

1 Daedalus in the meantime, hating Crete and his long exile
2 and having been touched by the love of his birthplace^[1],
3 had been closed in by the sea. He says, "Although Minos obstructs^[2]
4 the land and waves, the sky at least lies open; we will fly there.
5 Minos may possess everything, but he does not possess the air."
6 He spoke and sends down his mind into unknown arts^[3]
7 and changes his nature^[4]. For he puts feathers in a row
8 beginning with the small ones, and the shorter ones following the long
ones,
9 so that you should think it has grown on an incline; in the same way that
10 a countryman's pipe gradually builds up with reeds of different lengths.
11 Then he binds the middle ones with thread and the last feathers with
wax
12 and then bends what he has created by a small curvature as
13 to mimic real birds. Together with his father, the boy Icarus
14 was standing nearby, unaware that he was facing danger,
15 now with a beaming face was capturing the feathers
16 which the wandering air has moved, with his thumb now was softening
the yellow wax
17 and with his play he kept interrupting the marvelous work of his father.
18 After the finishing touch had been placed
19 on the work, the craftsman balanced his body
20 on the twin wings and suspended his body in the open air;
21 "I warn you to travel in the middle course, Icarus, so that the waves
22 may not weigh down your wings if you go too low,
23 and so that the sun will not scorch your wings if you go too high.
24 Stay between both. I order you not to look at Boötes,
25 or Helice, or the drawn sword of Orion.
26 Seize the way that I lead!" He hands over at the same time the rules of
flying
27 and fits the unknown wings on his shoulders.
28 Between the work and warnings the old cheeks grew wet,
29 and his fatherly hands trembled; He gave to his son kisses

30 not to be repeated, and having lifted himself up on his wings
31 he flies before and he fears for his comrade. Just as a bird
32 who has led forth a tender offspring from a high nest into the air,
33 and encourages [him] to follow and instructs [him] in the destructive arts
34 and he moves himself and looks back at the wings of his son.
35 Someone while catching fish with a trembling rod,
36 either a shepherd leaning on his staff or a plowman on a plow
37 saw these men and was stunned, and they who were able to snatch the
sky,
38 he believed were gods. And now Juno's Samos was on the left
39 side (for Delos and Paros had been left behind)
40 and on the right was Lebynthos and Kalymnos rich in honey,
41 when the boy began to rejoice in his bold flight
42 and deserted his leader, and attracted by a desire for the sky
43 he took his path [went] higher. The vicinity of the sun
44 softens the fragrant wax, the chains of the feathers;
45 the wax melted: he shook his bare arms
46 and lacking oarage he takes up no air,
47 and his mouth shouting his father's name
48 is swept up in the blue sea, which takes its name from him.
49 But the unlucky father, and no longer a father, said, "Icarus,
50 Icarus, where are you? In what region shall I seek you?
51 Icarus!" he kept saying: he caught sight of feathers in the waves
52 and cursed his own arts and buried the body in a tomb,
53 and the land is called Icaria the name of the one buried there.