Focus on the locus
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• timeo Danaos et dona ferentis
• timeo Danaos et dona ferentis

• I fear the Danaans even when they bring gifts
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• I fear the Danaans even when they bring gifts

Virgil, *Aeneid*, 2.49
Chapter 18 - The New Minister’s Patronage

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the Greek of Chaldicotes and his gift

This is a reference to Mr. Sowerby, and it is based on a line from Vergil’s Aeneid: timo Danaos et dona ferentis, or in English: “I fear Greeks even bearing gifts.” This line is spoken by the Trojan Laocoon, who is trying to warn his companions that the huge wooden horse which has been left outside the gates by the Greeks is in fact a trap and not a gift as they believe. In Framley Parsonage, Mr. Sowerby has written a letter to Mark in which he says that he can secure another church position for Mark that earns 600 pounds a year, and that Mark need only come up to London to receive this appointment. Mark is naturally excited about this occurrence, but his wife Fanny is skeptical about the situation; she is the one who thinks of Sowerby as the Greek of Chaldicotes and does not fully trust his motives. Mark believes that Lady Lufton will also not be happy with his acceptance of the position; in predicting Lady Lufton’s reaction, Trollope again makes reference to the Greek from Chaldicotes and his tricky gift. In the Aeneid, the Greek horse does in fact turn out to be a trap, and with the use of it the Greeks end up capturing the city of Troy and defeating the Trojan army. In Framley Parsonage, the offer of the prebendary also turns out to be a sort of trap for Mark Robarts; with a view to this additional income, Sowerby convinces Mark to buy a horse from him for 130 pounds, but this is in addition to Sowerby’s bills for 900 pounds, to both of which Mark had already signed his name. Therefore, Laocoon is equal to Fanny Robarts in this allusion (both of them attempt to give a warning about something which turns out to be a trap), while the Greek wooden horse can be seen to be the prebendal stall from Barsetshire, urged by Sowerby.

[MD]

Sources: Vergil, Aeneid 2.49.
240 P. VIRG. MÁNEIDOS Lib. II.

Aeneid, Book II. In the 1790 edition of Vergil, found in Hathi Trust.

http://hdl.handle.net/2027/nyp.33433082191010?urlappend=%3Bseq=318

1790 edition of Vergil
Hathi Trust
P. VERGILI MARonis

Desertosque uidere locos litusque relictum:
hic Dolopum manus, hic saevisus tendebat Achilles;
classibus hic locus, hic acie certa solebant.

pars stuptet inuptae donum exitiale Mineruae
et molem mirantur equi; primusque Thymoetes
duci intra muros hortatur et arce locari,
sue dolu seu iam Troiae sic fata feribant.

at Capys, et quorum melior sententia menti,
aut pelago Danaum insidias suspectaque dona
praecipitare iubent subiectisque urere flammis,
aut terebrare cauas uteri et temptare laterbas.
scinditur incertum studia in contraria uulgus.

Primus ibi ante omnis magna comitante caterna
Laocoön ardens summa decurrat ab arce,
et procul 'o miseri, quae tanta insania, ciues?
creditis auctos hostis? aut uila putatis
dona carere dolis Danaum? sic notus Vixxes?
aut hoc ignoto ligno occultantur Achilii,
aut haec in nostros fabricata est machina muros,
inspectura domus venturaque desuper urbi.
aut aliquis latet erro; equo ne credite, Touci.
quidquid id est, timeo Danaos et dona ferentis,
sic fatua validis ingentem iuribus hastam
in latus inque feri curum compagibus alum
contorsit. stetit illa tremens, uteorque recusus
insinuare cauea gemitumque dedere cæraernae.
et, si fata deum, si mens non laeva fuisse,
impulerat ferro Argolicas foedare latebras,
Troiaque nunc staret, Priamique arx alia maneres.

Ecce, manus iuenem interea post terga reünctum
pastores magno ad regem clamostrare bhabant

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AENEIDOS II

Dardanidae, qui se ignatum nemetusque ultero,
hoc ipsum ut strueret Troiamque aperiet Achilii,
obtulerat, fidens animi atque in utrumeque paratus,
seu uersare dolos seu certae occumbere morti.
undique usiendu studio Troiana iuventus
circumfusa ruit certanteque inludere capto.
accipe nunc Danaum insidias et crimen ab uno
discem omnis.
namque ut conspectu in medio turbatus, inermis
constitit atque oculis Phrygiae agmina circumspexit,
'heu, quae nunc tellus,' inquit, 'quae me aqua possunt
accipere? aut quid iam miser mihi denique restat,
cui neque apud Danaos usquam locus, et super ipsis
Dardanidae insensiti poenas cum sanguine poscunt?
quo gemito conueri animi compressus et omnis
impetus. hortamur fari quo sanguine crethus,
quideque ferat; memore quae sit fiducia capto.

'Cuncta equidem tibi, rex, fuerit quodcumque, fatebor

ura,' inquit; 'neque me Argolica de gente negabo.
hoc primum; nec, si miserum Fortuna Sinonom
finxit, unanum etiam mendacemque improba finget.
fando aliquod si forte tuas peruenit ad auris
Belidae nomen Palamedis et incluta fama
gloria, quem falsa sub proditio Pelasgi
insomnem infando indici, quia bella uetabat,
demisere neci, nunc cassum lumine lugent:

illi me comitem et consanguinitate propinquum
pauper in arma pater primis huc misit ab annis.
dum stabat regno incolumis regnumque uigeat

59–72 MP: 73–9 MP: 80–8 MPV
59 quis: 6, Seru. ('alii' qui)
61 animo R
62 dolo P.Coll. d. Nom. 418. 34, utrumque Seru.
certe MP: Tib. occurrent R: 64 certaque R: 65 crimen
Tib. ('alii' ap. Seru. 69 nunc) me Quinti. ix u. 9
72 et
super) insuper bivad
75 quiesse frat, memores Ribbeck, collatis
A. x 108 et 149 sqq. memorem 'alii' ap. Seru.
76 (= A. iii
612) add. in aliquot e nostris corretores sect. ix (def. R)
77 fuerint
cetf et quecumque Patet (quid add. latet)
81 aliquod c
88 regumque MP:Vchr: regnumque P:ω

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129
quidquid id est, timeo Danaos et dona ferentis.'
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