Lesson 57. IMPORTANT CHARACTERS IN THE AENEID

Acéstes. A mythical king of Sicily.

Achates. A faithful companion of Aeneas; often associated with the adjective *fidus*.

Achilles (also called Pelides, son of Peleus). Greatest of the Greek heroes at Troy. He was finally slain by an arrow aimed at his heel, his one vulnerable spot; hence the expression *Achilles’ heel*.

Aeneas. Son of Venus and Anchises; hero of the Aeneid. Often associated with the adjective *pius*.

Ajax. (1) Son of Telamon; Greek hero who contended with Ulysses for the arms of Achilles. (2) Son of Oileus; Greek hero who abducted Cassandra from Minerva’s temple. As a punishment the goddess destroyed his fleet.

Anchises. Father of Aeneas.

Andromache. Wife of Hector, the Trojan hero.

Anna. Sister of Queen Dido.

Antenor. A Trojan who, after the capture of Troy, went to Italy and founded Patavium, later called Padua.

Ascanius (also called Iulus). Son of Aeneas; King of Lavinium; founder of Alba Longa.

Atrides. Son of Atreus, King of Mycenae, referring either to Agamemnon or Menelaus, the leaders of the Greeks at Troy. In the plural, Atrides refers to both sons of Atreus.

Augustus Caesar (formerly Octavianus). Emperor of Rome from 30 B.C. to 14 A.D. This period is known, in history, as the Augustan Age; in literature, as the Golden Age.

Calchas. A priest and prophet of the Greeks at Troy.

Camilla. A Volscian warrior maiden; ally of Turnus.

Cassandra. Daughter of Priam, King of Troy; loved by Apollo and endowed by him with the gift of prophecy. Later, since she did not return his love, Apollo decreed that no one should ever believe her prophecies, even though they were true.
Cerberus. The three-headed dog that guarded the entrance to the underworld.

Charon. The ferryman of the underworld, who conveyed the souls of the dead across the river Styx.

Creusa. Daughter of Priam; wife of Aeneas.

Cyclops. A member of a race of one-eyed giants who lived in Sicily.

Daedalus. An Athenian artisan who built the famous Labyrinth for King Minos of Crete. He was later imprisoned in the Labyrinth, from which he escaped to Cumae with the aid of wings fastened on with wax.

Dardanus. Ancestor of the Trojans; hence the word Dardani, the Trojans.

Dido (also called Elissa). Founder and Queen of Carthage.

Diomedes (also called Tydides, son of Tydeus). A famous Greek warrior at Troy.

Evander. King of Pallanteum; ally of Aeneas.

Ganymedes (Ganymede). A Trojan youth, known for his beauty, who was carried off by an eagle to be the cupbearer of Jupiter.

Hector. The eldest son of Priam; the most valiant warrior of the Trojans. He was slain by Achilles, who dragged his body three times around the walls of Troy.

Hecuba. Wife of Priam.

Helena (Helen of Troy). Daughter of Jupiter and Leda; wife of the Spartan king, Menelaus. Her abduction by Paris, son of Priam, brought on the Trojan War.

Juturna. Sister of Turnus.

Laocoön. Son of Priam; priest of Apollo. He opposed dragging the Wooden Horse into Troy, and drove a spear into it. These actions offended Juno, who sent two serpents to kill Laocoön and his two sons.

Latinus. King of Latium who befriended Aeneas.

Lavinia. Daughter of King Latinus; second wife of Aeneas.

Marcellus. Son of Augustus' sister Octavia. His untimely death prompted the well-known passage in Book VI of the Aeneid.

Menelaus. King of Sparta; husband of Helen of Troy.
Mezentius. An exiled king of Etruria; ally of Turnus. He was slain by Aeneas.

Minos. King of Crete. After his death, a judge in the underworld.

Orestes. Son of Agamemnon. He killed his mother, Clytemnestra, for having murdered his father.

Palinurus. Pilot of Aeneas’s ship and of the entire Trojan fleet.

Pallas. King Evander’s son; ally of Aeneas. He was slain by Turnus.

Paris. Son of Priam. Juno, Minerva, and Venus selected him to judge which of the three was the “fairest.” Paris awarded the prize, the Golden Apple of Discord, to Venus. In return, he received Helen, the most beautiful woman in the world.

Priamus (Priam). The last king of Troy, slain by Pyrrhus.

Pygmalion. Brother of Dido. He killed Dido’s husband, Sychaeus.

Pyrrhus (also called Neoptolemus). Son of Achilles. After the Trojan War, he founded a kingdom in Epirus. He was slain by Orestes.

Romulus. Son of Mars, twin brother of Remus; the mythical founder of Rome.

