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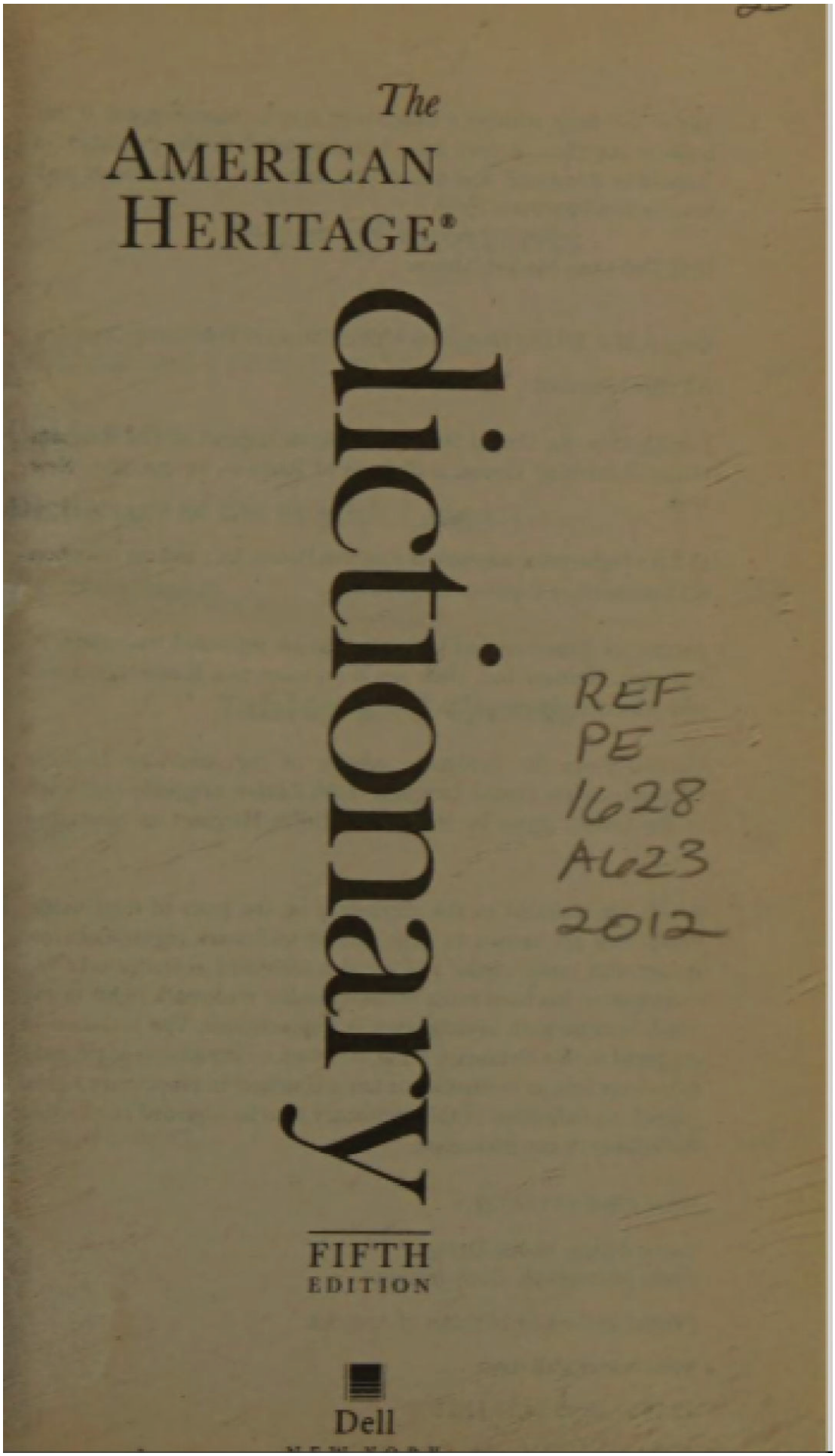
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ing to cause damage, injury, or death. **2.** Caused by unexpected force or injury rather than by natural causes: *a violent death.* **3.** Very forceful: *A violent squall.* **4.** Having or showing great emotional force. **5.** Intense; extreme. [< Lat. *violentus* < *vis*, force.] —**vi′o·lent·ly** *adv.*

