

Ovid *Metamorphoses* 14.101-19

*Aeneas passes by islands south of Italy and sails deep into a bay between Naples and Misenum through marshy regions to Cumae. Here he enters the cave of the long-lived Sibyl, intent on contacting his father's ghost. The Sibyl stares at the ground, and then, gazing upwards, in a frenzy she addresses Aeneas, praising his hard-won reputation, and urging him not to be afraid, as she will guide him, because of his merit, to the dwellings of the blessed and to the shades of his father. She orders him to break off a particular branch, which gives him a view of the underworld and of his father's ghost; Aeneas learns local laws and what wars threaten him.*

Has ubi praeteriit et Parthenopeia dextra

moenia deseruit, laeva de parte canori

Aeolidae tumulum et, loca feta palustribus ulvis,

litora Cumarum vivacisque antra Sibyllae

intrat et, ut manes adeat per Averna paternos, 105

orat. at illa diu vultum tellure moratum

erexit tandemque deo furibunda recepto

'magna petis,' dixit, 'vir factis maxime, cuius

dextera per ferrum, pietas spectata per ignes.

pone tamen, Troiane, metum: potiere petitis 110

Elysiasque domos et regna novissima mundi

me duce cognosces simulacraque cara parentis.

in via virtuti nulla est via.' dixit et auro

fulgentem ramum silva Iunonis Avernae

monstravit iussitque suo divellere trunco. 115

paruit Aeneas et formidabilis Orci

vidit opes atavosque suos umbramque senilem

magnanimi Anchisae; didicit quoque iura locorum,

quaeque novis essent adeunda pericula bellis.

## **Vocabulary**

Aeolides, -ae m.	descendant of Aeolus (Misenus)
atavus, -i. m.	ancestor
Averna, n. pl.	infernal regions
canorus-a-um	melodius
fetus-a-um	full of
Orcus, -i m.	Pluto, god of the underworld
Parthenopeius-a-um	of Naples, city of Parthenope
potior, -iri, potitus sum	get hold of (with abl.)
spectatus-a-um	proved
ulva, -ae f.	rush, grass