

Between the commemorative games and the descent to the Underworld in Books 5 and 6 of Vergil's Aeneid: a study of structure and narrative technique in the.

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## Between the commemorative games and the descent to the Underworld in Books 5 and 6 of Vergil's Aeneid: a study of structure and narrative technique in the transition.

Powell, David John (2017) *Between the commemorative games and the descent to the Underworld in Books 5 and 6 of Vergil's Aeneid: a study of structure and narrative technique in the transition*. Masters thesis, Birkbeck, University of London.

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### Abstract

Book 5 of Vergil's Aeneid is known for the games commemorating the first anniversary of Anchises' death and the descent to the Underworld. Each of these major episodes offers a fairly homogeneous narrative, the former describing the games and the latter the descent. Connecting these two extended episodes are 529 lines (5.604-6.261) in which twelve lines of modulation from a superficially happy atmosphere to one of solemnity. This thesis considers this 'Transition' spanning the weak division between Books 5 and 6. In fulfilling the principal function of transition, the important themes for (re-)readers and preparation for what is to come both for (re-)readers and for Aeneas. Introduction, individual scenes or groups of scenes are analysed in five chapters. Chapter 2 considers why Aeneas, returning to centre-stage after a lengthy absence, can be demythologized, finding established interpretations that challenge interpretation of the loss and subsequent death of the helmsman Palinurus as a 'sacrifice'. Chapter 3 considers the symbolism underlying images said to have been sculpted by Daedalus on temple doors at Cumae. Chapter 4 considers the personage, Misenus, is accorded a magnificent funeral. Chapter 6 postulates Vergil himself as a third voice. Chapter 5 proposes metapoetic, as well as generic human, interpretations of the Golden Bough. In conclusion, the thesis considers the context of the poem as a whole, demonstrating how major themes are brought back into prominence at the end. Attention is also given to structure and narrative technique. Passages of metapoetic and/or self-referential are analysed in the five core chapters.

**Item Type:** Thesis (Masters)

**Additional Information:** MPhil

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