

# ACHILLEIDOS

## LIBER I

Magnanimum Aeaciden formidatamque Tonanti  
progeniem et patrio vetitam succedere caelo,  
diva, refer. quamquam acta viri multum inclita cantu  
Maeonio, sed plura vacant: nos ire per omnem  
—sic amor est—heroa velis Scyroque latentem 5  
Dulichia proferre tuba nec in Hectore tracto  
sistere, sed tota iuvenem deducere Troia.  
tu modo, si veterem digno deplevimus haustu,  
da fontes mihi, Phoebæ, novos ac fronde secunda  
necte comas: neque enim Aonium nemus advena pulso  
nec mea nunc primis augescunt tempora vittis. 11  
scit Dircaeus ager meque inter prisca parentum  
nomina cumque suo numerant Amphione Thebae.

At tu, quem longe primum stupet Itala virtus  
Graiaque, cui geminae florent vatumque ducumque 15  
certatim laurus—olim dolet altera vinci—,  
da veniam ac trepidum patere hoc sudare parumper

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<sup>a</sup> Zeus would have married Thetis, had it not been declared that their son would be mightier than Zeus himself.

<sup>b</sup> *i.e.*, the *Iliad* of Homer.

<sup>c</sup> *i.e.*, of Ulysses (see line 873). Dulichium was part of his kingdom.

<sup>d</sup> Of the Muses.

<sup>e</sup> A fountain at Thebes.

<sup>f</sup> “altera,” that of poetry; Domitian fancied himself both

# ACHILLEID

## BOOK I

TELL, O goddess, of great-hearted Aeacides and of the progeny that the Thunderer feared and forbade to inherit his father's heaven.<sup>a</sup> Highly renowned are the warrior's deeds in Maeonian song,<sup>b</sup> but more remains untold: suffer me—for such is my desire—to recount the whole story of the hero, to summon him forth from his hiding-place in Scyros with the Dulichian trumpet,<sup>c</sup> and not to stop short at the dragging of Hector, but to lead the youth through the whole tale of Troy. Only do thou, O Phoebus, if with a worthy draught I drained the former fount, vouchsafe new springs and weave my hair with propitious chaplets; for not as a newcomer do I seek entrance to the Aonian<sup>d</sup> grove, nor are these the first fillets that magnify my brow. The fields of Dirce<sup>e</sup> know it, and Thebes counts my name among her forefathers of old time and with her own Amphion.

But thou whom far before all others the pride of Italy and Greece regards with reverent awe, for whom the laurels twain of poet and warrior-chief flourish in mutual rivalry—already one of them grieves to be surpassed<sup>f</sup>—grant pardon, and allow me anxiously to toil in this dust awhile. Thine is as a poet and a general, but would be better flattered by being called more brilliant in the latter capacity.

## STATIUS

pulvere. te longo necdum fidente paratu  
molimur magnusque tibi praeludit Achilles.

Solverat Oebalio classem de litore pastor 20  
Dardanus incautas blande populatus Amyclas  
plenaque materni referens praesagia somni  
culpatum relegat iter, qua condita ponto  
fluctibus invisus iam Nereis imperat Helle :  
cum Thetis Idaeos—heu numquam vana parentum  
auguria !—expavit vitreo sub gurgite remos. 26  
nec mora, et undosis turba comitante sororum  
prosiluit thalamis : fervent coeuntia Phruxi  
litora et angustum dominas non explicat aequor.

Illa ubi<sup>1</sup> discusso primum subit aëra ponto : 30  
“ me petit haec, mihi classis,” ait, “ funesta minatur,  
agnosco monitus et Protea vera locutum.  
ecce novam Priamo facibus de puppe levatis  
fert Bellona nurum : video iam mille carinis  
Ionium Aegaeumque premi ; nec sufficit, omnis 35  
quod plaga Graiugenum tumidis coniurat Atridis :  
iam pelago terrisque meus quaeretur Achilles.  
et volet ipse sequi. quid enim cunabula parvo  
Pelion et torvi commisimus antra magistri ?  
illic, ni fallor, Lapitharum proelia ludit 40

<sup>1</sup> illa ubi ω : illa P.

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<sup>a</sup> Part of the usual prologue to an epic, cf. *Theb.* i. 17.

<sup>b</sup> *i.e.*, of Laconia.

<sup>c</sup> Hecuba, before she bore Paris, dreamed that she was bearing a burning torch which set fire to Troy.

<sup>d</sup> The Hellespont was so called after Helle, who was drowned there while fleeing with her brother Phrixus upon the ram with fleece of gold.

the theme whereat with long nor yet confident preparation I am labouring, and great Achilles plays the prelude unto thee.<sup>a</sup>

The Dardan shepherd had set sail from the Oebalian shore,<sup>b</sup> having wrought sweet havoc in thoughtless Amyclae, and fulfilling the presage of his mother's<sup>c</sup> dream was retracing his guilty way, where Helle<sup>d</sup> deep sunk below the sea and now a Nereid holds sway over the detested waves: when Thetis—ah! never vain are a parent's auguries!—started with terror beneath the glassy flood at the Idaean oars.<sup>e</sup> Without delay she sprang forth from her watery bower, accompanied by her train of sisters: the narrowing shores of Phrixus swarm, and the straitened sea has not room for its mistresses.

As soon as she had shaken the brine from off her, and entered the air of heaven: "There is danger to me," said she, "in yonder fleet, and threat of deadly harm; I recognize the truth of Proteus' warnings. Lo! Bellona brings from the vessel amid uplifted torches a new daughter-in-law to Priam; already I see the Ionian and Aegean seas pressed by a thousand keels; nor does it suffice that all the country of the Grecians conspires with the proud sons of Atreus, soon will my Achilles be sought for by land and sea, ay, and himself will wish to follow them. Why indeed did I suffer Pelion and the stern master's cave<sup>f</sup> to cradle his infant years? There, if I mistake not, he plays, the rogue, at the battle of the Lapiths,

<sup>a</sup> Because his fleet was built of wood of Mt. Ida. So "Rhoeteae" (line 44) from the promontory near Troy.

<sup>f</sup> Chiron's.

## STATIUS

improbus et patria iam se metitur in hasta.  
 o dolor, o seri materno in corde timores !  
 non potui infelix, cum primum gurgite nostro  
 Rhoeteae cecidere trabes, attollere magnum  
 aequor et incesti praedonis vela profunda 45  
 tempestate sequi cunctasque inferre sorores ?  
 nunc quoque—sed tardum, iam plena iniuria raptae.  
 ibo tamen pelagique deos dextramque secundi,  
 quod superest, complexa Iovis per Tethyos annos  
 grandaevumque patrem supplex miseranda rogabo 50  
 unam hiemem.” dixit magnumque in tempore regem  
 aspicit. Oceano veniebat ab hospite, mensis  
 laetus et aequoreo diffusus nectare vultus—  
 unde hiemes ventique silent cantuque quieto  
 armigeri Tritones eunt scopulosaque cete 55  
 Tyrrhenique greges circumque infraque rotantur  
 rege salutato ; placidis ipse arduus undis  
 eminent et triplici telo iubet ire iugales.  
 illi spumiferos glomerant a pectore cursus,<sup>1</sup>  
 pone natant delentque pedum vestigia cauda— 60  
 cum Thetis : “ o magni genitor rectorque profundi,  
 aspicias in quales miserum patefeceris usus  
 aequor ? eunt tutis terrarum crimina velis,  
 ex quo iura freti maiestatemque repostam  
 rupit Iasonia puppis Pagasaea rapina. 65  
 en aliud furto scelus et spolia hospita portans  
 navigat iniustae temerarius arbiter Idae,  
 eheu quos gemitus terris caeloque daturus,

<sup>1</sup> cursus *P* : fluctus  $\omega$ .

<sup>a</sup> *i.e.*, Neptune.  
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<sup>b</sup> *i.e.*, of the Tyrrhenian sea.

and already takes his measure with his father's spear. O sorrow! O fears that came too late to a mother's heart! Could I not, unhappy that I am, when first the timber of Rhoeteum was launched upon my flood, have raised a mighty sea and pursued with a tempest on the deep the adulterous robber's sails and led on all my sisters against him? Even now—but 'tis too late, the outrage hath been wrought in full. Yet will I go, and clinging to the gods of ocean and the right hand of second Jove<sup>a</sup>—nought else remains—entreat him in piteous supplication by the years of Tethys and his aged sire for one single storm." She spoke, and opportunely beheld the mighty monarch; he was coming from Oceanus his host, gladdened by the banquet, and his countenance suffused with the nectar of the deep: wherefore the winds and tempests are silent and with tranquil song proceed the Tritons who bear his armour and the rock-like sea-monsters and the Tyrrhenian herds,<sup>b</sup> and gambol around and below him, saluting their king; he towers on high above the peaceful waves, urging on his team with his three-pronged spear: frontwise they run at furious speed amid showers of foam, behind they swim and blot out their footprints with their tails:—when Thetis: "O sire and ruler of the mighty deep, seest thou to what uses thou hast made a way o'er the hapless ocean? The crimes of the nations pass by with unmolested sails, since the Pagasaean bark broke through the sanctions of the waters and profaned their hallowed majesty on Jason's quest of plunder. Lo! <sup>c</sup>weighted with another wicked theft, the spoils <sup>d</sup>pitality, sails the daring arbiter of unjust Ida, <sup>e</sup>joined to cause what sorrow alas! to heaven and

## STATIUS

quos mihi ! sic Phrygiae pensamus gaudia palmae,  
 hi Veneris mores, hoc gratae munus alumnae ? 70  
 has saltem—num semideos nostrumque reportant  
 Thesea ?—si quis adhuc undis honor, obrue puppes,  
 aut permitte fretum ! nulla inclementia : fas sit  
 pro nato timuisse mihi. da pellere luctus,<sup>1</sup>  
 nec tibi de tantis placeat me fluctibus unum<sup>2</sup> 75  
 litus et Iliaci scopulos habitare sepulcri.”

Orabat laniata genas et pectore nudo  
 caeruleis obstabat equis. sed rector aquarum  
 invitat curru dictisque ita mulcet amicis :  
 “ ne pete Dardanium frustra, Theti, mergere classem :  
 fata vetant, ratus ordo deis miscere cruentas 81  
 Europamque Asiamque manus, consultaque belli  
 Iuppiter et tristes edixit caedibus annos.  
 quem tu illic natum Sigeo in pulvere, quanta  
 aspicias victrix Phrygiarum funera matrum, 85  
 cum tuus Aeacides tepido modo sanguine Teucros  
 undabit<sup>3</sup> campos, modo crassa exire vetabit  
 flumina et Hectoreo tardabit funere currus  
 impelletque manu nostros, opera inrita, muros !  
 Pelea iam desiste queri thalamosque minores : 90  
 crederis peperisse Iovi ; nec inulta dolebis  
 cognatisque utere fretis : dabo tollere fluctus,

<sup>1</sup> pellere luctus *P* : tollere fluctus  $\omega$ .

<sup>2</sup> fluctibus unum  $\omega$  : fluctibus unam *P* : fletibus udam, neptibus unam, fluctibus imum *edd*.

<sup>3</sup> undabit  $\omega$  : undavit *P* : *Garrod conj.* turpabit.

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<sup>a</sup> Is this the way we are paying for the victory of Venus on Ida ? “ alumnae,” *i.e.* Helen. sea.

earth, and what to me! Is it thus we requite the joy of the Phrygian triumph,<sup>a</sup> is this the way of Venus, is this her gift to her dear ward? These ships at least—no demigods nor our own Theseus do they carry home<sup>b</sup>—o'erwhelm, if thou still hast any regard for the waters, or give the sea into my power; no cruelty do I purpose; suffer me to fear for my own son. Grant me to drive away my sorrow, nor let it be thy pleasure that out of all the seas I find a home in but a single coast and the rocks of an Ilian tomb.<sup>c</sup>

With torn cheeks she made her prayer, and with bare bosom would fain hinder the cerulean steeds. But the ruler of the seas invites her into his chariot, and soothes her thus with friendly words: "Seek not in vain, Thetis, to sink the Dardanian fleet: the fates forbid it, 'tis the sure ordinance of heaven that Europe and Asia should join in bloody conflict, and Jupiter hath issued his decree of war and appointed years of dreary carnage. What prowess of thy son in the Sigeon dust, what vast funeral trains of Phrygian matrons shalt thou victoriously behold, when thy Aeacides shall flood the Trojan fields with streaming blood, and anon forbid the choked rivers to flow and check his chariot's speed with Hector's corpse and mightily o'erthrow my walls,<sup>d</sup> my useless toil! Cease now to complain of Peleus and thy inferior wedlock: thy child shall be deemed begotten of Jove; nor shalt thou suffer unavenged, but shalt use thy kindred seas: I will grant thee to raise the

<sup>b</sup> They are no Argonauts, nor Theseus, who, according to one legend, was the son of Neptune.

<sup>c</sup> *i.e.*, haunt a rocky shore by the tomb of my son Achilles.

<sup>d</sup> Neptune had helped Apollo to build the walls of Troy.

## STATIUS

cum reduces Danaï nocturnaque signa Caphereus  
exseret et dirum pariter quaeremus Ulixen."

Dixerat. illa gravi vultum demissa repulsa, 95  
quae iam excire fretum et ratibus bellare parabat  
Iliacis, alios animo<sup>1</sup> commenta paratus,  
tristis ad Haemonias detorquet brachia terras.  
ter conata manu, liquidum ter gressibus aequor  
reppulit et niveas feriunt vada Thessala plantas. 100  
laetantur montes et conubialia pandunt  
antra sinus lateque deae Sperchios abundat  
obvius et dulci vestigia circuit unda.  
illa nihil gavisâ locis, sed coepta fatigat  
pectore consilia et sollers pietate magistra 105  
longaevum Chirona petit. domus ardua montem  
perforat et longo suspendit Pélion arcu ;  
pars exhausta manu, partem sua ruperat aetas.  
signa tamen divumque tori et quem quisque sacravit  
accubitu genioque locum monstrantur : at intra 110  
Centauri stabula alta patent, non aequa nefandis  
fratribus. hic hominum nullos experta cruores  
spicula nec truncae bellis genialibus orni  
aut consanguineos fracti crateres in hostes,  
sed pharetrae insontes et inania terga ferarum. 115  
haec quoque dum viridis ; nam tunc labor unus inermi  
nosse salutiferas dubiis animantibus herbas,  
aut monstrare lyra veteres heroas alumno.

Et tunc venatu rediturum in limine primo

<sup>1</sup> animo *P* : iterum  $\omega$ .

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<sup>a</sup> A promontory at the southern end of Euboea, on which many Greek ships were wrecked when returning from Troy, because Nauplius, king of Euboea, showed false lights.

<sup>b</sup> He offended Poseidon, who sought to destroy him ; see *Odyssey*, xiii. 125 sq.

<sup>c</sup> *i.e.*, at the marriage-feast of Peleus and Thetis.

billows, when the Danaans return and Caphereus<sup>a</sup> shows forth his nightly signals and we search together for the terrible Ulysses.<sup>b</sup>"

He spoke; but she, downcast at the stern refusal, for but now she was preparing to stir up the waters and make war upon the Ilian craft, devised in her mind another plan, and sadly turned her strokes toward the Haemonian land. Thrice strove she with her arms, thrice spurned the clear water with her feet, and the Thessalian waves are washing her snow-white ankles. The mountains rejoice, the marriage-bowers fling open their recesses, and Spercheus in wide, abundant stream flows to meet the goddess and laps her footsteps with his fresh water. She delights not in the scene, but wearies her mind with schemes essayed, and taught cunning by her devoted love seeks out the aged Chiron. His lofty home bores deep into the mountain, beneath the long, overarching vault of Pelion; part had been hollowed out by toil, part worn away by its own age. Yet the images and couches of the gods are shown, and the places that each had sanctified by his reclining and his sacred presence<sup>c</sup>; within are the Centaur's wide and lofty stalls, far different from those of his wicked brethren. Here are no spears that have tasted human blood, nor ashen clubs broken in festal conflict, nor mixing-bowls shattered upon kindred foemen, but innocent quivers and mighty hides of beasts. These did he take while yet in the prime of age; but now, a warrior no more, his only toil was to learn the herbs that bring health to creatures doubting of their lives, or to describe to his pupil upon his lyre the heroes of old time.

On the threshold's edge he awaited his return from

## STATIUS

opperiens properatque dapes largoque serenat 120  
 igne domum : cum visa procul de litore surgens<sup>1</sup>  
 Nereis ; erumpit silvis—dant gaudia vires—  
 notaque<sup>2</sup> desueto crepuit senis ungula campo.  
 tunc blandus dextra atque imos demissus in armos  
 pauperibus tectis inducit et admonet antri. 125

Iamdudum tacito lustrat Thetis omnia visu  
 nec perpessa moras : “ ubinam mea pignora, Chiron,  
 dic,” ait, “ aut cur ulla puer iam tempora ducit  
 te sine ? non merito trepidus sopor atraque matri  
 signa deum et magnos utinam mentita timores ? 130  
 namque modo infensos utero mihi contuor enses,  
 nunc planctu livere manus, modo in ubera saevas  
 ire feras ; saepe ipsa—nefas !—sub inania natum  
 Tartara et ad Stygios iterum fero mergere fontes.  
 hos abolere metus magici iubet ordine sacri 135  
 Carpathius vates puerumque sub axe peracto<sup>3</sup>  
 secretis lustrare fretis, ubi litora summa  
 Oceani et genitor tepet inlabentibus astris  
 Pontus. ibi ignotis horrenda piacula divis  
 donaque—sed longum cuncta enumerare vetorque ;  
 trade magis !” sic ficta parens : neque enim ille  
 dedisset, 141  
 si molles habitus et tegmina foeda fateri  
 ausa seni. tunc ipse refert : “ duc, optima, quaeso,  
 duc genetrix humilique deos infringe precatu.

