Book 2.559-620

At me tum primum saeuus circumstetit horror.

But then first an awful dread enveloped me.

obstipui; subiit cari genitoris imago,

I stood aghast, the likeness of my dear father rose up [before me],

ut regem aequaeuum crudeli uulnere uidi

as I saw the king, of like age, gasping away his life from a cruel wound;

uitam exhalantem, subiit deserta Creusa

Creusa left alone rose up,

et direpta domus et parui casus Iuli.

and my house plundered, and the fate of little Iulus.

respicio et quae sit me circum copia lustro.

I look back and look all around to see what force there is around me.

deseruere omnes defessi, et corpora saltu

They have all, wearied, left, and have either given their bodies

ad terram misere aut ignibus aegra dedere.

to the ground by leaping sadly, or exhausted have thrown them into the flames.
And now indeed I alone was left, when I saw, keeping the threshold of Vesta’s shrine and silently hiding in a sequestered spot,

the daughter of Tyndareus (i.e., Helen); the fires give bright light to me wandering and casting my eyes in all directions over everything.

She, fearing beforehand the Teucrians, hostile to her on account of the overthrow of Pergama,

the vengeance of the Greeks, and the wrath[s] of her abandoned husband—

she, an Erinys (a Fury) alike to Troy and to her native land,

had hidden herself away and was sitting, detested, by the altars.

Fires blazed up in my heart; rage comes to avenge my failing homeland and to exact criminal; penalties.
‘scilicet haec Spartam incolumis patriasque Mycenae

‘So will she look unscathed on Sparta and her native Mycenae,

aspiciet, partoque ibit regina triumpho?

and parade as queen in the triumph she has won?

coniugiumque domumque patris natosque videbit

Will she see husband and home, parents and children,

Iliadum turba et Phrygiis comitata ministri?

accompanied by Ilian ladies and Phrygian captives?

occiderit ferro Priamus? Troia arserit igni?

Shall Priam have died by the sword? Shall Troy have burnt in fire?

Dardanium totiens sudarit sanguine litus?

Shall the Dardanian shore be so often soaked in blood?

non ita. namque etsi nullum memorabile nomen

Not so. For though there is no glorious renown

feminea in poena est, habet haec victoria laudem;

in punishing a woman and this victory gains no honor,

exstinxisse nefas tamen et sumpsisse merentis

yet I shall be praised for blotting out an sin and for exacting deserved punishment;
laudabor poenas, animumque explesse iuvabit

and it will be a joy to have filled my soul

ultricis flammeae et cineres satiasse meorum.’

with an avenging flame, and satisfied the ashes of my people.’

talia iactabam et furiata mente ferebar,]

Such were the words I was wildly saying and with frenzied purpose I was carried along

cum mihi se, non ante oculis tam clara, videndam

when my kindly mother presented herself to my eyes, never previously so clearly,

obtulit et pura per noctem in luce refulsit

and shone with pure light through the night,

alma parens, confessa deam qualisque videri

and revealing her deity in appearance and stature

caelicolis et quanta solet, dextraque prehensum

such as she is accustomed to appear to the lords of heaven. She caught me by the hand

continuit roseoque haec insuper addidit ore:

and held me back and spoke these words besides with rosy lips.

‘nate, quis indomitas tantus dolor excitat iras?

‘My son, what great resentment stirs ungovernable wrath?

quid furis? aut quonam nostri tibi cura recessit?  595

Why are you raging? Or wherever has your love for us gone?
non prius aspicies ubi fessum aetate parentem

Will you not first see where you have left your father,

liqueri Anchis, superst coniuncne Creusa

Anchises, weary with age, whether Creusa your wife and the

Ascaniusque puer? quos omnis undique Graiae

boy Ascanius survive? Around all of these the Greek lines are wandering on every side,

circum errant acies et, ni mea cura resistat,

and if my love were not preventing it,

iam flamma tulerint inimicus et hauserit ensis. 600

the flames by now would have taken them off and the enemy sword would have drunk their blood.

non tibi Tyndaridis facies invisa Lacaenae

I tell you, it is not the hated face of the Laconian woman [Helen], daughter of Tyndareus,

culpatusue Paris, divum inclementia, divum

or Paris that is to blame, but the unkindness of the gods, the gods,

has evertit opes sternitque a culmine Troiam.

overturns this power and topples Troy from her pinnacle.

