

Aeneid Bks I, II, IV, VI:

Themes for Essays:

- 1) Rôle of the gods.
- 2) Fate/Destiny
- 3) Aeneas & his duty (*pietas*)
- 4) The Future of Rome

Book I

'Fated to be an exile' (27)

'High Heaven willed it, for Juno was ruthless and could not forget her anger.'— rôle in Aeneas' tribulations. (27)

'the Queen of Heaven sustained such outrage to her majesty that she forced a man famed for his true-heartedness to tread that long path of adventure and to face so many trials.' (28)

Causes of Juno's fury on the Trojans (28)

'thus the Trojan remnant... were tossed in a storm all over the ocean. And still she kept them far from Latium, wandering for years at the memory of fate from sea to sea about the world. Such was the cost in heavy toil of beginning the life of Rome.' (28)

"the fates forbid me, indeed!" (to keep Aeneas away from Italy) (28)

Juno makes war on the Trojans for many years (28)

Juno appeals to Aeolus, King of the Winds, to strike on Aeneas' fleet. (29)

The storm is placed on the Trojans fleet. (30)

'Instantly, Aeneas felt his limbs give way in a chill of terror, and he groaned. Stretching both hands, palm-upward, to the stars, he cried aloud, 'How fortunate were you, thrice fortunate, and more, whose luck was it to die under the high walls of Troy before your parents' eyes!...' — Aeneas wishes he was dead. (30)

'Neptune realises Juno's 'trick'— addresses the winds, and calms them down. Fixes the ships. (31)

'Thoroughly exhausted.' (32)— Aeneas— he heads for the nearest lands.

'Aeneas' ability with the bow and arrows' (33)— he is a true warrior.

Gives speech to console his comrades after the storm (33)

'but the way is the way to Latium, where Destiny offers us rest and a home, and where imperial Troy may have the right to live again.' (33)

'He was sick at heart, for the cares which he bore were heavy indeed. Yet he conceded his sorrow deep within him, and his face looked confident and cheerful.' (33)

'Aeneas the true' (*pius Aeneas*)— remembers his lost comrades.

'She [Venus] was downcast, and tears stood in her glistening eyes as she spoke.' (34)

Venus' speech to Jupiter— asking why such a storm, etc. is put on Aeneas (34)

'You shall have your people's destiny, still, and it shall not be disturbed. You shall see your city, see Lavinia's walls, for I have promised them.' (35)

Prophecy of what will have after Aeneas founds the city. (35)

The beginning of Carthage's tolerance towards the Trojans. (36)

'Aeneas the True.' (36)

Aeneas is the son of Venus— a goddess (37)— he recognises this fact— prepared to worship her;

'For a goddess you surely must be.'

'If you tell us, we shall offer many victims to you, to fall dead before your altars.'

Venus tells Aeneas of Dido's tragedy concerning her husband. (38)

Asks Aeneas of his identity and purpose. (38)

'Aeneas spoke with a deep sigh out of his very heart.' (39)

'I am Aeneas, called the True, and I carry with me in my ships the gods of our home rescued from the foe. Beyond the sky my fame is known; and I quest for Italy, the land where my family first sprang from supreme Jove. Following my allotted destiny, and shown my way by my divine mother, I sailed forth onto the Phrygian sea with twenty ships.' (39)

'But Venus would not listen to more complaints from him, and she interrupted his lament.' (39)

'They who dwell in Heaven can scarcely hate you, I think. You still breathe and live, and you have reached the city of the Tyrians... For I can tell you that the winds, veering to the North, have reversed their direction, your ships have been driven to safety, and your comrades have returned to you.' (39)

'So just continue your walk, and go ahead where the way leads you.' (39)

'Why again and again deceive your own son with your mocking disguises?'—
Aeneas recognises his mother Venus. (40)

'For her part Venus fenced the two Trojans with a mantle of dense cloud, so that
no one might notice or touch them, or ask why they had come.' (40)

'Here among the trees a strange experience met Aeneas; for the first time his
fears were allayed, and for the first time he dared to hope for life and to feel some
confidence in spite of his distress.' (41)

'Aeneas stood still, the tears came and he said, "O Achates, where in the world is
there a country, or any place in it, unreached by our suffering? Look, there is
Priam. Even here high merit has its due; there is pity for a world's distress, and a
sympathy for short-lived humanity; dispel all fear. The knowledge of you shown
here will help to save you." So he spoke. It was only a picture, by sighing deeply
he let his thoughts feed on it, and his face was wet with a stream of tears.' (41)

'If Destiny preserves him [Aeneas] still, and he does not yet lie among the
unpitying shades...' (44)

