A Selective Glossary

Very obscure or relatively unimportant names, like Acidalian and Lyaean, are not included here, nor are all those names which the poet himself clearly identifies, like Juno, the Tiber River, and Turnus.

Achaean: a synonym in Virgil for Greek
Acheron: a river in the Underworld
Achilles: the greatest warrior on the Greek side during the Trojan War; the hero of Homer's Iliad
Aegaeon: a hundred-handed monster who warred with the gods
Aeolus: god of the winds; also the name of a strong Trojan warrior killed in Italy
Ajax: a powerful Greek warrior during the Trojan war; he profaned the temple of Pallas at Troy
Alba or Alba Longa: a city to be founded eventually by Ascanius, the son of Aeneas, in Italy
Amasenus: a river in Latium in central Italy
Amata: queen and wife of Latinus in Italy, mother of Lavinia
Androgeos: a warrior on the Greek side during the Trojan War
Andromache: the wife of Hector, a prince of Troy, the greatest warrior defending the city during the Trojan War
Anubis: an Egyptian god usually pictured with the head of a dog
Apollo or Phoebus or Hyperion: the sun god and god of the arts, often associated with the nine Muses
Arcadia: a mountainous area of the Peloponnesus in Greece
Argos: an eastern central sector of the Peloponnesus in Greece, the center of Mycenaean civilization, ruled by Agamemnon
Ariadne: a princess on the island of Crete who helped Theseus to make his way in and out of the Labyrinth
Assaracus: an ancient king of Troy and the son of Tros; the grandfather of Anchises and the great-grandfather of Aeneas
Astyanax: the son of Andromache and Hector, killed at Troy
Athesis: a river in northern Italy
Athos: a mountain in Macedonia
Atlas: a Titan, a mythical figure of great strength who was believed to support the world on his shoulders
The Aeneid of Virgil
Translated by Edward McCrorie, With a foreword by Vincent Cleary
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The Aeneid

Atreus: the father of Agamemnon and Menelaus, the two Greek brothers who launched the invasion of Troy
Aufidus: a river in southern Italy
Aurora: goddess of the dawn
Ausonia: an ancient name for Italy
Avernus: a lake near Cumae on the western shore of Italy, associated with entry into the Underworld

Bacchus or Dionysus: the god of wine
Bacchae: women followers of Bacchus, associated with wild rituals
Baiae: a town near Cumae, on the central western coast of Italy
Bellona: a Roman goddess of war
Briareus: another name for Aegaeon
Brutus: a Roman leader who drove the Tarquin kings out of Rome and felt obliged to kill his own sons for their treachery

Caieta: a nurse of Aeneas; her name was given to a port on the western coast of Italy
Calliope: Muse of Epic poetry
Capri: an island off the western coast of central Italy
Cassandra: a princess of Troy, a prophet whose words were never heeded
Catiline: a Roman who threatened the Roman republic in Virgil's century
Cato: a leader of the Roman republic who urged the total destruction of Carthage
Centaur: a mythological and combative figure who was half man and half horse
Ceres: the Roman goddess of grain and bread
Chaos: the name of a god representing the primal, confused state of the world
Chimaera: an Underworld monster, part goat, snake, and lion; also the name of a Trojan ship
Circe: an island goddess who attempted to enchant Odysseus and his men in Homer's Odyssey
Cnossos: the ancient capital of the island of Crete
Cocytus: an Underworld river
Cupid: the Roman god of love; a son of Venus
Cybele: a mysterious mother-goddess of Troy
Cyclades: a group of islands off the southeast coast of Greece
Cycnus: a legendary king who while mourning the loss of a friend was turned into a swan
Cyllenius: another name for the god Mercury, who was born, it was said, on Mt. Celiene in Arcadia in Greece
Cynthus: a mountain on the island of Delos
Cyprus: a large island in the eastern Mediterranean associated with a cult of Venus
Cythera: an island off the southern coast of Greece, a center of the worship of Venus

Danaan: a synonym for Greek; Danaus was an ancient king of Argos
Danae: the founder of Ardea in Italy, the city of Turnus and the Rutulians; she came from Argos originally where she was the daughter of King Acrisius
Dardan: a variant for Trojan; Dardanus was the legendary founder of Troy
Delos or Ortygia: an island in the Aegean Sea, once thought to be floating, later a center of the worship of Apollo
A Selective Glossary

Delphi and the Delphic Oracle: in central Greece, the ancient and important oracle of Apollo or Phoebus
Diana: a complex Roman deity, sometimes called Trivia, the “three-facing one”: (1) goddess of the hunt and of forests; (2) goddess of the moon; and (3) goddess, often with the name of Hecate, of the Underworld
Diomedes: a powerful warrior on the Greek side at Troy, who settled later in Italy
Dionysus: another name for Bacchus
Dis: another name for Pluto

