

Aeneid Reading Excerpts

February 5, 2020

1 LIBER PRIMVS

Book One: Safe Haven After Storm

1.1 Line 202

Revocate animos, maestumque timorem mittite: forsan et haec olim meminisse iuvabit. Per varios casus, per tot discrimina rerum tendimus in Latium; sedes ubi fata quietas ostendunt; illic fas regna resurgere Troiae. Durate, et vosmet rebus servate secundis.

maestus *a.* sad, sorrowful

forsan *adv.* perhaps

olim *adv.* at that time; once upon a time; one day

memini *-isse* I remember

iuvabit 3rd singular future active indicative of *iuvo*

casus *casus n.* fall; accident; misfortune; (grammar) case

tot so many

discrimen *-mimis n.* distinction; division; crisis

sedes *-dis f.* seat; place, settlement

quietus ppp of *quiesco*. at rest; peaceful; tranquil

ostendo *-dere, -di, -tum* I expose to view, exhibit

fas *n.* divine law; the will of God

Translation Call up your courage again. Dismiss your grief and fear. A joy it will be one day, perhaps, to remember even this. Through so many hard straits, so many twists and turns our course holds firm for Latium. There Fate holds out a homeland, calm, at peace. There the gods decree the kingdom of Troy will rise again. Bear up. Save your strength for better time to come.

1.2 Line 278

His ego nec metas rerum nec tempora pono; imperium sine fine dedi.

his plural masculine dative of *hic*. for them

meta -ae f. boundary limit

dedi 1st singular perfect indicative active of *do*

Translation On them I set no limits, space or time: I have granted them power, empire without end.

1.3 Line 286

Nascetur pulchra Troianus origine Caesar, imperium oceano, famam qui terminet astris.

nascetur 3rd singular future active indicative of *nascor*

termino -are, -avi, -atum I mark off; I define; I finish, end. *terminet* 3rd singular present active subjunctive

Translation From that noble blood will arise a Trojan Caesar, his empire bound by the Ocean, his glory by the stars.

1.4 Line 381

Bis denis Phrygium conscendi navibus aequor, matre dea monstrante viam, data fata secutus.

bis adv. twice

deni a. pl. ten each

aequor -ris f. even surface; the sea

matre dea monstrante viam (ablative absolute)

monstro -are, -avi, -atum I show, indicate; I advise. *monstrans* pap

secutus ppp of *sequor*

Translation I launched out on the Phrygian sea with twenty ships, my goddess mother marking the way, and followed hard on the course the Fates had charted.

1.5 Line 461

En Priamus! Sunt hic etiam sua praemia laudi.

praemium -i n. reward

laus laudis f. praise, glory. dative of reference *laudi*

Translation There's Priam, look! Even here, merit will have its true reward.

1.6 Line 627

Quare agite, O tectis, iuvenes, succedite nostris. Me quoque per multos similis fortuna labores iactatam hac demum voluit consistere terra. Non ignara mali, miseris succurrere disco.

tectum -i n. roof; ceiling; canopy

demum adv. finally

multos labores (object of *per*)

voluit 3rd singular perfect indicative active of *volo*

consisto -sistere, -stiti, -stitum I stop; I agree with; I continue

Translation So come, young soldiers, welcome to our house. My destiny, harrying me with trials hard as yours, led me as well, at last, to anchor in this land. Schooled in suffering, now I learn to comfort those who suffer too.

1.7 Line 753

‘Immo age, et a prima dic, hospes, origine nobis insidias,’ inquit, ‘Danaum, casusque tuorum, erroresque tuos; ...’

a prima origine from the very beginning

hospes hospitis m. host; guest; stranger

insidia -ae f. ambush

error erroris m. wandering; wavering

Translation “Wait, come, my guest,” she urges, “tell us your own story, start to finish - the ambush laid by the Greeks, the pain your people suffered, the wanderings you have faced.”

2 LIBER SECVNDVS

Book Two: The Final Hours of Troy

2.1 Line 2

Infandum, regina, iubes renovare dolorem, Troianas ut opes et lamentabile regnum eruerint Danaï, quaeque ipse miserrima vidi et quorum pars magna fui.

infandus a. unspeakable

ops opis f. sg. strength, power; pl. wealth

eruo -ere, -i, -tum I cast or throw out

Translation Words can't express, my queen, what you bid me to relive, all the rueful pain: telling how the Danaans destroyed Troy's wealth and its power makes for a dirge of lament. Heartbreaking events. And I saw them, I was a major part of them all.

