



Vergil's Aeneid

*Selected Readings
from Books 1, 2, 4, and 6*

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Vix ē cōspectū Siculae tellūris in altum
 35 vēla dabant laetī et spūmās salis aere ruēbant,
 cum Iūnō aeternum servāns sub pectore vulnus
 haec sēcum: "Mēne inceptō dēsistere victam
 nec posse Ītaliā Teucrōrum āvertere rēgem!
 Quippe vetor fātis. Pallasne exūrere classem
 40 Argīvum atque ipsōs potuit summergere pontō

aes, aeris *n.* bronze
aeternus, a, um eternal, everlasting
altum, ī *n.* the deep (sea)
Argīvus, a, um Argive, Greek
āvertō, ere, ī, rsus keep off, turn aside
cōspectus, ūs *m.* sight, view
dēsistō, ere, stitī, stitus cease (from),
 desist
exūrō, ere, ussī, ustus burn (up)
inceptum, ī *n.* beginning, undertaking,
 purpose

Pallas, adis *f.* Minerva, goddess of wisdom
 and the arts
pontus, ī *m.* sea
quippe truly, indeed, surely
sal, salis *n.* (or *m.*) salt (water), sea
Siculus, a, um Sicilian, of Sicily, a large
 island south of Italy
summergō (subm-), ere, rsī, rsus sink,
 drown
spūma, ae *f.* foam, froth, spray
vetō, āre, uī, itus forbid, prevent
vulnus, eris *n.* wound, blow

34-49. Aeneas and the Trojans set sail from Sicily for Italy, as they hope, happy at the prospect of the end of their wanderings. Juno gives a bitter soliloquy, chafing at the apparent failure of her plans to keep Aeneas and the Trojans from reaching Italy.

34. The reader is now plunged in **mediās rēs**: "into the midst of the action," and is abruptly introduced to Aeneas and his followers sailing away from the coast of Sicily. They have now been wandering for seven years since the destruction of Troy, their native city. These earlier events (the fall of Troy and their seven years of wandering) are later on narrated by Aeneas to Dido (Books 2 and 3).

35. **laetī (Trōes)**: subject of **dabant**. **spūmās salis aere ruēbant**: note the AL-LITERATION. **salis**: METONYMY for the salt water of the sea. **aere**: the prows of the ships were sheathed with bronze; this too is a METONYMY, for the prows or even the ships themselves.

36-37. **Iūnō . . . haec sēcum (dixit)**.

36. **aeternum vulnus**: the causes of this anger have been given above: her fear for Carthage, the Judgment of Paris, her love for the Greeks and hatred of the Trojans. **sub pectore**: deep in her heart.

37. **sēcum = cum sē**; App. 321, *a*; **mē**: subject of **dēsistere** and **nec posse**. **Mēne**: -ne is the interrog. particle appended to the pron. **mē**.

37-38. **dēsistere . . . nec posse**: infs. in an exclamatory quest.: *Am I, beaten, to desist from my undertaking and not to be able?*, etc.; App. 262. **(ab) inceptō**: abl. of separation; App. 340. **victam**: from **vincō**; it modifies **mē**.

38. **(ab) Ītaliā**: abl. of separation; App. 340. **Teucrōrum**: the Trojans are often referred to as **Teucrī**, a name derived from Teucer, one of the founders of the Trojan people.

39. **Quippe vetor**: ironical. **fātis**: abl. of means; App. 331. -ne = **nōne**. **Pallas (Athēna)**: Minerva.