Elis: a region on the western coast of Greece in the Peloponnesus
Elissa: another name for Dido, queen of Carthage
Elysian Fields or Elysium: a green and pleasant region of the Underworld
Enceledas: a Titan who, for revolting against Jupiter, was buried alive under Mt. Etna.
Erato: a Muse associated with love poetry
Erebus: the son of Chaos; his name is also used for the Underworld
Eridanus: a river of the Underworld
Erymanthus: a mountain in southern Greece
Eryx: a legendary king of Sicily; also, the name of a mountain on Sicily
Etna: a volcano on the southern shore of Sicily
Etruria or Etruscan: an ancient land or people of north central Italy
Euphrates: a river of the Near East

Fates: three goddesses, Clotho, Lachesis, and Atropos, seen as the spinners of life’s threads
Furies: punishing goddesses who often attacked, physically or mentally, criminals or sacrilegious persons

Ganges: a great river in northern India
Ganymede: a beautiful young man, son of Kin Laomedon at Troy, loved by Jupiter and taken to Mt. Olympus
Geryon: a three-bodied monster killed by Hercules
Glauceus: a sea god; also the name of the father of Deiphobe, the Sibyl at Cumae; and the name of a Trojan warrior, son of Antenor, mourned by Aeneas in the Underworld
Gorgon: a female monster with snakes in her hair, capable of turning humans into stone

Hebrus: a river in Thrace; also the name of a Trojan warrior killed by Mezentius in Italy
Hecate: another name of Diana
Hecuba: wife of Priam and queen of Troy
Helen: the wife of Menelaus, king of Sparta in the southern Peloponnesus, before and after the Trojan War; taken by Paris to Troy, renowned for her beauty, believed to be a cause of the war
Hercules: a son of Jupiter famous for his strength and accomplishments or “labors”
Hippolyta: queen of the Amazons, near the Black Sea
Hippolytus: a son of Hippolyta, killed when his horses went mad, restored to life, and sheltered by Diana in Italy; he changed his name to Virbius and had a son by the same name
Hydra: the name of more than one monster with a number of heads
Hyperion: another name of Apollo

Ida: a mountain near Troy, sacred to Cybele
Idomeneus: a king of Crete who fought against the Trojans at Troy
Ilia: another name for Troy
Ilus: another name for Ascanius, the son of Aeneas; the name of a founding father of Troy; and the name of a Rutulian follower of Turnus
Iris: goddess of the rainbow, a helper of Juno
Iulus: another name for Ascanius, the son of Aeneas

Janus: a Roman god of doorways and gates, presented as looking both forward and backward

Labyrinth: a confusing system of caves on the island of Crete, designed by the great artist Daedalus, to house the Minotaur, a dangerous monster who was half man and half bull
Laertes: the father of Odysseus; their home was the island of Ithaka
Lapithae or Lapiths: a people of Thessaly, famous for their battle with the Centaurs
Latium: a large area surrounding the ancient site of Rome
Latona: a goddess loved by Jupiter, and mother of Diana and Apollo
Laurentians: the name of King Latinus' people in Italy
Lavinia or Lavinian: the Italian princess or her land, destined for Aeneas
Letha the river of forgetfulness in the Underworld
Lydia: an area of Asia Minor; since the Etruscans may have come from there, Lydian may also suggest Etrurian

Manes: spirits of the Underworld
Mantua: a city in northeast Italy; Virgil was born nearby
Mars: the Roman god of war
Maximus: a member of the Fabii family at Rome, called Cunctator, the "Delayer," for his effective tactics in dealing with Hannibal during the latter's invasion of Italy
Megaera: one of the Furies
Metabus: father of Camilla and king of the Volscians
Metius: Turnus' chariot driver whose form is assumed in battle by Juturna, a goddess and sister of Turnus
Minos: a king on the island of Crete; in the Underworld, a judge of spirits' actions during their lives on earth
Muses: nine goddesses associated with various arts such as epic poetry and lyric song
Mycenae: the great "golden" city of Agamemnon, the center of Argos in the Peloponneseus, from which the invasion of Troy was initiated
Myrmidons: followers of Achilles during the Trojan War

Numicus: a river in Latium
Nymphs: goddesses associated with various rivers, groves, caves, and fountains

Ocean: the name of a god associated with a large and flowing body of water believed to surround the world's lands
**A Selective Glossary**

Olympus: a mountain in northeast Greece, the home of Jupiter and other gods and goddesses

Orcus: another name for Pluto

Orestes: the son of Agamemnon; the husband of Hermione, he killed a rival, Pyrrhus, the son of Achilles

Orion: a legendary hunter whose name was given to a winter constellation often associated with storms