'You see that all is safe, and we have even recovered our comrades and our
ships. Only one friend is missing, and we ourselves saw him drowned amidst the
waves. All else agrees with your mother's prophecy.' (45)

'But Aeneas found that his love for his son would not let his mind rest.' (46)

'But meanwhile Venus was pondering new plans and new devices. She decided
to make Cupid assume the form and features of the charming Ascanius, and go in
place of him. He should give Dido the presents, and as he did so enflame her with
a distraction of love, and entwine the fire of it about her very bones.' (47)

'I plan to forestall her by a trick of my own and enclose the queen in such a girdle
of flames that no act of divine power may divert her from submitting, as I intend, to
a fierce love for Aeneas.' (48)

Book II

'too terrible for speech is the pain which you ask me to receive.' (51)

'... even though I shudder at the memory and can hardly face its bitterness.' (51)

'... or perhaps because Troy's fate was already fixed.' (52)

'if the destined will of Heaven had not been set against us.' (52)

'take them with you to face your destiny, and find for them the walled city which
one day after ocean-wandering you shall build to be great, like them.' (60)

'all now belongs to Argos; it is Jupiter's remorseless will.' (61)

'Sad to say, even trust in Heaven is forbidden when Heaven itself declines the trust.' (63)

'Out flashed all the fire in me and I was filled with rage to avenge my home, and wreak punishment, crime for crime.' (68)

'It was the gods who showed no mercy; it is they who are casting down Troy from her splendour and power.' (69)

'Neptune himself is at work, shattering the walls and foundations by his mighty trident, and tearing the whole city from its site.' (69)

'Juno, most furious, with her sword at her side and violence in her heart she is calling the marching ranks of her friends from the Greek ships.' (69)

'Even the Supreme Father himself gives renewed courage, strength and victory to the Greeks and inspires the gods themselves to fight against the army of Troy.' (69)

'If the powers above have willed that out of all this great city nothing shall remain...' (70)

'Scarcely had the aged prince so spoken [prayed to Jupiter], when with a sudden crash came thunder on the left, and a shooting star trailing through the dark and darted downwards in brilliant light. Now we saw it glide above the roof of our house, sharply revealing the roads, and then still burning bright, hide in the forests of Mount Ida.' (71)

'My father was convinced. Raising himself and looking upwards he prayed to our gods and worshipped the holy star. "Ah, there is no reluctance now. I follow, gods of our Race, and wherever you lead, there I shall be.' (71-72)

'I myself was now ready to be frightened at a breath of wind and started at the slightest sound, so nervous was I, and so fearful alike for the load on my back and the companion at my side.' (72)

'Oh terrible— my wife Creusa— did she stop running because some bitter fate meant to steal her from me...' (73)

'I was mad with horror; I upbraided every deity, and cursed the whole human race.' (As a result of the death of Creusa.) (73)

'I froze, my hair stiffened, and my voice choked in my throat.' (73)

'What has happened is part of the divine plan. For the Supreme Ruler of Olympus on high forbids you to carry Creusa away from Troy on your journey. You have to plough through a great waste of ocean to distant exile. And you shall come to the Western Land where the gentle current of Lydian Tiber flows between rich

meadows where men are strong. There happiness and a kingdom are in store for you, with a Queen to marry.' (74)

'Three times I tried to cast my arms about her neck where she had been; but three times the clasp was in vain and the wraith escaped my hands, like airy winds, or the melting of a dream.' (74)

Book VI

'So spoke Aeneas, weeping' — in response to the death of Palinurus his helmsman (147)

'This is no time for such sight-seeing. Better were it now to sacrifice seven bullocks from a never-yoked herd and seven rightly chosen two-year-old sheep.' — Aeneas and the Trojans are told to stop reading messages in the temple— the revelation of what is to come is more important. (148)

'Suddenly her countenance and her colour changed and her hair fell in disarray, her breast heaved and her bursting heart was wild and mad; she appeared taller and spoke in no mortal tones, for the god was nearer and the breath of his power was still upon her.' — Apollo controls the Sibyl (148)

'Now we at last have gained a foothold on Italy's elusive shores. From now on, let Troy's old ill-fortune pursue us no further. And you too, all gods and goddesses, who were jealous of Ilium and the too brilliant grandeur of our Dardan land, may now, with no violation of divine justice, spare the nation which held the fortress of Troy ...' — Aeneas' prayer to the gods/goddesses to stop their tribulations (149)

