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Conticuere omnes

intentique ora tenebant

inde toro pater Aeneas sic orsus ab alto:

“Infandum, regina, iubes **renovare** dolorem,

Troianas ut opes et **lamentabile regnum**  
eruerint Danaï,

quaeque ipse miserrima vidi           5

et quorum pars magna fui.

quis **talìa fando** Myrmidonum Dolopumue aut duri  
miles Ulixi temperet a lacrimis?

et iam nox umida caelo praecipitat

suadentque cadentia sidera somnos.

sed si tantus amor **casus** cognoscere  
**nostros**           10

et breviter Troiae supremum audire laborem,

quamquam animus meminisse horret

luctuque refugit,

incipiam.

fracti bello fatisque repulse

ductores Danaum

tot iam labentibus annis

instar montis equum **diuina Palladis arte**  
**aedificant**,

15

Everyone grew silent

and eager they held their expression;

thereupon father Aeneas thus began (to tell his story)  
from the high couch.

“It is unspeakable grief, queen, what you order me to  
**recount**,

how the Greeks overthrew the Trojan power and the  
**pitiabile kingdom**

and the very miserable things which I myself saw

and of which I was a great part.

**What soldier** of the Myrmidonean and Dolopes or of  
harsh Ulysses could restrain from tears **from telling**  
**such things?**

And now damp night falls from the heavens

and falling stars urge sleep.

But if there is such a desire to learn **our misfortunes**

and briefly to hear the final labor of troy

although my mind shudders to remember

and retreats in grief,

I will begin.

Broken by war and repelled by the fates

the leaders of the Greeks

with so many years gliding by

**build** the likeness of a horse big as a mountain by  
**means of the divine skill of Pallas**,

sectaque intexunt abiete costas;

votum pro **reditu** simulant;

ea fama uagatur.

huc delecta **virum** sortiti **corpora** **furtim**  
includunt

caeco lateri

penitusque cauernas ingentis

uterumque armato milite complent.           20

est in conspectu Tenedos,

notissima fama insula,

dives opum

Priami dum regna manebant,

nunc tantum sinus et statio

male fida carinis:

huc se provecti

deserto in litore condunt;

nos abiisse rati et vento petiisse Mycenae.

and they weave the ribs with cut fir;

they pretend that it is an offering **on behalf of their**  
**return;**

and the rumor wandered around.

Here in this place having drawn lots they hide selected  
**bodies of men** **secretly**

in the dark side

and they fill deep the huge caverns

and womb with an armed contingent.

Tenedos is in sight,

an island well known for its fame,

rich in wealth

while the kingdom of Priam was remaining,

now only a bay and anchorage

treacherous (not trustworthy) for ships:

Having carried themselves here,

they hid on the deserted island;

25 we were thought to have sought out Mycenae with the  
wind.

ergo omnis longo soluit se Teucra luctu;

panduntur portae,

iuvat ire

et Dorica castra desertosque Videre locos

litusque relictum:

hic Dolopum manus,

hic saevus tendebat Achilles;

classibus hic locus,

hic acie certare solebant. 30

pars stupet innuptae donum exitiale Mineruae

et molem mirantur equi;

primusque Thyometes duci intra muros hortatur

et arce locari,

sive dolo

seu iam Troiae sic fata ferebant.

at Capys,

et quorum melior sententia menti, 35

Therefore all of Troy loosened itself from its long  
grief;

the gates are opened,

It pleases (us) to leave the city

and to see the Doric camp and the deserted places

and the abandoned shore:

Here the bands of the Dolopes,

here the savage Achilles used to strive;

here was a place for ships,

here they were accustomed to fight in a battle line.

Part are dumbfounded by the deadly gift of the unwed  
Minerva

and they wonder at the mass of the horse;

and first Thyometes urged that the horse be lead within  
the walls

and be placed in the citadel

whether in deceit

or now the fates of Troy were tending thus.

But Capys,

and those whose mind had better council,

aut pelago Danaum insidias suspectaque dona  
praecipitare iubent

subiectisque urere flammis,

aut terebrare cavas uteri

et temptare latebras.

scinditur incertum studia in contraria vulgus.

Primus ibi

ante omnis magna comitante caterua 40

Laocoon ardens summa decurrit ab arce,

et procul

'o miseri, quae tanta insania, ciues?

creditis auectos hostis?

aut ulla putatis dona carere dolis Danaum

sic notus Vlixes?

aut hoc inclusi ligno occultantur Achiui, 45

aut haec in nostros fabricata est machina muros,

inspectura domos uenturaque desuper urbi,

aut aliquis latet error;

equo ne credite, Teucri.

quidquid id est, timeo Danaos et dona ferentis.'

ordered them to either throw snares of the Danuans  
and their suspect gifts into the sea

and with flames being placed under to burn it up,

or to pierce the hollowness of the womb

and to examine the uncertain hiding places.

The crowd was split in opposing desire.

First, there

before all, with a large crowd accompanying,

Laocoon eager ran down from the top of the citadel,

and from afar (he said)

“O unhappy citizens, what so great madness is this?

Do you believe that the enemy was carried away?

or do you think that the gifts of the Greeks are free  
from deceit

thus is the fame of Odysseus?

Either the Greeks confined are hidden in this wood,

or this machine is made in our walls,

in order to inspect our homes and to come into our city  
from above,

or some trick is concealed;

Do not trust the horse, Trojans.

Whatever it is, I fear Greeks and those bearing gifts.”

sic fatus

validis ingentem viribus hastam            50  
in latus

inque feri, curvam compagibus, **alvum**  
**contorsit.**

stetit illa tremens,

uteroque recusso

insonuere cavae gemitumque dedere cauernae.

et, si fata deum,

si mens non laeva fuisset,

impulerat ferro Argolicas foedare latebras, 55

Troiaque nunc staret,

Priamique arx alta maneres.

Thus having spoken

he **hurls** a huge spear with a strong force into the side

and into the **belly** of the beast, curved with joints.

It stood trembling

and in the shaken stomach

the hollow cavities sounded and gave a groan.

And, if the fates of the gods,

if their minds had not been unfavorable,

he would have impelled us to befoul the Greek hiding  
places with iron,

and now Troy would stand,

and you would remain, lofty citadel of Priam.