

Aen. 4.393-503: Notes

393 *pious*: how *pious* is he being? Epithet appears for first time in 4; first time since 1.378. Perkell (1981) suggests that in leaving Dido, Aeneas affirms his *pietas*. Vergil suggests emotional cost of becoming imperial people.

393 sc. *eam*.

393 *lenire*: See OLD sv *lēniō* sense 2 To placate, appease, calm, comfort (persons, animals).

394 *solando*: 394. See OLD sv *sōlor* sense 1 To give solace or comfort to (a person), console.

395 *multa*: adverbial acc.: “with many sighs” (MacLennan).

395 *animum labefactus*: “shaken in his determination” (MacLennan); See OLD sv *labefaciō* sense 2b to weaken in resolve or loyalty, cause to waver; to shake (a resolution). *animum* = acc. of respect.

395 *amore*: Aeneas does feel love.

397-449: MacLennan describes as a short mirror-image of Aeneas’ arrival in Carthage.

397 *incumbunt*: See OLD sv *incumbō* sense 6d (*absol.*): to exert oneself, buckle to.

397-8 *litore ... / ... toto*: “all along the shore” (MacLennan),

398 *deducunt*: cf 1.551

399 *frondentis*: oars are “leafy” which suggests haste to leave.

400 *infabricata*: See OLD sv *infabricātus*: Unfashioned, unwrought.

401 *cernas*: potential subjunctive: “you could see” (MacLennan).

402-7: ants/ Trojans, suggestive of discipline, industry. Note that Dido has been looking from on high so would have seen the Trojans as small. Cf 1.430-6 (Carthaginians as bees) (MacLennan notes loaded change in watcher). Disturbing reference to plunder?

402: need to supply e.g. it was happening.

402 *formicae*: See OLD sv *formīca*: An ant.

402 *farris*: See OLD sv *far* sense 2: The grain of this plant (A kind of husked wheat, *triticum dicoccum* or emmer)

404: “The black line moves over the fields” (MacLennan); spondaic line: give stately effect.

407 *castigantque moras*: “and they punish delays” (MacLennan); theme of delay again.

407 *opere... ferveret*: “The whole path seethes with the effort” (MacLennan).

404 *agmen*: See OLD sv *agmen* sense 5: An army on the march, a column.

405 *conuectant*: See OLD sv *conuectō*: To bring together, collect.

405 *calle*: See OLD sv *callis* sense 1: A rough track, path.

406 *agmina cogunt*: See OLD sv *agmen* sense 5d ~ *en cogere*, to keep a column together or bring up the rear of it.

406 *frumenta*: See OLD sv *frūmentum* sense 1d (*pl.*): grains of corn.

407 *castigantque*: See OLD sv *castīgō* sense 1b: to castigate, correct (faults, practices, etc.).

407 *feruet*: See OLD sv *ferueō* sense 4b (*of places*) to seethe or surge with activity, be astir.

408 *tibi*: dative of possession; “What were your feelings?” (MacLennan).

408 emotional apostrophe to Dido.

409 *dabas*: “you kept on uttering” (imperfect).

409 *fervere*: from *fervo*, *ere*.

410 *arce ex summa*: “from the top of the citadel” (MacLennan).

412 *improbe*: See OLD sv *improbus* sense 4: Persistently and without regard for others claiming more than one's due, unconscionable, shameless, greedy, presumptuous, relentless, etc.

412 *Amor*: ancient readers wouldn't have to decide between *amor*/*Amor* as we do. Do we understand Cupid? (who had been involved in making Dido fall in love in Book 1); sc infin e.g. *subire*.

413 *ire*: See OLD sv *eō* sense 14 (*with ad or in + accusative*) To proceed or resort to (a given action, mode of conduct, etc.).

414 *supplex*: “in prayer”, “humbling herself” (MacLennan).

414 *animos*: pride.

414 *summittere*: See OLD sv *submitto* sense 10b (*reflexive*) to submit, bow down, surrender (to circumstances, etc.).

