

Book 4.160–218

- 160 Intereā magnō miscērī murmure caelum
incipit, insequitur commixtā grandine nimbus,
et Tyrīi comitēs passim et Troiāna iuventūs
Dardaniusque nepōs Veneris diversa per agrōs
tēcta metū petiēre; ruunt dē montibus amnēs.
- 165 Spēluncam Dīdō dux et Troiānus eandem
dēveniunt. Prīma et Tellūs et prōnuba Iūnō
dant signum; fulsēre ignēs et cōnscius aethēr
cōnūbiis summōque ululārunt vertice Nymphae.

aethēr, eris *m.* upper air, heaven, ether

ager, grī *m.* field, territory, land

amnis, is *m.* river, stream

commisceō, ēre, uī, mixtus mix, mingle

cōnscius, -a, -um *adj.* aware; privy to

cōnūbium, (i)ī *n.* marriage

Dardanius, a, um Dardanian, Trojan

dēveniō, ire, vēni, ventus come (down),
arrive (at)

dīversus, a, um separated, different

dux, ducis *m. (f.)* leader, guide, chief

fulg(e)ō, ēre (or ere), Isī shine, flash, gleam

grandō, inis *f.* hail (storm, stones)

incipiō, ere, cēpi, ceptus begin, undertake

insequor, ī, secūtus follow

intereā *adv.* meanwhile, (in the) meantime

iuventūs, ūtis *f.* youth, young men

metus, ūs *m.* fear, fright, anxiety

miscēō, ēre, uī, mixtus mix, mingle, confuse

murmur, uris *n.* murmur, roar, rumble

nepōs, ōtis *m.* grandson; descendant

nimbus, ī *m.* rainstorm, (storm)cloud

Nympha, ae *f.* nymph, minor female

divinity of the forests, waters, etc.

passim *adv.* everywhere, all about

prōnuba, ae *f.* matron of honor

signum, ī *n.* sign, signal, token, mark

spēlunca, ae *f.* cave, cavern, grotto

Troiānus, a, um Trojan, of Troy

ululō (l) howl, wail, shout, shriek

Venus, eris *f.* goddess of love; love

vertex, icis *m.* peak, summit, head, top

160–72. A sudden storm drives Aeneas and Dido into a cave for shelter during their hunting expedition.

163. nepōs Veneris = Ascanius.

166–68. Vergil here indicates the various features in a Roman wedding and represents Nature herself as performing these ceremonies. Earth and Heaven, parents of the universe, take the part of human parents in bringing the couple together; lightning (**ignēs**) represents the wedding torches (**taedae**); Juno performs the duty of the matron of honor (**prōnuba**), and the cries of the mountain nymphs take the place of the wedding song and festal cries.

Prīma Tellūs: Earth was called **prīma** as the oldest of the gods; as Mother Earth, the producer and nurse of life, she presided over marriage. **prōnuba:** the matron whose function it was to join the hand of the bride to that of the groom at the wedding.

167. dant signum: i.e., for the wedding.

ignēs (lightning): instead of the marriage torches ordinarily employed at weddings.

cōnscius: witness (to the marriage).

168. cōnūbiis: for the marriage; poetic plural; the first -i- is pronounced as a consonant (i.e., as -y-), for the sake of the meter. **ululā(vē)runt:** instead of the marriage songs ordinarily sung at weddings, the nymphs make an eerie and ominous sound. (**in vertice (montis).**)