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The fall of Troy

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Book XII. How the Wooden Horse was fashioned and brought into Troy by
her people

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ΛΟΓΟΣ ΔΩΔΕΚΑΤΟΣ.

'Αλλ' ὅτε δὴ μάλα πολλὰ κάμον περὶ τείχεα
Τροίης

αἰχμηταὶ Δαναοί, πολέμου δ' οὐ γίνετο τέκμωρ,
δὴ τότε' ἀριστῶν ἄγυριν ποιήσατο Κάλχας
εὖ εἰδὼς ἀνὰ θυμὸν ὑπ' ἐννεσίης Ἑκάτοιο
πτήσιας οἰωνῶν ἡδ' ἀστέρας ἄλλα τε πάντα
σήμαθ', ὅσ' ἀνθρώποισι θεῶν ἰότητι πέλονται,
καὶ σφιν ἀγειρομένοισιν ἔπος ποτὶ τοῖον ἔειπε·
 'μηκέτι παρ τείχεσσιν ἐφεζόμενοι πονέεσθε,
 ἀλλ' ἄλλην τινὰ μῆτιν ἐνὶ φρεσὶ μητιάσθε
 καὶ δόλον, ὃς λαοῖσι καὶ ἡμῖν ἔσσειτ' ὄνειαρ·
 ἡ γὰρ ἔγωγε χθίζον ἐσέδρακον ἐνθάδε σῆμα·
 ἶρηξ σευδὲ πέλειαν· ἐπειγομένη δ' ἄρα κείνη
 χηραμὸν ἐς πέτρης κατεδύσατο· τῇ δ' ὁ χολωθεὶς
 ἀργαλέως μάλα πολλὸν ἐπὶ χρόνον ἀγχόθι μίμνε
 χηραμοῦ· ἡ δ' ἀλέεινεν· ὁ δ' ἐνθέμενος χόλον
 αἰνὸν

θάμνω ὑπεκρύφθη· ἡ δ' ἔκθορεν ἀφραδίῃσιν
ἔμμεναι ἐλπομένη μιν ἀπόπροθεν· ὃς δ' ἐπαερθεὶς
δειλαίῃ τρήρωνι φόνον στονόεντ' ἐφέηκε·
τῷ νῦν μῆτι βίη πειρώμεθα Τρώϊον ἄστν
περσέμεν, ἀλλ' εἴ ποῦ τι δόλος καὶ μῆτις ἀνύσση." 20
 'Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη τῶν δ' οὔτις ἔφη φρεσὶ τεκμήρα-
 σθαι

ἄλκαρ οἰζυροῖο μόθου· δίζοντο δὲ μῆχος

BOOK XII

*How the Wooden Horse was fashioned, and brought into
Troy by her people.*

WHEN round the walls of Troy the Danaan host
Had borne much travail, and yet the end was not,
By Calchas then assembled were the chiefs ;
For his heart was instructed by the hests
Of Phoebus, by the flights of birds, the stars,
And all the signs that speak to men the will
Of Heaven ; so he to that assembly cried :
“ No longer toil in leaguer of yon walls ;
Some other counsel let your hearts devise,
Some stratagem to help the host and us.
For here but yesterday I saw a sign :
A falcon chased a dove, and she, hard pressed,
Entered a cleft of the rock ; and chafing he
Tarried long time hard by that rift, but she
Abode in covert. Nursing still his wrath,
He hid him in a bush. Forth darted she,
In folly deeming him afar : he swooped,
And to the hapless dove dealt wretched death.
Therefore by force essay we not to smite
Troy, but let cunning stratagem avail.”

He spake ; but no man's wit might find a way
To escape their grievous travail, as they sought

εὐρέμεναι· μῦθος δὲ σαοφροσύνησι νόησει
 υἱὸς Λαέρταο καὶ ἀντίον ἔκφατο μῦθον·
 “ὦ φίλ’, ἐπουρανόισι τετιμένε πάγχυ θεοῖσιν, 25
 εἰ ἐτεὸν πέπρωται εὐπτολέμοισιν Ἀχαιοῖς
 ἐκπέρσαι Πριάμοιο δολοφροσύνησι πόληα,
 ἵππον τεκτήναντες ἀριστέες ἐς λόχον ἄνδρες
 βησόμεθ’ ἀσπασίως· λαοὶ δ’ ἀπὸ νόσφι νέεσθαι 30
 ἐς Τένεδον σὺν νηυσίν, ἐμπρῆσαι δ’ ἄρα πάντες
 ἅς κλισίας, ἵνα Τρῶες ἀπ’ ἄστεος ἀθρήσαντες
 ἐς πεδίον προχέωνται ἀταρβέες· ἀλλὰ τις ἀνὴρ
 θαρσαλέος, τὸν γ’ οὔτις ἐπίσταται ἐν Τρώεσσι,
 μιμνέτω ἔκτοθεν ἵππου ἀρήϊον ἐνθέμενος κῆρ, 35
 ὅστις ὑποκρίναιτο βίην ὑπέροπλον Ἀχαιῶν
 ῥέξαι ὑπὲρ νόστοιο λιλαιομένων μέγ’¹ ἀλύξαι,
 ἵππῳ ὑποπτήξας εὐεργεῖ· τὸν δ’ ἐκάμοντο
 Παλλάδι χωομένη Τρώων ὑπὲρ αἰχμητῶν·
 καὶ τὰ μὲν ὥς ἐπὶ δηρὸν ἀνειρομένοισι πιφαύσκειν,
 εἰσόκε οἱ πεπίθωνται ἀταρτηροὶ περ ἑόντες, 40
 ἐς δὲ πόλιν μιν ἄγωσι θοῶς ἐλεεινὸν ἑόντα,
 ὄφρ’ ἡμῖν ἀλεγεινὸν ἐς Ἄρεα σῆμα πέληται,
 τοῖς μὲν ἄρ’ αἰθαλόεντα θοῶς ἀνὰ πυρσὸν αἶερας,
 τοὺς δ’ ἄρ’ ἐποτρύνας ἐκβήμεναι εὐρέος ἵππου,
 ὁππότε Τρῳῆοι νῆες ἀκηδέες ὑπνώωσιν.” 45
 “Ὡς φάτο· τὸν δ’ ἄρα πάντες ἐπήνεον· ἔξοχα δ’
 ἄλλων

Κάλχας μιν θαύμαζεν, ὅπως ὑπεθήκατ’ Ἀχαιοῖς
 μῆτιν καὶ δόλον ἐσθλόν, ὃς Ἀργείοισιν ἔμελλε
 νίκης ἔμμεναι ἄλκαρ, ἀτὰρ μέγα Τρώεσι πῆμα· 50
 τοῦνεκ’ ἀριστήεσσιν εὐπτολέμοισι μετῆδα·
 “μηκέτι νῦν δόλον ἄλλον ἐνὶ φρεσὶ μητιάασθε,
 ὦ φίλοι, ἀλλὰ πιθέσθαι εὐπτολέμφ’ Ὀδυσῆι·

¹ Zimmermann, for μέν of Koechly.

THE FALL OF TROY, BOOK XII

To find a remedy, till Laertes' son
Discerned it of his wisdom, and he spake :
" Friend, in high honour held of the Heavenly
Ones,

If doomed it be indeed that Priam's burg
By guile must fall before the war-worn Greeks,
A great Horse let us fashion, in the which
Our mightiest shall take ambush. Let the host
Burn all their tents, and sail from hence away
To Tenedos ; so the Trojans, from their towers
Gazing, shall stream forth fearless to the plain.
Let some brave man, unknown of any in Troy,
With a stout heart abide without the Horse,
Crouching beneath its shadow, who shall say :
' Achaea's lords of might, exceeding fain
Safe to win home, made this their offering
For safe return, an image to appease
The wrath of Pallas for her image stolen ¹
From Troy.' And to this story shall he stand,
How long soe'er they question him, until,
Though never so relentless, they believe,
And drag it, their own doom, within the town.
Then shall war's signal unto us be given—
To them at sea, by sudden flash of torch,
To the ambush, by the cry, ' Come forth the
Horse ! '

When unsuspecting sleep the sons of Troy."

He spake, and all men praised him : most of all
Extolled him Calchas, that such marvellous guile
He put into the Achaeans' hearts, to be
For them assurance of triumph, but for Troy
Ruin ; and to those battle-lords he cried :
" Let your hearts seek none other stratagem,
Friends ; to war-strong Odysseus' rede give ear.

¹ Some freedom, based on Vergil, has here been taken with the text, to make the plan read intelligibly.

οὐδέ οἱ ἔσσει· ἄπρηκτον εὐφρονέοντι νόημα·
 ἤδη γὰρ Δαναοῖσι θεοὶ τελέουσιν ἐέλδωρ,
 σήματα δ' οὐκ ἀτέλεστ' ἀναφαίνεται ἄλλοθεν ἄλλα· 55
 Ζηνὸς μὲν γὰρ ὑπερθε μέγα κτυπέουσι δι' αἴθρης
 βρονταὶ ὁμῶς στεροπῇσι· παραΐσσουσι δὲ λαοὺς
 δεξιοὶ ὄρνιθες ταναῇ ὅπλῃ κεκλήγοντες.

ἀλλ' ἄγε μηκέτι πολλὸν ἐπὶ χρόνον ἀμφὶ πόλῃα
 μίμνωμεν· Τρωσὶν γὰρ ἐνέπνευσεν μέγ' ἀνάγκη 60
 θάρσος, ὃ περ πρὸς Ἄρηα καὶ οὐτιδανόν περ
 ἐγείρει·

κάρτιστοι δὲ τότε ἄνδρες ἐπὶ μόθον, ὅππότε θυμὸν
 παρθέμενοι στονόνεντος ἀφειδήσωσιν ὀλέθρον·
 ὥς νῦν Τρώιοι νῆες ἀταρβέες ἀμφιμάχονται
 ἄστνυ περὶ σφέτερον· μέγα δὲ σφισι μαίνεται
 ἦτορ·” 65

Ὡς φάμενον προσέειπεν Ἀχιλλεύς ὀβριμος υἱός·
 “ὦ Κάλχαν, δῆϊοισι καταντίον ἄλκιμοι ἄνδρες
 μάρνανται· τοὶ δ' ἐντὸς ἀλευάμενοι ἀπὸ πύργων
 οὐτιδανοὶ πονέονται, ὅσων φρένα δεῖμα χαλέπτει·
 τῷ νῦν μήτε δόλον φραζώμεθα, μήτε τι μῆχος 70
 ἄλλο· πόνῳ γὰρ ἔοικεν ἀριστέας ἔμμεναι ἄνδρας
 καὶ δορί· θαρσαλέοι γὰρ ἀμείνονες ἐν δαὶ φῶτες.”

Ὡς φάμενον προσέειπε μένος Λαερτιάδαο·
 “ὦ τέκος ὀβριμόθυμον ἀταρβέος Αἰακίδαο,
 ταῦτα μὲν, ὥς ἐπέοικεν ἀμύμονι φωτὶ καὶ ἐσθλῷ, 75
 θαρσαλέως μάλα πάντα δῖοιο χερσὶ πεποιθώς·
 ἀλλ' οὐτ' ἀκαμάτοιο τεοῦ πατρὸς ἄτρομος ἀλκὴ
 ἔσθενεν ὄλβιον ἄστνυ διαπραθέειν Πριάμοιο
 οὐθ' ἡμεῖς μάλα πολλὰ πονεύμενοι· ἀλλ' ἄγε
 θῶσσοι”

Κάλχαντος βουλῇσι θαῶς ἐπὶ νῆας ἰόντες 80
 ἵππον τεκταίνωμεν ὑπαὶ παλάμῃσιν Ἐπειοῦ,
 ὃς ῥά τε πολλὸν ἄριστος ἐν Ἀργείοισι τέτυκται
 εἵνεκα τεκτοσύνης· δέδαεν δὲ μιν ἔργον Ἀθήνη.”