<sup>1</sup> surgens *PE* : mater  $\omega$ .

<sup>2</sup> notaque *P* : motaque  $\omega$ .      <sup>3</sup> peracto *P* : probato  $\omega$ .

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<sup>a</sup> Proteus, from his abode in the Carpathian sea. “ axe peracto,” the bound or limit of the sky, *i.e.*, beneath the horizon, not necessarily western, though that is the meaning here (l. 138).

<sup>b</sup> Here obviously = Oceanus, not the Euxine.

hunting, and was urging the laying of the feast and brightening his abode with lavish fire : when far off the Nereid was seen climbing upward from the shore ; he burst forth from the forests—joy speeds his going—and the well-known hoof-beat of the sage rang on the now unwonted plain. Then bowing down to his horse's shoulders he leads her with courtly hand within his humble dwelling and warns her of the cave.

Long time has Thetis been scanning every corner with silent glance : then, impatient of delay, she cries : " Tell me, Chiron, where is my darling ? Why spends the boy any time apart from thee ? Is it not with reason that my sleep is troubled, and terrible portents from the gods and fearful panics—would they were false !—afflict his mother's heart ? For now I behold swords that threaten to pierce my womb, now my arms are bruised with lamentation, now savage beasts assail my breasts ; often—ah, horror !—I seem to take my son down to the void of Tartarus, and dip him a second time in the springs of Styx. The Carpathian seer<sup>a</sup> bids me banish these terrors by the ordinance of a magic rite, and purify the lad in secret waters beyond the bound of heaven's vault, where is the farthest shore of Ocean and father Pontus<sup>b</sup> is warmed by the ingliding stars. There awful sacrifices and gifts to gods unknown—but 'tis long to recount all, and I am forbidden ; give him to me rather." Thus spoke his mother in lying speech—nor would he have given him up, had she dared to confess to the old man the soft raiment and dishonourable garb.<sup>c</sup> Then he replies : " Take him, I pray, O best of parents, take him, and assuage the gods with humble entreaty. For thy hopes are

<sup>c</sup> See ll. 326 sq.

nam superant tua vota modum placandaque multum  
 invidia est. non addo metum, sed vera fatebor : 146  
 nescio quid magnum—nec me patria omina fallunt—  
 vis festina parat tenuesque supervenit annos.  
 olim et ferre minas avidaeque audire solebat  
 imperia et nostris procul haud discedere ab antris :  
 nunc illum non Ossa capit, non Pelion ingens 151  
 Thessaliaeve nives.<sup>1</sup> ipsi mihi saepe queruntur  
 Centauri raptasque domos abstractaque coram  
 armenta et semet campis fluviisque fugari :  
 insidiasque et bella parant tumideque<sup>2</sup> minantur. 155  
 olim equidem Argoos pinus cum Thessala reges  
 hac veheret, iuvenem Alciden et Thesea vidi—  
 sed taceo.” figit gelidus Nereida pallor :  
 ille aderat multo sudore et pulvere maior,  
 et tamen arma inter festinatosque labores 160  
 dulcis adhuc visu : niveo natat ignis in ore  
 purpureus fulvoque nitet coma gratior auro.  
 necdum prima nova lanugine vertitur aetas,  
 tranquillaeque faces oculis et plurima vultu  
 mater inest : qualis Lycia venator Apollo 165  
 cum redit et saevis permutat plectra pharetris.  
 forte et laetus adest—o quantum gaudia formae  
 adiciunt !—: fetam Pholoes sub rupe leaenam  
 perculerat ferro vacuisque reliquerat antris  
 ipsam, sed catulos adportat et incitat unguis. 170  
 quos tamen, ut fido genetrix in limine visa est,  
 abicit exceptamque avidis circumligat ulnis,  
 iam gravis amplexu iamque aequus vertice matri.

<sup>1</sup> Thessaliaeve nives  $\omega$ : Pharsaliaeve nives *P*: thessaliae iuvenes *E*.

<sup>2</sup> tumideque *Kohlmann* : timideque *P*: tumidique  $\omega$ .

<sup>a</sup> “purpureus,” as in Virgil’s “lumenque iuventae purpureum” (*Aen.* i. 590), also *cf.* Hor. *C.* iii. 3. 12.

pitched too high, and envy needs much appeasing. I add not to thy fears, but will confess the truth: some swift and violent deed—the forebodings of a sire deceive me not—is preparing, far beyond his tender years. Formerly he was wont to endure my anger, and listen eagerly to my commands nor wander far from my cave: now Ossa cannot contain him, nor mighty Pelion and all the snows of Thessaly. Even the Centaurs often complain to me of plundered homes and herds stolen before their eyes, and that they themselves are driven from field and river; they devise violence and fraud, and utter angry threats. Once when the Thessalian pine bore hither the princes of the Argo, I saw the young Alcides and Theseus—but I say no more.” Cold pallor seized the daughter of Nereus: lo! he was come, made larger by much dust and sweat, and yet for all his weapons and hastened labours still pleasant to the sight; a radiant glow<sup>a</sup> shimmers on his snow-white countenance, and his locks shine more comely than tawny gold. The bloom of youth is not yet changed by new-springing down, a tranquil flame burns in his glance, and there is much of his mother in his look: even as when the hunter Apollo returns from Lycia and exchanges his fierce quiver for the quill. By chance too he is in joyful mood—ah, how joy enhances beauty!—; beneath Pholoë’s cliff he had stricken a lioness lately delivered and had left her in the empty lair, but had brought the cubs and was making them show their claws. Yet when he sees his mother on the well-known threshold, away he throws them, catches her up and binds her in his longing arms, already violent in his embrace and equal to her in height. Patroclus follows him, bound

## STATIUS

insequitur magno iam tunc conexus amore  
 Patroclus tantisque extenditur aemulus actis, 175  
 par studiis aevique modis, sed robore longe,  
 et tamen aequali visurus Pergama fato.

Protinus ille subit rapido quae proxima saltu  
 flumina fumantesque genas crinemque novatur  
 fontibus : Eurotae qualis vada Castor anhelò 180  
 intrat equo fessumque sui iubar excitat astri.

miratur comitque senex, nunc pectora mulcens,  
 nunc fortes umeros : angunt sua gaudia matrem.  
 tunc libare dapes Baccheaque munera Chiron  
 orat et attonitae varia oblectamina nectens 185

elicit extremo chelyn et solantia curas  
 fila movet leviterque expertas pollice chordas  
 dat puero. canit ille libens immania laudum  
 semina : quot tumidae superarit iussa novercae .

Amphitryoniades, crudum quo Bebryca caestu 190  
 obruerit Pollux, quanto circumdata nexu  
 ruperit Aegides Minoia bracchia tauri,  
 maternos in fine toros superisque gravatum

Pelion : hic victo risit Thetis anxia vultu.  
 nox trahit in somnos, saxo conlabitur ingens 195  
 Centaurus blandusque umeris se innectit Achilles,  
 quamquam ibi fida parens, adsuetaque pectora mavult.

At Thetis undisonis per noctem in rupibus astans,  
 quae nato secreta velit, quibus abdere terris  
 destinet, huc illuc divisa mente volutat. 200

to him even then by a strong affection, and strains to rival all his mighty doings, well-matched in the pursuits and ways of youth, but far behind in strength, and yet to pass to Pergamum with equal fate.

Straightway with rapid bound he hies him to the nearest river, and freshens in its waters his steaming face and hair : just as Castor enters the shallows of Eurotas on his panting steed, and tricks out anew the weary splendours of his star. The old mæe marvels as he adorns him, caressing now his breast, now his strong shoulders : her very joy pierces his mother's heart. Then Chiron prays her to taste the banquet and the gifts of Bacchus, and contriving various amusements for her beguiling at last brings forth the lyre and moves the care-consoling strings, and trying the chords lightly with his finger gives them to the boy. Gladly he sings of the mighty causes of noble deeds : how many behests of his haughty stepmother the son of Amphitryon performed, how Pollux with his glove smote down the cruel Bebryx, with what a grip the son of Aegæus enfolded and crushed the limbs of the Minoan bull, lastly his own mother's marriage-feast and Pelion trodden by the gods. Then Thetis relaxed her anxious countenance and smiled. Night draws them on to slumber : the huge Centaur lays him down on a stony couch, and Achilles lovingly twines his arms about his shoulders—though his faithful parent is there—and prefers the wonted breast.

—But Thetis, standing by night upon the sea-echoing rocks, this way and that divides her purpose, and ponders in what hiding-place she will set her son, in what country she shall choose to conceal him. Nearest

## STATIUS

proxima, sed studiis multum Mavortia Thrace ;  
 nec Macetum gens dura placet laudumque daturi  
 Cecropidae stimulos, nimium opportuna carinis  
 Sestos Abydenique sinus : placet ire per altas  
 Cycladas. hicspretæ Myconosque humilisque Seriphos  
 et Lemnos non æqua viris atque hospita Delos 206  
 gentibus. imbelli nuper Lycomedis ab aula  
 virgineos coetus et litora persona ludo  
 audierat, duros laxantem Aegæona nexus  
<sup>a</sup>issa sequi centumque dei numerare catenas. 210  
 hæc placet, hæc timidæ tellus tutissima matri.  
 qualis vicino volucris iam sedula partu  
 iamque timens, qua fronde domum suspendat inanem,  
 providet hic ventos, hic anxia cogitat angues,  
 hic homines : tandem dubiæ placet umbra, novisque  
 vix stetit in ramis et protinus arbor amatur. 216

Altera consilio superest tristemque fatigat  
 cura deam, natum ipsa sinu complexa per undas  
 an magno Tritone ferat, ventosne volucres  
 advocet an pelago solitam Thaumantida pasci. 220  
 elicit inde fretis et murice frenat acuto  
 delphinas biugos, quos illi maxima Tethys  
 gurgite Atlanteo pelagi sub valle sonora  
 nutrierat ;—nullis vada per Neptunia glaucae  
 tantus honos formæ nandique potentia nec plus 225  
 pectoris humani—iubet hos subsistere pleno

<sup>a</sup> The Athenians.

<sup>b</sup> See the story of Hypsipyle, *Theb.* v. 48 sq.

<sup>c</sup> King of Scyros.

<sup>d</sup> Also named Briareus, one of the sons of Uranus, put in chains by Cronos, and set free by Zeus ; Thetis went in search of him to bring aid to Zeus when threatened by the other Olympians (see Hesiod, *Theog.* 502 ; Homer, *Il.* i. 398 sqq.). “centum,” because he had a hundred arms.

<sup>e</sup> Iris, *i.e.* the rainbow, that seems to draw moisture from

timid  
best place

is Thrace, but steeped in the passionate love of war; nor does the hardy folk of Macedon please her, nor the sons of Cecrops,<sup>a</sup> sure to excite to noble deeds, nor Sestos and the bay of Abydos, too opportune for ships; she decides to roam the lofty Cyclades. Of these she spurns Myconos and humble Seriphos, and Lemnos cruel to its men,<sup>b</sup> and Delos, that gives all the world a welcome. Of late from the unwarlike palace of Lycomedes<sup>c</sup> had she heard the sound of maiden bands and the echo of their sport along the shore, what time she was sent to follow Aegaeon<sup>d</sup> freed from his stubborn bonds and to count the hundred fetters of the god. This land finds favour, and seems safest to the timid mother. Even so a bird already taking anxious thought, as her delivery draws nigh, on what branch to hang her empty home, here foresees winds, there bethinks her fearfully of snakes, and there of men; at last in her doubt a shady spot finds favour; scarce has she alighted on the boughs, and straightway loves the tree.

One more care abides in her mind and troubles the sad goddess, whether she shall carry her son in her own bosom o'er the waves, or use great Triton's aid, whether she shall summon the swift winds to help her, or the Thaumantian<sup>e</sup> that is wont to drink the main. Then she calls out from the waves and bridles with a sharp-edged shell her team of dolphins twain, which Tethys, mighty queen, had nourished for her in an echoing vale beneath the sea;—none throughout all Neptune's watery realm had such renown for their sea-green beauty, nor greater speed of swimming, nor more of human sense;—these she the sea, cf. Ovid. *Met.* i. 271 "concipit Iris aquas alimenta que nubibus adfert." Iris was the daughter of Thaumatas.

dolphins

## STATIUS

litore, ne nudae noceant contagia terrae.  
 ipsa dehinc toto resolutum pectore Achillen,  
 qui pueris sopor, Haemonii de rupibus antri  
 ad placidas deportat aquas et iussa tacere 230  
 litora : monstrat iter totoque effulgurat orbe  
 Cynthia. prosequitur divam celeresque recursus  
 securus pelagi Chiron rogat<sup>1</sup> udaeque celat  
 lumina et abreptos subito iamiamque latentes  
 erecto prospectat equo, qua cana parumper 235  
 spumant signa fugae et liquido perit orbita ponto.  
 illum non alias rediturum ad Thessala Tempe  
 iam tristis Pholoe, iam nubilus ingemit Othrys  
 et tenuior<sup>2</sup> Spercheos aquis speluncaque docti  
 muta senis ; quaerunt puerilia carmina Fauni 240  
 et sperata diu plorant conubia Nymphae.

Iam premit astra dies humilique ex aequore Titan  
 rorantes evolvit equos et ab aethere magno  
 sublatum curru pelagus cadit, at vada mater  
 Scyria iamdudum fluctus emensa tenebat, 245  
 exierantque iugo fessi delphines erili :  
 cum pueri tremefacta quies oculique patentes  
 infusum sentire diem. stupet aere primo,  
 quae loca, qui fluctus, ubi Pelion ? omnia versa  
 atque ignota videt dubitatque agnoscere matrem. 250  
 occupat illa manu blandequae adfata paventem :  
 “si mihi, care puer, thalamos sors aequa tulisset,  
 quos dabat, aetheriis ego te complexa tenerem

<sup>1</sup> rogat ω : rotat *P*.

<sup>2</sup> tenuior *Postgate* : senior *P* : tenuis ω.

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<sup>a</sup> “rotat” would presumably mean “gallops quickly back,” which would have no point here.

<sup>b</sup> Both mountains of Thessaly.

halts in the deep shore-water, lest they take harm from the touch of naked earth. Then in her own arms she carries Achilles, his body utterly relaxed in a boy's slumber, from the rocks of the Haemonian cave down to the placid waters and the beach that she had bidden be silent; Cynthia lights her way and shines out with full orb. Chiron escorts <sup>a</sup> the goddess, and careless of the sea entreats her speedy return, and hides his moistened eyes and high upon his horse's body gazes out towards them as suddenly they are whirled away, and now—and now are lost to view, where for a short while the foamy marks of their going gleam white and the wake dies away into the watery main. Him destined never more to return to Thessalian Tempe now mournful Pholoë bewails, now cloudy Othrys,<sup>b</sup> and Spercheos with diminished flood and the silent grotto of the sage; the Fauns listen for his boyish songs in vain, and the Nymphs bemoan their long-hoped-for nuptials.

Now day o'erwhelms the stars, and from the low and level main Titan wheels heavenward his dripping steeds, and down from the expanse of air falls the sea that the chariot bore up; but long since had the mother traversed the waves and gained the Scyrian shores, and the weary dolphins had been loosed from their mistress' yoke: when the boy's sleep was stirred, and his opening eyes grew conscious of the inpouring day. In amaze at the light that greets him he asks, where is he, what are these waves, where is Pelion? All he beholds is different and unknown, and he hesitates to recognize his mother. Quickly she caresses him and soothes his fear: "If, dear lad, a kindly lot had brought me the wedlock that it offered, in the fields of heaven should I be

## STATIUS

sidus grande plagis, magnique puerpera caeli  
 nil humilis Parcas terrenaque fata vererer. 255  
 nunc impar tibi, nate, genus, praeclusaque leti  
 tantum a matre via est; quin et metuenda propinquant  
 tempora et extremis admota pericula metis.  
 cedamus, paulumque animos submitte viriles  
 atque habitus dignare meos. si Lydia dura 260  
 pensa manu mollesque tulit Tiryntius hastas,  
 si decet aurata Bacchum vestigia palla  
 verrere, virgineos si Iuppiter induit artus,  
 nec magnum ambigui fregerunt Caenea sexus :  
 hac<sup>1</sup> sine, quaeso, minas nubemque exire malignam.<sup>2</sup>  
 mox iterum campos, iterum Centaurica reddam 266  
 lustra tibi: per ego hoc decus et ventura iuventae  
 gaudia, si terras humilemque experta maritum  
 te propter, si progenitum Stygos amne severo  
 armavi—totumque utinam!—, cape tuta parumper  
 tegmina nil nocitura animo. cur ora reducis 271  
 quidve parant oculi? pudet hoc mitescere cultu?  
 per te, care puer, cognata per aequora iuro,  
 nesciet hoc Chiron.” sic horrida pectora tractat  
 nequiquam mulcens; obstat genitorque roganti 275  
 nutritorque ingens et cruda exordia magnae  
 indolis. effrenae tumidum velut igne iuventae  
 si quis equum primis submittere temptet habenis :  
 ille diu campis fluviisque et honore superbo

<sup>1</sup> hac *Postgate* : hae *P* : has  $\omega$ .

