

*For Wheelock, Chapter 23*

**Vergil AENEID 2.40-56:  
Laocoön, Episode One**

Prīmus ibi ante omnēs, magnā comitante  
    catervā,  
Lāocoön ārdēns summā dēcurrit ab arce  
et procul, 'Ō miserī, quae tanta īnsānia, cīvēs?  
Crēditis āvectōs hostēs? Aut ūlla putātis  
dōna carēre dolīs Danaum? Sic nōtus Ulixēs?  
Aut hōc inclūsī lignō occultantur Achīvī,  
aut haec in nostrōs fabricāta est māchina mūrōs,  
īnspectūra domōs ventūraque dēsūper urbī,  
aut aliquis latet error; equō nē crēdite, Teucrī.  
Quidquid id est, timeō Danaōs et dōna  
    ferentēs.'

Sic fātus, validīs ingentem vīribus hastam  
in latus inque ferī curvam compāgibus alvum  
contorsit. Stetit illa tremēns, uterōque recussō  
īnsonuēre cavae gemitumque dedēre cavernae.  
Et, sī fāta deum, sī mēns nōn laeva fuisset,  
impulerat ferrō Argolicās foedāre latebrās,  
Trōiaque nunc stāret, Priamīque arx alta  
    manērēs.



*The Procession of the Trojan Horse into Troy  
ca. 1760*

*Giovanni Domenico Tiepolo, 1727 - 1804*



*Trojan horse replica in Turkey*

**TRANSLATION by the English poet John  
Dryden:**

Laocoon, follow'd by a num'rous crowd,  
Ran from the fort, and cried, from far, aloud:  
'O wretched countrymen! what fury reigns?  
What more than madness has possess'd your  
    brains?

Think you the Grecians from your coasts are  
    gone?

And are Ulysses' arts no better known?  
This hollow fabric either must inclose,  
Within its blind recess, our secret foes;  
Or 't is an engine rais'd above the town,  
T' o'erlook the walls, and then to batter down.  
Somewhat is sure design'd, by fraud or force:  
Trust not their presents, nor admit the horse.'  
Thus having said, against the steed he threw  
His forceful spear, which, hissing as flew,  
Pierc'd thro' the yielding planks of jointed wood,  
And trembling in the hollow belly stood.  
The sides, transpierc'd, return a rattling sound,  
And groans of Greeks inclos'd come issuing  
thro' the wound

And, had not Heav'n the fall of Troy design'd,  
Or had not men been fated to be blind,  
Enough was said and done t' inspire a better mind.  
Then had our lances pierc'd the treach'rous wood,  
And Ilian tow'rs and Priam's empire stood.

*Laocoon group,  
1<sup>st</sup> century B. C.  
Vatican Museums,  
Rome  
By Athenodoros,  
Hagesandros, and  
Polydoros of Rhodes*



