

DAEDALUS AND ICARUS*Met. VIII. 183–235*

- Daedalus interea Creten longumque perosus
 exilium tactusque loci natalis amore
 185 clausus erat pelago. “terras licet” inquit “et undas
 obstruat: et caelum certe patet; ibimus illac:
 omnia possideat, non possidet aera Minos.”
 dixit et ignotas animum dimittit in artes
 naturamque novat. nam ponit in ordine pennas
 190 a minima coeptas, longam brevior sequenti,
 ut clivo crevisse putes: sic rustica quondam



- 183 **Crētē, Crētēs (f.):** *Crete*, an island in the eastern Mediterranean Sea. Daedalus had fled to Crete after being condemned for murdering his nephew (*Met. VIII. 241–59*). While on the island he designed and constructed the labyrinth to hold the Minotaur. He was not permitted off the island for fear of revealing the secret of its passages. This is the accusative singular form of the noun; a direct object of *perosus*.
- perōdī, -disse, -sum:** *to despise, loathe*. This verb has lost its present tense forms; therefore its perfect forms carry present meaning. Its perfect participle functions actively, so *perosus* may translate as *hating, loathing*.
- 184 **loci natalis:** Daedalus was an Athenian by birth.
- 185 **licet:** here, used as a conjunction meaning *although*, it introduces a subjunctive clause with *obstruat*, with Minos as an implied subject.
- et:** here means *also*.
- 186 **illāc:** *by that way*.
- 187 **possideat:** a concessive subjunctive—*even though he possesses*.
- aera:** accusative plural of *āēr*.
- Mīnōs, -ōis (m.):** *Minos*, king of Crete, husband to Pasiphae, father of Ariadne, and the one who ordered the labyrinth built.
- 188 **ignōtus, -a, -um:** here suggesting *previously unknown*.
- 189 **naturamque novat:** note how throughout the line the poet employs strong ALLITERATION to underscore the importance of this man-made metamorphosis.
- 191 **ut:** introduces a result clause without the expected *tam* or *talis*.
- clīvus, -ī (m.):** *slope, incline*.
- sic:** introduces a SIMILE.