

## Chapter 5

### Rereading & Reassembling the Whole

#### Order in Rhetoric & Theme

We now have to consider the poem in its entirety, to gather and integrate, reflect and reintegrate, glancing more deeply inward, finally turning out towards wider meaning in history and culture. Integrating, we take the model of a great commentator like La Cerda, always attentive to dramatic and rhetorical coherence, taking pains to find how the poet moves from one imagined situation to another as he turns now to this or that notional audience, tying one or another thematic thread. Gathering, we reassemble in one text what we looked at separately in previous chapters. In the process, we face new kinds of decisions, such as what constitutes a basic segment in theme or situation and how the segments fit together into larger units. The resulting text, recomposed and articulated, with its translation, precedes the *Analysis of Rhetoric & Theme*, which took shape in and shaped the process of integrating and sorting out. The text and table stem from an effort to reckon with all the parts of the poem in an economical and coherent fashion, neither neglecting nor playing down what may seem difficult.

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A. In the first phase of rereading, one thread that stands out is political. The preamble refers to traditional forms of authority at Rome, represented by *consul* and *dux* in the person of Pollio. But ironically they are subordinated to symbols of authority that look like a return of Rome's mythical originating institution, monarchy, as represented by Romulus and other kings. Pollio as *consul* and leader