

THE AENEID

by VIRGIL

ABOUT 1200 B.C., THE GREEKS DEFEATED THE TROJANS AFTER TEN LONG YEARS OF WAR. THE CITY OF TROY, IN WESTERN ASIA MINOR, WAS BURNED.



A GOOD NUMBER OF TROJANS ESCAPED. UNDER THEIR LEADER AENEAS, THEY SAILED FORTH IN SEARCH OF A NEW LAND IN WHICH THEY COULD SETTLE. FOR SEVEN YEARS, THEY WANDERED IN THEIR SHIPS FROM PLACE TO PLACE ACROSS THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA.

JOVE, KING OF THE GODS, HAD DECREED THAT THEY WERE TO FOUND A NEW CITY-STATE IN ITALY, BUT THE GODDESS JUNO WAS OPPOSED TO AENEAS AND THE TROJANS.



** Adapted from John Dryden's English translation.*