

Jupiter Divided in Lucan's *Bellum Civile*

1. populumque potentem
In sua victricis conversum viscera dextra
(1.2-3)
An imperial people turned their victorious right hands
against their own vitals
2. Qualis frugifero quercus sublimis in agro
Exuvias veteres populi sacrataque gestans
Dona ducum nec iam validis radicibus haerens
Pondere fixa suo est, nudosque per aera ramos
Effundens trunco, non frondibus, efficit umbram;
Et quamvis primo nutet casura sub Euro,
Tot circum silvae firmo se robore tollant,
Sola tamen colitur. (1.136-43)
Thus an oak-tree, laden with the ancient trophies of a
nation and the consecrated gifts of conquerors, towers in
a fruitful field; but the roots it clings by have lost their
toughness, and it stands by its weight alone, throwing
out bare boughs into the sky and making a shade not
with leaves but with its trunk; though it totters doomed
to fall at the first gale, while many trees with sound
timber rise beside it, yet it alone is worshipped.
3. summisque negatum
Stare diu nimioque graves sub pondere lapsus
Nec se Roma ferens. (1.70-2)
It was the speedy fall which no eminence can escape; it
was the grievous collapse of excessive weight, and
Rome unable to support her own greatness.
4. Qualiter expressum ventis per nubila fulmen
Aetheris impulsu sonitu mundique fragore
Emicuit rupitque diem populosque paventes
Terruit obliqua praestringens lumina flamma;
155In sua templa furit, nullaque exire vetante
Materia magnamque cadens magnamque revertens
Dat stragem late sparsosque recolligit ignes.
(1.151-7)
Even so the lightning is driven forth by wind through the
clouds: with noise of the smitten heaven and crashing of
the firmament it flashes out and cracks the daylight sky,
striking fear and terror into mankind and dazzling the
eye with slanting flame. It rushes to its appointed quarter
of the sky; nor can any solid matter forbid its free
course, but both falling and returning it spreads
destruction far and wide and gathers again its scattered
fires.
- 5a. **Ingentes animo** et dignas Iove concipit iras
(*Met.* 1.166)
He conceived in his heart a mighty wrath worthy of
Jove. (My translation)
- 5b. **Ingentesque animo** motus bellumque futurum
Ceperat. (BC 1.184-5)
And [Caesar] had conceived in his heart the great
rebellion and the coming war.
6. conlatus in ignes
Plurimus ad terram per fulmina decidat aether.
(2.57-8)
Let the mighty firmament gather itself in flame and fall
down on earth in the shape of thunderbolts.
7. Veniet felicior aetas,
Qua sit nulla fides saxum monstrantibus illud;
Atque erit Aegyptus populis fortasse nepotumtam
mendax Magni tumulo quam Creta Tonantis.
(8.869-72)
A happier age will come, when those who point out that
stone will be disbelieved, and perhaps our descendants
will consider Egypt as false in her tale of Pompey's
tomb as Crete when she claims the tomb of Jupiter.
8. 'Κρητες ἀεὶ ψεῦσται:' καὶ γὰρ τάφον, ᾧ ἄνα, σεῖο
Κρητες ἐτεκτῆναντο: σὺ δ' οὐ θάνεις, ἐσσι γὰρ αἰεὶ,
(*Hymn to Zeus*, 8-9)
'Cretans are always liars'; and indeed, o lord, the
Cretans have built a tomb for you. But you did not die,
for you are always. (My translation)
9. Et scelerum vindex in sancto pectore Bruti
Sedit et invicti posuit se mente Catonis
(9.17-8)
[Pompey's spirit] settled, as the avenger of guilt, in the
righteous breast of Brutus, and took up its abode in the
heart of unconquerable Cato.

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