

# Vergil: Georgics I and IV

## A Latin to English Translation

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### Liber I

*Quid faciat laetas segetes, quo sidere terram  
vertere, Maecenas, ulmisque adiungere vitis  
conveniat, quae cura boum, qui cultus habendo  
sit pecori, apibus quanta experientia parcis,  
hinc canere incipiam.*

- *faciat* from *facio, facere, feci, factus* is 3rd singular present active subjunctive, meaning to make. This is subjunctive because it's an indirect question.
- *vertere* from *verto, vertere, verti, versus* is the present active infinitive, meaning to turn.
- *adiungere* from *adiungo, adiungere, adiunxi, adiunctus* is the present active infinitive, meaning to attach.
- Critical note, *vitis* here is the alternative plural accusative form while *ulmis* is the dative.
- *conveniat* from *convenio, convenire, conveni, conventus* is 3rd singular present active subjunctive, meaning to be appropriate to.
- *habendo* from *habeo, habere, habio, habitus* is the future passive participle, meaning to have. This is the gerundive modifying *pecori*.
- Reduplicated the gerundive to fit with *apibus*, as potentially indicated by the notes.
- *incipiam* from *incipio, incipere, incepti, inceptus* is 1st singular future active indicative, meaning to begin.

What makes prosperous crops, by which star is it fitting to turn the land, Maecenas, and by which star is it fitting to attach the vines to the elms, what care of cows, what maintainance is it for having cattle, how much experience for having frugal bees, hence I will begin to sing.

*vos, o clarissima mundi  
lumina, labentem caelo quae ducitis annum,  
Liber et alma Ceres, vestro si munere tellus  
Chaoniam pingui glandem mutavit arista,  
poculaque inventis Acheloia miscuit uvis,  
et vos, agrestum praesentia numina, Fauni,*

(*ferre simul Faunisque pedem Dryadesque puellae*) -  
*munera vestra cano.*

- *clarissima* is the superlative of *clarus*.
- *labentem* from *labor, labi, lapsus sum* is the present participle, meaning to gliding.
- Note *labentem* fits with *annum* despite it not being inside the *quae*.
- The book says *caelo* is a local ablative, no idea what that is. Local is just a short distance away from locative, perhaps it's locative ablative?
- *Liber* is a name for *Bacchus*, so says the notes.
- *vestro* and *munere* go together inside *si*.
- *mutavit* from *muto, mutare* is 3rd singular perfect active indicative, meaning to move. Note that verbs of exchanging like *muto* take the thing taken or the thing given in the ablative of price (A&G 417b), i.e. *pingui arista* here.
- *miscuit* from *misceo, miscere, miscui, mixtus* is 3rd singular perfect active indicative, meaning to mix.
- *inventis* from *invenio, invenire, inveni, inventus* is the perfect passive participle, meaning to find.
- *praesentia* from *praesens* in the back means present, but it notes that at this line specifically it means read-to-aid.
- Not sure why *Fauns* is plural, isn't it just one god?
- *ferre* from *fero, ferre, tuli, latus* is the present active imperative meaning to bring.
- *cano* from *cano, canere, cecini, cantus* is 1st singular present active indicative, meaning to sing. You all, O brightest lights of the universe, who lead the gliding year in the sky, Bacchus and kind Ceres, if by your service the earth exchanged the Chaones acorn for a rich harvest, and the Acheloian cups mixed with having been found grapes, and you all, the ready-to-aid divinities of the countryside, Fauns (Fauns and Dryad girls, simultaenously bring your feet together), -- I sing of your gifts.

*tuque o, cui prima frementem*  
*fudit equum magno tellus percussa tridenti,*  
*Neptune;*

- *frementem* from *fremo, fremere, fremui, fremitus* is the present active participle, meaning to clamor for. Modifies *equum*.
- *fudit* from *fundo, fundere, fudi, fusus* is 3rd singular perfect active indicative, meaning to pour.
- *percussa* from *percutio, percutere, pepercussi, percussus* is the perfect passive participle, meaning to beat/strike. Note this goes with *tellus* and is modified by *magno tridenti*.  
 O and you Neptune, for whom the earth, having been struck with a great trident, first poured a roaring horse;

*et cultor nemorum, cui pingua Cae*  
*ter centum nivei tondent dumeta iuvenci;*

- *tondent* from *tondeo, tondere, totondi, tonsus* is 3rd plural present active indicative, meaning to cut.  
 and the inhabitant of the forest, for whom 300 snowy young bulls cut the rich thickets of Cea;

*ipse nemus linquens patrium saltusque Lycae  
Pan, ovium custos, tua si tibi Maenala curae,  
adsis, o Tegeae, favens, oleaeque Minerva  
inventrix, uncique puer monstrator aratri,  
et teneram ab radice ferens, Silvane, cupressum;*

