

*Summary of Parry & Methodological Remarks:*

Specifically, Parry argues that Aeneas' failed assertions of heroism during the destruction of Troy (114), the fleeting image of Aeneas' dead wife (112), and his leaving Dido (115) all show a tragic tone and Aeneas' powerlessness against the greater destiny of the nation (113). And this tragic tone continues through the work and presents a critique of (a) the carnage of war as a consequence of nation-building (109,117), (b) the importance of the nation (116,122), (c) the powerlessness of individuals as agents of history (118, 120), and (d) the unheroic acts they are forced to take. Ultimately, the main spirit of the work is exemplified in Aeneas' lamentation of Troy, which foreshadows and frames the work as a piece of art that sheds light on the human condition of pleasure derived from pain (122). Although Parry's interpretation of the three scenes from the first four books does accurately draw out a profound sense of sadness and tragedy, if one treats the three scenes in relation to each other, each contains the reason for the tragedy and the opening of a future that transcends the tragic past. Since Parry's analysis of the first three scenes establishes the tragic tone, the primary focus is placed on (a) showing the relationship among the three scenes along with recontextualizing Aeneas' lamentation, (b) the minor textual evidence that connects these scenes, (c) how this relationship continues in the later scenes that follow, and (d) a critique of the artistic unity that Parry claims to exist between the glory of Rome and human suffering.

*The Continuation of the Interrelation into Subsequent Scenes:*

For example, the golden bough when interpreted in combination with events such as the funeral games, reincarnation of the soul, and the subsequent struggles take on the meaning of permission to dominate, contrary to Brooks' analysis (Brooks, cited by Parry), which is purely based on the scene in itself with supplementary historical considerations. Furthermore, subsequent events such as the carnage of the Latium war should be analyzed in combination with factors such as the state of political leadership (such as Aeneas' absence and Turnus' avoidance of the duel).