

Vergil: Georgics I and IV

A Latin to English Translation

Abhijit Chowdhary

February 3, 2020

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 glaebe 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 patiere 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
pinguia 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