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VIRGIL

AENEID VII-XII





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VII-XII

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LIBER VII

MPR Tu quoque litoribus nostris, Aeneïa nutrix, aeternam moriens famam, Caieta, dedisti; et nunc servat honos sedem tuus, ossaque nomen Hesperia in magna, si qua est ea gloria, signat.

FMPR

At pius exsequiis Aeneas rite solutis, aggere composito tumuli, postquam alta quierunt aequora, tendit iter velis portumque relinquit. aspirant aurae in noctem nec candida cursus luna negat, splendet tremulo sub lumine pontus.

10 proxima Circaeae raduntur litora terrae, dives inaccessos ubi Solis filia lucos adsiduo resonat cantu, tectisque superbis urit odoratam nocturna in lumina cedrum arguto tenuis percurrens pectine telas.

hinc exaudiri gemitus iraeque leonum vincla recusantum et sera sub nocte rudentum, saetigerique sues atque in praesepibus ursi saevire ac formae magnorum ululare luporum, quos hominum ex facie dea saeva potentibus herbis
 induerat Circe in vultus ac terga ferarum.

4 signat R: signant MP

You, too,¹ Caieta, nurse of Aeneas, have by your death given eternal fame to our shores; and still your honour guards your resting place, and in great Hesperia, if that be glory, your name marks your dust!

Now good Aeneas, when the last rites were duly paid and the funeral mound was raised, as soon as the high seas were stilled, sails forth on his way and leaves the haven. Breezes blow on into the night, and the Moon, shining bright, smiles on their voyage; the sea glitters beneath her dancing beams. The next shores they skirt are those of Circe's realm,² where the wealthy daughter of the Sun thrills the untrodden groves with ceaseless song and in her proud palace burns fragrant cedar to illuminate the night, while she drives her shrill shuttle through the fine web. From these shores could be heard the angry growls of lions chafing at their bonds and roaring in midnight hours, the raging of bristly boars and caged bears, and huge wolfish shapes howling. These were they whom, robbing them of their human form with potent herbs, Circe, cruel goddess, had clothed in the features and frames of beasts. But so

¹ As well as Misenus (6.234) and Palinurus (6.381). Caieta gave her name to Gaeta and the Gulf of Gaeta.

² Circeii, a promontory of Latium, but once an island, is identified by Virgil with Homer's island of Aeaea, the home of Circe.

quae ne monstra pii paterentur talia Troes delati in portus neu litora dira subirent, Neptunus ventis implevit vela secundis, atque fugam dedit et praeter vada fervida vexit.

Iamque rubescebat radiis mare et aethere ab alto Aurora in roseis fulgebat lutea bigis, cum venti posuere omnisque repente resedit flatus, et in lento luctantur marmore tonsae. atque hic Aeneas ingentem ex aequore lucum prospicit. hunc inter fluvio Tiberinus amoeno verticibus rapidis et multa flavus harena in mare prorumpit. variae circumque supraque adsuetae ripis volucres et fluminis alveo aethera mulcebant cantu lucoque volabant. flectere iter sociis terraeque advertere proras imperat et laetus fluvio succedit opaco.

Nunc age, qui reges, Erato, quae tempora, rerum quis Latio antiquo fuerit status, advena classem cum primum Ausoniis exercitus appulit oris, expediam, et primae revocabo exordia pugnae. tu vatem, tu, diva, mone. dicam horrida bella, dicam acies actosque animis in funera reges, Tyrrhenamque manum totamque sub arma coactam Hesperiam. maior rerum mihi nascitur ordo, maius opus moveo.

Rex arva Latinus et urbes iam senior longa placidas in pace regebat. hunc Fauno et nympha genitum Laurente Marica

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³⁷ tempora, rerum punctuated by Peerlkamp: t. r., codd.

that the pious of Troy should not suffer so monstrous a fate on entering the harbour and setting foot on the accursed shore, Neptune filled their sails with favouring winds, giving them flight, and bore them past the seething shallows.

Now the sea was reddening with the rays of dawn, and from heaven's height the goddess of Dawn on her rosy chariot shone in saffron light, when the winds dropped and suddenly every breeze sank; the oars toil slowly against the marble smoothness of the water. At this moment Aeneas, looking from the sea, beholds a mighty forest. Through its midst the Tiber's lovely stream leaps forth to sea in swirling eddies with his burden of golden sand. Around and above, birds of many a kind that haunt the river's banks and channel were thrilling heaven with their song and flying in the grove. He bids his comrades change their course and turn their prows to land, and joyfully enters the shady river.

