**Father of His Country: The Significance of Parenthood in *Aeneid* 8**

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| 1 | “Sin aliquem infandum casum, Fortuna, minaris:  nunc O nunc liceat crudelem abrumpere vitam,  dum curae ambiguae, dum spes incerta futuri,  dum te, care puer, mea sera et sola voluptas,  complexu teneo, gravior neu nuntius auris  vulneret.” Haec **genitor** digressu dicta supremo  fundebat: famuli conlapsum in tecta ferebant.  (*Aeneid* 8.578-584) | “But if, Fortune, you threaten some unspeakable disaster: now, O now may it be permitted to break off cruel life, while what I am anxious about is undecided, while hope for the future is uncertain, while I have you, dear boy, my late and only pleasure, in my embrace, lest heavier news wound my ears.” The **begetter** was pouring out these words at their last parting: slaves were carrying him, collapsed, into the building. |
| 2 | Ecce autem subitum atque oculis mirabile monstrum;  **candida** **per silvam** cum fetu concolor albo  procubuit **viridique in litore** conspicitur sus.  Quam pius Aeneas tibi enim, tibi, maxuma Iuno,  mactat sacra ferens et cum grege sistit ad aram.  (8.81-85) | Behold, however, a prodigy sudden and marvelous to the eyes; a **shining-white** sow lies **in the forest**, of the same color with her white offspring, and is glimpsed **on the green bank**. Her pious Aeneas offers to you, yes, to you, greatest Juno, carrying the holy things, and lays her on the altar with her brood. |
| 3 | At Venus aetherios inter dea **candida** nimbos  dona ferens aderat; natumque **in valle reducta**  ut procul egelido secretum flumine vidit,  talibus adfata est dictis seque obtulit ultro:  “En perfecta mei promissa coniugis arte  munera, ne mox aut Laurentis, **nate**, superbos  aut acrem dubites in proelia poscere Turnum.”  Dixit et amplexus nati Cytherea petivit,  arma sub adversa posuit radiantia quercu.  (8.608-616) | But **shining-white** goddess Venus among the airy clouds was present, bearing gifts; and when **in a withdrawn valley** she saw her son, hidden far away by a cool river, she spoke with such words as these and showed herself of her own accord: “Behold my promised gifts completed by my spouse’s art, lest you hesitate soon to summon to battle, **son**, either the proud Laurentines or keen Turnus:” Cytherea spoke and sought the embrace of her son, and placed the beaming arms under a facing oak. |
| 4 | tum levis ocreas electro auroque recocto  hastamque et clipei **non enarrabile textum**.  Illic res Italas Romanorumque triumphos  haud vatum ignarus venturique inscius aevi  fecerat ignipotens, illic **genus omne futurae**  **stirpis ab Ascanio**.  (8.624-629) | …then the smooth greaves, with amber and gold reforged, and the spear, and **the indescribable fabric** of the shield. There the fire-ruler, hardly unaware of seers nor ignorant of the coming age, had fashioned Italian affairs and the triumphs of the Romans, there **the whole tribe of the future stock from Ascanius**. |
| 5 | Inde ubi prima quies medio iam noctis abactae  curriculo expulerat somnum, cum femina primum,  cui tolerare colo vitam tenuique Minerva  impositum, cinerem et sopitos suscitat ignes,  noctem addens operi, famulasque ad lumina longo  exercet penso, castum ut servare cubile  coniugis et possit parvos educere natos:  haud secus Ignipotens nec tempore segnior illo  mollibus e stratis opera ad fabrilia surgit.  (8.407-415) | Then, when the first rest had expelled sleep, in mid-career of the now waning night, when first a woman, to whom it is assigned to sustain life with the distaff and slender Minerva, stirs up the ash and banked fires, adding night to her work, and keeps her handmaids busy at the light with a long task, in order that she may keep her husband’s bed chaste and raise her small sons: hardly otherwise nor more lazily at that time does the Fire-ruler rise from soft sheets to smith’s work. |
| 6 | Stant **pavidae** in muris **matres** oculisque sequuntur  pulveream nubem et fulgentis aere catervas.  (8.592-593) | The **frightened mothers** stand on the walls and follow with their eyes the dusty cloud and the troops shining with bronze. |
| 7 | fecerat et viridi **fetam** Mavortis in antro  procubuisse lupam, geminos huic ubera circum  ludere pendentis pueros et lambere **matrem**  impavidos, illam tereti cervice reflexa  mulcere alternos et corpora fingere lingua.  (8.630-634) | He had also made the **fertile** she-wolf lie in the green cave of Mars, (made) the twin boys play, hanging around her teats, and lick their mother unafraid, (made) her with smooth neck turned back fondle them by turns and shape their bodies with her tongue. |

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