40. **Argīvum**: = **Argīvōrum**; App. 37, *d*. **ipsōs**: (*the masters*) themselves, i.e., the Argives, as contrasted with **classem**. **Ipse** often means *the master*, the one of most importance

ūnius ob noxam et furiās Aiācis Oileī?
 Ipsa Iovis rapidum iaculāta ē nūbibus ignem
 disiēcitque ratēs ēvertitque aequora ventis,
 illum expīrantem trānsfixō pectore flammās
 45 turbine corripuit scopulōque īnfixit acūtō;
 ast ego, quae dīvum incēdō rēgīna Iovisque
 et soror et coniūnx, ūnā cum gente tot annōs

acūtus, a, um sharp, pointed
Aiāx, ācis *m.* Greek leader, who in the sack of Troy had taken Priam's daughter, Cassandra, by force from the sanctuary of Minerva
annus, ī *m.* year
corripō, ere, uī, reptus snatch (up)
disiēciō, ere, iēcī, iectus scatter, disperse
ēvertō, ere, ī, rsus (over)turn
expīrō (1) breathe out, exhale
furiae, ārum *f.* madness, rage
iaculor, āri, ātus hurl, throw
incēdō, ere, cessī, cessus walk (proudly), stride

īnfigō, ere, xī, xus fasten on, impale
noxā, ae *f.* crime, fault, hurt, harm
nūbēs, is *f.* cloud, mist, fog
ob on account of (+ *acc.*)
Oileus, ei *m.* Greek king, father of Ajax
rapidus, a, um swift, whirling,
 consuming
ratis, is *f.* raft, ship
scopulus, ī *m.* rock, cliff, crag
soror, ōris *f.* sister
tot so many
trānsfigō, ere, xī, xus pierce, transfix
turbō, inis *m.* whirl(wind, pool), storm

in a situation, as contrasted with persons or things of less importance. **pontō**: abl. of place where; App. 319, or abl. of means; App. 331.

41. **ūnius Aiācis Oileī**: a whole fleet was destroyed on account of one man. For the short -i- in **ūnius** see the note on **illius** (16). **ob noxam et furiās**: Ajax, son of Oileus, had desecrated the temple of Minerva during the sack of Troy, when before the very altar of the sanctuary he had seized Cassandra, daughter of Priam and priestess of Minerva. Enraged at such rash irreverence, Minerva later sank the ship of Ajax and destroyed him with lightning. **Aiācis Oileī**: of Ajax (son) of Oileus. The first letter of **Oileī** is a single short syllable; the following -ī- is a long syllable; and the ending -ēī is here read as one syllable by SYNIZESIS. This Ajax was less renowned than another Greek hero of the same name, Ajax, son of Telamon.

42. **Ipsa**: (*The goddess, Minerva*) in person. She was the only divinity, except Jupiter, who

could hurl Jupiter's lightning; Juno did not have this ability. **Iovis ignem**: lightning.

43. -que . . . -que: both . . . and; POLYSYN-DETON. **ventis**: abl. of means.

44. **illum (Aiācem)**: with emphatic first position, which contrasts it with the ships and the sea previously mentioned. **(ex) pectore**: abl. of separation; App. 340.

45. **turbine**: abl. of means; App. 331. **(Pallas) corripuit. scopulō**: dat. with compound verb **īnfixit**, or abl. of place where, as **īnfigō** may take either construction; App. 298, 319.

46. **ego**: with proud self-consciousness and in contrast with Minerva; **ego** is usually not expressed unless emphatic. **dīv(ōr)um**: App. 37, *d*.

47. **tot annōs**: acc. of extent (duration) of time; App. 314; ten years around Troy, and now seven more years while the Trojans wander. **ūnā cum gente = cum Teucrīs**. Note the pattern adj.+prep.+noun in this phrase, a pattern very frequent in Vergil and in Latin poetry generally.

