



Teaching Vergil's Aeneid: Furor & Pietas with Karen Moore

Lecture 1: Book 1: A Consideration of The First Fury

Outline:

The Text

- Search for Perseus online Latin text Aeneid if you find yourself without a text at some point during this course.
- Web link:
<https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/text?doc=Perseus:text:1999.02.0055>

The First Fury

- The Aeneid opens in medias res (in the middle of things).
- Juno decides she needs to interrupt the happy party headed to Italy.
- Fury erupts in the form of a storm sent at the request of Juno.
- How does Aeneas respond? He wishes for death.
 - It is not merely that he is facing death, it is the journey that he has been on with trial after trial.
 - The honor of dying on the battlefield is supreme. To die in the ocean is to be forgotten and unburied.
 - The bodies need to be buried to pass into the Underworld (Book 6: Misenus and Palinurus).
 - Aeneas laments, wishing for death, he is mighty warrior who seeks an honorable death and the honor of a ritual burial (so that he can pass into the afterlife).
- Neptune's response is an anger that is restrained in a calm mind.
 - Neptune speaks directly to the winds, and he knows that they are the source of the problem and the winds are under his jurisdiction.
 - He puts the clouds to flight, and he brings back the sun.
- Quos Ego, Peter Paul Rubens, 1635, Oil on canvas
 - Look at this painting as a review after you have read through the scene (from above).
 - He is in the middle of his lecture to the winds.
 - Neptune calms the sky and sea.
 - The golden triangle from Renaissance art
 - This is the first time the epic simile is used.
- The Augustus Prima Porta, a noble orator with consular authority
 - How does this noble orator respond?



- He is a man marked with piety and merits that will stand against the furor with a calm head.
- Vergil is writing this epic and is speaking to Augustus as the new leader of the Roman Empire.
 - How will you respond (to Augustus)?
 - Will you respond as Aeneas (in the moment with your arms slackening and speaking into the wind wishing for a noble death) or Neptune (addressing the problem before you, making the wrong into right)?
 - Vergil's writing helps Augustus (and to us) in how to respond to fury with pietas.