415 *inexpertum*: OLD sv *inexpertus* sense 2 (*in passive sense*): Not tested, untried.

415 *relinquat*: See *relinquo* sense 9b: (*with pred. adjective, or similar*) to leave (in a given state).

416-436: Dido's speech to her sister Anna. See e.g. Schiesaro (2008).

416 *properari*: infinitive as indirect statement following *vides*: "you see there is a hurry" (MacLennan). See OLD sv *propero* sense 1b to bustle with activity.

417 *convenere*: I.e. *convenerunt*.

417 *carbasus*: See OLD sv *carbasus* sense 1 A sail, canvas.

418 *puppibus*: the *puppis* is the "stern" but can be used for "ship". 418 repeats V. G. 1.304 (of joy of sailors at entering port).

418 *laeti*: further evidence of Trojan disquiet at Carthaginian stay.

418 *imposuere*: i.e. *imposuerunt*. See OLD sv *impōnō* sense 6: To put (garments, ornaments, etc., on a person).

419: Dido could and did expect.

419 *potui*: See OLD sv *possum* sense 3: To be able to bring oneself (to do something cruel, unpleasant, etc.), have the heart or courage (to)

419 sc. *futurum esse*.

420 et: "also". Do we believe Dido? Is she trying to reassure everyone she is ok when she has darker thoughts?

421 *exsequere*: imperative.

422 *colere...credere*: historic infinitives. If Aeneas was accustomed "to make [Anna] alone his friend", what does that say about the healthiness of the Dido/Aeneas relationship and is there an allusion to the myth of the Anna-Aeneas relationship?

423 *noras*: = *noveras* "you knew" (MacLennan).

423: cf, 293-4.

422 *colere*: See OLD sv *colō* sense 7: To pay constant attention to (persons), cultivate the friendship of, devote oneself or resort to.

422 *arcanos*: See OLD sv *arcānus* sense 1b (*of the heart, etc.*) inmost; (*of thoughts, plans, etc.*) inner, intimate, secret; also, relating to the inner thoughts (of a person).

422 *credere*: See OLD sv *crēdō* sense 1b to confide (secrets, etc.).

423 *aditus*: See OLD sv *aditus* sense 6 An opportunity or means of approaching or seeing a person, access (to), an audience; also, an opportunity (of meeting).

424 *atque*: See OLD sv *atque* sense 7 (*connecting a preliminary action with the main action or purpose*) And, and then.

424 *supplex*: Dido, the queen who had helped the Trojans, reduced to trying suppliance.

424 *adfare*: imperative; word of speaking again.

424 *hostem*: See OLD sv *hostis* sense 3: A personal or private enemy. Further downward slide in relations from *hospes*. Aeneas is (in her view) acting like an enemy (and thanks to curse, his race will become the enemy).

425ff: Dido explaining she hasn't prompted hostility. 425f refers to the gathering of Greeks at Aulis to swear allegiance to attempt to get Helen/sack Troy.

425 *non ego*: "It was not I who" (MacLennan).

426 *Aulide*: "at Aulis" (MacLennan).

426 *iuravi*: See OLD sv *iūrō* sense 3a To promise or undertake on oath, vow a: (*with infinitive*).

427 *reuelli*: See OLD sv *reuellō* sense 2: To tear up (what is rooted or imbedded), tear out. "I tore up" (MacLennan). Dido hasn't committed any sacrilege against Anchises (who was buried in Sicily). Nb myth of Diomedes' mistreatment. See Schiesaro 2008.

428 *negat*: "refuse" (MacLennan).

428 *duras*: elegiac engagement? Nb Aeneas as *durus* /rock-like elsewhere.

428 *demittere*: See OLD sv *dēmītto* sense 9: To cause (ideas, etc.) to enter (one's consciousness), take in, absorb.

429 *quo ruit?*: see MacLennan for possible ambiguity. Note speed previously (after “mora”).