<sup>2</sup> nubemque malignam *P* : numenque malignum  $\omega$ .

<sup>a</sup> Hercules spun wool for Omphale in Lydia.

<sup>b</sup> Jupiter disguised himself as Diana to gain possession of Callisto (Ovid, *Met.* ii. 425).

<sup>c</sup> First a girl, Caenis, then a man, then a woman again (Ovid, *Met.* xii. 189 ; Virg. *Aen.* vi. 448).

holding thee, a glorious star, in my embrace, nor a celestial mother should I fear the lowly Fates or the destinies of earth. But now unequal is thy birth, my son, and only on thy mother's side is the way of death barred for thee; moreover, times of terror draw nigh, and peril hovers about the utmost goal. Retire we then, relax awhile thy mighty spirit, and scorn not this raiment of mine. If the Tirynthian took in his rough hand Lydian wool and women's wands,<sup>a</sup> if it becomes Bacchus to trail a gold-embroidered robe behind him, if Jupiter put on a woman's form,<sup>b</sup> and doubtful sex weakened not the mighty Caeneus,<sup>c</sup> this way, I entreat thee, suffer me to escape the threatening, baleful cloud. Soon will I restore thy plains and the fields where the Centaurs roam: by this beauty of thine and the coming joys of youth I pray thee, if for thy sake I endured the earth and an inglorious mate, if at thy birth I fortified thee with the stern waters of Styx<sup>d</sup>—ay, would I had wholly!—take these safe robes awhile, they will in no wise harm thy valour. Why dost thou turn away? What means that glance? Art thou ashamed to soften thee in this garb? Dear lad, I swear it by my kindred waters, Chiron shall know nought of this." So doth she work on his rough heart, vainly cajoling; the thought of his sire and his great teacher oppose her prayer and the rude beginnings of his mighty spirit. Even so, should one try to subdue with earliest rein a horse full of the mettlesome fire of ungoverned youth, he having long delighted in stream and meadow and his own proud

<sup>d</sup> Thetis plunged the infant Achilles in the waters of Styx, and thereby made his body immune from harm—all except the left heel by which she held him.

## STATIUS

gavisus non colla iugo, non aspera praebet      280  
 ora lupis dominique fremit captivus inire  
 imperia atque alios miratur discere cursus.

Quis deus attonitae fraudes astumque parenti  
 contulit? indocilem quae mens detraxit Achillem?

Palladi litoreae celebrabat Scyros honorum      285

forte diem, placidoque satae Lycomedae sorores  
 luce sacra patriis, quae rara licentia, muris  
 exierant dare veris opes divaeque severas  
 fronde ligare comas et spargere floribus hastam.  
 omnibus eximium formae decus, omnibus idem      290

cultus et expleto teneri iam fine pudoris  
 virginitas matura toris annique tumentes.  
 sed quantum virides pelagi Venus addita Nymphas  
 obruit, aut umeris quantum Diana relinquit  
 Naidas, effulget tantum regina decori      295

Deidamia chori pulchrisque sororibus obstat.  
 illius et roseo flammatur purpura vultu  
 et gemmis lux maior inest et blandius aurum :  
 atque ipsi par forma deae est,<sup>1</sup> si pectoris angues  
 ponat et exempta pacetur casside vultus.      300

hanc ubi ducentem longe socia agmina vidit,  
 trux puer et nullo temeratus pectora motu  
 deriguit totisque novum bibit ossibus ignem.  
 nec latet haustus amor, sed fax vibrata medullis  
 in vultus atque ora redit lucemque genarum      305  
 tingit et impulsum tenui sudore pererrat.

<sup>1</sup> deae est *Kohlmann* : deae ω : deest *P.*

beauty, gives not his neck to the yoke, nor his fierce mouth to the bridle, and snorts with rage at passing beneath a master's sway and marvels that he learns another gait.

What god endued the despairing mother with fraud and cunning? What device drew Achilles from his stubborn purpose? It chanced that Scyros was keeping festal day in honour of Pallas, guardian of the shore, and that the sisters, offspring of peace-loving Lycomedes, had on this sacred morn gone forth from their native town—a licence rarely given—to pay tribute of the spring, and bind their grave tresses with the leaf of the goddess and scatter flowers upon her spear. All were of rarest beauty, all clad alike and all in lusty youth, their years of girlish modesty now ended, and maidenhood ripe for the marriage-couch. But as far as Venus by comparison doth surpass the green Nymphs of the sea, or as Diana rises taller by head and shoulders than the Naiads, so doth Deidamia, queen of the lovely choir, outshine and dazzle her fair sisters. The bright colour flames upon her rosy countenance, a more brilliant light is in her jewels, the gold has a more alluring gleam; as beauteous were the goddess herself, would she but lay aside the serpents on her breast, and doff her helm and pacify her brow. When he beheld her far in advance of her attendant train, the lad, ungentle as he was and heart-whole from any touch of passion, stood spellbound and drank in strange fire through all his frame. Nor does the love he has imbibed lie hidden, but the flame pulsating in his inmost being returns to his face and colours the glow upon his cheeks, and as he feels its power runs o'er his body with a light sweat. As when the

## STATIUS

lactea Massagetae veluti cum pocula fuscant  
 sanguine puniceo vel ebur corrumpitur ostro :  
 sic variis manifesta notis—palletque rubetque—  
 flamma repens. eat atque ultro ferus hospita sacra  
 dissociat turbae securus et immemor aevi, 311  
 ni pudor et iunctae teneat reverentia matris.  
 ut pater armenti quondam ductorque futurus,  
 cui nondum toto peraguntur cornua gyro,  
 cum sociam pastus niveo candore iuvencam 315  
 aspicit, ardescunt animi primusque per ora  
 spumat amor, spectant hilares obstantque magistri.

Occupat arrepto iam conscia tempore mater :  
 “hasne inter simulare choros et bracchia ludo  
 nectere, nate, grave est ? gelida quid tale sub Ossa  
 Peliacisque iugis ? o si mihi iungere curas 321  
 atque alium portare sinu contingat Achillen !”  
 mulcetur laetumque rubet visusque protervos  
 obliquat vestesque manu leviore repellit.  
 aspicit ambiguum genetrix cogique<sup>1</sup> volentem 325  
 iniecitque sinus ; tum colla rigentia mollit  
 submittitque graves umeros et fortia laxat  
 bracchia et impexos certo domat ordine crines  
 ac sua dilecta cervice monilia transfert ;  
 et picturato cohibens vestigia limbo 330  
 incessum motumque docet fandique pudorem.  
 qualiter artificii victurae pollice cerae  
 accipiunt formas ignemque manumque sequuntur :  
 talis erat divae natum mutantis imago.  
 nec luctata diu ; superest nam plurimus illi 335

<sup>1</sup> cogique *Heinsius* : cogitque *P<sup>ω</sup>*.

Massagetæ darken milk-white bowls with blood-red dye, or ivory is stained with purple, so by varying signs of blush and pallor does the sudden fire betray its presence. He would rush forward and unprovoked fiercely break up the ceremonies of his hosts, reckless of the crowd and forgetful of his years, did not shame restrain him and awe of the mother by his side. As when a bullock, soon to be the sire and leader of a herd, though his horns have not yet come full circle, perceives a heifer of snowy whiteness, the comrade of his pasture, his spirit takes fire, and he foams at the mouth with his first passion; glad at heart the herdsmen watch him and check his fury.

Seizing the moment his mother purposely accosts him: "Is it too hard a thing, my son, to make pretence of dancing and join hands in sport among these maidens? Hast thou aught such 'neath Ossa and the crags of Pelion? O, if it were my lot to match two loving hearts, and to bear another Achilles in my arms!" He is softened, and blushes for joy, and with sly and sidelong glance repels the robes less certainly. His mother sees him in doubt and willing to be compelled, and casts the raiment o'er him; then she softens his stalwart neck and bows his strong shoulders, and relaxes the muscles of his arms, and tames and orders duly his uncombed tresses, and sets her own necklace about the neck she loves; then keeping his step within the embroidered skirt she teaches him gait and motion and modesty of speech. Even as the waxen images that the artist's thumb will make to live take form and follow the fire and the hand that carves them, such was the picture of the goddess as she transformed her son. Nor did she struggle long; for plenteous charm re-

## STATIUS

invita virtute decor, fallitque tuentes  
ambiguus tenuique latens discrimine sexus.

Procedunt, iterumque monens iterumque fatigans  
blanda Thetis : “ sic ergo gradum, sic ora manusque,  
nate, feres comitesque modis imitabere fictis,      340

ne te suspectum molli non misceat aulae  
rector et incepti pereant mendacia furti.”

dicit et admoto non distat comere tactu.

sic ubi virgineis Hecate lassata Therapnis

ad patrem fratremque redit, comes haeret eunti      345

mater et ipsa umeros exsertaque bracchia velat ;

ipsa arcum pharetrasque locat vestemque latentem  
deducit sparsosque tumet componere crines.

Protinus adgreditur regem atque ibi testibus aris  
“ hanc tibi,” ait, “ nostri germanam, rector, Achillis      350

—nonne vides, ut torva genas aequandaque fratri ?—

tradimus : arma umeris arcumque animosa petebat  
ferre et Amazonio conubia pellere ritu.

sed mihi curarum satis est pro stirpe virili :

haec calathos et sacra ferat, tu frange regendo      355

indocilem sexuque tene, dum nubilis aetas

solvendusque pudor ; neve exercere protervas<sup>1</sup>

gymnadas aut lustris nemorum concede vagari.

intus ale et similes inter seclude puellas ;

litore praecipue portuque arcere memento.      360

<sup>1</sup> protervas ω : catervas P.

mains to him though his manhood brook it not, and he baffles beholders by the puzzle of his sex that by a narrow margin hides its secret.

They go forward, and Thetis unsparingly plies her counsels and persuasive words : “ Thus then, my son, must thou manage thy gait, thus thy features and thy hands, and imitate thy comrades and counterfeit their ways, lest the king suspect thee and admit thee not to the women’s chambers, and the crafty cunning of our enterprise be lost.” So speaking she delays not to put correcting touches to his attire. Thus when Hecate <sup>a</sup> returns wearied to her sire and brother from Therapnae, haunt of maidens, her mother bears her company as she goes, and with her own hand covers her shoulders and bared arms, herself arranges the bow and quiver, and pulls down the girt-up robe, and is proud to trim the disordered tresses.

Straightway she accosts the monarch, and there in the presence of the altars : “ Here, O king,” she says, “ I present to thee the sister of my Achilles—seest thou not how proud her glance and like her brother’s ?—so high her spirit, she begged for arms and a bow to carry on her shoulders, and like an Amazon to spurn the thought of wedlock. But my son is enough care for me ; let her carry the baskets at the sacrifice, do thou control and tame her wilfulness, and keep her to her sex, till the time for marriage come and the end of her maiden modesty ; nor suffer her to engage in wanton wrestling-matches, nor to frequent the woodland haunts. Bring her up indoors, in seclusion among girls of her own age ; above all remember to keep her from the harbour and the

<sup>a</sup> Another name for Diana.

## STATIUS

vidisti modo vela Phrygum : iam mūtua iura  
fallere transmissae pelago didicere carinae.”

Accedit dictis pater ingenioque parentis  
occultum Aeaciden—quis divum fraudibus obstet ?—  
accipit ; ultro etiam veneratur supplice dextra 365

et grates electus agit : nec turba piarum  
Scyriadum cessat nimio defigere visu  
virginis ora novae, quantum cervice comisque  
emineat quantumque umeros ac pectora fundat.  
dehinc sociare choros castisque accedere sacris 370

hortantur, ceduntque loco et contingere gaudent.  
qualiter Idaliae volucres, ubi mollia frangunt  
nubila, iam longum caeloque domoque gregatae,  
si iunxit pinnas diversoque hospita tractu  
venit avis, cunctae primum mirantur et horrent : 375  
mox propius propiusque volant, atque aere in ipso  
paulatim fecere suam plausuque secundo  
circueunt hilares et ad alta cubilia ducunt.

Digreditur multum cunctata in limine mater,  
dum repetit monitus arcanaque murmura figit 380  
auribus et tacito dat verba novissima vultu.

tunc excepta freto longe cervice reflexa  
abnatat et blandis adfatur litora votis :  
“ cara mihi tellus, magnae cui pignora curae  
depositumque ingens timido commisimus astu, 385  
sis felix taceasque, precor, quo more tacebat  
Creta Rheae : te longus honos aeternaque cingent  
templa nec instabili fama superabere Delo ;

<sup>a</sup> *i.e.*, of Paris.

<sup>b</sup> Doves, as sacred to Venus, who had a shrine at Idalium.

<sup>c</sup> When she gave birth to Zeus.

<sup>d</sup> Delos floated till made fast by Apollo.

shore. Lately thou sawest the Phrygian<sup>a</sup> sails : already ships that have crossed the sea have learnt treason to mutual loyalties."

The sire accedes to her words, and receives the disguised Achilles by his mother's ruse—who can resist when gods deceive? Nay more, he venerates her with a suppliant's hand, and gives thanks that he was chosen; nor is the band of duteous Scyrian maidens slow to dart keen glances at the face of their new comrade, how she o'ertops them by head and neck, how broad her expanse of breast and shoulders; then they invite her to join the dance and approach the holy rites, and make room for her in their ranks and rejoice to be near her. Just as Idalian birds,<sup>b</sup> cleaving the soft clouds and long since gathered in the sky or in their homes, if a strange bird from some distant region has joined them wing to wing, are at first all filled with amaze and fear; then nearer and nearer they fly, and while yet in the air have made him one of them and hover joyfully around with favouring beat of pinions and lead him to their lofty resting-places.

Long, ere she departs, lingers the mother at the gate, while she repeats advice and implants whispered secrets in his ear and in hushed tones gives her last counsels. Then she plunges into the main, and gazing back swims far away, and entreats with flattering prayers the island-shore: "O land that I love, to whom by fimid cunning I have committed the pledge of my anxious care, a trust that is great indeed, mayst thou prosper and be silent, I beg, as Crete was silent for Rhea<sup>c</sup>; enduring honour and everlasting shrines shall gird thee, nor shalt thou be surpassed by unstable<sup>d</sup> Delos; sacred alike to wind

## STATIUS

et ventis et sacra fretis interque vadosas  
 Cycladas, Aegaeae frangunt ubi saxa procellae, 390  
 Nereidum tranquilla domus iurandaque nautis  
 insula, ne solum Danaas admitte carinas,  
 ne, precor ! hic thiasi tantum et nihil utile bellis,  
 —hoc famam narrare doce—dumque arma parantur  
 Dorica et alternum Mavors interfurit orbem, 395  
 —cedo equidem—sit virgo pii Lycomedis Achilles.”

Interea meritos ultrix Europa dolores  
 dulcibus armorum furiis et supplicie regum  
 conquestu flammata movet ; quippe ambit Atrides  
 ille magis, cui nupta domi, facinusque relatu 400  
 asperat Iliacum : captam sine Marte, sine armis  
 progeniem caeli Spartaeeque potentis alumnam,  
 iura fidem superos una calcata rapina.  
 hoc foedus Phrygium, haec geminae commercia terrae?  
 quid maneat populos, ubi tanta iniuria primos 405  
 degrassata duces ?—coeunt gens omnis et aetas :  
 nec tantum exciti, bimari quos Isthmia vallo  
 claustra nec undisonae quos circuit umbo Maleae,  
 sed procul admotas Phryxi qua semita iungi  
 Europamque Asiamque vetat ; quasque ordine gentes  
 litore Abydeno maris alligat unda superni. 411  
 fervet amor belli concussasque erigit urbes.  
 aera domat Temese, quatitur navalibus ora  
 Eubois, innumera resonant incude Mycenae,  
 Pisa novat currus, Nemeae dat terga ferarum, 415  
 Cirrha sagittiferas certat stipare pharetras,

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<sup>a</sup> Because daughter of Zeus by Leda.

<sup>b</sup> See note on *Silv.* i. 1. 42.

and wave shalt thou be, and calm abode of Nereids among the shallows of the Cyclades, where the rocks are shattered by Aegean storms, an isle that sailors swear by—only admit no Danaan keels, I beg! ‘Here are only the wands of Bacchus, nought that avails for war;’ that tale bid rumour spread, and while the Dorian armaments make ready and Mavors rages from world to world—he may, for aught I care—let Achilles be the maiden-daughter of good Lycomedes.”

