regard to the use of the perfect infin., where a prose author would have used the present, while this use is no doubt largely determined by metrical convenience, it is best regarded here as an anticipation of the completion of the act. Cp. the use of the fut. perf. indicative or completed future. This is a regular idiom after *uolo* in prohibitions, and the use is imitated and extended by the poets and Livy. Cp. Liv. 37. 19 *bellum possumus . . . perfecisse*. Ov. F. 2. 322 *tunicarum uincla relaxat | ut posset uastas exseruisse manus*. Servius styles it *Graeca figura*, and is followed by some modern scholars, who explain the infin. as aoristic, a comprehensive explanation which is of small help.

79. **fatigat**. Cp. II. 714 *quadripedemque citum ferrata calce fatigat*.

80. **fingitque premendo**. Imitated from Varius de morte (ap. Macrobian. 6. 2. 19) *insultare docet campis fingitque morando*. Cp. also Hor. Ep. 1. 2. 64 *fingit equum . . . magister*. A similar phrase in a different context is employed by Vergil in G. 2. 407. *fingitque putando*. For *premendo* cp. 1. 63 *et premere et laxas sciret dare iussus habenas*.

81. **patuere**. The instantaneous perfect. Cp. G. 1. 330 *terra tremat, fugere ferae*. The result rather than the action itself is presented to the mind. For the opening of the *ostia* cp. 43 and 52.

83-97. The prophecy of the Sibyl is after the fashion of oracles obscure (cp. 100), and does not tell Aeneas much more than he already had learned from his dream in 5.729 *lectos iuuenes fortissima corda | defer in Italiam; gens dura atque aspera bello | debellanda tibi Latio est*; it certainly cannot be considered as a reasonable fulfilment of the pro-





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## Commentary

ἔσσεται ἐν Βρύττεσσι καὶ ἐν Γάλλοις πολυχρύσοις | Ὠκεανὸς  
κελαδῶν πληρούμενος αἵματι πολλῷ. | 372. ῥεύσει δ' αἵματος  
ὄχθος ἕως ποταμῶν πολυδίνων, with which he compares the  
*carmen Marcianum* in Liv. 25. 12. 6 *amnem Troiugena Cannam  
Romane confuge*, etc.

88. **nec Simois tibi nec Xanthus.** SERVIUS *Tiberis et  
Numicus, in quem cecidit.* Whether there is any special  
reference is uncertain. Xanthus is, after all, no more than  
another name for the Scamander, the river that rolls down  
its "yellow" flood in time of spate. For this we may com-  
pare the epithet *flavus* applied to the Tiber in 7. 31 and  
elsewhere. For the death of Aeneas in the Numicus see  
Liv. 1. 2 *ad fin.* The Homeric reference is to Il. 21 the  
*μάχη παραποτάμιος* of Achilles.

**Dorica castra.** SERVIUS *Graeca. et re uera: nam Turnus  
Graecus fuit, ut (7. 371) "et Turno si prima domus repetatur  
origo, | Inachus Acrisiusque pater mediaeque Mycenae."*

89. **defuerint.** The fut. perf. used for the fut. is primarily  
no doubt *metri gratia*. The force of the tense here is "will  
be found to have been absent"—*i.e.*, when you look back  
on them. *praeoccupat futura* as Servius says in a different  
context. Cp. 9. 298 where *defuerit* is found alongside of  
*erit*.

**Latio.** Abl. of place, rather than dat.

**Achilles.** Turnus. Cp. E. 4. 36 *atque iterum ad Troiam  
magnus mittetur Achilles*, in a very different context how-  
ever.

**partus** "is already found," not "born": cp. *natus* in next  
line.

90. **natus et ipse dea.** SERVIUS *de Venilia, sorore Amatae,  
ut (10. 76) cui diua Venilia mater.* Venilia is there identified  
with Salacia, the goddess of salt water, see Serv. ad 10. 76.  
Ovid (M. 14. 334) makes her the wife of Janus. Perhaps a



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water-spirit, but nothing is known concerning her. It is to be noted that Iuturna, Turnus' sister, is a water nymph. (see Wissowa, *R. K.*, p. 19). *et ipse*. Sc. as Achilles was the son of Thetis.

**addita.** SERVIUS *inimica, est autem uerbum Lucilii et antiquorum, ut Plautus "additus Ioni Argus" (Aulul. 556). Lucil. ap. Macrobr. 6. 4. 2 si modo non praetor siet additus atque agitet me.* The word means "attached," and gets its meaning of hostile from the context. Norden, *App.* I. 1 compares the Greek δαίμων ἔφεδρος.

91. **cum** = *et tum*.

92. **urbes.** MR: *urbis* P. Cp. Gell. 13. 21. 3 *et Probum ait respondisse: quo (sc. modo) suam (sc. aurem) Vergilius percontatus est, qui diuersis in locis urbis et urbes dixit arbitrio consilioque usus auris. nam in primo Georgicon, quem ego librum ipsius manu correctum legi, urbis per i litteram scripsit (G. 1. 25) . . . uerte enim et muta ut urbes dicas: insubidius nescioquid et pinguius. contra in tertio Aeneidis (106) urbes dixit per e litteram. . . . hic item muta ut urbis dicas: nimis exilis uox erit et exsanguis.* In the present passage *urbes* should be read as avoiding the repetition of *-is*.

93. **coniunx hospita.** Sc. Lauinia, who plays the part of an innocent Helen.

**causa mali tanti.** Repeated 11. 480 in same context.

94. **externique iterum thalami.** A variation on *coniunx hospita*. Norden compares Lycophr. 60 λέκτρων θ' ἑκατι τῶν τ' ἐπεισάκτων γάμων. Unfinished lines occur only here and 835 in this book. That they are deliberate and designed for effect is an untenable view. They are never imitated by any later epic poet, in spite of the almost slavish imitation of Vergil in which they indulge (*e.g.*, Val. Flacc., Stat., Sil. Ital.), and they are not, as a rule, specially effective. They are merely lines left unfinished by Vergil for the simple reason



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that he had not succeeded in completing them to his satisfaction. That such was his practice we know from Servius' comment on 165, where he states that the words *Martemque accendere cantu* were added by a sudden inspiration during recitation. It is possible that in the present passage it may indicate that more than one half-line remained to be added, and that Vergil intended the Sibyl's prophecy to be fuller and more explicit. But there is no clear indication of this.

95. **sed contra audentior ito | quam tua te fortuna sinet.** *quam* is the reading of the uncial MSS. and Servius. The sense is "Go forward more boldly than fortune shall permit"—i.e., triumph over fortune. Cp. 5. 710 *superanda omnis fortuna ferendo est.* 10. 284. Ter. Phorm. 203. Sen. Med. 159. Tac. H. 2. 46 *fortes etiam contra fortunam insistere spei.* The difficulties which have been felt over this reading are really imaginary and due to the confusion of *fortuna* and *fatum*. *qua*, the reading of later MSS. and Sen. Ep. 82. 18, gives weaker sense, and lessens the force of *audentior*.

97. **Graia . . . ab urbe.** Pallanteum, the Arcadian Evander's city on the Palatine. See Bk. 8. Norden cites Phlegon (Diels, *Sib. Blätt.*, p. 115) *Τρῶς δὴτ' ἐκλύσει σε κακῶν ἅμα δ' Ἑλλάδος ἐκ γῆς*, and follows Heinze (*Hermes*, 33 (1898), 478, 1) in regarding the conclusion of the prophecy as being influenced by the tendency of Sibylline oracles to refer to Greece.

99. **ambages**="riddles." So used of oracles by Tac. A. 2. 54; 12. 63.

99. **remugit.** Cp. 3. 92 *mugire adytis cortina reclusis.* Phaedr. App. 6. 4 *mugit adytis* (sc. *Pytho*).

100. **ea**=*talia* : emphatic.

**frena . . . concutit, . . . stimulos uertit.** A return to the metaphor drawn from taming a fiery horse. Cp. 8. 3 *acris*





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115. See 5. 731-6.

117. **potes namque omnia.** Cp. Od. 5. 25 δύνασαι γὰρ, Il. 16. 515 δύνασαι δὲ σὺ πάντος ἀκούειν.

118. Cp. 564 *sed me cum lucis Hecate praefecit Auernis.*

119. **si potuit.** The apodosis comes in 123 *et mi genus ab Ioue summo, quid . . . Alciden?* being parenthetical.

**Orpheus.** Cp. G. 4. 453 *sqq.* Orph. Arg. 42 Ταίναρον ἠνίκ' ἔβην σκοτίνην ὁδὸν Ἄιδος εἴσω, | ἡμετέρη πίσυνος κιθάρη δι' ἔρωτ' ἀλόχοιο.

120. **Threicia.** Cp. 645 *nec non Threicius longa cum ueste sacerdos | obloquitur numeris septem discrimina uocum.* Prop. 3. 2. 24 *Threicia . . . lyra.* For the Thracian origin of Orpheus cp. Ap. Rhod. 1. 23 πρῶτα νυν' Ὀρφῆος μνησώμεθα τὸν ῥά ποτ' αὐτῇ | Καλλιόπη Θρήικι φατίζεται εὐνηθείσα | Οἰάγρω σκοπιῆς Πιμπληίδος ἄγχι τεκέσθαι.

121. **si fratrem Pollux alterna morte redemit.** According to this form of the legend Castor and Pollux were both sons of Leda, but Castor had Tyndareus for father, Pollux Jupiter. Castor died, but Pollux the immortal obtained permission that on alternate days he should obtain Castor's release by taking his place in the underworld. In the earliest legend (Il. 3. 243) both are dead. In the Odyssey (11. 303) we find the form of the legend adopted by Vergil (ἄλλοτε μὲν ζῶουσ' ἑτερήμεροι, ἄλλοτε δ' αὖτε | τεθναῖσιν) with the exception that both are represented as sons of Tyndareus. For the legend, as adopted by Vergil, making Pollux the son of Jupiter, cp. Pind. Nem. 10. 50 *sqq.* (79 Zeus loq.) ἐσσί μοι υἱός· τὸν δ' ἔπειτα πόσις σπέρμα θνατὸν ματρὶ τεῶ πελάσαις στάξεν ἥρωσ.

122. **quid Thesea magnum, quid memorem Alciden?** Parenthetical. It is a question whether the comma should be placed after *magnum* with M, or before it with Servius. In favour of the first punctuation is the more natural



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rhythm, and the fact emphasised by Norden that a pause at the end of the 5th foot is rare in Vergil (see Norden *App.* II. 4. 4). In favour of Servius' contention is the fact that Hercules is the greater of the two heroes, and that we should consequently expect *magnum* to refer to him (See Henry ad loc.). But Servius over-emphasises the point when he states that Theseus *per se non est magnus* (cp. Ov. M. 7. 433 *maxime Theseu.*). There is no difficulty in applying the epithet to Theseus, and the assumed anti-climax in the unsupported *Alciden* is the work of super-sensitive criticism.

The mention of Theseus in this connexion is unfortunate, since he is found later in the book to be a prisoner in Tartarus to all eternity: cp. 617 *sedet aeternumque sedebit infelix Theseus*; see n. ad loc. (393 is consistent with either passage). Servius remarks *durum exemplum; unde nec immoratus est in eo. dicit autem inferos debere patere pietati, qui patuerunt infanda cupienti.* Here Vergil thinks of Theseus as the hero of Athens to whom a sanctuary was dedicated, and whose bones were brought in solemn pomp from Scyros. In the later passage he has in mind the non-Athenian tradition, which allowed him no escape, and made his guilt equal with that of Pirithous. See Harrison, *Proleg. Gk. Rel.*, p. 612.

123. **et mi genus ab Ioue summo.** Cp. 394 (same context) *dis quamquam geniti atque inuicti uiribus essent.* Aeneas refers to his descent from Iupiter through Venus. In 1. 380 the words *genus ab Ioue summo* are found = "the race sprung from Jupiter"—*i.e.*, the Trojan race descended from Jupiter through Dardanus.

124. Cp. 4. 219 *talibus orantem dictis arasque tenentem.* Aeneas speaks as a suppliant: cp. 115 *supplex*, etc. The reference is to the practice of touching the altar when praying. **SERVIUS** *rogabant ita ansas ararum tenentes.* Ov. Am. 1. 4. 27 *tange manu mensam quo tangunt more precantes.* A. 12. 201



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*tango aras.* Act. Arv. frat., p. 34, *aras contingere.* Macr. 3. 2. 8.

125. ~~sate gente deum.~~ Cp. 123. For the phrase cp. 8. 36 *o sate gente deum.* This use of *satus* is not confined to poetry; cp. Cic. T. D. 1. 49. 118. Liv. 38. 58. 7 *non sanguine humano sed stirpe diuina satum.* gente is abl. of origin: cp. use of *satus* with *de*; Ov. F. 4. 54 *Iliā cum Lauso de Numitore sati.*

126. **Anchisiade** MPR: *Anchisiada* corr. M. The Latin form of *Anchisiades* is *Anchisiada*, but the *a* is short: cp. Hor. S. 2. 3. 187 *Atrida.* Prop. 2. 14. 1 *gaivus Atrida triumpho.* Therefore *Anchisiada* could only be the Gk. voc. of the Doric form *Anchisiadas.* But the MSS. authority is heavily in favour of the commoner form in *-es.*

**facilis descensus, etc.** The sense of the passage is "The return is more difficult than the going down, only because the going down is final and without return. All go down, and it is the easiest thing in the world to go down, and, if you please, there is nothing to hinder you. But then you must go as others go—*i.e.*, you must die. This you don't wish to do, and there is the rub. This difficulty is got over by the means prescribed, and with it the difficulty of returning." Henry. Cp. Anacr. 56 ad fin.

**Auerni R:** *Auerno* (corrected to *-i*), P: *Auerno* M. Servius recognises both readings. The question as to which reading is correct cannot be definitely decided. But *Auerni* undoubtedly *ought* to be right. What is required is "the descent of Avernus"—*i.e.*, the cave at Avernus: cp. Plin. 16. 110 *descensus speluncae.* If we read *Auerno = ad Auernum*, the descent to Avernus can only mean the descent to Hades. That *Auernus* can be so used is undoubted: cp. Ov. Am. 3. 9. 27. Luc. 6. 636, etc. But it is not appropriate that it should be so used here in the immediate neighbourhood of the actual lake and cavern.





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mon, and no inference can be drawn from them. It is not improbable that Vergil used both terminations indifferently: cp. G. 1. 59, where AMPR all give *Epiros*. See Norden, *App.* 6. 1. For Cocytus and other rivers of the underworld see n. on 295.

**sinu.** "Windings."

133. **quodsi tantus amor, etc.** Cp. 2. 10 *sed si tantus amor casus cognoscere nostros*. For the construction of the infin. after *amor, cupido, etc.*, cp. Enn. Medea fr. 3 *cupido cepit miseram nunc me proloqui* (cp. Eur. Med. 57 ὡςθ' ἴμερος μ' ὑπῆλθε . . . λέξαι). A. 2. 349 *cupido . . . sequi*. An idiom providing a convenient variation *metri gratia* for the normal construction with the gerund.

134. A reminiscence of Od. 12. 21 σχέτλιοι οἱ ζῶντες ὑπήλθετε δῶμ' Ἀίδαο | δισθανέες, ὅτε τ' ἄλλοι ἅπαξ θνήσκουσ' ἄνθρωποι.

**innare** with acc. as in G. 3. 142 = "to swim forth into."

**iacus.** Cp. 323 *Stygiam paludem*, "the stagnant pools of Styx." Cp. G. 4. 493 *stagnis Auernis*.

135. **Tartara.** The neuter plural of the masc. sing. *Tartarus* as in Greek. The word is first found in Lucretius.

**insano iuuat indulgere labori.** Cp. 2. 776 *quid tantum insano iuuat indulgere dolori*. Cp. σχέτλιοι in Od. l.c. (above). But *insano* and the whole sentiment of this and the lines immediately preceding are exaggerated in view of Aeneas' motive and the authority he has for his desire.

137. **aureus ramus.** The nature and significance of the Golden Bough are wrapped in mystery. It was *Iunoni infernae dictus sacer* (138), a gift beloved of Proserpine (142), and is compared, though not actually identified, with the mistletoe (205). The comparison may, however, be no more than a poetical and romantic method of identification. Two views are possible:



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1. The bough is of actual gold, and belongs wholly to the region of myth, though no doubt possessing a counterpart in Chthonian rites. Cp. Servius *licet de hoc ramo hi, qui de sacris Proserpinae scripsisse dicuntur, quiddam esse mysticum affirmant*. What this mystic emblem may have been there is nothing to show. The boughs carried by the *mystae* were of myrtle, not of gold, (Hesychius χρυσορραγῆς ἔρνος. ἀπερρηγμένον ἢ ἀπεστραμμένον ἀπὸ τοῦ δένδρου cannot definitely be brought into connexion with the present passage.)

2. As opposed to this, the esoteric view, is the theory that it is the branch of a real tree or plant, in which case it can clearly be none other than the mistletoe. This view, however, leaves us in little less obscurity. We are reduced to referring vaguely to the magical qualities of the mistletoe, for which it is famous in European folk-lore. Its mysterious growth and its winter fruitage alike made it remarkable. But for its meaning in ancient Greek or Roman folk-lore we have no evidence. It may obviously have symbolised life in the midst of death, and as such have been a welcome gift to Proserpine, ravished from earth to dwell among the dead. It may have been φυτὸν μυστικὸν σύμβολον τοῦ βίου καὶ τοῦ θανάτου, as another plant is described by Photios, lex. i. 406, Naber and Bekker, *anecd. gr.*, p. 279. Mr. A. B. Cook, again, suggests that it may have been regarded as a key to unlock the underworld on the analogy of its use in modern European folk-lore, as a divining rod unlocking the secrets of the earth (*Class. Review*, 1908, p. 405). But we have no evidence as to its properties in ancient Italy or Greece, save for a curious passage in Pliny, N. H. 13. 119, which states that Alexander Cornelius asserts that the *uiscum* was indestructible by fire or water, which does no more than support its possible identification with the Golden



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Bough. Servius states that *publica opinio* identified it with the branch of the mysterious tree in the grove of Nemi, which must be plucked by a candidate for the priesthood of Diana, to qualify him for single combat with the reigning priest, "that slew the slayer, and shall himself be slain." But there seems no special reason to identify this tree with the mistletoe, nor does this interpretation throw any fresh light on the significance of the Vergilian Golden Bough. But see Frazer's *Golden Bough* (3rd ed.), vol. ii., for the development and discussion of this view. For a full discussion of the present passage, almost wholly negative in its result, see Norden, on Aen. 6. 135.

138. **Iunoni infernae.** As 142 shows, she is identified with Proserpine. But there is no parallel either in Greek or Latin for this identification; for though the name recurs with variations in Ov. M. 14. 114 *I. Auerna*, Stat. S. 2. 1. 147, Th. 4. 526 *I Stygia*, etc., these passages are all deliberate imitations of Vergil. In lack of further evidence all that can be said is that as Pluto may be called *Iupiter Stygius* (4. 638), so his bride Proserpina may be called *Iuno inferna*.

**dictus.** Servius *dicatus*. But this requires a parallel, while it is perfectly possible to take *dictus* = "pronounced."

**omnis.** "As if the whole forest conspired to hide it." Conington. Cp. 187 *si nunc se nobis ille aureus arbore ramus | ostendat nemore in tanto*.

141. **auricomos.** First appears here; a translation of the Gk. χρυσόκομος. Lucretius had paved the way with *lauricomus* (6. 152).

**qui** M: *quis* PR. Both are possible, though *qui* is preferable on grounds of euphony = *ei qui*.

142. **pulcra.** Perhaps with a ritual significance, as Artemis is styled ἡ Καλή or Καλλίστη.





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were omitted: the visit to the "ancient wood" (179) would then be merely for the purpose of hewing wood for the sacrifice and the discovery of the Golden Bough, while the description of the cave of Avernus would follow in the most natural manner directly on the reference to *tecta Sibyllae*. There is much force in these arguments; Vergil has, however, introduced the episode with skill: the sacrifice is not due for performance till nightfall (cp. 252 *nocturnas incohat aras*), and there is no serious incoherence or inconsistency arising from the insertion of the episode: the distance of Misenum from Cumae is at least as serious an objection as any; but even here the difficulty is not insuperable. The fact that the death of Misenus is to some extent a *doublette* of the death of Palinurus counts for little. The two episodes are dealt with in very different style, while both are the natural outcome of the aetiological method adopted by Vergil in imitation of the Hellenistic poets. It is, moreover, a method with which we cannot quarrel, for it is a valuable instrument in the hands of the poet for linking up Greek or Italian legend with the actual facts of history and geography.

151. **consulta petis** = *fata poscis*, *consulta* being the decrees of Heaven.

**pendes** = "delay." Cp. 4. 88 *pendent opera interrupta*.

152. **sedibus . . . suis**. "The tomb": cp. 328 *quam sedibus ossa quierunt*.

153. **duc nigras pecudes**. The Sibyl proceeds to give instructions as to the preparations necessary before he can descend to the Lower world. Black victims (*hostiae furuae*) are to be brought for sacrifice to the gods of the dead; see 243 *nigrantis terga iuuenos*, and 249 *atri uelleris agnam*, notes.

The passage is suggested by Od. 10. 517, where Circe gives Odysseus instructions concerning the offerings to be made to the dead.



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**piacula.** "Offerings of appeasement."

**prima**—*i.e.*, they must be offered as a necessary *preliminary*.

156. **defixus lumina.** The construction of the acc. with passive verbs, especially participles, is as old as Ennius (A. 39<sup>2</sup>) *succincti corda machaeris*, is found in Lucretius and most of the poets, in Livy and in Tacitus. It is closely connected with the accusative of extent, cp. 243 *nigrantis terga iuuencos*, 495 *lacerum ora*, and is, perhaps, best regarded as an extension of this use in imitation of Greek usage, and helped by the fact that the Middle voice survived in the shape of deponent verbs and in reflexive uses, such as *accingor* = *accingo me* (see Lindsay, *L.L.*, p. 519 *sqq.*). Such accusatives, as a rule, express either (1) a part of the body, or (2) a thing worn. Cp. 281 *uipereum crinem uittis innexa cruentis*. 470 *uultum mouetur*.

**ingreditur.** "Proceeds on his way," a rare but classical use: cp. 8. 309. Cic. T. D. 1. 31. 75.

**figit** = *ponit*.

160. **sermone serebant.** *sero* is frequently used in the sense of "interchange" of words. Cp. Plaut. Curc. 193. *sermonem serat*. Liu. 3. 43 *aliquid sermonibus occultis serere*. Varro (*L.L.* 6. 64) implies an etymological connexion between the two words, *sermo non potest in uno homine esse solo, sed ubi oratio cum altero coniuncta*. Cp. SERVIUS *hic proprie dictus est sermo qui inter utrumque seritur*.

161. **exanimem** M: *exanimum* PR. The first is to be preferred as avoiding the sequence of two words ending in *-um*.

162. **atque**, almost = "and lo!" Cp. E. 7. 7 *atque ego Daphnim aspicio*.

**Misenum.** While the name of the promontory of Misenum was generally derived from the name of a legendary hero Misenus, there were doubts as to his identity. Strabo



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1. 26 makes him a follower of Ulysses, a view which seems to be adopted by Ov. Met. 14. 103, where the grave *Aeolidae canori* is spoken of as existing before Aeneas' visit to Cumae. The *tabula Iliaca* represents him as a companion of Aeneas, while Dion. Hal. 1. 53. 3 mentions his death as following on that of Palinurus. He is not following Vergil, for the account given of the death of Palinurus is different. The so-called *doublette* of the deaths of Palinurus and Misenus, therefore, may be presumed to have existed in handbooks of mythology prior to Vergil's treatment of these themes. See n. on 149-152.

163. *indigna*. SERVIUS *miserabili, non congrua eius meritis*.

164. *Aeoliden*. Perhaps the son of Aeolus, god of the winds, a fit father for a trumpeter, or possibly of the Trojan Aeolus (12. 542). For this and the following line cp. *Erotem, librarium et libertum eius, exactae iam senectutis tradunt referre solitum, quondam in recitando eum duos dimidiatos uersus complexse ex tempore, et huic "aere ciere uiros": simili calore elatum subiunxisse "Martemque accendere cantu" statimque sibi imperasse ut utrumque volumini adscriberet*. Suet. vit. Verg. 12, 49.

*quo non praestantior alter*. Cp. Il. 2. 553 τῷ δ' οὐπω τις ὁμοῖος ἐπιχθονίων γένετ' ἀνὴρ | κοσμήσαι ἵππους τε καὶ ἀνέρας ἀσπιδιώτας.

*Martemque accendere cantu*. Cp. Aristoph. Pax 310 τὸν Πόλεμον ἐκζωπυρήσεται ἔνδοθεν κεκραγότες. SERVIUS *hemistichium hoc dicitur addidisse dum Augusto hunc sextum librum recitaret*. For the infin. *ciere* and *accendere* dependent on *praestantior* cp. E. 5. 1 *boni . . . inflare*. Hor. Od. 1. 12. 11 *blandus ; . . ducere*.

166. *Hectoris*. There is no mention of trumpeters in Homer, though the trumpet is mentioned in Il. 18. 219.





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*alta sepulcri ara.* But the phrase means more than an "altar-shaped pyre." Actual offerings to the *Di Manes* are made on the pyre (224 *turea dona, dapes, fuso crateres oliuo*), just as offerings are made to the shade of Patroclus (Il. 23. 161). The dead man himself is not conceived as an offering to the gods of the underworld: it is rather to his spirit that the offerings are made, just as similar offerings were made at the true altar-tomb raised above the grave of a dead hero: cp. 3. 301 *tum forte dapes et tristia dona . . . libabat cineri*; or, if there were no actual altar, at the tomb which is revered as an altar: cp. Aesch. Choeph. 99 *αἰδουμένη σοὶ βωμὸν ὡς τύμβον πατρός*. Simon. ap. Diod. 11. 11 *βωμὸς δ' ὁ τάφος*, Sen. Ep. 86 *ara quam sepulcrum esse tanti uiri suspicor* (sc. *Africani*).

178. The whole line suggests unwonted size and magnificence, with a certain splendid exaggeration.

179. Compare the comparatively prosaic description in Il. 23. 114 *sqq.*, with the elaborate magnificence of the present passage, which is a close imitation of a ruder but no less splendid passage in Ennius (A. 193): *incedunt arbusta per alta; securibus caedunt: | percellunt magnas quercus: exciditur ilex: | fraxinus frangitur atque abies consternitur alta: | pinus proceras peruortunt: omne sonabat | arbustum fremitu siluai frondosai*. The same theme is treated again by Vergil in 11. 135 *ferro sonat alta bipenni | fraxinus, euertunt actas ad sidera pinus, | robora nec cuneis et olentem scindere cedrum | nec plaustris cessant uectare gementibus ornos*.

**stabula alta.** The phrase recurs in 9. 388 and 10. 723; in both these cases *alta* means "lofty," and the context requires the same meaning here; Vergil is emphasising the height of the forest trees hewn down.

**antiquam siluam.** Avernus was thickly clothed with wood, until the woods were felled in the construction of his



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new harbour by Agrippa, an incident which may well have been present in the poet's mind when he wrote this passage. Cp. Strabo. 5, p. 244.

180. **piceae** = "spruce": cp. Plin. 16. 10 *feralis arbor et funebri indicio ad fores posita et rogis uirens*.

181. **cuneis et fissile robur**. Donatus in his paraphrase rightly takes *cuneis* with what follows, while M also punctuates after *trabes*. This gives more point to *fissile*, and is supported by 11. 137 cited above (sc. *robora nec cuneis*).

182. **ornos**. The manna ash, *Fraxinus ornus*.

183. **primus**. Cp. 176 *praecipue*.

184. **accingitur** = "provides himself": cp. 9. 74 *facibus pubes accingitur*. 6. 570 *accincta flagello*. *accingor*, like *cingor* (2. 749), *induor* (2. 392) is used reflexively like a Greek middle: cp. n. on 156.

185. **haec** refers to what follows, and is repeated by *sic*.

**tristi cum corde** from Ennius (A. 473). Cp. 8. 522 *multaque dura suo tristi cum corde putabant*.

186. **uoce** R: *forte* MP Servius. In spite of the authority against it *uoce* is preferable; it indicates that he prays aloud and not silently in his heart: cp. 9. 403 and 11. 784. *forte*, on the other hand, is pointless: cp. SERVIUS *uacat forte, et est uersus de his qui tibicines uocantur*. It has probably crept in from 190.

188. **quando omnia uere, etc.** Cp. Aesch. Ag. 1241 ἀγαν γ' ἀληθόμαντιν οἰκτείρας ἐρείς.

190. **forte**. SERVIUS *auguria aut oblatiua sunt, quae non poscuntur, aut impetratiua, quae optata ueniunt. hoc ergo quia oblatium est, ideo dixit "forte."*

191. **ipsa sub ora**. SERVIUS *ne si longius uolarent, non ad eum pertinere uiderentur: nam moris erat ut captantes auguria certa sibi spatia designarent, quibus uolebant uidenda ad se pertinere*.



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193. **maternas.** For the dove sacred to Venus cp. Prop. 3. 3. 31; 4. 5. 62. Ov. M. 13. 673, etc.

194. **SERVIUS** *et iam ex hoc loco esse incipit impetratium quod fuerat oblatium.* Cp. n. on 190.

195. **pinguem diues.** The juxtaposition is emphatic. The ground that bears such fruit must indeed be fertile.

197. **effatus.** **SERVIUS** *proprie effata sunt augurum preces : unde ager post pomeria ubi captabantur auguria dicebatur effatus.*

**uestigia pressit.** **SERVIUS** *quia ad captanda auguria post preces immobiles uel sedere uel stare consueuerant. pressit = repressit : cp. 331 constitit Anchisa satus et uestigia pressit.*

199. **pascentes.** Not on the wing, but settling to feed and then flying on again. Servius detects a special significance in this comparing the feeding of the "sacred chickens."

200. **possent.** Final subj. expressing the purpose of the doves in their flight.

**seruare**, perhaps, with its technical augural sense, as in *seruare de caelo*.

**sequentum** may mean "following with the eye," or be used of actual motion; they follow the birds each time they fly on from the spot where they had settled.

201. **graueolentis Auerni.** See n. on 240-42. For *graueolentis* cp. G. 4. 270 *graueolentia centaurea*. So, too, *bene olentis* (E. 2. 48).

202. **liquidumque per aera.** **SERVIUS** *non est aeris perpetuum epitheton, sed purum et incorruptum ait Auerni comparatione.* A possible, but by no means necessary, interpretation.

203. **sedibus optatis.** (1) The "wished-for resting-place," which is explained by the lines which follow: this is a perfectly natural explanation. (2) The "spot which they had





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## Commentary

**discolor**—*i.e.*, differing in colour from the tree on which it grows.

205. **brumali frigore uiscum**. There are two kinds of mistletoe. (1) *Viscum album*, the common mistletoe, an evergreen. The fruit is white, and it is rarely found on oaks (never in Italy, according to Pollini, cited by Lenz), (*Botanik der alten Griechen und Römer*). (2) *Loranthus Europaeus*, a S. European species, deciduous with golden berries, and so frequently found on oak as to be called *visco quercino* (cp. Soph. F. 370 ἰξοφόρους δρυάς. Plin. 16. 245 *uiscum in quercu robore ilice*). Here the golden bough is found on an evergreen oak (*ilex*) and has golden berries. This points to *Loranthus Europaeus*. On the other hand, *Loranthus Europaeus* is leafless in winter, while *Viscum album* is not. This is a point in favour of the latter species (cp. *fronde uirere noua*). The probability is that Vergil does not accurately distinguish between the two plants, which closely resemble each other. See Frazer, *Golden Bough*, vol. ii. (3rd ed., 1913), note iv. **brumali frigore**. *bruma*, the date of the winter solstice, fell on December 25 in the Caesarian Calendar: cp. Plin. 18. 221. Mommsen on C.I.L. 1<sup>2</sup>, p. 288. The mistletoe thus, even here, is connected with the date of our own Christmas.

207. **teretis** = "round."

209. **ilice**. See n. on 205.

209. **brattea** = "gold foil." Cp. Lucr. 4. 728 *tenuia . . . obuia cum ueniunt, ut aranea bratteaque auri*.

211. **cunctantem**. But in 147 Aeneas was told *ipse uolens facilisque sequetur*. Either Vergil is guilty of an exceedingly unfortunate inconsistency, or we must accept the interpretation of Servius: "*cunctantem*" quia "*auidus*," ut ostendat tantam fuisse auellendi cupiditatem ut nulla ei satisfacere posset celeritas: nam tardantem dicere non possumus



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*qui fataliter sequebatur.* Norwood's theory expounded in *Class. Quart.* 12, p. 148, 9, ignores the facts of the case, and will not hold water for a moment. He holds that the Sibyl was wrong in 147. She held that the enterprise was either utterly impossible or entirely easy. Aeneas' experience shows that it was possible, but difficult. Aeneas, he urges, is a new type of hero: he believes that his divine origin will help. But no; it is his *pietas* only that enables him to succeed. There is not a syllable in Vergil to support this view. The Sibyl had stated that it would be easy *si te fata uocant.* The whole Aeneid centres round the fact that Aeneas was not only *pious*, but the man of destiny. It is inconceivable that Vergil meant us to suppose that the Sibyl could be in error, or that he wrapped his meaning in such thick and impenetrable darkness.

