

Book 2.201–249

Lāocoōn, ductus Neptūnō sorte sacerdōs,
 sollemnēs taurum ingentem mactābat ad ārās.
 Ecce autem geminī ā Tenedō tranquilla per alta
 (horrēscō referēns) immēnsis orbibus anguēs
 205 incumbunt pelagō pariterque ad litora tendunt;
 pectora quōrum inter flūctūs arrēcta iubaeque
 sanguineae superant undās, pars cētera pontum
 pōne legit sinuatque immēnsa volūmine terga.

altum, *i n.* the deep (sea); heaven
anguis, *is m. (f.)* snake, serpent
arrigō, *ere, rēxi, rēctus* raise, rear
autem *adv.* moreover, but, however
cēterus, **a, um** rest, remaining, other
ecce see! look! behold!
horrēscō, *ere, horruī* shudder, tremble
immēnsus, **a, um** immense, immeasurable
incumbō, *ere, cubuī, cubitus* lean upon,
 hang over, lower (over) (+ *dat.*)
iuba, *ae f.* mane, crest
Lāocoōn, **ontis m.** Trojan priest of Neptune
legō, *ere, lēgī, lēctus* choose; skim
mactō (1) sacrifice, slaughter; honor
Neptūnus, *i m.* Neptune, god of the sea

orbis, *is m.* circle, fold, coil; earth
pariter *adv.* equally, side by side
pōne *adv.* behind, after
pontus, *i m.* sea, waves
sacerdōs, **dōtis m. (f.)** priest(ess)
sanguineus, **a, um** bloody, blood-red
sinuō (1) fold, curve, twist, wind
sollemnīs, *e* annual, customary, solemn
sors, **rtis f.** lot, fate, destiny, oracle
superō (1) surmount, overcome, survive
taurus, *i m.* bull, bullock, ox
Tenedos, *i f.* small island near Troy
tergum, *i n.* back, body, rear
tranquillus, **a, um** tranquil, calm
volūmen, *inis n.* fold, coil, roll

201–227. As a punishment for Laocoon, who had struck the wooden horse with his spear, two serpents come from Tenedos and destroy him and his two little sons.

201. Neptūnō: *dat.* of reference; App. 301.
ductus sorte: *drawn (chosen) by lot.*

203–4. autem ecce geminī anguēs immēnsis orbibus—horrēscō (haec dicta) referēns—(venientēs) ā Tenedō: symbolizing the later coming of the Greek ships from

Tenedos, bringing destruction with them.
horrēscō referēns: Aeneas was indeed an eyewitness, and his use of the pres. tense through much of this passage makes the recollection vivid for his listeners. **immēnsis orbibus**: *abl.* of quality or manner; App. 330, 328.

205. pelagō: *dat.* with compound **incumbunt**; App. 298.

206. pectora arrēcta: the snakes seem almost to stand on the water.

208. volūmine: *abl.* of manner or respect; App. 328, 325.

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- Fit sonitus spūmante salō; iamque arva tenēbant
 210 ardentēsque oculōs suffectī sanguine et ignī
 sībila lambēbant linguīs vibrantibus ōra.
 Diffugimus vīsū exsanguēs. Illī agmine certō
 Lāocoōnta petunt; et primum parva duōrum
 corpora nātōrum serpēns amplexus uterque
 215 implicat et miserōs morsū depascitur artūs;
 post ipsum auxiliō subeuntem ac tēla ferentem
 corripunt spīrisque ligant ingentibus; et iam
 bis medium amplexī, bis collō squāmea circum

amplector, ī, plexus embrace, enfold
artus, ūs m. joint, limb, body
auxilium, (i)ī n. help, aid, assistance
bis twice
certus, a, um sure, fixed, certain, reliable
collum, ī n. neck
corripō, ere, uī, reptus seize, snatch up
dēpascor, ī, pāstus feed on, devour
diffugiō, ere, fūgī flee apart, scatter
duo, ae, o two
exsanguis, e bloodless, lifeless, pale
fīō, fierī, factus become, arise
implicō, āre, āvī (uī), ātus (itus) entwine
Lāocoōn, ontis m. Trojan priest of Neptune
lambō, ere lick, lap
ligō (1) bind, tie, fasten

lingua, ae f. tongue, language
morsus, ūs m. bite, biting, jaws, fangs
parvus, a, um small, little
post adv. afterward; *prep.* + *acc.* after, behind
salum, ī n. sea, swell (of the sea)
serpēns, entis m. (f.) serpent, snake
sībilus, a, um hissing, whirring
sonitus, ūs m. sound, roar, noise, crash
spira, ae f. fold, coil, spire
spūmō (1) foam, froth, spray
squāmeus, a, um scaly
sufficiō, ere, fēci, fectus supply, suffice
uterque, utraque, utrumque each, both
vibrō (1) quiver, vibrate, dart
vīsus, ūs m. sight, view, vision, aspect