*dique deaeque omnes, studium quibus arva tueri,  
quique novas alitis non ullo semine fruges,  
quique satis largum caelo demittitis imbrem;*

*tuque adeo, quem mox quae sint habitura deorum  
concilia incertum est, urbesne invisere, Caesar,  
terrarumque velis curam, et te maximus orbis  
auctorem frugum tempestatumque potentem  
accipiat cingens materna tempora myrto,  
an deus immensi venias maris ac tua nautae  
numina sola colant, tibi serviat ultima Thule,  
teque sibi generum Tethys emat omnibus undis,  
anne novum tardis sidus te mensibus addas,  
qua locus Erigonen inter Chelasque sequentis  
panditur ipse tibi iam bracchia contrahit ardens  
Scorpius et caeli iusta plus parte reliquit)  
quidquid eris (nam te nec sperant Tartara regem,  
nec tibi regnandi veniat tam dira cupido,  
quamvis Elysios miretur Graecia campos,  
nec repetita sequi curet Proserpina matrem)  
da facilem cursum, atque audacibus adnue coeptis,  
ignarosque viae mecum miseratus agrestis  
ingredere et votis iam nunc adsuesce vocari.  
Vere novo, gelidus canis cum montibus umor  
liquitur et Zephyro putris se glaeba resolvit,  
depresso incipiat iam tum mihi taurus aratro  
ingemere, et sulco attritus splendescere vomer.  
illa seges demum votis respondet avari  
agricolae, bis quae solem, bis frigora sensit;  
illius immensae ruperunt horrea messes.  
ac prius ignotum ferro quam scindimus aequor,  
ventos et varium caeli praediscere morem  
cura sit ac patrios cultusque habitusque locorum,  
et quid quaeque ferat regio et quid quaeque recuset.  
hic segetes, illic veniunt felicius uvae,  
arborei fetus alibi, atque iniussa virescunt  
gramina. nonne vides, croceos ut Tmolus odores,  
India mittit ebur, molles sua tura Sabaei,  
at Chalybes nudi ferrum, virosaque Pontus  
castorea, Eliadum palmas Epirus equarum?*

*continuo has leges aeternaque foedera certis  
 imposuit natura locis, quo tempore primum  
 Deucalion vacuum lapides iactavit in orbem,  
 unde homines nati, durum genus. ergo age, terrae  
 pingue solum primis extemplo a mensibus anni  
 fortes invertant tauri, glaebasque iacentis  
 pulverulenta coquat maturis solibus aestas;  
 at si non fuerit tellus fecunda, sub ipsum  
 Arcturum tenui sat erit suspendere sulco:  
 illic, officiant laetis ne frugibus herbae,  
 hic, sterilem exiguus ne deserat umor harenam.  
 Alternis idem tonsas cessare novalis  
 et segnem patiēre situ durescere campum;  
 aut ibi flava seres mutato sidere farra,  
 unde prius laetum siliqua quassante legumen  
 aur tenuis fetus viciae tristisque lupini  
 sustuleris fragilis calamos silvamque sonantem.  
 urit enim lini campum seges, urit avenae,  
 urunt Lethaeo perfusa papavera somno:  
 sed tamen alternis facilis labor, arida tantum  
 ne saturare fimo pingui pudeat sola neve  
 effetos cinerem immundum iactare per agros.  
 sic quoque mutatis requiescunt fetibus arva,  
 nec nulla interea est inaratae gratia terrae.  
 saepe etiam sterilis incendere profuit agros  
 atque levem stipulam crepitantibus urere flammis:  
 sive inde occultas viris et pabula terrae  
 pingua concipiunt, sive illis omne per ignem  
 excoquitur vitium atque exsudat inutilis umor,  
 seu pluris calor ille vias et caeca relaxat  
 spiramenta, novas veniat qua sucus in herbas,  
 seu durat magis et venas astringit hiantis,  
 ne tenues pluviae rapidive potentia solis*

## Liber IV

*Protinus aërii mellis caelestia dona  
 exsequar:*

- *exsequar* from *exsequor*, *exsequi*, *exsecutus sum* is 1st singular future indicative, meaning to follow/carry out.

Without pause I will carry out the heavenly gift of the honey of the air.

*hanc etiam, Maecenas, aspice partem.*

- *aspice* from *aspicio*, *aspicere*, *aspexi*, *aspectus* is the present active imperative, meaning to

see/observe.

Furthermore, Maecenas, observe this part.