THE FALL OF TROY, BOOK XII

His wise thought shall not miss accomplishment.

Yea, our desire even now the Gods fulfil.

Hark! for new tokens come from the Unseen!

Lo, there on high crash through the firmament

Zeus' thunder and lightning! See, where birds to
right

Dart past, and scream with long-resounding cry!

Go to, no more in endless leaguer of Troy

Linger we. Hard necessity fills the foe

With desperate courage that makes cowards brave;

For then are men most dangerous, when they stake

Their lives in utter recklessness of death,

As battle now the aweless sons of Troy

All round their burg, mad with the lust of fight."

But cried Achilles' battle-eager son:

"Calchas, brave men meet face to face their foes!

Who skulk behind their walls, and fight from towers,

Are niddings, hearts palsied with base fear.

Hence with all thought of wile and stratagem!

The great war-travail of the spear beseems

True heroes. Best in battle are the brave."

But answer made to him Laertes' seed:

"Bold-hearted child of aweless Aeacus' son,

This as beseems a hero princely and brave,

Dauntlessly trusting in thy strength, thou say'st.

Yet thine invincible sire's unquailing might

Availed not to smite Priam's wealthy burg,

Nor we, for all our travail. Nay, with speed,

As counselleth Calchas, go we to the ships,

And fashion we the Horse by Epeius' hands,

Who in the woodwright's craft is chiefest far

Of Argives, for Athena taught his lore."

Ὡς φάτο· τῷ δ' ἄρα πάντες ἀριστῆες πεπύθοντο
νόσφι Νεοπτολέμοιο δαΐφρονος· οὐδὲ μὲν ἐσθλὸν 85
πεῖθε Φιλοκτῆταο νόον κρατερὰ φρονέοντος·
ὑσμίνης γὰρ ἔτ' ἔσκον ὀϊζυρῆς ἀκώρητοι.
ῥρμαινον δὲ μάχεσθαι ἀνὰ κλόνον· ἀμφὶ δὲ λαοὺς
σφωιτέρους ἐκέλευον ἀπειρέσιον περὶ τεῖχος
πάντα φέρειν, ὅσα δῆριν ἐν πτολέμοισιν ὀφέλλει, 90
ἐλπόμενοι πτολίεθρον εὐκτιτον ἐξαλαπάξαι·
ἄμφω γὰρ βουλῇσι θεῶν ἐς δῆριν ἵκοντο.
καὶ νῦ κεν αἶψα τέλεσσαν, ὅσα σφίσιν ἤθελε

θυμός,

εἰ μὴ Ζεὺς νεμέσῃσεν ἀπ' αἰθέρος, ἀμφὶ δὲ γαῖαν
Ἀργείων ἐλέλιξεν ὑπαὶ ποσὶ, σὺν δ' ἐτίναξεν 95
ἡέρα πᾶσαν ὑπερθε, βάλεν δ' ἀκάμαντα κεραυνὸν
ἡρώων προπάροιθεν· ὑπεσμαράγησε δὲ πᾶσα
Δαρδανίη· τῶν δ' αἶψα μετετράπετ' ἢ νόημα
ἐς φόβον· ἐκ δ' ἐλάβοντο βίης καὶ κάρτεος ἐσθλοῦ,
καὶ ῥα κλυτῷ Κάλχαντι καὶ οὐκ ἐθέλοντε πί-
θοντο· 100

ἐς δ' ἄρα νῆας ἵκοντο σὺν Ἀργείοισι καὶ ἄλλοις
μάντιν ἀγασσάμενοι, τὸν ἄρ' ἐκ Διὸς ἔμμεν
ἔφαντο,

ἐκ Διὸς ἢ Φοῖβοιο· πίθοντο δέ οἱ μάλα πάντα.

Ἦμος δ' αἰγλήεντα περιστρέφετ' οὐρανὸν ἄστρο
πάντοθε μαρμαίροντα, πόνου δ' ἐπιλήθεται ἀνὴρ, 105
δὴ τότε Ἀθηναίη μακάρων ἔδος αἰπὺ λιποῦσα
ἤλυθε παρθερικῇ ἀπαλόχροϊ πάντ' εἰκυῖα
ἐς νῆας καὶ λαόν· ἀρηιφίλου δ' ἄρ' Ἐπειοῦ
ἔστη ὑπὲρ κεφαλῆς ἐν ὀνείραϊ, καὶ μιν ἀνώγει
τεῦξαι δούριον ἵππον· ἔφη δέ οἱ ἐγκονέοντι 110
αὐτὴ συγκαμέειν, αὐτὴ δ' ἄφαρ ἀγχόθι βῆναι
ἔργον ἐς ὀτρύνουσα. θεῆς δ' ὅ γε μῦθον ἀκούσας
καγχαλὼν ἀνὰ θυμὸν ἀκηδέος ἐκθορεν ὕπνου·
ἔγνων δ' ἀθάνατον θεὸν ἄμβροτον· οὐδέ οἱ ἦτορ
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THE FALL OF TROY, BOOK XII

Then all their mightiest men gave ear to him
Save twain, fierce-hearted Neoptolemus
And Philoctetes mighty-souled ; for these
Still were insatiate for the bitter fray,
Still longed for turmoil of the fight. They bade
Their own folk bear against that giant wall
What things soe'er for war's assaults avail,
In hope to lay that stately fortress low,
Seeing Heaven's decrees had brought them both
to war.

Yea, they had haply accomplished all their will,
But from the sky Zeus showed his wrath ; he shook
The earth beneath their feet, and all the air
Shuddered, as down before those heroes twain
He hurled his thunderbolt : wide echoes crashed
Through all Dardania. Unto fear straightway
Turned were their bold hearts : they forgot their
might,

And Calchas' counsels grudgingly obeyed.
So with the Argives came they to the ships
In reverence for the seer who spake from Zeus
Or Phoebus, and they obeyed him utterly.

What time round splendour-kindled heavens the
stars

From east to west far-flashing wheel, and when
Man doth forget his toil, in that still hour
Athena left the high mansions of the Blest,
Clothed her in shape of a maiden tender-fleshed,
And came to ships and host. Over the head
Of brave Epeius stood she in his dream,
And bade him build a Horse of tree : herself
Would labour in his labour, and herself
Stand by his side, to the work enkindling him.
Hearing the Goddess' word, with a glad laugh
Leapt he from careless sleep : right well he knew
The Immortal One celestial. Now his heart

ἄλλο παρέξ ὄρμαινε, νόον δ' ἔχεν αἰὲν ἐπ' ἔργῳ 115
θεσπεσίῳ· πινυτὴ δὲ περὶ φρένας ἦιε τέχνη.

Ἦώς δ' ὀππὸθ' ἵκανεν ἀπωσαμένη κνέφας ἡὺ
εἰς ἔρεβος, χαροπὴ δὲ δι' ἡέρος ἦιεν αἴγλη,
δὴ τότε θεῖον ὄνειρον ἐν Ἀργείοισιν Ἐπειός,
ὡς ἴδεν, ὡς ἤκουσεν, ἐελδομένοισιν ἔειπεν 120

οἱ δέ οἱ εἰσαΐοντες ἀπειρέσιον κεχάροντο.
καὶ τότε ἄρ' Ἀτρείος νῆες ἐς ἄγkea τηλεθάοντα
Ἰδης ὑψικόμοιο θοοὺς προέηκαν ἰκέσθαι
ἀνέρας· οἱ δ' ἐλάττησιν ἐπιβρίσαντες ἀν' ὕλην,

τάμνον δένδρεα μακρά· περικτυπέοντο δὲ βήσσαι 125
θεινομένων· δολιχαὶ δὲ κατ' οὖρεα μακρὰ κολῶναι
δεύοντ' ἐκ ξυλόχοιο· νάπη δ' ἀνεφαίνετο πᾶσα
θήρεσιν οὐκέτι τόσσον ἐπήρατος, ὡς τὸ πάροιθε·

πρέμνα δ' ἀπαναίνοντο βίην ποθέοντ' ἀνέμοιο.
καὶ τὰ μὲν ἄρ' πελέκεσσι διατμήγοντες Ἀχαιοὶ 130
ἐσσυμένως φορέεσκον ἐπ' ἡόνας Ἑλλησπόντου
ἐξ ὄρεος λασίοιο· μόγησε δὲ θυμὸς ἐπ' ἔργῳ
αἰζηῶν τε καὶ ἡμιόνων· πονέοντο δὲ λαοὶ
ἄσπετον¹ ἄλλοθεν ἄλλος ὑποδρήσσοντες Ἐπειῶ·

οἱ μὲν γὰρ τέμνεσκον ὑπ' ὀκριόεντι σιδήρῳ 135
δούρατα καὶ σανίδας διεμέτρεον· οἱ δ' ἄρ' ἀπ'
ὄζους

λείαινον πελέκεσσιν ἔτ' ἀπρίστων ἀπὸ φιτρῶν,
ἄλλος δ' ἄλλο τι ῥέξε πονεύμενος· αὐτὰρ Ἐπειὸς
ἵππου δουρατέοιο πόδας κάμεν, αὐτὰρ ἔπειτα
νηδυᾶ, τῇ δ' ἐφύπερθε συνήρμωσε νῶτα καὶ ἰξύν 140
ἐξόπιθεν, δειρὴν δὲ πάρος, καθύπερθε δὲ χαίτην
αὐχένος ὑψηλοῖο καθήρμωσεν, ὡς ἐτεόν περ
κινυμένην, λάσιον δὲ κάρη καὶ εὐτρίχον οὐρήν,

οὐατά τ' ὀφθαλμούς τε διειδέας ἄλλα τε πάντα,
οἷς ἐπικίνυται ἵππος· ἀέξετο δ' ἱερὸν ἔργον 145
ὡς ἐτεὸν ζώοντος, ἐπεὶ θεὸς ἀνέρι τέχνην

¹ Supplied by Zimmermann.

THE FALL OF TROY, BOOK XII

115 Could hold no thought beside ; his mind was fixed
Upon the wondrous work, and through his soul
Marched marshalled each device of craftsmanship.

When rose the dawn, and thrust back kindly
night

120 To Erebus, and through the firmament streamed
Glad glory, then Epeius told his dream
To eager Argives—all he saw and heard ;
And hearkening joyed they with exceeding joy.
Straightway to tall-tressed Ida's leafy glades
The sons of Atreus sent swift messengers.
These laid the axe unto the forest-pines,
And hewed the great trees : to their smiting rang
The echoing glens. On those far-stretching hills
All bare of undergrowth the high peaks rose :
Open their glades were, not, as in time past,
130 Haunted of beasts : there dry the tree-trunks rose
Wooing the winds. Even these the Achaeans hewed
With axes, and in haste they bare them down
From those shagged mountain heights to Hellespont's
shores.

Strained with a strenuous spirit at the work
135 Young men and mules ; and all the people toiled
Each at his task obeying Epeius's hest.
For with the keen steel some were hewing beams,
Some measuring planks, and some with axes lopped
Branches away from trunks as yet unsawn :
Each wrought his several work. Epeius first
140 Fashioned the feet of that great Horse of Wood :
The belly next he shaped, and over this
Moulded the back and the great loins behind,
The throat in front, and ridged the towering neck
With waving mane : the crested head he wrought,
The streaming tail, the ears, the lucent eyes—
145 All that of lifelike horses have. So grew
Like a live thing that more than human work,

δῶκ' ἐρατὴν· τετέλεστο δ' ἐνὶ τρισὶν ἡμασι πάντα
 Παλλάδος ἐννεσίησι· πολὺς δ' ἐπεγίθее λαὸς
 Ἀργείων· θαύμαζε δ' ὅπως ἐπὶ δούρατι θυμὸς
 καὶ τάχος ἐκπεπόνητο ποδῶν, χρεμέθοντί τ'
 ἐφίκει.

