

What Did a Statesman Look Like: Memorial Statues and Vergil's Simile
(Aen. 1.148-156)

W. Polleichtner, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen

Texts:

1) Aen. 1.148-156:

*ac veluti magno in populo cum saepe coorta est
seditio saevitque animis ignobile vulgus
150 iamque faces et saxa volant, furor arma ministrat;
tum, pietate gravem ac meritis si forte virum quem
conspexere, silent arrectisque auribus astant;
ille regit dictis animos et pectora mulcet:
sic cunctus pelagi cecidit fragor, aequora postquam
155 prospiciens genitor caeloque invectus aperto
flectit equos curruque volans dat lora secundo.*

2) Cic. Att. 5, 21, 7:

ob haec beneficia quibus illi obstupescunt nullos honores mihi nisi verborum decerni sino, statuas, fana, τέθριππα prohibeo nec sum in ulla re alia molestus civitatibus—sed fortasse tibi, qui haec praedicem de me.

3) Aen. 1.197:

*vina bonus quae deinde cadis onerarat Acestes
litore Trinacrio dederatque abeuntibus heros
dividit, et dictis maerentia pectora mulcet:
200 "O socii - neque enim ignari sumus ante malorum -,
o passi graviores, dabit deus his quoque finem."*

4) Aen. 1.586-593:

*vix ea fatus erat cum circumfusa repente
scindit se nubes et in aethera purgat apertum.
restitit Aeneas claraque in luce refulsit
os umerosque deo similis; namque ipsa decoram
590 caesariem nato genitrix lumenque iuventae
purpureum et laetos oculis adflarat honores:
quale manus addunt ebori decus, aut ubi flavo
argentum Pariusve lapis circumdatur auro.*

5) The Similes of Aen. 1:

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| #1 148-156: Neptune is compared to a Statesman | #6 592f.: Aeneas to a Statue |
| #2 314-404: Venus to a Huntress | #5 494-508: Dido to Diana |
| #3 397-400: Trojans to Swans | #4 430-436: Carthaginians to Bees |

6) Od. 23.159-162:

ὥς δ' ὅτε τις χρυσὸν περιχεύεται ἀργύρῳ ἀνήρ
160 Ἴδρις, ὃν Ἥφαιστος δέδαεν καὶ Παλλὰς Ἀθήνη
τέχνην παντοίην, χαρίεντα δὲ ἔργα τελείει:
ὥς μὲν τῷ περίχευε χάριν κεφαλῇ τε καὶ ὤμοις.

7) Il. 2.86b-94:

ἔπεσσεύοντο δὲ λαοί.
ἦ ὅτε ἔθνεα εἴσι μελισσάων ἀδινάων
πέτρης ἐκ γλαφυρῆς αἰεὶ νέον ἐρχομενάων,
βοτρυδὸν δὲ πέτονται ἐπ' ἄνθεσιν εἰαρινοῖσιν:
90 αἰ μὲν τ' ἔνθα ἄλις πεποτήσεται, αἰ δὲ τε ἔνθα:
ὥς τῶν ἔθνεα πολλὰ νεῶν ἄπο καὶ κλισιάων
ἠϊόνος προπάροιθε βαθείης ἐστιχόωντο
ἰλαδὸν εἰς ἀγορῆν: μετὰ δέ σφισιν ὅσσα δεδήει
ὀτρύνουσ' ἰέναι Διὸς ἄγγελος: οἱ δ' ἀγέροντο.

8) Ennius fr. 500 Vahlen:

moribus antiquis res stat Romana virisque.

9) Aen. 12.244-256:

his aliud maius Iuturna adiungit et alto
245 *dat signum caelo, quo non praesentius ullum*
turbavit mentes Italas monstroque fefellit.
namque volans rubra fulvus Iovis ales in aethra
litoreas agitabat avis turbamque sonantem
agminis aligeri, subito cum lapsus ad undas
250 *cycnum excellentem pedibus rapit improbus uncis.*
arrexere animos Itali, cunctaeque volucres
convertunt clamore fugam - mirabile visu -,
aetheraque obscurant pennis hostemque per auras
facta nube premunt, donec vi victus et ipso
255 *pondere defecit praedamque ex unguibus ales*
proiecit fluvio, penitusque in nubila fugit.

10) Aen. 1.33:

tantae molis erat Romanam condere gentem.

11) Aen. 1.279-282:

quin aspera Iuno,
280 *quae mare nunc terrasque metu caelumque fatigat,*
consilia in melius referet, mecumque fovebit
Romanos, rerum dominos gentemque togatam.

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