

Prophecies in the Aeneid

Book 1:

Page 3 Juno's hatred of the Trojans - Juno is aware of the prophecy that the Roman race would one day topple the Carthaginian empire: 'But she had heard that there was rising from the blood of Troy a race of men who in days to come would overthrow this Tyrian citadel; a people proud in war and rulers of a great empire would come to sack the land of Libya'

Pages 10 & 11 Jupiter to Venus - History of Roman rule in Italy from Aeneas to the climax in the rule of Augustus:

- Aeneas will rule for 3 years
- Ascanius for 30 years
- Move from Lavinium to Alba Longa
- 300 years of Trojan rule
- Romulus and Remus (753 BC)
- Caesar (with connection with Iulus)

Symbolises the end of war and the reign of peace.

The fall of Troy avenged in the Roman conquests of the 2nd century BC.

Julius Caesar deified.

The passage mentions some of the qualities underlying Roman greatness:

Faith, the home, Law, Peace.

Book 2

Page 33 Vision of Hector - He tells Aeneas that he must escape and take the gods of the homeland with him from Troy and found a new city across the sea which will be great

Page 47 Ghost of Creusa - Aeneas to go to a western land - Hesperia. There happiness and a kingdom and a royal bride await him. There will be much ocean wandering.

Book 3

Page 51 Apollo - Seek out your ancient mother (Anchises interprets this to mean Crete.

Page 52 The household gods sent by Apollo - The ancient mother is not Crete but Italy (after Dardanus and Iasius).

Page 55 Celaeno, one of the Harpies - They will go to Italy as destined, but before they lay the foundations for their city, they will be forced to eat their tables.

Page 59 Helenus - Aeneas's voyage includes a visit to the Underworld
A white sow is prophesied with 30 young - on the future sight of the future city. (30 young = 30 years during which Ascanius will rule Alba Longa - alba = white)

Helenus outlines the route for Aeneas to take and the dangers to avoid
He also refers to the need to worship Juno to placate her.

Once in Italy, Aeneas is to go to Cumae and consult the Sibyl, who will give him a further prophecy.

Page 63 Anchises, on seeing white horses in the east coast of Italy - they represent war and then peace.

Book 4

Pages 75-6 Jupiter refers to Aeneas's future - 'the man to rule the whole of Italy pregnant with empire and clamouring for war, passing the high blood of Teucer down to his descendants and subduing the whole world under his laws.

Page 87 Dido's curse - hardship for Aeneas: trouble in war, separation from Ascanius and his companions. He must beg for aid, see many of his friend die, accept terms of a harsh peace, die before his time unburied.

Prayer for an avenger to arise (Hannibal) and for unending hostility between the two races.

Book 5

Pages 109-110 Anchises' ghost - encouragement for Aeneas: follow the advice of Nautes, to take only the strongest and the fittest to Italy; Aeneas to visit Anchises in the Underworld - He will learn about where his home is to be, and about his people's destiny.

Page 112 Neptune to Venus - One of Aeneas's men will be lost at sea - this is the price of the others arriving safely in Italy

Book 6

Page 117 The Sibyl's prophecy - She foretells war in Italy ('I see wars, deadly wars'); a second Troy, a second Achilles etc. Juno's enmity still pursuing them; help to come from a Greek city. It is necessary to persevere.

Pages 136-9 Anchises' survey of Roman history - pageant of Roman kings, rulers. Warning against civil war; the reign of Augustus.

'Your task, Roman, and do not forget it, will be to govern the peoples of the world in your empire. These will be your arts - and to impose a settled pattern upon peace, to pardon the defeated and war down the proud'

Book 7

Page 143 Faunus to Latinus - Latinus is not to marry his daughter Lavinia to a man of Italian stock, but to a foreigner.

'The descendants of that stock will see the whole world turning under their feet...'

Page 144 Fulfilment of Celaeno's prophecy - Ascanius remarks 'Look! We are eating our tables!'

Book 8

Page 166 Father Tiber encourages Aeneas - The white sow will be on the site of his future city. Aeneas must go to Evander and make a treaty.

Pages 182-6 Shield of Aeneas - Survey of Roman history ending with the battle of Actium, defeat of Antony and Cleopatra, Augustus celebrating a triple triumph in Rome.

Book 12

Page 287 Jupiter to Juno - Italians and Trojans will join together as one race.

'You will see that the people who arise from this admixture of Ausonian blood will be above all men, above the gods, in devotion and no other race will be their equals in paying you honour.'