

*Veluti cum Coeus: Civil war's release in Valerius' Argonautica*

1.

fundo veluti cum Coeus in imo  
vincla Iovis fractoque trahens adamante catenas 225  
Saturnum Tityumque vocat spemque aetheris amens  
concipit, ast illum fluviis et nocte remensa  
Eumenidum canis et sparsae iuba reppulit Hydrae,  
saevit acerba fremens tardumque a moenibus agmen  
increpitat. 230  
(VF 3.224–30)

228 Eumenidum ω: tergeminum *Lieberman*

Just as when Coeus, in the depths of the abyss, dragging  
Jupiter's fetters and chains of broken adamant, calls on  
Saturn and Tityus and madly conceives a hope of the  
upper air, but with the rivers and night traversed again,  
the Eumenides' dog and the crest of the sprawling Hydra  
cast him back, he [=Cyzicus] rages, roaring harsh things,  
and reproaches the troops slow to leave the walls.

2.

continuo sontis ultrix accincta flagello  
**Tisiphone** quatit insultans, toruosque sinistra  
intentans anguis uocat **agmina saeua sororum**.  
tum demum horrisono stridentes cardine sacrae  
panduntur portae. cernis custodia qualis  
uestibulo sedeat, facies quae limina seruet?  
575 quinquaginta atris immanis hiatibus **Hydra**  
saeuior intus habet sedem. tum Tartarus ipse  
bis patet in praeceps tantum tenditque sub umbras  
quantus ad aetherium caeli suspectus Olympum.  
hic genus antiquum Terrae, Titania pubes,  
580 fulmine deiecti **fundo** uoluuntur **in imo**.  
(Vergil, *Aeneid* 6.570–81)

570 Constantly, girded with a whip, avenging **Tisiphone**  
shakes the guilty as she exults, and stretching out her  
savage snakes in her left hand calls the **cruel ranks of**  
**her sisters**. Then, at last, the sacred gates creaking on  
their frightful-sounding hinge are spread open. Do you  
575 perceive what guardian sits in the atrium, what face  
protects the threshold? The immense **Hydra**, with its  
fifty black maws, sits more savage within the abode.  
Then Tartarus itself lies open and stretches beneath the  
shades twice the depth as the height of the sky reaches  
580 up to heavenly Olympus. Here the ancient race of earth,  
the Titan youth, cast down by a thunderbolt, are tossed  
**in the depths of the abyss**.

3.

**abruptis** Catilina minax **fractisque catenis**  
exultat Mariique truces nudique Cethegi;  
uidi ego laetantis, popularia nomina, Drusus  
795 legibus inmodicos ausosque ingentia Gracchos;  
aeternis chalybis nodis et carcere Ditis  
constrictae plausere manus, camposque piorum  
poscit turba nocens. regni possessor inertis  
pallentis aperit sedes, abruptaque saxa  
800 asperat et **durum uinclis adamanta**, paratque  
poenam uictori  
(Lucan, *Bellum Civile* 6.783–801)

Threatening Catiline, **his chains torn up and burst**,  
exults, as do the savage Marii and bare-armed Cethegi; I  
795 saw the Drusi rejoicing, populist names, immoderate in  
their laws, and the Gracchi, who dared huge things; their  
hands applauded, though bound in eternal links of steel  
and the prison of Dis, and the malevolent crowd  
demands the plains of the pious. The ruler of the  
indolent kingdom opens his pale abode, and he roughens  
800 jagged rocks and **hard adamant for chains**, and he  
prepares punishment for the victor.

4.

sed satis hoc fati fuerit: iam bella quiescant  
atque adamanteis discordia vincta catenis  
aeternos habeat frenos in carcere clausa;  
(Manilius, *Astronomica* 1.922–4)

But may this be enough for the fates: let wars now grow  
quiet and let Discord, bound with adamant chains, be  
held in eternal check, pent up in prison.