Sibylla (Sibyl). A prophetess; refers especially to the Sibyl at Cumae, priestess of Apollo, who conducted Aeneas through the underworld.

Sinon. A Greek spy who induced the Trojans to drag the Wooden Horse into Troy.

Sychaeus. The husband of Dido; treacherously slain by Dido’s brother, Pygmalion.

Teucer. Founder of the Trojan line; hence the word Teucrī, the Trojans.

Tithonus. Brother of Priam; husband of Aurora, goddess of the dawn.

Turnus. King of the Rutulians; slain by Aeneas in single combat.

EXERCISES

A. In the following statements, if the italicized term is incorrect, write the correct term. If the italicized term is correct, write true.

1. Paris awarded the prize of the Golden Apple to Juno.
2. Minos was king of Sicily.
3. The prophecies of Cassandra were believed by no one.
4. Pygmalion was the brother of Dido.
5. Dardanus built the famous Labyrinth.
6. Turnus was slain by Aeneas in single combat.
7. *Ganymede* became the cupbearer of Jupiter.
8. Charon ferried the souls of the dead across the river *Tiber*.
9. Calchas was a prophet of the *Greeks* at Troy.
10. Andromache was the wife of *Menelaus*.

B. Match each name in column A with its description in column B.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column A</th>
<th>Column B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Creusa</td>
<td>a. king of Latium</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Laocoön</td>
<td>b. founder of the Trojan line</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Latinus</td>
<td>c. three-headed dog</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Sinon</td>
<td>d. son of Aeneas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Teucer</td>
<td>e. wife of Priam</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Anna</td>
<td>f. Greek spy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Ascanius</td>
<td>g. faithful friend of Aeneas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Cerberus</td>
<td>h. sister of Queen Dido</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Hecuba</td>
<td>i. wife of Aeneas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Achates</td>
<td>j. priest of Apollo, slain by serpents</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

C. Select the word or expression that best completes each of the following statements:

1. Queen Dido was also known as (a) Anna (b) Elissa (c) Sibylla (d) Lavinia.
2. Alba Longa was founded by (a) Ascanius (b) Aeneas (c) Augustus (d) Tydides.
3. Achilles was invulnerable except in his (a) toe (b) hand (c) knee (d) heel.
4. A member of a race of one-eyed giants was called (a) Cerberus (b) Pyrrhus (c) Cyclops (d) Oileus.
5. Sycaeus was slain by (a) Pygmalion (b) Pallas (c) Mezentius (d) Turnus.
6. The adjective most often used to describe Aeneas is (a) fidus (b) cārus (c) beātus (d) pius.
7. The two sons of Atreus were Menelaus and (a) Antenor (b) Ajax (c) Acestes (d) Agamemnon.
8. The Emperor Augustus reigned from 30 B.C. to (a) 14 B.C. (b) 14 A.D. (c) 30 A.D. (d) 40 A.D.
9. The Greek hero who abducted Cassandra from the temple was (a) Achilles (b) Atrides (c) Ajax (d) Diomedes.
10. The famous warrior maiden of the Volscians was called (a) Creusa (b) Camilla (c) Cassandra (d) Helena.
Lesson 58. DEITIES IN THE AENEID

Vergil gives great prominence in the Aeneid to the actions of deities, both major and minor. This interest reflects not only the Roman belief in the existence of gods, but also in their intervention in human affairs. Characters in the Aeneid become at times mere pawns moved at the will of this or that divinity. The following is an alphabetical list of deities and their functions, and the role some of them play in the Aeneid.

Aeolus. God of the winds, whose home was in Aeolia.

Apollo (Greek Phoebus Apollo). God of the sun, of prophecy, of music (the lyre), and of medicine. It is in his association with oracles, particularly at Delphi in Greece and at Cumae in Italy, that Apollo figures most prominently in the Aeneid. He was the twin brother of Diana.

Aurora. Goddess of the dawn.

Bacchus (Greek Dionysus). God of wine, whose worship was accompanied by wild orgies.

Ceres (Greek Demeter). Goddess of agriculture; mother of Proserpina. A temple in her honor at Troy is mentioned in the Aeneid.

Cupid (Greek Eros, also called Amor). God of love; son of Venus.

Cybele. A Phrygian goddess, known as the Magna Mater of the Romans.

Diana (Greek Artemis). Goddess of the moon and of hunting.

Eumenides (also called Furiae). The three Furies, Alecto, Tisiphone, and Megaera, who dwelt in the underworld. They were subject to the will of the gods. In one instance in the Aeneid, Alecto aids Juno in her plan to involve the Trojans in war with the Latins.

Hercules (Greek Heracles, also called Alcides). A demigod, known for his gigantic strength and for the Twelve Labors imposed upon him by King Eurystheus. After successfully completing these tasks, he was released from the servitude of Eurystheus.

