

## The Aeneid - plot synopsis

### Book I

#### Precis:

*For 7 years since the fall of Troy, a band of Trojans, led by Aeneas, have been wandering round the Mediterranean, searching for a new home, which they have recently learned will be in Italy. They have just left Sicily, believing they are on the last stage of their journey. But the goddess Juno understands that it is fated that a race descended from the Trojans will one day destroy her beloved city of Carthage, so she arranges for a storm to destroy Aeneas' fleet. Some ships are wrecked, some scattered. Aeneas manages to reach the coast of Libya. He meets his mother, the goddess Venus, in disguise, who tells him to make for Carthage. He's welcomed there by Queen Dido, and reunited with the rest of his men who've survived the storm. Dido invites the Trojans to a banquet, where Venus arranges that Dido will fall in love with Aeneas. Dido asks Aeneas to tell her how Troy was captured, and about all he's been through since then.*

#### Full synopsis:

Lines 1 – 33 Introduction; background of Juno's anger; love for Carthage, her knowledge that a race of men descended from Troy will one day overcome Carthage, her memory of the Trojan War, where she fought for the Greek side, her beauty being slighted by the judgement of Paris, plus being insulted by Ganymede's promotion to become her husband Jupiter's cup bearer.

34 – 81 Juno considers the situation of the Trojans leaving Sicily. She goes to ask King Aeolus to release the winds from Aeolia, with a bribe of the hand of the beautiful nymph Deiopea.

82 – 123 Winds are released. The Trojan fleet is scattered, some ships destroyed.

124 – 157 Neptune rises from the deep, chastises the winds, calms the storm, and sets the Trojan ships back on course.

158 – 222 Aeneas and what seems to be all the survivors – 7 ex 20 ships – find a safe harbour on the Libyan coast. Aeneas scouts and hunts down 7 deer for his men. He puts a brave face on it and gives his men a pep talk. They eat and drink.

223 – 296 Divine interlude; Venus goes to her father Jupiter and complains about his lack of action in helping the Trojans, and going back on his promise that they would lay the foundations for the race of Romans. Jupiter reassures Venus that their destiny remains unchanged, and then outlines their fate; Aeneas will wage a great war, and will win; he will build a city and rule for 3 years; his son Ascanius will be called Iulus and will rule for 30 years; he'll move from Lavinium to build a new city at Alba Longa. There the Trojans will rule for 300 years, when Romulus and Remus will be born. Rome will be founded, and from this race eventually a “Trojan Caesar” will come, named Julius, and he'll bring peace.

297 -306 Jupiter sends Mercury to make the Carthaginians and especially Dido well disposed towards the Trojans.

307 – 409 In the morning, Aeneas goes exploring with Achates. He meets his mother Venus, disguised as a Spartan hunting girl. She tells Aeneas about Dido's past in Tyre, of how she came to Carthage to escape from her tyrannical brother Pygmalion. Aeneas in turn tells her his story so far,

and she reassures him, pointing out the omen of the 12 swans safely returning. As she leaves, Aeneas recognises her and reproaches her for her disguise.

410 – 441 Aeneas and Achates, shrouded in a mist by Venus, head for a hill overlooking Carthage. There, they wonder at the building work, and make their way in.

442 – 465 In a grove where Dido is building a temple to Juno, Aeneas looks at scenes on the temple depicting the Trojan War. While deriving comfort that he's known here, he's deeply upset by it.

466 – 495 Description of battle scenes depicted.

496 – 561 Arrival of Dido at the temple. Aeneas sees his companions whom he'd assumed were drowned in the storm. Aeneas, still invisible, listens to them addressing the queen, asking for mercy and telling their story so far.

562 - 587 Dido reassures them and invites them either to journey on to Hesperia (Italy), return to Acestes in Sicily, or stay in Carthage. She also offers to send out a search party to look for the other missing Trojans.

588 – 612 The mist around Aeneas lifts, and, made to look more handsome by Venus, he introduces himself to Dido.

613 – 631 Dido greets Aeneas, happy as someone who has suffered to help another suffering.

631 – 656 Dido leads the Trojans to the palace, and sends food for the other Trojans at the ships. Aeneas sends for Ascanius, and for gifts for Dido. Achates sets off to fetch them.

657 – 689 Venus hatches a plan to put Cupid in Ascanius' place, to cause Dido to fall in love with Aeneas, as Venus is suspicious of the genuineness of the Carthaginians and fearful of the animosity of Juno. She summons Cupid and instructs him.

690 – 723 Cupid disguises himself as Ascanius and goes into the palace. The feast begins. Dido becomes besotted with “Ascanius”.

724 – 747 Libation to the gods.

748 – end Dido asks Aeneas about his travels.

### 3

## Book II

### Precis

*The first half of a long flashback. Aeneas begins his story. He explains how the Trojans were tricked into taking the Wooden Horse into Troy, instead of listening to Laocoon, the priest of Neptune, who begs them to destroy it. He describes the horrifying death of Laocoon. Aeneas then in a dream sees Hector, one of the king's sons killed earlier in the war, who warns him to save himself, the Trojan people, and their gods. Aeneas wakes up to find that the Greeks have broken into the city, and plunges into the fighting. He sees King Priam brutally killed by Achilles' son Pyrrhus. As he is about to kill Helen in revenge, Venus stops him: she reveals that nothing can now save Troy as the gods have joined in the destruction of the city, and persuades him to escape. His father Anchises at first refuses to leave his beloved home, but is finally persuaded, and Aeneas leads his family and some other followers out of the burning city. But on the way his wife, Creusa, is lost, and Aeneas dashes back into the confusion to find her. His search is interrupted by her ghost, which tells him his destiny, and persuades him to return to the rest of his family. The refugees assemble on Mount Ida.*

Full Synopsis:

1 – 14 Intro: Aeneas starts telling his story of his experiences in Troy.

14 – 20 He relates how the Greeks build a huge wooden horse and fill it with soldiers.

21 – 39 The Greek fleet sail to the island of Tenedos and anchor off the far side. The Trojans come out of the city and inspect the Greek camp and the horse. Divided opinion about what to do with it.

40 – 57 Laocoon arrives from the citadel and warns the Trojans that Greeks are hiding inside the horse or it is a siege engine. He hurls a spear into it.

58 – 70 Trojan shepherds arrive, with a Greek prisoner, Sinon – a man who turns out to be an agent of the Greek plan.

70 – 107 Sinon tells his fabricated story of how he was a friend of Palamedes, who was put to death by the Greeks for objecting to the war. When Sinon said he'd avenge his friend's death, he made an enemy of Ulixes, who tries again and again to frame him.

108 – 132 Sinon continues his false story – how the Greeks wanted to abandon the war, but were stopped by poor weather. With poor weather continuing even after the construction of the horse, Eurypylus consults the oracle of Apollo, who says that a human sacrifice is required. Ulixes puts pressure on the priest Calchas, who holds out for 10 days until he caves in and names Sinon as the sacrificial victim.

133 – 144 Sinon escapes the sacrifice and hides until the Greeks set sail. He then asks the Trojans for mercy.

145 – 153 Priam spares Sinon, and invites him to join the Trojans. He asks Sinon about the horse.

154 – 199 Sinon explains that the Greeks were dependent on the help of the goddess Pallas Athene, but Diomedes and Ulixes angered her by tearing down the Palladium (the statue of the goddess) from her temple in Troy. On the advice of the priest Calchas, the Greeks have to sail home, take the omens in Greece, and return with the Palladium – which is why they've left. The Trojans are taken

4

in by the tale.

