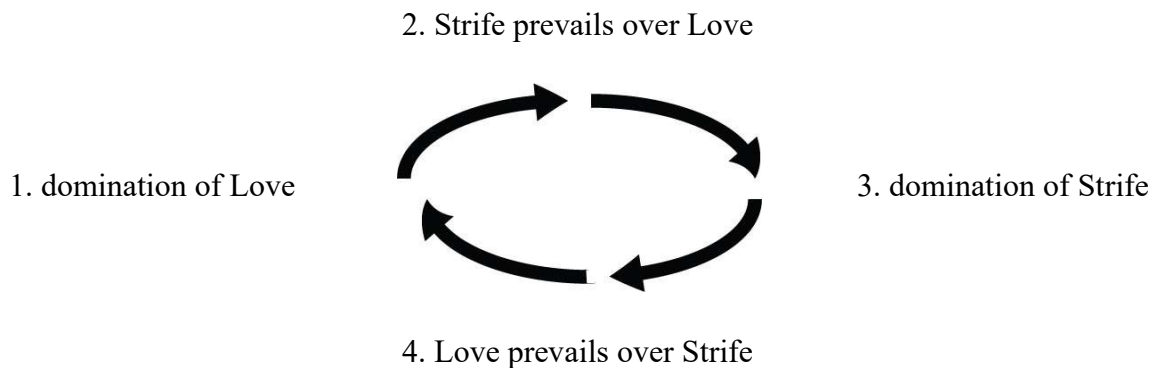


**Empedoclean Echoes in Statius' *Thebaid*:  
Tisiphone and Pietas as Allegorical Representations of Strife and Love**

1) Empedocles' cosmic cycle:



2) Stat. *Theb.* 1.84-85:

*I media in fratres, generis consortia ferro  
dissiliant.* (text Shackleton Bailey 2003)

Go against the brothers, go between them, let steel make partnership of blood fly asunder. (trans. Shackleton Bailey 2003)

3) Stat. *Theb.* 1.112-13:

*Tum geminas quatit ira manus: haec igne rogali  
fulgurat, haec vivo manus aera verberat hydro.*

Then wrath shakes both her hands: the one glares with funeral fire, the other lashes the air with a living snake.

4) Stat. *Theb.* 1.97-99:

*Sensit adesse Dies, piceo Nox obvia nimbo  
lucentes turbabit equos; procul arduus Atlans  
horruit et dubia caelum cervice remisit.*

Day felt her at hand, Night met him with a pitchy cloud and scared his bright horses. A far steep Atlas shuddered and let go the sky from his unsteady neck.

5) Stat. *Theb.* 1.114-17:

*Ut stetit, abrupta qua plurimus arce Cithaeron  
occurrit caelo, fera sibila crine virenti  
congeminat, signum terris, unde omnis Achaei  
ora maris late Pelopeaque regna resultant.*

She halted where Cithaeron's highest peak meets the sky and with green tresses utters hiss after fierce hiss, a sign to earth; the whole coast of the Achaean sea and the realms of Pelops echo wide.

6) Stat. *Theb.* 1.118-20:

*Audiit et medius caeli Parnasos et asper  
Eurotas, dubiamque iugo fragor impulit Oeten  
in latus, et geminis vix fluctibus obstitit Isthmos.*

Half way to heaven Parnassus heard and rough Eurotas; the sound pushed Oeta's unsteady range sideways and Isthmos scarce withstood twin waves.

7) Stat. *Theb.* 1.127-30:

*Inde regendi  
saevus amor, ruptaeque vices iurisque secundi  
ambitus impatiens, et summo dulcius unum  
stare loco, sociisque comes discordia regnis.*

Then fierce love of rule, breach of give and take, ambition intolerant of second place, hankering to stand at the top alone, strife, the companion of shared sovereignty.

8) Stat. *Theb.* 1.138-43:

*Alterni placuit sub legibus anni  
exilio mutare ducem. Sic iure maligno  
fortunam transire iubent, ut sceptrum tenentem  
foedere praecipiti semper novus angeret heres.  
Haec inter fratres pietas erat, haec mora pugnae  
sola nec in regem perduratura secundum.*

It was agreed that each change rule for banishment as the alternate year decreed. Thus by an ungenerous law they bid Fortune change sides, so that the holder of the sceptere be ever tormented by a new heir as the compact hurries by. This was brotherly love between the two, this the sole stay of conflict, one that would not endure till the second king!

9a) Luc. *BC* 1.4:

*Rupto foedere regni.* (text Shackleton Bailey 1988)

When the compact of tyranny was shattered. (trans. Duff 1928)

9b) Luc. *BC* 1.79-80:

*Totaque discors*

*machina divolsi turbabit foedera mundi.*

And the whole distracted fabric of the shattered firmament will overthrow its laws.

10) Stat. *Theb.* 11.458:

*Aversa caeli Pietas in parte sedebat.*

Pity been sitting in a secluded part of heaven.

11) Stat. *Theb.* 11.466:

*Quid me ...*

*..., princeps Natura, creabas?*

Why did you create me, primal Nature?

12) Stat. *Theb.* 11.474-75:

*Subita mansuescere pace*

*agmina.*

The armies turned gentle in a sudden peace.

13) Stat. *Theb.* 11.484-85:

*Quid belli obverteris ausis,*

*numen iners pacique datum?*

Why do you oppose enterprises of war, sluggish deity, made over to peace?

14) Stat. *Theb.* 11.494-95:

*Premit astridentibus hydris*

*intentatque face.*

Presses her with hissing serpents and brandishes her torch.

15) Stat. *Theb.* 11.498:

*Arma placent.*

They want battle.

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