

The Aeneid; Book 2 Summary

- Aeneas agrees to share his experiences with the Carthaginians
- The Greeks had decided to build a large wooden horse, which they pretended was a votive offering to ensure safe return home, but actually contained their best soldiers.
- Greek ships left the shore and took cover behind the island of Tenedos, out of Trojan sight. People began to celebrate their leaving and went down to the beach that had been taken.
- Upon finding the horse there was a debate between those who wanted to bring it into the city and those who wanted to destroy it out of distrust.
- The priest Laocoön then came down from the city to talk to the people; he distrusts the horse and the Greeks in general, so throws a spear into the horse.
- Trojan shepherds then bring forward a Greek they found, called Sinon, whose goal is to convince them to take the horse in;
 - He begins by grabbing their pity; he has nowhere to go and is hated.
 - According to Sinon, Palamedes (a king) spoke out against the Greek campaign and was put to death for this, at the hands of Ulixes.
 - Sinon was a friend of Palamedes and promised to take his revenge; the opportunity arose, so Ulixes responded with threats and rumours
 - The priest Calchas (responsible for the prophecy that killed Iphigenia) was a lackey of Ulixes, and rough seas had long trapped the Greeks at Troy.
 - The Greeks then sent someone to consult the oracle (of Apollo) at Delphi. The answer was that to return, they would have to do what they did to leave; make a human sacrifice.
 - Ulixes then told Calchas to choose the victim for sacrifice. The decision was put off for 10 days, until Calchas chose Sinon, with universal agreement
 - However, on the day of the sacrifice, Sinon escaped and hid.
 - By now, Sinon has justified himself in still being at Troy and created pity for him as a victim of Greek treachery. Priam frees him and asks about the horse.
 - Sinon says that Ulixes and Diomedes once attempted to steal the Palladium (statue of Athena) and touched it with blood on their hands. This turned Athena against the Greeks.
 - When the Greeks took the statue back to the camp, it flashed and let out sweat and leapt from the statue three times.
 - Calchas said this meant that Troy would not fall unless the omens were taken again in Argos, so they had left to rearm and later return.
 - Calchas then told them to build the horse as a monument of atonement, but big enough that it could not be taken into Troy, because if they took the horse, they would be able to take the fight to Greece.
- Once the story was finished, two serpents of Neptune came from the water from Tenedos and attacked Laocoön and his sons. They then fled and hid on the statue of Athena in her temple.