200 – 228 An omen: 2 giant snakes come out of the sea from Tenedos and attack the sons of Laocoon the priest of Neptune as he's sacrificing a bull. Laocoon attempts to save his sons, but the snakes coil around him. They slither off to the citadel of Pallas Athene, where they take refuge.

229 -249 Speculation among the Trojans; the snakes may be a punishment for Laocoon's throwing of the spear into the Wooden Horse's side. They decide to bring the horse into the city, which they do, with painfully ironic joy, unaware of what they are doing.

250 – 267 The Greek fleet transports the troops by night back to the Trojan shores. On a signal, Sinon opens up the horse, to let loose the 9 Greek soldiers, who then open the city gates.

268 – 298 The dead Hector appears in a dream to Aeneas. He urges Aeneas to escape from Troy and establish a city.

299 – 317 At his father's house, Aeneas is awoken by the din. He surveys the scene of urban fighting, and the devastating fires. He puts on his armour and goes out intending to fight.

318 – 337 Aeneas meets Panthus, son of Orys the Priest of Apollo, who informs Aeneas that all is lost to the Greeks.

338 – 356 Aeneas continues his search through the city, encountering other Trojans who join him. He addresses the body of men, explaining the odds stacked against them, and the fight to the death.

357 – 401 The group goes on the offensive. First encounter with a Greek; Androgeos, with a large group of Greeks. He mistakes the Trojans for Greeks, and then realises his mistake. The Trojans attack and kill them. One of the Trojans, Corebus, suggests they disguise themselves in Greek armour. Newly disguised, the Trojans fight a number of Greeks.

402 - 436 Aeneas sees Cassandra, daughter of Priam, being dragged from the temple of Minerva; the Trojans try to save her. They are bombarded by other Trojans, mistaking them for Greeks, then attacked by the Greeks, including Ajax, Agamemnon and Menelaus. Other Greeks join the battle and the Trojans are overwhelmed, taking heavy losses.

437- 453 Aeneas moves on to Priam's palace, with the elderly Iphitus and the wounded Pelias. Intense fighting with the Greeks, who are besieging the palace, as trojans rip down the palace to bombard the Greeks.

454 – 468 Aeneas enters the palace, using a secret door at the rear. He goes to a high tower and dislodges its top to fall down on the Greeks below.

469 – 507 Description of Achilles' son Pyrrhus (aka Neoptolemus), rampaging like a snake, and the efforts of the Greeks to attack the palace, which they eventually breach. Pyrrhus kills many Trojans.

508 – 558 Aeneas describes the death of Priam; putting on his old armour, to go into the city. Hecuba his wife begs him to stay with her and their daughters. Their wounded son Polites runs towards them, chased by Pyrrhus, and dies. Priam rebukes Pyrrhus; Pyrrhus kills Priam at the altar.

## 5

559 – 589 Aeneas remembers his father, wife and son, but spots Helen of Troy hiding by the temple of Vesta. Angered, he decides to kill her.

590 – 634 Venus, revealed this time as her true self, appears to Aeneas and urges him not to give in to anger, but to look for his family. She stresses it is the gods who are destroying Troy, not Helen's beauty. Venus show Aeneas the gods involved – Neptune, Juno, Pallas Athene. She urges him to escape, and reassures him that she will escort him safely to the house of his father Anchises.

635 -649 Aeneas arrives at his father's house, and tries to take him into the mountains. Anchises refuses, preferring to die in Troy.

650 – 672 Aeneas, his wife Creusa and son Ascanius beg Anchises to come. Aeneas feels suicidal despair, berates his father, and calls for his armour, resigned to fighting to the death.

673 – 679 Creusa begs Aeneas to either take her and Ascanius with him, so they can all die together, or stay and protect them at home.

680 – 705 The supernatural omen; Iulus' hair seems to catch fire. Anchises prays to Jupiter, and a falling star lands on Mt. Ida. Anchises agrees to go with them.

706 – 721 Aeneas puts his father on his back, Anchises carrying the images of the household gods. Together with Iulus and Creusa in tow, they set off. He tells his slaves to rendezvous with him at a

cyprus tree near the temple of Ceres outside the city.

722 – 789 Aeneas now more frightened, concerned for his family. Anchises thinks he can hear approaching Greeks, so Aeneas leaves the road. He becomes separated from his wife Creusa, only realising it when he arrives at the mound of Ceres. Bitterly upset, Aeneas puts on his armour again, and returns to the city to look for her. As he's searching, Creusa's ghost appears to Aeneas. She reassures him that her death is the will of the gods. She tells him his fate – to be a wandering exile until he comes to the Western Land where he'll prosper and marry a royal bride.

790 – 804 Creusa disappears. Aeneas returns to the mound, where other Trojans have gathered. They set off for Mt. Ida.

## 6

### [Book III

*Aeneas continues his story in Dido's palace. After escaping from Troy, Aeneas and his companions spend the winter building a fleet, and set out on their journey round the Mediterranean in search of their promised home. This book covers six years of their wanderings.*

*After an unsuccessful attempt to settle in Thrace they land on Delos, the island where Apollo was born. Apollo tells them to return to 'the land which first cradled the race from which you were sprung'. So they sail on to Crete, which Anchises mistakenly believes is the place intended. But after a few months a dreadful plague forces them to leave, and a vision of their Penates, the Trojan home-gods, bids them make for Westland, ("Hesperia") which they now learn is called Italy.*

*They set out, but are driven by a storm up the west coast of Greece, and seek refuge in the Strophades Islands, home of the Harpies. Then the south wind takes them past Ithaca, Ulysses' home, to Actium, and thence to Buthrotum, a town in north-west Greece. This part of Greece, once ruled by Achilles, had passed to his cruel son Pyrrhus. Among the captives whom Pyrrhus had brought home from Troy as his slaves were Hector's widow, Andromache, and Helenus, another of Priam's sons. When Pyrrhus was murdered by Orestes, Helenus became king, with Andromache as his wife. They warmly welcome Aeneas and his party, who stay here for nearly a year.*

*However, Aeneas knows that he must sail on to Italy. He asks Helenus, who has prophetic powers, what dangers he must avoid on the way. Helenus tells him to sail down the east coast of Italy, around Sicily, then up the west coast until he reaches Cumae, where he will receive further instructions.*

*Aeneas obeys. On reaching Sicily he first lands near Mount Etna, where he encounters the terrifying one-eyed Cyclops, an episode recounted in the following pages. They move next to Drepanum, where Anchises dies. They set out for Italy, but are driven by a storm to Libya, and there meet Dido. In this book, Aeneas comes to terms with his fate. He learns from his experiences, slowly changing from the impetuous warrior of Book II into the resourceful leader that the new*

#### Book IV

*While Aeneas has been telling his story of all the events that have led up to his arrival in Carthage, Dido has been falling in love with him. The whole of this book is about the tragedy of their love affair.*

*Dido tells her sister Anna that, despite her vows never to remarry, she is strongly drawn towards Aeneas. Anna advises her not to sacrifice the chance of happiness, and stresses the advantages for Carthage that would follow from marriage with Aeneas and the union of Tyrians and Trojans. A hunting expedition is interrupted by a storm: Dido and Aeneas seek shelter in a cave where, by the design of Juno and Venus, Dido lets herself be seduced.*