5.

saeva sedens super arma et centum <i>vinctus aënis</i> (Verg. 1.295)	FUROR
atque <i>adamanteis</i> discordia <i>vincta catenis</i> (Man. 1.923)	DISCORDIA
<i>abruptis</i> Catilina minax <i>fractisque catenis</i> (Luc. 6.793)	CATILINE
<i>vincla Iovis fractoque</i> trahens <i>adamante catenas</i> (VF 3.225)	COEUS
aut duo cum pariter <i>ruperunt vincula</i> venti (VF 7.569)	WINDS

N.B. sound echo in *vinctus aënis* | *vincta catenis*

6.

aspera tum positis mitescent saecula bellis:  
cana Fides et Vesta, Remo cum fratre Quirinus  
iura dabunt; dirae ferro et compagibus artis  
claudentur Belli portae; Furor impius intus  
**saecua** sedens super arma et centum uinctus aënis 295  
post tergum nodis **fremet** horridus ore cruento.  
(Vergil, *Aen.* 1.291–6)

Then the ages will grow soft, with wars set aside: hoary  
Faith and Vesta, Quirinus with his brother Remus, will  
give laws; the dread Gates of War will be shut with iron  
and tight-fitting seams; impious Furor, sitting inside  
above **savage** arms, and bound with a hundred bronze  
knots behind his back, **will roar** horribly with his gory  
mouth.

7.

cum subito attoniti longissima Phasidis unda  
Caucaseaeque trabes omnisque Aetia tellus 565  
fulsit et ardentis stabula effudere tenebras.  
ac velut ex una siquando nube corusci  
ira Iovis torsit geminos mortalibus ignes  
**aut duo cum pariter ruperunt vincula venti**  
**dantque fugam**, sic tunc claustris evasit uterque 570  
taurus et immani proflavit turbine flammis  
arduus atque atro volvens incendia fluctu.  
(VF 7.564–72)

... when suddenly the most remote wave of the  
astounded Phasis and the trunks of the Caucasus and all  
Aeetes' land glowed, and the stables poured forth fiery  
gloom. And as if at some point, from a single cloud, the  
wrath of flashing Jupiter twisted twin fires at mortals, **or**  
**as when two winds have burst their chains together**  
**and make an escape**, thus then did each bull charge  
from the barriers and blow forth flames with an immense  
whirlwind, towering and churning out blazes on a black  
tide.

8.

hinc olim soliti miscere polumque  
infelixque fretum (neque enim tunc Aeolus illis  
rektor erat, Libya cum rumperet advena Calpen  
Oceanus, cum flens Siculos Oenotria fines  
perderet et mediis intrarent montibus undae), 590  
intonuit donec pavidis ex aethere ventis  
Omnipotens regemque dedit, quem iussa vereri  
saeva cohors; vix monte chalybs iterataque muris  
saxa domant Euros. cum iam cohibere frementum  
ora nequit, rex tunc aditus et claustra refringit 595  
ipse volens placatque data fera murmura porta.  
...  
'nec mihi libertas imis freta tollere harenis  
qualis eram nondum vinclis et carcere clausus.'  
(VF 1.586–96, 601–2)

From here they once were accustomed to mix the pole  
and unhappy strait (for Aeolus was not then their ruler,  
when foreigner Ocean burst Calpe from Libya, when  
weeping Oenotria lost her Sicilian territory and waves  
entered the midst of the mountains), until the 590  
Omnipotent thundered from the upper air and gave a  
king to the pale winds, one whom the savage cohort is  
ordered to fear; scarcely do steel in the mountain and  
doubled rocks in the walls tame the East Winds. When  
595 now he is unable to restrain their faces as they roar, then  
the king smashes open the entrances and bolts, of his  
own volition, and he placates their fierce murmurs with  
the gate granted. ... [Boreas:] "Nor do I have the  
freedom to rouse the straits from the sandy depths, such  
as I once had, not yet constrained by chains and prison."

9.

hic uasto rex Aeolus antro  
luctantis uentos tempestatesque sonoras  
imperio premit ac uinclis et carcere frenat.  
illi indignantes magno cum murmure montis 55  
circum claustra fremunt;  
(Vergil, *Aen.* 1.52–6)

Here in the vast cave king Aeolus presses the struggling  
winds and sonorous tempests with his rule, and he reins  
them in with chains and prison. They, indignant, roar  
with a great murmur around the bolts of the mountain.

10.

