

Part 1 505-558

Forsitan et Priami fuerint quae fata requiras.

And perhaps you ask what was Priam's fate.

urbis uti captae casum conuulsaque uidit

When he saw the fall of the captive city,

limina tectorum et medium in penetralibus hostem,

The doors of the palace torn apart and the enemy in the inner rooms

arma diu senior desueta trementibus aeuo

The old man clasped his armour, unaccustomed for a long time because of age,

circumdat nequiquam umeris et inutile ferrum

Onto trembling shoulders and fastened on his useless sword

cingitur, ac densos fertur moriturus in hostis.

And hurried into the thick of the enemy, about to die

aedibus in mediis nudoque sub aetheris axe

In the middle of the palace and under the bare arch of the sky

ingens ara fuit iuxtaque ueterrima Laurus

Was a huge altar and nearby a very ancient laurel

incumbens arae atque umbra complexa penatis.

Leaning on the altar and covering the household gods with shadow.

hic Hecuba et natae nequiquam altaria circum,

Here Hecuba and her daughters sat uselessly around the altar

praecipites atra ceu tempestate columbae,

Like doves driven by a dark storm,

condensae et diuum amplexae simulacra sedebant.

Huddled together and clutching statues of the gods.

Ipsam autem sumptis Priamum iuuenalibus armis

But when she saw Priam, who had taken up youthful

Ut uidit, "quae mens tam dira, miserrime coniunx,

Armour, she said, "What mind so terrible, most wretched

Impulit his cingi telis? Aut quo ruis?" inquit.

Husband, drives you to put on these weapons? Or to where are you rushing?"

"non tali auxilio nex defensoribus istis

"The time does not need such help nor these defenders;

Tempus eget; non, si ipse meus nunc adfort Hector.

Not (even) if my Hector himself were now present.

Huc tandem concede; haec ara tuebitur omnis

At least withdraw here; this altar will protect us all or

Aut moriere simul." sic ore effata receipt

We shall die all together." After her mouth had spoken, she drew

Ad sese et sacra longaevum in sede locavit.

The aged man towards her and placed him on the sacred seat.

Ecce autem elapsus Pyrrhi de caede Polites,
But look, Polites escaped from the slaughter of Pyrrhus,
Unus natorum Priami, per tela, per hostis
One of Priam's sons [Polites], flees through weapons, enemies,
Porticibus longis fugit et vacua atria lustrat
Long colonnades and traverses the empty rooms
Saucius, illum ardens infesto vulnere Pyrrhus
Wounded, Pyrrhus, burning to wound, follows him
Insequitur, iam iamque manu tenet et permit hasta.
And grasps now and again with his hand and presses with his spear.
ut tandem ante oculos evasit et ora parentum,
When at last he escaped before the eyes and faces of his parents
concidit ac multo vitam cum sanguine fudit.
He fell and poured out his life with much blood.

hic Priamus, quamquam in media iam morte tenetur,
Here Priam, although now held in the very grip of death,
non tamen abstinuit nec voci iraeque pepercit:
Did not, however, hold back his voice nor spare his anger:
'at tibi pro scelere,' exclamat, 'pro talibus ausis
"But may the gods to you, in return for wickedness and having dared such things,!" he exclaims,
di, si qua est caelo pietas quae talia curet,
"if there is any piety in heaven which cares about such things,
persolvant grates dignas et praemia reddant
May they pay you worthy thanks and give back due rewards,
debita, qui nati coram me cernere letum
You who have made me see the death of my son before my eyes
fecisti et patrios foedasti funere vultus.
And fouled paternal faces with death.
at non ille, satum quo te mentiris, Achilles
But Achilles, from whom you lie about having been sprung,
talis in hoste fuit Priamo; sed iura fidemque
He was not such an enemy to Priam; but he felt reverence for the rights and honour
supplicis erubuit corpusque exsanguie sepulcro
Of the suppliant and he gave back Hector's bloodless body to a tomb
reddidit Hectoreum meque in mea regna remisit.'
and sent me back to my kingdom."

sic fatus senior telumque imbelle sine ictu
Thus the old man spoke, and flung his spear, unwarlike, without strength,

coniecit, rauco quod protinus aere repulsum,

Which immediately sprung back from the hollow-sounding bronze,
et summo clipei nequiquam umbone pependit.

And hung in vain from the top of the shield boss of the shield

cui Pyrrhus: 'referes ergo haec et nuntius ibis

Pyrrhus (said) to him: "Therefore you will report these things

Pelidae genitori. illi mea tristia facta

And you will be a messenger to my father, son of Peleus. Remember to tell him about my sad actions

degeneremque Neoptoleum narrare memento nunc morere.'

And about degenerate Neoptolemus. Now die."

hoc dicens altaria ad ipsa trementem

Saying this, he dragged him, trembling to the very altar

traxit et in multo lapsantem sanguine nati,

and slipping in much of his son's blood,

implicuitque comam laeva, dextraque coruscum

and entwined his hair with his left hand, and drew out the glittering sword with his right hand

extulit ac lateri capulo tenus abdidit ensem.

and buried it in his side as far as the hilt.

haec finis Priami fatorum, hic exitus illum

This was the end of Priam's life (fates), this death fell to him by lot

sorte tulit Troiam incensam et prolapsa videntem

seeing Troy ablaze and its citadel sunk down

Pergama, tot quondam populis terrisque superbum

once the proud ruler of so many peoples and lands of Asia.

regnatorem Asiae. iacet ingens litore truncus,

A huge body lies on the shore,

avulsumque umeris caput et sine nomine corpus.

the head torn away from the shoulders and a corpse without a name.

cont. in [Aeneid 705-740](#)