*King Iarbas, ruler of Numidia, had leased to Dido the land on which Carthage is being built, but she had rejected his offer of marriage. He now hears of the love affair and complains to Jupiter, who then reminds Aeneas of his mission to found a new city in Italy. As Aeneas prepares to leave, Dido discovers his intention; after a bitter quarrel she begs him to stay a little longer.*

*But Aeneas sails away, and Dido kills herself, begging the gods to punish Aeneas and to make Carthage and Rome everlasting enemies.*

*Dido is the central, tragic figure of the Book. She is gripped by a love that conquers all her pride, and brushes aside all her doubts. She gives up everything for Aeneas; when he goes, she has nothing left to live for.*

*Aeneas is, at first sight, a less than satisfactory hero. Though he never formally promises to marry Dido, knowing that his destiny insists that he must sail to Italy, he need not have stayed so long, nor let Dido imagine that he might never leave. Yet in truth his love is as strong as Dido's, so strong that, despite all he knows, he cannot resist the temptation she offers, till the direct command of Jupiter tears him away. His tragedy is that he is allowed no end for his sorrows, that he has to go on living.*

#### Full Synopsis:

1 – 29 Dido has fallen for Aeneas, and confides in her sister Anna. Dido admits she could seriously consider marrying him, but for her vow of chastity made after the death of her previous husband

Sychaeus. But she resolves to be faithful to her dead husband.

30 – 54 Anna tells Dido to live for herself, not the dead, and also to consider the advantages of marrying Aeneas and allying herself to the Trojans. She advises Dido to ask for the blessing of the gods, and keep Aeneas in Carthage.

55 – 75 Anna's advice reassures Dido, who stops feeling guilty. They sacrifice to the gods, check the entrails of victims, as Dido falls more and more in love - like a wounded doe.

76 – 89 Dido spends more and more time with Aeneas, now totally besotted. Building work and training for war cease.

90 – 106 At this, Juno goes to Venus, and suggests a truce, with a marriage between Aeneas and Dido.

107 – 116 Venus realises this is a trap to divert Aeneas off his ultimate course of founding a city in Italy, agrees in principle, but suggests Juno should ask Jupiter whether that is his will too.

117 – 129 Juno agrees, but first proposes a plan; she suggests that on a hunting expedition tomorrow, she will create a downpour, and cause the couple to seek shelter in a cave, where they'll have a union/marriage, if Venus is agreeable to that. Venus recognizes the trick, but still agrees.

129 – 159 The day of the hunt; a description of the richness of Dido's apparel. She, the Tyrians, and  
8  
the Trojans set off, Ascanius with them, Aeneas likened to Apollo. In the mountains, they encounter goats and deer.

160 – 174 The thunderstorm starts. The Tyrians, Trojans, and Ascanius scatter, making for shelter. Aeneas and Dido hide in a cave, where their "marriage" takes place. Their relationship from now on will be public knowledge. Dido is doomed.

175 – 219 Rumour, personified as a goddess, spreads the news around Libya, and tells King Iarbas, son of Jupiter, whom Dido had previously rejected as a suitor. Deeply angered by the news, he prays to his father, and complains.

220 – 237 Jupiter hears his prayer and sends down his messenger Mercury to remind Aeneas that his obligation is to found an Italian city, not remain in Carthage. If this doesn't inspire him, then he at least must think of the future of Ascanius. He must set sail.

238 – 277 Mercury flies down to deliver his message. He encounters Aeneas, dressed in lavish, un-Roman garb, supervising building work, and chides him for staying too long in Carthage, and reminds him of his duty in Italy, and responsibility towards Ascanius/Iulus.

278 – 296 Mercury disappears. Aeneas is shocked and upset, and desperate now to leave; the difficulty – how to break it to Dido? He thinks of a plan. He summons Mnesteus, Sergestus and Serestus and orders them to get a fleet ready in secret. Aeneas decides to try to find the best moment to tell Dido he's leaving.

297 – 330 With a lover's suspicion, and the word of Rumour, Dido finds out about the fleet and the Trojans' plan to leave. Out of her mind with rage and passion, she finds Aeneas and confronts him. She challenges him for saying nothing about his leaving, questions the sanity of risking sailing on winter seas to go to an unknown land, and begs him to stay. She says she's hated by the people of Libya, and even her own Tyrians because of him. She despairs at not having had his child.

331 – 361 Aeneas is moved, but does not show it. He thanks Dido for her kindness. He says,

perhaps rather dishonestly, that he was never going to go without saying goodbye. He says he never offered her marriage, and he's constrained by fate – otherwise he'd be back at Troy, rebuilding his city. But he's been told by Jupiter himself to go.

362 – 388 Dido savagely turns on Aeneas, accusing him of not being the son of a goddess. She tells him to go, and hopes he drowns, and that when they're both dead, she'll haunt him.

389 – 396 Dido rushes indoors, and faints. She's carried to her bed – never to come out alive again. Aeneas is upset but his duty takes over and goes to his ships.

397 – 449 The Trojans launch their (semi) finished ships, so keen to leave. Leaving the city, they're likened to ants, working together. Virgil addresses Dido directly, asking her what she feels on seeing the sight. Dido then asks her sister Anna to go down to the beach and plead with Aeneas to stay for a while before he finally leaves. Aeneas resists her pleas, like the Alpine oak not succumbing to the north winds. He's upset, but remains unmoved.

450 – 473 Dido now wishes to die. Terrible omens torment her – libations of milk turn black and wine turns to a filthy gore. She tells no-one. She thinks she hears the voice of her dead husband Sychaeus speaking to her from his shrine, and in her dreams Aeneas drives her mad.

9

474 – 499 Dido pretends to use sorcery to either win back Aeneas or put an end to her passion for him. She tells Anna to build a pyre on which the arms and clothes Aeneas has left behind and the bed they shared can be burned.

500 – 521 Anna does as bidden. Dido carries out the rite.

522 – 553 Dido is awake at night, tormented by her love. In a nocturnal soliloquy, Dido explores her options – to go back to her old Libyan suitors, accompany, alone or attended, the Trojans. She decides it is better to die. She concludes by blaming Anna for the position she state she got into, and by acknowledging that she has been unfaithful to the dead Sychaeus.

554 – 569 Contrast of Aeneas resting on a ship. He's visited by an apparition similar to Mercury, which urges him to make haste and make sail, to take advantage of a west wind, before Dido does anything rash.

570 – 585 Aeneas wakes up and immediately stirs his men to action and set sail.

586 – 629 At dawn Dido watches the Trojan fleet sail away. Her emotions make her momentarily think of pursuing them. Eventually she curses Aeneas, referring to him as a monster of wickedness. She prays that if he must reach Italy, then he'll have to wage war, and be driven from the land and separated from his son, and see his people die. She prays that the Carthaginians and the descendants of Aeneas be enemies forever.

630 – 641 Dido speaks to her husband's nurse, Barce, asking her to bring Anna to her, to complete the religious rites from 474ff.

642 – 665 Barce leaves. Dido rushes to the pyre in a frenzy, lies on the bed she shared with Aeneas and stabs herself with a Trojan sword which he has left.

666 – 685 Rumour informs the city of Dido's death. Anna comes running up, reproaching her sister for her deception and mourning the fact that they didn't die together. She blames herself for constructing the pyre and criticizes Dido for abandoning her, and the Tyrians.

686 – 693 Anna climbs the pyre, and embraces her dying sister.



694 – 707 Juno takes pity and sends Iris to cut a lock of Dido's hair as an offering to the god of the underworld, Dis, in order to help Dido pass quickly into death.

