

# Empowering Sadness: Grief, Gender and Action in Statius' *Thebaid* and Virgil's *Aeneid*

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Williamsburg, March 2016  
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1. Polynices and the death of Tydeus	Intertexts
<p>Fama per Aonium rapido uaga murmure campum spargitur in turmas (solito <i>pernicior index cum lugenda</i> refert), donec, cui maxima fando damna uehit, <i>trepidas lapsa</i> est Polynicis ad <b>aures</b>. deriguit iuuenis lacrimaeque haesere paratae et cunctata fides: nimium nam cognita uirtus Oenidae credi letum suadetque uetatque.</p> <p>sed postquam <b>haud dubio</b> clades <b>auctore</b> reperta est, <b>nox</b> oculos mentemque <i>rapit</i>; tum sanguine fixo membra simul, simul <b>arma ruunt</b>: madet ardua fletu iam galea atque ocreae clipeum exceperat cadentem. it maestus <b>genua aegra trahens</b> hastamque sequentem,</p> <p>uulneribus ceu mille grauis totosque per artus sauciis: absistunt socii monstrantque gementes. tandem ille abiectis, uix quae portauerat, armis nudus in egregii uacuum iam corpus <b>amici</b> procidit et tali lacrimas cum uoce profudit: 'hasne tibi, armorum spes o suprema meorum, Oenide, grates, haec <b>praemia digna rependi</b>, funus ut inuisa Cadmi tellure iaceres <b>sospite me?</b> nunc <b>exul</b> ego <b>aeternumque fugatus</b>, quando aliis misero ac melior mihi frater ademptus. nec iam sortitus ueteres regnique nocentis periurum diadema peto: quo <b>gaudia</b> tanti <b>empta</b> mihi aut <b>sceptrum</b> quod non tua dextera tradet? <b>ite, uiiri</b>, solumque fero me linquite fratri: nil opus arma ultra temptare et <b>perdere</b> mortes; ite, precor; quid iam dabitis mihi denique maius?</p> <p>Tydea <b>consumpsi!</b> quanam hoc ego morte piabo? o socer, o Argi! et primae bona iurgia noctis alternaeque manus et, longi pignus amoris, ira breuis! <i>non me ense tuo tunc, maxime Tydeu,</i> (<i>et poteras</i>) <i>nostrum mactatum in limine Adrasti!</i> quin etiam Thebas <b>me propter</b> et impia fratris tecta libens, unde haud alias remeasset, adisti, ceu tibimet sceptrum et proprios laturus honores. iam Telamona pium, iam Thesea fama tacebat. qualis et ecce <b>iaces!</b> quae primum uulnra mirer? quis tuus hic, quis ab hoste cruor? quae te agmina quie innumeri strauere globi? (num fallor?) et ipse</p>	<p>1. Interea <i>pauidam</i> uolitans pinnata per urbem nuntia Fama ruit matrisque <b>adlabitur auris</b> Euryali. (<i>Aen.</i> 9.473-5)</p> <p>2. Et iam Fama uolans, <i>tanti praenuntia luctus</i> (<i>Aen.</i> 11.139).</p> <p>3. deriguit: <i>Aen.</i> 3.260; <i>Met.</i> 6.303 (Niobe)</p> <p>4. Nec iam fama mala tanti, <b>sed certior auctor</b> aduolat Aeneae (<i>Aen.</i> 10.510-11, death of Pallas)</p> <p>5. obvia <b>nox</b> miserae caelum lucemque tenebris <i>abstulit</i> (Lucan <i>BC</i> 8.58-9, Cornelia, defeat of Pompey)</p> <p>6. moriamur et in media <b>arma ruamus</b> (<i>Aen.</i> 2.353)</p> <p>7. genua aegra trahentem (<i>Aen.</i> 5.468, Dares in defeat)</p> <p>8. tum super exanimum sese <b>proiecit amicum</b> Confossus, placidaque ibi demum morte quieuit (Nisus, <i>Aen.</i> 9.444-5)</p> <p>9. tune ille senectae/ sera meae requies, potuisti linquere solam, crudelis? (Euryalus' mother, <i>Aen.</i> 9.481-3)</p> <p>10. tuane haec genitor per uulnra seruor/ morte tua uiuens? (Mezentius, <i>Aen.</i> 10.848-9)</p> <p>11. pulsus ob inuidiam solio sceptrisque paternis (Mezentius, <i>Aen.</i> 10.852)</p> <p>12. longo <b>consumit gaudia</b> uoto (<i>Theb.</i> 1.323) Polynices, describing his failure to appreciate blessings in Argos.</p> <p>13. <b>ite, duces</b>, (Lucan <i>BC</i> 9.150) Sextus Pompey calling for revenge after the death of Pompey, restrained by Cato. [<i>fugatus = profugus Aen. 1.2?</i>]</p> <p>14. salue <b>aeternum</b> mihi, <b>maxime Palla</b>,/ aeternumque uale (<i>Aen.</i> 11.97-8, Aeneas lamenting Pallas)</p> <p>15. forsitan et ... nudassent enses, melius hostilibus armis/ lugendus fratri, iuuenis Thebane, <b>iaceres</b> (<i>Theb.</i> 1.428-30, cf. chariot wreck 6.504-17)</p> <p>16. uidi ego <b>me propter</b> ... uidi exanimum fecique nocentem/ Tydea (<i>Theb.</i> 11.175-7, Polynices having second thoughts about final battle)</p>

<p>inuidit pater et tota Mars impulit hasta.'      sic ait, et maerens etiamnum lubrica tabo      ora uiri <b>terget lacrimis</b> dextraque reponit.      'tune meos hostes hucusque exosus, et ultra  <b>sospes ego?</b>' exuerat uagina turbidus ensem      aptabatque neci: comites tenuere, sacerque      castigat bellique uices ac fata reuoluens      solatur tumidum, longeque a corpore caro      paulatim, unde dolor letique animosa uoluntas,      amouet ac tacite ferrum inter uerba reponit.      ducitur amissio qualis consorte laborum      deserit inceptum media inter iugera sulcum      taurus iners colloque iugum deforme remisso      parte trahit, partem lacrimans sustentat arator.</p>	
Statius <i>Thebaid</i> 9.32-85	
2.	3.
<p>orba resedit      exanimis inter natos natasque virumque      deriguitque malis; nullos movet aura capillos,      in vultu color est sine sanguine, lumina maestis      stant inmota genis, nihil est in imagine vivum.</p>	<p>obvia nox miserae caelum lucemque tenebris      abstulit, atque animam clausit dolor; omnia nervis      membra relicta labant, riguerunt corda, diuque      spe mortis decepta iacet.</p>
Ovid <i>Met.</i> 6.301-5	Lucan <i>BC</i> 8.58-61

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