

**Classic Poetry Series**

**Gavin Douglas**

**- poems -**

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## The Aeneid (excerpts)

-0-  
Laude, honor, prasingis, thankis infynite  
-0-  
To the, and thi dulce ornate fresch endite,  
-0-  
Mast reverend Virgill, of Latyne poetis prince,  
-0-  
Gemme of ingine and fluide of eloquence,  
-0-  
Thow peirles perle, patroun of poetrie,  
-0-  
Rois, register, palme, laurer, and glory,  
-0-  
Chosin cherbukle, cheif flour and cedir tree,  
-0-  
Lanterne, leidsterne, mirroure, and a per se,  
-0-  
Master of masteris, sweit sours and springand well,  
-0-  
  
Wyde quhar our all ringis thi hevinle bell:  
-0-  
  
I mene thi crafty werkis curious,  
-0-  
  
Sa quik, lusty, and mast sentencious,  
-0-  
  
Plesable, perfyte, and felable in all degre,  
-0-  
  
As quaha the mater held to foir thar ee;  
-0-  
  
In every volume quhilk the list do write,  
-0-  
  
Surmonting fer all uther maneir endite,  
-0-  
  
Lyk as the rois in June with hir sueit smell  
-0-  
  
The marygulde or dasy doith excell.  
-0-  
  
Quhy suld I than, with dull forhede and vane,  
-0-  
  
With ruide engine and barrand emptive brane,  
-0-

With bad harsk speche and lewit barbour tong,  
-0-

Presume to write quhar thi sueit bell is rong,  
-0-

Or contirfait sa precious wourdis deir?  
-0-

Na, na, nocht sua, bot knele quhen I thame heir.  
-0-

For quhat compair betuix midday and nycht,  
-0-

Or quhat compare betuix myrknes and lycht,  
-0-

Or quhat compare is betuix blak and quhyte,  
-0-

Far gretar diference betuix my blunt endyte  
-0-

And thi scharp sugurat sang Virgiliane,  
-0-

Sa wyslie wrocht with nevir ane word in vane;  
-0-

My waverand wit, my cunnyng feble at all,  
-0-

My mynd mysty, thir ma nocht myss ane fall.  
-0-

Stra for this ignorant blabring imperfyte  
-0-

Beside thi polyte termis redemyte;  
-0-

And no the les with support and correctioun,  
-0-

For naturall luife and freindfull affectioun  
-0-

Quhilkis I beir to thi werkis and endyte,  
-0-

Althocht, God wait, I know tharin full lyte,  
-0-

And that thi facund sentence mycht be song  
-0-

In our langage als weill as Latyne tong--  
-0-

Alswewe, na, na, impossible war,per de,  
-0-

Yit with your leif, Virgill, to follow the,  
-0-

I wald into my rurale vulgar gros,  
-0-

Write sum savoring of thi Eneados.  
-0-

Bot sair I drede for to distene the quyte,  
-0-

Throu my corruptit cadens imperfyte;  
-0-

Distene the, na forsuith, that ma I nocht,  
-0-

Weill ma I schaw my burell busteous thocht;  
-0-

Bot thi work sall enduire in laude and glory,  
-0-

Bot spot or falt, condong eterne memory.  
-0-

Thocht I offend, onhermit is thine fame,  
-0-

Thyne is the thank, and myne sal be the shame.

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THE FIRST BUIK OF ENEADOSCAP. XII  
Eneas first excusis him, and syne  
Addressis to rehers Troys rwyne.

-12-

Thai ceissit all at anis incontinent,

-12-  
With mowthis clois, and visage takand tent.  
-12-  
Prince Eneas, frome the hie bed, with that,  
-12-  
Into his seige riall quhar he sat,  
-12-  
Begouth and said: Thi desyir, lady, is  
-12-  
Renewing of ontellable sorow, I wis,  
-12-  
To schaw how Grekis did spuilye and destroy  
-12-  
The greit riches and lamentable realm of Troy,  
-12-  
And huge misery quhilk I thair beheld,  
-12-  
  
Quharof myself ane greit part bair and feld;  
-12-  
  
Quhat Marmidon, or Gregion Dolopes,  
-12-  
  
Or knycht wageor to cruell Ulixes,  
-12-  
  
Sic materes to rehers, or yit to heir,  
-12-  
  
Mycht thaime contene fra weping mony ane teir?  
-12-  
  
And now the hevin ourquhelmis the donk nycht,  
-12-  
  
Quhen the declining of the sternis brycht  
-12-  
  
To sleip and rest perswades our appetite;  
-12-  
  
But sen thou hes sic plesour and delite  
-12-  
  
To know our chance, and fall of Troy in weir,  
-12-  
  
And schortlie the last end thairof wald heir,  
-12-  
  
Albeit my spreit abhorris, and doth grise

-12-

Thairon for to ramembir, and oft sise  
-12-

Murnand eschewis thairfra with greit diseis,  
-12-

Yit than I sall begyne yow for to pleis.

Finis Libri Primi.

Gavin Douglas