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Virgil Aeneid I, IV and VI**

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Virgil Aeneid I, IV and VI

Aeneid I

Extract 1

In English

The goddess Juno fears for the fate of Carthage if the Trojans are allowed to settle in Italy, knowing that the future Romans will be its enemy. Furthermore, she still resents the judgment of Paris, the Trojan prince, who gave the prize for the most beautiful to Venus.

It is said that Juno cared more for this one city than all other lands, caring less even for Samos: here were her weapons and her chariot; the goddess planned and worked for Carthage to be ruler of all the nations, if the Fates would allow it. But she had heard of a line descended from Trojan blood,
5 which one day would topple the Tyrian citadel; from it would come a powerful people, proud in war, to the ruin of Libya; so the Fates foretold. The daughter of Saturn was afraid; she remembered the ancient war she had fought at Troy for her beloved Argos; and the root of her fury and her bitter grievance had not yet faded from her memory. The judgment of Paris long ago, and the contemptuous insult to her beauty, smouldered deep in her
10 heart.

Extract 2

In Latin

Aeneas sees Dido for the first time, in all her beauty and majesty.

haec dum Dardanio Aeneae miranda videntur,
dum stupet, obtutuque haeret defixus in uno,
regina ad templum, forma pulcherrima Dido,
incessit magna iuvenum stipante caterva.
5 qualis in Eurotae ripis aut per iuga Cynthi
exercet Diana choros, quam mille secutae
hinc atque hinc glomerantur Oreades; illa pharetram
fert umero, gradiensque deas supereminet omnes:
(Latonae tacitum pertemptant gaudia pectus):
10 talis erat Dido, talem se laeta ferebat
per medios, instans operi regnisque futuris.

Extract 3

In Latin

Juno seeks the chance to sabotage Aeneas' destiny. She persuades Venus, Aeneas' mother, that it is in Aeneas' interests to stay at Carthage. Dido puts on a splendid banquet for Aeneas and his men. During the banquet Venus' son Cupid takes the place of Aeneas' son Ascanius, and while Dido plays with the child, he casts his spell on her, and she falls in love with Aeneas.

praecipue infelix, pesti devota futurae,
expleri mentem nequit ardescitque tuendo
Phoenissa, et pariter puero donisque movetur.
ille ubi complexu Aeneae colloque pependit
5 et magnum falsi implevit genitoris amorem,
reginam petit. haec oculis, haec pectore toto
haeret et interdum gremio fovet, inscia Dido,
insidat quantus miserae deus. at memor ille
matris Acidaliae paulatim abolere Sychaeum
10 incipit, et vivo temptat praevertere amore
iam pridem resides animos desuetaque corda.

Aeneid IV

Extract 4

In Latin

As her passion for Aeneas takes hold, Dido becomes obsessed.

uritur infelix Dido totaque vagatur
urbe furens, qualis coniecta cerva sagitta,
quam procul incautam nemora inter Cresia fixit
pastor agens telis liquitque volatile ferrum
5 nescius: illa fuga silvas saltusque peragrat
Dictaeos; haeret lateri letalis harundo.

Extract 5

In Latin

The Carthaginians and the Trojans organise a hunt in the mountains, and during a storm Juno's plan to bring Dido and Aeneas together is fulfilled.

interea magno misceri murmure caelum
incipit, insequitur commixta grandine nimbus,
et Tyrii comites passim et Troiana iuventus
Dardaniusque nepos Veneris diversa per agros
5 tecta metu petiere; ruunt de montibus amnes.
speluncam Dido dux et Troianus eandem
deveniunt. prima et Tellus et pronuba luno
dant signum; fulsere ignes et conscius aether
conubiis summoque ulularunt vertice Nymphae.
10 ille dies primus leti primusque malorum
causa fuit; neque enim specie famave movetur
nec iam furtivum Dido meditatur amorem:
coniugium vocat, hoc praetexit nomine culpam.

