

# 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 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 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*, *asperi*, *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. 5*

- *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 10  
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; 15*

- *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, 20*

- *inumbret* from *inumbro, inumbrare, inumbravi, inumbratus* 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 hospitiis 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, 25  
transversas salices et grandia conice saxa,*

- Note says that *in medium* is likely neuter (meaning middle/center) as opposed to masculine (meaning mediator/one who stands in the middle). Basically, *medius, medii* versus *medium, medi(i)*.
- Note *seu...seu* is a coordinating conjunction meaning ‘wether...or’.
- *stabit* from *sto, stare, steti, status* is 3rd singular future active indicative, meaning to stand.
- *profluet* from *profluo, profluere, profluxi, profluctus* is 3rd singular future active indicative, meaning to flow forth or along.
- *conice* from *conicio, conicere, conieci, coniectus* is the present active imperative, meaning to hurl. Into the middle, whether the inert moisture will stand still or will flow forth, hurl willow-trees lying across and large stones,

*pontibus ut crebris possint consistere et alas  
pandere ad aestivum solem,*

- *possint* from *possum, posse, potui* is 3rd plural present active subjunctive, meaning to be able.
- *consistere* from *consisto, consistere, constitui, constitus* is the present active infinitive, meaning to stop/halt/cease.
- *pandere* from *pando, pandere, pandi, passus* is the present active infinitive, meaning to spread out.  
so that they are able to linger by the numerous bridges and spread out their wings toward the summer sun,

*si forte morantis  
sparserit aut praeceps Neptuno immerserit Eurus.*

- *morantis* from *moror, morari, moratus sum* is the present participle (ACC), meaning to delay.
- *sparserit* from *spargo, spargere, sparsi, sparsus* is , meaning to scatter/sprinkle.

- *immerserit* from *immergeo, immergere, immersi, immersus* is , meaning to drop/plunge.
- *Neptuno* wants to be some kind of locative ablative, i.e. ‘in the ocean’ like the notes say. But I think literally we can take it as accompaniment?  
if by chance the headlong East wind will have scattered those staying or will have plunged them with Neptune.

*haec circum casiae virides et olentia late 30  
serpylla et graviter spirantis copia thymbrae  
floreat, inriguumque bibant violaria fontem.*

- *floreat* from *floreo, florere, florui* is 3rd singular present active subjunctive, meaning to flourish.
- *bibant* from *bibo, bibere, bibi, bibitus* is 3rd plural present active subjunctive, meaning to drink.  
Let this flourish about green spurge-laurels and wild thyme odorous far and wide and plenty things deeply exhaling of armotic plants, and let a bed of violets drink the moisture-bringing spring.

*ipsa autem, seu corticibus tibi suta cavatis  
seu lento fuerint alvaria vimine texta,  
angustos habeant aditus:*

- *suta* from *suo, suere, sui, sutus* is the perfect passive participle, meaning to sew together/stitch.
- *fuerint* is 3rd plural perfect active subjunctive.
- *texta* from *texo, texere, texui, textus* is the perfect passive participle, meaning to weave.
- *tibi* dative of agent, *corticibus cavatis* and *lento vimine* are ablative of means.
- *habeant* from *habeo, habere, habui, habitus* is 3rd plural present active subjunctive, meaning to have.  
But, whether the beehives were sown with hollow bark or were woven with a pliant twig by you, let them have a narrow entrance.

*nam frigore mella 35  
cogit hiems, eademque calor liquefacta remittit -  
utraq; vis apibus pariter metuenda;*

- *cogit* from *cogo, cogere, coegi, coactus* is 3rd singular present active indicative, meaning to collect/gather.
- *remittit* from *remitto, remittere, remisi, remissus* is 3rd singular present active indicative, meaning to send back, remit. In Lewis and Short: “*frigore mella Cogit hiems eademque calor liquefacta remittit,*” dissolves again, melts, Verg. G. 4, 36;
- *metuenda* from *metuo, metuere, metui* is the passive periphrastic with an implied *est*, meaning to fear/be afraid.  
For the winter congeals honey with frost, and heat dissolves the, having been melted, same - and either power ought to be equally feared by the bees.