10

[Book V

*After the drama of the love affair, and the tragedy of Dido's death, the action in Book V is quiet, as if to allow Aeneas to recover his composure, and perhaps some of his credibility as a hero and a leader. Much of the story centres on his men, and Aeneas is almost an observer rather than a participant. After leaving Carthage the ships are again blown to Drepanum in Sicily, where Aeneas' father had died the year before; Aeneas decides to hold funeral games in Anchises' honour on the anniversary of his death.*

*First, a boat race between four of the ships; we have met all four captains briefly in earlier Books. Then in a keenly contested foot race there is an accusation of unfair tactics, and Aeneas has to calm down some raised tempers; two of the runners, Nisus and Euryalus, appear again, in a more tragic episode after the Trojans have reached Italy. In a brutal boxing match, Aeneas intervenes to save the loser from serious injury. An archery contest is followed by a riding display, given by Ascanius and other young Trojans, which is interrupted by an urgent message. The Trojan women, incited by Juno, and tired of constantly wandering over the Mediterranean, have set fire to the ships.*

*At this Aeneas almost loses heart. Jupiter reassures him with a rain-storm that extinguishes the flames, with the loss of only four of the ships. Some of the Trojans decide to remain in Sicily, but Aeneas is encouraged by a vision of his father to lead the others on towards Italy. En route, Palinurus, his helmsman, is lost overboard.]*

Book VI

*Aeneas and his followers sail through the Etruscan Sea, to the west of Italy, and land on the coast at Cumae. He consults the local prophetess, the Sibyl, and asks her help to visit his father in the Underworld. (Anchises asked Aeneas to visit him in the Underworld at V. 731). She tells him that he must first find in the woods the Golden Bough, which he must take down as a gift to Proserpina, the queen of the Underworld. When he has found it, Aeneas and the Sibyl make their way down through a cave near Lake Avernus. The first region they pass through is inhabited by abstract monsters, like Grief and Agony. They reach the river Acheron, where countless ghosts of people as yet unburied have to wait, unable to cross. But the Sibyl shows Charon the ferryman the Golden Bough, and he takes them over. After drugging the watchdog Cerberus they come to the Plains of Mourning, where they find all those who have died an early death. Here Aeneas sees and speaks to the ghost of Dido. They then pass by Tartarus, where sinners are punished, to Elysium, where Aeneas meets his father. Aeneas sees a throng of souls waiting, and Anchises explains how souls are reborn after purification. Among them he points out the souls of men who will be famous in Roman history. Then Aeneas and the Sibyl return to the real world above.*

Full synopsis:

1 -14 The Trojan fleets lands at Cumae. Aeneas goes to the citadel and the cave of the Sibyl, mouthpiece and oracle of Apollo.

15 – 42 Background of story of Daedalus landing at Cumae after escaping from Crete and King Minos, and founding a temple to Apollo. Description of the friezes on the doors. The Trojans' admiration of the pictures is interrupted by the arrival of Achates, who's been scouting, and the priestess of Apollo Deiphobe. She tells them to follow the ritual of the sacrifice of 7 bullocks and 7 sheep, which they do. They then enter the temple.

43 – 77 In the cavern within the temple, the priestess becomes possessed by the god Apollo and speaks, urging Aeneas to pray first. In his prayer, Aeneas acknowledges the support of Apollo and asks that they be allowed to settle in Latium; in return, Aeneas will build a solid marble temple to

11

Apollo and Diana.

78 – 97 The 100 mouths within the cave reply. They say that the Trojans' voyage is over, but on land they'll face much worse – war, which will mirror the Trojan War; with a Greek camp, an Achilles (Turnus), and the cause of the suffering will be a foreign bride (Lavinia, daughter of King Latinus). But they should endure it all bravely; ironically, they'll get help from a *Greek* city.

98 – 124 Deiphobe the priestess recovers from her possession. Aeneas begs her to show him how to enter the Underworld, so he can see his father Anchises.

125 – 156 She tells Aeneas about the golden bough, hidden in a dark tree in a dark grove in a dark valley, which is needed as an offering to Proserpina, the Queen of the Underworld. If Aeneas is fated to go, the bough will break off easily. Aeneas must first bury a dead comrade who drowned, and bring black cattle for the rite of purification prior to entry into the Underworld.

157 – 183 Aeneas leaves the cave with Achates, depressed by the prophecy. They think about who the dead comrade might be, and at the shore they find the drowned Misenus. The Trojans prepare an altar pyre for him.

184 – 212 Aeneas joins in the work of felling trees for the pyre, but is distracted by the task of finding the golden bough. He prays and 2 doves arrive to show him the way to the grove at Lake Avernus. Aeneas breaks off the bough and takes it to the Sibyl.

213 – 236 Meanwhile the Trojans have been preparing and then carry out the funeral of Misenus. Aeneas sets up a mound for him with his arms and oars and trumpet.

237 – 268 Aeneas carries out the purification rites with 4 black bullocks, following the instructions of the Sibyl. After an ominous tremor, the Sibyl becomes possessed again and leads Aeneas into the cave.

269 - 295 Vivid description of the entrance hall to the underworld – Grief, Revenge etc; the dark elm containing idle dreams and monsters. Aeneas draws his sword in self defence, but the Sibyl tells him they are only shadows of the real thing.

296 – 317 Description of the road to the River Acheron, the river of Grief; description of ferryman Charon. Crowds of dead rushing to the shore, begging to be taken across- likened to Autumn leaves and seabirds.

318 – 336 Aeneas asks Sibyl about the crowds. She explains about the buried and unburied. Aeneas spots 2 comrades from his voyages, drowned in the storm.

337 – 385 Palinurus the helmsman approaches Aeneas. He tells him his story of his falling overboard, and begs Aeneas to bury his body or take him across to the Underworld. The Sibyl reassures Palinurus that his remains will be buried by Lucanians, the people who inhabit the place where his body has been washed up, and that the place will then bear his name.

386 – 417 Aeneas and the Sibyl approach the river. They're challenged by Charon. The Sibyl explains and shows him the golden bough. Charon conveys them across in his leaky boat.

417 – 426 Sibyl drugs Cerberus with a drugged cake.

12

427 – 449 Aeneas and the Sibyl see the haunts of those who have died before their time – 5 groups in all; infants, men sentenced to death on false charges, suicides, victims of unhappy love....

450 – 477 Dido is among them. Aeneas recognizes her, and speaks to her, saying he didn't want to leave her but had to obey the command of the gods. Dido does not respond; eyes fixed on the ground, she rushes off to her dead first husband Sychaeus.

478 – 536 They come to the furthest fields, and the 5<sup>th</sup> group of dead, soldiers, both Greek and Trojan. Aeneas sees Deiphobus, son of Priam, horribly mutilated; Deiphobus explains how his wife Helen set him up and let the Greeks into their house.

535 – 548 The Sibyl hurries Aeneas up; Deiphobus leaves them.

549 – 627 They come to a fork in the road; the path to the right leads to Elysium, home to those who have lived good lives. To the left lies Tartarus. Aeneas looks down the path and sees a walled city, where Aeneas can hear terrible groans. The Sibyl tells the terrified Aeneas about the sinners in Tartarus. Ruled over by King Rhadamanthus, with Tisiphone and her sister Furies flogging criminals. A list follows of mythical sinners who have challenged the gods, culminating in Tityos, the giant who assaulted Leto, whose body is spread over 9 acres and whose liver is pecked by a giant vulture. There follows a list of mortal sinners too.