Extract 6

In English

All through the winter, Dido and Aeneas enjoy their love affair. Aeneas forgets about his destiny, and Dido forgets about building her city. But Iarbas, an African king who loves Dido, prays to his father Jupiter to get rid of Aeneas. Jupiter sends Mercury, the messenger god, to remind Aeneas of his duty and tell him to get on his way to Italy.

Mercury confronted Aeneas at once: “Are you laying the foundations of tall Carthage, and so fond of your wife that you are building her a fine city? To your shame, forgetting your responsibilities? The King of the Gods himself, who shakes heaven and earth with his power, has sent me from glorious
5 Olympus: he has ordered me to bring his commands through the rushing winds. What are you trying to achieve? Why are you wasting time in the land of Libya? If glory, and your duty, do not compel you, and if you will not make an effort even for your own honour, think of your young son Ascanius, and his expectations as Iulus, your heir, who is destined to inherit the
10 kingdom of Italy and the Roman lands.”

So spoke Mercury, and still speaking, he vanished from mortal vision and faded into thin air before his eyes.

Extract 7

In Latin

Aeneas is horrified by Mercury's message. At once, he makes plans to leave Carthage. But before he can break the news to Dido, she finds out and confronts him.

at vero Aeneas aspectu obmutuit amens,
arrectaeque horrore comae et vox faucibus haesit.
ardet abire fuga dulcesque relinquere terras,
attonitus tanto monitu imperioque deorum.

5 heu quid agat? quo nunc reginam ambire furem
audeat adfatu? quae prima exordia sumat?

at regina dolos (quis fallere possit amantem?)
praesensit, motusque excepit prima futuros
omnia tuta timens. eadem impia Fama furenti
10 detulit armari classem cursumque parari.
saevit inops animi totamque incensa per urbem
bacchatur, qualis commotis excita sacris
Thyias, ubi audito stimulant trieterica Baccho
orgia nocturnusque vocat clamore Cithaeron.

15 tandem his Aenean compellat vocibus ultro:
“dissimulare etiam sperasti, perfide, tantum
posse nefas tacitusque mea decedere terra?
nec te noster amor nec te data dextera quondam
nec moritura tenet crudeli funere Dido?

20 quin etiam hiberno moliri sidere classem
et mediis properas Aquilonibus ire per altum,
crudelis? quid, si non arva aliena domosque
ignotas peteres, et Troia antiqua maneret,
Troia per undosum peteretur classibus aequor?

25 mene fugis? per ego has lacrimas dextramque tuam te
(quando aliud mihi iam miserae nihil ipsa reliqui),
per conubia nostra, per inceptos hymenaeos,
si bene quid de te merui, fuit aut tibi quicquam
dulce meum, miserere domus labentis et istam,
30 oro, si quis adhuc precibus locus, exue mentem.

Extract 8

In English

Dido tells Aeneas all that she has given up for him, and what the future holds for her.

“Because of you, the Libyan people, and the kings of Numidia, despise me; my Tyrians are furious: also because of you my good name is ruined, and my dignity, by which alone I might have reached the stars. To whose mercy are you going to abandon me – guest? That’s all I have left of the name of husband. What have I got to look forward to? For my brother Pygmalion to batter down my walls, or Gaetulian Iarbas take me as a captive bride? At least if I had conceived a child by you, a little Aeneas to play in my palace, and remind me of you by his appearance, I might not feel so totally trapped and abandoned.”

Extract 9

In Latin

Aeneas tries to defend himself, and explains his actions, saying that he has never made any promise to stay.

tandem pauca refert: “ego te, quae plurima fando
enumerare vales, numquam, regina, negabo
promeritam, nec me meminisse pigebit Elissae
dum memor ipse mei, dum spiritus hos regit artus.
5 pro re pauca loquar. neque ego hanc abscondere furto
speravi (ne finge) fugam, nec coniugis umquam
praetendi taedas aut haec in foedera veni.
me si fata meis paterentur ducere vitam
auspiciis et sponte mea componere curas,
10 urbem Troianam primum dulcesque meorum
reliquias colerem, Priami tecta alta manerent,
et recidiva manu posuisset Pergama victis.”

