



# Virgil's Gaze: Nation and Poetry in the Aeneid

*J. D. Reed*

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Virgil's *Aeneid* invites its reader to identify with the Roman nation whose origins and destiny it celebrates. But, as J. D. Reed argues in *Virgil's Gaze*, the great Roman epic satisfies this identification only indirectly--if at all. In retelling the story of Aeneas' foundational journey from Troy to Italy, Virgil defines Roman national identity only provisionally, through oppositions to other ethnic identities--especially Trojan, Carthaginian, Italian, and Greek--oppositions that shift with the shifting perspective of the narrative. Roman identity emerges as multivalent and constantly changing rather than unitary and stable. The Roman self that the poem gives us is capacious--adaptable to a universal nationality, potentially an imperial force--but empty at its heart. However, the incongruities that produce this emptiness are also what make the *Aeneid* endlessly readable, since they forestall a single perspective and a single notion of the Roman.

Focusing on questions of narratology, intertextuality, and ideology, *Virgil's Gaze* offers new readings of such major episodes as the fall of Troy, the pageant of heroes in the underworld, the death of Turnus, and the disconcertingly sensual descriptions of the slain Euryalus, Pallas, and Camilla. While advancing a highly original argument, Reed's wide-ranging study also serves as an ideal introduction to the poetics and principal themes of the *Aeneid*.

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Virgil's Gaze: Nation and Poetry in the Aeneid can be one of your nice books that are good idea. Many of us recommend that straight away because this guide has good vocabulary that could increase your knowledge in vocabulary, easy to understand, bit entertaining but nevertheless delivering the information. The copy writer giving his/her effort that will put every word into pleasure arrangement in writing Virgil's Gaze: Nation and Poetry in the Aeneid nevertheless doesn't forget the main position, giving the reader the hottest along with based confirm resource details that maybe you can be considered one of it. This great information can easily drawn you into fresh stage of crucial contemplating.

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