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καὶ τότε δῖος Ἐπειὸς ὑπὲρ μεγακήτεος ἵππου
 εὖχετ' ἐπ' ἀκαμάτῳ Τριτωνίδι χεῖρας ὀρέξας·
 “κλῦθι, θεὰ μεγάθυμε, σάου δ' ἐμὲ καὶ τέον
 ἵππον.”

Ὡς φάτο· τοῦ δ' ἐσάκουσε θεὰ πολύμητις
 Ἀθήνη,

καὶ ῥά οἱ ἔργον ἔτευξεν ἐπιχθονίοισιν ἀγῆτον 155
 πᾶσιν, ὅσοι μιν ἴδοντο καὶ οἱ μετόπισθε πύθοντο.

Ἄλλ' ὅτε δὴ Δαναοὶ μὲν ἐγήθεον ἔργον Ἐπειοῦ
 δερκόμενοι, Τρῶες δὲ πεφυζότες ἔνδοθι πύργων
 μίμνον ἀλευάμενοι θάνατον καὶ ἀνηλέα κῆρα,
 δὴ τότε ἐπ' Ὀκεανοῖο ῥοὰς καὶ Τηθύος ἄντρα 160
 Ζηνὸς ὑπερθύμοιο θεῶν ἀπάτερθε μολόντος
 ἔμπεσεν ἀθανάτοισιν ἔρις· δίχα δὲ σφισι θυμὸς
 ἔπλετ' ὀρινομένων· ἀνέμων δ' ἐπιβάντες ἀέλλαις
 οὐρανόθεν φορέοντο ποτὶ χθόνα· τοῖσι δ' ὕπ' αἰθῆρ
 ἔβραχεν· οἱ δὲ μολόντες ἐπὶ Ξάνθοιο ῥέεθρα 165
 ἀλλήλων ἴσταντο καταντίον, οἱ μὲν Ἀχαιῶν
 οἱ δ' ἄρ' ὑπὲρ Τρώων πολέμου δ' ἔρος ἔμπεσε
 θυμῷ.

τοῖσι δ' ὁμῶς ἀγέροντο καὶ οἱ λάχον εὐρέα πόντον.
 καὶ ῥ' οἱ μὲν δολέοντα κοτεσσάμενοι μενέαινον
 ἵππον ἀμαλδῦναι σὺν νήεσιν, οἱ δ' ἐρατεινὴν 170
 Ἴλιον· Αἴσα δ' ἔρυκε πολύτροπος, ἐς δὲ κυδοιμὸν
 τρέψε νόον μακάρεσσιν· Ἄρης δ' ἐξῆρχε μόθοιο,
 αἶτο δ' Ἀθηναίης κατεναντίον· ὥς δὲ καὶ ἄλλοι
 σύμπεσον ἀλλήλοισι· περὶ σφισι δ' ἄμβροτα
 τεύχη

THE FALL OF TROY, BOOK XII

For a God gave to a man that wondrous craft.
And in three days, by Pallas's decree,
Finished was all. Rejoiced thereat the host
Of Argos, marvelling how the wood expressed
Mettle, and speed of foot—yea, seemed to neigh.
Godlike Epeius then uplifted hands
To Pallas, and for that huge Horse he prayed :
“Hear, great-souled Goddess : bless thine Horse and
me !”

He spake : Athena rich in counsel heard,
And made his work a marvel to all men
Which saw, or heard its fame in days to be.

But while the Danaans o'er Epeius' work
Joyed, and their routed foes within the walls
Tarried, and shrank from death and pitiless doom,
Then, when imperious Zeus far from the Gods
Had gone to Ocean's streams and Tethys' caves,
Strife rose between the Immortals : heart with
heart

Was set at variance. Riding on the blasts
Of winds, from heaven to earth they swooped : the
air

Crashed round them. Lighting down by Xanthus'
stream

Arrayed they stood against each other, these
For the Achaeans, for the Trojans those ;
And all their souls were thrilled with lust of war :
There gathered too the Lords of the wide Sea.
These in their wrath were eager to destroy
The Horse of Guile and all the ships, and those
Fair Ilium. But all-contriving Fate
Held them therefrom, and turned their hearts to
strife

Against each other. Ares to the fray
Rose first, and on Athena rushed. Thereat
Fell each on other : clashed around their limbs

χρύσεια κινυμένοισι μέγ' ἴαχεν· ἀμφὶ δὲ πόντος 175
εὐρύς ἐπ'esμαράγησε· κελαινὴ δ' ἔτρεμε γαῖα
ἀθανάτων ὑπὸ ποσσὶ· μακρὸν δ' ἅμα πάντες
ᾄσαν.

σμερδαλέῃ δ' ἐνοπῇ μέχρ' οὐρανὸν εὐρὺν ἴκανε,
μέχρ' ἐπ' Ἀΐδον ὑπερθύμοιο βέρεθρον·
Τιτῆνες δ' ὑπένερθε μέγ' ἔτρεσαν· ἀμφὶ δὲ μακρὴ 180

Ἰδὴ ἐπέστενε πᾶσα καὶ ἡχίηντα ῥέεθρα
ἀενάων ποταμῶν, δολιχαὶ δ' ἅμα τοῖσι χαράδραι
νῆες τ' Ἀργείων Πριάμοιό τε κύδιμον ἄστυ.
ἀλλ' οὐκ ἀνθρώποισι πέλεν δέος· οὐδ' ἐνόησαν
αὐτῶν ἐννεσίησι θεῶν ἔριν· οἱ δὲ κολῶνας 185

χερσὶν ἀπορρήξαντες ἀπ' οὐρεος Ἰδαίοιο
βάλλον ἐπ' ἀλλήλους· αἱ δὲ ψαμάθοισιν ὁμοίαι
ῥεῖα διεσκίδναντο θεῶν ἀμφ' ἄσχετα γυῖα
ῥηγνύμεναι διὰ τυτθά· Διὸς δ' ἐπὶ πείρασι γαίης
οὐ λάθον ἡὺ νόημα· λιπὼν δ' ἄφαρ Ὀκεανοῖο 190

χεύματ' ἐς οὐρανὸν εὐρὺν ἀνήκε· τὸν δὲ φέρεσκον
Εὖρος καὶ Βορέης, Ζέφυρος δ' ἐπὶ τοῖσι Νότος τε,
τοὺς ὑπὸ θεσπέσιον ζυγὸν αἰόλος ἤγαγεν Ἴρις
ἄρματος αἰὲν ἑόντος, ὃ οἱ κάμεν ἄμβροτος Αἰὼν
χερσὶν ὑπ' ἀκαμάτησιν ἀτειρέος ἐξ ἀδάμαντος. 195

ἴκετο δ' Οὐλύμπιο ρίον μέγα· σὺν δ' ἐτίναξεν
ἡέρα πᾶσαν ὑπερθε χολούμενος· ἄλλοθε δ' ἄλλαι
βρονταὶ ὁμῶς στεροπῇσι μέγ' ἔκτυπον· ἐκ δὲ
κεραυνοὶ

ταρφέες ἐξεχέοντο ποτὶ χθόνα· καίετο δ' ἄηρ
ἄσπετον· ἀθανάτοισι δ' ὑπὸ φρένας ἔμπεσε δεῖμα· 200
πάντων δ' ἔτρεμε γυῖα καὶ ἀθανάτων περ ἑόντων.
τῶν δὲ περιδδείσασα κλυτὴ Θέμις εὖτε νόημα
ἄλτο διὰ νεφέων· τάχα δὲ σφεας εἰσαφίκανεν·

THE FALL OF TROY, BOOK XII

The golden arms celestial as they charged.
 Round them the wide sea thundered, the dark earth
 Quaked 'neath immortal feet. Rang from them all
 Far-pealing battle-shouts; that awful cry
 Rolled up to the broad-arching heaven, and down
 Even to Hades' fathomless abyss:
 Trembled the Titans there in depths of gloom.
 Ida's long ridges sighed, sobbed clamorous streams
 Of ever-flowing rivers, groaned ravines
 Far-furrowed, Argive ships, and Priam's towers.
 Yet men feared not, for naught they knew of all
 That strife, by Heaven's decree. Then her high
 peaks
 The Gods' hands wrenched from Ida's crest, and
 hurled
 Against each other: but like crumbling sands
 Shivered they fell round those invincible limbs,
 Shattered to small dust. But the mind of Zeus,
 At the utmost verge of earth, was ware of all:
 Straight left he Ocean's stream, and to wide heaven
 Ascended, charioted upon the winds,
 The East, the North, the West-wind, and the South:
 For Iris rainbow-plumed led 'neath the yoke
 Of his eternal car that stormy team,
 The car which Time the immortal framed for him
 Of adamant with never-wearying hands.
 So came he to Olympus' giant ridge.
 His wrath shook all the firmament, as crashed
 From east to west his thunders; lightnings gleamed,
 As thick and fast his thunderbolts poured to earth,
 And flamed the limitless welkin. Terror fell
 Upon the hearts of those Immortals: quaked
 The limbs of all—ay, deathless though they were!
 Then Themis, trembling for them, swift as thought
 Leapt down through clouds, and came with speed to
 them—

οἷ γὰρ στονόεντος ἀπόπροθι μέμνε μόθοιο·
τοῖον δ' ἔκφατο μῦθον ἐρυκανόωσα μάχεσθαι· 205
“ἴσχεσθ' ἰωχομοῖο δυσηχέος· οὐ γὰρ ἔοικε
Ζηνὸς χωομένοιο μινυθαδίων ἔνεκ' ἀνδρῶν
μάρνασθ' αἰὲν ἐόντας, ἐπεὶ τάχα πάντες ἄστοι
ἔσσεσθ'· ἦ γὰρ ὑπερθεν ἐφ' ὑμέας οὔρεα πάντα
εἰς ἐν ἀναρρήξας οὐθ' υἱῶν οὔτε θυγατρῶν 210
φείσεται, ἀλλ' ἄρα πάντας ὁμῶς ἐφύπερθε
καλύψει

γαίῃ ἀπειρεσίῃ· οὐδ' ἔσσεται ὕμνιν ἄλυξίς
ἐς φάος· ἀργαλέος δὲ περὶ ζόφος αἰὲν ἐρύξει.”
Ὡς φάτο· τοὶ δ' ἐπίθοντο Διὸς τρομέοντες
ὁμοκλήν,

ὕσμίνης δ' ἴσχοντο, χόλον δ' ἀπὸ νόσφι βύλοντο 215
ἀργαλέον, φιλότητα δ' ὁμήθεα ποιήσαντο·
καὶ ῥ' οἱ μὲν νίσσοντο πρὸς οὐρανόν, οἱ δ' ἀλὸς
εἴσω,

οἱ δ' ἀνὰ γαίαν ἔμινον. εὐπτολέμοισι δ' Ἀχαιοὶς
υἱὸς Λαέρταο πύκα φρονέων φάτο μῦθον·
“ὦ κλυτοὶ Ἀργείων σημάντορες ὀβριμόθυμοι, 220
νῦν μοι ἐελδομένῳ τεκμήρατε, οὔτινές ἐστε
ἐκπάγλως κρατεροὶ καὶ ἀμύμονες· ἦ γὰρ ἰκάνει
ἔργον ἀναγκαίης· ἀλλὰ μνησώμεθ' Ἀρης,
ἐς δ' ἵππον βαίνωμεν εὐξοον, ὄφρα κε τέκμωρ
εὖρωμεν πολέμοιο δυσηχέος· ὥς γὰρ ἄμεινον 225
ἔσσεται, ἣν κε δόλῳ καὶ μῆδεσιν ἀργαλείοισιν
ἄστν μέγ' ἐκπέρσωμεν, οὐ εἵνεκα δεῦρο μολόντες
πάσχομεν ἄλγεα πολλὰ φίλης ἀπὸ τηλόθι γαίης.
ἀλλ' ἄγε δῆ, μένος ἧῦ καὶ ἄλκιμον ἐν φρεσὶ θέντες

* * * * *
καὶ γάρ τις κατὰ δῆριν ἀνιρῇ ὑπ' ἀνάγκῃ 230
θαροσῆσας ἀνὰ θυμὸν ἀμείνονα φῶτα κατέκτα
χειρότερος γεγαώς· μάλα γὰρ μέγα θυμὸν ἄξει
θάρσος, ὃ πέρ τε μάλιστα πέλει κλέος ἀνθρώποισιν.

