LATIN SERIES · VOLUME 91

Elegies

PROPERTIUS · OVID

Elegiae · Ibis

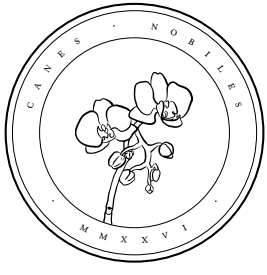
Elegies

With the Ibis of Ovid

---

with a word-for-word interlinear English translation

preserving the original word order



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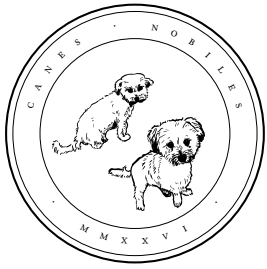

Volume 91 of the Canes Nobiles Latin interlinear texts

The Latin text follows Phillimore's Oxford text of Propertius
(second edition, 1907) and Merkel's Teubner text of the Ibis (1884)

The Ibis set from the Perseus Digital Library's canonical Latin corpus,
with corrections; Propertius set from Phillimore's printed text

Translated and composed with AI, edited by Christopher Hench
Artwork by Esther Steves

Every section and English title is this press's. Phillimore
prints v for consonantal u and V for both in capitals; a dagger
marks a place he holds corrupt. The verses either editor brackets
are not printed, and the line numbers skip where they stood.

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PROPERTIUS

Elegiae

The Elegies

BOOK I

I.1 · CYNTHIA FIRST

Cynthia was the first to capture Propertius, and Love has made him hate chaste girls and live without a plan; his frenzy has not failed for a whole year. Milanion won Atalanta by enduring hardships, but Love is slow for Propertius. He asks the witches who draw down the moon to change his mistress' heart, and his friends to cure him or carry him far away. Let the happily loved stay as they are, and let everyone keep to his own love: whoever ignores the warning will regret it.

Cynthia prima suis miserum me cepit ocellis,
Cynthia first with-her wretched me captured little-eyes,
contactum nullis ante cupidinibus.
touched by-no before desires.
tum mihi constantis deiecit lumina fastus
then for-me of-constant cast-down eyes pride
et caput impositis pressit Amor pedibus,
and head placed-on pressed Love feet,
donec me docuit castas odisse puellas
until me taught chaste to-hate girls
improbus, et nullo vivere consilio.
the-shameless-one, and by-no to-live plan.
et mihi iam toto furor hic non deficit anno,
and for-me now in-a-whole frenzy this not fails year,
cum tamen adversos cogor habere deos.
when still hostile I-am-forced to-have gods.
Milanion nullos fugiendo, Tulle, labores
Milanion no by-fleeing, Tullus, labors
saevitiam durae contudit Iasidos.
the-savagery of-hard crushed daughter-of-Iasus.

nam modo Partheniis amens errabat in antris,
for now Parthenian mad he-wandered in caves,
ibat et hirsutas ille videre feras;
he-went and shaggy he to-see beasts;
ille etiam Hylaei percussus vulnere rami
he also of-Hylaeus struck by-the-blow club
saucius Arcadiis rupibus ingemuit.
wounded on-Arcadian rocks groaned.
ergo velocem potuit domuisse puellam:
so swift he-could to-have-tamed girl:
tantum in amore preces et benefacta valent.
so-much in love prayers and good-deeds avail.
in me tardus Amor non ullas cogitat artis,
in me slow Love not any devises arts,
nec meminit notas, ut prius, ire vias.
nor remembers known, as before, to-go ways.
at vos, deductae quibus est fallacia lunae
but you, of-the-drawn-down to-whom is deceit moon
et labor in magicis sacra piare focis,
and toil on magic rites to-expiate hearths,
en agedum dominae mentem convertite nostrae,
come now of-mistress the-mind turn our,
et facite illa meo palleat ore magis!
and make she than-my may-grow-pale face more!
tunc ego crediderim vobis et sidera et amnis
then I would-believe you both stars and rivers
posse Cytaeines ducere carminibus.
to-be-able of-the-Cytaean-woman to-draw by-songs.
et vos, qui sero lapsum revocatis, amici,
and you, who too-late (me)-fallen recall, friends,

quaerite non sani pectoris auxilia.
seek not of-a-sound heart remedies.
fortiter et ferrum saevos patiemur et ignis,
bravely both steel savage we-shall-endure and fires,
sit modo libertas quae velit ira loqui.
let-be only freedom what may-wish anger to-say.
ferte per extremas gentis et ferte per undas,
carry(-me) through farthest peoples and carry through waves,
qua non ulla meum femina norit iter:
where not any my woman may-know path:
vos remanete, quibus facili deus annuit aure,
you remain, to-whom with-easy the-god has-nodded ear,
sitis et in tuto semper amore pares.
may-you-be and in safe always love matched.
in me nostra Venus noctes exercet amaras,
in me our Venus nights works bitter,
et nullo vacuus tempore defit Amor.
and at-no idle time fails Love.
hoc, moneo, vitate malum: sua quemque moretur
this, I-warn, avoid evil: his-own each let-detain
cura, neque assueto mutet amore locum.
care, nor from-accustomed let-him-change love place.
quod si quis monitis tardas adverterit auris,
but if anyone to-warnings slow shall-have-turned ears,
heu referet quanto verba dolore mea!
alas he-will-recall with-how-great words grief my!

Why, Propertius asks his beloved, does she dress her hair, wear Coan silk and myrrh, and spoil nature's beauty with bought refinement? Love is naked and loves no artifice: earth, ivy, arbutus, water, pebbles, and birds are lovelier untrained. The heroines loved by Castor, Pollux, Idas, Apollo, and Pelops needed no gems; chastity was their beauty. A girl who pleases one man is adorned enough, above all one gifted with song, the lyre, and grace; she will always be dearest to him if she tires of luxury.

Quid iuvat ornato procedere, vita, capillo
Why helps-it with-adorned to-walk-forth, life, hair
et tenuis Coa veste movere sinus?
and thin in-Coan dress to-move folds?
aut quid Orontea crinis perfundere murra,
or why with-Orontean locks to-drench myrrh,
teque peregrinis vendere muneribus;
and-yourself with-foreign to-sell gifts;
naturaeque decus mercato perdere cultu,
and-of-nature the-grace by-bought to-ruin refinement,
nec sinere in propriis membra nitere bonis?
nor to-allow in their-own limbs to-shine goods?
crede mihi, non ulla tua est medicina figurae:
believe me, not any your is medicine of-figure:
nudus Amor formae non amat artificem.
naked Love of-beauty not loves a-craftsman.
aspice quos summittat humus formosa colores;
look what sends-up the-earth beautiful colors;
ut veniant hederae sponte sua melius,
how come ivies by-will their-own better,
surgat et in solis formosius arbutus antris,
rises and in lonely more-beautifully the-arbutus caves,

et sciat indocilis currere lympha vias.
and knows untaught to-run water ways.
litora nativis persuadent picta lapillis,
shores with-native persuade painted pebbles,
et volucres nulla dulcius arte canunt,
and birds with-no more-sweetly art sing,
non sic Leucippis succendit Castora Phoebe,
not so Leucippus'-daughter inflamed Castor Phoebe,
Pollucem cultu non Hilaira soror;
Pollux by-adornment not Hilaira sister;
non, Idae et cupido quondam discordia Phoebo,
not, to-Idas and to-eager once a-cause-of-strife Phoebus,
Eueni patriis filia litoribus;
of-Evenus on-paternal daughter shores;
nec Phrygium falso traxit candore maritum
nor Phrygian with-false drew radiance husband
avecta externis Hippodamia rotis:
carried-off on-foreign Hippodamia wheels:
sed facies aderat nullis obnoxia gemmis,
but beauty was-present to-no beholden gems,
qualis Apelleis est color in tabulis.
such-as Apellean is color in panels.
non illis studium vulgo conquirere amantis:
not to-them zeal at-large to-seek-out lovers:
illis ampla satis forma pudicitia.
for-them ample enough beauty chastity.
non ego nunc vereor ne sim tibi vilior istis:
not I now fear lest I-be to-you cheaper than-those:
uni si qua placet, culta puella sat est;
to-one if any pleases, adorned girl enough is;

cum tibi praesertim Phoebus sua carmina donet
since to-you especially Phoebus his songs gives
Aoniamque libens Calliopea lyram,
and-Aonian gladly Calliope lyre,
unica nec desit iucundis gratia verbis,
unique nor is-lacking to-pleasant grace words,
omnia quaeque Venus, quaeque Minerva probat.
everything and-what Venus, and-what Minerva approves.
his tu semper eris nostrae gratissima vitae,
by-these you always will-be to-our dearest life,
taedia dum miserae sint tibi luxuriae.
weariness provided of-wretched be to-you luxury.

I.3 · CYNTHIA ASLEEP

Coming home drunk late at night, Propertius finds Cynthia asleep, like Ariadne, Andromeda, or a Bacchant resting from the dance. He does not dare wake her, though Love and wine urge him: he gazes at her, sets garlands on her head, and lays apples in her hands, fearing her dreams. The moonlight wakes her, and she reproaches him: he has come back only because another woman shut him out, while she spent the night spinning and singing to the lyre until sleep overcame her in tears.

Qualis Thesea iacuit cedente carina
As the-Thesean lay departing ship
languida desertis Gnosia litoribus;
languid on-deserted the-Cnossian shores;
qualis et accubuit primo Cepheia somno
as also lay-down in-first the-daughter-of-Cepheus sleep
libera iam duris cotibus Andromede;
free now from-hard crags Andromeda;

nec minus assiduis Edonis fessa choreis
nor less by-ceaseless the-Edonian weary dances
qualis in herboso concidit Apidano:
as in grassy collapsed Apidanus:
talis visa mihi mollem spirare quietem
such seemed to-me soft to-breathe rest
Cynthia non certis nixa caput manibus,
Cynthia not on-sure resting head hands,
ebria cum multo traherem vestigia Baccho,
drunken when with-much I-was-dragging footsteps Bacchus,
et quaterent sera nocte facem pueri.
and shook at-late night torch the-boys.
hanc ego, nondum etiam sensus deperditus omnis,
her I, not-yet yet in-senses lost all,
molliter impresso conor adire toro;
softly pressed I-try to-approach couch;
et quamvis duplici correptum ardore iuberent
and although by-double seized fire bade(-me)
hac Amor hac Liber, durus uterque deus,
here Love here Liber, harsh each god,
subiecto leviter positam temptare lacerto
placed-under lightly (her)-lying to-try arm
osculaque admota sumere et arma manu,
and-kisses with-moved-up to-take and weapons hand,
non tamen ausus eram dominae turbare quietem,
not still dared I-had of-mistress to-disturb rest,
expertae metuens iurgia saevitiae;
of-experienced fearing quarrels ferocity;
sed sic intentis haerebam fixus ocellis,
but so intent I-clung fixed eyes,

Argus ut ignotis cornibus Inachidos.
Argus as at-unfamiliar horns of-Inachus'-daughter.
et modo solvebam nostra de fronte corollas
and now I-loosed our from brow garlands
ponebamque tuis, Cynthia, temporibus;
and-I-placed(-them) on-your, Cynthia, temples;
et modo gaudebam lapsos formare capillos;
and now I-delighted fallen to-shape hair;
nunc furtiva cavis poma dabam manibus;
now stolen to-hollow apples I-gave hands;
omniaque ingrato largibar munera somno,
and-all to-ungrateful I-lavished gifts sleep,
munera de prono saepe voluta sinu;
gifts from sloping often rolled lap;
et quotiens raro duxit suspiria motu,
and whenever with-rare she-drew sighs movement,
obstupui vano credulus auspicio,
I-was-stunned by-empty credulous omen,
ne qua tibi insolitos portarent visa timores,
lest some to-you unaccustomed might-bring sights fears,
neve quis invitam cogeret esse suam:
or-lest someone unwilling might-force to-be his:
donec diversas praecurrens luna fenestras,
until opposite running-past the-moon windows,
luna moraturis sedula luminibus,
the-moon with-going-to-linger busy lights,
compositos levibus radiis patefecit ocellos.
composed with-light rays opened eyes.
sic ait in molli fixa toro cubitum:
so she-spoke on soft fixed couch elbow:

‘tandem te nostro referens iniuria lecto
‘at-length you to-our bringing-back a-wrong bed
alterius clausis expulit e foribus?
of-another closed has-driven from doors?
namque ubi longa meae consumpsti tempora noctis,
for where long of-my have-you-spent hours night,
languidus exactis, ei mihi, sideribus?
weary driven-out, ah me, stars?
o utinam talis perducas, improbe, noctes,
O would-that such you-may-pass, wretch, nights,
me miseram qualis semper habere iubes!
me wretched as always to-have you-bid!
nam modo purpureo fallebam stamine somnum,
for now with-purple I-was-beguiling thread sleep,
rursus et Orpheae carmine, fessa, lyrae;
again and of-Orphean with-song, weary, lyre;
interdum leviter mecum deserta querebar
sometimes softly with-myself deserted I-complained
externo longas saepe in amore moras:
another’s long often in love delays:
dum me iucundis lapsam sopor impulit alis.
until me with-pleasant slipping sleep struck wings.
illa fuit lacrimis ultima cura meis.’
that was to-tears last care my.’

Bassus praises other women to make Propertius leave Cynthia, but no heroine of the age of beauty could compare with her, and her beauty is the least of what he loves. The harder Bassus tries to part them, the more each keeps faith. Cynthia will learn of it and become his enemy: she will never trust him with Propertius again, will slander him to every girl, and will weep at every altar. No loss grieves her more than lost love, and Propertius prays that theirs may always stay so.

Quid mihi tam multas laudando, Basse, puellas
Why for-me so many by-praising, Bassus, girls
mutatum domina cogis abire mea?
changed from-mistress do-you-force to-go-away my?
quid me non pateris vitae quodcumque sequetur
why me not do-you-allow of-life whatever will-follow
hoc magis assueto ducere servitio?
in-this rather accustomed to-lead servitude?
tu licet Antiopae formam Nycteidos, et tu
you though of-Antiope the-beauty of-Nycteus'-daughter, and you
Spartanae referas laudibus Hermionae,
of-Spartan may-recount in-praises Hermione,
et quascumque tulit formosi temporis aetas;
and whatever bore of-beautiful time the-age;
Cynthia non illas nomen habere sinat:
Cynthia not them a-name to-have would-allow:
nedum, si levibus fuerit collata figuris,
much-less, if to-slight she-should-be compared figures,
inferior duro iudice turpis eat.
inferior with-a-harsh judge disgraced she-would-go.
haec sed forma mei pars est extrema furoris;
this but beauty of-my part is least frenzy;

sunt maiora, quibus, Basse, perire iuvat:
there-are greater-things, by-which, Bassus, to-perish delights:
ingenuus color et multis decus artibus, et quae
a-noble complexion and in-many grace arts, and what
gaudia sub tacita dicere veste libet.
joys under silent to-tell garment it-pleases.
quo magis et nostros contendis solvere amores,
by-how-much more even our you-strive to-dissolve loves,
hoc magis accepta fallit uterque fide.
by-so-much more with-accepted deceives each faith.
non impune feres: sciet haec insana puella
not unpunished will-you-bear(-it): will-know this the-mad girl
et tibi non tacitis vocibus hostis erit;
and to-you not with-silent voices an-enemy will-be;
nec tibi me post haec committet Cynthia nec te
nor to-you me after this will-entrust Cynthia nor you
quaeret; erit tanti criminis illa memor,
will-seek; will-be of-so-great crime she mindful,
et te circum omnis alias irata puellas
and you around all other angry girls
differet: heu nullo limine carus eris.
will-defame: alas at-no threshold dear you-will-be.
nullas illa suis contemnet fletibus aras,
no she with-her-own will-scorn weeping altars,
et quicumque sacer, qualis ubique, lapis.
and whatever sacred, of-whatever-kind wherever, stone.
non ullo gravius temptatur Cynthia damno,
not by-any more-heavily is-tried Cynthia loss,
quam sibi cum rapto cessat amore deus:
than for-herself when snatched ceases love the-god:

praecipue nostri, maneat sic semper, adoro,
especially ours, may-be-remain so always, I-pray,
nec quicquam ex illa quod querar inveniam!
nor anything from her which I-may-complain-of may-I-find!

I.5 · TO GALLUS, A RIVAL

Propertius warns the envious Gallus not to court Cynthia. She is not like the common girls, and if she favors him she will give him a thousand cares: no sleep, scorned runs to her threshold, sobs, trembling, fear, pallor, and the lesson of being shut out. His noble birth will not help him, for Love does not yield to ancestors, and any slip will make him a byword. Propertius, sick with the same ill, cannot comfort him: they will weep on each other's breast. So let Gallus stop asking what Cynthia can do.

Invide, tu tandem voces compesce molestas
Envious-one, you at-length voices restrain troublesome
et sine nos cursu, quo sumus, ire pares!
and allow us on-the-course, on-which we-are, to-go matched!
quid tibi vis, insane? meos sentire furores?
what for-yourself do-you-want, madman? my to-feel frenzies?
infelix, properas ultima nosse mala,
unlucky-one, you-basten the-last to-know evils,
et miser ignotos vestigia ferre per ignis,
and wretched unknown footsteps to-carry through fires,
et bibere e tota toxica Thessalia.
and to-drink from all poisons Thessaly.
non est illa vagis similis collata puellis:
not is she to-wandering like compared girls:
molliter irasci non solet illa tibi.
mildly to-be-angry not is-wont she with-you.

quod si forte tuis non est contraria votis,
but if perhaps to-your not is opposed wishes,
at tibi curarum milia quanta dabit!
yet to-you of-cares thousands how-many will-she-give!
non tibi iam somnos, non illa relinquet ocellos:
not to-you now sleep, not she will-leave eyes:
illa feros animis alligat una viros.
she fierce in-spirits binds alone men.
a, mea contemptus quotiens ad limina curres,
ah, my scorned how-often to thresholds you-will-run,
cum tibi singultu fortia verba cadent,
when to-you with-a-sob brave words will-fall,
et tremulus maestis orietur fletibus horror,
and trembling with-sad will-rise weeping shuddering,
et timor informem ducet in ore notam,
and fear shapeless will-draw on face mark,
et quaecumque voles fugient tibi verba querenti,
and whatever you-will-want will-flee from-you words complaining,
nec poteris, qui sis aut ubi, nosse miser!
nor will-you-be-able, who you-are or where, to-know wretch!
tum grave servitium nostrae cogere puellae
then heavy servitude of-our you-will-be-forced girl
discere et exclusum quid sit abire domum;
to-learn and shut-out what it-is to-go-away home;
nec iam pallorem totiens mirabere nostrum,
nor now pallor so-often will-you-wonder-at our,
aut cur sim toto corpore nullus ego.
or why I-am in-whole body nothing I.
nec tibi nobilitas poterit succurrere amanti:
nor you nobility will-be-able to-help loving:

nescit Amor priscis cedere imaginibus.
knows-not Love to-ancient to-yield ancestral-masks.
quod si parva tuae dederis vestigia culpae,
but if small of-your you-shall-have-given traces fault,
quam cito de tanto nomine rumor eris!
how quickly from so-great name a-rumor you-will-be!
non ego tum potero solacia ferre roganti,
not I then shall-be-able comforts to-bring to-you-asking,
cum mihi nulla mei sit medicina mali;
when for-me no of-my may-be medicine ill;
sed pariter miseri socio cogemur amore
but equally wretched by-shared we-shall-be-forced love
alter in alterius mutua flere sinu.
one in of-the-other mutual to-weep bosom.
quare, quid possit mea Cynthia, desine, Galle,
therefore, what can my Cynthia, cease, Gallus,
quaerere: non impune illa rogata venit.
to-ask: not unpunished she asked comes.

I.6 · NOT TO IONIA

Propertius would gladly sail with Tullus to Athens and Asia, but Cynthia's pleas and threats hold him back: she cries all night that if he leaves her there are no gods. He cannot bear her complaints for an hour. Let Tullus strive to surpass his uncle's honors and restore the allies' old rights, for his youth has never given time to love. Propertius was born for no glory and no arms, only for this warfare of love; if Tullus ever remembers him abroad, let him know that he lives under a harsh star.

Non ego nunc Hadriae vereor mare noscere tecum,
Not I now of-the-Adriatic fear the-sea to-know with-you,
Tulle, neque Aegaeo ducere vela salo,
Tullus, nor on-the-Aegean to-spread sails brine,
cum quo Rhipaeos possim conscendere montis
with whom Rhipaean I-could to-climb mountains
ulteriusque domos vadere Memnonias;
and-beyond homes to-go Memnonian;
sed me complexae remorantur verba puellae,
but me of-embracing hold-back the-words girl,
mutatoque graves saepe colore preces.
and-with-changed heavy often color prayers.
illa mihi totis argutat noctibus ignis,
she to-me in-whole cries-out nights (her)-fires,
et queritur nullos esse relicta deos;
and complains no to-be (she)-abandoned gods;
illa meam mihi iam se denegat, illa minatur,
she mine to-me now herself denies, she threatens,
quae solet irato tristis amica viro.
what is-wont to-angry sad a-sweetheart man.
his ego non horam possum durare querelis:
at-these I not an-hour can endure complaints:

a pereat, si quis lentus amare potest!
ah may-be-perish, if anyone coolly to-love can!
an mihi sit tanti doctas cognoscere Athenas
or to-me can-it-be of-such-worth learned to-know Athens
atque Asiae veteres cernere divitias,
and of-Asia ancient to-see riches,
ut mihi deducta faciat convicia puppi
that at-me launched may-make reproaches ship
Cynthia et insanis ora notet manibus,
Cynthia and with-mad face may-mark hands,
osculaque opposito dicat sibi debita vento,
and-kisses to-the-opposing may-say to-herself owed wind,
et nihil infido durius esse viro?
and nothing than-a-faithless harsher to-be man?
tu patrui meritas conare anteire securis,
you of-your-uncle the-merited strive to-surpass axes,
et vetera oblitis iura refer sociis.
and old to-forgetful rights restore allies.
nam tua non aetas umquam cessavit amori,
for your not youth ever has-given-time to-love,
semper et armatae cura fuit patriae;
always and of-armed the-care has-been fatherland;
et tibi non umquam nostros puer iste labores
and to-you not ever our boy that labors
afferat et lacrimis omnia nota meis!
may-be-bring and with-tears everything known my!
me sine, quem semper voluit fortuna iacere,
me allow, whom always has-wished fortune to-lie-low,
hanc animam extremae reddere nequitiae.
this soul to-utmost to-give-up worthlessness.

multi longinquo periere in amore libenter,
many long have-perished in love gladly,
in quorum numero me quoque terra tegat.
in whose number me too the-earth may-cover.
non ego sum laudi, non natus idoneus armis:
not I am for-praise, not born fit for-arms:
hanc me militiam fata subire volunt.
this me warfare the-fates to-undergo wish.
at tu seu mollis qua tendit Ionia, seu qua
but you whether soft where stretches Ionia, or where
Lydia Pactoli tingit arata liquor;
Lydian of-Pactolus stains plowed-fields the-liquid;
seu pedibus terras seu pontum carpere remis
whether on-foot lands or the-sea to-traverse with-oars
ibis, et accepti pars eris imperii:
you-will-go, and of-accepted a-part you-will-be command:
tum tibi si qua mei veniet non immemor hora,
then to-you if some of-me will-come not unmindful hour,
vivere me duro sidere certus eris.
to-live me under-a-harsh star sure you-will-be.

While Ponticus writes an epic of Thebes to rival Homer, Propertius writes of his love and his harsh mistress, serving his grief more than his talent. He hopes that neglected lovers will read him and find comfort. If Love's arrow ever strikes Ponticus, his epic will be no help: he will try in vain to write soft verse, and he will admire Propertius, whom young men will mourn at his tomb as the great poet of their passion. Late love, he warns, comes with heavy interest.

Dum tibi Cadmeae dicuntur, Pontice, Thebae
While by-you Cadmean are-sung, Ponticus, Thebes
armaque fraternae tristia militiae,
and-arms of-fraternal grim warfare,
atque, ita sim felix, primo contendis Homero,
and, so may-I-be happy, with-first you-contend Homer,
(sint modo fata tuis mollia carminibus:)
(may-be only the-fates to-your gentle songs:)
nos, ut consuemus, nostros agitamus amores,
we, as we-are-wont, our stir loves,
atque aliquid duram quaerimus in dominam;
and something hard we-seek against mistress;
nec tantum ingenio quantum servire dolori
nor so-much to-talent as to-serve to-grief
cogor et aetatis tempora dura queri.
I-am-forced and of-youth the-times hard to-lament.
hic mihi conteritur vitae modus, haec mea fama est,
here for-me is-worn-away of-life the-manner, this my fame is,
hinc cupio nomen carminis ire mei.
from-here I-desire the-name of-song to-go my.
me laudent doctae solum placuisse puellae,
me let-praise to-a-learned alone to-have-pleased girl,

Pontice, et iniustas saepe tulisse minas;
Ponticus, and unjust often to-have-borne threats;
me legat assidue post haec neglectus amator,
me let-read constantly after this a-neglected lover,
et prosint illi cognita nostra mala.
and may-help him known our ills.
te quoque si certo puer hic concusserit arcu,
you too if with-sure the-boy this shall-have-struck bow,
(quod nolim: nostros te violasse deos!)
(which I-would-not-wish: our you to-have-outraged gods!)
longe castra tibi, longe miser agmina septem
far camp to-you, far wretch columns seven
flebis in aeterno surda iacere situ;
you-will-weep in eternal deaf to-lie neglect;
et frustra cupies mollem componere versum,
and in-vain you-will-desire soft to-compose verse,
nec tibi subiciet carmina serus Amor.
nor to-you will-supply songs late Love.
tum me non humilem mirabere saepe poetam,
then me not lowly you-will-admire often poet,
tunc ego Romanis praeferar ingeniis;
then I to-Roman shall-be-preferred talents;
nec poterunt iuvenes nostro reticere sepulcro
nor will-be-able young-men at-our to-keep-silent tomb
'Ardoris nostri magne poeta, iaces.'
'Of-ardor our great poet, you-lie.'
tu cave nostra tuo contemnas carmina fastu:
you beware our with-your despise songs disdain:
saepe venit magno faenore tardus Amor.
often comes with-great interest late Love.

Is Cynthia really leaving with a rival for cold Illyria, to face the sea and the snows? He wishes winter twice as long, yet he prays for her safe voyage and swears that no woman will draw him from her threshold and that he will ask every sailor in what harbor she is. Then he exults: she has stayed, won by his constant prayers. She prefers his narrow bed to any kingdom and the rival's gifts, and he won her with songs, not gold or pearls. The Muses are real, and Cynthia is his.

Tune igitur demens, nec te mea cura moratur?
You then mad, nor you my care detains?

an tibi sum gelida vilior Illyria?
or to-you am-I than-icy cheaper Illyria?

et tibi iam tanti, quicumque est, iste videtur,
and to-you now of-such-worth, whoever he-is, that-man seems,

ut sine me vento quolibet ire velis?
that without me with-wind any to-go you-would-wish?

tune audire potes vesani murmura ponti
you to-hear can of-the-raging the-murmurs sea

fortis, et in dura nave iacere potes?
brave, and on hard ship to-lie can?

tu pedibus teneris positas fulcire pruinas,
you with-feet tender settled to-tread frosts,

tu potes insolitas, Cynthia, ferre nives?
you can unaccustomed, Cynthia, to-bear snows?

o utinam hibernae duplicentur tempora brumae,
O would-that of-winter be-doubled the-times solstice,

et sit iners tardis navita Vergiliis,
and be idle through-slow the-sailor Pleiads,

nec tibi Tyrrhena solvatur funis harena,
nor for-you on-Tyrrhenian be-loosed the-cable sand,

neve inimica meas elevet aura preces!
nor hostile my lift-away breeze prayers!
atque ego non videam talis subsidere ventos,
and I not may-see such to-subside winds,
cum tibi provectas auferet unda ratis,
when from-you carried-forward shall-carry-off the-wave ships,
ut me defixum vacua patiatur in ora
that me rooted empty may-allow on shore
crudelem infesta saepe vocare manu!
cruel(-one) with-hostile often to-call hand!
sed quocumque modo de me, periura, mereris,
but in-whatever way of me, perjured-one, you-deserve,
sit Galatea tuae non aliena viae:
may-be Galatea to-your not hostile voyage:
ut te, felici praevecta Ceraunia remo,
that you, with-happy having-sailed-past Ceraunia oar,
accipiat placidis Oricos aequoribus.
may-receive with-calm Oricos waters.
nam me non ullae poterunt corrumpere, de te
for me not any-women will-be-able to-seduce, from you
quin ego, vita, tuo limine verba querar;
but-that I, my-life, at-your threshold words may-complain;
nec me deficiet nautas rogitare citatos
nor me will-fail sailors to-ask-repeatedly hurried
'Dicite, quo portu clausa puella mea est?
'Say, in-what harbor shut-in girl my is?
et dicam 'Licet Atraciis considat in oris,
and I-will-say 'Though at-Atracian she-settle on shores,
et licet Hylleis, illa futura mea est.'
and though at-Hyllean, she going-to-be mine is.'

hic erat! hic iurata manet! rumpantur iniqui!
here she-was! here sworn she-stays! let-them-burst the-hostile!
vicimus: assiduas non tulit illa preces.
we-have-won: constant not did-bear she prayers.
falsa licet cupidus deponat gaudia livor:
false may greedy lay-down joys envy:
destitit ire novas Cynthia nostra vias.
has-ceased to-go new Cynthia our ways.
illi carus ego et per me carissima Roma
to-her dear I and through me dearest Rome
dicitur, et sine me dulcia regna negat.
is-said, and without me sweet kingdoms she-refuses.
illa vel angusto mecum requiescere lecto
she even on-narrow with-me to-rest bed
et quocumque modo maluit esse mea,
and in-whatever way has-preferred to-be mine,
quam sibi dotatae regnum vetus Hippodamiae,
than for-herself of-dowered the-kingdom ancient Hippodamia,
et quas Elis opes ante pararat equis.
and what Elis wealth before had-won with-horses.
quamvis magna daret, quamvis maiora daturus,
although great-things he-gave, although greater going-to-give,
non tamen illa meos fugit avara sinus.
not still she my has-fled greedy bosom.
hanc ego non auro, non Indis flectere conchis,
her I not with-gold, not with-Indian to-sway pearls,
sed potui blandi carminis obsequio.
but could of-flattering song by-the-service.
sunt igitur Musae, neque amanti tardus Apollo,
there-are therefore Muses, nor to-a-lover slow Apollo,

quis ego fretus amo: Cynthia rara mea est!
on-whom I relying love: Cynthia rare mine is!
nunc mihi summa licet contingere sidera plantis:
now to-me the-highest it-is-allowed to-touch stars with-soles:
sive dies seu nox venerit, illa mea est!
whether day or night shall-have-come, she mine is!
nec mihi rivalis certos subducit amores:
nor from-me a-rival certain withdraws loves:
ista meam norit gloria canitiem.
that my will-know glory gray-hair.

I.9 · PONTICUS IN LOVE

Propertius foretold that the scornful Ponticus would fall in love, and now he is a suppliant to a bought girl. His epic will not help him now; Mimnermus' verse avails more in love than Homer's, so let him put away his grim books and sing what girls want to hear. This is only the first spark: soon he will long to face Armenian tigers rather than Love's bow, and a willing girl wounds the more sharply. Propertius advises him to confess his love at once, since speaking of it brings relief.

Dicebam tibi venturos, irrisor, amores,
I-was-telling you going-to-come, mocker, loves,
nec tibi perpetuo libera verba fore:
nor for-you forever free words to-be:
ecce iaces supplexque venis ad iura puellae,
behold you-lie and-suppliant you-come to the-laws of-a-girl,
et tibi nunc quaevis imperat empta modo.
and to-you now any-girl gives-orders bought just-now.
non me Chaoniae vincant in amore columbae
not me Chaonian may-surpass in love doves

dicere, quos iuvenes quaeque puella domet.
to-tell, what young-men each girl tames.
me dolor et lacrimae merito fecere peritum:
me grief and tears deservedly have-made expert:
atque utinam posito dicar amore rudis!
and would-that laid-aside I-may-be-called love inexperienced!
quid tibi nunc misero prodest grave dicere carmen
what to-you now wretched profits weighty to-tell song
aut Amphioniae moenia flere lyrae?
or of-Amphion's walls to-weep lyre?
plus in amore valet Mimnermi versus Homero:
more in love avails of-Mimnermus verse than-Homer:
carmina mansuetus levia quaerit Amor.
songs gentle light seeks Love.
i quaeso et tristis istos compone libellos,
go I-pray and grim those put-away little-books,
et cane quod quaevis nosse puella velit!
and sing what any to-know girl may-wish!
quid si non esset facilis tibi copia? nunc tu
what if not there-were easy for-you abundance? now you
insanus medio flumine quaeris aquam.
mad in-the-middle-of river seek water.
necdum etiam palles, vero nec tangeris igni:
nor-yet even are-you-pale, with-true nor are-you-touched fire:
haec est venturi prima favilla mali.
this is of-coming the-first spark evil.
tum magis Armenias cupies accedere tigris
then rather Armenian you-will-wish to-approach tigers
et magis infernae vincula nosse rotae,
and rather of-infernal the-chains to-know wheel,

quam pueri totiens arcum sentire medullis
than of-the-boy so-often the-bow to-feel in-the-marrow
et nihil iratae posse negare tuae.
and nothing to-angry to-be-able to-refuse your(-girl).
nullus Amor cuiquam facilis ita praebuit alas,
no Love to-anyone easy so has-offered wings,
ut non alterna presserit ille manu.
that not with-alternate has-pressed he hand.
nec te decipiat, quod sit satis illa parata:
nor you let-it-deceive, that be enough she ready:
acrius illa subit, Pontice, si qua tua est,
more-sharply she enters, Ponticus, if any yours is,
quippe ubi non liceat vacuos seducere ocellos,
since where not it-be-allowed free to-lead-aside eyes,
nec vigilare alio nomine cedat Amor.
nor to-keep-watch in-another name may-give-way Love.
qui non ante patet, donec manus attigit ossa:
who not before appears, until the-hand has-touched bones:
quisquis es, assiduas a fuge blanditias!
whoever you-are, constant ah flee blandishments!
illis et silices et possint cedere quercus,
to-them both flints and could yield oaks,
nedum tu possis, spiritus iste levis.
much-less you could, breath that light.
quare, si pudor est, quam primum errata fatere:
therefore, if shame there-is, as soon-as-possible errors confess:
dicere quo pereas saepe in amore levat.
to-say by-what you-perish often in love relieves.

Propertius recalls with delight the night he witnessed Gallus' first love, lingering though sleep pressed on him. In return for Gallus' trust he offers his services: he can keep a secret, reunite lovers, and heal fresh wounds, for Cynthia has taught him what a lover must seek and avoid. Let Gallus never be harsh, proud, or silent with his girl, nor refuse her: the more humble and subject he is, the more he will enjoy his love, and only the man never free of love can stay happy with one girl.

O iucunda quies, primo cum testis amori
O pleasant rest, to-first when as-witness love
affueram vestris conscius in lacrimis!
I-had-been-present your aware-of in tears!
o noctem meminisse mihi iucunda voluptas,
O the-night to-remember to-me pleasant pleasure,
o quotiens votis illa vocanda meis,
O how-often by-prayers that to-be-invoked my,
cum te complexa morientem, Galle, puella
when you embracing dying, Gallus, the-girl
vidimus et longa ducere verba mora!
we-saw and long to-draw-out words delay!
quamvis labentis premeret mihi somnus ocellos
although slipping pressed for-me sleep eyes
et mediis caelo Luna ruberet equis,
and in-the-middle-of sky the-Moon blushed horses,
non tamen a vestro potui secedere lusu:
not still from your I-could to-withdraw play:
tantus in alternis vocibus ardor erat.
so-great in alternate voices ardor was.
sed quoniam non es veritus concedere nobis,
but since not you-have feared to-entrust to-us,

accipe commissae munera laetitiae:
receive of-entrusted the-rewards joy:
non solum vestros didici reticere dolores,
not only your I-have-learned to-keep-silent griefs,
est quiddam in nobis maius, amice, fide.
is something in me greater, friend, than-faith.
possum ego diversos iterum coniungere amantis.
can I separated again to-join lovers.
et dominae tardas possum aperire fores;
and of-mistress slow I-can to-open doors;
et possum alterius curas sanare recentis,
and I-can of-another the-cares to-heal fresh,
nec levis in verbis est medicina meis.
nor light in words is medicine my.
Cynthia me docuit semper quaecumque petenda
Cynthia me taught always whatever to-be-sought
quaeque cavenda forent: non nihil egit Amor.
and-what to-be-avoided would-be: not nothing did Love.
tu cave ne tristi cupias pugnare puellae,
you beware lest with-gloomy you-wish to-fight girl,
neve superba loqui, neve tacere diu;
nor haughty to-speak, nor to-be-silent long;
neu, si quid petiit, ingrata fronte negaris,
nor, if something she-has-asked, with-ungrateful brow refuse,
neu tibi pro vano verba benigna cadant.
nor for-you for empty words kind fall.
irritata venit, quando contemnitur illa,
provoked she-comes, when is-scorned she,
nec meminit iustas ponere laesa minas:
nor remembers just to-lay-down wounded threats:

at quo sis humilis magis et subiectus amori,
but by-how-much you-are humble more and subject to-love,
hoc magis effecto saepe fruare bono.
by-so-much more effected often may-you-enjoy good.
is poterit felix una remanere puella,
he will-be-able happy with-one to-remain girl,
qui numquam vacuo pectore liber erit.
who never with-empty heart free will-be.

I.11 · CYNTHIA AT BAIAE

While Cynthia idles at the resort of Baiae, Propertius asks whether she still thinks of him or some rival has stolen her away. He would rather she rowed a little boat on the Lucrine lake or swam in quiet water than listened to another man's whispers on the shore, for a girl unguarded forgets the gods. He does not doubt her proven good name; he fears the place, and begs pardon if his verses grieve her. She alone is his home and his parents, and all his joy, so let her leave corrupt Baiae at once.

Ecquid te mediis cessantem, Cynthia, Bais,
Whether you in-the-midst-of idling, Cynthia, Baiae,
qua iacet Herculeis semita litoribus,
where lies by-Herculean the-path shores,
et modo Thesproti mirantem subdita regno
and now of-Thesprotus admiring subject kingdom
proxima Misenis aequora nobilibus,
near to-Misenum waters famous,
nostri cura subit memores a! ducere noctes?
of-us care comes mindful ah! to-draw-out nights?
ecquis in extremo restat amore locus?
whether-any in farthest remains love place?

an te nescio quis simulatis ignibus hostis
or you I-know-not who with-feigned fires an-enemy
sustulit e nostris, Cynthia, carminibus?
has-taken-away from our, Cynthia, songs?
atque utinam mage te, remis confisa minutis,
and would-that rather you, to-oars trusting small,
parvula Lucrina cumba moretur aqua,
a-tiny on-Lucrine boat may-detain water,
aut teneat clausam tenui Teuthrantis in unda
or may-hold shut-in thin of-Teuthras in wave
alternae facilis cedere lympha manu,
to-alternate easy to-yield water hand,
quam vacet alterius blandos audire susurros
than may-you-be-free of-another coaxing to-hear whispers
molliter in tacito litore compositam! —
softly on silent shore settled!—
ut solet amota labi custode puella
as is-wont removed to-slip guardian a-girl
perfida, communis nec meminisse deos:
faithless, common nor to-remember gods:
non quia perspecta non es mihi cognita fama,
not because by-well-proven not you-are to-me known reputation,
sed quod in hac omnis parte timetur amor.
but because in this every place is-feared love.
ignosces igitur, si quid tibi triste libelli
you-will-forgive therefore, if anything to-you sad little-books
attulerint nostri: culpa timoris erit.
shall-have-brought our: the-fault of-fear will-be.
'an mihi non maior carae custodia matris?'
'or to-me not greater of-dear guardianship mother?'

aut sine te vitae cura sit ulla meae?
or without you of-life care be any my?
tu mihi sola domus, tu, Cynthia, sola parentes,
you to-me alone home, you, Cynthia, alone parents,
omnia tu nostrae tempora laetitiae.
all you of-our times joy.
seu tristis veniam seu contra laetus amicis,
whether sad I-come or on-the-contrary glad to-friends,
quicquid ero, dicam 'Cynthia causa fuit.'
whatever I-shall-be, I-will-say 'Cynthia the-cause was.'
tu modo quam primum corruptas desere Baias:
you only as soon-as-possible corrupt leave Baiae:
multis ista dabunt litora discidium,
to-many those will-give shores separation,
litora quae fuerant castis inimica puellis:
shores which had-been to-chaste hostile girls:
a pereant Baiae, crimen amoris, aquae!
ah may-they-perish of-Baiae, the-reproach of-love, waters!

Propertius rejects the charge that Rome keeps him idle: Cynthia is as far from his bed as the Hypanis is from the Po, and no longer cherishes their love. Once no one was loved as faithfully; now either a god or a Promethean herb has parted them, and a long journey changes girls. For the first time he learns to spend long nights alone. Still, it is not right for him to love another or leave her: Cynthia was the first, and Cynthia will be the last.

Quid mihi desidiae non cessas fingere crimen,
Why to-me of-idleness not do-you-cease to-invent a-charge,
quod faciat nobis conscia Roma moram?
that makes for-us knowing Rome delay?
tam multa illa meo divisa est milia lecto,
so many she from-my divided is miles bed,
quantum Hypanis Veneto dissidet Eridano;
as-much-as Hypanis from-Venetian is-distant Eridanus;
nec mihi consuetos amplexu nutrit amores
nor for-me accustomed with-embrace nourishes loves
Cynthia, nec nostra dulcis in aure sonat.
Cynthia, nor our sweet in ear sounds.
olim gratus eram: non illo tempore cuiquam
once welcome I-was: not at-that time to-anyone
contigit ut simili posset amare fide.
it-befell that with-like he-could to-love faith.
invidiae fuimus: non me deus obruit? an quae
of-envy we-were-the-object: not me a-god has-overwhelmed? or which
lecta Prometheis dividit herba iugis?
gathered on-Promethean divides herb ridges?
non sum ego qui fueram: mutat via longa puellas.
not am I who I-had-been: changes a-way long girls.

quantus in exiguo tempore fugit amor!
how-great in brief time flees love!
nunc primum longas solus cognoscere noctes
now first long alone to-know nights
cogor et ipse meis auribus esse gravis.
I-am-forced and myself to-my ears to-be burdensome.
felix, qui potuit praesenti flere puellae;
happy, who could before-present to-weep girl;
non nihil aspersis gaudet Amor lacrimis:
not nothing in-sprinkled rejoices Love tears:
aut si despectus potuit mutare calores,
or if scorned he-could to-change heats,
sunt quoque translato gaudia servitio.
there-are too in-transferred joys servitude.
mi neque amare aliam neque ab hac desistere fas est:
to-me neither to-love another nor from her to-desist right is:
Cynthia prima fuit, Cynthia finis erit.
Cynthia first was, Cynthia the-end will-be.

Gallus may laugh at Propertius' loss, but Propertius will not repay him in kind. Gallus, who deceived many girls, has now fallen helplessly for one, and she will avenge them all. Propertius saw it himself: Gallus wasting in her embrace, weeping, longing to die in her arms, gripped by a passion greater than Neptune's for Tyro or Hercules' for Hebe. No wonder, since she rivals Leda and her daughters; since Gallus must perish of love, let him enjoy it, and may she be the only one for him.

Tu, quod saepe soles, nostro laetabere casu,
You, as often you-are-wont, at-our will-rejoice misfortune,
Galle, quod abrepto solus amore vacem.
Gallus, that snatched-away alone love I-am-empty.
at non ipse tuas imitabor, perfide, voces:
but not myself your will-I-imitate, faithless-one, words:
fallere te numquam, Galle, puella velit.
to-deceive you never, Gallus, a-girl may-wish.
dum tibi deceptis augetur fama puellis,
while for-you deceived is-increased fame girls,
certus et in nullo quaeris amore moram,
sure and in no you-seek love delay,
perditus in quadam tardis pallescere curis
lost in a-certain-girl with-slow to-grow-pale cares
incipis, et primo lapsus abire gradu.
you-begin, and at-first having-slipped to-go-away step.
haec erit illarum contempti poena doloris:
this will-be of-those of-scorned the-penalty grief:
multarum miseras exiget una vices.
of-many wretched will-exact one turns.
haec tibi vulgaris istos compescet amores,
she for-you common those will-restrain loves,

nec nova quaerendo semper amicus eris.
nor new by-seeking always a-lover you-will-be.
haec ego non rumore malo, non augure doctus;
this I not by-rumor bad, not by-augur taught;
vidi ego: me quaeso teste negare potes?
saw I: me I-pray as-witness to-deny can-you?
vidi ego te toto vinctum languescere collo
saw I you with-whole bound to-languish neck
et flere iniectis, Galle, diu manibus,
and to-weep thrown-around, Gallus, long hands,
et cupere optatis animam deponere verbis,
and to-desire in-longed-for the-soul to-lay-down words,
et quae deinde meus celat, amice, pudor.
and what then my hides, friend, shame.
non ego complexus potui diducere vestros:
not I embraces could to-part your:
tantus erat demens inter utrosque furor.
so-great was mad between both frenzy.
non sic Haemonio Salmonida mixtus Enipeo
not so in-Haemonian the-daughter-of-Salmoneus mingled Enipeus
Taenarius facili pressit amore deus,
the-Taenarian with-easy pressed love god,
nec sic caelestem flagrans amor Herculis Heben
nor so heavenly burning the-love of-Hercules Hebe
sensit in Oetaeis gaudia prima iugis.
felt on Oetaean joys first ridges.
una dies omnis potuit praecurrere amantis:
one day all could to-outrun lovers:
nam tibi non tepidas subdidit illa faces,
for to-you not lukewarm has-applied she torches,

nec tibi praeteritos passa est succedere fastus,
nor to-you past allowed has to-return disdains,
nec sinet abduci: te tuus ardor aget.
nor will-allow to-be-led-away: you your ardor will-drive.
nec mirum, cum sit Iove digna et proxima Ledae
nor wonder, since she-be of-Jove worthy and next to-Leda
et Ledae partu gratior, una tribus;
and than-Leda's offspring more-pleasing, one than-three;
illa sit Inachiis et blandior heroinis,
she be than-Inachian even more-alluring heroines,
illa suis verbis cogat amare Iovem.
she by-her words may-force to-love Jove.
tu vero quoniam semel es periturus amore,
you indeed since once are going-to-perish of-love,
utere: non alio limine dignus eras.
use(-it): not of-another threshold worthy you-were.
quae tibi sit felix quoniam novus incidit error;
who for-you may-be happy since new has-befallen error;
et quodcumque voles, una sit ista tibi.
and whatever you-will-wish, one may-be she to-you.

Tullus may lie by the Tiber drinking Lesbian wine from fine cups and own forests as dense as the Caucasus, but none of it can rival Propertius' love, for Love does not yield to wealth. When his girl spends a night or a day with him, the gold of Pactolus and the gems of the Red Sea are his, and kings must yield to his joy. Wealth is no pleasure when Love is hostile: Venus breaks heroes and torments the rich in their purple beds, while with her he will scorn Alcinous' kingdom.

Tu licet abiectus Tiberina molliter unda
You though stretched-out by-Tiberine softly wave
Lesbia Mentoreo vina bibas opere,
Lesbian from-Mentor's wines may-drink work,
et modo tam celeres mireris currere lintres
and now so swift may-admire to-run skiffs
et modo tam tardas funibus ire ratis;
and now so slow by-ropes to-go barges;
et nemus omne satas intendat vertice silvas,
and grove all planted may-stretch with-top woods,
urgetur quantis Caucasus arboribus;
is-pressed with-how-great Caucasus trees;
non tamen ista meo valeant contendere amori:
not still those with-my can to-contend love:
nescit Amor magnis cedere divitiis.
knows-not Love to-great to-yield riches.
nam sive optatam mecum trahit illa quietem,
for whether longed-for with-me drags-out she rest,
seu facili totum ducit amore diem,
or with-easy whole spends love day,
tum mihi Pactoli veniunt sub tecta liquores,
then to-me of-Pactolus come under roofs streams,

et legitur Rubris gemma sub aequoribus;
and is-gathered Red gem under seas;
tum mihi cessuros spondent mea gaudia reges:
then to-me going-to-yield promise my joys kings:
quae maneant, dum me fata perire volent!
which may-remain, while me the-fates to-perish will-wish!
nam quis divitiis adverso gaudet Amore?
for who in-riches with-hostile rejoices Love?
nulla mihi tristi praemia sint Venere!
no to-me with-sad rewards be Venus!
illa potest magnas heroum infringere vires,
she can great of-heroes to-break strength,
illa etiam duris mentibus esse dolor:
she also to-hard minds to-be pain:
illa neque Arabium metuit transcendere limen
she neither Arabian fears to-cross threshold
nec timet ostrino, Tulle, subire toro
nor fears on-purple, Tullus, to-come-under couch
et miserum toto iuvenem versare cubili:
and wretched in-the-whole a-youth to-toss bed:
quid relevant variis serica textilibus?
what relieve with-varied silks weavings?
quae mihi dum placata aderit, non ulla verebor
she to-me while appeased she-will-be-present, not any I-will-fear
regna vel Alcinoi munera despicere.
kingdoms or of-Alcinous gifts to-despise.

Propertius feared much from Cynthia's fickleness, but not this betrayal: in his danger she comes slowly, combing her hair and putting on jewels as if for a new husband. Calypso, Hypsipyle, Alphesiboea, and Evadne were faithful to their absent or dead men, but no example has changed her. Rivers will run back from the sea and the seasons reverse before his love changes; yet she swore by her eyes, and lifts them to the Sun without trembling. He will die a warning to lovers to trust no blandishments.

Saepe ego multa tuae levitatis dura timebam,
Often I many of-your fickleness hardships feared,
hac tamen excepta, Cynthia, perfidia.
this still excepted, Cynthia, treachery.
aspice me quanto rapiat fortuna periclo!
look-at me with-how-great sweeps fortune peril!
tu tamen in nostro lenta timore venis;
you still in our slow fear come;
et potes hesternos manibus componere crinis
and you-can of-yesterday with-hands to-arrange locks
et longa faciem quaerere desidia,
and with-long face to-seek idleness,
nec minus Eois pectus variare lapillis,
nor less with-Eastern breast to-adorn pebbles,
ut formosa novo quae parat ire viro.
as beautiful to-a-new who prepares to-go husband.
at non sic Ithaci digressu mota Calypso
but not so of-the-Ithacan by-the-departure moved Calypso
desertis olim fleverat aequoribus:
to-deserted once had-wept waters:

multos illa dies incomptis maesta capillis
many she days uncombed sad hair
sederat, iniusto multa locuta salo,
had-sat, to-unjust many-things having-spoken brine,
et quamvis numquam post haec visura, dolebat
and although never after this going-to-see, grieved
illa tamen, longae conscia laetitiae.
she still, of-long knowing happiness.
nec sic Aesoniden rapientibus anxia ventis
nor so the-son-of-Aeson snatching anxious winds
Hypsipyle vacuo constitit in thalamo:
Hypsipyle empty stood in bedchamber:
Hypsipyle nullos post illos sensit amores,
Hypsipyle no after those felt loves,
ut semel Haemonio tabuit hospitio.
since once with-Haemonian she-pined hospitality.
Alphesiboea suos ulta est pro coniuge fratres
Alphesiboea her avenged has for husband brothers
sanguinis et cari vincula rupit amor.
of-blood and dear the-bonds broke love.
coniugis Euadne miseros elata per ignis
of-her-husband Evadne wretched carried-out through fires
occidit, Argivae fama pudicitiae.
perished, of-Argive the-glory chastity.
quarum nulla tuos potuit convertere mores,
of-whom none your could to-change ways,
tu quoque uti fieres nobilis historia.
you too that you-might-become famous a-story.
desine iam revocare tuis periuria verbis,
cease now to-recall with-your perjuries words,

Cynthia, et oblitos parce movere deos;
Cynthia, and forgotten spare to-stir gods;
audax a nimium, nostro dolitura periclo,
bold ah too-much, at-our going-to-grieve peril,
si quid forte tibi durius inciderit!
if anything perhaps to-you harsher shall-have-befallen!
multa prius: vasto labentur flumina ponto,
many-things first: to-vast shall-glide rivers sea,
annus et inversas duxerit ante vices,
the-year and reversed shall-have-led before seasons,
quam tua sub nostro mutetur pectore cura:
than your under our may-be-changed breast care:
sis quodcumque voles, non aliena tamen.
be whatever you-will-wish, not another's still.
quam tibi — ne viles isti videantur ocelli,
as to-you —lest cheap those may-seem eyes,
per quos saepe mihi credita perfidia est!
through which often by-me believed treachery has-been!
hos tu iurabas, si quid mentita fuisses,
these you swore-by, if anything lied you-had,
ut tibi suppositis excidерent manibus:
that to-you from-placed-beneath might-fall-out hands:
et contra magnum potes hos attollere Solem,
and against great can-you these to-raise Sun,
nec tremis admissae conscia nequitiae?
nor do-you-tremble of-committed aware wickedness?
quis te cogebat multos pallere colores
who you was-forcing many to-grow-pale colors
et fletum invitis ducere luminibus?
and weeping from-unwilling to-draw eyes?

quis ego nunc pereo, similis moniturus amantis
through-which I now perish, like going-to-warn lovers
'O nullis tutum credere blanditiis!
'O in-no safe to-trust blandishments!

I.16 · THE DOOR

The door of a house once opened to triumphs and famed for chastity complains that it is now beaten by drunken revelers and hung with lovers' garlands, unable to protect its mistress' bad name. Worse is the shut-out lover, whose serenade it repeats: he calls the door crueler than his mistress, mourns his cold nights, wishes his voice could reach her ear while she lies in another's arms, and recalls the songs and kisses he has given the door. So, the door ends, it is blamed for her vices and his tears.

'Quae fueram magnis olim patefacta triumphis,
'I-who had-been to-great once opened triumphs,
Ianua Tarpeiae nota pudicitiae;
the-Door of-Tarpeian famous chastity;
cuius inaurati celebrarunt limina currus,
whose gilded thronged thresholds chariots,
captorum lacrimis umida supplicibus;
of-captives with-tears wet suppliant;
nunc ego, nocturnis potorum saucia rixis,
now I, by-nocturnal of-drinkers wounded brawls,
pulsata indignis saepe queror manibus,
beaten by-unworthy often complain hands,
et mihi non desunt turpes pendere corollae
and to-me not are-lacking shameful to-hang garlands
semper et exclusis signa iacere faces.
always and of-the-shut-out signs to-lie torches.

nec possum infamis dominae defendere noctes
nor can-I of-infamous mistress to-defend the-nights
nobilis obscenis tradita carminibus;
noble to-obscene handed-over songs;
(nec tamen illa suae revocatur parcere famae,
(nor still she her is-called-back to-spare reputation,
turpior et saecli vivere luxuria.)
more-shameful and than-the-age to-live luxury.)
has inter gravibus cogor deflere querelis,
these among with-heavy I-am-forced to-weep complaints,
supplicis a longis tristior excubiis.
than-a-suppliant's ah long sadder watches.
ille meos numquam patitur requiescere postis,
he my never allows to-rest doorposts,
arguta referens carmina blanditia:
with-shrill repeating songs flattery:
"Ianua vel domina penitus crudelior ipsa,
"O-Door than-even mistress inwardly more-cruel herself,
quid mihi iam duris clausa taces foribus?
why to-me now with-hard shut are-you-silent leaves?
cur numquam reserata meos admittis amores,
why never unbarred my do-you-admit loves,
nescia furtivas reddere mota preces?
not-knowing stolen to-return moved prayers?
nullane finis erit nostro concessa dolori,
no end will-be to-our granted grief,
turpis et in tepido limine somnus erit?
shameful and on lukewarm threshold sleep will-be?
me mediae noctes, me sidera plena iacentem,
me middle nights, me the-stars full lying,

frigidaque Eoo me dolet aura gelu:
and-cold with-Eastern me grieves the-breeze frost:
tu sola humanos numquam miserata dolores
you alone human never having-pitied griefs
respondes tacitis mutua cardinibus.
answer with-silent mutual hinges.
o utinam traiecta cava mea vocula rima
O would-that passed-through through-hollow my little-voice crack
percussas dominae vertat in auriculas!
struck of-mistress may-turn into little-ears!
sit licet et saxo patientior illa Sicano,
may-be though even than-stone more-patient she Sicanian,
sit licet et ferro durior et chalybe,
she-may-be though both than-iron harder and than-steel,
non tamen illa suos poterit compescere ocellos,
not still she her will-be-able to-restrain eyes,
surget et invitis spiritus in lacrimis.
will-rise and unwilling a-sigh among tears.
nunc iacet alterius felici nixa lacerto,
now she-lies of-another on-happy leaning arm,
at mea nocturno verba cadunt Zephyro.
but my to-nocturnal words fall Zephyr.
sed tu sola mei, tu maxima causa doloris,
but you alone of-my, you greatest cause grief,
victa meis numquam, ianua, muneribus.
conquered by-my never, door, gifts.
te non ulla meae laesit petulantia linguae,
you not any of-my has-hurt insolence tongue,
quae solet irato dicere tota loco,
which is-wont to-angry to-say all place,

ut me tam longa raucum patiare querela
that me so long hoarse you-should-allow complaint
sollicitas trivio pervigilare moras.
anxious at-the-crossroads to-watch-through delays.
at tibi saepe novo deduxi carmina versu,
but for-you often in-new I-have-spun songs verse,
osculaque impressis nixa dedi gradibus.
and-kisses on-pressed leaning I-have-given steps.
ante tuos quotiens verti me, perfida, postis,
before your how-often have-I-turned myself, faithless-one, doorposts,
debitaque occultis vota tuli manibus!"
and-owed with-secret vows have-I-brought hands!"
haec ille et si quae miseri novistis amantes,
these-things he and if anything wretched you-have-known lovers,
et matutinis obstrepit alitibus.
and at-morning drowns-out birds.
sic ego nunc dominae vitiis et semper amantis
so I now of-mistress by-the-vices and always of-a-lover
fletibus aeterna deferor invidia.'
by-weeping by-eternal am-carried-down ill-will.'

I.17 · SHIPWRECK

Having fled from Cynthia by sea, Propertius, storm-bound on a deserted shore, admits he deserved it: the winds are Cynthia's allies. He wonders whether this little strand will bury him and begs her to soften her anger. He curses the first maker of ships: it would have been lighter to win over her harsh ways at home, where Cynthia would have mourned him, laid her hair on his pyre and his bones in roses, and called his name. He prays to the sea nymphs to spare a fellow lover.

Et merito, quoniam potui fugisse puellam!
And deservedly, since I-could to-have-fled a-girl!
nunc ego desertas alloquor alcyonas.
now I deserted address halcyons.
nec mihi Cassiope solito visura carinam,
nor for-me Cassiope with-usual going-to-see ship,
omniaque ingrato litore vota cadunt.
and-all on-ungrateful shore vows fall.
quin etiam absenti prosunt tibi, Cynthia, venti:
nay even to-absent help you, Cynthia, the-winds:
aspice, quam saevas increpat aura minas.
look, how savage roars the-gale threats.
nullane placatae veniet fortuna procellae?
no of-appeased will-come fortune storm?
haecine parva meum funus harena teget?
this small my corpse sand will-cover?
tu tamen in melius saevas converte querelas:
you still into better savage turn complaints:
sat tibi sit poenae nox et iniqua vada.
enough to-you let-be of-punishment the-night and hostile shallows.
an poteris siccis mea fata reponere ocellis,
or will-you-be-able with-dry my fate to-lay-to-rest eyes,

ossaque nulla tuo nostra tenere sinu?
and-bones no on-your our to-hold bosom?
a pereat, quicumque ratis et vela paravit
ah may-be-perish, whoever ships and sails prepared
primus et invito gurgite fecit iter!
first and through-unwilling flood made a-path!
nonne fuit levius dominae pervincere mores
surely was lighter of-mistress to-overcome the-ways
(quamvis dura, tamen rara puella fuit),
(although harsh, still rare the-girl was),
quam sic ignotis circumdata litora silvis
than so by-unknown surrounded shores woods
cernere et optatos quaerere Tyndaridas?
to-see and longed-for to-seek the-sons-of-Tyndareus?
illic si qua meum sepelissent fata dolorem,
there if some my had-buried fate grief,
ultimus et posito staret amore lapis,
last and laid-to-rest would-stand love stone,
illa meo caros donasset funere crinis,
she on-my dear would-have-bestowed funeral locks,
molliter et tenera poneret ossa rosa;
softly and on-tender would-lay bones rose;
illa meum extremo clamasset pulvere nomen,
she my over-last would-have-cried dust name,
ut mihi non ullo pondere terra foret.
that for-me not with-any weight the-earth might-be.
at vos, aequoreae formosa Doride natae,
but you, of-the-sea beautiful from-Doris daughters,
candida felici solvite vela choro:
white with-happy loosen sails chorus:

si quando vestras labens Amor attigit undas,
if ever your gliding Love has-touched waves,
mansuetis socio parcite litoribus.
to-gentle a-comrade spare shores.