Orpheus: a great legendary poet of Thrace who almost succeeded in rescuing his wife, Eurydice, from the Underworld

Ortygia: another name for Delos

Padusa: one of the mouths of the Po River in northeast Italy

Pallas: a complex Greek goddess associated with wisdom, battle strategy, and certain domestic arts—her Roman name was Minerva; Pallas is also the name of the warrior son of Evander, king of Pallantem, on the site of ancient Rome

Pan: a Greek god of forests and shepherds

Pandarus: a warrior who fought on the Trojan side at Troy

Panoea: a sea nymph, called a Nereid, a daughter of the sea god Nereus

Paphos: a city on the island of Cyprus in the eastern Mediterranean, a center of the cult of Venus

Paris: a prince at Troy who judged that Venus was more beautiful than Juno, thus incurring the latter's enmity during and after the Trojan War; Paris was rewarded by Venus with Helen, the Greek wife of Menelaus, who with his brother Agamemnon began the Trojan War in reprisal

Pasiphae: the wife of King Minos on the island of Crete; she became, through intercourse with a bull, the mother of the Minotaur; see also Labyrinth

Pelagis: another name for the Greeks

Pentesilea: the queen of the Amazons who fought at Troy

Pentheus: a king of Thebes, a town in Boeotia, driven mad by Bacchus for opposing worship of that god

Phaedra: a daughter of King Minos on the island of Crete, she fell in love with Hippolytus, her stepson, who rejected her love; she then caused his death and took her own life

Phaethon: a son of Apollo who tried to drive the chariot of the sun god across the sky but lost control and was killed by Jupiter

Pheneus: a city in Arcadia

Phlegethon: a river in the Underworld

Phoebus: another name for Apollo, or Hyperion, the sun god

Phoenicia: see Sidonian

Phorcus: a sea god; also, the father of seven brothers aligned against Aeneas in the war with Italy

Phrygians: another name for the Trojans

Picus: a god of agriculture and the grandfather of Latinus in Italy; Picus was also the first king of Latium, and the son of Saturn, an ancient god who fathered Jupiter

Pluto: the Roman god of the Underworld

Portunus: a sea god associated with protection of harbors

Praeneste: an old city in Latium in central Italy

Proserpine the "Underworld's Juno," the wife of Pluto
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Punic: another name for Carthaginian

Pyrrhus: the son of Achilles who assumed leadership in battle at Troy after his father's death

Quirinus: see Romulus

Remus: the brother of Romulus and killed by Romulus
Rhadamanthus: king of Crete, a brother of Minos; after his death, a judge of spirits in the Underworld
Rhea Silvia: a priestess of Vesta, the goddess of the domestic hearth; also known as Ilia, she was the daughter of Numitor, a king of Alba Longa; and the mother, by Mars, of Romulus and Remus
Romulus: the founder of Rome, according to legend, and nursed by a wolf along with his brother, Remus; Romulus gave his name to the city and was later identified with Quirinus, an ancient Italian god

Sabinus or the Sabines: the legendary ancestor or his people who lived in ancient Italy
Salamis: an island near Athens, ruled by King Telamon when Priam, king of Troy, visited his sister, Hesione, there
Samos: an island off the coast of Asia Minor, the focus of a cult of Juno
Saturn: the father of Jupiter; after being driven out of Olympus, according to legend, Saturn settled in Italy, thereby initiating a "golden age" in that country
Sidonian: like Tyrian, used as an epithet for Dido; Sidon and Tyre were cities in ancient Phoenicia, on the shore of Asia Minor
Simois: one of the rivers near ancient Troy
Sirens: beautiful female singers who lured passing sailors to their deaths
Sirius: the so-called dog star, brightest in canis major, the "greater dog," and often associated with illness
Styx: the river of crucial passage into the Underworld
Syrtis: dangerous sandbanks off the coast of north Africa

Tarquins: a line of early kings of Rome; the name is Etruscan
Tartarus: a region of the Underworld where various criminals were punished
Teucer: an ancient Trojan patriarch; also the name of an enemy of Troy who nevertheless spoke very highly of the Trojans
Tibur or Tiburtines: an old town near Rome or its people
Theseus: a prince of Athens who killed the Minotaur on the island of Crete; later he attempted, with Pirithous, to take Proserpine away from the Underworld
Tithonus: the lover of Aurora, goddess of the dawn
Triton: a sea god, the son of Neptune, proud of his blowing a conch horn
Tuscan: see Etruria
Tyrian: see Sidonian

Umbria: a large area in north central Italy

Vesta: the Roman goddess of the domestic hearth
Virbius: see Hippolytus
Volscians: a people living in the southern part of Latium when Aeneas arrived in Italy
Vulcan: the Roman god of fire, the forge, and the making of weapons

Xanthus: a river near ancient Troy