Extract 10

In Latin

Aeneas tells about his duty and the warnings from the gods, but finishes by cruelly brushing Dido’s pleadings aside.

“me patris Anchisae, quotiens umentibus umbris
nox operit terras, quotiens astra ignea surgunt,
admonet in somnis et turbida terret imago;
me puer Ascanius capitisque iniuria cari,
5 quem regno Hesperiae fraudo et fatalibus arvis.
nunc etiam interpretis divum love missus ab ipso
(testor utrumque caput) celeres mandata per auras
detulit: ipse deum manifesto in lumine vidi
intransentem muros vocemque his auribus hausit.
10 desine meque tuis incendere teque querelis;
Italiam non sponte sequor.”

Extract 11

In Latin

Dido tells him to go, but warns him that he will be punished.

- “i, sequere Italiam ventis, pete regna per undas.
spero equidem mediis, si quid pia numina possunt,
supplicia hausurum scopulis et nomine Dido
saepe vocaturum. sequar atris ignibus absens
5 et, cum frigida mors anima seduxerit artus,
omnibus umbra locis adero. dabis, improbe, poenas.
audiam et haec Manes veniet mihi fama sub imos.”

Extract 12

In English

Dido curses the Trojans, praying that they may never be at peace with Carthage.

- “Then you, Tyrians, treat the whole race of his descendants with hatred, and pay some honour to my ashes. Let there never be friendship or alliance between these peoples. Arise, some avenger, from my bones, to harry the Trojans with fire and sword, now, or some day in the future, when the
5 strength will offer itself. Coast shall defy coast, wave defy wave, weapon defy weapon; let them fight, them and their descendants.”

Extract 13

In Latin

Dido makes her servants build a funeral pyre, supposedly for a religious ritual to help her forget Aeneas. But then, to everyone's horror, she takes her own life with Aeneas' sword. Before she dies she remembers her achievements and how Aeneas' arrival has brought her dreams to nothing.

- “urbem praeclaram statui, mea moenia vidi,
ulta virum poenas inimico a fratre recepi,
felix, heu nimium felix, si litora tantum
numquam Dardaniae tetigissent nostra carinae.”
5 dixit, et os impressa toro “moriemur inultae,
sed moriamur” ait. “sic, sic iuvat ire sub umbras.
hauriat hunc oculis ignem crudelis ab alto
Dardanus, et nostrae secum ferat omina mortis.”
dixerat, atque illam media inter talia ferro
10 conlapsam aspiciunt comites, ensemque cruore
spumantem sparsasque manus.

Aeneid VI

Extract 14

In English

Aeneas meets the unforgiving Dido in the Underworld.

Among them Phoenician Dido wandered in the great wood, her wound still raw. When the Trojan hero came close and recognised her, through the deep shadows, like someone who sees, or thinks he sees, the moon rising through the clouds at the beginning of the month, he wept, and addressed her with tenderness:

“Unhappy Dido, so the news that came to me of your death was true then, that you had taken your life with a sword? Was I the cause of your death? I swear by the stars, by the gods of heaven, and if there is any truth in the depths of the earth, my queen, I left your shores unwillingly. But the commands of the gods, that now drive me to descend through the shades, through places mouldering with decay, and deepest night, now compel me by their authority. I could not believe that my leaving could have brought you so much grief. Stay a moment, do not withdraw from my sight. Who are you fleeing from? This is the last time I am fated to speak to you.”

Extract 15

In Latin

talibus Aeneas ardentem et torva tuentem
lenibat dictis animum lacrimasque ciebat.
illa solo fixos oculos aversa tenebat
nec magis incepto vultum sermone movetur
5 quam si dura silex aut stet Marpesia cautes.
tandem corripuit sese atque inimica refugit
in nemus umbriferum, coniunx ubi pristinus illi
respondet curis aequatque Sychaeus amorem.
nec minus Aeneas casu percussus iniquo
10 prosequitur lacrimis longe et miseratur euntem.

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