I.18 · THE LONELY WOODS

In a deserted grove Propertius pours out to the rocks and trees the story of Cynthia's coldness. What has he done to deserve it? He has given no sign of a new love, and his face shows his faith. The beeches and pines are his witnesses, carved with her name. He has borne all her proud commands without complaint, and in return he gets cold springs, rough rocks, and the birds to tell his griefs to; yet whatever she is, the woods will still echo Cynthia.

Haec certe deserta loca et taciturna querenti,
These surely deserted places and silent for-one-complaining,
et vacuum Zephyri possidet aura nemus.
and empty of-Zephyr possesses the-breeze grove.
hic licet occultos proferre impune dolores,
here it-is-allowed hidden to-bring-forth unpunished griefs,
si modo sola queant saxa tenere fidem.
if only lonely could rocks to-keep faith.
unde tuos primum repetam, mea Cynthia, fastus?
whence your first shall-I-begin, my Cynthia, disdains?
quod mihi das flendi, Cynthia, principium?
what to-me do-you-give of-weeping, Cynthia, beginning?
qui modo felices inter numerabar amantis,
I-who lately happy among was-counted lovers,
nunc in amore tuo cogor habere notam.
now in love your am-forced to-have a-mark.

quid tantum merui? quae te mihi carmina mutant?
what so-much have-I-deserved? what you to-me spells change?
an nova tristitiae causa puella tuae?
or new of-sadness the-cause a-girl your?
sic mihi te referas, levis, ut non altera nostro
so to-me yourself may-you-return, fickle-one, as not another to-our
limine formosos intulit ulla pedes.
threshold beautiful brought any feet.
quamvis multa tibi dolor hic meus aspera debet,
although many to-you grief this my harsh-things owes,
non ita saeva tamen venerit ira mea
not so savage still shall-have-come anger my
ut tibi sim merito semper furor, et tua flendo
that to-you I-be deservedly always a-fury, and your by-weeping
lumina deiectis turpia sint lacrimis.
eyes with-cast-down disfigured be tears.
an quia parva damus mutato signa colore?
or because small we-give changed signs color?
et non ulla meo clamat in ore fides?
and not any my cries in face faith?
vos eritis testes, si quos habet arbor amores,
you will-be witnesses, if any has a-tree loves,
fagus et Arcadio pinus amica deo.
beech and to-the-Arcadian pine dear god.
a quotiens teneras resonant mea verba sub umbras,
ah how-often tender resound my words beneath shades,
scribitur et vestris Cynthia corticibus!
is-written and on-your Cynthia barks!
an tua quod peperit nobis iniuria curas,
or your because has-brought-forth for-us wrong cares,

quae solum tacitis cognita sunt foribus?
which only to-silent known are doors?
omnia consuevi timidus perferre superbae
everything I-have-been-accustomed timid to-endure of-a-haughty
iussa neque arguto facta dolore queri.
commands nor with-shrill deeds grief to-complain.
pro quo divini fontes et frigida rupes
for which divine springs and cold rocks
et datur inculto tramite dura quies;
and is-given on-uncultivated path hard rest;
et quodcumque meae possunt narrare querelae,
and whatever my can to-tell complaints,
cogor ad argutas dicere solus avis.
I-am-forced to shrill to-say alone birds.
sed qualiscumque es resonent mihi 'Cynthia' silvae,
but whatever-sort you-are let-resound for-me 'Cynthia' the-woods,
nec deserta tuo nomine saxa vacent.
nor deserted of-your name rocks be-empty.

Propertius fears not death but that Cynthia's love may not follow him to the grave. Protesilaus returned from the dead to his wife; Propertius' shade too will be hers, no heroine of Troy pleasing him more. However long she lives, her bones will be dear to his tears, and he wishes she could feel the same at his ashes; but he fears that hostile Love may draw her from his tomb and force her to dry her tears, since threats bend even a faithful girl. So let them love while they can, for no love is long enough.

Non ego nunc tristis vereor, mea Cynthia, Manis,
Not I now gloomy fear, my Cynthia, the-Shades,
nec moror extremo debita fata rogo;
nor care-about to-the-final owed fate pyre;
sed ne forte tuo careat mihi funus amore,
but lest perhaps of-your lack for-me funeral love,
hic timor est ipsis durior exsequiis,
this fear is than-the-very harsher obsequies,
non adeo leviter noster puer haesit ocellis,
not so lightly our boy has-clung to-eyes,
ut meus oblito pulvis amore vacet.
that my forgotten dust love be-empty.
illic Phylacides iucundae coniugis heros
there Phylacides of-pleasant wife the-hero
non potuit caecis immemor esse locis,
not could in-blind forgetful to-be places,
sed cupidus falsis attingere gaudia palmis
but desiring with-false to-touch joys palms
Thessalus antiquam venerat umbra domum.
Thessalian ancient had-come shade home.
illic quidquid ero, semper tua dicar imago:
there whatever I-shall-be, always yours I-shall-be-called shade:

traicit et fati litora magnus amor.
crosses even of-fate the-shores great love.
illic formosae veniant chorus heroinae,
there of-beautiful may-come the-chorus heroines,
quas dedit Argivis Dardana praeda viris;
whom gave to-Argive Dardan booty men;
quarum nulla tua fuerit mihi, Cynthia, forma
of-whom none than-your may-have-been to-me, Cynthia, beauty
gratior, et (Tellus hoc ita iusta sinat)
more-pleasing, and (Earth this so just may-allow)
quamvis te longae remorentur fata senectae,
although you of-long may-detain the-fates old-age,
cara tamen lacrimis ossa futura meis.
dear still to-tears bones going-to-be my.
quae tu viva mea possis sentire favilla!
which you living at-my may-you-be-able to-feel ash!
tum mihi non ullo mors sit amara loco.
then to-me not in-any death may-be bitter place.
quam vereor, ne te contempto, Cynthia, busto
how-much I-fear, lest you scorned, Cynthia, tomb
abstrahat e nostro pulvere iniquus Amor,
may-drag-away from our dust hostile Love,
cogat et invitam lacrimas siccare cadentis!
may-force and unwilling tears to-dry falling!
flectitur assiduis certa puella minis.
is-bent by-ceaseless a-faithful girl threats.
quare, dum licet, inter nos laetemur amantes:
therefore, while it-is-allowed, between us let-us-rejoice lovers:
non satis est ullo tempore longus amor.
not enough is in-any time long love.

Propertius warns Gallus to guard his beautiful boy from the greedy Nymphs, as Hercules failed to guard Hylas. He tells the story: when the Argonauts landed in Mysia, Hylas went to fetch water; the sons of Boreas pursued him for kisses, and he drove them off; then he came to the spring of Pegae, gathered flowers, and lingered over his reflection, until the Dryads, burning with love, drew him into the water. Hercules called his name, and only the echo answered.

Hoc pro continuo te, Galle, monemus amore,
This for unbroken you, Gallus, we-warn love,

(id tibi ne vacuo defluat ex animo)
(it to-you lest empty flow-away out-of mind)

saepe imprudenti fortuna occurrit amanti:
often to-the-unwary fortune runs-up-against lover:

crudelis Minyis dixerit Ascanius.
cruel to-the-Minyae might-have-said the-Ascanius.

est tibi non infra speciem, non nomine dispar,
there-is to-you not below in-beauty, not in-name unlike,

Theiodamanteo proximus ardor Hylae:
to-Theiodamantean near flame Hylas:

hunc tu, sive leges umbrosae flumina silvae,
him you, whether you-will-skirt of-shady the-streams wood,

sive Aniena tuos tinxerit unda pedes,
or Anio's your shall-have-dipped wave feet,

sive Gigantea spatiabere litoris ora,
or along-the-Giants you-will-stroll of-shore edge,

sive ubicumque vago fluminis hospitio,
or wherever with-wandering of-a-river hospitality,

Nympharum semper cupidas defende rapinas
of-the-Nymphs always greedy ward-off plunderings

(non minor Ausoniis est amor Adryasin);
(not less to-Ausonian is love to-the-Adryads);
ne tibi sint duri montes et frigida saxa,
lest to-you be harsh mountains and cold rocks,
Galle, neque expertos semper adire lacus:
Gallus, nor having-experienced always to-approach lakes:
quae miser ignotis error perpessus in oris
which wretched unknown wandering having-endured on shores
Herculis indomito fleverat Ascanio.
of-Hercules by-untamed had-wept Ascanius.
namque ferunt olim Pagasae navalibus Argon
for they-say once from-Pagasa's docks the-Argo
egressam longe Phasidos isse viam,
having-set-out long of-Phasis to-have-gone way,
et iam praeteritis labentem Athamantidos undis
and now passed gliding of-Athamas'-daughter waves
Mysorum scopulis applicuisse ratem.
of-the-Mysians to-the-crags to-have-brought ship.
hic manus heroum, placidis ut constitit oris,
here the-band of-heroes, on-calm when it-halted shores,
mollia composita litora fronde tegit.
soft with-arranged shores leaves covers.
at comes invicti iuvenis processerat ultra
but the-companion of-the-invincible youth had-gone-forward farther
raram sepositi quaerere fontis aquam.
rare of-a-remote to-seek spring water.
hunc duo sectati fratres, Aquilonia proles,
him two having-pursued brothers, of-Aquilo offspring,
hunc super et Zetes, hunc super et Calais,
him above both Zetes, him above and Calais,

oscula suspensis instabant carpere palmis,
kisses poised were-pressing to-snatch palms,
oscula et alterna ferre supina fuga.
kisses and in-alternate to-carry upturned flight.
ille sub extrema pendens secluditur ala
he under extreme hanging is-hidden wing
et volucres ramo summovet insidias.
and winged with-a-branch drives-off ambushes.
iam Pandioniae cessat genus Orithyiae:
now of-Pandion's ceases the-race Orithyia:
a dolor! ibat Hylas, ibat Hamadryasin.
ah grief! was-going Hylas, was-going to-the-Hamadryads.
hic erat Arganthi Pegae sub vertice montis
here was of-Arganthus Pegae under the-peak mount
grata domus Nymphis umida Thyniasin,
pleasant home for-Nymphs moist Thynian,
quam supra nullae pendebant debita curae
which above to-no were-hanging owed care
roscida desertis poma sub arboribus,
dewy in-deserted fruits under trees,
et circum irriguo surgebant lilia prato
and around in-well-watered rose lilies meadow
candida purpureis mixta papaveribus.
white with-purple mixed poppies.
quae modo decerpens tenero pueriliter ungui
which now plucking with-tender boyishly nail
proposito florem praetulit officio,
to-proposed the-flower preferred task,
et modo formosis incumbens nescius undis
and now over-beautiful bending-over unaware waves

errorem blandis tardat imaginibus.
wandering with-alluring delays images.
tandem haurire parat demissis flumina palmis
at-length to-draw prepares lowered waters palms
innixus dextro plena trahens umero.
leaning on-right full drawing shoulder.
cuius ut accensae Dryades candore puellae
whose when inflamed the-Dryad by-the-whiteness girls
miratae solitos destituere choros,
having-marveled accustomed abandoned dances,
prolapsum leviter facili traxere liquore:
having-slipped lightly in-yielding drew-down liquid:
tum sonitum rapto corpore fecit Hylas.
then a-sound snatched body made Hylas.
cui procul Alcides iterat responsa, sed illi
to-whom far the-grandson-of-Alcaeus repeats answers, but to-him
nomen ab extremis fontibus aura refert.
the-name from farthest springs the-breeze brings-back.
his, o Galle, tuos monitus servabis amores,
by-these, O Gallus, your warned you-will-guard loves,
formosum Nymphis credere visus Hylan.
beautiful to-Nymphs to-entrust having-seemed Hylas.

Gallus, dying, speaks to a wounded soldier fleeing the Etruscan ramparts, his nearest comrade in the war. He bids the soldier save himself, so that the man's parents may rejoice and his tears may not tell the sister what happened: that Gallus escaped through Caesar's swords only to die by unknown hands. Whoever finds bones scattered on the Etruscan hills should know they are his.

'Tu, qui consortem properas evadere casum,
'You, who a-comrade's hasten to-escape fate,
miles ab Etruscis saucius aggeribus,
soldier from Etruscan wounded ramparts,
quid nostro gemitu turgentia lumina torques?
why at-our groan swelling eyes do-you-turn?
pars ego sum vestrae proxima militiae.
part I am of-your nearest warfare.
sic te servato, ut possint gaudere parentes,
so yourself save, that may-be-able to-rejoice parents,
ne soror acta tuis sentiat e lacrimis:
lest the-sister the-events your may-perceive from tears:
Gallum per medios ereptum Caesaris ensis
that-Gallus through the-midst-of snatched of-Caesar swords
effugere ignotas non potuisse manus;
to-escape unknown not to-have-been-able hands;
et quicumque super dispersa invenerit ossa
and whoever over scattered shall-have-found bones
montibus Etruscis, haec sciat esse mea.'
on-mountains Etruscan, these let-him-know to-be mine.'

Asked by Tullus about his family and home, Propertius points to the Perusine graves, the deaths of Italy's civil war, which cause him special grief, for the Etruscan dust holds the unburied bones of a kinsman. He was born in Umbria, rich in fertile land, which borders the plain below Perusia.

Qualis et unde genus, qui sint mihi, Tulle, Penates,
What-sort and whence race, who be to-me, Tullus, Penates,
quaeris pro nostra semper amicitia,
you-ask for our always friendship,
si Perusina tibi patriae sunt nota sepulcra,
if Perusine to-you of-the-fatherland are known tombs,
(Italiae duris funera temporibus,
(of-Italy in-harsh deaths times,
cum Romana suos egit discordia civis,)
when Roman her drove discord citizens,)
sic mihi praecipue pulvis Etrusca dolor.
so to-me especially dust Etruscan grief.
tu proiecta mei perpessa es membra propinqui,
you cast-out of-my suffered have limbs kinsman,
tu nullo miseri contegis ossa solo.
you with-no of-the-wretched-one cover bones soil.
proxima supposito contingens Umbria campo
nearest underlying touching Umbria plain
me genuit terris fertilis uberibus.
me bore with-lands fertile rich.

BOOK II

II.1 · TO MAECENAS

Propertius' inspiration is not Calliope or Apollo but his girl: her silk, hair, lyre, and sleep each make a book, her naked wrestling whole Iliads. Could he write epic, he would sing Caesar's wars, not the Titans or Troy, with Maecenas beside him; but his narrow breast, like Callimachus', cannot thunder. Each man to his trade: his is fighting on a narrow bed. To die of love is glory; one woman has taken him and will be his death, and no medicine cures love. Let Maecenas say at his tomb that a harsh girl was his fate.

Quaeritis, unde mihi totiens scribantur amores,
You-ask, whence for-me so-often are-written loves,
unde meus veniat mollis in ore liber.
whence my comes soft in mouth book.
non haec Calliope, non haec mihi cantat Apollo,
not these Calliope, not these to-me sings Apollo,
ingenium nobis ipsa puella facit.
the-talent for-us herself the-girl makes.
sive illam Cois fulgentem incedere cogis,
whether her in-Coan shining to-walk you-make,
hoc totum e Coa veste volumen erit;
this whole from Coan dress a-volume will-be;
seu vidi ad frontem sparsos errare capillos,
or I-have-seen on brow scattered to-stray hair,
gaudet laudatis ire superba comis;
she-rejoices with-praised to-go proud tresses;
sive lyrae carmen digitis percussit eburnis,
or of-the-lyre a-song with-fingers she-has-struck ivory,
miramur, facilis ut premat arte manus;
we-marvel, easy how presses with-skill hand;

seu cum poscentis somnum declinat ocellos,
or when asking sleep she-lowers eyes,
invenio causas mille poeta novas;
I-find causes a-thousand poet new;
seu nuda erepto mecum luctatur amictu,
or naked snatched-off with-me she-wrestles cloak,
tum vero longas condimus Iliadas;
then indeed long we-compose Iliads;
seu quidquid fecit sive est quodcumque locuta,
or whatever she-has-done or has whatever spoken,
maxima de nihilo nascitur historia.
the-greatest from nothing is-born history.
quod mihi si tantum, Maecenas, fata dedissent,
but to-me if so-much, Maecenas, the-fates had-given,
ut possem heroas ducere in arma manus,
that I-could heroic to-lead into arms bands,
non ego Titanas canerem, non Ossan Olympo
not I Titans would-sing, not Ossa on-Olympus
impositam, ut caeli Pelion esset iter,
placed, that of-heaven Pelion might-be a-path,
nec veteres Thebas, nec Pergama nomen Homeri,
nor ancient Thebes, nor Pergamum the-fame of-Homer,
Xerxis et imperio bina coisse vada,
of-Xerxes and by-the-command two to-have-joined waters,
regnave prima Remi aut animos Carthaginis altae,
or-the-reign first of-Remus or the-spirit of-Carthage lofty,
Cimbrorumque minas et benefacta Mari:
and-of-the-Cimbri the-threats and the-good-deeds of-Marius:
bellaque resque tui memorarem Caesaris, et tu
and-wars and-deeds of-your I-would-recount Caesar, and you

Caesare sub magno cura secunda fores.
Caesar under great a-care second would-be.
nam quotiens Mutinam aut civilia busta Philippos
for as-often-as Mutina or civil tombs Philippi
aut canerem Siculae classica bella fugae,
or I-would-sing of-Sicilian naval wars rout,
eversosque focos antiquae gentis Etruscae,
and-overturned hearths of-the-ancient race Etruscan,
et Ptolomaeei litora capta Phari,
and of-Ptolemaic shores taken Pharos,
aut canerem Aegyptum et Nilum, cum attractus in urbem
or I-would-sing Egypt and the-Nile, when dragged into the-city
septem captivis debilis ibat aquis,
with-seven captive feeble it-went waters,
aut regum auratis circumdata colla catenis,
or of-kings with-golden surrounded necks chains,
Actiaque in Sacra currere rostra Via;
and-Actian on the-Sacred to-run beaks Way;
te mea Musa illis semper contexeret armis,
you my Muse into-those always would-weave arms,
et sumpta et posita pace fidele caput:
both taken-up and laid-down peace faithful head:
Theseus infernis, superis testatur Achilles,
Theseus to-the-infernal, to-the-gods-above testifies Achilles,
hic Ixioniden, ille Menoetiaden.
the-one the-son-of-Ixion, the-other the-son-of-Menoetius.
sed neque Phlegraeos Iovis Enceladique tumultus
but neither Phlegraean of-Jove and-of-Enceladus the-tumults
intonet angusto pectore Callimachus,
could-thunder from-narrow breast Callimachus,

nec mea conveniunt duro praecordia versu
nor my suit in-hard heart verse
Caesaris in Phrygios condere nomen avos.
of-Caesar into Phrygian to-set the-name ancestors.
navita de ventis, de tauris narrat arator,
the-sailor about winds, about bulls tells the-plowman,
et numerat miles vulnera, pastor ovis;
and counts the-soldier wounds, the-shepherd sheep;
nos contra angusto versantis proelia lecto:
we instead on-narrow fighting battles bed:
qua pote quisque, in ea conterat arte diem.
in-which can each, in that let-him-wear-away art day.
laus in amore mori: laus altera, si datur uno
glory in love to-die: glory another, if it-is-given with-one
posse frui: fruar o solus amore meo!
to-be-able to-take-joy: may-I-enjoy O alone love my!
si memini, solet illa levis culpare puellas,
if I-remember, is-wont she fickle to-blame girls,
et totam ex Helena non probat Iliada.
and whole because-of Helen not approves Iliad.
seu mihi sunt tangenda novercae pocula Phaedrae,
whether by-me are to-be-touched of-stepmother the-cups Phaedra,
pocula privigno non nocitura suo,
cups to-stepson not going-to-harm her,
seu mihi Circaeo pereundum est gramine, sive
or by-me by-Circaean to-be-perished is herb, or
Colchis Iolciacis urat aena focis,
the-Colchian on-Iolcian may-heat cauldrons hearths,
una meos quoniam praedata est femina sensus,
one my since plundered has woman senses,

ex hac ducentur funera nostra domo.
from this will-be-carried funeral our house.
omnis humanos sanat medicina dolores:
all human heals medicine pains:
solus amor morbi non amat artificem.
alone love of-disease not loves a-craftsman.
tarda Philoctetae sanavit crura Machaon,
slow of-Philoctetes healed legs Machaon,
Phoenicis Chiron lumina Phillyrides,
of-Phoenix Chiron the-eyes the-son-of-Philyra,
et deus exstinctum Cressis Epidaurius herbis
and the-god extinguished with-Cretan of-Epidaurus herbs
restituit patriis Androgeona focis,
restored to-paternal Androgeos hearths,
Mysus et Haemonia iuvenis qua cuspide vulnus
the-Mysian too Haemonian youth by-which spear the-wound
senserat, hac ipsa cuspide sensit opem.
had-felt, by-that very spear felt help.
hoc si quis vitium poterit mihi demere, solus
this if anyone fault will-be-able from-me to-take-away, alone
Tantalea poterit tradere poma manu;
to-Tantalus will-be-able to-give fruits hand;
dolia virgineis idem ille repleverit urnis,
jars with-the-maidens the-same he will-have-filled urns,
ne tenera assidua colla graventur aqua;
lest tender by-constant necks be-weighed-down water;
idem Caucasia solvet de rupe Promethei
the-same Caucasian will-free from rock of-Prometheus
bracchia et a medio pectore pellet avem.
the-arms and from the-middle-of breast will-drive the-bird.

quandocumque igitur vitam mea fata reposcent,
whenever therefore life my fates shall-demand-back,
et breve in exiguo marmore nomen ero,
and brief in small marble a-name I-shall-be,
Maecenas, nostrae spes invidiosa iuventae,
Maecenas, of-our hope envied youth,
et vitae et morti gloria iusta meae,
both for-life and death glory just my,
si te forte meo ducet via proxima busto,
if you perhaps to-my shall-lead the-way next tomb,
esseda caelatis siste Britanna iugis,
chariot with-engraved halt British yoke,
taliaque illacrimans mutae iace verba favillae:
and-such weeping-over to-mute throw words ash:
'Huic misero fatum dura puella fuit.'
'To-this wretched-one the-death a-harsh girl was.'

II.2 · FREE NO LONGER

Propertius had resolved to live free, but Love deceived him. He wonders why such beauty stays on earth, as if Jupiter had forgotten his old abductions: tawny hair, long hands, and a tall figure like Juno's or Pallas', or like Ischomache's or Brimo's; let the goddesses Paris judged yield to her. He prays that old age may never change her face, even if she lives as long as the Sibyl.

Liber eram et vacuo meditabar vivere lecto;
Free I-was and on-empty I-was-planning to-live bed;
at me composita pace fefellit Amor.
but me composed peace deceived Love.
cur haec in terris facies humana moratur?
why this on earth beauty human lingers?

Iuppiter, ignoro pristina furta tua.
Jupiter, I-do-not-know-of former thefts your.
fulva coma est longaeque manus, et maxima toto
tawny the-hair is and-long the-hands, and very-great in-whole
corpore, et incedit vel Iove digna soror,
body, and she-walks even of-Jove worthy sister,
aut cum Dulichias Pallas spatiatur ad aras,
or when Dulichian Pallas strides to altars,
Gorgonis anguiferae pectus operta comis;
of-the-Gorgon snake-bearing breast covered with-the-tresses;
qualis et Ischomache Lapithae genus heroine,
such-as too Ischomache of-the-Lapiths the-offspring heroine,
Centauris medio grata rapina mero;
for-the-Centaurs in-the-midst-of pleasing plunder wine;
Mercurio Ossaeis fertur Boebeidos undis
with-Mercury in-Ossa's is-said of-Boebeis waters
virgineum Brimo composuisse latus.
maiden Brimo to-have-laid side.
cedite iam, divae, quas pastor viderat olim
yield now, goddesses, whom the-shepherd had-seen once
Idaeis tunicas ponere verticibus!
on-Idaean tunics to-lay-down peaks!
hanc utinam faciem nolit mutare senectus,
this would-that beauty may-not-wish to-change old-age,
etsi Cumaeae saecula vatis aget!
even-if of-the-Cumaean the-centuries prophetess she-will-pass!

Propertius, who boasted that nothing could harm him, is caught again: he could hardly rest a month, and a second shameful book will follow, for love is put off, never removed. Not her fair face, hair, eyes, or silks captured him, but her dancing, her lyre, and her verses, which she rates above Corinna's: the gods gave her these gifts. She is a second Helen, worth Troy's war, and a painter should take her as his model. Young men, like bulls, resist the yoke and then bear it, as the seer Melampus bore chains for beautiful Pero.

Qui nullum tibi dicebas iam posse nocere,
You-who no to-you were-saying now to-be-able to-harm,
haesisti, cecidit spiritus ille tuus!
you-have-stuck, has-fallen spirit that your!
vix unum potes, infelix, requiescere mensem,
hardly one can-you, unhappy-one, to-rest month,
et turpis de te iam liber alter erit.
and shameful about you now book another will-be.
quaerebam, sicca si posset piscis harena
I-was-asking, on-dry if could a-fish sand
nec solitus ponto vivere torvus aper;
and-not accustomed in-the-sea to-live fierce boar;
aut ego si possem studiis vigilare severis:
or I whether could at-studies to-stay-awake stern:
differtur, numquam tollitur ullus amor.
is-put-off, never is-removed any love.
nec me tam facies, quamvis sit candida, cepit
nor me so-much the-face, although it-be fair, has-captured
(lilia non domina sint magis alba mea;
(lilies not than-mistress would-be more white my;

ut Maeotica nix minio si certet Hibero,
as Maeotic snow with-vermilion if should-vie Iberian,
utque rosae puro lacte natant folia),
and-as of-a-rose in-pure milk float petals),
nec de more comae per levia colla fluentes,
nor in the-fashion hair over smooth neck flowing,
non oculi, geminae, sidera nostra, faces,
not the-eyes, twin, stars our, torches,
nec si qua Arabio lucet bombyce puella
nor if any in-Arabian shines silk girl
(non sum de nihilo blandus amator ego):
(not am from nothing coaxing a-lover I):
quantum quod posito formose saltat Iaccho,
as-much-as that set-out beautifully she-dances Iacchus,
egit ut euhantis dux Ariadna choros,
led as Bacchic leader Ariadne dances,
et quantum, Aeolio cum temptat carmina plectro,
and as-much-as, with-Aeolian when she-tries songs quill,
par Aganippeae ludere docta lyrae;
equal to-Aganippe's to-play skilled lyre;
et sua cum antiquae committit scripta Corinnae,
and her when of-ancient matches writings Corinna,
carmina quae quivis, non putat aequa suis.
songs which anyone's, not thinks equal to-hers.
non tibi nascenti primis, mea vita, diebus
not to-you being-born in-first, my life, days
candidus argutum sternuit omen Amor?
white a-clear sneezed omen Love?
haec tibi contulerunt caelestia munera divi,
these to-you have-brought heavenly gifts the-gods,

haec tibi ne matrem forte dedisse putes.
these to-you lest the-mother perhaps to-have-given you-think.
non non humani partus sunt talia dona:
not not of-human birth are such gifts:
ista decem menses non peperere bona.
those ten months not have-brought-forth goods.
gloria Romanis una es tu nata puellis:
a-glory to-Roman alone are you born girls:
Romana accumbes prima puella Iovi,
Roman you-will-recline first girl beside-Jove,
nec semper nobiscum humana cubilia vises;
nor always with-us human beds you-will-visit;
post Helenam haec terris forma secunda redit.
after Helen this to-earth beauty second returns.
hac ego nunc mirer si flagret nostra iuventus?
at-this I now should-wonder if burns our youth?
pulchrius hac fuerat, Troia, perire tibi.
more-beautifully for-this had-it-been, Troy, to-perish for-you.
olim mirabar, quod tanti ad Pergama belli
once I-used-to-wonder, that of-so-great at Pergamum war
Europae atque Asiae causa puella fuit:
of-Europe and of-Asia the-cause a-girl was:
nunc, Pari, tu sapiens et tu, Menelae, fuisti,
now, Paris, you wise and you, Menelaus, were,
tu quia poscebas, tu quia lentus eras.
you because you-demanded, you because slow you-were.
digna quidem facies, pro qua vel obiret Achilles;
worthy indeed the-face, for which even might-meet-death Achilles;
vel Priamo belli causa probanda fuit.
even to-Priam of-war the-cause to-be-approved was.

si quis vult fama tabulas anteire vetustas,
if anyone wishes in-fame panels to-surpass ancient,
hic dominam exemplo ponat in arte meam:
he mistress for-a-model let-him-set in art my:
sive illam Hesperiis, sive illam ostendet Eois,
whether her to-the-Western, or her he-will-show to-the-Eastern,
uret et Eoos, uret et Hesperios.
he-will-burn both Easterners, he-will-burn and Westerners.
his saltem ut tenear iam finibus! aut mihi, si quis,
by-these at-least that I-may-be-held now bounds! or for-me, if any,
acrius ut moriar, venerit alter amor!
more-sharply that I-may-die, let-come another love!
ac veluti primo taurus detractat aratra,
and as at-first a-bull refuses plows,
post venit assueto mollis ad arva iugo,
afterward comes with-accustomed gentle to fields yoke,
sic primo iuvenes trepidant in amore feroces,
so at-first young-men tremble in love fierce,
dehinc domiti post haec aequa et iniqua ferunt.
thereafter tamed after this fair and unfair bear.
turpia perpessus vates est vincla Melampus,
shameful endured the-bard has chains Melampus,
cognitus Iphicli surripuisse boves;
convicted of-Iphiclus to-have-stolen the-oxen;
quem non lucra, magis Pero formosa coegit,
whom not gain, rather Pero beautiful compelled,
mox Amythaonia nupta futura domo.
soon in-Amythaon's bride going-to-be house.

A lover must endure much: complaints, rebuffs, bitten nails, and stamping in anger. Neither herbs nor witchcraft help, for love's blows are unseen; its victim needs no doctor and fears no weather, yet he walks, and suddenly his friends are mourning him. Propertius has been the prey of every seer and old woman who reads dreams. He wishes his enemies a love for girls and his friends a love for boys, for a boy is a calm river and is often won back by one word, while a girl is hardly softened even by blood.

Multa prius dominae delicta queraris oportet,
Many first of-a-mistress offenses you-complain-of it-is-needful,
saepe roges aliquid, saepe repulsus eas,
often ask something, often rebuffed go,
et saepe immeritos corrumpas dentibus unguis,
and often undeserving gnaw with-teeth nails,
et crepitum dubio suscitet ira pede!
and a-stamp with-uncertain let-rouse anger foot!
nequiquam perfusa meis unguenta capillis,
in-vain drenched on-my perfumes hair,
ibat et expenso planta morata gradu.
went and with-weighed the-sole delayed step.
non hic herba valet, non hic nocturna Cytaeis,
not here herb avails, not here nocturnal the-Cytaean,
non Perimedeae gramina cocta manus;
not of-Perimede herbs brewed hand;
quippe ubi nec causas nec apertos cernimus ictus,
since where neither causes nor open we-see blows,
unde tamen veniant tot mala caeca via est;
whence still come so-many ills blind the-way is;

non eget hic medicis, non lectis mollibus aeger,
not needs this-man doctors, not beds soft sick,
huic nullum caeli tempus et aura nocet;
him no of-the-sky season and breeze harms;
ambulat — et subito mirantur funus amici!
he-walks —and suddenly marvel-at the-funeral friends!
sic est incautum, quidquid habetur amor.
so is unguarded, whatever is-held love.
nam cui non ego sum fallaci praemia vati?
for to-whom not I am fallacious a-prize seer?
quae mea non decies somnia versat anus?
what my not ten-times dreams turns old-woman?
hostis si quis erit nobis, amet ille puellas:
an-enemy if any will-be to-us, let-love he girls:
gaudeat in puero, si quis amicus erit.
let-him-rejoice in a-boy, if any a-friend will-be.
tranquillo tuta descendis flumine cumba:
on-tranquil safe you-descend river boat:
quid tibi tam parvi litoris unda nocet?
what to-you so small of-shore a-wave harms?
alter saepe uno mutat praecordia verbo,
one often with-one changes heart word,
altera vix ipso sanguine mollis erit.
another hardly with-very blood soft will-be.

Is it true that all Rome talks of Cynthia's wantonness? Propertius threatens to leave her for another woman who would gladly be made famous by his songs. Now, while the anger is fresh, is the time to go, for lovers' moods change faster than the sea. Yet he will not tear her clothes, break her doors, or pull her hair, as a rustic would: instead he will write a verse that will shame her forever, calling her mighty in beauty and fickle in words.

Hoc verum est, tota te ferri, Cynthia, Roma,
This true is, in-all you to-be-talked-about, Cynthia, Rome,
et non ignota vivere nequitia?
and not in-unknown to-live wantonness?
haec merui sperare? dabis mihi, perfida, poenas;
this did-I-deserve to-hope? you-will-give to-me, faithless-one, penalties;
et nobis Aquilo, Cynthia, ventus erit.
and for-us Aquilo, Cynthia, wind will-be.
inveniam tamen e multis fallacibus unam,
I-shall-find still from many deceivers one,
quae fieri nostro carmine nota velit,
who to-become by-our song known may-wish,
nec mihi tam duris insultet moribus et te
nor me with-so harsh may-insult ways and you
vellicet: heu sero flebis amata diu.
may-pluck: alas late you-will-weep loved long.
nunc est ira recens, nunc est discedere tempus:
now is anger fresh, now is to-depart the-time:
si dolor afuerit, crede, redibit amor.
if pain shall-have-gone, believe, will-return love.
non ita Carpathiae variant Aquilonibus undae,
not so Carpathian change with-North-winds waves,

nec dubio nubes vertitur atra Noto,
nor with-uncertain cloud is-turned black South-wind,
quam facile irati verbo mutantur amantes:
as easily angry with-a-word are-changed lovers:
dum licet, iniusto subtrahe colla iugo.
while it-is-allowed, from-unjust withdraw neck yoke.
nec tu non aliquid, sed prima nocte, dolebis;
nor you not somewhat, but on-the-first night, will-grieve;
omne in amore malum, si patiare, leve est.
all in love evil, if you-endure, light is.
at tu per dominae Iunonis dulcia iura
but you by of-mistress Juno sweet laws
parce tuis animis, vita, nocere tibi.
spare to-your spirits, my-life, to-harm yourself.
non solum taurus ferit uncis cornibus hostem,
not only a-bull strikes with-hooked horns enemy,
verum etiam instanti laesa repugnat ovis.
but even against-the-pressing hurt resists sheep.
nec tibi periuro scindam de corpore vestis,
nor from-you perjured will-I-tear from body garments,
nec mea praeclusas fregerit ira fores,
nor my closed would-break anger doors,
nec tibi conexos iratus carpere crinis,
nor from-you knotted angry to-pluck locks,
nec duris ausim laedere pollicibus:
nor with-hard would-I-dare to-hurt thumbs:
rusticus haec aliquis tam turpia proelia quaerat,
rustic these some so shameful battles let-seek,
cuius non hederae circuiere caput.
whose not ivies have-encircled head.

scribam igitur, quod non umquam tua deleat aetas,
I-will-write therefore, what not ever your may-erase age,
'Cynthia, forma potens; Cynthia, verba levis.'
'Cynthia, in-beauty mighty; Cynthia, in-words fickle.'
crede mihi, quamvis contemnas murmura famae,
believe me, although you-scorn the-murmurs of-rumor,
hic tibi pallori, Cynthia, versus erit.
this for-you for-pallor, Cynthia, verse will-be.

II.6 · JEALOUSY

Not even Lais, Thais, or Phryne had so many lovers at their doors as Cynthia. She invents relatives to kiss; Propertius is jealous of painted young men, of a baby in a cradle, of her mother, her sister, her friend. Jealousy began the Trojan War and the Centaurs' brawl, and Romulus taught Rome its license with the Sabines. Happy were Alcestis and Penelope. The painter of obscene pictures corrupted girls; no guard is any use with an unwilling woman. Yet Cynthia will always be his mistress and his wife.

Non ita complebant Ephyreae Laidos aedis,
Not so filled of-Ephyrean Lais the-house,
ad cuius iacuit Graecia tota fores;
at whose lay Greece all doors;
turba Menandreae fuerat nec Thaidos olim
the-crowd of-Menander's had-been nor of-Thais once
tanta, in qua populus lusit Erichthonius;
so-great, in which the-people played Erichthonian;
nec quae deletas potuit componere Thebas,
nor she-who destroyed was-able to-rebuild Thebes,
Phryne tam multis facta beata viris.
Phryne so by-many made rich men.

quin etiam falsos fingis tibi saepe propinquos,
nay even false you-invent for-yourself often relatives,
oscula nec desunt qui tibi iure ferant.
kisses nor are-lacking who to-you by-right may-bring.
me iuvenum pictae facies, me nomina laedunt,
me of-young-men painted faces, me names hurt,
me tener in cunis et sine voce puer;
me tender in the-cradle and without voice a-boy;
me laedet, si multa tibi dabit oscula mater,
me will-hurt, if many to-you will-give kisses the-mother,
me soror et cum qua dormit amica simul:
me the-sister and with whom sleeps the-friend together:
omnia me laedent: timidus sum (ignosce timori)
everything me will-hurt: timid I-am (forgive fear)
et miser in tunica suspicor esse virum.
and wretched in a-tunic I-suspect to-be a-man.
his olim, ut fama est, vitiis ad proelia ventum est,
from-these once, as the-report is, faults to battles come it-was,
his Troiana vides funera principiis;
from-these Trojan you-see deaths beginnings;
aspera Centauros eadem dementia iussit
harsh the-Centaurs the-same madness bade
frangere in adversum pocula Pirithoum.
to-break against the-opposing cups Pirithous.
cur exempla petam Graium? tu criminis auctor,
why examples should-I-seek of-the-Greeks? you of-the-crime the-author,
nutritus duro, Romule, lacte lupae:
nurtured on-harsh, Romulus, milk of-the-she-wolf:
tu rapere intactas docuisti impune Sabinas:
you to-seize untouched taught unpunished Sabines:

per te nunc Romae quidlibet audet Amor.
through you now at-Rome anything dares Love.
felix Admeti coniunx et lectus Ulixis,
happy of-Admetus the-wife and the-bed of-Ulysses,
et quaecumque viri femina limen amat!
and whatever of-a-husband woman the-threshold loves!
templa Pudicitiae quid opus statuisse puellis,
temples of-Chastity what need to-have-set-up for-girls,
si cuivis nuptae quidlibet esse licet?
if for-any bride anything to-be it-is-allowed?
quae manus obscenas depinxit prima tabellas
which hand obscene painted first panels
et posuit casta turpia visa domo,
and placed in-chaste shameful sights house,
illa puellarum ingenuos corrupit ocellos
it of-girls the-innocent corrupted eyes
nequitiaeque suae noluit esse rudis.
and-of-wickedness its-own did-not-wish to-be ignorant.
a gemat in terris, ista qui protulit arte
ah may-he-groan on earth, by-that who brought-forth art
iurgia sub tacita condita laetitia!
quarrels under silent hidden joy!
non istis olim variabant tecta figuris:
not with-those once were-varied houses figures:
tum paries nullo crimine pictus erat.
then the-wall with-no crime painted was.
sed non immerito: velavit aranea fanum
but not undeservedly: has-veiled the-spider the-shrine
et mala desertos occupat herba deos.
and evil deserted occupies weed gods.

quos igitur tibi custodes, quae limina ponam,
what therefore for-you guardians, what thresholds shall-I-set,
quae numquam supra pes inimicus eat?
which never over the-foot hostile may-go?
nam nihil invitae tristis custodia prodest:
for nothing for-an-unwilling-girl gloomy guarding profits:
quam peccare pudet, Cynthia, tuta sat est.
who to-sin is-ashamed, Cynthia, safe enough is.
nos uxor numquam, numquam me ducet amica:
us a-wife never, never me will-lead a-sweetheart:
semper amica mihi, semper et uxor eris.
always sweetheart to-me, always and wife you-will-be.

II.7 · THE LAW REPEALED

Cynthia rejoices that the law which would have parted them has been withdrawn. Great Caesar is great in arms, but conquered nations count for nothing in love: Propertius would rather lose his head than pass her shut door as another woman's husband, to the sound of a wedding flute sadder than a funeral trumpet. He will give no sons to Rome's triumphs; his only soldiering is following his girl. She alone pleases him, and he alone should please her.

Gavisa est certe sublatam Cynthia legem,
Rejoiced has surely removed Cynthia the-law,
qua quondam edicta flemus uterque diu,
at-which once proclaimed wept each long,
ni nos divideret: quamvis diducere amantis
lest us it-should-part: although to-separate lovers
non queat invitos Iuppiter ipse duos.
not can unwilling Jupiter himself two.

'At magnus Caesar.' sed magnus Caesar in armis:
'But great Caesar.' but great Caesar in arms:

devictae gentes nil in amore valent.
conquered nations nothing in love avail.

nam citius paterer caput hoc discedere collo
for sooner would-I-allow head this to-part from-neck

quam possem nuptae perdere more faces,
than could-I of-a-bride to-waste by-the-custom torches,

aut ego transirem tua limina clausa maritus,
or I would-pass your threshold closed a-husband,

respiciens udis prodita luminibus.
looking-back with-wet betrayed eyes.

a mea tum qualis caneret tibi tibia somnos,
ah my then what-kind would-sing for-you flute slumbers,

tibia, funesta tristior illa tuba!
a-flute, than-funereal sadder that trumpet!

Unde mihi patriis natos praebere triumphis?
Whence for-me for-my-country's sons to-provide triumphs?

nullus de nostro sanguine miles erit.
no from our blood soldier will-be.

quod si vera meae comitarent castra puellae,
but if the-true of-my were-to-follow camp girl,

non mihi sat magnus Castoris iret equus.
not to-me enough great of-Castor would-go horse.

hinc etenim tantum meruit mea gloria nomen,
from-here indeed so-great has-earned my glory a-name,

gloria ad hibernos lata Borysthenidas.
glory to wintry carried dwellers-by-the-Borysthenes.

tu mihi sola places: placeam tibi, Cynthia, solus:
you to-me alone please: may-I-please you, Cynthia, alone:
hic erit et patrio sanguine pluris amor.
this will-be even than-paternal blood dearer love.

II.8 · THE GIRL TAKEN

Propertius' girl is being taken from him, and his friend forbids him to weep. He cannot watch her in another's arms; love turns like fortune's wheel, as for leaders and cities, and for all his gifts and songs she never said "I love." He thinks of dying so that she may rejoice at his death, then resolves that she will die with him, as Haemon died beside Antigone. Achilles, robbed of Briseis, let the Greeks be slaughtered and dragged Hector only when she was returned: no wonder, then, if Love triumphs over Propertius.

Eripitur nobis iam pridem cara puella:
Is-snatched from-us now long-since dear the-girl:
et tu me lacrimas fundere, amice, vetas?
and you me tears to-pour, friend, do-you-forbid?
nullae sunt inimicitiae nisi amoris acerbae:
no are enmities except of-love bitter:
ipsum me iugula, lenior hostis ero.
myself me kill, gentler an-enemy I-shall-be.
possum ego in alterius positam spectare lacerto?
can I on of-another lying to-look-at arm?
nec mea dicetur, quae modo dicta mea est?
nor mine shall-be-called, she-who just-now called mine was?
omnia vertuntur: certe vertuntur amores:
everything are-turned: surely are-turned loves:
vinceris aut vincis, haec in amore rota est.
you-are-conquered or conquer, this in love the-wheel is.

magni saepe duces, magni cecidere tyranni,
great often leaders, great have-fallen tyrants,
et Thebae steterant altaque Troia fuit.
and Thebes had-stood and-lofty Troy was.
munera quanta dedi vel qualia carmina feci!
gifts how-great have-I-given or what-kind songs have-I-made!
illa tamen numquam ferrea dixit 'Amo.'
she still never of-iron said 'I-love.'
ergo iam multos nimium temerarius annos,
so now many too reckless years,
improba, qui tulerim teque tuamque domum?
wicked-one, who have-borne both-you and-your house?
ecquandone tibi liber sum visus? an usque
ever to-you free have-I seemed? or forever
in nostrum iacies verba superba caput?
at our will-you-throw words proud head?
sic igitur prima moriere aetate, Properti?
so therefore in-the-first you-will-die age, Propertius?
sed morere; interitu gaudeat illa tuo!
but die; in-the-death let-rejoice she your!
exagitet nostros Manis, sectetur et umbras,
let-her-harass our Shades, let-her-pursue and ghosts,
insultetque rogis, calcet et ossa mea!
and-let-her-leap-on pyres, let-her-trample and bones my!
quid? non Antigonae tumulo Boeotius Haemon
what? not on-Antigone's tomb the-Boeotian Haemon
corruit ipse suo saucius ense latus,
fell himself with-his-own wounded sword side,
et sua cum miserae permiscuit ossa puellae,
and his with of-the-wretched mingled bones girl,

qua sine Thebanam noluit ire domum?
whom without the-Theban he-did-not-wish to-go home?
sed non effugies: mecum moriaris oportet;
but not you-will-escape: with-me you-die it-is-needful;
hoc eodem ferro stillet uterque cruor.
with-this same steel let-drip each gore.
quamvis ista mihi mors est inhonesta futura:
although that to-me death is dishonorable going-to-be:
mors inhonesta quidem, tu moriere tamen.
death dishonorable indeed, you will-die still.
ille etiam abrepta desertus coniuge Achilles
he even snatched-away deserted wife Achilles
cessare in tectis pertulit arma sua.
to-be-idle in tents endured arms his.
viderat ille fugas, tractos in litore Achivos,
had-seen he routs, dragged on shore Achaeans,
fervere et Hectorea Dorica castra face;
to-boil and with-Hector's Dorian camp torch;
viderat informem multa Patroclon harena
he-had-seen disfigured in-much Patroclus sand
porrectum et sparsas caede iacere comas,
stretched-out and scattered in-slaughter to-lie hair,
omnia formosam propter Briseida passus:
everything beautiful because-of Briseis having-suffered:
tantus in erepto saevit amore dolor.
so-great in snatched rages love grief.
at postquam sera captiva est reddita poena,
but after by-late the-captive was returned penalty,
fortem illum Haemoniis Hectora traxit equis.
brave him with-Haemonian Hector dragged horses.

inferior multo cum sim vel marte vel armis,
inferior by-much since I-am either in-war or in-arms,
mirum, si de me iure triumphat Amor?
a-wonder, if over me rightly triumphs Love?

II.9 · THE RIVAL

What the rival is now, Propertius often was, and soon another may be dearer. Penelope waited twenty years and Briseis mourned Achilles' body, but his mistress could not stay alone one night and now seeks the man who once left her. When she lay near death, Propertius made vows for her; where was this man then? Women break faith faster than leaves tremble. He calls on the Loves to kill him, swears by the stars that none was dearer, vows to sleep alone, and would die fighting his rival like the Theban brothers.

Iste quod est, ego saepe fui: sed fors et in hora
That-one what is, I often have-been: but perhaps even in an-hour
hoc ipso electo carior alter erit.
than-this very chosen dearer another will-be.
Penelope poterat bis denos salva per annos
Penelope could twice ten safe through years
vivere, tam multis femina digna procis;
to-live, so by-many a-woman worthy suitors;
coniugium falsa poterat differre Minerva,
marriage by-feigned could to-put-off Minerva,
nocturno solvens texta diurna dolo;
by-nocturnal undoing weavings daytime trickery;
visura et quamvis numquam speraret Ulixen,
going-to-see and although never she-hoped Ulysses,
illum exspectando facta remansit anus.
him by-waiting-for become she-remained an-old-woman.

nec non exanimem amplectens Briseis Achillen
nor not lifeless embracing Briseis Achilles
candida vesana verberat ora manu;
white with-frenzied beats face hand;
et dominum lavit maerens captiva cruentum,
and her-master washed grieving the-captive bloody,
propositum fluviis in Simoenta vadis,
laid-out in-river into Simois shallows,
foedavitque comas, et tanti corpus Achilli
and-befouled her-hair, and of-so-great the-body Achilles
maximaque in parva sustulit ossa manu;
and-very-great in small lifted bones hand;
cum tibi nec Peleus aderat nec caerula mater,
when to-you neither Peleus was-present nor the-sea-blue mother,
Scyria nec viduo Deidamia viro.
of-Scyros nor widowed Deidamia husband.
tunc igitur veris gaudebat Graecia natis,
then therefore in-true rejoiced Greece daughters,
tunc etiam felix inter et arma pudor.
then even happy among and arms modesty.
at tu non una potuisti nocte vacare,
but you not for-one could night to-be-alone,
impia, non unum sola manere diem!
impious-one, not one alone to-remain day!
quin etiam multo duxistis pocula risu:
nay even with-much you-drew cups laughter:
forsitan et de me verba fuere mala.
perhaps also about me words were bad.
hic etiam petitur, qui te prius ante reliquit:
he even is-sought, who you sooner before left:

di faciant, isto capta fruare viro!
the-gods grant, that captured may-you-enjoy man!
haec mihi vota tuam propter suscepta salutem,
these by-me vows your for-the-sake-of undertaken health,
cum capite hoc Stygiae iam poterentur aquae,
when of-head this Stygian now were-taking-possession waters,
et lectum flentes circum staremus amici?
and the-bed weeping around we-stood friends?
hic ubi tum, pro di, perfida, quisve fuit?
he where then, O gods, faithless-one, or-who was?
quid si longinquos retinerer miles ad Indos,
what if far-off I-were-held a-soldier among Indians,
aut mea si staret navis in Oceano?
or my if were-standing ship on Ocean?
sed vobis facile est verba et componere fraudes:
but for-you easy it-is words and to-compose frauds:
hoc unum didicit femina semper opus.
this one has-learned woman always work.
non sic incerto mutantur flamine Syrtes,
not so with-uncertain are-changed blast the-Syrtes,
nec folia hiberno tam tremefacta Noto,
nor leaves by-wintry so set-trembling South-wind,
quam cito feminea non constat foedus in ira,
as quickly feminine not stands-firm a-pact in anger,
sive ea causa gravis sive ea causa levis.
whether that cause weighty or that cause light.
nunc, quoniam ista tibi placuit sententia, cedam:
now, since that to-you has-pleased decision, I-shall-yield:
tela, precor, pueri, promite acuta magis,
arrows, I-pray, boys, bring-out sharp rather,

figite certantes atque hanc mihi solvite vitam!
pierce vying and this from-me loose life!
sanguis erit vobis maxima palma meus.
blood will-be for-you the-greatest palm my.
sidera sunt testes et matutina pruina
the-stars are witnesses and of-morning frost
et furtim misero ianua aperta mihi,
and stealthily to-wretched door opened me,
te nihil in vita nobis acceptius umquam:
than-you nothing in life to-us more-welcome ever:
nunc quoque eris, quamvis sic inimica mihi.
now too you-will-be, although so hostile to-me.
nec domina ulla meo ponet vestigia lecto:
nor mistress any on-my will-set footprints bed:
solus ero, quoniam non licet esse tuum.
alone I-shall-be, since not it-is-allowed to-be yours.
atque utinam, si forte pios eduximus annos,
and would-that, if perhaps dutiful I-have-spent years,
ille vir in medio fiat amore lapis!
that man in the-midst-of may-become love a-stone!
non ob regna magis diris cecidere sub armis
not for kingdoms more dreadful fell under arms
Thebani media non sine matre duces,
Theban in-the-midst not without the-mother leaders,
quam, mihi si media liceat pugnare puella,
than, for-me if in-the-midst it-were-allowed to-fight girl,
mortem ego non fugiam morte subire tua.
death I not would-flee by-death to-undergo your.

Propertius declares it is time to leave love poetry and sing Augustus' wars, since his girl is fully written: the Euphrates, India, and Arabia submit, and the farthest lands will feel his hand. If his strength fails, the boldness will still be praised; youth sings of love, the last age of war. But as men who cannot reach a statue's head lay a garland at its feet, so, unable to rise to the praise, he offers cheap incense: his songs do not yet know Ascra's springs, only the Permessus, where Love bathed them.

Sed tempus lustrare aliis Helicona choreis,
But it-is-time to-traverse with-other Helicon dances,
et campum Haemonio iam dare tempus equo.
and the-plain to-Haemonian now to-give it-is-time horse.
iam libet et fortis memorare ad proelia turmas
now it-pleases and brave to-recount to battles squadrons
et Romana mei dicere castra ducis.
and Roman of-my to-tell camps leader.
quod si deficiant vires, audacia certe
but if should-fail strength, boldness surely
laus erit: in magnis et voluisse sat est.
praise will-be: in great-things even to-have-wished enough is.
aetas prima canat Veneres, extrema tumultus:
age first let-sing Loves, the-last tumults:
bella canam, quando scripta puella mea est.
wars I-will-sing, since written girl my is.
nunc volo subducto gravior procedere vultu,
now I-wish drawn-in graver to-proceed countenance,
nunc aliam citharam me mea Musa docet.
now another lyre me my Muse teaches.
surge, anima; ex humili iam carmine sumite vires,
rise, my-soul; from lowly now song take strength,

Pierides: magni nunc erit oris opus.
Pierides: of-great now will-be mouth the-work.
iam negat Euphrates equitem post terga tueri
now refuses the-Euphrates horseman behind backs to-watch
Parthorum et Crassos se tenuisse dolet:
of-the-Parthians and the-Crassi itself to-have-held grieves:
India quin, Auguste, tuo dat colla triumpho,
India nay, Augustus, to-your gives neck triumph,
et domus intactae te tremit Arabiae;
and the-house of-untouched you trembles Arabia;
et si qua extremis tellus se subtrahit oris,
and if any at-farthest land itself withdraws shores,
sentiat illa tuas postmodo capta manus.
let-feel it your hereafter captured hands.
haec ego castra sequar; vates tua castra canendo
these I camps shall-follow; bard your camps by-singing
magnus ero: servent hunc mihi fata diem!
great I-shall-be: may-preserve this for-me the-fates day!
ut caput in magnis ubi non est tangere signis,
as the-head in great where not it-is-possible to-touch statues,
ponitur hac imos ante corona pedes,
is-placed here lowest before a-crown feet,
sic nos nunc, inopes laudis conscendere carmen,
so we now, lacking of-praise to-mount song,
pauperibus sacris vilia tura damus.
at-poor rites cheap incense give.
nondum etiam Ascraeos norunt mea carmina fontis,
not-yet even Ascraean know my songs springs,
sed modo Permessi flumine lavit Amor.
but only of-Permessus in-the-stream has-bathed Love.

Let others write about her, or let her be unknown: praising her is sowing barren soil. Death will carry off all her gifts in one bed, and a traveler will pass her bones without saying that here lies a learned girl.

Scribant de te alii vel sis ignota licebit:
Let-write about you others or be unknown it-will-be-allowed:
laudet, qui sterili semina ponit humo.
let-him-praise, who in-barren seeds places soil.
omnia, crede mihi, tecum uno munera lecto
all, believe me, with-you on-one gifts bed
auferet extremi funeris atra dies;
will-carry-off of-final funeral the-black day;
et tua transibit contemnens ossa viator,
and your will-pass-by scorning bones the-wayfarer,
nec dicet 'Cinis hic docta puella fuit.'
nor will-say 'Ash this a-learned girl was.'

Whoever first painted Love as a boy was wise: lovers live without sense and lose great goods for light cares; Love has wings because we are tossed on shifting waves, and arrows because he strikes before we see him. In Propertius the arrows remain, but Love seems to have lost his wings, for he never leaves his breast and wages war in his blood. Let him try his poison on someone untouched: if he kills Propertius, who will sing of his girl's head, fingers, black eyes, and graceful walk?

Quicumque ille fuit, puerum qui pinxit Amorem,
Whoever he was, the-boy who painted Love,
nonne putas miras hunc habuisse manus?
surely think wondrous him to-have-had hands?
is primum vidit sine sensu vivere amantis,
he first saw without sense to-live lovers,
et levibus curis magna perire bona.
and for-light cares great to-perish goods.
idem non frustra ventosas addidit alas,
the-same not in-vain windy added wings,
fecit et humano corde volare deum:
made and in-the-human heart to-fly the-god:
scilicet alterna quoniam iactamur in unda,
doubtless alternate because we-are-tossed on wave,
nostraque non ullis permanet aura locis.
and-our not in-any remains breeze places.
et merito hamatis manus est armata sagittis,
and deservedly with-barbed the-hand is armed arrows,
et pharetra ex umero Gnosia utroque iacet:
and the-quiver from shoulder Cnossian each hangs:
ante ferit quoniam, tuti quam cernimus hostem,
sooner he-strikes since, safe than we-see the-enemy,

nec quisquam ex illo vulnere sanus abit,
nor anyone from that wound sound goes-away,
in me tela manent, manet et puerilis imago:
in me the-weapons remain, remains and the-boyish image:
sed certe pennas perdidit ille suas;
but surely feathers has-lost he his;
evolat ei nostro quoniam de pectore nusquam,
flies-away alas our since from breast nowhere,
assiduusque meo sanguine bella gerit.
and-constant in-my blood wars wages.
quid tibi iucundum est siccis habitare medullis?
what to-you pleasant is in-dry to-dwell marrow?
si puer est, animo traice puella tuo!
if a-boy he-is, in-mind pierce girl your!
intactos isto satius temptare veneno:
untouched with-that better to-try poison:
non ego, sed tenuis vapulat umbra mea.
not I, but thin is-beaten shade my.
quam si perdideris, quis erit qui talia cantet,
which if you-shall-have-destroyed, who will-be who such may-sing,
(haec mea Musa levis gloria magna tua est),
(this my Muse light glory great your is),
qui caput, et digitos, et lumina nigra puellae,
who the-head, and fingers, and eyes black of-the-girl,
et canat ut soleant molliter ire pedes?
and may-sing how are-wont softly to-go feet?

Love has made Propertius a poet of slender verse, not to lead oaks and beasts but to stun Cynthia, a learned girl and his one judge. He orders his funeral: no masks, trumpets, or ivory couch, only three little books for Persephone, Cynthia following with torn breast, her last kisses, a small jar under a laurel, and a two-line epitaph. He wishes he had died in the cradle, since Nestor lived to see Antilochus buried. She will mourn him, as Venus mourned Adonis, but will call his mute shade in vain.

Non tot Achaemeniis armantur Etrusca sagittis
Not so-many with-Achaemenian are-armed Etruscan arrows
spicula, quot nostro pectore fixit Amor.
darts, as-many-as in-our breast has-fixed Love.
hic me tam gracilis vetuit contemnere Musas,
he me so slender forbade to-scorn Muses,
iussit et Ascraeum sic habitare nemus,
bade and the-Ascraean so to-dwell-in grove,
non ut Pieriae quercus mea verba sequantur,
not that Pierian oaks my words may-follow,
aut possim Ismaria ducere valle feras,
or I-may-be-able from-Ismarian to-lead valley beasts,
sed magis ut nostro stupefiat Cynthia versu:
but rather that by-our may-be-stunned Cynthia verse:
tunc ego sim Inachio notior arte Lino.
then I may-be than-Inachian more-known in-art Linus.
non ego sum formae tantum mirator honestae,
not I am of-beauty only an-admirer honorable,
nec si qua illustris femina iactat avos:
nor if some illustrious woman boasts ancestors:
me iuvet in gremio doctae legisse puellae,
me may-it-delight in the-lap of-a-learned to-have-read girl,

auribus et pueris scripta probasse mea.
to-ears and boys writings to-have-commended my.

haec ubi contigerint, populi confusa valeto
these when shall-have-befallen, of-the-people confused farewell

fabula: nam domina iudice tutus ero.
talk: for mistress as-judge safe I-shall-be.

quae si forte bonas ad pacem verterit auris,
who if perhaps kind to peace shall-have-turned ears,

possum inimicitias tunc ego ferre Iovis.
can enmities then I to-bear of-Jove.

quandocumque igitur nostros mors claudet ocellos
whenever therefore our death shall-close eyes

accipe quae serves funeris acta mei.
receive what you-may-keep of-funeral the-acts my.

nec mea tunc longa spatietur imagine pompa,
nor my then with-long may-stroll image procession,

nec tuba sit fati vana querela mei;
nor a-trumpet be of-fate empty lament my;

nec mihi tunc fulcro sternatur lectus eburno,
nor for-me then on-a-frame be-spread a-couch ivory,

nec sit in Attalico mors mea nixa toro.
nor be on Attalic death my leaning couch.

desit odoriferis ordo mihi lancibus, adsint
let-be-lacking of-perfume-bearing a-line for-me dishes, let-be-present

plebei parvae funeris exsequiae.
of-a-plebeian small funeral obsequies.

sat mea sit magno, si tres sint pompa libelli,
enough mine be great, if three be procession little-books,

quos ego Persephonae maxima dona feram.
which I to-Persephone the-greatest gifts may-bring.

tu vero nudum pectus lacerata sequeris,
you indeed bare breast torn will-follow,
nec fueris nomen lassa vocare meum,
nor you-should-be the-name tired to-call my,
osculaque in gelidis pones suprema labellis,
and-kisses on cold you-will-place last little-lips,
cum dabitur Syrio munere plenus onyx.
when shall-be-given with-Syrian gift full onyx.
deinde, ubi suppositus cinerem me fecerit ardor,
then, when placed-beneath ash me shall-have-made the-blaze,
accipiat Manis parvula testa meos,
let-receive Shades a-tiny jar my,
et sit in exiguo laurus super addita busto,
and be on small a-laurel above added tomb,
quae tegat exstincti funeris umbra locum,
which may-cover of-extinct funeral with-shade the-place,
et duo sint versus: Qui nunc iacet horrida pulvis,
and two be verses: Who now lies rough dust,
unius hic quondam servus amoris erat.
of-one this once a-slave love was.
nec minus haec nostri notescet fama sepulcri,
nor less this of-our will-become-known the-fame tomb,
quam fuerant Phthii busta cruenta viri.
than had-been of-the-Phthian the-tomb bloody man.
tu quoque si quando venies ad fata, memento,
you too if ever you-will-come to fate, remember,
hoc iter ad lapides cana veni memores.
this road to stones gray come mindful.
interea cave sis nos aspernata sepultos:
meanwhile beware you-be us having-scorned buried:

non nihil ad verum conscia terra sapit.
not nothing to truth conscious earth knows.
atque utinam primis animam me ponere cunis
and would-that in-first life me to-lay-down cradle
iussisset quaevis de Tribus una Soror!
had-bidden any of the-Three one Sister!
nam quo tam dubiae servetur spiritus horae?
for for-what so uncertain may-be-saved breath hour?
Nestoris est visus post tria saecla cinis:
of-Nestor was seen after three centuries the-ash:
quis tam longaevae minuisset fata senectae
who so long-lived had-shortened the-fate old-age
Gallicus Iliacis miles in aggeribus!
Gallic Ilian soldier on ramparts!
non ille Antilochi vidisset corpus humari,
not he of-Antilochus would-have-seen the-body to-be-buried,
diceret aut 'O mors, cur mihi sera venis?'
would-have-said or 'O death, why to-me late do-you-come?'
tu tamen amisso non numquam flebis amico:
you still for-lost not never will-weep friend:
fas est praeteritos semper amare viros.
right it-is departed always to-love men.
testis, qui niveum quondam percussit Adonem
witness, who snowy once struck Adonis
venantem Idalio vertice durus aper,
hunting on-the-Idalian peak cruel boar,
illis formosum iacuisse paludibus; illuc
in-those beautiful to-have-lain marshes; thither
diceris effusa tu, Venus, isse coma.
you-are-said with-streaming you, Venus, to-have-gone hair.

sed frustra mutos revocabis, Cynthia, Manis:
but in-vain mute you-will-call-back, Cynthia, Shades:
nam mea qui poterunt ossa minuta loqui?
for my how will-be-able bones tiny to-say?

