“Vergil’s Bees and the Virtues of an Epicurean Collective” April 3, 2014

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1. **Vergil, *Georgics* 4.1-5 (Proem)**

Protinus aerii mellis caelestia dona

exsequar: hanc etiam, Maecenas, aspice partem.

admiranda tibi levium spectacula rerum

magnanimosque duces totiusque ordine gentis

mores et studia et populos et proelia dicam.

1. **Vergil, *Georgics* 4.67-87 (The Swarm)**

Sin autem ad pugnam exierint—nam saepe duobus

regibus incessit magno Discordia motu,

continuoque animos vulgi et trepidantia bello

corda licet longe praeciscere; namque morantis 70

martius ille aeris rauci canor increpat, et vox

auditur fractos sonitus imitata tubarum.

tum trepidae inter se coeunt pennisque coruscant

spiculaque exacuunt rostris aptantque lacertos

et circa regem atque ipsa ad praetoria densae 75

miscentur magnisque vocant clamoribus hostem.

ergo ubi uer nactae sudum camposque patentis,

erumpunt portis, concurritur, aethere in alto

fit sonitus, magnam mixtae glomerantur in orbem

praecipitesque cadunt; non densior aere grando, 80

nec de concussa tantum pluit ilice glandis.

ipsi per medias acies insignibus alis

ingentis animos angusto in pectore versant,

usque adeo obnixi non cedere dum gravis aut hos

aut hos versa fuga victor dare terga subegit. 85

hi motus animorum atque haec certamina tanta

pulveris exigui iactu compressa quiescent.

1. **Vergil, *Georgics* 4.153-165 (The Socially Contracted Collective)**

Solae communis natos, consortia tecta

urbis habent magnisque agitant sub legibus aevum,

et patriam et certos novere penatis; 155

venturaeque hiemis memores aestate laborem

experiuntur et in medium quaesita reponunt.

namque aliae victu invigilant et foedere pacto

exercentur agris; pars intra saepta domorum

narcissi lacrimam et lentum de cortice gluten 160

prima favis ponunt fundamina deinde tenacis

suspendunt ceras; aliae spem gentis adultos

educunt fetus; aliae purissima mella

stipant et liquid distendunt nectare cellas;

sunt quibus ad portas cecidit custodia sorti… 165

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