*admiranda tibi levium spectacula rerum  
magnanimosque duces totiusque ordine gentis  
mores et studia et populos et proelia dicam.*

- *dicam* from *dico, dicere, dixi, dictus* is 1st singular future active indicative, meaning to say.  
I will tell you

*in tenui labor; at tenuis non gloria, si quem  
numina laeva sinunt auditque vocatus Apollo.  
Principio sedes apibus statioque petenda,  
quo neque sit ventis aditus (nam pabula venti  
ferre domum prohibent) neque oves haedique petulci  
floribus insultent, aut errans bucula campo  
decutiat rorem et surgentis atterat herbas.*

- Note *surgentis* is accusative alternate ending, which you can ascertain by meter it must be *is*, not *is*.

*absint et picti squalentia terga lacerti  
pinguibus a stabulis, meropesque aliaeque volucres  
et manibus Procne pectus signata cruentis;*

- *absint* from *absum, abesse, abfui, abfuturus* is 3rd plural present active subjunctive, meaning to be away/absent.
- *signata* from *signo, signare, signavi, signatus* is the perfect passive participle, meaning to mark/stamp.
- Accusative of respect! Accusative of limitation is this, but Huxley is British so we must suffer. Let the lizards painted with respect to their scaly backs be removed from the rich stalls, and the bee eater and the other birds and Procne having been marked with respect to her breast by bloody hands.

*omnia nam late vastant ipsasque volantis  
ore ferunt dulcem nidis immitibus escam.*

- *vastant* from *vasto, vastare* is 3rd plural present active indicative, meaning to lay waste/ravage.
- *ferunt* from *fero, ferre, tuli, latus* is 3rd plural present active indicative, meaning to bring.  
For all things far and wide ravage the flying things themselves and carry off pleasant food with their cruel mouths to their nests.

*at liquidi fontes et stagna virentia musco  
adsint et tenuis fugiens per gramina rivus,*

- *adsint* from *adsum, adesse, adfui, adfuturus* is 3rd plural present active subjunctive, meaning to be near/present; aid (w/DAT).
- *fugiens* from *fugio, fugere, fugi, fugitus* is the present active participle, meaning to flee.  
but let clear springs and pools greening with moss and a thin stream fleeing through the grass be present,

*palmaque vestibulum aut ingens oleaster inumbret,*

- *inumbret* from *inumbro*, *inumbro*, *inumbro*, *inumbro* is 3rd singular present active subjunctive, meaning to cast a shadow.

and let a palm tree or a vast olive-tree cast a shadow on the entrance,

*ut, cum prima novi ducent examina reges  
vere suo, ludetque favis emissa iuventus,  
vicina invitet decedere ripa calori,  
obviaque hospitibus teneat frondentibus arbor.*

- *ducent* from *duco*, *ducere*, *duxi*, *ductus* is 3rd plural future active indicative, meaning to lead.
- *ludet* from *ludo*, *ludere*, *lusi*, *lusus* is 3rd singular future active indicative, meaning to play.
- Both of these in temporal *cum* clauses.

so that, when the new kings will lead the first swarms in their own spring, and when the youth having been sent out from the honeycombs will play, a nearby bank invites them to retire from the heat, and an in the way tree may hold them with its being in leaf hospitality.

*in medium, seu stabit iners seu profluet umor,  
transversas salices et grandia conice saxa,*

*pontibus ut crebris possint consistere et alas  
pandere ad aestivum solem, si forte morantis  
sparserit aut praeceps Neptuno immerserit Eurus.  
haec circum casiae virides et olentia late  
serpylla et graviter spirantis copia thymbrae  
floreant, inriguumque bibant violaria fontem.  
ipsa autem, seu corticibus tibi suta cavatis  
seu lento fuerint alvaria vimine texta,  
angustos habeant aditus: nam frigore mella  
cogit hiems, eademque calor liquefacta remittit -  
utraque vis apibus pariter metuenda; neque illae  
nequiquam in tectis certatim tenuia cera  
spiramenta linunt, fucosque et floribus oras  
explent, collectumque haec ipsa ad munera gluten  
et visco et Phrygiae servant pice lentius Idae.  
saepe etiam effossis, si vera est fama, latebris  
sub terra fovere larem, penitusque repertae  
pumicibusque cavis exesaeque arboris antro.  
tu tamen et levi rimosa cubilia limo  
ungue fovens circum, et raras superinice frondes.  
ne propius tectis taxum sine, neve rubentis  
ure foco canculos, altae ne crede paludi,  
aut ubi odor caeni gravis aut ubi concava pulsu  
saxa sonant vocisque offensa resultat imago.  
Quod superest, ubi pulsam hiemem Sol aureus egit*

*sub terras caelumque aestiva luce reclusit,  
illae continuo saltus silvasque peragrant  
purpureosque metunt flores et flumina libant  
summa leves. hinc nescio qua dulcedine laetae  
progeniem nidosque foveant, hinc arte recentis  
excudunt ceras et mella tenacia fingunt.  
hinc ubi iam emissum caveis ad sidera caeli  
nare per aestatem liquidam suspexeris agmen*