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Virgil

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From the ancient time to now, a lot of situations happened and many people have been generated on this world. Some did not leave a useful thing to the younger generations but some created such a treasure for us, Publius Vergilius Maro or Virgil was one of them. Virgil was an ancient Roman poet, who wrote the best known epic, the Aeneid which became as a Roman's national epic.¹ This essay will discuss about the benefits that we have got from Virgil.

Virgil or Vergil in English was born in 70 B.C. on 15 October, in the village of Andes, not far from Mantua in Italy. He started to study since he was five years old at Cremona, then at Milan and the last place in Rome. He studied rhetoric, medicine and astronomy. But finally he left those studies to continue on his philosophy. His famous Latin literatures are the Eclogues, the Georgics and the greatest epic which he has spent his last ten years on it, the Aeneid.² But he did not finish the Aeneid. Before Virgil became seriously ill and died by the time he reached Brundisium in 19 B.C. on 21 September, he had his own wishes about his uncompleted Aeneid. He tried to convince Varius Rufus to burn the Aeneid down but Augustus Caesar ordered Varius Rufus and Plotius Tucca to publish the Aeneid. So the Aeneid appeared in 17 B.C.

¹ Encyclopedia of World Biography contributors. "Virgil Biography." *Encyclopedia of World Biography*. 16 Sep. 2012. <<http://www.notablebiographies.com/Tu-We/Virgil.html#b>>

² Jared Holloway. "Publius Vergilius Maro: The Life and Works of Virgil." *WordPress*. 16 Sep. 2012. <<http://jzholloway.wordpress.com/2008/12/19/1049/>>

And the incomplete lines remained unfinished.³ His ancient Aeneid affected us to the present, which there are advantages. First, the Aeneid regarded as the national epic by Romans. Secondly, the Aeneid was written in an old time so this can be as a historical study. Finally, the Aeneid was the inspiration to encourage the film maker to produce *The Avenger*, a film in 1962 which its story based on the Aeneid. So everyone can learn history by an entertaining source.

First of all, the national epic contains the beginning of the nation, the history of the nation and also the important event that occurred in the nation, told in the national language which their people are proud of it.⁴ The Aeneid was composed in dactylic hexameter, there are about ten thousand lines and they divided into twelve books. The story is about the voyage of Trojan prince, Aeneas who first discovered the first settlement in Italy and lived there as a second home after moved from Troy because of its destruction.⁵ The Aeneid also completely preserved its story because it was composed by writing not an oral communication. It was not only a national poem but also a lesson for a Latin education as a canonical text.⁶

Moreover, we can study the history through the poem. The time that the Aeneid was written was in the period of an enormous change in political and social in Rome. Those changes took out the Romans' believes in the greatness of Rome. Then Augustus Caesar had a plan to build the new era, which wealthy and peaceful. And he emphasized in the morality. And the Aeneid made to fulfill this wish. Set one man as a hero who cared the majority's well-being rather than himself, travelling along with

³ Peter Jones. *Reading Virgil Aeneid I and II*. 2011. p.4

⁴ Wikipedia contributors. "National epic." *Wikipedia, The Free Encyclopedia*. 16 Sep. 2012. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_epic>

⁵ Jared Holloway. "Publius Vergilius Maro: The Life and Works of Virgil." *WordPress*. 16 Sep. 2012. <<http://jzholloway.wordpress.com/2008/12/19/1049/>>

⁶ Answers contributors. "Aeneid." *Answers*. 16 Sep. 2012. <<http://www.answers.com/topic/aeneid>>

his followers for a development in Rome.⁷ The Aeneid described how Troy was ruined by Greek and portrayed the life of Trojan people after the destruction of their home. Even the Aeneid is a legendary story, the wreckages that assumed to be Troy were first found in 1822 and first excavated in 1872.⁸

At last, a film in 1962 called *The Avenger* which based on the Aeneid. Even the movie will differ from Virgil's poem but it still remained the crucial structure of the books. We can learn a lot more about the way people in the past lived and how the world at that time went. For example the ancient architecture which affected on the way of architecture today, the armor worn by the warriors and people at the time, etc. Another important thing we directly learn from the history is our ancestors' errors. Why the things happened at that day and what the outcomes were, younger generations can easily see from studying the history. And if we do not want them to happen again, learn them deeply and correct them. Do not let the past errors occur again today.

In conclusion, Publius Vergilius Maro or Virgil left the world with his greatest and finest work. His work, the Aeneid is a part of the Romans' proud, it also provided the history in the poem and it was an inspiration to *The Avenger* movie makers. Virgil created thing such a treasure and the world received the betterment from it.

⁷ Answers contributors. "Aeneid." *Answers*. 16 Sep. 2012. <<http://www.answers.com/topic/aeneid>>

⁸ Burak Sansal. "Troy." *All About Turkey with Tour Guide Burak Sansal*. 16 Sep. 2012. <<http://www.allaboutturkey.com/troy.htm>>