Meanwhile avenging Europe, inflamed by war's sweet frenzy and the monarchs' complaining entreaties, excites her righteous ire; more earnestly pleads that son of Atreus whose spouse abides at home, and by his telling makes the Ælian crime more grievous: how without aid of Mars or force of arms the daughter of heaven<sup>a</sup> and child of mighty Sparta was taken, and justice, good faith and the gods spurned by one deed of rapine. Is this then Phrygian honour? Is this the intercourse of land with land? What awaits the common folk, when wrong so deadly attacks the foremost chieftains? All races, all ages flock together: nor are they only aroused whom the Isthmian barrier with its rampart fronting on two seas encloses and Malea's wave-resounding promontory, but where afar the strait of Phrixus sunders Europe and Asia; and the peoples that fringe Abydos' shore, bound fast by the waters of the upper sea. The war-fever rises high, thrilling the agitated cities. Temese<sup>b</sup> tames her bronze, the Euboean coast shakes with its dockyards, Mycenae echoes with innumerable forges, Pisa makes new chariots, Nemea gives the skins of wild beasts, Cirrhæ vies in packing tight the arrow-bearing quivers,

## STATIUS

Lerna graves clipeos caesis vestire iuvenis.  
 dat bello pedites Aetolus et asper Acarnan,  
 Argos agit turmas, vacuantur pascua ditis  
 Arcadiae, frenat celeres Epiros alumnos, 420  
 Phocis et Aoniae iaculis rarescitis umbrae,  
 murorum tormenta Pylos Messenaque tendunt.  
 nulla immunis humus ; velluntur postibus altis  
 arma olim dimissa patrum, flammisque liquescunt  
 dona deum : ereptum superis Mars efferat aurum. 425  
 nusquam umbrae veteres : minor Othrys et ardua sidunt  
 Taygeta, exuti viderunt aera montes.  
 iam natat omne nemus : caeduntur robora classi,  
 silva minor remis. ferrum lassatur in usus  
 innumeros, quod rostra liget, quod muniat arma, 430  
 belligeros quod frenet equos, quod mille catenis  
 squalentes nectat tunicas, quod sanguine fumet  
 vulneraque alta bibat, quod conspirante veneno  
 impellat mortes ; tenuant umentia saxa  
 attritu et pigris addunt mucronibus iras. 435  
 nec modus aut arcus lentare aut fundere glandes  
 aut torrere sudes galeasque attollere conis.  
 hos inter motus pigram gemit una quietem  
 Thessalia et geminis incusat fata querellis,  
 quod senior Peleus nec adhuc maturus Achilles. 440

Iam Pelopis terras Graiumque exhauserat orbem  
 praecipitans in transtra viros insanus equosque  
 Bellipotens. fervent portus et operta carinis  
 stagna suasque hiemes classis promota suosque

Lerna in covering heavy shields with the hides of slaughtered bullocks. Aetolia and fierce Acarnania send infantry to war, Argos collects her squadrons, the pasture-lands of rich Arcadia are emptied, Epiros bridles her swift-footed nurslings,<sup>a</sup> ye shades of Phocis and Aonia grow scant by reason of the javelins, Pylos and Messene strain their fortress-engines. No land but bears its burden; ancestral weapons long renounced are torn from lofty portals, gifts to the gods melt in the flame; gold reft from divine keeping Mars turns to fiercer use. Nowhere are the shady haunts of old: Othrys is lesser grown, lofty Taygetus sinks low, the shorn hills see the light of day. Now the whole forest is afloat: oaks are hewn to make a fleet, the woods are diminished for oars. Iron is forced into countless uses, for riveting prows, for armour of defence, for bridling chargers, for knitting rough coats of mail by a thousand links, to smoke with blood, to drink deep of wounds, to drive death home in conspiracy with poison; they make the dripping whetstones thin with grinding, and add wrath to sluggish sword-points. No limit is there to the shaping of bows or heaping up of bullets or the charring of stakes or the heightening of helms with crests. Amid such commotion Thessaly alone bewails her indolent repose, and brings a twofold complaint against the Fates, that Peleus is too old and Achilles not yet ripe of age.

Already the lord of war had drained the land of Pelops and the Grecian world, madly flinging aboard both men and horses. All aswarm are the harbours and the bays invisible for shipping, and the moving

<sup>a</sup> Cf. Virgil *Georg.* i. 57 "Eliadum palmas Epiros equarum."

## STATIUS

attollit fluctus ; ipsum iam puppibus aequor 445  
deficit et totos consumunt carbasa ventos.

Prima ratis Danaas Hecateia congregat Aulis,  
rupibus expositis longique crepidine dorsi  
Euboicum scandens<sup>1</sup> Aulis mare, litora multum  
montivagae dilecta deae, iuxtaque Caphereus 450  
latratum pelago tollens caput. ille Pelasgas  
ut vidit tranare rates, ter monte ter undis  
intonuit saevaeque dedit praesagia noctis.  
coetus ibi armorum Troiae fatalis, ibi ingens  
iuratur bellum, donec sol annuus omnes 455  
conficeret metas. tunc primum Graecia vires  
contemplata suas ; tunc sparsa ac dissona moles  
in corpus vultumque coit et rege sub uno  
disposita est. sic curva feras indago latentes  
claudit et admotis paulatim cassibus artat. 460

illae ignem sonitumque pavent diffusaque linqunt  
avia miranturque suum decrescere montem,  
donec in angustam ceciderunt undique vallem ;  
inque vicem stupuere greges socioque timore  
mansuescunt : simul hirtus aper, simul ursa lupusque  
cogitur et captos contempsit cerva leones 466

Sed quamquam et gemini pariter sua bella capessant  
Atridae famamque avida virtute paternam  
Tydides Sthenelusque premat, nec cogitet annos  
Antilochos septemque Ajax umbone coruscet 470  
armenti reges atque aequum moenibus orbem.  
consiliisque armisque vigil contendat Ulixes :  
omnis in absentem belli manus ardet Achillem,  
nomen Achillis amat, et in Hectorsa solus Achilles

<sup>1</sup> scandens *P $\omega$*  : scindens *Menke*, but cf. *Theb.* ii. 44.

<sup>a</sup> Cf. note on i. 93.

<sup>b</sup> *i.e.*, the seven bullocks whose hides went to make his shield.

fleet stirs its own storms and billows ; the sea itself fails the vessels, and their canvas swallows up every breath of wind.

Aulis, sacred to Hecate, first gathers together the Danaan fleet, Aulis, whose exposed cliff and long-projecting ridge climb the Euboean sea, coast beloved by the mountain-wandering goddess, and Caphereus, that raises his head hard by against the barking waves. He, when he beheld the Pelasgian ships sail by, thrice thundered from peak to wave, and gave presage of a night of fury.<sup>a</sup> There assembles the armament for Troy's undoing, there the vast array is sworn, while the sun completes an annual course. Then first did Greece behold her own might ; then a scattered, dissonant mass took form and feature, and was marshalled under one single lord. Even so does the round hunting-net confine the hidden beasts, and gradually hem them in as the toils are drawn close. They in panic of the torches and the shouting leave their wide pathless haunts, and marvel that their own mountain is shrinking, till from every side they pour into the narrow vale ; the herds startle each other, and are tamed by mutual fear ; bristly boar and bear and wolf are driven together, and the hind despises the captured lions.

But although the twain Atridae make war in their own cause together, though Sthenelus and Tydeus' son surpass in eager valour their fathers' fame, and Antilochus heeds not his years, and Ajax shakes upon his arm the seven leaders of the herd<sup>b</sup> and the circle vast as a city-wall, though Ulysses, sleepless in counsel and deeds of arms, joins in the quarrel, yet all the host yearns ardently for the absent Achilles, lovingly they dwell upon Achilles' name, Achilles alone is

## STATIUS

poscitur, illum unum Teucris Priamoque loquuntur  
 fatalem. quis enim Haemoniis sub vallibus alter 476  
 creverit effossa reptans nive? cuius adortus<sup>1</sup>  
 cruda rudimenta et teneros formaverit annos  
 Centaurus? patrii propior cui linea caeli,  
 quemve alium Stygios tulerit secreta per amnes 480  
 Nereis et pulchros ferro praestruxerit artus?  
 haec Graiae castris iterant traduntque cohortes.  
 cedit turba ducum vinciue haud maesta fatetur.  
 sic cum pallentes Phlegraea in castra coirent  
 caelicolae iamque Odrysiam Gradivus in hastam 485  
 surgeret et Libycos Tritonia tolleret angues  
 ingentemque manu curvaret Delius arcum,  
 stabat anhela metu solum Natura Tonantem  
 respiciens—quando ille hiemes tonitrusque vocaret  
 nubibus, igniferam quot fulmina posceret Aetnen?

Atque ibi dum mixta vallati plebe suorum 491  
 et maris et belli consultant tempora reges,  
 increpitans magno vatem Calchanta tumultu  
 Protesilaus ait—namque huic bellare cupido  
 praecipua et primae iam tunc data gloria mortis—:  
 “o nimium Phoebi tripodumque oblite tuorum, 496  
 Thestoride, quando ora deo possessa movebis  
 iustius aut quianam<sup>2</sup> Parcarum occulta recludis<sup>3</sup>?  
 cernis ut ignotum cuncti stupeantque fremantque<sup>4</sup>  
 Aeaciden? sordent vulgo Calydonius heros 500

<sup>1</sup> adortus *P*ω: ad ortus *E*: ab ortu *Q* (correction from ad ortus). <sup>2</sup> quianam *P*: quaenam ω.

<sup>3</sup> recludis *Garrod*: recludes *P*ω.

<sup>4</sup> fremantque *E*: premantque *P*ω.

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<sup>a</sup> Scene of the battle of gods and giants, part of Macedonia, also called Pallene. <sup>b</sup> *i.e.*, Thracian.

<sup>c</sup> I have adopted *Garrod*'s reading here, giving “recludo” the meaning of “conceal”; “quaenam . . . recludes” would mean “What mysteries wilt thou reveal?”

called for against Hector, him and none other do they speak of as the doom of Priam and of Troy. For who else grew up from infancy crawling on fresh-dug snow in the Haemonian valleys? Whom else did the Centaur take in hand and shape his rude beginnings and tender years? Whose line of ancestry runs nearer heaven? Whom else did a Nereid take by stealth through the Stygian waters and make his fair limbs impenetrable to steel? Such talk do the Grecian cohorts repeat and interchange. The band of chieftains yields before him and gladly owns defeat. So when the pale denizens of heaven flocked into the Phlegræan camp,<sup>a</sup> and already Gradivus was towering to the height of his Odryian<sup>b</sup> spear and Tritonia raised her Libyan snakes and the Delian strongly bent his mighty bow, Nature in breathless terror stood looking to the Thunderer alone—when would *he* summon the lightnings and the tempests from the clouds, how many thunderbolts would he ask of fiery Aetna?

There, while the princes, surrounded by the mingled multitudes of their folk, hold counsel of times for sailing and for war, Protesilaus amid great tumult rebukes the prophet Calchas and cries—for to him was given the keenest desire to fight, and the glory even then of suffering death the first: "O son of Thestor, forgetful of Phoebus and thy own tripods, when wilt thou open thy god-possessed lips more surely, or why dost thou hide the secret things of Fate<sup>c</sup>? Seest thou how all are amazed at the unknown Aeacides and clamour for him? The Calydonian hero<sup>d</sup> seems as nought in the people's eyes,

<sup>d</sup> Diomede.

## STATIUS

et magno genitus Telamone Ajaxque secundus,  
 nos quoque : sed Mavors et Troia arrepta probabunt.  
 illum neglectis—pudet heu !—ductoribus omnes  
 belligerum ceu numen amant. dic ocius aut cur  
 serta comis et multus honos ? quibus abditus oris  
 quave iubes tellure peti ? nam fama nec antris 506  
 Chironis patria nec degere Peleos aula.  
 heia, inrumpe deos et fata latentia vexa,  
 laurigerosque ignes, si quando, avidissimus hauri !  
 arma horrenda tibi saevosque remisimus enses, 510  
 numquam has imbelles galea violabere vittas :  
 sed felix numeroque ducum praestantior omni,  
 si magnum Danais per te<sup>1</sup> deprendis<sup>2</sup> Achillem.”

Iamdudum trepido circumfert lumina motu  
 intrantemque deum primo pallore fatetur 515  
 Thestorides ; mox igne genas et sanguine torquens<sup>3</sup>  
 nec socios nec castra videt, sed caecus et absens  
 nunc superum magnos deprendit in aethere coetus,  
 nunc sagas adfatur aves, nunc dura sororum  
 licia, turiferas modo consulit anxius aras 520  
 flammaramque apicem rapit et caligine sacra  
 pascitur. exsiliunt crines rigidisque laborat  
 vitta comis, nec colla loco nec in ordine gressus.  
 tandem fessa tremens longis mugitibus ora

<sup>1</sup> per te *Garrod* (*from own MS.*): pro te *Pω*.

<sup>2</sup> deprendis *Garrod* (*from own MS.*): deprehendis *E*:  
 dependis *P*: portendis *ω*. See *Garrod ad loc.* *P* is faulty  
 in these lines.

<sup>3</sup> torquens *Pω*: torpens *Garrod*.

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<sup>a</sup> *Garrod* rightly remarks that there is no question here  
 546

and so too Ajax born of mighty Telamon and lesser Ajax, so do we also : but Mars and the capture of Troy will prove the truth. Slighting their leaders—for shame!—they all love him as a deity of war. Quickly speak, or why are thy locks enwreathed and held in honour? In what coasts lies he hidden? In what land must we seek him? For report has it that he is living neither in Chiron's cave nor in the halls of Peleus his sire. Come, break in upon the gods, harry the fates that lie concealed! Quaff greedily, if ever thou dost, thy draughts of laurelled fire! We have relieved thee of dread arms and cruel swords, and never shall a helm profane thy unwarlike locks, yet blest shalt thou be and foremost of all our chiefs, if of thyself thou dost find great Achilles for the Danaans." <sup>a</sup>

Long since has the son of Thestor been glancing round about him with excited movements, and by his first pallor betrayed the incoming of the god; soon he rolls fiery, bloodshot eyes, seeing neither his comrades nor the camp, but blind and absent from the scene he now overhears the mighty councils of gods in the upper air, now accosts the prescient birds, now the stern sisters' threads, now anxiously consults the incense-laden altars, and quickly scans the shooting flames and feeds upon the sacred vapours.<sup>b</sup> His hair streams out, and the fillet totters on his stiffened locks, his head rolls and he staggers in his gait. At last trembling he looses his weary of which is to serve in the campaign (implied by "pro te dependis"); see ll. 510, 511. The question is "Where is Achilles?"

<sup>b</sup> This was a *καπνομαντεία*, or divination by the smoke of the altar-fire, as in *Theb.* x. 598. The altar of Apollo would be crowned with laurel (*cf.* 509).

## STATIUS

solvit, et oppositum vox eluctata furorem est : 525  
 “ quo rapis ingentem magni Chironis alumnum  
 femineis, Nerei, dolis ? huc mitte : quid aufers ?  
 non patiar : meus iste, meus. tu diva profundi,  
<sup>1</sup>et me Phoebus agit. latebris quibus abdere temptas  
 eversorem Asiae ? video per Cycladas altas 530  
 attonitam et turpi quaerentem litora furto.  
 occidimus : placuit Lycomedis conscia tellus.  
 o scelus ! en fluxae veniunt in pectora vestes.  
 scinde, puer, scinde et timidae ne cede parenti.  
 ei mihi raptus abit ! quaenam haec procul improba  
 virgo ? ” 535

Hic nutante gradu stetit amissisque furoris  
 viribus ante ipsas tremefactus conruit aras.  
 tunc haerentem Ithacum Calydonius occupat heros :  
 “ nos vocat iste labor : neque enim comes ire recusem,  
 si tua cura trahat. licet ille sonantibus antris 540  
 Tethyos aversae gremioque prematur aquosi  
 Nereos : invenies. tu tantum providus astu  
 tende animum vigilem fecundumque erige pectus :  
 non mihi quis vatium dubiis in casibus ausit  
 fata videre prior.” subicit gavisus Ulixes : 545  
 “ sic deus omnipotens firmet, sic adnuat illa  
 virgo paterna tibi ! sed me spes lubrica tardat :  
 grande equidem armatum castris inducere Achillem ;  
 sed si fata negent, quam foedum ac triste reverti !  
 vota tamen Danaum non intemptata relinquam 550

<sup>1</sup> *Lines 529-661 only in PE and late mss., not in ω.*

<sup>a</sup> *i.e.*, himself and Ulysses ; “cura” seems to recognize Ulysses’ hesitation.

lips from their long bellowings, and his voice has struggled free from the resisting frenzy: "Whither bearest thou, O Nereid, by thy woman's guile great Chiron's mighty pupil? Send him hither: why dost thou carry him away? I will not suffer it: mine is he, mine! Thou art a goddess of the deep, but I too am inspired by Phoebus. In what hiding-places triest thou to conceal the destroyer of Asia? I see her all bewildered among the Cyclades, in base stealth seeking out the coast. We are ruined! The accomplice land of Lycomedes finds favour. Ah! horrid deed! see, flowing garments drape his breast. Rend them, boy, rend them, and yield not to thy timid mother. Woe, woe! he is rapt away and is gone! Who is that wicked maiden yonder?"

Here tottering he ceased, the madness lost its force, and with a shudder he collapsed and fell before the altar. Then the Calydonian hero accosts the hesitating Ithacan: "'Tis us<sup>a</sup> that task summons; for I could not refuse to bear thee company, should thy thought so lead thee. Though he be sunk in the echoing caves of Tethys far removed and in the bosom of watery Nereus, thou wilt find him. Do thou but keep alert the cunning and foresight of thy watchful mind, and arouse thy fertile craft: no prophet, methinks, would make bold in perplexity to see the truth before thee." Ulysses in joy makes answer: "So may almighty God bring it to pass, and the virgin guardian of thy sire grant to thee! But fickle hope gives me pause; a great enterprise is it indeed to bring Achilles and his arms to our camp, but should the fates say nay, how woeful a disgrace were it to return! Yet will I not leave unventured the fulfilment of the Danaans' desire. Ay, verily, either

## STATIUS

iamque adeo aut aderit mecum Peleius heros,  
aut verum penitus latet et sine Apolline Calchas."