429 *miserae*: Dido = *infelix* etc

430: see previously on stormy sailing season.

430 *ferentis*: “favourable” (MacLennan).

431 *non iam coniugium antiquum, quod prodidit, oro*: question of status of relationship again.

431 *prodidit*: See OLD sv *prōdō* sense 7c: to betray, forsake (obligations, etc.).

432 *pulchro*: MacLennan notes ironical.

432 *careat*: See OLD sv *careō* sense 2c: to be kept away (from a place).

433 *inane*: See OLD sv *inānis* sense 8 (of time) Unoccupied, idle; (rhet.) tempus ~e, an element of rhythmical time not occupied by a syllable, a ‘rest’.

433 *requiem spatiumque*: MacLennan notes hendiadys for “a resting-space”; *furori*: cf. Dido previously as *furens* etc.

434 *dum mea me victam doceat fortuna dolere*: “until my destiny can teach me how to grieve for my own defeat” (MacLennan).

435-6: discussed by Casali *Classical Journal* 1999-2000 (‘Staring at the pun : *Aeneid* 4.435-6 reconsidered’, *CJ* 95: 103-18); discusses textual problem of *dederis* or *dederit* (read by MacLennan) and argues for allusion to retraction of Dido’s previous curse (Aeneas doesn’t grant delay and so curse not retracted).

436 *cumulatam* “heaped up”> enhanced i.e. “with interest added”

437 *talibus*: sc. *verbis*.

437 *orabat*: cf. *oro*; change from former proud queen (was supplicated in Book 1!).

438-9: Aeneas is unmoved now that he is resolved to fulfil his destiny (illustrated by oak simile).

438 *fertque refertque*: Anna “brings and brings again”; suggestive of desperation?

439 *aut ... ullas*: = *et nullas*; MacLennan translates the line “he cannot be worked-upon so as to listen to..”

439 *tractabilis*: See OLD sv *tractābilis* sense 3 (of persons): Tractable, amenable.

440 *placidas*: proleptic: his ears are blocked so they are untroubled; contrast the cares of Dido. See OLD sv *placidus* sense 1: Disposed to gratify, kindly, indulgent.

440 *obstruit*: See OLD sv *obstruō* sense 4: To impede the hearing of (the ears), render deaf.

441 *annoso validam cum robore*: “sturdy with age-old strength” (MacLennan).

441-4 oak simile in which sturdy oak weathers storm (fits association of Aeneas with stability ; suggestive of Dido’s passion and that Aeneas is affected); understand a main verb. O’Hara (2012) lists parallels in which trees do fall: the contrast is striking.

442 *flatibus*: See OLD sv *flātus* sense 1b a blast (of wind), breeze, gale.

442 *illinc*: See OLD sv *illinc* sense 2 *hinc*(ex hac parte, and similar) .. ~, On one side .. on the other.

443 *certant*: plus infinitive here (*erueret*).

443 *it stridor*: “the noise is set going” (MacLennan). See OLD sv *eō* sense 2 (*of things conveyed*) To be carried or brought, go:(especially of a rumour, report, or similar immaterial thing).

444 *consternunt*: See OLD sv *consternō* sense 1b (*of strewn objects*) to cover:(also poet., of falling persons or animals).

444 *stipite*: See OLD sv *stīpes* sense 1: The trunk or bole (of a tree), or its lower part.

445 *uertice*: See OLD sv *uertex* sense 3b (*in general*) the top or highest point (of an object)

446 *tendit*: understand with both *quantum* and *tantum* clauses.

447: i.e. Anna presents the case from every angle.

447 *haud secus*: “not otherwise” (MacLennan).

448 *tunditur*: See OLD sv *tundō* sense 1d to assail, din (the ears) with constant repetition; (*with accusative and infinitive*) to din (a statement) into the ears.

448 *persentit*: See OLD sv *persentiō* sense 2 To feel deeply (an emotion)

448 *curas*: evidence of Aeneas’ feelings.