**tecta Sibyllae.** This cannot be the oracular cave at *Cumae*. Aeneas does not return there. The moment the funeral is over he goes to the cave of Avernus (cp. 236, 7). It is clear, therefore, that the Grotta della Sibilla on the banks of Avernus is regarded as her dwelling-place, and that it is to this that reference is made in *tecta Sibyllae*.

212-235. While the description of the funeral rites of Misenus is, no doubt, suggested in a general way by the funerals of Patroclus and Hector in the closing books of the Iliad, it is something more than a mere imitation of Homer. Vergil appeals to the feelings of his readers by describing the solemn rites of *Roman* burial. In all the many references in Vergil to Roman ritual and custom, there is nothing more perfectly designed at once to move his readers and to lend Roman colour to the epic.

The Romans practised both inhumation and incineration, but the latter was the usual practice with the upper classes, and went back to remote antiquity. For similar descriptions



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of funeral rites cp. the funeral of Pallas in 11 ad init. and that of the fallen Trojans in the same book.

213. **ingrato.** SERVIUS *tristi, ut gratum laetum aliquid dicimus. alii ingrato dicunt gratiam non sentienti.* On the first view *ingrato* = "unlovely," "unpleasing," rather than "sad": cp. Prop. 2. 13. 35 *qui nunc iacet horrida puluis.* But there can be little doubt that the second interpretation is preferable ("thankless"). Cp. Copa, 35 *quid cineri ingrato seruas bene olentia sarta?* Hom. Il. 24. 54. Soph. El. 356.

**cineri.** The dead body called *cinis* by anticipation.

**suprema.** The last offerings: cp. 11. 25 *supremis muneribus.* 61 *supremum honorem.* The use of the word in this context is not found before Vergil.

214. Cp. the description of the pyre of Patroclus in Il. 23. 162.

**taedis . . . robore secto.** Cp. 4. 504 *pyra . . . erecta ingenti taedis.*

**pinguem** is best taken with *taedis*, being balanced by *ingentem robore secto*. It is, however, possible to take *pinguem* with *robore secto* as well, treating the whole line as predicative to *ingentem struxere pyram*. *pinguem* applies especially to the resinous *taeda* (Scotch pine), but may easily be extended to other fuel. The pyre is of rough-hewn logs: cp. XII. tab. ap. Cic. de leg. 2. 23 *rogum ascia ne poli.*

**pyram.** The Greek word for the Latin *rogus* (308), used here as in 4. 494, 504, and 11. 185, 204: found before Vergil only in auct. bell. Afr. 91. 2, and bell. Hisp. 39. 3. 4.

**frondibus atris.** If *atris* carries with it no more than the idea of colour, it will refer to leaves of the cypress, yew, ilex, conifers, and evergreens in general. If, on the other





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water was used as it is to-day, because it is better for cleansing purposes.

**aena undantia flammis.** Cp. 7. 462 *ueluti cum flamma sonore | uirgea suggeritur costis undantis aeni.*

219. **lauant et unguunt.** The *pollinctio*. Cp. Ennius, A. 155 *Tarquini corpus bona femina lauit et unxit.* Il. 18. 343. The anointing of the corpse was designed to prevent premature decay (cp. Lucian, *de luct.* 11) during the three to seven days (Schol. Cruq. ad Hor. Epod. 17. 48. Seru. ad Aen. 5. 64) allowed to elapse between death and burial. Cp. Apul. Flor. 19, where he recounts the revival of a seemingly dead man, *iam miseri illius membra omnia aromatis perspersa, iam os ipsius unguine odore delibutum, iam eum pollinctum, iam pyra paratum contemplatus . . . inuenit in illo uitam latentem.* In the case of Misenus the anointing is a mere rite, serving no purpose, save to assist the consumption of the corpse.

220. **fit gemitus.** Perhaps corresponding to the formal lamentation by *praeficae* during the lying in state. Cp. bas-relief, published in *Mon. Ist. corrisp. archeol. Rom.* 5. Plate VI. (reproduced in *Daremberg et Saglio*, s.v. *funus*, p. 1389). But the funeral of Misenus being rapid, the time and order of a formal funeral are not observed.

**toro.** The *lectus funebris* placed on the bier and committed with it to the flames. Such, at least, is the most probable interpretation in view of the imitation in Stat. Theb. 6. 54 *tristibus interea ramis teneraque cupresso | damnatus flammae torus et puerile feretrum texitur.* This interpretation justifies the epithet *ingenti* applied to *feretro*. Statius proceeds to describe a structure for which *ingens* is scarcely adequate. Such a *lectus funebris* borne on the *feretrum* is depicted in a relief found at Preturi in 1879 (*Not. Scavi.*, 1879, p. 145; reproduced in *Daremberg et Saglio*, s.v. *funus*, p. 1392).



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221. **purpureasque super uestes.** Cp. Serv. ad. A. 3. 67 (citing Varro) *sed quoniam sumptuosum erat et crudele uictimas uel homines interficere, sanguinei coloris coepta est uestes mortuis inici ut et ipse testatur* (6. 221) “*purpureasque super uestis uelamina nota*” et (5. 79) “*purpureosque iacit flores.*” It is not clear from the actual language whether these garments are additional offerings to the dead, or the garments actually worn by Misenus. Either is possible. For the latter view cp. Liv. 34. 7 *purpura uiri utemur . . . magistratibus in coloniis municipiisque . . . praetextae habendae ius permittemus, nec id ut uiui solum habeant tantum insigne, sed etiam ut cum eo crementur mortui.* This view also receives support from *uelamina nota*, which, though it might mean the “customary pall,” is most naturally taken with Servius as *ipsi cara*. Cp. Plut. non posse suau. 2. 6. 1104D *ἱμάτια συνήθη τοῖς τεθνηκόσι συνθάπτειν*; Lucian, Philops. 27 *συγκατακαύσας καὶ τὴν ἐσθῆτα ἣ ζῶσα ἔχαιρεν.* For the burning of rich garments with the dead cp. 11. 72 *tum geminas uestis auroque ostroque rigentis | extulit . . . harum iuueni supremum moestus honorem induit.* Val. Max. 5. 5. 4. Suet. Ner. 50. Though the reason for the colour may have been as Varro states, the burning of the garments is probably to provide the dead with raiment in the other world.

222. **ingenti.** An adjective of which Vergil is inordinately fond (see Henry, *Aeneidea*, vol. iii., p. 39 *sqq.*): here, however, it is less appropriate to the bier than to the pyre (215). It may be regarded as suggesting the stature of the dead hero and the bulk of the *feretrum* bearing the *lectus funebris*. The epithet occurs no less than eighteen times in this book alone.

**subiere.** *subeo* is most commonly used with acc., but is not uncommon with the dat. in poetry (or possibly with



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the abl., though there is no clear instance of the abl.: *portu Chaonio* (3. 292) may equally well be dat. in *u*). The bier was carried on the shoulders, as may be seen in the relief referred to in n. on *toro* (220). Cp. also Hor. S. 2. 5. 85 *cadaver | unctum oleo largo nudis humeris tulit heres*.

223. **triste ministerium.** Acc. in apposition with the sentence: cp. G. 3. 40 *interea Dryadum siluās saltusque sequamur | intactos, tua, Maecenas, haud mollia iussa*. Norden points out that the phrase became a commonplace in inscriptions on tombs: see Bücheler, *Carm. epigr. ind.*, p. 918.

**subiectam.** The pyre was naturally kindled from below. *subicere* is used in the same context of setting fire to a thing in 2. 37 and 11. 186. Cp. also Lucr. 6. 1285 *subdebantque faces*. Prop. 4. 11. 9 *cum subdita nostrum | detraheret lecto fax inimica caput*.

**more parentum.** Cp. 11. 185 *huc corpora quisque suorum | more tulere patrum*. An echo of the familiar *more maiorum*: the *parentes* were Trojan, the reader could but feel a reference to Roman custom. There is no suggestion of any special duty of relatives as Servius supposes: the reference is general.

223. **auersi.** Probably for some such reason as that suggested by Norden, to avoid witnessing the *εἶδωλον* of the dead as it left the body; or it may be to avoid attracting the ghost's attention. Cp. Ov. F. 5. 430 *sqq.*, where the *paterfamilias* looks the other way while dropping beans for the ghosts; also Harrison, *Prol. Gk. Rel.*, p. 605. "You may not look back when spirits are about from the underworld: if you do, you may have to join them."

**facem.** SERVIUS *de fune, ut ait Varro*.

225. **turea dona.** Cp. Luc. 8. 729. Stat. Silv. 2. 1. 157. Plin. 12. 83. The offerings mentioned in this line are to the *manes* of Misenus. See n. on *aramque sepulcri* (177).





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may have been a substitute for blood and intended to keep the ghost alive.)

228. **cado.** A brazen urn, such as is frequently found in tombs.

**lecta.** The ceremony known as *ossilegium*, performed under ordinary circumstances by near relatives after the departure of the other mourners. It is probable that *Corynaeus* (the name recurs again in 9. 571 and 12. 298) is to be regarded as a relative.

229. The Trojans were polluted by the death of Misenus, precisely as a house was polluted by the presence of death. Under ordinary circumstances the house in which a man had died was purified before the funeral (*exuerrae*, see Festus, s.v. *exuerreator*). Then, after the funeral, came the purification of all who had taken part in it (*suffitio*): see Fest. s.v. *aqua et igni*, p. 3 *L. itaque funus prosecuti redeuntes ignem supergradiebantur aqua aspersi: quod purgationis genus uocabant suffitionem.*

**ter.** The sacred number. The belief that odd numbers are lucky is universal. The simpler odd numbers, 3, 5, 7, 9, recur continually: cp. Usener, *Dreizahl. Rh. Mus.* 58, pp. 1 sqq., 161 sqq., 321 sqq. For the number 3 in ritual cp. 506 *manis ter uoce uocauit*. E. 8. 73 *terna tibi haec primum triplici diuersa colore | licia circumdo, terque haec altaria circum | effigiem duco: numero deus impare gaudet*. A. 11. 188 *ter circum accensos cincti fulgentibus armis | decurrere rogos, ter maestum funeris ignem | lustrauere in equis ululatusque ore dedero*. G. 1. 345 (a case of actual *lustratio*) *terque nouas circum felix eat hostia fruges*.

**circumtulit.** "Purified." SERVIUS *purgauit. antiquum uerbum est. . . . nam lustratio a circumlacione dicta est uel taedae uel sulphuris*. Hence *circumferre*, originally used merely of the act of purification, came to be used in the



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sense "to purify": cp. Plaut. Amph. 776 *quaeso quin tu istanc iubes pro cerrita circumferri*. Fr. incert. 68 *pro laruato te circumferam*. Cato. agr. 141. 1. It is quite unnecessary to explain, as Conington does, "on the analogy of *circumdare*, etc., *aliquam rem alicui*, and *aliquem aliqua re*," making the present phrase a variation for *circumtulit socios puram undam*. The word is old and popular, and has come to be considered as equivalent to *purgare*. *lustrare* has undergone the opposite process: from "purify" it has come to mean "range," "go round."

230. **spargens**. Cp. Macrobius 3. 1. 6 *constat dis superis sacra facturum corporis ablutione purgari; cum uero inferis litandum est, satis uidetur si aspersione sola contingat*.

**rore et ramo**. Hendiadys.

**felicis oliuae**. SERVIUS *arboris festae. sed moris fuerat ut de lauro fieret. sane dicit Donatus quod hoc propter Augustum mutauit. nam nata est laurus in Palatio eo die quo Augustus. unde triumphantes coronari consueuerant. propter quam rem noluit laurum dicere ad officium lugubre pertinere*. There is no other reference to the use of the olive for this purpose. The laurel was regularly employed (cp. Plin. 15. 138). Servius' explanation is not very probable. But for the use of the olive at funerals, though for a very different purpose, cp. Plin. 35. 160 *quin et defunctos sese multi fictilibus soliis condi maluere, sicut M. Varro, Pythagorico modo, in myrti et oleae et populi nigrae foliis*. It is possible that we may have a trace of Pythagorean influence here, as so often in this book.

**felicis**. Not so much in contrast to the *infelix oleaster* (in sense "unfertile"), as opposed to *infelices arbores*, "ill-omened": cp. n. on 215 *frondibus atris*.

231. **lustrauit**. As in many cases of *lustratio* the rite involved going round the persons to be purified. Cp. *cir-*



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*cumtulit* above. See Warde Fowler, *Rel. Exp. of Rom. People*, p. 209.

**nouissima uerba.** SERVIUS (on 216) *populi circumstantis corona, quae tam diu stabat respondens fletibus praeficae . . . quam diu consumpto cadauere et collectis cineribus diceretur nouissimum uerbum "ilicet," quod ire licet significat. unde est "dixitque nouissima uerba."* (On 231) *id est "ilicet": nam "uale" dicebatur post tumuli quoque peracta sollemnia.* Servius may be right, but we should expect the last farewell to be mentioned rather than the comparatively colourless "*ilicet*." The farewell to Pallas (11. 97), however, takes place before the actual burning.

**232. ingenti mole sepulcrum.** A great tumulus or barrow, like the barrow reputed to be the tomb of Achilles at Sigeum. Cp. 11. 23. 255 *τορνῶσαντο δὲ σῆμα, θεμειλιά τε προβάλοντο | ἀμφὶ πυρήν· εἶθαρ δὲ χυτὴν ἐπὶ γαῖαν ἔχευαν.* 24. 797. Od. 12. 14 and 24. 80. Aesch. Cho. 351 *πολύχωστον τάφον.*

**233. suaque arma.** SERVIUS *sculpsit in saxo. nam supra ea iam legimus concremata.* There is no need for such an interpretation. The *arma* are the *remus et tuba*. Cp. 1. 177 *Cerealia arma*. The alternative is to take *arma* as the actual armour contrasted by the use of *sua* with the *fulgentia arma* burned on the pyre, which are not his arms, but those offered by his comrades: cp. 11. 193 *alii . . . coniciunt igni galeas ensesque decoros | . . . pars munera nota, | ipsorum clipeos et non felicia tela.*

**remumque tubamque.** SERVIUS *quia et bellator et remex fuerat. licet possimus etiam tubam accipere. remus enim dicitur lorum quod continet tubam—i.e., a leather case.* But this is inappropriate: *remum* is a clear imitation of Od. 11. 77 and 12. 15, where Elpenor's oar is spoken of as the mark to be set above his tomb.





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τῆς Ἰταλίας . . . περὶ Λίμνην Ἄορνον οὕτω καλουμένην  
μαντείον ἄντρον . . . ἐνταῦθα ὁ δεόμενος ἀφικόμενος, εὐξάμενος  
ἐντεμῶν σφάγια χεάμενος χοὰς ἀνεκαλεῖτο ψυχὴν ὅτου δὴ τῶν  
πατέρων ἢ φίλων. καὶ αὐτῷ ἀπήντα εἶδωλον, ἀμυδρὸν μὲν ἰδεῖν  
. . . φθεγκτικὸν δὲ . . . καὶ συγγεγόμενον ὑπὲρ ὧν ἐδεῖτο  
ἀπηλλάττετο.

238. **scrupea.** “Rough,” “jagged,” a rare word found  
before Vergil only in Enn. Tr. fr. 139 V. and as a noun  
in Attius, Tr. 431 R. From *scrupus* a sharp stone: cp.  
Fest. 448 L. *scrupi dicuntur aspera saxa et difficilia attrectatu.*  
For the present phrase cp. Att. ap. Non. 223. 2 *scruposam*  
*specum.*

**tuta.** “Protected.” Its original sense as past part. pass.  
of the archaic *tueo*. Cp. 1. 571 *auxilio tutos.*

**nemorumque tenebris.** The lake was surrounded with  
thick wood till 37 B.C., when Agrippa connected the  
Lucrine lake with the sea and with Avernus by canals,  
with a view to forming a landlocked harbour. Strabo, 5,  
p. 244 *sqq.*

239-242. Cp. Lucr. 6. 740 *principio quod Auerna uocantur*  
*nomine, id ab re | impositum est, quia sunt auibus contraria*  
*cunctis | . . . hic locus est Cumas apud, acri sulphure montes*  
*| oppleti calidis ubi fumant fontibus aucti.* Lucretius clearly  
connects the name with *avis*, and there is no reason why  
Vergil should not have done likewise. 242, which gives the  
Greek derivation, is without parallel in Vergil (G. 3. 148  
*oestrum Grai uertere uocantes* comes in a didactic poem, and is  
not in any case a true parallel).

The line is such as might be tolerable in a *Periegesis*, but is  
out of the question in an epic poem. Finally, (a) it is pre-  
served by R alone among the better MSS., (b) ignored by  
Servius, and (c) occurs in Dionysius, *Perieg.* 1151 *τούνεκα*  
*μιν καὶ φῶτες ἐπικλείουσιν Ἄορνιν*, which is translated by



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Priscian, Perieg. 1056 *unde locis Grai posuerunt nomen Aornis*. It is clearly a gloss which has found its way into the text.

239. Cp. Ap. Rhod. 4. 601 (of the Eridanus) οὐδέ τις ὕδωρ κείνο διὰ πτέρα κοῦφα τανύσσας | οἴωνος δύναται βαλέειν ὕπερ.

**uolantes.** "Flying things," used substantivally as in 728, and Lucr. 2. 1083. Cp. also *uolitans* in the same sense in G. 3. 147.

240. Cp. 7. 7 *tendit iter uelis*.

241. As stated above, these exhalations have ceased. But the whole district of the Campi Flegrei is full of hot springs and exhalations of sulphur are not infrequent: cp. especially the Solfatara at Pozzuoli and the Grotta del Cane.

**supera ad conuexa.** FM<sup>2</sup> P<sup>2</sup> read *supera*, M<sup>1</sup> P<sup>1</sup> R *super*. So, too, at 750 FM<sup>2</sup> read *supera*, M<sup>1</sup> *super*. There is a like divergence in the text at 10. 251. There can, however, be no doubt that *supera* is the true reading; *conuexa* requires either an adjective or a noun (e.g., *caeli*) to qualify it.

243 *sqq.* The sacrifices now offered are in accordance with Greek ritual rather than Roman. They are suggested primarily by those in Od. 11. Cp. especially the sacrifice of στεῖραν βοῦν (30) and οἶν παμμέλανα (32), corresponding to *sterilem uaccam* and *atri uelleris agnam* in the present passage. They are, however, more elaborate and different in detail. While the language in certain points recalls the technical language of Roman sacrifice, there are certain features which are foreign to genuine Roman rite—e.g., the collection of the blood in bowls for offering to the dead, the holocaust (*solida uiscera*), and perhaps also the method of slaughter (*supponunt cultros*). See notes.

243. **nigrantis terga iuuenos.** Repeated in 5. 97. For the construction see n. on 156. The technical name for such victims was *hostiae furuae* (Val. Max. 2. 4. 5), black



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cattle being chosen for sacrifice to the deities of the underworld, as white victims were selected for offerings to the *di superi*.

245. **constituit.** Cp. 5. 236 *taurum | constituam ante aras.* 9. 627 *statuam.* 8. 85 *sistit.*

244. **inuergit.** SERVIUS *in quarto* (61) ait “*media inter cornua fundit.*” *et fundere est supina manu libare, quod fit in sacris supernis; uergere autem est conuersa in sinistram partem manu ita fundere ut patera conuertatur, quod in infernis sacris fit.* Cp. Ov. M. 7. 246, where *inuergo* is used in a similar context.

245. Cp. Od. 3. 445 *πολλὰ δ' Ἀθήνη | εὔχεται ἀπαρχόμενος κεφαλῆς τρίχας ἐν πυρὶ βάλλων.*

**libamina prima.** A translation of the Gk. ἀπαρχαὶ. *libare* can be used of any offering, liquid or otherwise (e.g., *tura, exta, uiscera*): cp. Stat. Th. 6. 224 *raptumque suis libamen ab armis.*

247. Cp. Ap. Rhod. 3. 1209 *ἐπὶ δὲ μιγάδας χέε λαιβὰς | Βριμὸν κικλήσκων Ἐκάτην ἐπαρωγὸν ἀέθλων.*

**uoce uocans** means no more than calling aloud upon Hecate. SERVIUS *non uerbis, sed quibusdam mysticis sonis.* Possibly, but Vergil does not say so, and Servius, as often, refines overmuch.

**Hecaten.** See n. on *Triuiæ* 13.

248. **supponunt cultros.** Cp. G. 3. 492 *uix suppositi tinguuntur sanguine cultri.* SERVIUS *id est uictimas caedunt. fuit autem uerbum sacrorum, in quibus mali ominis uerba uitabant.* Cp. the precisely similar use of ὑποτίθημι in Dio. Hal. 7. 72 *συντελεσθείσης δὲ τῆς πομπῆς ἐβουθύτουν εὐθὺς . . . καὶ ὁ τῶν θυηπολιῶν τρόπος ὁ αὐτὸς ἦν τῷ παρ' ἡμῖν . . . τῶν δὲ (sc. ὑπηρετῶν) οἱ μὲν ἐστῶτος ἔτι τοῦ θυμιάματος σκυτάλη τοὺς κροτάφους ἔπαιον οἱ δὲ πίπτοντος ὑπετίθεσαν τὰς σφαγίδας.* He is describing the ritual at a Roman





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it is because blood must flow in a Chthonian offering. **SERVIUS** *ut eum contra umbras haberet consecratum. hinc est quod ei dicit Sibylla (260) "uaginaque eripe ferrum."*

**sterilem uaccam.** In Od. l.c. the  $\sigma\tau\epsilon\acute{\iota}\rho\alpha \beta\omicron\upsilon\varsigma$  is to be offered to the shades. **SERVIUS** *deae congruam nunquam enitenti.* Cp. Arnob. 7. 21 *bos si sterilis caedatur Unxiae, quam Proserpinae tribuitis.*

252. **Stygio regi.** Pluto. Cp. 4. 638 *Ioui Stygio.*

**nocturnas.** The sacrifice is to be performed at midnight (cp. Sil. 13. 413 *sqq. a medio cum se nox umida cursu | flexerit, etc.*).

**incohat.** **SERVIUS** *est uerbum sacrum.*

253. **solida uiscera.** **SERVIUS** *uiscera sunt quicquid inter ossa et cutem est. . . . ergo per solida uiscera holocaustum significat.* There is no trace of the holocaust in old Roman ritual (Wissowa, *R.K.* 352 n. 6), and in piacular offerings at Rome, the *exta* seem to have been laid upon the altar (Warde Fowler, *Relig. Exp. of Rom. People*, p. 191).

254. Cp. Il. 11. 775  $\sigma\pi\acute{\epsilon}\nu\delta\omega\nu \alpha\acute{\iota}\theta\omicron\pi\alpha \omicron\acute{\iota}\nu\omicron\nu \acute{\epsilon}\tau' \alpha\acute{\iota}\theta\omicron\mu\acute{\epsilon}\nu\omicron\iota\varsigma \acute{\iota}\epsilon\rho\omicron\acute{\iota}\sigma\iota.$

**super.** For the short vowel before *-r* lengthened in arsis cp. 1. 668 *litora iactetur odiis.* All uncial MSS. read *superque, que* having been interpolated as in 1. 668, where MR add *que*, F alone preserving the true reading. *super* rests on the authority of later MSS.; cp. Pierius, who states that it occurs in "*aliquot antiqua.*"

**oleum.** Cp. 225 *oliuo*, note.

255. **primi sub lumina solis.** So, too, it is just before dawn that Hecate answers Jason's summons, Ap. Rhod. 3. 1212-1224. Norden suggests that the hour immediately before dawn is chosen because the spirits of darkness must return to the underworld at dawn: cp. Lucian, *Philops.* 14. Prop. 4. 7. 91 *luce iubent leges Lethea ad stagna reuerti.*



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256. **mugire solum.** Cp. 4. 490 *mugire uidebis | sub pedibus terram et descendere montibus ornos* (at the approach of *nocturni manes*). Ap. Rhod. 3. 1218 *πίσσα δ' ἔτρεμε πάντα κατὰ στίβον.*

257. **canes.** Cp. Ap. Rhod. 3. 1217 *ἀμφὶ δὲ τήν γε | ὄξειή ὑλακῆ χθόνιοι κύνες ἐφθέγγοντο.* Theocr. 2. 35, Hor. S. 1. 8. 33 *Hecaten uocat altera . . . uideres infernas errare canes.* Hecate herself is sometimes represented with a dog's head (Dieterich, *Nekyia*, p. 51, n. 2).

258. **procul o procul este profani.** A translation of the formula *ἐκὰς, ἐκὰς ὅστις ἄλιτρος* (cp. Callim. Hymn. Apoll. 2). Hecate is approaching, and the unhallowed are warned to withdraw.

260. **uaginaque eripe ferrum.** Aeneas is bidden to draw his sword because the spirits of the underworld fear cold iron. Cp. Od. 11. 48, where Odysseus draws his sword in conformity with Circe's instructions. Also Schol. ad Od. 1. c. *κοινή τις παρὰ ἀνθρώποις ἐστὶν ὑπόληψις ὅτι νεκροὶ καὶ δαίμονες σίδηρον φοβοῦνται.* Lycophr. 685 *φασγάνου πρόβλημα δαιμόνων φόβος.* Later (290), when Aeneas is about to use the sword, the Sibyl warns him that his adversaries are unsubstantial shadows to whom he can do no hurt. The sword is therefore drawn as a talisman, but no further reference is made to its use or power. For the phrase cp. 4. 579 *uaginaque eripit ensem*, and 10. 475.

262. **furens.** The approach of Hecate renews the *afflatus*. Cp. Eur. Hipp. 141 *ἦ σύ γ' ἐνθεος, ᾧ κούρα εἶτ' ἐκ Πανδὸς εἶθ' Ἐκάτας.*

263. **aequat** "keeps pace with." Cp. 3. 671 *nec potis Ionios fluctus aequare sequendo.*

264-267. Such invocations are the commonplaces of Epic, occurring not only at the commencement of a great poem such as the Odyssey or Iliad, but as introductions to special passages. Cp. Il. 2. 484 and 14. 508. Aen. 7. 36, 641; 9. 525;



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10. 163; 12. 500. For an extreme, almost burlesque, example cp. Oppian, Hal. 1. 73. In primitive times it was a genuine prayer: the poet was the mouthpiece of the Muses, and drew his authority and warrant from them. This idea became subsequently a stereotyped epic convention. It is not always in the form of a prayer: cp. Ap. Rhod. 4. 1379 Μουσάων ὄδε μῦθος· ἐγὼ δ' ὑπάκουος αἰίδω | Πιερίδων καὶ τήνδε πανατρεκὲς ἔκλυον ὀμφήν. Orph. Fr. 49 Abel. But of all these ceremonial introductions there is none to equal the present for impressiveness. Vergil is not merely revealing the secrets of the nether world: he is expounding the mysteries of purification and rebirth, with which are intimately linked the destinies of the Roman people.

264. Cp. 5. 235 *di quibus imperium est pelagi*.

265. **Chaos**, the parent of Nox and Erebus: Hes. T. 123.

**Phlegethon**. Cp. Od. 10. 513 ἔνθα μὲν εἰς Ἄχέροντα Πυριφλεγέθων τε ῥέουσιν | Κωκυτός θ' ὃς δὴ Στυγὸς ὕδατος ἐστὶν ἀπορρῶξ. A. 6. 550 *moenia . . . quae rapidis flammis ambit torrentibus amnis | Tartareus Phlegethon, torquetque sonantia saxa*.

**loca nocte tacentia late**. Cp. 463 *loca senta situ*. 534 *loca turbida*.

266 **audita**. Cp. Plat. Gorg. 524 B. ταῦτ' ἐστὶν (description of Hades), ἃ ἐγὼ ἀκηκοὼς πιστεύω ἀληθῆ εἶναι. Meno, 81 A. Gorg. 493 A.

**sit numine uestro**. Not = *sit fas*, but *sit = liceat*. Cp. E. 10. 46.

269. **uacuas . . . inania**. **SERVIUS nostri mundi comparatione: simulacra enim illic sunt, quae inania esse non dubium est**.

270. **incertam** = not "fitful": they are walking through "darkness visible," and the comparison to moonlight rendered intermittent by passing clouds would be inappro-





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*rapuisse uideatur.* Orcus is a genuine Italian deity, while *Dis* is merely a translation of the Gk. Πλούτων. See n. on *Ditis*, 127. *Orcus* is, however, often, as here, used for the underworld itself: cp. Prop. 3. 19. 27 *Minos sedet arbiter Orci.*

That the *uestibulum* is not merely metaphorical, but is conceived as an actual fore-court, is shown by *limine* (279), *fores* (286), *in medio* (282). In the latter case the elm of dreams is regarded as growing in the midst of the *uestibulum* and overshadowing it. Cp. G. 4. 20 *palmaque uestibulum aut ingens oleaster obumbret.* Suet. Vesp. 25 *in media parte uestibuli.*

274. The list of the woes and passions which afflict mankind, personified as evil spirits haunting the gates of Hades, has no exact parallel in earlier literature. But the personification of these abstractions goes back to an early date: cp. Hesiod, T. 211, where the poet introduces as the children of Night, Μόρος, Κῆρ, Θάνατος, Μῶμος, "Οιζυς, "Υπνος, Νέμεσις, 'Απάτη, Γῆρας, "Ερις, and as children of "Ερις, Λήθην τε Λιμόν τε καὶ "Αλγεα δακρυόεντα | 'Υσμίνας τε Φόβους τε Μάχας τ' 'Ανδροκτασίας τε κτλ. So, too, Cicero, N.D. 3. 44, mentions as divine beings, *Amor, Dolor, Motus, Labor, Inuidentia, Fatum, Senectus, Mors, Tenebrae, Miseria, Querela, Fraus, Pertinacia, Hesperides, Somnia quos omnes Erebo et Nocte sotos ferunt.* It has been suggested that the present passage is developed from Lucr. 3. 65 *turpis enim ferme contemptus et acris egestas | semota ab dulci uita stabilique uidentur | et quasi iam leti portas cunctarier ante.* But it is equally probable that the suggestion came from some lost Greek Nekyia.

**ultrices curae.** SERVIUS *conscientiae quae puniunt semper nocentes.*

275. Cp. G. 3. 67 *subeunt morbi tristisque senectus | et labor et durae rapit inclementia mortis.*



## The Sixth Book of the Aeneid

276. **malesuada.** "Inciting to evil," a very rare word, found before Vergil only in Plaut. Most. 213, and apparently not again until Sid. Ap. and Paul. Nol.

277. **Letumque Labosque.** An echo of the Hesiodic *Λήθην τε Λιμόν τε*, *letum* being regarded by Varro (L. L. 7. 42) as derived from *λήθη*. *Letum* is, according to Norden, more commonly personified than *Mors*: cp. Lucr. 1. 852 *Leti sub dentibus*, etc.; but there is little to choose in this respect between the two words. *Labos*, the archaic form of *labor*, is preferred as more euphonious.

278. Cp. Il. 14. 231 ἔνθ' Ὑπνῷ ξύμβλητο, κασιγνήτῳ Θανάτοιο. Sleep finds himself in bad company, but he is at the entrance to Hades, (a) because he is the brother of Death and the other children of Night (see Cicero and Hesiod, Il. cc.), and (b) because he is the "death of each day's life" (Soph. Ant. 606), the weakener of man's powers, who delivers over soul and body to the power of external forces. *sopor* is a stronger word than *somnus*, implying the torpor rather than the restfulness of sleep.

**mala mentis gaudia.** All evil passions in which the soul takes delight.

**aduerso in limine.** Full on the threshold, barring the way.

279. **Bellum.** For the personification cp. 1. 294 and 7. 607. War is associated with the *gates* of the temple of the war-god: cp. the closing of the gates of Janus and the opening of the gates of War (7. 607). It is possible, too, that he is connected with the threshold in the Arval hymn (*limen sali, sta*), but the meaning of the passage is much disputed. Cp. Hes. T. l.c. Μάχας τ' Ἀνδροκτασίας τε, the children of Ἔρις, daughter of Night.

**ferreique Eumenidum thalami.** The Eumenides are children of Night (250). *Thalami* means no more than



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chambers. The question has been much discussed as to why, if this is the dwelling of the Furies, they are found in Tartarus in 555, 570 *sqq.*, 605 *sqq.* Why, again, is Cocytus the river of the Eumenides (374)? The simplest answer is that Vergil combines different traditions, and is indifferent to such minor inconsistencies as may result. A Hydra similarly reappears in 576 (cp. 287).

**ferrei.** For the synezesis cp. 1. 726 *aureis*, 7. 609 *aerei*, 10. 496 *baltei*. The earliest example appears to be Hor. S. 1. 8. 43 *cerea*.

**Discordia.** The "Eris of Hesiod. Here represented as a Fury.

**uipereum.** The adj. is not found before Vergil, though *uiperinus* does occur. *uipereus* is found again, 7. 351 and 753.

**crinem innexa.** For the construction cp. n. on 156. For the picture cp. Hor. Epod. 5. 15 *Canidia breuibus inligata uiperis crinem*.

282-84. The elm-tree, wherein dreams make their nest, has all the appearance of a piece of ancient folk-lore, but cannot be paralleled. The nearest approach is to be found (Lucian, Ver. Hist. 2. 33) in the Island of Dreams, where is a wood inhabited solely by bats (Norden, p. 211).

283. **uolgo.** (1) SERVIUS *cateruatim*—*i.e.*, to be taken closely with *tenere*: cp. 3. 643 *habitant ad litora uolgo*. Ov. M. 11. 613 *passim somnia uana iacent*. (2) with *ferunt*.