THE FALL OF TROY, BOOK XII

For in the strife she only had no part—
And stood between the fighters, and she cried :
“ Forbear the conflict ! O, when Zeus is wroth,
It ill beseems that everlasting Gods
Should fight for men’s sake, creatures of a day :
Else shall ye be all suddenly destroyed ;
For Zeus will tear up all the hills, and hurl
Upon you : sons nor daughters will he spare,
But bury ’neath one ruin of shattered earth
All. No escape shall ye find thence to light,
In horror of darkness prisoned evermore.”

Dreading Zeus’ menace gave they heed to her,
From strife refrained, and cast away their wrath,
And were made one in peace and amity.
Some heavenward soared, some plunged into the
sea,

On earth stayed some. Amid the Achaean host
Spake in his subtlety Laertes’ son :
“ O valorous-hearted lords of the Argive host,
Now prove in time of need what men ye be,
How passing-strong, how flawless-brave ! The hour
Is this for desperate emprise : now, with hearts
Heroic, enter ye yon carven horse,
So to attain the goal of this stern war.
For better it is by stratagem and craft
Now to destroy this city, for whose sake
Hither we came, and still are suffering
Many afflictions far from our own land.
Come then, and let your hearts be stout and strong
For he who in stress of fight hath turned to bay
And snatched a desperate courage from despair,
Oft, though the weaker, slays a mightier foe.
For courage, which is all men’s glory, makes
The heart great. Come then, set the ambush, ye

ἀλλ' ἄγ', ἀριστῆες μὲν εὖν λόχον ἐντύνεσθε·
οἱ δ' ἄλλοι Τενέδοιο πρὸς ἱερὸν ἄστρῳ μολόντες 235
μιμνήμεν, εἰσόκεν ἄμμε ποτὶ πτόλιν εἰρύσσωσι
δήϊοι ἐλπόμενοι Τριτωνίδι δῶρον ἄγεσθαι.
αἰζήων δέ τις ἐσθλός, ὃν οὐ σάφα Τρῶες ἴσασι,
μιμνέτω ἄγχ' ἵπποιο σιδήρεον ἐνθήμενος κῆρ·
καὶ οἱ πάντα μέλοιτο μάλ' ἐμπεδον, ὅππῃός
ἔγωγε 240

πρόσθ' ἐφάμην· καὶ μή τι περὶ φρεσὶν ἄλλο
νοήσῃ,

ὄφρα μὴ ἀμφαδὰ Τρωσὶν Ἀχαιῶν ἔργα πέληται."

ὣς φάτο· τὸν δὲ Σίνων ἀπαμείβετο κύδιμος
ἄνῃρ

ἄλλων δειδιότων· μῖλα γὰρ μέγα ἔργον ἔμελλεν
ἐκτελέειν· τῷ καὶ μιν εὐφρονέοντ' ἀνὰ θυμὸν 245

εὐρύς ἀγάσαστο λαός· ὁ δ' ἐν μέσσοισιν ἔειπεν·

"ὦ Ὀδυσσεύ καὶ πάντες Ἀχαιῶν φέρτατοι υἱες,

ἔργον μὲν τόδ' ἔγωγε λιλαιομένοισι τελέσσω,

εἰ καὶ ἀεικίζωσι καὶ εἰ πυρὶ μητιόωνται

βάλλειν ζῶν ἐόντα· τὸ γάρ νύ μοι εὐαδε θυμῷ, 250

ἢ θανέειν δητοῖσιν ὑπ' ἀνδράσιν, ἢ ὑπαλύξαι

Ἀργείοις μέγα κῦδος ἐελδομένοισι φέροντα."

ὣς φάτο θαρσαλέως· μέγα δ' Ἀργεῖοι κεχά-
ροντο·

καί τις ἔφη· "ὥς τῷδε θεὸς μέγα θάρσος ἔδωκε
σήμερον· οὐ γὰρ πρόσθεν ἦν θρασύς· ἀλλὰ ἐ

δαίμων 255

ὀτρύνει πάντεσσι κακὸν Τρῶεσσι γενέσθαι

ἢ νῶϊν· νῦν γάρ που οἶομαι ἐσσυμένως περ

ἀργαλέου πολέμοιο τέκμωρ αἰδηλὸν ἔσεσθαι."

ὣς ἄρ' ἔφη κατὰ λαὸν ἀρηϊφίλων τις Ἀχαιῶν·

Νέστωρ δ' αὖθ' ἐτέρωθεν ἐποτρύνων μετέειπε· 260

"νῦν χρειώ, φίλα τέκνα, βίης καὶ θάρσεος ἐσθλοῦ·

νῦν γὰρ τέρμα πόνοιο θεοὶ καὶ ἀμύμονα νίκη

THE FALL OF TROY, BOOK XII

Which be our mightiest, and the rest shall go
To Tenedos' hallowed burg, and there abide
Until our foes have haled within their walls
Us with the Horse, as deeming that they bring
A gift unto Tritonis. Some brave man,
One whom the Trojans know not, yet we lack,
To harden his heart as steel, and to abide
Near by the Horse. Let that man bear in mind
Heedfully whatsoe'er I said erewhile.
And let none other thought be in his heart,
Lest to the foe our counsel be revealed."

Then, when all others feared, a man far-famed
Made answer, Sinon, marked of destiny
To bring the great work to accomplishment.
Therefore with worship all men looked on him,
The loyal of heart, as in the midst he spake :
"Odysseus, and all ye Achæan chiefs,
This work for which ye crave will I perform—
Yea, though they torture me, though into fire
Living they thrust me ; for mine heart is fixed
Not to escape, but die by hands of foes,
Except I crown with glory your desire."

Stoutly he spake : right glad the Argives were ;
And one said : "How the Gods have given to-day
High courage to this man ! He hath not been
Heretofore valiant. Heaven is kindling him
To be the Trojans' ruin, but to us
Salvation. Now full soon, I trow, we reach
The goal of grievous war, so long unseen."

So a voice murmured mid the Achæan host.
Then, to stir up the heroes, Nestor cried :
"Now is the time, dear sons, for courage and
strength :

Now do the Gods bring nigh the end of toil :

ἤμιν ἐελδομένοισι φίλας ἐς χεῖρας ἄγουσιν·
 ἀλλ' ἄγε θαρσαλέως πολυχανδέος ἔνδοθεν ἵππου
 βαίνειτ', ἐπεὶ μερόπεσσι κλέος μέγα θάρσος ὀπάξει· 265
 ὡς ὄφελον μέγα κάρτος ἐμοῖς ἔτι γούνασι κείτο,
 οἷον ὅτ' Αἴσονος υἱὸς ἔσω νεὸς ὠκυπόροιο
 Ἀργῶς καλέεσκεν ἀριστέας, ὅππότε ἔγωγε
 πρῶτος ἀριστήων καταβήμεναι ὀρμαίνεσκον,
 εἰ μὴ ἄρ' ἀντίθεος Πελὴς ἀέκοντά μ' ἔρκε· 270
 νῦν δέ με γῆρας ἔπεισι πολύστονον· ἀλλ' ἄρα
 καὶ ὥς,

ὥς νέος ἡβῶν, καταβήσομαι ἔνδοθεν ἵππου
 θαρσαλέως· θάρσος δὲ κλέος καὶ κῦδος ὀπάσσει.

“Ὡς φάμενον προσέειπε παῖς ξανθοῦ Ἀχιλῆος·
 “ὦ Νέστορ, σὺ μὲν ἐσσί νόφ προφερέστατος
 ἀνδρῶν 275

πάντων· ἀλλὰ σε γῆρας ἀμείλιχον ἀμφιμέμαρπεν,
 οὐδέ τοι ἔμπεδός ἐστι βίη χατέοντι πόνοιο·
 τῷ σε χρή Τενέδοιο πρὸς ἡῶνας ἀπονέεσθαι·
 ἐς δὲ λόχον νέοι ἄνδρες ἔθ' ὑσμίνης ἀκόρητοι
 βησόμεθ', ὡς σύ, γεραιέ, λιλαιομένοις ἐπιτέλλεις.” 280

“Ὡς φάτο· τοῦ δ' ἄγχιστα κιὼν Νηλῆιος υἱὸς
 ἀμφοτέρας οἱ ἔκυσσε χεῖρας κεφαλὴν τ' ἐφύπερθεν,
 οὐνεχ' ὑπέσχετο πρῶτος ἐς εὐρέα δύμεναι ἵππον,
 αὐτὸν δ' αὖτε κέλενε γεραίτερον ἔκτοθι μίμνειν
 ἄλλοις σὺν Δαναοῖσιν· ἐέλδετο γὰρ πονέεσθαι· 285

καὶ ῥά μιν ἰωχμοῖο λιλαιόμενον προσέειπεν·
 “ἐσσί πατρὸς κείνοιο βίη καὶ εὐφροني μῦθῳ
 ἀντιθέου Ἀχιλῆος· ἔολπα δὲ σῆσι χέρεσσιν
 Ἀργείους Πριάμοιο διαπραθέειν κλυτὸν ἄστυ·
 ὀψὲ δ' ἄρ' ἐκ καμάτοιο μέγα κλέος ἔσσεται ἡμῖν 290
 πολλὰ πονησαμένοισι κατὰ κλόνον ἄλγεα λυγρά·
 ἄλγεα μὲν παρὰ ποσσὶ θεοὶ θέσαν ἀνθρώποισιν,
 ἐσθλὰ δὲ πολλὸν ἄπωθε· πόνον δ' ἐς μέσσον
 ἔλασσαν·

THE FALL OF TROY, BOOK XII

Now give they victory to our longing hands.
Come, bravely enter ye this cavernous Horse.
For high renown attendeth courage high.
Oh that my limbs were mighty as of old,
When Aeson's son for heroes called, to man
Swift Argo, when of the heroes foremost I
Would gladly have entered her, but Pelias
The king withheld me in my own despite.
Ah me, but now the burden of years—O nay,
As I were young, into the Horse will I
Fearlessly! Glory and strength shall courage give."

Answered him golden-haired Achilles' son :

"Nestor, in wisdom art thou chief of men ;
But cruel age hath caught thee in his grip :
No more thy strength may match thy gallant will ;
Therefore thou needs must unto Tenedos' strand.
We will take ambush, we the youths, of strife
Insatiate still, as thou, old sire, dost bid."

Then strode the son of Neleus to his side,
And kissed his hands, and kissed the head of him
Who offered thus himself the first of all
To enter that huge horse, being peril-fain,
And bade the elder of days abide without.
Then to the battle-eager spake the old :
"Thy father's son art thou! Achilles' might
And chivalrous speech be here! O, sure am I
That by thine hands the Argives shall destroy
The stately city of Priam. At the last,
After long travail, glory shall be ours,
Ours, after toil and tribulation of war ;
The Gods have laid tribulation at men's feet
But happiness far off, and toil between :

τούνεκα ῥηιδίῃ μὲν ἐς ἀργαλήν κακότητα
αἰζηοῖσι κέλευθος, ἀνιρῇ δ' ἐπὶ κῦδος, 295
μέσφ' ὅτε τις στονόεντα πόνον διὰ ποσσὶ περήσῃ."