vi·o·let (vī′ə-lĭt) ▸*n.* **1a.** A low-growing herb having spurred irregular flowers that are characteristically purplish-blue but sometimes yellow or white. **b.** Any of several similar plants. **2.** The hue of the short-wave end of the visible spectrum; reddish blue. [< Lat. *viola.*]

vi·o·lin (vī′ə-lĭn′) ▸*n.* A small stringed instrument held horizontally at the shoulder and played with a bow, having an unfretted fingerboard and four strings tuned at intervals of a fifth. [Ital. *violino.*] —**vi′o·lin′ist** *n.*

vi·o·lon·cel·lo (vē′ə-lən-chĕl′ō, vī′ə-) ▸*n., pl.* **-los** A cello. [Ital.]

VIP (vē′ī-pē′) ▸*n. Informal* A very important person.

vi·per (vī′pər) ▸*n.* **1.** Any of several venomous snakes having a single pair of long hollow fangs. **2.** A harmless but supposedly venomous snake. **3.** A malicious or treacherous person. [< Lat. *vīpera*, snake < *vīviparus*, VIVIPAROUS.] —**vi′per·ous** *adj.*

vi·ra·go (və-rā′gō, -rä′-, vîr′ə-gō′) ▸*n., pl.* **-goes** or **-gos** A noisy, domineering woman. [Lat. *virāgō* < *vir*, man.]

vi·ral (vī′rəl) ▸*adj.* **1.** Of or caused by a virus. **2.** Of or relating to the propagation of ideas or information by means of social networks rather than mass media. —**vi′ral·ly** *adv.*

vir·e·o (vĭr′ē-ō′) ▸*n., pl.* **-os** Any of various small songbirds having grayish or greenish plumage. [Lat. *vireō*, a kind of bird.]

Vir·gil also **Ver·gil** (vûr′jəl) 70–19 BC. Roman poet. —**Vir·gil′i·an** (-jĭl′ē-ən) *adj.*

vir·gin (vûr′jĭn) ▸*n.* **1.** A person who has not experienced sexual intercourse. **2.** A female virgin. Used chiefly in historical contexts. **3. Virgin** Mary, the mother of Jesus. ▸*adj.* **1.** Of or being a virgin; chaste. **2.** In a pure or natural state. [< Lat. *virgō, virgin-.*] —**vir·gin′i·ty** *n.*

vir·gin·al[1] (vûr′jə-nəl) ▸*adj.* **1.** Of or befitting a virgin. **2.** Untouched or unsullied; fresh.

vir·gin·al[2] (vûr′jə-nəl) ▸*n.* A small legless harpsichord popular in the 16th and 17th cent. [< VIRGIN.]

Vir·gin·ia (vər-jĭn′yə) A state of the E US on Chesapeake Bay and the Atlantic. Cap. Richmond. —**Vir·gin′ian** *adj. & n.*

Virginia creeper ▸*n.* A North American climbing vine having compound leaves with five leaflets and bluish-black berries.

Virginia reel ▸*n.* An American country-dance in which couples perform various steps together to the instructions of a caller.

Virgin Islands 1. A group of islands of the NE West Indies E of Puerto Rico; divided politically into the **British Virgin Islands** to the NE and the Virgin Islands of the United States to the SW. **2.** Officially **Virgin Islands of the United States** A US territory constituting the SW group of the Virgin Is. Cap. Charlotte Amalie.

