

SELECTIONS FROM VERGIL'S AENEID

Book 1.1–209

ARMA virumque canō, Troiae quī prīmus ab ōrīs

Ītaliā fātō profugus Lāvīniaque vēnit

3 **lītora, multum ille et terrīs iactātus et altō**

altum, ī n. the deep (sea)

canō, ere, cecinī, cantus sing (of), chant, proclaim

iactō (1) toss, buffet

Lāvīn(i)us, a, um Lavinian, of Lavinium
profugus, a, um exiled, fugitive

1–7. The theme of the poem, namely, the wanderings and wars of Aeneas, who after many struggles established the foundation for the greatness of future Rome, in accordance with the decrees of fate.

From the more extended introduction to the poem (lines 1–33) we learn: (1) the plan of the poet to describe the adventures of his hero, as is done in the *Odyssey*, and to depict wars and battles, as in the *Iliad*; (2) the importance of the gods, ruling over all mortal affairs, in the design of the poem; and (3) the story's relevance to Roman history, focusing as it does on the human trials that made possible the birth of Rome.

1. Arma virumque: the theme of the *Aeneid*; **arma** stands by METONYMY for *deeds of arms, wars*, referring to the wars in which Aeneas engaged, both in Troy and in Italy; **virum** refers to Aeneas, so well known that he is not mentioned by name until line 92. **Troiae:** with the first syllable long by position; App.

6, b. **quī prīmus ab ōrīs Troiae (ad) Ītaliā vēnit.** Aeneas was the first of the Trojans to come to Italy after his native city Troy had been captured, sacked, and destroyed by the Greeks in the Trojan War. Strictly speaking, the Trojan Antenor had preceded him, but Antenor's arrival, mentioned below at 242–49, is part of a narrative tradition different from that followed by Vergil here, and is not associated with the foundation of Rome proper.

2–3. (ad or in) Ītaliā, (ad or in) lītora: acc. of place to which; the omission of prepositions here is typical of Latin poetry, and you will see this often in the *Aeneid*; App. 315. **fātō:** abl. of means or cause; App. 331, 332; “through the will of heaven.” **Lāvīn(i)a:** of Lavinium, an ancient city on the western coast of Italy, near the spot where Rome was later founded. Lavinium was said by many historians in antiquity to have been the first Trojan settlement in Italy and to have been named for Lavinia, the Italian princess whom Aeneas eventually married. Lavinia was the daughter of Latinus, king of the Latins. Lavinia herself first appears

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5 *vī superum, saevae memorem Iūnōnis ob iram,
multa quoque et bellō passus, dum conderet urbem
inferretque deōs Latiō; genus unde Latīnum
Albānīque patrēs atque altae moenia Rōmae.*

Albānus, a, um Alban, of Alba Longa in central Italy, mother city of Rome
condō, ere, didī, dītus found, establish
inferō, ferre, tulī, lātus bring (into)
Latīnus, a, um Latin, of Latium
Latium, (i) ī n. district of central Italy around Rome

memor, oris mindful, remembering, unforgetting
ob on account of (+ *acc.*)
patior, i, passus suffer, endure
quoque also
Rōma, ae f. Rome, a city and empire
saevus, a, um cruel, stern, fierce
unde whence, from which source

in the *Aeneid* in Book 7 (although a reference to her is made earlier by Anchises, at 6.764). Some of the oldest manuscripts of the *Aeneid* we have, dating from the 4th and 5th centuries CE, have the alternate spelling **Lāvīna**, because Vergil's earliest readers recognized that he was doing something unusual with the scansion of this line. The epithet **Lāvīn(i)a** must be scanned as two long syllables followed by one short syllable, and so the usual second -i- in the word must either drop out (i.e., **Lāvīna**) or be treated as a semi-consonant (i.e., **Lāvīnia**, with the second -i- sounding more like -y-, as in the English word "yoyo").

3. **multum**: adverbial, modifying **iactātus**. **ille**: Aeneas, the **virum** of line 1. **et (in) terris, et (in) altō**: abl. of place where; App. 319. **iactātus (est)**.

4. **vī**: abl. of cause or means; App. 331, 332. **superum** = **superōrum**, gen. pl., of the gods above. **memorem**: an example of ENALLAGE (OR TRANSFERRED EPITHET), logically describing **Iūnōnis**, but poetically applied to **iram**. **saevae memorem Iūnōnis ob iram**: an example of SYNCHESIS (or interlocked order), **saevae** modifying **Iūnōnis**, and **memorem** modifying **iram**. This pattern is often found in Latin poetry. **Iūnōnis ob iram**: the reasons for Juno's hatred of Aeneas and the Trojans are given by Vergil at 12–28.

5–6. **conderet, inferret**: subjunctives in a purpose clause introduced by **dum**, expressing anticipated rather than completed action; App. 374.

5. **urbem**: Lavinium. **passus (est Aenēās)**. **(in) bellō**: abl. of place; App. 319; referring to the enemies whom he had to conquer after landing in Italy. **multa**: obj. of the participle **passus**; App. 307, 313.

6. **inferret deōs**: App. 374; when traveling to found a new settlement, the migrating peoples of the ancient Greek and Roman world regularly carried with them their gods, either as images or other sacred symbols; see 68 and 378. **Latiō**: dat. of motion towards = **ad (in) Latium**; App. 306. **unde genus Latīnum (est)**: Roman legends traced the origin of the Latin people, the kingdom of Alba Longa (forerunner of Rome), and the founding of Rome back to the coming of the Trojans under Aeneas to Italy.

7. **(unde) Albānī patrēs (sunt)**: many of the noble senatorial families of Rome took much pride in tracing their families back to the early inhabitants of Alba Longa. **patrēs**: with the first syllable short; App. 17. **altae**: ENALLAGE (TRANSFERRED EPITHET). Since it more accurately describes the walls, the TRANSFERRED EPITHET suggests both the position, *situated on the (seven) high hills*, and the power and prestige of *lofty (mighty) Rome*.