

□Being a Hero□□Thesis: Despite his accomplishments and the glory associated with his life, Aeneas only achieves the status of hero through divine intervention, and this god-given position causes him just as much grief as it does splendor.□□□□What is a hero? We would like to think that a hero is someone who has achieved some fantastic goal or status, or maybe someone who has accomplished a great task. Heroes find themselves in situations of great pressure and act with nobility and grace. Though the main character of Virgil's Aeneid, Aeneas, is such a person, it is not by his own doing. He encounters situations in which death is near, in which love, hate, peace, and war come together to cause both good and evil. In these positions he conducts himself with honor, by going along with what the gods want. Only then goes on to pave the way for the Roman Empire. His deeds, actions, and leadership would never have come to be if it were not for the gods. The gods took special interest in Aeneas, causing him misfortune in some cases, giving him assistance in others. On the whole, the gods constantly provide perfect opportunities for Aeneas to display his heroism. Without them, Aeneas would not be the hero he is. This gift does not come without a price, though; he must endure the things heroes endure to become what they are. Despite his accomplishments and the glory associated with his life, Aeneas only achieves the status of hero through divine intervention, and this god-given position causes him just as much grief as it does splendor.□□Aeneas is the son of Venus. This fact alone brings about much of the hero in him. Venus, a concerned mother, always looks out for her son. She does everything she thinks will help to ensure his safety and success. At the beginning of his journey from Troy, she prevents his death at sea. Juno has persuaded King Aeolus to cause vicious storms, rocking Aeneas' fleet and nearly killing all of them. Venus then goes to Jupiter and begs him to help Aeneas: □Venus appealed to him, all pale and wan,□With tears in her shining eyes:□□□□"My lord who rule □The lives of men and gods now and forever,□And bring them all to heel with your bright bolt,□What in the world could my Aeneas do,□What could the Trojans do, to so offend you? □Jupiter then assures Venus that he will keep his promise to allow Aeneas to live on to set the stage for the coming of the Romans. In this case, without Venus' watchful eye and concern, Aeneas would have no kind of protection or security as he made his way to Italy. □□Another instance in which Venus uses her influence to assist Aeneas is during the fifth book. When Aeneas and the Trojans leave Sicily, Venus fears that Juno will attempt to kill Aeneas again, and so asks Neptune for safe passage over the ocean:□Beset with worries, Venus turned to Neptune,□Unfolding from her heart complaints and pleas:□"Juno's anger, and her implacable heart,□Drive me to prayers beneath my dignity.□...□But as to what comes next, I beg you, let them□Safely entrust their sailing ships to you"□Once again, Aeneas would have to deal with the wrath of Juno on his own, if it were not for the divine influence of his mother. □□In book eight of the Aeneid, with war between the Trojans and the Italians imminent, Venus once again fears for the safety of her son. To ensure the well-being of Aeneas, she cajoles her husband, Vulcan into making a suit of armor for Aeneas: □"Most dear husband,□I never wished to tax you, make you toil□In a lost cause, however much I owed□To Priam's sons, however long I wept□Over Aeneas' ordeals. Now, however, ...□I do come, begging your sacred power□For arms, a mother begging for her son."□Venus is willing to put on this facade of extreme passion for her husband in order to help Aeneas. She goes to lengths that many mothers would not. This is not quite enough, though; average mother's concern alone does not make Aeneas a hero. A divine mother's concern makes him a hero. Without her willingness for personal sacrifice, Aeneas would never survive through the Aeneid. □Occasionally, as is the case with most mothers, Venus' judgment of what is best for Aeneas contradicts what fate and the other gods have in store for him. During the Trojans' time at Carthage, Juno and Venus both agree that a union between Dido and Aeneas is in order. They use the attraction that Aeneas and Dido already have for each other and use it to cause them to fall in love. The intensity of this love is enough to cause Dido to break her vow of fidelity to her dead husband and she neglects her responsibilities to the development of the city. Jupiter disapproves of this union, and sends Mercury to remind Aeneas of his responsibility to Rome: □Approach the Dardan captain where he tarries□Rapt in Tyrian Carthage, losing sight□Of future towns the fates ordain. Correct him,□Carry my speech to him on the running winds:□...□What has he in mind? What hope, to make him stay□Amid a hostile race, and lose from view□Ausonian progeny, Lavinian lands?□The man should sail: that is the whole point.□Aeneas is in love with Dido and would gladly stay with her, building up Carthage, but the gods know that there is more important business to which he must tend. Jupiter has to intervene to get Aeneas to do what his destiny dictates him to do in the first place. He would not have done his duty as a hero.□Naturally, Aeneas' own mother would don the role of his protector, but not all the gods deemed his plight worth of support. Juno, specifically, did nearly all she could to hinder him. From the start of his journey, Juno makes things difficult for Aeneas; as is previously mentioned, Juno has Aeolus nearly sink all of the Trojans' ships. The survival of the storm and the leading of his followers to safety are good examples of Aeneas' heroism, but he would not even have had this opportunity to be a hero without Juno. In addition, if it was not for Neptune's help, he would not have survived the incident. □In book seven, Juno realizes that she cannot change the fate of Aeneas and the Trojans, but is still so bitter that she decides to make things as difficult as possible for them. She summons Allecto to incite hatred and hostility within the residents of Italy, resulting in a desire for war against the Trojans.□ Here is a service all your own□That you can do for me, Daughter of Night,□Here is a way to help me, to make sure□My status and renown will not give way□Or be impaired, and that Aeneas' people□Cannot by marriage win Latinus over,□...□Break up this peace-pact, scatter acts of war,□All in a flash let men desire, demand,□And take up arms.□□Allecto arouses Queen Amata's animosity toward Aeneas. She also spurs Turnus to believe that Aeneas is the enemy, and to fuel the flame that is Turnus' jealousy toward Aeneas. Allecto's work is successful; it helps give rise to the war between the Italians and the Trojans. Juno also directly helps the war happen when she personally descends from the heavens and bursts open the doors of the tem