284. **foliisque sub omnibus haerent.** The phrase seems to be imitated from Il. 2. 312 *πετάλοις ὑποπεπτηῶτες*, a fact which points to the dreams being conceived as birds. There is no precise parallel for this, but such a superstition may be alluded to in Eur. Hec. 70 ὦ πότνια χθὼν μελανοπτερύγων μάτερ ὄνειρων, and other similar passages. Sleep takes the





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name of *Chthonius*. Cp. also Lucr. 4. 734, cited in the next note. The part played by the Centaur in modern Greek superstition lends additional colour to this view; see Lawson, *Modern Greek Folklore*, p. 190 ff.

**in foribus.** For stables near the entrance cp. Vitruv. 6. 10. 1. Apul. Met. 1. 15 (all Greek houses, however).

**Scyllae.** Cp. Lucr. 4. 732 *Centauros itaque et Scyllarum membra uidemus | Cerbereasque canum fauces simulacraque eorum | quorum morte obita tellus amplectitur ossa*. Though neither Centaurs nor Scyllas are specifically mentioned by Lucretius as monsters of Hell, the company in which he places them strongly suggests that they occurred to him in this connexion. But no Scylla appears in Hades in any other author, though she may well, as Norden suggests, be akin to the Harpies, the snatchers of men, even as the Scylla of the Sicilian straits was a snatcher of men (Cp. Od. 12. 100): it may be noted also that in the same passage of the Odyssey her cave is described as "turned to Erebus, toward the place of darkness." The plural *Scyllae* occurs again in Lucr. 5. 893. In both passages of Lucretius, however, the plural need mean no more than "monsters such as Scylla," and we have nowhere any reference to more than one monster of this type. It is, however, possible that the existence of another Scylla daughter of Nisus, turned into a seabird (G. 1. 404), but identified with the monster of the Mediterranean in Ecl. 6. 74, might have given rise to the plural *Scyllae*. The two legends were confused in antiquity, as is shown by the efforts of the author of the *Ciris* to distinguish between them (see Skütsch, *Aus Vergil's Frühzeit*, p. 92). There is also the fact that Scylla has a number of different mothers allotted to her by legend (Crataeis, Lamia, Echidna), a circumstance which would facilitate the belief in several different Scyllas.



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**biformes.** Cp. Lucr. and Hom. Od. l.c., and Aen. 3. 426 *prima hominis facies et pulcro pectore uirgo | pube tenuis, postrema immani corpore pistrix | delphinum caudas utero commissa luporum.*

287. **centumgeminus** = *centumplex*. Cp. 800 *septemgeminus*; 4. 510 *tergeminus*. For *centumgeminus* cp. Val. Fl. 6. 118.

**Briareus** is in Hades in Hes. Theog. 617, though in Homer (Il. 1. 402) he appears as the helper of the gods. *centumgeminus* probably means no more than "hundred-armed": cp. Homer, l.c. Cp. Aen. 10. 565, where Aegaeon is represented as having fifty heads, a number appropriate to his 100 arms.

**belua Lernaë.** The Hydra or water-snake slain by Hercules. It is not elsewhere represented as one of the terrors of Hades, but that, like the Chimaera, it was of a Chthonian character is clear from Hesiod, Theog. 305, where it is stated that the Hydra, Chimaera, Cerberus, and Orthos (Geryon's dog, see below) were all the offspring of Echidna, a Chthonian monster whom he describes as dwelling in Hades. Another Hydra further reappears on the side of Styx (576), q.v.

288. **Chimaera.** For the Chthonian origin of the Chimaera see preceding note. Her appearances as a goblin in Hades are late. Cp. Lucian, Dial. Mort. 30. 1 ὁ δ' ἱερόσυλος ὑπὸ τῆς χιμαίρας διασπαραχθήτω. Nekyom. 14 χίμαιρα δ' ἐσπάραττε. There is but one Chimaera known to legend, the fire-breathing monster of Lycia slain by Bellerophon: cp. Il. 6. 180 πρόσθε λέων, ὄπιθεν δὲ δράκων, μέσση δὲ χίμαιρα. This monster was generally connected with the burning gas-spring near Phaselis in Lycia (Plin. 2. 106. Mela 1. 15). Cp. for a similar explanation Strabo, 14. 655.

289. **SERVIUS** *sane quidam dicunt uersus alios hos a poeta hoc loco relictos, qui ab eius emendatoribus sublati sunt:*



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*Gorgonis in medio portentum immane Medusae, | uipereae  
circum ora comae, cui sibila torquent | infamesque rigent  
oculi, mentoque sub imo | serpentum extremis nodantur  
uincula caudis.* These lines have the true Vergilian ring, and were probably an alternative draft, bringing the passage more closely into line with the legend, making Hercules draw his sword upon Medusa. See below on 290.

**Gorgones.** Stheno, Euryale, and Medusa. A Gorgon or Gorgons are found in Hades in Od. 11. 633, Aristophanes, Frogs 477, and elsewhere. They are monsters with snaky hair and terrible faces, whose gaze kills or turns to stone. See n. on 290.

**Harpyiae.** The Harpies of Hell are probably spirits of death, half-woman, half-bird: cp. Vergil's description of them in 3. 216. There, however, they have no connexion with death; they "snatch" the food from the feast, but not the bodies of human beings. In the Odyssey, however (1. 241 and 20. 78), they appear as mysterious beings, who carry off human beings to an inglorious and unknown death: cp. ἀκλειῶς, ἄιστος, ἄπυστος, in the first passage; in the second instance, after carrying off the daughters of Pandareos, ἔδοσαν στυγερῆσιν Ἐρινύσιν ἀμφιπολεύειν. They may, therefore, be perhaps regarded as spirits of sudden and inglorious death, involving the disappearance of the victim's body. They have been regarded as being no more than storm-spirits, but they are probably something more. See Dieterich, *Nekyia*, p. 56, n. 1. The well-known Harpy-tomb of Xanthos, in Lycia, we see winged figures, which may, perhaps, be described as spiritualised Harpies, carrying off the souls of the dead. With the exception, however, of the passage quoted from Od. 20, where they are associated with the Erinyes, there seems to be no passage in literature connecting them with the underworld.





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to be shown by the words *omnem Cocytō eructat arenam*, which are to be regarded as an amplification of *Στυγὸς ὕδατος ἔστιν ἀπορρώξ*. There is a further complication (439), where the Styx is said to encircle Hades nine times. Phlegethon has a place to itself as the fiery moat of Tartarus (550-51). Unlike Dante, Vergil has not troubled himself about the exact topography of his underworld. He aims at a vague sense of horror and mystery as regards the scenery and general accessories. His real interest is in the persons described, and in the moral and theological aspects of the after-life. Plato (Phaedo, 112) gives a more detailed and romantic description, but it has had no influence on Vergil.

295. **hinc**—*i.e.*, from within the outer gate of Orcus.

296. **hic** must, in view of what has been said above, be the adverb, and not the pronoun. If it be taken as the pronoun, the *gurgēs* is Acheron. If it be translated “here,” it is possible to interpret *gurgēs* as referring to the Styx. For the description cp. Juv. 3. 266, where the Styx is styled *caenosus gurgēs*.

297. **Cocytō**. “Into Cocytus.”

298. **portitor**. Generally interpreted in its later sense of “ferryman,” on the erroneous supposition that it was derived from *portare*. In all cases where the word occurs before Vergil, it is used=“collector of harbour dues,” “harbour-master.” That the word is derived from *portus* is clear from its form. And it is in this sense that the passage is interpreted by Donatus: *portitores dicuntur qui portus obseruant, ut sine ipsorum iussu nullus transeat in alienas regiones*. So, too, Nonius 24. Charon is the harbour-master who collects dues and forbids the unauthorised to cross: cp. 316 *alias longe summos arcet arena*. G. 4. 502 *nec portitor Orci | amplius obiectam passus transire paludem*,



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It is true that he is also the ferryman, although the dead themselves row as well: cp. 320. Prop. 2. 27. 13, and the comic version in Aristoph. Ran. 197. Finally, his duty here is *seruare flumina* [cp. *portus obseruant* (above)].

**Charon**, a post-Homeric figure of popular superstition. The first trace of him is found in the references given by Pausanias, 10. 28. 2 ἐπηκολούθησε δὲ ὁ Πολύγνωτος ἐμοὶ δοκεῖν ποιήσει Μινυάδι· ἔστι γὰρ δὴ ἐν τῇ Μινυάδι ἐς Θησέα ἔχοντα καὶ Πειρίθουν “ἐνθ’ ἦτοι νέα μὲν νεκυάμβατον, ἦν ὁ γεραιὸς | πορθμεὺς ἦγε Χάρων, οὐκ ἔλλαβον ἐνδοθεν ὄρμου.” ἐπὶ τούτῳ οὖν καὶ Πολύγνωτος γέροντα ἔγραφεν ἤδη τῇ ἡλικίᾳ τὸν Χάροντα. The earliest existing literary references are Eur. H. F. 432. Alc. 255, 361. Aristoph. Ran. 182. He is frequently represented on vases, sepulchral reliefs, etc. Vergil's description may be regarded as typical. See vase-painting, published in Benndorf, *Griech. Vasenbild.*, plate 27, reproduced by Roscher, where he is represented as wearing the *exomis* and wielding a pole, as here. He appears in Etruscan art as Charun; but there he is a monster winged, with the legs of a bird. Vergil, as in practically every detail of his *Nekyia*, follows Greek tradition, and avoids the more horrible features of legend. Charon survives as Charos or Charontas in modern Greek popular superstition: cp. Schmidt, *Volksleben der Neugriechen*, 1. 122; Lawson, *op. cit.*, p. 100.

300 **stant lumina flamma.** *stant* by itself implies a fixed stare, and with *flamma* conveys the idea that they are a “mass of flame” (Henry). Cp. Enn. A. 592 *stant puluere campi*. Aen. 12. 407 *puluere caelum | stare uident*. Ov. F. 6. 133 *stantes oculi*. *flamma* M<sup>2</sup>P<sup>1</sup> Servius (ad 1. 646) is clearly preferable to *flammae* M<sup>1</sup>P<sup>2</sup> R, as giving the more vivid picture, and avoiding the bold gen. of material.

301. He is represented as wearing the garb of a sailor. Cp. Plaut. Mil. 1177 *facito uti uenias ornatu ornatus huc*



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*nauclicerico* | . . . *palliolum* habeas ferrugineum, nam is colos thalassicust: | id connexum in humero laeuo, expapillato brachio.

**nodo.** It is tied with a knot, not fastened with a *fibula*. He wears the *exomis* knotted over the left shoulder.

302. **ipse**—*i.e.*, he is more than a *portitor* or harbour-master; he is a boatman as well. It does not mean “unassisted”; see 321 and above on *portitor*.

**subigit.** “Drives from below.” The pole is used in the shallows, the sails in deep water.

**uelis ministrat.** *SERVIUS aut per uela, et est septimus, aut uelis obsequitur, et est datiuus.* Either is possible, but the first interpretation gives the fuller picture: cp. Val. Flacc. 3. 38 *ipse ratem uento stellisque ministrat.* Aen. 10. 218 *ipse sedens clauumque regit uelisque ministrat* is on the other hand in favour of the second interpretation. In Tac. Germ. 44 all the MSS. read *uelis ministrantur*: if this is correct, it gives strong support to the first view; on the other hand, most recent editions read Lipsius’ conjecture *ministrant*.

303. **ferruginea** = “dark.” Cp. Seru. ad Aen. 9. 582 *vicinus purpurae subnigrae.* Nonius, p. 549, *ferris similem esse uolunt, uere autem est caeruleus.* It is also *colos thalassicus* (see Plaut. l.c.). Vergil uses the word to describe the colour of the hyacinth (G. 4. 183), and of purple (A. 9. 582; 11. 772). Ovid describes the sea-god Glaucus’ beard as *uiridis ferrugine*. It may, therefore, be taken as virtually equal to *caeruleam* (410), and is, perhaps, equivalent to the Homeric *κνανόπρωπος*. Cp. Munro’s n. on Lucr. 4. 76.

**corpora.** The dead are for the moment considered as *cadauera*, not as *umbrae*. That such a conception would come easily to the Roman mind, in spite of the prevalence of incineration, is shown by the description of Cynthia’s ghost in Prop. 4. 7. 7 *sqq.* and 94 *mecum eris et mixtis ossibus*





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upon the Aeneid. Cp. Seru. ad Buc. 10. 1 *fuit* (*Gallus*) *amicus Vergilii adeo ut quartus Georgicorum a medio usque ad finem eius laudes teneret, quas postea iubente Augusto in Aristaei fabulam commutavit.* The second edition of the Fourth Georgic can scarcely be earlier than 25 B.C., and is placed as late as 20-19 B.C. by Sabbadini [*La composizione d Georg. di Virgilio, Riv. d. Filol.* 29 (1901), p. 16].

305. **huc.** Either *ad ripas* or *ad cymbam*.

306. Cp. Od. 11. 37 *νύμφαι τ' ἠιθεοὶ τε πολύτλητοὶ τε γέροντες | παρθενικαὶ τ' ἀταλαὶ νεοπένθεα θύμῳ ἔχουσαι· | πολλοὶ τ' οὐτάμενοι καλχήρεσιν ἐγχείησιν, | ἄνδρες ἀρηίφατοι βεβροτημένα τεύχε' ἔχοντες.*

307. **magnanimum** = *magnanimorum*, found also in 3. 704 and G. 4. 476: cp. Pacuu. ad Cic. Orat. 46. 155 *prodigium horriferum portentum pauor.* The contracted gen. pl. of the -a declension occurs 3. 21 *caelicolum*, 3. 550, and 8. 127 and 698. The form is archaic. Cp. Lindsay, *L.L.*, p. 402. Varro, *L.L.* 8. 71.

**defuncta . . . uita.** The use of *defunctus* with *uita* does not appear before Vergil, but the use of *defunctus* in later Latin is so common that it is not probable that Vergil is the creator of the usage as Norden suggests.

309. The simile is drawn primarily from Bacchyl. 5. 64 *Ψυχὰς ἐδάη παρὰ Κωκύτου ρέεθροις, διὰ τε φύλλ' ἄνεμος Ἴδας ἀνὰ μηλοβότους πρῶνας ἀργηστὰς δονεῖ.* But Vergil has also in mind Ap. Rhod. 4. 216 *ἢ ὅσα φύλλα χαμᾶζε περικλαδέος πέσεν ὕλης | φυλλοχόῳ ἔνι μηνί*, where the poet is speaking of a living crowd.

**quam multa.** For the omission of words expressing "so many" before *quam multa* cp. the elliptical use of *quot* in phrases such as *quot mensibus*, *quotannis*, etc.

311. Cp. Il. 3. 3 *ἠὺτε περ κλαγγὴ γεράνων πέλει οὐρανόθι πρὸς, | αἶ τ' ἐπεὶ οὖν χειμῶνα φύγον καὶ ἀθέσφατον ὄμβρον, |*



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κλάγγῃ ταί γε πέτονται ἐπ' Ὀκεανοῖο ροάων. Soph. O. T. 175  
ἄπερ εὐπτερος ὄρνις . . . ἀκτὰν πρὸς ἐσπέρου θεοῦ (cp. A. 7.  
703 and 10. 264). The comparison is, however, Vergil's  
own, nor is there any need to assume with Norden that  
the simile is drawn from poems which have not survived,  
and whose very existence is a matter of conjecture. The  
birds may be cranes, or any other migratory bird. Cp.  
Val. Flacc. 3. 359 *qualiter Arctos | ad patrias auibus medio  
iam uere reuectis | Memphis et aprici statio silet annua  
Nili.*

**frigidus annus.** For *annus*=season cp. Hor. Epod. 2. 29  
*annus hibernus.* Od. 3. 23. 8 *pomifer annus.*

313. **orantes primi transmittere cursum.** SERVIUS *Graeca  
figura est ut primi transirent.* The infin. after *oro* is rare,  
and first found in E. 2. 43.

**transmittere cursum.** The normal acc. after *transmitto*  
is that of the thing crossed (cp. A. 4. 154 *cerui transmittunt  
cursu campos*), or the thing sent across (cp. 3. 403 *transmissae  
classes*). Here we have the cognate acc., *transmittere* being  
used, as often elsewhere, absolutely=go across. It is a  
bold extension of the ordinary use in phrases, such as *ire  
uiam.*

317. **miratus enim motusque tumultu.** These words are  
taken as parenthetical by Servius="for he wondered at."  
This is possible, but it is simpler to take *enim* in its original  
sense (=Gk. δὴ) as emphasising the word to which it is  
attached. Cp. n. on 28 *sed enim.*

319. **quo discrimine**="in virtue of what distinction."

320. **hae linquunt.** SERVIUS *repulsae scilicet, non tran-  
seuntes.*

**remis uerrunt.** Cp. n. on *portitor* (298 ad fin.).

**liuida.** Cp. Catull. 17. 10 *totius ut lacus putidaeque paludis  
liuidissima . . . uorago.*



## Commentary

321. **olli**. The archaic form of *illi* occurs here only in Bk. 6. It occurs fifteen times in all in Vergil. *ollis* is found in 730 and 8. 659. *olli* (plural) occurs seven times in all. These are the only cases in which Vergil uses the archaic form. Cp. Lindsay, *L.L.*, p. 436. The form was obsolete by the end of the second century B.C. Cp. also Quint. 8. 3. 25 *olli enim et quianam . . . adspargunt illam quae etiam in picturis est gratissima uetustatis inimitabilem arti auctoritatem*.

**longaeva**. See n. on *Sibyllae* (10).

322. Cp. 123, 131.

**certissima** = "undoubted." The epithet is not pointless, for divine parentage was not unnaturally frequently in doubt: cp. G. 4. 323 *si modo quem perhibes, pater est Thymbraeus Apollo*. Ov. M. 1. 753 "*matricque*" ait "*omnia demens | credis et es tumidus genitoris imagine falsi*." Callim. Hymn. Dem. 98 *Ψευδοπάτωρ . . . εἶπερ ἐγὼ μὲν | σεῦ τε καὶ Αἰολίδος Κανάκας γένος*.

323. See 296 note.

324. Cp. Il. 15. 37 *καὶ τὸ κατειβόμενον Στυγὸς ὕδωρ ὃς τε μέγιστος | ὄρκος δεινότατός τε πέλει μακάρεσσι θεοῖσιν*.

**iurare et fallere** to be taken closely together = *peierare*. *iurare* with acc. is not found before Cic. Ep. ad Fam. 7. 12. 2 *Iouem lapidem iurare*, though not uncommon afterwards. Possibly a Graecism. Cp. 351 *maria aspera iuro*.

325. **inops**. "Helpless," though it may carry with it the suggestion that they have not the coin placed between the teeth of the dead before burial as the fare for their passage.

**inhumata**. Cp. 372. Cp. Il. 23. 71 (Patroclus' ghost, loq.) *θάπτε με ὅττι τάχιστα, πύλας Ἀΐδαο περήσω. | τῆλέ με εἵργουσιν ψυχαὶ, εἶδωλα καμόντων, | οὐδὲ μέ πω μίσγεσθαι ὑπὲρ ποταμοῖο ἑῶσιν*, the earliest reference to this belief, though there is no mention of Charon, who





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## Commentary

*a uertice pontus | in puppim ferit. ductorem.* SERVIUS (ad 2. 14) *ductores sonantius est quam duces : quod heroum exigit carmen.* A common word in Vergil, found also in Cicero and Livy.

*classis.* Only one ship was mentioned as lost, but Vergil does not state that the Lycian contingent consisted only of one ship. The word, therefore, may mean fleet here, and need not be referred to one ship.

335. **simul** may mean that (1) Leucaspis and Orontes perished together in the same storm, or (2) that both sailed together with Aeneas from Troy—*i.e.*, they were old and dear companions. The first is perhaps more obvious, but either may be right.

336. The rhythm of the line with the unusual caesura and rare elision of the iambic *aqua* give a heavy plunging line, designed to recall the overwhelming seas. Cp. for a similar effect Prop. 3. 7. 12 *nunc tibi pro tumulo Carpathium omne mare est.*

337. **Palinurus.** His loss is described 5. 833 *sqq.* In 5. 843 he is *Iasides* : cp. *Iapyx Iasides*, the Trojan physician in the Iliad. The scene which follows is obviously suggested by its counterpart in Od. 11—the meeting between Odysseus and Elpenor. The source from which Vergil drew this piece of aetiology is unknown. It is, however, recorded elsewhere in somewhat different form by Dion. Hal. 1. 53. 2 (in conjunction with the death of Misenus, see 149-52 n.) οἱ δὲ σὺν τῷ Αἰνείᾳ πλέοντες ἀπὸ Σικελίας διὰ τοῦ Τυρρηνικοῦ πελάγους πρῶτον μὲν ὤρμισαντο τῆς Ἰταλίας κατὰ λιμένα τὸν Παλίνορον, ὃς ἀφ' ἑνὸς τῶν Αἰνείου κυβερνητῶν τελευτήσαντος αὐτόθι ταύτης τυχεῖν λέγεται τῆς ὀνομασίας.

SERVIUS (ad 378) *de historia hoc traxit. Lucanis enim pestilentia laborantibus respondit oraculum manes Palinuri esse placandos : ob quam rem non longe a Velia ei et lucum et*



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*cenotaphium dederunt* (Norden suggests that the source may have been Timæus through Varro). Such ætiological details are characteristic of Hellenistic poetry: cp. Callimachus' *Ἄιτια* and Ap. Rhod. 2 (passim). Vergil, however, makes artistic use of a device, which among the Hellenistic poets tended to become an affectation and a mannerism. The deaths of Misenus and Palinurus are introduced in part, no doubt, to give reality to the poem by bringing it into connexion with existing names, but they also enable Vergil to introduce two moving episodes described with all the pathos of which he is a master. For a discussion (often diffuse and irrelevant) of the legend of Palinurus, see Immisch in Roscher, *Myth. Enc.*

**sese agebat.** SERVIUS *sine negotio incedere*: wrongly, for it is merely equivalent to *ire*. Before Vergil the phrase seems to be confined to the comic poets. It is used elsewhere by Vergil (8. 465 *Aeneas se matutinus agebat*. 9. 696 *is enim se primus agebat*).

338. **Libyco cursu.** The statement is incorrect, the loss of Palinurus having taken place during the voyage from Sicily. On the significance of this inconsistency see Introd., p. 39 ff.

339. **mediis in undis.** "In mid-sea," instead of "into the midst of the waves." Cp. *medio aequore* (342).

343. Cp. Aesch. Cho. 559 ἄναξ Ἀπόλλων μάντις ἀψευδῆς τὸ πρίν.

344. **hoc uno responso.** There is no mention of any such oracle or anything to show whether this is due to an oversight on the part of the poet, or to deliberate silence (for which cp. Il. 21. 277, where Thetis is said by Achilles to have prophesied that Apollo would slay him in Troy, though there has been no previous mention of this). It can, in any case, hardly be called a blemish. The only prophecy referring to the loss of Palinurus is found in 5. 814 *unus erit*



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*tantum amissum quem gurgite quaeres*, and this prophecy is made by Neptune to Venus. But in view of the discrepancy in *Libyco cursu* (338), and the slight discrepancies in 348 *sqq.* (see n.), there is distinct ground for suspicion that a final revision would have led to modifications.

**ponto.** "On the deep," a loc. abl. There is no justification in taking it with *incolumem* = "unscathed."

**finesque canebat uenturum Ausonios.** A typically ambiguous oracle: cp. Herod. 1. 53.

346. **en haec promissa fides est.** An exclamation, not a question. Cp. Donat. ad Ter. Phorm. 348 "*en*" *habet uim indignationis post enarratam iniuriam.*

347. **cortina.** Cp. 3. 92 *mugire adytis cortina reclusis.* *cortina* = the cauldron crowning the Delphic tripod on which the Pythoness sat. Cp. Prudent. Apoth. 506 *tripodas cortina tegit.* Plin. 34. 14 *cortinas tripodum.*

348. **Anchisiade.** See n. on 126.

**nec me deus aequore mersit.** In answer to 341. The statement is untrue, for (5. 842 *sqq.*) his fall was due to the direct agency of the god of Sleep, wearing the likeness of Phorbas. But there is no inconsistency. Palinurus did not know that the pretended Phorbas was the god of Sleep, and attributes his fall to accident.

349. **gubernaculum.** Cp. 5. 859 *et super incumbens cum puppis parte reuulsa | cumque gubernaculo liquidas proiecit in undas.* The portion of the bulwark at the stern, to which the *gubernaculum*, consisting of a single broad-bladed oar, was fastened, broke away, causing him to fall into the sea.

350. **cui** is most naturally taken with *datus custos*, but may conceivably depend on *haerebam*. The sense is the same in either case. But if *cui* be taken with *haerebam*, *quo* must be supplied from *cui* to explain *regebam*.





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## Commentary

but after *classique immittit habenas* we should expect the time to be no more than a few hours, especially as the wind was favourable (*Notus*). How, on the other hand, did a south-west wind take Palinurus to Velia in Lucania? These are details into which it is well not to pry too closely.

**hibernas noctes.** SERVIUS *asperas*. This is a safer interpretation than “wintry.” But there can be no certainty on the point. The date is roughly a month after leaving Carthage. In 4. 309 Dido complains that Aeneas is leaving her in winter. On the other hand, both in 1. 755 and 5. 626, the Trojans are spoken of as being in their *septima aestas* of wandering. Which was Vergil’s standpoint when he wrote the present passage? It may be urged that the ancients avoided sailing in winter. But Aeneas was impelled by his destiny, and had left Carthage in a hurry under the express orders of Jupiter. See Introd., p. 36 ff.

356. **lumine quarto.** Cp. Enn. Med. fr. 8 *secundo lumine*. Lucr. 6. 1197.

357. Cp. Od. 5. 392 ὁ δ’ ἄρα σχεδὸν εἴσιδε γαῖαν | ὄξυ μάλα προιδὼν μεγάλου ὑπὸ κύματος ἄρθείς.

358. **paulatim adnabam terrae.** SERVIUS *et hic* (sc. *post “adnabam”*) *distingui potest et “adnabam” terrae*. There is nothing to choose between the two punctuations.

For *tuta* alone cp. 9. 366 *tuta capessunt*; 8. 603 *tuta tenebant*; 11. 871 *tuta petunt*. For *terrae tuta* cp. 11. 882 *tuta domorum*. The one thing that is impossible is with Norden to take *terrae* both with *adnabam* and *tuta*.

**tenebam . . . ni inuasisset.** The apodosis to *ni inuasisset* is suppressed (sc. “and I should have been safe”): cp. 8. 522 *multaque dura suo tristi cum corde putabant*; | *ni signum caelo Cytherea dedisset aperto*.

360. Cp. Od. 5. 428 ἀμφοτέρησι δὲ χερσὶν ἐπεσσύμενος λάβε πέτρης.



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**capita.** Not “summits,” which would be absurd, but “juts of pointed rock” projecting from the base. Any such point can be called *caput*, just as the points of roots are so-called. Cp. G. 2. 355. Cato, Agr. 33.

361. **praedamque ignara putasset**, a so-called ὕστερον πρότερον, but better described as an “explanatory clause introduced by *que* or *et*,” which, though placed in parataxis, is really subordinate to the main clause, and may, as here and in 365, refer to “something prior in point of time to what the main clause describes.” See Page ad loc.

362. Cp. Eur. Hec. 28 κείμαι δ' ἐπ' ἄκταις ἄλλοτ' ἐν πόντου σάλψ.

363. **quod.** “Wherefore,” adverbial acc. as frequently in entreaties: cp. 2. 141 *quod te per superos . . . oro.*

364. Cp. 4. 274 *Ascanium surgentem et spes heredis Iuli.*

365. **terram inice.** Cp. Hor. 1. 28. 36 *iniecto ter puluere.*

366. **portusque require Velinos.** See n. on 361. **SERVIUS** (ad 359) *sane sciendum Veliam tempore quo Aeneas ad Italiam uenit, nondum fuisse. ergo anticipatio est, quae, ut supra diximus, si ex poetae persona fiat tolerabilis est.* See also Gell. 10. 16. Velia in Lucania was founded by the Phocaeans in the sixth century. It lies between Paestum and Cape Palinurus, being the modern Castellamare della Brucca. Cp. Od. 11. 66 (Elpenor loq.) νῦν δέ σε τῶν ὄπιθεν γουνάζομαι οὐ παρεόντων | πρὸς τ' ἀλόχου καὶ πατρὸς, ὃ σ' ἔτρεφε τυτθὸν ἔόντα, | Τηλεμάχου θ' ὄν μοῦνον ἐνὶ μεγάροισιν ἔλειπες· | οἶδα γὰρ ὡς ἐνθενδε κιῶν δόμου ἐξ Ἀΐδαο | νῆσον ἐς Δαίειν σχήσεις εὐεργέα νῆα | . . . μὴ μ' ἄκλαυτον ἄθαπτον ἰὼν ὄπιθεν καταλείπειν.

367. **diua creatrix.** Repeated in 8. 534.

368. **sine numine diuom.** Cp. A. 2. 777; 5. 56. Eur. I. A. 808. Aesch. Pers. 162 οὐκ ἄνευ θεῶν, etc.

369 **innare paludem.** Cp. 134.



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370. Cp. Il. 23. 75 καί μοι δὲς τὴν χεῖρ', ὀλοφύρομαι.

371. **saltem.** SERVIUS *ut saltem in morte requiescam sedibus placidis. et bene, quia nautae semper uagantur.* He has wandered all his life, he is a wanderer still; peace, even in the world of death, is his one desire.

372. **talia . . . talia.** The repetition is awkward. Priscian, p. 1186, quotes the line *uix ea fatus erat coepit cum talia uirgo*, an improvement unsupported by the MSS.

373. **tam dira cupido.** Repeated in 721, G. 1. 37. A. 9. 185.

374. **amnemque seuerum Eumenidum.** 'Cocytus, not Styx. Cp. G 3. 37 *Furias amnemque seuerum Cocyti.* Ar. Ran. 472 Κωκύτου κύνες. Cp. n. on 280.

375. **adibis** codd. *abibis* Donatus, Servius. SERVIUS *ut "abeo in Tuscos," sicut diximus supra (4. 106): quanquam alii "adibis" legunt.*

376. **fata deum.** Cp. 4. 614; 7. 239. Schol. Dan. ad 4. 614 "*fata*" *dicta, id est Iouis uoluntas = Διὸς βουλή.* Cp. Sen. Ep. 77. 12 *quid optas? perdis operam. "desine fata deum flecti sperare precando."* *rata et fixa sunt et magna atque aeterna necessitate ducuntur.*

**longe lateque per urbes, etc.** "Far and wide through all their cities plagued with portents sent from heaven." SERVIUS *de historia hoc traxit. Lucanis enim pestilentia laborantibus respondit oraculum manes Palinuri esse placandos: ob quam rem non longe a Velia ei et lucum et cenotaphium dederunt.*

379. **piabunt.** "Will appease." Cp. Hor. E. 2. 1. 143 *Siluanum lacte piabant,*

380. **sollemnia.** "Yearly offerings." Cp. 5. 605 *tumulo referunt sollemnia,*

**mittent.** Cp. 4. 623 *cinerique hoc mittite nostro.* G. 4. 545.

381. **aeternum.** Adj. not adv.: cp. 235 *aeternumque tenet per saecula nomen.*





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## Commentary

heroic tone here, on the ground that *quid* = *cur* and *istinc* are colloquial, and that *uectare* only occurs in one other passage in Vergil (II. 138 *plaustris uectare ornos*). The evidence is insufficient to prove his point.

390. **Noctisque soporae.** This phrase tells heavily against Norden's suggestion, cited in last note. *soporus* is not found in Vergil, and after him only in poets. The whole line is stately and in the genuine epic vein, as are those which follow.

392. **nec me sum laetatus accepisse** is, as Conington points out, a paraphrase of the Greek idiom οὔτι χαίρων εἰσεδεξάμην. SERVIUS *lectum est et in Orpheo quod quando Hercules ad inferos descendit, Charon territus eum statim suscepit: ob quam rem anno integro in compedibus fuit.* What the *Orpheus* referred to may be is uncertain. It is conceivable that it is the *Orpheus* of Lucan, though when cited by Servius on G. 4. 492 the poet's name is mentioned. More probably it refers to a lost Catabasis, known as *Orpheus* (cp. Lobeck, *Aglaopham.* 812). As Norden points out, in that poem, Charon must be represented as telling the same story to Orpheus.

394. **quanquam.** SERVIUS *ac si diceret, hoc in te non probavi.*

**dis . . . geniti.** Cp. 131 and 123. Theseus was descended from Poseidon, Peirithous from Zeus.

**inuieti uiribus.**—*i.e.*, therefore he had no choice but to take them.

395. **Tartareum custodem**—*i.e.*, Cerberus: cp. 424. The legend of the carrying off of Cerberus by Hercules is as old as Homer: cp. Il. 8. 366. Od. 11. 623, though Cerberus is there merely the "dog of Hades," and is not mentioned by name. Cp. also n. on 397.

**in uincla petiuit.** "Sought to bind." Cp. Quint. 7. 1. 55 *in iis controuersiis in quibus petuntur in uincla qui parentes suos non alunt.*



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396. **ipsius a solio.** SERVIUS *atqui Cerberus statim post flumina est, ut (417) . . . : nam illic quasi est aditus inferorum, solium autem Plutonis interius est. ergo aut ad naturam canum referendum est qui territi ad dominos confugiunt aut,* etc. Servius' first reason is correct.