Conclamant Danaï stimulatque Agamemno vo-  
lentes :

laxantur coetus resolutaque murmure laeto  
agmina discedunt. quales iam nocte propinqua 555  
e pastu referuntur aves, vel in antra reverti  
melle novo gravidas mitis videt Hybla catervas.  
nec mora, iam dextras Ithacesia carbasus auras  
poscit, et in remis hilaris sedere iuventus.

At procul occultum falsi sub imagine sexus 560  
Aeaciden furto iam noverat una latenti  
Deidamia virum ; sed opertae conscia culpae  
cuncta pavet tacitasque putat sentire sorores.  
namque ut virgineo stetit in grege durus Achilles  
exsolvitque rudem genetrix digressa pudorem, 565  
protinus elegit comitem, quamquam omnis in illum  
turba coit, blandecque novas nil tale timenti  
admovet insidias : illam sequiturque premitque  
improbus, illam oculis iterumque iterumque resumit.  
nunc nimius lateri non evitantis inhaeret, 570  
nunc levibus sertis, lapsis nunc sponte canistris,  
nunc thyrso parcente ferit, modo dulcia notae  
fila lyrae tenuesque modos et carmina monstrat  
Chironis ducitque manum digitosque sonanti  
infringit citharae, nunc occupat ora canentis 575  
et ligat amplexus et mille per oscula laudat.

the Pelean hero shall accompany me hither, or the truth lies deep indeed and Calchas hath not spoken by Apollo.”

The Danai shout applause, and Agamemnon urges on the willing pair; the gathering breaks up, and the dispersing ranks depart with joyful murmurs, even as at nightfall the birds wing their way homeward from the pastures, or kindly Hybla sees the swarms returning laden with fresh honey to their cells. Without delay the canvas of the Ithacan is already calling for a favouring breeze, and the merry crew are seated at the oars.

But far away Deidamia—and she alone—had learnt in stolen secrecy the manhood of Aeacides, that lay hid beneath the show of a feigned sex; conscious of guilt concealed there is nought she does not fear, and thinks that her sisters know, but hold their peace. For when Achilles, rough as he was, stood amid the maiden company, and the departure of his mother rid him of his artless bashfulness, straightway although the whole band gathers round him, he chose her as his comrade and assails with new and winning wiles her unsuspecting innocence; her he follows, and persistently besets, toward her he ever and again directs his gaze. Now too zealously he clings to her side, nor does she avoid him, now he pelts her with light garlands, now with baskets that let their burden fall, now with the thyrsus that harms her not, or again he shows her the sweet strings of the lyre he knows so well, and the gentle measures and songs of Chiron's teaching, and guides her hand and makes her fingers strike the sounding harp, now as she sings he makes a conquest of her lips, and binds her in his embrace, and praises her

## STATIUS

illa libens discit, quo vertice Pelion, et quis  
 Aeacides, puerique auditum nomen et actus  
 adsidue stupet et praesentem cañtat Achillem. 580  
 ipsa quoque et validos proferre modestius artus  
 et tenuare rudes attrito pollice lanas  
 demonstrat reficitque colos et perdita dura<sup>1</sup>  
 pensa manu ; vocisque sonum pondusque tenentis,  
 quodque fugit comites, nimio quod lumine sese  
 figat et in verbis intempestivus anhelet, 585  
 miratur : iam iamque dolos aperire parantem  
 virginea levitate fugit prohibetque fateri.  
 sic sub matre Rhea iuvenis regnator Olympi  
 oscula securae dabat insidiosa sorori  
 frater adhuc, medii donec reverentia cessit 590  
 sanguinis et versos germana expavit amores.

Tandem detecti timidæ Nereidos astus.  
 lucus Agenorei sublimis ad orgia Bacchi  
 stabat et admissum caelo nemus : huius in umbra  
 alternam renovare piaë trieterida matres 595  
 consuerant scissumque pecus terraque revulsas  
 ferre trabes gratosque deo praestare furores.  
 lex procul ire mares : iterat praecepta verendus  
 ductor, inaccessumque viris edicatur antrum.  
 nec satis est : stat fine dato metuenda sacerdos 600  
 exploratque aditus, ne quis temerator oberret  
 agmine femineo. tacitus sibi risit Achilles.  
 illum virgineae ducentem signa catervae

<sup>1</sup> perdita dura *E*, late *MSS.* : perfida durat *P*.

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<sup>a</sup> The courting of Juno by the youthful Jupiter is also mentioned *Theb.* x. 61 sq.

<sup>b</sup> From Agenor, king of Tyre, from whom Semele, his mother, was descended.

amid a thousand kisses. With pleasure does she learn of Pelion's summit and of Aeacides, and hearing the name and exploits of the youth is spellbound in constant wonder, and sings of Achilles in his very presence. She in her turn teaches him to move his strong limbs with more modest grace and to spin out the unwrought wool by rubbing with his thumb, and repairs the distaff and the skeins that his rough hand has damaged; she marvels at the deep tones of his voice, how he shuns all her fellows and pierces her with too-attentive gaze and at all times hangs breathless on her words; and now he prepares to reveal the fraud, but she like a fickle girl avoids him, and will not allow him to confess. Even so beneath his mother Rhea's rule the young prince of Olympus gave treacherous kisses to his sister; he was still her brother and she thought no harm, until the reverence for their common blood gave way, and the sister feared a lover's passion.<sup>a</sup>

At length the timorous Nereid's cunning was laid bare. There stood a lofty grove, scene of the rites of Agenorean<sup>b</sup> Bacchus, a grove that reached to heaven; within its shade the pious matrons were wont to renew the recurrent three-yearly festival, and to bring torn animals of the herd and uprooted saplings, and to offer to the god the frenzy wherein he took delight. The law bade males keep far away; the reverend monarch repeats the command, and makes proclamation that no man may draw nigh the sacred haunt. Nor is that enough; a venerable priestess stands at the appointed limit and scans the approaches, lest any defiler come near in the train of women; Achilles laughed silently to himself. His comrades wonder at him as he leads the band of

## STATIUS

magnaue difficili solventem brachia motu  
 —et sexus pariter decet et mendacia matris— 605  
 mirantur comites. nec iam pulcherrima turbae  
 Deidamia suae tantumque admota superbo  
 vincitur Aeacide, quantum premit ipsa sorores.  
 ut vero e tereti demisit nebrida collo  
 errantesque sinus hedera collegit et alte 610  
 cinxit purpureis flaventia tempora vittis  
 vibravitque gravi redimitum missile dextra,  
 attonito stat turba metu sacrisque relictis  
 illum ambire libet pronosque attollere vultus. 614  
 talis, ubi ad Thebas vultumque animumque remisit  
 Euhius et patrio satiavit pectora luxu,  
 serta comis mitramque levat thyrsumque virentem  
 armat et hostiles invisit fortior Indos.

Scandebat roseo medii fastigia caeli  
 Luna iugo, totis ubi somnus inertior alis 620  
 defluit in terras mutumque amplectitur orbem :  
 consedere chori paulumque exercita pulsu  
 aera tacent, tenero cum solus ab agmine Achilles  
 haec secum : “ quonam timidae commenta parentis  
 usque feres ? primumque imbelli carcere perdes 625  
 florem animi ? non tela licet Mavortia dextra,  
 non trepidas agitare feras. ubi campus et amnes  
 Haemonii ? quaerisne meos, Sperchie, natatus  
 promissasque comas ? an desertoris alumni 629  
 nullus honos ? Stygiasque procul iam raptus ad umbras  
 dicor, et orbatus plangit mea funera Chiron ?

<sup>a</sup> *i.e.*, the thyrsus.

<sup>b</sup> There is a sort of inverted comparison here: the warlike Achilles putting on Bacchic garb is compared to effeminate Bacchus making ready for war.

virgins and moves his mighty arms with awkward motion—his own sex and his mother's counterfeit alike become him. No more is Deidamia the fairest of her company, and as she surpasses her own sisters, so does she herself own defeat compared with proud *Æacides*. But when he let the fawn-skin hang from his shapely neck, and with ivy gathered up its flowing folds, and bound the purple fillet high upon his flaxen temples, and with powerful hand made the enwreathed missile<sup>a</sup> quiver, the crowd stood awe-struck, and leaving the sacred rites are fain to throng about him, uplifting their bowed heads to gaze. Even so *Euhius*, what time he has relaxed at *Thebes* his martial spirit and frowning brow, and sated his soul with the luxury of his native land, takes chaplet and mitre from his locks, and arms the green thyrsus for the fray, and in more martial guise sets out to meet his Indian foes.<sup>b</sup>

The Moon in her rosy chariot was climbing to the height of mid-heaven, when drowsy Sleep glided down with full sweep of his pinions to earth and gathered a silent world to his embrace: the choirs reposed, the stricken bronze awhile was mute, when *Achilles*, parted in solitude from the virgin train, thus spoke with himself: "How long wilt thou endure the precepts of thy anxious mother, and waste the first flower of thy manhood in this soft imprisonment? No weapons of war mayst thou brandish, no beasts mayst thou pursue. Oh! for the plains and valleys of *Hæmonia*! Lookest thou in vain, *Spercheus*, for my swimming, and for my promised tresses? Or hast thou no regard for the foster-child that has deserted thee? Am I already spoken of as borne to the Stygian shades afar. and does *Chiron* in

## STATIUS

tu nunc tela manu, nostros tu dirigis arcus  
 nutritosque mihi scandis, Patrocle, iugales :  
 ast ego pampineis diffundere brachia thyrsis  
 et tenuare colus—pudet haec taedetque fateri !— 635  
 iam scio. quin etiam dilectae virginis ignem  
 aequaevamque facem captus noctesque diesque  
 dissimulas. quonam usque premes urentia pectus  
 vulnera, teque marem—pudet heu !—nec amore  
 probaris<sup>1</sup> ?

Sic ait ; et densa noctis gavisus in umbra 640  
 tempestiva suis torpere silentia furtis  
 vi potitur votis et toto pectore veros  
 admovet amplexus ; vidit chorus omnis ab alto  
 astrorum et tenerae rubuerunt cornua Lunae.  
 illa quidem clamore nemus montemque replevit : 645  
 sed Bacchi comites, discussa nube soporis,  
 signa choris indicta putant ; fragor undique notus  
 tollitur, et thyrsos iterum vibrabat Achilles,  
 ante tamen dubiam verbis solatus amicis :  
 “ ille ego—quid trepidas ?—, genitum quem caerula  
 mater 650

paene Iovi<sup>2</sup> silvis nivibusque immisit alendum  
 Thessalicis. nec ego hos cultus aut foeda subissem  
 tegmina, ni primo tu visa<sup>3</sup> in litore : cessi  
 te propter, tibi pensa manu, tibi mollia gesto  
 tympana. quid defles magno nurus addita ponto ?

<sup>1</sup> probaris *P* : probabis *late mss.*

<sup>2</sup> paene Iovi *Gustafsson* : paene iovis *P* : Penei *E* : Peneis  
*late mss.* : Paeoniis *conj. Wilamowitz.*

<sup>3</sup> tu visa *E* : te vias *P* : te visa *late mss.*

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<sup>a</sup> Thetis nearly became the wife of Jove, so that Achilles  
 556

solitude bewail my death? Thou, O Patroclus, now dost aim my darts, dost bend my bow and mount the team that was nourished for me; but I have learnt to fling wide my arms as I grasp the vine-wands, and to spin the distaff-thread—ah! shame and vexation to confess it! Nay more, night and day thou dost dissemble the love that holds thee, and thy passion for the maid of equal years. How long wilt thou conceal the wound that galls thy heart, nor even in love—for shame!—prove thy own manhood?”

So he speaks; and in the thick darkness of the night, rejoicing that the unstirring silence gives timely aid to his secret deeds, he gains by force his desire, and with all his vigour strains her in a real embrace; the whole choir of stars beheld from on high, and the horns of the young moon blushed red. She indeed filled grove and mountain with her cries, but the train of Bacchus, dispelling slumber's cloud, deemed it the signal for the dance; on every side the familiar shout arises, and Achilles once more brandishes the thyrsus; yet first with friendly speech he solaces the anxious maid: “I am he—why fearest thou?—whom my cerulean mother bore wellnigh to Jove,<sup>a</sup> and sent to find my nurture in the woods and snows of Thessaly. Nor had I endured this dress and shameful garb, had I not seen thee on the sea-shore; 'twas for thee I did submit, for thee I carry skeins and bear the womanly timbrel. Why dost thou weep who art made the daughter-in-law of mighty ocean? Why dost thou moan who shalt bear

was “nearly” his son. An oracle warned Jove that the son thus born would destroy him. Wilamowitz's conjecture “Paeoniis” is attractive.

## STATIUS

quid gemis ingentes caelo paritura nepotes ? 656  
 sed pater— : ante igni ferroque excisa iacebit  
 Scyros et in tumidas ibunt haec versa procellas  
 moenia, quam saevo mea tu conubia pendas  
 funcre : non adeo parebimus omnia matri.”<sup>1</sup> 660

Obstipuit tantis regina exterrita monstris, 662  
 quamquam olim suspecta fides, et comminus ipsum  
 horruit et facies multum mutata fatentis.<sup>2</sup>  
 quid faciat ? casusne suos ferat ipsa parenti 665  
 seque simul iuvenemque premat, fortassis acerbas  
 hausurum poenas ? et adhuc in corde manebat  
 ille diu deceptus amor : silet aegra premitque  
 iam commune nefas ; unam placet addere furtis  
 altricem sociam, precibus quae victa duorum 670  
 adnuit. illa astu tacito raptumque pudorem  
 surgentemque uterum atque aegros in pondere menses  
 occuluit, plenis donec stata tempora metis  
 attulit et partus index Lucina resolvit.

II <sup>3</sup> Iamque per Aegaeos ibat Laertia flexus 675  
 puppis, et innumeras mutabant Cycladas aurae<sup>4</sup> :  
 iam Paros Olearosque latent ; iam raditur alta  
 Lemnos et a tergo decrescit Bacchica Naxos,  
<sup>5</sup> ante oculos crescente Samo ; iam Delos opacat  
 aequor : ibi e celsa libant carchesia puppi 680  
 responsique fidem et verum Calchanta precantur.

<sup>1</sup> *After line 660 follows only in Q by a late hand the line vade sed ereptum celes taceasque pudorem, “go, but conceal and be silent of thy ravished honour.”*

<sup>2</sup> *Lines 663-664 bracketed by Garrod as spurious.*

<sup>3</sup> *The old editors began Book II. here.*

<sup>4</sup> *innumeras mutabant Cycladas aurae Koestlin : innumerae m. Cyclades auras Pw : innumerae mutabat Cyclados oras Garrod.*

valiant grandsons to Olympus<sup>a</sup>? But thy father—Scyros shall be destroyed by fire and sword and these walls shall be in ruins and the sport of wanton winds, ere thou pay by cruel death for my embraces: not so utterly am I subject to my mother.”

Horror-struck was the princess at such dark happenings, albeit long since she had suspected his good faith, and shuddered at his presence, and his countenance was changed as he made confession. What is she to do? Shall she bear the tale of her misfortune to her father, and ruin both herself and her lover, who perchance would suffer untimely death? And still there abode within her breast the love so long deceived. Silent is she in her grief, and dissembles the crime that both now share alike; her nurse alone she resolves to make a partner in deceit, and she, yielding to the prayers of both, assents. With secret cunning she conceals the rape and the swelling womb and the burden of the months of ailing, till Lucina brought round by token the appointed season, her course now fully run, and gave deliverance of her child.

And now the Laertian<sup>b</sup> bark was threading the winding ways of the Aegean, while the breezes changed one for another the countless Cyclades; already Paros and Olearos are hid, now they skirt lofty Lemnos and behind them Bacchic Naxos is lost to view, while Samos grows before them; now Delos darkens the deep, and there from the tall stern they pour cups of libation, and pray that the oracle be true and Calchas undeceived. The Wielder of the

<sup>a</sup> Peleus was descended from Zeus; *cf.* 869, 899.

<sup>b</sup> Because Ulysses was son of Laertes.

## STATIUS

audiit Arquitenens Zephyrumque e vertice Cynthi  
impulit et dubiis pleno dedit omina velo.

- 10 it pelago segura ratis : quippe alta Tonantis  
iussa Thetin certas fatorum vertere leges 685  
arcebant aegram lacrimis ac multa timentem,  
quod non erueret pontum ventisque fretisque  
omnibus invisum iam tunc sequeretur Ulixem.
- 15 Frangebat radios humili iam pronus Olympo  
Phoebus et Oceani penetrabile litus anhelis 690  
promittebat equis, cum se scopulosa levavit  
Scyros ; in hanc totos emisit puppe rudentes  
dux Laertiades sociisque resumere pontum
- 20 imperat et remis Zephyros supplere cadentes.  
accedunt iuxta, et magis indubitata magisque 695  
Scyros erat placidique super Tritonia custos  
litoris. egressi numen venerantur amicae  
Aetolusque Ithacusque deae. tunc providus heros,
- 25 hospita ne subito terrerent moenia coetu,  
puppe iubet remanere suos ; ipse ardua fido 700  
cum Diomede petit. sed iam praevenerat arcis  
litoreae servator Abas ignotaque regi  
ediderat, sed Graia tamen, succedere terris
- 30 carbasa. procedunt, gemini ceu foedere iuncto  
hiberna sub nocte lupi : licet et sua pulset 705  
natorumque fames, penitus rabiemque minasque  
dissimulant humilesque meant, ne nuntiet hostes  
cura canum et trepidos moneat vigilare magistros.