Vir·go (vûr′gō) ▸*n.* **1.** A constellation in the region of the celestial equator between Leo and Libra. **2.** The 6th sign of the zodiac.

vir·gule (vûr′gyōōl) ▸*n.* See **slash** (sense 2). [< LLat. *virgula.*]

vir·ile (vîr′əl, -īl′) ▸*adj.* **1.** Of or having the characteristics of an adult male, esp. the ability to have sexual intercourse. **2.** Robustly manly. **3.** Energetic or forceful. [< Lat. *vir*, man.] —**vi·ril′i·ty** (və-rĭl′ĭ-tē) *n.*

vi·rol·o·gy (vī-rŏl′ə-jē) ▸*n.* The study of viruses and viral diseases. —**vi·rol′o·gist** *n.*

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vir·tu·al·ly (vûr′chōō-ə-lē) ▸*adv.* In effect: *The city was virtually paralyzed by the transit strike.*

virtual reality ▸*n.* A computer simulation of a real or imaginary system in real time.

vir·tue (vûr′chōō) ▸*n.* **1a.** Moral excellence and righteousness; goodness. **b.** An example or kind of moral excellence. **2.** *Archaic* Chastity, esp. in a woman. **3.** A particularly efficacious or beneficial quality; advantage. **4.** Effective force or power. —***idiom:* by virtue of** On the basis of. [< Lat. *virtūs* < *vir*, man.]

vir·tu·os·i·ty (vûr′chōō-ŏs′ĭ-tē) ▸*n., pl.* **-ties** The technical skill or style of a virtuoso.

vir·tu·o·so (vûr′chōō-ō′sō, -zō) ▸*n., pl.* **-sos** or **-si** (-sē) **1.** A musician with masterly ability, technique, or style. **2.** A person with masterly skill or technique in any field, esp. the arts. [Ital.] —**vir′tu·o′sic** *adj.*

vir·tu·ous (vûr′chōō-əs) ▸*adj.* **1.** Having or showing virtue, esp. moral excellence. **2.** *Archaic* Chaste. —**vir′tu·ous·ly** *adv.*

vir·u·lent (vîr′yə-lənt, vĭr′ə-) ▸*adj.* **1.** Causing or promoting the rapid onset of severe illness, as an infection or toxin. **2.** Extremely hostile or malicious. [< Lat. *virulentus.*] —**vir′u·lence** *n.* —**vir′u·lent·ly** *adv.*

vi·rus (vī′rəs) ▸*n.* **1a.** Any of various submicroscopic agents that infect living organisms, often causing disease, and that consist of a single or double strand of RNA or DNA surrounded by a protein coat. **b.** A disease caused by a virus. **2.** *Comp.* A self-replicating program that copies itself into other programs on a computer, usu. having negative effects. [Lat. *virus*, poison.]

vi·sa (vē′zə) ▸*n.* An official authorization appended to a passport, permitting entry into and travel within a particular country or region. [< Lat. *visa* < p.part. of *vidēre*, see.]

vis·age (vĭz′ĭj) ▸*n.* **1.** The face or facial expression of a person. **2.** Appearance; aspect. [< OFr. < Lat. *visus*, appearance < *vidēre*, see.]

vis-à-vis (vē′zə-vē′) ▸*prep.* **1.** Compared with. **2.** In relation to. ▸*adv.* Face to face. ▸*n., pl.* **vis-à-vis** (-vēz′, -vē′) One opposite or corresponding to another; counterpart. [Fr., face to face.]

Vi·sa·yan Islands (vī-sī′ən) An island group of the central Philippines in and around the **Visayan Sea** between Luzon and Mindanao. —**Vi·sa′yan** *adj. & n.*

vis·cer·a (vĭs′ər-ə) ▸*pl.n.* The internal body organs, esp. those contained within the abdomen and thorax. [< Lat. *viscus, viscer-.*]

vis·cer·al (vĭs′ər-əl) ▸*adj.* **1.** Of, situated in, or affecting the viscera. **2.** Arising from impulse or sudden emotion rather than from thought

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