

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

1 *Protinus aërii mellis caelestia dona*

2 *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.

2 *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.

3 *admiranda tibi levium spectacula rerum*

4 *magnanimosque duces totiusque ordine gentis*

5 *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, 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,
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, constitutus* 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
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 aromatic 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
cogit hiems, eademque calor liquefacta remittit -
utraq; vis apibus pariter metuenda; neque illae
nequiquam in tectis certatim tenuia cera
spiramenta linunt, fucoque 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 caneros, altae neu 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*