II.14 · THE NIGHT WON

Not Agamemnon at Troy's fall, Ulysses reaching Dulichium, Electra seeing Orestes alive, or Ariadne seeing Theseus safe felt such joy as Propertius after last night: another like it would make him immortal. While he begged with lowered neck she scorned him; the remedy, he has learned too late, is to scorn in return. This victory is worth more than one over the Parthians: he will hang his trophies in Venus' temple with an inscription. He hopes his ship has reached harbor, and will die at her door if she changes.

Non ita Dardanio gavisus Atrida triumpho est,
Not so in-the-Dardan rejoiced the-son-of-Atreus triumph has,
cum caderent magnae Laomedontis opes;
when fell great of-Laomedon the-riches;
nec sic errore exacto laetatus Ulixes,
nor so wandering ended rejoiced Ulysses,
cum tetigit carae litora Dulichiae;
when he-touched of-dear the-shores Dulichium;
nec sic Electra, salvum cum aspexit Oresten,
nor so Electra, safe when she-saw Orestes,
cuius falsa tenens fleverat ossa soror;
whose false holding had-wept bones the-sister;
nec sic incolumem Minois Thesea vidit,
nor so unharmed the-daughter-of-Minos Theseus saw,
Daedalium lino cum duce rexit iter;
the-Daedalian with-thread when as-guide she-ruled path;

quanta ego praeterita collegi gaudia nocte:
as-great-as I in-last gathered joys night:
immortalis ero, si altera talis erit.
immortal I-shall-be, if another such will-be.
at dum demissis supplex cervicibus ibam,
but while lowered suppliant neck I-went,
dicebar sicco vilior esse lacu.
I-was-said than-a-dry cheaper to-be pool.
nec mihi iam fastus opponere quaerit iniquos,
nor to-me now disdains to-oppose seeks unjust,
nec mihi ploranti lenta sedere potest.
nor with-me weeping slow to-sit can.
atque utinam non tam sero mihi nota fuisset
and would-that not so late to-me known had-been
condicio! cineri nunc medicina datur.
the-condition! to-ash now medicine is-given.
ante pedes caecis lucebat semita nobis:
before feet to-blind shone the-path us:
scilicet insano nemo in amore videt.
doubtless mad no-one in love sees.
hoc sensi prodesse magis: contemnite, amantes!
this I-felt to-profit more: scorn, lovers!
sic hodie veniet, si qua negavit heri.
so today she-will-come, if any refused yesterday.
pulsabant alii frustra dominamque vocabant:
were-knocking others in-vain and-mistress were-calling:
mecum habuit positum lenta puella caput.
with-me kept placed slow the-girl head.
haec mihi devictis potior victoria Parthis,
this to-me than-conquered preferable victory Parthians,

haec spolia, haec reges, haec mihi currus erunt,
these spoils, these kings, these for-me chariots will-be,
magna ego dona tua figam, Cytherea, columna,
great I gifts on-your shall-fix, Cytherea, column,
taleque sub nostro nomine carmen erit:
and-such under our name a-song will-be:
Has pono ante tuas tibi, diva, Propertius aedis
These I-place before your to-you, goddess, Propertius temple
exuvias, tota nocte receptus amans.
spoils, for-a-whole night admitted lover.
nunc ad te, mea lux, veniet mea litore navis
now to you, my light, will-come my to-the-shore ship
servata, an mediis sidat onusta vadis?
saved, or in-the-midst-of does-it-settle laden shallows?
quod si forte aliqua nobis mutabere culpa,
but if perhaps by-some from-us you-will-be-changed fault,
vestibulum iaceam mortuus ante tuum!
the-entrance may-I-lie dead before your!

Propertius rejoices in a night of love: their talk by lamplight, their wrestling in the dark, her waking him with a kiss. Love wants light, and if she lies clothed he will tear her dress. While fate allows, let them fill their eyes with love, for a long night is coming; he wishes a chain bound them forever. Sooner will rivers run backward than his love change. If all men lived like this there would be no wars and no Actium; let her enjoy life while it shines, for tomorrow may end everything.

O me felicem! o nox mihi candida! et o tu
O me happy! O night to-me bright! and O you
lectule deliciis facte beate meis!
little-bed by-delights made blessed my!
quam multa apposita narramus verba lucerna,
how many placed-beside we-tell words lamp,
quantaque sublato lumine rixa fuit!
and-how-great removed light the-struggle was!
nam modo nudatis mecum est luctata papillis,
for now bared with-me has wrestled breasts,
interdum tunica duxit operta moram.
sometimes in-a-tunic drew covered delay.
illa meos somno lassos patefecit ocellos
she my with-sleep weary opened eyes
ore suo et dixit 'Sicine, lente, iaces?'
with-mouth her and said 'Thus, sluggard, do-you-lie?'
quam vario amplexu mutamus bracchia! quantum
with-how varied embrace we-change arms! how-much
oscula sunt labris nostra morata tuis!
kisses are on-lips our lingered your!
non iuvat in caeco Venerem corrumpere motu:
not it-pleases in blind Venus to-spoil movement:

si nescis, oculi sunt in amore duces.
if you-do-not-know, the-eyes are in love guides.
ipse Paris nuda fertur periisse Lacaena,
himself Paris by-the-naked is-said to-have-perished Spartan,
cum Menelaeo surgeret e thalamo;
when Menelaean she-rose from chamber;
nudus et Endymion Phoebi cepisse sororem
naked and Endymion of-Phoebus to-have-captured the-sister
dicitur et nudae concubuisse deae.
is-said and with-naked to-have-lain goddess.
quod si pertendens animo vestita cubaris,
but if persisting in-mind clothed you-lie,
scissa veste meas experiere manus:
torn the-dress my you-will-experience hands:
quin etiam, si me ulterius provexerit ira,
nay even, if me further shall-have-carried anger,
ostendes matri bracchia laesa tuae.
you-will-show to-the-mother arms bruised your.
necdum inclinatae prohibent te ludere mammae:
nor-yet sagging prevent you to-play breasts:
viderit haec, si quam iam peperisse pudet.
let-her-see-to these, if any now to-have-given-birth is-ashamed.
dum nos fata sinunt, oculos satiemus amore:
while us the-fates allow, eyes let-us-sate with-love:
nox tibi longa venit, nec reditura dies.
night to-you long comes, nor going-to-return day.
atque utinam haerentis sic nos vincire catena
and would-that clinging so us to-bind with-a-chain
velles, ut numquam solveret ulla dies!
you-would-wish, that never might-loose any day!

exemplo vinctae tibi sint in amore columbae,
for-an-example bound to-you be in love doves,
masculus et totum femina coniugium.
the-male and whole the-female marriage.
errat, qui finem vesani quaerit amoris:
errs, who an-end of-mad seeks love:
verus amor nullum novit habere modum.
true love no knows to-have limit.
terra prius falso partu deludet arantis,
the-earth sooner with-false yield will-mock plowmen,
et citius nigros Sol agitabit equos,
and sooner black the-Sun will-drive horses,
fluminaque ad caput incipient revocare liquores,
and-rivers to source will-begin to-call-back waters,
aridus et sicco gurgite piscis erit,
dry and in-dry whirlpool the-fish will-be,
quam possim nostros alio transferre dolores:
than I-could my to-another to-transfer griefs:
huius ero vivus, mortuus huius ero.
hers I-shall-be living, dead hers I-shall-be.
quod mihi si tecum talis concedere noctes
but to-me if with-you such to-grant nights
illa velit, vitae longus et annus erit.
she would-wish, of-life long even a-year will-be.
si dabit haec multas, fiam immortalis in illis:
if she-will-give she many, I-shall-become immortal in them:
nocte una quivis vel deus esse potest.
in-night one anyone even a-god to-be can.
qualem si cuncti cuperent decurrere vitam
such if all were-to-desire to-run-through life

et pressi multo membra iacere mero,
and pressed with-much limbs to-lie wine,
non ferrum crudele neque esset bellica navis,
not steel cruel nor would-be a-warlike ship,
nec nostra Actiacum verteret ossa mare,
nor our Actian would-roll bones the-sea,
nec totiens propriis circum oppugnata triumphis
nor so-often by-her-own around besieged triumphs
lassa foret crinis solvere Roma suos.
weary would-be the-hair to-loosen Rome her.
haec certe merito poterunt laudare minores:
these surely deservedly will-be-able to-praise descendants:
laeserunt nullos pocula nostra deos.
have-harmed no cups our gods.
tu modo, dum lucet, fructum ne desere vitae!
you only, while it-shines, the-fruit do-not desert of-life!
omnia si dederis oscula, pauca dabis.
all if you-shall-have-given kisses, few you-will-give.
ac veluti folia arentis liquere corollas,
and as the-leaves withering have-left garlands,
quae passim calathis strata natare vides,
which here-and-there in-bowls strewn to-float you-see,
sic nobis, qui nunc magnum speramus amantes,
so for-us, who now great hope lovers,
forsitan includet crastina fata dies.
perhaps will-close tomorrow's fate day.

A praetor has come back from Illyria, rich booty for Cynthia, and her door stands open all night without Propertius. He bitterly advises her to fleece him and send him off. She weighs only purses and sends Propertius for gems; he wishes no one in Rome were rich. Her new lover is a barbarian. A shameful love made the leader at Actium flee, while Caesar sheathed his conquering sword. Let storms carry off her gifts: Jupiter punishes faithless girls, and no dress is worth fearing every south wind.

Praetor ab Illyricis venit modo, Cynthia, terris,
A-praetor from Illyrian has-come just-now, Cynthia, lands,
maxima praeda tibi, maxima cura mihi.
greatest booty for-you, greatest care for-me.
non potuit saxo vitam posuisse Cerauno?
not could-he on-rock life to-have-laid-down Ceraunian?
a, Neptune, tibi qualia dona darem!
ah, Neptune, to-you what-kind gifts would-I-give!
nunc sine me plena fiunt convivia mensa,
now without me with-full are-held banquets table,
nunc sine me tota ianua nocte patet.
now without me for-the-whole the-door night stands-open.
quare, si sapis, oblatas ne desere messis
therefore, if you-are-wise, offered do-not desert harvests
et stolidum pleno vellere carpe pecus;
and the-stupid full fleece shear flock;
deinde, ubi consumpto restabit munere pauper,
then, when consumed he-will-remain gift poor,
dic alias iterum naviget Illyrias!
tell(-him) other again he-should-sail-to Illyrias!
Cynthia non sequitur fascis nec curat honores,
Cynthia not follows the-fasces nor cares-for honors,

semper amatorum ponderat una sinus.
always of-lovers weighs she-alone the-purses.
at tu nunc nostro, Venus, o succurre dolori,
but you now to-our, Venus, O succor grief,
rumpat ut assiduis membra libidinibus!
may-he-burst that with-constant limbs lusts!
ergo muneribus quivis mercatur amorem?
so by-gifts anyone buys love?
Iuppiter, indigna merce puella perit.
Jupiter, through-unworthy merchandise a-girl perishes.
semper in Oceanum mittit me quaerere gemmas,
always into Ocean she-sends me to-seek gems,
et iubet ex ipsa tollere dona Tyro.
and bids from very to-fetch gifts Tyre.
atque utinam Romae nemo esset dives, et ipse
and would-that at-Rome no-one were rich, and himself
straminea posset dux habitare casa!
in-a-straw could the-leader to-dwell hut!
numquam venales essent ad munus amicae,
never for-sale would-be for a-gift sweethearts,
atque una fieret cana puella domo. —
and in-one would-grow gray the-girl house.—
non quia septenas noctes seiuncta cubaris,
not because seven nights apart you-lie,
candida tam foedo bracchia fusa viro,
white so on-foul arms spread man,
non quia peccarim (testor te), sed quia vulgo
not because I-have-sinned (I-call-to-witness you), but because commonly
formosis levitas semper amica fuit.
to-the-beautiful fickleness always friendly has-been.

barbarus exclusis agitat vestigia lumbis —
a-barbarian with-shut-out works his-steps loins—
et subito felix nunc mea regna tenet!
and suddenly happy now my realm holds!
aspice quid donis Eriphyla invenit amaris,
look-at what in-gifts Eriphyla found bitter,
arserit et quantis nupta Creusa malis.
burned and with-what-great the-bride Creusa evils.
nullane sedabit nostros iniuria fletus?
no will-calm our wrong weeping?
an dolor hic vitiis nescit abesse suis?
or grief this from-faults knows-not to-be-absent its-own?
tot iam abiere dies, cum me nec cura theatri
so-many now have-passed days, since me neither care of-the-theater
nec tetigit Campi, nec mea mensa iuvat.
nor has-touched of-the-Campus, nor my table pleases.
at pudeat certe, pudeat! — nisi forte, quod aiunt,
but let-her-be-ashamed surely, let-her-be-ashamed! —unless perhaps, what they-say,
turpis amor surdis auribus esse solet.
shameful love with-deaf ears to-be is-wont.
cerne ducem, modo qui fremitu complevit inani
look-at the-leader, lately who with-roar filled empty
Actia damnatis aequora militibus:
Actian with-doomed waters soldiers:
hunc infamis amor versis dare terga carinis
him infamous love turned to-give backs ships
iussit et extremo quaerere in orbe fugam.
bade and the-farthest to-seek in world flight.
Caesaris haec virtus et gloria Caesaris haec est:
of-Caesar this the-valor and the-glory of-Caesar this is:

illa, qua vicit, condidit arma manu.
that, by-which he-conquered, sheathed arms hand.
sed quascumque tibi vestis, quoscumque smaragdos,
but whatever to-you garments, whatever emeralds,
quosve dedit flavo lumine chrysolithos,
or-whatever he-gave with-yellow light chrysolites,
haec videam rapidas in vanum ferre procellas:
these may-I-see the-swift into nothing carry storms:
quae tibi terra, velim, quae tibi fiat aqua.
which to-you earth, I-would-wish, which to-you may-become water.
non semper placidus periuros ridet amantis
not always calm perjured laughs-at lovers
Iuppiter et surda neglegit aure preces.
Jupiter and with-deaf neglects ear prayers.
vidistis toto sonitus percurrere caelo,
you-have-seen in-whole sounds to-run-through sky,
fulminaque aetheria desiluisse domo:
and-thunderbolts from-the-heavenly to-have-leapt-down house:
non haec Pleiades faciunt neque aquosus Orion,
not these the-Pleiads make nor watery Orion,
nec sic de nihilo fulminis ira cadit;
nor so from nothing of-the-thunderbolt the-wrath falls;
periuras tunc ille solet punire puellas,
perjured then he is-wont to-punish girls,
deceptus quoniam flevit et ipse deus.
deceived since wept even himself the-god.
quare ne tibi sit tanti Sidonia vestis,
therefore lest to-you be of-such-worth a-Sidonian dress,
ut timeas, quotiens nubilus Auster erit.
that you-fear, whenever cloudy the-Auster will-be.

To lie about a night and lead a lover on with promises is murder. Propertius speaks from experience, deserted on bitter nights; Tantalus' thirst and Sisyphus' rock are nothing to a lover's life. He who was once envied is now admitted barely every tenth day, and he thinks of throwing himself from a rock or taking poison, unable even to rest in the street or speak through her door. Yet he will not change his mistress: she will weep when she learns how faithful he is.

Mentiri noctem, promissis ducere amantem,
To-lie-about a-night, with-promises to-lead-on a-lover,

hoc erit infectas sanguine habere manus!
this will-be stained with-blood to-have hands!

horum ego sum vates, quotiens desertus amaras
of-these I am the-bard, whenever deserted bitter

explevi noctes, fractus utroque toro.
I-have-filled-up nights, broken by-each couch.

vel tu Tantalea moveare ad flumina sorte,
either you by-Tantalus may-be-moved at the-streams lot,

ut liquor arenti fallat ab ore sitim;
how the-water parched cheats from mouth thirst;

vel tu Sisyphios licet admirere labores,
or you of-Sisyphus may admire the-labors,

difficile ut toto monte volutet onus;
hard how on-the-whole mountain he-rolls burden;

durius in terris nihil est quod vivat amante,
harsher on earth nothing is which lives than-a-lover,

nec, modo si sapias, quod minus esse velis.
nor, only if you-were-wise, which less to-be you-would-wish.

quem modo felicem invidia admirante ferebant,
whom lately happy envy admiring they-used-to-report,

nunc decimo admittor vix ego quoque die.
now on-the-tenth I-am-admitted hardly I every day.
nunc iacere e duro corpus iuvat, impia, saxo,
now to-throw from hard body it-pleases, impious-one, rock,
sumere et in nostras trita venena manus;
to-take and into our ground poisons hands;
nec licet in triviis sicca requiescere luna,
nor is-it-allowed at crossroads under-dry to-rest moon,
aut per rimosas mittere verba fores?
or through chinky to-send words doors?
quod quamvis ita sit, dominam mutare cavebo:
but although so it-be, mistress to-change I-shall-beware:
tum flebit, cum in me senserit esse fidem.
then she-will-weep, when in me she-shall-have-felt to-be faith.

II.18 · ADVICE TO A MISTRESS

Constant complaints make women hate a man and silence wins them, so a lover should deny whatever he has seen or felt. Propertius imagines himself grown old: Aurora did not scorn old Tithonus but loved him, yet his mistress hates him though he is young and she will soon be old. He tells her not to dye her hair like the Britons, since natural beauty is best, and offers to be her brother and her son. Let her bed be her guard, and let her not trust herself to rumor, which crosses lands and seas.

Assiduae multis odium peperere querelae:
Constant for-many hatred have-produced complaints:
frangitur in tacito femina saepe viro.
is-broken by silent a-woman often man.
si quid vidisti, semper vidisse negato!
if anything you-have-seen, always to-have-seen deny!

aut si quid doluit forte, dolere nega!
or if anything has-pained perhaps, to-feel-pain deny!
quid mea si canis aetas canesceret annis,
what my if with-gray age were-to-whiten years,
et faceret scissas languida ruga genas?
and were-to-make furrowed slack the-wrinkle cheeks?
at non Tithoni spernens Aurora senectam
but not of-Tithonus scorning Aurora the-old-age
desertum Eoa passa iacere domo est:
deserted in-Eastern allowed to-lie house has:
illum saepe suis decedens fovit in undis
him often her setting has-warmed in waves
quam prius adiunctos sedula lavit equos;
than first yoked busy she-washed horses;
illum ad vicinos cum amplexa quiesceret Indos,
him to neighboring when embracing she-rested Indians,
maturos iterum est questa redire dies;
too-early again has complained to-return days;
illa deos currum conscendens dixit iniquos,
she the-gods the-chariot mounting called unjust,
invitum et terris praestitit officium.
unwilling and to-the-earth rendered service.
cui maiora senis Tithoni gaudia vivi,
for-whom greater of-old Tithonus joys living,
quam gravis amisso Memnone luctus erat.
than heavy lost Memnon the-grief was.
cum sene non puduit talem dormire puellam
with an-old-man not was-she-ashamed such to-sleep a-girl
et canae totiens oscula ferre comae.
and to-gray so-often kisses to-bring hair.

at tu etiam iuvenem odisti me, perfida, cum sis
but you even young-man hate me, faithless-one, when you-are
ipsa anus haud longa curva futura die.
yourself an-old-woman on-not long bent going-to-be day.
quin ego deminuo curam, quod saepe Cupido
but I lessen care, because often Cupid
huic malus esse solet, cui bonus ante fuit.
to-this bad to-be is-wont, to-whom kind before he-was.
nunc etiam infectos demens imitare Britannos,
now even painted mad-one you-imitate Britons,
ludis et externo tincta nitore caput?
you-play and with-foreign dyed sheen head?
ut natura dedit, sic omnis recta figura est:
as nature has-given, so every right figure is:
turpis Romano Belgicus ore color.
shameful on-a-Roman Belgic face color.
illi sub terris fiant mala multa puellae,
for-her under earth may-become ills many girl,
quae mentita suas vertit inepta comas!
who falsely her changes silly hair!
deme: mihi certe poteris formosa videri;
take-it-off: to-me surely you-will-be-able beautiful to-seem;
mi formosa satis, si modo saepe venis.
to-me beautiful enough, if only often you-come.
an si caeruleo quaedam sua tempora fuco
or if with-sea-blue some-woman her temples dye
tinxerit, idcirco caerula forma bona est?
shall-have-dyed, therefore sea-blue beauty good is?
cum tibi nec frater nec sit tibi filius ullus,
since to-you neither brother nor be to-you son any,

frater ego et tibi sim filius unus ego.
brother I and to-you may-I-be son only I.
ipse tuus semper tibi sit custodia lectus,
himself your always to-you be guard bed,
nec nimis ornata fronte sedere velis.
nor too-much with-adorned brow to-sit may-you-wish.
credam ego narranti, noli committere, famae:
I-shall-believe I the-teller, do-not entrust(-yourself), to-rumor:
et terram rumor transilit et maria.
both land rumor leaps-over and seas.

II.19 · CYNTHIA IN THE COUNTRY

Though Cynthia leaves Rome against his will, Propertius is glad she goes to the country: there no seducer or brawl at her window will trouble her, only mountains, flocks, plowing oxen, and rustic rites. He will join her soon and take up hunting, of hares and birds rather than lions and boars, by the Clitumnus; but she must remember he will come within a few days, and the woods will not keep him from repeating her name, for everyone wants to wrong an absent lover.

Etsi me invito discedis, Cynthia, Roma,
Although me unwilling you-depart, Cynthia, from-Rome,
laetor quod sine me devia rura colis.
I-rejoice that without me remote countryside you-dwell-in.
nullus erit castis iuvenis corruptor in agris,
no will-be chaste youth seducer in fields,
qui te blanditiis non sinat esse probam;
who you with-blandishments not may-allow to-be virtuous;
nulla neque ante tuas orietur rixa fenestras,
no nor before your will-arise brawl windows,

nec tibi clamatae somnus amarus erit.
nor for-you shouted-at sleep bitter will-be.
sola eris et solos spectabis, Cynthia, montis
alone you-will-be and lonely you-will-watch, Cynthia, mountains
et pecus et finis pauperis agricolae.
and the-flock and the-bounds of-a-poor farmer.
illic te nulli poterunt corrumpere ludi,
there you no will-be-able to-corrupt games,
fanaque peccatis plurima causa tuis.
and-shrines for-sins the-most cause your.
illic assidue tauros spectabis arantis,
there constantly bulls you-will-watch plowing,
et vitem docta ponere falce comas;
and the-vine with-skilled to-lay-down hook leaves;
atque ibi rara feres inculto tura sacello,
and there rare you-will-bring at-uncultivated incense shrine,
haedus ubi agrestis corruet ante focos;
the-kid where rustic will-fall before hearths;
protinus et nuda choreas imitabere sura;
straightway and with-bare dances you-will-imitate calf;
omnia ab externo sint modo tuta viro.
everything from foreign let-be only safe man.
ipse ego venabor: iam nunc me sacra Dianae
myself I shall-hunt: already now me the-rites of-Diana
suscipere et Veneri ponere vota iuvat.
to-take-up and to-Venus to-lay-aside vows it-pleases.
incipiam captare feras et reddere pinu
I-shall-begin to-catch beasts and to-dedicate on-the-pine
cornua et audaces ipse monere canis;
horns and bold myself to-urge-on hounds;

non tamen ut vastos ausim temptare leones
not still that huge I-would-dare to-try lions
aut celer agrestis comminus ire sues.
or swift wild at-close-quarters to-go-against boars.
haec igitur mihi sit lepores audacia mollis
this therefore for-me let-be hares boldness soft
excipere et stricto figere avem calamo,
to-catch and with-drawn to-pierce a-bird reed,
qua formosa suo Clitumnus flumina luco
where beautiful with-his Clitumnus streams grove
integit, et niveos abluit unda boves.
covers, and snow-white washes the-wave oxen.
tu quotiens aliquid conabere, vita, memento
you whenever anything you-will-attempt, my-life, remember
venturum paucis me tibi Luciferis.
going-to-come in-few me to-you Morning-Stars.
sic me nec solae poterunt avertere silvae,
so me neither lonely will-be-able to-turn-away woods,
nec vaga muscosis flumina fusa iugis,
nor wandering on-mossy streams poured ridges,
quin ego in assidua mutem tua nomina lingua:
but-that I in constant change your name tongue:
absenti nemo non nocuisse velit.
to-the-absent no-one not to-have-harmed would-wish.

Why does his mistress weep more than Briseis or Andromache and accuse him of faithlessness? Though chained like Danae, he would break the chains for her. Whatever is said about her falls on deaf ears; he swears by his parents' bones to remain hers until death. For seven months the whole city has talked of them, and she has often opened her door and her bed to him without gifts. She chose him among many; let the Furies and the punishments of Tityos and Sisyphus be his if he forgets it. He neither gives up quickly nor begins rashly.

Quid fles abducta gravius Briseide? quid fles
Why do-you-weep than-snatched-away more-heavily Briseis? why do-you-weep
anxia captiva tristius Andromacha?
anxious than-captive more-sadly Andromache?
quidve mea de fraude deos, insana, fatigas?
or-why my about deceit the-gods, mad-one, do-you-weary?
quid quereris nostram sic cecidisse fidem?
why do-you-complain our so to-have-fallen faith?
non tam nocturna volucris funesta querela
not so nocturnal the-bird with-deadly lament
Attica Cecropiis obstrepit in foliis,
Attic Cecropian drowns-out in foliage,
nec tantum Niobe bis sex ad busta superbe
nor so-much Niobe twice six at tombs proudly
sollicito lacrimas defluit a Sipylo.
troubled tears sheds-down from Sipylus.
me licet aeratis astringant bracchia nodis,
me though with-bronze may-bind arms knots,
sint mea vel Danaes condita membra domo,
may-be my even of-Danae hidden limbs in-the-house,

in te ego et aeratas rumpam, mea vita, catenas,
for you I both bronze shall-break, my life, chains,
ferratam Danaes transiliamque domum.
iron-clad of-Danae and-shall-leap-over house.
de te quodcumque, ad surdas mihi dicitur auris:
about you whatever, to deaf to-me is-said ears:
tu modo ne dubita de gravitate mea.
you only do-not doubt about steadfastness my.
ossa tibi iuro per matris et ossa parentis
the-bones to-you I-swear by of-mother and the-bones of-father
(si fallo, cinis heu sit mihi uterque gravis!)
(if I-deceive, ash alas may-be to-me each heavy!)
me tibi ad extremas mansurum, vita, tenebras:
me to-you to farthest going-to-remain, my-life, darkness:
ambos una fides auferet, una dies.
both one faith will-carry-off, one day.
quod si nec nomen nec me tua forma teneret,
but if neither name nor me your beauty held,
posset servitium mite tenere tuum.
could servitude gentle to-hold your.
septima iam plenae deducitur orbita lunae,
the-seventh now of-full is-drawn-out orbit moon,
cum de me et de te compita nulla tacent:
since about me and about you crossroads none are-silent:
interea nobis non numquam ianua mollis,
meanwhile to-us not never the-door soft,
non numquam lecti copia facta tui.
not never of-bed opportunity made your.
nec mihi muneribus nox ulla est empta beatis:
nor for-me by-gifts night any has-been bought rich:

quidquid eram, hoc animi gratia magna tui.
whatever I-was, this of-mind thanks great your.
cum te tam multi peterent, tu me una petisti:
when you so many were-seeking, you me alone sought:
possum ego naturae non meminisse tuae?
can I nature not to-remember your?
tum me vel tragicae vexetis Erinyes, et me
then me either tragic may-you-harass Erinyes, and me
inferno damnes, Aeace, iudicio,
by-infernal may-you-condemn, Aeacus, judgment,
atque inter Tityi volucris mea poena vagetur,
and among of-Tityos the-birds my punishment may-wander,
tumque ego Sisyphio saxa labore geram!
and-then I with-Sisyphean stones labor may-carry!
nec tu supplicibus me sis venerata tabellis:
nor you with-suppliant me have entreated tablets:
ultima talis erit quae mea prima fides.
the-last such will-be as my first faith.
hoc mihi perpetuo ius est, quod solus amator
this to-me perpetual right is, that alone a-lover
nec cito desisto nec temere incipio.
neither quickly I-desist nor rashly I-begin.

May Venus be as hostile to Panthus as his letter was false to his mistress about Propertius: Panthus, her handsome lover, has a wife and now sings carefree while she lies alone; he boasts to his friends that she often came to his house against his will. He sought only the glory of her conquest, as Jason deceived Medea and Ulysses Calypso. Let deserted girls learn not to be kind too readily; Panthus already seeks another. Propertius, though, is with her always, sick or well.

A quantum de me Panthi tibi pagina finxit,
Ah as-much-as about me of-Panthus to-you the-page has-invented,

tantum illi Pantho ne sit amica Venus!
so-much to-that Panthus not may-be friendly Venus!

sed tibi iam videor Dodona verior augur.
but to-you now I-seem than-Dodona truer augur.

uxorem ille tuus pulcher amator habet!
a-wife he your handsome lover has!

tot noctes periere: nihil pudet? aspice, cantat
so-many nights have-perished: nothing shames(-you)? look, he-sings

liber: tu nimium credula, sola iaces.
free: you too credulous, alone lie.

et nunc inter eos tu sermo es, te ille superbus
and now among them you the-talk are, you he proud

dicit se invito saepe fuisse domi.
says himself unwilling often to-have-been at-home.

dispeream, si quicquam aliud quam gloria de te
may-I-perish, if anything other than glory from you

quaeritur: has laudes ille maritus habet.
is-sought: these praises that husband has.

Colchida sic hospes quondam decepit Iason:
the-Colchian so the-guest once deceived Jason:

eiecta est (tenuit namque Creusa) domo.
cast-out was (held for Creusa) from-the-house.
sic a Dulichio iuvene est elusa Calypso:
so by the-Dulichian youth was mocked Calypso:
vidit amatorem pandere vela suum.
she-saw the-lover to-spread sails her.
a nimium faciles aurem praebere puellae,
ah too-much easy an-ear to-offer girls,
discite desertae non temere esse bonae!
learn deserted not rashly to-be kind!
huic quoque qui restat, iam pridem quaeritur alter:
for-him too who remains, now long is-sought another:
experta in primo, stulta, cavere potes.
having-experienced in the-first, fool, to-beware you-can.
nos quocumque loco, nos omni tempore tecum
we in-whatever place, we in-every time with-you
sive aegra pariter sive valente sumus.
whether sick equally or well we-are.

Propertius tells Demophoon that he loves many girls at once: every theater and street wounds him, a dancer's arms, a singer's voice, a bared breast, loose hair. Every man has his fault, and no love can say why. He is not worn out: Jupiter doubled a night for Alcmena, and Achilles and Hector fought as well after their lovers' embraces. As the sky has sun and moon, he needs two girls, so that if one refuses, the other will hold him. Worst of all is the girl who suddenly refuses to come.

Scis here mi multas pariter placuisse puellas;
You-know yesterday to-me many equally to-have-pleased girls;

scis mihi, Demophoon, multa venire mala.
you-know to-me, Demophoon, many to-come evils.

nulla meis frustra lustrantur compita plantis;
no by-my in-vain are-traversed crossroads soles;

o nimis exitio nata theatra meo,
O too-much for-ruin born theaters my,

sive aliquis molli diducit candida gestu
whether someone with-soft parts white gesture

bracchia, seu varios incinit ore modos!
arms, or various sings with-mouth measures!

interea nostri quaerunt sibi vulnus ocelli,
meanwhile our seek for-themselves a-wound eyes,

candida non tecto pectore si qua sedet,
white not covered breast if some-girl sits,

sive vagi crines puris in frontibus errant,
or wandering locks pure on brows stray,

Indica quos medio vertice gemma tenet.
Indian which in-the-middle-of crown a-gem holds.

quae si forte aliquid vultu mihi dura negarat,
who if perhaps something with-look to-me harsh had-refused,

frigida de tota fronte cadebat aqua.
cold from whole brow fell water.
quaeris, Demophoon, cur sim tam mollis in omnis?
you-ask, Demophoon, why I-am so soft toward all?
quod quaeris, 'quare' non habet ullus amor.
what you-ask, 'why' not has any love.
cur aliquis sacris laniat sua bracchia cultris
why does-someone with-sacred lacerate his arms knives
et Phrygis insanos caeditur ad numeros?
and of-the-Phrygian mad is-cut to rhythms?
uni cuique dedit vitium natura creato:
to-one each gave a-fault nature created:
mi fortuna aliquid semper amare dedit.
to-me fortune something always to-love gave.
me licet et Thamyrae cantoris fata sequantur,
me though even of-Thamyras the-singer the-fate may-follow,
numquam ad formosas, invide, caecus ero.
never to beautiful-girls, envious-one, blind I-shall-be.
sed tibi si exilis videor tenuatus in artus,
but to-you if slight I-seem worn-thin in limbs,
falleris: haud umquam est culta labore Venus.
you-are-deceived: not ever has-been worshiped by-labor Venus.
percontere licet: saepe est experta puella
inquire it-is-allowed: often has tried a-girl
officium tota nocte valere meum.
the-service on-a-whole night to-avail my.
Iuppiter Alcmenae geminas requieverat Arctos,
Jupiter for-Alcmena twin had-rested Bears,
et caelum noctu bis sine rege fuit;
and the-sky by-night twice without king was;

nec tamen idcirco languens ad fulmina venit:
nor still therefore languid to thunderbolts he-came:
nullus amor vires eripit ipse suas.
no love strength snatches itself its-own.
quid, cum e complexu Briseidos iret Achilles?
what, when from the-embrace of-Briseis went Achilles?
non fugere minus Thessala tela Phryges.
not did-flee less Thessalian weapons the-Phrygians.
quid, ferus Andromachae lecto cum surgeret Hector?
what, fierce from-Andromache's bed when rose Hector?
bella Mycenaeae non timuere rates?
wars Mycenaean not feared the-ships?
ille vel hic, classis poterant vel perdere muros:
he or he, fleets could or to-destroy walls:
hic ego Pelides, hic ferus Hector ego.
here I the-son-of-Peleus, here fierce Hector I.
aspice uti caelo modo sol modo luna ministret:
look how to-the-sky now the-sun now the-moon ministers:
sic etiam nobis una puella parum est.
so also for-us one girl too-little is.
altera me cupidis teneat foveatque lacertis,
another me with-eager let-hold and-let-warm arms,
altera si quando non sinit esse locum;
another if ever not allows to-be room;
aut si forte irata meo sit facta ministro,
or if perhaps angry with-my she-be made attendant,
ut sciat esse aliam, quae velit esse mea!
that she-may-know to-be another, who wishes to-be mine!
nam melius duo defendunt retinacula navim,
for better two protect cables a-ship,

tutius et geminos anxia mater alit.
more-safely and twins anxious a-mother rears.
aut si es dura, nega: sin es non dura, venito!
or if you-are harsh, refuse: but-if you-are not harsh, come!
quid iuvat et nullo ponere verba loco?
what helps-it even in-no to-set words place?
hic unus dolor est ex omnibus acer amanti,
this one pain is out-of all bitter for-a-lover,
speranti subito si qua venire negat.
to-one-hoping suddenly if some-girl to-come refuses.
quanta illum toto versant suspiria lecto!
how-great him on-the-whole toss sighs bed!
cur recipi, quasi non noverit illa, vetat?
why to-be-received, as-if not had-known(-him) she, forbids?
et rursus puerum quaerendo audita fatigat,
and again the-boy by-asking heard-things wearies,
quem, quae scire timet, quaerere fata iubet.
whom, what to-know she-fears, to-ask fates she-bids.

Propertius, who once shunned the crowd, now prefers the easy woman. Why bribe a slave, ask where she walks, and toil like Hercules for one night a year, only to be asked for gifts and hidden in a filthy hut? Better the girl who walks openly, unguarded, ready at once, asking no costly presents and never pleading that her husband is coming home. He would rather have the girls the Euphrates and Orontes send him: he wants no stolen nights with a chaste woman, since no one who chooses to love stays free.

Cui fuit indocti fugienda et semita vulgi,
To-whom was of-the-ignorant to-be-shunned even the-path crowd,
ipsa petita lacu nunc mihi dulcis aqua est.
itself sought from-a-pool now to-me sweet water is.
ingenuus quisquam alterius dat munera servo,
free-born anyone of-another gives gifts to-the-slave,
ut promissa suae verba ferat dominae?
that promised to-his words may-carry mistress?
et quaerit totiens 'Quaenam nunc porticus illam
and asks so-often 'What now portico her
integit?' et 'Campo quo movet illa pedes?'
covers?' and 'In-the-Campus where moves she feet?'
deinde, ubi pertuleris, quos dicit fama labores
then, when you-shall-have-endured, which tells rumor labors
Herculis, ut scribat 'Muneris ecquid habes?'
of-Hercules, that she-may-write 'Of-a-gift anything have-you?'
cernere uti possis vultum custodis amari,
to-see that you-may-be-able the-face of-a-guard bitter,
captus et immunda saepe latere casa?
captured and in-filthy often to-hide hut?

quam care semel in toto nox vertitur anno!
how dearly once in whole a-night turns year!
a pereant, si quos ianua clausa iuvat!
ah may-they-perish, if any a-door shut delights!
contra, reiecto quae libera vadit amictu,
instead, thrown-back who free goes cloak,
custodum et nullo saepta timore, placet?
of-guards and with-no hedged fear, pleases?
cui saepe immundo Sacra conteritur Via socco,
by-whom often with-filthy the-Sacred is-worn Way slipper,
nec sinit esse moram, si quis adire velit;
nor allows to-be delay, if anyone to-approach may-wish;
differet haec numquam, nec poscet garrula, quod te
will-put-off she never, nor will-ask chattering, what you
astrictus ploret saepe dedisse pater,
stingy may-lament often to-have-given father,
nec dicet 'Timeo, propera iam surgere, quaeso:
nor will-say 'I-am-afraid, hurry now to-get-up, I-pray:
infelix, hodie vir mihi rure venit.'
unlucky-one, today the-husband to-me from-the-country comes.'
et quas Euphrates et quas mihi misit Orontes,
and those-whom Euphrates and whom to-me sent Orontes,
me iuerint: nolim furta pudica tori;
me may-they-please: I-would-not-wish thefts chaste of-the-bed;
libertas quoniam nulli iam restat amanti:
liberty since to-no now remains lover:
nullus liber erit, si quis amare volet.
no-one free will-be, if anyone to-love shall-wish.

Propertius is reproached for being a public scandal through his book. If Cynthia were kind he would not be called a byword for vice; cheap women shame him less than she, who wants peacock fans and ivory dice. She praised his poems lately, and now tires of him. Let the rival match his talent and loyalty; he will be gone within a year, while Propertius will never change. Theseus, Demophoon, and Jason were faithless. The rich will hardly gather her bones; he would, but prays she may mourn him first.

'Tu loqueris, cum sis iam noto fabula libro
'You talk, when you-are now in-a-famous a-story book
et tua sit toto Cynthia lecta foro?'
and your is in-the-whole Cynthia read forum?'
cui non his verbis aspergat tempora sudor?
for-whom not at-these words would-sprinkle temples sweat?
aut pudor ingenuus, aut reticendus amor?
either shame free-born, or to-be-kept-silent love?
quod si tam facilis spiraret Cynthia nobis,
but if so easy breathed Cynthia on-us,
non ego nequitiae dicerer esse caput,
not I of-wickedness would-be-called to-be the-head,
nec sic per totam infamis traducerer urbem,
nor so through whole infamous would-I-be-paraded city,
urerer et quamvis nomine, verba darem.
I-would-burn and although by-name, words I-would-give.
quare ne tibi sit mirum me quaerere vilis:
therefore not to-you be-it wonder me to-seek cheap-ones:
parcius infamant: num tibi causa levis?
more-sparingly they-defame: surely-not to-you a-cause light?

et modo pavonis caudae flabella superbae
and now of-a-peacock of-tail fans proud
et manibus dura frigus habere pila,
and in-hands hard cold to-have a-ball,
et cupit iratum talos me poscere eburnos,
and she-wants angry dice me to-demand ivory,
quaeque nitent Sacra vilia dona Via.
and-what shine on-the-Sacred cheap gifts Way.
a peream, si me ista movent dispendia, si me
ah may-I-perish, if me those move expenses, if me
fallaci dominae iam pudet esse iocum!
to-deceitful mistress now it-shames to-be a-joke!
hoc erat in primis quod me gaudere iubebas?
this was among first-things what me to-rejoice you-bade?
tam te formosam non pudet esse levem?
so you beautiful not does-it-shame to-be fickle?
una aut altera nox nondum est in amore peracta,
one or another night not-yet has-been in love completed,
et dicor lecto iam gravis esse tuo.
and I-am-said to-bed now burdensome to-be your.
me modo laudabas et carmina nostra legebas:
me lately you-praised and songs our you-read:
ille tuus pennas tam cito vertit amor?
that your wings so quickly turns love?
contendat mecum ingenio, contendat et arte,
let-him-contend with-me in-talent, let-him-contend and in-art,
in primis una discat amare domo:
among first-things in-one let-him-learn to-love house:
si libitum tibi erit, Lernaeas pugnet ad hydras
if pleasing to-you it-will-be, Lernaean let-him-fight against hydras

et tibi ab Hesperio mala dracone ferat,
and to-you from the-Hesperian apples dragon let-him-bring,
taetra venena libens et naufragus ebibat undas,
foul poisons gladly and shipwrecked let-him-drink-up waves,
et numquam pro te deneget esse miser:
and never for you let-him-refuse to-be wretched:
(quos utinam in nobis, vita, experiare labores!)
(which would-that in us, my-life, you-might-test labors!)
iam tibi de timidis iste protervus erit,
now to-you from timid that insolent-one will-be,
qui nunc se in tumidum iactando venit honorem:
who now himself into swollen by-boasting has-come honor:
discidium vobis proximus annus erit.
separation for-you the-next year will-be.
at me non aetas mutabit tota Sibyllae,
but me not the-age will-change whole of-the-Sibyl,
non labor Alcidae, non niger ille dies.
not the-labor of-the-descendant-of-Alceus, not black that day.
tu mea compones et dices 'Ossa, Properti,
you my will-lay-to-rest and will-say 'Bones, Propertius,
haec tua sunt: eheu tu mihi certus eras,
these yours are: alas you to-me sure were,
certus eras eheu, quamvis nec sanguine avito
sure you-were alas, although neither by-blood ancestral
nobilis et quamvis non ita dives eras.'
noble and although not so rich you-were.'
nil ego non patiar, numquam me iniuria mutat:
nothing I not shall-endure, never me wrong changes:
ferre ego formosam nullum onus esse puto.
to-bear I a-beauty no burden to-be think.

credo ego non paucos ista periisse figura,
I-believe I not few by-that to-have-perished figure,
credo ego sed multos non habuisse fidem.
I-believe I but many not to-have-had faith.
parvo dilexit spatio Minoida Theseus,
for-short loved space the-daughter-of-Minos Theseus,
Phyllida Demophoon, hospes uterque malus.
Phyllis Demophoon, guest each bad.
iam tibi Iasonia nota est Medea carina
now to-you on-Jason's known is Medea ship
et modo servato sola relicta viro.
and lately saved alone left man.
dura est quae multis simulatum fingit amorem,
harsh is she-who to-many feigned pretends love,
et se plus uni si qua parare potest.
and herself to-more than-one if any to-prepare can.
noli nobilibus, noli conferre beatis:
do-not to-nobles, do-not compare to-the-rich:
vix venit, extremo qui legat ossa die.
hardly comes, on-the-last who may-gather bones day.
hi tibi nos erimus: sed tu potius precor ut me
these to-you we shall-be: but you rather I-pray that me
demissis plangas pectora nuda comis.
loosened may-beat breast bare hair.

His beloved, born to be his grief and shut out from his "come often," will be made famous by his books, by Calvus' and Catullus' leave. The old soldier and the old ox retire, but no age will free Propertius from her love. Better a tyrant or Perillus' bull; iron and flint wear away, but not love at a mistress' threshold. He warns a happy rival to keep his joy silent, since favoring winds deceive, and tells the men of many loves that every girl, fair or dark, Greek or Roman, wounds the same way: one woman is trouble enough.

Unica nata meo pulcherrima cura dolori,
Sole born for-my most-beautiful care grief,
excludit quoniam sors mea 'saepe veni,'
excludes since fate my 'often come,'
ista meis fiet notissima forma libellis,
that by-my will-become most-famous beauty little-books,
Calve, tua venia, pace, Catulle, tua.
Calvus, by-your leave, by-peace, Catullus, your.
miles depositis annosus secubat armis,
the-soldier laid-down aged lies-apart arms,
grandaevique negant ducere aratra boves,
and-very-old refuse to-draw plows oxen,
putris et in vacua requiescit navis harena,
rotten and on empty rests the-ship sand,
et vetus in templo bellica parma vacat:
and old in the-temple warlike shield is-idle:
at me ab amore tuo deducet nulla senectus,
but me from love your will-lead-away no old-age,
sive ego Tithonus sive ego Nestor ero.
whether I a-Tithonus or I a-Nestor shall-be.

nonne fuit satius duro servire tyranno
surely was better a-harsh to-serve tyrant
et gemere in tauro, saeve Perille, tuo?
and to-groan in the-bull, cruel Perillus, your?
Gorgonis et satius fuit obdurescere vultu,
of-the-Gorgon and better was-it to-grow-hard at-the-face,
Caucasias etiam si pateremur avis.
Caucasian even if we-were-to-suffer birds.
sed tamen obsistam, teritur robigine mucro
but still I-shall-hold-out, is-worn-away by-rust a-blade
ferreus et parvo saepe liquore silex:
of-iron and by-little often liquid flint:
at nullo dominae teritur sublimine amor, qui
but by-no of-mistress is-worn-away threshold love, which
restat et immerita sustinet aure minas.
remains and with-undeserving endures ear threats.
ultro contemptus rogat, et peccasse fatetur
unasked scorned he-asks, and to-have-sinned confesses
laesus, et invitis ipse redit pedibus.
wronged, and on-unwilling himself returns feet.
tu quoque, qui pleno fastus assumis amore,
you too, who in-full airs assume love,
credule, nulla diu femina pondus habet.
credulous-one, no long woman weight has.
an quisquam in mediis persolvit vota procellis,
or does-anyone in the-midst-of pay vows storms,
cum saepe in portu fracta carina natet?
when often in harbor wrecked a-ship floats?
aut prius infecto deposcit praemia cursu,
or sooner unfinished demands prizes course,

septima quam metam triverit ante rota?
the-seventh than goal has-grazed before wheel?
mendaces ludunt flatus in amore secundi:
lying play breezes in love favorable:
si qua venit sero, magna ruina venit.
if any comes late, great ruin comes.
tu tamen interea, quamvis te diligat illa,
you still meanwhile, although you may-love she,
in tacito cohibe gaudia clausa sinu.
in silent keep-in joys shut bosom.
namque in amore suo semper sua maxima cuique
for in love his-own always his-own greatest to-each
nescio quo pacto verba nocere solent.
I-know-not by-what means words to-harm are-wont.
quamvis te persaepe vocet, semel ire memento:
although you very-often she-call, once to-go remember:
invidiam quod habet, non solet esse diu.
envy what has, not is-wont to-last long.
at si saecla forent antiquis grata puellis,
but if ages were to-ancient pleasing girls,
essem ego quod nunc tu: tempore vincor ego.
I-would-be I what now you: by-time am-conquered I.
non tamen ista meos mutabunt saecula mores:
not still those my will-change ages ways:
unus quisque sua noverit ire via.
one each by-his-own let-him-know to-go way.
at, vos qui officia in multos revocatis amores,
but, you who services to many recall loves,
quantum sic cruciat lumina nostra dolor!
how-much so tortures eyes our grief!

vidistis pleno teneram candore puellam,
you-have-seen with-full a-tender whiteness girl,
vidistis fusco, ducit uterque color;
you-have-seen with-dark, attracts each color;
vidistis quandam Argiva prodire figura,
you-have-seen a-certain-girl with-Argive go-forth figure,
vidistis nostras, utraque forma rapit;
you-have-seen ours, each beauty seizes;
illaque plebeio vel sit sandycis amictu:
and-she in-plebeian or be of-scarlet cloak:
haec atque illa mali vulneris una via est.
this and that of-bad wound one way is.
cum satis una tuis insomnia portet ocellis,
since enough one to-your sleeplessness may-bring eyes,
una sit et cuivis femina multa mala.
one is even for-anyone woman many ills.

Propertius dreamed he saw his beloved shipwrecked in the Ionian sea, confessing her lies and calling his name; he vowed gifts to Neptune, Castor, and Leucothea, saw a dolphin come to save her, and woke in fear as he was about to leap from a rock. Now let men marvel that so beautiful a girl serves him and spurns rich rivals. If she sails, he will follow, ready to share one plank and endure every storm. Neptune, a lover himself, will be kind to them; and if he must lay down his life on her body, it will be an honorable end.

Vidi te in somnis fracta, mea vita, carina
I-saw you in dreams wrecked, my life, ship
Ionio lassas ducere rore manus,
in-the-Ionian weary to-ply in-dew hands,
et quaecumque in me fueras mentita fateri,
and whatever against me you-had lied to-confess,
nec iam umore gravis tollere posse comas,
nor now with-moisture heavy to-lift to-be-able hair,
qualem purpureis agitatam fluctibus Hellen,
like by-purple tossed waves Helle,
aurea quam molli tergore vexit ovis.
golden whom on-soft back carried the-ram.
quam timui, ne forte tuum mare nomen haberet,
how I-feared, lest perhaps your the-sea name might-have,
atque tua labens navita fleret aqua!
and over-your gliding the-sailor might-weep water!
quae tum ego Neptuno, quae tum cum Castore fratri,
what then I to-Neptune, what then with Castor to-the-brother,
quaeque tibi excepi, iam dea, Leucothoe!
and-what to-you I-undertook, now goddess, Leucothea!

at tu vix primas extollens gurgite palmas
but you hardly first lifting from-the-flood palms
saepe meum nomen iam peritura vocas.
often my name now going-to-perish call.
quod si forte tuos vidisset Glaucus ocellos,
but if perhaps your had-seen Glaucus eyes,
esses Ionii facta puella maris,
you-would-be of-the-Ionian made girl sea,
et tibi ob invidiam Nereides increpitarent,
and at-you out-of envy the-Nereids would-chide,
candida Nesaee, caerula Cymothoe.
white Nesaee, sea-blue Cymothoe.
sed tibi subsidio delphinum currere vidi,
but to-you for-help a-dolphin to-run I-saw,
qui, puto, Arioniam vexerat ante lyram.
which, I-think, Arion's had-carried before lyre.
iamque ego conabar summo me mittere saxo,
and-now I was-trying from-the-top myself to-throw rock,
cum mihi discussit talia visa metus.
when from-me shook-off such sights fear.
nunc admirentur quod tam mihi pulchra puella
now let-them-marvel that so to-me beautiful a-girl
serviat et tota dicar in urbe potens!
should-serve and whole I-be-called in city powerful!
non, si Cambysae redeant et flumina Croesi,
not, if of-Cambyses return and the-rivers of-Croesus,
dicat 'De nostro surge, poeta, toro.'
she-would-say 'From our get-up, poet, bed.'
nam mea cum recitat, dicit se odisse beatos:
for my when she-recites, she-says herself to-hate the-rich:

carmina tam sancte nulla puella colit.
songs so devoutly no girl honors.
multum in amore fides, multum constantia prodest:
much in love faith, much constancy profits:
qui dare multa potest, multa et amare potest?
who to-give many-things can, many-things also to-love can?
seu mare per longum mea cogitet ire puella,
whether the-sea over long my should-think to-go girl,
hanc sequar et fidos una aget aura duos.
her I-shall-follow and faithful one shall-drive breeze two.
unum litus erit sopitis unaque tecto
one shore will-be for-the-sleeping and-one for-roof
arbor, et ex una saepe bibemus aqua;
tree, and from one often we-shall-drink water;
et tabula una duos poterit componere amantis,
and plank one two will-be-able to-lay lovers,
prora cubile mihi seu mihi puppis erit.
the-prow a-bed for-me or for-me the-stern will-be.
omnia perpetiar: saevus licet urgeat Eurus;
everything I-shall-endure: savage though may-press Eurus;
velaque in incertum frigidus Auster agat;
and-sails into uncertain cold Auster may-drive;
quicumque et venti miserum vexastis Ulixen,
whatever and winds wretched have-harried Ulysses,
et Danaum Euboico litore mille ratis;
and of-the-Danaans on-the-Euboean shore a-thousand ships;
et qui movistis duo litora, cum ratis Argo
and who moved two shores, when of-the-ship Argo
dux erat ignoto missa columba mari.
the-leader was on-an-unknown sent a-dove sea.

illa meis tantum non umquam desit ocellis,
she to-my only not ever may-be-lacking eyes,
incendat navem Iuppiter ipse licet,
may-burn the-ship Jupiter himself though,
certe isdem nudi pariter iactabimur oris:
surely on-the-same naked equally we-shall-be-tossed shores:
me licet unda ferat, te modo terra tegat.
me though the-wave may-carry, you only the-earth may-cover.
sed non Neptunus tanto crudelis amori,
but not Neptune to-so-great cruel love,
Neptunus fratri par in amore Iovi.
Neptune to-the-brother equal in love Jove.
testis Amymone, latices cum ferret, in arvis
witness Amymone, waters when she-was-carrying, in fields
compressa, et Lernae pulsa tridente palus.
embraced, and of-Lerna struck by-the-trident marsh.
iam deus amplexu votum persolvit, at illi
now the-god by-embrace a-vow paid, but for-her
aurea divinas urna profudit aquas.
golden divine the-urn poured-out waters.
crudelem et Borean rapta Orithyia negavit:
cruel even Boreas snatched Orithyia denied:
hic deus et terras et maria alta domat.
this god both lands and seas deep tames.
crede mihi, nobis mitescet Scylla, nec umquam
believe me, for-us will-grow-gentle Scylla, nor ever
alternante vorans vasta Charybdis aqua;
with-alternating devouring vast Charybdis water;
ipsaque sidera erunt nullis obscura tenebris,
and-themselves the-stars will-be by-no dimmed darkness,

purus et Orion, purus et Haedus erit.
clear both Orion, clear and the-Kid will-be.
quid mihi si ponenda tuo sit corpore vita?
what to-me if to-be-laid-down on-your be body life?
exitus hic nobis non inhonestus erit.
end this for-us not dishonorable will-be.

II.27 · THE HOUR OF DEATH

Men seek by astrology the hour and manner of their death, fearing war, shipwreck, fire, collapsing houses, and poison. Only the lover knows when and how he will die, and he fears neither wind nor arms: even if he already sits as an oarsman under the Stygian reed and sees the sad sails of the infernal boat, he will come back by a road no law allows if his girl's calling voice recalls him.

At vos incertam, mortales, funeris horam
But you uncertain, mortals, of-death the-hour
quaeritis, et qua sit mors aditura via;
seek, and by-what may-be death going-to-approach way;
quaeritis et caelo, Phoenicum inventa, sereno,
you-seek and in-the-sky, of-the-Phoenicians discoveries, clear,
quae sit stella homini commoda quaeque mala!
which be star for-a-man favorable and-which bad!
seu pedibus Parthos sequimur seu classe Britannos,
whether on-foot Parthians we-pursue or with-a-fleet Britons,
et maris et terrae caeca pericla viae;
both of-sea and of-land hidden dangers of-the-road;
rursus et obiectum flemus caput esse tumultu
again and exposed we-weep the-head to-be to-tumult
cum Mavors dubias miscet utrimque manus;
when Mars uncertain mixes on-both-sides hands;

praeterea domibus flammam domibusque ruinas,
besides for-houses flame and-for-houses collapse,
neu subeant labris pocula nigra tuis.
nor may-come-near to-lips cups black your.
solus amans novit, quando periturus et a qua
alone the-lover knows, when going-to-perish and by what
morte, neque hic Boreae flabra neque arma timet,
death, nor he of-Boreas the-blasts nor arms fears,
iam licet et Stygia sedeat sub harundine remex,
already though even Stygian may-sit under reed the-oarsman,
cernat et infernae tristia vela ratis:
may-see and of-infernal sad sails ship:
si modo clamantis revocaverit aura puellae,
if only of-calling has-recalled the-breeze girl,
concessum nulla lege redibit iter.
granted by-no law he-will-return way.

II.28 · CYNTHIA ILL

Propertius prays Jupiter to spare his sick girl: the dog days are to blame, but more her broken oaths, for beautiful women never learn to spare their words. Yet Io, Ino, Andromeda, and Callisto found a gentler end, and if she dies she will rank first among the heroines. Magic has failed; he asks pity for two, since he lives or dies with her, vows a poem to Jove, and begs Persephone and her husband to spare one beauty. She is saved: let her pay her vows to Diana and give him ten nights.