628 – 637 Sibyl and Aeneas continue their journey on the path, and go to the gates of Tartarus to present the golden bough.

639 – 677 They enter Elysium, seeing former kings of Troy, and others who've lived blameless lives. They gather round Aeneas and the Sibyl. She asks them where Anchises can be found. Musaeus the poet takes them to a vantage point from where they can view the plain.

678 – 703 Aeneas and the Sibyl make their way down into a grove where they find Anchises, who greets his son with tears of joy, saying he knew he'd come. (Anchises had asked Aeneas to visit him in the Underworld at Bk. V 731) Aeneas tries three times in vain to embrace his father's spirit.

704 – 752 Aeneas notices crowds of men gathered by the river Lethe, and asks his father who they are. Anchises tells him they're souls who are owed a second body by fate. He goes on to explain the process of punishment, atonement and purification in the Underworld and those who are chosen by God for rebirth.

753 – 860 Anchises takes Aeneas and the Sibyl into the crowd by the river Lethe. He shows him the famous Romans who are awaiting their turn to go up to the light of day: the pageant of heroes: - the kings of Alba Longa, Romulus, Rome itself, Augustus, the kings of Rome and the heroes of the Roman republic.

860 – 886 Aeneas asks Anchises about the noble young man with an unhappy outlook,

accompanying the General Marcellus. It is Marcellus, the nephew and probable heir of Augustus, who died in his teens in 23BC.

887 – 893 Anchises continues his tour; Aeneas is now fired up and inspired by the future glory of which he is an integral part.

894 – 903 Anchises escorts Aeneas and the Sibyl to the ivory gate of sleep, by which they leave the Underworld. Aeneas returns to his ships and his men, and sets sail up the coast to Caieta in Latium.

13

## Book VII

*After the visit to the Underworld which forms the almost religious climax to Aeneas' long voyage, Book VII introduces the second half of Aeneas' story. Virgil's theme in this half is the start of Roman history, the grim series of battles that Aeneas must fight against the various peoples who will, in time, join his Trojans to become the Romans. Only when he has won the war can he found his new city. Just as Juno in Book I persuaded Aeolus to start a fierce storm to wreck the Trojans' fleet, so now she uses the Fury, Allecto, to rouse the powers of Hell against them. Aeneas sails north from Cumae, and lands by the mouth of the river Tiber. Virgil then rapidly explains that the country of Latium is ruled by the aged King Latinus. His only child, Lavinia, has many fine princes wanting to marry her, but the favourite is Turnus, prince of the Rutuli, a neighbouring tribe: he is also the man that Latinus' wife Amata wants as her son-in-law.*

*But Latinus is warned by omens to consult the oracle of his father, Faunus, who tells him that Lavinia must not marry a native prince, for she is fated to become the wife of a foreigner and the mother of a race which will make the world its empire.*

*On landing the Trojans have a meal, and Aeneas becomes sure that at last this is the land which is meant to be theirs. Next morning, after a short recce, he starts to build a military camp on the coast, while sending a hundred ambassadors to Latinus to ask for peace.*

*Latinus welcomes them: he says that he knows who they are, and recalls that Dardanus, founder of Troy, was born in Latium.*

*The ambassadors ask for a small piece of land to build a city, and hand over the gifts sent by Aeneas. Latinus realises that this must be the foreigner whom his daughter will marry, and promises both peace, and his daughter as a bride, if Aeneas will come in person to confirm the treaty.*

*At this point Juno, begrudging the Trojans' prospect of success, sends the Fury, Allecto, to destroy their hopes of peace. In the general war-fever that Allecto arouses, Latinus refuses his people's demand that he open the Gates of War in the temple of Janus, so Juno herself breaks them open. There follows a list of the tribes which gather to oppose the Trojans.*

### Full synopsis:

1 – 26 Aeneas buries his old nurse Caieta, and sets sail, hugging the coast and skirting Circe's island, with the help of a favourable wind from Neptune.

27 – 39 At dawn, the Trojans reach the mouth of the Tiber, and turn in towards shore.

40 – 47 Apostrophe to Erato the Muse of love poetry, invoking her to inspire Virgil into telling the story of war to come.

47 – 59 Background of King Latinus, son of Faunus. Daughter Lavinia, courted by many including Turnus, Queen Amata's favourite, but gods' portents forbade that match.

60 – 80 Description of sacred laurel tree in palace courtyard; how a swarm of bees had settled on its top ; how a prophet interpreted it as the arrival of a foreigner with an army, to take over the city; how Lavinia, at the altar with her father, saw her hair catch fire and her body engulfed in flame and

smoke, a sign that her future would be bright but that war would come upon the people.

81 – 107 Description of King Latinus consulting the oracle of his prophetic father Faunus; being told not to marry his daughter to a native Latin, but to a stranger, who will raise the Latin name to

14

the stars; their descendants will hold sway over the world. Rumour spread the word.

108 – 149 Aeneas and his men are eating a meal of fruit, on bread, advised thus by Jupiter. Still hungry, they eat the bread. Iulus jokes they are eating their plates – a confirmation they have reached their destined home, as Anchises had left Aeneas a riddle to that effect. Aeneas recognizes this and joyfully tells his men.

150 – 160 Aeneas sends 100 picked men to go to King Latinus as envoys of peace. Aeneas begins to mark out lines for buildings and a camp.

160 – 191 Description of Latinus' city and its buildings and ecphrasis.

192 – 211 Latinus calls Trojans to his palace and offers them xenia.

212 – 249 Ilioneus replies, saying they've come deliberately. Aeneas is descended from Jupiter, and driven by the Greeks. A mix with the Trojans will enhance your standing. He offers Latinus gifts, including the gold cup of Anchises and Priam's sceptre.

250 – 296 Latinus realizes the prophecy of Faunus refers to these men. He assures Ilioneus that he will have land, and insists that Aeneas should come himself and propose marriage to his daughter. Latinus then gives the Trojans a horse each. The Trojans return with the horses.

296 – 323 Juno on high catches sight of Aeneas. She bemoans their arrival in Latium, and her lack of effectiveness in her plan. She compares her impotence to Mars against the Lapiths, Diana against the kingdom of Calydon. She acknowledges she cannot stop Aeneas, but she can delay things. She says she'll start a war between the Trojans and the Rutulians.

324 – 341 Juno flies to Allecto the Fury and asks her to make sure the Trojans don't win Latinus over.

342 – 374 Allecto flies to Latium, to Queen Amata's chamber, and poisons her with a snake from her hair, making her mad. Amata then tries in vain to remonstrate with Latinus about betrothal of Aeneas to Lavinia.

375 – 406 Amata out of her mind, spinning like a top through the city, then flees to the forest, pretending to be possessed by Bacchus, taking Lavinia with her. Through Rumour, other mothers leave their homes and join them.

407 – 437 Allecto flies to the Rutulians and Turnus. In the guise of an old priestess Calybe, she speaks to him in his sleep, urging him to attack the Trojans.

438 – 475 Turnus tells Calybe not to interfere in the affairs of men, thus enraging Allecto, who reveals herself. She throws a burning torch into his heart, and inspires him to a passionate desire for war. He orders his men to prepare for war.

476 – 511 Allecto flies off and spots Iulus hunting. She maddens his hounds to attack a tame stag, loved by the country folk. Iulus unwittingly shoots it, his aim helped by Allecto. It returns home wounded and the country folk gather up weapons.

