

# Virgil Extracts 9<sup>1</sup>

*nam simul expletus dapibus vinoque sepultus  
cervicem inflexam posuit, iacuitque per antrum  
immensus saniem eructans et frusta cruento  
per somnum commixta mero, nos magna precati  
numina sortitique vices una undique circum  
fundimur, et telo lumen terebramus acuto  
ingens quod torva solum sub fronte latebat,  
Argolici clipei aut Phoebeae lampadis instar,  
et tandem laeti sociorum ulciscimur umbras.  
sed fugite, o miseri, fugite atque ab litore funem rumpite.*



This begins with a long sentence that is hard to break down so we'll take it phrase by phrase.

*nam simul*

*dapibus vinoque*

*expletus*

*sepultus*

Another chiasmus

*simul* here = *simulac expletus* “full of”. *sepultus* “overwhelmed with”  
*cervicem inflexam posuit,*

*cervix* “neck” *inflexa* “bent” “curved” *ponere* can mean “to lay [down]” the Cyclops is the subject.

Translate and then check my attempt over the page.

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<sup>1</sup> The picture is from an amphora c.660BC showing Ulysses and his men blinding Polyphemus.

For as soon as he lay down his curved neck full full of the feast and overwhelmed with wine,

**iacuitque per antrum immensus**

**saniem eructans et frusta cruento per somnum commixta mero,**

*eructans* “vomiting” *frustum* “scrap of food” *merus* “wine” this term means undiluted i.e. strong wine. You can guess *com-mixta*!

Translate and compare in the usual way.

And lay immense throughout the cave, vomiting in [his] sleep blood and blood-stained scraps of food mixed with strong wine,

Virgil is using **synchysis** ( the “scattering” of words to create a bewildering effect) again in these last two lines. The picture is one of a confused and revolting mess.

***nos magna precati numina***

Achaemenides is careful to mention the piety of the Greeks before their attack on Polyphemus.

*sortitique vices una undique circum fundimur,*

*sortitique vices* “and having arranged our individual parts [in the attack] by lot” *undique* “from all sides” *circumfundere* “to overwhelm”. Leave *una* for the next phrase.

Translate and check.

We prayed to the great gods and having arranged our individual parts by lot overwhelmed [him] from all sides...

We prayed to the great gods and having arranged our individual parts by lot overwhelmed [him] from all sides...

et **telo** lumen **terebramus** acuto

*telo acuto* “with a sharp weapon” (Homer says they used a sharpened stake.) *terebrare* “to pierce”

*una solum ingens lumen* “one and only great eye [literally light]”

**ingens quod torva solum sub fronte latebat,**

*latere* “to be hidden” “to lurk” *torva* “savage” *fronte* “forehead”

Translate and compare

and with a sharp weapon we pierced [his] one and only great eye which lurked in his savage forehead,

(“The eye lay partly concealed beneath the stern, overhanging brow, the shaggy eyebrow, and the heavy, lowering eyelid.” explains my old commentator. See the illustration on the first page.)

*Argolici clipei aut Phoebeae lampadis instar,*

This line continues the description of the eye.

The Argolic (i.e. Greek) shield (*clipeus*) was a round shield big enough to protect the warrior from the chin to the knee. Polyphemus's eye was that big! *Instar* “likeness”, “resemblance” Phoebus is the sun god Apollo.

*et tandem laeti sociorum ulciscimur umbras.*

*Ulcisci* (deponent) “to avenge” *umbra* “shade” “ghost”. Hint: *Laeti* goes with the subject of the phrase which can be deduced from the verb.

Translate and compare – and spot the simile.

The likeness of an Argolic [or a Greek] shield or the lamp of Apollo,  
and joyful we avenge at length the shades of [our] companions.

(Now Achaemenides interrupts his story. He has some advice to give and it is urgent – as is seen by his repetition of the word *fugite!*)

***sed fugite, o miseri, fugite atque ab litore funem rumpite.***

Notice the mood of the verbs. (See Year 2 Term 2 Week 6 Day 1)

*Funis* “rope” i.e. mooring rope, *rumpere* “to break, tear, rend” a forceful word.

Translate and compare.

But flee, O wretched ones flee from the shore, break your mooring ropes.

Once again notice the urgency shown by the literary device of **repetition**. You may be asked about literary devices used to make the writing more vivid so remember this one.

Why is Achaemenides so insistent that they should escape at once? Find out his reasons in the next lesson.

Find the Latin words related to these English words in today's lines and write them here:

acute	_____
flexible	_____
fugue	_____
illuminate	_____
immense	_____
imprecate	_____
insomnia	_____
lamp	_____
position	_____
rupture	_____
similar	_____
vine	_____

Keep up your memory work with the flashcards, making your own set or using the ones here:

<https://quizlet.com/gb/617807965/aeneid-cambridge-international-igcse-2023-25-flash-cards/>

Keep testing yourself to ensure that you can translate the lines. Remember to do all your written work on paper so that you do not come unstuck in the exam.