Bow <sup>a</sup> heard them, and from the top of Cynthus sent a zephyr flying and gave the doubting ones the good omen of a belying sail. The ship sails o'er the sea untroubled; for the Thunderer's high commands suffered not Thetis to overturn the sure decrees of Fate, faint as she was with tears, and foreboding much because she could not excite the main and straightway pursue the hated Ulysses with all her winds and waves.

Already Phoebus, stooping low upon the verge of Olympus, was sending forth broken rays, and promising to his panting steeds the yielding shore of Ocean, when rocky Scyros rose aloft; the Laertian chieftain from the stern let out all sail to make it, and bade his crew resume the deep and with their oars supply the failing zephyrs. Nearer they draw, and more undoubtedly, more surely was it Scyros, and Tritonia <sup>b</sup> above, the guardian of the tranquil shore. They disembark, and venerate the power of the friendly goddess, Aetolian and Ithacan alike. Then the prudent hero, lest they should frighten the hospitable walls with sudden throng, bids his crew remain upon the ship; he himself with trusty Diomedes ascends the heights. But already Abas, keeper of the coastal tower, had gone before them and given tidings to the king, that unknown sails, though Greek, were drawing nigh the land. Forward they go, like two wolves leagued together on a winter's night: though their cubs' hunger and their own assaults them, yet do they utterly dissemble ravening rage, and go slinking on their way, lest the alertness of the dogs announce a foe and warn the anxious herdsmen to keep vigil.

<sup>a</sup> Apollo.

<sup>b</sup> Cf. l. 285.

## STATIUS

35 Sic segnes heroes eunt campumque patentem,  
 qui medius portus celsamque interiacet urbem, 710  
 alterno sermone terunt ; prior occupat acer  
 Tydides : “ qua nunc verum ratione paramus  
 scrutari ? namque ambiguo sub pectore pridem  
 40 verso, quid imbelles thyrsos mercatus et aera  
 urbibus in mediis Baccheaque terga mitrasque 715  
 huc tuleris varioque aspersas nebridas auro.  
 hisnegravem PriamoPhrygibusquearmabisAchillem?”

Illi subridens Ithacus paulum ore remisso :  
 45 “ haec tibi, virginea modo si Lycomedis in aula est  
 fraude latens, ultro confessum in proelia ducent 720  
 Peliden ; tu cuncta citus de puppe memento  
 ferre, ubi tempus erit, clipeumque his iungere donis,  
 qui pulcher signis auroque asperrimus ; hasta<sup>1</sup>  
 50 haec<sup>2</sup> sat erit : tecum lituo bonus adsit Agyrtes  
 occultamque tubam tacitos adportet in usus.” 725

Dixerat, atque ipso portarum in limine regem  
 cernit et ostensa pacem praefatus oliva :  
 “ magna, reor, pridemque tuas pervenit ad aures  
 55 fama trucis belli, regum placidissime, quod nunc  
 Europamque Asiamque quatit. si nomina forte 730  
 huc perlata ducum, fidit quibus ultor Atrides :  
 hic tibi, quem tanta meliorem stirpe creavit  
 magnanimus Tydeus, Ithacis ego ductor Ulixes.  
 60 causa viae—metuam quid enim tibi cuncta fateri,  
 cum Graius notaque fide celeberrimus unus<sup>3</sup>— 735

<sup>1</sup> hasta *P* : ardet  $\omega$  : astat *E*, *Garrod and conj. Kohlmann*.

<sup>2</sup> haec *P*  $\omega$  : nec *Garrod*.

<sup>3</sup> unus  $\omega$  : imus *PE*.

So with slow pace the heroes move, and with mutual converse tread the open plain that lies between the harbour and the high citadel; first keen Tydides speaks: "By what means now are we preparing to search out the truth? For in perplexity of mind have I long been pondering why thou didst buy those unwarlike wands and cymbals in the city marts, and didst bring hither Bacchic hides and turbans, and fawn-skins decked with patterns of gold. Is it with these thou wilt arm Achilles to be the doom of Priam and the Phrygians?"

To him with a smile and somewhat less stern of look the Ithacan replied: "These things, I tell thee, if only he be lurking among the maidens in Lycomedes' palace, shall draw the son of Peleus to the fight, ay, self-confessed! Remember thou to bring them all quickly from the ship, when it is time, and to join to these gifts a shield that is beautiful with carving and rough with work of gold; this spear will suffice; let the good trumpeter Agyrtes be with thee, and let him bring a hidden bugle for a secret purpose."

He spoke, and spied the king in the very threshold of the gate, and displaying the olive first announced his peaceful purpose: "Loud report, I ween, hath long since reached thy ears, O gentle monarch, of that fierce war which now is shaking both Europe and Asia. If perchance the chieftains' names have been borne hither, in whom the avenging son of Atreus trusts, here beholdest thou him whom great-hearted Tydeus begot, mightier even than so great a sire, and I am Ulysses the Ithacan chief. The cause of our voyage—for why should I fear to confess all to thee, who art a Greek and of all men most renowned by sure report?—is to spy out the

## STATIUS

explorare aditus inuisaque litora Troiae,  
 quidve parent." medio sermone intercipit ille :  
 " adnuerit Fortuna, precor, dextrique secudent  
 65 ista dei ! nunc hospitio mea tecta piumque  
 inlustrate larem." simul intra limina ducit. 740  
 nec mora, iam mensas famularis turba torosque  
 instruit. interea visu perlustrat Ulixes  
 scrutaturque domum, si qua vestigia magnae  
 70 virginis aut dubia facies suspecta figura ;  
 porticibusque vagis errat tososque penates, 745  
 ceu miretur, adit : velut ille cubilia praedae  
 indubitata tenens muto legit arva Molosso  
 venator, videat donec sub frondibus hostem  
 75 porrectum somno positosque in caespite dentes.  
 Rumor in arcana iamdudum perstrepit aula, 750  
 virginibus qua fida domus, venisse Pelasgum  
 ductores Graiamque ratem sociosque receptos.  
 iure<sup>1</sup> pavent aliae ; sed vix nova gaudia celat  
 80 Pelides avidusque novos heroas et arma  
 vel talis vidisse cupit. iamque atria fervent 755  
 regali strepitu et picto discumbitur auro,  
 cum pater ire iubet natas comitesque pudicas  
 natarum. subeunt, quales Maeotide ripa,  
 85 cum Scythicas rapuere domos et capta Getarum  
 moenia, sepositis epulantur Amazones armis. 760  
 tum vero intentus vultus ac pectora Ulixes  
 perlibrat visu, sed nox inlataque fallunt

<sup>1</sup> iure *Pω* : aure *Garrod* (*Theb.* i. 366).

approaches to Troy and her hated shores, and what their schemes may be." Ere he had finished the other broke in upon him : " May Fortune assist thee, I pray, and propitious gods prosper that enterprise ! Now honour my roof and pious home by being my guests." Therewith he leads them within the gate. Straightway numerous attendants prepare the couches and the tables. Meanwhile Ulysses scans and searches the palace with his gaze, if anywhere he can find trace of a tall maiden or a face suspect for its doubtful features ; uncertainly he wanders idly in the galleries and, as though in wonder, roams the whole house through ; just as yon hunter, having come upon his prey's undoubted haunts, scours the fields with his silent Molossian hound, till he behold his foe stretched out in slumber 'neath the leaves and his jaws resting on the turf.

Long since has a rumour been noised throughout the secret chamber where the maidens had their safe abode, that Pelasgian chiefs are come, and a Grecian ship and its mariners have been made welcome. With good reason are the rest affrighted ; but Pelides scarce conceals his sudden joy, and eagerly desires even as he is to see the newly-arrived heroes and their arms. Already the noise of princely trains fills the palace, and the guests are reclining on gold-embroidered couches, when at their sire's command his daughters and their chaste companions join the banquet ; they approach, like unto Amazons on the Maeotid shore, when, having made plunder of Scythian homesteads and captured strongholds of the Getae, they lay aside their arms and feast. Then indeed does Ulysses with intent gaze ponder carefully both forms and features, but night and the lamps that are

## STATIUS

- lumina et extemplo latuit mensura iacentum.  
 90 at tamen erectumque genas oculisque vagantem  
 nullaque virginei servantem signa pudoris 765  
 defigit comitique obliquo lumine monstrat.  
 quod nisi praecipitem blando complexa moneret  
 Deidamia sinu nudataque pectora semper  
 95 exsertasque manus umerosque in veste teneret  
 et prodire toris et poscere vina vetaret 770  
 saepius et fronti crinale reponeret aurum,  
 Argolicis dueibus iam tunc patuisset Achilles.  
 Ut placata fames epulis bis terque repostis,  
 100 rex prior adloquitur paterisque hortatur Aehivos :  
 “ invideo vestris, fateor, decora inclita gentis 775  
 Argolicac, coeptis : utinam et mihi fortior aetas,  
 quaeque fuit, Dolopas cum Seyria litora adortos  
 perdomui fregique vadis, quae signa triumphi  
 105 vidistis celsa murorum in fronte, carinas !  
 saltem si suboles, aptum quam mittere bello—<sup>1</sup> 780  
 nunc ipsi viresque meas et cara videtis 782  
 pignora : quando novos dabit haec mihi turba  
 nepotes ? ”  
 110 dixerat, et sollers arrepto tempore Ulixes :  
 “ haud spernenda cupis ; quis enim non visere gentes  
 innumeras variosque duces atque agmina regum 786  
 ardeat ? omne simul roburque decusque potentis  
 Europae meritos ultro iuravit in enses.  
 115 rura urbesque vacant, montes spoliavimus altos,  
 omne fretum longa velorum obtexitur umbra ; 790

<sup>1</sup> *After line 780 occurs only in late MSS. : possem, plena forent mihi gaudia ; namque iuwarem, “ I could (belonging to the aposiopesis), my joy would be full ; for I would help.”*

brought in deceive him, and their stature is hidden as soon as they recline. One nevertheless with head erect and wandering gaze, one who preserves no sign of virgin modesty, he marks, and with sidelong glance points out to his companion. But if Deidamia, to warn the hasty youth, had not clasped him to her soft bosom, and ever covered with her own robe his bare breast and naked arms and shoulders, and many a time forbidden him to start up from the couch and ask for wine, and replaced the golden hair-band on his brow, Achilles had even then been revealed to the Argive chieftains.

When hunger was assuaged and the banquet had twice and three times been renewed, the monarch first addresses the Achaeans, and pledges them with the wine-cup: "Ye famous heroes of the Argolic race, I envy, I confess, your enterprise; would that I too were of more valiant years, as when I utterly subdued the Dolopes who attacked the shores of Scyros, and shattered on the sea those keels that ye beheld on the forefront of my lofty walls, tokens of my triumph! At least if I had offspring that I could send to war,—but now ye see for yourselves my feeble strength and my dear children: ah, when will these numerous daughters give me grandsons?" He spoke, and seizing the moment crafty Ulysses made reply: "Worthy indeed is the object of thy desire; for who would not burn to see the countless peoples of the world and various chieftains and princes with their trains? All the might and glory of powerful Europe hath sworn together willing allegiance to our righteous arms. Cities and fields alike are empty, we have spoiled the lofty mountains, the whole sea lies hidden beneath the far-spread shadow of our

## STATIUS

tradunt arma patres, rapit inrevocata iuventus.  
 non alias umquam tantae data copia famae  
 fortibus aut campo maiore exercita virtus."

- 120 aspicit intentum vigilique haec aure trahentem,  
 cum paveant aliae demissaque lumina flectant, 795  
 atque iterat: " quisquis proavis et gente superba,  
 quisquis equo iaculoque potens, qui praevalet arcu,  
 omnis honos illic, illic ingentia certant
- 125 nomina: vix timidae matres aut agmina cessant  
 virginea; a! multum steriles damnatus in annos 800  
 invisusque deis, si quem haec nova gloria segnem  
 praeterit." exisset stratis, ni provida signo  
 Deidamia dato cunctas hortata sorores
- 130 liquisset mensas ipsum complexa. sed haeret  
 respiciens Ithacum coetuque novissimus exit. 805  
 ille quidem incepto paulum ex sermone remittit,  
 pauca tamen iungens: " at tu tranquillus in alta  
 pace mane carisque para conubia natis,
- 135 quas tibi sidereis divarum vultibus aequas  
 fors dedit. ut me olim tacitum reverentia tangit!  
 is decor et formae species permixta virili." 811  
 occurrit genitor: " quid si aut Bacchea ferentes  
 orgia, Palladias aut circum videris aras?
- 140 et dabimus, si forte novus cunctabitur auster."  
 excipiunt cupidi et tacitis spes addita votis. 815  
 cetera depositis Lycomedis regia curis  
 tranquilla sub pace silet, sed longa sagaci  
 nox Ithaco, lucemque cupit somnumque gravatur.

sails ; fathers give weapons, youths snatch them and are gone beyond recall. Never was offered to the brave such an opportunity for high renown, never had valour so wide a field of exercise." He sees him all attentive and drinking in his words with vigilant ear, though the rest are alarmed and turn aside their downcast eyes, and he repeats : " Whoever hath pride of race and ancestry, whoever hath sure javelin and valiant steed, or skill of bow, all honour there awaits him, there is the strife of mighty names : scarce do timorous mothers hold back or troops of maids ; ah ! doomed to barren years and hated of the gods is he whom this new chance of glory passes by in idle sloth." Up from the couches had he sprung, had not Deidamia, watchfully giving the sign to summon all her sisters, left the banquet clasping him in her arms ; yet still he lingers looking back at the Ithacan, and goes out from the company the last of all. Ulysses indeed leaves unsaid somewhat of his purposed speech, yet adds a few words : " But do thou abide in deep and tranquil peace, and find husbands for thy beloved daughters, whom fortune has given thee, goddess-like in their starry countenances. What awe touched me anon and holds me silent ? Such charm and beauty joined to manliness of form ! " The sire replies : " What if thou couldst see them performing the rites of Bacchus, or about the altars of Pallas ? Ay, and thou shalt, if perchance the rising south wind prove a laggard." They eagerly accept his promise, and hope inspires their silent prayers. All else in Lycomedes' palace are at rest in peaceful quiet, their troubles laid aside, but to the cunning Ithacan the night is long ; he yearns for the day and brooks not slumber.

## STATIUS

- 145 Vixdum exorta dies et iam comitatus Agyrte  
 Tydides aderat praedictaque dona ferebat. 820  
 nec minus egressae thalamo Scyreides ibant  
 ostentare choros promissaque sacra verendis  
 hospitibus. nitet ante alias regina comesque
- 150 Pelides : qualis Siculae sub rupibus Aetnae  
 Naidas Ennaeas inter Diana feroxque 825  
 Pallas et Elysii lucebat sponsa tyranni.  
 iamque movent gressus thiasisque Ismenia buxus  
 signa dedit, quater aera Rheae, quater enthea pulsant
- 155 terga manu variosque quater legere recursus. 829  
 tunc thyrsos pariterque levant pariterque reponunt  
 multiplicantque gradum, modo quo Curetes in actu  
 quoque pii Samothraces eunt, nunc obvia versae  
 pectine Amazonio, modo quo citat orbe Lacaenas
- 160 Delia plaudentesque suis intorquet Amyclis.  
 tunc vero, tunc praecipue manifestus Achilles 835  
 nec servare vices nec bracchia iungere curat ;  
 tunc molles gressus, tunc aspernatur amictus  
 plus solito rumpitque choros et plurima turbat.
- 165 sic indignantem thyrsos acceptaque matris  
 tympana iam tristes spectabant Penthea Thebae. 840  
 Solvuntur laudata cohors repetuntque paterna  
 limina, ubi in mediae iamdudum sedibus aulae  
 munera virgineos visus tractura locarat

<sup>a</sup> *i.e.*, Theban (from the river Ismenos), *i.e.* Bacchic.

<sup>b</sup> Here = Cybele, worshipped by the Corybantes with very noisy rites.

<sup>c</sup> The Curetes were priests of Jupiter (Zeus) in Crete ; the Samothracians celebrated mysteries in honour of the Cabiri.

<sup>d</sup> " pecten " was the name of a dance in which, one may gather, two opposing lines met and passed through each other.