397. **hi dominam Ditis thalamo.** (1) Charon speaks of Proserpine as *domina*, because she is mistress and he is servant. (2) *domina* is frequently applied to goddesses (cp. 3. 113. Prop. 2. 5. 17, etc.), and as = *δέσποινα* is specially appropriate to Proserpine who, as Persephone, is styled *δέσποινα*. Cp. Plato, Laws, 796B. Paus. 8. 37. 1-10.

**hi.** Theseus and Peirithous, attempting to carry off Proserpine, were caught and punished. Accounts of their punishment vary, but the commonest form associates the rescue of Theseus or of both heroes with Hercules' visit to Hades in search of Cerberus. Cp. Plut. Thes. 30. Apollod. 2. 5. 12. 5. Diog. 4. 26, etc. But cp. n. on 618. Pausanias (9. 31. 4) mentions a Catabasis of Theseus and Peirithous among poems attributed to Hesiod.

**adorti** with infin. = "attempt," as in Lucr. 3. 515, Cic. de Or. 2. 51. 205, and frequently in Livy.

**Amphrysia.** So called from her association with Apollo, whose epithet *Amphrysius* derives from the fact that, as a penalty for blood-guiltiness, he served Admetus as a herdsman on the banks of the Amphrysus in Thessaly: cp. G. 3. 2 *pastor ab Amphryso*. A highly allusive epithet in the Alexandrian style.

399. **absiste moueri.** Repeated 11. 408.

400. **licet ingens ianitor.** See n. on 417. Cp. Prop. 4. 5. 3 *Cerberus ultor | turpia ieiuno terreat ossa sono.*

401. **exsanguēs.** Contemptuous. "Bloodless shades," as opposed to the hero of flesh and blood whom she brings with her. *patrui* is similarly contemptuous. "The Sibyl falls



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excusably, perhaps, into a strain which, though natural to a philosophical Roman, would not be found in Homer” (Conington). This is true, but such a tone might easily be found in an Alexandrian poet, such as Callimachus, who treats the gods with the utmost frankness, even when singing their praise.

402. **casta.** Predicative.

**patruī.** Proserpine was the daughter of Ceres and Jupiter, and therefore the niece, as well as the bride, of Pluto.

**seruet . . . limen.** Like a good Roman housewife. Cp. Carm. Epigr. Bücheler 52 *domum seruauit*. Prop. 2. 6. 24 *et quaecunque uiri femina limen amat*.

403. **Troius Aeneas.** Cp. 1. 596.

**pietate insignis et armis.** Cp. 1. 545 *nec pietate fuit nec bello maior et armis*.

**ad genitorem . . . ad umbras.** The double *ad* is unusual, but natural enough, *imas descendit ad umbras* forming one notion, as Conington points out.

**Erebi.** Cp. 4. 26 *umbras Erebi noctemque profundam*.

405. For the thought cp. Accius (?), Ribbeck, p. 315, *nil fraterni nominis sollemne auxilium et nomen pietatis mouet?* For the form cp. 4. 272 *si te nulla mouet tantarum gloria rerum*.

**nulla.** “Not at all.” Cp. Cic. Verr. 2. 2. 17. 44 *hereditas quae nulla debetur*.

**pietatis imago.** Repeated 9. 294 and 10. 824. Here = “the sight of such filial love.”

406. **at.** Cp. G. 4. 241 *at suffire thymo . . . quis dubitet?*

407. Cp. Cic. TD. 3. 26 *tumor animi residit*. The metaphor is of a swollen sea changing to a calm. Cp. *ex ira*, “after his wrath,” as *ex imbri* (G. 1. 393).

408. **nec plura his.** (1) *his* is dat., and we must supply *dixit Charon*. (2) *his* is abl. after *plura*: “no more than





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## Commentary

**accepit paludem.** Cp. 1. 122 *laxis laterum compagibus omnes | accipiunt inimicum imbrem.*

416. Cp. G. 4. 478 *linus niger et deformis arundo.* 10. 205 *arundine glauca.*

417. **Cerberus.** The offspring of Echidna. Cp. Hes. T. 311 *sqq.* and n. on *belua Lernaë, Chimaera, forma tricorporis umbræ* (287-89). In popular superstition and early legend Cerberus has far more terrible functions than merely guarding the gates of Hades: he is one of the devourers of the dead. Cp. SERVIUS (ad 395) *Cerberus terra consumptrix omnium corporum: unde et Cerberus dictus est quasi κρεοβορος.* Hes. T. 769 *ἐς μὲν ἰόντας | σαίνει ὁμῶς οὐρῇ τε καὶ οὐασιν ἀμφοτέροισιν, | ἐξελθεῖν δ' οὐκ αὖτις ἐμ̄ πάλιν, ἀλλὰ δοκεύων ἔσθιει ὄν κε λάβησι πύλεων ἔκτοσθεν ἰόντα.* Tz. in Aristoph. Ran. 142 *ὁ μὲν Πειρίθους ὡς ἄρπαξ τῷ Κερβέρῳ κατάβρωμα γίγνεται.* Porphyr. ad Euseb. præp. ev. 3. 11. 8 *παρὰ τὸ τὰς κῆρας ἔχειν πρὸς βορᾶν.* Lucian, Catapl. 28 *ἄρ' ἐς τὸν Πυριφλεγέθοντά ἐστιν ἐμβλητέος ἢ παραδοτέος τῷ Κερβέρῳ;* see Dieterich, *Nekyia*, p. 49 *sqq.* Vergil ignores the grosser and more horrible features of legend, and makes him but the guardian of the gate, though in 8. 297 we have an allusion to the more terrible aspects of the superstition: *te ianitor Orci | ossa super recubans antro semesa cruento.*

**trifauci.** ἄπ λεγ. Cerberus is χαλκεόφωνος, but πεντηκοντακάρηνος in Hes. T. 311, where the scholiast says that Pindar made him 100-headed: cp. Hor. Od. 2. 13. 14 *belua centiceps*: but 3. 11. 17 *cessit immanis tibi blandienti | ianitor aulae | Cerberus, quamvis furiale centum | maniant angues caput eius atque | spiritus teter saniesque manet | ore trilingui.* La Cerda notes *in tribus primis uersibus, qui pertinent ad horrorem canis, littera canina (r) adhibetur supra decies.*

420. Cp. Ap. Met. 6. 20. The honey cake is the μελιττοῦτα which formed part of the funeral offerings among the



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Greeks. Cp. Suidas, s.v. ἰστέον ὅτι μελιττοῦτα ἐδίδοτο τοῖς νεκροῖς ὡς εἰς τὸν Κέρβερον.

421. **melle soporatum et medicatis frugibus.** Cp. 4. 486 *spargens humida mella soporiferumque papauer.* If the poppy is alluded to here, it is to be taken of the outer capsule and not the seeds, which are not narcotic: see Henry ad loc.

**soporatam.** Cp. 5. 855. *uique soporatum Stygia (sc. ramum).*

**fame.** So with lengthened *-e* in Lucr. 3. 732. Ov. Met. 5. 165; a survival of an archaic *e*-declension form: cp. gen. *fami* in Cato and Lucil. ap. Gell. 7. 14. 10. Lindsay, *L.L.*, 345 sqq.

422. **immania terga resoluit.** Cp. Ap. Rhod. 4. 150 (of the serpent, guardian of the Golden Fleece) *δολιχὴν ἀνελύετ' ἀκάνθαν | γηγενέος σπείρης, μήκυνε δὲ μυρία κύκλα.* The whole passage in Ap. Rhod. should be compared, as Vergil clearly had it in mind when writing the present passage.

424. **occupat Aeneas auditum.** Repeated 635 *occupat* in both passages seems to be designed to indicate prompt action.

424. **sepulto.** Sc. *somno.* Cp. 2. 265 *somno uinoque sepultam.* Enn. A. 8 *morbo adfectis somnoque sepultis.*

425. **euadit ripam.** Cp. 2. 731 *euasisse uiam* 3. 282.

**irremeabilis.** Not before Vergil, and very rare after: cp. 5. 591 *indeprensus et irremeabilis error.* "Which none may cross again."

426-547. Norden (p. 10 sqq.) has an interesting discussion of this passage. His statement suffers from over-emphasis, but he succeeds in showing why Vergil places those who died untimely at the portals of Hades—*i.e.*, because there was a definite tradition which placed them there, and defined the length of time for which they were condemned to remain excluded. But in so far as he asserts that Vergil fully



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accepted the tradition, he fails to prove his case. Vergil makes use of it for artistic purposes, but ignores the reasons underlying the belief. Those who perished untimely are grouped together, but as to their fate in the underworld nothing is said. Dieterich's objections to Norden's views fall to the ground, if this not unimportant modification be made (see *Nekyia*, pp. 151 *sqq.*).

426-29. Why are the souls of children who died untimely placed at the gates of Hades? That there were theories as to their fate, as far back as Plato's time, is shown by *Rep.* 10. 615 c., where Er is given information concerning the fate of the souls of young children, but states that it does not deserve mention. Tertullian (*de an.* 56), however, states that the souls of those who died untimely are doomed to wander until they have reached the full term of life. He further states that these views are the teaching of magic, under which head he probably includes the teaching of Pythagoras and the mysteries. The next class (430-3) are those unjustly condemned to death, followed by suicides (434-39), the victims of love murdered or self-slain (440-76), and the souls of warriors fallen in war (477-547). Thus from 426-547 we are concerned with those who died untimely. It is noteworthy that we get the same grouping in Lucian (*Catapl.* 5), but like Vergil he is not concerned with the significance of such grouping; it is a picturesque traditional circumstance, and no more. There is a certain amount of cross-division in the grouping, for certain of the victims of Love might more correctly be placed among the suicides. Again, it may be objected (see Dieterich, *l.c.*) that some of the victims of Love (*e.g.*, Pasiphae, Eriphyle, and Evadne), and the heroes of the Theban epic-cycle, Adrastus, Parthenopaeus, and Tydeus (479) must have filled up their term of years, and should have passed on to their allotted place in





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Styx. But (2) gives more forcible sense, and it was clearly thus that Silius understood the passage. For in his imitation (13. 547) he writes *infantum hinc gregibus uersasque ad funera taedas | passis uirginibus turbaeque in limine uitae | est iter extinctae et uagitu ianua nota*. Cp. also Sen. H. F. 1131 *ite ad Stygios, umbrae, portus, | ite innocuae, quas in primo | limine uitae scelus oppressit*. See Henry ad loc.

428. **exsortes**. SERVIUS *expertes*. ἀκλήρους *dicunt*.

**dulcis uitae**. ἀπὸ κοινοῦ with *limine* and *exsortes*.

**ab ubere raptos**. Cp. 7. 484 *ab ubere raptum*.

429. Repeated 11. 28.

**acerbo**. SERVIUS *immaturo: translatio est a pomis*. Cp. Varro, ap. Non. 247. 15 *uirgo acerba*. Ov. F. 4. 647 *partus acerbos*.

430. Cp. Plat. Apol. 41 εἴ τις τῶν παλαιῶν διὰ κρίσιν ἄδικον τέθνηκε. Lucian, Catapl. 5.

**mortis** with *damnatus*. Cp. Liv. 42. 43. 9 *damnare absentem capitalis poenae*.

431. The appearance of Minos at this point is curious and inappropriate (see Introd., p. 13). Minos is traditionally the judge of all the dead, while here he appears as the judge merely of a group or groups of the dead, who are not deserving of punishment, and concerning whom the only question can be the allotment of a suitable dwelling-place. If it be urged that the passage is parenthetical and that Vergil intended to represent him as the judge of all the dead, it can only be answered that such a parenthesis is an obscure and undesirable way of expressing the meaning which it is desired to convey. It is more charitable to suppose that here again we are confronted with a symptom of the unfinished nature of this portion of the poem, and that the position of Minos would have been cleared up by a final revision, the location of the present passage being, perhaps, due to Varius and Tucca.



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Failing this supposition the only possible explanation of the passage—an explanation which is really only an unsatisfactory piece of special pleading—would seem to be the following. These men were unjustly doomed to death in life: here their sentences are revised by strict justice: the *quaesitor* does not punish, but investigates each case, and the appointed dwelling-place is allotted by due form of law. It is probable that these lines apply to the cases which follow as well. But their position shows that they are suggested by, and that their special application is to, the cases of those who suffered from miscarriage of justice in life. That it does not apply to all cases is shown by 566, where Rhadamanthus is found judging the greatest sinners.

The language of these three lines is drawn from the Roman law courts. Cp. Ps. Ascon. in Cic. Verr. 2. 1 (Norden) *Vergilius Minoem, tanquam sit praetor rerum capitalium, quaesitorem appellat: dat ibi sortitionem, ubi urnam nominat; dat electionem iudicum, cum dicit "consiliumque uocat"; dat cognitionem facinorum, cum dicit "uitasque et crimina discit."* The order in which the cases are to come on is decided by lot (SERVIUS *non enim audiebantur causae nisi per sortem ordinatae*). The *iudices* are appointed to form the *consilium*, or jury, whose votes decide the case (see n. on. *consilium* below). The conception of judges among the dead is found among the Greeks as well, but for the transference of Roman legal forms to the underworld cp. the remarkable parallel in Prop. 4. 11. 19 *sqq.*, where Cornelia pleads her case among the dead: *aut si quis posita iudex sedet Aeacus urna, | in mea sortita uindictet ossa pila: assideant fratres, iuxta et Minoida sellam | Eumenidum intento turba seuera foro. 49 quaelibet austeras de me ferat urna tabellas. 99 causa perorata est: flentes me surgite testes.*



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432. *quaesitor Minos urnam mouet.* Cp. Hor. Od. 3. 1. 14 *aequa lege necessitas | sortitur insignes et imos ; | omne capax mouet urna nomen.* Sen. Ag. 24 *quaesitor urna Gnosius uersat reos.* H. F. 731 *alta sede quaesitor sedens | iudicia trepidis sera sortitur reis.* Stat. Silu. 2. 1. 218. Minos is represented as judging the dead in Od. 11. 568 ἔνθ' ἦτοι Μίνωα ἴδον Διὸς ἀγλαὸν υἶδν | χρύσειον σκῆπτρον ἔχοντα θεμιστεύοντα νέκυσσιν | ἤμενον· οἱ δέ μιν ἀμφὶ δίκας εἶροντο ἄνακτα | ἤμενοι ἔσταότες τε κατ' εὐρυπυλῆς Ἄϊδος δῶ. But there he judges among the dead as among the living, settling disputes, etc.: he is not the awarder of judgment for sin on earth. The first references in literature to Minos as judge, awarding doom among the dead, are in Plato, Gorg. 524 (where Minos is a kind of judge of appeal, while Aeacus and Rhadamanthus judge the Asiatic and European dead respectively), and Apol. 41 (where Socrates speaks of Minos, Rhadamanthus, Aeacus, and Triptolemus as those who are said to be judges of the dead). Here (with the reading *consilium*) Minos is assisted by a jury. His brother, Rhadamanthus, on the other hand, who judges the sinners allotted to Tartarus (566), has summary jurisdiction like the *triumviri capitales* at Rome. He, like Minos, is mentioned by Homer as dwelling in the other world (Od. 4. 564), but not as judge. There he dwells in the Elysian plain at the ends of the earth, "where falls not any hail or rain or snow." So, too, Pindar makes him (Ol. 2. 76) πάρεδρος Κρόνου in Elysium. There is nothing earlier than Vergil making Rhadamanthus the especial judge of sinners destined for Tartarus. Norden cites Diod. 5. 79 Ῥαδάμανθυν λέγουσι τὰς τε κρίσεις πάντων δικαιοτάτας πεποιῆσθαι καὶ τοῖς λησταῖς καὶ ἀσεβέσι καὶ τοῖς ἄλλοις κακούργοις ἀπαραίτητον ἐνηνοχῆναι τιμωρίαν, which, at least, makes him an appropriate judge. Lucian again (Catapl. 22) makes his Cynic,





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*consciscant moerenti pectore mortem.* Cp. Lucian, Catapl. 5, where, however, the suicides are those that slew themselves for love. Plato (Phaed. 62 B), Pythagoras (Athen. 4. 157 C), and the Orphics (Orph. fr. 221 Abel), as opposed to the Stoics, make suicide an offence punishable in the lower world. Vergil, however, covers himself by *insontes*. For these there can only be pity, not punishment, and they are tried merely to allot them their place in Hades without question of punishment.

436. **proiecere animas.** "Flung their lives away," *quasi rem uilem* (Servius).

**quam uellent.** Cp. Od. 11. 488 μὴ δὴ μοι θάνατόν γε παραύδα, φαίδιμ' Ὀδύσσειν· | βουλοίμην κ' ἐπάρουρος ἔων θητεύεμεν ἄλλω | ἀνδρὶ παρ' εὐκλήρῳ, ᾧ μὴ βίωτος πολὺς εἴη, | ἢ πᾶσιν νεκύεσσι καταφθιμένοισιν ἀνάσσειν.

438. **fas obstat** is the reading of all good MSS. *fata obstant* is the reading of Servius, and later MSS. *fas* = *θέμις*. Cp. Auson. Technopaegn. de deis. 1 *prima deum Fas | quae Themis est Graeis.* Ov. Tr. 2. 205 *Fas prohibet.*

**tristisque . . . coerceat.** Repeated in G. 4. 479, 480, with the variant *tarda unda*. See n. on 305-12.

**tristis PMR: tristi** Servius. **undae PM: unda** R. The reading of the MSS. points clearly to *tristis undae* being correct. *tristi unda* gives a closer parallel with G. l.c., but Vergil may well have been seeking variety. Further, if *unda* be read, *tristi* also must be read; and *tristi* appears to be a conjecture of Servius *ne duo sint epitheta*.

439. **nouies Styx interfusa.** SERVIUS *quia qui altius de mundi ratione quaesiuerunt, dicunt intra nouem hos mundi circulos inclusas esse uirtutes, in quibus et iracundiae sunt et cupiditates, de quibus tristitia nascitur, id est Styx, quae inferos cingit, id est terram, ut diximus supra.* So, too, Favonius Eulogius (in S. Scip., p. 13 sq. Holder), who adds *mystice ac*



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*Platonica dictum esse sapientia.* Norden accepts this view: the *circuli* being—the highest heaven inhabited by God and the blessed, followed by Saturn, Jupiter, Mars, the Sun, Venus, Mercury, and the Moon, below which begins the sphere of death, reaching to the earth (cp. S. Sc. 17). It cannot be too strongly insisted that Vergil gives not the least hint that this is his meaning, and that the heavenly spheres are not reached by going underground. Such esoteric interpretations of Vergil are misleading, inartistic, and uncritical: the fact that Servius and other late writers made them does not justify a modern critic following in their footsteps. See also n. on 887 *aeris in campis*.

440-76. The vision of heroines, whom Love brought to an untimely end, is suggested by passages in Od. 11 (*i.e.*, 225 *sqq.* and 321 *sqq.*). But the introduction of the love-motive is purely Alexandrian, though the source on which Vergil is drawing is not traceable: that there was such a source is suggested by *sic illos nomine dicunt* (441). Further, as Norden points out, Hyginus gives a list of heroines *quae se ipsae interfecerunt*, which suggests derivation from a similar source. It is to be noted that the victims of Love are grouped irrespective of their merits. Laodamia and Evadne share the same lot as Pasiphae and Eriphyle. Philostratus (he: 143) appears to place Laodamia, Evadne, Alcestis, and others in the Elysian fields. The explanation of Vergil placing them in the *lugentes campi* is that he was influenced by the doctrine which condemned those who died untimely to exclusion till the term of their natural life had expired, although he ignores the doctrine itself. See n. on 426-547.

440. *fusi* is here first used of space (Conington), but the extension of the metaphor from persons to space is easy and natural. The wide expanse of the *Lugentes campi* is due, not to the multitudes of the spirits dwelling there, so much as



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the desire to give them room for solitude: see Heyne ad loc.

**monstrantur.** "Meet the view." Cp. 7. 568 *hic specus horrendum et saevi spiracula Ditis | monstrantur.*

448. **sic illos nomine dicunt.** See above. This somewhat prosaic phrase serves the purpose of (1) referring the reader to authority (see n. on. 14), and (2) to justify the bold phrase *Lugentes campi.*

442. **quos.** **SERVIUS** *tantum feminarum posuit exempla, non quo desint uiri, sed elegit sexum impatientem ad amandum: tamen paulo post Sychaei facturus est mentionem.*

443. **myrtea silua.** **SERVIUS** *quae est Veneri consecrata.* Cp. E. 7. 62 *gratissima uitis Iaccho, | formosae myrtus Veneri.*

**calles.** "Avenues," or "glades," rather than paths (*semitae*): cp. 9. 383 *per obscuros lucebat semita callis.*

445. Cp. Od. 11. 321 *Φαίδρην τε Πρόκριν τε ἴδον καλήν τ' Ἀριάδην* and 326 *Μαίραν τε Κλυμένην τε ἴδον στυγερήν τ' Ἐριφύλην.*

**Phaedra**, the wife of Theseus, who slew herself on account of her unrequited passion for her stepson, Hippolytus.

**Procris**, daughter of Erechtheus, King of Athens, and wife of Cephalus, King of Phocis, was accidentally slain by her husband, who mistook her for a wild beast, as she watched him, hidden in the woods, suspecting him of infidelity. Cp. Ov. Met. 7. 694.

**Eriphyla**, wife of Amphiaraus. He, being a seer, knew that if he joined the expedition against Thebes, he was doomed to perish. He, therefore, hid himself. Eriphyla, bribed by Polynices with a gift of a golden necklace, revealed the hiding-place of her husband, who was thus compelled to join the expedition. Before departing he instructed his son Alcmaeon to slay Eriphyla so soon as he heard of his death. Cp. Apollod. 3. 6. 2.





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Hellenistic School was great. See Nicand. ap: Ant. Lib. Scol. Ap. Rhod. 1. 57. Eustath. ad Il. 1. 264. Hyg. 14.

**reuoluta.** The fem. is used because she is now a woman. Vergil might have called her *Caenis*, but gives the masc. name as being more familiar. She is only indirectly one of the victims of Love, the death of Caeneus being indirectly due to the change of sex granted by Poseidon.

452. **umbras** PR: *umbram* M, Servius, Donatus (who both take it with *obscuram*). There can be no doubt, however, whichever reading be adopted, that *obscuram* refers to Dido. The sense is thus much more forcible and poetic, and the comparison is brought closer to the simile of Ap. Rhod. which Vergil is paraphrasing—*i.e.*, *obscuram*, though applied to Dido, corresponds to ἐπαχλύουσαν (see below). *per umbras* is preferable, both in sound and as avoiding any possible ambiguity. It means “gloom,” not “shades of the dead.”

453. Cp. Ap. Rhod. 4. 1479 ὡς τίς τε νέω ἐνὶ ἡματι μήνην | ἢ ἴδεν ἢ ἐδόκησεν ἐπαχλύουσαν ἰδέσθαι. Vergil improves on the original which refers to Heracles, seen far off in the desert by Lynceus.

455. **demisit lacrimas.** Cp. Od. 16. 191 δάκρυον ἦκε χαμᾶζε· ἐγὼ ἐπέεσσι προσήυδων μελιχίοισι.

**duloique affatus amore.** A beautiful version of Od. 11. 552 τὸν μὲν ἐγὼν ἐπέεσσι προσήυδων μελιχίοισιν.

456. **uerus mihi nuntius.** SERVIUS κατὰ τὸ σιωπώμενον *intelligendum est quod sit nuntiatus Didonis interitus. alii ad ignem referunt uisum* (5. 3): *alii ad Mercurium* (4. 364) *qui ait “certa mori”*; *sed in neutro ei etiam mortis genus est significatum, et hic dicit “ferroque extrema secutam.”*

**ergo.** Like the Gk. ἄρα in Od. 11. 553 Αἴαν, παῖ Τελαμῶνος ἀμύμονος, οὐκ ἄρ' ἔμελλες | οὐδὲ θανῶν λήσεσθαι ἐμοὶ χόλου εἵνεκα τευχέων | οὐλομένων.



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457. **extrema secutam.** For *extrema*=death cp. 1. 219 *extrema pati.* Tac. H. 4. 59 *famem ferrumque et extrema pati. secuta* denotes that the act was deliberate. It is not an imitation of *πότημον ἐνισπείν* (Il. 6. 412).

458. **per sidera iuro, per superos.** Cp. 3. 599 *per sidera testor, per superos,* to which here is naturally added *et si qua fides tellure sub ima est.*

459. Cp. 2. 142 *per siqua est quae restat adhuc mortalibus usquam | intemera'a fides.*

**fides.** "Aught that may give assurance." The phrase does not necessarily express doubt as Servius implies (*ubi promissa exitum non habent*).

460. Cp. Catull. 66. 39 *inuita, o regina, tuo de uertice cessi, | inuita ; adiuro teque tuumque caput* (loq. Coma Berenices). For the sentiment cp. 4. 361 *Italiam non sponte sequor.*, of which this is a reassertion.

461. **iussa . . . imperiis.** Cp. 7. 239 *sed nos fata deum uestras exquirere terras | imperiis egere suis.*

**quae nunc has ire per umbras** may mean more than "but for the will of heaven I would never face the horrors of the underworld," and may suggest "I have not come to vex you with my presence."

462. **loca senta situ,** a paraphrase of Od. 10. 512 *Ἄιδεω δόμον εὐρώεντα.* *sentus* is found before Vergil in Ter. Eun. 236 *uideo sentum squalidum senem pannis annisque obsitum.* The meaning is uncertain. SERVIUS *squalida . . . et est translatio a terra inculta in qua sentes nascuntur.* So, too, apparently Prudentius (Symm. 2. 1039. Apoth. 123), where it is applied to *uepres* and *rubus*. It can bear the same meaning in Terence, l.c. sc. "bristly."

If Servius is right, the sense will be "neglected," "waste" = *horrida, inculta.* Cp. Liv. 22. 16 *stagna perhorrida situ.* Norden interprets it as "eaten away," "mouldering," citing



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Bücheler, *Rh. Mus.* 42. 1887, 586, connecting it with *senium* and the Gk. *σίνεσθαι*. But this derivation is uncertain, and there seems to be no reason to depart from the traditional interpretation.

**situ.** From the sense of "lying unstirred and unheeded." *situs* comes to mean "neglect," and even the results of neglect such as "mould" and "rust." Servius is too precise when he says *situs est lanugo quaedam ex humore procreata et fit in locis sole carentibus*. Page's translation, "through a land ragged and forlorn," expresses the sense adequately.

464. Cp. 4. 419 *hunc ego si tui tantum sperare dolorem*.

465. Repeated 698 with *amplexu* for *aspectu*.

**aspectu.** The dative of *-u*, as often elsewhere, the dat. being the regular construction after *subtraho*. Cæsar, according to Gellius (4. 16), regarded the *-u* termination as the more correct. See Lindsay, *L.L.*, p. 387.

Dido begins to move away. Her actions described 469-73 extend through the whole of Aeneas's speech. At its outset (*incepto sermone* 470) she remains motionless; then, before he ends, moves away (*tandem corripuit sese* 472)

466. **quem fugis?** An echo of the words used by Dido to Aeneas (4. 314) *mene fugis?*

**extremum quod te adloquor hoc est.** Cp. Soph. Aj. 857 *προσεννέπω πανύστατον δὴ κ' οὐποτ' αὖθις ὕστερον*.

**quod.** Cogn. acc. after *adloquor*.

467. **torua tuentem . . . animum.** A bold phrase, which led Jortin to conjecture *animam*. But as *torua tuentem* is a Græcism (cp. Il. 3. 342 *ἄγρια δερκόμενος*), so is the whole phrase, for which Norden compares Soph. Aj. 955 *κελαινώπας θυμός*. Aesch. Cho. 847 *φρήν ὠματωμένη*. *torua tuentem* may possibly be regarded (see Norden) as a translation of *ταυρηδὸν βλέπειν* through a fancied connexion between *toruus* and *taurus*: but *toruae bouis* (G. 3. 51) and *toruum*





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**casu concussus iniquo.** Cp. 5. 700 *casu concussus acerbo*. 5. 869 *casu concussus amici*. Both passages tell against the variant *percussus* R in this passage.

476. **lacrimis** PR: *lacrimans* M. Cp. 12. 72 *ne me lacrimis neue omine tanto | prosequere . . . euntem*. 6. 898 *prosequitur dictis*, 9. 310 *uotis*, 11. 107 *uenia*, all support the ablative.

477-547. The ghosts of heroes fallen in war follow. Strict adherence to the doctrine concerning those who died untimely would demand the inclusion of violent deaths other than those of war. These are represented solely by Sychæus, who is, however, placed among the lovers. See n. on 426-547.

477. **datum.** SERVIUS *datum autem dixit aut ratione fati concessum aut oblatum fortuito, an iniunctum*. Any of these three views is possible, but the first is, perhaps, most probable.

**molitur** implies effort. The idea suggested is that Aeneas struggles forward through the gloom.

**arua ultima.** The last occupied by souls who are neither in Tartarus nor Elysium.

478. **secreta.** "Set apart." Cp. 8. 670 *secretosque pios*.

479. The first three ghosts are all of heroes of the Theban cycle of epic.

**Tydeus**, King of Calydon, was wounded by Melanippus, whom he slew. Athena brought him a remedy for his wound, which should make him immortal. Amphiaraus at this moment brought the head of Melanippus to Tydeus, who bit it to the brain, thereby so shocking Athena that she withheld her gift, and he died. Apollod. 3. 6. 8.

**Parthenopæus**, son of Atalanta, was slain before Thebes by Periclymenus. Paus. 9. 18. 6. Eur. Phoen. 1158.

**Adrastus**, King of Argos, and leader of the Seven against Thebes, died of old age and grief over the loss of one of his



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sons in the second expedition of the Epigoni against Thebes. Paus. 1. 43. 1. If Vergil follows this legend, why is he among the βιαιοθάνατοι? It is possible that Vergil follows another legend recorded by Hyg. Fab. 242, which made Adrastus and his son Hipponoos throw themselves into a fire on the bidding of the oracle of Apollo; or that he has merely included Adrastus by an oversight with the other heroes of the expedition against Thebes.

**pallentis.** Cp. Amm. Marc. 14. 11. 22 *Adrasteo pallore perfusus*, which may be a curious allusion to the present passage, or may, on the other hand, be connected with *Adrastia*.

481. **multum fletū** = πολὺκλαυτοί.

**ad superos**—*i.e.*, in the upperworld. Cp. Liv. 1. 3 *celebre ad posteros nomen*. Sil. 13. 607 *non digna neque aequa ad superos passi Manes*. Conington interprets of lamentation rising to the skies, and compares 561 *quis tantus clangor ad auras?* and Il. 8. 364 ἦτοι ὁ μὲν κλαίεισκε πρὸς οὐρανόν. But the context demands that *superos* should mean the upper world of the living.

**caduci.** DONATUS *fructus quorum pars appellatur caduca quae in usus hominum non cadit. inde translatum est ut caduci dicantur homines qui in pueritia aut iuuenta moriuntur*. Cp. Hom. ἀρηίφατοι.

462. The next group is drawn from the Trojan cycle. There is no individual mention of Greek heroes.

483. Cp. Il. 17. 216 Γλαῦκόν τε Μέδοντά τε Θερσίλοχόν τε.

**Glaucus**, a Lycian chief, follower of Sarpedon, was slain by Agamemnon (?Ajax): cp. Hyg. Fab. 113. For other references to him in Homer, cp. Il. 2, 876; 3. 313; 6. 119-236.

463. Cp. Il. 11. 59 τρεῖς τ' Ἀντηνορίδας Πόλιβον καὶ Ἀγήνορα δῖον | ἠΐθεόν τ' Ἀκάμαντα. Agenor was slain by Neoptolemus, Paus. 10. 27. 1; Acamas by Meriones, Il. 16. 343.



## Commentary

**Polyboten** P: *Polyboeten* MR. The name *Polyboetes* is not found elsewhere. *Polybotes* is found in Theocr. 10. 15. There is no mention of any such hero in Homer, and the name must come from the Cyclic poets. There is no justification for the emendation *Polypheten* (Il. 13. 791).

485. **Idaeum.** The charioteer of Priam. Cp. Il. 3. 248; 24. 325.

**arma tenentem.** He is represented as armour-bearer as well.

487. **conferre gradum.** "To walk by his side."

490. Cp. Od. 11. 605 *sqq.*, where Heracles terrifies the shades with his bow.

492. **ceu quondam petiere rates.** Cp. Il. 8. 75 and 15. 320. Also A. 2. 399.

494. **exiguam.** Expressed by *τρίζειν* in Il. 23. 101. Od. 24. 5.

**inceptus . . . hiantes.** "The cry of battle scarce begun cheats their gaping lips."

494. **Priamiden . . . Deiphobum.** Deiphobus the dearest of Hector's brothers (Il. 22. 233), after Paris' death, married Helen. This fact is not expressly mentioned in Homer, but is implied by Od. 4. 276, where Deiphobus accompanies Helen to view the Trojan Horse and 8. 517, where Menelaus and Odysseus make for the house of Deiphobus, and a fierce fight ensues there. Proclus records that the fact was mentioned in the *Little Iliad* (cp. also Eur. Tro. 959. Seru. ad A. 2. 166). As to the details of the story, as here given, (1) the signal of the torch is mentioned only in Vergil, but reappears in Tryphiodorus 512, who may have been imitating Vergil, but may equally well have drawn from the same source as the poet. There is no inconsistency with 2. 256, which refers to a fire signal given by the Greeks. Other versions make Sinon or Antenor give the signal from Troy.





