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| Dido and Aeneas – XLVIFrom 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 devourmollis: softmedullas (medulla): marrow, inmost beingLine 2interea: meanwhiletactitum: silentpectore (pectus): breast, heart, feeling, mindvulnus: wound Line 3uritur (urere): burnsinfelix: unlucky, unhappyvagatur (vagari): wandersLine 4furens: frenzyqualis: even as / as ifconiecta: struckcerva: doesagitta: arrowLine 5procul: from a distance, from afarincautum: unwary | nemora (nemus): grove, group of treesCresia: Cretanfixit (from fixo) piercedLine 6agens (agere): to huntpastor: shepherdtelis (telum): dartliquit (linquo): leavingvolatile: in flightferrum: steelLine 7nescius: without knowingfuga: in flightsilvas: woodssaltusque: and glades (que – and)peragrat (pergarere): wanders throughLine 8haeret (haerere): clingslateri: to her sideletalis: deadlyharundo: 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.