209. **spūmante salō:** abl. abs.; App. 343.
 210. **oculōs:** obj. of the participle **suffectī**, treated here as a Gk. middle participle capable of having a dir. obj.; alternatively, **oculōs** is a so-called Gk. acc., i.e., acc. of respect (*suffused with respect to their eyes*); App. 309, a.
 212. **Diffugimus:** Aeneas inserts himself and his companions again into the scene.
vīsū: either abl. of cause with **exsanguēs**, or abl. of separation with **diffugimus**; App. 332.
 213. **Lāocoōnta:** acc., a Gk. form; App. 68.

- 213–14. **parva duōrum / corpora nātōrum:** the interlocked word order is a verbal approximation of the sight described.
 216. **ipsum (Lāocoōnta).** **auxiliō:** dat. of purpose; App. 303.
 218. **circum:** with **datī = circumdatī**, placed around; the separation into two separate words of the parts of a compound is called **TMESIS** (“cutting”). **medium (illum = Lāocoōnta).** **collō:** dat. with the compound **circumdatī**; App. 298.

- terga datī superant capite et cervicibus altīs.
 220 Ille simul manibus tendit divellere nōdos
 perfūsus saniē vittās ātrōque venēnō,
 clāmōrēs simul horrendōs ad sīdera tollit:
 quālis mūgītus, fūgit cum saucius āram
 taurus et incertam excussit cervice secūrim.
 225 At geminī lāpsū dēlūbra ad summa dracōnēs
 effugiunt saevaeque petunt Trītōnidis arcem,
 sub pedibusque deae clipeīque sub orbe teguntur.

cervix, icis *f.* neck
clipeus, ī *m.* shield, buckler
dēlūbrum, ī *n.* shrine, temple
divellō, ere, ī (or **vulsī**), **vulsus** tear apart
dracō, ōnis *m.* dragon, serpent
effugiō, ere, fūgī flee, escape
excutiō, ere, cussī, cussus shake off
horrendus, a, um horrible, horrifying
incertus, a, um uncertain
lāpsus, ūs *m.* gliding, rolling, sinking
mūgītus, ūs *m.* bellow(ing), roar
nōdus, ī *m.* knot; fold, coil
orbis, is *m.* circle, fold, coil; earth
perfundō, ere, fūdi, fūsus soak, drench

quālis, e (such) as, of what sort
saevus, a, um fierce, cruel, stern
saniēs, ēi *f.* blood, gore
saucius, a, um wounded, stricken
secūris, is *f.* ax
superō (1) surmount, overcome, survive
tegō, ere, tēxi, tēctus cover, hide
tergum, ī *n.* back, body, rear
taurus, ī *m.* bull, bullock, ox
Trītōnis, idis *f.* Minerva, goddess of
 wisdom and the arts
venēnum, ī *n.* poison, venom, drug
vitta, ae *f.* fillet, garland, band

219. **terga**: obj. of the participle **circumdatī** (*having placed*), treated here as a Gk. middle participle capable of having a dir. obj.; alternatively, **terga** is a so-called Gk. acc., i.e., acc. of respect (*having been placed around with respect to their bodies*); App. 309, a. **superant** (**illum** = **Lāocoōnta**). **capite**: for **capitibus**, which could not be used in dactylic verse because of its three successive short syllables; abl. of means or degree of difference; App. 331, 335.

220. **Ille**: **Lāocoōn**. **manibus**: abl. of means.

221. **saniē ātrōque venēnō**: abl. of means. **vittās**: acc. obj. of the participle **perfūsus**, treated here as a Gk. middle participle capable of having a dir. obj.; alternatively, **vittās** is a so-called Gk. acc., i.e., acc. of respect (*soaked with respect to his headbands*); App. 309, a, 311.

223. (**tālis est mūgītus Lāocoōntis**) **quālis (est) mūgītus (tauri)**: a SIMILE; App. 441.

224. (**ā**) **cervice**.

225. **lāpsū**: with a *gliding (movement)*: abl. of manner; App. 328. Note how with this word Aeneas passes over in silence the death of Laocoön. **dēlūbra summa** = **dēlūbra arcis Troiae**, where the temple of Minerva stood (226).

227. **deae** = here, the statue of the goddess. **teguntur**: = **sē tegunt**, as if a Gk. verb in the middle voice; App. 309. The serpents return to the goddess who, at least indirectly (i.e., by her staunch patronage of the Greeks in general and Odysseus in particular), is responsible for their appearance.