Iuppiter, affectae tandem miserere puellae:
Jupiter, on-the-stricken at-last have-pity girl:
tam formosa tuum mortua crimen erit?
so beautiful your dead the-reproach will-be?

venit enim tempus, quo torridus aestuat aer,
comes indeed the-time, in-which scorched seethes the-air,
incipit et sicco fervere terra Cane.
begins and with-dry to-boil the-earth Dog.
sed non tam ardoris culpa est neque crimina caeli,
but not so-much of-the-heat the-fault is nor the-crimes of-the-sky,
quam totiens sanctos non habuisse deos.
as so-often holy not to-have-had gods.
hoc perdit miseras, hoc perdidit ante puellas:
this destroys wretched, this destroyed before girls:
quidquid iurarunt, ventus et unda rapit.
whatever they-have-sworn, the-wind and the-wave snatches.
non sibi collatam doluit Venus? illa peraeque
not with-herself compared grieved Venus? she equally
prae se formosis invidiosa dea est.
before herself to-beautiful-women envious a-goddess is.
an contempta tibi Iunonis templa Pelasgae?
or scorned by-you of-Juno the-temples Pelasgian?
Palladis aut oculos ausa negare bonos?
of-Pallas or the-eyes have-you-dared to-deny good?
semper, formosae, non nostis parcere verbis.
always, beautiful-ones, not you-know-how to-spare words.
hoc tibi lingua nocens, hoc tibi forma dedit.
this to-you a-tongue harmful, this to-you beauty has-given.
sed tibi vexatae per multa pericula vitae
but to-you harried through many perils of-life
extremo venit mollior hora die.
at-the-last comes gentler hour day.
Io versa caput primos mugiverat annos:
Io turned in-head first had-lowed years:

nunc dea, quae Nili flumina vacca bibit.
now a-goddess, who of-the-Nile waters as-a-cow drank.
Ino etiam prima terris aetate vagata est:
Ino too in-first on-earth age wandered has:
hanc miser implorat navita Leucothoen.
her wretched implores the-sailor as-Leucothea.
Andromede monstris fuerat devota marinis:
Andromeda to-monsters had-been devoted sea:
haec eadem Persei nobilis uxor erat.
she the-same of-Perseus noble wife was.
Callisto Arcadios erraverat ursa per agros:
Callisto Arcadian had-wandered as-a-bear through fields:
haec nocturna suo sidere vela regit.
she nocturnal with-her star sails guides.
quod si forte tibi properarint fata quietem,
but if perhaps for-you shall-have-hastened the-fates rest,
illa sepulturae fata beata tuae.
those of-burial fates blessed your.
narrabis Semelae, quo sit formosa periclo,
you-will-tell to-Semele, at-what may-be beautiful peril,
credet et illa, suo docta puella malo;
will-believe and she, by-her taught girl evil;
et tibi Maeonias inter heroidas omnis
and to-you Maeonian among heroines all
primus erit nulla non tribuente locus.
first will-be none not granting place.
nunc, utcumque potes, fato gere saucia morem:
now, in-whatever-way you-can, to-fate yield stricken custom:
et deus et durus vertitur ipse dies.
both god and harsh is-turned itself day.

hoc tibi vel poterit coniunx ignoscere Iuno:
this to-you even will-be-able husband to-forgive Juno:
frangitur et Iuno, si qua puella perit.
is-broken even Juno, if any girl perishes.
Deficiunt magico torti sub carmine rhombi,
Fail magic twisted under song wheels,
et iacet exstincto laurus adusta foco;
and lies on-extinguished laurel burned hearth;
et iam Luna negat totiens descendere caelo,
and now the-Moon refuses so-often to-descend from-the-sky,
nigraque funestum concinit omen avis.
and-black funereal sings omen bird.
una ratis fati nostros portabit amores
one ship of-fate our will-carry loves
caerula ad infernos velificata lacus.
sea-blue to infernal sailing lakes.
sed non unius quaeso, miserere duorum!
but not of-one I-pray, have-pity of-two!
vivam, si vivet: si cadet illa, cadam.
I-shall-live, if she-will-live: if will-fall she, I-shall-fall.
pro quibus optatis sacro me carmine damno:
for which wishes with-sacred myself song I-bind:
scribam ego 'Per magnum est salva puella Iovem';
I-shall-write I 'By great is saved the-girl Jove';
ante tuosque pedes illa ipsa operata sedebit,
before and-your feet she herself having-sacrificed will-sit,
narrabitque sedens longa pericla sua.
and-will-tell sitting long perils her.
haec tua, Persephone, maneat clementia, nec tu,
this your, Persephone, may-remain mercy, nor you,

Persephonae coniunx, saevior esse velis.
of-Persephone husband, harsher to-be may-wish.
sunt apud infernos tot milia formosarum:
there-are among the-infernal so-many thousands of-beauties:
pulchra sit in superis, si licet, una locis!
beautiful let-be among upper, if it-is-allowed, one places!
vobiscum est Iope, vobiscum candida Tyro,
with-you is Iope, with-you white Tyro,
vobiscum Europe nec proba Pasiphae,
with-you Europa and-not virtuous Pasiphae,
et quot Troia tulit vetus et quot Achaia formas,
and as-many-as Troy bore ancient and as-many-as Achaea beauties,
et Phoebi et Priami diruta regna senis:
and of-Phoebus and of-Priam ruined realms old:
et quaecumque erat in numero Romana puella,
and whatever was in number Roman girl,
occidit: has omnis ignis avarus habet.
perished: these all the-fire greedy holds.
nec forma aeternum aut cuiquam est fortuna perennis:
nor beauty eternal or to-anyone is fortune lasting:
longius aut propius mors sua quemque manet,
farther or nearer death his-own each awaits,
tu quoniam es, mea lux, magno dimissa periclo,
you since are, my light, from-great released peril,
munera Dianae debita redde choros,
the-gifts to-Diana owed render dances,
redde etiam excubias divae nunc, ante iuvencae;
render even vigils to-the-goddess now, formerly a-heifer;
votivas noctes et mihi solve decem.
votive nights and to-me pay ten.

Wandering drunk at night without his slaves, Propertius was stopped by a crowd of tiny boys, calling themselves gods, with torches, arrows, and chains, who seized him at an angry woman's order and led him to her house: she waited all night while he sought other doors. In the morning he went to see whether Cynthia slept alone and found her alone and more beautiful than ever, about to tell her dreams to Vesta. She rebuked his spying, showed no one had shared her bed, and leapt up, pushing away his kisses. Since then he has had no happy night.

Hesterna, mea lux, cum potus nocte vagarer,
On-last, my light, when drunk night I-was-wandering,
nec me servorum duceret ulla manus,
nor me of-slaves was-leading any band,
obvia nescio quot pueri mihi turba minuta
in-my-way I-know-not how-many boys to-me a-crowd tiny
venerat (hos vetuit me numerare timor);
had-come (them forbade me to-count fear);
quorum alii faculas, alii retinere sagittas,
of-whom some little-torches, some to-hold arrows,
pars etiam visa est vincla parare mihi.
part even seemed has chains to-prepare for-me.
sed nudi fuerant, quorum lascivior unus,
but naked they-had-been, of-whom more-wanton one,
'Arripite hunc,' inquit, 'iam bene nostis eum.
'Seize this-man,' said, 'now well you-know him.
hic erat, hunc mulier nobis irata locavit.'
this was-he, this-one a-woman to-us angry hired-out.'
dixit, et in collo iam mihi nodus erat.
he-said, and on neck already for-me a-knot was.

hic alter iubet in medium propellere, at alter,
here another bids into the-middle to-push, but another,
'Intereat, qui nos non putat esse deos!
'Let-him-perish, who us not thinks to-be gods!
haec te non meritum totas exspectat in horas:
she you not deserving whole awaits through hours:
at tu nescio quas quaeris, inepte, fores.
but you I-know-not which seek, fool, doors.
quae cum Sidoniae nocturna ligamina mitrae
she when of-Sidonian nightly the-ties headband
solverit atque oculos moverit illa gravis,
shall-have-loosened and eyes shall-have-moved she heavy,
afflabunt tibi non Arabum de gramine odores,
will-breathe on-you not of-the-Arabs from herb scents,
sed quos ipse suis fecit Amor manibus.
but which himself with-his made Love hands.
parcite iam, fratres, iam certos spondet amores;
spare(-him) now, brothers, now sure he-pledges loves;
et iam ad mandatam venimus ecce domum.'
and now to commanded we-have-come behold house.'
atque ita me iniecto duxerunt rursus amictu:
and so me thrown-over they-led again cloak:
'I nunc et noctes disce manere domi.'
'Go now and nights learn to-stay at-home.'
mane erat, et volui, si sola quiesceret illa,
morning it-was, and I-wished, whether alone were-resting she,
visere: at in lecto Cynthia sola fuit.
to-visit: but in bed Cynthia alone was.
obstipui: non illa mihi formosior umquam
I-was-stunned: not she to-me more-beautiful ever

visa, neque ostrina cum fuit in tunica,
seemed, nor purple when she-was in tunic,
ibat et hinc castae narratum somnia Vestae,
she-was-going and from-here to-chaste to-tell dreams Vesta,
neu sibi neve mihi quae nocitura forent:
lest to-herself or to-me which going-to-harm might-be:
talis visa mihi somno dimissa recenti.
such she-seemed to-me from-sleep released fresh.
heu quantum per se candida forma valet!
alas how-much by itself white beauty avails!
'Quod tu matutinus,' ait 'speculator amicae,
'What you in-the-morning,' she-says 'spy of-a-sweetheart,
me similem vestris moribus esse putas?
me like to-your ways to-be do-you-think?
non ego tam facilis: sat erit mihi cognitus unus,
not I so easy: enough will-be for-me known one,
vel tu vel si quis verior esse potest.
either you or if anyone truer to-be can.
apparent non ulla toro vestigia presso,
appear not any on-the-couch traces pressed,
signa volutantis nec iacuisse duos.
signs of-tossing nor to-have-lain two.
aspice ut in toto nullus mihi corpore surgat
look how on whole no from-me body rises
spiritus admisso notus adulterio.'
breath admitted known adulterery.'
dixit, et opposita propellens savia dextra
she-said, and with-opposed pushing-away kisses the-right-hand
prosilit in laxa nixa pedem solea.
she-leaps-up in loose resting foot slipper.

sic ego tam sancti custode reludor amoris:
so I so of-holy by-the-guardian am-outplayed love:
ex illo felix non mihi nulla fuit.
from that-time happy not for-me none has-been.

II.30 · NO ESCAPE FROM LOVE

There is no flight from Love: even on Pegasus or with Mercury's sandals, Love sits above the lover's head and watches him. Let stern old men condemn their revels; he and Cynthia will keep to their path. Others may sail east or stain their household gods with civil slaughter; Propertius is content with one mistress, and if that is a crime, it is Love's. He invites Cynthia to the Muses' caves, where the Sisters sing Jupiter's loves; there, with Bacchus, his talent will flourish, for without her it has no strength.

Quo fugis a demens? nulla est fuga: tu licet usque
Where do-you-flee ah madman? no is flight: you though all-the-way
ad Tanain fugias, usque sequetur Amor.
to the-Tanais may-flee, all-the-way will-follow Love.
non si Pegaseo vecteris in aere dorso,
not if on-Pegasean you-be-carried in air back,
nec tibi si Persei moverit ala pedes;
nor to-you if of-Perseus shall-have-moved the-wing feet;
vel si te sectae rapiant talaribus aurae,
or if you cleft may-snatch by-winged-sandals breezes,
nil tibi Mercurii proderit alta via.
nothing to-you of-Mercury will-profit lofty the-way.
instat semper Amor supra caput, instat amanti,
presses always Love above the-head, presses on-the-lover,
et gravis ipse super libera colla sedet.
and heavy he above free neck sits.

excubat ille acer custos et tollere numquam
keeps-watch he keen guardian and to-raise never
te patietur humo lumina capta semel.
you will-allow from-the-ground eyes captured once.
et iam si pecces, deus exorabilis ille est
and already if you-should-sin, god entreatable he is
si modo praesentis viderit esse preces.
if only present he-shall-have-seen to-be prayers.
ista senes licet accusent convivia duri:
those old-men may accuse banquets harsh:
nos modo propositum, vita, teramus iter.
we only proposed, my-life, may-wear-down path.
illorum antiquis onerantur legibus aures:
of-them by-ancient are-burdened laws ears:
hic locus est in quo, tibia docta, sones,
this place is in which, flute skilled, you-may-sound,
— quae non iure vado Maeandri iacta natasti,
—which not rightly in-the-shallows of-Maeander thrown you-swam,
turpia cum faceret Palladis ora tumor.
ugly when made of-Pallas the-face swelling.
non tamen immerito! Phrygias nunc ire per undas
not still undeservedly! Phrygian now to-go through waves
et petere Hyrcani litora nota maris,
and to-seek of-the-Hyrcanian shores known sea,
spargere et alterna communis caede Penatis
to-sprinkle and with-mutual common slaughter Penates
et ferre ad patrios praemia dira Lares!
and to-bring to paternal rewards dire Lares!
una contentum pudeat me vivere amica?
with-one content should-it-shame me to-live sweetheart?

hoc si crimen erit, crimen Amoris erit:
this if a-crime will-be, a-crime of-Love it-will-be:
mi nemo obiciat. libeat tibi, Cynthia, mecum
to-me no-one let-object. may-it-please you, Cynthia, with-me
rorida muscosis antra tenere iugis.
dewy on-mossy caves to-occupy ridges.
illic aspicies scopulis haerere Sorores
there you-will-see on-crags to-cling the-Sisters
et canere antiqui dulcia furta Iovis,
and to-sing of-ancient sweet thefts Jove,
ut Semela est combustus, ut est deperditus Io,
how by-Semele he-was burned, how he-was lost for-Io,
denique ut ad Troiae tecta volarit avis.
finally how to of-Troy the-roofs he-flew a-bird.
quod si nemo exstat qui vicerit Alitis arma,
but if no-one stands-forth who has-conquered of-the-Winged-One the-arms,
communis culpae cur reus unus agor?
of-common fault why accused alone am-I-arraigned?
nec tu Virginibus reverentia moveris ora:
nor you to-the-Virgins reverence will-trouble faces:
hic quoque non nescit quid sit amare chorus;
this too not knows-not what it-is to-love the-chorus;
si tamen Oeagri quaedam compressa figura
if still of-Oeagrus a-certain-one embraced by-the-figure
Bistoniis olim rupibus accubuit.
on-Bistonian once rocks lay-down.
hic ubi me prima statuent in parte choreae,
here where me first will-set in place of-the-dance,
et medius docta cuspide Bacchus erit,
and in-the-middle with-skilled thyrsus-point Bacchus will-be,

tum capiti sacros patiar pendere corymbos:
then on-head sacred I-shall-allow to-hang ivy-clusters:
nam sine te nostrum non valet ingenium.
for without you our not avails talent.

II.31 · APOLLO'S PORTICO

Propertius explains his lateness: Caesar has opened the golden portico of Apollo, with its Punic columns and statues of the daughters of Danaus, a marble Apollo singing with his lyre, Myron's four lifelike oxen around the altar, and the gleaming temple with the Sun's chariot on its pediment and ivory doors carved with the Gauls thrown from Parnassus and the deaths that Tantalus' daughter mourned. Last, Apollo himself stands between his mother and his sister, singing in a long robe.

Quaeris, cur veniam tibi tardior? aurea Phoebi
You-ask, why I-come to-you later? golden of-Phoebus
Porticus a magno Caesare aperta fuit.
the-Portico by great Caesar opened was.
tanta erat in speciem Poenis digesta columnis,
so-great was in display with-Punic laid-out columns,
inter quas Danai femina turba senis.
among which of-Danaus female the-crowd old.
hic equidem Phoebo visus mihi pulchrior ipso
here indeed than-Phoebus seemed to-me more-beautiful himself
marmoreus tacita carmen hiare lyra:
marble with-silent a-song to-gape lyre:
atque aram circum steterant armenta Myronis,
and the-altar around had-stood the-herds of-Myron,
quattuor artificis, vivida signa, boves.
four of-the-artist, living statues, oxen.

tum medium claro surgebat marmore templum,
then in-the-middle of-bright rose marble a-temple,
et patria Phoebo carius Ortygia:
and than-his-native to-Phoebus dearer Ortygia:
in quo Solis erat supra fastigia currus;
in which of-the-Sun was above the-pediment the-chariot;
et valvae, Libyci nobile dentis opus,
and the-doors, of-Libyan noble tusk work,
altera deiectos Parnasi vertice Gallos,
one cast-down of-Parnassus from-peak Gauls,
altera maerebat funera Tantalidos.
the-other mourned the-deaths of-Tantalus'-daughter.
deinde inter matrem deus ipse interque sororem
then between mother the-god himself and-between sister
Pythius in longa carmina veste sonat.
the-Pythian in long songs robe sounds.

Whoever sees Cynthia desires her: the eyes bear the guilt. Why does she visit Praeneste's oracles, Telegonus' walls, Tibur, the Appian Way, and Trivia's grove, rather than stroll in Rome's porticoes and gardens? Her trips reveal a hidden love, and rumor about her has hurt him. Yet a night or two will not move him: Helen, Venus with Mars, and the goddess who loved Paris on Ida went unpunished, and Lesbia did the same before her. Women have sinned since Saturn's reign, so let her live free by his judgment.

Qui videt, is peccat: qui te non viderit ergo,
Who sees, he sins: who you not shall-have-seen so,

non cupiet: facti lumina crimen habent.
not will-desire: of-the-deed the-eyes the-guilt have.

nam quid Praenesti dubias, o Cynthia, sortis,
for why at-Praeneste doubtful, O Cynthia, oracles,

quid petis Aeaei moenia Telegoni?
why do-you-seek of-Aeaean the-walls Telegonus?

cur autem Herculeum deportant esseda Tibur?
why moreover Herculean carry-off chariots Tibur?

Appia cur totiens te via dicit anum?
the-Appian why so-often you Way calls old-woman?

hoc utinam spatiere loco, quodcumque vacabis,
in-this would-that you-might-stroll place, whenever you-will-be-free,

Cynthia! sed tibi me credere turba vetat,
Cynthia! but you me to-trust the-crowd forbids,

cum videt accensis devotam currere taedis
when it-sees with-kindled devoted to-run torches

in nemus et Triviae lumina ferre deae.
into the-grove and of-Trivia lights to-carry goddess.

scilicet umbrosis sordet Pompeia columnis
doubtless with-shady is-shabby Pompey's columns
Porticus, aulaeis nobilis Attalicis,
Portico, with-hangings noble Attalic,
et platanis creber pariter surgentibus ordo,
and with-plane-trees thick equally rising a-row,
flumina sopito quaeque Marone cadunt,
streams lulled and-which Maro fall,
et leviter nymphis tota crepitantibus urbe
and lightly with-nymphs in-whole splashing city
cum subito Triton ore recondit aquam.
when suddenly Triton in-mouth hides water.
falleris, ista tui furtum via monstrat amoris:
you-are-deceived, that of-your the-theft way shows love:
non urbem, demens, lumina nostra fugis!
not the-city, mad-one, eyes our you-flee!
nil agis, insidias in me componis inanis,
nothing you-achieve, plots against me you-arrange empty,
tendis iners docto retia nota mihi.
you-spread idle to-skilled nets known me.
sed de me minus est: famae iactura pudicae
but about me less it-is: of-reputation the-loss chaste
tanta tibi miserae, quanta meretur, erit.
so-great to-you wretched, as it-deserves, will-be.
nuper enim de te nostra me laedit ad auris
lately indeed about you our me hurts to ears
rumor, et in tota non bonus urbe fuit.
a-rumor, and in whole not good city was.
sed tu non debes inimicae credere linguae:
but you not ought to-hostile to-believe tongue:

semper formosis fabula poena fuit.
always to-beautiful-women gossip a-punishment has-been.
non tua deprenso damnata est fama veneno:
not your by-detected condemned was reputation poison:
testis eris puras, Phoebe, videre manus.
witness you-will-be pure, Phoebus, to-see hands.
sin autem longo nox una aut altera lusu
but-if however in-long a-night one or another play
consumpta est, non me crimina parva movent.
spent has-been, not me crimes small move.
Tyndaris externo patriam mutavit amore,
the-daughter-of-Tyndareus for-foreign fatherland exchanged love,
et sine decreto viva reducta domum est.
and without decree alive brought-back home was.
ipsa Venus fertur corrupta libidine Martis,
herself Venus is-said seduced by-lust of-Mars,
nec minus in caelo semper honesta fuit.
nor less in heaven always honorable was.
quamvis Ida Parim pastorem dicat amasse
although Ida Paris the-shepherd may-say to-have-loved
atque inter pecudes accubuisse deam,
and among the-flocks to-have-lain-with the-goddess,
hoc et Hamadryadum spectavit turba sororum
this both of-the-Hamadryads watched the-crowd sisters
Silenique senes et pater ipse chori;
and-of-Silenus old-men and the-father himself of-the-chorus;
cum quibus Idaeo legisti poma sub antro,
with whom the-Idaean you-gathered apples under cave,
supposita excipiens Naica dona manu.
placed-beneath catching Naiad gifts hand.

an quisquam in tanto stuprorum examine quaerit
or anyone in so-great of-debaucheries swarm asks
'Cur haec tam dives? quis dedit? unde dedit?'
'Why this-woman so rich? who gave? whence gave?'
o nimium nostro felicem tempore Romam,
O too-much in-our happy time Rome,
si contra mores una puella facit!
if against custom one girl acts!
haec eadem ante illam impune et Lesbia fecit:
these same-things before her unpunished even Lesbia did:
quae sequitur, certe est invidiosa minus.
she-who follows, surely is envied less.
qui quaerit Tatios veteres durosque Sabinos,
who seeks Tatii old and-harsh Sabines,
hic posuit nostra nuper in urbe pedem.
he has-set our lately in city foot.
tu prius et fluctus poteris siccare marinos,
you sooner even waves will-be-able to-dry sea,
altaque mortali deligere astra manu,
and-lofty with-mortal to-pluck stars hand,
quam facere, ut nostrae nolint peccare puellae:
than to-bring-about, that our may-not-wish to-sin girls:
hic mos Saturno regna tenente fuit,
this custom Saturn reign holding was,
et cum Deucalionis aquae fluxere per orbem,
and when of-Deucalion the-waters flowed through the-world,
et post antiquas Deucalionis aquas.
and after ancient of-Deucalion waters.
dic mihi, quis potuit lectum servare pudicum,
tell me, who could a-bed to-keep chaste,

quae dea cum solo vivere sola deo?
what goddess with one to-live alone god?
uxorem quondam magni Minois, ut aiunt,
the-wife once of-great Minos, as they-say,
corrupit torvi candida forma bovis;
corrupted of-grim white form bull;
nec minus aerato Danae circumdata muro
nor less by-bronze Danae surrounded wall
non potuit magno casta negare Iovi.
not could to-great chaste to-refuse Jove.
quod si tu Graias tuque is imitata Latinas,
but if you the-Greek-women and-you go having-imitated Latin,
semper vive meo libera iudicio!
always live by-my free judgment!

II.33 · THE RITES OF ISIS

Cynthia keeps the ten nights of the grim rites again. Propertius curses the rites Inachus' daughter sent from the Nile, a goddess who parts lovers: he reminds Io of her horns and threatens her with horns again or exile from Rome. Freed of these nights, he and Cynthia will make up for them; but she ignores him and drinks late. He curses the inventor of unmixed wine, which ruins beauty, youth, and fidelity, yet sees it has not changed her. Let her drink; no woman likes to sleep alone, and absence makes love burn hotter.

Tristia iam redeunt iterum sollemnia nobis:
Grim now return again solemnities for-us:
Cynthia iam noctes est operata decem.
Cynthia now nights has observed ten.
atque utinam pereant, Nilo quae sacra tepente
and would-that may-perish, from-the-Nile which rites warm

misit matronis Inachis Ausoniis!
sent to-matrons the-daughter-of-Inachus Ausonian!
quae dea tam cupidos totiens divisit amantis,
which goddess so eager so-often has-parted lovers,
quaecumque illa fuit, semper amara fuit.
whoever she was, always bitter was.
tu certe Iovis occultis in amoribus, Io,
you surely of-Jove secret in loves, Io,
sensisti multas quid sit inire vias,
felt many what it-is to-enter ways,
cum te iussit habere puellam cornua Iuno
when you bade to-have a-girl horns Juno
et pecoris duro perdere verba sono.
and of-cattle in-harsh to-lose words sound.
a quotiens quernis laesisti frondibus ora,
ah how-often with-oak have-you-hurt leaves mouth,
mandisti et stabulis arbuta pasta tuis!
you-chewed and in-stalls arbutus grazed your!
an, quoniam agrestem detraxit ab ore figuram
or, since rustic withdrew from face shape
Iuppiter, idcirco facta superba dea es?
Jupiter, therefore made proud goddess are-you?
an tibi non satis est fuscis Aegyptus alumnis?
or to-you not enough is with-dark Egypt nurslings?
cur tibi tam longa Roma petita via?
why by-you so long Rome sought way?
quidve tibi prodest viduas dormire puellas?
or-what to-you profits widowed to-sleep girls?
sed tibi, crede mihi, cornua rursus erunt,
but to-you, believe me, horns again will-be,

aut nos e nostra te, saeva, fugabimus urbe:
or we from our you, cruel-one, shall-drive city:
cum Tiberi Nilo gratia nulla fuit.
between the-Tiber and-the-Nile favor none has-been.
at tu, quae nostro nimium placata dolore es,
but you, who by-our too-much appeased grief are,
noctibus his vacui ter faciamus iter.
on-nights these free three-times let-us-make the-journey.
non audis et verba sinis mea ludere, cum iam
not you-hear and words you-let my to-play, when already
flectant Icarii sidera tarda boves.
turn of-Icarius stars slow oxen.
lenta bibis: mediae nequeunt te frangere noctes.
slow you-drink: middle cannot you to-break nights.
an nondum est talos mittere lassa manus?
or not-yet is the-dice to-throw tired hand?
a pereat, quicumque meracas repperit uvas
ah may-he-perish, whoever unmixed discovered grapes
corrupitque bonas nectare primus aquas!
and-corrupted good with-nectar first waters!
Icare, Cecropiis merito iugulate colonis,
Icarius, by-Cecropian deservedly slain farmers,
pampineus nosti quam sit amarus odor!
vine-leafed you-know how is bitter smell!
tuque o Eurytion vino Centaure peristi,
and-you O Eurytion by-wine Centaur perished,
nec non Ismario tu, Polypheme, mero.
nor not by-Ismarian you, Polyphemus, wine.
vino forma perit, vino corrumpitur aetas,
by-wine beauty perishes, by-wine is-spoiled youth,

vino saepe suum nescit amica virum.
by-wine often her knows-not a-sweetheart husband.
me miserum, ut multo nihil est mutata Lyaeo!
me wretched, how by-much nothing is changed Lyaeus!
iam bibe: formosa es: nil tibi vina nocent,
now drink: beautiful you-are: nothing you wines harm,
cum tua praependent demissae in pocula sertae,
when your hang-down lowered into cups garlands,
et mea deducta carmina voce legis.
and my in-drawled songs voice you-read.
largius effuso madeat tibi mensa Falerno,
more-abundantly with-poured-out may-be-wet for-you the-table Falernian,
spumet et aurato mollius in calice.
may-it-foam and golden more-softly in cup.
nulla tamen lecto recipit se sola libenter:
none still to-bed betakes herself alone gladly:
est quiddam, quod vos quaerere cogat Amor.
there-is something, which you to-seek compels Love.
semper in absentis felicior aestus amantis:
always toward absent happier the-passion lovers:
elevat assiduos copia longa viros.
lightens constant abundance long men.

Lynceus, Propertius' friend, has tried to seduce Cynthia; Propertius would share all but her bed, and forgives him only because he was drunk. Now Lynceus is in love, and philosophy and tragedy will not help: let him imitate Philitas and Callimachus. Propertius reigns at banquets by talent, though poor. Virgil, who sings Actium and now Aeneas' wars, greater than the Iliad, also sang shepherds and the farmer's precepts; Varro, Catullus, Calvus, and Gallus sang their loves, and Propertius hopes Fame will set him among them.

Cur quisquam faciem dominae iam credat Amori?
Why anyone the-beauty of-a-mistress now should-entrust to-Love?
sic erepta mihi paene puella mea est.
so snatched from-me nearly girl my has-been.
expertus dico, nemo est in amore fidelis:
having-tested I-say, no-one is in love faithful:
formosam raro non sibi quisque petit.
a-beauty rarely not for-himself each seeks.
polluit ille deus cognatos, solvit amicos,
pollutes that god kinsmen, loosens friends,
et bene concordis tristia ad arma vocat.
and well concordant grim to arms calls.
hospes in hospitium Menelao venit adulter:
a-guest into hospitality to-Menelaus came an-adulterer:
Colchis et ignotum nonne secuta virum est?
the-Colchian and unknown surely followed man has?
Lynceu, tune meam potuisti, perfide, curam
Lynceus, you my could, faithless-one, darling
tangere? nonne tuae tum cecidere manus?
to-touch? surely your then fell-off hands?

quid si non constans illa et tam certa fuisset?
what if not constant she and so sure had-been?
posses in tanto vivere flagitio?
could-you in such-great to-live disgrace?
tu mihi vel ferro pectus vel perde veneno:
you me either with-steel breast or destroy with-poison:
a domina tantum te modo tolle mea.
from mistress only you just take my.
te socium vitae, te corporis esse licebit,
you a-partner of-life, you of-body to-be it-will-be-allowed,
te dominum admitto rebus, amice, meis:
you master I-admit to-affairs, friend, my:
lecto te solum, lecto te deprecor uno:
from-bed you only, from-bed you I-beg-off one:
rivalem possum non ego ferre Iovem.
a-rival I-can not I to-bear Jove.
ipse meas solus, quod nil est, aemulor umbras,
myself my alone, which nothing is, I-am-jealous-of shadows,
stultus, quod stulto saepe timore tremo.
a-fool, because with-foolish often fear I-tremble.
una tamen causa est, cur crimina tanta remitto,
one still cause is, why crimes so-great I-remit,
errabant multo quod tua verba mero.
wandered by-much because your words wine.
sed numquam vitae fallet me ruga severae:
but never of-life will-deceive me the-wrinkle stern:
omnes iam norunt quam sit amare bonum.
all now know how it-is to-love good.
Lynceus ipse meus seros insanit amores!
Lynceus himself my late is-mad-with loves!

solum te nostros laetor adire deos.
only you our I-rejoice to-approach gods.
quid tua Socraticis tibi nunc sapientia libris
what your from-Socratic to-you now wisdom books
proderit aut rerum dicere posse vias?
will-profit or of-things to-tell to-be-able the-ways?
aut quid Erechthei tibi prosunt carmina lecta?
or what of-Erechtheus to-you profit songs read?
nil iuvat in magno vester amore senex.
nothing helps in great your love old-man.
tu satius memorem Musis imitere Philetan
you better mindful to-the-Muses should-imitate Philitas
et non inflati somnia Callimachi.
and not of-inflated the-dreams Callimachus.
nam rursus licet Aetoli referas Acheloi,
for again though of-Aetolian you-tell Achelous,
fluxerit ut magno fractus amore liquor,
flowed how by-great broken love the-stream,
atque etiam ut Phrygio fallax Maeandria campo
and also how on-Phrygian deceptive Maeandrian plain
errat et ipsa suas decipit unda vias,
wanders and itself its-own deceives wave ways,
qualis et Adrasti fuerit vocalis Arion,
of-what-kind and of-Adrastus was vocal Arion,
tristis ad Archemori funera victor equus:
sad at of-Archemorus funeral victorious horse:
†non Amphiareae prosint tibi fata quadrigae†
not Amphiaraus may-profit you fates of-the-chariot
aut Capanei magno grata ruina Iovi.
or of-Capaneus to-great pleasing ruin Jove.

desine et Aeschyleo componere verba coturno,
cease and with-Aeschylean to-compose words buskin,
desine, et ad mollis membra resolve choros.
cease, and to soft limbs relax dances.
incipe iam angusto versus includere torno,
begin now on-narrow verses to-enclose lathe,
inque tuos ignis, dure poeta, veni.
and-into your fires, harsh poet, come.
tu non Antimacho, non tutior ibis Homero:
you not than-Antimachus, not safer will-go than-Homer:
despicit et magnos recta puella deos.
despises even great upright a-girl gods.
sed non ante gravis taurus succumbit aratro,
but not before heavy a-bull submits to-the-plow,
cornua quam validis haeserit in laqueis,
horns than strong has-stuck in nooses,
nec tu iam duros per te patieris amores:
nor you now harsh by yourself will-endure loves:
trux tamen a nobis ante domandus eris.
fierce still by us first to-be-tamed you-will-be.
harum nulla solet rationem quaerere mundi,
of-these none is-wont the-plan to-seek of-the-world,
nec cur fraternis Luna laboret equis,
nor why by-brotherly the-Moon labors horses,
nec si post Stygias aliquid restabitur undas,
nor if after Stygian anything will-remain waves,
nec si consulto fulmina missa tonent.
nor if by-design thunderbolts sent thunder.
aspice me, cui parva domi fortuna relicta est
look-at me, to-whom small at-home fortune left is

nullus et antiquo Marte triumphus avi,
no and in-ancient Mars triumph of-ancestor,
ut regnem mixtas inter conviva puellas
how I-reign mingled among a-guest girls
hoc ego, quo tibi nunc elevor, ingenio!
by-this I, by-which by-you now am-belittled, talent!
me iuvet hesternis positum languere corollis,
me may-it-please on-yesterday's laid to-languish garlands,
quem tetigit iactu certus ad ossa deus;
whom has-touched with-a-throw sure to bones the-god;
Actia Vergilium custodis litora Phoebi,
Actian Vergil of-guardian the-shores Phoebus,
Caesaris et fortis dicere posse ratis,
of-Caesar and brave to-tell to-be-able ships,
qui nunc Aeneae Troiani suscitat arma
who now of-Aeneas Trojan rouses arms
iactaque Lavinis moenia litoribus.
and-founded on-Lavinian walls shores.
cedite Romani scriptores, cedite Grai!
yield Roman writers, yield Greeks!
nescio quid maius nascitur Iliade.
I-know-not what greater is-born than-the-Iliad.
tu canis umbrosi subter pineta Galaesi
you sing of-shady beneath the-pine-groves Galaesus
Thyrsin et attritis Daphnin harundinibus,
Thyrsis and with-worn Daphnis reeds,
utque decem possint corrumpere mala puellas
and-how ten can to-corrupt apples girls
missus et impressis haedus ab uberibus.
sent and pressed a-kid from udders.

felix, qui vilis pomis mercaris amores!
happy-one, who with-cheap apples buy loves!
huic licet ingratae Tityrus ipse canat.
to-her though ungrateful Tityrus himself may-sing.
felix intactum Corydon qui temptat Alexin
happy untouched Corydon who tries Alexis
agricolae domini carpere delicias!
of-the-farmer of-his-master to-pluck the-darling!
quamvis ille sua lassus requiescat avena,
although he from-his tired may-rest oat-pipe,
laudatur facilis inter Hamadryadas.
he-is-praised easy among Hamadryads.
tu canis Ascraei veteris praecepta poetae,
you sing of-Ascraean old the-precepts poet,
quo seges in campo, quo viret uva iugo.
what grain in field, on-what is-green grape ridge.
tale facis carmen docta testudine quale
such you-make song on-skilled tortoise-shell as
Cynthius impositis temperat articulis.
the-Cynthian with-placed-on tunes fingers.
non tamen haec ulli venient ingrata legenti,
not still these to-anyone will-come unwelcome reading,
sive in amore rudis sive peritus erit.
whether in love inexperienced or skilled he-will-be.
nec minor his animi est; aut, si minor ore, canorus
nor less than-these of-spirit is; or, if lesser in-voice, tuneful
anseris indocto carmine cessit olor.
of-the-goose to-unlearned song has-yielded the-swan.
haec quoque perfecto ludebat Iasone Varro,
these too finished played Jason Varro,

Varro Leucadiae maxima flamma suae;
Varro of-Leucadia greatest flame his;
haec quoque lascivi cantarunt scripta Catulli,
these too of-wanton have-sung writings Catullus,
Lesbia quis ipsa notior est Helena;
Lesbia through-which herself more-famous is than-Helen;
haec etiam docti confessa est pagina Calvi,
these also of-learned confessed has page Calvus,
cum caneret miserae funera Quintiliae.
when he-sang of-wretched the-death Quintilia.
et modo formosa quam multa Lycoride Gallus
and lately for-beautiful how many Lycoris Gallus
mortuus inferna vulnera lavit aqua!
dead in-infernal wounds washed water!
Cynthia quin etiam versu laudata Properti,
Cynthia nay even in-verse praised of-Propertius,
hos inter si me ponere Fama volet.
these among if me to-place Fame shall-wish.

BOOK III

III.1 · THE ROMAN CALLIMACHUS

Propertius asks the shades of Callimachus and Philitas to admit him to their grove: he is the first to bring Greek rites to Italian song. Fame carries him aloft in a triumphal chariot with the little Loves, while other poets will write of Rome's wars and empire. Envy belittles the living poet, but time magnifies fame after death: without Homer no one would know Troy, Hector, or Paris. Rome will praise Propertius among her descendants, and Apollo has promised his tomb will not be despised.

Callimachi Manes et Coi sacra Philetae,
Of-Callimachus Shades and of-Coan rites Philitas,
in vestrum, quaeso, me sinite ire nemus.
into your, I-pray, me allow to-go grove.
primus ego ingredior puro de fonte sacerdos
first I enter pure from spring a-priest
Itala per Graios orgia ferre choros.
Italian through Greek mysteries to-bring dances.
dicite, quo pariter carmen tenuastis in antro?
tell, what equally song you-refined in cave?
quove pede ingressi? quamve bibistis aquam?
or-with-what foot having-entered? or-what have-you-drunk water?
a valeat, Phoebum quicumque moratur in armis!
ah farewell(-he), Phoebus whoever detains in arms!
exactus tenui pumice versus eat, —
smoothed with-fine pumice the-verse let-go,—
quo me Fama levat terra sublimis, et a me
by-which me Fame lifts from-earth aloft, and from me
nata coronatis Musa triumphat equis,
born with-crowned the-Muse triumphs horses,

et mecum in curru parvi vectantur Amores,
and with-me in the-chariot little are-carried Loves,
scriptorumque meas turba secuta rotas.
and-of-writers my the-crowd has-followed wheels.
quid frustra missis in me certatis habenis?
why in-vain loosed against me do-you-vie reins?
non datur ad Musas currere lata via.
not is-it-given to the-Muses to-run broad way.
multi, Roma, tuas laudes annalibus addent,
many, Rome, your praises to-annals will-add,
qui finem imperii Bactra futura canent.
who the-end of-empire Bactra going-to-be will-sing.
sed, quod pace legas, opus hoc de monte Sororum
but, what in-peace you-may-read, work this from the-mountain of-the-Sisters
detulit intacta pagina nostra via.
has-brought-down by-untouched page our way.
mollia, Pegasides, date vestro serta poetae:
soft, Pegasides, give to-your garlands poet:
non faciet capiti dura corona meo.
not will-suit head harsh a-crown my.
at mihi quod vivo detraxerit invida turba,
but from-me what living shall-have-taken-away envious the-crowd,
post obitum duplici faenore reddet Honos;
after death with-double interest will-return Honor;
Famae post obitum fingit maiora vetustas:
to-Fame after death invents greater-things antiquity:
maius ab exsequiis nomen in ora venit.
greater from obsequies name into mouths comes.
nam quis equo pulsas abiegno nosceret arces,
for who by-a-horse struck fir-wood would-know citadels,

fluminaque Haemonio comminus isse viro,
and-rivers with-the-Haemonian hand-to-hand to-have-gone man,
Idaeum Simoenta, Iovis cunabula parvi,
Idaean Simois, of-Jove the-cradle little,
Hectora per campos ter maculasse rotas?
Hector over plains three-times to-have-stained wheels?
Deiphobumque Helenumque et Polydamantis in armis
and-Deiphobus and-Helenus and of-Polydamas in arms
qualemcumque Parim vix sua nosset humus.
whatever-sort Paris hardly its-own would-know soil.
exiguo sermone fores nunc, Ilion, et tu
in-small talk you-would-be now, Ilium, and you
Troia bis Oetaei numine capta dei.
Troy twice of-the-Oetaean by-the-power captured god.
nec non ille tui casus memorator Homerus
nor not he of-your fall recorder Homer
posteritate suum crescere sensit opus.
by-posterity his-own to-grow felt work.
meque inter seros laudabit Roma nepotes:
and-me among late will-praise Rome descendants:
illum post cineres auguror ipse diem,
that after ashes foretell myself day,
ne mea contempto lapis indicet ossa sepulcro
lest my in-scorned a-stone point-out bones tomb
provisum est Lycio vota probante deo.
provided-for it-is Lycian vows approving god.

Propertius returns to his familiar theme. Orpheus moved beasts and rivers, the rocks of Cithaeron gathered into the walls of Thebes by art, and Galatea turned her horses to Polyphemus' song: no wonder girls cherish his verse. He has no marble house or fine gardens, but the Muses and Calliope are his companions. Happy the girl his book celebrates: pyramids, Jupiter's temple at Olympia, and the Mausoleum will fall to fire, rain, or the years, but the fame won by talent never dies.

Carminis interea nostri redeamus in orbem,
Of-song meanwhile our let-us-return into the-circuit,
gaudeat in solito tacta puella sono.
let-rejoice in accustomed touched the-girl sound.
Orphea detinuisse feras et concita dicunt
that-Orpheus to-have-held-back beasts and roused they-say
flumina Threicia sustinuisse lyra;
rivers with-Thracian to-have-held lyre;
saxa Cithaeronis Thebas agitata per artem
the-rocks of-Cithaeron to-Thebes driven through art
sponte sua in muri membra coisse ferunt;
by-will their-own into of-a-wall the-limbs to-have-come-together they-say;
quin etiam, Polypheme, fera Galatea sub Aetna
nay even, Polyphemus, wild Galatea under Etna
ad tua rorantis carmina flexit equos:
to your dripping songs turned horses:
miremur, nobis et Baccho et Apolline dextro,
should-we-wonder, for-us both Bacchus and Apollo favoring,
turba puellarum si mea verba colit?
the-crowd of-girls if my words cherishes?
quod non Taenariis domus est mihi fulta columnis,
because not with-Taenarian a-house is for-me propped columns,

nec camera auratas inter eburna trabes,
nor a-vault gilded among ivory beams,
nec mea Phaeacas aequant pomaria silvas,
nor my Phaeacian equal orchards woods,
non operosa rigat Marcius antra liquor;
not elaborate waters Marcian grottoes stream;
at Musae comites et carmina cara legenti,
but the-Muses are-companions and songs dear to-the-reader,
et defessa choris Calliopea meis.
and wearied by-dances Calliope my.
fortunata, meo si qua est celebrata libello!
fortunate-one, in-my if any is celebrated little-book!
carmina erunt formae tot monumenta tuae.
songs will-be of-beauty so-many monuments your.
nam neque Pyramidum sumptus ad sidera ducti,
for neither of-the-Pyramids the-costs to the-stars raised,
nec Iovis Elei caelum imitata domus,
nor of-Jove Elean heaven having-imitated house,
nec Mausolei dives fortuna sepulcri
nor of-Mausolus rich the-fortune tomb
mortis ab extrema condicione vacant.
of-death from final condition are-free.
aut illis flamma aut imber subducit honores,
either from-them flame or rain withdraws honors,
annorum aut ictu pondere victa ruent.
of-years or by-the-blow by-weight overcome they-will-collapse.
at non ingenio quaesitum nomen ab aevo
but not by-talent won fame from age
excidet: ingenio stat sine morte decus.
will-fall: for-talent stands without death glory.

In a dream on Helicon, Propertius was about to sing the kings and wars of Rome from Ennius' spring when Apollo stopped him: he must not overload his little boat, but keep to soft meadows, writing books a girl reads while she waits for her lover. Apollo showed him a cave of the Muses, with Venus' doves and the nine sisters at their tasks. Calliope told him to leave wars to others and sing of lovers at doors and drunken flight at night, and she sprinkled his lips with Philitas' water.

Visus eram molli recubans Heliconis in umbra,
Seemed I-had soft lying of-Helicon in shade,
Bellerophontei qua fluit umor equi,
of-Bellerophon's where flows the-water horse,
reges, Alba, tuos et regum facta tuorum,
kings, Alba, your and of-kings the-deeds your,
tantum operis, nervis hiscere posse meis;
so-much of-work, with-strings to-open-my-mouth to-be-able my;
parvaque tam magnis admoram fontibus ora,
and-small to-such great I-had-moved springs mouth,
unde pater sitiens Ennius ante bibit;
whence father thirsty Ennius before drank;
et cecinit Curios fratres et Horatia pila,
and sang Curian brothers and Horatian javelins,
regiaque Aemilia vecta tropaea rate,
and-royal on-Aemilian carried trophies ship,
victricesque moras Fabii pugnamque sinistram
and-victorious delays of-Fabius and-the-battle ill-fated
Cannensem et versos ad pia vota deos,
of-Cannae and turned to dutiful vows gods,
Hannibalemque Lares Romana sede fugantis,
and-Hannibal the-Lares from-Roman seat routing,

anseris et tutum voce fuisse Iovem:
of-the-goose and safe by-voice to-have-been Jove:
cum me Castalia speculans ex arbore Phoebus
when me Castalian looking-down from tree Phoebus
sic ait aurata nixus ad antra lyra:
so spoke on-golden leaning at the-cave lyre:
'Quid tibi cum tali, demens, est flumine? quis te
'What to-you with such, madman, is stream? who you
carminis heroi tangere iussit opus?
of-song heroic to-touch bade work?
non hinc ulla tibi speranda est fama, Properti:
not from-here any for-you to-be-hoped-for is fame, Propertius:
mollia sunt parvis prata terenda rotis;
soft are by-little meadows to-be-worn wheels;
ut tuus in scamno iactetur saepe libellus,
that your on a-bench may-be-tossed often little-book,
quem legat exspectans sola puella virum.
which may-read waiting alone a-girl man.
cur tua praescripto sevecta est pagina gyro?
why your from-prescribed carried-away has-been page circuit?
non est ingenii cumba gravanda tui.
not is of-talent the-boat to-be-weighted your.
alter remus aquas alter tibi radat harenas,
one oar waters the-other for-you may-graze sands,
tutus eris: medio maxima turba mari est.'
safe you-will-be: in-the-middle the-greatest crowd sea is.'
dixerat, et plectro sedem mihi monstrat eburno,
he-had-spoken, and with-plectrum a-seat to-me shows ivory,
qua nova muscoso semita facta solo est.
where new on-mossy path made ground has-been.

hic erat affixis viridis spelunca lapillis,
here was with-fixed green a-cave pebbles,
pendebantque cavis tympana pumicibus,
and-were-hanging from-hollow drums pumice-stones,
orgia Musarum et Sileni patris imago
mysteries of-the-Muses and of-Silenus father the-image
fictilis et calami, Pan Tegeaee, tui;
clay and the-reeds, Pan Tegean, your;
et Veneris dominae volucres, mea turba, columbae
and of-Venus mistress the-birds, my crowd, doves
tingunt Gorgoneo punica rostra lacu;
dip in-the-Gorgon's red beaks lake;
diversaeque novem sortitae rura Puellae
and-separate nine having-drawn-by-lot country-places Girls
exercent teneras in sua dona manus:
exercise tender for their-own gifts hands:
haec hederas legit in thyrsos, haec carmina nervis
this-one ivy gathers for thyrsi, this-one songs to-strings
aptat, at illa manu texit utraque rosam.
fits, but that-one with-hand weaves each rose.
e quarum numero me contigit una dearum
from of-whom number me touched one of-the-goddesses
(ut reor a facie, Calliopea fuit):
(as I-think from face, Calliope it-was):
'Contentus niveis semper vectabere cycnis,
'Content with-snow-white always you-will-be-carried swans,
nec te fortis equi ducet ad arma sonus.
nor you of-a-brave horse will-lead to arms the-sound.
nil tibi sit rauco praeconia classica cornu
nothing for-you let-it-be with-hoarse proclamations martial horn

flere, nec Aonium tinguere Marte nemus;
to-blare, nor Aonian to-dip with-Mars grove;
aut quibus in campis Mariano proelia signo
or what in plains with-Marian battles standard
stent et Teutonicas Roma refringat opes,
may-stand and Teutonic Rome may-break might,
barbarus aut Suevo perfusus sanguine Rhenus
barbarous or with-Suebian drenched blood Rhine
saucia maerenti corpora vectet aqua.
wounded with-grieving bodies may-carry water.
quippe coronatos alienum ad limen amantis
for crowned another's at threshold lovers
nocturnaeque canes ebria signa fugae,
and-of-nocturnal you-will-sing drunken signs flight,
ut per te clausas sciat excantare puellas,
that through you shut may-know to-charm-out girls,
qui volet austeros arte ferire viros.'
who shall-wish austere by-art to-strike men.'
talia Calliope, lymphisque a fonte petitis
such-things Calliope, and-with-waters from the-spring sought
ora Philetaea nostra rigavit aqua.
mouth with-Philitean our watered water.

Caesar plans war against the rich Indians and the Parthians: the Tigris and Euphrates will flow under Roman law. Propertius urges the soldiers on and bids them avenge the Crassi. He prays to Mars and Vesta that before he dies he may see Caesar's triumph, the captured towns and weapons, and the captive leaders seated beneath the arms, while he watches leaning on his girl's breast, and asks Venus to keep Aeneas' line forever. Let the spoils go to those who earned them; he is content to applaud on the Sacred Way.

Arma deus Caesar dites meditatur ad Indos,
Arms the-god Caesar rich plans against Indians,
et freta gemmiferi findere classe maris.
and the-straits of-the-gem-bearing to-cleave with-a-fleet sea.
magna, viri, merces: parat ultima terra triumphos;
great, men, the-reward: prepares the-farthest land triumphs;
Tigris et Euphrates sub tua iura fluent;
the-Tigris and the-Euphrates under your laws will-flow;
sera, sed Ausoniis veniet provincia virgis;
late, but to-Ausonian will-come the-province rods;
assuescent Latio Partha tropaea Iovi.
will-grow-accustomed to-Latin Parthian trophies Jupiter.
ite agite, expertae bello date lintea prorae
go come-on, tested in-war give sails prows
et solitum armigeri ducite munus equi!
and accustomed armed lead service horses!
omina fausta cano. Crassos clademque piate!
omens favorable I-sing. the-Crassi and-the-disaster expiate!
ite et Romanae consulite historiae!
go and for-Roman take-care history!

Mars pater, et sacrae fatalia lumina Vestae,
Mars father, and of-sacred fated fires Vesta,
ante meos obitus sit precor illa dies,
before my death be I-pray that day,
qua videam spoliis oneratos Caesaris axis,
on-which I-may-see with-spoils laden of-Caesar axles,
ad vulgi plausus saepe resistere equos,
at of-the-crowd applause often to-halt horses,
inque sinu carae nixus spectare puellae
and-in the-lap of-dear leaning to-watch girl
incipiam et titulis oppida capta legam,
I-may-begin and by-titles towns captured read,
tela fugacis equi et bracati militis arcus,
the-weapons of-fleeing horse and of-trousered soldier bows,
et subter captos arma sedere duces!
and beneath captured arms to-sit leaders!
ipsa tuam serva prolem, Venus: hoc sit in aevum,
yourself your guard offspring, Venus: this be for ever,
cernis ab Aenea quod superesse caput.
you-see from Aeneas what to-survive head.
praeda sit haec illis, quorum meruere labores:
booty be this for-them, whose have-earned labors:
me sat erit Sacra plaudere posse Via.
for-me enough it-will-be on-the-Sacred to-applaud to-be-able Way.

Love is a god of peace, and Propertius wars only with his mistress; he does not covet gold, gems, farms, or Corinthian bronze. Prometheus erred in making the body without the mind; now men seek wealth and enemies, but they will go naked to the underworld, where victor and vanquished, Croesus and Irus, are equal. Propertius will spend youth with the Muses and wine, and old age studying nature: the moon, the winds, the rainbow, the stars, and whether the punishments below are true or fables. Let those who love arms recover Crassus' standards.

Pacis Amor deus est, pacem veneramur amantes:
Of-peace Love god is, peace we-revere lovers:
stant mihi cum domina proelia dura mea.
stand for-me with mistress battles harsh my.
nec tamen inviso pectus mihi carpitur auro,
nor still with-hated breast my is-plucked gold,
nec bibit e gemma divite nostra sitis,
nor drinks from gem rich our thirst,
nec mihi mille iugis Campania pinguis aratur,
nor for-me with-a-thousand yokes Campania rich is-plowed,
nec miser aera paro clade, Corinthe, tua.
nor wretch bronzes I-acquire from-the-ruin, Corinth, your.
o prima infelix fingenti terra Prometheo!
O first unhappy for-forming earth Prometheus!
ille parum caute pectoris egit opus.
he too-little cautiously of-the-heart did work.
corpora disponens mentem non vidit in arte:
bodies arranging the-mind not saw in art:
recta animi primum debuit esse via.
straight of-the-soul first ought to-be the-way.

nunc maris in tantum vento iactamur, et hostem
now of-the-sea into so-much by-wind we-are-tossed, and an-enemy
quaerimus, atque armis nectimus arma nova.
we-seek, and to-arms we-join arms new.
haud ullas portabis opes Acherontis ad undas:
not any you-will-carry wealth of-Acheron to the-waves:
nudus ad infernas, stulte, vehere ratis.
naked to infernal, fool, you-will-be-carried ships.
victor cum victis pariter miscebitur umbris:
the-victor with the-vanquished equally will-be-mingled shades:
consule cum Mario, capte Iugurtha, sedes.
consul with Marius, captured Jugurtha, you-sit.
Lydus Dulichio non distat Croesus ab Iro:
Lydian Dulichian not differs Croesus from Irus:
optima mors, parca quae venit acta die.
best death, sparing which comes spent day.
me iuvat in prima coluisse Helicona iuventa
me it-pleases in first to-have-tilled Helicon youth
Musarumque choris implicuisse manus:
and-of-the-Muses in-the-dances to-have-entwined hands:
me iuvet et multo mentem vincire Lyaeo,
me may-it-please and with-much the-mind to-bind Lyaeus,
et caput in verna semper habere rosa.
and head in spring always to-have rose.
atque ubi iam Venerem gravis interceperit aetas,
and when now Venus heavy shall-have-cut-off age,
sparserit et nigras alba senecta comas!
shall-have-sprinkled and black white old-age hair!
tum mihi naturae libeat perdiscere mores,
then to-me of-nature may-it-please to-learn-thoroughly the-ways,

quis deus hanc mundi temperet arte domum,
what god this of-the-world may-rule with-art house,
qua venit exoriens, qua deficit, unde coactis
by-what comes rising, by-what fails, whence with-drawn-together
cornibus in plenum menstrua luna redit,
horns to full monthly the-moon returns,
unde salo superant venti, quid flamine captet
whence over-the-sea prevail winds, what with-blast may-seize
Eurus, et in nubes unde perennis aqua;
Eurus, and into clouds whence lasting water;
sit ventura dies mundi quae subruat arces,
whether-be going-to-come a-day of-the-world which may-undermine citadels,
purpureus pluvias cur bibit arcus aquas,
purple rain why drinks bow waters,
aut cur Perrhaebi tremuere cacumina Pindi,
or why of-Perrhaebian have-trembled the-peaks Pindus,
solis et atratis luxerit orbis equis,
of-the-sun and with-blackened has-mourned the-orb horses,
cur serus versare boves et plaustra Bootes,
why late to-turn oxen and wagon Bootes,
Pleiadum spisso cur coit igne chorus,
of-the-Pleiads with-dense why gathers fire chorus,
curve suos finis altum non exeat aequor,
or-why its bounds deep not may-pass sea,
plenus et in partis quattuor annus eat;
full and into parts four year may-go;
sub terris sint iura deum et tormenta Gigantum,
under the-earth be-there laws of-gods and torments of-the-Giants,
Tisiphones atro si furit angue caput,
of-Tisiphone with-black whether rages snake head,

aut Alcmaeoniae furiae aut ieiunia Phinei,
or of-Alcmaeon furies or the-fastings of-Phineus,
num rota, num scopuli, num sitis inter aquas,
whether wheel, whether crags, whether thirst amid waters,
num tribus infernum custodit faucibus antrum
whether with-three infernal guards jaws cave
Cerberus, et Tityo iugera pauca novem,
Cerberus, and for-Tityus acres few nine,
an ficta in miseras descendit fabula gentis,
or invented to wretched has-descended a-fable peoples,
et timor haud ultra quam rogus esse potest.
and fear not beyond than the-pyre to-be can.
exitus hic vitae superest mihi: vos, quibus arma
end this of-life remains for-me: you, to-whom arms
grata magis, Crassi signa referte domum.
pleasing more, of-Crassus standards bring-back home.

III.6 · LYGDAMUS' REPORT

Propertius questions his slave Lygdamus about his girl: was she weeping, unadorned, her house sad, her maids spinning? Lygdamus reports her complaint that Propertius has deserted her for a woman who won him with witchcraft, toad's venom, and snake bones, and her threat of vengeance. If her grief is true, Lygdamus is to run back and tell her that Propertius is angry but not unfaithful, burns with the same fire, and will swear twelve days of chastity; if peace comes, Lygdamus will be free.

Dic mihi de nostra, quae sentis, vera puella:
Tell me about our, what you-feel, true girl:
sic tibi sint dominae, Lygdame, dempta iuga.
so to-you may-be of-mistress, Lygdamus, removed the-yokes.

non me laetitia tumefactum fallis inani,
not me with-joy puffed-up you-deceive empty,
haec referens, quae me credere velle putas?
these-things reporting, which me to-believe to-wish you-think?
omnis enim debet sine vano nuntius esse,
every indeed ought without falsehood a-messenger to-be,
maioremque timens servus habere fidem.
and-greater fearing a-slave to-have faith.
nunc mihi, si qua tenes, ab origine dicere prima
now to-me, if any-things you-hold, from the-origin to-tell first
incipe: suspensis auribus ista bibam.
begin: hanging ears those-things I-shall-drink.
sic, ut eam incomptis vidisti flere capillis,
so, as her with-uncombed you-saw to-weep hair,
illius ex oculis multa cadebat aqua?
of-her from the-eyes much fell water?
nec speculum strato vidisti, Lygdame, lecto?
nor a-mirror on-spread did-you-see, Lygdamus, bed?
ornabat niveas nullane gemma manus?
adorned snowy no gem hands?
ac maestam teneris vestem pendere lacertis,
and sad from-tender a-garment to-hang arms,
scriniaque ad lecti clausa iacere pedes?
and-caskets at of-the-bed shut to-lie the-feet?
tristis erat domus, et tristes sua pensa ministrae
gloomy was the-house, and gloomy their spinning the-maids
carpebant, medio nebat et ipsa loco,
were-carding, in-the-middle was-spinning even herself place,
umidaque impressa siccabat lumina lana,
and-wet with-pressed was-drying eyes wool,

rettulit et querulo iurgia nostra sono?
she-recounted and with-plaintive quarrels our sound?
'Haec te teste mihi promissa est, Lygdame, merces?
'This you as-witness to-me promised has-been, Lygdamus, reward?
est poenae servo rumpere teste fidem.
it-is of-punishment to-a-slave to-break with-a-witness faith.
ille potest nullo miseram me linquere facto,
he can with-no wretched me to-leave deed,
et qualem nolo dicere habere domi!
and what-sort I-do-not-wish to-say to-keep at-home!
gaudet me vacuo solam tabescere lecto.
he-rejoices me in-empty alone to-waste-away bed.
si placet, insultet, Lygdame, morte mea.
if it-pleases, let-him-trample, Lygdamus, on-death my.
non me moribus illa, sed herbis improba vicit:
not me by-ways she, but by-herbs wicked has-conquered:
staminea rhombi ducitur ille rota.
by-threaded of-the-magic-wheel is-drawn he wheel.
illum turgentis ranae portenta rubetae
him of-swelling toad the-portents bramble-toad
et lecta exsectis anguibus ossa trahunt,
and gathered from-cut-up snakes bones draw,
et strigis inventae per busta iacentia plumae,
and of-a-screech-owl found among tombs lying feathers,
cinctaque funesto lanea vitta viro.
and-tied to-funereal woolen fillet man.
si non vana canunt mea somnia, Lygdame, testor,
if not vain sing my dreams, Lygdamus, I-call-to-witness,
poena erit ante meos sera sed ampla pedes;
punishment will-be before my late but full feet;

putris et in vacuo texetur aranea lecto:
rotten and on empty will-be-woven the-spider bed:
noctibus illorum dormiet ipsa Venus.'
in-the-nights of-them will-sleep herself Venus.'
quae tibi si veris animis est questa puella,
which to-you if with-true spirit has complained the-girl,
hac eadem rursus, Lygdame, curre via,
by-this same again, Lygdamus, run way,
et mea cum multis lacrimis mandata reporta
and my with many tears commands carry-back
iram, non fraudes esse in amore meo,
anger, not frauds to-be in love my,
me quoque consimili impositum torquerier igni:
me too with-like set-on to-be-tortured fire:
iurabo bis sex integer esse dies.
I-will-swear twice six pure to-be days.
quod mihi si e tanto felix concordia bello
but to-me if from so-great happy concord war
exstiterit, per me, Lygdame, liber eris.
shall-have-arisen, through me, Lygdamus, free you-will-be.

III.7 · PAETUS DROWNED

Money is the cause of an anxious life: for it young Paetus sailed for Egypt and drowned, and his mother cannot even bury him. Propertius reproaches the North Wind and Neptune, and lists the sea's victims. Ships and greed have added waves to the dangers of fate; had Paetus stayed home with his plow, he would be alive. His last words were a prayer to the sea gods to carry his body to Italy for his mother. The Nereids should have held him up; Propertius himself will never sail, but die idle at his mistress' door.