<sup>e</sup> Pentheus, king of Thebes, tried to put down the Bacchus-worship of which his mother Agave was a votary. " tristes,"

Scarce had day dawned, and already the son of Tydeus accompanied by Agyrtes was present bringing the appointed gifts. The maids of Seyros too went forth from their chamber and advanced to display their dances and promised rites to the honoured strangers. Brilliant before the rest is the princess with Pelides her companion: even as beneath the rocks of Aetna in Sicily Diana and bold Pallas and the consort of the Elysian monarch shine forth among the nymphs of Enna. Already they begin to move, and the Ismenian <sup>a</sup> pipe gives the signal to the dancers; four times they beat the cymbals of Rhea,<sup>b</sup> four times the maddening drums, four times they trace their manifold windings. Then together they raise and lower their wands, and complicate their steps, now in such fashion as the Curetes and devout Samothracians use,<sup>c</sup> now turning to face each other in the Amazonian comb,<sup>d</sup> now in the ring wherein the Delian sets the Laconian girls a-dancing, and whirls them shouting her praises into her own Amyclae. Then indeed, then above all is Achilles manifest, caring neither to keep his turn nor to join arms; then more than ever does he scorn the delicate step, the womanly attire, and breaks the dance and mightily disturbs the scene. Even so did Thebes already sorrowing behold Pentheus spurning the wands and the timbrels that his mother welcomed.<sup>e</sup>

The troop disperses amid applause, and they seek again their father's threshold, where in the central chamber of the palace the son of Tydeus had long since set out gifts that should attract maidens' eyes, the mark of kindly welcome and the guerdon as though with apprehension of his fate (he was torn in pieces by his own mother in her frenzy).

## STATIUS

- 170 Tydides, signum hospitii pretiumque laboris :  
hortaturque legant, nec rex placidissimus arcet. 845  
heu simplex nimiumque rudis, qui callida dona  
Graiorumque dolos variumque ignoret Ulixem !  
hic aliae, quas sexus iners naturaue ducit,  
175 aut teretes thyrsos aut respondentia temptant  
tympana, gemmatis aut nectunt tempora limbis : 850  
arma vident magnoque putant donata parenti.  
at ferus Aeacides, radiantem ut cominus orbem,  
caelatum pugnas—saevis et forte rubebat  
180 bellorum maculis—adclinem conspicit hastae,  
infremuit torsitque genas, et fronte relicta 855  
surrexere comae ; nusquam mandata parentis,  
nusquam occultus amor, totoque in pectore Troia est.  
ut leo, materno cum raptus ab ubere mores  
185 accepit pectique iubas hominemque vereri  
edidicit nullasque rapi nisi iussus in iras, 860  
si semel adverso radiavit lumine ferrum,  
eiurata fides domitorque inimicus : in illum  
prima fames, timidoque pudet servisse<sup>1</sup> magistro.  
190 ut vero accessit propius luxque aemula vultum  
reddidit et simili talem se vidit in auro, 865  
horruit erubuitque simul. tunc acer Ulixes  
admotus lateri summissa voce : “ quid haeres ?  
scimus,” ait, “ tu semiferi Chironis alumnus,  
195 tu caeli pelagique nepos, te Dorica classis,  
te tua suspensis exspectat Graecia signis, 870  
ipsaque iam dubiis nutant tibi Pergama muris.  
heia, abrumpe moras : sine perfida palleat Ide,  
et iuuet haec audire patrem, pudeatque dolosam

<sup>1</sup> pudet servisse *EQ* : iuuet servire *P* : rubet servire *Krohn*.  
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of their toil; he bids them choose, nor does the peaceful monarch say them nay. Alas! how simple and untaught, who knew not the cunning of the gifts nor Grecian fraud nor Ulysses' many wiles! Thereupon the others, prompted by nature and their ease-loving sex, try the shapely wands or the timbrels that answer to the blow, and fasten jewelled bands around their temples; the weapons they behold, but think them a gift to their mighty sire. But the bold son of Aeacus no sooner saw before him the gleaming shield enchased with battle-scenes—by chance too it shone red with the fierce stains of war—and leaning against the spear, than he shouted loud and rolled his eyes, and his hair rose up from his brow; forgotten were his mother's words, forgotten his secret love, and Troy fills all his breast. As a lion, torn from his mother's dugs, submits to be tamed and lets his mane be combed, and learns to have awe of man and not to fly into a rage save when bidden, yet if but once the steel has glittered in his sight, his fealty is forsworn, and his tamer becomes his foe: against him he first ravens, and feels shame to have served a timid lord. But when he came nearer, and the emulous brightness gave back his features and he saw himself mirrored in the reflecting gold, he thrilled and blushed together. Then quickly went Ulysses to his side and whispered: "Why dost thou hesitate? We know thee, thou art the pupil of the half-beast Chiron, thou art the grandson of the sky and sea; thee the Dorian fleet, thee thy own Greece awaits with standards uplifted for the march, and the very walls of Pergamum totter and sway for thee to overturn. Up! delay no more! Let perfidious Ida grow pale, let thy father delight to hear these

## STATIUS

- 200 sic pro te timuisse Thetin." iam pectus amictu  
 laxabat, cum grande tuba sic iussus Agyrtes 875  
 insonuit : fugiunt disiectis undique donis  
 implorantque patrem commotaque proelia credunt.  
 illius intactae cecidere a pectore vestes,  
 205 iam clipeus breviorque manu consumitur hasta,  
 —mira fides !—Ithacumque umeris excedere visus 880  
 Aetolumque ducem : tantum subita arma calorque  
 Martius horrenda confundit luce penates.  
 immanisque gradu, ceu protinus Hectora poscens,  
 210 stat medius trepidante domo : Peleaque virgo  
 quaeritur. ast alia plangebatur parte resectos 885  
 Deidamia dolos, cuius cum grandia primum  
 lamenta et notas accepit pectore voces,  
 haesit et occulto virtus infracta calore est.  
 215 demittit clipeum regisque ad lumina versus  
 attonitum factis inopinaque monstra paventem, 890  
 sicut erat, nudis Lycomedem adfatur in armis :  
 " me tibi, care pater,—dubium dimitte pavorem !—  
 me dedit alma Thetis : te pridem tanta manebat  
 220 gloria ; quaesitum Danais tu mittis Achillem,  
 gratior et magno, si fas dixisset, parente 895  
 et dulci Chirone mihi. sed corda parumper  
 huc advertite libens atque has bonus accipe voces :  
 Peleus te nato socerum et Thetis hospita iungunt,  
 225 adlegantque suos utroque a sanguine divos.  
 unam virgineo natarum ex agmine poscunt : 900

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<sup>a</sup> "consumitur," a vivid use of the word ; "is consumed, or used up by" his hand, which is too mighty for it.

tidings, and guileful Thetis feel shame to have so feared for thee." Already was he stripping his body of the robes, when Agyrtes, so commanded, blew a great blast upon the trumpet : the gifts are scattered, and they flee and fall with prayers before their sire and believe that battle is joined. But from his breast the raiment fell without his touching, already the shield and puny spear are lost in the grasp of his hand <sup>a</sup>—marvellous to believe!—and he seemed to surpass by head and shoulders the Ithacan and the Aetolian chief : with a sheen so awful does the sudden blaze of arms and martial fire dazzle the palace-hall. Mighty of limb, as though forthwith summoning Hector to the fray, he stands in the midst of the panic-stricken house : and the daughter of Peleus is sought in vain. But Deidamia in another chamber bewailed the discovery of the fraud, and as soon as he heard her loud lament and recognized the voice that he knew so well, he quailed and his spirit was broken by his hidden passion. He dropped the shield, and turning to the monarch's face, while Lycomedes is dazed by the scene and distraught by the strange portent, just as he was, in naked panoply of arms, he thus bespeaks him : " 'Twas I, dear father, I whom bounteous Thetis gave thee—dismiss thy anxious fears!—long since did this high renown await thee ; 'tis thou who wilt send Achilles, long sought for, to the Greeks, more welcome to me than my mighty sire—if it is right so to speak—and than beloved Chiron. But, if thou wilt, give me thy mind awhile, and of thy favour hear these words : Peleus and Thetis thy guest make thee the father-in-law of their son, and recount their kindred deities on either side ; they demand one of thy train of virgin

## STATIUS

dasne ? an gens humilis tibi degeneresque videmur ?  
 non renuis ; iunge ergo manus et concipe foedus  
 atque ignosce tuis. tacito iam cognita furto  
 230 Deidamia mihi ; quid enim his obstare lacertis,  
 qua potuit nostras possessa repellere vires<sup>1</sup> ? 905  
 me luere ista iube ; pono arma et reddo Pelasgis  
 et maneo. quid triste fremis ? quid lumina mutas ?  
 iam socer es ” —natum ante pedes prostravit et addit :  
 235 “ iamque avus : immitis quotiens iterabitur ensis !  
 turba sumus.” tunc et Danai per sacra fidemque 910  
 hospitii blandusque precum compellit Ulixes.  
 ille, etsi carae comperta iniuria natae  
 et Thetidis mandata movent prodique videtur  
 240 depositum tam grande deae, tamen obviis ire  
 tot metuit fatis Argivaque bella morari ; 915  
 fac velit : ipsam illic matrem sprevisset Achilles.  
 nec tamen abnuerit genero se iungere tali :  
 vincitur. areanis effert pudibunda tenebris  
 245 Deidamia gradum, veniae nec protinus amens  
 credit et opposito genitorem placet Achille. 920  
 Mittitur Haemoniam, magnis qui Pelea factis  
 impleat et classem comitesque in proelia poscat.  
 nec non et geminas regnator Scyrius alnos  
 250 deducit genero viresque excusat Achivis.  
 tunc epulis consumpta dies, tandemque resectum 925  
 foedus et intrepidus nox conscia iungit amantes.

<sup>1</sup> repellere vires *Kohlmann* : repellere vir *P* : evadere flammam  $\omega$ .

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<sup>a</sup> *i.e.*, there was not only Achilles for Lycomedes to slay, but his daughter and his grandson also.

daughters : dost thou give her ? or seem we a mean and coward race ? Thou dost not refuse. Join then our hands, and make the treaty, and pardon thy own kin. Already hath Deidamia been known to me in stolen secrecy ; for how could she have resisted these arms of mine, how once in my embrace repel my might ? Bid me atone that deed : I lay down these weapons and restore them to the Pelasgians, and I remain here. Why these angry cries ? Why is thy aspect changed ? Already art thou my father-in-law ”—he placed the child before his feet, and added : “ and already a grandsire ! How often shall the pitiless sword be plied ! We are a multitude !<sup>a</sup> ” Then the Greeks too and Ulysses with his persuasive prayer entreat by the holy rites and the sworn word of hospitality. He, though moved by the discovery of his dear daughter’s wrong and the command of Thetis, though seeming to betray the goddess and so grave a trust, yet fears to oppose so many destinies and delay the Argive war—even were he fain, Achilles had spurned even his mother then. Nor is he unwilling to take unto himself so great a son-in-law : he is won. Deidamia comes shamefast from her dark privacy, nor in her despair believes at first his pardon, and puts forward Achilles to appease her sire.

A messenger is sent to Haemonia to give Peleus full tidings of these great events, and to demand ships and comrades for the war. Moreover, the Scyrian prince launches two vessels for his son-in-law, and makes excuse to the Achaeans for so poor a show of strength. Then the day was brought to its end with feasting, and at last the bond was made known to all, and conscious night joined the now fearless lovers.

## STATIUS

- Illius ante oculos nova bella et Xanthus et Ide  
 Argolicaeque rates atque ipsas cogitat undas
- 255 auroramque timet : cara cervice mariti  
 fusa novi lacrimas iam solvit et occupat artus. 930  
 “ aspiciamne iterum meque hoc in pectore ponam,  
 Aeacide ? rursusque tuos dignabere partus ?  
 an tumidus Teucrosque lares et capta reportans
- 260 Pergama virgineae noles meminisse latebrae ?  
 quid precer, heu ! timeamve prius ? quidve anxia  
       mandem, 935  
 cui vix flere vacat ? modo te nox una deditque  
 inviditque mihi ! thalamis haec tempora nostris ?  
 hinc est liber hymen ? o dulcia furta dolique,  
 265 o timor ! abripitur miserae permissus Achilles.  
 i—neque enim tantos ausim revocare paratus—, 940  
 i cautus, nec vana Thetin timuisse memento,  
 i felix nosterque redi ! nimis improba posco :  
 iam te sperabunt lacrimis planctuque decorae
- 270 Troades optabuntque tuis dare colla catenis  
 et patriam pensare toris aut ipsa placebit 945  
 Tyndaris, incesta nimium laudata rapina.  
 ast egomet primae puerilis fabula culpae  
 narrabor famulis aut dissimulata latebo.
- 275 quin age, duc comitem ; cur non ego Martia tecum  
 signa feram ? tu thyrsa<sup>1</sup> manu Baccheaque mecum  
 sacra, quod infelix non credet Troia, tulisti. 951  
 attamen hunc, quem maesta mihi solacia linqvis,
- <sup>1</sup> thyrsa *P* : pensa *ω*.

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<sup>a</sup> *i.e.*, Deidamia's.

Before her<sup>a</sup> eyes new wars and Xanthus and Ida pass, and the Argolic fleet, and she imagines the very waves and fears the coming of the dawn; she flings herself about her new lord's beloved neck, and at last clasping his limbs gives way to tears: "Shall I see thee again, and lay myself on this breast of thine, O son of Aeacus? Wilt thou deign once more to look upon thy offspring? Or wilt thou proudly bring back spoils of captured Pergamum and Teucrian homes and wish to forget where thou didst hide thee as a maid? What should I entreat, or alas! what rather fear? How can I in my anxiety lay a behest on thee, who have scarce time to weep? One single night has given and grudged thee to me! Is this the season for our espousals? Is this free wedlock? Ah! those stolen sweets! that cunning fraud! Ah! how I fear! Achilles is given to me only to be torn away. Go! for I would not dare to stay such mighty preparations; go, and be cautious, and remember that the fears of Thetis were not vain; go, and good luck be with thee, and come back mine! Yet too bold is my request: soon the fair Trojan dames will sigh for thee with tears and beat their breasts, and pray that they may offer their necks to thy fetters, and weigh thy couch against their homes, or Tyn-daris<sup>b</sup> herself will please thee, too much belauded for her incestuous rape. But I shall be a story to thy henchmen, the tale of a lad's first fault, or I shall be disowned and forgotten. Nay, come, take me as thy comrade; why should I not carry the standards of Mars with thee? Thou didst carry with me the wands and holy things of Bacchus, though ill-fated Troy believe it not. Yet this babe, whom thou dost

<sup>b</sup> Helen, daughter of Tyndareus.

## STATIUS

hunc saltem sub corde tene et concede precanti  
280 hoc solum, pariat ne quid tibi barbara coniunx,  
ne qua det indignos Thetidi captiva nepotes." 955  
taliam dicentem non ipse immotus Achilles  
solatur iuratque fidem iurataque fletu  
spondet et ingentes famulas captumque reversus  
285 Ilion et Phrygiae promittit munera gazae.  
inrita ventosae rapiebant verba procellae. 960

leave as my sad solace—keep him at least within thy heart, and grant this one request, that no foreign wife bear thee a child, that no captive woman give unworthy grandsons to Thetis.” As thus she speaks, Achilles, moved to compassion himself, comforts her, and gives her his sworn oath, and pledges it with tears, and promises her on his return tall handmaidens and spoils of Ilium and gifts of Phrygian treasure. The fickle breezes swept his words unfulfilled away.

## LIBER II

II Exiit implicitum tenebris umentibus orbem  
 Oceano prolata dies, genitorque coruscae  
 lucis adhuc hebetem vicina nocte levabat  
 290 et nondum excusso rorantem lampada ponto.  
 et iam punicea nudatum pectora palla 5  
 insignemque ipsis, quae prima invaserat, armis  
 Aeaciden—quippe aura vocat cognataque suadent  
 aequora—prospectant cuncti iuvenemque ducemque  
 295 nil ausi meminisse pavent ; sic omnia visu  
 mutatus rediit, ceu numquam Scyria passus 10  
 litora Peliacoque rates escendat ab antro.  
 tunc ex more deis—ita namque monebat Ulixes—  
 aequoribusque austrisque litat fluctuque sub ipso  
 300 caeruleum regem tauro veneratur avumque  
 Nerea : vittata genetrix placata iuvenca. 15  
 hic spumante salo iaciens tumida exta profatur :  
 “ paruumus, genetrix, quamquam haud toleranda  
 iubebas<sup>1</sup>,  
 paruumus nimium : bella ad Troiana ratesque  
 305 Argolicas quaesitus eo.” sic orsus et alno 20  
 insiluit penitusque noto stridente propinquis  
 abripitur terris : et iam ardua ducere nubes  
 incipit et longo Scyros discedere ponto.

<sup>1</sup> iubebas  $\omega$  : puberis *P* : iuberes *E* : pararis *Klotz*.

## BOOK II

DAY arising from Ocean set free the world from dank  
enfolding shades, and the father of the flashing light  
upraised his torch still dimmed by the neighbouring  
gloom and moist with sea-water not yet shaken off.  
And now all behold Aeacides, his shoulders stripped  
of the scarlet robe, and glorious in those very arms  
he first had seized—for the wind is calling and his  
kindred seas are urging him—and quake before the  
youthful chieftain, not daring to remember aught ;  
so wholly changed to the sight hath he come back,  
as though he had ne'er experienced the shores of  
Scyros, but were embarking from the Pelian cave.  
Then duly—for so Ulysses counselled—he does sacrifice  
to the gods and the waters and south winds, and  
venerates with a bull the cerulean king below the  
waves and Nereus his grandsire : his mother is  
appeased with a garlanded heifer. Thereupon casting  
the swollen entrails on the salt foam he addresses  
her : “ Mother, I have obeyed thee, though thy  
commands were hard to bear ; too obedient have I  
been : now they demand me, and I go to the Trojan  
war and the Argolic fleet.” So speaking he leapt  
into the bark, and was swept away far from the  
neighbourhood of land by the whistling south wind ;  
already lofty Scyros begins to gather mist about her,  
and to fade from sight over the long expanse of sea.