*neque illae  
nequiquam in tectis certatim tenuia cera  
spiramenta linunt, fucoque et floribus oras  
explent, collectumque haec ipsa ad munera gluten 40*

*et visco et Phrygiae servant pice lentius Idae.*

- *linunt* from *lino*, *linere*, *levi*, *litus* is 3rd plural present active indicative, meaning to smear/plaster (with)/ seal (wine jar).
- *fucoque et floribus* is hendiadys i.e. with dye from flowers.
- *explant* from *expleo*, *explere*, *explevi*, *expletus* is 3rd plural present active indicative, meaning to fill.
- *servant* from *servo*, *servare*, *servavi*, *servatus* is 3rd plural present active indicative, meaning to watch over/protect.
- *Phrygia Ida* is Mount Ida in the ancient Troad region of western Anatolia (modern day Turkey). Nor in vain do those (bees) earnestly smear the thin vents in their house with wax, and fill the edges with dye and flowers, and they preserve glue, having been collected for this very duty, more clinging than both bird-lime and the tar of the Phrygian Ida.

*saepe etiam effossis, si vera est fama, latebris  
sub terra fovere larem, penitusque repertae  
pumicibusque cavis exesaeque arboris antro.*

- *fovere* from *foveo*, *fovere*, *fovi*, *fotus* is 3rd plural perfect active indicative, meaning to maintain.
- *effossis latebris* is an ablative of absolute.
- Don't understand why *pumicibus cavis* and *exesae antro* are seemingly dative? Likewise, if rumor is true, they often maintained a home with the lair having been dug out under the earth, and were discovered deep in both in a hollow pumice stone and a having been hollowed cave of a tree.

*tu tamen et levi rimosa cubilia limo 45  
ungue fovens circum, et raras superinice frondes.*

- *ungue* from *unguo*, *unguere*, *unxi*, *unctus* is the present active imperative, meaning to anoint/rub.
- *fovens* from *foveo*, *fovere*, *fovi*, *fotus* is the present active participle, meaning to keep warm/favor/cherish/maintain.
- *frondes* from *frondeo*, *frondere*, *frondui*, *fronditus* is the present active imperative, meaning to have/put forth leaves/be leafy. Nevertheless you, preserving them, both smear the cracked hives with smooth mud and scatter a few leaves on them.

*neu propius tectis taxum sine, neve rubentis  
ure foco caneros, altae neu crede paludi,  
aut ubi odor caeni gravis aut ubi concava pulsu  
saxa sonant vocisque offensa resultat imago. 50*

- Long string of imperative, *sine*, *ure*, *crede*, i.e. to allow, burn, and trust.
- *odor* and *gravis* are connected via an implied *est* as predicate nominative.
- *pulsu* is the second supine denoting respect. Neither permit a yew near their dwelling, nor burn red crabs with the hearth, nor trust a deep marsh, or where the the scent of mud is heavy or where the hollow stones emit sounds when being struck and the having been



struck voice's echo reverberates.

*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. 55*

- *superest* means to be left over, combining with adverbial *quod* meaning with respect to which.
- *leves* as delicately see notes.

That which left over, when the golden sun has driven the having been beaten winter under the earth and has opened heaven with its summer light, immediately those (bees) scour the glades and forests and reap purple flowers and they delicately sip the top of rivers.

*hinc nescio qua dulcedine laetae  
progeniem nidosque fovant, hinc arte recentis  
excudunt ceras et mella tenacia fingunt.*

- *hinc* as from now on, see notes.
- *arte* literally with art, notes say skilfully.

From now on, I do not know with what sweetness, they cherish the nest and family, from now on they skillfully fashion fresh wax and mould clinging honey.

*hinc ubi iam emissum caveis ad sidera caeli  
nare per aestatem liquidam suspexeris agmen  
obscuramque trahi vento mirabere nubem, 60  
contemplator:*

- Why is *suspexeris* either perfect or future perfect? Doesn't seem to flow.
- *per aestatem liquidam* translated as through the clear summer air, see notes.
- *trahi* is the passive infinitive, but I don't like my translation.
- *contemplator* is watch carefully, see notes.

From now on when you will look up to the swarm now having been expelled from the hollow toward the stars of the sky through the clear summer air and you will be amazed at the dark cloud to be drawn by the wind, watch carefully.

*aquas dulcis et frondes semper  
tecta perunt, huc tu iussos asperge saporis,  
trita melisphylla et cerinthae ignobile gramen,  
tinnitusque cie et Matris quate cymbala circum:*

they are ever in quest of sweet waters and leafy coverts. Here scatter the scents I prescribe - bruised balm, and the honeywort's lowly herb; raise a tinkling sound, and shake the Mighty Mother's cymbals round about.

*ipsae considant medicatis sedibus, ipsae 65*

*intima more suo sese in cunabula condent.*

Of themselves they settle on the scented resting places; of themselves,  
after their wont, will hide far within their cradling cells.