449 *lacrimae*: the tears of Aeneas (so *inanes* indicates that they are empty in that they do not lead to action) or Dido (so *inanes* indicates unavailing)? Deliberately left unclear?

449 *uoluuntur*: See OLD sv *uoluō* sense 6 To cause (liquids) to flow with an undulating or impetuous motion, roll.

450 *Tum vero*: turning point in making definite plans for suicide.

450 *fatis*: i.e. doom but do we also think of the fates involved in Aeneas' mission?

450 *exterrita*: See OLD sv *exterreō*: To drive distracted, scare, terrify; (with ablative) to fright (out of).

451 *convexa*: i.e. curved structures, the arch of the sky.

452 *quo*: purpose plus comparative plus subjunctive.

452 *inceptum*: See OLD sv *inceptum* sense 1: A thing undertaken or started, an undertaking, enterprise, attempt.

453ff: we think back to her sacrifices at the start of Book 4, there in hope of the affair. Then there were signs that the gods were not favourable; here the signs are explicit and foreboding.

453 *turicremis ... aris*: "on incense-flaming altars" (MacLennan).

454 *horrendum dictu*: "horrible to relate" (MacLennan).

454 *nigrescere*: See OLD sv *nigrescō* sense 1: To become dark in colour, blacken, or similar.

455 *obscenum*: See OLD sv *obscēnus* sense 2 (*often combined with idea of obscēnus*¹ sense 3) Exciting disgust by its unwholesomeness, filthy, polluted, loathsome.

456 *hoc visum*: "this sight" (MacLennan).

456 *nulli ... ipsi ... sorori*: datives; dative of *nemo* here *nulli* (rather than *nemini*) to fit metre.

456 *effata*: sc. *est*.

457 *templum*: marble shrine/chapel to dead husband is a manifestation of Dido's ties to him.

458 *antiqui*: See OLD sv *antīquus* sense 3b: That which is seen, an appearance, sight; especially one of supernatural or imaginary character, a vision (usu. as presented in a dream).

458 *miro ...honore*: "wondrous honour": suggestive of Dido's devotion. As MacLennan notes, the commemoration of Sychaeus has previously been a joyful one.

459 *uelleribus*: See OLD sv *uellus* sense 1b: a piece or lump of wool (used as a wrapping, swab, etc.).

459 *niueis*: See OLD sv *niueus* sense 2: Snow-white, snowy.

459 *reuinctum*: See OLD sv *reuinciō* sense 2 (*with ablative*): To fasten round, bind, gird, envelop, etc. (with).

460 *hinc*: See OLD sv *hinc* sense 5b (*indicating the point from which sound, etc., proceeds*).

461 *visa*: sc. *sunt*: with *verba*; + infinitives *exaudiri*, *queri*, *ducere*. We are given Dido's viewpoint. Nb adynata expressed by Dido at 4.24-9: *sed mihi vel tellus optem prius ima dehiscat / vel pater omnipotens adigat me fulmine ad umbras, / pallentis umbras Erebo noctemque profundam, / ante, pudor, quam te violo aut tua iura resolvo. / ille meos, primus qui me sibi iunxit, amores / abstulit; ille habeat secum servetque sepulcro.'*

462 *sola*: See OLD sv *sōlus* sense 1: Having no companion, alone, on one's own.

462 *ferali carmine*: "in a funeral dirge" (MacLennan). See OLD sv *fērālis* sense 3: Presaging death, funereal. See OLD sv *carmen* sense 4: The cry or song of birds.

462 *bubo*: See OLD sv *būbō*: The horned or eagle owl, especially as a bird of ill omen.

463: assonance of long vowels appropriate; owl was omen of death.

463 *queri*: See OLD sv *queror* sense 4: (*intr., with ref. to the natural sound made by birds, etc.*) To make a plaintive or protesting sound, 'complain'.

463 *in fletum ducere voces*: "make a long-drawn sound like weeping" (MacLennan).