## STATIUS

Turre procul summa lacrimis comitata sororum  
 310 commissumque<sup>1</sup> tenens et habentem nomina Pyrrhum  
 pendebat coniunx oculisque in carbasa fixis 25  
 ibat et ipsa freto, et puppem iam sola videbat.  
 ille quoque obliquos dilecta ad moenia vultus  
 declinat viduamque domum gemitusque relictæ  
 315 cogitat : occultus sub corde renascitur ardor  
 datque locum virtus. sentit Laertius heros 30  
 maerentem et placidis adgressus flectere dictis :  
 “ tene,” inquit, “ magnæ vastator debite Troiæ,  
 quem Danaæ classes, quem divum oracula poscunt,  
 320 erectumque manet reserato in limine Bellum,  
 callida femineo genetrix violavit amictu 35  
 commisitque illis tam grandia furta latebris  
 speravitque fidem ? nimis o suspensa nimisque  
 mater ! an hæc tacita virtus torperet in umbra,  
 325 quæ vix audito litui clangore refugit  
 et Thetin et comites et quos suppresserat ignes ? 40  
 nec nostrum est, quod in arma venis sequerisque  
 precantes :  
 venisses— ” dixit, quem talibus occupat heros  
 Acacius : “ longum resides exponere causas  
 330 maternumque nefas ; hoc excusabitur ense  
 Scyros et indecores, fatorum crimina, cultus. 45  
 tu potius, dum lene fretum zephyroque fruuntur  
 carbasa, quæ Danais tanti primordia belli,  
 ede : libet iustas hinc sumere protinus iras.”  
 335 hic Ithacus paulum repetito longius orsu :  
 “ fertur in Hectorea, si talia credimus, Ida<sup>2</sup> 50  
 electus formæ certamina solvere pastor

<sup>1</sup> commissum *P* : confessum  $\omega$ .

<sup>2</sup> Ida *P* : ora  $\omega$ .

Far away on the summit of a tower with weeping sisters round her his wife leaned forth, holding her precious charge, who bore the name of Pyrrhus, and with her eyes fixed on the canvas sailed herself upon the sea, and all alone still saw the vessel. He too turned his gaze aside to the walls he held dear, he thinks upon the widowed home and the sobs of her he had left: the hidden passion glows again within his heart, and martial ire gives place. The Laertian hero perceives him sorrowing, and draws nigh to influence him with gentle words: "Was it thou, O destined destroyer of great Troy, whom Danaan fleets and divine oracles are demanding, and War aroused is awaiting with unbarred portals—was it thou whom a crafty mother profaned with feminine robes, and trusted yonder hiding-place with so great a secret, and hoped the trust was sure? O too anxious, O too true a mother! Could such valour lie inert and hidden, that scarce hearing the trumpet-blast fled from Thetis and companions and the heart's unspoken passion? Nor is it due to us that thou comest to the war, and compliest with our prayers; thou wouldst have come—," he spoke, and thus the Aeacian hero takes up the word: " 'Twere long to set forth the causes of my tarrying and my mother's crime; this sword shall make excuse for Scyros and my dishonourable garb, the reproach of destiny. Do thou rather, while the sea is peaceful and the sails enjoy the zephyr, tell how the Danaans began so great a war: I would fain draw straightway from thy words a righteous anger." Then the Ithacan, tracing far back the beginning of the tale: "A shepherd, they say—if we believe such things—was chosen in Hector's domain of Ida to end a strife of

## STATIUS

- sollicitas tenuisse deas nec torva Minervae  
 ora nec aetherii sociam rectoris amico  
 340 lumine, sed solam nimium vidisse Dionen. 55  
 atque adeo lis illa tuis exorta sub antris  
 concilio superum, dum Pelea dulce maritat  
 Pelion, et nostris iam tunc promitteris armis.  
 ira quatit victas ; petit exitialia iudex  
 345 praemia : raptori faciles monstrantur Amyclae. 60  
 ille Phrygas lucos, matris penetralia caedit  
 turrigerae veritasque<sup>1</sup> solo procumbere pinus  
 praecipitat terrasque freto delatus Achaeas  
 hospitis Atridae—pudet heu miseretque potentis  
 350 Europae !—spoliat thalamos, Helenaque superbus 65  
 navigat et captos ad Pergama devehit Argos.  
 inde dato passim varias rumore per urbes,  
 undique inexciti sibi quisque et sponte coimus  
 ultores : quis enim illicitis genialia rumpi  
 355 pacta dolis facilique trahi conubia raptu 70  
 ceu pecus armentumve aut viles messis acervos  
 perferat ? haec etiam fortes iactura moveret.  
 non tulit insidias divum imperiosus Agenor  
 mugitusque sacros et magno numine vectam  
 360 quaesiit Europen aspernatusque Tonantem est 75  
 ut generum ; raptam Scythico de litore prolem  
 non tulit Aeetes ferroque et classe secutus  
 semideos reges et ituram in sidera puppim :  
 nos Phryga semivirum portus et litora circum  
 365 Argolica incesta volitantem puppe feremus ?

<sup>1</sup> veritasque *P* : vetitasque  $\omega$ .

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<sup>a</sup> Medea. The Argo was set in heaven as a constellation by Pallas.

beauty, and while he kept the goddesses in anxious doubt looked not with friendly eye upon Minerva's frowning countenance nor on the consort of the heavenly ruler, but gazed overmuch on Dione alone. And verily that quarrel arose in thy own glades, at a gathering of the gods, when pleasant Pelion made marriage-feast for Peleus, and thou even then wert promised to our armament. Wrath thrills the vanquished ones : the judge demands his fateful reward, and compliant Amyclae is shown to the ravisher. He cuts down the Phrygian groves, the secret haunts of the turret-crowned mother, and flings down pines that fear to fall to earth, and borne o'er the sea to Achaean lands he plunders the marriage-chamber of his host the son of Atreus—ah ! shame and pity on proud Europe !—and exulting in Helen puts to sea and brings home to Pergamum the spoils of Argos. Then, as the rumours spread far and wide through the cities, of our own will, none urging us, we gather, each for himself, from every side for vengeance ; for who could endure the unlawful, crafty breaking of the marriage-bond, or a consort carried off in unresisted rape, as though a beast of the flock or herd, or some poor heap of harvest-corn ? Such a loss would shake even a valiant heart. Masterful Agenor endured not the treachery of the gods, but went in quest of sacred lowings and Europa riding on a mighty god, and scorned the Thunderer as a son-in-law ; Aeëtes endured not the rape of his daughter <sup>a</sup> from the Scythian shore, but with ships and steel pursued the princes and the vessel fated to join the stars : shall we endure a Phrygian eunuch hovering about the coasts and harbours of Argos with his incestuous bark ? Are our horses and men so utterly

## STATIUS

usque adeo nusquam armâ et equi, fretaque inuia  
 Grais ? 80

quid si nunc aliquis patriis rapturus ab oris  
 Deidamian eat viduaque e sede revellat  
 attonitam et magni clamantem nomen Achillis ? ’

370 illius ad capulum rediit manus ac simul ingens  
 impulit ora rubor : tacuit contentus Ulixes. 85

Excipit Oenides : “ quin, o dignissima caeli  
 progenies, ritusque tuos elementaque primae  
 indolis et, valida mox accedente iuventa,

375 quae solitus laudum tibi semina pandere Chiron,  
 virtutisque aditus, quas membra augere per artes, 90  
 quas animum, sociis multumque faventibus edis ?  
 sit pretium longas penitus quaesisse per undas  
 Scyron et his primos arma ostendisse lacertis.<sup>1</sup> ”

380 Quem pigeat sua facta loqui ? tamen ille modeste  
 incohat, ambiguus paulum propiorque coacto : 95

“ dicor et in teneris et adhuc reptantibus<sup>2</sup> annis,  
 Thessalus ut rigido senior me monte recepit,  
 non ullos ex more cibos hausisse nec almis

385 uberibus satiasset famem, sed spissa leonum  
 viscera semianimis que lupae traxisse medullas. 100

haec mihi prima Ceres, haec laeti munera Bacchi,  
 sic dabat ille pater. mox ire per inuia secum  
 lustra gradu maiore trahens visisque docebat

390 adridere feris nec fracta ruentibus undis  
 saxa nec ad vastae trepidare silentia silvae. 105

iam tunc arma manu, iam tunc cervice pharetrae,

<sup>1</sup> his primos arma ostendisse lacertis *Wilamowitz* : his primum arma ostendisse lacertis *P* : armos (is) tendisse *QKC* : primum me arma ost. *Schenkel*.

<sup>2</sup> reptantibus *P* : restantibus *ω* : crescentibus *edd*.

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<sup>a</sup> *i.e.*, Chiron.

vanished? Are the seas so impassable to Greeks? What if someone now were to carry off Deidamia from her native shores, and tear her from her lonely chamber in dire dismay and crying on the name of great Achilles?" His hand flew to the sword-hilt, and a dark flush surged over his face: Ulysses was silent and content.

Then spoke Oenides: "Nay, O thou worthiest progeny of heaven, tell us, thy admiring friends, of the ways in which thy spirit first was trained, and as the vigour of thy youth increased what stirring themes of glory Chiron was wont to recount to thee, and how thy valour grew, by what arts he made strong thy limbs or fired thy courage; let it be worth while to have sought Scyros over long leagues of sea, and to have first shown weapons to those arms of thine."

Who would find it hard to tell of his own deeds? Yet he begins modestly, somewhat uncertain and more like one compelled: "Even in my years of crawling infancy, when the Thessalian sage received me on his stark mountain-side, I am said to have devoured no wonted food, nor to have sated my hunger at the nourishing breast, but to have gnawed the tough entrails of lions and the bowels of a half-slain she-wolf. That was my first bread, that the bounty of joyous Bacchus, in such wise did that father of mine<sup>a</sup> feed me. Then he taught me to go with him through pathless deserts, dragging me on with mighty stride, and to laugh at sight of the wild beasts, nor tremble at the shattering of rocks by rushing torrents or at the silence of the lonely forest. Already at that time weapons were in my hand and quivers on my shoulders,

## STATIUS

et ferri properatus amor durataque multo  
 sole geluque cutis ; tenero nec fluxa cubili  
 395 membra, sed ingenti saxum commune magistro.  
 vix mihi bisenos annorum torserat orbis 110  
 vita rudis, volucres cum iam praevertere cervos  
 et Lapithas cogebat equos praemissaque cursu  
 tela sequi ; saepe ipse gradu me praepete Chiron,  
 400 dum velox aetas, campis admissus agebat  
 omnibus, exhaustumque vago per gramina passu 115  
 laudabat gaudens atque in sua terga levabat.  
 saepe etiam primo fluvii torpore iubebat  
 ire supra glaciemque levi non frangere planta.  
 405 hoc puerile decus. quid nunc tibi proelia dicam  
 silvarum et saevo vacuos iam murmure saltus ? 120  
 numquam ille imbelles Ossaea per avia dammas  
 sectari aut timidas passus me cuspide lyncas  
 sternere, sed tristes turbare cubilibus ursos  
 410 fulmineosque sues, et sicubi maxima tigris  
 aut seducta iugis fetae spelunca leaenae. 125  
 ipse sedens vasto facta expectabat in antro,  
 si sparsus nigro remearem sanguine ; nec me  
 ante nisi inspectis admisit ad oscula telis.  
 415 iamque et ad ensiferos vicina pube tumultus  
 aptabar, nec me ulla ferī Mavortis imago 130  
 praeteriit. didici, quo Paeones arma rotatu,  
 quo Macetae sua gaesa citent, quo turbine contum  
 Sauromates falcemque Getes arcumque Gelonus  
 420 tenderet et flexae Balearicus actor habenae

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<sup>a</sup> "admissus," *cf.* the common phrase "admisso equo."

the love of steel grew apace within me, and my skin was hardened by much sun and frost; nor were my limbs weakened by soft couches, but I shared the hard rock with my master's mighty frame. Scarce had my raw youth turned the wheel of twice six years, when already he made me outpace swift hinds and Lapith steeds and running overtake the flung dart; often Chiron himself, while yet he was swift of foot, chased me at full gallop<sup>a</sup> with headlong speed o'er all the plains, and when I was exhausted by roaming over the meads he praised me joyously and hoisted me upon his back. Often too in the first freezing of the streams he would bid me go upon them with light step nor break the ice. These were my boyhood's glories. Why now should I tell thee of the woodland battles and of the glades that know my fierce shout no more? Never would he suffer me to follow unwarlike does through the pathless glens of Ossa, or lay low timid lynxes with my spear, but only to drive angry bears from their resting-places, and boars with lightning thrust; or if anywhere a mighty tiger lurked or a lioness with her cubs in some secret lair upon the mountain-side, he himself, seated in his vast cave, awaited my exploits, if perchance I should return bespattered with dark blood; nor did he admit me to his embrace before he had scanned my weapons. And already I was being prepared for the armed tumults of the neighbouring folk, and no fashion of savage warfare passed me by. I learnt how the Paeonians whirl and fling their darts and the Macetae their javelins, with how fierce a rush the Sarmatian plies his pike and the Getan his falchion. how the Gelonian draws his bow, and how the Balearic wielder of the pliant

## STATIUS

- quo suspensa trahens libraret vulnera tortu 135  
 inclusumque suo distingueret aera gyro.  
 vix memorem cunctos, etsi bene gessimus, actus.  
 nunc docet ingentes saltu me iungere fossas,  
 425 nunc caput aërii scandentem prendere montis,  
 quo fugitur per plana gradu, simulacraque pugnae 140  
 excipere immissos scutato<sup>1</sup> umbone molares  
 ardentisque errare<sup>2</sup> casas peditemque volantes  
 sistere quadriiugos. memini, rapidissimus ibat  
 430 imbris adsiduis pastus nivibusque solutis  
 Sperchios vivasque trabes et saxa ferebat : 145  
 cum me ille immissum, qua saevior impetus undae,  
 stare iubet contra tumidosque repellere fluctus,  
 quos vix ipse gradu totiens obstante tulisset.  
 435 stabam equidem, sed me referebat concitus amnis  
 et latae caligo fugae : ferus ille minari 150  
 desuper incumbens verbisque urgere pudorem.  
 nec nisi iussus abi : sic me sublimis agebat  
 gloria, nec duri tanto sub teste labores.  
 440 nam procul Oebalios in nubila condere discos  
 et liquidam nodare palen et spargere caestus, 155  
 ludus erat requiesque mihi ; nec maior in istis  
 sudor, Apollineo quam fila sonantia plectro  
 cum quaterem priscosque virum mirarer honores.  
 445 quin etiam sucos atque auxiliantia morbis  
 gramina, quo nimius staret medicamine sanguis, 160  
 quid faciat somnos, quid hiantia vulnera claudat,  
 quae ferro cohibenda lues, quae cederet herbis,

<sup>1</sup> scutato *P* : curvato  $\omega$ .

<sup>2</sup> errare *P* : intrare  $\omega$ .

<sup>a</sup> Cf. *Theb.* iv. 67.

<sup>b</sup> *i.e.*, he had four legs to withstand the torrent.

<sup>c</sup> See note on *Silv.* v. 3. 53 ; but it may simply mean Spartan, as being a sport much practised in Sparta.

thong keeps the missile swinging round with balanced motion, and as he swings it marks out a circle in the air.<sup>a</sup> Scarce could I recount all my doings, successful though they were ; now he instructs me to span huge dykes by leaping, now to climb and grasp the airy mountain-peak, with what stride to run upon the level, how to catch flung stones in mimic battle on my shielded arm, to pass through burning houses, and to check flying four-horse teams on foot. Spercheus, I remember, was flowing with rapid current, fed full with constant rains and melted snows and carrying on its flood boulders and living trees, when he sent me in, there where the waves rolled fiercest, and bade me stand against them and hurl back the swelling billows that he himself could scarce have borne, though he stood to face them with so many a limb.<sup>b</sup> I strove to stand, but the violence of the stream and the dizzy panic of the broad spate forced me to give ground ; he loomed o'er me from above and fiercely threatened, and flung taunts to shame me. Nor did I depart till he gave me word, so far did the lofty love of fame constrain me, and my toils were not too hard with such a witness. For to fling the Oebalian<sup>c</sup> quoit far out of sight into the clouds, or to practise the holds of the sleek wrestling-bout, and to scatter blows with the boxing-gloves were sport and rest to me : nor laboured I more therein than when I struck with my quill the sounding strings, or told the wondrous fame of heroes of old. Also did he teach me of juices and the grasses that succour disease, what remedy will staunch too fast a flow of blood, what will lull to sleep, what will close gaping wounds ; what plague should be checked by the knife, what will yield to herbs ; and he implanted

## STATIUS

edocuit monitusque sacrae sub pectore fixit  
450 iustitiae, qua Peliacis dare iura verenda  
gentibus atque suos solitus pacare biformes. 165  
haec hactenus annorum, comites, elementa meorum  
et memini et meminisse iuvat : scit cetera mater.”<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *After line 167 is added in E and some other MSS. in a fifteenth-century hand* aura silet, puppis currens ad litora venit.

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deep within my heart the precepts of divine justice, whereby he was wont to give revered laws to the tribes that dwelt on Pelion, and tame his own twy-formed folk. So much do I remember, friends, of the training of my earliest years, and sweet is their remembrance ; the rest my mother knows."