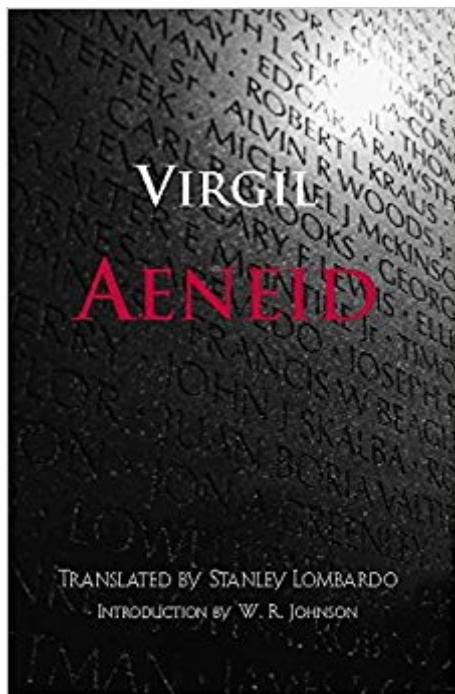


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# Aeneid (Hackett Classics)



## Synopsis

Long a master of the crafts of Homeric translation and of rhapsodic performance, Stanley Lombardo now turns to the quintessential epic of Roman antiquity, a work with deep roots in the Homeric tradition. With characteristic virtuosity, he delivers a rendering of the *Aeneid* as compelling as his groundbreaking translations of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, yet one that--like the *Aeneid* itself--conveys a unique epic sensibility and a haunting artistry all its own. W. R. Johnson's Introduction makes an ideal companion to the translation, offering brilliant insight into the legend of Aeneas; the contrasting roles of the gods, fate, and fortune in Homeric versus Virgilian epic; the character of Aeneas as both wanderer and warrior; Aeneas' relationship to both his enemy Turnus and his lover Dido; the theme of doomed youths in the epic; and Virgil's relationship to the brutal history of Rome that he memorializes in his poem. A map, a Glossary of Names, a Translator's Preface, and Suggestions for Further Reading are also included.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Adapting words of the ancient critic Longinus, [Lombardo] refers to the intense light of noon of the *Iliad*, the magical glow of the setting sun in the *Odyssey*, and the chiaroscuro of the *Aeneid*, a darkness visible. This latter phrase is the title of a famous interpretation of the *Aeneid* by W. R. Johnson, who contributes a splendid essay to the translation. Whether recited or read, the present volume stands as another fine performance on Lombardo's part. Summing up: Highly

recommended. --C. Fantazzi, CHOICE Lombardo . . . tends to let Virgil be Virgil, and so avoids imposing unwarranted interpretation on the unwary reader. . . . [W.R. Johnson's] introduction is masterful and illuminating. --Hayden Pelliccia, The New York Review of Books Crisp, idiomatic, and precise, this is a translation for our era. The list of further reading, grounded in the writings of W.R. Johnson (who also wrote the Introduction) and Michael C. J. Putnam, suggests the context that informs the translation: here, as the translator says in the Preface, you will find an *Aeneid* that works more in the shadows than in the light. . . . This translation would be excellent for classroom use: not only would it incite fascinating discussions about issues of war and empire, but it also reads well aloud. . . . Together with Johnson's Introduction, this volume offers the *Aeneid* in terms that will resonate strongly with the general reader of today. --Sarah Spence, *New England Classical Journal*

Stanley Lombardo is Professor of Classics, University of Kansas. His previous translations include Homer's *Iliad* (1997, Hackett) and *Odyssey* (2000, Hackett), *Hesiod's Works & Days and Theogony* (1993, Hackett), and *Sappho, Poems and Fragments* (2002, Hackett), a PEN Center USA 2003 Literary Award Finalist. W. R. Johnson is Professor of Classics and Comparative Literature, Emeritus, University of Chicago. His previously published works include *Darkness Visible: A Study of Vergil's Aeneid* (1976, University of California Press), *Horace and the Dialectic of Freedom* (1993, Cornell University Press), *The Idea of Lyric* (1982, University of California Press), *Lucretius and the Modern World* (2000, Duckworth), and *Momentary Monsters: Lucan and His Heroes* (1987, Cornell University Press).

I last encountered this book in high school Latin. Reading it again in my fifties, I found that it's actually a great story, an epic which should be read by anyone wishing to learn the classics. I especially like Lombardo's translation, which attempts to recreate the experience of watching it performed for a live audience.

A great, accessible translation. As a classicist, who has read much of the *Aeneid* in the original language and a teacher, I have found this to be an excellent read, accurate, and something that student can easily understand and appreciate.

One of the two best books I've ever read (along with Milton's *Paradise Lost*). I really like this translation. It's very readable, and you always understand the sense of what's happening, instead of being bogged down in complex, archaic language. This is one of the deepest and most powerful

works ever written. Virgil died before it was complete, and he wanted the manuscript destroyed, because it didn't live up to his impossibly high standards. It's rare for any writer to even attempt a work of such breadth and depth, and equally rare for anyone to write with such eloquence and power.

This was a fabulous translation, all of Stanley Lombardo's translations are great, he does the Iliad and the Oddesey as well.

Interesting story. Classic.

Great Translation of the Aeneid. This is one of my favorite translations I have seen of the Aeneid yet.

Really amazing book!

Great

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