512 – 539 Allecto blows a horn to gather the people. Battle ensues. Almo and Galaesus killed.

15

540 – 572 Allecto tells Juno her bidding is done, and offers to stir up more war. Juno declines and takes over. Allecto withdraws.

573 – 600 Appeals to Latinus by the Rutulians and the country folk to go to war. Latinus refuses and withdraws to his palace, giving up the reins of power.

601 – 642 Description of the gates of war on the temple of Janus. Latinus refuses to open them so Juno does. Weapons forged for battle in five Italian cities.

642 – 647 Invocation to the Muses for a catalogue of the Italian forces.

648 – 817 Catalogue of Italian forces, starting with Mezentius and finishing with Turnus and finally Camilla.

*Turnus, while collecting forces to fight the Trojans, sends to ask for the help of Diomedes, a Greek warrior who had settled in Italy after the sack of Troy.*

*Aeneas is told in a dream by the river-god Tiberinus to make an alliance with King Evander, living up river in the small settlement of Pallanteum, on the future site of Rome. The next night the current is magically stilled, and Aeneas sails. He is welcomed by Evander, who explains that they are in the middle of a festival in honour of Hercules. Hercules had killed a giant named Cacus, who, from his cave on the Aventine hill, had been terrorising the neighbourhood. In the evening Evander tells Aeneas of the early history of Latium, of the so-called Golden Age under Saturn, and takes him on a tour of the city, explaining the origin of various Roman sites and names.*

*Meanwhile on Olympus Venus, alarmed by all the anti-Trojan activity in Italy, persuades her husband Vulcan to make magic armour for her son. At the same time, in Italy, Evander promises Aeneas his help. He advises him to seek an alliance with the Etruscans and their leader, Tarchon. Aeneas, he says, will be warmly welcomed by the Etruscans, for their previous king, Mezentius, banished for his appalling cruelty, was now being helped by Turnus in a war against them. Moreover the Etruscans had been warned by an oracle that only a foreigner could lead them to success in this war.*

*When Aeneas sees a miraculous sign in the sky he agrees to go, and sets out with Evander's son Pallas. On entering the Etruscan camp he is met by Venus, who gives him the armour. The shield is covered in engraved scenes from Roman history, and this is described in detail. In this way Virgil is again able to link the distant legendary past with his own times, and to make the triumphs of the emperor Augustus appear almost destined by fate.*

Full synopsis:

1 – 18 General pre-martial hysteria; Italian leaders recruit men from the fields; Venulus sent to ask the Greek Diomedes for help.

18 – 26 Aeneas is saddened by this, his mind racing.

26 – 66 Aeneas falls asleep at night on a riverbank. In his sleep, Tiber addresses and encourages him, saying they have waited long for his arrival from Troy, and not to give up. He tells him of a white sow he will see with 30 piglets – a sign that after 30 years Ascanius will found Alba Longa. He tells him about the Arcadian King Evander's founding of Pallanteum. They are hostile to the Latins, so Aeneas should make a treaty with them. Tiber guarantees safe passage up his river to the city.

67 – 81 Aeneas wakes. After praying to Tiber and the river nymphs, he takes two ships and mans them with armed men.

82 – 103 Doing so, he sees the portent of the white sow. He sacrifices it to Juno. The ships row upstream, against no current, all night and all day. They reach the city of Pallanteum.

104 – 125 The Arcadians are performing the annual rites to Hercules, sacrificing in a grove outside the city. The Arcadian men are alarmed by the Trojans' arrival, apart from Pallas, son of Evander, who approaches and asks them who they are and what they want. Upon Aeneas' answer, he welcomes them.

126 – 153 Aeneas addresses Evander; he says they are related through blood, through Atlas. He offers and asks him for friendship.

154 – 184 Evander welcomes Aeneas warmly and recalls meeting his father Anchises once in Arcadia as a young man. He promises reinforcements and supplies, and invites them to celebrate the festival of Hercules with them. Dinner.

185 – 276 King Evander explains the background to the festival rites, and tells the story of Cacus and Hercules – Cacus stealing 8 cattle and hiding them in his cave, Hercules opening the lair by pushing over a flint needle and exposing the roof, and bombarding and then strangling Cacus to death.

278 – 306 They pour libations and as evening approaches, the priests arrive. They, and young warriors and old men, sing Hercules' praises.

307 – 359 The rites over, they return to the city of Pallanteum. Evander talks to Aeneas and Pallas en route; he points out various landmarks which are well known in Virgil's day.

360 – 369 They reach Evander's humble home, and go in, Evander urging Aeneas to have the courage to scorn riches. Night falls.

370 – 426 Divine interlude; Venus, worried by the threats of the Laurentines, speaks to her husband Vulcan. She asks him to make weapons for her son. He agrees and they make love. Early next morning, he flies to his island of Vulcania to start work.

427 – 454 Description of the Cyclopes making a thunderbolt for Jupiter, and work for Athene and Mars. Vulcan stops that important work and gives them new instructions for Aeneas' armour, which they begin.

455 – 504 Morning, and Evander and Aeneas meet. Evander tells him of the former king of Etruria, Mezentius, and his violent ways and of his banishment by his beleaguered subjects, of his being sheltered by Turnus, and of how Evander is going to make Aeneas general of the Etrurian troops, who've heard a prophecy that they must obey a foreign leader.

506 – 519 Evander entrusts his son Pallas to Aeneas' care, to harden him up, accompanied by 400 horsemen.

520 – 541 Depressed Aeneas and Achates are cheered by an omen from Venus – a shrill trumpet blast from heaven, and armour glowing red in the sky. Emboldened, Aeneas asks for war against the Laurentines.

542 – 553 Evander and the Trojans sacrifice sheep, then Aeneas goes back to his ships, chooses some men to accompany him to Etruria, and sends the rest downstream back to tell Ascanius.

554 – 586 Evander bids a tearful goodbye to Pallas, wishing for youth again so he could join them in battle. He prays to the gods that if Pallas is destined to survive, they should let him (E) be preserved to see it, and if he is to die, let them take him (E) now.

587 – 609 The contingent sets out for Etruria, Pallas likened to the Morning Star. They meet up with Tarchon and the Etruscan army.

610 – end Venus comes to Aeneas and presents him with his new armour, under an oak tree. Aeneas admires them, and the story of Italy and the triumphs of the Romans inlaid on them, yet not aware of their relevance or what they represent.

