

An analysis of Virgil's preference to the past

Virgil is a poet who preferred the past to the present. This is highlighted in his poem 'The song of Silenus'. In this poem, we are told of a drunken satyr held hostage by nymphs and satyrs. They demand a song so he tells them how the world began. He refers to "the golden age" of man in the past and goes on to tell of certain myths like Prometheus and his punishment by Jove and the drowning of Hylas. This clearly shows me that Virgil prefers the past when many great heroes were alive.

Another example of Virgil's preference towards the past is in the poem "Hercules and Caucus". The poet tells the tale of the great hero Hercules who saved the people of present day Rome. The ruler of the area Evander tells us how Hercules defeated "a bulk of moving evil" named caucus. This beast lived in a cave on a hill. Caucus stole four bulls which caused Hercules to storm up to the cave and fight the beast. Hercules managed to grab caucus by the throat and choked him until his eyes bulged and he had been defeated. "this was the doom of caucus." Virgil tells a fantastic story of heroism and it appears that he favours the past because it was full of brave characters and men performing daring acts to save their people.