Awake now, Erato³! Who were the kings, what were the times, what the state of affairs in ancient Latium, when first that foreign army landed on Ausonia's shore—this will I unfold; and the prelude of the opening strife will I recall. And you, goddess, prompt your bard! I will tell of grim wars, will tell of battle array, and princes in their valour rushing upon death—of Tyrrhenian bands, and all Hesperia mustered in arms. Greater is the story that opens before me; greater is the task that I attempt.

King Latinus, now old, ruled over lands and towns in the calm of a long peace. He was sprung of Faunus, we are told, and the Laurentine nymph, Marica. Faunus' sire was

³ Erato, invoked as the Muse of Love (as by Apollonius in Argonautica 3.1) in view of the entrance of Lavinia into the story. See F. A. Todd, Classical Review 45 (1931) 216ff.

accipimus; Fauno Picus pater, isque parentem te, Saturne, refert, tu sanguinis ultimus auctor. filius huic fato divum prolesque virilis 50 nulla fuit, primaque oriens erepta iuventa est. sola domum et tantas servabat filia sedes iam matura viro, iam plenis nubilis annis. multi illam magno e Latio totaque petebant Ausonia; petit ante alios pulcherrimus omnis 55 Turnus, avis atavisque potens, quem regia coniunx adiungi generum miro properabat amore; sed variis portenta deum terroribus obstant. laurus erat tecti medio in penetralibus altis MPR sacra comam multosque metu servata per annos, 60 quam pater inventam, primas cum conderet arces, ipse ferebatur Phoebo sacrasse Latinus, Laurentisque ab ea nomen posuisse colonis. huius apes summum densae (mirabile dictu) stridore ingenti liquidum trans aethera vectae 65 obsedere apicem, et pedibus per mutua nexis examen subitum ramo frondente pependit. continuo vates "externum cernimus" inquit "adventare virum et partis petere agmen easdem partibus ex isdem et summa dominarier arce." 70 praeterea, castis adolet dum altaria taedis, et iuxta genitorem astat Lavinia virgo, visa (nefas) longis comprendere crinibus ignem atque omnem ornatum flamma crepitante cremari, regalisque accensa comas, accensa coronam 75 insignem gemmis; tum fumida lumine fulvo involvi ac totis Volcanum spargere tectis. id vero horrendum ac visu mirabile ferri: namque fore inlustrem fama fatisque canebant

Picus, and he boasts you, Saturn, as his father; you are the first founder of the line. By Heaven's decree his son, his male descent, was no more, but had been cut off in the spring of early youth. Alone, to preserve the house and noble home, was a daughter, now ripe for a husband, now of full age to be a bride. Many wooed her from wide Latium and all Ausonia, yet handsomest above all other wooers was Turnus, of long and lofty ancestry, whom the queen mother yearned with wondrous passion to unite to her as son. But divine portents, with manifold alarms, bar the way. In the midst of the palace, in the high inner courts, stood a laurel of sacred foliage, preserved in awe through many years, which lord Latinus himself was said to have founded and dedicated to Phoebus, when he built his first towers; and from it he gave his settlers their name Laurentes. In the top of this tree, wondrous to tell, settled a dense swarm of bees, borne with loud humming across the liquid air, and with feet intertwined hung in sudden swarm from the leafy bough. At once the prophet cries: "I see a stranger draw near; from the selfsame quarter a troop seeks the same quarter, and reigns in the topmost citadel!" Moreover, while with hallowed torch he kindles the altars, and at her father's side stands the maiden Lavinia, she was seen (O horror!) to catch fire in her long tresses, and burn with crackling flame in all her headgear, her queenly hair ablaze, ablaze her jewelled coronal; then wreathed in smoke and yellow glare, she scattered fire throughout the palace. That indeed was noised abroad as an awful and wondrous vision; for she, they foretold, would herself be

