**1) *BC* 9.961 – 969[[1]](#footnote-1)**

Sigeasque petit famae mirator harenas

et Simoentis aquas et Graio nobile busto

Rhoetion et multum debentis vatibus umbras.

circumit exustae nomen memorabile Troiae

magnaque Phoebei quaerit vestigia muri.

iam silvae steriles et putres robore trunci

Assaraci pressere domos et templa deorum

iam lassa radice tenent, ac tota teguntur

Pergama dumetis: etiam periere ruinae.

An admirer of fame, he seeks the shores of Sigeum and the waters of Simois and the noble Greek tomb at Rhoetion and the shades owing much to the poets. He walks around the memorable name of burned-out Troy and seeks the great vestiges of the walls of Phoebus. Now barren forests and decaying oaken trunks oppress the homes of Assarcus and weary roots hold the temples of the gods, and all Pergamum is covered in thorns: even the ruins have perished.

**2) *BC* 9.970-979**

aspicit Hesiones scopulos silvaque latentis

Anchisae thalamos; quo iudex sederit antro,

unde puer raptus caelo, quo vertice Nais

luxerit Oenone: nullum est sine nomine saxum.

inscius in sicco serpentem pulvere rivum

transierat, qui Xanthus erat. Securus in alto

gramine ponebat gressus; Phryx incola manes

Hectoreos calcare vetat. Discussa iacebant

saxa nec ullius faciem servantia sacri:

‘Herceas’ monstrator ait ‘non respicis aras?’

He looks at Hesione’s cliffs and the marriage bed of Anchises hidden in the forest; where a judge sat in a cave, from where a boy was snatched into the sky, where the Naiad Oenone mourned on the summit: no rock is without a name. Ignorant, he crossed over a river creeping in the dry dust, which was the Xanthus. Untroubled he stepped into the tall grass; a Phrygian inhabitant forbid him to trample the shade of Hector. Rocks were lying strewn about preserving not a single trace of a sacred site. ‘Do you not respect the altar of Zeus Herkeios?’ the guide said.

**4) *Aeneid* 8.310-312[[2]](#footnote-2)**

miratur facilisque oculos fert omnia circum

Aeneas, capiturque locis et singula laetus

exquiritque auditque virum monumenta priorum.

Aeneas admires and turns his ready eyes around at everything, he is captivated by the places and happily seeks out and takes in, one by one, the monuments of prior men.

**5) *Aeneid* 8.347 – 350**

hinc ad Tarpeiam sedem et Capitolia ducit,

aurea nunc, olim silvestribus horrida dumis.

iam tum religio pavidos terrebat agrestis

dira loci, iam tum silvam saxumque tremebant.

He leads him here to the Tarpeian seat and to the Capitoline, golden now, once overgrown with woodland thorns. Even then the dire sanctity of the place used to terrify the fear-struck rustics, even then they trembled at the forest and rock.

**6) *Aeneid* 8.355 – 358**

haec duo praeterea disiectis oppida muris,

reliquias veterumque vides monumenta virorum.

hanc Ianus pater, hanc Saturnus condidit arcem;

Ianiculum huic, illi fuerat Saturnia nomen.”

Moreover, in these two towns with their walls overthrown you see the relics and monuments of ancient men. Here father Janus, here Saturn built a citadel; the name of this is the Janiculum, that the Saturnia.

**7) *BC* 1.24 – 29**

at nunc semirutis pendent quod moenia tectis

urbibus Italiae lapsisque ingentia muris

saxa iacent nulloque domus custode tenentur

rarus et antiquis habitator in urbibus errat,

horrida quod dumis multosque inarata per annos

hesperia est desuntque manus poscentibus arvis, …

But now the walls hang from half-ruined roofs in the cities of Italy and the enormous rocks lie fallen from the walls and homes are held by no guardian and the rare inhabitant wanders in the antique cities, Hesperia is overgrown with thorns and unplowed for many years and hands are lacking to the fields demanding them…

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1. Text of Lucan is Shackleton Bailey’s; translations are my own. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Text of Vergil is Conte’s; translations are adapted from the Loeb. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)