His quoque non passim mundi fabricator habendum  
aera permisit; vix nunc obsistitur illis,  
cum sua quisque regat diverso flamina tractu,  
**quin lanient mundum; tanta est discordia fratrum.** 60  
(Ovid, *Metamorphoses* 1.57–60)

The crafter of the universe also did not allow these to  
hold the air indiscriminately; scarcely now are they  
prevented (since each rules its blasts in a different  
region) **from tearing the cosmos to shreds; so great is**  
**the strife of the brothers.**

11.

imperio premit ac vinclis et <b>carcere</b> frenat. (Verg. 1.154)	WINDS
<b>aeternos</b> habeat frenos in <b>carcere clausa</b> (Man. 1.924)	DISCORDIA
<b>aeternis</b> chalybis nodis et <b>carcere</b> Ditis (Luc. 6.797)	GHOSTS (cf. Sen. Thy. 805 <i>carcere Ditis</i> , of Giants)
qualis eram nondum vinclis et <b>carcere clausus</b> (VF 1.602)	BOREAS (WINDS)

12.

καὶ τοὺς μὲν ὑπὸ χθονὸς εὐρυδοείης  
πέμψαν καὶ δεσμοῖσιν ἐν ἀργαλέοισιν ἔδησαν,  
νικήσαντες χερσὶν ὑπερθύμους περ ἔόντας,  
**τόσσον ἔνερθ' ὑπὸ γῆς ὅσον οὐρανός ἐστ' ἀπὸ γαίης·**  
**τόσσον γάρ τ' ἀπὸ γῆς ἐς τάρταρον ἠερόεντα.** 721  
ἐννέα γὰρ νύκτας τε καὶ ἡμέματα χάλκεος ἄκμων  
οὐρανόθεν κατιών, δεκάτη κ' ἐς γαίαν ἴκοιτο·  
ἐννέα δ' αὖ νύκτας τε καὶ ἡμέματα χάλκεος ἄκμων  
ἐκ γαίης κατιών, δεκάτη κ' ἐς τάρταρον ἴκοι. 725  
**τὸν πέρι χάλκεον ἔρκος ἐλήλαται· ἀμφὶ δέ μιν νυξὶ**  
**τριστοιγὶ κέγυται παρὶ δειρήν·**  
(Hesiod, *Theogony* 717–27)

And they sent [the Titans] below the broad-wayed earth and bound them in grievous chains, having defeated them with their hands, though being over-proud, **so far below the earth as the sky is away from the earth, for it is so far from the earth into misty Tartaros.** For an anvil of bronze, falling for nine nights and days from the sky, on the tenth would reach the earth, and an anvil of bronze falling for another nine nights and days from the earth, on the tenth would reach Tartaros. **Around it is driven a brazen barrier; and around that is poured night in triple file, around the neck.**

13.

Interea medio saevus permissa profundo  
carbasa Pangaea Boreas speculatus ab arce 575  
continuo Aeoliam Tyrrhenaque tendit ad antra  
concutis. omne dei rapidis nemus ingemit alis,  
strata Ceres motuque niger sub praepete pontus.  
aequore Trinacrio refugique a parte Pelori  
**stat rupes horrenda fretis, quot in aethera surgit** 580  
**molibus, infernas totidem demissa sub undas.**  
nec scopulos aut antra minor iuxta altera tellus  
cernitur. illam Acamans habitat nudusque Pyracmon,  
has nimbi ventique domos et naufraga servat  
tempestat, hinc in terras latumque profundum 585  
est iter, ...  
...  
... vix **monte chalybs iterataque muris**  
**saxa** domant Euros.  
(VF 1.574–86, 593–4)

Meanwhile, savage Boreas, having caught sight from the Pangaeian citadel of the canvas sails permitted mid-deep, right away reaches for Aeolian and the Tyrrhenian caves, riled up. Every woodland groans under the swift wings of the god, grain is laid low and the sea black under his fleet movement. In the Trinacrian water, and on the back side of Pelorus, **stands a crag dreadful to the straits; as much as it rises into the air with its mass, the same amount it is cast beneath the depths of the waves.** And another land, no less with respect to its cliffs or caves, is perceived nearby. Acamas and bare-chested Pyracmon inhabit the former, the clouds and winds and shipwrecking tempest keep the latter abode; from here is their journey into the lands and broad deep. . . . Scarcely do **steel in the mountain and doubled rocks in the walls** tame the East Winds.