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## Commentary

*lacerum*, or as direct objects of *uidit*. *populata*. "Ravaged."

A bold metaphor used also with *capillos* by Ovid (M. 2. 319).

497. *inhonesto*. "Shameful," "disfiguring."

498. *uix adeo*. "Scarce indeed." Cp. E. 4. 11 *teque adeo decus hoc aevi te consule inibit*.

499. *compellat uocibus ultro*. Repeated in 4. 304, and perhaps an imitation of Enn. A. 35, where *compellare uoce* occurs.

500. An imitation from Enn. Alexander, Fr. 8. *o lux Troiae, germane Hector |, quid ita . . . cum tuo lacerato | corpore abiectu's miser aui qui | te sic respectantibus | tractauere nobis?* Cp. also Od. 11. 397, the dialogue between Odysseus and Agamemnon on which the whole scene is modelled.

*genus alto a sanguine Teuceri*. Repeated in 4. 230, and with *diuom* for *Teuceri* in 5. 45. For *genus*="offspring" cp. also 792 and 839.

501. *optauit*. "Chose" rather than "wished." SERVIUS *elegit ut sumeret*.

502. *de te*. Sc. *sumere poenas*, though *licuit de te* may possibly be used absolutely, as *licere in generum* is used by Lucan (9. 1024).

503. *fessum te caede*. Sc. as a result of the desperate battle of Od. 8. 517: a clear reference to the Homeric tradition which Deiphobus' story rejects.

505. *egomet*. Emphatic: the duty was not left to others.

*Rhoeteo litore* FPR: *Rhoeteo in litore* MP<sup>2</sup>. The omission of the preposition avoids a not very common elision. Rhoeteum is just to the north of Troy.

506. *Manis ter uoce uocauit*. Cp. n. on. 231 *nouissima uerba* and 229 *ter*. Cp. the similar 3. 68 *magna supremum uoce ciemus*.

507. *nomen*. Cp. 235 and 381.



## The Sixth Book of the Aeneid

**arma.** Cp. 233. Here the arms are obviously not Deiphobus' own.

**te amice.** For the hiatus and the shortening of the long monosyllable cp. E. 2. 65 *o Alexi.* 8. 108 *an qui amanti.* While in Vergil this may be a Graecism, instances occur in early poetry under circumstances where this is extremely improbable, and we may assume "this prosodical hiatus to reflect the ordinary pronunciation as it did in Greek," Lindsay, *L.L.*, pp. 209, 210.

509. **Priamides.** The first *i* is lengthened as in the Greek *metri gratia*.

510. **omnia soluisti.** We are not told especially that the erection of a cenotaph, a symbolic burial, has enabled Deiphobus to cross the Styx. but it is distinctly implied, though we are at liberty to suppose that others buried him, if we will.

**funeris umbris.** "The shades of the dead." For *funus*= "dead body" cp. 9. 491 *funus lacerum*, and the similar use of *mors*, Cic. pro Mil. 86. Plin. 14. 119.

511. **sed—i.e.,** You have done all *you* could for me, but, etc.

**Lacaenae.** Cp. the contemptuous ἡ Λάκαινα of Eur. Tro. 861. It carries with it the idea of "harlot": cp. Eur. Andr. 486 and 595 *sqq.* οὐδ' ἂν εἰ βούλοιτό τις | σώφρων γένοιτο Σπαρτιατίδων κόρη. Also Ov. Her. 5. 99.

512. **monimenta.** Possibly a bitter travesty of Od. 15. 125 δῶρόν τοι καὶ ἐγὼ τέκνον φίλε, τοῦτο δίδωμι, | μνημ' Ἑλένης χειρῶν (Conington).

513. Cp. 2. 248, where, however, all that is said is *nos delubra deum miseri, quibus ultimus esset | ille dies, festa uelamus fronde per urbem.* But cp. Eur. Hec. 905 and Tro. 542.

515, 6. Cp. Enn. Alex. 13 *nam maximo saltu superabit*



## Commentary

*gravidus armatis equus, | qui suo partu ardua perdat Pergama.*  
Aesch. Ag. 825 ἵππου νεοσσός, ἀσπιδηφόρος λεώς, | πήδημ'  
ὀρούσας ἀμφὶ Πλειάδων δύσιν, | ὑπερθορῶν δὲ πύργον, ὠμήστης  
λέων, | ἄδην ἔλειξεν αἵματος τυραννικοῦ. This bold metaphor  
implies no special version of the legend other than that given  
in 2. 234. It is a poetical description of the dragging of the  
Trojan horse through the breach in the wall.

517. Cp. 7. 385 *simulato numine Bacchi.*

**euhantis** first occurs in Cat. 64. 391. It governs *orgia*, a  
bold cognate acc.

519. As has been said above, there is no actual incon-  
sistency between this passage and 2. 254. Vergil may  
have written this passage without giving a thought to the  
lines in Bk. 2. But the two passages are easily recon-  
cilable.

520. **confectum curis.** SERVIUS *atqui uacauerat gaudiis.*  
*sed illud ostendit quod ait Statius (T. 12. 11) "stant ueteres*  
*ante ora metus"* : *nam curae ferebantur suo impetu ex pristino*  
*bellorum tumultu.* The line is an imitation of Il. 10. 98  
καμάτῳ ἀδηκότες, ἠδὲ καὶ ὕπνῳ, or Od. 6. 2 ὕπνῳ καὶ καμάτῳ  
ἀρημένος. Schrader's emendation *choreis* is unnecessary.  
Norden suggests that Vergil may be refining the original  
version and have substituted *curis*, when tradition would  
have led him to write *uino*. Cp. Quint. Smyrn. 13. 354  
καὶ τότε δὴ Μενέλαος ὑπὸ ξίφει στυγέοντι | Δηίφοβον κατέ-  
πεφνε κερηβαρέοντα κίχηςας | ἀμφ' Ἑλένης λεχέεσσι.

522. Cp. Od. 13. 79 καὶ τῷ νήδυμος ὕπνος ἐπὶ βλεφάροισιν  
ἐπίπτεν | νήγρετος, ἠδιστος, θανάτῳ ἄγχιστα εἰκώς.

523. **egregia.** For the ironical use cp. 4. 93 *egregiam uero*  
*laudem et spolia ampla refertis.*

524. **emouet.** FR: *amouet* M: *etmouet* P. See n. on  
382. *amoueo* is the commoner verb, but never occurs in  
Vergil.





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## Commentary

not stated. *uice* is abl. of circumstance: cp. Ov. T. 4. 4. 79 *uice sermonis*. For the whole cp. Od. 11. 81 *νῶι μὲν ὡς ἐπέεσσιν ἀμειβόμενοι στυγεροῖσι | ἡμεθα*.

**roseis quadrigis.** Cp. 7. 26 *in roseis bigis*. The chariot of dawn is two-horsed in Od. 23. 246. **SERVIUS Donatus autem dicit Auroram cum quadrigis positam solem significare.**

536. **medium traiecerat axem.** The heavens regarded as turning on their poles: cp. 4. 481 *ubi maximus Atlas | axem humero torquet stellis ardentibus aptum*. It is now midday: they had started at dawn (225). Cp. Il. 8. 68 *Ἡέλιος μέσον οὐρανὸν ἀμφιβεβήκει*.

537. Cp. Od. 16. 220 *καὶ νύ κ' ὄδυρομένοισιν ἔδν φάος ἡελίοιο*.

**datum.** Cp. 477 n.

**traherent.** "Drag out." Cp. 1. 748 *uario noctem sermone trahebat*.

539. **nox ruit.** "Rushes up from Ocean." Cp. 2. 250 *ruit Oceano nox*. 8. 369. 2. 250 is conclusive for the meaning. For the opposite representation of night falling from the sky cp. 2. 8 *nox caelo praecipitat*.

540. **partes ubi se uia findit in ambas.** The immediate source probably Plat. Gorg. 524 A *ἐξ ἧς φέρετον τὰ ὁδῶ . . . ἡ μὲν ἐς μακάρων νήσους, ἡ δ' εἰς Τάρταρον*. The belief is derived from the teaching of the Orphics and Pythagoreans. Cp. Hippolyt. 5. 8, p. 164, 76 *sqq.* DS. *μικρὰ δ' ἐστὶ τὰ μυστήρια τὰ τῆς Περσεφόνης κάτω, περὶ ὧν μυστηρίων καὶ τῆς ὁδοῦ τῆς ἀγούσης ἐκεῖ, οὐσης πλατείας καὶ εὐρυχώρου καὶ φερούσης τοὺς ἀπολυμένους ἐπὶ τὴν Περσεφόνην . . . καὶ ὁ ποιητῆς δέ φησιν αὐτὰρ ὑπ' αὐτὴν ἔστιν ἀτάρπιτος ὀκρίοεσσα, | κοίλη, πηλώδης, ἡ δ' ἠγήσασθαι ἀρίστη | ἄλσος ἐς ἡμεροῦν πολυτιμήτον Ἀφροδίτης* (cited by Dieterich, *Nekyia*, p. 191 q.v.). It is but a small step from this conception to the moral parable of the



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two ways of virtue and vice, for which cp. Hes. Op. 287, and Prodicus' myth of Heracles (Xen. Mem. 2. 120), and the teaching of the Pythagoreans by means of a similar allegory (Schol. ad Pers. 3. 56).

**ambas.** SERVIUS *compendiosius quam si "duas" diceret. poteramus enim etiam tertiam sperare.* The present use is apparently unique.

541. Cp. 630 *Cyclopum educta caminis | moenia conspicio.*

542. **iter Elysium.** Cp. 3. 507 *iter Italiam.* An extension of the omission of prepositions before the names of towns.

543. **exercet.** "Plies."

544. **ne saeui.** SERVIUS *antique dictum est: nam nunc "ne saeuias."* The construction is common in Vergil and the poets for obvious metrical reasons.

545. **explebo numerum.** "I will fill up the number of the shades"—*i.e.*, I will go to my place among them. The dead have been numbered and marshalled in bodies. Cp. Sen. Hipp. 1153 *constat inferno numerus tyranno.* Norden cites Lucian, Catapl. 4 (Hermes to Clotho) ἐπεὶ δὲ κατ' αὐτὸ ἤδη τὸ στόμιον ἤμεν, ἐμοῦ τοὺς νεκροὺς ὡς ἔθος ἀπαριθμοῦντος τῷ Αἰάκῃ καὶ ἐκείνου λογιζομένου αὐτοὺς πρὸς τὸ παρὰ τῆς σῆς ἀδελφῆς (Atropos) πεμφθὲν αὐτῷ σύμβολον, λαθὼν οὐκ οἶδ' ὅπως ὁ τρισκατάρατος ἀπιὼν ᾤχετο. ἐνέδει οὖν νεκρὸς εἰς τὴν λογισμῶ. C.I.L. 8. Suppl. 12505 *te rogo qui infernales partes tenes, commendo tibi Iuliam Faustillam Marii filiam, ut eam celerius abducas et in numerum tu habeas.* He further points out that the metaphor is found in Livy in a military sense (24. 11. 4) *numerum legionum explere.*

547. Cp. 10. 877 *tantum effatus et infesta subit obuius hasta.*  
3. 669 *ad sonitum uocis uestigia torsit.*

**effatus.** Sc. est. Though the words are in imitation of Il. 22. 247 ὡς φασμένη καὶ κερδοσύνη ἠγήσατ' Ἀθήνη, there is no need to assume an anacoluthon in the Latin.



## Commentary

**torsit.** "Turned aside." MR read *pressit*—"ceased from following them." *uestigia pressit* has occurred twice already (197, 331), and *pressit* has probably found its way into the MSS. as a reminiscence. The rarer and more forcible *torsit* is clearly to be preferred.

548. **sinistra.** Cp. *laeua* (542).

549. There is no closer parallel for this description of Tartarus as walled in than Hes. T. 726 τὸν περὶ χάλκεον ἔρκος ἐλήλαται.

**moenia.** The wider generic term: *muri* the narrower and more specific.

551. **Phlegethon.** The Πυριφλεγέθων of Od. 10. 513. The name Φλεγέθων does not occur in extant Greek authors.

**torquetque sonantia saxa.** The relative *quae* is ignored: cp. G. 2. 207 *aut unde iratus siluam deuexit arator | et nemora euertit*, where there is a similar disregard of *unde*. Conington suggests that the phrase may be due to a misunderstanding of Plato, Phaed. 113 B Πυριφλεγέθοντα οὐ καὶ οἱ ῥύακες ἀποσπάσματα ἀναφυσῶσιν, ὅπη ἂν τύχωσι τῆς γῆς, these ἀποσπάσματα being portions of Pyriphlegethon, not rocks. But such a suggestion is uncalled for: the passage in Plato might easily suggest the present phrase without any misunderstanding on the part of the poet. Nor is any reference to Plato necessary: what is true of earthly torrents and lava-streams does not need a literary source to justify it.

552. Cp. Il. 8. 15 ἔνθα σιδήρειαί τε πύλαι καὶ χάλκεον οὐδας.

**adamante.** Cp. Prop. 4. 11. 4 *non exorato stant adamante uiae*. An undefined unbreakable substance, perhaps steel; cp. Hes. Sc. 231 and T. 61, where it is styled χλωρός and πολιός. It was later identified with the diamond. Cp. Theophr. Lap. 19.





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## Commentary

the two readings. *haesit* is perhaps the more vivid and forcible: cp. also 3. 597 *aspectu conterritus haesit*. 11. 699 *subitoque aspectu territus haesit*. *haesit* amplifies *constitit*: cp. 331 *constitit Anchisa satus et uestigia pressit*.

560. **scelerum facies**. "Forms of crime." Cp. G. 1. 506.

561. **quis** M: *qui* PR. Either is possible, but *quis* is the rarer and is preferred by Vergil: see Wagner, *quaest.* 22.

**plangor** MR: *clangor* P Servius. So, too, *clangoribus* P for *plangoribus* MR in 4. 668. *plangor* refers back to *gemitus* and has greater pathetic force.

**ad auras** MR Servius: *ad auris* P. There is nothing to choose in point of sense. *ad auras* may mean (1) "rising to the air," cp. 554, or (2) "on the air," cp. *ad superos* (481).

562. Cp. 125 *cum sic orsa loqui uates*.

564. Cp. 118 *lucis Hecate praefecit Auernis*.

565. **deum poenas**. "The punishment inflicted by Heaven."

566. **Gnosius**. Cp. 23 n.

**Rhadamanthus**. Brother of Minos: cp. 432 *Minos*. n.

567. **castigatque auditque dolos**. Not as Conington asserts, a ὑστερον πρότερον. *castigat* may be simply "rebukes," "chides," a common use of the word: see Norwood, *Class. Quart.*, 12. 148, 9. This is simpler than with Page (*Class. Rev.* 4. 465 and 8. 203) to suppose that *castigat* means to "torture and so exact confession."

568. **furto**. Not to be taken literally, but in the wider sense "stealth"—*i.e.*, guilty concealment.

569. **commissa piacula**. "The incurred atonement." Cp. Cic. *Verr.* 2. 3. 12. 30 *poenam committere*. Clu. 37. 103 *multam commiserit*. It is impossible to take *piacula*="crimes," as Conington and Servius apparently do, since it makes *distulit* meaningless.



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570. **ultrix.** Cp. Servius ad 4. 609 *ultrix, hoc est Tisiphone. nam Graece τίσις ultio dicitur.* Norden points out that such allusions to derivations are common in Vergil, and compares 1. 366 *nouae Carthaginiis*, where Servius points out that *Carthago*="new town"; 3. 692 *Plemmyrium undosum*, where *undosum* translates the name; 7. 684 *Hernica saxa*, where Servius states that *hernae* is Sabine for "rocks," etc.

**accincta**, not "girt with," but in the metaphorical sense "armed with." Cp. 184 *accingitur*.

571. **Tisiphone.** There is no inconsistency with 555, where Tisiphone is said to guard the gate night and day: the trial of the guilty takes place at the gate, and Tisiphone is present at the trial. For the presence of the Furies at the trial of the dead cp. Prop. 4. 11. 22 *Eumenidum intento turba seuera foro.* The function of the Erinyes as punishers of crime is as old as Homer (Il. 3. 276. 19. 258). The fact that there they are spoken of only as punishing perjury is due to the context: they punish other crimes in the upper world (Il. 9. 454. Od. 2. 135, and 11. 278); but there is no reason to suppose that the punishment of sin by the Erinyes in the underworld is confined to perjury. Cp. Dieterich, *Nekyia*, p. 54 *sqq.* Cp. also *Axiochus*, p. 371 Ε ἄγονται πρὸς Ἐρινύων ἐπ' Ἐρεβος καὶ Χάος διὰ Ταρτάρου.

571. **sinistra.** In her right hand she holds the scourge.

572. **uocat agmina saeua sororum.** Sc. to carry away the sinners. She cannot leave the gate.

573. The gates are not actually opened, while she speaks. She says, "You see Tisiphone at the gate. There is a yet more terrible figure inside, the Hydra," etc. Aeneas does not see beyond the gate. There is at least nothing to suggest it.

574. **custodia**=*custos*. Cp. 9. 166, where *custodia*=*custodes*. So, too, our "sentinel," "spy," "scout," "guard," are all originally feminine.



## Commentary

576. **Hydra.** This is not a *doublette* of 287, where the Hydra is carefully called *belua Lernaë* to avoid the repetition of the name. Here the Hydra is simply a many-headed snake, with no special reference to the Lernaean Hydra. Cp. Aristoph. Ran. 473.

578. An imitation of Il. 8. 16 τόσσον ἔνερθ' Ἀΐδεω ὅσον οὐρανός ἐστ' ἀπὸ γαίης, an estimate which is doubled by Vergil's *bis*. Vergil has also in his mind Lucr. 4. 416 *despectum præbet sub terras impete tanto, | a terris quantum caeli patet altus hiatus*.

579. "As the heavenward gaze reaches toward airy Olympus."

*caeli* goes with *suspectus* and not with *Olympum*, as Ladewig would take it. The standpoint is that of one looking skyward from earth, not from Hades.

580-625. In the list of sinners which follows, we have, as elsewhere in Vergil, a mixture of popular legend and theology. Tartarus is the abode of those for whom purification is of no avail. Cp. Plat. Rep. 615 E. Phaed. 113 E οἱ δ' ἂν δόξωσιν ἀνιάτως ἔχειν διὰ τὰ μέγεθ' τῶν ἀμαρτημάτων ἢ προσήκουσα μοῖρα ρίπτει ἐς τὸν Τάρταρον ὅθεν οὐποτε ἐκβαίνουσι. From 580-607 we have legendary sinners. From 608-615 and 621-624 we have nameless sinners suffering eternal punishment for various offences. 616-620 interrupt the list. The Sibyl pauses to give a vague indication of the nature of the punishments of the damned: these are drawn from legend. At 621 she resumes and completes the catalogue of the sins. The order is awkward, and cannot be justified on the plea that Vergil inserts 616-620 to break the monotony of the catalogue. No such monotony would result from so short a list of sinners. The dislocation of the natural order is probably due to the fact that this portion of the book had not received its final





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## Commentary

Grossrau's view, and is unduly derided by Norden. It receives some support from an epigram of Tullius Geminus in A.P. 16. 30, which represents Salmoneus' punishment as being a continued repetition of his punishment in life. χείρ με Πολυκλείτου Θασίου κάμεν· εἰμὶ δ' ἐκείνος | Σαλμωνεύς, βρονταῖς ὃς Διὸς ἀντεμάνην, | ὃς με καὶ εἰν 'Αἴδη πορθεῖ πάλι, καί με κεραυνοῖς | βάλλει μισῶν μου κόν λαλέοντα τόπον. Cp. also the belief attributed by Aristotle (Anal. Post. 2. 11. 94. 632) to Pythagoras that the thunder frightened sinners in Tartarus. The alternatives to this view are unsatisfactory. La Cerda interpreted *dum*=*quod*, which is out of the question. Forbiger took the line as introducing what follows, but *dum* provides a most unnatural connexion with the main clause. Jacobi's view, adopted by Conington and Norden, is no more satisfactory. Norden paraphrases as follows: *vidi in Tartaro etiam Salmonea, qui dum Iouis flammam et Olympi sonitum imitatur, crudeles dedit poenas Iouis fulmine deiectus*. "*dum*," he proceeds, "is in the same time as *dantem*, not as *vidi*, and *poenae* are not to be understood of Salmoneus' punishment in Tartarus, but of his actual blasting by Zeus." This involves taking *dantem poenas*=*qui dedit poenas*, which is awkward at any time, but doubly so after *vidi*. Nor does Conington help matters by his comment: "we may say, if we please, that the sight of his punishment recalls the thought of his impiety, and so that the Sibyl may be said to have witnessed the latter. The construction generally resembles that of the well-known lines *dic, hospes, Spartae nos te hic vidisse iacentes | dum sanctis patriae legibus obsequimur*." Even if *dantem* could=*qui dedit*, the ambiguity of *dantem crudelis poenas* would be a fatal objection. It is safer to assume that Vergil meant what he said.

587. **quassans**. Rather with a view to display, and in imitation of Jupiter brandishing the thunderbolt, than to



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“give force to the blow and make the blaze brighten,” as Conington takes it.

588. **mediae Elidis urbem.** “The city set in the midst of Elis”—*i.e.*, Salmone: see n. on 585, and cp. also Stephanus. Σαλμώνη πόλις Ηισάτιδος. *media Elis*=Pisatis, the middle district of Elis.

590. **demens qui.** Cp. 172 *demens*. An imitation of the Homeric *νήπιος ὃς κτλ* (*e.g.*, Od. 1. 8).

**nimbos**=“storm-clouds.”

**fulmen.** The thunderbolt, not the lightning (*fulgur*), which is the flash of the flying *fulmen*.

591. **aere.** Apollodorus (1. 9. 7) makes the imitation of the thunder take the form of the dragging of brazen vessels along the ground. Manilius (5. 91 *Salmoneus (qui caelum imitatus in urbe | pontibus impositis missisque per aera quadrigis | expressisse sonum mundi sibi uisus et ipsum | admouisse Iouem terris, dum fulmina fingit)*) speaks of a brazen bridge, which would suit *pulsu cornipedum equorum* better, the tramp of the horses on the brazen bridge making a sound like thunder. For the belief that thunder was the trampling of Jupiter’s horses cp. Ov. Her. 9. 28 *rapidis qui tonat altus equis.*

**pulsu** FMP: *cursu* R. *pulsu* is right, as a word expressing sound is required.

**cornipes.** Not found before Vergil.

**simularet.** Causal subjunctive.

593. **non ille.** For *ille*=ὁ γε cp. 1. 3 *multum ille*, where Servius comments *est archaismos*.

**fumea.** Not found before this passage.

594. **immani turbine** may mean the whirling fall of Salmoneus, the wind of the thunderbolt, or the whirl of the thunderbolt itself, as in 12. 531 *praecipitem scopulo atque ingentis turbine saxi | excutit*.



## Commentary

595. Cp. Od. 11. 576 καὶ Τιτυὸν εἶδον Γαίης ἐρικυδέος υἷδον  
| κείμενον ἐν δαπέδῳ· ὁ δ' ἐπ' ἐννέα κεῖτο πέλεθρα· | γῦπε δέ  
μιν ἐκάτερθε παρημένω ἦπαρ ἔκειρον, | δέρτρον ἔσω δύνοντες·  
ὁ δ' οὐκ ἀπέμυνετο χερσί· | Λητὼ γὰρ ἔλκησε, Διὸς κυδρὴν  
παράκοιτιν | Πυθῶδ' ἐρχομένην διὰ καλλιχόρου Πανοπῆος. Also  
Lucr. 3. 984.

**omniparentis.** First in Lucr. 2. 706.

**Terrae . . . alumnum.** *alumnus*, “nursling,” may mean either “child” or “foster-child.” In the first case cp. Od. 11. 576 (above); in the second cp. Ap. Rhod. 1. 761 Τίτυον μέγαν ὄν ῥ' ἔτεκέν γε | δι' Ἑλάρη, θρέψεν δὲ καὶ ἄψ ἐλοχεύσατο Γαῖα.

596. **cernere erat.** A Graecism according to some; but it is as old as Cato, R. R. Proem. 1. Ter. A. 828 *scire est* (v. l. *scires*).

**nouem iugera.** Cp. Od. l.c. Lucr. l.c. Prop. 3. 5. 44.

597. **obunco** M: *adunco* P: *abunco* FR. The rarer *obunco*, not found before Vergil, and seldom afterwards, is to be preferred. *abuncus* is not found.

598. **immortale iecur tondens.** Cp. Od. l.c. δέρτρον ἔσω δύνοντες and Hes. T. 523 ἦπαρ ἀθάνατον.

599. Cp. Lucr. 3. 985 *sub magno scrutentur pectore.* Od. l.c. **epulis.** Dat. of purpose=*ad epulas*.

600. **fibris** used generally=“entrails.” Cp. Val. Flacc. 7. 355 *fibra Promethea.* Plin. 33 praef. 1 *persequimur omnes eius* (sc. *terrae*) *fibras*.

601. **Lapithas, Ixiona Peirithoumque.** Both had committed similar crimes, Ixion having attempted to ravish Juno, Peirithous Proserpine. Ixion is elsewhere (Cp. G. 3. 38 and 4. 484) represented as bound to a wheel, while the punishment allotted here to the two Lapiths is nowhere else mentioned. It must be assumed, if we regard the text as sound, that Vergil follows a tradition of which all trace has





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**genialibus . . . toris** is regarded as one notion: *altis* is epithet. *genialis torus*, in its narrower sense, is *torus qui nuptiis sternitur in honorem Genii*. But in its wider significance it is any *torus* spread *in honorem Genii*, as, for instance, on a birthday, and from its association with festivals comes to mean "festive." Cp. Santra ap. Non. 117. 18 *scis enim geniales homines ab antiquis appellatos, qui ad inuitandum et largius apparandum cibum promptiores essent*.

604. **fulera**. The posts of the couch, not, as Henry asserts, the whole couch.

605. **regifico**. Archaic=*regali*. First found in Ennius (Andr. fr. 9 V) *auro ebore instructam regifice*. The word recurs in Vergil's imitators, Val. Flacc. and Stat.

606. **Furiarum maxima**. Cp. Eur. I.T. 963 *πρέσβειρα Ἐρινύων*. Stat. T. 7. 477 *Eumenidum antiquissima*. The harpy Celaeno describes herself as *Furiarum maxima* in 3. 252, whence Servius unjustifiably interprets the phrase=*Fames* here. It is useless to attempt to identify the Fury.

607. **intonat** FMR: *increpat* P. The stronger word is clearly preferable. Cp. 4. 510 *tonat ore*. *intonat ore* is also found closing a line in Culex, 179. In 8. 527 *increpat ingens* there is a similar divergence of reading, but in that case *tonare* (529) shows *increpat* to be right.

608. **inuisi fratres**. Fratricides are mentioned by Plat. Rep. 10. 615 D as being in Tartarus. There is no special allusion to legend, though such instances will readily occur *e.g.*, Polynices and Eteocles).

609. **pulsatusue parens**. Cp. Ar. Ran. 147 *εἴ ποῦ ξένον τις ἠδίκησε πώποτε | ἢ μητέρ' ἠλόησεν ἢ πατρὸς γνάθον | ἐπάταξεν ἢ ἴορκον ὄρκον ὤμοσεν*. But Vergil, perhaps, has specially in mind the law of Servius Tullius preserved in Festus (260 L.) *si parentem puer uerberit, ast ille plorassit parens, puer diuis parentum sacer esto*.



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**fraus innexa clienti.** SERVIUS *ex lege XII tabularum uenit in quibus repertum est "patronus si clienti fraudem fecerit, sacer esto."*

610. **diuitiis . . . repertis** is not to be restricted literally to treasure trove, but is to be taken metaphorically of treasure in general, however acquired.

**incubuere.** Cp. G. 2. 507 *defossoque incubat auro.* A common metaphor: cp. Liv. 6. 15. 5. Quint. 10. 1. 2. Norden refers to the goblin guardian of treasure *Incubo* in Petron. 38. The moral idea contained in these lines is found as far back as Pindar (N. 1. 31). But they are commonplaces of popular morality at all times and in all places. Norden points out that the theme was treated by the Stoics: cp. Cic. de Off. 1. 42 *sqq.* Hor. S. 1. 1. 80 *sqq.*, 2. 2. 102 *sqq.* Pers. 3. 69 *sqq.* *quis modus argento : quid fas optare ; quid asper | utile nummus habet ; patriae carisque propinquis | quantum elargiri deceat.* It is, however, a little surprising to find the avaricious placed in this company, though avarice may be regarded merely as a typical instance of neglect of one's kin and fellow-men.

611. **posuere.** "Placed before" and so "gave."

**quae maxima turba est** has all the appearance of one of Vergil's props or *tibicines*.

612. **quique ob adulterium caesi.** Why this group should be confined to those slain for adultery, and not include adulterers in general, is not clear. Norden's suggestion, that it is due to the fact that by Roman law the husband might kill the adulterer caught in the act, throws no light on the passage. The sins here mentioned are probably selected as the most tragic and striking instances of men "cut off even in the very blossom of their sin," and perhaps, as Conington suggests, with the added idea that punishment in life confers no immunity after death. It is also probable that Vergil had in his mind the legislation of Augustus for



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the improvement of morals. That such legislation was at least contemplated at the time is shown by Prop. 2. 7, though no actual legislation of the kind can be traced before the *lex Iulia* of 18 B.C.

**arma impia.** Vergil refers to civil wars in general, but has perhaps more especially in his mind a civil war which is closely linked with the reference to slave wars which follows. *SERVIVS melius est ergo ut bellum a Sexto Pompeio in Siculo freto gestum accipiamus. nam occiso patre Siciliam tenuit et collectis inde seruitiis vastavit sex annis ultro citroque Siciliam* Servius is arguing that *arma impia* cannot refer to civil war in general, on the ground that Augustus and Julius Cæsar would be involved in the condemnation. Vergil probably had Sextus Pompeius more especially in mind, but that *arma impia* has the wider significance is none the less certain. All who take part in civil war are not *impii*. The passage refers to those on whom the true guilt of civil war rests.

**nec ueriti dominorum fallere dextras.** As regards the reference to Sextus Pompeius cp. the words of Augustus himself: *Mon. Anc. 5. 1 eo bello seruorum qui fugerant a dominis suis et arma contra rempublicam ceperunt, XXX fere millia capta dominis ad supplicium sumendum tradidi.* Other slave wars had frequently threatened or actually occurred—e.g., in 419 B.C. (Liv. 4. 45), 198, 196, 185–133, 100, and 73 B.C.

The phrase *fallere dextras* implies the existence of *fides* or *pietas* of a kind between slave and master. The indications of such a relationship are somewhat faint. But the fact that a slave was bound to defend his master to the death (Dig. 29. 5. 1. 18), and that the punishments for offences committed against his master by a slave were of the severest kind (cp. App. B.C. 1. 120. Oros. 5. 24. 7 for the crucifixion





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would be to explain *mersit* as 3rd pers. sing. of an old subj. form *mersim* (cp. *faxim*, *ausim*, etc., see Lindsay, *L.L.*, p. 465); but the indic. for subj. is sufficiently frequent in poetry to make such an explanation unnecessary.

616. **saxum ingens uoluunt alii**—e.g., such as Sisyphus (Od. 11. 594). This and the next reference are not merely to Sisyphus and Ixion, but to all who suffer like punishment.

**radiisque rotarum districti**. Such as Ixion, for whose punishment Pindar (Pyth. 2. 39) is the earliest authority. See also n. on 602. *districti*—i.e., with limbs bound outstretched along the spokes of the wheel.

618. **infelix Theseus**. Cp. Gell. 10. 16 (citation from Hyginus) *qui autem, inquit, fieri potest, ut aeternum apud inferos sedeat, quem supra cum is nominat (122) qui descenderint illuc atque inde rursus euaserint praesertim cum ita sit fabula de Theseo, atque si Hercules eum euellerit de petra et in lucem ad superos eduxerit?* The contradiction is implicit, if not explicit, and cannot be explained away. The version of the eternal punishment of Theseus is, however, of great antiquity. Theseus is in Hades in Od. 11. 631. For the details of his punishment cp. Panyasis, fr. 9 Kinkel ὡς Θησεὺς καὶ Πειρίθους ἐπὶ τῶν θρόνων παράσχοιντο σχῆμα οὐ κατὰ δεσμώτας, προσφνὲς δὲ ἀπὸ τοῦ χρωτὸς ἀντὶ δεσμῶν σφίσιν ἔφη τὴν πέτραν. Pausanias also records that Theseus and Pirithous were represented by Polygnotus as ἐπὶ θρόνων καθεζόμενοι (10. 29).

**Phlegyas**, King of the Lapithae, enraged at Apollo's seduction of his daughter Coronis, set fire to the temple of the god at Delphi, and was slain by his arrows. Cp. Apollod. 3. 5. 5. Schol. Stat. Theb. 1. 713. Serv. ad loc. He is in Hades as *ἱερόσυλος*, a type of sinner depicted by Polygnotus as in Hades (Pausan. 10. 28. 2).

620. An imitation of Pind. Pyth. 2. 43 where Ixion cries



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from his wheel τὸν εὐεργέταν ἀγανᾶις ἀμοιβαίς ἐποιοχομένους  
τίνεσθαι.

