

(IM)POLITENESS AMONG THE GODS: VERBAL INTERACTIONS OF
THE COUNCIL ON MOUNT OLYMPUS (VERG. *AEN.* 10, 1-117)

ILARIA TORZI

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ABSTRACT

Virgil used his rhetorical education to construct the discourses of the *Aeneid*. Late antique exegesis placed considerable emphasis on this aspect; but beside the notes highlighting the poet's rhetorical competence, others highlight the attitude, polite or impolite, of the speakers towards their interlocutors. This paper analyses *The Council of the Gods* (*Aen.* 10, 1-117), a fictitious debate, modelled, at least partially, on the public speeches of the late Republic and Virgil's own times. Thus, it can be considered a literary reproduction of real interactions between members of the upper class. The aim of this paper is twofold: on the one hand, I examine the interventions of the protagonists, according to modern theories on (im)politeness; on the other hand, I will analyse the notes of late antique exegetes in order to assess emic perceptions of (im)politeness.