Iris. Goddess of the rainbow; messenger of Juno.
Janus. The Roman god of doorways and beginnings, represented with one head, but two faces. His temple at Rome was open during war, but closed in time of peace.

Juno (Greek Hera). Queen of the gods; wife and sister of Jupiter. Her love for Carthage and anger at the judgment of the Trojan Paris made her the archenemy of Troy.

Jupiter (Greek Zeus). King of the Olympian gods; son of Saturn. He was all-powerful, influencing the affairs of gods and of men with tremendous effect. His weapons were the lightning and the thunderbolt, forged by Vulcan. His armor-bearer was the eagle. In the events leading up to the Trojan War, Jupiter discreetly refused to act as judge in the famous beauty contest; he delegated that office to Paris.

Lar (plural Lares). Household god who, with the Penates, presided over the fortunes of the house.

Mars (Greek Ares). God of war; father of the twins Romulus and Remus.

Mercury (Greek Hermes). Messenger of the gods; represented with wings and winged sandals.

Minerva (Greek Pallas Athena). Goddess of wisdom, the household arts, and warfare. Partial to the Greeks, she helped them build the Wooden Horse, by means of which they captured Troy.

Neptune (Greek Poseidon). God of the sea; brother of Jupiter. He could calm the sea or ride over its waves in his chariot. The symbol of his power was the trident.

Parcae. The three Fates, personified as sisters: Clotho, who spun the thread of human life; Lachesis, who measured out each mortal’s portion; and Atropos, who cut the thread.

Penates. Household gods who, with the Lares, presided over the fortunes of the house.

Pluto (Greek Hades). King of the underworld; husband of Proserpina.

Proserpina (Greek Persephone). Carried off by Pluto, she became his wife and queen of the underworld. She was the daughter of Jupiter and Ceres.
Saturn (Greek Cronus). A very ancient ruling divinity; father of Jupiter, by whom he was dethroned. Saturn was also regarded as the god of the harvest.

Titan. Any one of the twelve children of Uranus and Ge (Heaven and Earth), who warred unsuccessfully against Jupiter.

Venus (Greek Aphrodite). Goddess of love and beauty. As mother of Aeneas and as the goddess favored by the Trojan Paris in the famous beauty contest, she was friendly toward the Trojans. In the Aeneid, Venus often appears, sometimes in disguise, to aid Aeneas.

Vesta (Greek Hestia). Goddess of the hearth. In the Aeneid, Aeneas carries her statue and her worship from Troy. A temple in her honor at Troy is also mentioned in Book II.

Vulcan (Greek Hephaestus). God of fire; husband of Venus. In the Aeneid, he forges the thunderbolts of Jupiter and the shield of Aeneas.

EXERCISES

A. In the following statements, if the italicized term is incorrect, write the correct term. If the italicized term is correct, write true.

1. Ceres was the mother of Proserpina.
2. Mars was the father of the twins Romulus and Remus.
3. Juno was a friend of Troy.
4. The Lares and the Parcae were household gods.
5. Bacchus was called by the Greeks Hephaestus.
6. Apollo was the twin brother of Diana.
7. Hercules succeeded in accomplishing the Ten Labors.
8. The temple of Janus was open during time of war.
9. Jupiter’s armor-bearer was the dolphin.
10. Cybele was known as the Magna Mater of the Romans.

B. Complete the following statements:

1. Mercury is represented with wings and winged -------.
2. Cupid was the son of the goddess -------.
3. The god represented with one head but two faces was -------.
4. Neptune’s symbol was the -------.
5. The Eumenides were also called -------.
6. Apollo’s most famous oracles were at Cumae and at -------.
7. Minerva, partial to the Greeks, helped them build the -------.
8. Demeter was the Greek name for the Roman _______.  
9. Jupiter's father was called _______.  
10. The three Fates were Clotho, Lachesis, and _______.

C. Match each deity in column A with the proper description in column B.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column A</th>
<th>Column B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Mercury</td>
<td>a. goddess of the rainbow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Vulcan</td>
<td>b. goddess of the dawn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Neptune</td>
<td>c. god of the winds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Iris</td>
<td>d. god of fire</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Vesta</td>
<td>e. queen of the underworld</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Aeolus</td>
<td>f. goddess of the hearth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Aurora</td>
<td>g. goddess of the moon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Saturn</td>
<td>h. messenger of the gods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Diana</td>
<td>i. god of the harvest</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Proserpina</td>
<td>j. god of the sea</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

D. The italicized word in each of the following sentences is derived from some deity. Identify the deity, and give the meaning of the italicized word.