621. These two lines are borrowed from Varius, *de morte Caesaris* (ap. Macrobian. 6. 1. 39 *uendidit hic Latium populis agrosque Quiritum | eripuit, fixit leges pretio atque refixit*). Vergil passes from Greek sinners to Roman. SERVIUS *etiam haec generaliter dicantur, habent tamen specialitatem: nam Laesthenes Olynthum Philippo uendidit, Curio Caesari* XXVII S. *Romam: de quo Lucanus (4. 820) 'Gallorum captus spoliis et Caesaris auro.'* To this quotation we may add 4. 823 *emere omnes, hic uendidit urbem*. That Vergil had Curio in his mind is probable enough, though he could scarcely have mentioned so prominent a partisan of Julius Cæsar by name, much less have spoken of Julius as *dominus potens*. He therefore confirms himself to generalities as regards the class of traitors.

622. SERVIUS *possumus Antonium accipere secundum Ciceronem in Philippicis ubi ait "legesne fixisti."* About the correctness of this attribution there can be no doubt; Vergil employs Roman terminology, and the facts were notorious. Nor is there any difficulty in the reference to Antonius: his action was subsequent to Caesar's death, and he had been the opponent of Augustus. Cp. Mon. Anc. 1. 2 *republicam dominatione factionis oppressam in libertatem uindicauit*. For *fixit pretio atque refixit* cp. Lex Iulia de pecul. (Dig. 48. 13. 10) *qui tabulam aeream leges formamue agrorum aut quid aliud continentem refixerit . . . peculatus tenetur*. Cic. Phil. 2. 98; 5. 12; 13. 5. *refigo*=abrogation of laws, while *figo*=publication of laws on tablets of bronze.

623. **thalamum inuasit.** Perhaps an imitation of the Homeric εὐνήσ ἐπεβήσέτο. In this line Vergil refers to a special form of incest (*thalamum natae*), and the sin in general (*uetitosque hymenaeos*). Vergil refers probably in the main



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to legendary stories, such as those of the love of Cinyras for his daughter Myrrha, of Clymenus for his daughter Harpalyce, of Caunus for his sister Byblis, etc., favourite themes with Alexandrian poets. Cp. Hygin. fab. 253. Parthen. 5, 11, 13, 17.

624. **ausi . . . potiti.** Norden takes this line as referring to the sins indicated in the previous line, and quotes various parallels for *audere* and *potiri* used in an erotic significance. Apart from the context, this is a perfectly possible interpretation. But coming at the end of a passage describing the various classes of sinners punished in Tartarus, it is more natural to take the line as summing-up the sinners in general. For *auso potiti* cp. Ov. M. 11. 242 *auso foret ille potitus*; Hor. Ep. 1. 13. 11 *uictor propositi*.

625. An imitation of Il. 2. 489 οὐδ' εἴ μοι δέκα μὲν γλῶσσαι δέκα δὲ στόματ' εἶεν, | φωνὴ δ' ἄρρηκτος, χάλκεον δέ μοι ἦτορ ἐνείη, and an appropriation from Lucr. fr. placed by Lachmann at 6. 840 *non mihi si linguae centum sint oraque centum, | aerea uox*; and repeated from G. 2. 43. Cp. also Hostius ap. Macrobius 6. 3. *non si mihi linguae | centum atque ora sient totidem uocesque liquatae*.

626. **scelerum formas.** See n. on 615.

629. **munus** is best taken="gift" in view of *perfecto munere diuae* (637; cp. also 142).

630. **educta** M, Servius: *ducta* FPR. *educta* is preferable as being the more expressive. Norden takes it="forged," comparing Herod. 1. 68 ἐξελαύνειν σίδηρον—i.e., "beat out." This suits *caminis* well, but a Latin parallel is required. In view of the fact that Vergil elsewhere uses *educere* of building to a height (2. 186, 461; 12. 674), it is, however, simpler to take it="reared high by the forges of the Cyclops." The walls are of iron like the tower in 554.

632. **praecepta** sc. *deorum*.





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illumination for his underworld Elysium. In his description of this light he imitates Homer's description of Olympus, Od. 6. 44 ἀλλὰ μάλ' αἴθρη | πέπταται ἀνέφελος λευκὴ δ' ἐπιδέδρομεν αἴγλη, but his conception of Elysium as a land of light is in accordance with Greek popular and religious belief: cp. Dieterich, *Nekyia*, p. 19 sqq.

**largior**, as Conington points out, corresponds to the μάλα πέπταται of Homer, while *purpureo lumine* answers to his λευκὴ αἴγλη, *purpureus* being used="dazzling." Cp. Hor. Od. 4. 1. 10 *purpureis ales oloribus*. El. in Maec. 62 *purpurea candidiora niue*.

**et** connects *largior* and *purpureo lumine*, *largior* being predicative.

642. Cp. Pind. Fr. 129, 130 B<sup>4</sup> καὶ τοὶ μὲν ἱππείοις γυμνασίοις, τοὶ δὲ πέσσοις, τοὶ δὲ φορμίγγεσι τέρπονται.

644. **pars pedibus plaudunt choreas**. An imitation of Od. 8. 264, πέπληγον δὲ χορὸν θεῖον ποσίην, where, however, χορός is the dancing ground. But the Latin presents no difficulty: *choreas* is cognate acc. after *plaudunt*: "they beat out the dance with their feet"—i.e., they dance with rhythmic tread.

*plaudo* in its primary sense is "to beat," the sense "to applaud" being merely secondary.

645. **Threicius . . . sacerdos**. Orpheus is represented as a priest in virtue of his position as hierophant of the underworld in the mysteries associated with his name; that, however, is the sole reference to his special significance in this connexion. Here he is actually depicted as the peerless musician. Cp. Plato, Apol. 41 A ἢ αὖ Ὀρφεῖ συγγένεσθαι καὶ Μουσαίῳ καὶ Ἡσιόδῳ καὶ Ὀμήρῳ ἐπὶ πόσῳ ἂν τις δέξαιτ' ἂν ὑμῶν.

**longa cum ueste**. He wears the garb of a *citharoedus*. Cp. Propertius' description of the statue of *Apollo citharoedus*, 2. 31. 16 *Pythius in longa carmina ueste sonat*.



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646. This line clearly refers to Orpheus' singing to the accompaniment of the lyre, the actual playing on the instrument being described in 647.

**septem discrimina uocum.** The seven notes of the heptachord, *discrimen* being a translation of διαστῆμα.

**obloquitur numeris.** It is most natural to take *numeris* as dative dependent on *obloquitur* (=ἀντιφωνεῖ) "accompanies the tune," or "the rhythm of the dance." The alternative is to translate "utters in melody the seven notes." Cp. Ov. ex P. 3. 1. 21 *non auis obloquitur*.

For *numeris*=tune cp. E. 9. 45 *numeros memini si uerba tenerem*. A. 9. 776 *numerosque intendere neruis*.

647. The right hand uses the *plectrum*, the left the fingers: cp. Philostr. iun. imag. 6 (p. 400, Kayser) ἡ μὲν δεξιὰ συνίσχουσα ἀπρὶξ τὸ πλῆκτρον ἐπιτέταται τοῖς φθόγγοις ἡ λαία δὲ ὄρθοις πλήττει τοῖς δακτύλοις τοὺς μίτους. The *plectrum* would be used when greater volume of sound was required.

**pectine.** This, the Latin translation of the Gk. πλῆκτρον, is employed because of the resemblance of the strings of the lyre to the warp of a loom, the *plectrum* being inserted between the strings as the weaver's comb was between the upright threads of the warp. In form the *plectrum* cannot have resembled a comb, being represented in vase-paintings simply as a slender peg.

648. **Teuceri.** Teucrus (Τεῦκρος), the first King of Troy, hence *Teuceri*=Trojans (cp. Herod. 5. 122). Dardanus came from Samothrace to Troy, married Teucrus's daughter and succeeded him as King (Apollod. 3. 12. 3. Diod. 4. 75). Other versions made Dardanus indigenous and Teucrus his son-in-law (Serv. ad Aen. 3. 108). Vergil (3. 108) represents Teucrus as an immigrant from Crete (cp. also Strabo 12, p. 604. Tzetz. ad Lyc. 29. 1302, 1306). See n. on *Dardanus*



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below. For the form of the line cp. 580 *hic genus antiquum Terrae, Titania pubes*.

649. Cp. Catull. 64. 22 *o nimis optato saeculorum tempore nati* | *heroes, saluete, deum genus*. But *nati melioribus annis* means more here than “born in the golden age of heroes”; it means also “born before ever the sons of the Achaeans came to Troy.”

650. Cp. Il. 20. 232 Ἴλος τ' Ἀσσάρακός τε καὶ ἀντίθεος Γανυμήδης.

**Ilus**, son of Tros and brother of Assaracus, according to Il. l.c. There was, however, an older Ilus, son of Dardanus (Apollod. 3. 12. 1).

**Assaracus**, brother of Ilus and grandfather of Anchises, cp. Il. 20. 239.

**Troiae Dardanus auctor**. Cp. Hom. Il. 20. 215 Δάρδανον αὖ πρῶτον τέκετο νεφεληγέρετα Ζεὺς, | κτίσσε δὲ Δαρδανίην. Vergil follows the view which makes Dardanus the founder of Troy, Teucrus having migrated previously to the Troad from Crete, but not having founded Troy itself (Cp. 3. 107 *maximus unde pater, . . . Teucrus Rhoeteas primum est aduectus ad oras* | *optavitque locum regno. nondum Ilium et arces* | *Pergameae steterant; habitabant uallibus imis*).

651. **procul**. “Apart” almost=hard by. Cp. n. on *procul*, l. 10.

**inanis**. The chariots are empty, the horses turned loose to graze, while the heroes rest. Servius wrongly (on 652) takes *inanis*=“ghostly.”

652. **stant terra defixae hastae**. Cp. Il. 3. 135 παρὰ δ' ἔγχεα μακρὰ πέπηγεν where the opposing armies are resting.

**terra** MPR: *terrae* F. The dative may be paralleled by G. 2. 290 *terrae defigitur arbor*, and Varr. ap. Non. 221. 13 *cruci defiguntur*. But the sound is less pleasing, and the





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means "above in the upperworld." Norden takes it as meaning "to the upperworld." But there is no earlier example of this use of *superne* than Plin. 19. 76 *superne tendit non in terram*.

659. **Eridani.** The Eridanus, though actually identified with the Po (cp. G. 1. 482) and the Rhone (Plin. 37. 32. Paus. etc.), is also a mythical river of the garden of the gods in the far west, where Phaethon met his end and his sisters were turned into poplars: cp. Eur. Hipp. 732 *sqq.* In the far west lie the islands of the Blest, the garden of the Hesperides, the realm of the dead. The other world is for Vergil the underworld, but the river of the garden of the gods is transferred thither. The only other reference to Eridanus in this connexion is found in a Scholium to Eur. Orest. 981 *εἰς τὸν Ἑριδανὸν ποταμὸν κρέματα ὁ Τάνταλος*. See Dieterich, *Nekyia*, p. 27.

**per siluam.** This wood is not to be confused with the *lauri nemus*; it is the poplar grove where Phaethon's sisters weep tears of amber into the river, mourning their brother's death. Cp. Eur. Hipp. l.c. Ov. M. 2. 340 *sqq.*

660. Cp. 7. 182 *ob patriam pugnando uulnera passi*.

661. **dum uita manebat.** As in 608, "when they were alive"; the phrase is suspiciously like one of Vergil's "props," or *tibicines*.

662. **pii uates.** "Moral bards." The poet is regarded as the teacher of moral and religious truths. Cp. Hor. Ep. 2. 1. 126 *sqq.*, where this function of poetry is dealt with at length. Vergil has, perhaps, especially in mind the earlier poetry of Greece before the rise of prose, when didactic poetry had not yet become a literary exercise and philosophers taught in verse. But it may be noted that such *pietas* is pre-eminently characteristic of the Georgics and Aeneid. Servius refers the line to prophets, an unnecessary restriction.



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663. **qui uitam excoluere per artes.** Those who have brought fresh beauty and civilisation to the life of mankind by their discoveries. The phrase includes artists, men of science, and philosophers. Norden (pp. 34, 5) compares Cic. T. D. 1. 62 *qui cultum uitae inuenerunt*, and Somn. Scip. 18 *qui praestantibus ingeniis in uita humana diuina studia coluerunt*; these latter are represented as being among the blessed in heaven. He points out that Posidonius taught that the discovery of the arts which have made man civilised was due to the philosophers (cp. Sen. Ep. 90), and suggests that Vergil is drawing on Posidonius. This may or may not be the case; as he himself justly asserts that Posidonius was following the teaching of the Orphics and Pythagoreans (Cp. Lactant. de ira, 1. 11. 7, where such teaching is attributed to *uetustissimi Graeciae scriptores quos illi theologos nuncupant*, and Axiochus 371 C, where φιλόσοφοι are mentioned as dwelling in Elysium with poets and musicians), it is not impossible that Vergil drew on some older source, or was merely following the commonplaces of popular eschatology. In dealing with such commonplaces it is of little profit to attempt to discover the precise source from which they are drawn.

664. **aliquos** F<sup>1</sup>MPR Serv.: *alios* F<sup>2</sup> and the MSS. of Macrobius and Donatus. The authority for *alios* is inferior, and *aliquos* gives an equally good meaning, the limiting sense being not too strong. It suggests the "elect," but not necessarily the "chosen few." This line gives a "more general description of the benefactors of the human race" (Conington). Here, too, Norden holds that Vergil is drawing upon Posidonius on the ground that Seneca (l.c.) states that Posidonius included the first Kings, statesmen, and law-givers among the philosophers. He compares also Cic. Somn. Scip. 13 *omnibus qui patriam conseruauerint auxerint certum*



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*esse in caelo definitum locum, ubi beati aeuo sempiterno fruuntur.* But Vergil is at least as likely to have drawn on Plato, Rep. 615 b, where he speaks of rewards for εὐεργεσίας εὐεργετηκότες, or on Pindar, Ol. 2. 63-end.

665. **niuea uitta.** They wear snow-white fillets as consecrated to Heaven, like the victim (G. 3. 487), or the priest (Ov. M. 13. 643). Cp. also Aristid. Or. 32. 34.

667. **Musaeum.** A mythical poet, prophet, and mystagogue, by some described as the son of Orpheus (*e.g.*, Serv. ad loc.), and generally regarded as his follower and successor (cp. Paus. 10. 7. 2). He was regarded as the earliest poet, and various works, mainly of a religious, mythological, or mystical character, were attributed to him—*e.g.*, Oracles (Ar. Ran. 1031; Herod. 8. 96), Precepts (Suidas s.v.), Theogonia (Dicg. Laert. Proem. 3), Παραλύσεις, Τελευταί, καθαρμοί (Schol. ad Aristoph. l.c. Plat. Rep. 363 C).

668. Cp. Il. 3. 227 (of Ajax) ἔξοχος Ἀργείων κεφαλὴν τε καὶ εὐρέας ὄμους. A. 2. 721; 7. 784; 8. 162.

670. **illius ergo.** The preposition *ergo* occurs in Vergil only here. It is found in Lucretius and Cicero, and in Livy among Augustan writers, but then drops out of literary use, and had probably a slightly archaic colouring for Vergil and his contemporaries.

675. Cp. Lucr. 3. 46 *si fert ita forte uoluntas.*

679. **pater Anchises.** Anchises is styled *pater* not merely as being Aeneas' father. The word is used to invest him with patriarchal dignity, as it is used of Aeneas himself and others. — Norden, citing Enn. A. 55 *pater Tiberinus* and 121 *Quirinus pater*, asserts that Vergil is imitating Ennius. Both authors, however, are probably following old religious usage: cp. C.I.L. 9. 4676 *pater Reatinus*, and Liv. 5. 52 and 8. 9, where in invocations, which are probably actual quotations from ritual, *pater* is used of Quirinus.





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ington asserts that Anchises seems to be unaware of these apparitions of himself to his son. The fact that he does not mention them is no proof at all; his language is perfectly natural to the circumstances, and the difficulty is purely imaginary.

**haec limina tendere adegit.** For acc. of motion towards see note on 638. It is found with *tendere* in 1. 554. For *adegit* cp. Od. 11. 164 μῆτερ ἐμή, χρειώ με κατήγαγεν εἰς Ἄϊδαο.

697. **stant sale Tyrrheno classes.** Aeneas in these words announces his arrival in the promised land of Italy. Norden fancifully detects an imitation of Od. 24. 299, where Laertes asks ποῦ δαὶ νηῦς ἔστηκε θοή, and Odysseus answers (308) νηῦς δέ μοι ἦδ' ἔστηκεν ἐπ' ἄγρου νόσφι πόλης. *stant* "are beached." Cp. 901 *stant litore puppes*.

698. **teque amplexu ne subtrahere nostro.** Repeated from 465, with substitution of *amplexu* for *aspectu*.

700-702. Repeated from 2. 792-794, and an imitation of Od. 11. 206 τρῖς μὲν ἐφωρμήθην, ἔλέειν τέ με θυμὸς ἀνώγει | τρῖς δέ μοι ἐκ χειρῶν σκιῇ εἴκελον ἦ καὶ ὄνειρῳ | ἔπτατο.

703. **in ualle reducta.** "Within the vale's recess." The phrase recurs in 8. 609.

704. **siluae** GMPR: *siluis* FM<sup>2</sup>. *siluis* has less authority and gives poor sense; the brake cannot be said to "rustle with woods (or forest trees)." *siluis* is probably due to a reminiscence of 3. 442 *Auerna sonantia siluis*. Cp. also 12. 522 *uirgulta sonantia lauro*.

705. **Lethaeum amnem.** See n. on 735.

**praenatat.** SERVIUS *Ennium secutus est qui ait fluctusque natantes* (A. 584): but it is also used of water by Lucretius—e.g., 5. 488; 6. 267, 1142. *praenato* is not found before Vergil, and rarely after.

706. Cp. Od. 11. 632 ἔθνεα μυρία νεκρῶν.



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707. Cp. Il. 2. 87 ἐπεσσεύοντο δὲ λαοί· | ἤντε ἔθνεα εἴσι  
 μελισσάων ἀδινάων | πετρῆς ἐκ γλαφυρῆς αἰὲ νέον ἐρχομενάων·  
 βοτρυδὸν δὲ πέτονται ἐπ' ἄνθεσιν εἰαρινοῖσιν. Ap. Rhod. 1.  
 879 ὡς δ' ὅτε λείρια καλὰ περιβρομέουσι μέλισσαι | πέτρης  
 ἐκχύμεναι συμβληίδος, ἀμφὶ δὲ λειμῶν | ἐρσήεις γάννυται, τὰ  
 δὲ γλυκὺν ἄλλοτε ἄλλον | καρπὸν ἀμέργουσιν πεποτημένοι.  
 While Vergil's debt to these two passages is undoubted, it  
 is probable that the simile here has a special significance.  
 Norden quotes Soph. Fr. 794 Ν βομβεῖ δὲ νεκρῶν σμῆνος,  
 which is preserved in Porph. de antr. nymph. 18 f, with the  
 comment that the name μέλισσαι was given by οἱ παλαιοὶ  
 to τὰς ψυχὰς εἰς γένεσιν ἰούσας. This suggestion clearly  
 gives special point and significance to the comparison.

711. **porro** is here used in its local sense=*procul*. Cp.  
 Plaut. Rud. 1034 *ubi tu hic habitas? porro illic*. This use is  
 mainly ante-classical, and is only found here in Vergil.

713-5. See n. on 735-751.

715. **securos latices**. Cp. Plat. Rep. 621 Α τὸν Ἀμέλητα  
 ποταμόν.

**obliuia**. Cp. Mar. Victorin. G.L.K. 6. 25. 10 *contagio apud  
 omnes fere scriptores est nominatiuo casu, ut . . . obliuio :  
 sed poetarum licentia primo fecit contagia et obliuia, postea  
 dici coepit et obliuium et contagium*. *Obliuium* first occurs  
 in Tac. H. 4. 9 (Norden).

716, 7. These two lines may be as Vergil left them, but  
 the thought inevitably suggests itself that they are not as  
 he intended to leave them. For the connexion is un-  
 deniably awkward. Ribbeck brackets the first line, on  
 the ground that Vergil must have meant to omit it in his  
 final draft, and that its survival is due to the scrupulosity of  
 his editors. But, as Henry points out, the first line is  
 necessary to the sense. Anchises' meaning "is not that he  
 had been a long time desirous to enumerate his offspring,



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but that he had been a long time desirous to enumerate his offspring to his son Aeneas (*tibi*); and not merely to enumerate them to him, but, as clearly appears from every line of the sequel, to show them to him in person (*ostendere coram*).” This argument is conclusive for the retention of the first line. The awkwardness still remains as regards the connexion of the two. Henry’s explanation is possible, but not wholly satisfactory. *iampridem* is added to the second line, just as we would say in English, “I have been wishing to tell you, this long time have I been wishing to see you and tell you all.” The awkwardness of the Latin reappears in Henry’s English. It is tempting to believe that Vergil would ultimately have written *ac* for *hanc* (Heyne and Nettleship), if he did not actually write it.

719. **SERVIUS** *noua breuitas. nam dicendo “o pater” qui loquatur ostenditur.*

**anne** is rare in single direct questions: this use is found only here in Vergil.

**putandum est** “may remind us of Lucr. 2. 39 *quod superest animo quoque nil prodesse putandum* and other passages. Aeneas has slipped, as it were, into the tone appropriate to the pupil of a philosopher” (Conington).

720. **sublimis** predicative with **ire**. Servius takes it in the moral sense. But that is wholly out of keeping with the tone of Aeneas’ words: cp. 721.

721. **miseris**. They are wretched in that they desire to return to a world of misery. Norden takes *miseris* as proleptic=*ut miserae fiant*, which is harsh and wholly needless.

**tam dira cupido**. Repeated from 373.

The line reveals the bitterness that still reigns in the heart of Aeneas, though he has found the shores of Italy. It is from his father’s words that he is to win hope and strength for the future.





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*custodemque uniuersi, animum ac spiritum mundi.* This *mens* or *spiritus* is of fire: cp. Stob. Ecl. 1. 58 Διογένης καὶ Κλεάνθης τὴν τοῦ κόσμου ψυχὴν θεὸν λέγουσιν. . . . Ποσειδώνιος πνεῦμα νοερὸν καὶ πυρῶδες, οὐκ ἔχον μὲν μορφὴν, μεταβάλλον δὲ εἰς ὃ βούλεται καὶ συνεξομοιούμενον πᾶσιν. . . . Ζήνων ὁ Στωικὸς νοῦν κόσμου πυρινόν.

**alit.** Cp. Cic. N.D. 2. 15 *ille corporeus (ignis), uitalis et salutaris, omnia conseruat alit auget sustinet sensuque afficit.* So, too, Sen. N.Q. 6. 16, where this function of the *spiritus uitalis et uegetus* is discussed at length.

727. **magno se corpore miscet.** It is a *κρᾶσις δι' ὅλου* in Stoic phraseology.

This fiery *anima mundi* is the source of all life, but is hampered by matter, represented in Stoic terminology by the elements of earth and water.

729. **marmoreo aequore.** Cp. Il. 14. 273 ἄλα μαρμάρειον = the bright sea, whereas *marmoreus* rather implies smoothness. Cp. the use of *marmor* (first in Ennius, A. 377) = sea.

730. **igneus uigor.** The soul is a spark (semen) of the *anima mundi* (cp. Epictet. 1. 14. 6 αἱ ψυχαὶ συναφεῖς τῷ θεῷ ἅτε αὐτοῦ μόρια οὖσαι καὶ ἀποσπάσματα; also Posidon. ap. Sext. Emp. 9. 100), and, like the world soul, is composed of fire.

**ollis.** See n. on *olli* (321).

**caelestis origo.** Fire is ἀβαρές and ἀνωφέρές according to Chrysippus, ap. Plut. Sto. Rep. 42. The purest fire is in the sun and stars. Cp. Cic. N.D. 2. 15.

731. The doctrine expressed in this and the following lines is not in any way inconsistent with Stoic doctrine, and finds a parallel in many passages of Seneca; see Zeller's *Stoics, Epicureans and Sceptics*, p. 207 sqq. But in 734 the language tends to become definitely Pythagorean, as leading up to the doctrine of *metempsychosis* which follows.



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733-751. There are grave difficulties as to the interpretation of this famous passage. The soul has been polluted by contact with the body shut in *tenebris et carcere caeco* (734). Therefore purification is necessary (739-742). This purification accomplished the spirits proceed to Elysium, where a few hold the happy fields until the wheel of time has come full circle and purged them of all stain, so that they become beings of pure etherial fire. All the spirits whom now Aeneas sees, after they have rolled the wheel of a thousand years, are summoned to the river of Lethe, that they may drink forgetfulness thereof, and be ready once more to re-enter mortal bodies. Down to 742 the sense is clear, and, again, from 748 there is no obscurity. But what of the intervening lines. Why do only a few inhabit the fields of bliss? and what is this further purification which they receive that leaves them "all fire, all air"? Two alternatives seem possible. (1) Many are called, but few chosen, while the stay in Elysium completes the cleansing of the souls. "*Pauci*," says Page, "seems added to mark that these purified souls bear but a small proportion to the whole number of the dead." But this is contrary to all that we know of the doctrine of rebirth. Only incurable sinners abide in Tartarus for ever. And even assuming that the purification of the curable sinners occupies the whole of the 1,000 years between birth and rebirth, why does Vergil make no mention of it? And if such persons can be reborn after the drastic purification of fire, water, and air, what is the significance of the purification which the happy spirits undergo in Elysium? The apparent simplicity of this explanation leaves us in scarcely less confusion than before. (2) The true explanation would seem to be that given by Norden (pp. 16 *sqq.*). After purification, all the spirits proceed to Elysium to receive the reward of their virtues, as they have received the punish-



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ment of their sins (cp. Plat. Rep. 10. 615; Phaedr. 249 AB). Of these a few for their virtue remain in Elysium without need of rebirth, and abide there until lapse of time (10,000 years) has purified them to the degree necessary to enable them to return to their divine existence, which the soul enjoyed before ever it entered into the wheel of birth (745-7). Anchises himself is one of these (*tenemus* 744). He then returns to the question raised by Aeneas (719), and points to the souls before him, and proceeds (748). All these, after the wheel of 1,000 years is completed, are called forth to drink of Lethe and undergo rebirth. Thus, there are two classes of inhabitants of Elysium: (a) The small number of the elect who are spared rebirth, though not yet sufficiently pure to return to heaven, their home; and (b) the vast majority, who, after purification, await the fulfilment of 1,000 years in the underworld, and are then reborn. That the passage would have been developed and clarified by the poet, had he lived, is probable; but it must be remembered that the obscurity may be largely due to the modern reader's unfamiliarity with the doctrine that Vergil is developing.

The teaching as to the respective periods of 1,000 and 10,000 years is to be found in the Phaedrus of Plato (248 D), where it is stated that 10,000 years "must elapse before the soul can return to the place from whence she came, for she cannot grow her wings in less; only the soul of a philosopher, guileless and true, or the soul of a lover, who is not without philosophy, may acquire wings in the third recurring period of a thousand years." The period of a thousand years passed in the other world before rebirth recurs again in the vision of Er in Rep. 10. There is no fixed period of purification. In Rep. 10. 615 Plato states that the soul receives both punishment and reward ten times over. The proportion of time spent in Elysium will, therefore, vary for





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purified by being plunged in Acheron; in the spurious Axiochus (372 A) transgressors are punished by fire. Between punishment and purification no sharp distinction can be drawn: cp. Plat. Gorg. 479 C, D ΣΩ. ἀρ' οὖν συμβαίνει μέγιστον κακὸν ἢ ἀδικία καὶ τὸ ἀδικεῖν. ΠΩΛ. φαίνεται γέ. ΣΩ. καὶ μὴν ἀπαλλαγὴ γέ ἐφάνη τούτου τοῦ κακοῦ τὸ δίκην δίδόναι. Finally, the first reference to the river of Lethe is found in the vision of Er (Rep. 10), where the souls due for rebirth gather in the plain of Lethe and drink of a stream, described first as Ἀμέλης ποταμός and later as ὁ τῆς Λήθης ποταμός. That the river of Lethe was, however, a familiar feature of popular eschatology is clear from Aristoph. Ran. 186.

There was an actual well of Lethe at the oracle of Trophonius (cp. Paus. 9. 39. 5-14).

As to the antiquity of the doctrine of rebirth among the Greeks nothing very definite can be stated, save that it was old. Herodotus (2. 122) states that the doctrine was borrowed from the Egyptians; Plato (Phaedo 70 C) speaks of it as an ancient doctrine. See Introduction.

**733. metuunt cupiuntque, dolent gaudentque.** The four-fold division of passions—fear, desire, pain, pleasure—is found again in Horace (Ep. 1. 6. 12) *gaudeat an doleat, cupiat metuatne, quid ad rem?* This formal classification of the passions originated with the Stoics, and had become a commonplace. Cp. also Plat. Phaed. 83 B τῶν ἡδονῶν τε καὶ ἐπιθυμιῶν καὶ λυπῶν καὶ φόβων, though in that case there is no formal classification. Cp. SERVIUS *Varro et omnes philosophi dicunt quattuor esse passiones*, etc. Cic. T.D. 3. 11. 24.

**clausae tenebris et carcere caeco.** An Orphic belief: cp. Plat. Cratyl. 400 C καὶ γὰρ σῆμά τινές φασιν αὐτὸ εἶναι τῆς ψυχῆς, ὡς τεθαμμένης ἐν τῷ νῦν παρόντι· καὶ διότι αὐτὸ τούτῳ σημαίνει ἂν σημαίνῃ ἢ ψυχὴ καὶ ταύτῃ σῆμα ὀρθῶς



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καλεῖσθαι. δοκοῦσι μέντοι μοι μάλιστα θέσθαι οἱ ἀμφὶ Ὀρφεᾶ τοῦτο τὸ ὄνομα, ὡς δίκην διδούσης τῆς ψυχῆς ὧν δὴ ἔνεκα δίδωσιν, τοῦτον δὲ περίβολον ἔχειν ἵνα σφύζηται, δεσμωτηρίου εἰκόνα. Also Gorg. 493 A.

735. **supremo lumine.** “When life’s last ray is extinguished,” a variation for *supremo tempore* (Lucr. 1. 546).

738. **diu concreta.** Cp. 746 *concretam labem*. Norden compares the Gk. σύμφυτον κακόν, Plat. Rep. 10. 609 AB; Tim. 42 AC; Phaed. 81 C.

**modis inolescere miris.** For *miris modis* cp. Lucr. 1. 123 *simulacra modis pallentia miris*, imitated by Vergil, G. 1. 477; 4. 309. A. 1. 354; 10. 822.

*inolescere* = “to grow in,” here “to become engrained.” The metaphor is from grafting: cp. G. 2. 77 *huc aliena ex arbore germen | includunt udoque docent inolescere libro*.

740. **inanis** probably with *uentos*: cp. 10. 82 *uentos inanis*. It would be possible with Henry to take *inanes* as nom., referring to the unsubstantial shades. But the parallel from Bk. 10 points the other way, and *suspensae* has to be taken with *panduntur*, and there is no need to overload the verb with a double predicate.

742. **infectum** = *quo infectae sunt*. There seems no parallel for *inficere* with the cognate acc. of the dye or stain. But such a construction would present no difficulty.

**exuritur.** Elsewhere *exuro*, seems to mean “burn up,” “consume.” Here it means rather “burn away,” a perfectly natural use, which, as Conington points out, may be defended by the analogy of *eluitur*.

743. **quisque suos patimur manis.** While there can be no doubt that these words may be interpreted in general terms, “each of us suffers his own spiritual doom,” there is, and must from the nature of the case continue to be, considerable doubt as to the precise conception which Vergil had in his



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mind. (1) The simplest interpretation is that of Warde Fowler: "Each individual of us must endure his own individual ghosthood"—*i.e.*, with all the pains and purifications involved by sin committed in the body. This affirmation of personal immortality harmonises perfectly with the Orphic-Pythagorean eschatology of the sixth book, without involving any difficulty in itself. Warde Fowler points out (*Rel. Experience of the Roman People*, p. 341) that in earlier days "the spirit of a dead Roman was not thought of as definitely individualised: it joined the whole mass of the Manes in some dimly conceived region beneath the earth: there is no singular to the word Manes." With the spread of Greek teaching the individualisation of the spirit of the dead became a familiar idea, and by the end of the Republican period tombstones begin to show the words *Di Manes* as representing the spirit of the individual (*ib. l.c.* and p. 386). The fact that *manes* has no singular is no obstacle here in view of the plural *patimur*. (2) But the consideration of certain passages in Plato and Plutarch, together with the Roman belief in the *genius*, makes it quite possible that the above view errs on the side of simplicity (see Norden, p. 32). Cp. Plato, *Phaed.* 107 D, where it is stated that after death the *δαίμων* of each man leads his spirit to the underworld, where (113 D) the sinner suffers for his wrong-doing in the world above. Plutarch again (*de gen. Socr.* 22. 592 BC) asserts that each soul in the next world is punished by his *δαίμων* for having yielded himself to the passions of the body; while, according to Galen (*de Hipp. et Plat. dogm.* 1. 5, p. 449, Müller), Posidonius attributed the origin of the passions to τὸ μὴ κατὰ πᾶν ἔπεσθαι τῷ ἐν αὐτῷ δαίμονι συγγενεῖ.

Finally, Servius explains *manes* in the present passage as follows: *supplicia quae sunt apud manes, ut si quis dicat*





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747. See n. on 724-732. Cp. G. 4. 220 *partem diuinæ mentis et haustus ætherios*.

