

Aeneid II. 1-56

- 1 Conticuere omnēs intentīque ōra tenēbant
All became silent and were holding, intent, [their] faces;
- 2 inde torō pater Aenēās sic ōrsus ab altō:
then father Aeneas began thus from the high couch:
- 3 “Infandum, rēgīna, iubēs renovāre dolōrem,
“queen, you order [me] to renew unspeakable sorrow,
- 4 Trōiānās ut opēs et lāmentābile rēgnū
how the Greeks overthrew the Trojan powers and pitiable kingdom,
- 5 ēruerint Danaī, quaeque ipse miserrima vīdī
and very miserable things which I myself saw
- 6 et quōrum pars magna fuī. quis tālia fandō
and of which I was a great part. In speaking such things what soldier
- 7 Myrmidonum Dolopumve aut durī mīles Ūlixī
of the Myrmidons or the Dolopes or of harsh Ulysses
- 8 temperet ā lacrimīs? Et iam nox ūmida caelō
could refrain from tears? Even now the night falls in/ from the deny sky
- 9 praecipitat suādentque cadentia sīdera somnōs.
and the falling stars are advising sleep.
- 10 Sed sī tantus amor cāsūs cognōscere nostrōs
But if [your] desire [is] so great to know our misfortunes
- 11 et breviter Trōiae suprēmum audīre labōrem,
and briefly to hear the final labor of the Trojans,
- 12 quamquam animus meminisse horret lūctūque refūgit,
although my soul shudders to remember and recoils from the sorrow,
- 13 incipiam. Frāctī bellō fātisque repulsī,
I will begin. The leaders of the Greeks, broken by war and repulsed by fates,
- 14 ductōrēs Danaum tot iam lābentibus annīs
with so many years gliding by now,
- 15 īnstar montis equum dīvinā Palladis arte
build a horse, the image of a mountain, by the divine skill of Minerva,
- 16 aedificant, sectāque intexunt abiete costās;
and they cover the sides with cut pine;
- 17 vōtūm prō reditū simulant; ea fāma vagātur.
they pretend [it is] a offering for their return; this rumor spreads.
- 18 Hūc dēlēcta virum sortītī corpora fūrtim
In this place they, having drawn lots, enclose the chosen bodies of men secretly,
- 19 inclūdunt caecō laterī penitusque cavernās
in the dark side and within they fill the huge caverns
- 20 ingentēs utrumque armātō mīlite complent.

and the belly with armed soldiery.
 21 est in cōspectū Tenedos, nōtissima fāmā
 Tenedos is in sight, an island very famous by reputation,
 22 īnsula, dīves opum Priamī dum rēgna manēbant,
 rich in wealth while the kingdoms of Priam remained,
 23 nunc tantum sinus et statiō male fīda carīnīs:
 now only a harbor and a station badly safe for keels/ ships:
 24 hūc sē prōvectī dēsertō in lītore condunt;
 in this place having been carried they hide themselves on the forsaken shore;
 25 nōs abiisse ratī et ventō petiisse Mycēnās.
 we supposed that [they] had gone away and had sought Mycenae on the wind.
 26 “Ergō omnis longō solvit sē Teucra lūctū.
 Therefore all Troy frees itself from long sorrow.
 27 Panduntur portae; iuvat ire et Dōrica castra
 Gates are opened; it is pleasing both to go to the Doric camps and
 28 dēsertōsque vidēre locōs lītusque relictum:
 to see the deserted places and the relinquished shore:
 29 hīc Dolopum manus, hīc saevus tendēbat Achillēs;
 here [was] the band of Greeks, here savage Achilles was exercising / living:
 30 classibus hīc locus, hīc aciē certāre solēbant.
 here [was] the place for the fleets, here they were accustomed to fight in a battle line.
 31 Pars stupet innūptae dōnum exitiāle Minervae
 Part [of them] stand agape at the fatal gift of virgin Minerva
 32 et mōlem mīrantur equī; prīmusque Thymoetēs
 and wondered at the mass of the horse; and first of all Thymoetes
 33 dūcī intrā mūrōs hortātur et arce locārī,
 urges [it] to be led into the walls and to be placed in the citadel,
 34 sīve dolō seu iam Trōiae sīc fāta ferēbant.
 whether through deceit or whether the fates of Troy were bearing/ tending thus already.
 35 At Capys, et quōrum melior sententia mentī,
 But Capys, and [those] in whose mind the opinion [was] better,
 36 aut pelagō Danaum īnsidiās suspectaque dōna
 order [them] to hurl down the ambush of the Greeks and the suspicious gifts into the
 37 praecipitāre iubent subiectīsque ūrere flammīs,
 and to burn [them] with flames placed underneath,
 38 aut terebrāre cavās uterī et temptāre latebrās.
 or to pierce the hollows of the belly and to examine the hiding places.
 39 Scinditur incertum studia in contrāria vulgus.
 The uncertain crowd is split into opposite desires.
 40 Prīmus ibi ante omnēs, magnā comitante catervā

The first before them all, with a great crowd accompanying him,
41 Lāocoōn ārdēns summā dēcurrit ab arce,
Laocoon, burning/eager, runs down from the highest citadel,
42 et procul, ‘O miserī, quae tanta īnsānia, cīvēs?
and from afar [says], “Oh unfortunate citizens, what [is this] so great madness?
43 Crēditis āvectōs hostēs? Aut ūlla putātis
Do you believe that the enemies have been carried away? Or do you think that any
44 dōna carēre dolis Danaum? Sīc nōtus Ulixēs?
gifts of the Greeks are lacking in tricks? Is Ulysses thus famous?
45 Aut hōc inclūsī lignō occultantur Achīvī,
Either the Greeks are hidden shut up in this lumber,
46 aut haec in nostrōs fabricāta est māchina mūrōs,
or this device has been built [to go] against our walls,
47 īnspectūra domōs ventūraque dēsūper urbī,
in order to look down upon [our] homes and to come upon the city from above,
48 aut aliquis latet error; equō nē crēdite, Teucrī.
or some other trick lies hidden; do not believe the horse, Trojans.
49 Quidquid id est, timeō Danaōs et dōna ferentēs.’
Whatever it is, I fear the Greeks, even bearing gifts.”
50 Sīc fātus, validīs ingentem vīribus hastam
Having spoken thus, he hurled a huge spear with mighty strength
51 in latus inque ferī curvam compāgibus aluum
into the flank and into the belly of the beast, curved with joints.
52 contorsit. Stetit illa tremēns, uterōque recussō
That [spear] stood fixed, quivering, and in the shaken belly
53 īnsuēre cauae gemitumque dedēre cavernae.
the hollow cavities resounded and gave a groan.
54 et, sī fāta deum, sī mēns nōn laeva fuisset,
And, if the fates of the gods, if their mind/intention had not been unfavorable,
55 impulerat ferrō Argolicās foedāre latebrās,
he [would have] compelled [us] to defile the Argive hiding places with iron,
56 Trōiaque nunc stāret, Priamīque arx alta manērēs.”
and Troy would now stand, and you would remain, lofty citadel of Priam.