ipsam, sed populo magnum portendere bellum. 80 At rex sollicitus monstris oracula Fauni. fatidici genitoris, adit lucosque sub alta consulit Albunea, nemorum quae maxima sacro fonte sonat saevamque exhalat opaca mephitim. hinc Italae gentes omnisque Oenotria tellus 85 in dubiis responsa petunt; huc dona sacerdos cum tulit et caesarum ovium sub nocte silenti pellibus incubuit stratis somnosque petivit, multa modis simulacra videt volitantia miris et varias audit voces fruiturque deorum conloquio atque imis Acheronta adfatur Avernis hic et tum pater ipse petens responsa Latinus centum lanigeras mactabat rite bidentis, atque harum effultus tergo stratisque iacebat velleribus: subita ex alto vox reddita luco est: 95 "ne pete conubiis natam sociare Latinis, o mea progenies, thalamis neu crede paratis; externi venient generi, qui sanguine nostrum nomen in astra ferant, quorumque a stirpe nepotes omnia sub pedibus, qua sol utrumque recurrens 100 aspicit Oceanum, vertique regique videbunt." haec responsa patris Fauni monitusque silenti nocte datos non ipse suo premit ore Latinus, sed circum late volitans iam Fama per urbes Ausonias tulerat, cum Laomedontia pubes 105

gramineo ripae religavit ab aggere classem.

⁴ Albunea is here identified with the forest. Situated at or near Lavinium, this must be different from the Albunea of Horace, *Odes* 1.7.12, which is a cascade at Tibur.

glorious in fame and fortune, yet to her people she boded a mighty war.

But the king, troubled by the portent, visits the oracle of Faunus, his prophetic sire, and consults the groves beneath high Albunea, which, mightiest of forests,4 echoes with hallowed fountain, and breathes forth from her darkness a deadly vapour. From this place the tribes of Italy and all the Oenotrian land seek responses in days of doubt; to it the priestess brings the offerings, and as she lies under the silent night on the outspread fleeces of slaughtered sheep and woos slumber, she sees many phantoms flitting in wondrous wise, hears many voices, holds converse with the gods, and speaks with Acheron in lowest Avernus. Here then, also, King Latinus himself, seeking an answer, duly slaughtered a hundred woolly sheep, and lay couched on their hides and outspread fleeces. Suddenly a voice came from the deep grove: "Seek not, my son, to ally your daughter in Latin wedlock, and put no faith in the bridal chamber that is ready at hand. Strangers shall come, to be your sons, whose blood shall exalt our name to the stars, and the children of whose race shall behold, where the circling sun looks on each ocean.5 the whole world roll obedient beneath their feet." This answer of his father Faunus. and the warning he gave in the silent night, Latinus keeps not shut within his own lips; but Rumour, flitting far and wide, had already borne the tidings through the Ausonian cities when the sons of Laomedon moored their ships to the river's grassy bank.

⁵ I.e. in East and West; the Ocean being conceived as flowing round the earth.

Aeneas primique duces et pulcher Iulus corpora sub ramis deponunt arboris altae, instituuntque dapes et adorea liba per herbam subiciunt epulis (sic Iuppiter ipse monebat) 110 et Cereale solum pomis agrestibus augent. consumptis hic forte aliis, ut vertere morsus exiguam in Cererem penuria adegit edendi, et violare manu malisque audacibus orbem fatalis crusti patulis nec parcere quadris: 115 "heus, etiam mensas consumimus?" inquit Iulus, nec plura, adludens. ea vox audita laborum prima tulit finem, primamque loquentis ab ore eripuit pater ac stupefactus numine pressit. continuo "salve fatis mihi debita tellus 120 vosque" ait "o fidi Troiae salvete penates: hic domus, haec patria est. genitor mihi talia namque (nunc repeto) Anchises fatorum arcana reliquit: 'cum te, nate, fames ignota ad litora vectum accisis coget dapibus consumere mensas, 125 tum sperare domos defessus, ibique memento prima locare manu molirique aggere tecta.' haec erat illa fames, haec nos suprema manebat exitiis positura modum . . . quare agite et primo laeti cum lumine solis 130

quae loca, quive habeant homines, ubi moenia gentis, vestigemus et a portu diversa petamus.
nunc pateras libate Iovi precibusque vocate
Anchisen genitorem, et vina reponite mensis."