*Sin autem ad pugnam exierint nam saepe duobus  
regibus incessit magno discordia motu;*

But, if haply for battle they have gone forth - for strife with terrible  
turmoil has often fallen on two kings;

*continuoque animos vulgi et trepidantia bello  
corda licet longe praesciscere: namque morantis 70  
Martius ille aeris rauci canor increpat, et vox  
auditur fractos sonitus imitata tubarum;*

and straightway you may presage from afar the fury of the crowd, and how  
their hearts thrill with war; for the warlike ring of the hoarse clarion  
stirs the loiterers, and a sound is heard that is like broken trumpet  
blasts.

*tum trepidae inter se coeunt pennisque coruscant  
spiculaque exacuunt rostris aptantque lacertos  
et circa regem atque ipsa ad praetoria densae 75  
miscentur magnisque vocant clamoribus hostem;*

- *coeunt* from *coeo*, *coeire*, *coeivi*, *coitus* is 3rd plural present active indicative, meaning to rally.
- *coruscant* from *corusco*, *coruscare*, *coruscavi*, *coruscatus* is 3rd plural present active indicative, meaning to brandish.
- *exacuunt* from *exacuo*, *exacuere*, *exacui*, *exacutus* is 3rd plural present active indicative, meaning to make sharp or pointed.
- *aptant* from *apto*, *aptare* is 3rd plural present active indicative, meaning to adapt/fit.
- *miscentur* from *misceo*, *miscere*, *miscui*, *mixtus* is 3rd plural present passive indicative, meaning to mix/mingle/embroil.
- *vocant* from *voco*, *vocare* is 3rd plural present active indicative, meaning to call.

Then they nervously gather amongst themselves and quiver with their wings  
and sharpen their stings with their beaks and adjust their muscles and  
densly they are embroiled around the king and near the general's tent and  
they call the enemy with great cries.

*ergo ubi ver nactae sudum camposque patennis,  
erumpunt portis;*

- *nactae* from *nanciscor*, *nancisci*, *nactus sum* is the perfect participle, meaning to obtain/get.
- *erumpunt* from *erumpo*, *erumpere*, *erupi*, *eruptus* is 3rd plural present active indicative, meaning to burst/sally forth/out.

Therefore when they obtained a dry spring day and open plains, they burst  
forth from their gates;

*concurritur, aethere in alto*  
*fit sonitus, magnum mixtae glomerantur in orbem*  
*praecipitesque cadunt;*

- *concurritur* from *concurro, concurrere, concucurri, concursus* is 3rd singular present passive indicative, meaning to run/assemble. Not sure how to translate this impersonal.
- *fit* from *fio, feri, factus sum* is 3rd singular present active indicative, and is the passive of *facio*.
- *mixtae* from *misceo, miscere, miscui, mixtus* is the perfect passive participle, meaning to mix/mingle/embroil.
- *glomerantur* from *glomero, glomerare* is 3rd plural present passive indicative, meaning to collect/assemble.
- *cadunt* from *cado, cadere, cecidi, casus* is 3rd plural present active indicative, meaning to fall/sink/die.  
 there is a flocking together, in the high sky a loud sound is made, they, having been mingled, are amassed into a great sphere and they headlong plummet.

*non densior aëre grando, 80*  
*nec de concussa tantum pluit ilice glandis:*  
*ipsi per medias acies insignibus alis*  
*ingentis animos angusto in pectore versant,*  
*usque adeo obnixa non cedere dum gravis aut hos*  
*aut hos versa fuga victor dare terga subegit. 85*  
*hi motus animorum atque haec certamina tanta*  
*pulveris exigui iactu compressa quiescent.*

no thicker is hail from the sky, nor to such a extent does it rain of acorns from the shaken oak: In the midst of the battle-lines the chiefs themselves, with resplendent wings, turn over great souls in their small hearts, ever steadfast not to yield, until the heavy victor drives under either this or this to turn their backs in flight. These movements of the spirits, these contests of such size, they will be kept quiet, having been compressed, by a toss of a little dust.

*Verum ubi ductores acie revocaveris ambo,*  
*deterior qui visus, eum, ne prodigus obsit,*  
*dede neci; melior vacua sine regnet in aula. 90*  
*alter erit maculis auro squalentibus ardens;*  
*nam duo sunt genera: hic melior insignis et ore*  
*et rutilis clarus squamis; ille horridus alter*  
*desidia latamque trahens inglorius alvum.*

But when you have called both captains from the battle-line, give to death he that seemed worse, lest the wasteful one is a nuisance, allow the better reign in the hall alone. The one will be shining with rough spots of gold; for there are two kinds: this better one, noble of expression and bright with red scales;

*ut binae regum facies, ita corpora plebis.* 95

As the features of the kings are twofold, so are the bodies of the subject.