2.2 Line 8

et iam nox umida caelo praecipitat suadentque cadentia sidera somnos.

umidus *a.* humid

praecipito *-are, -avi, -atum* I cast down; I throw headlong

suadeo *-dere, -si, -sum* I urge; I suade

cadentia plural present participle neuter nominative of *cado*

sidus *sidera, n.* star

somnus *-i, m.* sleep

Translation And, besides, night is shedding dew from sky, and stars as they fade persuade us to slumber.

2.3 Line 54

et, si fata deum, si mens non laeva fuisset, impulerat ferro Argolicas foedare latebras, Troiaque nunc staret, Priamique arx alta maneres.

mens *mentis, f.* mind

laevus *a.* left; awkward; unlucky

fuisse subjunctive pluperfect 3rd sg. of *sum*

impello *-ellere, -uli, -ulsum* I push; I impel.

foedō *-are, -avi, -atum* I make foul or filthy; I pollute; I disgrace

laetebra *-ae, f.* hiding place; lair

Translation Had not god-given fates, divine mind (and our own) been against us, that would have driven our swords to turn Argive lair into bloodbath, Troy would endure to this day; you'd still stand, fortress of Priam.

2.4 Line 92

adflictus vitam in tenebris luctuque trahebam

affligo *-igere, -ixi, -ictum* I strike; I afflict

luctus *luctus, m.* grief

Translation I was crushed too; and I trudged through life in the dark grip of anguish.

2.5 Line 195

Talibus insidiis periurique arte Sinonis credita res, captique dolis lacrimisque coactis quos neque Tydides nec Larisaeus Achilles, non anni domuere decem, non mille carinae.

talīs a. such

insidiae -arum f. pl. ambush, plot

dolus -i, m. trick

cogo cogere, coegi, coactum I collect; I force

domo -are, -ui, -itum I tame; I subdue.

Translation So spoke Sinon, an artist in perjury, setting his ambush. And we believed him. He fooled us with well-staged weeping and ruses, conquering men neither Tydeus' sons nor Larissa's Achilles, not even war's ten years and its thousand vessels could vanquish.

2.6 Line 294

hos cape fatorum comites, his moenia quaere magna pererrato statues quae denique ponto.

pererrato ponto the sea having been traversed

denique adv. finally

Translation Take them as fate's fellow travellers, find great walls to protect them, walls you will build when your sea-borne wanderings reach their conclusion.

2.7 Line 316

furor iraque mentem praecipitat, pulchrumque mori succurrit in armis.

praecipito -are, -avi, -atum I cast down

succurro -urrere, -urri, -ursum I come to mind

Translation Wrath and fury have jettisoned reason. Taking its place is a slogan: that death, under arms, has its beauty.

2.8 Line 351

excessere omnes adytis arisque relictis di quibus imperium hoc steterat; succurritis urbi incensae. moriamur et in media arma ruamus. una salus victis nullam sperare salutem.

excesserunt or excessere 3rd plural perfect indicative active of *excedo*

adytum -i, n. shrine

ara -ae, f. altar

relictus ppp. of *relinquo*

incendo *-endere, -endi, -ensum* I set on fire

ruo *ruere, rui, rutum* I rush

salus *salutis, f.* safety; well-being; salvation; greeting

Translation All those gods, on whose strength this empire stood, have forsaken altars and shrines. They're all gone. You are running to save an already burned city. So let's die, let's rush to the thick of the fighting. There's just one way to live with defeat: Don't hope to outlive it!

2.9 Line 656

nam quod consilium aut quae iam fortuna dabatur?

aut or

Translation What other course did fortune allow? What choice was I granted?

2.10 Line 668

arma, viri, ferte arma; vocat lux ultima victos. reddite me Danais; sinite instaurata revisam proelia. numquam omnes hodie moriemur inulti.

sino *sinere, sivi, situm* I allow

instauero *-are, -avi, -atum* I repeat; I renew; I restore

proelium *-i, n.* battle

Translation Arms, men, stand to your arms! Life's last day summons the vanquished! Throw me upon the Danaans again, let me go back and restart combat. Never shall all of us die this day without vengeance.

2.11 Line 682

ecce levis summo de vertice visus Iuli fundere lumen apex.

levis *a.* light, swift

visus ppp. of *video* (with *apex*)

fundo *fundere, fudi, fusum* I pour.

Translation Look, a slim halo of light seems to shine from the crown of Iulus' head.

