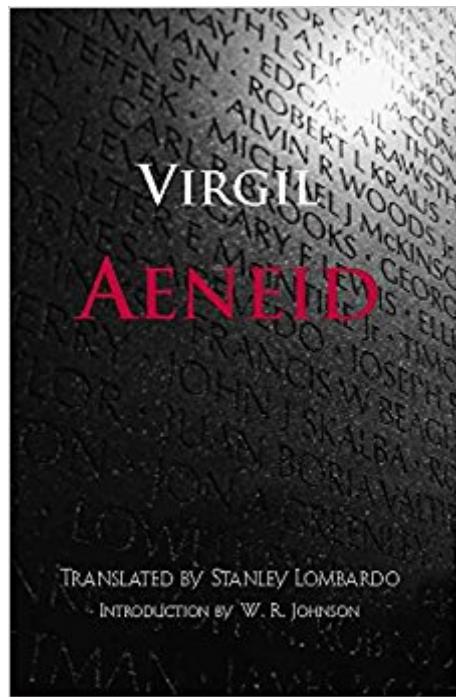


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# Aeneid (Hackett Classics)



## **Synopsis**

Long a master of the crafts of Homeric translation and of rhapsodic performance, Stanley Lombardo now turns to the quintessential epic of Roman antiquity, a work with deep roots in the Homeric tradition. With characteristic virtuosity, he delivers a rendering of the *Aeneid* as compelling as his groundbreaking translations of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, yet one that--like the *Aeneid* itself--conveys a unique epic sensibility and a haunting artistry all its own. W. R. Johnson's Introduction makes an ideal companion to the translation, offering brilliant insight into the legend of Aeneas; the contrasting roles of the gods, fate, and fortune in Homeric versus Virgilian epic; the character of Aeneas as both wanderer and warrior; Aeneas' relationship to both his enemy Turnus and his lover Dido; the theme of doomed youths in the epic; and Virgil's relationship to the brutal history of Rome that he memorializes in his poem. A map, a Glossary of Names, a Translator's Preface, and Suggestions for Further Reading are also included.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

I bow to no one in my love of Robert Fitzgerald's translation of the *Aeneid*--the standard for the last 25 years. Stanley Lombardo's relavatory translations, however, nudges the older one aside. Lombardo has a history of actually performing the great poems of antiquity, not at fashionable coffeehouses but on sidewalks, plazas, parks, and other public areas to the accompaniment of drums or music. And let me tell you, these performances capture his audiences--including jaded college students who leave their hacky-sacks and stand mesmerized while the readings go on. This

kind of percussive, driven performances carries over into the book form, and similarly to his translations of the *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, you feel like you're reading a WWII triller. That is not to say his translation is ugly or course, particularly in this most elegant of poems. No, he matches being relentless with being refined to create a story that actually matters--it is a gripping tale that covers the very social, political and moral issues we struggle with today. But the language is so immediate that you can't put it down. The *Aeneid*'s fortunes have waxed and waned over the centuries, and for a while it was in danger of being relegated to a second-year Latin grammar text. This translation transforms the work and win over a whole new generation of listeners.

Stanley Lombardo really catches the essence of Vergil. I have read parts of Vergil's *Aeneid* in the original Latin, and I agree with his substance. I have also read Lombardo's translations of *Iliad* and *Odyssey*, both excellent. The English is up to date, rhythmic and fluid.

W. R. Johnson's introduction alone makes this book a valuable contribution to Virgil studies. And Lombardo's translation, while sometimes more creative than faithful, is very readable.

This is really the best translation there is out there. I know some people would disagree and write that the Fagels translation is the best, but it just isn't anymore. I used to love the Fagels translation. It was the one I went to. The Lombardo is really that much better. If nothing else it's worth looking at. I was skeptical at first when I was offered a copy and now I'm a convert.

I last encountered this book in high school Latin. Reading it again in my fifties, I found that it's actually a great story, an epic which should be read by anyone wishing to learn the classics. I especially like Lombardo's translation, which attempts to recreate the experience of watching it performed for a live audience.

One of the two best books I've ever read (along with Milton's *Paradise Lost*). I really like this translation. It's very readable, and you always understand the sense of what's happening, instead of being bogged down in complex, archaic language. This is one of the deepest and most powerful works ever written. Virgil died before it was complete, and he wanted the manuscript destroyed, because it didn't live up to his impossibly high standards. It's rare for any writer to even attempt a work of such breadth and depth, and equally rare for anyone to write with such eloquence and power.

Stanley Lombardo does it again with characteristic flair with Virgil's Aeneid! He employs the same techniques and devices he used on Homer's Iliad and Odyssey. (Separating the text into paragraphs and sections, and italicizing Virgil's metaphors). His translation is very faithful to the language and to the epic vision of Virgil's original but he makes it sound so modern that it could have easily been written in our own time! I also like Jackson Knight's famous prose version and Sarah Ruden's new verse translation as my back ups. But Lombardo gives The Aeneid a peaceful breath and a spirited life I haven't seen anywhere else!- Stanley Lombardo is always my reference when it comes to the great classics!

This was a fabulous translation, all of Stanley Lombardo's translations are great, he does the Iliad and the Odyssey as well.

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