

- 526 Ecce autem elāpsus Pyrrhī dē caede Polītēs,
Behold however Polites having escaped from the slaughter of Pyrrhus,
- 527 ūnus nātōrum Priamī, per tēla, per hostēs
one of the sons of Priam, through weapons, through enemies
- 528 porticibus longīs fugit et vacua ātria lūstrat
he flees in the long corridors and surveys the empty halls,
- 529 saucius. Illum ārdēns īfestō vulnere Pyrrhus
wounded. Pyrrhus, eager/burning, follows him with a deadly blow,
- 530 īnsequitur, iam iamque manū tenet et premit hastā.
and now, now he takes [him] with his hand and presses with the spear.
- 531 Ut tandem ante oculōs ēvāsit et ōra parentum,
Finally, as he escaped / came forth before eyes and faces of his parents,
- 532 concidit ac multō vītā cum sanguine fūdīt.
he fell and poured out his life with much blood.
- 533 Hīc Priamus, quamquam in mediā iam morte tenētur,
Here Priam, although he is held now in the middle of death,
- 534 nōn tamen abstinuit nec vōcī īraeque pepercit:
nevertheless did not restrain [himself] nor spare his voice and wrath:
- 535 ‘At tibi prō scelere,’ exclāmat, ‘prō tālibus ausīs
“For this crime,” he shouts, “for such deeds having been dared,
- 536 dī, sī qua est caelō pietās quae tālia cūret,
may the gods, if there is any honor in heaven which cares about such things,
- 537 persolvant grātēs dignās et praemia reddant
pay in full deserved thanks to you and return the gifts owed,
- 538 dēbita, quī nātī cōram mē cernere lētum
who have made me see the death of my son face to face
- 539 fēcistī et patriōs foedāstī fūnere vultūs.
and defiled the fatherly faces with death.
- 540 At nōn ille, satum quō tē mentīris, Achillēs
But that famous Achilles, from whom you lie that you [have been] begotten,
- 541 tālis in hoste fuit Priamō; sed iūra fidemque
was not such [a man] toward Priam his enemy; but he revered / blushed before laws and faith
- 542 supplicis ērubuit corpusque exsanguē sepulcrō
of a suppliant and he returned the bloodless corpse of Hector for the tomb
- 543 reddidit Hectoreum mēque in mea rēgna remīsīt.
and he sent me back into my kingdoms.”
- 544 Sic fātus senior tēlumque imbelle sine ictū
Thus the old man spoke, and he hurled his harmless spear without a hit,

545 conīcīt, raucō quod prōtinus aere repulsum,
which [was] immediately repelled by clanging bronze,

546 et summō clipeī nēquīquam umbōne pependit.
and it hung in vain from the utmost knob of the shield.

547 Cui Pyrrhus: ‘Referēs ergō haec et nūntius ībis
To whom Pyrrhus [said]: “You will carry back therefore these things and as a messenger you will go

548 Pelīdae genitōrī. Illī mea trīstia facta
to father Achilles. Remember to tell to him my sad deeds

549 dēgeneremque Neoptolemum nārrāre mementō.
and that Neoptolemus [is] ignoble.

550 Nunc morere.’ Hoc dīcēns altāria ad ipsa trementem
Now die.” Saying this, he dragged to the altars themselves him trembling

551 trāxit et in multō lāpsantem sanguine nātī,
and slipping in the much blood of his son,

552 implicuitque comam laevā, dextrāque coruscum
and he entwined his hair with his left hand, and with his right hand he pulled out the flashing sword

553 extulit ac laterī capulō tenuis abdidit ēnsem.
and he buries it up to the hilt in his side.

554 Haec fīnis Priamī fātōrum, hic exitus illum
This [was] the end of the fates of Priam, this destruction took him

555 sorte tulit Trōiam incēnsam et prōlāpsa videntem
by fate, seeing Troy burned and the citadels fallen,

556 Pergama, tot quondam populīs terrīsque superbum
once the ruler of Asia, proud with so many peoples and lands.

557 rēgnātōrem Asiae. Iacet ingēns litore truncus,
A huge torso lies on the shore,

558 āvulsumque umerīs caput et sine nōmine corpus.
a head torn from the shoulders and a body without a name.

559 At mē tum prīmum saevus circumstetīt horror.
But then for the first time fierce horror surrounded me.

560 Obstipui; subiit cārī genitōris imāgō,
I stood agape; the image of my dear father rose up [before me]

561 ut rēgem aequaeavum crūdēlī vulnere vīdī
as I saw the king of equal age breathing out his life from a cruel wound:

562 vītā exhālāntem: subiit dēserta Creūsa
forsaken Creusa rose up

563 et dīrepta domus et parvī cāsus Iūli.
and the plundered home and the misfortune of small Iulus.

564 Respiciō et quae sit mē circum cōpia lūstrō.

I look back and survey what are the forces around me.

565 Dēseruēre omnēs dēfessī, et corpora saltū

All deserted, tired out, and they sent their bodies to the ground with a jump

566 ad terram mīsēre aut ignibus aegra dedēre.

or they gave [them] sick, to the fires.