ple of Janus: Heaven's queen At this dropped from the sky. She gave a push To stubborn-yielding doors, then burst the iron-bound Gates of war apart on turning hinges. All Ausonian lands as yet unroused, Unawakened, now took fire. The Italians look at this as a good sign and many people rally for the war. Juno has almost turned all of Italy against Aeneas, and single-handedly starts the war against the Trojans. This war, and the fact that the Trojans prevail is a large part of what makes Aeneas a hero. Despite the fact that she was not trying to help him become a hero, Juno does help him achieve this status by starting the war and giving him this opportunity to use the help of the other gods to come out and shine. Aeneas accomplishes much and earns immense glory throughout the Aeneid. Nevertheless, this achievement of hero status relies on the assistance of the gods, and this assistance does not necessarily come in a positive form. Juno causes storms, hate, and war, either to stop Aeneas or at least make things more difficult for him. Venus, the divine mother, does everything she can to counteract the obstacles that Juno makes. Other gods and supernatural beings all play a part in affecting Aeneas' life. Without all this divine intervention, Aeneas would have been an uninteresting, average Joe. ----- being her

o thesis despite accomplishments glory associated with life aeneas only achieves status hero through divine intervention this given position causes just much grief does splendor what hero would like think that someone achieved some fantastic goal status maybe someone accomplished great task heroes find themselves situations great pressure with nobility grace though main character virgil aeneid aeneas such person doing encounters situations which death near which love hate peace come together cause both good evil these positions conducts himself with honor going along what gods want only then gods pave roman empire deeds actions leadership would never have come were gods gods took special interest aeneas causing misfortune some cases giving assistance others whole constantly provide perfect opportunities display heroism without them would this gift does come without price though must endure things heroes endure become what they despite accomplishments glory associated life only achieves status through divine intervention this given position causes just much grief does splendor venus fact alone brings about much venus concerned mother always looks everything thinks will help ensure safety success beginning journey from troy prevents death juno persuaded king aeolus cause vicious storms rocking fleet nearly killing them venus then goes jupiter begs help appealed pale tears shining eyes quot lord rule lives forever bring them heel your bright bolt world could could trojans offend jupiter then assures that will keep promise allow live stage coming romans case without watchful concern have kind protection security made italy another instance which uses influence assist during fifth book when trojans leave sicily fears that juno will attempt kill again asks neptune safe passage over ocean beset worries turned neptune unfolding from heart complaints pleas quot juno anger implacable heart drive prayers beneath dignity comes next safely entrust their sailing ships quot once again have deal wrath were divine influence mother book eight aeneid between trojans italians imminent once again fears safety ensure well being cajoles husband vulcan into making suit armor most dear husband never wished make toil lost cause however owed priam sons however long wept over ordeals how ever begging your sacred power arms mother begging willing facade extreme passion husband order help goes lengths many mothers quite enough though average concern alone make concern makes willingness personal sacrifice never survive through aeneid occasionally case most mothers judgment best contradicts fate other store during time carthage both agree union between dido order they attraction dido already each other fall love intensity love enough dido break fidelity dead neglects responsibilities development city jupiter disapproves union sends mercury remind responsibility rome approach dardanus captain where carries rapt tyrian carthage losing sight future towns fates ordain correct carry speech running winds mind hope make stay amid hostile race lose from view ausonian progeny lavinian lands should sail whole point gladly stay building carthage know there more important business must tend intervene destiny dictates first place done duty naturally role protector deemed plight worth support specifically nearly could hinder start journey makes things difficult previously mentioned aeolus nearly sink ships survival storm leading followers safety good examples heroism even opportunity addition neptune survived incident book seven realizes cannot change fate still bitter decides things difficult possible summons alleco incite hatred hostility within residents italy resulting desire against here service your daughter night here sure renown give impaired people cannot marriage latinus over break peace pact scatter acts flash desire demand take arms alleco arouses queen amata animosity toward also spurs turnus believe enemy fuel flame turnus jealousy toward alleco work successful helps give rise between italians also directly helps happen when personally descends heavens bursts open doors temple janus heaven queen dropped gave push stubborn yielding doors burst iron bound gates apart turning hinges ausonian lands unroused unawakened took fire italians look good sign many people rally almost turned italy against single handedly starts against fact prevail large part makes despite fact trying become achieve starting giving opportunity other shine accomplishes earns immense glory throughout nevertheless achievement relies assistance assistance necessarily positive form causes storms hate either stop least more difficult everything counteract obstacles supernatural beings play part affecting life intervention been uninteresting average

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