aspice (namque omnem, quae nunc obducta tuenti

Look—for I will snatch away all the cloud which now blurs your sight

mortalis hebetat visus tibi et umida circum 605

and obscures your mortal vision, misty and dark all around you;
caligat, nubem eripiam; tu ne qua parentis
do not fear in any way your mother’s commands

iussa time neu praeceptis parere recusa):
and do not refuse to obey her counsels—

hic, ubi disiectas moles avulsaque saxis
here, where you see shattered piles and rocks torn from rocks,
saxa vides, mixtoque undantem pulvere fumum,
and smoke eddying up mingled with dust,

Neptunus muros magnoque emota tridenti
Neptune shakes the walls and foundations heaved up by his mighty trident,

fundamentaquatit totamque a sedibus urbem
and uproots the entire city from its base.
eruit. hic Iuno Scaeas saevissima portas
Here Juno, fiercest of all, is first to hold the Scaean gates and,

prima tenet sociumque furens a navibus agmen ferro accincta vocat.
girt with steel, in a frenzy calls from the ships her allied column.

iam summas arces Tritonia, respice, Pallas
Now upon the highest citadels, turn and see, Tritonian Pallas
insedit nimbo effulgens et Gorgone saeva.

has settled, flashing out from a storm-cloud, and terrifying with her Gorgon.

ipse pater Danais animos virisque secundas

My father himself supplies the Danaans with courage and auspicious strength;

sufficit, ipse deos in Dardana suscitat arma.

he himself stirs up the gods against Dardanian arms.

eripe, nate, fugam finemque impone labori;

Hasten your flight, my son, and put an end to your exertion.

nusquam abero et tutum patrio te limine sistam.’

Nowhere shall I leave you and I will set you safely on your father's threshold.’

**Book 4.160-188**

Interea magno misceri murmure caelum

Meanwhile the sky begins to be mixed with a loud rumble;

incipit, insequitur commixta grandine nimbus,

a rain-cloud with hail mixed in follows after

et Tyrii comites passim et Troiana iuuentus

and in every direction the Tyrian companions and the Trojan youth

Dardaniusque nepos Veneris diuersa per agros

and the Dardanian grandson of Venus, from fear,
tecta metu petiere; ruunt de montibus amnes.

sought shelters scattered throughout the fields; the rivers rush down from the mountains.

speluncam Dido dux et Trojanus eandem

Dido and the Trojan leader arrive at the same cave.

deueniunt. prima et Tellus et pronuba luno

Both Earth first and Juno as bridal attendant

dant signum; fulsere ignes et conscius aether

give the signal; lightning flashed, and Heaven is a witness

conubiis summoque ulularunt uertice Nymphae.

to their marriage, while the Nymphs screamed from the highest peak.

ille dies primus leti primusque malorum

That day in the beginning was the first [cause] of death, and in the beginning was the first [cause] of sufferings.

causa fuit; neque enim specie famaue mouetur

Dido is not disturbed by appearance or reputation,

nec iam furtiuum Dido meditatur amorem:

and no longer does she plan a clandestine love affair;

coniugium uocat, hoc praetexit nomine culpam.

she calls it marriage, and under this name she conceals her guilt.
Extemplo Libyae magnas it Fama per urbes,

At once, through the great cities of Libya Rumor moves.

Fama, malum qua non aliud uelocius ullan:

Rumor than which no other evil moves more swiftly;

mobilitate uiget uirisque adquirit eundo,

she thrives on movement and gathers strength as she goes.

parua metu primo, mox sese attollit in auras

Small because of fear at first, she soon raises herself up into the air,

ingrediturque solo et caput inter nubila condit.

and she walks on the ground and buries her head in the clouds.

illas Terra parens ira inritata deorum

Earth as mother brought her forth, provoked by her anger against the gods,

extremam, ut perhibent, Coeo Enceladoque sororem

her last daughter, as the story goes, a sister to Coeus and Enceladus,

progenuit pedibus celerem et pernicibus alis,

quick on her feet, and swift on her wings,

monstrum horrendum, ingens, cui quot sunt corpore plumae,

a horrible, huge monster, who for the many feathers on her body,

tot uigiles oculi subter (mirabile dictu),

has as many watchful eyes underneath (astonishing to tell),
tot linguae, totidem ora sonant, tot subrigit auris.

as many tongues, as many sounding mouths, as many pricked up ears.

nocte uolat caeli medio terraeque per umbram

By night she flies midway between earth and sky,

stridens, nec dulci declinat lumina somno;

screeching through the darkness, and never lowers her eyelids in sweet sleep.

luce sedet custos aut summi culmine tecti

During the daylight she sits watching either on a rooftop’s peak

turribus aut altis, et magnas territat urbes,

or on high towers, and terrorizes great cities,

tam ficti prauique tenax quam nuntia ueri.

as persistent a reporter of what is false and distorted, as of the truth.