

How Vergil's Cave Imagery Foreshadows the 'Wedding' of Dido and Aeneas.

Vergil sets the 'marriage' of Dido and Aeneas in a cave, alluding to the 'marriage' of Jason and Medea in Apollonius of Rhodes' *Argonautica*. As with many of Vergil's literary allusions, he takes the expected image and twists it. Vergil's cave 'wedding' is far darker than that of Apollonius. Vergil creates for his audience an expectation of the ominous scene by repeated cave references earlier in the *Aeneid*. The first five caves Vergil describes in the *Aeneid* contain references to marriage, pregnancy, violent destruction, jealousy, unrequited love and the perversion of host-guest relations. These set the stage for the disturbing wedding scene in Book IV (in the sixth cave) and Dido's subsequent behavior. Juno figures prominently in several of the cave references, willing to sacrifice what is dear to her in order to gain her revenge against the remnants of the Trojans.

Bibliography

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