Ergo sollicitae tu causa, pecunia, vitae!
So of-anxious you the-cause, money, life!

per te immaturum mortis adimus iter;
through you untimely of-death we-approach road;

tu vitiis hominum crudelia pabula praebes;
you to-the-vices of-men cruel fodder offer;

semina curarum de capite orta tuo.
the-seeds of-cares from head sprung your.

tu Paetum ad Pharios tendentem lintea portus
you Paetus to Pharian steering sails harbors

obruis insano terque quaterque mari.
overwhelm in-mad both-thrice and-four-times sea.

nam dum te sequitur, primo miser excidit aevo
for while you he-follows, in-first wretched fell-away age

et nova longinquis piscibus esca natat;
and new for-distant fishes food floats;

et mater non iusta piae dare debita terrae
and the-mother not funeral-rites to-dutiful to-give owed earth

nec pote cognatos inter humare rogos,
nor able kindred among to-bury pyres,

sed tua nunc volucres astant super ossa marinae,
but your now birds stand over bones sea,
nunc tibi pro tumulo Carpathium omne mare est.
now to-you for a-tomb Carpathian all sea is.
infelix Aquilo, raptae timor Orithyiae,
unhappy Aquilo, of-snatched terror Orithyia,
quae spolia ex illo tanta fuere tibi?
what spoils from him so-great were for-you?
aut quidnam fracta gaudes, Neptune, carina?
or what at-broken do-you-rejoice, Neptune, ship?
portabat sanctos alveus ille viros.
was-carrying blameless hull that men.
Paete, quid aetatem numeras? quid cara natanti
Paetus, why age do-you-count? why dear to-the-swimmer
mater in ore tibi est? non habet unda deos.
mother in mouth to-you is? not has the-wave gods.
nam tibi nocturnis ad saxa ligata procellis
for to-you by-nightly to rocks tied storms
omnia detrito vincula fune cadunt.
all with-worn-through bonds rope fall.
sunt Agamemnonias testantia litora curas,
there-are Agamemnonian witnessing shores cares,
quae notat Argynni poena minantis aquae.
which marks of-Argynnus the-punishment of-threatening water.
hoc iuvene amisso classem non solvit Atrides,
this youth lost the-fleet not loosed the-son-of-Atreus,
pro qua mactata est Iphigenia mora.
for which sacrificed was Iphigenia delay.
reddite corpus humo, posita est in gurgite vita;
give-back the-body to-the-ground, laid-down is in the-flood life;

Paetum sponte tua, vilis arena, tegas;
Paetus by-will your, cheap sand, may-you-cover;
et quotiens Paeti transibit nauta sepulcrum,
and whenever of-Paetus will-pass the-sailor the-tomb,
dicat 'Et audaci tu timor esse potes.'
let-him-say 'Even to-the-bold you a-terror to-be can.'
ite, rates curvae, et leti texite causas:
go, ships curved, and of-death weave causes:
ista per humanas mors venit acta manus.
that through human death comes driven hands.
terra parum fuerat, fatis adiecimus undas:
the-earth too-little had-been, to-the-fates we-added waves:
fortunae miseras auximus arte vias.
of-fortune wretched we-have-increased by-art ways.
ancora te teneat, quem non tenuere penates?
an-anchor you should-hold, whom not have-held penates?
quid meritum dicas, cui sua terra parum est?
what deserved would-you-say, to-whom his-own earth too-little is?
ventorum est, quodcumque paras: haud ulla carina
of-the-winds it-is, whatever you-prepare: not any ship
consenuit, fallit portus et ipse fidem.
has-grown-old, cheats harbor even itself faith.
natura insidians pontum substravit avaris:
nature lying-in-wait the-sea has-spread-beneath for-the-greedy:
ut tibi succedat, vix semel esse potest.
that to-you it-should-succeed, hardly once to-be can.
saxa triumphalis fregere Capharea puppis,
the-rocks triumphal broke Caphareus ships,
naufraga cum vasto Graecia tracta salo est.
shipwrecked when on-vast Greece dragged brine was.

paulatim socium iacturam flevit Ulixes,
little-by-little of-comrades the-loss wept Ulysses,
in mare cui soliti non valuere doli.
on the-sea for-whom accustomed not availed tricks.
quod si contentus patrio bove verteret agros,
but if content with-paternal ox he-had-turned fields,
verbaque duxisset pondus habere mea,
and-words had-thought weight to-have my,
viveret ante suos dulcis conviva Penatis,
he-would-live before his sweet guest Penates,
pauper, at in terra; nil, ubi flere, potes.
poor, but on land; nothing, where to-weep, you-can.
non tulit haec Paetus, stridorem audire procellae
not bore these Paetus, the-shriek to-hear of-storm
et duro teneras laedere fune manus;
and with-hard tender to-hurt rope hands;
sed Chio thalamo aut Oricia terebintho
but in-Chian bedchamber or with-Orician terebinth
et fultum pluma versicolore caput.
and propped on-feather of-changing-color head.
huic fluctus vivo radicitus abstulit unguis,
from-him the-waves living from-the-roots took-away nails,
et miser invisam traxit hiatus aquam;
and wretch hated drew gaping water;
hunc parvo ferri vidit nox improba ligno:
him on-small to-be-carried saw night wicked plank:
Paetus ut occideret, tot coiere mala.
Paetus that might-perish, so-many came-together ills.
flens tamen extremis dedit haec mandata querelis,
weeping still in-last gave these commands complaints,

cum moribunda niger clauderet ora liquor:
when dying black closed mouth liquid:
'Di maris Aegaei quos sunt penes aequora, venti,
'Gods of-the-sea Aegean in-whose are power waters, winds,
et quaecumque meum degravat unda caput,
and whatever my weighs-down wave head,
quo rapitis miseros primae lanuginis annos?
where do-you-snatch wretched of-first down years?
attulimus longas in freta vestra manus.
we-have-brought long into straits your hands.
a miser alcyonum scopulis affligar acutis!
ah wretch of-halcyons on-crags may-I-be-dashed sharp!
in me caeruleo fuscina sumpta deo est.
against me by-sea-blue the-trident taken god has.
at saltem Italiae regionibus evehat aestus:
but at-least to-Italy's regions may-carry the-tide:
hoc de me sat erit si modo matris erit.'
this of me enough will-be if only of-my-mother will-be.'
subtrahit haec fantem torta vertigine fluctus;
draws-under these-things him-speaking with-twisted whirl the-wave;
ultima quae Paeto voxque diesque fuit.
the-last which for-Paetus both-voice and-day was.
o centum aequoreae Nereo genitore puellae,
O hundred of-the-sea from-Nereus father girls,
et tu materno tracta dolore Thetis;
and you by-maternal drawn grief Thetis;
vos decuit lasso supponere bracchia mento:
you it-befitted to-weary to-place-under arms chin:
non poterat vestras ille gravare manus:
not could your he to-burden hands:

at tu, saeve Aquilo, numquam mea vela videbis:
but you, cruel Aquilo, never my sails will-see:
ante fores dominae condar oportet iners.
before the-doors of-mistress I-be-buried it-is-needful idle.

III.8 · A SWEET QUARREL

Last night's quarrel was sweet to Propertius: Cynthia, raging with wine, pushed the table at him and hurled cups, and he dares her to tear his hair and scratch his face, since no woman grieves without deep love. Her rages, dreams, and jealousies are signs he reads like a diviner; he wishes cold girls on his enemies and wants bites and tears. Paris loved Helen best amid war; with her, or with rivals for her, he will always be at war. He curses the rival in their bed: any night she gave him, she gave to spite Propertius.

Dulcis ad hesternas fuerat mihi rixa lucernas,
Sweet by yesterday's had-been to-me the-quarrel lamps,
vocis et insanae tot maledicta tuae.
of-voice and of-mad so-many curses your.
cur furibunda mero mensam propellis et in me
why raging with-wine the-table you-push and at me
proicis insana cymbia plena manu?
throw with-mad cups full hand?
tu vero nostros audax invade capillos
you indeed our boldly attack hair
et mea formosis unguibus ora nota,
and my with-beautiful nails face mark,
tu minitare oculos subiecta exurere flamma,
you threaten eyes with-placed-under to-burn-out flame,
fac mea rescisso pectora nuda sinu!
make my torn breast bare fold!

nimirum veri dantur mihi signa caloris:
doubtless of-true are-given to-me signs of-heat:
nam sine amore gravi femina nulla dolet.
for without love heavy woman no grieves.
quae mulier rabida iactat convicia lingua,
what woman with-raging hurls insults tongue,
et Veneris magnae volvitur ante pedes,
and of-Venus great rolls before feet,
custodum gregibus circa se stipat euntem,
of-guards with-flocks around herself crowds going,
seu sequitur medias, Maenas ut icta, vias,
or follows the-middle-of, a-Maenad as struck, roads,
seu timidam crebro dementia somnia terrent,
or timid frequently mad dreams terrify,
seu miseram in tabula picta puella movet:
or wretched on a-panel painted a-girl moves:
his ego tormentis animi sum verus haruspex,
in-these I torments of-the-mind am true diviner,
has didici certo saepe in amore notas.
these I-have-learned sure often in love signs.
non est certa fides, quae non in iurgia vertat:
not is sure faith, which not into quarrels may-turn:
hostibus eveniat lenta puella meis.
to-enemies may-befall a-cold girl my.
in morso aequales videant mea vulnera collo:
on bitten my-peers may-see my wounds neck:
me doceat livor mecum habuisse meam.
me let-teach a-bruise with-me to-have-had my(-girl).
aut in amore dolere volo aut audire dolentem,
either in love to-grieve I-wish or to-hear one-grieving,

sive meas lacrimas sive videre tuas,
whether my tears or to-see yours,
tecta superciliis si quando verba remittis,
covered with-eyebrows if ever words you-send-back,
aut tua cum digitis scripta silenda notas.
or your when with-fingers writings to-be-kept-silent you-mark.
odi ego quae numquam pungunt suspiria somnos:
hate I which never pierce sighs sleep:
semper in irata pallidus esse velim.
always for an-angry-girl pale to-be I-would-wish.
dulcior ignis erat Paridi, cum grata per arma
sweeter the-fire was for-Paris, when pleasing through arms
Tyndaridi poterat gaudia ferre suae:
to-the-daughter-of-Tyndareus he-could joys to-bring his:
dum vincunt Danai, dum restat barbarus Hector,
while conquer the-Danaans, while holds-out barbarian Hector,
ille Helenae in gremio maxima bella gerit.
he of-Helen in the-lap greatest wars wages.
aut tecum aut pro te mihi cum rivalibus arma
either with-you or for you for-me with rivals arms
semper erunt: in te pax mihi nulla placet.
always will-be: in you peace to-me no pleases.
gaude, quod nulla est aeque formosa: doleres,
rejoice, that none is equally beautiful: you-would-grieve,
si qua foret: nunc sis iure superba licet.
if any were: now be by-right proud you-may.
at tibi, qui nostro nexisti retia lecto,
but for-you, who for-our have-woven nets bed,
sit socer aeternum nec sine matre domus!
may-be a-father-in-law forever nor without mother home!

cui nunc si qua data est furandae copia noctis,
to-whom now if any given is to-be-stolen opportunity of-a-night,
offensam illa mihi, non tibi amica, dedit.
offense she to-me, not to-you a-sweetheart, gave.

III.9 · TO MAECENAS

Maecenas, who keeps within his own station though descended from Etruscan kings, urges Propertius to an epic sea too vast for his boat. Each artist and athlete has his own gift, and Maecenas himself has refused high office and the Medes' wars for humble shade. So Propertius will not sing Thebes or Troy but please among Callimachus' books. Yet under Maecenas' leadership he would sing the giants' war, Rome's founding, Remus, and Caesar's triumphs over Parthia and Egypt; let Maecenas guide his youth.

Maecenas, eques Etrusco de sanguine regum,
Maecenas, knight Etruscan from blood of-kings,
intra fortunam qui cupis esse tuam,
within fortune who desire to-be your,
quid me scribendi tam vastum mittis in aequor?
why me of-writing so vast do-you-send into sea?
non sunt apta meae grandia vela rati.
not are fitting for-my large sails boat.
turpe est, quod nequeas, capiti committere pondus
shameful it-is, what you-cannot, to-head to-entrust a-weight
et pressum inflexo mox dare terga genu.
and crushed bent soon to-give backs knee.
omnia non pariter rerum sunt omnibus apta,
everything not equally of-things are for-all fitting,
fama nec ex aequo ducitur ulla iugo.
fame nor from equal is-drawn any yoke.

gloria Lysippo est animosa effingere signa;
glory for-Lysippus is spirited to-mold statues;
exactis Calamis se mihi iactat equis;
with-perfected Calamis himself to-me boasts horses;
in Veneris tabula summam sibi poscit Apelles;
in of-Venus painting the-top for-himself claims Apelles;
Parrhasius parva vindicat arte locum;
Parrhasius by-small claims art place;
argumenta magis sunt Mentoris addita formae;
subjects more are of-Mentor added to-form;
at Myos exiguum flectit acanthus iter;
but of-Mys small bends acanthus path;
Phidiacus signo se Iuppiter ornat eburno;
the-Phidian with-a-statue himself Jupiter adorns ivory;
Praxitelen propria vindicat urbe lapis.
Praxiteles in-his-own claims city stone.
est quibus Eleae concurrit palma quadrigae,
there-is to-whom Elean comes-together the-palm chariot,
est quibus in celeres gloria nata pedes;
there-is to-whom for swift glory born feet;
hic satus ad pacem, hic castrensibus utilis armis:
this-man born for peace, this-man for-camp useful arms:
naturae sequitur semina quisque suae.
of-nature follows the-seeds each his-own.
at tua, Maecenas, vitae praecepta recepi,
but your, Maecenas, of-life precepts I-have-received,
cogor et exemplis te superare tuis.
I-am-forced and by-examples you to-surpass your.
cum tibi Romano dominas in honore securis
though for-you Roman lordly in office axes

et liceat medio ponere iura foro;
and it-were-allowed in-the-middle-of to-lay-down laws forum;
vel tibi Medorum pugnaces ire per hostis,
or for-you of-the-Medes warlike to-go through enemies,
atque onerare tuam fixa per arma domum;
and to-load your fixed through arms house;
et tibi ad effectum vires det Caesar, et omni
and to-you for accomplishment strength may-give Caesar, and in-every
tempore tam faciles insinuentur opes;
time so easily may-steal-in wealth;
parcis et in tenuis humilem te colligis umbras:
you-refrain and into slender humble yourself you-gather shades:
velorum plenos subtrahis ipse sinus.
of-sails full you-draw-in yourself folds.
crede mihi, magnos aequabunt ista Camillos
believe me, great will-equal those Camilli
iudicia, et venies tu quoque in ora virum,
judgments, and you-will-come you too into the-mouths of-men,
Caesaris et famae vestigia iuncta tenebis:
of-Caesar and of-fame footsteps joined you-will-hold:
Maecenatis erunt vera tropaea fides.
of-Maecenas will-be true trophies faith.
non ego velifera tumidum mare findo carina:
not I with-sail-bearing swollen sea cleave ship:
tota sub exiguo flumine nostra mora est.
whole under small river our delay is.
non flebo in cineres arcem sedisse paternos
not shall-I-weep into ashes the-citadel to-have-sunk paternal
Cadmi nec semper proelia clade pari;
of-Cadmus nor always battles with-slaughter equal;

nec referam Scaeas et Pergama Apollinis arces,
nor shall-I-tell the-Scaean and Pergamum of-Apollo citadels,
et Danaum decimo vere redisse ratis,
and of-the-Danaans in-the-tenth spring to-have-returned ships,
moenia cum Graio Neptunia pressit aratro
the-walls when with-Greek Neptunian pressed plow
victor Palladiae ligneus artis equus.
victorious of-Pallas wooden art horse.
inter Callimachi sat erit placuisse libellos
among of-Callimachus enough it-will-be to-have-pleased little-books
et cecinisse modis, Dore poeta, tuis.
and to-have-sung in-measures, Dorian poet, your.
haec urant pueros, haec urant scripta puellas,
these may-burn boys, these may-burn writings girls,
meque deum clament et mihi sacra ferant!
and-me a-god may-they-proclaim and to-me rites bring!
te duce vel Iovis arma canam caeloque minantem
you as-leader even of-Jove the-arms I-shall-sing and-to-heaven threatening
Coeum et Phlegraeis Eurymedonta iugis;
Coeus and on-Phlegraean Eurymedon ridges;
celsaque Romanis decerpta palatia tauris
and-lofty by-Roman grazed Palatine bulls
ordiar et caeso moenia firma Remo,
I-shall-begin and slain walls firm Remus,
eductosque pares silvestri ex ubere reges,
and-reared twin woodland from udder kings,
crescet et ingenium sub tua iussa meum!
will-grow and talent under your commands my!
prosequar et currus utroque ab litore ovantis,
I-shall-follow and chariots each from shore triumphing,

Parthorum astutae tela remissa fugae,
of-the-Parthians of-crafty weapons sent-back flight,
castraque Pelusi Romano subruta ferro,
and-camps of-Pelusium by-Roman undermined iron,
Antonique gravis in sua fata manus.
and-of-Antony heavy against his-own fate hands.
mollis tu coeptae fautor cape lora iuventae,
gentle you of-begun patron take the-reins youth,
dexteraque immissis da mihi signa rotis.
and-favorable to-loosed give me signs wheels.
hoc mihi, Maecenas, laudis concedis, et a te est
this to-me, Maecenas, of-praise you-grant, and from you it-is
quod ferar in partis ipse fuisse tuas.
that I-may-be-said on side myself to-have-been your.

III.10 · CYNTHIA'S BIRTHDAY

The Muses wake Propertius at dawn with the sign that it is Cynthia's birthday. He prays for a cloudless, griefless day and bids her rise, wash, dress in the clothes she first charmed him in, and pray that her beauty and her reign over him last forever. Then let them burn incense, feast, drink late, and play at dice, and when the night is far gone, complete the anniversary in their chamber.

Mirabar, quidnam misissent mane Camenae,
I-was-wondering, what had-sent in-the-morning the-Camenae,
ante meum stantes sole rubente torum.
before my standing with-the-sun reddening couch.
natalis nostrae signum misere puellae
of-the-birthday of-our a-sign they-sent girl
et manibus faustos ter crepuere sonos.
and with-hands auspicious three-times clapped sounds.

transeat hic sine nube dies, stent aere venti,
let-pass this without cloud the-day, let-stand in-the-air the-winds,
ponat et in sicco molliter unda minax.
let-lay-down and on dry gently the-wave threatening.
aspiciam nullos hodierna luce dolentis,
may-I-see no-one on-today's light grieving,
et Niobae lacrimas supprimat ipse lapis,
and of-Niobe the-tears may-hold-back itself the-stone,
alcyonum positis requiescant ora querelis,
of-halcyons laid-aside let-rest the-mouths complaints,
increpet absumptum nec sua mater Itym.
let-chide consumed nor her mother Itys.
tuque, o cara mihi, felicibus edita pennis,
and-you, O dear to-me, with-happy born wings,
surge et poscentis iusta precare deos.
rise and demanding due-things pray-to gods.
ac primum pura somnum tibi discute lympha,
and first with-pure sleep from-you shake water,
et nitidas presso pollice finge comas:
and shining with-pressed thumb arrange hair:
dein qua primum oculos cepisti veste Properti
then in-which first eyes you-captured dress of-Propertius
indue, nec vacuum flore relinque caput;
put-on, nor empty of-flower leave head;
et pete, qua polles, ut sit tibi forma perennis,
and ask, in-what you-are-strong, that be to-you beauty lasting,
inque meum semper stent tua regna caput.
and-over my always stand your realms head.
inde coronatas ubi ture piaveris aras,
then crowned when with-incense you-shall-have-honored altars,

luxerit et tota flamma secunda domo,
shall-have-shone and in-whole flame favorable house,
sit mensae ratio, noxque inter pocula currat,
let-be of-the-table the-plan, and-night among cups run,
et crocino naris murreus ungat onyx.
and with-saffron nostrils myrrh-scented anoint onyx.
tibia nocturnis succumbat rauca choreis,
the-flute to-nocturnal yield hoarse dances,
et sint nequitiae libera verba tuae,
and let-be of-wantonness free words your,
dulciaque ingratos adimant convivia somnos,
and-sweet ungrateful take-away banquets sleep,
publica vicinae perstrepat aura viae:
public of-the-neighboring let-resound the-air street:
sit sors et nobis talorum interprete iactu,
let-be lots also for-us of-the-dice with-interpreting throw,
quem gravibus pennis verberet ille puer.
whom with-heavy wings may-lash that boy.
cum fuerit multis exacta trientibus hora,
when shall-have-been by-many spent cups hour,
noctis et instituet sacra ministra Venus,
of-night and shall-institute the-rites ministering Venus,
annua solvamus thalamo sollemnia nostro,
yearly let-us-pay in-chamber solemnities our,
natalisque tui sic peragamus iter.
and-of-birthday your so let-us-complete the-journey.

Why wonder that a woman rules Propertius? Medea tamed bulls, Penthesilea conquered her conqueror, Omphale made Hercules spin, Semiramis built Babylon, and Jupiter disgraces himself for women. Cleopatra demanded Rome's walls as the price of her obscene husband, set barking Anubis against Jupiter, and planned to rule the Capitol; but she fled up the Nile and took the asps. Rome, guarded by her heroes and gods, need hardly fear Jupiter while Caesar lives; let sailors remember Caesar and Actium.

Quid mirare, meam si versat femina vitam
Why do-you-wonder, my if turns a-woman life
et trahit addictum sub sua iura virum,
and drags bound under her laws a-man,
criminaque ignavi capitis mihi turpia fingis,
and-crimes of-cowardly head to-me shameful you-invent,
quod nequeam fracto rumpere vincla iugo?
that I-cannot with-broken to-burst chains yoke?
venturam melius praesagit navita mortem,
coming better foresees the-sailor death,
vulneribus didicit miles habere metum.
from-wounds has-learned the-soldier to-have fear.
ista ego praeterita iactavi verba iuventa:
those I in-past have-tossed words youth:
tu nunc exemplo disce timere meo.
you now by-example learn to-fear my.
Colchis flagrantis adamantina sub iuga tauros
the-Colchian blazing adamantine under yokes bulls
egit et armigera proelia sevit humo,
drove and armed battles sowed in-the-ground,

custodisque feros clausit serpentis hiatus,
and-of-the-guardian fierce shut serpent jaws,
iret ut Aesonias aurea lana domos.
might-go that to-Aesonian golden fleece house.
ausa ferox ab equo quondam oppugnare sagittis
having-dared fierce from horse once to-attack with-arrows
Maeotis Danaum Penthesilea ratis;
the-Maeotian of-the-Danaans Penthesilea ships;
aurea cui postquam nudavit cassida frontem,
golden for-whom after laid-bare helmet brow,
vicit victorem candida forma virum.
conquered the-victor shining beauty man.
Omphale in tantum formae processit honorem,
Omphale to such of-beauty advanced honor,
Lydia Gygaeo tincta puella lacu,
Lydian in-Gygaean dipped girl lake,
ut, qui pacato statuisset in orbe columnas,
that, he-who a-pacified had-set in world pillars,
tam dura traheret mollia pensa manu.
with-so hard drew soft spinning hand.
Persarum statuit Babylona Semiramis urbem,
of-the-Persians founded Babylon Semiramis city,
ut solidum cocto tolleret aggere opus,
that solid with-baked she-might-raise rampart work,
et duo in adversum missi per moenia currus
and two in opposite-directions sent along the-walls chariots
nec possent tacto stringere ab axe latus;
nor could touched to-graze from axle side;
duxit et Euphratem medium, qua condidit arces,
she-led and the-Euphrates through-the-middle, where she-founded citadels,

iussit et imperio surgere Bactra caput.
bade and over-the-empire to-rise Bactra head.
nam quid ego heroas, quid raptem in crimine divos?
for why I heroes, why should-I-drag in charge gods?
Iuppiter infamat seque suamque domum.
Jupiter defames both-himself and-his house.
quid, modo quae nostris opprobria vexerit armis
what, lately she-who on-our reproaches brought arms
et famulos inter femina trita suos,
and slaves among a-woman worn her-own,
coniugis obsceni pretium Romana poposcit
of-a-husband obscene as-the-price Roman demanded
moenia et addictos in sua regna Patres?
walls and bound into her realms Fathers?
noxia Alexandria, dolis aptissima tellus,
guilty Alexandria, for-tricks most-fit land,
et totiens nostro Memphi cruenta malo,
and so-often to-our Memphis bloody harm,
tris ubi Pompeio detraxit harena triumphos!
three where from-Pompey took-away sand triumphs!
tollet nulla dies hanc tibi, Roma, notam.
will-remove no day this from-you, Rome, brand.
issent Phlegraeo melius tibi funera campo,
had-gone on-Phlegraean better for-you funeral plain,
vel tua si socero colla daturus eras.
or your if to-the-father-in-law neck going-to-give you-were.
scilicet incesti meretrix regina Canopi,
doubtless of-incestuous the-harlot queen Canopus,
una Philippeo sanguine adusta nota,
the-one by-Philip's blood branded mark,

ausa Iovi nostro latrantem opponere Anubim,
having-dared to-Jupiter our barking to-oppose Anubis,
et Tiberim Nili cogere ferre minas,
and the-Tiber of-the-Nile to-force to-bear threats,
Romanamque tubam crepitanti pellere sistro,
and-Roman the-trumpet with-rattling to-drive-off sistrum,
baridos et contis rostra Liburna sequi,
of-the-barge and with-poles beaks Liburnian to-pursue,
foedaque Tarpeio conopia tendere saxo,
and-foul on-Tarpeian mosquito-nets to-stretch rock,
iura dare et statuas inter et arma Mari,
laws to-give and statues among and arms of-Marius,
quid nunc Tarquinii fractas iuvat esse securis,
what now of-Tarquin broken helps-it to-be the-axes,
nomine quem simili vita superba notat,
by-name whom like life proud marks,
si mulier patienda fuit? cape, Roma, triumphum
if a-woman to-be-endured was? take, Rome, triumph
et longum Augusto salva precare diem!
and long for-Augustus saved pray day!
fugisti tamen in timidi vada flumina Nili:
you-fled still into of-timid the-shallows streams Nile:
accepere tuae Romula vincla manus.
received your Romulean chains hands.
bracchia spectavi sacris admorsa colubris,
the-arms I-watched by-sacred bitten snakes,
et trahere occultum membra soporis iter.
and to-draw hidden limbs of-sleep the-way.
'Non hoc, Roma, fuit tanto tibi cive verenda!'
'Not this, Rome, was with-so-great by-you citizen to-be-feared!'

dixit et assiduo lingua sepulta mero.
said even with-constant the-tongue buried wine.

septem urbs alta iugis, toto quae praesidet orbi,
seven the-city high on-hills, over-whole which presides world,

femineas timuit territa Marte minas.
feminine feared terrified by-Mars threats.

Hannibalis spolia et victi monumenta Syphacis,
of-Hannibal the-spoils and of-conquered memorials Syphax,

et Pyrrhi ad nostros gloria fracta pedes;
and of-Pyrrhus at our glory broken feet;

Curtius expletis statuit monumenta lacunis,
Curtius with-filled-up set-up memorials pits,

at Decius misso proelia rupit equo,
but Decius with-launched battle broke horse,

Coclitis abscissos testatur semita pontis,
of-Cocles cut-off bears-witness the-path bridge,

est cui cognomen corvus habere dedit:
there-is one-to-whom surname a-raven to-have gave:

haec di condiderant, haec di quoque moenia servant:
these the-gods had-founded, these the-gods too walls guard:

vix timeat salvo Caesare Roma Iovem.
hardly should-fear safe Caesar Rome Jove.

nunc ubi Scipiadae classes, ubi signa Camilli,
now where of-Scipio the-fleets, where the-standards of-Camillus,

aut modo Pompeia Bospore capta manu?
or lately Pompey's Bosporus captured by-hand?

Leucadius versas acies memorabit Apollo:
Leucadian turned battle-lines will-recall Apollo:

tantum operis belli sustulit una dies.
so-much of-work of-war removed one day.

at tu, sive petes portus seu, navita, linques,
but you, whether you-will-seek harbors or, sailor, you-will-leave,
Caesaris in toto sis memor Ionio.
of-Caesar in whole be mindful Ionian.

III.12 · TO POSTUMUS

Postumus could leave his weeping wife Galla to follow Augustus to the Parthian war. Propertius curses greed and warns that Galla will waste away with worry. Yet she will stay chaste: Postumus will be another Ulysses with a wondrous wife, and Propertius lists Ulysses' wanderings: the Cicones, Polyphemus, Circe, Scylla, Charybdis, the Sun's cattle, the weeping Aeaean girl, the dead, the Sirens, and the suitors. Ulysses' travels were not in vain, for a chaste wife waited, and Aelia Galla surpasses Penelope.

Postume, plorantem potuisti linquere Gallam,
Postumus, weeping could-you leave Galla,
miles et Augusti fortia signa sequi?
a-soldier and of-Augustus brave standards to-follow?
tantine ulla fuit spoliati gloria Parthi,
of-so-much-worth any was of-despoiled glory Parthian,
ne faceres Galla multa rogante tua?
that you-would-not-do-it Galla much asking your?
si fas est, omnes pariter pereatis avari,
if right it-is, all equally may-you-perish greedy,
et quisquis fido praetulit arma toro!
and whoever to-faithful has-preferred arms bed!
tu tamen iniecta tectus, vesane, lacerna
you still with-thrown-over covered, madman, cloak
potabis galea fessus Araxis aquam.
will-drink from-the-helmet weary of-Araxes water.

illa quidem interea fama tabescet inani,
she indeed meanwhile with-rumor will-waste-away empty,
haec tua ne virtus fiat amara tibi,
this your lest courage become bitter to-you,
neve tua Medae laetentur caede sagittae,
nor-lest at-your Median rejoice slaughter arrows,
ferreus aurato neu cataphractus equo,
iron on-gilded nor-lest mail-clad horse,
neve aliquid de te flendum referatur in urna:
nor-lest anything about you to-be-wept be-brought-back in an-urn:
sic redeunt, illis qui cecidere locis.
so they-return, in-those who have-fallen places.
ter quater in casta felix, o Postume, Galla!
three-times four-times in chaste happy, O Postumus, Galla!
moribus his alia coniuge dignus eras.
in-ways these of-another wife worthy you-were.
quid faciet nullo munita puella timore,
what will-do by-no protected a-girl fear,
cum sit luxuriae Roma magistra tuae?
when be of-luxury Rome the-teacher your?
sed securus eas: Gallam non munera vincent,
but carefree may-you-go: Galla not gifts will-conquer,
duritiaeque tuae non erit illa memor.
and-of-harshness your not will-be she mindful.
nam quocumque die salvum te fata remittent,
for on-whatever day safe you the-fates will-send-back,
pendebit collo Galla pudica tuo.
will-hang on-neck Galla chaste your.
Postumus alter erit miranda coniuge Ulixes:
Postumus another will-be with-wondrous wife Ulysses:

non illi longae tot nocuere morae,
not to-him long so-many harmed delays,
castra decem annorum, et Ciconum mons Ismara, Calpe,
the-camp of-ten years, and of-the-Cicones mount Ismara, Calpe,
exustaeque tuae mox, Polypheme, genae,
and-burned your soon, Polyphemus, cheeks,
et Circae fraudes, lotosque herbaeque tenaces,
and of-Circe the-frauds, and-the-lotus and-herbs clinging,
Scyllaque et alternas scissa Charybdis aquas,
and-Scylla and alternate split Charybdis waters,
Lampeties Ithacis veribus mugisse iuvencos
of-Lampetie on-Ithacan spits to-have-lowed bullocks
(paverat hos Phoebo filia Lampetie),
(had-fed them for-Phoebus the-daughter Lampetie),
et thalamum Aeaeae flentis fugisse puellae,
and the-chamber of-the-Aeaean weeping to-have-fled girl,
totque hiemis noctes totque natasse dies,
and-so-many of-winter nights and-so-many to-have-swum days,
nigrantisque domos animarum intrasse silentum,
and-blackening the-houses of-souls to-have-entered silent,
Sirenum surdo remige adisse lacus,
of-the-Sirens with-deaf oarsman to-have-approached waters,
et veteres arcus leto renovasse procorum,
and old bows with-the-slaughter to-have-renewed of-suitors,
errorisque sui sic statuisse modum.
and-of-wandering his so to-have-set an-end.
nec frustra, quia casta domi persederat uxor.
nor in-vain, because chaste at-home had-stayed wife.
vincit Penelopes Aelia Galla fidem.
surpasses of-Penelope Aelia Galla the-faith.

Girls are costly because luxury has free rein: Indian gold, Red Sea pearls, Tyrian purple, and Arab cinnamon storm even chaste women. In the East wives contend to die on their husbands' pyres; here no wife is faithful. Once rustic youths gave fruit and birds, and the gods of the fields were their friends; now temples stand empty and all worship gold. Brennus at Delphi, Polymestor, and Eriphyle show its crimes. Propertius prophesies that Rome is being broken by her wealth, though, like Cassandra, he will not be believed.

Quaeritis, unde avidis nox sit pretiosa puellis,
You-ask, whence for-greedy a-night be costly girls,
et Venerem exhaustae damna querantur opes.
and Venus drained losses complain wealth.
certa quidem tantis causa et manifesta ruinis:
sure indeed for-such cause and plain ruins:
luxuriae nimium libera facta via est.
for-luxury too free made the-way is.
Inda cavis aurum mittit formica metallis,
the-Indian from-hollow gold sends ant mines,
et venit e Rubro concha Erycina salo,
and comes from the-Red shell of-Eryx sea,
et Tyros ostrinos praebet Cadmea colores,
and Tyre purple offers Cadmean colors,
cinnamon et multi pastor odoris Arabs:
cinnamon and of-much the-shepherd scent Arab:
haec etiam clausas expugnant arma pudicas,
these even shut storm arms chaste-women,
quaeque terunt fastus, Icarioti, tuos.
and-which wear-down the-disdains, daughter-of-Icarius, your.

matrona incedit census induta nepotum
the-matron walks the-fortunes clothed-in of-spendthrifts
et spolia opprobrii nostra per ora trahit.
and the-spoils of-shame our through faces drags.
nulla est poscendi, nulla est reverentia dandi,
no is of-asking, no is restraint of-giving,
aut si qua est, pretio tollitur ipsa mora.
or if any is, by-price is-removed itself delay.
felix Eois lex funeris una maritis,
happy for-Eastern law of-funeral one husbands,
quos Aurora suis rubra colorat equis!
whom Aurora with-her red colors horses!
namque ubi mortifero iacta est fax ultima lecto,
for when on-death-bearing thrown is the-torch last bed,
uxorum fusis stat pia turba comis,
of-wives loosed stands dutiful the-crowd hair,
et certamen habent leti, quae viva sequatur
and a-contest they-have of-death, which living may-follow
coniugium: pudor est non licuisse mori.
marriage: shame it-is not to-have-been-allowed to-die.
ardent victrices et flammae pectora praebent,
burn the-victors and to-the-flame breasts offer,
imponuntque suis ora perusta viris.
and-place on-their faces scorched husbands.
hoc genus infidum nuptarum, hic nulla puella
this race faithless of-brides, here no girl
nec fida Euadne nec pia Penelope.
neither faithful Evadne nor dutiful Penelope.
felix agrestum quondam pacata iuventus,
happy of-country-folk once peaceful youth,

divitiae quorum messis et arbor erant!
riches whose harvest and tree were!
illis munus erant decussa Cydonia ramo,
for-them a-gift were shaken-down Cydonian-apples from-the-branch,
et dare puniceis plena canistra rubis,
and to-give with-red full baskets brambles,
nunc violas tondere manu, nunc mixta referre
now violets to-crop with-hand, now mixed to-bring-back
lilia virgineos lucida per calathos,
lilies maidenly bright through baskets,
et portare suis vestitas frondibus uvas
and to-carry with-their clothed leaves grapes
aut variam plumae vitricoloris avem.
or varied of-feather glass-colored bird.
his tum blanditiis furtiva per antra puellae
with-these then blandishments stolen through caves girls
oscula silvicolis empta dedere viris.
kisses to-woodland bought gave men.
hinnulei pellis totos operibat amantis,
of-a-fawn the-skin whole covered lovers,
altaque nativo creverat herba toro,
and-tall on-native had-grown grass couch,
pinus et incumbens lentas circumdabat umbras;
the-pine and leaning pliant put-around shadows;
nec fuerat nudas poena videre deas;
nor had-it-been naked a-punishment to-see goddesses;
corniger atque dei vacuam pastoris in aulam
horned and of-the-god empty shepherd into fold
dux aries saturas ipse reduxit ovis;
leader ram sated himself led-back sheep;

dique deaeque omnes, quibus est tutela per agros,
and-gods and-goddesses all, to-whom is guardianship through fields,
praebebant vestris verba benigna focis:
offered to-your words kind hearths:
'Et leporem, quicumque venis, venaberis, hospes,
'Both the-hare, whoever you-come, you-will-hunt, guest,
et si forte meo tramite quaeris avem:
and if perhaps on-my path you-seek a-bird:
et me Pana tibi comitem de rupe vocato,
and me Pan to-you as-companion from rock call,
sive petes calamo praemia, sive cane.'
whether you-seek with-reed prizes, or with-dog.'
at nunc desertis cessant sacraria lucis:
but now in-deserted stand-idle shrines groves:
aurum omnes victa iam pietate colunt.
gold all conquered now dutifulness worship.
auro pulsa fides, auro venalia iura,
by-gold driven-out faith, by-gold for-sale laws,
aurum lex sequitur, mox sine lege pudor.
gold law follows, soon without law shame.
torrida sacrilegum testantur limina Brennum,
scorched sacrilegious witness thresholds Brennus,
dum petit intonsi Pythia regna dei:
while he-seeks of-unshorn Pythian realm god:
at mons laurigero concussus vertice diras
but the-mountain with-laurel-bearing shaken peak dire
Gallica Parnasus sparsit in arma nives.
Gallic Parnassus scattered onto arms snows.
te scelus accepto Thracis Polymestoris auro
you crime received of-the-Thracian Polymestor gold

nutrit in hospitio non, Polydore, pio.
nourishes in hospitality not, Polydorus, dutiful.

tu quoque ut auratos gereres, Eriphyla, lacertos,
you too that gilded you-might-wear, Eriphyla, arms,

dilapsis nusquam est Amphiaraus equis.
dissolved nowhere is Amphiaraus horses.

proloquar: — atque utinam patriae sim verus haruspex! —
I-will-speak-out: —and would-that of-the-fatherland I-be a-true diviner!—

frangitur ipsa suis Roma superba bonis.
is-broken herself by-her Rome proud goods.

certa loquor, sed nulla fides; neque enim Ilia quondam
sure-things I-speak, but no faith; nor indeed Ilian once

verax Pergameis Maenas habenda malis:
truthful to-Pergamene the-Maenad to-be-held ills:

sola Parim Phrygiae fatum componere, sola
alone Paris of-Phrygia the-doom to-compose, alone

fallacem patriae serpere dixit equum.
deceitful into-the-fatherland to-creep said horse.

ille furor patriae fuit utilis, ille parenti:
that frenzy to-the-fatherland was useful, that to-the-father:

experta est veros irrita lingua deos.
tested has true fruitless tongue gods.

Propertius admires Sparta's custom of training girls naked with men in wrestling, ball, hoop, boxing, the discus, riding, and hunting, like Amazons or Helen among her brothers. Spartan law lets lovers meet openly, with no guards, no husband's punishment, and no costly dress to deceive the eye; in Rome a mistress walks surrounded by a crowd, and a lover cannot find a way to speak to her. If Rome imitated Spartan laws, Propertius would love her more.

Multa tuae, Sparte, miramur iura palaestrae,
Many of-your, Sparta, we-admire laws wrestling-school,
sed mage virginei tot bona gymnasii,
but more of-maidenly so-many goods gymnasium,
quod non infamis exercet corpore laudes
that not infamous exercises with-body glories
inter luctantis nuda puella viros,
among wrestling naked a-girl men,
cum pila veloces fallit per bracchia iactus,
when the-ball swift deceives through arms throws,
increpat et versi clavis adunca trochi,
rings and of-the-turned the-key hooked hoop,
pulverulentaque ad extremas stat femina metas,
and-dusty at farthest stands a-woman turning-posts,
et patitur duro vulnera pancratio:
and suffers in-the-harsh wounds pancratium:
nunc ligat ad caestum gaudentia bracchia loris,
now she-binds for the-boxing-glove rejoicing arms with-thongs,
missile nunc disci pondus in orbe rotat,
hurled now of-the-discus weight in circle whirls,
gyrum pulsat equis, niveum latus ense revincit,
the-ring she-pounds with-horses, snowy side with-sword binds,

virgineumque cavo protegit aere caput,
and-maidenly with-hollow protects bronze head,
qualis Amazonidum nudatis bellica mammis
such-as of-Amazons bared warlike breasts
Thermodontiacis turba lavatur aquis;
in-Thermodontian crowd is-washed waters;
et modo Taygeti, crinis aspersa pruina,
and now of-Taygetus, hair sprinkled with-frost,
sectatur patrios per iuga longa canis,
follows paternal over ridges long hounds,
qualis et Eurotae Pollux et Castor harenis,
such-as and of-the-Eurotas Pollux and Castor on-the-sands,
hic victor pugnis, ille futurus equis,
this-one victor in-boxing, that-one going-to-be with-horses,
inter quos Helene nudis capere arma papillis
among whom Helen with-bare to-take-up arms breasts
fertur nec fratres erubuisse deos.
is-said nor brothers to-have-blushed-before gods.
lex igitur Spartana vetat secedere amantis,
the-law therefore Spartan forbids to-keep-apart lovers,
et licet in triviis ad latus esse suae,
and it-is-allowed at crossroads at side to-be of-his-own,
nec timor aut ulla est clausae tutela puellae,
nor fear or any is of-shut-up guarding girl,
nec gravis austeri poena cavenda viri.
nor heavy of-austere punishment to-be-feared husband.
nullo praemisso de rebus tute loquaris
no-one sent-ahead about affairs safely may-you-speak
ipse tuis: longae nulla repulsa morae.
yourself your: of-long no rebuff delay.

nec Tyriae vestes errantia lumina fallunt,
nor Tyrian garments wandering eyes deceive,
est neque adoratae cura molesta domi.
is nor of-adored care troublesome home.
at nostra ingenti vadit circumdata turba,
but ours with-huge goes surrounded crowd,
nec digitum angusta est inseruisse via;
nor a-finger narrow is to-have-inserted way;
nec quae sint facies nec quae sint verba rogandi
nor what be the-faces nor what be the-words of-asking
invenias: caecum versat amator iter.
may-you-find: blind turns the-lover path.
quod si iura fores pugnasque imitata Laconum,
but if the-laws you-were and-fights having-imitated of-the-Spartans,
carior hoc esses tu mihi, Roma, bono.
dearer by-this would-be you to-me, Rome, good.

Propertius swears that since Cynthia no woman has bound him: Lycinna, who first taught him love, came before her, and in three years they have hardly spoken ten words. Dirce, savage over Antiope's old affair with Lycus, burned her hair, starved her, and chained her, until Antiope burst her bonds and fled to Cithaeron. Her sons Zethus and Amphion first drove her away, then recognized her and bound Dirce to a bull. So let Cynthia spare Lycinna and heed no gossip: he will love her alone even on his pyre.

Sic ego non ullos iam norim in amore tumultus,
So may-I not any now know in love tumults,
nec veniat sine te nox vigilanda mihi:
nor may-come without you a-night to-be-watched for-me:
ut mihi praetexti pudor est velatus amictu
when for-me of-the-bordered modesty was veiled by-the-cloak
et data libertas noscere amoris iter,
and given freedom to-know of-love the-path,
illa rudis animos per noctes conscia primas
she raw spirits through nights accomplice first
imbuit, heu nullis capta Lycinna datis!
imbued, alas by-no captured Lycinna gifts!
tertius (haud multo minus est) cum ducitur annus,
the-third (hardly much less it-is) since is-drawn year,
vix memini nobis verba coisse decem.
hardly I-remember for-us words to-have-come-together ten.
cuncta tuus sepelivit amor, nec femina post te
all your has-buried love, nor woman after you
ulla dedit collo dulcia vincla meo.
any has-given to-neck sweet chains my.

testis erit Dirce tam sero crimine saeva,
witness will-be Dirce so late for-a-crime savage,
Nycteos Antiopen accubuisse Lyco.
of-Nycteus Antiope to-have-lain-with Lycus.
a quotiens pulchros ussit regina capillos,
ah how-often beautiful burned the-queen hair,
molliaque immittens fixit in ora manus!
and-soft thrusting fixed on face hands!
a quotiens famulam pensis oneravit iniquis,
ah how-often the-servant with-tasks loaded unjust,
et caput in dura ponere iussit humo!
and head on hard to-lay bade ground!
saepe illam immundis passa est habitare tenebris,
often her in-filthy allowed has to-dwell darkness,
vilem ieiunae saepe negavit aquam.
cheap to-the-fasting often denied water.
Iuppiter, Antiopae nusquam succurris habenti
Jupiter, to-Antiope nowhere do-you-help having
tot mala? corrumpit dura catena manus.
so-many ills? spoils the-harsh chain hands.
si deus es, tibi turpe tuam servire puellam:
if a-god you-are, to-you shameful your to-serve girl:
invocet Antiope quem nisi vincta Iovem?
should-call Antiope whom except bound Jove?
sola tamen, quaecumque aderant in corpore vires,
alone still, whatever was-present in body strength,
regalis manicas rupit utraque manu.
royal manacles burst with-each hand.
inde Cithaeronis timido pede currit in arces.
thence of-Cithaeron with-timid foot she-runs to heights.

nox erat, et sparso triste cubile gelu.
night it-was, and scattered sad bed frost.
saepe vaga Asopi sonitu permota fluentis
often wandering of-Asopus by-the-sound moved flowing
credebat dominae pone venire pedes.
she-believed of-her-mistress behind to-come the-feet.
et durum Zethum et lacrimis Amphiona mollem
and hard Zethus and in-tears Amphion soft
experta est stabulis mater abacta suis.
experienced has from-the-stables the-mother driven-away her-own.
ac veluti, magnos cum ponunt aequora motus,
and as, great when lay-down seas motions,
Eurus ubi adverso desinit ire Noto;
Eurus when against-opposing ceases to-go South-wind;
litore sic tacito sonitus rarescit harenae,
on-shore so silent the-sound grows-faint of-the-sand,
sic cadit inflexo lapsa puella genu.
so falls bent having-slipped the-girl knee.
sera, tamen pietas: natis est cognitus error.
late, still dutifulness: to-the-sons was recognized the-error.
digne Iovis natos qui tueare senex,
worthy of-Jove the-sons who you-protect old-man,
tu reddis pueris matrem; puerique trahendam
you return to-the-boys the-mother; and-the-boys to-be-dragged
vinxerunt Dircen sub trucis ora bovis.
bound Dirce under of-a-fierce the-face bull.
Antiope, cognosce Iovem: tibi gloria Dirce
Antiope, recognize Jove: for-you a-glory Dirce
ducitur in multis mortem habitura locis.
is-dragged in many death going-to-have places.

prata cruentantur Zethi, victorque canebat
the-meadows are-bloodied of-Zethus, and-victor was-singing
paeana Amphion rupe, Aracynthe, tua.
a-paean Amphion on-rock, Aracynthus, your.
at tu non meritam parcas vexare Lycinnam:
but you not deserving may-you-refrain to-harass Lycinna:
nescit vestra ruens ira referre pedem.
knows-not your rushing anger to-draw-back foot.
fabula nulla tuas de nobis concitet auris: 45
gossip no your about us may-rouse ears:
te solam et lignis funeris ustus amem.
you alone even on-logs of-the-pyre burned may-I-love.

III.16 · A SUMMONS TO TIBUR

At midnight a letter comes from Cynthia ordering Propertius to Tibur at once. Should he risk the dark and robbers? But if he delays, her anger will be worse than any enemy. No one harms a lover, sacred as he is: the moon lights his way and Love carries the torch. If he is killed, the price is worth it: she will bring perfumes and garlands to his tomb. He asks only to be buried away from the busy road, under trees.

Nox media, et dominae mihi venit epistula nostrae:
Night midway, and of-mistress to-me came a-letter our:
Tibure me missa iussit adesse mora,
at-Tibur me loosed bade to-be-present delay,
candida qua geminas ostendunt culmina turris,
white where twin show peaks towers,
et cadit in patulos nympha Aniena lacus.
and falls into wide-spreading nymph Anio's pools.

quid faciam? obductis committam mene tenebris,
what shall-I-do? to-shrouded shall-I-entrust myself darkness,
ut timeam audaces in mea membra manus?
that I-may-fear bold on my limbs hands?
at si distulero haec nostro mandata timore,
but if I-shall-put-off these through-our commands fear,
nocturno fletus saevior hoste mihi.
than-a-nocturnal weeping more-savage enemy for-me.
peccaram semel, et totum sum postus in annum:
I-had-sinned once, and whole I-was put-off for year:
in me mansuetas non habet illa manus.
on me gentle not has she hands.
nec tamen est quisquam, sacros qui laedat amantis:
nor still is anyone, sacred who may-harm lovers:
Scironis media sic licet ire via.
of-Sciron in-the-middle-of so it-is-allowed to-go road.
quisquis amator erit, Scythicis licet ambulet oris,
whoever a-lover will-be, on-Scythian though may-walk shores,
nemo adeo ut noceat barbarus esse volet.
no-one so that he-may-harm barbarian to-be will-wish.
luna ministrat iter, demonstrant astra salebras,
the-moon ministers the-way, show the-stars the-ruts,
ipse Amor accensas percutit ante faces,
himself Love lit shakes before torches,
saeva canum rabies morsus avertit hiantis:
savage of-dogs madness bites turns-away gaping:
huic generi quovis tempore tuta via est.
for-this race at-any time safe the-road is.
sanguine tam parvo quis enim spargatur amantis
with-blood so little who indeed would-be-sprinkled of-a-lover

improbus? exclusis fit comes ipsa Venus.
wicked? to-the-shut-out becomes companion herself Venus.

quod si certa meos sequerentur funera casus,
but if certain my were-to-follow death misfortunes,

tali mors pretio vel sit emenda mihi.
at-such death a-price even should-be to-be-bought for-me.

afferet huc unguenta mihi sertisque sepulcrum
she-will-bring here perfumes for-me and-with-garlands the-tomb

ornabit custos ad mea busta sedens.
will-adorn guard at my tomb sitting.

di faciant, mea ne terra locet ossa frequenti,
the-gods grant, my not in-earth may-place bones frequented,

qua facit assiduo tramite vulgus iter! —
where makes with-constant path the-crowd a-road!—

post mortem tumuli sic infamantur amantum.
after death the-tombs so are-defamed of-lovers.

me tegat arborea devia terra coma,
me may-cover with-leafy remote earth foliage,

aut humer ignotae cumulis vallatus harenae:
or may-I-be-buried of-unknown in-heaps walled sand:

non iuvat in media nomen habere via.
not it-pleases in the-middle-of a-name to-have road.

Propertius prays to Bacchus to free him from love's pride, for wine cures care, and the god himself knows love through Ariadne. If Bacchus gives him sleep, he will plant vines and sing his praises: his birth from Jupiter's lightning, his conquest of India, Lycurgus and Pentheus punished, the Tyrrhenian sailors turned dolphins, his Naxian streams of wine, and his worship with drums and cymbals. He will sing in a lofty, Pindaric strain if Bacchus frees him from servitude and grants sleep.

Nunc, o Bacche, tuis humiles advolvimur aris:
Now, O Bacchus, at-your humble we-are-prostrated altars:
da mihi pacato vela secunda, pater.
give to-me calm sails favorable, father.
tu potes insanae Veneris compescere fastus,
you can of-mad Venus to-restrain disdains,
curarumque tuo fit medicina mero.
and-of-cares by-your becomes medicine wine.
per te iunguntur, per te solvuntur amantes:
through you are-joined, through you are-loosed lovers:
tu vitium ex animo dilue, Bacche, meo.
you the-fault from mind wash-away, Bacchus, my.
te quoque enim non esse rudem testatur in astris
you too indeed not to-be inexperienced bears-witness in the-stars
lyncibus ad caelum vecta Ariadna tuis.
by-lynxes to heaven carried Ariadne your.
hoc mihi, quod veteres custodit in ossibus ignis,
this for-me, which old guards in bones fires,
funera sanabunt aut tua vina malum.
death will-heal or your wines evil.
semper enim vacuos nox sobria torquet amantis,
always indeed empty night sober tortures lovers,

spesque timorque animos versat utroque modo.
and-hope and-fear minds turns in-each way.
quod si, Bacche, tuis per fervida tempora donis
but if, Bacchus, by-your through feverish temples gifts
accersitus erit somnus in ossa mea,
summoned shall-be sleep into bones my,
ipse seram vitis pangamque ex ordine collis,
myself I-will-sow vines and-I-will-plant in row hills,
quos carpant nullae me vigilante ferae.
which may-pluck no me watching beasts.
dum modo purpureo tumeant mihi dolia musto,
provided only with-purple may-swell for-me jars must,
et nova pressantis inquinet uva pedes,
and new of-treaders may-stain grape feet,
quod superest vitae per te et tua cornua vivam,
what remains of-life through you and your horns I-shall-live,
virtutisque tuae, Bacche, poeta ferar.
and-of-power your, Bacchus, the-poet I-shall-be-called.
dicam ego maternos Aetnaeo fulmine partus,
I-shall-tell I maternal by-Aetnaean lightning birth,
Indica Nysaeis arma fugata choris,
Indian by-Nysaean arms routed dances,
vesanumque nova nequiquam in vite Lycurgum,
and-mad new vainly at vine Lycurgus,
Pentheos in triplices funera grata greges,
of-Pentheus to triple deaths welcome flocks,
curvaque Tyrrhenos delphinum corpora nautas
and-curved Tyrrhenian of-dolphins bodies sailors
in vada pampinea desiluisse rate,
into the-shallows from-vine-leafed to-have-leapt-down boat,

et tibi per mediam bene olentia flumina Naxon,
and for-you through the-middle-of well smelling streams Naxos,
unde tuum potant Naxia turba merum.
whence your drink the-Naxian crowd wine.
candida laxatis onerato colla corymbis
white with-loosened laden neck ivy-clusters
cinget Bassaricas Lydia mitra comas,
will-gird Bassaric Lydian turban hair,
levis odorato cervix manabit olivo,
smooth with-scented neck will-drip olive-oil,
et feries nudos veste fluente pedes.
and you-will-strike bare with-robe flowing feet.
mollia Dircaeae pulsabunt tympana Thebae,
soft Dircaean will-beat drums Thebes,
capripedes calamo Panes hiante canent,
goat-footed with-reed Pans gaping will-sing,
vertice turrigero iuxta dea magna Cybelle
with-crown turret-bearing beside the-goddess great Cybele
tundet ad Idaeos cymbala rauca choros.
will-beat to Idaean cymbals hoarse dances.
ante fores templi crater antistitis auro
before the-doors of-the-temple the-mixing-bowl of-the-priest with-gold
libatum fundens in tua sacra merum.
poured pouring onto your rites wine.
haec ego non humili referam memoranda coturno,
these I not with-lowly will-tell to-be-remembered buskin,
qualis Pindarico spiritus ore tonat:
such-as with-Pindaric breath mouth thunders:

tu modo servitio vacuum me siste superbo,
you only from-servitude free me set proud,
atque hoc sollicitum vince sopore caput.
and this anxious conquer with-sleep head.

III.18 · MARCELLUS

At Baiae, where the sea is shut off from Avernus and Misenus lies in the sand, a youth of Caesar's house has died, and Propertius asks what god stood hostile in its waters. What use were his birth, his virtue, his mother, his place at Caesar's hearth, and his games? He died at twenty; such glory goes to the pyre. All must cross in the grim ferryman's boat: not Nireus' beauty, Achilles' strength, or Croesus' wealth escaped. Propertius prays the ferryman to carry his soul to the stars, where Claudius and Caesar went.

Clausus ab umbroso qua ludit pontus Averno,
Shut-off from shady where plays the-sea Avernus,
umida Baiarum stagna tepentis aquae,
damp of-Baiae the-pools of-warm water,
qua iacet et Troiae tubicen Misenus harena,
where lies too of-Troy trumpeter Misenus in-sand,
et sonat Herculeo structa labore via;
and sounds by-Herculean built labor road;
hic, ubi, mortalis dexter cum quaereret urbes,
here, where, mortal favoring when he-was-seeking cities,
cymbala Thebano concrepuere deo: —
cymbals for-the-Theban clashed god:—
at nunc invisae magno cum crimine Baiae,
but now hateful great with crime Baiae,
quis deus in vestra constitit hostis aqua? —
what god in your stood-as enemy water?—

his pressus Stygias vultum demisit in undas,
by-these pressed Stygian his-face sank into waves,
errat et in vestro spiritus ille lacu.
wanders and in your spirit that lake.
quid genus aut virtus aut optima profuit illi
what race or valor or best profited to-him
mater, et amplexum Caesaris esse focos?
mother, and embraced of-Caesar to-have hearths?
aut modo tam pleno fluitantia vela theatro,
or lately so in-full fluttering awnings theater,
et per maternas omnia gesta manus?
and through maternal all done hands?
occidit, et misero steterat vicesimus annus:
he-died, and to-wretched had-stood the-twentieth year:
tot bona tam parvo clausit in orbe dies.
so-many goods so small closed in circle day.
i nunc, tolle animos et tecum finge triumphos,
go now, lift-up spirits and with-you imagine triumphs,
stantiaque in plausum tota theatra iuvent,
and-standing to applause whole theaters may-please,
Attalicas supera vestis, atque omnia magnis
Attalic surpass garments, and everything at-great
gemmea sint ludis: ignibus ista dabis.
jeweled let-be games: to-the-fires those you-will-give.
sed tamen hoc omnes, huc primus et ultimus ordo:
but still this all, hither first and last rank:
est mala, sed cunctis ista terenda via est.
is evil, but by-all that to-be-trodden road is.
exoranda canis tria sunt latrantia colla,
to-be-appeased of-the-dog three are barking necks,

scandenda est torvi publica cumba senis.
to-be-climbed is of-the-grim public boat old-man.
ille licet ferro cautus se condat et aere,
he though in-steel cautious himself may-hide and in-bronze,
mors tamen inclusum protrahit inde caput.
death still shut-in drags-forth thence head.
Nirea non facies, non vis exemit Achillem,
Nireus not beauty, not strength exempted Achilles,
Croesum aut, Pactoli quas parit umor opes.
Croesus or, of-Pactolus which bears the-water wealth.
hic olim ignaros luctus populavit Achivos,
this once ignorant grief devastated Achaeans,
Atridae magno cum stetit alter amor.
to-the-son-of-Atreus at-a-great-price when stood another love.
at tibi, nauta, pias hominum qui traicis umbras,
but for-you, sailor, dutiful of-men who ferry shades,
huc animae portent corpus inane tuae:
hither of-soul may-they-carry body empty your:
qua Siculae victor telluris Claudius et qua
where of-the-Sicilian conqueror land Claudius and where
Caesar, ab humana cessit in astra via.
Caesar, from human departed to stars way.

Reproached so often for his lust, Propertius answers that lust rules women far more: once they break the reins of shame, nothing can check them. The woman the Cretan bull scorned wore a wooden cow's false horns, Salmoneus' daughter gave herself to the river Enipeus, Myrrha burned for her father, Medea killed her sons, Clytemnestra disgraced the house of Pelops, and Scylla cut her father's purple lock for love of Minos. She hangs dragged from his ship, and justly: Minos, fair even to an enemy, sits as judge below.

Obicitur totiens a te mihi nostra libido:
Is-thrown-up so-often by you to-me our lust:
crede mihi, vobis imperat ista magis,
believe me, over-you rules that more,
vos, ubi contempti rupistis frena pudoris,
you, when of-scorned you-have-broken the-reins shame,
nescitis captae mentis habere modum.
know-not of-captured mind to-have measure.
flamma per incensas citius sedetur aristas,
flame through kindled sooner may-be-quieted ears-of-grain,
fluminaque ad fontis sint reditura caput,
and-rivers to of-the-spring be going-to-return head,
et placidum Syrtes portum et bona litora nautis
and calm the-Syrtes harbor and good shores to-sailors
praebeat hospitio saeva Malea suo,
may-offer with-hospitality savage Malea its-own,
quam possit vestros quisquam reprehendere cursus
than could your anyone to-check courses
et rapidae stimulos frangere nequitiae.
and of-rapid the-goads to-break wantonness.

testis, Cretaei fastus quae passa iuvenci
witness, of-Cretan the-disdains who having-suffered bull
induit abiegnae cornua falsa bovis;
put-on of-fir-wood horns false cow;
testis Thessalico flagrans Salmonis Enipeo,
witness for-Thessalian burning the-daughter-of-Salmoneus Enipeus,
quae voluit liquido tota subire deo.
who wished to-the-liquid wholly to-yield god.
crimen et illa fuit, patria succensa senecta
a-crime too she was, by-paternal set-on-fire old-age
arboris in frondis condita Myrrha novae,
of-a-tree in leaves hidden Myrrha new,
nam quid Medeae referam, quo tempore matris
for why of-Medea should-I-tell, at-what time of-the-mother
iram natorum caede piavit amor?
the-anger by-the-sons slaughter expiated love?
quidve Clytaemestrae, propter quam tota Mycenis
or-why of-Clytemnestra, because-of whom whole at-Mycenae
infamis stupro stat Pelopea domus?
infamous by-debauchery stands Pelopian house?
tuque, o Minoa venumdata Scylla figura,
and-you, O for-Minoan sold Scylla figure,
tondens purpurea regna paterna coma.
shearing with-purple realm paternal lock.
hanc igitur dotem virgo desponderat hosti!
this therefore as-dowry the-maiden had-promised to-the-enemy!
Nise, tuas portas fraude reclusit amor,
Nisus, your gates by-fraud unbarred love,
at vos, innuptae, felicius urite taedas:
but you, unwedded, more-happily burn torches:

pendet Cretaea tracta puella rate.
hangs from-Cretan dragged girl ship.
non tamen immerito! Minos sedet arbiter Orci:
not still undeservedly! Minos sits as-judge of-Orcus:
victor erat quamvis, aequus in hoste fuit.
victor he-was although, just toward enemy he-was.