"Ὡς φάτο· τὸν δ' Ἀχιλλῆος ἀμείβετο κύδιμος
υἱός·

"ὦ γέρον, ὡς σύ γ' ἔολπας ἐνὶ φρεσὶ, τοῦτο πέλοιτο
ἡμῖν εὐχομένοισιν, ἐπεὶ πολὺ λώιον οὕτως· 300
εἰ δ' ἐτέρως ἐθέλουσι θεοί, καὶ τοῦτο τετύχθω·
βουλοίμην γὰρ ὑπ' Ἀρεΐ εὐκλειῶς ἀπολέσθαι,
ἢ φυγῶν Τροίῃθεν ὀνειδέα πολλὰ φέρεσθαι."

"Ὡς εἰπὼν ὥμοισι κατ' ἄμβροτα θήκατο τεύχη
πατρός· εὖ τοι δ' αἶψα καὶ αὐτοὶ θωρήχθησαν
ἡρώων οἱ ἄριστοι, ὅσοις θρασὺς ἔπλετο θυμός. 305
τούς μοι νῦν καθ' ἕκαστον ἀνειρομένῳ σάφα

Μοῦσαι

ἔσπεθ', ὅσοι κατέβησαν ἔσω πολυχανδέος ἵππου·
ὑμεῖς γὰρ πᾶσάν μοι ἐνὶ φρεσὶ θήκατ' αἰοδῆν,
πρὶν μοι ἔτ' ἀμφὶ παρειὰ κατασκιδνασθαι ἵουλον,
Σμύρνης ἐν δαπέδοισι περικλυτὰ μῆλα νέμοντι 310
τρίς τόσον Ἑρμοῦ ἄπωθεν, ὅσον βοόωντος
ἀκοῦσαι,

Ἀρτέμιδος περὶ ἱγὸν Ἑλευθερίῳ ἐνὶ κήπῳ,
οὐρεῖ τ' οὔτε λίην χθαμαλῷ οὔθ' ὑψόθι πολλῷ.

Πρῶτος μὲν κατέβαινε ἐς ἵππον κητώεντα
υἱὸς Ἀχιλλῆος, σὺν δὲ κρατερὸς Μενέλαος 315
ἡδ' Ὀδυσσεὺς Σθένελός τε καὶ ἀντίθεος Διομήδης·
βῆ δὲ Φιλοκτήτης τε καὶ Ἀντικλος ἡδὲ Μενε-
σθεύς,

σὺν δὲ Θόας ἐρίθυμος ἰδὲ ξανθὸς Πολυποίτης,
Αἴας τ' Εὐρύπυλός τε καὶ ἰσόθεος Θρασυμήδης,
Μηριόνης τε καὶ Ἰδομενεὺς ἀριδικέτω ἄμφω, 320
σὺν δ' ἄρ' ἐὺμμελὴς Ποδαλείριος Εὐρύμαχος τε
Τεῦκρός τ' ἀντίθεος καὶ Ἰάλμενος ὀβριμόθυμος,
Θάλπιος Ἀντίμαχος τε μενεπτόλεμός τε Λεοντεύς·
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THE FALL OF TROY, BOOK XII

Therefore for men full easy is the path
To ruin, and the path to fame is hard,
Where feet must press right on through painful toil.'

He spake: replied Achilles' glorious son:
"Old sire, as thine heart trusteth, be it vouchsafed
In answer to our prayers; for best were this:
But if the Gods will otherwise, be it so.
Ay, gladlier would I fall with glory in fight
Than flee from Troy, bowed 'neath a load of shame."

Then in his sire's celestial arms he arrayed
His shoulders; and with speed in harness sheathed
Stood the most mighty heroes, in whose hearts
Was dauntless spirit. Tell, ye Queens of Song,
Now man by man the names of all that passed
Into the cavernous Horse; for ye inspired
My soul with all my song, long ere my cheek
Grew dark with manhood's beard, what time I fed
My goodly sheep on Smyrna's pasture-lea,
From Hermus thrice so far as one may hear
A man's shout, by the fane of Artemis,
In the Deliverer's Grove, upon a hill
Neither exceeding low nor passing high.

Into that cavernous Horse Achilles' son
First entered, strong Menelaus followed then,
Odysseus, Sthenelus, godlike Diomedé,
Philoctetes and Menestheus, Anticlus,
Thoas and Polypoetes golden-haired,
Aias, Eurypylus, godlike Thrasymede,
Idomeneus, Meriones, far-famous twain,
Podaleirius of spears, Eurymachus,
Teucer the godlike, fierce Ialmenus,
Thalpius, Antimachus, Leonteus staunch,

QUINTUS SMYRNAEUS

σὺν δ' Εὐμηλος ἔβη θεοείκελος Εὐρύαλός τε
 Δημοφῶν τε καὶ Ἀμφίμαχος κρατερός τ' Ἀγα-
 πήνωρ, 325
 σὺν δ' Ἀκάμας τε Μέγης τε κραταιοῦ Φυλέος
 υἱός·

ἄλλοι δ' αὖ κατέβαινον, ὅσοι ἔσαν ἔξοχ' ἄριστοι,
 ὅσους χάνδανεν ἵππος εὐξοος ἐντὸς ἑέργειν.
 ἐν δέ σφιν πύματος κατεβήσατο δῖος Ἑπειός,
 ὃς ῥα καὶ ἵππον ἔτευξεν· ἐπίστατο δ' ᾧ ἐνὶ θυμῷ 330
 ἡμὲν ἀναπτύξαι κείνου πτύχας ἡδ' ἐπερείσαι·
 τοῦνεκα δὴ πάντων βῆ δεύτατος· εἴρυσε δ' εἴσω
 κλίμακας, ἧς ἀνέβησαν· ὁ δ' αὖ μάλα πάντ'
 ἐπερείσας

αὐτοῦ παρ κληῖδι καθέζετο· τοὶ δὲ σιωπῇ
 πάντες ἔσαν μεσσηγὺς ὁμῶς νίκης καὶ ὀλέθρου. 335

Οἱ δ' ἄλλοι νήεσσιν ἐπέπλεον εὐρέα πόντον
 ἅς κλισίας πρήσαντες, ὅπῃ πάρος αὐτοὶ ἵανον.
 τοῖσι δὲ κοιρανέοντε δύω κρατερόφρονε φῶτε
 σήμαινον, Νέστωρ τε καὶ αἰχμητῆς Ἀγαμέμνων·
 τοὺς δὲ καὶ ἐλδομένους καταβήμεναι ἐνδοθεν ἵππου 340
 Ἀργεῖοι κατέρυξαν, ἵν' ἐν νήεσσι μένοντες
 λαοῖς σημαίνωσιν, ἐπεὶ πολὺ λώιον ἄνδρες
 ἔργον ἐποίχονται, ὅπότ' εἰσορόωσιν ἄνακτες·
 τοῦνεκ' ἄρ' ἔκτοθι μίμνον ἀριστῆές περ εὐόντες.
 οἱ δὲ θοῶς ἀφίκοντο πρὸς ἡϊόνας Τενέδοιο· 345
 εὐνάς δ' ἔνθ' ἔβαλον κατὰ βένθεος· ἐκ δ' ἔβαν
 αὐτοὶ

νηῶν ἐσσυμένως· ἀπὸ δ' ἔκτοθι πείσματ' ἔδησαν
 ἡϊόνων· αὐτοὶ δὲ παραυτόθι μίμνον ἔκηλοι
 δέγμενοι, ὅππότε πυρσὸς ἐελδομένοισι φανείη.

Οἱ δ' ἄρ' ἐν ἵππῳ ἔσαν δηῖων σχεδόν, ἄλλοτε
 μὲν που 350

φθεῖσθαι οἰόμενοι, ὅτε δ' ἱερὸν ἄστν δαΐξαι·
 καὶ τὰ μὲν ἐλπομένοισιν ἐπήλυθεν Ἑριγένεια.

THE FALL OF TROY, BOOK XII

Eumelus, and Euryalus fair as a God,
Amphimachus, Demophoon, Agapenor,
Akamas, Meges stalwart Phyleus' son—
Yea, more, even all their chiefest, entered in,
So many as that carven Horse could hold.
Godlike Epeius last of all passed in,
The fashioner of the Horse; in his breast lay
The secret of the opening of its doors
And of their closing: therefore last of all
He entered, and he drew the ladders up
Whereby they clomb: then made he all secure,
And set himself beside the bolt. So all
In silence sat 'twixt victory and death.

But the rest fired the tents, wherein erewhile
They slept, and sailed the wide sea in their ships.
Two mighty-hearted captains ordered these,
Nestor and Agamemnon lord of spears.
Fain had they also entered that great Horse,
But all the host withheld them, bidding stay
With them a-shipboard, ordering their array:
For men far better work the works of war
When their kings oversee them; therefore these
Abode without, albeit mighty men.
So came they swiftly unto Tenedos' shore,
And dropped the anchor-stones, then leapt in haste
Forth of the ships, and silent waited there
Keen-watching till the signal-torch should flash.

But nigh the foe were they in the Horse, and now
Looked they for death, and now to smite the town;
And on their hopes and fears arose the dawn.

QUINTUS SMYRNAEUS

Τρῶες δ' εἰσενόησαν ἐπ' ἥοσιν Ἑλλησπόντου
καπνὸν ἔτ' αἰσσοῦντα δι' ἡέρος· οὐδ' ἄρα νῆας
δέρκονθ', αἶ σφιν ἔνεικαν ἀφ' Ἑλλάδος αἰνὸν
ὄλεθρον.

355

γηθόσυνοι δ' ἄρα πάντες ἐπέδραμον αἰγιαλοῖσι
τεύχε' ἐφεσσάμενοι· ἔτι γὰρ δέος ἄμφεχε θυμόν·
ἵππον δ' εἰσενόησαν ἐϋξοον· ἀμφὶ δ' ἄρ' αὐτῷ
θάμβεον ἑσταότες· μάλα γὰρ μέγα ἔργον ἐτύχθη·
ἀγχόθι δ' αὖτε Σίνωνα δυσάμμορον εἰσενόησαν· 360
καὶ μιν ἀνειρόμενοι Δαναῶν ὑπερ' ἄλλοθεν ἄλλος
μέσσον ἐκυκλώσαντο περισταδόν· ἀμφὶ δὲ μύθοις
μειλιχίοις εἶροντο πάρος· μετέπειτα δ' ὁμοκλῇ
σμερδαλέῃ· καὶ πολλὰ δολόφρονα φῶτα δαΐζον
πολλὸν ἐπὶ χρόνον αἰέν· ὁ δ' ἔμπεδον ἥντε πέτρη 365
μῖμνεν ἀτειρέα γυν' ἐπιειμένους· ὄψε δ' ἄρ' αὐτοῦ
οὐαθ' ὁμῶς καὶ ῥίνας ἀπὸ μελέων ἐτάμοντο
πάμπαν ἀεικίζοντες, ὅπως νημερτέα εἶπη,
ὅππῃ ἔβαν Δαναοὶ σὺν νήεσιν, ἥ τί καὶ ἵππος
ἔνδον ἐρητύεσκεν· ὁ δ' ἐνθέμενος φρεσὶ κάρτος 370
λώβης οὐκ ἀλέγισεν ἀεικέος, ἀλλ' ἐνὶ θυμῷ
ἔτλη καὶ πληγῇσι καὶ ἐν πυρὶ τειρόμενός περ
ἀργαλέως· Ἥρη γὰρ ἐνέπνευσεν μέγα κάρτος·
τοῖα δ' ἄρ' ἐν μέσσοισι δολοφρονέων ἀγόρευεν·
“ Ἀργεῖοι μὲν νηυσὶν ὑπὲρ πόντοιο φέβονται 375
μακρῷ ἀκηδήσαντες ἐπὶ πτολέμῳ καὶ ἀνίῃ·
Κάλχαντος δ' ἰότητι δαΐφροσι Τριτογενεῇ
ἵππον ἐτεκτήναντο, θεῆς χόλον ὄφρ' ἀλέωνται
πάγχυ κοτεσσαμένης Τρώων ὑπερ'· ἀμφὶ δὲ νόστου
ἐννεσίης Ὀδυσῆος ἐμοὶ μενέαινον ὄλεθρον, 380
ὄφρα με δηώσωσι δυσηχέος ἄγχι θαλάσσης

