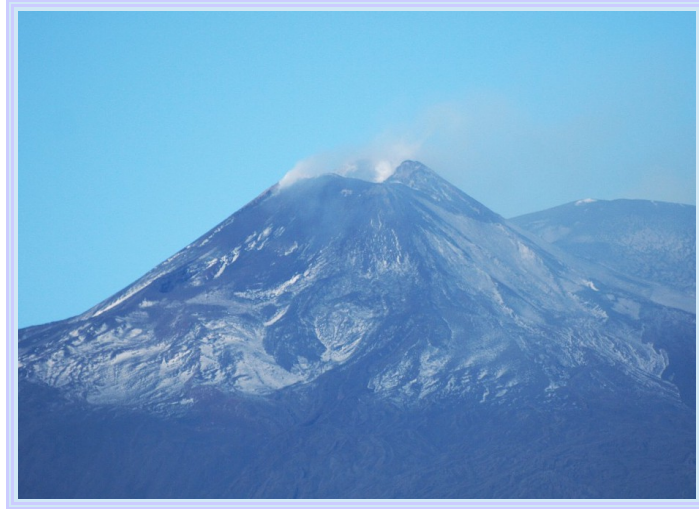


Virgil Extracts 12



sensit, et ad sonitum vocis vestigia torsit.

verum ubi nulla datur dextra adfectare potestas

nec potis Ionios fluctus aequare sequendo,

clamorem immensum tollit, quo pontus et omnes

contremuere undae, penitusque exterrita tellus

Italiae curvisque immugiit Aetna cavernis.

at genus e silvis Cyclopum et montibus altis

excitum ruit ad portus et litora complent.

cernimus astantis nequiquam lumine torvo

Aetnaeos fratres caelo capita alta ferentis,

concilium horrendum: quales cum vertice celso

aeriae quercus aut coniferae cyparissi

constiterunt, silva alta Iovis lucusve Dianae.

Oh no! They may have cut the ropes in silence but the rowing has made Polyphemus realise he's not alone.

sensit, et ad sonitum vocis vestigia torsit.

Sentire “to sense” “to feel” perhaps even “to hear”

Torquere “to twist” “to turn”

sonitum vocis literally “the sound of the voice” My old commentary says “...either the [s]plashing of the oars, for *vox* may be used in a wider sense than “voice.”... or “the voices” as sailors urge on one another. if we assume (rather unnaturally) that *taciti* of 1. 667 holds good only till they get under way.”

Translate and compare in the usual way.

He sensed it, and turned his footsteps to the sound of splashing.

verum ubi nulla datur dextra adfectare potestas

verum “but” “however” *adfectare* “to seize”

nec potis Ionios fluctus aequare sequendo,

aequare “to equal” *Ionios fluctus* is genitive here “of the Ionian wave” (the Ionian Sea was the sea between Greece and Italy.) *sequendo* “in following”

clamorem immensum tollit,

Translate and compare.

but when he was not given/granted the power to seize [us] with his right hand
nor to equal the power of the Ionian wave[s] in following he raised a huge shout

My old commentary notes: “671 *Nec potis Ionios*, &c. 'Nor is he able in pursuing to equal the the Ionian waves.' *Æquare* is generally supposed to refer here to the size of the Cyclopes. He could not equal by his size the depth of the sea, or, in other words he was not tall enough to wade farther. If such be the meaning, *fluctus* loses all its force. It is better, therefore, to make *æquare* allude to rapidity of movement. The Ionian billows bear the Trojan fleet away with more rapidity than the monster can employ in pursuit.”

quo pontus et omnes contremuere undae,

quo “for which reason” *pontus* “sea” *contremuere* “shuddered”

penitusque exterrita [est] tellus Italiae curvisque

penitus tellus “the inner land to its very centre” i.e. “far inland” *curvis* “winding” “arched” goes with *cavernis*

immugit Aetna cavernis.

Immugire “to bellow”

Translate and compare.

For which reason the sea and all the waves shuddered and far inland Italy was terrified, and the arched caverns of Etna bellowed.

(And, of course, Polyphemus is not the only Cyclops in the vicinity – and of course, unlike him, they can see...)

at genus e silvis Cyclopum et montibus altis

at “but” *genus* “race” “species” “tribe”

excitum ruit ad portus et litora complent.

excitum “excited” my old commentary says “summoned forth [by the cry]” *ruere* “to hasten”
complere “to fill”

Translate and compare

But the tribe of Cyclopes rush from the woods and high mountains, summoned forth by the cry, to the harbour and fill the shore.

Or

But the tribe of Cyclopes rush from the woods and high mountains to the harbour and fill the shore, summoned forth by the cry.

Or

But summoned forth by the cry, the tribe of Cyclopes rush from the woods and high mountains to the harbour and fill the shore.

cernimus *astantis nequiquam lumine torvo*

cernere “to see” *astantis* “standing” *nequiquam* “in vain” “pointlessly” “baffled” *lumine torvo* (ablative) “with wrathful eyes”

Aetnaeos fratres caelo capita alta ferentis,

ferentis literally “bearing” so “reaching” *caelo* is dative.

concilium horrendum:

concilium “assembly” “gathering”

Translate and compare.

We see [them] standing baffled with wrathful eyes, brothers of Etna [their] high heads reaching to heaven. A horrible gathering. (or perhaps “a horrid crew.”)

My old commentary says: “*Aetnaeos*,—so called from the mountain around which they had their homes. Virgil in Book VIII. however speaks of them as forging Jove's thunderbolts in the caverns of Aetna under the direction of Vulcan, the god of fire.”

Next we have a **simile**. Virgil compares the Cyclopes to two different types of tree. A simile is a figure of speech always introduced by the words “like” or “as” and sure enough...

quales cum vertice celso

quales cum “as when” *vertice celso* (ablative) “lofty summit”

aeriae quercus aut coniferae cyparissi constiterunt,

aerius “high” “airy” “towering” *quercus* “oaks” *coniferus* “cone-bearing” i.e. “coniferous!”

cyparissi “cypresses” *Constare* “to stand”

silva alta Iovis lucusve Dianae.

The suffix *...ve* means “or” *lucus* “sacred grove”

Translate and compare.

As when towering oaks or coniferous cypresses stand on a lofty summit of Jupiter's high wood or Diana's sacred grove.

My old commentary says: “*Jovis, Dianae,—the* oak was sacred to Jupiter, the cypress (a funereal tree) to Hecate, a goddess of the lower world, who was regularly identified with Diana on earth and Luna in the heavens.”

For the story of how the cypress became a “funereal tree” see Legends of Greece and Rome no. 29 on Volume 3 of *The Mothers' Companion* flashdrive.

The next lesson concludes the set work translation passages from the Aeneid Book 3. Make sure you are up to date with your flashcards. Remember: you must be able to translate from the set lines in the exam so make sure you keep testing yourself.

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

I found Latin words relating to “sense” “discern” and “vertical” in this passage, Can you spot them – and any other examples?