2.12 Line 725

ferimur per opaca locorum.

Translation On we go through the darkest of places.

2.13 Line 780

longa tibi exsilia et vastum maris aequor arandum, et terram Hesperiam venies, ubi Lydius arva inter opima virum leni fluit agmine Thybris.

vastus *a.* empty; vast

aequor *-is, n.* even surface; sea

aro *-are, -avi, -atum* I plow

arvum *-i, n.* field; farm land

opimus *a.* fertile

lenis *a.* soothe, gentle

agmen *agminis, n.* a train of something; line; stream, current

Translation Long years of exile await; you must plough vast stretches of salt sea. Then you will reach the Hesperian land, where the Lydian Tiber flows a straight course without waves amid farmlands fruitful and peopled.

2.14 Line 792

ter conatus ibi collo dare bracchia circum; ter frustra comprehensa manus effugit imago, par levibus ventis volucrique simillima somno.

conor *conari, conatus sum* I attempt

collum *-i, n.* neck

frustra *adv.* in vain

comprehensus ppp. of *comprehendo*

imago *imaginis, f.* image, ghost

ventus *venti, m.* wind

volucer *-cris, -cre* flying; winged

similis *a.* similar (comp. *similior*, superl. *simillimus*; + dat.)

Translation Three times I tried to encircle her neck with my arms as I stood there, three times, alas, all in vain. For the image eluded my grasping hands, like a slight puff of air, as a dream flutters off from a dreamer.

3 LIBER TERTIVS

Book Three: Landfalls, Ports of Call

3.1 Line 114

ergo agite et divum ducunt qua iussa sequamur: placemus ventos et Cnosia regna petamus.

divum archaic gen. pl.

Translation So: where gods' bidding leads, let us follow! Come, let's charm the good winds, let's sail for the kingdom of Knossos!

3.2 Line 190

hanc quoque deserimus sedem paucisque relictis vela damus vastumque cava trabe currimus aequor.

velum -i, n. the sail of a ship

trabs -bis, f. timber; tree trunk

Translation So, we deserted this settlement too - leaving only a small group - sails set, speeding across the vast seas in our hollows of timber.

3.3 Line 203

tris adeo incertos caeca caligine soles erramus pelago, totidem sine sidere noctes.

adeo adv. so much; (with *ut*) to such an extent that

incertus a. uncertain; obscure

caecus a. blind

caligo -ginis, f. fog; gloom

pelagus -i, m. sea

Translation Three full cycles of unseen sun we wander in sultry darkness over the deep, the same number of nights without starlight.

3.4 Line 284

interea magnum sol circumvolvitur annum et glacialis hiems Aquilonibus asperat undas.

hiems -mis, f. winter

aspero -are, -avi, -atum I make rough (*asper*)

unda *-ae, f.* wave

Translation Meanwhile, the sun has completed one more long year in its orbit; icy winter churns seas wild with the blasts of the north wind.

3.5 Line 394

nec tu mensarum morsus horresce futuros: fata viam invenient aderitque vocatus Apollo.

mensa *-ae, f.* table; altar

morsus ppp. of *modeo* (I bite). pained

horresco *-escere, -ui* I become terrified; I start to dread

Translation Don't live in terror about this impending gnawing of tables. Fates will discover a way; when you call him, Apollo will be there.

3.6 Line 564

tollimur in caelum curvato gurgite, et idem subducta ad Manis imos desedimus unda. ter scopuli clamorem inter cava saxa dedere, ter spumam elisam et rorantia vidimus astra.

girges *-gitis, f.* whirlpool; eddy; gulf

subductus ppp. of *subduco*

manes *manium, m. pl.* the spirits of dead ancestors; deified shades

inus *a.* (or *infimus*) superl. of *inferus*

scopulus *-i, m.* crag, rock

saxum *-i, n.* stone

dedere *dederunt*

spuma *-ae, f.* foam

elisu ppp. of *elido*. knocked out; shattered

roro *-are, -avi, -atum* I drip

Translation Up to the heavens we're raised on the spiralling waves, the next moment down we sink to the depth of the dead as the waters are sucked back. Three times cliffs amid hollows of rock roar thunderous echoes; three times we see foam wash clear, see stars dripping water.