THE FALL OF TROY, BOOK XII

Then marked the Trojans upon Hellespont's
strand
The smoke upleaping yet through air : no more
Saw they the ships which brought to them from
Greece

Destruction dire. With joy to the shore they ran,
But armed them first, for fear still haunted them.
Then marked they that fair-carven Horse, and stood
Marvelling round, for a mighty work was there.
A hapless-seeming man thereby they spied,
Sinon ; and this one, that one questioned him
Touching the Danaans, as in a great ring
They compassed him, and with unangry words
First questioned, then with terrible threatenings.
Then tortured they that man of guileful soul
Long time unceasing. Firm as a rock abode
The unquivering limbs, the unconquerable will.
His ears, his nose, at last they shore away
In every wise tormenting him, until
He should declare the truth, whither were gone
The Danaans in their ships, what thing the Horse
Concealed within it. He had armed his mind
With resolution, and of outrage foul
Recked not ; his soul endured their cruel stripes,
Yea, and the bitter torment of the fire ;
For strong endurance into him Hera breathed ;
And still he told them the same guileful tale
" The Argives in their ships flee oversea
Weary of tribulation of endless war.
This horse by Calchas' counsel fashioned they
For wise Athena, to propitiate
Her stern wrath for that guardian image stol'n¹
From Troy. And by Odysseus' prompting I
Was marked for slaughter, to be sacrificed
To the sea-powers, beside the moaning waves,

¹ See note to l. 37 of this book.

QUINTUS SMYRNAEUS

δαίμοσιν εἰναλίοις. ἐμὲ δ' οὐ λάθον, ἀλλ' ἀλεγεινὰς
σπονδάς τ' οὐλοχύτας τε μάλ' ἐσσυμένως ὑπαλύ-
ξας

ἀθανάτων βουλῇσι παρὰ ποσὶ κάππεσον ἵππου·
οἱ δὲ καὶ οὐκ ἐθέλοντες ἀναγκαίῃ με λίποντο 385
ἄζόμενοι μέγαλοιο Διὸς κρατερόφρονα κούρην."

Ὡς φάτο κερδοσύνησι καὶ οὐ κάμεν ἄλγεσι
θυμόν·

ἄνδρὸς γάρ κρατεροῖο κακὴν ὑποτλῆναι ἀνάγκη.
τῷ δ' οἱ μὲν πεπύθοντο κατὰ στρατόν, οἱ δ' ἄρ'
ἔφαντο

ἔμμεναι ἡπεροπῆα πολύτροπον, οἷς ἄρα βουλὴ 390
ἦνδανε Λαοκόωντος· ὁ γὰρ πεπνυμένα βάζων
φῆ δόλον ἔμμεναι αἰνὸν ὑπ' ἐννεσίησιν Ἀχαιῶν,
πάντας δ' ὀτρύνεσκε θοῶς ἐμπρησέμεν ἵππου,
ἵππου δουράτεον καὶ γινώμεναι εἴ τι κεκεύθει.

Καὶ νῦν κέ οἱ πεπύθοντο καὶ ἐξήλυξαν ὄλεθρον, 395
εἰ μὴ Τριτογένεια, κοτεσσαμένη περὶ θυμῷ
αὐτῷ καὶ Τρώεσσι καὶ ἄστει, γαίαν ἐνερθεν
θεσπεσίην ἐλέλιξεν ὑπαὶ ποσὶ Λαοκόωντος.
τῷ δ' ἄφαρ ἔμπεσε δεῖμα· τρόμος δ' ἀμφέκλασε
γυῖα

ἄνδρὸς ὑπερθύμοιο· μέλαινα δέ οἱ περὶ κρατὶ 400
νύξ ἐχύθη· στυγερὸν δὲ κατὰ βλεφάρων πέσεν
ἄλγος,

σὺν δ' ἔχεεν λασίησιν ὑπ' ὀφρύσιν ὄμματα φωτός·
γλῆναι δ' ἀργαλέησι πεπαρμέναι ἀμφ' ὀδύνησι
ριζόθεν ἐκλονέοντο· περιστροφῶντο δ' ὀπωπαὶ
τειρόμεναι ὑπένερθεν· ἄχος δ' ἀλεγεινὸν ἵκανε 405
ἄχρι καὶ ἐς μῆνιγγας ἰδ' ἐγκεφάλοιο θέμεθλα·
τοῦ δ' ὅτε μὲν φαίνοντο μεμιγμένοι αἵματι πολλῷ
ὀφθαλμοί, ὅτε δ' αὖτε δυσαλθέα γλανκιδόωντες·
πολλάκι δ' ἔρρεον οἶον ὅτε στυφελῆς ἀπὸ πέτρης
εἵβεται ἐξ ὀρέων νιφετῷ πεπαλαγμένον ὕδωρ· 410

THE FALL OF TROY, BOOK XII

To win them safe return. But their intent
I marked ; and ere they spilt the drops of wine,
And sprinkled hallowed meal upon mine head,
Swiftly I fled, and, by the help of Heaven,
I flung me down, clasping the Horse's feet ;
And they, sore loth, perforce must leave me there
Dreading great Zeus's daughter mighty-souled."

In subtlety so he spake, his soul untamed
By pain ; for a brave man's part is to endure
To the uttermost. And of the Trojans some
Believed him, others for a wily knave
Held him, of whose mind was Laocoon.
Wisely he spake : " A deadly fraud is this,"
He said, " devised by the Achæan chiefs !"
And cried to all straightway to burn the Horse,
And know if aught within its timbers lurked.

Yea, and they had obeyed him, and had 'scaped
Destruction ; but Athena, fiercely wroth
With him, the Trojans, and their city, shook
Earth's deep foundations 'neath Laocoon's feet.
Straight terror fell on him, and trembling bowed
The knees of the presumptuous : round his head
Horror of darkness poured ; a sharp pang thrilled
His eyelids ; swam his eyes beneath his brows ;
His eyeballs, stabbed with bitter anguish, throbbed
Even from the roots, and rolled in frenzy of pain.
Clear through his brain the bitter torment pierced
Even to the filmy inner veil thereof ;
Now bloodshot were his eyes, now ghastly green ;
Anon with rheum they ran, as pours a stream
Down from a rugged crag, with thawing snow
Made turbid. As a man distraught he seemed :

μαινομένῳ δ' ἦκτο, καὶ ἔδρακε διπλόα πάντα
 αἰνὰ μάλα στενάχων· καὶ ἔτι Τρώεσσι κέλευε,
 οὐδ' ἀλέγιζε μόγοιο· φάος δέ οἱ ἐσθλὸν ἄμερσε
 διὰ θεά· λευκαὶ δ' ἄρ' ὑπὸ βλέφαρ' ἔσταν ὥπωπαὶ
 αἵματος ἐξ ὀλοοῖο· περιστενάχιζε δὲ λαὸς 415
 οἰκτείρων φίλον ἄνδρα, καὶ ἀθανάτην Ἀγελείην
 ἐρριγώς, μὴ δὴ τι παρήλιτεν ἀφραδίησιν,
 καὶ σφιν ἐς αἰνὸν ὄλεθρον ἀνεγνάμφθη νόος ἔνδον,
 [δειδιότων, μὴ δὴ σφι καὶ αὐτοῖς ἄλγος ἔπηται]
 οὐνεκα λωβήσαντο δέμας μογεροῖο Σίνωνος
 ἐλπόμενοι κατὰ θυμὸν ἐτήτυμα πάντ' ἀγορεύσειν¹ 420
 τοῦνεκα προφρονέως μιν ἄγον ποτὶ Τρώιον ἄστν
 ὄψέ περ οἰκτείραντες· ἀγειρόμενοι δ' ἅμα πάντες
 σειρὴν ἀμφεβάλλοντο θοῶς περιμήκει ἵππῳ
 δησάμενοι καθύπερθε, ἐπεὶ ῥά οἱ ἐσθλὸς Ἐπειὸς
 ποσσὶν ὑπὸ βριαροῖσιν εὐτρόχα δούρατ' ἔθηκεν, 425
 ὄφρα κεν αἰζηοῖσιν ἐπὶ πτολίεθρον ἔπηται
 ἐλκόμενος Τρώων ὑπὸ χεῖρεσιν· οἱ δ' ἅμα πάντες
 εἰλκον ἐπιβρίσαντες ἀολλέες, ἡὔτε νῆα
 ἔλκωσιν μογέοντες ἔσω ἀλὸς ἠχέσεως
 αἰζηοί, στιβαραὶ δὲ περιστενάχουσι φάλαγγες 430
 τριβόμεναι, δεινὸν δὲ τρόπις περιτετριγνῖα
 ἀμφὶς ὀλισθαίνουσα κατέρχεται εἰς ἀλὸς οἶδμα·
 ὥς οἳ γε σφίσιν πῆμα ποτὶ πτόλιν ἔργον Ἐπειοῦ
 πανσυδὴ μογέοντες ἀνείρυν· ἀμφὶ δ' ἄρ' αὐτῷ
 πολλὸν ἄδην στεφένων ἐριθηλέα κόσμον ἔθεντο 435
 αὐτοὶ δ' ἐστέψαντο κάρη· μέγα δ' ἤπυον αὐλοὶ
 ἀλλήλοισ ἐπικεκλομένοι· ἐγέλασσε δ' Ἐννὼ
 δερκομένη πολέμοιο κακὸν τέλος· ὑψόθι δ' Ἥρῃ
 τέρπετ'· Ἀθηναίη δ' ἐπεγίθθεεν· οἱ δὲ μολόντες
 ἄστν ποτὶ σφέτερον μεγάλης κρήδεμνα πόλλης 440
 λυσάμενοι λυγρὸν ἵππον ἐσήγαγον· αἱ δ' ὀλόλυξαν

¹ Zimmermann, for ἀγορεύειν of v.

THE FALL OF TROY, BOOK XII

All things he saw showed double, and he groaned
Fearfully ; yet he ceased not to exhort
The men of Troy, and recked not of his pain.
Then did the Goddess strike him utterly blind.
Stared his fixed eyeballs white from pits of blood ;
And all folk groaned for pity of their friend,
And dread of the Prey-giver, lest he had sinned
In folly against her, and his mind was thus
Warped to destruction—yea, lest on themselves
Like judgment should be visited, to avenge
The outrage done to hapless Sinon's flesh,
Whereby they hoped to wring the truth from him.
So led they him in friendly wise to Troy,
Pitying him at the last. Then gathered all,
And o'er that huge Horse hastily cast a rope,
And made it fast above ; for under its feet
Smooth wooden rollers had Epeius laid,
That, dragged by Trojan hands, it might glide on
Into their fortress. One and all they haled
With multitudinous tug and strain, as when
Down to the sea young men sore-labouring drag
A ship ; hard-crushed the stubborn rollers groan,
As, sliding with weird shrieks, the keel descends
Into the sea-surge ; so that host with toil
Dragged up unto their city their own doom,
Epeius' work. With great festoons of flowers
They hung it, and their own heads did they wreath,
While answering each other pealed the flutes.
Grimly Enyo laughed, seeing the end
Of that dire war ; Hera rejoiced on high ;
Glad was Athena. When the Trojans came
Unto their city, brake they down the walls,
Their city's coronal, that the Horse of Death
Might be led in. Troy's daughters greeted it

Τρωιάδες, πᾶσαι δὲ περισταδὸν εἰσορόωσαι
θάμβεον ὄβριμον ἔργον· ὃ δὲ σφισιν ἔκρυφε πῆμα.

