



AP Latin Vergil 2000 Student Samples

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In this passage Vergil describes the relationship between Dido and Aeneas in very unique terms. He likens ~~Dido~~ ~~Aeneas~~ Dido's kind madness ("furens") to that of a grazing ^{pierced by a} ^{weapon} ^{"quam"} deer, ~~in~~ ^{incautam remora} inter Cresia fixit Pastor agnus tellis ^{fixed} ^{unsuspecting} [un^{ich} ~~hoda~~ a shepherd, driving w/ a weapons, ~~fixed~~, unsuspecting among the Cresian graves]. By extension then, he likens Aeneas to the "pastor", shepherd, who, unknowing, ~~fixes~~ ^(line 4) wounds the beautiful deer and then abandons his weapon. The relationship therefore, ~~is not~~ ^{seems} not to be one of mutual respect and love, but rather one which includes an unknowing perpetrator and an unsuspecting victim. Both parties seem oblivious to the cause of the madness and, as Vergil suggests, both continue (for the time being) completely unaware of the other. Perhaps Vergil is making reference to the fact that Dido's love for Aeneas was caused, not by her own will, but by the will of the Gods.

Vergil then goes on to describe the rage of the wounded deer who flees through ^{silvas} ~~silvas~~ ^{Dictaeus} "Dictaeus" (the Dictaen forests); she continues, blinded by pain, and "haerent lateri letalis" [the [lethal [weapon] clings to her side]. This Vergil likens Dido's love of Aeneas to not only a ^{loosened} ~~loose~~ spear (which would immediately be associated w/ Cupid imagery) but also a lethal wound. This is a ^{bit} ~~piece~~ of foreshadowing since ^{velaterina that} ~~she~~ ~~eventually~~ kills herself as a result of ~~her~~ passionate love for Aeneas. Vergil's description of the relationship of Aeneas and Dido in this passage is very effective. It skillfully ~~portrays~~ conveys both the god-driven nature of the love, and the apparent innocence of the two lovers. Dido's madness, like the "sagitta eoniecta", is driven by fate and ^{kills} ~~drives~~, slowly, by the will of the gods.

In this passage, Vergil uses a simile to represent the relationship between Dido and Aeneas.

Through his word choice and through the nature of the simile, Vergil tells us that the relationship between Dido and Aeneas is one of little intimacy, ambiguity, and unhappiness.

Before Vergil even begins his simile, he describes Dido as being "infelix" (1), unhappy, and "furens" (2), raging. These adjectives tell us that Dido is not happy and is having problems with her relationship with Aeneas. Dido is also said to be wandering through the city, "vagator" (1), implying that she is distressed.

The simile Vergil uses to describe the relationship between Dido and Aeneas is of a shepherd wounding a deer with an arrow. ~~Aeneas~~ The shepherd represents Aeneas, while the deer represents Dido. Dido's wandering through the city is described as being like a deer pierced by a shepherd's arrow. Therefore, as Dido wanders, she pours out her life, like the deer pours out blood. Most importantly, in the simile, both the shepherd (Aeneas) and the deer (Dido) are described as unaware or unknowing. "Shepherd Aeneas" is described as "nescius" (5), while "Deer Dido" is described as "incautam" (3). Neither Dido nor Aeneas fully understand what is going on between them. Aeneas doesn't understand that he is harming Dido, and Dido doesn't understand that she is being harmed by Aeneas.

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Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the examination.

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Vergil represents the relationship between Dido and Aeneas, through a powerful simile, as being one of ignorance and ~~ambiguity~~ unhappiness. The nature of their relationship, as described here, will bring about Dido's downfall, and ultimately, her death.

In this scene of the

Aeneid, Vergil is trying to show the situation of Aeneas in Carthage, as something that is not as it should be. From this passage, we see that Vergil is displaying the relationship between Dido and Aeneas as a hunter prey relationship.

thesis

The strongest evidence of the hunting motif that Vergil is using in this passage, is the description of Dido in a simile "qualis coniecta cerva" (as a shot deer). He describes her as "infelix" (unhappy) to show the emotional pain she is suffering from her wound of a broken heart. She is the prey and Aeneas, the hunter.

Aeneas is, however, a "nescius" (unknowing) hunter. He does not have the same feelings toward the relationship as Dido, and so, like a hunter, does not understand the torment of his prey. While he knows in his heart that he must eventually leave Carthage and find a foreign "conjanx" (wife) in Italy, she is, in vain, hoping to keep him with her, thus the descriptive "infelix" (wretched) attached to her name by Vergil.

Eventually, as we know, the relationship does end, with Dido physically and symbolically being pierced "in corde" (in the heart) by (not surprisingly) Aeneas' sword. And with that scene, the relationship of Aeneas and Dido, which is described in this passage, finally comes to the end as the hunter, Aeneas, kills his prey.