

Vergil's Aeneid VI.1-55

- 1 Sic fatur lacrimans, classique immittit habenas
Thus he speaks crying, and loosens the reins of the fleet
- 2 et tandem Euboicis Cumarum adlabitur oris.
and at last he approaches the Euboian shores of Cumae.
- 3 Obuertunt pelago proras; tum dente tenaci
They turn the prows to the sea; then the anchor was holding fast the ships
- 4 ancora fundabat naves et litora curuae
with its tenacious tooth and the shores cloaked
- 5 praetexunt puppes. iuvenum manus emicat ardens
the curved decks. The burning band of young men flash out onto the Italian shore;
- 6 litus in Hesperium; quaerit pars semina flammae
part search for the seeds of flame hidden in
- 7 abstrusa in uenis silicis, pars densa ferarum
the veins of rock, part snatch the dense homes of wild beasts, the forests, and it shows
- 8 tecta rapit siluas inventaque flumina monstrat.
found rivers.
- 9 At pius Aeneas arces quibus altus Apollo
But dutiful Aeneas seeks the citadels on which high Apollo presides and
- 10 praesidet horrendaeque procul secreta Sibyllae,
from a far the secret places of horrible Sibyl,
- 11 antrum immane, petit, magnam cui mentem animumque
a huge cave, whose great mind and soul the Delian prophet
- 12 Delius inspirat vates aperitque futura.
inspires and opens future things. .
- 13 Iam subeunt Triviae lucos atque aurea tecta.
Now they [Trojans] go under the groves of Trivia and the golden homes.
- 14 Daedalus, ut fama est, fugiens Minoia regna
Daedalus, as the rumor is, fleeing the Minoian kingdoms having dares to entrust himself
- 15 praepetibus pennis ausus se credere caelo
to the swift wings in the sky through
- 16 insuetum per iter gelidas enavit ad Arctos,
unaccustomed journey he floated to chilly Arctos
- 17 Chalcidicaque levis tandem super astitit arce.
and at last he stood lightly above the Chalcidian citadel.
- 18 Redditus his primum terris tibi, Phoebae, sacrauit
Having been returned to these lands first he consecrated to you, Apollo,
- 19 remigium alarum posuitque immania templa.
the rowing equipment of wings and he established huge temples.

- 20 In foribus letum Androgeo; tum pendere poenas
In the entrances the destruction of Androgeo; then the descendents of Cecropida ordered to pay the punishments (miserable!)
- 21 Cecropidae iussi (miserum!) septena quotannis
seven bodies of sons annually;
- 22 corpora natorum; stat ductis sortibus urna.
the urn stands with lots having been drawn.
- 23 Contra elata mari respondet Cnosia tellus:
Opposite corresponds the Cnosian land raised from the sea:
- 24 hic crudelis amor tauri suppostaque furto
here the cruel love of the bull and Pasiphae subjected to deceit
- 25 Pasiphae mixtumque genus prolesque biformis
and the mixed race and the two formed offspring
- 26 Minotaurus inest, Veneris monimenta nefandae,
the minotaur is present, reminders of unspeakable Venus,
- 27 hic labor ille domus et inextricabilis error;
here that work of a home and insoluble wandering;
- 28 magnum reginae sed enim miseratus amorem
But indeed Daedalus himself resolved the tricks of the building and the confusions
- 29 Daedalus ipse dolos tecti ambagesque resolvit,
having pitied the great love of the queen,
- 30 caeca regens filo vestigia. tu quoque magnam
ruling blind steps with a string. You also Icarus would have a great part in such a great work,
- 31 partem opere in tanto, sineret dolor, Icare, haberes.
if grief had allowed.
- 32 Bis conatus erat casus effingere in auro,
Twice he had tried to pour out the misfortune in gold,
- 33 bis patriae cecidere manus. Quin protinus omnia
twice the fatherly hands fell. Indeed continuously they would have surveyed all with their eyes,
- 34 perlegerent oculis, ni iam praemissus Achatas
if Achatas now having been sent forward were not present
- 35 adforet atque una Phoebi Triuiaequae sacerdos,
and at the same time the priest of Apollo and Trivia,
- 36 Deiphobe Glauci, fatur quae talia regi:
Deiphobe of Glaucus, who says such things to the leader:
- 37 ‘non hoc ista sibi tempus spectacula poscit;
‘this time does not demand for itself these spectacles;
- 38 nunc grege de intacto septem mactare iuencos
now it would be better to sacrifice seven oxen from the untouched herd,

39 praestiterit, totidem lectas ex more bidentis.
the same number of two year old sheep chosen by custom.'

40 Talibus adfata Aenean (nec sacra morantur
Having addressed Aeneas with such [words] (and the men do not delay the ordered rituals),

41 iussa viri) Teucros vocat alta in templa sacerdos.
the priestess calls the Teucrians into the high temples.

42 Excisum Euboicae latus ingens rupis in antrum,
The huge side of the Euboean rock [has been] cut out into a cave,

43 quo lati ducunt aditus centum, ostia centum,
where 100 wide entrances lead, 100 mouths,

44 unde ruunt totidem voces, responsa Sibyllae.
from where as many voices rush, the responses of the Sibyl.

45 Ventum erat ad limen, cum virgo 'poscere fata
It had been come [they had come] to the threshold, when the maiden said, "it is time to inquire of the fates.

46 tempus,' ait, 'deus ecce deus!' Cui talia fanti
The god, behold, the god [is here]!" To whom speaking such things

47 ante fores subito non vultus, non color unus,
before the entrances, suddenly [there was] not one face, not one color,

48 non comptae mansere comae; sed pectus anhelum,
her hair did not remain arranged; but her panting chest,

49 et rabie fera corda tument, maiorque videri
and her wild spirits swell with frenzy, and [she is] greater to be seen and

50 nec mortale sonans, adflata est numine quando
not sounding mortal, when she has been inspired by the divine power

51 iam propiore dei. 'Cessas in vota precesque,
now closer of a god. "Do you hesitate [to enter] into offerings and prayers,

52 Tros,' ait 'Aenea? Cessas? Neque enim ante dehiscent
Trojan Aeneas?" she says. "Do you hesitate? For the great mouths of the awe-struck house will not open beforehand."

53 attonitae magna ora domus.' Et talia fata
And she fell silent, having said such things.

54 conticuit. Gelidus Teucris per dura cucurrit
A cold shiver ran through the hard bones of/ to the Teucrians,

55 ossa tremor, funditque preces rex pectore ab imo.
and the king pours out prayers from his deepest heart.

i.e. Apollo's prophecies will not be revealed until Aeneas prays and gives offerings