Virgil’s Aeneid

Week 10 · Book 1 · Short reading note

Divine conflict

Juno persuades Aeolus to unleash the winds on the Trojan fleet. Neptune calms the sea. Aeneas’ voyage is shaped from the outset by conflict among the gods and by a destiny announced in advance.

Fate and pietas

Jupiter reassures Venus about Aeneas’ future and the destiny of Rome. Aeneas describes himself as carrying the household gods toward Italy. The presentation treats pietas as duty to the gods, family, companions and the mission.

Carthage and Dido

Dido is building Carthage. Like Aeneas, she is a leader marked by exile and loss. Venus sends Cupid in the guise of Ascanius, beginning divine manipulation of Dido’s desire. The tension between a founding mission and personal attachment comes into view.

Question

How do exile and loss connect Dido and Aeneas? How does the poem frame the unequal claims of Aeneas’ duty and Dido’s own choices?