

Aeneid Book 1 Summary

- Book 1 starts with the narrator laying the framework for the story to come, highlighting the themes of violence, suffering and destiny that follow. We are told Aeneas is famous for his piety but that he has angered Juno who wishes to destroy him.
- We are introduced to Carthage, who are intended to be the rulers of the world, and the favourite place of Juno. It is regarded "ruthless in its pursuit of war". However, Juno has learnt the Fates have determined that Carthage will be destroyed by the Romans, with a great empire.
- Still caught up on Paris' judgement, and Jupiter's obsession with the gorgeous Trojan Ganymede, Juno hates all Trojans. As such, she was keeping them away from their goal in an attempt to make them suffer.
- The Trojans had been making some progress so were in high spirits. Going against the Fates, using Athena's sinking of Ajax's ship as justification for destroying Trojan ships. She feels this is unfair to her position as queen and that people are losing respect for her.
- Juno goes to Aeolus, and bribes him with the promise of a beautiful nymph wife to wreck Trojan ships. Aeolus agrees.
- The winds are released and a violent storm starts. Aeneas fears he will suffer death at sea and would rather have died at Troy. Three ships were run aground on a hidden reef and the ship of Crones was pulled down into the water and destroyed. Four more ships were then wrecked.
- Neptune is angered by Aeolus and Juno's disturbance of the seas and reproaches the winds, saying they will pay dearly if they act without his authority again. Neptune and other minor sea gods then calm the storm, with Neptune compared to a person of influence calming an angry mob with words. Exhausted, Aeneas makes for the nearest land; Libya.
- Upon arriving at shore, Aeneas climbs a vantage point and spots three stags, with a herd. He kills seven stags (one per remaining ship) and takes them back to provide for his men. Aeneas reminds them of the hardships they have already suffered and that it will be better soon, but he is still miserable.
- The Trojans feast on the beach with the stags provided, but Aeneas is occupied thinking about the lost men; he is a caring leader.
- Venus (mother of Aeneas), begs Jupiter to remember his prophecy that the Romans would arise from the Trojans, but that they are dying and being hit with disasters. She points out that Antenor was able to found a great city after escaping, and that Aeneas should be able to do the same.
- Jupiter reassures her the prophecy is unchanged. Aeneas will found his settlement and establish a way of life, and will give birth to the founders of Rome, ending with Romulus and Remus. Then they will have unending empire, the race that wears togas, and will reduce the old Greek world to slavery. Then Augustus will be born,