**aurai.** The uncial MSS. all give *auræ*. *aurai* is the reading of Servius, Donatus, and several of the cursive MSS. Cp. Serv. ad. 7. 464 *notandum quod in Vergilio non reperiuntur nisi quattuor diaereses, hoc loco (sc. aquai) et in tertio (354), aulai, et in sexto (747) . . . et in nono (26) pictai*. The archaism is frequent as late as Cicero and Lucretius.

748. **rotam uoluere per annos.** SERVIUS *est sermo Ennianus*. (Cp. Enn. A. 548). Though the words may be drawn from Ennius, the reference is to the "wheel" mentioned in Orphic-Pythagorean writings. Cp. Compagno Tablet 1 (Kaibel, *C.I.G.* 1. 8. 641) κύκλου δ' ἐξέπταν βαρυπένθεος ἀργαλέοιο. Diog. Laert. 7. 12. Proclus ad Tim., p. 330 A, κύκλος τῆς γενέσεως ἐν τῷ τῆς εἰμαρμένης τρόχῳ. See Harrison, *Proleg. Gr. Relig.*, p. 589 sqq.

749. **deus.** SERVIUS *non dicit quis . . . sed alii Mercurium uolent propter hoc (4. 242) "hac animas ille euocat Orco | pallentes, alias sub Tartara tristia mittit."* Cp. Orph. hymn. 57. ὁ σῖνομόροις ψυχαῖς πομπὸς κατὰ γαῖαν ὑπάρχων, | ἄς κατάγεις, ὅποτ' ἂν μοίρης χρόνος εἰσαφίκηται, | εὐιέρῳ ῥάβδῳ θέλγων ὑπνοδώτιδι πάντα | καὶ πάλιν ὑπνώοντας ἐγείρεις. But Vergil has spoken vaguely, and *deus* may be ὁ Θεός, ὁ δαίμων.

750. **supera ut conuexa.** See n. on 241.

753. **turbamque sonantem.** Repeated 12. 248. Cp. 709 *strepit omnis murmure campus*.

755. **legere.** "Scan" as *perlegerent* (34).

756. **Dardanium** opposed to *Itala*. The line of Kings is half Trojan, half Italian. SERVIUS *Albanos reges, qui tredecim fuerunt, de Aeneae et Lauiniaie genere : unde ait Itala de gente*.

757. **maneant.** "Are held in store by fate."

**Itala.** The adj. *Italus* is not found before Hor. S. 1. 7. 32. For scansion of the word see n. on 61.



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758. **nostrumque in nomen ituros.** *nomen* carries with it a wealth of meaning. (1) The royal house of Troy. (2) The nation that is to be (cp. *nomen Latinum*): so Servius *in gentem ut* (12. 515) *nomen Echionium matrisque genus Peridiae*. (3) Our own fame.

**animas.** The nom. in apposition to *nepotes* would have been more natural; but Vergil for the sake of variety writes *animas*, the object of *expediam*. The line thus is to be regarded as equivalent to a clause parallel to those in the two preceding lines (sc. *quae animae in nostrum nomen iturae sint*). For the whole line cp. 680 *inclusas animas superumque in lumen ituras*.

759. **expediam.** Cp. 3. 379 *expediam dictis* (a prophecy as here).

**fata docebo.** Perhaps a reminiscence of Ennius (A. 18) *doctusque Anchisa, Venus quem pulcherrima dium | fata docet*.

760. **uides.** Parenthetical.

**pura hasta.** SERVIUS *id est sine ferro: nam hoc fuit praemium apud maiores eius qui tunc primum uicisset in proelio*. It was, however, a reward not merely for the first victory, but for any special act of valour: cp. Plin. 7. 102. Gell. 2. 11, where it is recorded of one man that he had won 18 *hasta*e. It is represented on a coin of the *gens Arria*, as a staff with a knob at each end. See Cohen, *Monn. de la République*, pl. 7. 1. 2. See Daremberg et Saglio and Pauly-Wissowa, s.v. *hasta pura*.

761. **proxima sorte tenet lucis loca.** Two interpretations have been given. (1) *lucis* is taken with *loca* = *proxima uitae loca*: "holds the next place in the upperworld of light." (2) Henry takes *sorte* with *lucis*, and translates "holds the nearest place by lot of life"—i.e., the order in which they are to ascend to the upperworld is determined by lot.



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Cp. 11. 110 *Martis sorte*. Ov. F. 3. 463 *sorte tori*. Tr. 5. 3. 28 *sors uitae*. This interpretation is perfectly possible, but is rhythmically less satisfactory: *loca* is somewhat too isolated if detached from *lucis*, though 434 *proxima deinde tenent* may be cited as a parallel. It matters little which view be adopted. The objections brought against the first are unreal and fanciful.

*sorte* does not necessarily imply that lots are actually drawn by the souls. It may imply no more than that each soul has its allotted place to avoid the confusion of which Lucretius (3. 776) makes such sport. But it is quite possible that Vergil intended to suggest that lots were actually drawn. Cp. 431 *nec uero has sine sorte datae . . . sedes*. Above all cp. Plat. Rep. 10. 617 E, where the souls draw lots that they may choose in due order the lives they will live on their return to the upperworld.

762. **Siluius.** SERVIUS (citing Cato) *primo bello periit Latinus, secundo pariter Turnus et Aeneas. postea Mezentium interemit Ascanius et Laurolauinium tenuit. cuius Lauinia timens insidias grauida confugit ad siluas . . . et illic enixa est Siluium. sed cum Ascanius flagraret inuidia, euocauit nouercam et ei concessit Laurolauinium, sibi uero Albam constituit. qui quoniam sine liberis periit, Siluio, qui et ipse Ascanius dictus est, suum reliquit imperium . . . postea Albani omnes reges Siluii dicti sunt ab huius nomine*. Cp. Dion. Hal. 1. 70. That this tradition is very different from that adopted by Vergil is evident, alike from the statement about the deaths of Latinus, Aeneas, and Mezentius, and also from what follows in the present passage. See notes on *longaueo*, *postuma proles* and *in siluis* (below). What exactly Vergil's views were as to the different legends cannot be precisely ascertained. All that he tells us is to be found in the prophecy in Book I. 261 *hic* (sc. *Aeneas*) *tibi . . . bellum*





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## Commentary

means no more than "last," and is not used by Vergil in its technical and legal sense.

764. **longaeuo.** Aeneas is clearly still in the prime of life in the Aeneid, and therefore *longaeuo* implies that he ruled for a number of years after his conquest of the Rutulians. This is not consistent with the statement in Book I (see above on *Siluius*).

**Lauinia.** Other versions make Siluius the son of Aeneas and Siluia (Diod. 7. 5. 8), or of Ascanius and Lauinia (Liv. 1. 3. 6).

765. **siluis.** In view of the importance attaching to Ascanius, as founder of the *gens Iulia*, the discreditable story of his jealousy must be ignored, and it must be assumed with Livy (1. 3. 6) that Siluius was *casu quodam natus in siluis*. The legend recorded by Cato is naturally avoided by Vergil and Livy.

**regem regumque parentem.** Livy, Ovid, and Dion. Hal. all agree that Ascanius was the first King of Alba, and Siluius the second. There is no reason to suppose that Vergil rejects this tradition. Ascanius is ignored for the purpose of the present passage, because he is alive and because Siluius is the first King of Trojan-Italian descent.

766. **Longa Alba.** The site of this ancient town has been much disputed: it is probably to be placed on the triangular plateau to north-east of the Alban Lake, between the lake and the Acqua Ferentina. See Hülsen in *Pauly-Wissowa, R.E.* For the name *Longa* see Liv. 1. 3 *ab situ porrectae in dorso urbis Alba Longa appellata*.

767. **Procas** is *proximus* only in the group of spirits. The order and names of the Kings of Alba differ in the various historians. Aeneas Siluius (Liv. and Dion. Hal. ll. cc.) is the immediate successor of Siluius. Then, after an interval of three Kings comes Capys, while there is an interval of seven



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between Capys and Numitor. Procas was the father of Amulius and Numitor. Vergil is not concerned with the historical order.

**Troianae gloria gentis.** This phrase has no special significance; perhaps one of Vergil's *tibicines*.

768. **Capys.** The name is Trojan. There was a Capys, son of Assaracus (Il. 20. 239): cp. Ov. F. 4. 45 *recidiua uocabula Troiae*. There was a Capys among the followers of Aeneas: cp. 2. 35; 1. 183, and 9. 576, who, according to Servius ad 2. 35, was the founder of Capua. Others attribute the founding of Capua to the King of Alba.

**Numitor.** Brother of Amulius and son of Procas. Amulius, the younger son, deprived Numitor of his kingdom, and when Rhea Silvia, daughter of Numitor, bore Romulus and Remus ordered the destruction of mother and children. When Romulus and Remus grew to manhood they restored Numitor and slew Amulius. See Ov. F. 3. 67.

769. **Siluius Aeneas.** The son of Siluius Postumus; elsewhere styled Aeneas Siluius: see Liv. 1. 3. 6. *SERVIUS acceperit autem a tutore qui eius inuasit imperium: quod ei uix anno quinquagesimo restituit.* He is omitted from the list of Alban Kings given by Ovid in F. 4. 40 and M. 14. 610. Dion. Hal. 1. 71 states that he reigned thirty-one years. Servius alone preserves the tradition of his exclusion from the throne.

772. **ciuili quercu.** *SERVIUS ciuica debuit dicere, sed mutauit, ut Horatius "motum ex Metello consule ciuicum."* *querceam autem coronam accipiebant qui in bello ciuem liberassent.* Cp. Plin. 16. 11. Gell. 5. 6. The *corona ciuica* was accompanied in later times by the inscription *ob ciuem seruatum* (Sen. Clem. 1, 26). It was conferred on Augustus (Dio Cass. 53. 16), and here, perhaps, as a delicate compliment to Augustus, appears as one of the *insignia* of the good Kings of old.



## Commentary

773-5. There follows a list of the colonies of Alba, members of the Latin league, though only six are named out of thirty: **Nomentum**, the modern Mentana up the valley of the Tiber.

**Gabios.** *Gabii* stood on the east bank of the present Lago di Castiglione, on the Via Praenestina, twelve miles from Rome. It had become a byword for desolation. Cp. Hor. Ep. 1. 11. 7. Diod. 4. 53. See *Papers Brit. School of Arch., Rome*, Vol. I., p. 180 sqq. (T. Ashby, *Classical Topography of the Campagna*).

**Fidenam.** *Fidenae* stood on the Via Salaria on the site of Villa Spada near Castel Giubileo, about five miles from Rome. It, like *Gabii*, was almost deserted: cp. Hor. l.c. Cic. de leg. Agr. 2. 35. See Ashby, op. cit. 3., p. 18. The singular, *Fidena*, is found also in Sil. 15. 91. Tac. A. 4. 62. Elsewhere the plural form is used. The first syllable is long elsewhere.

**Collatinas arces.** *Collatia* is represented by the modern Lunghezza on the Anio, and approached by the *Via Collatina*. It, likewise, was deserted: cp. Cic. l.c. Plin. 3. 68. See Ashby, op. cit. 1, p. 145.

**montibus.** These are low mounds rather than hills.

**Pometios.** The form *Pometii* is found only here, and in Diod. ap. Euseb. vers. Armen., p. 287, Schöne (Norden). Elsewhere it is called *Pometia* or *Suessa Pometia*. It was destroyed 502 B.C. (Liv. 2. 17). It was in the Volscian region, perhaps between Velletri and Cisterna: see Nissen, *Ital. Landeskunde*, 2. 2. p. 634. Its site, however, cannot be identified: Pliny, l.c., speaks of it as one of the towns which had perished utterly.

**Castrum Inui.** *Inuus* was a primitive god, who was either identical with Faunus or came to be so identified. See Serv. ad loc. Prob. ad G. 1. 10, Rut. Nam. 1. 232, Macrob. 1. 22. 2, Arnob. 3. 23, Liv. 1, 5. 2, all identify him with Pan. The name is probably preserved in Fosso d'Incastro, a





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## Commentary

780. *et pater ipse suo superum iam signat honore.* Two interpretations are possible. (1) *pater superum*=Jupiter, the father of the gods; *suo honore*=godhead. Henry quotes Sil. 3. 601 (Jupiter loq.) *nec Stygis ille lacus uiduataque lumine regna, | sed superum sedem nostrosque tenebit honores.* (2) *pater ipse*=Mars, the father of Romulus. *superum honore*=with the honour of the gods—*i.e.*, of godhead. Of these views (2) is perhaps more pointed and appropriate. (Servius takes *superum* as acc.=“marks him as a god”; but *superus* is nowhere used in the singular in this sense; *suo honore* might, on this view, mean the *geminae cristae*.)

781. *auspiciis* is not metaphorical, but literal, as referring to the auguries drawn from the twelve vultures. Vergil imitates Ennius A. 494 *augusto augurio postquam incluta condita Roma est.*

782. Cp. 1. 287 *imperium Oceano, famam qui terminet astris.*

783. Repeated in G. 2. 535 with *circumdedit* for *circumdabit*.  
*una.* “One city, she shall gird with ramparts her seven hills.”

784. *prole.* *proles* is mentioned by Cicero (de or. 3. 153) among a number of slightly archaic words, *quibus loco positis grandior atque antiquior oratio saepe uideri solet.*

**Berecyntia mater.** Cybele, so called from her shrine on Mt. Berecyntus in Phrygia. For the description of the goddess cp. Lucr. 2. 606 *muralique caput summum cinxere corona | . . quo nunc insigni per magnas praedita terras | horrifice fertur diuinae matris imago. | . . . magnas inuecta per urbes | munificat tacita mortalis muta salute.* In addition to its magnificence this famous simile has, as Norden well points out, a special significance. The worship of the Magna Mater, imported into Rome from Phrygia, toward the close of the second Punic War, might well be regarded by the poet as the



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second coming of Troy to Italy. The foundation of the worship of Cybele on Mt. Ida was attributed to Idaeus, the son of Dardanus (Dion. Hal. 1. 61. 4), while the coming of the Mighty Mother to Rome is treated by Ovid (F. 4. 249) as the return of the goddess to her own. Cp. 251 *cum Troiam Aeneas Italos portaret in agros, | est dea sacriferas paene secuta rates. 272 in Phrygios Roma refertur auos.*

785. **turrita.** "Wearing the mural crown." Cp. Lucr. l.c. Also A. 10. 252 *alma parens Idaea deum, cui Dindyma cordi, | turrigeraeque urbes.*

786. As She is the Mother of Gods, so Rome is the Mother of Nations.

787. **supera alta tenentes.** See n. on 241.

788. **geminas acies.** Cp. Cat. 63. 75 *geminas aures.*

789. **omnis Iuli progenies**—*i.e.*, the *gens Iulia*. But Julius Caesar does not appear. He is postponed to 826. The reason is obvious. Augustus must have a place to himself. He cannot be placed near Julius without being dwarfed: if not dwarfed, it would be at the expense of historical truth and would involve fulsome flattery, compared with which the praise of the present passage would be moderation itself. Augustus, therefore, appears alone as the second founder of Rome.

790. **caeli axem.** "The rolling heaven." Cp. 536 n.

791. **hic uir, hic est.** The masculine *hic* is distinguished from the adverb in early poetry by being short, but in classical poetry is generally long; the word was according to grammarians pronounced *hicc* (Lindsay, *L.L.*, p. 433). The only other passage in Vergil, in which it is demonstrably short, is 4. 22 *solus hic*. In view, however, of the history of the word and its pronunciation, it cannot be asserted that we have a change of scansion here, as in 2. 663 *natum ante ora patris, patrem qui obtruncat ad aras*, cited by Norden.



## Commentary

**promitti saepius.** A rhetorical exaggeration.

792. **Diui.** Sc. Julius Caesar, who adopted him.

**genus.** Cp. 500, 839.

**aurea condet saecula.** "Shall be the founder of the golden age." A repetition of the prophecy in E. 4. 9 *nascenti puero, quo ferrea primum | desinet ac toto surget gens aurea mundo*. See J. B. Mayor, *Vergil's Messianic Eclogue*, p. 107. *condere saeculum* is used by Lucr. 3. 1090 in its technical sense "to bring to a close": cp. *condere lustrum*. Cic. Liv. 1. 44 *ibi exercitum . . . lustravit idque conditum lustrum appellatum quia is censendo finis factus est*. Here, however, there can be no doubt about the meaning.

793. **Latio regnata per arua Saturno quondam.** Cp. G. 2. 538 *aureus hanc uitam in terris Saturnus agebat*. Aen. 8. 319 *primus ab aethereo uenit Saturnus Olympo | arma Iouis fugiens et regnis exul ademptis. | is genus indocile ac dispersum montibus altis | composuit legesque dedit Latiumque uocari | maluit, his quoniam latuisset tutus in oris. | aurea quae perhibent illo sub rege fuere | saecula*. The Golden Age was in the days of Kronos (Hes. Op. 109), with whom Saturn, the old Roman god of agriculture, is regularly identified. As Saturn was the original civiliser of Italy, so Augustus is to give civilisation a new birth. For *regnata Saturno* cp. 3. 14 *regnata Lycurgo*.

794. **Garamantas.** A people of Mauretania (Fezzan) conquered by L. Cornelius Balbus in 19 B.C., so that Anchises' prophecy was fulfilled. Doubtless an expedition had been in contemplation for some time previously, but the passage may have been written during the last two years of Vergil's life. It is, however, unsafe to base any such conjecture on this passage in view of its rhetorical nature; the Garamantes may be mentioned merely as one of the peoples at the ends of the earth (cp. Lucan. 4. 334).





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## Commentary

798. **huius in aduentum.** "In expectation of his coming"; cp. the use of *in futurum*.

**Caspia regna . . . Maeotia tellus.** Rhetorical exaggeration; no expedition to the Caspian or to the Crimea seems ever to have been contemplated. The Greek rulers of the Crimea were, however, under Roman protection (see Mommsen, *Rom. Prov.* 1, p. 312 *sqq.*), while the Caspian and Caucasian regions were more or less vaguely involved in the policy to be followed against Parthia. *Maeotia* from L. Maeotis, the sea of Azoff. Cp., however, Mon. Anc. 5. 51 *nostram amicitiam petierunt per legatos Bastarnae Scythaeque et Sarmatarum qui sunt circa Tanain et extra.*

799. **responsis diuom.** Perhaps such prophecies were current [see Norden, *Rh. Mus.* 54 (1899), 466 *sqq.*], of the same type as the late Sib. or. 5. 16 (reign of Hadrian), ὄν Θρηκη πτήξει καὶ Σικελιή καὶ Μέμφις. Cp. also Suet. Aug. 94.

800. **septemgemini Nili.** From Catull. 11. 7.

**turbant.** Intrans. "are in commotion." This use is found in prose as well as verse: Varro, R.R. 3. 17. Tac. Ann. 3. 47.

802. **aeripedem ceruam.** *aeripes* first occurs here. The pursuit of the doe of Cerynaia in Arcadia, with horns of gold and feet of brass, led Hercules as far as the land of the Hyperboreans: cp. Pind. Ol. 3. 31 τὰν μεθέπων ἴδε καὶ κείναν χθόνα πνοιᾶς ὄπιθεν Βορέα ψυχροῦ. Identified with the reindeer by Ridgeway, *Proc. Camb. Phil. Soc.*, Oct. 25, 1894. In the opposite direction his furthest point is the garden of the Hesperides (Hyg. Fab. 31). But later authors extended his wanderings to Egypt (Herod. 2. 43, 113, 145. Diod. 5. 76), Phoenicia (Plin. 36. 5), and India (Plin. 4. 39; 6. 89. Arrian. Ind. 8. 9. Philostr. Vit. Apoll. 3. 46). Hesychius s.v. Δορσάνης.

**fixerit.** Other versions make him bring the doe alive to Eurystheus.



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**Erymanthi.** Hercules slew the boar of Erymanthus. The scene is variously laid in Arcadia (Apollod. 2. 5. 4. Diod. 4. 12) in Thessaly and Phrygia (Eur. H. F. 368; Hyg. Fab. 30).

803. **Lernam.** See n. on *belua Lernaë* (287).

The instances chosen by Vergil, with the exception of the first, are geographically irrelevant, and might have been better selected.

804. For Bacchus' Indian expedition see Strabo 15, p. 687, which shows the legend to be older than Eratosthenes and Theophrastus. Euripides in the *Bacchæ* speaks of Dionysus' wanderings in the East, but does not take him further than Arabia and Asia (16. 7). For the picture cp. Hor. C. 3. 3. 14 *te . . . , Bacche pater, tuæ | uexere tigres indocili iugum | collo trahentes.*

805. **Nysæ.** This mythical mountain is variously placed: in India=*Mons Merus* (Plin. 6. 79 *Nysam urbem plerique Indiae ascribunt montemque Merum Libero patri sacrum*), near the Nile (Hom. Hymn. Dionys. 34), in Thrace, Asia Minor, Naxos, etc.

806. **uirtutem . . . factis** M Servius: *uirtute . . . uires* PR and Diomedes (p. 411), with *uirtutem* for *uirtute*). The latter reading, "increase your power by the exercise of your valour," is somewhat colourless, and certainly less forcible and beautiful than the reading of M, which means "extend your valour's glory by your deeds." Henry compares two fine passages from Silius: 9. 374 *breuis hoc uitæ quodcunque relictum | extendamus, ait : nam uirtus futile nomen | ni decori sat sint pariendo tempora leti.* 2. 511 *extendam leti decus atque in saecula mittam.* Cp. above all A. 10. 467 *breue et irreparabile tempus | omnibus est uitæ : sed famam extendere factis | hoc uirtutis opus.* *extendere* is extension in time, rather than in space, though the latter is clearly implied as well.



## Commentary

807. **consistere.** "To take a firm stand."

809-818. There follows a selection of Roman kings, Numa, Tullus Hostilius, Ancus, and the two Tarquins, Servius Tullius being omitted.

808. **oliuae.** The emblem of peace and priesthood. Cp. 7. 418 and 750. G. 3. 21. Ciris, 146, in all of which passages the olive garland is associated with a *sacerdos*.

809. **sacra ferens.** "Carrying the holy things" in his capacity as officiating priest. *sacra* is vague, and may mean sacred emblems, images, or portions of the sacrifice, etc. The phrase occurs not infrequently. Cp. 8. 85. Hor. S. 1. 3. 11. Manil. 1. 6, etc.

**nosco.** Numa is first descried afar off. As they draw nearer Anchises begins to recognise him.

**incana.** Found before Vergil with certainty only in Plaut. Rud. In Vergil it occurs also in G. 3. 311 *incanaque menta*. Servius records a legend that Numa's hair was white from his youth. But it is probable that the reference is to the venerable age at which he died. According to Livy (1. 21. 6) he reigned 43 years. (Flavius Vopiscus, vit. Tac. 5 states that when Tacitus declined the empire on the ground of his advanced age, the whole senate cried ten times "*et tu legisti 'incanaque menta regis Romani.'*" Hadrian, also, according to Spartianus, drew these lines as a *sors Vergiliana*. See Henry ad loc.)

810. **regis Romani.** Numa Pompilius, the successor of Romulus, the first lawgiver of Rome and the first to organise the State religion.

**primam qui legibus urbem fundabit.** Cp. Liv. 1. 19 *urbem nouam conditam ui et armis, iure eam legibusque ac moribus de integro condere parat*. *primam* has the support of all the good MSS. as against *primus*, once the accepted reading. The point is the same as in the passage cited from Livy. It





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## Commentary

*corda.* 7. 693 *resides animos desuetaque bello | agmina in arma uocat.*

815. **iactantior Ancus.** The character of Ancus as given by Livy (1. 32) is very different. *Numae Pompili regis nepos, filia ortus Ancus Marcius erat. qui ut regnare coepit et auitae gloriae memor, et quia proximum regnum, cetera egregium, ab una parte haud satis prosperum fuerat aut neglectis religionibus aut praue cultis, longe antiquissimum ratus sacra publica ut ab Numa instituta erant facere, etc.* It has been suggested that Vergil is confusing Ancus and Servius Tullius: cp. Dion. Hal. 4. 8. 3 ὁ Τύλλιος ἐπὶ τὸ δημαγωγεῖν καὶ θεραπεύειν τοὺς ἀπόρους τῶν πολιτῶν ἐτράπετο κτλ. This is conceivable, but it is more probable that Vergil is referring to some incident in the career of Ancus of which all trace has been lost.

816. **popularibus auris.** Cp. Hor. Od. 3. 2. 20. Cic. Har. Resp. 20. Liv. 22. 26 *aura fauoris popularis*, and for the plural Luc. 1. 132 *totus popularibus auris impelli.*

817. **Tarquinius reges.** Tarquinius Priscus and Tarquinius Superbus, the intervening king, Servius Tullius, being omitted.

**animamque superbam.** Servius takes these words as referring to Tarquinius Superbus. This involves taking the *-que* following *fascēs*, as connecting the two lines, an awkward though not unparalleled position for *-que*. There is not the slightest objection to taking *animam superbam* in its natural connexion with *ultoris Bruti*, who is proud as being the founder of the liberties of Rome.

818. **receptos.** "Recovered" for the State out of the dangerous hands of Tarquin. Cp. Liv. 2. 2 (loq. Brutus) *non credere populum Romanum solidam libertatem recuperatam esse.*

819. **saeuasque securis.** Cp. Lucr. 3. 996 and 5. 1234, and 825 (below). The sons of Brutus were beheaded.

820. **noua bella.** The sons of Brutus plotted to bring back



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the Tarquins; *noua bella*, therefore, means "fresh civil wars." See Liv. 2. 5.

822. *infelix ! utcunque ferent, etc.* Two interpretations are possible. (1) Aug. C.D. 3. 16 *quod factum Vergilius posteaquam laudabiliter commemoravit, continuo clementer exhorruit. cum enim dixisset, "natosque pater . . . uocabit," mox deinde exclamauit, et ait "infelix . . . minores." quomodolibet, inquit, ea facta posteri ferant—i.e., praeferant extollant : qui filios occidit, infelix est. et tanquam ad consolandum infelicem subiunxit "uincet . . . cupido."* So, too, Macrobius, 4. 6. 18. (2) *utcunque* is taken with what follows, not with what precedes—*i.e.*, however posterity may criticise his deed, the love of his country will prevail. "He will risk being called cruel by posterity, so long as he forces them to acknowledge that he is great" (Conington). Henry adopts the same general view, but gives a slightly different interpretation. "Whatever posterity may think of your act, you, at least, were only influenced by patriotism."

Though (2) is perfectly possible, it lacks the pathos of the first interpretation, so admirably given by Augustine. It is objected by Henry that *ferant* cannot mean "extol." But *ferant* can take its colour from the context, and refer to good comment or ill, as circumstances may demand.

*minores.* The execution of his sons by Brutus was a favourite theme for declamation in the schools of rhetoric, as Norden has pointed out (cp. auct. ad Herenn. 4. 66. Cic. Paradox. 12. Sen. Contr. 9. 2. 9, and 10. 3. 8. Val. Max. 5. 8. Quint. 5. 11. 7). The whole problem, therefore, as to whether the father or the patriot should prevail had been thoroughly canvassed by posterity.

823. *laudumque immensa cupido.* Cp. 5. 138 *laudumque arrepta cupido.* Not merely desire for men's praise, but desire for the praise that is due to virtue.



## Commentary

824. **Decios.** There were three Romans of the name Decius Mus, father, son, and grandson, who are recorded to have sacrificed themselves to win victory for the arms of Rome: (1) In the war with the Latins, 340 B.C. (Liv. 8. 9); (2) in the war against the Gauls in 295 B.C. (Liv. 10. 28); (3) in the war against Pyrrhus in 279 B.C. at Asculum. Cp. Cic. T.D. 1. 37. 89.

**Drusos.** With special reference to (1) M. Livius Drusus, the first Roman to reach the Danube (112, 111 B.C.). (2) M. Livius Drusus, the famous tribune of the plebs, murdered in 91 B.C. (His fate was also a theme for the declaimers: cp. auct. ad Herenn., 4. 31 and Norden ad loc.) Possibly also (3) to the first Drusus, who, according to Suetonius (Tib. 3), assumed the name Drusus after slaying a Gallic chieftain named Drausus. In introducing the Drusi, Vergil had the additional motive of rendering homage to the house of Livia and her son Drusus. Cp. Hor. C. 4. 4. 36 *sqq.* Consol. ad Liu. 451 *hoc atavi monuere mei, proauique Nerones: | fregerunt ambo Punica bella duces.* It is not impossible that, like the author of the Consolatio, Vergil had in his mind the greatest glory of the gens Livia, M. Livius Salinator who, with C. Claudius Nero, defeated Hasdrubal on the Metaurus. But he did not bear the name Drusus.

825. **Torquatum.** T. Manlius Torquatus Imperiosus, who won the name from the *torquis* or necklace taken in single combat from a Gallic chieftain (Liv. 7. 10). He is *saeuus securi*, because he had his son executed for disobeying his orders by engaging one of the enemy in single combat in the Latin war of 340 B.C. (Liv. 8. 3-12).

**referentem signa Camillum.** M. Furius Camillus, who freed Rome from the Gauls (Liv. 5. 9. 12 *sqq.*) in 390 B.C., and recovered the standards taken by the latter at the battle of the Allia. Cp. Eutrop. 1.20 *secutus eos Camillus*





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## Commentary

*superauerat Alpes.* The *arx Monoeci* is the modern Monaco, the *Portus Monoeci Herculis*.

831. **Eois.** Pompey had withdrawn from Italy and drew mainly on the peoples of the East (*Eoi*) for his forces, since his reputation as the conqueror of the East still stood high above all other Roman generals.

832. A paraphrase of Il. 7. 279 *μηκέτι παῖδε φίλω πολεμίζετε μηδὲ μάχεσθον.*

**pueri** may mean no more than that Anchises addresses them as his descendants. It is conceivable that it may mean more. Caesar and Pompeius are represented as boys or young men at an age when nothing can have come between them to give rise to rivalry, or the clash of ambition. On the other hand (809), Numa is represented in the guise in which he would naturally occur to the Roman mind—*i.e.*, that of an old man.

**animis adsuescite bella.** The phrase is curious. Two interpretations are possible. (1) A Graccism on the analogy of *εἴθισμαί τι*. Cp. *iuxta inuia ac deuia assueti* (Liv. 21. 33. 4). "Become accustomed to wars in your hearts." (2) The normal construction would, however, be *animos adsuescite bellis*. Cp. Hor. S. 2. 109 *qui pluribus adsueuit mentem*. It is, therefore, no less possible that we have a case of hypallage, the present phrase being an inversion of the normal for the sake of variety.

833. Cp. Enn. 300 *ualidis cum uiribus*.

834. **tuque prior, tu parce.** **SERVIUS** *Caesari dicit, quem clementem circa Pompeianos legimus : cui uult tunc ab Anchise hoc esse mandatum.*

**Olympto.** Sc. through Iulus to Venus and Jupiter.

835. **sanguis meus.** Cp. Hor. C. S. 50 *clarus Anchisae Venerisque sanguis*.

836. **ille.** L. Mummius Achaicus, consul 146, the first



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*nouus homo* to win a title such as Achaicus. He defeated the army of the Achaean league at the Isthmus of Corinth, captured Corinth and sacked it. From this dates the foundation of the province of Achaia, of which Mummius was the first proconsul. As a military victory his success was no great achievement, the opposition being insignificant. But the victory was epoch-making, and Mummius was a man of no mean capacity, as his organisation of the province showed. Further, the triumph which he celebrated on his return to Rome in 145 B.C. was little less epoch-making than his victory, since it was adorned with the works of art taken from the captured town, and marked the beginning of the passion for Greek art, which developed so rapidly at Rome. In character Mummius, in spite of his ruthless despoliation of Corinth, seems to have been worthy to be placed in the company of other heroes, whose names follow. He appropriated none of the wealth which he had captured, and died poor. Cp. Polyb. 37. 14. 17. Cic. Verr. 2. 1. 21. 55. Off. 2. 22. 76.

838. *ille*. No Roman overthrew Argos and Mycenae. But the reference must clearly be definite, and can only be applied to L. Aemilius Paulus Macedonicus, who defeated Perseus, King of Macedonia, at the battle of Pydna in 168 B.C., thereby bringing Macedonia under Roman rule (Liv. 44. 32-46).

**Argos . . . Mycenae.** A rhetorical exaggeration, which, as far as it has any meaning, refers to the fact that the victory of Pydna first gave Rome a definite footing in Greece. The Peloponnese did not become a Roman province till after the victory of Mummius.

*Argos*, accus. of the plural form *Argi*. Cp. Varro, L.L. 9. 89 *dicimus hic Argus, cum hominem dicimus, cum oppidum Graece hoc Argos, cum Latine Argi*. Vergil always uses the



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plural form. The Greek *Argos* in the singular is found in Hor. Od. 1. 7. 9.

839. **Aeaciden.** Perseus claimed to be descended from Achilles through his grandmother Phthia, grand-daughter of Pyrrhus, King of Epirus, who claimed lineal descent from Pyrrhus, the son of Achilles. Cp. Prop. 4. 11. 39 *et Persen proavo stimulantem pectus Achille*. Ennius had already described Pyrrhus as *Aeacida* (ann. 6. 6). So, too, Sil. Ital. 14. 93.

840. **templa et temerata Mineruae.** The reference is to the violation of the temple of Pallas by Ajax Oileus' rape of C assandra. Cp. 2. 402.

841. **magne Cato.** M. Porcius Cato the censor (224-149 B.C.), the irreconcilable enemy of Carthage, and the author of the famous phrase *delenda est Carthago*.