14.

πέμψαν καὶ <b>δεσμοῖσιν</b> ἐν ἀργαλέοισιν ἔδησαν (Hes. <i>Theog.</i> 718)	Titans
imperio premit ac <b>uinclis</b> et carcere frenat (Verg. <i>Aen.</i> 1.54)	Winds
saeva sedens super arma et centum <b>uinctus aënis</b> / post tergum <b>nodis</b> (Verg. <i>Aen.</i> 1.295–6)	Furor (bronze)
atque <b>adamanteis</b> discordia vincta <b>catenis</b> (Man. <i>Astr.</i> 1.923)	Discordia (adamant)
abruptis Catilina minax fractisque <b>catenis</b> (Luc. <i>BC</i> 6.793)	Catiline
aeternis <b>chalybis nodis</b> et carcere Ditis / constrictae plausere manus (Luc. <i>BC</i> 6.797)	other ghosts (steel)
asperat et durum <b>uinclis adamanta</b> , paratque / poenam uictori (Luc. <i>BC</i> 6.801–2)	Caesar (adamant)
<b>vincla</b> Iovis fractoque trahens <b>adamante catenas</b> (VF 3.225)	Coeus (adamant)

Cf.

porta aduersa ingens <b>solidoque adamante columnae</b> (Verg. <i>Aen.</i> 6.552)	Titans (adamant)
saeva cohors; vix <b>monte chalybs iterataque muris</b> / <b>saxa</b> domant Euros (VF 1.593–4)	Winds (steel)

15.

porta aduersa ingens **solidoque adamante columnae**,  
uis ut nulla uirum, **non ipsi excindere bello**  
**caelicolae ualeant**  
(Vergil, *Aen.* 6.552–4)

Opposite is a huge gate **and columns of solid adamant**,  
in order that no strength of men, **not the sky-dwellers**  
**themselves, could split them in war**.

16.

Cyzicus hic aciem vanis discursibus implet  
**fata trahens**. iam pulsa sibi cecidisse Pelasgum  
agmina, iam passim vacuos disiecta per agros  
credit ovans. tales †aditus†, ea gaudia fingit  
ira deum. fundo veluti cum Coeus in imo  
**vincla Iovis fractoque trahens adamante catenas**  
(VF 3.220–5)

220 Here Cyzicus fills the battle with pointless wanderings,  
**dragging fate**. Exultant, he thinks now that the beaten  
columns of Pelasgians have yielded to him, now that  
they are scattered haphazardly through empty fields.  
Such his attacks; the anger of the gods fashions these  
joys. As when Coeus, in the depths of the abyss,  
225 **dragging Jupiter’s fetters and chains** of broken  
adamant . . .

17.

mox etiam pavidae temptantem **vincula** matris  
**solvere** praerupti Vulcanum vertice caeli  
devolvit.  
(VF 2.87–9)

Soon, also, he hurled Vulcan, trying **to loosen the**  
**chains** of his fearful mother, from the sheer peak of the  
sky.

18.

Omnia ista ingentibus intervallis diducta et in custodiam universi disposita stationes suas deserant; subita confusione rerum sidera sideribus incurrant, et **rupta rerum concordia** in ruinam divina labantur, contextusque velocitatis citatissimae in tot saecula promissas vices in medio itinere destituant, et, quae nunc alternis eunt redeuntque oportunis libramentis mundum ex aequo temperantia, repentino concrementur incendio, et ex tanta varietate solvantur atque eant in unum omnia; ignis cuncta possideat, quem deinde pigra nox occupet, et profunda vorago tot deos sorbeat.

(Seneca, *De Beneficiis* 6.22.1)

Let all those [heavenly bodies], separated by great intervals and arranged for the guardianship of the universe, desert their stations; with sudden confusion of things, let stars rush against stars, and with the divine **harmony of events disrupted**, let them totter into ruin, and let the framework of swiftest speed abandon mid-journey the alternations promised for so many centuries, and those things which now come and go with alternating and suitable equilibrium, equally regulating the universe, let them be burned up in a sudden conflagration, and from such great variety let all things be loosened and come again into a unity; let fire possess all things, which then sluggish night may invade, and let a deep abyss engulf so many gods.

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