[Book IX

*Juno sends Iris to tell Turnus to attack the Trojans while Aeneas is away, and he blockades the Trojan camp. When the Trojans stay resolutely inside their ramparts, as instructed by Aeneas before his departure, Turnus sets their ships on fire. But the ships are magically turned into beautiful sea-nymphs which swim safely away.*

*Nisus, one of the competitors in the foot race in Book V, now sees that the Italians are becoming*



*careless, and makes plans to slide through the blockade, to take news of it to Aeneas. Euryalus insists on joining him, and on their way out they stumble on some of the enemy, lying in a drunken stupor, and slaughter them.*

*However, they are seen by an enemy cavalry unit, pursued and killed.*

*On the following day the Italians again assault the Trojan ramparts, with the heads of Nisus and Euryalus displayed on spears. There are many casualties on both sides, and Ascanius wins praise for killing his first man. Turnus gets into the Trojan camp when the gates are briefly opened for an abortive raid. He could have opened the gates again to let his troops in, but instead, in a desire for personal triumph, he presses on alone, killing many Trojans, till he is forced to escape by diving into the Tiber.*

*Virgil's attitude to war was quite different from Homer's. Virgil's personal hatred for the violence and brutality of war is obvious in his earlier poems *The Eclogues* and *The Georgics*. This conflict between his personal feelings and the subject matter of this second half of the *Aeneid* is clearly visible in this Book, when stark descriptions of the horrors of war (like the slaughter of the sleeping Rutuli by Nisus and Euryalus, and the deaths of the two friends) are combined with intensely felt pity for its victims. Virgil's distaste for this sort of topic is also perhaps the cause of the very incongruity of the fairy-tale story of Aeneas' ships turned into sea-nymphs interrupting accounts of grim fighting.]*

#### Book X

*This book opens with a council of the gods. Jupiter is indignant that fighting between Trojans and Italians still continues, and forbids any more divine intervention in the war. An angry argument follows between Venus and Juno about the part each has taken in supporting her favourites. Jupiter will not take sides, and says that he will leave Fate to decide what will happen; any man's future will be decided by his own actions. (Most of the remainder of the book is then taken up by scenes of battle in which the characters do indeed decide their own fate.) The siege of the Trojan camp continues, and Aeneas returns from his mission in search of Etruscan help with a large Etruscan contingent, led by Tarchon. Fighting begins again, without either side gaining the upper hand.*

*Evander's son Pallas insists on meeting Turnus in single combat and is killed. Turnus behaves with cruel arrogance, and strips Pallas' body of its distinctive sword-belt. Aeneas, enraged by the news, storms over the battlefield causing havoc among the Italians. Awed by his power, Juno, with Jupiter's permission, extricates Turnus from the battle. Leadership of the Italian forces is then taken by Mezentius, the banished Etruscan king, till he meets Aeneas in battle. When Mezentius is wounded, his son, Lausus, intervenes to save him, but is killed by Aeneas. Aeneas, unlike Turnus, is affected by deep sorrow at what he has to do, and restores Lausus' body to his comrades. Mezentius, on hearing of his son's death, rides out to face Aeneas again, and meets a heroic and dignified end.*

*Book X is dominated by the three duels – Pallas/Turnus, Aeneas/Mezentius, Aeneas/Lausus. Virgil's account of the deaths of Pallas and Lausus emphasises the futility of the deaths in battle of the same young men who might have done most to benefit their fellow men. It also demonstrates the difference between Aeneas and Turnus. First, Turnus is arrogantly confident that he can kill Pallas, and he does so with the typical fighting efficiency of an epic hero. The news sends Aeneas on a wave of killing, as savage as any action of Turnus. Then he despatches Lausus with ruthless brutality. But suddenly Aeneas is overcome with revulsion for the cruelty of war, and he treats the dying Lausus with pity and sympathy; unlike Turnus, he displays those qualities that do give some hope for human progress.*

Full synopsis:

1 – 16 Council of the gods. Jupiter angry that war has broken out and tells gods to accept and abide by the treaty made.

17 – 63 Venus pleads with Jupiter for her Trojans who are being besieged, with the prospect of Greek Diomedes joining the war against them. She asks permission to take Ascanius to safety to one of her sanctuaries, arguing ironically too that it would have been better for the Trojans just to start again on the ashes of Troy.

64 – 95 Juno joins in, protesting bitterly about the preferential treatment Aeneas is receiving, and the fact that the Italians seem to be criticized for defending their homeland.

96 – 117 The other gods agree or disagree. Jupiter ordains that each man will be dictated by fate, and refuses to take sides.

118 - 146 Siege of the Trojan camp continues. Description of Trojans defending the camp from within.

147 – 164 After seeking help from Tarchon the Etruscan, Aeneas sails with his new allies and Pallas in the middle of the night back to Latium.

165 – 168 Invocation to Muses to help Virgil catalogue the ships.

20

169 – 214 Catalogue of 30 Etruscan ships and captains.

215 – 259 Nymphs, formerly the ships of the Trojans (see IX.77 ff) meet Aeneas' ship in midwater. One of them, Cymodocea, tells him Ascanius is trapped within the Trojan camp, but the Arcadian cavalry from Pallanteum is ready and waiting. She urges him on to battle, and pushes his ship along. Aeneas prays to Cybele for her blessing.

260 – 276 Sailing toward the Trojan camp, Aeneas flashes his shield. Turnus sees the fleet approaching his back. Description of fire on Aeneas' armour.

277 – 288 Turnus takes up position to repel the fleet, encouraging his men to join him.

289 – 307 Aeneas and the Etruscans disembark. Tarchon encourages his men but while landing his ship gets stuck on rocks and is broken up.

308 – 362 Aeneas starts the attack, killing Latins and being defended in part by Venus. Battle on the beach continues, Trojans and Latins likened to opposing winds.

363 – 379 Pallas encourages his Arcadians, fleeing from the Latins, to fight back.

380 – 427 Aristeia of Pallas inspires his men.

427 – 438 The Latin Lausus fights back. More battle description.

439 – Turnus orders his men to leave Pallas to him. Pallas calls on Hercules to help him. The duel ensues. Pallas' spear grazes Turnus, but Turnus' spearthrow kills Pallas. Exulting over Pallas' body, Turnus takes his baldric. The Arcadians take back the body.

510 – 606 Hearing of Pallas' death, Aeneas embarks on a raging aristeia against the Latins, killing many men. His actions stop the Latins' siege of the Trojan camp.

607 – 688 Jupiter speaks to Juno. She asks him to allow a postponement to Turnus' death, which he grants. Juno descends to earth and fashions a phantom Aeneas with which to lure Turnus. The phantom leads Turnus on to a moored ship which Juno then casts out to sea. Turnus bemoans his inglorious fate, trying 3 times to both kill himself and dive overboard to swim ashore. Juno restrains him each time. His ship lands at his father's city of Ardea.

688 – 719 In Turnus' absence, Mezentius takes command of the Latins. Full of hatred, all the Etruscans make for him, but fall short of close quarter combat with him.

720 – 747 Details of aristeia of Mezentius and him killing Acron.

748 – 762 General details of victims and killers; the gods look on in pity.

763 – 833 Mezentius and Aeneas meet in combat. Mezentius is wounded by A's spear and begins to withdraw. His son Lausus intervenes and is killed. Aeneas pities the dead Lausus.

834 – 1000 Wounded Mezentius sees his dead son brought back to him and bemoans the fact he is dead while he himself lives. He goes back into battle to meet Aeneas, who kills him, trapped under his horse.