49 *bella gerō. Et quisquam nūmen Iūnōnis adōrat
praetereā aut supplex āris impōnet honōrem?"*

adōrō (1) worship, adore, honor
gerō, ere, gessi, gestus carry (on), wage
impōnō, ere, posuī, positus place on (+
dat.)

praetereā *adv.* besides, hereafter
quisquam, quaequam, quicquam
any(one), any(thing)
supplex, icis suppliant, humble

48. **gerō:** of past action continued into the pres.; App. 351, 1, *b*. **Et quisquam:** Juno thinks to herself, "Can any one hereafter respect me, if I show myself such a weakling?" Her use of the pron. **quisquam** implies that the answer, if expressed, would be "no." This figure is called a RHETORICAL QUESTION;

Juno does not really expect an answer. **Iūnōnis = meum:** Juno is speaking, but the use of her own name is more picturesque and effective than the use of the possessive adj.

49. **supplex:** (*as a*) suppliant. **āris:** dat. with compound verb; App. 298. **honōrem:** honor, i.e., an offering which would honor Juno.

50 *Tālia flammātō sēcum dea corde volūtāns
nimbōrum in patriam, loca fēta furentibus Austrīs,
Aeoliam venit. hīc vastō rēx Aeolus antrō
luctantēs ventōs tempestātēsque sonōrās
imperīō premit ac vinclīs et carcere frēnat.*
55 *Illī indignantēs magnō cum murmure montis
circum claustra fremunt; celsā sedet Aeolus arce
scēptra tenēns molliitque animōs et temperat irās.*

Aeolia, ae f. one of the Liparian Islands near Sicily
Aeolus, ī m. god of the winds
antrum, ī n. cave, cavern
Auster, trī m. (south) wind
carcer, eris m. prison, inclosure
celsus, a, um lofty, high, towering
claustrum, ī n. bar(rier), bolt
cor, cordis n. heart, spirit, feelings
fētus, a, um teeming, pregnant
flammō (1) inflame, kindle
fremō, ere, uī, itus murmur, roar
frēnō (1) curb, check, restrain
indignor, āri, ātus be angry, chafe

luctor, āri, ātus wrestle, struggle
mollīō, ire, īvī (ii), itus soothe, tame
murmur, uris n. murmur, roar, rumble
nimbus, ī m. storm cloud, rainstorm
patria, ae f. homeland, country
premō, ere, pressī, pressus (re)press, control
scēptrum, ī n. staff, scepter, power
sedeō, ēre, sēdī, sessus sit
sonōrus, a, um roaring, howling
temperō (1) control, calm, refrain
tempestās, ātis f. tempest, storm
vinc(u)lum, ī n. bond, chain
volūtō (1) roll, revolve, ponder

50-80. Juno persuades Aeolus, god of the winds, to send forth a storm to prevent Aeneas and the Trojans from reaching Italy.

50. **Tālia:** used substantively, as obj. of **volūtāns**; *such things*, i.e., *such thoughts*. **(in) flammātō corde:** abl. of place where; App. 319. **sēcum = cum sē,** as in 37; App. 321, *a*.

51. **patriam:** with the first syllable short; App. 17. **Austrīs:** abl. with **fēta**, lit., *south winds*, but often meaning *winds* in general; App. 433. **fēta furentibus:** note the ALLITERATION.

51-52. **loca . . . Aeoliam:** both nouns in apposition with **patriam**. **Hīc:** adv., *here*. **(in) vastō antrō:** abl. of place where; App. 319.

54. **vinclīs:** the syncopated form of **vinculis**, which because of its central short syllable can not be used in hexameter. **imperīō, vinc(u)lis, carcere:** abls. of means; App. 331. The two nouns **vinclīs** and **carcere** may be understood as a true pair, or may be translated as an example of HENDIADYS: "by means of the restraints of their prison"; App. 425. **frēnat:** a picture drawn from managing spirited horses, as in 63, **premere et dare laxās habēnās**.

55. **magnō cum murmure montis:** ALLITERATION and ONOMATOPOEIA; **murmure** is abl. of manner; App. 328.

56. **(in) celsā arce:** abl. of place, apparently a lofty seat within the cave or just outside on a mountain top.

57. **scēptra:** for the use of the poetic plural see the note on **irae** (11). **animōs (ventōrum) et irās (ventōrum).**