

“Fatal Mistakes: The (Mis)Informing of Dido and Eve in the *Aeneid* and *Paradise Lost*”

1. *hos cape fatorum comites, his moenia quaere  
magna pererrato statues quae denique ponto. (Aen. 2.294-5)*<sup>1</sup>

Take these as the companions of your fate, seek with these the great walls which you will build in the end, having wandered through the sea.

2. *speluncam Dido dux et Troianus eandem  
deveniunt. prima et Tellus et pronuba Iuno  
dant signum; fulsere ignes et conscius aether  
conubiis, summoque ulularunt vertice Nymphae. (Aen. 4.165-8).*

The leader Dido and the Trojan came down to the same cave. First Tellus and the *pronuba* Juno give a sign; lightning flashed and the upper air was witness to the mating, and from the highest peak, the Nymphs shrieked.

3. *coniugium vocat, hoc praetexit nomine culpam. (Aen. 4.172)*

She calls it a marriage; with this name she conceals her fault.

4. What fear I then, rather, what know to fear  
Under this ignorance of good and evil,  
Of God or death, of law or penalty?  
Here grows the cure of all, this fruit divine,  
Fair to the eye, inviting to the taste,  
Of virtue to make wise: What hinders then  
To reach and feed at once both body and mind? (*PL* 9.773-9)<sup>2</sup>

5. *...nec coniugis umquam  
praetendi taedas aut haec in foedera veni. (Aen. 4.338-9)*

I did not ever offer wedding torches or come into these agreements.

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<sup>1</sup> All citations of the *Aeneid* are from the R. Deryck Williams 1996 text. All translations are my own.

<sup>2</sup> All citations of *Paradise Lost* are from the Alistair Fowler 2007 edition.

6. *i, sequere Italiam ventis, pete regna per undas.  
spero equidem mediis, si quid pia numina possunt,  
supplicia hausurum scopulis et nomine Dido  
saepe vocaturum.* (*Aen.* 4.381-4)

Go, follow the winds to Italy, seek a kingdom through the waves. Indeed, I hope, if the pious deities are capable of anything, that you will drink your punishments at the middle rocks and often call the name of Dido.

7. Was I never to have parted from thy side?  
As good have grown there still a lifeless rib.  
Being as I am, why didst thou not the head  
Command me absolutely not to go,  
Going into such danger as thou saidst? (*PL* 9.1154-7)

8. *hauriat hunc oculis ignem crudelis ab alto  
Dardanus, et nostrae secum ferat omina mortis.* (*Aen.* 4. 661-2).

Let the cruel Dardan drink up the high fire with his eyes and may he bear the omens of my death with him.

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