464 *vatum praedicta priorum*: "prophecies of seers of old" (MacLennan); Dido only just realises their import. See OLD sv *praedictum* sense b: a prediction, prophecy.

465 *monitu*: See OLD sv *monitus* sense 1 (*sg., only in ablative*): Advising, warning, command.

465 *horrificant*: See OLD sv *horrificō* sense 2: To frighten, terrify.

465-6: pursuit picks up deer/hunter simile. Dream (cf. Ilia's dream in Ennius' *Annales*) evokes Dido's isolation. See e.g. Schiesaro (2008).

465 *agit*: "hunts" (MacLennan).

465 *furentem*: cf. e.g. 69 (before deer simile); 283; 298.

466-8: "She seems to herself always to be being abandoned, always to be walking unaccompanied down a long road.." (MacLennan).

468 *ire*: usually intransitive; here with cognate accusative *viam*.

468 *deserted terra*: "in a wilderness" (MacLennan); abl. of place.

468 *Tyrios*: Dido cannot stop thinking of her people.

469-73: Dido is compared to Pentheus and Orestes (for myth details, see MacLennan). The passage gestures to tragic nature of Book 4. Cf Pentheus seeing double, Eur. *Bacchae* 918-9. Note 471 *scaenis*: cf. 1.164 and cothurnus reference.

469 *demens*: "in his madness" (MacLennan).

469 *videt*: takes accusative and infinitive.

470 *duplices*: See OLD sv *duplex* sense 4: Consisting of two together, double.

470 *geminum*: See OLD sv *geminus* sense 5 (sg.): Consisting of two together, twofold, double:(often the equivalent of 'two' or 'twin' with plural noun).

471 *Agamemnonius*: See OLD sv *Agamemnonius*: Of or connected with Agamemnon; descended from Agamemnon.

471 *scaenis*: see MacLennan's discussion of whether it means on or from the stage. See OLD sv *scaena* sense 2: The platform on which actors, etc., perform, stage.

472: Clytemnestra is armed with torches and snakes, like a Fury figure. Dido becomes mapped onto an avenging Fury in her curse scene.

472 *armatam*: See OLD sv *armō* sense 6: To arm (persons with weapons other than regular arms); to equip (weapons with fire or poison).

472 *facibus*: See OLD sv *fax* sense 5: An incendiary torch, firebrand.

473 *Dirae*: See OLD sv *Dīrae*: The Furies.

474-503: death-plan/pyre deception (note that *pyra* would not necessarily indicate funeral pyre): see discussion by MacLennan; on the magic, see e.g. Schiesaro; note similarities with Apollonius' Medea (a witch; Dido dabbles in magic, which would have roused Roman disapproval, but the magic is associated esp with the priestess figure). The pyre idea looks to the pre-Vergilian myth tradition: Timaeus told of Tyrian princess who flung herself onto pyre she had built under the guise it was part of ritual to free herself from obligations to her former husband.

474 *euicta*: See OLD sv *ēuincō* sense 3b: to affect excessively, overcome (a person, his attitudes, etc.).

475 *decreuit*: See OLD sv *dēcernō* sense 4b (with infinitive) to decide, make up one's mind (to):(also with ut or subjunctive alone).

475f. *tempus secum ipsa modumque exigit*: "she works out the exact time and manner" (MacLennan). Rational plotting: cf. *furens*.

475 *modum*: See OLD sv *modus* sense 9: A manner of performing an action, method, mode, way.

476 *exigit*: See OLD sv *exigō* sense 10c: *secum ~ere*, to turn over in one's mind, ponder.

476 *adgressa*: MacLennan suggests meaning of "getting round someone" available.

477 *consilium*: See OLD sv *consilium* sense 5: An intention, purpose.

477 *fronte*: See OLD sv *frons* sense 4: A person's brow considered as masking his true feelings or character.

477 *serenat*: "brightens" (MacLennan). See OLD sv *serēnō* sense 2 (fig.): To make free from gloom, lighten.