**tacitum** in the strict participial sense "passed over in silence." Cp. Cic. Ep. Fam. 3. 8. 2 *prima duo capita epistulae tuae tacita mihi quodammodo relinquenda sunt*.

**Cosse.** A. Cornelius Cossus, consul 428 B.C., who won the *spolia opima* by slaying Tolumnius, King of Veii. See Liv. 4. 19 *sqq.* His *spolia opima* were dedicated in the temple of Jupiter Feretrius, and seen there by Livy. Cp. also Prop. 4. 10 and Florus 1. 12. Cp. also n. on 855 *sqq.*

842. **Gracchi genus.** This general term for the Gracchi more especially recalls (1) Tib. Sempronius Gracchus, a distinguished general who fell in the Carthaginian war 212 B.C. (2) Tib. Sempronius Gracchus, father of the two famous tribunes (3) and (4), born 210 B.C. He won great renown in Hispania Citerior, of which he was governor in 181 B.C. He was consul in 177 and 163 B.C., and censor in 169 B.C., in which capacity he was remarkable for his strictness. He was for his day a distinguished orator. As regards character he may be taken as a type of Roman *pietas*.





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1. 24. 1 to illustrate this meaning. But it is impossible to exclude the wider meaning "great," though the phrase was doubtless meant to suggest the narrower meaning as well.

844. **Fabricium.** C. Fabricius Luscinus, consul in 282 and 278 B.C., famous as a general, and still more for his extreme simplicity of life and his refusal of the bribes of Pyrrhus and the Samnites. With Cincinnatus and Curius Dentatus he is frequently mentioned as a type of all that was best in the old Roman character.

**Serrane.** C. Atilius Regulus, consul 257 B.C. His cognomen *Serranus* was generally supposed in antiquity to be derived from *serere*, and the fact that he was engaged in sowing his fields when the news reached him that he had been elected consul. But the name is probably derived from Saranum, an Umbrian town: cp. C.I.L. 1. 549 *Sex. Atilius M. F. Saranus*. He was distinguished as an admiral in the first Punic War.

**sulco serentem.** Cp. 12. 520 *conducta tellure seribat*. For the popular derivation cp. Plin. 18. 20 *serentem inuenerunt dati honores Serranum; inde cognomen*.

845. **fessum.** "My wearied tongue." There are numbers of Fabii whose deeds might be told—*e.g.*, the 396 Fabii who fell in battle on the Cremera in 477 B.C. Cp. Liv. 2. 48-50. But Anchises selects only Q. Fabius Maximus Cunctator, who was appointed dictator after the disaster of Trasimene, and more than any other Roman general contributed to the defeat of Hannibal by the adoption of tactics of delay.

**tu MR: tun P** (with *n* struck through). *tun* makes the phrase a question, a feeble rhetorical trick completely spoiling the force of the passage, which requires the emphatic statement introduced by *tu*.

846. **SERVIUS** *ille est de quo Ennius "unus qui nobis*



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*cunctando restituit rem.*" *sciens enim Vergilius quasi pro exemplo hunc uersum posuit.* The passage in Ennius (A. 313) actually runs *unus homo nobis cunctando restituit rem: | noenum rumores ponebat ante salutem: | ergo postque magisque uiri nunc gloria claret.* The line was one of the most famous in Ennius, and is quoted more than once elsewhere. Servius is clearly defending Vergil against those who charged him with plagiarism—*e.g.*, the Aeneidomastix of Carbilus; cp. Suet. vit. Verg., p. 139, and Macrob. 6. 1. 6 *denique et iudicio transferendi et modo imitandi consecutus est ut quod apud illum legerimus alienum aut illius esse malimus aut melius hic quam ubi natum est sonare miremur.*

848-854. **SERVIUS** *est rhetoricus locus.* The fact is obvious enough. Norden develops this statement, and attempts to show that Vergil follows a definite *ῥητορικὸν σχῆμα* by comparison with the rules laid down by the late rhetorician known as Menander for encomia of cities. He applies a similar analysis to the lament for Marcellus. In both passages the actual themes employed by Vergil are the commonplaces of rhetoric of all ages. Vergil may or may not be following definite rhetorical rules. It cannot be proved that he was, nor is the point of importance. The important point is that he invested the commonplaces in question with such surpassing splendour. For other panegyrics of Rome cp. Claudian, 24. 130, and Rutilius, 1. 47, and in prose Aristides.

The comparison between Greece and Rome is to be found in germ in Cic. de or. 3. 137 *ut uirtutis a nostris, sic doctrinae ab illis exempla petenda sunt.*

847. **excudent.** This future with those which follow is used because Anchises is prophesying the future. The general sense of the passage would have been unaltered had the concessive subjunctive been used, but the lines would have



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lost in naturalness. *excudere*, though here primarily used of bronze statues—to beat out, and *excusor* is used by Quint. 2. 21 in the special sense of a maker of bronze vessels.

848. **ducent** is strictly used of moulding forms from soft material, such as wax, clay, molten metal. Cp. A. 7. 634 *leues ocreas lento ducunt argento*. Vitr. 2. 3 *ducere lateres de terra*. Pers. 5. 40. Iuv. 7. 237. Here, however, it is applied by a beautiful transference to marble, which is represented as becoming ductile beneath the artist's creative touch.

849. **orabunt causas melius**. Rome learned, and was still learning, the art of rhetoric from Greece. The form and structure of speeches, the rhythm of sentences, the delivery of the speaker, were all based on rules borrowed from Greece. Roman oratory rose to great heights, but Rome was always conscious of her debt to Greece, and though Quintilian says (10. 1. 105) that he would place Roman eloquence on the same level as Greek, Vergil's judgment will be agreed with by most modern critics, and his statement was probably almost a commonplace in his day.

**caelique meatus**. Cp. Lucr. 5. 76 *solis lunaeque meatus*. Vergil's phrase is vaguer, and refers to the orbits of the heavenly bodies in general.

850. **radio**. The wand with which the astronomer draws his diagrams in the sand. Cp. E. 3. 41 *descripsit radio totum qui gentibus orbem*.

**surgentia sidera dicent**. "Will foretell the risings of the stars." Cp. G. 1. 231, where, after describing the zones of heaven and the path of the zodiac, Vergil goes on to speak of the risings and settings of the stars. There is no necessity with Norden to restrict the meaning of *caeli meatus* to the path of the sun through the zodiac. The parallel is rather to be found in G. 2. 477 *caelique vias et sidera monstrent*.





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*quibus tuto ignosci potuit, conseruare quam excidere malui.* *debellare* is not found before the Augustan age, and is a favourite word with Livy.

855. **Marcellus** is introduced at this point to lead up to the vision of the young Marcellus his descendant. It is not improbable that the whole of this passage (854-886) was a late addition to the book. 847-853 form a solemn and natural conclusion to the review of Roman heroes. In that case the bulk of the book was already finished before 23 B.C., when the young Marcellus died. See Sabbadini, *Aeneis*, IV., V., VI., p. xxiv.

The praises of his great ancestor had been introduced by Augustus in the funeral oration delivered over his nephew's dead body: cp. Plaut. Marcell. 30.

M. Claudius Marcellus defeated the Insubrian Gauls when consul in 222 B.C., and slew their leader, Virdomarus or Britomartus, in single combat, thereby winning the *spolia opima*, which had previously only been won by Romulus and Cossus. See Prop 4. 10. Liv. 1. 10, and 4. 20.

**spoliis opimis.** See n. on 859. The derivation of *opimus* is uncertain. Festus derives it from *ops*. An alternative modern derivation traces it to the same root as *pinguis* *πίων*, *πιμελή*: it is hard on this view to account for the *o*. See Walde, *Etym. Wörterbuch*. The meaning is in any case "rich."

856. **supereminet.** Not found before Vergil.

857. **rem Romanam.** From Ennius (A. 455).

**tumultu.** Cp. Cic. Phil. 8. 1. 2 *potest enim esse bellum sine tumultu, tumultus esse sine bello non potest. quid enim est aliud tumultus nisi perturbatio tanta ut maior timor oriatur? inde etiam nomen dictum est tumultus. itaque maiores nostri tumultum Italicum quod erat domesticus, tumultum Gallicum quod erat Italiae finitimus, praeterea nullum nominabant*



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*gravius autem tumultum esse quam bellum hinc intelligi licet, quod bello uacationes ualent, tumultu non ualent.* Here the reference is to a *tumultus Gallicus*. Cicero's derivation is baseless; the word is connected with *tumeo*.

858. **sistet.** Though the punctuation of the best MSS. takes *sistet* with *eques*, and the pause with this punctuation would be more natural, the sense is more forcible at first sight if *eques* be taken closely with *sternet*=καθιππάσει, "ride down"; and many editors have consequently so taken it. But such a view introduces an unusual, and in this case a somewhat unnatural, pause. As Henry points out, in the only other passage where Vergil uses *eques* in the nom. sing., he places it precisely in this position, and followed by a pause—*i.e.*, 10. 239 *Arcas eques: medias illis opponere turmas*, etc. Further, as Norden (*App.* 2. 3) shows, such a pause after an initial trochee can only be proved with certainty in eight cases (4. 114; 5. 834; 8. 33; 10. 45, 73. 746; 11. 313; 12. 153). It is therefore, on the whole, preferable to take *eques* with *sistet*. The reference will then be to the battle of Clastidium against the Gauls, which was essentially a cavalry battle (Plut. Marcell. 7.). As regards *Poenos*, there would be little force in *eques sternet*, unless the rhetorical description in Silius (12. 178) of the battle of Nola, Marcellus' first defeat of the Carthaginians, can be regarded as evidence that cavalry were of special importance in that battle. It would, however, be unwise to place his tawdry epic "set piece" in the balance against Livy (23. 16), who gives no support to the later poet.

**Poenos.** In three battles at Nola and subsequently in Sicily.

**rebellem.** (1) Because the Gauls had sued for peace, and failing to obtain it had renewed the war—Plut. Marcell.



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6, Polyb. 2. 36—or (2) because the war is regarded as a renewal of the first Gallic war.

859. *tertiaque arma patri suspendet capta Quirino.* Marcellus, according to Plutarch, Marc. 8. and Propertius, 4. 10, dedicated the *spolia opima*, won from the Gallic chief Virdomarus, to Jupiter Feretrius. Why then does Vergil make him dedicate them to *pater Quirinus*?

The answer is to be found in Festus and Plutarch. Servius saw dimly where the truth lay, as his note shows.

After a futile attempt to explain *capta Quirino* as *qualia et Quirinus cepit, id est Romulus* (*patri* on this view=*Ioui*), he continues “*possumus et, quod est melius, secundum legem Numae hunc locum accipere, qui praecepit prima spolia opima Ioui Feretrio debere suspendi, quod iam Romulus fecerat; secunda Marti, quod Cossus fecit; tertia Quirino, quod fecit Marcellus. Quirinus autem est Mars qui praeest paci et intra ciuitatem colitur: nam belli Mars extra ciuitatem templum habuit. . . . uarie de hoc loco tractant commentatores, Numae legis immemores, cuius facit mentionem et Liuius.*”

For this *lex Numae* we must have recourse to Plutarch and Festus, Livy's reference to the law having apparently been made in one of the lost books.

Festus, p. 189, “*opima magna et ampla, unde spolia quoque quae dux populi Romani duci hostium detraxit: quorum tanta raritas est ut intra annos paulo (lacuna of nineteen letters) trina contigerint nomini Romano: una quae Romulus de Acrone; altera quae Cossus Cornelius de Tolumnio; tertia quae Marcellus Ioui Feretrio de Virdomaro fixerunt. M. Varro ait opima spolia esse etiam si manipularis miles detraxerit dummodo duci hostium \*sed prima esse quae dux duci neque enim quae a duce capta\* non sint ad aedem Iouis Feretri poni:*

\* Words between asterisks conjecturally supplied by Hertzberg.





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passages in question is that given by Hertzberg, to the effect that there were three classes of *spolia opima* won by (1) the actual general, (2) officers other than the general, (3) a common soldier, and the rewards and the place of dedication varied accordingly (see *Philologus*, 1. p. 331). That officers other than the general could win *spolia opima* is borne out by Florus (2. 17. 11, “*Vaccaeos de quibus Scipio illè posterior singulari certamine, cum rex fuerat prouocator, opima rettulerat*”), and by Valerius Maximus (3. 2. 6, “*eodem uirtutis et pugnae genere usi sunt P. Manlius Torquatus et Valerius Coruinus et Cornelius Scipio. hi nempe ultro prouocantes hostium duces interemerant, sed quia alienis auspiciis rem gesserant, spolia Ioui Feretrio non posuerunt consecranda*”). Cp. also Dio Cassius 51. 24. It is also clear that the term *spolia opima* had come to be generally accepted only as referring to the first class. Further, both Cossus and Marcellus had actually dedicated their *spolia* to Jupiter Feretrius. See Livy (4. 20), who had actually seen the spoils dedicated by Cossus, Plutarch (Marc. 8.), and Propertius (4. 10). It may, therefore, be assumed that the second and third classes of *spolia opima* provided for by Numa’s law had become obsolete.

How, then, account for Vergil’s statement that Marcellus was destined to dedicate his spoils to Quirinus? That the statement is historically false can scarcely be denied, though it is conceivable that other traditions may have existed. But Vergil, being, as he was, passionately devoted to ancient lore and acquainted with the *lex Numae*, determined to accept its authority. He mistook the meaning of *prima*, *secunda*, and *tertia*, and assumed that they referred to the chronological order of the winning, and not to the class of spoil won. It would not be difficult to misinterpret the *lex Numae*. Or it is possible that Vergil did not make the



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mistake himself, but followed some older authority who had committed himself to this not unnatural misinterpretation. No other interpretation of the passage would seem possible in face of the evidence. Identification of Quirinus with Jupiter Feretrius is unwarrantable, as is the assumption that there was a statue of Quirinus in the temple of Jupiter Feretrius; even if there were any evidence for this last supposition, it would not justify Vergil's statement.

Who is *pater Quirinus*? The *lex Numae* tells us that he is Ianus Quirinus, another name for Ianus Geminus, the two-faced Ianus of the Forum, whose gates were closed in times of peace: cp. Hor. Od. 4. 15. 9, Mon. Anc. Lat. 2. 42, Suet. Aug. 22. But *pater Quirinus* would more naturally refer to the ancient deity Quirinus, who forms one of a triad with Jupiter and Mars, a fact which suits the context in the *lex Numae* admirably well: cp. Serv. ad Aen. 8. 663, *salios qui sunt in tutela Iouis Martis Quirini*; Livy 8. 9, *Iane, Jupiter, Mars, pater Quirine*; 5. 52 *Mars Gradiue, tuque Quirine pater*. That Quirinus was at any rate in some aspects a war-god is clear from Macrob. 1. 9, 16, Plut. Rom. 29, Dion. Hal. 2. 48 (= *Ἐννάλιος*). But the whole question of the functions of Quirinus is so obscure that it is impossible to determine, with any precision, his relations either to Ianus or to the *spolia opima* (see Wissowa, *R.K.*, p. 139).

The significance of the name Quirinus is uncertain. (1) It may mean no more than "of the Quirites." (2) It may go back direct to *quiris* (a spear), as stated by Macrob. l.c. (3) It was suggested by Niebuhr that it came from a place name *Quirium*, identified by Wissowa with the original settlement on the Quirinal. In which case, for *pater Quirine* cp. C.I.L. ix. 4676. *Reatinus pater*. See Wissowa in Roscher, *Myth. Lex.* s.v. *Quirinus*.

861-887. The vision of the young Marcellus. M. Claudius



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Marcellus, the son of Octavia, adopted by Augustus, and destined to be his heir, died at Baiæ in his twentieth year, September 23 B.C. For his character in addition to the present passage cp. Vell. Pat. 2. 93. *1 sane, ut aiunt, ingenuarum uirtutum laetusque animi et ingeni.* Sen. Cons. Marc. 2. 3 *adulescentem animo alacrem, ingenio potentem, . . . sed et frugalitatis continentiaequae in illis aut annis aut operibus non mediocriter admirandae, patientem laborum, uoluptatibus alienum.* Propertius wrote an elegy (3. 18) on his death, a stately but cold poem contrasting sharply with the moving *epicedion* of Vergil.

SERVIUS *huius mortem uehementer ciuitas doluit; nam et adfabilis fuit et Augusti filius. ad funeris huius honorem Augustus sescentos lectos ire iussit: hoc enim apud maiores gloriosum fuerat et dabatur pro qualitate fortunae; nam Sulla sex milia habuit. igitur cum ingenti pompa adlatus et in Campo Martio est sepultus. ergo modo in Augusti adulationem quasi epitaphion ei dicit. et constat hunc librum tanta pronuntiatione esse recitatum ut fletu nimio imperarent silentium nisi Vergilius finem esse dixisset. qui pro hoc aere graui donatus est, id est massis; nam sic et Liuius argentum graue dicit.* So, too, Sueton. vit. Verg. p. 737 H. *cui (sc. Augusto) tamen multo post perfectaue materia tres omnino libros recitauit, secundum quartum et sextum, sed hunc notabili Octauiae adfectione, quae cum recitatione interesset, ad illos de filio suo uersus "tu Marcellus eris" defecisse fertur atque aegre focillata est.*

865. Cp. Eur. Phoen. 158 *ὡς ὄχλος νιν ὑστέρῳ ποδὶ | πάνοπλος ἀμφέπει.*

**qui** FP: *quis* MR. *quis* is rejected by Ribbeck on grounds of euphony. But in point of sound there is little to choose. A stronger argument in favour of *qui* is that, as Conington points out, we are dealing with an exclamation, not a question.





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*laudatione funeris Marcelli, cum diceret illum immaturae morti deuotum esse.*

873. **aget gemitus.** "Utter groans." Cp. G. 3. 203 *spumas aget*. Heyne suggests that there may underlie the idea of *agere* in places such as *agere triumphum*.

**Tiberine** sc. *pater*. The Tiber god himself. Cp. n. on *patri Quirino* ad fin. (859).

874. **recentem** both in the sense that Marcellus was only newly buried, and that the Mausoleum designed for the Julian family had only been built five years previously.

876. **in tantum spe tollet auos.** Two interpretations are possible. (1) "Will so exalt his ancestors with hope"—*i.e.*, the shades of his ancestors will be full of hope that he will prove the "noblest Roman of them all." (2) "Will so exalt the glory of his ancestors by his promise of great things." So Servius *eriget generis antiquitatem. et rhetorice spem laudat. est autem Ciceronis in dialogo Fannio "causa difficilis laudare puerum: non enim res laudanda sed spes est."* This view is defended by Henry, and may be correct: he fails, however, to adduce any real argument against the first and simpler interpretation. *spe* has been regarded as a genitive: cp. Conington and Kern. Progr. Schweinfurt, 1881, 43. It is a possible form of the genitive: cp. *die* in G. 1. 208, and A. 1. 636. Also Gell. 9. 14. Lindsay, *L.L.*, p. 382. In that case it would be dependent on *tantum=in tantam spem*. *spes*, the reading of R, would, if accepted, also be gen.: see Lindsay l.c. But the ablative *spe* presents no difficulty.

**Romula.** The noun form in lieu of the adjectival, as in Hor. Od. 4. 5. 1. Prop. 3. 11. 52, and 4. 4. 26. Cp. *Dardanus* and possibly *Sychaeus* in 4. 552 *cineri Sychaeo*.

**quondam.** "In days to be."

878. **pietas . . . prisca fides . . . inuicta dextra.** The qualities making up the ideal Roman character. Cp. Hor.



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C.S. 57 *iam Fides et Pax et Honos Pudorque | priscus et neglecta redire uirtus | audet.* Rome is regarded as undergoing spiritual new birth under the government of Augustus, and Marcellus, if he grows to manhood, will typify the ideal Roman.

879. *tulisset*—*i.e.*, had it been written in the fates that he should come to full manhood.

880. Cp. Od. 9. 49 *ἐπιστάμενοι μὲν ἀφ' ἵππων | ἀνδράσι μάρνασθαι καὶ ὅθι χρῆ πεζὸν ἔόντα.* Marcellus had already shown such courage in the Cantabrian War of 27, 26 B.C. according to Krinagoras (A. P. 6. 161).

881. *seu cum . . . iret . . . seu . . . foderet.* The first *seu* = "whether," the second = "or if." For the sake of variety *cum* is not repeated, and the construction is slightly changed. Cp. for the second *seu* Hor. A.P. 63 *siue receptus terra Neptunus classes Aquilonibus arcet.* An alternative is to regard the second *seu* = *uel*, and to supply *cum*.

*armos.* SERVIUS *species pro genere equi armos pro equo posuit: non enim possunt armi calcaribus fodi.* It has been widely assumed that this explanation is correct, and that *armi* "shoulders" is loosely used for "flanks." This is a poor defence. Henry has supplied the correct explanation. *armi* are spoken of by Horace (S. 1. 6. 104) as the seat of the horseman. *nunc mihi curto ire | licet mulo, uel si libet usque Tarentum, | mantica cui lumbos onere ulceret atque eques armos.* "The *armi* being thus established as the seat of the rider, it is easy and natural to suppose that it was the lower part of the *armi* . . . which looks toward the ground, and was directly under, or even in front, of the rider, which was spurred by the horseman not encumbered in those ancient times with stirrups, nor taught that it is graceful and elegant to ride with the toes turned inwards . . . , but sitting at ease as all untaught horsemen sit, with the toes out and the



## Commentary

heels in, and the legs thrown very much forward, exactly as we see horsemen represented in ancient medals and statues."

882. **miserande puer.** Cp. 10. 825; 11. 42. He was in his twentieth year. Cp. Prop. 3. 18. 15 *occidit et misero steterat vicesimus annus.*

**si qua fata aspera rumpas, tu Marcellus eris.** "If only shouldst break the bar of cruel fate, thou shalt assuredly be Marcellus." **SERVIUS** *talis qualis est Marcellus.* He is both in the underworld and in his brief life above, but *spes Marcelli*, not fated to be "the gentle knight, the mass of sterling worth and honesty, the invincible warrior, in one word Marcellus" (Henry). There is no anticlimax here. It would have been fulsome flattery to make the boy the greatest of his line, and no more moving tribute could be paid to his memory than this. For the construction cp. Hor. Od. 3. 3. 7 *si fractus illabatur orbis, | impavidum ferient ruinae.* The sudden change to the indicative expresses certainty of the logical necessity of the apodosis. For a parallel to the general sense of the passage cp. Val. Flacc. 3. 183 *spes maxima bellis | pulcher Hylas, si fata sinant.* Wagner punctuates with an exclamation after *rumpas*, making the sentence a prayer. Then follows the statement, "Thou shalt be Marcellus." This is inferior, on the whole, in pathos to the sense given by the traditional punctuation. Here, for Anchises Marcellus is the great Marcellus. The name, as it occurs here, can only be used with reference to the great passage which has preceded. Vergil has shown his sense of proportion, and has avoided the error into which later imitators, such as Statius, fell, when dealing with the imperial house.

883. **manibus date lilia plenis purpureos spargam flores.** Two interpretations are possible. (1) *spargam* is dependent on *date*, on the analogy of the common construction, whereby





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## Commentary

his "Purgatorio" in the atmosphere, following Servius (*locutus est secundum eos qui putant Elysium lunarem esse circulum*). So, too, Ps. Prob., p. 12, Keil. This is out of the question: cp. n. on 439. Aeneas and the Sibyl are underground. The only means by which such an interpretation could be rendered possible would be to assume that the line is the relic of an earlier draft of the poem, making Aeneas see all these things in a dream (see n. on 893 *sqq.*). The generally accepted interpretation is that Vergil by *aeris* translates the Homeric ἠεροεῖς (cp. Il. 8. 13 Τάρταρος. Od. 20. 64 κέλευθα, also passim ζόφος)="misty," "murky." There is, however, no parallel for such a use of *aer* in Latin, and the gen. is difficult, as there is no parallel for gen. of quality unsupported by an adjective, and to explain it as a possessive gen. is of little help. Further, such an interpretation brings us into conflict with 640, 1. Auson. Cup. Cruc. 1 *aeris in campis quos dicit Musa Maronis*, and Stat. Silv. 5. 3. 286 *et monstrate nemus, quo nulla inrupit Erinys, | in quo falsa dies caeloque simillimus aer* throw but little light on the passage.

889. **uenientis.** M. gives *melioris*, which has crept in from 4. 221 *famae melioris*.

890. 3. 456 (Helenus loq.) *quin adeas uatem precibusque oracula poscas | ipsa canat uocemque uolens atque ora resoluat.*

*| illa tibi Italiae populos uenturaque bella, | et quo quemque modo fugiasque ferasque laborem | expediet.* Helenus' prophecy is not fulfilled as Vergil intended when he wrote this portion of Book 3. The Sibyl's prophecy (87 *sqq.*) is perfunctory and enigmatic. The detailed instructions are received here from Anchises (cp. 5. 737). The Sibyl is only indirectly the source of Aeneas' information, in so far as she has enabled him to meet his father's spirit. The inconsistency does not amount to absolute contradiction. But



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the subj. is made to depend on a verb of allowing, granting, permitting. The sense will then be "Grant me to scatter handfuls." (2) The alternative is to punctuate after *plenis*, and to translate "Give me lilies; let me scatter." *spargam* is then a hortative subjunctive. The first view is strongly supported by 4. 683 *ate uolnera lymphis | abluam*: cp. also Prudent. contr. Symm. *date uincula demam*.

*lilia* is most naturally taken with *purpureos flores*. While *purpureus* can mean more than bright (cp. 641 n.), it may refer to the crimson Martagon lily. Cp. Plin. 21. 25 *sunt et purpurea lilia* Theophr. Hist. Pl. 6. 6. 3.

The offering of flowers is clearly suggested by the offering of flowers to the dea (see 886 n.). Lilies are so employed in A. P. 7. 485. The purple hue is associated with offerings to the dead (cp. 22 m.). For such offerings cp. A. 5. 79. Aesch. Pers. 618. Soph. El. 895. Prop. 1. 17. 22, and 4. 7. 33. Juv. 7. 20

885. *accumulem dnis*. Cp. 5. 531 *Acesten | muneribus cumulat*. Norden regards the phrase as a poetical inversion for *animae accumulendona*: this construction does not, however, occur before Sil. 1. 143. For the present construction cp. Val. Flacc. 4. 339. Stat. T. 10. 788. Plin. 17. 124.

886. *munere*, used here as of the last gifts of funerals. Cp. 4. 623 and 11. 25 *gregias animas . . . decorate si muneribus*. As Conington points out, "Anchises identifies himself with Augustus, and those who are conducting funeral on earth."

887. *aeris in camp*. These happy regions are spoken of as the "fields of air" in somewhat the same way that Tennyson speaks of the "spiritual city" in *Grail*. *aeris* gives the idea of purity and unsubstantiality. Cp. also 640, 1 *largi hic campos aether et lumine purpureo*. Norden attempts to show that Vergil



the "Purgatorio" is  
(locus of number  
circum). So, too,  
the question: q. 2.  
underground. The  
pretation could be  
that the line is the circle  
Aeneas sees all these in  
The generally accepted  
translates the Homeric

22. 64 *alabastris*, also  
There is, however, no  
and the *gen.* is *dativus*  
quality unsupported  
a possessive *gen.* is  
pretation brings us to  
Croc. 1 *avis* in *camp.*  
Silv. 5. 3. 286 *at* *manus*  
is *quo* *solus* *dius*  
on the passage.

889. *unusquisque* M.  
from 4. 231 *formosus*

890. 3. 456 (Biblia  
*orecula* *procedit* | *spes*  
| *illa* *tibi* *Italiam* *pop.*  
*modo* *fugitivus* *ser-*  
phery is not limited  
portion of Book 3.  
fructury and  
received here from  
indirectly the source  
has enabled him to  
sistency does not





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## Commentary

Cp. Enn. A. 24 *populi . . . Latini*, though whether, as Norden suggests, there is deliberate imitation of Ennius, it is impossible to say. Cp. also 7. 738 *Sarrastes populos*.

893-898. Vergil had to provide Aeneas with an exit from Hades. He could, of course, be made to return by the way by which he had come, as, for instance, Psyche does in Apuleius (Met. 6. 20). This course was open to objection on two grounds: it would involve either (1) a repetition of previous scenes (as in Apul. l.c.), or (2) a dull and perfunctory statement that he returned by the same path.

To avoid this Vergil had recourse to the somewhat daring expedient of employing the dream-gates of Homer (Od. 19. 562). He returns Aeneas to earth by the gate of ivory, by which *false* dreams go forth by night. But what Aeneas has seen is a *true* vision. Why, then, the gate of ivory? Various answers have been given.

1. The simplest explanation is that Aeneas was not a dream, and consequently that, if he used the dream-gates, it did not matter which he used. Further, we may note with Dubner that the gate of horn was used only by *verae umbrae*, which Aeneas was not.

2. There was a belief in antiquity that false dreams appeared before midnight, and true dreams after midnight. Cp. Moschus, 2. 1. Hor. S. 1. 10. 33 *post mediam noctem . . . cum somnia vera*. We may also compare A. 5. 719-739 and 8. 67, where veridical visions appear just before dawn. The exit by the ivory gate is on this theory due to the exigencies of time. Aeneas leaves Hades before midnight, and the door of horn is still shut. The descent began at early dawn (255), it is midday in 535 and Aeneas returns to upper air before midnight. See W. Everett, *Class. Rev.* 14, 1900, p. 153 *sqq.* It may be urged against this view that, while it is consistent with facts, the interpretation is far-



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fetched and liable to the criticism that it explains *obscurum per obscurius*.

3. The passage is to be regarded as a picturesque way of saying, "This is no more than a poet's dream." To which we may reply, "Why should Vergil say this?" It is out of keeping with the solemn invocation of 264-7, and the whole spirit of the book. For a statement of this view see Henry, *Aeneidea* (3., p. 457), and F. Grainger, *Class. Rev.* 14, 1900, p. 26. R. S. Conway, *Essays, etc., presented to W. Ridgeway* (1913), p. 222. This view is somewhat more crudely stated by Servius: *vult autem intelligi falsa esse omnia quae dixit*.

Of these views (1) is the least unsatisfactory. Vergil sought a picturesque exit, and therefore chose the Gate of Ivory. It has been suggested that Vergil's original design was to reveal the future in a dream to Aeneas, and that the present passage was originally written with this in view: cp. Cic. Div. 1. 21 *sint haec ut dixi somnia fabularum, hisque adiungatur etiam Aeneae somnium, quod in Numerii Fabii Pictoris Graecis annalibus eiusmodi est, ut omnia, quae ab Aenea gesta sunt quaeque illi acciderunt, ea fuerint quae ei secundum quietem uisa sunt*. The suggestion does not, however, help us to get over the difficulty of the use of the Ivory Gate (see Gercke, *Entstehung d. Aeneis*, p. 191 sqq.).

893. Cp. Od. 19. 562 *δοιαὶ γάρ τε πύλαι ἀμενήνων εἰσὶν ὄνειρων*. | *αἱ μὲν γὰρ κεράεσσι τετεύχεται, αἱ δ' ἐλέφαντι*.  
SERVIUS *per portam corneam oculi significantur . . . per eburneam uero portam os significatur a dentibus*.  
Cp. Plaut. Truc. 489 *pluris est oculatus testis unus quam auriti decem*.

**Somni**=*Somniorum*. Cp. Od. l.c. Vergil had no choice but to use *Somnus metri gratia*. Cp. 7. 607 *sunt geminae belli portae*.



## Commentary

895. **perfecta nitens elephanto.** *elephanto* concludes the line as in the Homeric original. Cp. the frequent occurrence of other Greek words of similar scansion at the end of 623 *hymenaeos* (as often), *terebintho* (10. 136), *hyacinthi* (11. 69), *cyparissi* (3. 680), *elephanto* (3. 464), *orichalco* (12. 87), *panacea* (12. 419). For *perfecta nitens* cp. G. 4. 370 *saxosusque sonans*. A. 3. 70 *lenis crepitans*. The adj. is predicative.

896. **Manes** is perhaps used loosely for the underworld. But cp. Tib. 2. 6. 37 *ne tibi neglecti mittant mala somnia Manes*, and Soph. El. 459, where it is suggested that Clytemnestra's dream has been sent by Agamemnon.

**insomnia**=*ἐνύπνια* (cp. Macrob. in S. Scip. 1. 3. 4), of which it is probably a translation. The word is not found in this sense before Vergil. In earlier authors we find *insomnia*=*ἀνύπνια*. Cp. Ter. Eun. 219. Cic. de Sen. 44.

897. **his ibi.** M and Donatus read *ubi*. In favour of *ubi* is the parallel passage in 7. 607 *sunt geminae portae . . . 611 has ubi*. On the other hand, such parallels can be pressed too far, and *ibi* gives the present passage a somewhat more natural flow. As Conington points out, *portaque emittit eburna* loses force by being thrown into the protasis. Further, it may be urged that if we read *ibi* and place a full-stop after *eburna*, we get an effective and clear-cut division between the Nekyia and the return to the activities of the upperworld.

898. Cp. 9. 310 *prosequitur uotis*.

**his dictis.** Cp. 890-2.

899. **uiam secat.** Cp. 12. 368. A translation of the Gk. *τέμνειν ὄδον*. For the whole line cp. the conclusion of the Homeric Nekyia, Od. 11. 636.

900, 1. **recto litore.** "Straight along the shore": cp. 8. 57 *recto flumine*. *litore* recurs in the same position in the next line; a careless repetition, if the text is correct. Two remedies have been proposed: (1) To read *limite* with some





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