

Olympus Has Fallen: Gigantomachy and the Battle of Cannae in Silius Italicus' *Punica*

1)	<p>Tollitur immensus deserta ad sidera clamor, Phlegraeis quantas effudit ad aethera voces terrigena in campis exercitus, aut sator aevi quanta Cyclopas nova fulmina voce poposcit. 305 Iuppiter, extractis vidit cum montibus ire magnanimos raptum caelestia regna Gigantas. (Sil. 9.302–7)</p>	<p>An immeasurable noise went up to the deserted heavens: noises just like the earth-bound army sent up to the ether on Phlegra's fields or the noise with which Jupiter, the creator of the age, demanded fresh lightning from the Cyclopes when he saw the noble giants run forth to snatch the kingdom of heaven—heaping mountain on mountain.</p>
2)	<p>en huius, nate, auspiciis illa incluta Roma imperium terris, animos aequabit Olympo, septemque una sibi muro circumdabit arces, (Virg. <i>Aen.</i> 6. 781-3)</p>	<p>Behold, son, under his guidance famous Rome will equal all power on earth and the will of Olympus and gird seven hills with one wall ...</p>
3)	<p>tum Libys invadit mixtae certamina turbae convertitque ruens per longum hostilia terga, ut cum fulminibus permixta tonitrua mundum terrificant, summique labat domus alta parentis: 475 omne hominum terris trepidat genus, ipsaque ob ora lux atrox micat, et praesens astare viritim creditur intento percussis Iuppiter igne. (Sil. 17.472–78)</p>	<p>Then the Libyan entered the fray of the mixed up forces and, rushing everywhere, he caused the enemies to flee, as when thunder mixed in with lightning terrifies the world and the lofty home of the supreme father totters: the whole race of humans on earth are fearful, a horrifying light shines in their faces and for each man it is believed that Jupiter is present before them and that they are struck by his flame.</p>

<p>4)</p>	<p>si liceat superis hominum conferre labores, non aliter Phlegra rabidos tollente gigantas 145 Martius incaluit Siculis incudibus ensis (Luc. 7.144–46)</p> <p>Tollitur immensus deserta ad sidera clamor, Phlegraeis quantas effudit ad aethera voces terrigena in campis exercitus, aut sator aevi quanta Cyclopas nova fulmina voce poposcit. 305 Iuppiter, extractis vidit cum montibus ire magnanimos raptum caelestia regna Gigantas. (Sil. 9.302–7)</p>	<p>if it is permitted to compare the deeds of humans with the divine, it was no different than when Phlegra bore witness to the frenzied giants, Mars' sword was heated by Etna's anvil</p> <p>An immeasurable noise went up to the deserted heavens: noises just like the earth-bound army sent up to the ether on Phlegra's fields or the noise with which Jupiter, the creator of the age, demanded fresh lightning from the Cyclopes when he saw the noble giants run forth to snatch the kingdom of heaven—heaping mountain on mountain.</p>
<p>5)</p>	<p>Sic Chaos ex illa naturae mole prioris digestum partes scimus habere suas; sic adfectantes caelestia regna Gigantes ad Styga nimbifero uindicis igne datos; 60 sic uictor laudem superatis Liber ab Indis, Alcides capta traxit ab Oechalia, et modo, Caesar, avum, quem uirtus addidit astris, sacrarunt aliqua carmina parte tuum. (Ov. <i>Pont.</i> 4.8.57–64)</p>	<p>By this it is that we know that Chaos became separated from that mass of earlier nature and took on his divisions; by this that the Giants aiming at the sovereignty of heaven were hurled to the Styx by the cloud-bearing thunderbolt of the avenger; by this that victorious Liber won renown from the conquering of the Indies, Alcides from the capture of Oechalia. And but now, O Caesar, thy grandsire, whom his virtue has sent to the starry heaven, owed in some measure his sanctity to verse. (Translated by A.L. Wheeler)</p>

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<p>6)</p>	<p>nec vero Alcides tantum telluris obivit, fixerit aripedem cervam licet, aut Erymanthi pacarit nemora et Lernam tremefecerit arcu; nec qui pampineis victor iuga flectit habenis Liber, agens celso Nysae de vertice tigris. (Verg. <i>Aen.</i> 6.801–5).</p> <p>ipse astans curru atque auro decoratus et ostro Martia praebebat spectanda Quiritibus ora, qualis odoratis descendens Liber ab Indis egit pampineos frenata tigride currus; aut cum Phlegraeis, confecta mole Gigantum, incessit campis tangens Tirynthius astra. 650 salve, inuicte parens, non concessure Quirino laudibus ac meritis non concessure Camillo: nec vero, cum te memorat de stirpe deorum, prolem Tarpei mentitur Roma Tonantis. (Sil. 17.645–54).</p>	<p>Not even Hercules traversed so much of earth’s extent, though he pierced the stag of brazen foot, quieted the woods of Erymanthus, and made Lerna tremble at his bow; nor he either, who guides his car with vine-leaf reins, triumphant Bacchus, driving his tigers down from Nysa’s lofty peak. (Translated by H.R. Fairclough)</p> <p>Scipio himself, erect in his chariot and splendid in purple and gold, gave to the citizens the spectacle of his martial countenance. So looked Bacchus, when he drove his car, wreathed with vine-leaves and drawn by tigers, down from the incense-breathing land of the Indians; and so looked Hercules, when he had slain the huge Giants and marched along the plains of Phlegra,^a with his head reaching the stars. Hail to thee, father^b and undefeated</p>

		<p>general, not inferior in glory to Quirinus, and not inferior to Camillus in thy services! Rome tells no lie, when she gives thee a divine origin and calls thee the son of the Thunder-god who dwells on the Capitol. (Translated by J.D. Duff)</p>
<p>7)</p>	<p>tum silicem scopulo avulsum, quem montibus altis detulerat torrens, raptum contorquet in ora turbidus. (Sil. 9.395–97)</p> <p>hic dea conuulsam rapido conamine partem vicini montis scopulisque horrentia saxa in Martem furibunda iacit ..; (Sil. 9.466–68)</p>	<p>raging, he threw part of a rock torn from the cliff which a torrent had brought down from lofty mountains at his [Scaevola's] face</p> <p>here the raging god threw part of the near-by mountain torn with a quick motion and dread rocks against Mars</p>
<p>8)</p>	<p>ductori, precor, immittas noua somnia Poeno, ne Romam et uetitos cupiat nunc visere muros, quos intrare dabit numquam regnator Olympi (10.348–50)</p>	<p>I beseech you to send a new dream to the Punic leader so that he will not desire to look upon Rome or her forbidden walls, into which which the ruler of Olympus will never allow entry.</p>
<p>9)</p>	<p>... etiamne parabit nostras ille domos, nostras perrumpere in arces? 12.697–98</p> <p>tum uero passim sacra in Capitolia pergunt inque uicem amplexi permixta uoce triumphum Tarpeii clamant Iouis ac delubra coronant. (Sil. 12.741–3)</p>	<p>Does he [Hannibal] even prepare to assault our halls and citadels?</p> <p>then the people went from here and there to the Capitoline temple and embraced one another in turn and shouted, with a collective voice, that it was the triumph of Tarpeian</p>

		Jupiter and they adorned his shrines.
10	ille etiam, qua prisca, vides, stat regia nobis, aurea Tarpeia ponet Capitolia rupe et iunget nostro templorum culmina caelo. (Sil. 3.622–24)	Where you see my ancient temple stands, he will place the golden Capitoline on the Tarpeian cliff and will join the peaks of the temples to our part of heaven.

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