Λαοκόων δ' ἔτ' ἔμμενεν ἐποτρύνων ἐτάροισιν
ἵππον ἀμαλδῦναι μαλερῷ πυρί· τοὶ δὲ οἱ οὔτι 445
πείθοντ', ἀθανάτων γὰρ ὑποτρομέεσκον ὁμοκλήν.
τῷ δ' ἐπὶ κύντερον ἄλλο θεὰ μεγάλυμος Ἀθήνη
δυστήνοις τεκέεσσιν ἐμήδετο Λαοκόωντος.
δὴ γάρ που πέλεν ἄντρον ὑπὸ στυφελώδεϊ πέτρῃ
ἡρώεν, θνητοῖσιν ἀνέμβατον, ᾧ ἔνι θήρες 450
σμερδαλέοι ναίεσκον ἔτ' οὐλομένοιο γενέθλης
Τυφῶνος νήσοιο κατὰ πτύχας, ἣν τε Καλύδνην
λαοὶ ἐπικλείουσιν ἔσω ἀλὸς ἀντία Τροίης.
ἔνθεν ἀναστήσασα βίην καλέεσκε δρακόντων 455
ἐς Τροίην· οἱ δ' αἰψὰ θεῆς ὑποκινηθέντες
νῆσον ὅλην ἐτίναξαν· ἐπεσμαράγησε δὲ πόντος
νισσομένων, καὶ κύμα διύστατο· τοὶ δ' ἐφέροντο
αἰνὸν λιχμώωντες· ἔφριξε δὲ κήτεα πόντου·
ἀμφὶ δ' ἄρα στενάχοντο μέγα Ξάνθοιο θύγατρες
Νύμφαι καὶ Σιμόεντος· ἀπ' Οὐλύμιοιο δὲ Κύπρις 460
ἄχυντο· τοὶ δ' ἄφαρ ἴξον ὅπη θεὸς ὀτρύνεσκε,
θήγοντες βλοσυρῇσι γενειάσι λοιγὸν ὀδόντων
δυστήνοις ἐπὶ παισί· κακὴ δ' ἐπενίσσετο φύζα
Τρῶας, ὅτ' εἰσενόησαν ἀνὰ πτόλιν αἰνὰ πέλωρα·
οὐδὲ τις αἰζηῶν οὐδ' εἰ μένος ἄτρομος ἦεν 465
μεῖναι ἔτλη· πάντας γὰρ ἀμείλιχον ἄμφεχε δαίμα
θῆρας ἀλευομένους, ὀδύνῃ δ' ἔχεν· ἂν δὲ γυναῖκες
οἴμωζον· καὶ πού τις ἐὼν ἐπελήσατο τέκνων
αὐτῇ ἀλευομένη στυγερὸν μόρον· ἀμφὶ δὲ Τροίῃ
ἔσταν' ἐπεσσυμένων· πολλοὶ δ' ἄφαρ εἰς ἐν ἰόντες 470
γυῖα περιδρῦθησαν· ἐνεστείνοντο δ' ἀργυιαῖς
ἀμφιπεριπτώσσοντες. ἔλειπτο δὲ μῶνος ἄπωθεν

THE FALL OF TROY, BOOK XII

With shouts of salutation ; marvelling all
Gazed at the mighty work—where lurked their
doom.

But still Laocoon ceased not to exhort
His countrymen to burn the Horse with fire :
They would not hear, for dread of the Gods' wrath.
But then a yet more hideous punishment
Athena visited on his hapless sons.
A cave there was, beneath a rugged cliff
Exceeding high, unscalable, wherein
Dwelt fearful monsters of the deadly brood
Of Typhon, in the rock-clefts of the isle
Calydna that looks Troyward from the sea.
Thence stirred she up the strength of serpents
twain,

And summoned them to Troy. By her uproused
They shook the island as with earthquake : roared
The sea ; the waves disparted as they came.
Onward they swept with fearful-flickering tongues :
Shuddered the very monsters of the deep :
Xanthus' and Simois' daughters moaned aloud,
The River-nymphs : the Cyprian Queen looked
down

In anguish from Olympus. Swiftly they came
Whither the Goddess sped them : with grim jaws
Whetting their deadly fangs, on his hapless sons
Sprang they. All Trojans panic-stricken fled,
Seeing those fearsome dragons in their town.
No man, though ne'er so dauntless theretofore,
Dared tarry ; ghastly dread laid hold on all
Shrinking in horror from the monsters. Screamed
The women ; yea, the mother forgot her child,
Fear-frenzied as she fled : all Troy became
One shriek of fleers, one huddle of jostling limbs :
The streets were choked with cowering fugitives.
Alone was left Laocoon with his sons,

Λαοκόων ἄμα παισί· πέδησε γὰρ οὐλομένη Κῆρ
 καὶ θεός· οἱ δὲ οἱ νῆας ὑποτρομέοντας ὄλεθρον
 ἀμφοτέρους ὀλοῇσιν ἀνηρεΐσαντο γένυσσι 475
 πατρὶ φίλῳ ὀρέγοντας εἰς χέρας· οὐδ' ὃ γ' ἀμύνειν
 ἔσθενεν· ἀμφὶ δὲ Τρῶες ἀπόπροθεν εἰσορόωντες
 κλαῖον ὑπὸ κραδίησι τεθηπότες· οἱ δ' ἄρ' Ἀθήνης
 προφρονέως τελέσαντες ἀπεχθέα Τρωσὶν ἐφετμὴν
 ἄμφω αἰστώθησαν ὑπὸ χθόνα· τῶν δ' ἔτι σῆμα 480
 φαίνεθ', ὅπου κατέδυσαν ἐς ἱερὸν Ἀπόλλωνος
 Περγάμῳ ἐν ζαθέῃ· προπάροιθε δὲ Τρώιοι νῆες
 παίδων Λαοκόωντος ἀμείλιχα δηωθέντων
 τεύξαν ἄμ' ἀγρόμενοι κενεὸν τάφον, ᾧ ἔπι δάκρυ
 χεῦε πατὴρ ἀλαοῖσιν ὑπ' ὄμμασιν· ἀμφὶ δὲ μήτηρ 485
 πολλὰ κινυρομένη κενεῷ ἐπαῦτεε τύμβῳ
 ἐλπομένη τι καὶ ἄλλο κακώτερον, ἔστεινε δ' ἄτην
 ἀνέρος ἀφραδίης, μακάρων δ' ὑπεδείδιε μῆνιν·
 ὥς δ' ὅτ' ἐρημαίην περιμύρεται ἀμφὶ καλὴν
 πολλὰ μάλ' ἀχνυμένη κατὰ δάσκιον ἄγκος ἀηδῶν, 490
 ἧς ἔτι νήπια τέκνα, πάρος κελαδεινὸν αἰδεῖν,
 δάμναθ' ὑπὸ γναθμοῖσι μένος βλοσυροῖο δράκοντος,
 μητέρι δ' ἄλγεα θῆκε, καὶ ἄσπετον ἀσχαλώουσα
 μύρεται ἀμφὶ δόμον κενεὸν μάλα κεκληγυῖα·
 ὥς ἢ γε στενάχιζε λυγρῷ τεκέων ἐπ' ὀλέθρῳ 495
 μυρομένη κενεῷ περὶ σήματι· σὺν δέ οἱ ἄλλο
 πῆμα μάλ' ἀργαλέον πόσιος πέλεν ἀμφ' ἀλαοῖο.
 Καὶ ῥ' ἡ μὲν φίλα τέκνα καὶ ἀνέρα κωκύεσκε
 τοὺς μὲν ἀποφθιμένους τὸν δ' ἄμμορον ἡλείοιο·
 Τρῶες δ' ἀθανάτοισιν ἐπεντύνοντο θυηλὰς 500
 λείβοντες μέθυ λαρόν, ἐπεὶ σφισιν ἦτορ ἐώλπει
 λευγαλέου πολέμοιο βαρὺ σθένος ἐξυπαλύξειν.
 ἱερὰ δ' οὐ καίοντο, πυρὸς δ' ἐσβέννυτ' αὐτμή,
 ὄμβρου ὅπως καθύπερθε δυσηχέος ἐσσυμένιοι·

THE FALL OF TROY, BOOK XII

For death's doom and the Goddess chained their feet.
Then, even as from destruction shrank the lads,
Those deadly fangs had seized and ravined up
The twain, outstretching to their sightless sire
Agonized hands : no power to help had he.
Trojans far off looked on from every side
Weeping, all dazed. And, having now fulfilled
Upon the Trojans Pallas' awful hest,
Those monsters vanished 'neath the earth ; and still
Stands their memorial, where into the fane
They entered of Apollo in Pergamus
The hallowed. Therefore the sons of Troy
Gathered, and reared a cenotaph for those
Who miserably had perished. Over it
Their father from his blind eyes rained the tears :
Over the empty tomb their mother shrieked,
Boding the while yet worse things, wailing o'er
The ruin wrought by folly of her lord,
Dreading the anger of the Blessed Ones.
As when around her void nest in a brake
In sorest anguish moans the nightingale
Whose fledglings, ere they learned her plaintive
song,

A hideous serpent's fangs have done to death,
And left the mother anguish, endless woe,
And bootless crying round her desolate home ;
So groaned she for her children's wretched death,
So moaned she o'er the void tomb ; and her pangs
Were sharpened by her lord's plight stricken blind.

While she for children and for husband moaned—
These slain, he of the sun's light portionless—
The Trojans to the Immortals sacrificed,
Pouring the wine. Their hearts beat high with hope
To escape the weary stress of woeful war.
Howbeit the victims burned not, and the flames
Died out, as though 'neath heavy-hissing rain ;

καπνὸς δ' αἱματοίεις ἀνεκήκιε· μηρὰ δὲ πάντα 505
 πίπτε χαμαὶ τρομέοντα· κατρείποντο δὲ βωμοί·
 σπονδαὶ δ' αἶμα γέγοντο· θεῶν δ' ἐξέρρεε δάκρυ,
 καὶ νηοὶ δεύοντο λύθρῳ· στοναχαὶ δ' ἐφέροντο
 ἔκποθεν ἀπροφάτιοι· περισσεύοντο δὲ μακρὰ
 τείχεα καὶ πύργοι μεγάλ' ἔκτυπον, ὥς ἰσχυροὶς.¹ 510
 αὐτόματοι δ' ἄρ' ὀχῆες ἀνωίγνυντο πυλάων
 αἰνὸν κεκλήγοντες· ἐπεστενάχοντο δὲ λυγρὸν
 ἐννύχιοι ὄρνιθες ἐρρημαῖον βοῶντες·

ἄστροα δὲ πάντ' ἐφύπερθε θεοδμήτοιο πόλῃος
 ἀχλὺς ἀμφεκάλυψε καὶ ἀννεφέλου περ ἑόντος 515
 οὐρανοῦ αἰγλήεντος· ἀπαναίνοντο δὲ δάφναι
 πᾶρ νηῶ Φοῖβοιο πάρος θαλεραί περ εἰσῆσαι·
 ἐν δὲ λύκοι καὶ θῶδες ἀναιδέες ὠρύσαντο
 ἔντοσθεν πυλέων· μάλα μυρία δ' ἄλλα φαάνθη
 σήματα Δαρδανίδῃσι καὶ ἄστεϊ πῆμα φέροντα. 520
 ἀλλ' οὐ δεῖμ' ἀλεγεινὸν ὑπὸ Τρώων φρένας ἵξε
 δερκομένων ἀλεγεινὰ τεράατα πάντα κατ' ἄστν·
 Κῆρες γὰρ πάντων νόον ἔκβαλον, ὅφρ' ἐπὶ δαιτὶ
 πότμον ἀναπλήσωσιν ὑπ' Ἀργείοισι δαμέντες.

