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| Dido and Aeneas – XLVI  From The Aeneid Book 4 Lines 66-73 |

*In which Dido falls in love with Aeneas*

Est mollis flamma medullas

interea et tacitum vivit sub pectore vulnus.

uritur infelix Dido totaque vagatur

urbe furens, qualis coniecta cerva sagitta,

quam procul incautum nemora inter Cresia fixit

pastor agens telis liquitque volatile ferrum

nescius; illa fuga silvas saltusque peragrat

Dictaeos; haerat lateri letalis harundo.

*Translation:*

Meanwhile, a flame devours her tender marrow

and a silent wound lives deep in her breast.

Unhappy Dido burns, and wanders frenzied through the city,

like a doe struck by an arrow,

which, unaware, a shepherd hunting with his darts has pierced from a distance, in the Cretan woods,

leaving in her the winged steel, without knowing.

She wanders in flight through the woods and glades of Dicte:

the lethal shaft hangs in her side.

**Glossary:** *(words in the number, case and gender in which they appear in this extract)*

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| Line 1  est – a variation of **edere**: to eat or devour  mollis: soft  medullas (medulla): marrow, inmost being  Line 2  interea: meanwhile  tactitum: silent  pectore (pectus): breast, heart, feeling, mind  vulnus: wound  Line 3  uritur (urere): burns  infelix: unlucky, unhappy  vagatur (vagari): wanders  Line 4  furens: frenzy  qualis: even as / as if  coniecta: struck  cerva: doe  sagitta: arrow  Line 5  procul: from a distance, from afar  incautum: unwary | nemora (nemus): grove, group of trees  Cresia: Cretan  fixit (from fixo) pierced  Line 6  agens (agere): to hunt  pastor: shepherd  telis (telum): dart  liquit (linquo): leaving  volatile: in flight  ferrum: steel  Line 7  nescius: without knowing  fuga: in flight  silvas: woods  saltusque: and glades (que – and)  peragrat (pergarere): wanders through  Line 8  haeret (haerere): clings  lateri: to her side  letalis: deadly  harundo: arrow |

**Notes:**

* Dido has fallen deeply in love with Aeneas. Virgil compares her to a female deer that has been shot with a hunter’s arrow. This simile is meant to illustrate that Dido has been shot by Cupid’s arrow. As is usual in epic poetry, the simile is developed in some detail.
* Look at the word ‘nescius’ at the start of line seven. Virgil deliberately holds back this word to the end of the clause and places it alone at the start of a new line, thus emphasising the fact that the hunter is unaware of the hurt he has inflicted. Aeneas treats Dido badly by leaving her.