

## Soul of Dido: An Analysis of Dido's Character in Book IV of the Aeneid Through the Platonic Idea of the Tripartite Soul in the Re-public

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Plato, in the lines, 586- 597 of the Republic states, the soul has three parts; the Desires, the Spirited and the Reason. This paper illustrates how Plato's idea of the tripartite soul has been depicted through the character of Dido in the Aeneid by Virgil. An in depth analysis of the character of Dido is conducted by studying the character's mental framework in the lines, 586- 597 in the Book IV. These lines illustrate the mental state of Dido at her sight of the leaving fleet of the Trojans. In addition, the idea of the tripartite soul has been used to analyze the frenzied mental state of Dido in the mentioned lines. The desires of her mind are reflected through the lines, 586-590, when the queen sees and feels the departure of Aeneas. This makes her mind to go into an array of Desires. In lines 590-594, Dido tries some futile actions that she thinks will help her in reversing the situation. This depicts the Spirited part of the soul which runs in between the baser desires and higher reason. Finally in the lines, 595-597, Dido attains Reason and is able to question her own misdeeds in the past, showing the rationality of the supreme state of the soul. This discussion shows that Plato's Republic which was written around 380 B.C. would have been of direct influence on creating the character of Dido in the Aeneid which was written between 29 and 19 B.C.

**Keywords:** Plato's Republic, three partite soul, Virgil's Aeneid, Dido's frame of mind