Οἷον δ' ἔμπεδον ἦτορ ἔχεν πινυτόν τε νόημα 525
 Κασσάνδρῃ, τῆς οὐ ποτ' ἔπος γένετ' ἀκράαντον,
 ἀλλ' ἄρ' ἐτήτυμον ἔσκεν· ἀκούετο δ' ἔκ τινος αἴσης
 ὥς ἀνεμῶλιον αἰέν, ἵν' ἄλγεα Τρωσὶ γένηται.
 ἦ ῥ' ὅτε σήματα λυγρὰ κατὰ πτόλιν εἰσενόησεν
 εἰς ἐν ἅμ' αἰσσοῦντα, μέγ' ἴαχεν, εὐτε λεία, 530
 ἦν ῥά τ' ἐνὶ ξυλόχοισιν ἀνὴρ λελημένος ἄγρης
 οὐτάσῃ ἥε βάλλῃ, τῆς δ' ἐν φρεσὶ μαίνεται ἦτορ
 * * * * *

πάντῃ ἀν' οὐρεα μακρά, πέλει δὲ οἱ ἄσχετος ἀλκή·
 ὥς ἄρα μαιώωσα θεόπροπον ἔνδοθεν ἦτορ
 ἤλυθεν ἐκ μεγάρου· κόμαι δὲ οἱ ἀμφεκέχυντο 535
 ὤμοις ἀργυφείοισι μετάφρενον ἄχρῃς ἰοῦσαι·

¹ Zimmermann, for ἐτεόν περ of v.

THE FALL OF TROY, BOOK XII

And writhed the smoke-wreaths blood-red, and the thighs

Quivering from crumbling altars fell to earth.

Drink-offerings turned to blood, Gods' statues wept,

And temple-walls dripped gore : along them rolled

Echoes of groaning out, of depths unseen ;

And all the long walls shuddered : from the towers

Came quick sharp sounds like cries of men in pain ;

And, weirdly shrieking, of themselves slid back

The gate-bolts. Screaming "Desolation !" wailed

The birds of night. Above that God-built burg

A mist pallid every star ; and yet no cloud

Was in the flashing heavens. By Phoebus' fane

Withered the bays that erst were lush and green.

Wolves and foul-feeding jackals came and howled

Within the gates. Ay, other signs untold

Appeared, portending woe to Dardanus' sons

And Troy : yet no fear touched the Trojans' hearts

Who saw all through the town those portents dire :

Fate crazed them all, that midst their revelling

Slain by their foes they might fill up their doom.

One heart was steadfast, and one soul clear-eyed,

Cassandra. Never her words were unfulfilled ;

Yet was their utter truth, by Fate's decree,

Ever as idle wind in the hearers' ears,

That no bar to Troy's ruin might be set.

She saw those evil portents all through Troy

Conspiring to one end ; loud rang her cry,

As roars a lioness that mid the brakes

A hunter has stabbed or shot, whereat her heart

Maddens, and down the long hills rolls her roar,

And her might waxes tenfold ; so with heart

Aflame with prophecy came she forth her bower.

Over her snowy shoulders tossed her hair

ὅσσε δέ οἱ μάρμαιρεν ἀναιδέα· τῆς δ' ὑπὸ δειρή,
 ἐξ ἀνέμων ἄτε πρέμνον, ἄδην ἐλελίζετο πάντη.
 καὶ ῥα μέγα στοναχῆσε καὶ ἴαχε παρθένος ἐσθλή·
 “ἂ δειλοί, νῦν βῆμεν ὑπὸ ζόφον· ἀμφὶ γὰρ ἡμῖν 540
 ἔμπλειον πυρὸς ἄστυ καὶ αἵματος ἡδὲ καὶ οἴτου
 λευγαλέον· πάντη δὲ τεράατα δακρυόεντα
 ἀθάνατοι φαίνουσι, καὶ ἐν ποσὶ τέρματ' ὀλέθρου.
 σχέτλιοι, οὐδέ τι ἴστε κακὸν μόρον, ἀλλ' ἅμα
 πάντες

χαίρετ' ἄρ' ἀφραδέοντες, οἳ [ἡγάγετ' ἐς πόλιν αὐτοὶ
 Ἀργείων λυγρὸν ἵππον¹] ὃ γὰρ μέγα πῆμα
 κέκευθεν. 545

ἀλλὰ μοι οὐ πείθεσθ', οὐδ' εἰ μάλα πόλλ' ἀγορεύω,
 οὔνεκ' Ἑριννύες ἅκρα γάμον κεχολωμένα αἰνοῦ
 ἀμφ' Ἑλένης, καὶ Κῆρες ἀμείλιχοι αἰσσοῦσι
 πάντη ἀνὰ πτολίεθρον· ἐπ' εἰλαπίνῃ δ' ἀλεγεινῇ
 δαίνυσθ' ὕστατα δόρπα κακῶ πεφορυνγμένα λύθρῳ 550
 ἤδη ἐπιφάουοντες ὁμῆν ὁδὸν εἰδῶλοισι.”

Καὶ τις κερτομέων ὀλοφώϊον ἔκφατο μῦθον·
 “ὦ κούρη Πριάμοιο, τί ἦ νῦ σε μάργος ἀνώγει
 γλῶσσα κακοφραδίῃ τ' ἀνεμῶλια πάντ' ἀγορεύει;
 οὐδέ σε παρθενικὴ καὶ ἀκήρατος ἀμφέχει αἰδώς, 555
 ἀλλὰ σε λύσσω ὅλοῃ περιδέδρομε· τῷ νῦ σε πάντες
 αἰὲν ἀτιμάζουσι βροτοὶ πολύμυθον ἑοῦσαν.
 ἔρρε καὶ Ἀργείοισι κακὴν προτιόσσεο φήμην
 ἡδ' αὐτῇ· τάχα γάρ σε καὶ ἀργαλεώτερον ἄλγος
 μίμνει Λαοκῶντος ἀναιδέος· οὐ γὰρ ἔοικεν 560
 ἀθανάτων φίλα δῶρα δαιῖζεμεν ἀφραδέοντα.”

Ὡς ἄρ' ἔφη Τρώων τις ἀνὰ πτόλιν· ὥς δὲ καὶ
 ἄλλοι

κούρην μωμήσαντο καὶ οὐ φάσαν ἄρτια βάζειν,
 οὔνεκ' ἄρα σφίσι πῆμα καὶ ἀργαλέον μένος Αἴσης
 ἄγχι παρειστήκει· τοὶ δ' οὐ νοέοντες ὄλεθρον 565

¹ Stadtmueller's suggested supplementum of lacuna,

THE FALL OF TROY, BOOK XII

Streaming far down, and wildly blazed her eyes.
Her neck writhed, like a sapling in the wind
Shaken, as moaned and shrieked that noble maid :
“ O wretches ! into the Land of Darkness now
We are passing ; for all round us full of fire
And blood and dismal moan the city is.
Everywhere portents of calamity
Gods show : destruction yawns before your feet.
Fools ! ye know not your doom : still ye rejoice
With one consent in madness, who to Troy
Have brought the Argive Horse where ruin lurks !
Oh, ye believe not me, though ne’er so loud
I cry ! The Erinyes and the ruthless Fates,
For Helen’s spousals madly wroth, through Troy
Dart on wild wings. And ye, ye are banqueting
there

In your last feast, on meats befouled with gore,
When now your feet are on the Path of Ghosts ! ”

Then cried a scoffing voice an ominous word :
“ Why doth a raving tongue of evil speech,
Daughter of Priam, make thy lips to cry
Words empty as wind ? No maiden modesty
With purity veils thee : thou art compassed round
With ruinous madness ; therefore all men scorn
Thee, babbler ! Hence, thine evil bodings speak
To the Argives and thyself ! For thee doth wait
Anguish and shame yet bitterer than befell
Presumptuous Laocoon. Shame it were
In folly to destroy the Immortals’ gift.”

So scoffed a Trojan : others in like sort
Cried shame on her, and said she spake but lies,
Saying that ruin and Fate’s heavy stroke
Were hard at hand. They knew not their own
doom,

κείνην κερτομέοντες ἀπέτρεπον εὐρέος ἵππου
 ἢ γάρ οἱ μενέαινε διὰ ξύλα πάντα κεδάσσαι,
 ἢ καταπρήσαι μαλερῶ πυρί· τοῦνεκα πεύκης
 αἰθομένης ἔτι δαλὸν ἀπ' ἐσχαρεῶνος ἐλοῦσα
 ἔσσυτο μαιμώωσ'· ἑτέρη δ' ἐν χειρὶ φέρεσκεν 570
 ἀμφίτυπον βουπλήγα· λυγροῦ δ' ἐπεμαίετο ἵππου,
 ὄφρα λόχον στονέοντα καὶ ἀμφαδὸν ἀθρήσωσι
 Τρῶες· τοὶ δέ οἱ αἶψα χερῶν ἀπὸ νόσφι βαλόντες
 πῦρ ὀλοὸν τε σίδηρον, ἀκηδέες ἐντύνοντο
 δαῖτα λυγρῇν· μάλα γάρ σφας ἐπήιεν ὑστατὴ νύξ. 575

Ἀργεῖοι δ' ἐντοσθεν ἐγήθειον εἰσαίοντες
 δαιτυμένων ὄμαδον κατὰ Ἴλιον οὐδ' ἀλεγόντων
 Κασσάνδρης, τὴν ῥ' αὐτοὶ ἐθάμβεον, ὡς ἐτέτυκτο
 ἀτρεκέως εἰδυῖα νόον καὶ μῆτιν Ἀχαιῶν.

Ἢ δ' αἶτε πόρδαλις ἔσσυτ' ἐν οὔρεσιν ἀσχα-
 λώσασα,

ἦν τ' ἀπὸ μεσσαύλοιο κύνες μογεροὶ τε νομῆες
 σεύοντ' ἐσσυμένως, ἢ δ' ἄγριον ἦτορ ἔχουσα
 ἐντροπαλιζομένη ἀναχάζεται τειρομένη περ·
 ὡς ἢ γ' εὐρέος ἵππου ἀπέσσυτο τειρομένη κῆρ
 Τρώων ἀμφὶ φόνῳ· μάλα γὰρ μέγα δέχυντο
 πῆμα.

THE FALL OF TROY, BOOK XII

And mocked, and thrust her back from that huge
Horse :

For fain she was to smite its beams apart,
Or burn with ravening fire. She snatched a brand
Of blazing pine-wood from the hearth and ran
In fury : in the other hand she bare
A two-edged halberd : on that Horse of Doom
She rushed, to cause the Trojans to behold
With their own eyes the ambush hidden there.
But straightway from her hands they plucked and
flung

Afar the fire and steel, and careless turned
To the feast ; for darkened o'er them their last
night.

Within the horse the Argives joyed to hear
The uproar of Troy's feasters setting at naught
Cassandra, but they marvelled that she knew
So well the Achaeans' purpose and device.

As mid the hills a furious pantheress,
Which from the steading hounds and shepherd-folk
Drive with fierce rush, with savage heart turns back
Even in departing, galled albeit by darts :
So from the great Horse fled she, anguish-racked
For Troy, for all the ruin she foreknew.