III.20 · A NEW LOVE

Propertius consoles a girl deserted by her lover, who sailed for Africa for gain: she has beauty, learning, and a famous ancestor, and needs only a faithful lover, which Propertius will be. He bids the sun shorten the day and the moon prolong the night. First they must agree on a pact and write the laws of their new love, which Love himself seals; whoever breaks it, let him suffer every pain of love and be shut out by night forever.

Credis eum iam posse tuae meminisse figurae,
Do-you-believe him now to-be-able of-your to-remember figure,
vidisti a lecto quem dare vela tuo?
you-saw from bed whom to-give sails your?
durus, qui lucro potuit mutare puellam!
harsh-one, who for-gain could to-exchange a-girl!
tanti, quin lacrimes, Africa tota fuit?
of-such-worth, that you-should-not-weep, Africa whole was?
at tu, stulta, deos, tu fingis inania verba:
but you, foolish-one, gods, you invent empty words:
forsitan ille alio pectus amore terat.
perhaps he with-another breast love may-wear-out.
est tibi forma potens, sunt castae Palladis artes,
is to-you beauty powerful, are of-chaste Pallas arts,

splendidaque a docto fama refulget avo,
and-splendid from learned fame shines grandfather,
fortunata domus, modo sit tibi fidus amicus.
fortunate house, only be-there to-you faithful lover.
fidus ero: in nostros curre, puella, toros!
faithful I-shall-be: into our run, girl, bed!
tu quoque, qui aestivos spatiosius exigis ignis,
you too, who summer more-spaciously drive-through fires,
Phoebe, moraturae contrahe lucis iter.
Phoebus, of-going-to-linger shorten light the-path.
nox mihi prima venit! primae date tempora noctis:
night to-me first comes! of-first give the-times night:
longius in primo, Luna, morare toro.
longer on first, Moon, linger bed.
foedera sunt ponenda prius signandaque iura
pacts are to-be-laid-down first and-to-be-sealed rights
et scribenda mihi lex in amore novo.
and to-be-written by-me a-law in love new.
haec Amor ipse suo constringit pignora signo:
these Love himself with-his binds pledges seal:
testis sidereae torta corona deae. —
witness of-the-starry twisted crown goddess.—
quam multae ante meis cedent sermonibus horae,
how many before to-my will-yield talks hours,
dulcia quam nobis concitet arma Venus!
sweet before for-us may-rouse arms Venus!
namque ubi non certo vincitur foedere lectus,
for where not by-sure is-bound pact a-bed,
non habet ultores nox vigilata deos,
not has avenging night watched gods,

et quibus imposuit, solvit mox vincla libido:
and on-whom it-has-imposed, looses soon chains lust:
contineant nobis omina prima fidem. —
may-hold-together for-us omens first faith.—
ergo, qui pactas in foedera ruperit aras,
so, who pledged into pacts shall-have-broken altars,
pollueritque novo sacra marita toro,
and-shall-have-polluted with-new rites marriage couch,
illi sint quicumque solent in amore dolores,
for-him let-be whatever are-wont in love griefs,
et caput argutae praebeat historiae,
and head to-tattling may-he-offer story,
nec flenti dominae patefiant nocte fenestrae:
nor for-weeping mistress may-be-opened by-night windows:
semper amet, fructu semper amoris egens.
always may-be-love, of-the-fruit always of-love in-need.

III.21 · JOURNEY TO ATHENS

To be cured of love, Propertius sets out on a long journey to Athens, since his love only grows by seeing Cynthia, who seldom admits him. As far from his eyes, so far from his heart love will go. He bids farewell to Rome, his friends, and the girl, imagines the Adriatic crossing, landing at Lechaeum, and the walk to Piraeus, and plans to study Plato, Epicurus, Demosthenes, and Menander, and to look at paintings and statues. Time and distance will heal him, or he will die by fate, not by love.

Magnum iter ad doctas proficisci cogor Athenas,
A-great journey to learned to-set-out I-am-forced Athens,
ut me longa gravi solvat amore via.
that me the-long from-heavy may-release love road.

crescit enim assidue spectando cura puellae:
grows indeed constantly by-looking the-care for-the-girl:
ipse alimenta sibi maxima praebet amor.
itself nourishment for-itself the-greatest provides love.
omnia sunt temptata mihi, quacumque fugari
everything have-been tried by-me, by-which-ever to-be-put-to-flight
possit: at ex omni me premit ipse deus.
it-could: but from every-side me presses himself the-god.
vix tamen aut semel admittit, cum saepe negarit:
hardly still or once she-admits, when often she-has-refused:
seu venit, extremo dormit amica toro.
or if-she-comes, on-the-edge sleeps the-sweetheart of-the-couch.
unum erit auxilium: mutatis Cynthia terris
one will-be the-help: changed Cynthia lands
quantum oculis, animo tam procul ibit amor.
as-far-as from-the-eyes, from-the-mind so far will-go love.
nunc agite, o socii, propellite in aequore navem,
now come-on, O comrades, push into the-sea the-ship,
remorumque pares ducite sorte vices,
and-of-oars equal lead by-lot turns,
iungiteque extremo felicia lintea malo:
and-join to-the-top lucky sails mast:
iam liquidum nautis aura secundat iter.
now liquid for-sailors the-breeze favors path.
Romanae turres et vos valeatis, amici,
Roman towers and you farewell, friends,
qualiscumque mihi tuque, puella, vale!
whatever-sort to-me and-you, girl, farewell!
ergo ego nunc rudis Hadriaci vehar aequoris hospes,
so I now inexperienced of-the-Adriatic shall-be-carried sea a-guest,

cogar et undisonos nunc prece adire deos,
I-shall-be-forced and wave-sounding now with-prayer to-approach gods,
deinde per Ionium vectus cum fessa Lechaeo
then through the-Ionian carried when weary at-Lechaeum
sedarit placida vela phaselus aqua,
shall-have-settled in-calm sails the-pinnace water,
quod superest, sufferre pedes properate laborem,
what remains, endure feet hasten the-labor,
Isthmos qua terris arcet utrumque mare,
the-Isthmus where by-lands keeps-apart each sea,
inde ubi Piraei capient me litora portus,
then when of-Piraeus shall-take me the-shores harbor,
scandam ego Theseae bracchia longa viae.
I-shall-climb I of-Theseus arms long road.
illic vel studiis animum emendare Platonis
there either by-the-studies the-mind to-correct of-Plato
incipiam aut hortis, docte Epicure, tuis;
I-shall-begin or in-the-gardens, learned Epicurus, your;
persequar aut studium linguae, Demosthenis arma,
I-shall-pursue or the-study of-language, of-Demosthenes the-arms,
librorumque tuos, docte Menandre, sales;
and-of-books your, learned Menander, salts;
aut certe tabulae capient mea lumina pictae,
or surely paintings will-take my eyes painted,
sive ebore exactae, seu magis aere, manus.
whether in-ivory finished, or rather in-bronze, hands.
aut spatia annorum, aut longa intervalla profundi
either the-spaces of-years, or the-long intervals of-the-deep
lenibunt tacito vulnera nostra sinu:
will-soothe in-silent wounds our bosom:

seu moriar, fato, non turpi fractus amore;
or I-shall-die, by-fate, not by-shameful broken love;
atque erit illa mihi mortis honesta dies.
and will-be that for-me of-death honorable day.

III.22 · COME HOME, TULLUS

Tullus has spent years at Cyzicus, but Propertius urges him home. He may see Atlas, the Gorgon's head, Geryon's stables, the Argonauts' route, and the rivers of Asia, but all marvels yield to Italy: a land fit for arms, not crime, powerful in war and mercy, with its rivers, lakes, and springs, and free of monsters and the horrors of Greek myth. Here is his native land, his career, his citizens, and the hope of a wife and children.

Frigida tam multos placuit tibi Cyzicus annos,
Cold so many has-pleased to-you Cyzicus years,
Tulle, Propontiaca quae fluit isthmos aqua,
Tullus, by-Propontic which flows-around isthmus water,
Dindymus et †sacra fabricata inventa† Cybelle,
Dindymus and sacred fashioned found Cybele,
raptorisque tulit qua via Ditis equos?
and-of-the-ravisher bore where the-road of-Dis horses?
si te forte iuvant Helles Athamantidos urbes,
if you perhaps delight of-Helle Athamas'-daughter cities,
at desiderio, Tulle, movere meo, —
yet by-longing, Tullus, be-moved my,—
tu licet aspicias caelum omne Atlanta gerentem,
you though may-see the-sky all Atlas bearing,
sectaque Persea Phorcidos ora manu,
and-cut-off by-Perseus of-Phorcus'-daughter face hand,

Geryonis stabula et luctantum in pulvere signa
of-Geryon the-stables and of-the-wrestlers in the-dust the-marks
Herculis Antaeique, Hesperidumque choros;
of-Hercules and-of-Antaeus, and-of-the-Hesperides dances;
tuque tuo Colchum propellas remige Phasim,
and-you with-your Colchian may-propel oarsman Phasis,
Peliacaeque trabis totum iter ipse legas,
and-of-the-Pelian timber whole the-route yourself may-trace,
qua rudis Argoa natat inter saxa columba
where raw with-the-Argo's swims between rocks dove
in faciem prorae pinus adacta novae;
into the-shape of-prow pine driven new;
et si, qua Ortygiae et visenda est ora Caystri,
and if, where of-Ortygia and to-be-visited is the-shore of-Cayster,
et qua septenas temperat unda vias;
and where sevenfold regulates wave ways;
omnia Romanae cedent miracula terrae:
all of-the-Roman will-yield marvels land:
natura hic posuit, quidquid ubique fuit.
nature here has-placed, whatever anywhere was.
armis apta magis tellus quam commoda noxae:
to-arms fitted more the-land than suited to-crime:
Famam, Roma, tuae non pudet historiae.
Fame, Rome, of-your not is-ashamed history.
nam quantum ferro tantum pietate potentes
for as-much-as by-steel so-much by-dutifulness powerful
stamus: victrices temperat ira manus.
we-stand: victorious restrains anger hands.
hic Anio Tiburne fluis, Clitumnus ab Umbro
here Anio Tiburtine you-flow, Clitumnus from Umbrian

tramite, et aeternum Marcius umor opus,
path, and eternal Marcian water work,
Albanus lacus et †socii Nemorensis ab unda,†
Alban lake and allied of-Nemi from the-wave
potaque Pollucis lympha salubris equo.
and-drunk of-Pollux water healthful by-the-horse.
at non squamoso labuntur ventre cerastae,
but not on-scaly glide belly horned-snakes,
Itala portentis nec fluit unda novis;
Italian with-portents nor flows wave new;
non hic Andromedae resonant pro matre catenae,
not here of-Andromeda resound for mother chains,
nec tremis Ausonias, Phoebe fugate, dapes,
nor do-you-tremble-at Ausonian, Phoebus put-to-flight, feasts,
nec cuiquam absentes arserunt in caput ignes
nor to-anyone absent have-burned onto head fires
exitium nato matre movente suo,
death for-a-son mother moving her,
Penthea non saevae venantur in arbore Bacchae,
Pentheus not savage hunt in a-tree Bacchants,
nec solvit Danaas subdita cerva ratis,
nor loosed Danaan substituted a-deer ships,
cornua nec valuit curvare in paelice Iuno
horns nor could to-curve on a-rival Juno
aut faciem turpi dedecorare bove;
or the-face with-shameful to-disfigure cow;
arboreasque cruces Sinis, et non hospita Grais
and-tree-shaped crosses of-Sinis, and not hospitable to-Greeks
saxa, et curvatas in sua fata trabes.
rocks, and bent into their-own doom beams.

haec tibi, Tulle, parens, haec est pulcherrima sedes,
this to-you, Tullus, parent, this is most-beautiful seat,
hic tibi pro digna gente petendus honos,
here to-you for worthy race to-be-sought honor,
hic tibi ad eloquium cives, hic ampla nepotum
here to-you for eloquence citizens, here ample of-grandsons
spes et venturae coniugis aptus amor.
hope and of-coming wife fitting love.

III.23 · LOST TABLETS

Propertius has lost his writing tablets, worn with use, which carried his love messages and brought replies: perhaps his girl wrote in them that she was angry because he was late, or that he should come and spend the night with her. Now some miser is writing his accounts in them. He offers a reward in gold for their return and sends a slave to post a notice saying his master lives on the Esquiline.

Ergo tam doctae nobis periere tabellae,
So such learned for-us have-perished tablets,
scripta quibus pariter tot periere bona!
written with-which equally so-many have-perished goods!
has quondam nostris manibus detriverat usus,
these once by-our hands had-worn-down use,
qui non signatas iussit habere fidem.
which not sealed bade to-have credit.
illae iam sine me norant placare puellas,
they now without me knew-how to-appease girls,
et quaedam sine me verba diserta loqui.
and certain without me words eloquent to-speak.
non illas fixum caras effecerat aurum:
not them fixed dear had-made gold:

vulgari buxo sordida cera fuit.
on-common boxwood shabby the-wax was.
qualescumque mihi semper mansere fideles,
whatever-sort to-me always remained faithful,
semper et effectus promeruere bonos.
always and results won good.
forsitan haec illis fuerint mandata tabellis:
perhaps these to-those may-have-been entrusted tablets:
'Irascor quoniam es, lente, moratus heri.
'I-am-angry because you-have, slow, delayed yesterday.
an tibi nescio quae visa est formosior? an tu
or to-you I-know-not what-woman seemed is more-beautiful? or you
non bona de nobis crimina ficta iacis?'
not good about us charges invented throw?'
aut dixit: 'Venies hodie, cessabimus una:
or she-said: 'You-will-come today, we-shall-idle together:
hospitium tota nocte paravit Amor,'
hospitality whole night has-prepared Love,'
et quaecumque dolens reperit non stulta puella,
and whatever grieving finds not foolish girl,
garrula cum blandis ducitur hora dolis,
chattering when with-coaxing is-drawn-out the-hour tricks,
me miserum, his aliquis rationem scribit avarus
me wretched, on-these someone an-account writes miser
et ponit diras inter ephemeridas!
and puts dire among account-books!
quas si quis mihi rettulerit, donabitur auro:
which if anyone to-me shall-have-brought-back, he-will-be-presented with-gold:
quis pro divitiis ligna retenta velit?
who instead-of riches wood kept would-wish?

i puer, et citus haec aliqua propone columna,
go boy, and quickly this on-some post-up column,
et dominum Esquiliis scribe habitare tuum.
and the-master on-the-Esquiline write to-dwell your.

III.24 · FAREWELL TO CYNTHIA

Cynthia's pride in her beauty is false, for it was Propertius' love that praised her so. He often compared her to the dawn though her color was painted, and neither friends nor witches could cure him. Now, of his own free will, he confesses that he was roasted in Venus' cauldron and bound with his hands behind him; but his ship has reached harbor, he has come to his senses, and he dedicates himself to Good Sense.

Falsa est ista tuae, mulier, fiducia formae,
False is that of-your, woman, confidence beauty,
olim oculis nimium facta superba meis.
once by-eyes too-much made proud my.
noster amor talis tribuit tibi, Cynthia, laudes:
our love such gave to-you, Cynthia, praises:
versibus insignem te pudet esse meis?
by-verses distinguished you it-shames to-be my?
mixtam te varia laudavi saepe figura,
blended you with-varied I-praised often figure,
ut, quod non esses, esse putaret amor;
that, what not you-were, to-be might-think love;
et color est totiens roseo collatus Eoo,
and color has so-often to-rosy been-compared Dawn,
cum tibi quaesitus candor in ore foret:
when for-you sought whiteness on face was:
quod mihi non patrii poterant avertere amici,
which from-me not paternal could to-turn-away friends,

eluere aut vasto Thessala saga mari.
to-wash-out or in-vast Thessalian witch sea.

haec ego non ferro, non igne coactus, et ipsa
these I not by-steel, not by-fire compelled, and very

naufragus Aegaea verba fatebor aqua:
shipwrecked in-the-Aegean words I-will-confess water:

correptus saevo Veneris torrebar aeno;
seized in-savage of-Venus I-was-roasting cauldron;

vinctus eram versas in mea terga manus.
bound I-was turned behind my back hands.

ecce coronatae portum tetigere carinae,
behold crowned the-harbor have-touched ships,

traiectae Syrtes, ancora iacta mihi est.
crossed the-Syrtes, the-anchor cast for-me is.

nunc demum vasto fessi resipiscimus aestu,
now at-last from-vast weary we-come-to-our-senses tide,

vulneraque ad sanum nunc coiere mea.
and-wounds to soundness now have-closed my.

Mens Bona, si qua dea es, tua me in sacraria dono!
Mind Good, if any goddess you-are, your me into shrines I-give!

exciderant surdo tot mea vota Iovi.
had-fallen-away to-deaf so-many my vows Jove.

Propertius was a laughingstock at banquets, though he served Cynthia faithfully for five years. Her tears will not move him; he weeps as he goes, but the injury outweighs it. He bids farewell to her door, and curses her with old age, wrinkles, and gray hair, so that she may suffer the scorn she inflicted and lament her deeds; his page has sung this fate, and she should fear for her beauty.

Risus eram positis inter convivia mensis,
A-laughingstock I-was laid among banquets tables,
et de me poterat quilibet esse loquax.
and about me could anyone to-be talkative.
quinque tibi potui servire fideliter annos:
five you I-could to-serve faithfully years:
ungue meam morso saepe querere fidem.
with-nail my bitten often you-will-lament faith.
nil moveor lacrimis: ista sum captus ab arte;
nothing I-am-moved by-tears: that I-have-been captured by art;
semper ab insidiis, Cynthia, flere soles.
always from ambushes, Cynthia, to-weep you-are-wont.
flebo ego discedens, sed fletum iniuria vincit:
I-shall-weep I departing, but weeping injury overcomes:
tu bene conveniens non sinis ire iugum.
you well suiting not allow to-go yoke.
limina iam nostris valeant lacrimantia verbis,
thresholds now at-our may-they-fare-well weeping words,
nec tamen irata ianua fracta manu.
nor still by-angry door broken hand.
at te celatis aetas gravis urgeat annis,
but you concealed age heavy may-press years,

et veniat formae ruga sinistra tuae!
and may-come to-beauty a-wrinkle ill-omened your!
vellere tum cupias albos a stirpe capillos,
to-pluck then you-may-desire white from the-root hair,
a! speculo rugas increpitante tibi,
ah! the-mirror wrinkles reproaching you,
exclusa inque vicem fastus patiare superbos,
shut-out and-in turn disdains may-you-suffer proud,
et quae fecisti facta queraris anus!
and what you-have-done deeds may-you-lament an-old-woman!
has tibi fatalis cecinit mea pagina diras:
these to-you fateful has-sung my page curses:
eventum formae disce timere tuae!
the-outcome of-beauty learn to-fear your!

BOOK IV

IV.1 · ROME AND HOROS

Propertius shows a stranger the site of Rome as it was before Aeneas. Troy's exiles founded a greater Troy, and Propertius vows to sing Rome's rites and ancient place names, as the Roman Callimachus of Umbria. The astrologer Horos warns that Apollo is against it. He cites his fulfilled prophecies, sets the stars above every other omen, and tells Propertius his own story where a girl will rule him and the Crab bodes him ill.

'Hoc quodcumque vides, hospes, quam maxima Roma est,
'This whatever you-see, stranger, how greatest Rome is,
ante Phrygem Aenean collis et herba fuit;
before Phrygian Aeneas hill and grass was;
atque ubi Navali stant sacra Palatia Phoebo,
and where to-Naval stand sacred Palatine Phoebus,
Euandri profugae concubuere boves.
of-Evander fugitive lay-down the-cattle.
fictilibus crevere deis haec aurea templa,
for-clay grew gods these golden temples,
nec fuit opprobrio facta sine arte casa;
nor was-it a-reproach made without art a-hut;
Tarpeiusque pater nuda de rupe tonabat,
and-Tarpeian the-father bare from rock thundered,
et Tiberis nostris advena bubus erat.
and the-Tiber to-our a-stranger oxen was.
qua gradibus domus ista Remi se sustulit, olim
where by-steps house that of-Remus itself has-raised, once
unus erat fratrum maxima regna focus.
one was of-the-brothers greatest realm hearth.

Curia, praetexto quae nunc nitet alta senatu,
The-Senate-house, with-bordered which now shines high senate,
pellitos habuit, rustica corda, Patres.
skin-clad had, rustic hearts, Fathers.
bucina cogebat priscos ad verba Quiritis:
the-horn gathered ancient to speeches Quirites:
centum illi in prato saepe senatus erat.
a-hundred they in a-meadow often senate were.
nec sinuosa cavo pendebant vela theatro,
nor billowing in-the-hollow hung awnings theater,
pulpita sollemnis non oluere crocos.
the-stage customary not smelled-of saffron.
nulli cura fuit externos quaerere divos;
to-no-one care was foreign to-seek gods;
cum tremeret patrio pendula turba sacro,
when trembled at-ancestral anxious the-crowd rite,
annuaque accenso celebrare Parilia faeno,
and-yearly with-kindled to-celebrate the-Parilia hay,
qualia nunc curto lustra novantur equo.
such-as now with-docked purifications are-renewed horse.
Vesta coronatis pauper gaudebat asellis,
Vesta with-garlanded poor rejoiced donkeys,
ducebant macrae vilia sacra boves.
led lean cheap rites cows.
parva saginati lustrabant compita porci,
small fattened purified crossroads pigs,
pastor et ad calamos exta litabat ovis.
the-shepherd and to the-pipes the-entrails offered of-a-sheep.
verbera pellitus saetosa movebat arator,
lashes skin-clad bristly plied the-plowman,

unde licens Fabius sacra Lupercus habet.
whence licensed Fabian rites the-Lupercus holds.
nec rudis infestis miles radiabat in armis:
nor raw hostile the-soldier gleamed in arms:
miscebant usta proelia nuda sude.
they-joined with-burned battles bare stake.
prima galeritus posuit praetoria Lygmon,
first capped set-up the-headquarters Lygmon,
magnaque pars Tatio rerum erat inter ovis.
and-great part for-Tatius of-affairs was among sheep.
hinc Titiens Ramnesque viri Luceresque coloni,
from-here Tities and-Ramnes men and-Luceres colonists,
quattuor hinc albos Romulus egit equos.
four from-here white Romulus drove horses.
quippe suburbanae parva minus urbe Bovillae
for suburban small less than-the-city Bovillae
et, qui nunc nulli, maxima turba Gabi.
and, which now none, greatest crowd Gabii.
et stetit Alba potens, albae suis omine nata,
and stood Alba powerful, of-the-white sow by-the-omen born,
hac ubi Fidenas longe erat isse vias.
by-this when to-Fidenae far it-was to-have-gone way.
nil patrium nisi nomen habet Romanus alumnus:
nothing ancestral except the-name has Roman the-nursling:
sanguinis altricem non putet esse lupam.
of-blood the-nurse not let-him-think to-be a-she-wolf.
huc melius profugos misisti, Troia, Penatis.
hither better fugitive you-sent, Troy, Penates.
heu quali vecta est Dardana puppis ave!
alas with-what carried was Dardan the-ship bird!

iam bene spondebant tunc omina, quod nihil illam
now well were-pledging then the-omens, that nothing it
laeserat abiegni venter apertus equi,
had-harmed of-the-fir-wood the-belly opened horse,
cum pater in nati trepidus cervice pependit,
when the-father on of-the-son trembling neck hung,
et verita est umeros urere flamma pios.
and feared has shoulders to-burn the-flame dutiful.
tunc animi venere Deci Brutique secures,
then the-spirits came of-Decius and-of-Brutus the-axes,
vexit et ipsa sui Caesaris arma Venus,
carried and herself of-her Caesar arms Venus,
arma resurgentis portans victricia Troiae:
arms of-rising-again carrying victorious Troy:
felix terra tuos cepit, Iule, deos;
happy land your received, Iulus, gods;
si modo Avernalis tremulae cortina Sibyllae
if only of-Avernus trembling the-tripod Sibyl
dixit Aventino rura pianda Remo,
said for-Aventine the-countryside to-be-expiated Remus,
aut si Pergameae sero rata carmina vatis
or if of-the-Pergamene late fulfilled songs prophetess
longaevum ad Priami vera fuere caput:
long-lived to of-Priam true were head:
vertite equum, Danai! male vincitis! Ilia tellus
turn the-horse, Danaans! badly you-conquer! Ilian land
vivet, et huic cineri Iuppiter arma dabit.
will-live, and to-this ash Jupiter arms will-give.
optima nutricum nostris lupa Martia rebus,
best of-nurses for-our she-wolf of-Mars state,

qualia creverunt moenia lacte tuo!
what-sort have-grown walls from-milk your!
moenia namque pio coner disponere versu:
the-walls for with-dutiful I-would-try to-set-out verse:
ei mihi, quod nostro est parvus in ore sonus!
ah me, that our is small in mouth sound!
sed tamen exiguo quodcumque e pectore rivi
but still small whatever from breast of-stream
fluxerit, hoc patriae serviet omne meae.
shall-have-flowed, this to-fatherland will-serve all my.
Ennius hirsuta cingat sua dicta corona:
Ennius with-shaggy may-crown his words crown:
mi folia ex hedera porrige, Bacche, tua,
for-me leaves from ivy hold-out, Bacchus, your,
ut nostris tumefacta superbiat Umbria libris,
that by-our swollen may-be-proud Umbria books,
Umbria Romani patria Callimachi!
Umbria of-the-Roman fatherland Callimachus!
scandentis quisquis cernit de vallibus arces,
climbing whoever sees from the-valleys citadels,
ingenio muros aestimet ille meo!
by-talent the-walls let-him-value he my!
Roma, fave, tibi surgit opus, date candida cives
Rome, favor, for-you rises the-work, give bright citizens
omina, et inceptis dextera cantet avis!
omens, and on-the-undertakings favorable may-sing bird!
sacra diesque canam et cognomina prisca locorum:
rites and-days I-shall-sing and names ancient of-places:
has meus ad metas sudet oportet equus.'
these my to turning-posts sweat it-is-needful horse.'

‘Quo ruis imprudens, vage, dicere fata, Properti?
‘Where do-you-rush heedless, wandering, to-tell fates, Propertius?
non sunt a dextro condita fila colo.
not are from favorable spun threads distaff.
accersis lacrimas cantans, aversus Apollo:
you-summon tears singing, averse Apollo:
poscis ab invita verba pigenda lyra.
you-demand from unwilling words to-be-regretted lyre.
certa feram certis auctoribus, aut ego vates
sure-things I-shall-bring on-sure authorities, or I a-seer
nescius aerata signa movere pila.
unknowing on-bronze signs to-move globe.
me creat Archytae suboles Babylonius Orops
me begets of-Archytas the-offspring Babylonian Orops
Horon, et a proavo ducta Conone domus.
Horos, and from ancestor drawn Conon house.
di mihi sunt testes non degenerasse propinquos,
the-gods to-me are witnesses not to-have-degenerated kinsmen,
inque meis libris nil prius esse fide.
and-in my books nothing before to-be faith.
nunc pretium fecere deos et (fallitur auro
now a-price they-have-made the-gods and (is-deceived by-gold
Iuppiter) obliquae signa iterata rotae,
Jupiter) of-oblique signs repeated wheel,
felicesque Iovis stellas Martisque rapacis
and-happy of-Jove the-stars and-of-Mars rapacious
et grave Saturni sidus in omne caput;
and heavy of-Saturn the-star for every head;
quid moveant Pisces animosaque signa Leonis,
what may-move the-Fishes and-spirited the-signs of-the-Lion,

lotus et Hesperia quid Capricornus aqua.
washed and in-Hesperian what Capricorn water.
dicam: "Troia cades, et Troica Roma resurges;"
I-shall-say: "Troy you-will-fall, and Trojan Rome you-will-rise-again;"
et maris et terrae longa sepulcra canam.
and of-sea and of-land long tombs I-shall-sing.
dixi ego, cum geminos produceret Arria natos
said I, when twin was-bringing-forth Arria sons
(illa dabat natis arma vetante deo):
(she gave to-the-sons arms forbidding the-god):
non posse ad patrios sua pila referre Penatis:
not to-be-able to paternal their javelins to-bring-back Penates:
nempe meam firmant nunc duo busta fidem.
surely my confirm now two tombs faith.
quippe Lupercus, equi dum saucia protegit ora,
for Lupercus, of-his-horse while wounded protects face,
heu sibi prolapso non bene cavit equo;
alas for-himself fallen not well took-care horse;
Gallus at, in castris dum credita signa tuetur,
Gallus but, in camp while entrusted standards guards,
concidit ante aquilae rostra cruenta suae:
fell before of-his-eagle beak bloody own:
fatales pueri, duo funera matris avarae!
fated boys, two deaths of-a-mother greedy!
vera, sed invito, contigit ista fides.
true, but unwilling, befell that faith.
idem ego, cum Cinarae traheret Lucina dolores,
the-same I, when of-Cinara was-drawing-out Lucina the-pains,
et facerent uteri pondera lenta moram,
and made of-the-womb burdens slow delay,

"Iunonis facito votum impetrabile" dixi:
"Of-Juno make a-vow obtainable" said-I:
illa parit: libris est data palma meis!
she gives-birth: to-books has-been given the-palm my!
hoc neque harenosum Libyae Iovis explicat antrum,
this neither sandy of-Libya of-Jove explains cave,
aut sibi commissos fibra locuta deos,
or to-itself entrusted the-entrail having-spoken gods,
aut si quis motas cornicis senserit alas,
or if anyone moved of-a-crow shall-have-felt wings,
umbrave quae magicis mortua prodit aquis:
or-shade which by-magic dead comes-forth waters:
aspicienda via est caeli verusque per astra
to-be-observed the-way is of-the-sky and-true through the-stars
trames, et ab zonis quinque petenda fides.
path, and from zones five to-be-sought faith.
exemplum grave erit Calchas: namque Aulide solvit
an-example weighty will-be Calchas: for from-Aulis loosed
ille bene haerentis ad pia saxa ratis;
he well clinging to dutiful rocks ships;
idem Agamemnoniae ferrum cervice puellae
the-same Agamemnon's steel in-the-neck girl's
tinxit, et Atrides vela cruenta dedit;
dipped, and the-son-of-Atreus sails bloody gave;
nec rediere tamen Danai: tu diruta fletum
nor returned still the-Danaans: you demolished weeping
supprime et Euboicos respice, Troia, sinus!
suppress and Euboean look-back, Troy, bays!
Nauplius ultores sub noctem porrigit ignis,
Nauplius avenging toward night holds-out fires,

et natat exuviis Graecia pressa suis.
and swims with-spoils Greece weighed-down its-own.
victor Oiliade, rape nunc et dilige vatem,
victor son-of-Oileus, seize now and love the-prophetess,
quam vetat avelli veste Minerva sua!
whom forbids to-be-torn from-the-robe Minerva her!
hactenus historiae: nunc ad tua devehar astra;
thus-far of-history: now to your I-shall-be-carried-down stars;
incipe tu lacrimis aequus adesse novis.
begin you to-tears fair to-attend new.
Umbria te notis antiqua Penatibus edit:
Umbria you from-famous ancient Penates produces:
mentior? an patriae tangitur ora tuae
do-I-lie? or of-fatherland is-touched the-border your
quam nebulosa cavo rorat Mevania campo,
where misty in-hollow drips Mevania plain,
et lacus aestivis intepet Umber aquis,
and the-lake in-summer grows-warm Umbrian waters,
scandentisque Asis consurgit vertice murus,
and-of-climbing Asisium rises from-the-peak wall,
murus ab ingenio notior ille tuo?
wall by talent more-famous that your?
ossaque legisti non illa aetate legenda
and-bones you-gathered not at-that age to-be-gathered
patris et in tenuis cogeris ipse lares:
of-father and into slender are-forced yourself Lares:
nam tua cum multi versarent rura iuvenci,
for your when many were-turning fields bullocks,
abstulit excultas pertica tristis opes.
took-away cultivated the-measuring-rod grim wealth.

mox ubi bulla rudi demissa est aurea collo,
soon when the-bulla from-young let-down was golden neck,
matris et ante deos libera sumpta toga,
of-the-mother and before gods the-free assumed toga,
tum tibi pauca suo de carmine dictat Apollo
then to-you a-few-things his from song dictates Apollo
et vetat insano verba tonare Foro.
and forbids in-mad words to-thunder Forum.
at tu finge elegos, fallax opus: haec tua castra! —
but you fashion elegies, deceptive work: this your camp!—
scribat ut exemplo cetera turba tuo.
may-write that by-example the-rest crowd your.
militiam Veneris blandis patiere sub armis,
the-warfare of-Venus coaxing you-will-suffer under arms,
et Veneris pueris utilis hostis eris.
and to-Venus boys a-useful enemy you-will-be.
nam tibi victrices quascumque labore parasti,
for for-you victorious whatever by-labor you-have-won,
eludit palmas una puella tuas:
mocks palms one girl your:
et bene confixum mento discusseris uncum,
and well fixed in-the-chin you-shall-have-shaken-off hook,
nil erit hoc: rostro te premat ansa tuo.
nothing it-will-be this: with-snout you may-press the-handle your.
illius arbitrio noctem lucemque videbis:
by-her judgment night and-day you-will-see:
gutta quoque ex oculis non nisi iussa cadet.
a-drop too from the-eyes not unless ordered will-fall.
nec mille excubiae nec te signata iuvabunt
nor a-thousand guards nor you sealed will-help

limina: persuasae fallere rima sat est.
thresholds: for-one-persuaded to-deceive a-chink enough is.
nunc tua vel mediis puppis luctetur in undis,
now your either in-the-midst-of ship may-struggle in waves,
vel licet armatis hostis inermis eas,
or though to-armed an-enemy unarmed you-may-go,
vel tremefacta cavo tellus diducat hiatum:
or shaken in-hollow the-earth may-split a-chasm:
octipedis Cancri terga sinistra time! 150
of-the-eight-footed Crab the-back ill-omened fear!

IV.2 · VERTUMNUS

The bronze statue of Vertumnus in the Tuscan Street explains his name. A Tuscan, he is named, some say, for the Tiber, which once flowed here and was turned aside, or for the turning year whose first fruits are his. In truth he can be turned into any shape. He recalls the Tuscans' aid to Rome against Tatius, says he was a maple stump before Numa, and praises Mamurius, who cast him.

Quid mirare meas tot in uno corpore formas?
Why do-you-wonder-at my so-many in one body shapes?
accipe Vertumni signa paterna dei.
learn of-Vertumnus the-signs paternal god.
Tuscus ego Tuscis orior, nec paenitet inter
Tuscan I from-Tuscans I-arise, nor do-I-regret amid
proelia Volsinios deseruisse focos.
battles Volsinian to-have-deserted hearths.
haec mea turba iuvat, nec templo laetor eburno: 5
this my crowd delights, nor in-a-temple do-I-rejoice ivory:
Romanum satis est posse videre Forum.
the-Roman enough it-is to-be-able to-see Forum.

hac quondam Tiberinus iter faciebat, at aiunt
by-here once Tiberinus way made, but they-say
remorum auditos per vada pulsa sonos:
of-oars heard through shallows struck sounds:
at postquam ille suis tantum concessit alumnis,
but after he to-his so-much yielded nurslings,
Vertumnus verso dicor ab amne deus.
Vertumnus the-turned I-am-called from river god.
seu, quia vertentis fructum praecepimus anni,
or, because of-the-turning the-fruit we-took-first year,
Vertumni rursus creditis esse sacrum.
Vertumnus again you-believe to-be the-rite.
prima mihi variat liventibus uva racemis,
first for-me changes with-darkening the-grape clusters,
et coma lactenti spicea fruge tumet;
and the-hair with-milky eared grain swells;
hic dulcis cerasos, hic autumnalia pruna
here sweet cherries, here autumnal plums
cernis et aestivo mora rubere die;
you-see and on-summer mulberries to-redden day;
insitor hic solvit pomosa vota corona,
the-grafter here pays fruit-laden vows with-a-crown,
cum pirus invito stipite mala tulit.
when the-pear on-unwilling stock apples has-borne.
mendax fama noces: alius mihi nominis index:
lying rumor you-harm: another to-me of-the-name the-sign:
de se narranti tu modo crede deo.
about himself telling you only believe the-god.
opportuna mea est cunctis natura figuris:
suited my is to-all nature figures:

in quamcumque voles verte, decorus ero.
into whatever you-wish turn, handsome I-shall-be.
indue me Cois, fiam non dura puella:
clothe me in-Coan-silks, I-shall-become not hard a-girl:
meque virum sumpta quis neget esse toga?
and-me a-man taken who would-deny to-be toga?
da falcem et torto frontem mihi comprime faeno:
give a-sickle and with-twisted brow for-me bind hay:
iurabis nostra gramina secta manu.
you-will-swear our grass cut by-hand.
arma tuli quondam et, memini, laudabar in illis:
arms I-bore once and, I-remember, I-was-praised in them:
corbis in imposito pondere messor eram.
of-a-basket under placed weight a-reaper I-was.
sobrius ad lites: at cum est imposta corona,
sober for lawsuits: but when is placed a-garland,
clamabis capiti vina subisse meo.
you-will-cry to-head wines to-have-gone-up my.
cinge caput mitra, speciem furabor Iacchi;
bind head with-a-turban, the-look I-shall-steal of-Iacchus;
furabor Phoebi, si modo plectra dabis.
I-shall-steal of-Phoebus, if only quills you-will-give.
cassibus impositis venor: sed harundine sumpta
nets laid-on I-hunt: but with-reed taken
Faunus plumoso sum deus aucupio.
Faunus with-feathered I-am god fowling.
est etiam aurigae species Vertumnus et eius,
there-is even of-a-charioteer the-look Vertumnus and of-him,
traicit alterno qui leve pondus equo.
leaps-across to-alternate who light weight horse.

suppetat hoc, piscis calamo praedabor, et ibo
let-it-be-at-hand this, fish with-rod I-will-catch, and I-will-go
mundus demissis institor in tunicis.
neat with-let-down peddler in tunics.
pastorem ad baculum possum curare vel idem
a-shepherd at the-staff I-can to-act or the-same
sirpiculis medio pulvere ferre rosam.
in-rush-baskets amid dust to-carry a-rose.
nam quid ego adiciam, de quo mihi maxima fama est,
for why I should-add, about which to-me greatest fame is,
hortorum in manibus dona probata meis?
of-gardens in hands gifts approved my?
caeruleus cucumis tumidoque cucurbita ventre
sea-blue cucumber and-with-swollen gourd belly
me notat et iunco brassica vincta levi;
me marks and with-rush cabbage bound light;
nec flos ullus hiat pratis, quin ille decenter
nor flower any gapes in-meadows, but-that it becomingly
impositus fronti langueat ante meae.
placed on-brow may-droop first my.
at mihi, quod formas unus vertebar in omnis,
but to-me, because shapes alone I-was-turned into all,
nomen ab eventu patria lingua dedit;
a-name from the-outcome ancestral tongue gave;
et tu, Roma, meis tribuisti praemia Tuscis,
and you, Rome, to-my have-given rewards Tuscans,
(unde hodie Vicus nomina Tuscus habet,)
(whence today the-Street names Tuscan has,)
tempore quo sociis venit Lycomedius armis
at-the-time when with-allied came the-Lycomedian arms

atque Sabina feri contudit arma Tati.
and Sabine of-fierce crushed arms Tatius.
vidi ego labentis acies et tela caduca,
saw I slipping battle-lines and weapons falling,
atque hostis turpi terga dedisse fugae.
and enemies to-shameful backs to-have-given flight.
sed facias, divum Sator, ut Romana per aevum
but may-you-make, of-the-gods Sower, that Roman through the-ages
transeat ante meos turba togata pedes.
may-pass before my crowd toga-clad feet.
sex superant versus: te, qui ad vadimonia curris,
six remain verses: you, who to court-appearances run,
non moror: haec spatiis ultima creta meis.
not do-I-detain(-you): this for-courses last chalk-line my.
stipes acernus eram, properanti falce dolatus,
a-trunk maple I-was, by-hurrying sickle hewn,
ante Numam grata pauper in urbe deus.
before Numa welcome poor in city god.
at tibi, Mamurri, formae caelator aenae,
but for-you, Mamurius, of-shape engraver bronze,
tellus artifices ne terat Osca manus,
the-earth artistic lest may-wear-away Oscan hands,
qui me tam docilis potuisti fundere in usus.
who me so docile you-could to-cast into uses.
unum opus est, operi non datur unus honos.
one work it-is, to-the-work not is-given one honor.

Arethusa writes to her husband Lycotas, campaigning at the ends of the earth. Their wedding was ill-omened; she curses the inventor of war, fears his armor chafes him, and hopes his thinness comes from missing her. At night she kisses his weapons and spins for his camp, envying Hippolyte, who bore arms herself. She asks him to keep faith, and promises a thanksgiving at the Capene Gate when he returns.

Haec Arethusa suo mittit mandata Lycotae,
These Arethusa to-her sends commands Lycotas,
cum totiens absis, si potes esse meus.
since so-often you-are-absent, if you-can to-be mine.
si qua tamen tibi lecturo pars oblita derit,
if any still to-you going-to-read part blotted shall-be-missing,
haec erit e lacrimis facta litura meis:
this will-be from tears made a-smear my:
aut si qua incerto fallet te littera tractu,
or if any with-uncertain will-deceive you letter stroke,
signa meae dextrae iam morientis erunt.
the-signs of-my right-hand already dying will-be.
te modo viderunt iteratos Bactra per ortus,
you lately have-seen repeated Bactra through risings,
te modo munito Sericus hostis equo,
you lately on-armored the-Seric enemy horse,
hibernique Getae, pictoque Britannia curru,
and-wintry the-Getae, and-in-painted Britain chariot,
ustus et Eoa discolor Indus aqua.
burned and with-Eastern dark-colored the-Indian water.
haecne marita fides et †parce avia† noctis,
this marital faith and sparing pathless of-the-night,

cum rudis urgenti bracchia victa dedi?
when inexperienced to-the-pressing arms conquered I-gave?
quae mihi deductae fax omen praetulit, illa
which for-me led-home the-torch as-omen carried-before, it
traxit ab everso lumina nigra rogo;
drew from overturned lights black pyre;
et Stygio sum sparsa lacu, nec recta capillis
and with-Stygian I-was sprinkled lake, nor straight to-hair
vitta data est: nupsi non comitante deo.
the-fillet given was: I-married not accompanying the-god.
omnibus heu portis pendent mea noxia vota:
on-all alas gates hang my harmful vows:
texitur haec castris quarta lacerna tuis.
is-woven this for-camp fourth cloak your.
occidat, immerita qui carpsit ab arbore vallum
let-him-perish, undeserving who plucked from tree a-stake
et struxit querulas rauca per ossa tubas,
and built plaintive hoarse through bones trumpets,
dignior obliquo funem qui torqueat Ocno,
worthier than-oblique the-rope who should-twist Ocnus,
aeternusque tuam pascat, aselle, famem!
and-eternal your may-he-feed, donkey, hunger!
dic mihi, num teneros urit lorica lacertos?
tell me, surely-not tender chafes the-cuirass arms?
num gravis imbellis atterit hasta manus?
surely-not heavy unwarlike wears the-spear hands?
haec noceant potius, quam dentibus ulla puella
these may-harm rather, than with-teeth any girl
det mihi plorandas per tua colla notas!
may-give to-me to-be-wept-for on your neck marks!

diceris et macie vultum tenuasse: sed opto,
you-are-said and with-leanness face to-have-thinned: but I-wish,
e desiderio sit color iste meo.
from longing may-be color that my.
at mihi cum noctes induxit vesper amaras,
but to-me when nights has-brought-on evening bitter,
si qua relicta iacent, osculor arma tua;
if any left-behind lie, I-kiss arms your;
tum queror in toto non sidere pallia lecto,
then I-complain on whole not to-settle the-coverlets bed,
lucis et auctores non dare carmen avis.
of-light and the-heralds not to-give song birds.
noctibus hibernis castrensia pensa laboro
in-nights wintry for-camp wool-tasks I-labor
et Tyria in gladios vellera secta suo;
and Tyrian for swords fleeces cut his;
et disco, qua parte fluat vincendus Araxes,
and I-learn, in-what part may-flow to-be-conquered Araxes,
quot sine aqua Parthus milia currat equus;
how-many without water Parthian miles may-run horse;
cogor et e tabula pictos ediscere mundos,
I-am-forced and from a-map painted to-learn worlds,
qualis et haec docti sit positura dei,
of-what-kind and this of-the-skilled be the-arrangement god,
quae tellus sit lenta gelu, quae putris ab aestu,
what land be sluggish with-frost, what crumbling from heat,
ventus in Italiam qui bene vela ferat.
wind to Italy which well sails may-carry.
assidet una soror curis, et pallida nutrix
sits-by one sister with-my-cares, and pale the-nurse

peierat hiberni temporis esse moras.
swears-falsely of-wintry time to-be the-delays.
felix Hippolyte! nuda tulit arma papilla
happy Hippolyte! bare bore arms with-breast
et texit galea barbara molle caput.
and covered with-a-helmet barbarian soft head.
Romanis utinam patuissent castra puellis!
to-Roman would-that had-lain-open camps girls!
essem militiae sarcina fida tuae,
I-would-be of-warfare baggage faithful your,
nec me tardarent Scythiae iuga, cum pater altas
nor me would-slow of-Scythia the-ridges, when father deep
Africus in glaciem frigore nectit aquas.
Africus into ice with-cold binds waters.
omnis amor magnus, sed aperto in coniuge maior:
all love great, but open in husband greater:
hanc Venus, ut vivat, ventilat ipsa facem.
this Venus, that it-may-live, fans herself torch.
nam mihi quo Poenis tibi purpura fulgeat ostris
for to-me why with-Punic for-you purple may-gleam dyes
crystallusque meas ornet aquosa manus?
and-crystal my may-adorn watery hands?
omnia surda tacent, rarisque assueta kalendis
everything deaf are-silent, and-at-rare accustomed kalends
vix aperit clausos una puella Lares,
hardly opens shut one girl Lares,
Glaucidos et catulae vox est mihi grata querentis:
of-Glaucis and of-the-puppy the-voice is to-me welcome complaining:
illa tui partem vindicat una toro.
she of-you the-part claims alone in-bed.

flore sacella tego, verbenis compita velo,
with-flowers shrines I-cover, with-vervains crossroads I-veil,
et crepat ad veteres herba Sabina focos.
and crackles at old herb Sabine hearths.
sive in finitimo gemuit stans noctua tigno,
whether on neighboring has-hooted standing the-owl beam,
seu voluit tangi parca lucerna mero,
or has-wished to-be-touched the-sparing lamp with-wine,
illa dies hornis caedem denuntiat agnis,
that day for-this-year's slaughter proclaims lambs,
succinctique calent ad nova lucra popae.
and-girded are-hot for new gains attendants.
ne, precor, ascensis tanti sit gloria Bactris,
not, I-pray, for-climbed of-such-worth be the-glory Bactra,
raptave odorato carbasa lina duci,
or-snatched from-perfumed fine-linen linens leader,
plumbea cum tortae sparguntur pondera fundae,
leaden when of-twisted are-scattered weights sling,
subdolus et versis increpat arcus equis!
treacherous and turned twangs bow horses!
sed (tua sic domitis Parthae telluris alumnis
but (your so tamed of-Parthian land nurslings
pura triumphantis hasta sequatur equos)
pure triumphing spear may-follow horses)
incorrupta mei conserva foedera lecti!
uncorrupted of-my keep pacts bed!
hac ego te sola lege redisse velim:
on-this I you alone condition to-have-returned would-wish:

armaque cum tulero portae votiva Capenae,
and-arms when I-shall-have-brought to-the-gate votive Capena,
subscribam salvo grata puella viro.
I-shall-subscribe for-saved grateful a-girl husband.

IV.4 · TARPEIA

In the grove by Tatius' camp, the Vestal Tarpeia, drawing water, sees the Sabine king and falls in love. On the Capitol she laments: she would be his captive, betray Rome, and bring it as her dowry. On the Parilia, while the guards are off duty, she silences the dogs, leads the enemy up the hill, and asks to name her wedding day herself. Tatius says, "Marry, and climb my royal bed," and has her crushed under his comrades' heaped arms: that was her dowry, and the hill bears her name.

Tarpeium nemus et Tarpeiae turpe sepulcrum
The-Tarpeian grove and of-Tarpeia shameful tomb
fabor et antiqui limina capta Iovis.
I-shall-tell and of-ancient the-threshold captured Jove.
lucus erat felix hederoso conditus antro,
a-grove there-was fruitful in-ivied hidden cave,
multaque nativis obstrepit arbor aquis,
and-many with-native resounds tree waters,
Silvani ramosa domus, quo dulcis ab aestu
of-Silvanus branchy house, whither sweet from heat
fistula poturas ire iubebat ovis.
the-pipe going-to-drink to-go bade sheep.
hunc Tatius fontem vallo praecingit acerno,
this Tatius spring with-a-palisade surrounds maple,
fidaque suggesta castra coronat humo.
and-trusty with-heaped-up camp crowns earth.

quid tum Roma fuit, tubicen vicina Curetis
what then Rome was, the-trumpeter neighboring of-Cures
cum quateret lento murmure saxa Iovis,
when shook with-slow rumble the-rocks of-Jove,
atque ubi nunc terris dicuntur iura subactis,
and where now to-lands are-pronounced laws subdued,
stabant Romano pila Sabina Foro?
stood in-the-Roman javelins Sabine Forum?
murus erant montes: ubi nunc est Curia saepta,
a-wall were mountains: where now is the-Senate-house enclosed,
bellicus ex illo fonte bibebat equus.
warlike from that spring drank horse.
hinc Tarpeia deae fontem libavit: at illi
from-here Tarpeia for-the-goddess the-spring drew: but on-her
urgebat medium fictilis urna caput.
pressed the-middle-of clay urn head.
et satis una malae potuit mors esse puellae,
and enough one for-evil could death to-be girl,
quae voluit flammas fallere, Vesta, tuas?
who wished the-flames to-deceive, Vesta, your?
vidit harenosis Tatium proludere campis
she-saw on-sandy Tatius to-practice plains
pictaque per flavas arma levare iubas:
and-painted through tawny arms to-raise manes:
obstipuit regis facie et regalibus armis,
she-was-stunned at-the-king's face and at-royal arms,
interque oblitas excidit urna manus.
and-between forgetful fell the-urn hands.
saepe illa immeritae causata est omina lunae,
often she of-undeserving pleaded has omens moon,

et sibi tingendas dixit in amne comas:
and for-herself to-be-dipped said in the-river hair:
saepe tulit blandis argentea lilia Nymphis,
often she-brought to-coaxing silver lilies Nymphs,
Romula ne faciem laederet hasta Tati:
the-Romulean lest the-face might-hurt spear of-Tatius:
dumque subit primo Capitolia nubila fumo,
and-while she-climbs at-first the-Capitol cloudy with-smoke,
rettulit hirsutis bracchia secta rubis,
she-brought-back by-shaggy arms cut brambles,
et sua Tarpeia residens ita flevit ab arce
and her the-Tarpeian sitting so wept from citadel
vulnera, vicino non patienda Iovi:
wounds, by-neighboring not to-be-endured Jove:
'Ignes castrorum et Tatiae praetoria turmae
'Fires of-the-camp and of-the-Tatian headquarters squadron
et famosa oculis arma Sabina meis,
and famous to-eyes arms Sabine my,
o utinam ad vestros sedeam captiva Penatis,
O would-that at your I-might-sit a-captive Penates,
dum captiva mei conspicer esse Tati!
provided a-captive of-my I-be-seen to-be Tatius!
Romani montes, et montibus addita Roma,
Roman mountains, and to-the-mountains added Rome,
et valeat probro Vesta pudenda meo:
and farewell by-disgrace Vesta to-be-shamed my:
ille equus, ille meos in castra reponet amores,
that horse, that my into camp will-carry-back loves,
cui Tatius dextras collocat ipse iubas!
for-whom Tatius right arranges himself manes!

quid mirum in patrios Scyllam saevisse capillos,
what wonder against paternal Scylla to-have-raged locks,
candidaque in saevos inguina versa canis?
and-white into savage loins turned dogs?
prodita quid mirum fraterni cornua monstri,
betrayed what wonder of-the-brotherly the-horns monster,
cum patuit lecto stamine torta via?
when lay-open by-gathered thread twisted the-way?
quantum ego sum Ausoniis crimen factura puellis,
how-great I am for-Ausonian a-reproach going-to-make girls,
improba virgineo lecta ministra foco!
wicked to-the-maidenly chosen servant hearth!
Pallados exstinctos si quis mirabitur ignis,
of-Pallas extinguished if anyone shall-wonder-at the-fires,
ignoscat: lacrimis spargitur ara meis.
let-him-forgive: with-tears is-sprinkled the-altar my.
cras, ut rumor ait, tota pugnabitur urbe:
tomorrow, as rumor says, in-whole there-will-be-fighting city:
tu cape spinosi rorida terga iugi.
you take of-thorny dewy back ridge.
lubrica tota via est et perfida: quippe tacentis
slippery whole the-way is and treacherous: for silent
fallaci celat limite semper aquas.
with-deceitful hides path always waters.
o utinam magicae nossem cantamina Musae!
O would-that of-magic I-knew the-charms Muse!
haec quoque formoso lingua tulisset opem.
this too for-the-handsome tongue would-have-brought help.
te toga picta decet, non quem sine matris honore
you the-toga embroidered becomes, not one-whom without of-a-mother honor

nutrit inhumanae dura papilla lupae.
nurtures of-inhuman the-harsh teat she-wolf.
sin hospes patria metuar regina sub aula,
but-if a-guest paternal I-be-feared queen under hall,
dos tibi non humilis prodita Roma venit.
a-dowry to-you not humble betrayed Rome comes.
si minus, at raptae ne sint impune Sabinae,
if not, then snatched lest be unpunished Sabines,
me rape et alterna lege repende vices!
me snatch and by-alternate law repay turns!
commissas acies ego possum solvere: nuptae,
engaged battle-lines I can to-loose: brides,
vos medium palla foedus inite mea.
you a-mediating by-robe pact enter my.
adde Hymenaee modos, tubicen fera murmura conde:
add Hymenaeus measures, trumpeter fierce rumblings hide:
credite, vestra meus molliet arma torus.
believe, your my will-soften arms bed.
et iam quarta canit venturam bucina lucem,
and now the-fourth sings coming trumpet light,
ipsaque in Oceanum sidera lapsa cadunt.
and-themselves into Ocean the-stars slipped fall.
experiar somnum, de te mihi somnia quaeram:
I-shall-try sleep, about you for-me dreams I-shall-seek:
fac venias oculis umbra benigna meis.'
see-to-it you-come to-eyes a-shade kind my.'
dixit, et incerto permisit bracchia somno,
she-said, and to-uncertain surrendered arms sleep,
nescia se furiis accubuisse novis.
not-knowing herself with-furies to-have-lain new.

nam Vesta, Iliacae felix tutela favillae,
for Vesta, of-Ilian happy the-guardian ember,
culpam alit et plures condit in ossa faces.
the-guilt feeds and more hides into bones torches.
illa ruit, qualis celerem prope Thermodonta
she rushes, such-as swift near Thermodon
Strymonis abscisso fertur aperta sinu.
a-Strymonian torn is-carried open breast.
urbi festus erat (dixere Parilia Patres),
for-the-city a-festival was (called Parilia the-Fathers),
hic primus coepit moenibus esse dies,
this first began for-walls to-be day,
annua pastorum convivia, lusus in urbe,
yearly of-shepherds banquets, games in the-city,
cum pagana madent fercula divitiis,
when rustic drip dishes with-riches,
cumque super raros faeni flammantis acervos
and-when over scattered of-hay flaming heaps
traicit immundos ebria turba pedes.
throws filthy drunken the-crowd feet.
Romulus excubias decrevit in otia solvi
Romulus watches decreed for rest to-be-released
atque intermissa castra silere tuba.
and interrupted the-camp to-be-silent trumpet.
hoc Tarpeia suum tempus rata convenit hostem:
this Tarpeia her-own time thinking meets the-enemy:
pacta ligat, pactis ipsa futura comes.
pacts she-binds, for-the-pacts herself going-to-be companion.
mons erat ascensu dubius festoque remissus:
the-mountain was in-ascent uncertain and-for-the-festival relaxed:

nec mora, vocalis occupat ense canis.
nor delay, vocal she-seizes with-sword dogs.
omnia, praebebant somnos: sed Iuppiter unus
everything, offered sleep: but Jupiter alone
decrevit poenis invigilare tuis.
decreed for-punishments to-keep-watch your.
prodiderat portaeque fidem patriamque iacentem,
she-had-betrayed both-of-the-gate the-trust and-the-fatherland lying,
nubendique petit, quem velit, ipsa diem.
and-of-marrying asks, which she-may-wish, herself the-day.
at Tatius (neque enim sceleri dedit hostis honorem)
but Tatius (nor indeed to-crime gave the-enemy honor)
'Nube' ait 'et regni scande cubile mei!'
'Marry' he-says 'and of-kingdom climb bed my!"
dixit, et ingestis comitum super obruit armis.
he-said, and with-heaped of-comrades over overwhelmed arms.
haec, virgo, officiis dos erat apta tuis.
this, maiden, for-services dowry was fitting your.
a duce Tarpeia mons est cognomen adeptus:
from the-guide Tarpeia the-mount has a-name gained:
o vigil, iniustae praemia sortis habes.
O watchman, of-unjust rewards fate you-have.

Propertius curses the bawd Acanthis, a witch who could make even Penelope marry Antinous, bind the moon with spells, and take a wolf's shape. He reports the lessons she gave his mistress: demand Eastern silks and jewels, break faith, invent excuses and feigned rites to raise the price, keep a lover jealous, admit any man who pays, and despise poets who give only verses. Propertius saw her die of a cough in her hovel, and asks for her tomb to be stoned and cursed.

