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SUMMARY

Vergil's *Aeneid* I 462: A Vergilian palimpsest

Vergil's *Aen.* I. 462, one of the oddest lines of the *Aeneid*, has increasingly attracted attention. Although the body of criticism that discusses this line is extensive, questions still remain. It is the intention of the present study to lead to new conclusions about the meaning of this line through a reappraisal of its context from a Bakhtinian point of view.

Line 462 by focusing on the empathetic response of the viewer (Aeneas as a focaliser) and the anticipated reaction of the Carthaginians becomes polyphonic and should be viewed as a palimpsest (as a dialogical text). When read with Bakhtin's «dialogism» in mind, such an emphasis on the shared experiences (i.e. Aeneas' response is parallel to the Carthaginians' reaction and to the audience's emotional perception of the *Aeneid*) suggests an implicit assumption of the primacy of a polyphonic interpretation over a «monophonic» one. Nevertheless these voices detected in the polyphonic character of *hic* (461), *res*, *mortalia*, *mens* (462) are centripetal since they impose the unifying and ordering perspective of *lacrimae*.