478 *germana*: See OLD sv *germāna*: A sister.

478 *gratare*: imperative of deponent verb *grator*. See OLD sv *grātor* (with dative): To rejoice with, congratulate, felicitate.

479 "restore him to me as lover or set me free from him" (MacLennan).

479 *reddat*: subjunctive as consecutive clause.

480ff.: mystical, distant land of far west where ocean and land were thought to meet.

482 *axem*: See OLD sv *axis* sense 5 To be affected by, feel the influence of (a physical force, etc.)

482 *torquet*: See OLD sv *torqueō* sense 8: To cause to rotate on its axis, spin.

483 “(Coming) from here a priestess of the Massylian nation has been pointed out to me” (MacLennan).

484f: the Hesperides were guardians of the tree with golden apples. The priestess is painted as looking after the dragon which helps guard. Odd detail of soporifics may look to story of Medea who sent dragon to sleep when stealing Golden Fleece.

484 *draconi*: See OLD sv *dracō* sense 1c: (1 A snake (usu. of a non-venomous sort) (*of var. fabled or mythical beasts; also, the name of a constellation*)).

486: sleepy rhythm.

486 *soporiferumque*: See OLD sv *sopōrifer*: Bringing or inducing sleep or unconsciousness.

486 *papauer*: See OLD sv *papāuer* sense 2: Poppy seed.

487 *promittit*: takes present infinitives in 487-9.

488 *immittere*: See OLD sv *immittō* sense 4: To send (death or other ills against), loose (on).

489 *sistere*: See OLD sv *sistō* sense 7 To check the flow of (streams, etc.).

489 *retro*: See OLD sv *retrō* sense 4: In the opposite direction to that normally followed, backwards.

490 *nocturnos*: i.e. she summons them “by night”.

490 *uidebis*: See OLD sv *uideō* sense 9b: (9 (*with accusative and infinitive*) To see, notice, observe (someone, etc., doing something):(*also pass., with infinitive*)) b (*not excluding other forms of sensory perception*).

491 *descendere*: See OLD sv *descendō* sense 2: (*of inanimate things, also of animate creatures being moved involuntarily*) To come or go down.

492 *testor*: See OLD sv *testor* sense 1b (*with accusative and infinitive; also with indirect question, etc.*).

493 *accingier*: See OLD sv *accingō* sense 2c: to equip (with aids, support, etc.).

494 *pyram*: See OLD sv *pyra* : A funeral pile, pyre.

495 *viri*: see MacLennan on whether “husband” or “man”.

495 “arms which he left fixed (to the walls)” (MacLennan); what is the effect of this? Aeneas settling down? Conquering Dido? Note Dido uses sword to kill herself. See OLD sv *figō* sense 3b: to hang up (dedicatory offerings in a temple):(*also, arms, etc., in private houses*).

496 *lectumque iugalem*: focalized from Dido’s perspective. See OLD sv *lectus* sense 2 *as typifying marriage*) ~*us genialis*, etc., the symbolic marriage bed, placed in the *atrium*.

497 *super imponas*: See OLD sv *superimpōnō*: To place on top or over. Subjunctive used for command.

498 *iuvat*: impersonal verb: “it pleases”; sc. *me*.

499 *occupat*: “grasps” (MacLennan).

500-1 “that her sister is disguising (her) death with strange rituals” (MacLennan); *funera* = pl for sing.

501 *mente*: See OLD sv *mens* sense 4c (*in passages referring to mental vision*).

502 *concipit*: “imagines” (MacLennan). See OLD sv *concipiō* sense 9: To conceive or grasp in the mind, form an idea of, imagine.

502 *quam morte Sychaei*: “than at Sychaeus’ death” (MacLennan).

503 *ergo*: See OLD sv *ergō* sense 1 (*introducing a resultant event, state of affairs, etc.*): For that reason, therefore, then, so, accordingly, etc.

503: unfinished line.