1. Herculean strength was required to lift the vehicle.
2. The band played a medley of martial airs.
3. The guests were in a jovial mood.
4. The bird was conspicuous by its iridescent plumage.
5. The hostess displayed a saturnine disposition.
6. The carnival was marked by bacchanalian festivities.
7. The ship was of titanic proportions.
8. The glow of the auroral light could be seen at a great distance.
9. The tube was hermetically sealed.
10. Her mercurial temperament showed itself on every occasion.
Lesson 59. GEOGRAPHICAL TERMS IN THE AENEID

Acheron. A river of the underworld. Sometimes refers to the underworld itself.

Argos (also written Argi). The capital city of Argolis in Greece, favored by Juno.

Avernus. A lake near Cumae, Italy, considered the entrance to the underworld.

Carthage. A city in northern Africa, founded by Queen Dido. Carthage was a rival of Rome.

Cocytus. A river of the underworld.

Cumae. A city on the coast of Campania, in Italy; famous as the home of the Sibyl.

Cynthus. A mountain on the island of Delos, the birthplace of Apollo and Diana.

Cyprus. A large island in the Mediterranean.

Cythera. An island in the Aegean Sea, near which Venus was born from the foam of the sea.

Delos. A small island in the Aegean Sea, on whose mountain Apollo and Diana were born.

Delphi. A city in Greece, seat of a famous oracle of Apollo.

Elysium. That part of the underworld inhabited by the souls of the good.

Erebus. The underworld. Sometimes refers to the king of the underworld.

Hesperia. Another name for Italy; literally, the western land.

Ithaca. An island in the Ionian Sea, the home of Ulysses.

Libya. Another name for Africa; strictly, a region of northern Africa.

Mycenae. A famous city of Argolis in Greece, ruled by Agamemnon.

Oceanus. The ocean. Sometimes thought of as a river flowing around the earth.
Olympus. A famous mountain in Thessaly, Greece; dwelling place of the gods.

Orcus. The underworld. Sometimes refers to the king of the underworld, Pluto.

Pergama (sometimes written Pergamum). The citadel of Troy. Occasionally it refers to Troy itself.

Phlegethon. A fiery river in the underworld.

Phthia. A city in Thessaly, Greece; the home of Achilles.

Samos. A large island off the coast of Asia Minor; sacred to Juno, who had a famous temple there.

Sidon. A very ancient city of Phoenicia.

Simois. A river near Troy.

Sparta (also called Lacedaemon). The famous capital of Laconia, Greece.

Styx. The principal river in the underworld, over which Charon ferried the souls of the dead.

Tartarus. That part of the underworld inhabited by the souls of the wicked. Sometimes refers to the underworld itself.

Tenedos. A small island in the Aegean Sea, near Troy. The Greeks sailed to Tenedos, pretending to have left for home.

Troia (Troy, also called Ilium). A famous city in the western part of Asia Minor, captured by the Greeks after a siege of ten years.

Tyrus (Tyre). A city in Phoenicia, Asia Minor, birthplace of Dido.

Xanthus. A river near Troy.

**EXERCISES**

A. Complete the following statements:

1. Another name for Troy was ________.
2. A famous oracle of Apollo in Greece was located at ________.
3. The home of the gods was on Mount ________.
4. The main river in the underworld was the ________.
5. The entrance to the underworld was Lake ________.
6. The goddess associated with the island of Cythera was ______.
7. Hesperia was another name for ______.
8. The Phoenician city from which Dido came was called ______.
9. The island of Ithaca was the home of the Greek hero ______.
10. The two principal parts of the underworld were Tartarus for the wicked and ______ for the good.

B. In the following statements, if the italicized term is incorrect, write the correct term. If the italicized term is correct, write true.

1. Acheron was a lake in the underworld.
2. Cumae was famous as the home of the Sibyl.
3. Apollo and Diana were born on the island of Delos.
4. Argos was a favorite city of Minerva.
5. Libya was another name for Asia.
6. Juno had a temple on the island of Samos.
7. Phthia was the home of Ajax.
8. Agamemnon was the king of Mycenae.
9. Pergama was the citadel of Troy.
10. Lacedaemon was another name for Athens.

C. Match each geographical term in column A with its description in column B.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column A</th>
<th>Column B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Carthage</td>
<td>a. a lake near Cumae</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Cyprus</td>
<td>b. an ancient Phoenician city</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Avernus</td>
<td>c. a small island in the Aegean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Orcus</td>
<td>d. a large island in the Mediterranean</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Sidon</td>
<td>e. a river of fire in the underworld</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Tenedos</td>
<td>f. a mountain on the island of Delos</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Xanthus</td>
<td>g. a river in the underworld</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Cynthia</td>
<td>h. a rival of Rome</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Cocytus</td>
<td>i. a river near Troy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Phlegethon</td>
<td>j. the underworld</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>