

SUMMARY

The Sinon Episode in Vergil's *Aeneid* II 57-198

The purpose of this article is to examine Sinon's speech in Vergil's *Aeneid* II 57-198 by focusing attention on Sinon's pretended status as a «testis - snperstes». J. Derrida's lecture *Témoignage et traduction* delivered at the *Institut français d'Athènes* is fundamental for understanding Sinon's status as a «testis - superstes».

The narrative of Sinon is skilfully punctuated by phrases which reveal it to be an eyewitness account, a testimony of a survivor of the terror due to Ulysses' violent behaviour. Sinon's status as a speaker who relives his past enacts his audience response of increasing involvement. The Trojans would thus be less likely to become suspicious of his rhetoric and mistrustful of his narrative as a whole.

Helen Gasti