'Meanwhile the prophetess ... ran furious riot in her cave, as if in the hope of casting the god's power from her brain. Yet all the more did he torment her frantic countenance, overmastering her wild thoughts, and crushed her and shaped her to his will.' — Apollo's control of the Sibyl (149)

'You who have passed safely through every peril of the sea but have to face still greater risk on land, your Dardans shall come within Lavinium's realm ... but they will regret your coming. I see war and all the horrors of war. I see the Tiber streaming and foaming with blood. You will find there a Simois and a Xanthus, and a camp of Greeks; a new Achilles, again a goddess' son, already breathes in Latium; Juno, the Trojan affliction, will never be far; and meanwhile you, in helpless plight, will go humbly begging every nation and every city in Italy for aid ...' (149)

'Such was Apollo's control as he shook his rein till she raved and twisted the goad which he held to her brain.' (150)

'On these very shoulders I rescued him, passing through the flames and a thousand pursuing javelins, and saved him from the thick of the foe.' (150)

'Aeneas left the cave, walking onwards, sad-faced with downcast eyes, and pondering to himself the uncertain outcome.' (152)

Aeneas obeys the Sibyl's commands in burying Misenus his comrade. (152)

'Sacrcely had he said it when a pair of doves chanced to come flying from the sky directly before his very eyes, and settled on the green turf. Then did Aeneas, great hero, recognise his mother's birds.' — Juno aids in his quest to find the golden bough with which he can enter the underworld. (153)

'Anchises' son checked his steps and halted, brooding deeply, and pitying them from his heart for their unkind lot.' — Aeneas pities the unburied (157)

'Cease to imagine that divine decrees can be changed by prayers.' — The Sibyl forbids Palinurus from making Aeneas take him across the river into the Underworld. (158)

'Trojan Aeneas, illustrious for his true righteousness, and for his feats of arms, travels in quest of his father down to Erebos' deep shades.' (159)

'Troy's hero found himself near to [Dido] and as soon as he recognised her dimly through the shadows, like one who early in the month sees or thinks that he sees the moon rising through the clouds, his tears fell and he spoke to her in the sweet accents of love.' (160–1)

“By the stars, by the high gods, I swear, I swear by any truth there may be in the depths of the earth, that it was not by my own will, your majesty, that I departed from your shores, but rather I was imperiously forced by that same direction which compels me now to pass through the shadows in this world of crumbling decay under deepest night; and I could not know that my leaving you could have caused you so terrible a grief.” — Aeneas speaks to Dido (161)

'My speaking to you now is that last indulgence which fate can give me.' (161)

'By such words Aeneas tried to soften her, and invited tears.' (161)

'Aeneas was shocked by her unjust fate; and as she went long gazed after her with tearful eyes and pity for her in his heart.' (161)

'After this he set all his strength to the journey assigned to him.' (161)

'Had not the Sibyl, still at his side, addressed Aeneas with a curt warning: “Night falls, Aeneas; Yet we still waste the hours in weeping.” — The Sibyl hurries on Aeneas' quest (162)

'Famed leader of the Trojans' (164)

'Having spoken so, Apollo's ancient prophetess then added: “But come now, hasten your walk to fulfil your chosen destiny. Let us move faster.” (166)

'But to think of all the lands and the vast seas which you had to traverse, and all the perils of your storm-tossed journey, before I could welcome you at last! How I feared too, that the royal power of Africa might do some hurt to you.' (168)

'I was ever the vision of yourself, so after mournfully appearing to me, which compelled me to make my way to the threshold of this world.' (168)

'As he spoke, his face grew wet with the stream of tears. Three time he tried to cast his arms about his father's neck; but three times the clasp was in vain and the wraith escaped his hands, like airy winds or the melting of a dream.' (168)

Aeneas' destiny outlined in the procession of Alban kings: (170–3)

- Silvius
- Capys
- Numitor
- Aeneas Silvius— will build famous cities.
- Romulus
- Caesar
- Augustus Caesar
- Numa
- Brutus
- Decii & Drusii/Torquatus/Camillus, etc.

'But you, Roman, must remember that you have to guide the nations by your authority, for this is to be your skill, to graft tradition onto peace, to show mercy to the conquered, and to wage war until the haughty are brought low.' (173)

“You also shall be a Marcellus...” — Reference to the Young Marcellus— never able to take the throne, as he perished early in life— Aeneas in the same way will not enjoy his kingdom— he too will perish early (173)

'And now Anchises had conducted his son to see each sight and kindled his imagination with a passion for the glory to be.' (174)

'He next foretold to him the wars which must be fought in the nearer future, with an account of the Laurentine nations and the city of Latinus, showing how he might avoid or endure each trial.' (174)