

The word *femina* is used three times, and in each instance with a touch of contempt.

inagnum et memorabile nomen,  
una dolo divom si femina victa duorum est. —IV., 95.

Especially famous are the lines 569 and 570:

varium et mutabile semper  
femina.

and it is remarkable that this epigrammatic fling at the gentle sex should come from the pen of him who had just told a fascinating story of a woman's love. Virgil had a like appreciation of the old and the new in literature, and this account of Fama is a tribute to the feelings of the golden age of epic poetry. The scorn of Iarbas is conceived in this spirit, and the historic reproach of the effeminate Phrygian is timely remembered.

*Femina*, quae nostris errans in finibus urbem  
exiguam pretio posuit, cui litus araudum  
cuique loci leges dedimus, conubia nostra  
reppulit ac dominum Aeneas in regna recepit  
et nunc ille Paris cum semiviro comitali,  
Maeonia mentum mitra erinemque madentem  
subnexus, raptu potitur. —IV., 211-217.

Especially good is the use of *dominus* with a sinister implication. The same scorn displays itself with more restraint in the speech of Jupiter, in the ironical description of Aeneas superintending the walls, and again in the words of Mercurius. There is something almost pitiful in the thought of the huge Aeneas wondering how he could "get around" the infatuated queen (*reginam ambire furem*). From this point of view, old to mankind but new to the poem, the attachment that the poet had described with such feeling and insight becomes a mere unfortunate *liaison* (*amores*, 292). Fama is more than a personification like Eris in the *Iliad*. Down to her coming the atmosphere of the poem is that of erotic poetry. Venus is the queen of heaven. After the prayer of Iarbas, Jupiter is once more supreme. Aeneas shakes off delay and is all for his mission once more. Cupid had not left the poison in his bones. His only care for Dido now is to spare her pain, and that he cannot do. She was left to her fate as Circe and Calypso to their sorrow.