*namque aliae turpes horrent, ceu pulvere ab alto  
cum venit et sicco terram spuit ore viator  
aridus; elucent aliae et fulgore coruscant  
ardentes auro et paribus lita corpora guttis.*

For some ugly ones tremble, as when the thirsty traveler comes from the deep dust, and spits earth from his dried mouth. Other gleam, and flash with lightning, their bodies all ablaze and flecked with equal specks of gold.

*haec potior suboles, hinc caeli tempore certo* 100  
*dulcia mella premes, nec tantum dulcia quantum  
et liquida et durum Bacchi domitura saporem.*

- Implied *est* on *haec... suboles*.
- *certo* as appointed see notes.
- *tantum... quantum* is a coordinating conjunction meaning as much... as.
- Implied *sunt* on *domitura* turning it into the active periphrastic, which denotes a future or intended action.

This is the better race, from these you will press sweet honeys during the appointed season of the sky, nor so much sweet as to both be clear and intended to subdue the harsh flavor of wine.

*At cum incerta volant caeloque examina ludunt  
contemnuntque favos et frigida tecta relinquunt,  
instabilis animos ludo prohibebis inani.* 105

- Note *incerta* and *caelo* don't match in gender, and therefore cannot match in the ablative.
- *frigida* is in the proleptic use, see notes.
- Note that *prohibebis* is future and being used as a placeholder for imperative.

But when the uncertain swarms fly and play in the sky and pay no heed to their honeycomb and abandon their houses to get cold, you will restrain their unsteady mind from inane play.

*nec magnus prohibere labor: tu regibus alas  
eripe; non illis quisquam cunctantibus altum  
ire iter aut castris audebit vellere signa.*

- Jesus Vergil, chill with your bee abuse.
- Implied impersonal *est* connecting *magnus labor*.
- *iter* as aloft, see notes.

Nor is it a great labor to restrain them: snatch away the wings from the kings; No one from those hesitating kings will dare to go aloft or pluck the battle standard from the camps.

*invitent croceis halantes floribus horti  
et custos furum atque avium cum falce saligna* 110  
*Hellespontiaci servet tutela Priapi.*

- Subjunctives here are hortatory.
- Genitive as against, see notes. Objective genitive.  
Let gardens being fragrant with golden flowers invite them and let the guard against thieves and birds, protector of Hellespontia Priapus, watch over them with his willow sickle.

*ipse thymum pinosque ferens de montibus altis  
tectata serat late circum cui talia curae;  
ipse labore manum duro terat, ipse feracis  
figat humo plantas et amicos inriget imbris.* 115

- Note on *et... imbris* here makes no sense, *amicos* is accusative.  
Let he to whom the concerns are such, himself, bringing thyme and pine from the high mountains, plant them around their homes;  
let he himself wear out his hand with hard labor, himself fasten fruitful cuttings in the ground and let him water the friendly streams.

*Atque equidem, extremo ni iam sub fine laborum  
vela traham et terris festinem advertere proram,  
forsitan et pinguis hortos quae cura colendi  
ornaret canerem, biferique rosaria Paesti,  
quoque modo potis gauderent intiba rivis* 120  
*et virides apio ripae, tortusque per herbam  
cresceret in ventrem cucumis;*

- *sub* and *fine* seem superfluous, will ignore one? Notes, save me! NOO!
- Note *canderem* is imperfect. Why is this mixed like this? I don't know!
- Note makes no sense on *protis... rivis*. Drinking? *potis* is a p.p.p if anything.
- WTF?

and indeed, if I were not under the extreme edge of my labor, dragging my sails and hastening to turn the prow to land, perhaps I might also sing of what care of cultivating decorates rich gardens and of the twice-blooming roses of Paestum, and in what manner the endives are glad with the having been drunk streams and the banks green with celery are glad, and in what manner the cucumber having been twisted through the grass comes forth into it's belly.

*nec sera comantem  
narcissum aut flexi tacuissem vimen acanthi  
pallentisque hederas et amantis litora myrtos.*

- What the fuck is *amantis litora myrtos*. Two accusative, some kind of indirect statement?  
Nor would I have been silent about the late-flowering narcissus or the twig of the having been bent bear's foot and the pale ivy and the Mrytles

that the shores are loving.