Terra tuum spinis obducat, lena, sepulcrum,
The-earth your with-thorns may-cover, bawd, tomb,
et tua, quod non vis, sentiat umbra sitim;
and your, what not you-wish, may-feel shade thirst;
nec sedeant cineri Manes, et Cerberus ultor
nor may-rest in-your-ash the-Shades, and Cerberus avenger
turpia ieiuno terreat ossa sono!
foul with-hungry may-terrify bones sound!
docta vel Hippolytum Veneri mollire negantem,
skilled even Hippolytus to-Venus to-soften refusing,
concordique toro pessima semper avis,
and-to-harmonious bed worst always omen,
Penelopen quoque neglecto rumore mariti
Penelope too neglected the-rumor of-her-husband
nubere lascivo cogeret Antinoo.
to-marry to-wanton she-would-force Antinous.
illa velit, poterit magnes non ducere ferrum,
she may-wish, will-be-able the-magnet not to-draw iron,
et volucris nidis esse noverca suis.
and the-bird to-nests to-be stepmother its-own.
quippe et, Collinas ad fossam moverit herbas,
indeed and, Colline to ditch she-shall-have-moved herbs,

stantia currenti diluerentur aqua:
standing-things by-running would-be-dissolved water:
audax cantatae leges imponere lunae
bold on-enchanted laws to-impose moon
et sua nocturno fallere terga lupo
and her by-nocturnal to-disguise back wolf
posset, et intentos astu caecare maritos;
she-could, and intent by-cunning to-blind husbands;
cornicum immeritas eruit ungue genas,
of-crows undeserving gouged with-nail cheeks,
consuluitque striges nostro de sanguine, et in me
and-consulted screech-owls our about blood, and against me
hippomanes fetae semina legit equae.
the-hippomanes of-pregnant seeds gathered mare.
exorabat opus †verbis, ceu blanda perure†
she-was-coaxing work with-words, as-if coaxing perure
saxosamque †ferat† sedula culpa viam:
and-rocky let-bring busy guilt way:
'Si te Eoa Dorozantum iuvat aurea ripa,
'If you Eastern of-the-Dorozantes pleases golden bank,
et quae sub Tyria concha superbit aqua,
and what under Tyrian shell is-proud water,
Eurypylique placet Coae textura Minervae,
and-of-Eurypylus pleases of-Coan the-weaving Minerva,
sectaque ab Attalicis putria signa toris,
and-cut from Attalic crumbling figures couches,
seu quae palmiferae mittunt venalia Thebae,
or what palm-bearing send for-sale Thebes,
murreaque in Parthis pocula cocta focis;
and-myrrhine in Parthian cups baked hearths;

sperne fidem, provolve deos, mendacia vincant,
spurn faith, overturn gods, lies let-conquer,
frange et damnosae iura pudicitiae!
break and of-ruinous laws chastity!
et simulare virum pretium facit: utere causis!
and to-feign a-husband the-price raises: use pretexts!
maior dilata nocte recurret amor.
greater postponed night will-return love.
si tibi forte comas vexaverit, utilis ira:
if to-you perhaps hair he-shall-have-harried, useful anger:
post modo mercata pace premendus erit.
after just-now bought peace to-be-pressed he-will-be.
denique ubi amplexu Venerem promiseris empto,
finally when for-embrace Venus you-shall-have-promised bought,
fac simules puros Isidis esse dies.
see-to-it you-pretend pure of-Isis to-be days.
ingerat Aprilis Iole tibi, tundat Amycle
let-press-on of-April Iole to-you, let-din Amycle
natalem Mais Idibus esse tuum.
birthday on-May Ides to-be your.
supplex ille sedet — posita tu scribe cathedra
suppliant he sits —set-down you write chair
quidlibet: has artis si pavet ille, tenes!
anything: these arts if fears he, you-hold!
semper habe morsus circa tua colla recentis,
always have bites around your neck fresh,
litibus alternis quos putet esse datos.
from-quarrels mutual which he-may-think to-be given.
nec te Medeae delectent probra sequacis
nor you of-Medea let-delight the-reproaches clinging

(nempe tulit fastus ausa rogare prior),
(surely she-bore disdains having-dared to-ask first),
sed potius mundi Thais pretiosa Menandri,
but rather of-elegant Thais costly Menander,
cum ferit astutos comica moecha Getas.
when strikes cunning comic adulteress Getas.
in mores te verte viri: si cantica iactat,
into the-ways yourself turn of-the-man: if songs he-boasts,
i comes et voces ebria iunge tuas.
go companion and voices drunk join your.
ianitor ad dantis vigilet: si pulset inanis,
the-doorkeeper for givers let-him-wake: if knocks empty-handed,
surdus in obductam somniet usque seram.
deaf toward shut-across let-him-dream ever bolt.
nec tibi displiceat miles non factus amori,
nor to-you let-displease a-soldier not made for-love,
nauta nec attrita si ferat aera manu,
a-sailor nor with-worn if may-bring bronze hand,
aut quorum titulus per barbara colla pependit,
or those-whose label on barbarian neck has-hung,
caelati medio cum saluere foro.
engraved in-the-middle-of when they-leaped forum.
aurum spectato, non quae manus afferat aurum!
gold watch, not which hand may-bring gold!
versibus auditis quid nisi verba feres?
verses heard what except words will-you-carry-off?
"Quid iuvat ornato procedere, vita, capillo
"Why helps-it with-adorned to-walk-forth, life, hair
et tenuis Coa veste movere sinus?"
and thin in-Coan dress to-move folds?"

qui versus, Coae dederit nec munera vestis,
who verses, of-Coan shall-have-given nor gifts dress,
ipsius tibi sit surda sine aere lyra.
his to-you let-be deaf without bronze lyre.
dum vernat sanguis, dum rugis integer annus,
while is-springtime the-blood, while from-wrinkles untouched the-year,
utere, ne quid cras libet ab ore dies!
use(-it), lest anything tomorrow may-take-away from the-face day!
vidi ego odorati victura rosaria Paesti
saw I of-fragrant going-to-live rose-beds Paestum
sub matutino cocta iacere Noto.'
under morning scorched to-lie South-wind.'
his animum nostrae dum versat Acanthis amicae,
with-these the-mind of-my while turns Acanthis sweetheart,
per tenuem ossa suam sunt numerata cutem.
through thin bones her-own were counted skin.
sed cape torquatae, Venus o regina, columbae
but take of-the-collared, Venus O queen, dove
ob meritum ante tuos guttura secta focos.
for merit before your the-throat cut hearths.
vidi ego rugoso tussim concrescere collo,
saw I in-wrinkled a-cough to-thicken neck,
sputaque per dentis ire cruenta cavos,
and-spittle through teeth to-go bloody hollow,
atque animam in tegetes putrem exspirare paternas:
and the-breath into mats rotten to-breathe-out paternal:
horruit algenti pergula curta foco.
shuddered with-freezing the-shed scant hearth.
exsequiae fuerant rari furtiva capilli
the-funeral-gifts had-been of-sparse stolen hair

vincula et immundo pallida mitra situ,
bands and in-filthy pale turban mold,
et canis, in nostros nimis experrecta dolores,
and the-dog, to our too-much wide-awake sorrows,
cum fallenda meo pollice clatra forent.
when to-be-deceived by-my thumb the-bars were.
sit tumulus lenae curto vetus amphora collo:
let-be the-tomb of-the-bawd with-broken old amphora neck:
urgeat hunc supra vis, caprifice, tua.
let-press this above the-force, wild-fig, your.
quisquis amas, scabris hoc bustum caedito saxis,
whoever you-love, with-rough this tomb strike stones,
mixtaque cum saxis addite verba mala!
and-mixed with stones add words bad!

IV.6 · ACTIUM

Propertius performs the rites and sings the temple of Palatine Apollo. At Actium, as Augustus' fleet faces the queen's, Apollo stands over Augustus' stern, bids him free Rome, and empties his quiver, and Caesar's spear follows. Rome wins, the deified Caesar sees the proof of his blood, and the queen flees to the Nile so as not to die on a day set for her; one arrow that sank ten ships earns Apollo his monument. Then Apollo takes up the lyre, and the poets feast till dawn, singing of conquered peoples and the Parthian's late treaty.

Sacra facit vates: sint ora faventia sacris,
Rites performs the-bard: let-be mouths favoring to-the-rites,
et cadat ante meos icta iuvenca focos.
and let-fall before my struck a-heifer hearths.
cera Philetaeis certet Romana corymbis,
wax with-Philitean let-vie Roman ivy-clusters,

et Cyrenaeas urna ministret aquas.
and Cyrenean the-urn let-minister waters.
costum molle date et blandi mihi turis honores,
costus soft give and of-coaxing to-me incense honors,
terque focum circa laneus orbis eat.
and-thrice the-hearth around woolen circle let-go.
spargite me lymphis, carmenque recentibus aris
sprinkle me with-waters, and-a-song at-fresh altars
tibia Mygdoniis libet eburna cadis.
the-flute from-Mygdonian let-pour ivory jars.
ite procul fraudes, alio sint aere noxae:
go far frauds, in-another let-be air harms:
pura novum vati laurea mollit iter.
pure new for-the-bard laurel softens path.
Musa, Palatini referemus Apollinis aedem:
Muse, of-Palatine we-shall-tell Apollo the-temple:
res est, Calliope, digna favore tuo.
a-matter it-is, Calliope, worthy of-favor your.
Caesaris in nomen ducuntur carmina: Caesar
of-Caesar to the-name are-drawn songs: Caesar
dum canitur, quaeso, Iuppiter ipse vaces,
while is-sung, I-pray, Jupiter yourself be-at-leisure,
est Phoebi fugiens Athamana ad litora portus,
there-is of-Phoebus fleeing Athamanian to shores a-harbor,
qua sinus Ioniae murmura condit aquae,
where the-bay of-Ionian murmurs hides water,
Actia Iuleae pelagus monumenta carinae,
Actian of-the-Julian the-sea monuments ship,
nautarum votis non operosa via.
for-sailors prayers not laborious way.

huc mundi coiere manus: stetit aequore moles
here of-the-world met forces: stood on-the-sea a-mass
pinea, nec remis aequa favebat avis.
of-pine, nor to-oars equal favored bird.
altera classis erat Teucro damnata Quirino,
one fleet was by-Teucrian doomed Quirinus,
pilaque feminea turpiter acta manu:
and-javelins by-feminine shamefully thrown hand:
hinc Augusta ratis plenis Iovis omine velis,
on-this-side Augustan ship with-full of-Jove by-the-omen sails,
signaque iam patriae vincere docta suae.
and-standards now of-fatherland to-conquer taught its-own.
tandem acies geminos Nereus lunarat in arcus,
at-last the-battle-lines twin Nereus had-curved into arcs,
armorum et radiis picta tremebat aqua,
of-arms and with-rays painted trembled the-water,
cum Phoebus linquens stantem se vindice Delon
when Phoebus leaving standing himself as-champion Delos
(nam tulit iratos mobilis una Notos)
(for it-bore angry floating alone South-winds)
astitit Augusti puppim super, et nova flamma
stood of-Augustus the-stern over, and new flame
luxit in obliquam ter sinuata facem.
shone into slanting three-times curved torch.
non ille attulerat crinis in colla solutos
not he had-brought hair onto neck loosened
aut testudineae carmen inerme lyrae,
or of-tortoise-shell song unarmed lyre,
sed quali aspexit Pelopeum Agamemnona vultu,
but with-such looked-at Pelopid Agamemnon face,

egessitque avidis Dorica castra rogis,
and-emptied for-greedy Dorian camps pyres,
aut qualis flexos solvit Pythona per orbis
or such-as bent loosed Python through coils
serpentem, imbelles quem timuere lyrae.
the-serpent, unwarlike whom feared lyres.
mox ait 'O longa mundi servator ab Alba,
soon he-says 'O long of-the-world savior from Alba,
Auguste, Hectoreis cognite maior avis,
Augustus, than-Hector's known greater ancestors,
vince mari: iam terra tua est: tibi militat arcus
conquer by-sea: already the-land your is: for-you fights the-bow
et favet ex umeris hoc onus omne meis.
and favors from shoulders this burden all my.
solve metu patriam, quae nunc te vindice freta
free from-fear the-fatherland, which now you as-champion trusting
imposuit prorae publica vota tuae.
has-placed on-the-prow public vows your.
quam nisi defendes, murorum Romulus augur
which unless you-will-defend, of-walls Romulus augur
ire Palatinas non bene vidit avis.
to-go Palatine not well saw birds.
et nimium remis audent prope: turpe Latinis
and too-much with-oars they-dare near: shameful for-Latins
principe te fluctus regia vela pati.
as-ruler you the-waves of-a-queen sails to-endure.
nec te, quod classis centenis remiget alis,
nor you, that the-fleet with-hundred rows wings,
terreat: invito labitur illa mari:
let-terrify: unwilling glides it sea:

quodque vehunt prorae Centaurica saxa minantis,
and-that carry the-prows Centaur rocks threatening,
tigna cava et pictos experiere metus.
beams hollow and painted you-will-find terrors.
frangit et attollit vires in milite causa;
breaks and raises strength in a-soldier the-cause;
quae nisi iusta subest, excutit arma pudor.
which unless just lies-beneath, shakes-off arms shame.
tempus adest, committe ratis: ego temporis auctor
the-time is-here, engage ships: I of-the-time author
ducam laurigera Iulia rostra manu.'
shall-lead with-laurel-bearing Julian beaks hand.'
dixerat, et pharetrae pondus consumit in arcus:
he-had-spoken, and of-the-quiver the-weight uses-up on the-bow:
proxima post arcus Caesaris hasta fuit.
next after the-bow of-Caesar the-spear was.
vincit Roma fide Phoebi: dat femina poenas:
conquers Rome by-the-faith of-Phoebus: pays the-woman penalties:
sceptra per Ionias fracta vehuntur aquas.
scepters through Ionian broken are-carried waters.
at pater Idalio miratur Caesar ab astro:
but father Idalian marvels Caesar from star:
'Sum deus; est nostri sanguinis ista fides.'
'I-am a-god; is of-our blood that faith.'
prosequitur cantu Triton, omnesque marinae
follows with-song Triton, and-all sea
plauserunt circa libera signa deae.
applauded around free standards goddesses.
illa petit Nilum cumba male nixa fugaci,
she seeks the-Nile in-a-boat badly relying fleeing,

hoc unum, iusso non moritura die.
this one-thing, on-ordered not going-to-die day.
di melius! quantus mulier foret una triumphus,
the-gods better! how-great a-woman would-be one triumph,
ductus erat per quas ante Iugurtha vias!
led had-been through which before Jugurtha streets!
Actius hinc traxit Phoebus monumenta, quod eius
Actian hence drew Phoebus monuments, because his
una decem vicit missa sagitta ratis.
one ten conquered sent arrow ships.
bella satis cecini: citharam iam poscit Apollo
wars enough I-have-sung: the-lyre now demands Apollo
victor et ad placidos exuit arma choros.
victor and for calm puts-off arms dances.
candida nunc molli subeant convivia luco;
white now in-soft let-enter banquets grove;
blanditiaeque fluant per mea colla rosae,
and-of-coaxing let-flow over my neck roses,
vinaque fundantur prelis elisa Falernis,
and-wines be-poured from-presses squeezed Falernian,
terque lavet nostras spica Cilissa comas.
and-thrice let-wash our spikenard Cilician hair.
ingenium potis irritet Musa poetis:
the-talent with-drinks let-rouse the-Muse in-poets:
Bacche, soles Phoebo fertilis esse tuo.
Bacchus, you-are-wont to-Phoebus fruitful to-be your.
ille paludosos memoret servire Sycambros,
he marshy may-recall to-serve Sygambri,
Cepheam hic Meroen fuscaque regna canat,
Cephean this-one Meroe and-dark realms may-sing,

hic referat sero confessum foedere Parthum:
this-one may-tell late having-confessed with-treaty the-Parthian:
'Reddat signa Remi, mox dabit ipse sua:
'Let-him-return the-standards of-Remus, soon he-will-give himself his-own:
sive aliquid pharetris Augustus parcet Eois,
or-if anything from-the-quivers Augustus will-spare Eastern,
differat in pueros ista tropaea suos.
let-him-postpone to boys those trophies his.
gaude, Crasse, nigras si quid sapis inter harenas:
rejoice, Crassus, black if anything you-know among sands:
ire per Euphraten ad tua busta licet.'
to-go across the-Euphrates to your tomb it-is-allowed.'
sic noctem patera, sic ducam carmine, donec
so the-night with-the-bowl, so I-shall-lead with-song, until
iniciat radios in mea vina dies.
may-throw rays into my wines day.

The shades are real: Cynthia's ghost, newly buried, appears at Propertius' bed. She reproaches him for forgetting their nights in the Subura and neglecting her funeral, names the slaves who poisoned her, and complains that a new mistress punishes her old slaves and melts down her image. Yet she swears she was faithful, and places herself among the faithful in Elysium. She asks him to care for her nurse and maid, and set a short epitaph at Tibur. Now others may have him; soon she will hold him alone. Then she slips from his embrace.

Sunt aliquid Manes: letum non omnia finit,
Are something the-Shades: death not everything ends,
luridaque evictos effugit umbra rogos.
and-pale conquered escapes shade pyres.
Cynthia namque meo visa est incumbere fulcro,
Cynthia for over-my seen was to-lean couch-frame,
murmur ad extremae nuper humata viae,
murmur at of-farthest lately buried road,
cum mihi somnus ab exsequiis penderet amoris,
when for-me sleep after obsequies hung of-love,
et quererer lecti frigida regna mei.
and I-was-complaining of-bed cold realms my.
eosdem habuit secum quibus est elata capillis,
the-same she-had with-her with-which she-was borne-out hair,
eosdem oculos: lateri vestis adusta fuit,
the-same eyes: on-the-side the-dress scorched was,
et solitum digito beryllon adederat ignis,
and accustomed on-finger beryl had-eaten the-fire,
summaque Lethaeus triverat ora liquor.
and-the-top Lethean had-worn lips liquid.

spirantisque animos et vocem misit: at illi
and-breathing spirit and voice sent: but her
pollicibus fragiles increpuere manus:
with-thumbs brittle cracked hands:
'Perfide nec cuiquam melior sperande puellae,
'Faithless-one nor to-any better to-be-hoped-for girl,
in te iam vires somnus habere potest?
over you already power sleep to-have can?
iamne tibi exciderant vigilacis furta Suburae
already from-you had-fallen-away of-the-wakeful the-thefts Subura
et mea nocturnis trita fenestra dolis?
and my by-nocturnal worn window tricks?
per quam demisso quotiens tibi fune pependi,
through which by-let-down how-often for-you rope I-hung,
alterna veniens in tua colla manu!
alternate coming onto your neck hand!
saepe Venus trivio commissa est, pectore mixto
often Venus at-the-crossroads committed was, with-breast mingled
fecerunt tepidas pallia nostra vias.
made warm cloaks our roads.
foederis heu taciti, cuius fallacia verba
of-the-pact alas silent, whose deceitful words
non audituri diripuere Noti.
not going-to-hear have-torn-apart the-South-winds.
at mihi non oculos quisquam inclamavit euntis:
but for-me not eyes anyone called-out going:
unum impetrassem te revocante diem:
one I-would-have-obtained you calling-back day:
nec crepuit fissa me propter harundine custos,
nor rattled with-split me on-account-of reed the-guard,

laesit et obiectum tegula curta caput.
hurt and thrown-against tile broken head.
denique quis nostro curvum te funere vidit,
finally who at-our bent you funeral saw,
atram quis lacrimis incaluisse togam?
black who with-tears to-have-grown-warm toga?
si piguit portas ultra procedere, at illuc
if it-irked the-gates beyond to-go-forth, yet thither
iussisses lectum lentius ire meum.
you-should-have-bidden bier more-slowly to-go my.
cur ventos non ipse rogis, ingrate, petisti?
why winds not yourself for-pyres, ungrateful-one, did-you-seek?
cur nardo flammae non oluere meae?
why of-nard flames not smelled my?
hoc etiam grave erat, nulla mercede hyacinthos
this even heavy was, at-no price hyacinths
inicere et fracto busta piare cado.
to-throw-on and with-broken tomb to-honor jar.
Lygdamus uratur, candescat lammina vernae:
Lygdamus let-him-be-burned, let-glow plate for-the-slave:
sensi ego, cum insidiis pallida vina bibi.
felt I, when by-tricks pale wines I-drank.
aut Nomas arcanas tollat versuta salivas:
or Nomas secret let-remove crafty spittle:
dicet damnatas ignea testa manus.
will-tell condemned fiery the-tile hands.
quae modo per vilis inspecta est publica noctes,
she-who lately through cheap seen was public nights,
haec nunc aurata cyclade signat humum,
she now with-golden robe marks the-ground,

et graviora rependit iniquis pensa quasillis,
and heavier repays to-unjust wool-tasks baskets,
garrula de facie si qua locuta mea est;
chattering about face if any spoken my has;
nostraque quod Petale tulit ad monumenta coronas,
and-our because Petale brought to monument garlands,
codicis immundi vincula sentit anus;
of-a-block filthy the-chains feels the-old-woman;
caeditur et Lalage tortis suspensa capillis,
is-beaten and Lalage by-twisted hung hair,
per nomen quoniam est ausa rogare meum.
by name because has dared to-ask my.
te patiente meae conflavit imaginis aurum,
you allowing of-my melted-down the-image gold,
ardente e nostro dotem habitura rogo.
blazing from our dowry going-to-have pyre.
non tamen insector, quamvis mereare, Properti:
not still I-attack, although you-may-deserve, Propertius:
longa mea in libris regna fuere tuis.
long my in books reigns were your.
iuro ego Fatorum nulli revolubile carmen,
swear I of-the-Fates to-none reversible song,
tergeminusque canis sic mihi molle sonet,
and-three-fold the-dog so for-me gently may-sound,
me servasse fidem, si fallo, vipera nostris
me to-have-kept faith, if I-deceive, a-viper our
sibilet in tumulis et super ossa cubet.
may-biss in tombs and over bones may-lie.
nam gemina est sedes turpem sortita per amnem,
for twin is the-seat foul having-been-allotted along river,

turbaque diversa remigat omnis aqua.
and-the-crowd on-opposite rows every water.
una Clytaemestrae stuprum vehit, altera Cressae
one of-Clytemnestra the-lust carries, the-other of-the-Cretan
portat mentitae lignea monstra bovis.
carries false wooden monsters cow.
ecce coronato pars altera rapta phaselo,
behold on-garlanded part other snatched pinnace,
mulcet ubi Elysias aura beata rosas,
soothes where Elysian breeze blessed roses,
qua numerosa fides, quaque aera rotunda Cybelles
where measured lyre, and-where cymbals round of-Cybele
mitratisque sonant Lydia plectra choris.
and-with-turbaned sound Lydian plectra dances.
Andromedeque et Hypermestre sine fraude maritae
and-Andromeda and Hypermestra without guile wives
narrant historiae pectora nota suae:
tell of-history breasts known their:
haec sua maternis queritur livere catenis
she her with-maternal complains to-be-bruised chains
bracchia nec meritas frigida saxa manus;
arms nor deserving cold rocks hands;
narrat Hypermestre magnum ausas esse sorores,
tells Hypermestra great-crime dared to-have the-sisters,
in scelus hoc animum non valuisse suum.
toward crime this mind not to-have-been-able her.
sic mortis lacrimis vitae sanamus amores:
so of-death with-tears of-life we-heal loves:
celo ego perfidiae crimina multa tuae.
conceal I of-treachery crimes many your.

sed tibi nunc mandata damus, si forte moveris
but to-you now commands we-give, if perhaps you-are-moved
si te non totum Chloridos herba tenet:
if you not wholly of-Chloris the-herb holds:
nutrix in tremulis ne quid desideret annis
the-nurse in trembling lest anything may-lack years
Parthenie: potuit, nec tibi avara fuit.
Parthenie: she-could, nor to-you greedy was.
deliciaeque meae Latris, cui nomen ab usu est,
and-darling my Latris, to-whom a-name from use is,
ne speculum dominae porrigat illa novae.
lest the-mirror to-a-mistress may-hold-out she new.
et quoscumque meo fecisti nomine versus,
and whatever in-my you-made name verses,
ure mihi: laudes desine habere meas.
burn for-me: praises cease to-have my.
pelle hederam tumulo, mihi quae pugnante corymbo
drive ivy from-tomb, for-me which with-struggling cluster
molli contortis alligat ossa comis.
with-soft twisted binds bones tendrils.
ramosis Anio qua pomifer incubat arvis,
with-branching Anio where fruit-bearing broods fields,
et numquam Herculeo numine pallet ebur,
and never by-Herculean divinity grows-pale ivory,
hic carmen media dignum me scribe columna,
here a-song on-the-middle-of worthy-of me write column,
sed breve, quod currens vector ab urbe legat:
but brief, which running traveler from the-city may-read:
“Hic Tiburtina iacet aurea Cynthia terra:
“Here in-Tiburtine lies golden Cynthia earth:

accessit ripae laus, Aniene, tuae."
has-come to-the-bank glory, Anio, your."
nec tu sperne piis venientia somnia portis:
nor you scorn through-dutiful coming dreams gates:
cum pia venerunt somnia, pondus habent.
when dutiful have-come dreams, weight they-have.
nocte vagae ferimur, nox clausas liberat umbras,
by-night wandering we-are-carried, night shut-in frees shades,
errat et abiecta Cerberus ipse sera.
wanders and thrown-away Cerberus himself bolt.
luce iubent leges Lethaea ad stagna reverti:
at-dawn bid the-laws Lethean to pools to-return:
nos vehimur, vectum nauta recenset onus.
we are-ferried, carried the-boatman counts-over load.
nunc te possideant aliae: mox sola tenebo:
now you may-possess others: soon alone I-shall-hold:
mecum eris, et mixtis ossibus ossa teram.'
with-me you-will-be, and with-mingled bones bones I-shall-grind.'
haec postquam querula mecum sub lite peregit,
these-things after plaintive with-me in quarrel she-finished,
inter complexus excidit umbra meos.
between embraces fell-away the-shade my.

Cynthia has gone to Lanuvium driving her own ponies, with a rich young fop. To console himself Propertius invites two girls, Phyllis and Teia, to a feast, with Lygdamus serving and a dwarf playing, but the dice go badly and his thoughts wander. Suddenly Cynthia bursts in, routs the girls, beats and bites him, and drags out Lygdamus. She grants peace on her terms: no more strolling at the theater or the portico, and Lygdamus sold. Then she purifies the house, and they make up in bed.

Disce, quid Esquilias hac nocte fugarit aquosas,
Learn, what the-Esquiline on-this night has-put-to-flight watery,
cum vicina novis turba cucurrit agris.
when neighboring over-new the-crowd ran fields.
Lanuvium annosi vetus est tutela draconis,
Lanuvium of-an-aged ancient is the-ward serpent,
hic ubi tam rarae non perit hora morae;
here where so rare not is-wasted the-hour of-delay;
qua sacer abripitur caeco descensus hiatu,
where sacred is-snatched-down in-blind descent chasm,
qua penetrat (virgo, tale iter omne cave!)
where penetrates (maiden, such journey every beware!)
ieiuni serpentis honos, cum pabula poscit
of-the-fasting serpent the-honor, when food he-demands
annua et ex ima sibila torquet humo.
yearly and from deepest hisses twists ground.
talia demissae pallent ad sacra puellae,
such sent-down grow-pale to rites girls,
cum temere anguino creditur ore manus.
when rashly to-the-snaky is-entrusted mouth hand.
ille sibi admotas a virgine corripit escas:
he for-himself moved-near by the-maiden snatches food:

virginis in palmis ipsa canistra tremunt.
of-the-maiden in palms themselves the-baskets tremble.
si fuerint castae, redeunt in colla parentum,
if they-have-been chaste, they-return to the-neck of-parents,
clamantque agricolae 'Fertilis annus erit.'
and-cry the-farmers 'Fruitful the-year will-be.'
huc mea detonsis avecta est Cynthia mannis:
hither my with-clipped carried was Cynthia ponies:
causa fuit Iuno, sed mage causa Venus.
the-cause was Juno, but more the-cause Venus.
Appia, dic quaeso, quantum te teste triumphum
Appian-Way, tell I-pray, how-great you as-witness a-triumph
egerit effusis per tua saxa rotis,
she-drove with-headlong over your stones wheels,
turpis in arcana sonuit cum rixa taberna;
shameful in secret sounded when a-brawl tavern;
si sine me, famae non sine labe meae.
if without me, of-reputation not without stain my.
spectaclum ipsa sedens primo temone pependit,
a-spectacle herself sitting on-the-front pole hung,
ausa per impuros frena movere locos.
having-dared through impure reins to-ply places.
Serica nam taceo vulsi carpenta nepotis
the-Seric for I-pass-over of-the-plucked carriages spendthrift
atque armillatos colla Molossa canis,
and bracelet-wearing on-the-neck Molossian dogs,
qui dabit immundae venalia fata saginae,
who will-give of-filthy for-sale fates fattening,
vincet ubi erasas barba pudenda genas.
will-conquer when shaved beard shameful cheeks.

cum fieret nostro totiens iniuria lecto,
since was-done to-our so-often injury bed,
multato volui castra movere toro.
penalized I-wished camp to-move couch.
Phyllis Aventinae quaedam est vicina Dianae,
Phyllis of-Aventine a-certain is neighbor Diana,
sobria grata parum: cum bibit, omne decet.
sober pleasing too-little: when she-drinks, everything becomes(-her).
altera Tarpeios est inter Teia lucos,
another the-Tarpeian is among Teia groves,
candida, sed potae non satis unus erit.
fair, but when-drunk not enough one will-be.
his ego constitui noctem lenire vocatis,
these I decided the-night to-soften summoned,
et Venere ignota furta novare mea.
and with-Venus unfamiliar thefts to-renew my.
unus erat tribus in secreta lectulus herba.
one was for-three in secluded little-couch grass.
quaeris concubitus? inter utramque fui.
you-ask the-arrangement? between both I-was.
Lygdamus ad cyathos, vitrique aestiva supellex
Lygdamus at the-ladles, and-of-glass summer furniture
et Methymnaei Graeca saliva meri.
and of-Methymnaean Greek savor wine.
Nile, tuus tibicen erat, crotalistria Phyllis,
Nile, your flute-player was, castanet-girl Phyllis,
et facilis spargi munda sine arte rosa,
and easy to-be-strewn neat without art rose,
Magnus et ipse suos breviter concretus in artus
Magnus and himself his briefly shrunk into limbs

iactabat truncas ad cava buxa manus.
was-tossing stumpy to hollow boxwood hands.
sed neque suppletis constabat flamma lucernis,
but neither refilled stood-firm flame lamps,
reccidit inque suos mensa supina pedes.
fell-back and-onto its the-table upturned feet.
me quoque per talos Venerem quaerente secundos
me too through dice Venus seeking favorable
semper damnosi subsiluere canes.
always ruinous jumped-up the-dogs.
cantabant surdo, nudabant pectora caeco:
they-were-singing to-deaf, they-were-baring breasts to-blind:
Lanuvii ad portas, ei mihi, solus eram;
of-Lanuvium at the-gates, ah me, alone I-was;
cum subito rauci sonuerunt cardine postes,
when suddenly hoarse sounded on-hinge doorposts,
et levia ad primos murmura facta Laris.
and light at first murmurs made Lar.
nec mora, cum totas resupinat Cynthia valvas,
nor delay, when whole flings-back Cynthia doors,
non operosa comis, sed furibunda decens.
not elaborate in-hair, but raging becoming.
pocula mi digitos inter cecidere remissos,
the-cups from-me fingers between fell relaxed,
pallueruntque ipso labra soluta mero.
and-grew-pale with-very lips loosened wine.
fulminat illa oculis et quantum femina saevit.
flashes-lightning she with-eyes and as-much-as a-woman rages.
spectaclum capta nec minus urbe fuit.
a-spectacle than-a-captured nor less city it-was.

Phyllidos iratos in vultum conicit unguis:
of-Phyllis angry into face she-hurls nails:
territa vicinas Teia clamat aquas.
terrified neighboring Teia calls-out waters.
lumina sopitos turbant elata Quiritis,
lights sleeping disturb raised Quirites,
omnis et insana semita nocte sonat.
all and with-mad lane night resounds.
illas direptisque comis tunicisque solutis
them and-with-torn-out hair and-tunics loosened
excipit obscurae prima taberna viae.
takes-in of-dark the-first tavern street.
Cynthia gaudet in exuviis victrixque recurrit
Cynthia rejoices in spoils and-victorious runs-back
et mea perversa sauciat ora manu,
and my with-reversed wounds face hand,
imponitque notam collo morsuque cruentat,
and-sets a-mark on-neck and-with-a-bite bloodies,
praecipueque oculos, qui meruere, ferit.
and-especially eyes, which deserved, strikes.
atque ubi iam nostris lassavit bracchia plagis,
and when now on-our she-had-tired arms blows,
Lygdamus ad plutei fulcra sinistra latens
Lygdamus at of-the-couch-back frame left hiding
eruitur, geniumque meum protractus adorat.
is-dragged-out, and-the-genius my dragged-forth he-worships.
Lygdame, nil potui: tecum ego captus eram.
Lygdamus, nothing could-I: with-you I captured was.
supplicibus palmis tum demum ad foedera veni,
with-suppliant palms then at-last to terms I-came,

cum vix tangendos praebuit illa pedes,
when hardly to-be-touched offered she feet,
atque ait 'Admissae si vis me ignoscere culpae,
and says 'Of-admitted if you-wish me to-pardon fault,
accipe, quae nostrae formula legis erit.
receive, what of-our the-formula law will-be.
tu neque Pompeia spatiabere cultus in umbra,
you neither Pompey's will-stroll dressed-up in shade,
nec cum lascivum sternet harena Forum.
nor when wanton shall-strew sand Forum.
colla cave inflectas ad summum obliqua theatrum,
neck beware you-bend toward highest slanting theater,
aut lectica tuae se det aperta morae.
or a-litter to-your itself may-offer open lingering.
Lygdamus in primis, omnis mihi causa querelae,
Lygdamus among first-things, of-all for-me cause complaint,
veneat et pedibus vincula bina trahat.'
let-him-be-sold and on-feet chains double let-him-drag.'
indixit legem: respondi ego 'Legibus utar.'
she-proclaimed the-law: answered I 'Laws I-will-observe.'
riserat imperio facta superba dato.
she-had-laughed at-command made proud given.
dein quemcumque locum externae tetigere puellae,
then whatever place foreign had-touched girls,
suffiit, at pura limina tergit aqua,
she-fumigated, and with-pure thresholds wipes water,
imperat et totas iterum mutare lacernas,
orders and whole again to-change cloaks,
terque meum tetigit sulpuris igne caput.
and-thrice my touched of-sulfur with-fire head.

atque ita mutato per singula pallia lecto
and so changed through each coverlet bed
respondi, et toto solvimus arma toro.
I-responded, and on-whole we-laid-down arms couch.

IV.9 · HERCULES AND THE BONA DEA

Hercules, driving his cattle from Erythea, rests them at the Palatine; Cacus drags some backward into his cave, but their lowing betrays him, and Hercules clubs him dead. Parched, he hears girls in a shrine of the women's goddess and begs them for water. The priestess refuses, since the rite bars men; he bursts the doors, drinks, and founds the Ara Maxima, barred to women. Propertius hails him as Sanctus, as Tatius' Cures named him.

Amphitryoniades qua tempestate iuvencos
The-son-of-Amphitryon at-what time bullocks
egerat a stabulis, o Erythea, tuis,
had-driven from stalls, O Erythea, your,
venit ad invictos pecorosa Palatia montis,
came to unconquered rich-in-herds Palatine hills,
et statuit fessos fessus et ipse boves,
and halted weary weary and himself oxen,
qua Velabra suo stagnabant flumine quoque
where the-Velabrum with-its flooded stream and-where
nauta per urbanas velificabat aquas.
the-sailor over city sailed waters.
sed non infido manserunt hospite Caco
but not with-faithless remained host Cacus
incolumes: furto polluit ille Iovem.
unharmed: by-theft defiled he Jove.

incola Cacus erat, metuendo raptor ab antro,
an-inhabitant Cacus was, dreaded robber from cave,
per tria partitos qui dabat ora sonos.
through three divided who gave mouths sounds.
hic, ne certa forent manifestae signa rapinae,
he, lest certain might-be of-manifest signs robbery,
aversos cauda traxit in antra boves,
backward by-the-tail dragged into caves oxen,
nec sine teste deo: furem sonuere iuvenci,
nor without witness the-god: the-thief lowed the-bullocks,
furis et implacidas diruit ira fores.
of-the-thief and stormy demolished anger doors.
Maenalio iacuit pulsus tria tempora ramo
with-Maenalian lay struck three temples club
Cacus, et Alcides sic ait: 'Ite boves,
Cacus, and Alcides so says: 'Go oxen,
Herculis ite boves, nostrae labor ultime clavae,
of-Hercules go oxen, of-our labor last club,
bis mihi quaesitae, bis mea praeda, boves,
twice by-me sought, twice my booty, oxen,
arvaque mugitu sancite Bovaria longo:
and-fields with-lowing hallow Cattle long:
nobile erit Romae pascua vestra Forum.'
noble will-be of-Rome pasture your Forum.'
dixerat, et sicco torquet sitis ora palato,
he-had-spoken, and with-dry twists thirst mouth palate,
terraque non ullas feta ministrat aquas.
and-the-earth not any teeming supplies waters.
sed procul inclusas audit ridere puellas.
but far shut-in he-hears to-laugh girls.

lucus ab umbroso fecerat orbe nemus,
a-grove from shady had-made circle wood,
femineae loca clausa deae fontisque piandos,
of-the-female places shut goddess and-springs to-be-hallowed,
impune et nullis sacra retecta viris.
unpunished and to-no rites uncovered men.
devia puniceae velabant limina vittae,
remote purple veiled thresholds fillets,
putris odorato luxerat igne casa,
crumbling with-fragrant had-shone fire hut,
populus et longis ornabat frondibus aedem,
the-poplar and with-long adorned leaves the-shrine,
multaque cantantis umbra tegebat avis.
and-much singing shade covered birds.
huc ruit in siccam congesta pulvere barbam,
hither he-rushes on dry heaped with-dust beard,
et iacit ante fores verba minora deo:
and throws before the-doors words lesser than-a-god:
'Vos precor, o luci sacro quae luditis antro,
'You I-pray, O of-the-grove in-sacred who play cave,
pandite defessis hospita fana viris.
open to-wearied hospitable shrines men.
fontis egens erro circaque sonantia lymphis,
a-spring lacking I-wander and-around sounding with-waters,
et cava suscepto flumine palma sat est.
and hollow taken-up stream palm enough is.
audistisne aliquem, tergo qui sustulit orbem?
have-you-heard-of someone, on-back who lifted the-world?
ille ego sum: Alciden terra recepta vocat.
he I am: Alcides the-earth received calls.

quis facta Herculeae non audit fortia clavae
who deeds of-Herculean not hears brave club
et numquam ad vastas irrita tela feras,
and never at huge vain weapons beasts,
atque uni Stygias homini luxisse tenebras?
and for-one Stygian man to-have-dawned darkness?
quodsi Iunoni sacrum faceretis amarae,
but-if to-Juno a-rite you-were-making bitter,
non clausisset aquas ipsa noverca suas.
not would-have-shut waters herself the-stepmother her.
sin aliquem vultusque meus saetaeque leonis
but-if anyone and-face my and-the-bristles of-the-lion
terrent et Libyco sole perusta coma,
frighten and by-Libyan sun scorched hair,
idem ego Sidonia feci servilia palla
the-same I in-Sidonian performed slavish robe
officia et Lydo pensa diurna colo,
services and on-Lydian tasks daily distaff,
mollis et hirsutum cepit mihi fascia pectus,
soft and shaggy took for-me a-band breast,
et manibus duris apta puella fui.'
and with-hands hard fitting a-girl I-was.'
talibus Alcides; at talibus alma sacerdos,
with-such-things Alcides; but with-such kindly priestess,
puniceo canas stamine vincta comas:
with-purple white thread bound hair:
'Parce oculis, hospes, lucoque abscede verendo
'Spare eyes, stranger, and-from-the-grove withdraw to-be-revered
cede agedum et tuta limina linque fuga.
yield come-on and in-safe thresholds leave flight.

interdicta viris metuenda lege piatur,
forbidden to-men by-dread law is-expiated,
quae se summota vindicat ara casa.
which itself in-remote protects altar hut.
magno Tiresias aspexit Pallada vates,
at-great-cost Tiresias saw Pallas bard,
fortia dum posita Gorgone membra lavat.
brave while laid-aside Gorgon limbs she-washes.
di tibi dent alios fontis: haec lympha puellis
the-gods to-you may-give other springs: this water for-girls
avia secreti limitis una fluit.'
remote of-secret path alone flows.'
sic anus: ille umeris postis concussit opacos,
so the-old-woman: he with-shoulders doorposts shook dark,
nec tulit iratam ianua clausa sitim.
nor bore angry the-door shut thirst.
at postquam exhausto iam flumine vicerat aestum,
but after drained now stream he-had-conquered heat,
ponit vix siccis tristia iura labris:
he-lays-down hardly with-dry stern laws lips:
'Angulus hic mundi nunc me mea fata trahentem
'Corner this of-the-world now me my fates dragging
accipit: haec fesso vix mihi terra patet.
receives: this to-wearied hardly me land lies-open.
Maxima quae gregibus devota est Ara repertis,
Greatest which for-herds dedicated is Altar found,
ara per has' inquit 'maxima facta manus,
altar by these' he-says 'greatest made hands,
haec nullis umquam pateat veneranda puellis,
this to-no ever may-it-lie-open to-be-revered girls,

Herculis exclusi ne sit inulta sitis.'
of-Hercules shut-out lest be unavenged thirst.'

Sancte pater salve, cui iam favet aspera Iuno:
Holy father hail, on-whom now smiles harsh Juno:

Sancte, velis libro dexter inesse meo.
Holy-one, may-you-wish to-book favorable to-be-in my.

hunc, quoniam manibus purgatum sanxerat orbem,
him, since by-hands cleansed had-hallowed world,

sic Sanctum Tatiae composuere Cures.
so as-Sanctus Tatian named Cures.

IV.10 · JUPITER FERETRIUS

Propertius explains the name of Jupiter Feretrius and the three spoils in his temple, each taken by a Roman commander from an enemy leader. Romulus killed Acron of Caenina; Cossus killed Tolumnius of Veii; Claudius, driving back enemies who had crossed from the Rhine, killed the Belgic leader Virdomarus, who claimed the Rhine as his ancestor. The name comes either from one leader striking (ferit) another, or from their carrying (ferebant) the arms on their shoulders.

Nunc Iovis incipiam causas aperire Feretri
Now of-Jove I-shall-begin the-causes to-open Feretrius

armaque de ducibus trina recepta tribus.
and-arms from leaders threefold taken three.

magnum iter ascendo, sed dat mihi gloria vires:
great path I-climb, but gives to-me glory strength:

non iuvat e facili lecta corona iugo.
not pleases from easy gathered a-crown ridge.

imbuis exemplum primae tu, Romule, palmae
you-inaugurate the-example of-the-first you, Romulus, palm

huius, et exuvio plenus ab hoste redis,
this, and with-spoils full from an-enemy you-return,
tempore quo portas Caeninum Acronta petentem
at-the-time when the-gates Caeninian Acron seeking
victor in eversum cuspide fundis equum.
victor onto overturned with-spear you-hurl horse.
Acron Herculeus Caenina ductor ab arce,
Acron Herculean of-Caenina leader from citadel,
Roma, tuis quondam finibus horror erat.
Rome, to-your once borders a-terror was.
hic spolia ex umeris ausus sperare Quirini
he spoils from the-shoulders having-dared to-hope of-Quirinus
ipse dedit, sed non sanguine sicca suo.
himself gave, but not with-blood dry his-own.
hunc videt ante cavas librantem spicula turris
him sees before hollow poising darts towers
Romulus et votis occupat ante ratis:
Romulus and with-vows seizes beforehand ratified:
'Iuppiter, haec hodie tibi victima corruet Acron.'
'Jupiter, this today to-you victim will-fall Acron.'
voverat, et spolium corruit ille Iovi.
he-had-vowed, and as-spoil fell he to-Jove.
Urbis virtutisque parens sic vincere suevit,
of-the-City and-of-valor the-father so to-conquer was-wont,
qui tulit a parco frigida castra lare.
who bore from frugal cold camp hearth.
idem eques et frenis, idem fuit aptus aratris,
the-same horseman and for-reins, the-same was fit for-plows,
et galea hirsuta compta lupina iuba.
and with-helmet shaggy adorned with-wolfish crest.

picta neque inducto fulgebat parma pyropo:
painted nor with-overlaid gleamed shield bronze-alloy:
praebebant caesi baltea lenta boves.
provided slain sword-belts pliant oxen.
Cossus at insequitur Veientis caede Tolumni,
Cossus but follows of-Veientine with-the-slaughter Tolumnius,
vincere cum Veios posse laboris erat,
to-conquer when Veii to-be-able of-toil it-was,
necdum ultra Tiberim belli sonus, ultima praeda
nor-yet beyond the-Tiber of-war the-sound, the-last booty
Nomentum et captae iugera terna Corae.
Nomentum and of-captured acres three Cora.
heu Vei veteres! et vos tum regna fuistis,
alas Veii ancient! and you then a-kingdom were,
et vestro posita est aurea sella foro:
and in-your placed was golden chair forum:
nunc intra muros pastoris bucina lenti
now within walls of-a-shepherd the-horn slow
cantat, et in vestris ossibus arva metunt.
sings, and amid your bones fields they-reap.
forte super portae dux Veius astitit arcem
by-chance over of-the-gate the-leader Veientine stood citadel
colloquiumque sua fretus ab urbe dedit:
and-a-parley his trusting-in from city gave:
dumque aries murum cornu pulsabat aeno,
and-while the-ram the-wall with-horn was-striking bronze,
vinea qua ductum longa tegebat opus,
the-mantlet where drawn long was-covering work,
Cossus ait 'Forti melius concurrere campo.'
Cossus says 'For-the-brave better to-clash on-the-plain.'

nec mora fit, plano sistit uterque gradum.
nor delay is-made, on-level sets each step.
di Latias iuvere manus, desecta Tolumni
the-gods Latin helped hands, cut-off of-Tolumnius
cervix Romanos sanguine lavit equos.
neck Roman with-blood washed horses.
Claudius a Rheno traiectos arcuit hostis,
Claudius from the-Rhine crossed kept-off enemies,
Belgica cum vasti parma relata ducis
Belgic when of-huge shield brought-back leader
Virdomari, genus hic Rheno iactabat ab ipso,
of-Virdomarus, his-race he the-Rhine boasted from itself,
mobilis e rectis fundere gaesa rotis.
nimble from straight to-hurl javelins wheels.
illi virgatis iaculantis ab agmine bracis
from-him in-striped hurling from the-column trousers
torquis ab incisa decidit unca gula.
the-torque from cut fell curved throat.
nunc spolia in templo tria condita: causa Feretri,
now spoils in the-temple three stored: the-cause of-Feretrius,
omine quod certo dux ferit ense ducem;
by-omen because sure leader strikes with-sword leader;
seu quia victa suis umeris haec arma ferebant,
or because conquered on-their shoulders these arms they-carried,
hinc Feretri dicta est ara superba Iovis.
hence of-Feretrius called is the-altar proud Jove.

The dead Cornelia bids Paullus stop weeping and pleads her case below: born of the Scipios, married once, true to the censor's law, and mourned by Rome and Caesar. She commends their children to him and prays to be worthy of heaven.

Desine, Paulle, meum lacrimis urgere sepulcrum:
Cease, Paullus, my with-tears to-press tomb:
panditur ad nullas ianua nigra preces;
is-opened to no door black prayers;
cum semel infernas intrarunt funera leges,
when once infernal have-entered the-dead laws,
non exorato stant adamante viae.
not with-unentreated stand adamant the-ways.
te licet orantem fuscae deus audiat aulae:
you though praying of-dark the-god may-hear hall:
nempe tuas lacrimas litora surda bibent,
surely your tears shores deaf will-drink,
vota movent superos: ubi portitor aera recepit,
vows move the-gods-above: when the-ferryman the-coin has-received,
obserat herbosos lurida porta rogos.
bars grassy pale the-gate pyres.
sic maestae cecinere tubae, cum subdita nostrum
so sad sang trumpets, when placed-beneath my
detraheret lecto fax inimica caput.
dragged-down from-the-bier torch hostile head.
quid mihi coniugium Paulli, quid currus avorum
what to-me the-marriage of-Paullus, what the-chariots of-ancestors
profuit aut famae pignora tanta meae?
has-profited or of-fame pledges so-great my?

non minus immitis habuit Cornelia Parcas:
not less cruel had Cornelia Fates:
et sum, quod digitis quinque legatur, onus.
and I-am, what with-fingers five may-be-gathered, a-burden.
damnatae noctes et vos vada lenta paludes,
damned nights and you shallows sluggish marshes,
et quaecumque meos implicat unda pedes,
and whatever my entangles wave feet,
immatura licet, tamen huc non noxia veni:
untimely though, still hither not guilty I-have-come:
det pater hic umbrae mollia iura meae.
may-give father here to-shade gentle judgment my.
aut si quis posita iudex sedet Aeacus urna,
or if any placed judge sits Aeacus urn,
in mea sortita vindicet ossa pila:
on my drawn may-be-avenge bones ballot:
assideant fratres iuxta, Minoia sella, et
may-sit-beside brothers near, the-Minoan chair, and
Eumenidum intento turba severa foro.
of-the-Eumenides on-attentive crowd stern forum.
Sisyphe, mole vaces; taceant Ixionis orbes;
Sisyphus, from-the-mass be-free; let-be-silent of-Ixion the-wheels;
fallax Tantaleus corripiare liquor;
deceptive Tantalean may-you-be-caught liquid;
Cerberus et nullas hodie petat improbus umbras;
Cerberus and no today may-attack wicked shades;
et iaceat tacita laxa catena sera.
and may-lie with-silent slack the-chain bolt.
ipsa loquor pro me: si fallo, poena sororum
myself I-speak for myself: if I-deceive, the-punishment of-the-sisters

infelix umeros urgeat urna meos.
unlucky shoulders may-press urn my.
si cui fama fuit per avita tropaea decori,
if to-anyone fame was through ancestral trophies an-honor,
Afra Numantinos regna loquuntur avos:
African Numantine realms speak ancestors:
altera maternos exaequat turba Libones,
another maternal equals crowd Libos,
et domus est titulis utraque fulta suis.
and the-house is by-titles each propped its-own.
mox, ubi iam facibus cessit praetexta maritis,
soon, when now to-the-torches yielded the-bordered-toga marital,
vinxit et acceptas altera vitta comas,
bound and taken-up another fillet hair,
iungor, Paulle, tuo sic discessura cubili:
I-am-joined, Paullus, to-your so going-to-depart bed:
in lapide hoc uni nupta fuisse legar.
on stone this to-one married to-have-been I-shall-be-read.
testor maiorum cineres tibi, Roma, verendos,
I-call-to-witness of-ancestors the-ashes by-you, Rome, to-be-revered,
sub quorum titulis, Africa, tunsa iaces,
under whose titles, Africa, beaten-down you-lie,
et Persen proavi stimulantem pectus Achilli,
and Perseus of-ancestor stirring heart Achilles,
quique tuas proavo fregit Achille domos,
and-who your through-ancestor broke Achilles houses,
me neque censurae legem mollisse neque ulla
me neither of-the-censorship the-law to-have-softened nor by-any
labe mea nostros erubuisse focos.
stain my our to-have-blushed hearths.

non fuit exuviis tantis Cornelia damnum:
not was to-spoils so-great Cornelia a-loss:
quin et erat magnae pars imitanda domus.
nay even was of-great part to-be-imitated house.
nec mea mutata est aetas, sine crimine tota est:
nor my changed has-been life, without reproach whole it-is:
viximus insignes inter utramque facem.
I-have-lived distinguished between each torch.
mi natura dedit leges a sanguine ductas,
to-me nature gave laws from blood drawn,
ne possem melior iudicis esse metu.
that-not I-could better of-a-judge be through-fear.
quaelibet austeras de me ferat urna tabellas:
any stern about me may-bring urn tablets:
turpior assessu non erit ulla meo,
more-disgraced by-sitting-with not will-be any my,
vel tu, quae tardam movisti fune Cybellen,
or you, who slow moved with-a-rope Cybele,
Claudia, turritae rara ministra deae,
Claudia, of-turreted rare minister goddess,
vel cui, iuratos cum Vesta reposceret ignis,
or (she)-for-whom, sworn when Vesta was-demanding-back fires,
exhibuit vivos carbasus alba focos.
showed living linen white hearths.
nec te, dulce caput, mater Scribonia, laesi:
nor you, sweet head, mother Scribonia, have-I-hurt:
in me mutatum quid nisi fata velis?
in me changed what except fate would-you-wish?
maternis laudor lacrimis urbisque querelis,
by-maternal I-am-praised tears and-of-the-city by-laments,

defensa et gemitu Caesaris ossa mea.
defended and by-the-groaning of-Caesar bones my.
ille sua nata dignam vixisse sororem
he of-his daughter worthy to-have-lived sister
increpat, et lacrimas vidimus ire deo.
laments, and tears I-saw to-flow from-the-god.
et tamen emerui generosos vestis honores,
and still I-have-earned noble of-the-robe honors,
nec mea de sterili facta rapina domo.
nor my from barren made seizure house.
tu, Lepide, et tu, Paulle, meum post fata levamen,
you, Lepidus, and you, Paullus, my after death relief,
condita sunt vestro lumina nostra sinu.
closed were in-your eyes our bosom.
vidimus et fratrem sellam geminasse curulem;
I-saw and the-brother the-chair to-have-doubled curule;
consule quo facto, tempore rapta soror.
consul when made, at-the-time snatched the-sister.
filia, tu specimen censurae nata paternae,
daughter, you a-pattern of-censorship born paternal,
fac teneas unum nos imitata virum.
see-to-it you-keep one me having-imitated husband.
et serie fulcite genus: mihi cumba volenti
and with-succession prop-up the-race: for-me the-boat willing
solvitur aucturis tot mea fata meis.
is-loosed going-to-increase so-many my fate my.
haec est feminei merces extrema triumphi,
this is of-feminine the-reward last triumph,
laudat ubi emeritum libera fama rogum.
praises when well-earned free fame pyre.

nunc tibi commendo communia pignora natos:
now to-you I-commend common pledges children:
haec cura et cineri spirat inusta meo.
this care even in-the-ash breathes burned-in my.
fungere maternis vicibus, pater: illa meorum
perform maternal duties, father: that of-mine
omnis erit collo turba ferenda tuo.
all will-be on-neck crowd to-be-carried your.
oscula cum dederis tua flentibus, adice matris:
kisses when you-shall-have-given yours to-the-weeping, add of-the-mother:
tota domus coepit nunc onus esse tuum.
whole the-house has-begun now a-burden to-be your.
et si quid doliturus eris, sine testibus illis!
and if anything going-to-grieve you-will-be, without witnesses them!
cum venient, siccis oscula falle genis!
when they-will-come, with-dry kisses deceive cheeks!
sat tibi sint noctes, quas de me, Paulle, fatiges,
enough to-you let-be the-nights, which about me, Paullus, you-may-weary,
somniaque in faciem credita saepe meam:
and-dreams into likeness believed often my:
atque ubi secreto nostra ad simulacra loqueris,
and when in-secret our to likenesses you-will-speak,
ut responsurae singula verba iace.
as going-to-answer each words throw.
seu tamen adversum mutarit ianua lectum,
or-if however opposite shall-have-changed the-door bed,
sederit et nostro cauta noverca toro,
shall-have-sat and on-our cautious a-stepmother couch,
coniugium, pueri, laudate et ferte paternum:
the-marriage, boys, praise and bear paternal:

capta dabit vestris moribus illa manus.
captured will-give to-your ways she hands.
nec matrem laudate nimis: collata priori
nor the-mother praise too-much: compared to-the-former
vertet in offensas libera verba suas.
she-will-turn into offenses free words her.
seu memor ille mea contentus manserit umbra
or-if mindful he with-my content shall-have-remained shade
et tanti cineres duxerit esse meos,
and of-such-worth ashes shall-have-thought to-be my,
discite venturam iam nunc sentire senectam,
learn coming already now to-feel old-age,
caelibis ad curas nec vacet ulla via.
of-a-widower to cares nor be-free any way.
quod mihi detractum est, vestros accedat ad annos:
what from-me taken has-been, your may-it-be-added to years:
prole mea Paullum sic iuvet esse senem.
in-offspring my Paullus so may-it-please to-be old.
et bene habet: numquam mater lugubria sumpsi;
and well it-is: never as-mother mourning I-took-up;
venit in exsequias tota caterva meas.
came to obsequies whole the-throng my.

causa perorata est. flentes me surgite, testes,
the-case pleaded has-been. weeping me rise, witnesses,
dum pretium vitae grata rependit humus.
while the-price of-life grateful repays the-earth.
moribus et caelum patuit: sim digna merendo,
for-ways even heaven has-lain-open: may-I-be worthy by-deserving,
cuius honoratis ossa vehantur aquis.
whose with-honored bones may-be-carried waters.

OVID

Ibis

IBIS

1–66 · THE ENEMY

Ovid, now fifty and never yet the author of a hostile line, is driven to arms by an enemy he will not yet name. While the poet lies in exile, this man harasses his wounds, slanders him in the forum, and keeps his wife from mourning him. Ovid swears that fire and water will agree before he makes peace. For now he curses him as the son of Battus cursed Ibis, with iambics to follow if he persists, and bids it be read on his birthday and New Year's Day.

Tempus ad hoc, lustris bis iam mihi quinque peractis,
The-time up-to this, lustres twice already for-me five having-been-completed,
omne fuit Musae carmen inerme meae;
all was of-the-Muse song unarmed my;
nullaque, quae possit, scriptis tot milibus, extat
and-no, which could, in-writings so-many thousands, survives
littera Nasonis sanguinolenta legi:
letter of-Naso bloody to-be-read:
nec quemquam nostri nisi me laesere libelli,
nor anyone our except me have-harmed little-books,
artificis periit cum caput Arte sua.
of-the-artist perished with the-life Art his-own.
Unus — et hoc ipsum est iniuria magna — perennem
One —and this itself is a-wrong great —lasting
candoris titulum non sinit esse mei.
of-candor the-title not allows to-be my.
Quisquis is est, — nam nomen adhuc utcumque tacebo —
Whoever he is, —for his-name as-yet somehow I-shall-keep-silent—
cogit inassuetas sumere tela manus.
forces unaccustomed to-take-up weapons hands.

Ille relegatum gelidos aquilonis ad ortus
He (me)-banished icy of-the-north-wind to risings
non sinit exilio delituisse meo;
not allows in-exile to-have-lain-hidden my;
vulneraque inmitis requiem quaerentia vexat,
and-wounds pitiless rest seeking he-harasses,
iactat et in toto nomina nostra foro;
he-bandies and in the-whole names our forum;
perpetuoque mihi sociatam foedere lecti
and-by-a-lasting to-me joined bond of-the-bed
non patitur vivi funera flere viri.
not he-permits of-a-living the-death to-mourn husband.
Cumque ego quassa meae complectar membra carinae,
And-while I the-shattered of-my clasp timbers ship,
naufragii tabulas pugnat habere mei:
of-shipwreck the-planks he-fights to-have my:
et qui debuerat subitas extinguere flammas,
and (he)-who had-been-bound sudden to-quench flames,
hic praedam medio raptor ab igne petit.
he plunder the-midst-of a-robber from the-fire seeks.
Nititur, ut profugae desint alimenta senectae.
He-strives, that to-fugitive may-fail sustenance old-age.
Heu! quanto est nostris dignior ipse malis!
Alas! by-how-much is of-our worthier he-himself woes!
Di melius; quorum longe mihi maximus ille est,
The-gods (grant)-better; of-whom by-far to-me the-greatest that-one is,
qui nostras inopes noluit esse vias.
who our needy did-not-wish to-be ways.
Huic igitur meritas grates, ubicumque licebit,
To-him therefore deserved thanks, wherever it-will-be-allowed,

pro tam mansueto pectore semper agam.
for so gentle a-heart always I-shall-give.
Audiat hoc Pontus. faciet quoque forsitan idem,
Let-hear this Pontus. he-will-do too perhaps the-same,
terra sit ut propior testificanda mihi.
the-land may-be that nearer to-be-called-to-witness for-me.
At tibi, calcasti qui me, violente, iacentem,
But to-you, you-trampled who me, violent-one, lying,
qua licet ei! misero, debitus hostis ero.
in-what-way it-is-allowed ah! (to-me)-wretched, a-due enemy I-shall-be.
Desinet esse prius contrarius ignibus umor,
Will-cease to-be sooner opposed to-fires moisture,
iunctaque cum luna lumina solis erunt;
and-joined with the-moon the-lights of-the-sun will-be;
parsque eadem caeli zephyros emittet et euros,
and-part the-same of-the-sky zephyrs will-send-forth and east-winds,
et tepidus gelido flabit ab axe notus;
and the-warm icy will-blow from pole south-wind;
et nova fraterno veniet concordia fumo,
and new to-the-brotherly will-come concord smoke,
quem vetus accensa separat ira pyra;
which old on-the-kindled divides anger pyre;
et ver autumno, brumae miscebitur aestas,
and spring with-autumn, with-winter will-be-mixed summer,
atque eadem regio vesper et ortus erit:
and the-same region evening and rising will-be:
quam mihi sit tecum positis, quae sumpsimus, armis
than to-me may-be with-you laid-down, which we-took-up, arms
gratia, commissis, improbe, rupta tuis.
friendship, by-crimes, wicked-one, broken your.

Pax erit haec nobis, donec mihi vita manebit,
Peace will-be this for-us, while to-me life will-remain,
cum pecore infirmo quae solet esse lupis.
with flock weak which is-wont to-be for-wolves.
Prima quidem coepto committam proelia versu,
The-first indeed in-the-begun I-shall-join battles verse,
non soleant quamvis hoc pede bella geri:
not they-be-wont although in-this foot wars to-be-waged:
utque petit primo plenum flaventis harenae
and-as aims-at at-first full of-yellowing sand
nondum calfacti militis hasta solum,
not-yet warmed-up of-the-soldier the-spear ground,
sic ego te nondum ferro iaculabor acuto,
so I you not-yet with-iron shall-strike sharp,
protinus invisum nec petet hasta caput;
straightway hated nor will-seek the-spear head;
et neque nomen in hoc, nec dicam facta libello,
and neither the-name in this, nor I-shall-tell deeds little-book,
teque brevi, qui sis, dissimulare sinam.
and-you for-a-short-(time), who you-are, to-disguise I-shall-allow.
Postmodo, si perges, in te mihi liber iambus
Later, if you-go-on, against you for-me free iambic
tincta Lycambeo sanguine tela dabit.
dipped in-Lycambean blood weapons will-give.
Nunc quo Battiades inimicum devovet Ibin,
Now in-which the-son-of-Battus his-enemy curses Ibis,
hoc ego devoveo teque tuosque modo.
in-this I curse and-you and-yours way.
Utque ille, historiis involvam carmina caecis:
And-like him, in-stories I-shall-wrap songs dark:

non soleam quamvis hoc genus ipse sequi.
not I-be-wont although this kind myself to-follow.
Illius ambages imitatus in Ibide dicar
His windings having-imitated in the-Ibis I-shall-be-said
oblitus moris iudiciique mei.
having-forgotten of-custom and-of-judgment my.
Et quoniam, qui sis, nondum quaerentibus edo,
And since, who you-are, not-yet to-the-askers I-disclose,
Ibidis interea tu quoque nomen habe;
of-Ibis meanwhile you too the-name have;
utque mei versus aliquantum noctis habebunt,
and-as my verses something of-night will-have,
sic vitae series tota sit atra tuae.
so of-life the-course whole may-be black your.
Haec tibi natali facito, Ianique kalendis
These for-you on-the-birthday see-to-it, and-of-Janus on-the-kalends
non mentituro quilibet ore legat.
not going-to-lie anyone with-mouth let-read.