4 LIBER QVARTVS

Book Four: The Tragic Queen of Carthage

4.1 Line 4

haerent infixi pectore vultus verbaque nec placidam membris dat cura quietem.

haereo *-rere, -si, -sum* I stick, cling; I remain fixed

infigo *-gere, -xi, -xum* I fasten, fix

pectus *-oris, f.* chest

placidus *a.* placid, gentle, quiet

membrum *-i, n.* limb of the body; member

quies *quietis, f.* rest, repose; dream

Translation Each word he's spoken is fixed in her heart, each facial expression. Anguish grants no peaceful repose, no respite for tired limbs.

4.2 Line 98

sed quis erit modus, aut quo nunc certamine tanto? quin potius pacem aeternam pactosque hymenaeos exercemus?

certamen *-minis, n.* contest, struggle; battle

quin *adv.* why not? without; even

potius *adv.* rather (*potior* comp. of *potis*)

hymenaeus *-i, m.* marriage

Translation Where will you stop, how far will you go in your wild competition? Why not, instead, work together, for endless peace and a marriage sealing it?

4.3 Line 174

Fama, malum qua non aliud velocius ullum.

ullus *a.* any

Translation Rumor, swiftest of all the evils in the world.

4.4 Line 314

mene fugis? per ego has lacrimas dextramque tuam te (quando aliud mihi iam miserae nihil ipsa reliqui), per conubia nostra, per inceptos hymenaeos, si bene quid de te merui, fuit aut tibi quicquam dulce meum, miserere domus labentis et istam, oro, si quis adhuc precibus locus, exue mentem.

quando *adv.* when; because

miserae (dative)

conubium *-i, n.* marriage

mereo *-ere, -ui, -itum* I earn

quicquam anything

labor *labi, lapsus sum* I slip; I fall; I vanish (pap *labens*)

prex *-cis, f.* prayer

exuo *-ere, -i, -tum* I extract, take out

Translation Could you be running from me? Let me urge you, with tears, by your right hand (thanks to my pitiful conduct that's all I have left now to swear by), urge you by love we shared, by the steps we have taken to marriage: if I have ever earned your thanks for services rendered, or given you any pleasure, I beg you, if prayer still has meaning, pity this falling house, shrug off your present intention.

4.5 Line 380

neque te teneo neque dicta refello: i, sequere Italiam ventis, pete regna per undas. spero equidem mediis, si quid pia numina possunt, supplicia hausurum scopulis et nomine Dido saepe vocaturum. sequar atris ignibus absens et, cum frigida mors anima seduxerit artus, omnibus umbra locis adero.

refello *-ere, -i* I refute

equidem *adv.* truly, indeed, certainly; for my part

supplicium *-i, n.* suffering, torture

hausurus (*hausturus*) fap of *haurio* (I drain; I devour) (its direct object *supplicia*)

scopulus *-i, m.* crag; rock

ater *a.* black; gloomy; obscure

anima abl. of separation

artus *-us, m.* limbs

Translation I won't try to keep you, or craft a rebuttal. Go with the winds! Pursue Italy! Chase across seas for your kingdoms! My hope, if righteous forces prevail, is that, out on some mid-sea reefs, you'll drink retribution in deep draughts, often invoking Dido's name. When I'm absent, I'll chase you with dark fire! When cold death snaps away body from soul, evil man, my dank ghost will haunt you.

4.6 Line 412

improbe Amor, quid non mortalia pectora cogis!

improbis *a.* excessive; greedy

cogo *-gere, -egi, -actum* I collect; I force

pectus *-oris, f.* chest; heart; soul; person

Translation Ruthless Love! Hearts break, humans die. How far must you force us?

4.7 Line 618

nec, cum se sub leges pacis iniquae tradiderit, regno aut optata luce fruatur, sed cadat ante diem mediaque inhumatus harena.

iniquus *a.* unjust

optatus ppp of *opto*. wished; chosen

fruor *frui, fructus sum* I enjoy

humo *-are, -avi, -atum* I bury

Translation When he surrenders himself to an unjust peace and its strict terms, grant him no joy in his realm or the light he so loves. Let him lie dead, well before his due day, halfway up a beach and unburied.

4.8 Line 628

litora litoribus contraria, fluctibus undas imprecor, arma armis: pugnent ipsique nepotesque.

nipos *-tis, m./f.* grandson; granddaughter; nephew; niece; descendant

Translation Menace of coast against coast and of waters hurled against waters, arms against arms I invoke. Let them fight, they themselves and their grandsons!

4.9 Line 666

concussam bacchatur Fama per urbem.

concutio *-tere, -ssi, -ssum* I shake violently

Translation Rumour now raged wild through a city now left bludgeoned.