## 21

### [Book XI

*At the beginning of the Book the Trojans are left in command of the battlefield. Aeneas sends Pallas' body back to Evander, and a twelve-day truce is concluded between the two sides to allow them to bury their dead.*

*The Latins hold a council of war. First, a report is heard from the embassy which had been sent to ask for the help of Diomedes, announcing his refusal to risk meeting the Trojans again. Then Latinus recommends peace, on almost any terms. Drances supports him, and urges a duel between Turnus and Aeneas to decide the war. Finally Turnus argues that the war is neither already lost nor hopeless; however, he is ready to face Aeneas in single combat. But while they are talking, news comes of a Trojan advance, and the war is renewed.*

*The remainder of the book is largely devoted to a cavalry battle. The Italian forces are led by a warrior princess, Camilla. It ends with her death and the defeat of the Latins. Night overtakes both armies encamped in front of Latinus' city.*

*The war turns strongly in favour of Aeneas. He is now shown as a resourceful and confident commander, while fear and hopelessness spreads among his enemies.*

*Camilla is a heroic warrior in her own right, very like Turnus in her courageous and impetuous behaviour. Yet her bravery is all in vain, and her death is made all the more pointless as it is caused by the cowardly and cunning Arruns, who kills her without ever having the courage to meet her in battle face to face.]*

## Book XII

*In this final book, significantly, all the action is left to the four main pairs of characters, Jupiter and Juno, Latinus and Amata, Turnus and Juturna, Venus and Aeneas.*

*Turnus, provoked by the low morale of his troops, announces that he will keep his promise to fight Aeneas in single combat, and asks Latinus to arrange the conditions. Neither Latinus nor his wife Amata can dissuade him. The two heroes prepare to fight, and the soldiers of both sides gather to watch. Juturna, Turnus' sister now appears. (She had been turned into a nymph, and given immortality, by Jupiter.) She persuades the Rutuli to attack the Trojans, despite the truce agreed, saying that this is the only way to save Turnus' life and their own future independence. Aeneas tries to stop his men from breaking the truce, but when he is himself wounded by a stray arrow the fighting resumes. When Venus heals the wound and Aeneas rejoins the battle, Juturna disguises herself as her brother's charioteer, and succeeds in preventing Aeneas from coming near him. Aeneas and Turnus deal out death indiscriminately, till Aeneas is encouraged by his mother to assault the Latin capital. Queen Amata is horrified by this turn of events, and believing that her conduct is responsible for it commits suicide. At this Turnus, shrugging off Juturna's opposition, rushes back to the city and tells the Latins to leave him to decide the issue in single combat. In the first phase of the struggle, the sword which Turnus is using breaks, and Aeneas' spear becomes stuck fast in a tree-trunk. When Juturna brings Turnus his own sword Venus frees her*

*son's spear from the tree and the warriors turn to face each other again.*

*In Olympus Jupiter tells Juno to take no further part. She agrees, but begs him not to allow the Latin race to disappear. He agrees, and compels Juturna to leave the battlefield, desperately miserable that she cannot save her brother. The duel starts again, and Turnus is defeated. Turnus begs Aeneas for mercy, but on seeing Turnus' wearing Pallas' baldric, Aeneas kills him.*

Full synopsis:

1 – 19 Turnus says he will fight Aeneas one to one, and asks Latinus to arrange it.

20 – 81 Latinus responds that they should seek peace with the Trojans, which enrages Turnus and makes him all the more determined to fight on. Queen Amata also begs him not to fight, as she will die with him. Turnus sends a message to Aeneas to meet him in single combat the next day.

82 – 106 Turnus arms himself for battle.

107 – 113 Aeneas prepares too; he sends envoys to Latinus to arrange conditions for peace.

114 – 135 Next morning, both sides prepare to watch the duel.

136 – 161 Juno addresses Turnus' immortal sister Juturna. She urges her to try to save him.

162 – 216 The kings arrive to watch the duel. Aeneas prays to the gods, swearing that if he loses, the Trojans will withdraw for good to Pallanteum, and not make war again. If they win, they will not rule over the Latins, but Latinus will retain sovereignty. Latinus swears he will abide by this.

217 – 257 Turnus seems frightened. His sister sees this, and, disguised as Camers, she addresses the Latins, suggesting it's unjust Turnus is fighting alone. The men have a change of heart and hope the treaty will be broken. Juturna sends a false omen to convince them further.

258 – 311 An augur encourages the Italians to fight. Battle ensues.

312 - 323 Aeneas tries to persuade his allies not to join battle, but to leave it to his duel with Turnus. As he speaks, he's hit by an arrow.

23

324 – 384 Turnus, emboldened by Aeneas' withdrawal, kills many men.

385 – 411 An angry Aeneas is taken for treatment. Iapyx unsuccessfully treats him, unable to take out the spearhead. Meanwhile the fighting intensifies, the Trojans under siege again.

412 – 441 Venus intervenes, secretly impregnating the water used to bathe the wound with dittany, panacea and ambrosia. Iapyx unawares heals Aeneas. Aeneas re-arms quickly, encouraging Iulus to be at his side.

442 – 468 Aeneas leads his army out onto the plain. The Latins panic. The Trojans engage and start to rout the Latins. Aeneas disregards the rank and file - looking only for Turnus.

469 – 499 Juturna, in the guise of Metiscus the regular charioteer, takes over driving Turnus' chariot but conveys her brother away from any prospective fight with Aeneas. Losing his helmet crest to a spear throw, Aeneas gives in to rage and slaughters many Latins.

500 – 505 Apostrophe to the gods from Virgil on how to describe the mass slaughter on both sides.

506 – 554 Details of death meted out by Aeneas and Turnus; pathetic descriptions of victims.

555 – 574 Venus inspires Aeneas to attack Laurentum. Aeneas rallies his generals and addresses

them.

575 – 594 The Trojans bring up siege ladders and attack the city walls with fire, Aeneas accusing Latinus of betrayal a 2<sup>nd</sup> time. Some citizens within want the city to be opened up to the Trojans; others begin defending it.

595 – 612 Queen Amata, believing that Turnus has been killed, and all hope gone, she blames herself for the fighting, and hangs herself.

613 – 667 On the battlefield, Turnus hears the cries of grief from the city. Juturna, as Metiscus, tries to dissuade him from going there. Turnus recognizes her. Saces rides up to ask Turnus to save the city.

668 – 698 Turnus is shamed and resolves to go to meet his fate, seemingly prepared to die. He sets out from the chariot towards the city, breaking through the ranks to meet Aeneas.

699 – 728 Aeneas rejoices at seeing him. He stops besieging the city to go and meet him. Both opposing sides stop fighting to watch the imminent duel. Like two bulls, they fight. Jupiter weighs out on scales who is to win.

729 – 768 Turnus' sword shatters on contact with Aeneas' divine weapons. He flees to collect his father's sword. Raging Aeneas pursues him, slowed down by his leg which is still weak from its arrow wound (XII 319ff). They complete ten circuits.

769 – 791 Aeneas tries to pull out his spear, stuck in the stump of a sacred olive tree, to throw at Turnus. Turnus prays for his failure. Juturna, again disguised as Metiscus, gives her brother his father's sword. Angry at this, Venus pulls out the spear for Aeneas. Both combatants are ready for round 2.

792 – 806 Divine interlude. Jupiter urges Juno to now give in and face the inevitable – that Aeneas  
24  
will win. He forbids her to do anything else to hinder the Trojans.

807 – 828 Juno replies that she will comply, but asks one favour – that the Latins retain their name once the treaties have been made.

829 – 843 Jupiter agrees to her request.

844 – 869 Jupiter sends one of the Furies to Juturna, to tell her to stop protecting her brother. Disguised as an owl, it goes to Turnus who is horrified by its portent.

870 – 887 Juturna recognizes the Fury, and bemoans her brother's fate, and her own immortality. She leaves the battlefield, diving into her own river.

887 – 919 Aeneas taunts Turnus, telling him not to run. Turnus picks up and tries to hurl a huge boundary stone, which misses its target.

920 – 939 Aeneas throws his huge spear. It pierces Turnus' shield, and hits him in the thigh. Turnus accedes to Aeneas, and gives up Lavinia. He asks Aeneas to show mercy, and think of his father Daunus.

940 – 952 Aeneas waivers at Turnus' words, but on seeing him wearing Pallas' baldric, he kills him.