Ovid calls every power to witness: the gods of sea, land, and sky, Earth, the sun and moon, Night, the Fates, the Styx, the Furies, and all the gods, old and new, since Chaos. He asks them to grant every part of his prayer, let Ibis suffer all that Ovid suffers, and strike the man he means, though the name is feigned. As priest he summons the bystanders to the rite in mourning, and bids Ibis, the victim, offer his throat to the knife.

Di maris et terrae, quique his meliora tenetis
Gods of-sea and of-land, and-who than-these better hold
inter diversos cum Iove regna polos,
between opposite with Jove realms poles,
huc, precor, huc vestras omnes advertite mentes,
hither, I-pray, hither your all turn minds,
et sinite optatis pondus inesse meis:
and allow in-wishes weight to-be-in my:
ipsaque tu Tellus, ipsum cum fluctibus aequor,
and-yourself you Earth, itself with waves sea,
ipse meas aether accipe summe preces;
yourself my ether receive highest prayers;
sideraque et radiis circumdata solis imago,
and-stars and with-rays surrounded of-the-sun image,
lunaque, quae numquam quo prius, orbe micas,
and-moon, who never with-which before, with-disk you-shine,
noxque tenebrarum specie reverenda tuarum;
and-night of-darkness by-the-aspect to-be-revered your;
quaeque ratum triplici pollice netis opus,
and-who the-fixed with-triple thumb spin work,
quique per infernas horrendo murmure valles
and-who through infernal with-dreadful murmur valleys

inperiuratae laberis amnis aquae,
of-the-never-forsworn you-glide river water,
quasque ferunt torto vittatis angue capillis
and-whom they-say with-twisted with-filleted snake hair
carceris obscuras ante sedere fores;
of-the-prison dark before to-sit doors;
vos quoque, plebs superum, fauni satyrique laresque
you too, commons of-the-gods-above, fauns and-satyrs and-lares
fluminaque et nymphae semideumque genus:
and-rivers and nymphs and-of-demigods race:
denique ab antiquo divi veteresque novique
finally from ancient gods and-old and-new
in nostrum cuncti tempus, adeste, chao,
to our all time, be-present, chaos,
carmina dum capiti male fido dira canuntur
songs while against-a-head badly faithful dire are-sung
et peragunt partes ira dolorque suas.
and play-through parts anger and-grief their.
Adnuite optatis omnes ex ordine nostris,
Nod-assent to-wishes all in order our,
et pars sit voti nulla caduca mei.
and part let-be of-wish no fruitless my.
Quaeque precor, fiant: ut non mea dicta, sed illa
And-what I-pray, let-them-happen: that not my words, but those
Pasiphaes generi verba fuisse putet.
of-Pasiphae of-the-son-in-law words to-have-been he-may-think.
Quasque ego transiero poenas, patiatur et illas;
And-which I shall-have-passed-through punishments, let-him-suffer also those;
plenius ingenio sit miser ille meo!
more-fully than-wit let-be wretched he my!

Neve minus noceant fictum execrantia nomen
And-lest less harm feigned cursing name
vota, minus magnos commoveantve deos:
vows, less great or-move gods:
illum ego devoveo, quem mens intellegit, Ibin,
him I curse, whom the-mind understands, Ibis,
qui scit se factis has meruisse preces.
who knows himself by-deeds these to-have-earned prayers.
Nulla mora est in me: peragam rata vota sacerdos.
No delay is in me: I-shall-perform ratified vows as-priest.
Quisquis ades sacris, ore favete, meis;
Whoever are-present at-rites, with-mouth be-propitious, my;
quisquis ades sacris, lugubria dicite verba,
whoever are-present at-rites, mournful speak words,
et fletu madidis Ibin adite genis:
and with-weeping with-wet Ibis approach cheeks:
ominibusque malis pedibusque occurrite laevis,
and-with-omens bad and-with-feet meet(-him) left,
et nigrae vestes corpora vestra tegant!
and black garments bodies your let-cover!
Tu quoque, quid dubitas ferales sumere vittas?
You too, why do-you-hesitate funeral to-take-up fillets?
Iam stat, ut ipse vides, funeris ara tui.
Now stands, as yourself you-see, of-funeral the-altar your.
Pompa parata tibi est. votis mora tristibus absit:
The-procession prepared for-you is. from-vows delay sad let-be-absent:
da iugulum cultris, hostia dira, meis.
give throat to-knives, victim dire, my.

Ovid prays that earth, water, sun, moon, stars, fire, and air deny Ibis everything, and that he wander an exile and a beggar, wanting death and unable to find it. Phoebus has just sent a sign that the curse will come true. Ovid's hatred will last while Thracians fight and the Tiber flows, and not even death will end it: whatever becomes of his body, his ghost will rise from the Styx to haunt Ibis by day and night, and the same furies will drive him living and dead.

Terra tibi fruges, amnis tibi deneget undas.
The-earth to-you crops, the-river to-you let-deny waters.
Deneget afflatus ventus et aura suos.
Let-deny breathings the-wind and the-breeze its-own.
Nec tibi sol calidus, nec sit tibi lucida Phoebe,
Nor to-you the-sun warm, nor let-be to-you bright Phoebe,
destituant oculos sidera clara tuos.
let-forsake eyes the-stars clear your.
Nec se Vulcanus, nec se tibi praebeat aer,
Nor himself Vulcan, nor itself to-you let-offer the-air,
nec tibi det tellus nec tibi pontus iter.
nor to-you let-give the-earth nor to-you the-sea passage.
Exul, inops erres, alienaque limina lustres,
An-exile, destitute may-you-wander, and-others thresholds may-you-haunt,
exiguumque petas ore tremente cibum.
and-scanty may-you-seek with-mouth trembling food.
Nec corpus querulo, nec mens vacet aegra dolore,
Nor body from-plaintive, nor mind let-be-free sick pain,
noxque die gravior sit tibi, nocte dies.
and-night than-day heavier let-be to-you, than-night day.
Sisque miser semper, nec sis miserabilis ulli:
And-may-you-be wretched always, nor may-you-be pitiable to-anyone:

gaudeat adversis femina virque tuis.
let-rejoice in-adversities woman and-man your.
Accedat lacrimis odium, dignusque puteris,
Let-be-added to-tears hatred, and-worthy may-you-be-thought,
qui mala cum tuleris plurima, plura feras.
who evils when you-have-borne very-many, more should-bear.
Sitque, quod est rarum, solito defecta favore
And-let-be, what is rare, of-usual bereft favor
fortunae facies invidiosa tuae.
of-fortune the-face odious your.
Causaque non desit, desit tibi copia mortis:
And-cause not let-be-lacking, let-be-lacking to-you the-means of-death:
optatam fugiat vita coacta necem:
longed-for let-flee life compelled death:
luctatusque diu cruciatos spiritus artus
and-having-struggled long tortured the-breath limbs
deserat, et longa torqueat ante mora.
let-desert, and with-long let-torment first delay.
Evenient. dedit ipse mihi modo signa futuri
They-will-come-to-pass. gave himself to-me just-now signs of-the-future
Phoebus, et a laeva maesta volavit avis.
Phoebus, and from the-left sad flew a-bird.
Certe ego, quae voveo, superos motura putabo,
Surely I, what I-vow, the-gods-above going-to-move shall-think,
quam dolor hic umquam spatio evanescere possit,
than grief this ever with-time to-vanish could,
leniat aut odium tempus et hora meum.
may-soften or hatred time and hour my.
Pugnabunt arcu dum Thraces, Iazyges hasta,
Will-fight with-the-bow while Thracians, Iazyges with-the-spear,

dum tepidus Ganges, frigidus Hister erit;
while warm Ganges, cold Hister will-be;
robora dum montes, dum mollia pabula campi,
oaks while the-mountains, while soft pastures the-plains,
dum Tiberis liquidas Tuscus habebit aquas,
while Tiber clear Tuscan will-have waters,
tecum bella geram. nec mors mihi finiet iras,
with-you wars I-shall-wage. nor death for-me will-end angers,
saeva sed innocuis manibus arma dabit.
savage but to-harmless shades arms will-give.
Tunc quoque, cum fuero vacuas dilapsus in auras,
Then too, when I-shall-have-been empty dissolved into airs,
exanimis mores oderit umbra tuos,
lifeless ways will-hate shade your,
tunc quoque factorum veniam memor umbra tuorum,
then too of-deeds I-shall-come mindful a-shade your,
insequar et vultus ossea forma tuos.
I-shall-pursue and face a-bony form your.
Sive ego, quod nollem, longis consumptus ab annis,
Whether I, which I-would-not-wish, long consumed by years,
sive manu facta morte solutus ero:
or by-hand made by-death released I-shall-be:
sive per inmensas iactabor naufragus undas,
or through boundless I-shall-be-tossed shipwrecked waves,
nostraque longinquus viscera piscis edet:
and-our foreign flesh fish will-eat:
sive peregrinae carpent mea membra volucres:
or foreign will-pluck my limbs birds:
sive meo tinguent sanguine rostra lupi:
or in-my will-dip blood snouts wolves:

sive aliquis dignatus erit subponere terrae
or someone deigned will-have to-place-under the-earth
et dare plebeio corpus inane rogo:
and to-give to-a-plebeian body empty pyre:
quidquid ero, Stygiis erumpere nitar ab oris,
whatever I-shall-be, Stygian to-burst-out I-shall-strive from shores,
et tendam gelidas ultor in ora manus.
and I-shall-stretch icy an-avenger to face hands.
Me vigilans cernes, tacitis ego noctis in umbris
Me waking you-will-see, silent I of-night in shadows
excutiam somnos visus adesse tuos.
shall-shake-off sleep seeming to-be-present your.
Denique quidquid ages, ante os oculosque volabo
Finally whatever you-do, before face and-eyes I-shall-fly
et querar, et nulla sede quietus eris.
and complain, and in-no place at-rest you-will-be.
Verbera torta dabunt sonitum nexaeque colubrae,
Lashes twisted will-give sound and-knotted snakes,
conscia fumabunt semper ad ora faces.
knowing will-smoke always at face torches.
His vivus furiis agitabere, mortuus isdem,
By-these living furies you-will-be-driven, dead by-the-same,
et brevior poena vita futura tua est.
and shorter punishment life going-to-be your is.

Ibis will have no funeral and no mourners: the executioner will drag him off as the people applaud, fire and earth will refuse his corpse, and vultures, dogs, and wolves will fight over it. Below, among the damned, the Furies will whip him, and Aeacus will transfer to him the torments of Sisyphus, Ixion, Tantalus, and Tityos, giving them rest; no second death will end his pain. He will weep for joy at them.

Nec tibi continget funus lacrimaeque tuorum;
Nor to-you will-fall burial and-tears of-your-own;
indeploratum proiciere caput;
unwept you-will-be-thrown-out head;
carnificisque manu, populo plaudente, traheris,
and-of-the-executioner by-hand, the-people applauding, you-will-be-dragged,
infixusque tuis ossibus uncus erit.
and-fixed in-your bones a-hook will-be.
Ipsae te fugient, quae carpunt omnia, flammae;
Themselves you will-flee, which devour everything, flames;
respuet invisum iusta cadaver humus.
will-spit-out hated just corpse earth.
Unguibus et rostro crudus trahet ilia vultur
With-talons and beak raw will-drag guts the-vulture
et scindent avidi perfida corda canes.
and will-tear greedy treacherous heart dogs.
Deque tuo fiet — licet hac sis laude superbus —
And-of your will-be —though in-this you-be glory proud—
insatiabilibus corpore rixa lupis.
for-insatiable body a-brawl wolves.
In loca ab Elysiis diversa vocabere campis,
To places from Elysian different you-will-be-called fields,

quasque tenet sedes noxia turba, coles.
and-which holds seats the-guilty throng, you-will-inhabit.
Sisyphus est illic saxum volvensque petensque,
Sisyphus is there the-rock and-rolling and-seeking,
quique agitur rapidae vinctus ab orbe rotae,
and-who is-whirled of-the-swift bound on the-rim wheel,
quaeque gerunt umeris perituras Belides undas,
and-who carry on-shoulders going-to-perish Belides waters,
exulis Aegypti, turba cruenta, nurus.
of-exiled Aegyptus, a-throng bloody, daughters-in-law.
Poma pater Pelopis praesentia quaerit, et idem
Fruits the-father of-Pelops present seeks, and the-same
semper eget, liquidis semper abundat aquis;
always lacks, in-liquid always abounds waters;
iugeribusque novem summus qui distat ab imo,
and-by-acres nine the-highest who stands-apart from the-lowest,
visceraque assiduae debita praebet avi.
and-entrails to-the-constant due offers bird.
Hic tibi de Furiis scindet latus una flagello,
Here for-you of the-Furies will-tear side one with-a-whip,
ut sceleris numeros confiteare tui:
that of-crime the-numbers you-confess your:
altera Tartareis sectos dabit anguibus artus:
another to-Tartarean cut will-give snakes limbs:
tertia fumantes incoquet igne genas.
a-third smoking will-scorch with-fire cheeks.
Noxia mille modis lacerabitur umbra, tuasque
Guilty in-a-thousand ways will-be-torn shade, and-your
Aeacus in poenas ingeniosus erit.
Aeacus for punishments inventive will-be.

In te transcribet veterum tormenta reorum:
To you he-will-transfer of-old the-torments criminals:
omnibus antiquis causa quietis eris.
to-all the-ancient(-ones) the-cause of-rest you-will-be.
Sisyphe, cui tradas revolubile pondus, habebis:
Sisyphus, to-whom you-may-hand-over rolling-back weight, you-will-have:
versabunt celeres nunc nova membra rotae:
will-turn swift now new limbs wheels:
hic et erit, ramos frustra qui captet et undas:
he also will-be, branches vainly who may-catch-at and waters:
hic inconsumpto viscere pascet aves.
he with-unconsumed entrails will-feed birds.
Nec mortis poenas mors altera finiet huius,
Nor of-death the-punishments death a-second will-end this,
horaque erit tantis ultima nulla malis.
and-hour will-be for-such last no evils.
Inde ego pauca canam, frondes ut siquis ab Ida
From-them I few shall-sing, leaves as if-anyone from Ida
aut summam Libyco de mare carpat aquam.
or the-top Libyan from sea should-pluck water.
Nam neque quot flores Sicula nascantur in Hybla,
For neither how-many flowers Sicilian are-born in Hybla,
quotve ferat, dicam, terra Cilissa crocos,
or-how-many bears, I-shall-tell, land Cilician crocuses,
nec cum tristis hiems Aquilonis inhorruit alis,
nor when gloomy winter of-Aquilo has-bristled with-wings,
quam multa fiat grandine canus Athos;
how much becomes with-hail white Athos;
nec mala voce mea poterunt tua cuncta referri,
nor evils by-voice my will-be-able your all to-be-recounted,

ora licet tribuas multiplicata mihi.
mouths although you-grant multiplied to-me.
Tot tibi vae! misero venient talesque ruinae,
So-many to-you woe! wretched will-come and-such ruins,
ut cogi in lacrimas me quoque posse putem.
that to-be-driven to tears me too to-be-able I-may-think.
Illae me lacrimae facient sine fine beatum:
Those me tears will-make without end happy:
dulcior hic risu tunc mihi fletus erit.
sweeter this than-laughter then to-me weeping will-be.

209–250 · THE BIRTH OF IBIS

Ibis was born under no kind star, with Mars and Saturn against him, on the black day of the Allia. An owl hooted at his birth; the Furies bathed him in Stygian water, anointed him with serpents' gall, and fed him dog's milk, so that he barks in the forum. One of the Fates foretold endless tears for him, and Clotho spun his thread and said a bard would sing his fate. Ovid is that bard.

Natus es infelix, — ita di voluere — nec ulla
Born you-were unlucky, —so the-gods willed —nor any
commoda nascenti stella levisve fuit.
favorable to-(you)-being-born star or-gentle was.
Non Venus affulsit, non illa Iuppiter hora,
Not Venus shone, not in-that Jupiter hour,
lunaque non apto solque fuere loco,
and-moon not in-a-fit and-sun were place,
nec satis utiliter positos tibi praebuit ignes
nor enough usefully placed to-you offered fires
quem peperit magno lucida Maia Iovi.
(he)-whom bore to-great bright Maia Jove.

Te fera nec quicquam placidum spondentia Martis
You fierce and-not anything calm promising of-Mars
sidera presserunt falciferique senis.
stars pressed and-of-the-sickle-bearing old-man.
Lux quoque natalis, ne quid nisi triste videres,
The-light too of-birth, lest anything but sad you-should-see,
turpis et inductis nubibus atra fuit.
foul and drawn-over clouds black was.
Haec est, in fastis cui dat gravis Allia nomen,
This is, in the-calendar to-which gives grievous Allia name,
quaeque dies Ibin, publica damna, tulit.
and-which day Ibis, public losses, bore.
Qui simul impurae matris prolapsus ab alvo
Who as-soon-as of-an-impure mother having-slipped from womb
Cinyphiam foedo corpore pressit humum,
Cinyphian with-foul body pressed ground,
sedit in adverso nocturnus culmine bubo,
sat on opposite nocturnal roof-top an-owl,
funereoque graves edidit ore sonos.
and-from-funereal heavy uttered beak sounds.
Protinus Eumenides lavere palustribus undis,
Straightway the-Eumenides washed(-him) in-marshy waters,
qua cava de Stygiis fluxerat unda vadis,
where hollow from Stygian had-flowed the-wave shallows,
pectoraque unxerunt Erebeae felle colubrae,
and-breast anointed of-Erebean with-gall serpent,
terque cruentatas increpuere manus.
and-thrice bloodied clapped hands.
Gutturaque imbuerant infantia lacte canino:
And-throat they-had-steeped infant with-milk canine:

hic primus pueri venit in ora cibus:
this first of-the-boy came into mouth food:
perbibit inde suae rabiem nutricis alumnus,
drank-in thence of-his madness nurse the-nursling,
latrat et in toto verba canina foro.
barks and in the-whole words dog-like forum.
Membraque vinxerunt tinctis ferrugine pannis,
And-limbs they-bound with-dyed in-rust rags,
a male deserto quos rapuere rogo:
from badly deserted which they-snatched pyre:
et ne non fultum nuda tellure iaceret,
and lest not propped on-bare earth it-should-lie,
molle super silices inposuere caput.
soft upon flints they-placed head.
Iamque recessurae viridi de stipite factas
And-now going-to-withdraw green from log made
admorunt oculos usque sub ora faces.
moved-near eyes right under face torches.
Flebat, ut est infans fumis contactus amaris,
He-wept, as is an-infant by-smoke touched bitter,
de tribus est cum sic una locuta soror:
of the-three has when so one spoken sister:
'Tempus in inmensum lacrimas tibi movimus istas,
'Time into measureless tears for-you we-have-stirred those,
quae semper causa sufficiente cadent.'
which always cause sufficing will-fall.'
Dixerat. at Clotho iussit promissa valere,
She-had-spoken. but Clotho ordered the-promises to-stand,
nevit et infesta stamina pulla manu;
spun and with-hostile threads dark hand;

et ne longa suo praesagia diceret ore,
and lest long with-her-own prophecies she-should-speak mouth,
'Fata canet vates qui tua', dixit 'erit.'
'Fates will-sing a-bard who your', she-said 'will-be.'
Ille ego sum vates. ex me tua vulnera disces,
That I am bard. from me your wounds you-will-learn,
dent modo di vires in mea verba suas,
let-give only the-gods strength to my words their,
carminibusque meis accedant pondera rerum,
and-to-songs my let-be-added the-weight of-facts,
quae rata per luctus experiare tuos.
which fulfilled through griefs you-may-experience your.

251–314 · THE WOUNDED AND THE BLINDED

The catalog of examples begins. Ovid wishes on Ibis the wounds of Philoctetes and Telephus and Bellerophon's fall, the blindness of Phoenix, Oedipus, Tiresias, Phineus, Polymestor, and Polyphemus, and Uranus' mutilation. He wishes him shipwreck like Ceyx and Ulysses, death by horses or Carthaginian torture like Regulus, the pyre of Sardanapallus, and burial in drifting sand like the army sent to sack Libyan Jove's temple.

Neve sine exemplis aevi cruciere prioris,
And-lest without examples of-age you-be-tortured earlier,
sint tua Troianis non leviora malis.
let-be your than-Trojan not lighter ills.
Quantaque clavigeri Poeantius Herculis heres,
And-as-great-as of-the-club-bearing Poeas'-son Hercules heir,
tanta venenato vulnera crure geras.
so-great in-poisoned wounds leg may-you-bear.

Nec levius doleas, quam qui bibit ubera cervae,
Nor more-lightly may-you-suffer, than (he)-who drank udders of-a-hind,
armatique tulit vulnus, inermis opem.
and-of-the-armed bore wound, of-the-unarmed help.
Quique ab equo praeceps in Aleia decidit arva,
And-(he)-who from horse headlong onto Aleian fell fields,
exitio facies cui sua paene fuit.
to-ruin the-beauty to-whom his-own nearly was.
Id, quod Amyntorides, videas, trepidumque ministro
That, which the-son-of-Amyntor, may-you-see, and-trembling with-a-servant
praetemptes baculo luminis orbus iter.
may-you-feel-out with-a-staff of-light bereft way.
Nec plus aspicias, quam quem sua filia rexit,
Nor more may-you-see, than (he)-whom his-own daughter guided,
expertus scelus est cuius uterque parens:
experienced crime has whose each parent:
qualis erat, postquam est iudex de lite iocosa
such-as he-was, after he-was judge of a-quarrel playful
sumptus, Apollinea clarus in arte senex:
taken, Apollonian famed in art the-old-man:
qualis et ille fuit, quo praecipiente columba
as also he was, by-whom instructing a-dove
est data Palladiae praevia duxque rati:
was given to-Pallas forerunning and-guide ship:
quique oculis caruit, per quos male viderat aurum,
and-(he)-who eyes lacked, through which wrongly he-had-seen gold,
inferias nato quos dedit orba parens:
as-offerings for-a-son which gave bereft parent:
pastor ut Aetnaeus, cui casus ante futuros
the-shepherd as of-Etna, to-whom the-fortunes before going-to-be

Telemus Eurymides vaticinatus erat:
Telemus son-of-Eurymus prophesied had:
ut duo Phinidae, quibus idem lumen ademit,
as two sons-of-Phineus, from-whom the-same light took-away,
qui dedit: ut Thamyrae Demodocique caput.
who gave: as of-Thamyras and-of-Demodocus head.
Sic aliquis tua membra secet, Saturnus ut illas
So someone your members may-cut, Saturn as those
subsecuit partes, unde creatus erat.
cut-off parts, from-where begotten he-had-been.
Nec tibi sit melior tumidis Neptunus in undis,
Nor to-you may-be kinder swollen Neptune in waves,
quam cui sunt subitae frater et uxor aves;
than to-whom are sudden brother and wife birds;
sollertique viro, lacerae quem fracta tenentem
and-to-the-resourceful man, of-the-torn whom broken holding
membra ratis Semeles est miserata soror.
limbs ship of-Semele has pitied the-sister.
Vel tua, ne poenae genus hoc cognoverit unus,
Or your, lest of-punishment kind this have-known one,
viscera diversis scissa ferantur equis:
entrails by-opposite torn may-be-carried horses:
vel quae qui redemi Romano turpe putavit,
or what (he)-who to-be-ransomed for-a-Roman shameful thought,
a duce Puniceo pertulit, ipse feras.
from leader Punic endured, yourself may-you-bear.
Nec tibi subsidio praesens sit numen, ut illi,
Nor to-you for-help present let-be divinity, as to-him,
cui nil Rhoetei profuit ara Iovis.
to-whom nothing of-Rhoetean availed the-altar Jove.

Utque dedit saltus de summa Thessalus Ossa,
And-as gave leaps from the-top-of Thessalian Ossa,
tu quoque saxoso praecipitere iugo.
you too from-rocky may-you-be-hurled ridge.
— Aut velut Eurylochi, qui sceptrum cepit ab illo,
—Or like of-Eurylochus, who the-scepter took from him,
sint artus avidis anguibus esca tui.
let-be limbs for-greedy snakes food your.
Vel tua maturet, sicut Minoia fata,
Or your may-hasten, as Minoan fates,
per caput infusae fervidus umor aquae.
over head of-poured boiling the-moisture water.
Utque operum mitis, sed non impune, Prometheus,
And-as of-labors gentle, but not unpunished, Prometheus,
aerias volucres compede fixus alas.
airy the-birds by-a-fetter fixed wings.
— Aut velut Etracides, magno ter ab Hercule quintus,
—Or like Etracides, great three-times from Hercules fifth,
caesus in inmensum proiciare fretum.
slain into boundless may-you-be-thrown strait.
Aut ut Amyntiaden, turpi dilectus amore
Or as the-son-of-Amyntas, with-shameful loved love
oderit, et saevo vulneret ense puer.
may-hate, and with-savage may-wound sword a-boy.
Nec tibi fida magis misceri pocula possint,
Nor for-you faithful more to-be-mixed cups may-be-able,
quam qui cornigero de Iove natus erat.
than (to-him)-who horned from Jove born had-been.
More vel intereas capti suspensus Achaei,
In-the-manner or may-you-perish of-captured hung Achaeus,

qui miser aurifera teste pependit aqua.
who wretched gold-bearing as-witness hung water.

Aut ut Achilliden, cognato nomine clarum,
Or as the-descendant-of-Achilles, by-kindred name famous,

opprimat hostili tegula iacta manu.
may-crush by-hostile a-tile thrown hand.

Nec tua quam Pyrrhi felicius ossa quiescant,
Nor your than of-Pyrrhus more-happily bones may-rest,

sparsa per Ambracias quae iacuere vias.
scattered through Ambracian which lay roads.

Nataque ut Aeacidae iaculis moriaris adactis;
And-the-daughter as of-the-descendant-of-Aeacus by-javelins may-you-die driven-home;

non licet hoc Cereri dissimulare sacrum.
not it-is-allowed this for-Ceres to-conceal rite.

Utque nepos dicti nostro modo carmine regis,
And-as the-grandson of-the-named in-our just-now song king,

cantharidum sucos dante parente bibas.
of-beetles the-juices giving parent may-you-drink.

Aut pia te caeso dicatur adultera, sicut
Or dutiful you slain may-be-called the-adulteress, as

qua cecidit Leucon vindice, dicta pia est.
by-whom fell Leucon avenger, called dutiful was.

Inque pyram tecum carissima corpora mittas,
And-onto pyre with-you dearest bodies may-you-send,

quem finem vitae Sardanapallus habet.
which end of-life Sardanapallus has.

Utque Iovis Libyci templum violare parantes,
And-as of-Jove Libyan the-temple to-violate preparing,

acta noto vultus condat harena tuos.
driven by-the-south-wind face may-bury sand your.

Ovid wishes Ibis the deaths of men smothered in ash, starved, sewn into hides, stabbed by their wives, struck by lightning, or wrecked on the Euboean rocks, and the madness of Lycurgus, Hercules, Orestes, and Alcmaeon. His wife is to be no more chaste than Diomedes' and no truer than Amphiaraus' or Agamemnon's, and his death like that of Hippodamia's and Atalanta's suitors and the Sphinx's victims.

Utque necatorum Darei fraude secundi,
And-as of-those-slain of-Darius by-the-fraud the-second,
sic tua subsidens devoret ora cinis.
so your sinking may-devour face ash.
Aut ut olivifera quondam Sicyone profecto,
Or as from-olive-bearing once Sicyon to-(one)-having-set-out,
sit frigus mortis causa famesque tuae.
may-be cold of-death the-cause and-hunger your.
Aut ut Atarnites, insutus pelle iuvenci
Or as the-man-of-Atarneus, sewn in-the-hide of-a-bullock
turpiter ad dominum praeda ferare tuum.
shamefully to master as-booty may-you-be-carried your.
Inque tuo thalamo ritu iugulere Pheraei,
And-in your bedchamber in-the-manner may-you-be-butchered of-the-Pheraean,
qui datus est leto coniugis ense suae.
who given was to-death of-wife by-the-sword his-own.
Quosque putas fidos, ut Larisaeus Aleuas
And-whom you-think faithful, as Larisaean Aleuas
vulnere non fidos experiare tuo.
by-wound not faithful may-you-find your.
— Utque Milo, sub quo cruciata est Pisa tyranno,
—And-as Milo, under whom tormented was Pisa tyrant,

vivus in occultas praecipiteris aquas.
alive into hidden may-you-be-hurled waters.
Quaeque in Aphidantum Phylaceia regna tenentem
And-which against Aphidas Phylacean realms holding
a Iove venerunt, te quoque tela petant.
from Jove came, you too weapons may-seek.
— Aut ut Amastriacis quondam Lenaeus ab oris,
—Or as Amastrian once Lenaeus from shores,
nudus Achillea destituaris humo.
naked on-Achillean may-you-be-abandoned ground.
Utque vel Eurydamas ter circum busta Thrasylli
And-as either Eurydamas three-times around the-tomb of-Thrasyllus
est Larisaeis raptus ab hoste rotis,
was on-Larisaean dragged by an-enemy wheels,
vel qui, quae fuerat tutatus moenia saepe,
or (he)-who, which had guarded walls often,
corpore lustravit non diuturna suo,
with-body circled not long-lasting his-own,
utque novum passa genus Hippomeneide poenae
and-as new having-suffered kind the-daughter-of-Hippomenes of-punishment
tractus in Actaea fertur adulter humo,
dragged over Attic is-said the-adulterer ground,
sic, ubi vita tuos invisa reliquerit artus,
so, when life your hated shall-have-left limbs,
ultores rapiant turpe cadaver equi.
avenging may-drag foul corpse horses.
Viscera sic aliquis scopulus tua figat, ut olim
Entrails so some crag your may-pierce, as once
fixa sub Euboico Graia fuere sinu;
pierced under Euboean Greek were bay;

utque ferox periit et fulmine et aequore raptor,
and-as fierce perished both by-lightning and by-sea the-ravisher,
sic te mersuras adiuvet ignis aquas.
so you going-to-drown may-help fire waters.
Mens quoque sic furiis vecors agitetur, ut illi,
The-mind too so by-furies senseless may-be-driven, as to-him,
unum qui toto corpore vulnus habet;
one who on-the-whole body wound has;
utque Dryantiadae Rhodopeia regna tenenti,
and-as to-the-son-of-Dryas Rhodopean realms holding,
in gemino dispar cui pede cultus erat,
on twin unequal to-whom foot dress was,
ut fuit Oetaeo quondam generoque draconum
as was to-the-Oetaean once and-to-the-son-in-law of-dragons
Tisamenique patri Callirhoesque viro.
and-of-Tisamenus to-the-father and-of-Callirhoe to-the-husband.
Nec tibi contingat matrona pudicior illa,
Nor to-you may-fall a-wife more-chaste than-her,
qua potuit Tydeus erubuisse nuru:
at-which could Tydeus to-have-blushed daughter-in-law:
quaeque sui Venerem iunxit cum fratre mariti,
and-who of-her-own Venus joined with the-brother husband,
Locris in ancillae dissimulata nece.
the-Locrian in of-a-maidservant disguised death.
Tam quoque, di faciant, possis gaudere fideli
So too, the-gods grant, may-you-be-able to-rejoice-in faithful
coniuge, quam Talai Tyndareique gener:
wife, as of-Talaus and-of-Tyndareus the-son-in-law:
quaeque parare suis letum patruelibus ausae
and-who to-prepare for-their death cousins having-dared

Belides assidua colla premuntur aqua.
Belides by-constant necks are-pressed water.
Byblidos et Canaces, si cui facis, ardeat igne,
Of-Byblis and of-Canace, if to-anyone you-make, may-she-burn with-fire,
nec nisi per crimen sit tibi fida soror.
nor except through crime may-be to-you faithful sister.
Filia si fuerit, sit quod Pelopea Thyesti,
A-daughter if there-be, may-she-be what Pelopea to-Thyestes,
Myrrha suo patri, Nyctimeneque suo.
Myrrha to-her father, and-Nyctimene to-hers.
Neve magis pia sit capitique parentis amica,
And-not more dutiful may-she-be and-to-the-head of-parent friendly,
quam sua vel Pterelae, vel tibi, Nise, fuit:
than his-own either of-Pterelas, or to-you, Nisus, was:
infamemque locum sceleris quae nomine fecit,
and-infamous place of-crime who by-the-name made,
pressit et inductis membra paterna rotis.
pressed and with-driven-over limbs paternal wheels.
Ut iuvenes pereas, proiecta cadavera quorum,
As the-young-men may-you-perish, thrown-out corpses whose,
oraque Pisaeae sustinuere fores:
and-faces Pisaean held-up doors:
ut qui perfusam miserorum saepe procorum
as (he)-who drenched of-wretched often suitors
ipse suo melius sanguine tinxit humum:
himself with-his-own better blood stained the-ground:
proditor ut saevi periit auriga tyranni,
the-traitor as of-the-cruel perished charioteer tyrant,
qui nova Myrtoae nomina fecit aquae:
who new to-the-Myrtoan name made water:

ut qui velocem frustra petiere puellam,
as (those)-who swift vainly sought girl,
dum facta est pomis tardior illa tribus:
while made was by-apples slower she three:
ut qui tecta novi formam celantia monstri
as (those)-who the-house of-the-new shape hiding monster
ut quorum Aeacides misit violentus in altum
as (those)-of-whom the-descendant-of-Aeacus sent violent onto high
corpora cum senis altera sena rogum.
bodies with six another six pyre.
Ut quos, obscuri victos ambagibus oris,
As (those)-whom, of-dark defeated by-riddles mouth,
legimus infandae Sphinga dedisse neci:
we-read to-unspeakable the-Sphinx to-have-given death:
ut qui Bistoniae templo cecidere Minervae,
as (those)-who of-Bistonian in-the-temple fell Minerva,
propter quod facies nunc quoque tecta deaest:
on-account-of which the-face now too covered of-the-goddess-is:

Ibis is to perish like the victims of Diomedes' horses, Scylla, and Polyphemus, like Penelope's suitors and maids, Hercules' foes, and Sinis, Sciron, and the others Theseus killed. He is to be as wretched as Achaemenides and Irus, starve like Erysichthon, groan in Phalaris' bull, be deceived like Pelias, sink in a pit of mud and leave it no name, and perish like the men sprung from the dragon's teeth.

Ut qui Threicii quondam praesepia regis
As (those)-who of-the-Thracian once the-stalls king
fecerunt dapibus sanguinolenta suis:
made with-feasts bloody their-own:
— Therodamanteos ut qui sensere leones,
—Therodamantean as (those)-who felt lions,
quique Thoanteae Taurica sacra deae:
and-who of-the-Thoantean Tauric rites goddess:
ut quos Scylla vorax Scyllaeque adversa Charybdis
as (those)-whom Scylla voracious and-to-Scylla opposite Charybdis
Dulichiae pavidos eripuere rati:
from-the-Dulichian terrified snatched ship:
ut quos demisit vastam Polyphemus in alvum:
as (those)-whom sent-down vast Polyphemus into belly:
ut Laestrygonias qui subiere manus:
as Laestrygonian (those)-who came-under hands:
ut quos dux Poenus mersit putealibus undis
as (those)-whom the-leader Punic sank in-well waters
et iacto canas pulvere fecit aquas.
and with-thrown white dust made waters.
Sex bis ut Icaridos famulae periere procique,
Six twice as of-Icarius'-daughter the-maids perished and-suitors,

inque caput domini qui dabat arma procis:
and-against the-head of-the-master (he)-who gave arms to-the-suitors:
ut iacet Aonio luctator ab hospite fusus,
as lies Aonian the-wrestler by a-guest laid-low,
qui, mirum, victor, cum cecidisset, erat:
who, wonderful, victor, when he-had-fallen, was:
ut quos Antaei fortes pressere lacerti:
as (those)-whom of-Antaeus strong crushed arms:
ut qui post longum, sacri monstrator iniqui,
as (he)-who after long(-drought), of-a-rite the-shower unjust,
elicuit pluvias victima caesus aquas:
drew-forth rainy a-victim slain waters:
frater ut Antaei quo sanguine debuit, aras
the-brother as of-Antaeus with-which blood he-ought, altars
tinxit, et exemplis occidit ipse suis:
stained, and by-examples fell himself his-own:
ut qui terribiles pro gramen habentibus herbis
as (he)-who terrible instead-of grass having herbs
impius humano viscere pavit equos:
impious with-human flesh fed horses:
ut duo diversis sub eodem vindice caesi
as two by-different under the-same avenger slain
vulneribus, Nessus Dexamenique gener:
wounds, Nessus and-of-Dexamenus the-son-in-law:
ut pronepos, Saturne, tuus, quem reddere vitam
as great-grandson, Saturn, your, whom to-give-back life
urbe Coronides vidit ab ipse sua:
city the-son-of-Coronis saw from himself his-own:
ut Sinis et Sciron et cum Polypemone natus:
as Sinis and Sciron and with Polypemon his-son:

quique homo parte sui, parte iuvencus erat:
and-who man in-part of-himself, in-part bullock was:
quique trabes pressas in humum mittebat in auras,
and-who beams pressed to ground sent into airs,
aequoris aspiciens huius et huius aquas:
of-sea looking-at this and this waters:
quaeque Ceres laeto vidit pereuntia vultu
and-which Ceres with-glad saw perishing face
corpora Thesea Cercyonea manu.
bodies by-Thesean Cercyonean hand.
Haec tibi, quem meritis precibus mea devovet ira,
These to-you, whom with-deserved prayers my curses anger,
eveniant, aut his non leviora malis:
may-befall, or than-these not lighter ills:
qualis Achaemenides Sicula desertus in Aetna,
such-as Achaemenides Sicilian deserted on Etna,
Troica cum vidit vela venire, fuit:
Trojan when he-saw sails to-come, was:
qualis erat nec non fortuna binominis Iri,
such-as was nor not the-fortune of-two-named Irus,
filius et Cereris frustra tibi semper ametur,
the-son and of-Ceres vainly by-you always may-be-loved,
destituatque tuas usque petitus opes:
and-may-he-forsake your ever sought wealth:
utque per alternos unda labente recursus
and-as through alternate the-wave gliding returns
subtrahitur presso mollis harena pedi,
is-withdrawn from-pressed soft sand foot,
sic tua nescio qua semper fortuna liquescat,
so your I-know-not by-what(-means) always fortune may-melt,

lapsaque per medias effluat usque manus.
and-slipping through the-midst-of may-flow-out ever hands.
Utque pater solitae varias mutare figuras,
And-as the-father of-(the-girl)-wont various to-change shapes,
plenus inextincta destituare fame.
full by-unquenched may-you-be-forsaken hunger.
Nec dapis humanae tibi sint fastidia. quaque
Nor of-a-feast human for-you let-be disgust. and-in-what
parte potes, Tydeus temporis huius eris.
part you-can, a-Tydeus of-time this you-will-be.
Atque aliquid facias, a vespere Solis ad ortus
And something may-you-do, from evening of-the-Sun to risings
cur externati rursus agantur equi.
why panic-struck back may-be-driven horses.
Foeda Lycaoniae repetes convivia mensae,
Foul of-the-Lycaonian you-will-repeat banquets table,
temptabisque cibi fallere fraude Iovem.
and-you-will-try of-food to-deceive by-the-fraud Jove.
Teque aliquis posito temptet vim numinis opto,
And-you someone set-out may-test the-power of-divinity I-wish,
Tantalides ut sis tu Celeique puer.
the-son-of-Tantalus that may-be you and-of-Celeus boy.
Et tua sic latos spargantur membra per agros,
And your so broad may-be-scattered limbs through fields,
tamquam quae patrias detinuere vias.
as-if (those)-which the-father's detained ways.
Aere Perilleo veros imitere iuvencos,
In-the-bronze Perillean real may-you-imitate bullocks,
ad formam tauri conveniente sono.
to the-shape of-the-bull suiting sound.

Utque ferox Phalaris, lingua prius ense resecta
And-as fierce Phalaris, the-tongue first with-a-sword cut-out
more bovis Paphio clausus in aere gemas.
in-the-manner of-an-ox Paphian shut in bronze may-you-groan.
Dumque redire voles aevi melioris in annos,
And-while to-return you-wish of-age better into years,
ut vetus Admeti decipiare socer.
as old of-Admetus may-you-be-deceived father-in-law.
Aut eques in medii mergare voragine caeni,
Or a-horseman in of-the-middle may-you-be-sunk whirlpool mud,
dummodo sint fati nomina nulla tui.
provided be of-fate names none your.
Atque utinam pereas, veluti de dentibus orti
And would-that you-may-perish, as from teeth sprung
Sidonia iactis Graia per arva manu.
by-Sidonian thrown Greek through fields hand.

447–514 · MADNESS, BEASTS, AND LIGHTNING

Ovid wishes on Ibis the curses of Theseus and of the little book against the bird, Attis' self-mutilation, the fates of those turned to beasts, buried alive, cast into the sea, sacrificed, or stoned. Dogs, snakes, and boars are to kill him as they killed Actaeon, Linus, Orpheus' bride, and Idmon; drink is to send him down the stairs like Elpenor; and he is to fall from cliffs, or drown in a river.

Et quae Pitthides fecit, pariterque Molinae
And which Pitthides made, and-equally of-Molina
eveniant capiti vota sinistra tuo:
may-befall to-head vows ill-omened your:
et quibus exiguo est volucris devota libello,
and with-which in-a-small is the-bird cursed little-book,

corpora proiecta quae sua purgat aqua.
body thrown-in which its-own purges with-water.
Vulnera totque feras, quot dicitur ille tulisse,
Wounds and-as-many may-you-bear, as-many-as is-said he to-have-borne,
cuius ab inferiis culter abesse solet.
whose from offerings the-knife to-be-absent is-wont.
Attonitusque seces, ut quos Cybeleia mater
And-frenzied may-you-cut, as (those)-whom the-Cybelean mother
incitat, ad Phrygios vilia membra modos.
drives, to Phrygian worthless members measures.
Deque viro fias nec femina nec vir, ut Attis,
And-from a-man may-you-become neither woman nor man, as Attis,
et quatias molli tympana rauca manu.
and may-you-shake with-soft drums hoarse hand.
Inque pecus subito Magnae vertare parentis,
And-into a-beast suddenly of-the-Great may-you-be-turned mother,
victor ut est celeri victaque versa pede.
the-victor as was of-swift and-the-vanquished turned foot.
Solaque Limone poenam ne senserit illam,
And-alone Limone the-punishment lest have-felt that,
et tua dente fero viscera carpat equus.
and your with-tooth fierce entrails may-tear a-horse.
Aut ut Cassandreus, domino non mitior illo
Or as the-Cassandrean, than-master not gentler that
saucius ingesta contumuleris humo.
wounded with-heaped may-you-be-buried earth.
Aut ut Abantiades, aut ut Cygneius heros,
Or as the-descendant-of-Abas, or as the-Cycnean hero,
clausus in aequoreas praecipiteris aquas.
shut-up into sea may-you-be-hurled waters.

Victima vel Phoebo sacras macteris ad aras,
A-victim or to-Phoebus sacred may-you-be-slaughtered at altars,
quam tulit a saevo Theudotus hoste necem.
which suffered from a-cruel Theudotus enemy death.
Aut te devoveat certis Abdera diebus,
Or you may-curse on-fixed Abdera days,
saxaque devotum grandine plura petant.
and-stones (you)-cursed than-hail more may-seek.
Aut Iovis infesti telo feriare trisulco,
Or of-Jove hostile by-the-weapon may-you-be-struck three-forked,
ut satus Hipponoo, Dexionesque pater,
as sprung from-Hipponous, and-of-Dexione the-father,
ut soror Autonoes, ut cui matertera Maia,
as the-sister of-Autonoe, as (he)-to-whom aunt Maia,
ut temere optatos qui male rexit equos;
as rashly wished-for (he)-who badly ruled horses;
ut ferus Aeolides, ut sanguine sexus eodem,
as the-fierce son-of-Aeolus, as by-blood sex the-same,
quo genita est liquidis quae caret Arctos aquis,
from-which born was liquid (she)-who lacks Arctos waters,
— ut Macelo rapidis icta est cum coniuge flammis,
—as Macelo by-swift struck was with husband flames,
sic, precor, aetherii vindicis igne cadas.
so, I-pray, of-the-heavenly avenger by-the-fire may-you-fall.
Praedaque sis illis, quibus est Latonia Delos
And-prey may-you-be to-those, to-whom is Latonian Delos
ante diem rapto non adeunda Thaso:
before the-day snatched not to-be-approached Thasus:
quique verecundae speculantem labra Dianae,
and-who of-modest spying-on bath Diana,

quique Crotopiaden diripuere Linum.
and-who the-grandson-of-Crotopus tore-apart Linus.
Neve venenato levius feriaris ab angue,
And-not poisoned more-lightly may-you-be-struck by snake,
quam senis Oeagri Calliopesque nurus:
than of-old Oeagrus and-of-Calliope daughter-in-law:
quam puer Hypsipyles, quam qui cava primus acuta
than the-boy of-Hypsipyle, than (he)-who hollow first with-sharp
cuspide suspecti robora fixit equi.
point of-the-suspected timbers pierced horse.
Neve gradus adeas Elpenore cautius altos,
And-not steps may-you-approach than-Elpenor more-cautiously high,
vimque feras vini quo tulit ille modo.
and-the-power may-you-bear of-wine in-which bore he way.
Tamque cadas domitus, quam quisquis ad arma vocantem
And-as may-you-fall subdued, as whoever to arms calling
iuvit inhumanum Thiodamanta Dryops:
helped inhuman Thiodamas Dryops:
quam qui dona tulit Nesseo tincta veneno,
as (he)-who gifts brought with-Nessean dipped poison,
Euboicasque suo nomine saepit aquas.
and-Euboean with-his name hems waters.
Nec de praecipiti venias in Tartara saxo,
Nor from a-steep may-you-come into Tartarus rock,
ut qui Socraticum de nece legit opus;
as (he)-who Socratic about death read work;
ut qui Theseae fallacia vela carinae
as (he)-who of-the-Thesean deceitful sails ship
vidit, ut Iliaca missus ab arce puer,
saw, as Ilian sent from citadel boy,

ut teneri nutrix, eadem matertera, Bacchi,
as of-tender the-nurse, likewise aunt, Bacchus,
ut cui causa necis serra reperta fuit;
as (he)-to-whom the-cause of-death the-saw found was;
— Lydia se scopulis ut virgo misit ab altis,
—Lydian herself crags as maiden threw from high,
dixerat invito quae mala verba deo.
had-spoken to-unwilling who bad words god.
Feta tibi occurrat patrio popularis in arvo,
Breeding to-you may-meet paternal compatriot in field,
sitque Phalaeceae causa leaena necis.
and-may-be of-Phalaecean the-cause lioness death.
Quique Lycurgiden letavit, et arbore natum,
And-which the-son-of-Lycurgus killed, and from-a-tree born,
Idmonaque audacem, te quoque rumpat aper.
and-Idmon bold, you too may-rend boar.
Isque vel exanimis faciat tibi vulnus, ut illi,
And-it even lifeless may-make for-you wound, as for-him,
ora super fixi quem cecidere suis.
face upon of-the-pierced whom fell its-own.
Sive idem, simili pinus quem morte peremit,
Or the-same, by-similar pine whom death destroyed,
si tua contigerit Minoas puppis harenas,
if your shall-have-touched Minoan ship sands,
te Corcyraeum Cressia turba putet.
you Corcyraean Cretan throng may-think.
Lapsuramque domum subeas, ut sanguis Aleuae,
And-going-to-fall house may-you-go-under, as the-blood of-Aleuas,
sella Leoprepidae cum ruit absque viro.
seat of-Leoprepides when fell without the-man.

Utque vel Euenus, torrenti flumine mersus
And-as either Euenus, in-torrent river drowned
nomina des rapidae, vel Tiberinus, aquae.
name may-you-give to-swift, or Tiberinus, water.

515–578 · POETS, TYRANTS, AND TONGUES

Ibis is to die as poets and philosophers died: Archilochus, Eupolis on his wedding night, Lycophron by an arrow, Anaxarchus in a mortar. He is to be torn like Pentheus, dragged like Dirce, have his tongue cut out like Philomela, be served to his father as Harpagus' son was, see Medusa, drink hemlock like Socrates, and be thrown from his chariot like Hippolytus.

— Astacidaeque modo defixa cadavera trunco,
—And-of-the-son-of-Astacus in-the-manner fixed corpse to-a-trunk,
digna feris, hominis sit caput esca tuum,
worthy of-beasts, of-a-man may-be head food your,
— quodque ferunt Brotean fecisse cupidine mortis,
—and-what they-say Broteas to-have-done from-desire of-death,
des tua succensae membra cremanda pyrae.
may-you-give your to-the-kindled limbs to-be-burned pyre.
Inclususque necem cavea patiaris, ut ille
And-shut-in death in-a-cage may-you-suffer, as he
non profecturae conditor historiae.
not going-to-profit the-author of-history.
Utque repertori nocuit pugnacis iambi,
And-as to-the-inventor harmed of-combative iambic,
sic sit in exitium lingua proterva tuum.
so may-be to ruin tongue wanton your.
Utque parum stabili qui carmine laesit Athenas,
And-as too-little with-steady (he)-who song harmed Athens,

invisus pereas deficiente cibo.
hated may-you-perish failing food.

Utque lyrae vates fertur periisse severae,
And-as of-the-lyre the-bard is-said to-have-perished severe,

causa sit exitii dextera laesa tui.
the-cause may-be of-death right-hand wounded your.

Utque Agamemnonio vulnus dedit anguis Oresti,
And-as to-Agamemnonian wound gave a-snake Orestes,

tu quoque de morsu virus habente cadas.
you too from a-bite venom having may-you-fall.

Sit tibi coniugii nox prima novissima vitae:
May-be to-you of-marriage night first last of-life:

Eupolis hoc periit et nova nupta modo.
Eupolis in-this perished and new bride way.

Utque cothurnatum cecidisse Lycophrona narrant,
And-as buskined to-have-fallen Lycophron they-tell,

haereat in fibris fixa sagitta tuis.
may-stick in entrails fixed arrow your.

Aut lacer in silva manibus spargare tuorum,
Or torn in wood by-hands may-you-be-scattered of-your-own,

sparsus ut est Thebis angue creatus avo.
scattered as was at-Thebes from-a-snake born grandfather.

Perque feros montes tauro rapiente traharis,
And-through wild mountains a-bull dragging may-you-be-dragged,

ut tracta est coniunx imperiosa Lyci.
as dragged was the-wife imperious of-Lycus.

Quodque suae passa est paelex invita sororis,
And-what of-her suffered has the-concubine unwilling sister,

excidat ante pedes lingua resecta tuos.
may-fall before feet tongue cut-out your.

Inque tuis opifex, vati quod fecit Achaeo,
And-in your the-artisan, to-the-bard what did Achaean,
noxia luminibus spicula condat apis.
harmful eyes stings may-bury the-bee.
Ut puer Harpagides referas exempla Thyestae,
As the-boy son-of-Harpagus may-you-repeat the-examples of-Thyestes,
inque tui caesus viscera patris eas.
and-into of-your slain entrails father may-you-go.
Trunca geras saevo mutilatis partibus ense,
Maimed may-you-bear by-a-cruel mutilated parts sword,
— qualia Mamertae membra fuisse ferunt.
—such-as of-Mamertas limbs to-have-been they-say.
Utque Syracosio praestricta fauce poetae,
And-as to-the-Syracusan constricted throat poet,
sic animae laqueo sit via clausa tuae.
so of-breath by-a-noose may-be the-way closed your.
Nudave derepta pateant tua viscera pelle,
Or-bare torn-off may-lie-open your entrails skin,
ut Phrygium cuius nomina flumen habet.
as Phrygian whose name river has.
Saxificae videas infelix ora Medusae,
Of-stone-making may-you-see unlucky face Medusa,
Cephenum multos quae dedit una neci.
of-the-Cephenes many who gave alone to-death.
Potniadum morsus subeas, ut Glaucus, equarum,
Of-the-Potnian bites may-you-undergo, as Glaucus, mares,
sollicitoque bibas, Anyti doctissimus olim
and-with-anxious may-you-drink, of-Anytus the-most-learned once
inperturbato quod bibit ore reus.
with-undisturbed what drank mouth defendant.

Nec tibi, siquid amas, felicius Haemone cedat:
Nor for-you, if-anything you-love, more-happily than-Haemon may-it-turn-out:
utque sua Macareus, sic potiare tua.
and-as his-own Macareus, so may-you-possess your-own.
Vel videas, quod iam cum flammae cuncta tenerent,
Or may-you-see, what already when flames everything held,
Hectoreus patria vidit ab arce puer.
Hector's ancestral saw from citadel boy.
Sanguine probra luas, ut avo genitore creatus,
With-blood disgraces may-you-pay, as from-a-grandfather (as)-father begotten,
per facinus soror est cui sua facta parens.
through crime sister was to-whom his-own made mother.
Ossibus inque tuis teli genus haereat illud,
Bones and-in your of-weapon kind may-stick that,
traditur Icarii quo cecidisse gener.
is-reported of-Icarius by-which to-have-fallen the-son-in-law.
Utque loquax in equo est elisum guttur acerno,
And-as talkative in horse was crushed throat maple,
sic tibi claudatur pollice vocis iter.
so for-you may-be-closed by-thumb of-voice the-way.
Aut ut Anaxarchus, pila minuaris in alta,
Or as Anaxarchus, mortar may-you-be-pounded in deep,
ictaque pro solitis frugibus ossa sonent.
and-struck instead-of usual grain bones may-sound.
Utque patrem Psamathes, condat te Phoebus in ima
And-as the-father of-Psamathe, may-bury you Phoebus into lowest
Tartara, quod natae fecerat ille suae.
Tartarus, which to-daughter had-done he his-own.
Inque tuos ea pestis eat, quam dextra Coroebi
And-against yours that plague may-go, which the-right-hand of-Coroebus

vicit, opem miseris Argolisinque tulit.
conquered, help to-wretched and-to-Argives brought.
Utque nepos Aethrae, Veneris moriturus ob iram,
And-as the-grandson of-Aethra, of-Venus going-to-die because-of anger,
exul ab attonitis excutiaris equis.
an-exile by frenzied may-you-be-thrown horses.

579–644 · THE LAST CURSES

The catalog ends with the deaths of Polydorus, Niobe's sons, Hyacinthus, Leander, Palinurus, Euripides torn by dogs, Orpheus torn by Thracian women, Meleager, Creusa, Hercules, and Remus. Finally Ovid prays that Ibis live and die among the Sarmatian and Getic arrows where Ovid himself now lives. These few curses, written in haste, are only a beginning: later Ovid will name him and attack him in iambics.

Propter opes magnas ut perdidit hospes alumnum,
Because-of wealth great as destroyed the-host ward,
perdat ob exiguas te tuus hospes opes.
may-destroy for small you your host wealth.
Utque ferunt caesos sex cum Damasichthone fratres,
And-as they-say slain six with Damasichthon brothers,
intereat tecum sic genus omne tuum.
may-perish with-you so race all your.
Addidit ut fidicen miseris sua funera natis,
Added as the-lyre-player to-wretched his-own death sons,
sic tibi sint vitae taedia iusta tuae.
so to-you may-be of-life weariness just your.
Utve soror Pelopis, saxo dureris oborto,
Or-as the-sister of-Pelops, by-stone may-you-be-hardened arising,

et laesus lingua Battus ab ipse sua.
and harmed tongue Battus by himself his-own.
Aera si misso liquidum iaculabere disco,
The-air if with-sent clear you-will-strike discus,
quo puer Oebalides, ictus ab orbe cadas.
by-which the-boy descendant-of-Oebalus, struck by disk may-you-fall.
Siqua per alternos pulsabitur unda lacertos,
If-any by alternate will-be-beaten wave arms,
omnis Abydena sit tibi peior aqua.
every than-Abydene may-be to-you worse water.
Comicus ut mediis periit, dum nabat, in undis,
The-comic(-poet) as the-midst-of perished, while he-swam, in waves,
et tua sic Stygius strangulet ora liquor.
and your so Stygian may-choke mouth liquid.
Aut ubi ventosum superaris naufragus aequor,
Or when windy you-shall-have-crossed shipwrecked sea,
contacta pereas, ut Palinurus, humo.
touched may-you-perish, as Palinurus, ground.
Utque cothurnatum vatem tutela Dianae,
And-as buskined bard the-guard of-Diana,
dilaniet vigilum te quoque turba canum.
may-tear of-wakeful you too pack dogs.
Aut ut Trinacrius, salias super ora gigantis,
Or as the-Sicilian, may-you-leap over mouth of-the-giant,
plurima qua flammas Sicanis Aetna vomit.
most-abundant where flames Sicanian Etna vomits.
Diripiantque tuos insanis unguibus artus
And-may-tear-apart your with-mad nails limbs
Strymoniae matres, Orpheos esse ratae.
Strymonian mothers, of-Orpheus to-be thinking.

Natus ut Althaeae flammis absentibus arsit,
The-son as of-Althaea by-flames absent burned,
sic tuus ardescat stipitis igne rogus.
so your may-blaze of-a-log with-fire pyre.
Ut nova Phasiaca comprensa est nupta corona,
As new by-Phasian seized was bride crown,
utque pater nuptae, cumque parente domus;
and-as the-father of-the-bride, and-with parent house;
ut cruor Herculeos abiit diffusus in artus;
as gore Herculean went spread into limbs;
corpora pestiferum sic tua virus edat.
body pestilent so your venom may-eat.
— Qua sua Penthaliden proles est ulta Lycurgum,
—By-which his-own Penthalides offspring has avenged Lycurgus,
haec maneat teli te quoque plaga novi.
this may-await of-weapon you too blow new.
Utque Milo robur diducere fissile temptes,
And-as Milo oak to-split-apart cleavable may-you-try,
nec possis captas inde referre manus.
nor may-you-be-able caught thence to-bring-back hands.
Muneribusque tuis laedaris, ut Icarus, in quem
And-by-gifts your may-you-be-hurt, as Icarus, against whom
intulit armatas ebria turba manus.
brought armed drunken throng hands.
Quodque dolore necis patriae pia filia fecit,
And-what in-grief of-death paternal dutiful daughter did,
vincula per laquei fac tibi guttur eat.
bonds through of-a-noose see-to-it for-you throat goes.
Obstructoque famem patiaris limine tecti,
And-with-blocked hunger may-you-suffer threshold of-the-house,

ut legem poenae cui dedit ipsa parens.
as the-law of-punishment (he)-to-whom gave herself mother.
Illius exemplo violes simulacra Minervae,
By-his example may-you-violate images of-Minerva,
Aulidis a portu qui leve vertit iter.
of-Aulis from harbor who light turned journey.
Naupliadaeve modo poenas pro crimine falso
Or-of-the-son-of-Nauplius in-the-manner penalty for crime false
morte luas, nec te non meruisse iuvet.
with-death may-you-pay, nor you not to-have-deserved let-it-help.
— Aethalon ut vita spoliavit Isindius hospes,
—Aethalos as of-life despoiled Isindian host,
quem memor a sacris nunc quoque pellit Ion:
whom mindful from rites now too drives Ion:
utque Melanthea tenebris a caede latentem
and-as Melantheus in-darkness from slaughter hiding
prodidit officio luminis ipsa parens:
betrayed by-the-service of-light herself mother:
sic tua coniectis fodiantur pectora telis,
so your with-hurled may-be-pierced breast weapons,
sic precor auxiliis impediare tuis.
so I-pray by-aids may-you-be-hindered your.
Qualis equos pacto, quos fortis agebat Achilles,
Such-as horses having-bargained-for, which brave drove Achilles,
acta Phrygi timido, nox tibi talis eat.
passed to-the-Phrygian timid, night to-you such may-go.
Nec tu quam Rhesus somno meliore quiescas,
Nor you than Rhesus in-sleep better may-you-rest,
quam comites Rhesi tum necis, ante viae;
than the-companions of-Rhesus then of-death, before of-journey;

quam quos cum Rutulo morti Ramnete dederunt
than (those)-whom with Rutulian to-death Rhamnes gave
impiger Hyrtacides Hyrtacidaeque comes.
tireless the-son-of-Hyrtacus and-of-the-son-of-Hyrtacus companion.
Cliniadaeve modo circumdatus ignibus atris
Or-of-the-son-of-Clinias in-the-manner surrounded by-fires black
membra feras Stygiae semicremata neci.
limbs may-you-bear to-Stygian half-burned death.
Utque Remo muros ausо transire recentes,
And-as to-Remus walls having-dared to-cross new,
noxia sint capiti rustica tela tuo.
harmful may-be to-head rustic weapons your.
Denique Sarmaticas inter Geticasque sagittas
Finally Sarmatian among and-Getic arrows
his precor ut vivas et moriare locis.
in-these I-pray that you-may-live and may-die places.
Haec tibi tantisper subito sint missa libello,
These to-you for-the-time in-hasty let-be sent little-book,
inmemores ne nos esse querare tui.
unmindful lest us to-be you-complain of-you.
Pauca quidem, fateor: sed di dent plura rogatis,
Few indeed, I-confess: but the-gods may-give more than-asked,
multiplicentque suo vota favore mea.
and-may-multiply by-their vows favor my.
Postmodo plura leges et nomen habentia verum,
Later more you-will-read and name having true,
et pede quo debent acria bella geri.
and in-the-foot in-which ought bitter wars to-be-waged.