110 ipse MPR: ille M2, known to Servius

Aeneas, his chief captains, and fair Iülus lay their limbs to rest under the boughs of a high tree, and spread the feast; they place cakes of meal on the grass beneath the food-Jove himself inspired them-and they crown the wheaten base with fruits of the field. Here, haply, when the rest was consumed, and the scantness of fare drove them to turn their teeth upon the thin cakes—to profane with hand and daring jaw the fateful circles of crust, and spare not the broad loaves:6 "Oh, look! we are eating our tables too!" said Iülus in jest; and said no more. That cry, when heard, first brought an end of toil; and as it first fell from the speaker's lips, his father caught it up and checked his utterance, awestruck at Heaven's will. Straightway, "Hail," he cries, "land destined as my due! and hail to you, faithful gods of Troy! Here is our home, here our country! For my father Anchises⁷—now I recall it—bequeathed me this secret of fate: 'My son, when you are carried to an unknown shore and hunger compels you, as food fails, to eat your tables, then in your weariness hope for a home, and there be mindful first to set up your dwellings with your hand and bank them with a mound.' This was that hunger foretold, this the last strait awaiting us, that was to set an end to our deadly woes! . . . Come then, and gladly with the sun's first beams let us explore what lands these are, what people here dwell, where is the city of the nation, and from the harbour let us explore in different directions. Now pour your cups to Jove, and call in prayer on my sire Anchises, and set the wine again upon the board."

⁶ The round cakes were scored by crossed lines into four quarters (*quadrae*). ⁷ Cf. 3.255, where, however, the prophecy is uttered by Celaeno, not by Anchises.

Sic deinde effatus frondenti tempora ramo 135 implicat et geniumque loci primamque deorum Tellurem Nymphasque et adhuc ignota precatur flumina, tum Noctem Noctisque orientia signa Idaeumque Iovem Phrygiamque ex ordine matrem invocat, et duplicis caeloque Ereboque parentis. 140 hic pater omnipotens ter caelo clarus ab alto intonuit, radiisque ardentem lucis et auro ipse manu quatiens ostendit ab aethere nubem. diditur hic subito Troiana per agmina rumor advenisse diem quo debita moenia condant. 145 certatim instaurant epulas atque omine magno crateras laeti statuunt et vina coronant.

Postera cum prima lustrabat lampade terras orta dies, urbem et finis et litora gentis diversi explorant: haec fontis stagna Numici, 150 hunc Thybrim fluvium, hic fortis habitare Latinos. tum satus Anchisa delectos ordine ab omni centum oratores augusta ad moenia regis ire jubet, ramis velatos Palladis omnis, donaque ferre viro pacemque exposcere Teucris. 155 haud mora, festinant iussi rapidisque feruntur passibus, ipse humili designat moenia fossa moliturque locum, primasque in litore sedes castrorum in morem pinnis atque aggere cingit. iamque iter emensi turris ac tecta Latini 160 ardua cernebant iuvenes muroque subibant. ante urbem pueri et primaevo flore iuventus exercentur equis domitantque in pulvere currus,

160 Latini M2(late): Latinorum MPR

So speaking, he straightway wreaths his temples with leafy bough and prays to the genius of the place, and Earth, first of gods; to the nymphs and the rivers yet unknown; then to Night and Night's rising signs, and to Jove of Ida and the Phrygian Mother, each in order, and his two parents, in heaven and in the underworld. At this, the almighty Father thundered thrice from a clear sky, and showed forth from heaven a cloud ablaze with shafts of golden light, brandishing it in his own hand. Then suddenly through the Trojan band runs the rumour that the day has come to found their promised city. Emulously they renew the feast, and cheered by the mighty omen set on the bowls and wreathe the wine.

On the morrow, when the risen day was lighting the earth with her earliest torch, by separate ways they search out the city8 and boundaries and coasts of the nation. This, they learn, is the pool of Numicius' fount; this the Tiber river; here dwell the brave Latins. Then Anchises' son commands a hundred envoys, chosen from every rank, to go to the king's stately city, all shadowed by the boughs of Pallas, to bear gifts to the hero, and crave peace for the Trojans. They linger not, but hasten at his bidding and move with rapid steps. Aeneas himself marks out his walls with a shallow trench, toils over the ground, and encircles this first settlement on the coast, after the fashion of a camp, with mound and battlements. And now his men had traversed their way; they were in sight of the towers and steep roofs of Latinus, and drew near to the wall. Outside the city, boys and youths in their early bloom practise horsemanship, or break in teams amid the dust, or bend

⁸ Lavinium